Page 1a

# Fuelling signs with Marian for hoops

BLUFFTON, INDIANA · Wells County's Hometown Connection

# Man denied bail reduction in privacy invasion charge

A man from Ohio was denied a reduction in his \$50,000 bond in the Wells Superior Court last week. He is currently still incarcerated in the Wells

Steven Carl Thomas, 61, was charged with nine counts of invasion of privacy, all Class A misdemeanors, after he sent his wife a series of emails despite a no-contact order between the two. According to a probable cause affidavit, Thomas reportedly sent 12 texts and 14 emails between Nov. 2-8 - 19 of the messages referenced a

prayer or religion, while others requested to remove the no contact order and referenced a call from the Department of Child Services

The no contact order was issued due to an additional case that Thomas was out on bond for when he sent the string of emails. In early October, Thomas was charged with residential entry and breaking, a Level 6 felony, and battery with bodily injury, a Class A misdemeanor.

The charges were filed after police responded to a call that Thomas refused to leave his estranged wife's property. Officers noted a slew of broken glass from the front door of the home.

Thomas's wife reported that the two had been separated for months, and that Thomas had not lived in the home at any point. Divorce papers, which Thomas reportedly refused to sign, were on the table. A man who witnessed the incident, as well as a victim in the battery with bodily injury charge, reported that Thomas forced his way into the residence. The man sustained minor wounds from broken glass.

A status hearing is set for 10 a.m. Jan. 16 in the Wells Superior Court for both cases.

sydney@news-banner.com

# **Cyber Monday** marks years' biggest online shopping day

And one more chance to save on gifts

By HALELUYA HADERO **AP Business Writer** 

Consumers are scouring the internet for online deals as they begin to cap off the five-day post-Thanksgiving shopping bonanza with Cyber Monday.

Even though e-commerce is now part and parcel of our everyday lives and much of the holiday shopping season, Cyber Monday — a term coined back in 2005 by the National Retail Federation — continues to be the biggest online shopping day of the year, thanks to the deals and the hype the industry has created to fuel it.

Adobe Analytics, which tracks online shopping, expects consumers to spend between \$12 billion and \$12.4 billion on Monday, making it the biggest online shopping day of all

For several major retailers, the "Cyber Monday" sale is a days-long event that begins over the weekend. Amazon's, for example, kicked off on Saturday and runs through Monday. Target's two-day event began overnight on Sunday, while Arkansas-based Walmart kicked off its most recent discounts Sunday evening.

Consumer spending for Cyber Week — the five major shopping days between Thanksgiving and Cyber Monday provides a strong indication on how much shoppers are willing to spend during the holiday season. Shoppers have been resilient this year in the face of stub-

(Continued on Page 2)



Steven Carl **Thomas** 



Future artists

Artists Alex and Dylan Dominguez are both focused and excited about their garden gnome paintings at the Hue Can Painting class on Nov. 27. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

# DCS staffing report nearly 100 percent

But one county in southern Indiana met just 53 percent of the need

By WHITNEY DOWNARD **Indiana Capital Chronicle** 

Staffing levels for family case managers meet 99 percent of the need statewide, according to the annual staffing and caseload report from the Department of Child Services, but some areas of the state face a greater need than others.

'Some of the most integral among the agency's staff members are family case managers. FCMs are the state's front line against child abuse and neglect. Maintaining management caseloads for staff members is critical to ensuring the agency provides the best service possible to those in need," DCS Director Eric Miller said in a report recently submitted to the Indiana State Budget Committee.

The agency compiles an annual report documenting its staffing needs following a series of scandals triggered by the resignation of Miller's predecessor, Mary Bonaventura. In a scathing letter, Bonaventura claimed children would die following state funding cuts and subsequent, independent reviews found that DCS had a staffing crisis.

Legislative reform dictated that the agency "shall" meet certain goals when it came to FCMs, requiring more manageable caseloads and reducing the number of children overseen by individual staff.

**Staffing details** 

DCS, the state's third-largest agency, has 4,100 staff members and a lit- workers are conducting family-centle more than half of those are FCMs. tered casework But of those 2,100 FCMs, just 1,637

employees have an active caseload with another 158 FCMs in training. The remaining FCM staff oversee hotlines and licensing services within the

However, the agency needs 24

additional FCMs to meet the required Child Welfare League of America standards limiting staff to: • No more than 12 cases (families)

per month for caseworkers conducting child protection assessments No more than 17 family cases for

caseworkers providing ongoing support to families involved in child protective services • No more than 12 cases if case-

(Continued on Page 2)

# Donors speak about what moves them

Detail how they plan donations

**By THALIA BEATY Associated Press** 

What motivates people to donate to charities or causes they care about is often deeply personal. Donors name relatives or friends who have survived or died from illnesses. They recount tearful conversations with their children. They point to their aspirations for how their communities and the larger world could be improved.

In advance of GivingTuesday, The Associated Press interviewed people from across the country with a variety of life experiences about why they give, which organizations they choose to support and how they plan their giving throughout the year.

While not all will participate in GivingTuesday, which started in 2012 as a hashtag, the date has become a central part of nonprofit fundraising and a kind of last chance to meet their budget goals for the following year.

These interviews have been edited for length:

HOUSTON — A longtime resident of Houston, Monica Fulton, 51, prioritizes giving to organizations serving the city's residents. She's volunteered with the Houston Food Bank for decades, doing "everything except the cold room. Because I don't like the cold," she joked.

Fulton, who is originally from Panama, sees her giving and volunteering as a way to make a difference, something she has tried to pass on to her children, who are now 18 and 20 years

"You look at what's happening in the world and you tend to feel helpless. And what I try to teach my kids instead of feeling helpless is find one little patch of grass that you can make

better," she said. Usually, at the beginning of the year, Fulton sets aside the funds that she intends to give to nonprofits, with the majority going to the food bank, a nonprofit that provides services to people without housing, a women's fund and an arts education organization. But she keeps aside a portion to respond more flexibly, including on Giving

(Continued on Page 3)

# Jill Biden wants holiday visitors to feel like kids again

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE **Associated Press** 

WASHINGTON (AP) inside the White House during the holidays by walking beneath the branches of a Christmas tree. Stroll along a hallway decorated with oversized holiday candy and other sweets. See Santa's sleigh and his eight reindeer suspended above the grand foyer in dramatic fashion.

Jill Biden wants everyone who visits the White House during the holidays to feel like a kid again.

"Each room is designed to capture this pure, unfiltered delight and imagination" so visitors "see this time of year through the wondrous, sparkling eyes of children," the first lady said Monday at the

first of a month's worth of holiday receptions. About 100,000 visitors are expected for the holidays.

"Magic, Wonder and Joy" is the theme this year, President Joe Biden's third in the White House.

Jill Biden said it was "so amazing" to see the Christmas tree atop the entrance to the East Wing when they returned Sunday night after spending the Thanksgiving holiday in Nantucket, Massachusetts.

'When Joe and I saw that last night, we were just, like, mesmerized," she said. The whimsical set of oversized

decorations is meant to inspire the feelings of awe and wonder that put children on joyful edge during the holidays, White House aides said.

Throughout two public floors of the White House, the décor features several nods to the 200th anniversary of the publication of the poem and book commonly known as "Twas the Night Before Christmas." (The official title is 'A Visit from St. Nicholas.")

The papier-mâché reindeer sus-(Continued on Page 3)

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Mostly sunny and windy, 'warmer' tomorrow

Today	Wed.	Thursday
High 27	High 41 Low 26	High 49
Low 17	Low 26	Low 36

More Weather on Page 2



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Vol. 95 No. 23 TUESDAY **November 28, 2023** 

# The Gospel Barn of Bluffton Presents



**Hoppers!** Dinner/Concert **Saturday** Dec. 2-4 p.m. 429 E. Dustman Road

All seats Reserved. Call 651.269.2120 for info. Order tickets online: www.thegospelbarnofbluffton.com How to contact us: 824-0224 or 1-800-579-7476 On the Web:

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# **Indiana DCS staffing**

• No more than 12 to 15 children in out-of-home care The report calls FCMs

"some of the most integral" to the agency's mission, whose "dedication helps prevent future maltreatment as families rebuild and learn to provide a safe environment for the loved ones in their care."

Of the agency's 19 regions, 10 meet staffing standards and an additional four have at least 90 percent of the staff they need. The statewide staffing level is 99 percent.

The report details staffing by region and county, with several areas in southern Indiana below the ideal range. Region 14, which covers Bartholomew, Jackson, Jennings, Johnson and Shelby counties had the biggest staffing shortage, with just 74 percent of FCM need

However, two counties in the area — Jackson and Jennings — were fully staffed. Bartholomew had iust over half, 53 percent, while Johnson had 64 percent and Shelby had 70 per-

With 12-weeks of training, replacing staff isn't as easy as hiring a new person especially since recent graduates don't immediately

handle a full caseload. And DCS, like other employers, has had difficulty retaining and recruiting employees in a tight labor market with a historically low unemploy-

In Fiscal Year 2023 — a period of time from July 1, 2022 to June 31, 2023, which is the calendar for the state budget — DCS reported losing 739 FCMs and hiring another 890.

One factor the agency cited was low pay, something noted in the 2022 State Personnel Department compensation study. Prior to that initiative, pay started at \$35,776 and increased to \$40,092 after the 12-week training period. Following the study, pay started at \$47,320.

Increasing salaries helped with retention but "challenges remain(ed) due to the difficult nature of the work."

The report details recruitment efforts such as increasing the number of job fairs from 15 to 25, visiting colleges and universities, and hosting interview events at offices with five or more openings.

### The importance of FCMs, families

High FCM turnover, according to the report, "can" result in: longer foster care stays for children, delays in timely assessments of allegations of abuse and neglect, disruptions in child placements and increased rates of repeat maltreatment.

'Supporting family case managers is paramount to ensuring the best service for the children in DCS' care," the report said.

The agency uses a sixmonth caseload average but "strives to hire 120 percent of its six-month average need of family case managers during October, November and December of each year to be prepared for one of the busiest times each year, which is March through May."

Case numbers trended down in fiscal year 2023, with a total of 14,163 children interacting with DCS through informal adjustments, collaborative care or 'child in need of services" compared to 15,838 the previous year — a decrease of over 10 percent.

Between months caseloads also fluctuated from a low of 6,797 in July 2022 to a high of 9,651 in September 2022.

The agency highlighted several areas where it said it succeeded, including: fewer families in need of formal intervention, fewer children

in residential care, fewer children who experienced repeat maltreatment and improved ratio of supervisors to case managers.

One effort potentially having an impact and decreasing the number of children in DCS' system: kinship care, or family members raising children when their biological parents are unable to do so.

In the latest budget cycle, DCS pushed to add a \$300 monthly stipend for kinship caregivers, who are typically unlicensed and don't qualify for foster care pay-

Additionally, calls to Indiana's 24-hour Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline were down in the last year.

"While the hotline has historically seen an increase in reports year over year, there has been a recent plateau and reduction in the number of reports generated ..." the report said, listing calls per year. "From (fiscal year) 2016 to (fiscal year) 2019, the hotline received a 14 percent increase in reports. This is believed to be due in large part to increased awareness of the

"In (fiscal year) 2023, the hotline saw a 4 percent reduction in reports since the previous year.'

# Weather

Tuesday, November 28, 2023 (24-hour observations at 9:21 p.m. Monday) **High:** 29; **Low:** 20; **Precipitation:** None Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.23

# Wells County forecast

feet at 9:45 p.m. Monday

**Today:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 27. West wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Tonight:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 17. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph. Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 41. West wind 15

to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 26.

Southwest wind around 10 mph. **Thursday:** A 40 percent chance of showers after 1 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 49. Breezy.

Thursday Night: Showers. Low around 36. Breezy.

Chance of precipitation is 80 percent. Friday: Showers, mainly before 1 p.m. High near 44.

Chance of precipitation is 80 percent. **Friday Night:** A 20 percent chance of showers before 1

a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 30. **Saturday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 45.

**Saturday Night:** A 20 percent chance of showers. Most-

ly cloudy, with a low around 34.

Sunday: A 30 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 52.

**Sunday Night:** A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 37.

# A Sumatran rhino calf adds to endangered species of fewer than 50

this year and a welcome addition to a species that currently numbers fewer than 50 animals.

A female named Delilah gave birth to a 55-pound male calf at a sanctuary for Sumatran rhinos in Way Kambas National Park in Lampung province, at the southern tip of Sumatra

The calf is fathered by a male named Harapan, who was born at the Cincinnati Zoo in 2006. He was the last Sumatran rhino in the world to be repatriated to Indonesia, meaning that the entire population of Sumatran rhinos is now in Indonesia.

Most of the remaining rhinos live on Sumatra, several in captivity. They are threatened by destruction of tropical forest habitat and poachers who kill the animals for their horns, which are prized for making ornaments and for use in traditional medicine in China and other parts of Asia.

birth of the second Sumatran rhino in 2023. It emphasizes the government commitment of the Indonesian Government on the rhino conservation efforts in Indonesia, especially the Sumatran rhino," Indonesian Environment and Forestry Minister Siti Nurbaya Bakar said in a written statement.

A conservation guard found Delilah with the newborn male calf next to her on Saturday morning, 10 days earlier than the estimated date of delivery.

position, said a statement from Indonesia' Environment and Forestry Ministry.

The Sumatran rhino is egally protected in Indonesia. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species describes the Sumatran rhinos as critically endangered: the population is declining and only about 30 mature

### "This birth is also the By EDNA TARIGAN **Associated Press** JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — A critically endangered Sumatran rhino was born in Indonesia's western island of Sumatra on Saturday, the second Sumatran rhino born in the country

She added that, from the semi-natural breeding efforts, there were five live births of Sumatran rhinos at the Way Kambas sanctuary.

Delilah and her baby are in good condition as the calf is now able to stand upright and walk. Not long after he was discovered, he was able to breastfeed in a standing

animals remain.



# **Cyber Monday** (Continued from Page 1)

bornly high inflation, which recently reached its lowest point in more than two years yet remains painfully apparent in areas like auto and health insurance and some groceries, like beef and

Economists, meanwhile, have cautioned strong spending is likely to wane in the coming months.

Stressed consumers are relying on savings to fuel their shopping and are facing more pressure from credit card debt, which has been on the rise along with delinquencies. They've also been embracing "Buy Now Pay Later" payment plans, which allow shoppers to make payments over time without typically — charging interest.

The National Retail Federation expects holiday shoppers to spend more this year than last year. But the pace of spending will slow, it said, growing 3 percent to 4 percent com-

pared to 5.4 percent in 2022. A clear sense of consumer spending won't emerge until the government releases sales data for the holiday season, though preliminary data shows some good signs for the retail

industry. According to Adobe, shoppers spent a record \$9.8 billion online Friday — marking a 7.5 percent jump from last year. Meanwhile, Salesforce, which also tracks online shopping, estimated that Black Friday online sales totaled \$16.4 billion in the U.S. and \$70.9 billion around the world. And Mastercard SpendingPulse, which tracks in-person and online spending across all payment forms, reported that overall Black Friday sales excluding automotive rose 2.5 percent from a year ago — a smaller but still notable jump compared to 2022's double-digit

According to the firm, online sales rose 8.5 percent, while in-store purchases were up just 1.1 percent. Those numbers are not adjusted for inflation, which means that real sales in-stores could have dipped due to high prices.

Other data showed Black Friday saw some increases in store traffic with large crowds in stores nationwide feeling more similar to pre-pandemic

RetailNext, which measures realtime foot traffic in stores, reported that store traffic rose 2.1 percent on Friday. Sensormatic Solutions, which also tracks store traffic, saw a bigger increase — reporting a 4.6 percent jump in shopper visits on Black Friday compared to a year ago. That also marks a turnaround from an average decline in store traffic seen throughout 2023 to date, Sensormatic said.

Grant Gustafson, head of retail consulting and analytics at Sensormatic, said that this marked the most significant Black Friday increase that his organization has seen in recent memo-

"This is a really good barometer of what to expect for the remainder of the holiday season," Gustafson said. "The overall trend that we saw in traffic is a really positive sign for not only physical retail, but also for e-comm retail that the consumer is willing to spend when they find out (about significant

sales)." Electronics, clothing, toys and jewelry were among the categories that saw the most growth this Black Friday, per Adobe. Health and beauty products as well as sporting goods also saw sig-

nificant sales increases. Retailers began offering holiday deals in October this year, continuing a trend that started during the COVID-19 pandemic and has been resurrected multiple times due to supply chain clogs or inflation woes. But many consumers waited to buy until Black Fri-

Mickey Chadha, retail expert and vice president at the credit rat-

ing agency Moody's, believes that discounts will likely be quite strong and continue in the coming days, primarily because inventory, especially in discretionary categories, remains higher than demand. But he said the deals likely won't be as good as last year, when retailers had more items on hand.

The investment bank Jefferies, which tracked 54 retailers during Black Friday, said Monday that it found that a majority of them offered flat discounts compared to last year. Still, Salesforce's data showed discount rates rose to 30 percent in the U.S. on Black Friday, enticing customers to buy.

"They're once again playing a game and winning the game -- of discount chicken, where they wait for retailers to discount to where they feel most comfortable," said Rob Garf, vice president and general manager of Retail at Salesforce. "And that's what's happen-

According to Adobe's stats, spending exceeded Black Friday during the weekend as consumers spent \$10.3 billion to take advantage of discounts that have been higher than years past. On Thanksgiving Day, Adobe said shoppers had spent another \$5.6 billion, up 5.5 percent compared to last year. That's nearly double the amount consumers spent online in 2017, showing the continued shift to online shopping during the gift-giving sea-

The resale industry, which has grown in recent years, is also expected to be a significant part of the holiday shopping season. Salesforce predicts 17 percent of holiday gifts this year will come from resale markets like Facebook Marketplace or ThreadUp, as well as brands like Canada Goose, Patagonia and Coach offering resale options on their sites for environmentally conscious consumers or those who enjoy vintage offerings.



### **OBITUARIES**

## Janice E. Leininger, 78

Janice E. Leininger, 78, of Ossian, passed away on Friday, Nov. 24, 2023.

Janice was born on Jan. 17. 1945, in Yoder, a daughter of the late Clyde B. and Lavon "Betty" (Hougendobler) Leininger. She was a lifelong member at St. Mark Lutheran Church, Thiele Road.

Surviving family include her sisters, Karen Littleford, Arlene (Leonard) Gallmeyer and Patty (Mark D.) Collier; three nieces and three

nephews; and 14 great-nieces and nephews.

Besides her parents, she was preceded in passing by three infant siblings; and her brother-in-law, Hugh Lit-

Funeral service will be 11 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 1, 2023, at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 16933 Thiele Rd. in Fort Wayne, with visitation one hour prior. Visitation will also be from 4-7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023, at the church.

Memorials in Janice's memory may be made to Stillwater Hospice or St. Mark Lutheran Church Flower Fund. Elzey-Patterson-Rodak Funeral Home, Ossian is caring for the arrangements. Condolences and memories of Janice may be left online at www.elzey-patterson-rodak.com.

## Glennis L. Fosnaugh, 105

Glennis L. Fosnaugh, 105, died Monday morning, Nov. 27, 2023, at Chateau Rehabilitation and Health-Care Center in Ft. Wayne.

Funeral arrangements are pending at this time with Goodwin – Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel 3220 East SR 124 Bluffton, IN.

# **Donors speak**

(Continued from Page 1) ing Tuesday when she seeks out nonprofits that are running matching campaigns.

"My advice for people for Giving Tuesday is, do a little bit of research and see who needs help, who has matching challenges," she said. "And that makes it kind of fun and exciting to think that even though you give something small, it gets doubled or tripled."

THICAGO — Alicia Bailey said her philanthropic giving was not always inten-

An executive producer who now works in real estate, Bailey would give \$5 when checking out a store or attending a charity gala when invited by a relative. That changed in 2018 when she joined a group of donors who pool their funds to support small organizations serving women and girls on Chicago's South Side.

Bailey's involvement with philanthropy has since grown to the point where she joined the board of the Chicago Foundation for Women, which hosts her giving circle and also makes its own grants.

"To go through the process of understanding and getting educated about the grantmaking process, all the way through to deciding and doing site visits, and seeing and hearing the work that's actually happening in the Chicagoland area and being able to put faces and names and sounds to these women who are making things possible with very little," Bailey said was incredibly benefi-

The giving circle makes relatively small grants to organizations that have budgets of less than \$500,000, where those grants can make a big difference.

'People may have an idea of like, 'My dollars are too small, they wouldn't matter, right?" Bailey said. "But in these cases, we know that it is because of people giving what they can that it literally has changed the way that organizations are able to do their work. And then that changes lives in the commu-

ATLANTA - The amount that Ruben Brooks, 56, will give each year varies, but what doesn't change are the causes he supports: financial literacy, scholarships and mentoring for young people in the African American community.

"If you want a healthier society, if you want a more productive society, a safer society, then it probably behooves all of us to give in an effort to effectuate the desired result," said Brooks, who is the chief operating officer of Atlanta Beltline.

Years ago, he volunteered as a mentor for Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, an organization that he continues to support financially, along with Junior Achievement of Georgia, where he is now a board member. While he has less time to volunteer nowadays, he has extended his network to students who receive scholarships through another nonprofit, the Ezekiel Taylor Foundation, sometimes hosting them at his home.

# **Corrections and clarifications**

In the Nov. 25 edition of the Entertainment Guide, a story about Ouabache State Park's Wonderland of Lights mistated that one of the displays, a metal replica of the park's fire tower, had been donated by Croy Machine Shop as it was no longer in business. The Croy Machine Shop is still in business and donated the display.

In Monday's "Zanesville News," the incorrect date was included for Tower Life Center's Community Christmas the correct date is 8 p.m. Dec. 1.

# **Police Notebook**

### **INCIDENTS**

City:

Wednesday, 5:55 p.m., Roush Park. Caller reported manhole cover displaced, caller almost fell through.

Wednesday, 6:10 p.m., 1500 block of Kensington Drive. Welfare check requested for subject. Subject located safely.

Wednesday, 8 p.m., Save On Liquor South. Report of harassment via phone call. Trespass warning issued.

Thursday, 11:42 a.m., 100 block of South Morgan Street. Caller reported woman screaming. Officers spoke with subjects involved.

Thursday, 11:48 a.m., 800 block of South Morgan Street. Caller reported two subjects near doors of residence the night before, did not try to gain entry.

Thursday, 1:24 p.m., Short Stop. Welfare check requested for man, woman, and child in parking lot. Subjects advised they were waiting for a ride from family.

Thursday, 1:25 p.m., 200 block of West Central Avenue. Couple reported fraud via the internet.

Thursday, 3:21 p.m., 400 block of West Hale Street. Caller reported suspicious behavior from three subjects, two of which reportedly ran towards the woods. Unable

Thursday, 7:38 p.m., 1400 block of West Lancaster Street. Caller reported their dog bit a subject in the residence and requested the animal be removed.

Friday, 1:40 a.m., Airplane Express and Service Station. Subject reported she was in the cold for hours and needed a warm place to stay while she waited for a ride. Officer transported woman to Pak A Sak to wait for ride

Friday, 2:51 a.m., North Bond and West Market requested ride to jail for war- No one found.

Bell. Driver cited for expired

Friday, 6:02 a.m., Capri Meadows. Report of an activated fire alarm. Apartment building evacuated, no fire found.

Friday, 8:07 a.m., 700 block of Clark Avenue. Report of two teenagers fighting.

Friday, 9:24 a.m., Save On Liquor North. Caller reported man threatened him and left. Friday, 10:51 a.m., East

Wabash and North Main streets. Report of a cell phone found on Wabash Street. Phone owner located and phone returned. Friday, 11:11 a.m.,

Walmart. Report of missing child. Subject located and left with family. Friday, 4:48 p.m., 1000 block of West Wabash Street.

Report of dog out multiple times. Owner advised dog broke free from leash. Friday, 7:20 p.m., Bluffton Regional South Campus. Caller reported back door to

ER was opening and clos-

ing approximately four times when it should have been locked. Friday, 9:02 p.m., Bluffton Body and Repair. Officer noticed subjects running after passing them. Located subjects who reported that

there was someone doing

laps in the area and they

were worried. Friday, 10:05 p.m., 1400 block of Clark Avenue. The mailbox murderer strikes again. Caller reported a vehicle hit their mailbox, destroying the 4x4 post under it. The vehicle allegedly left white residue. No other leads at this time.

Saturday, 3:02 p.m., Masonic Lodge. Caller requested officer check the area at night for possible

Saturday, 9:50 p.m., Friday, 6:01 a.m., Taco Dairy Queen. Caller requested escort to vehicle due to car that had been in the parking lot for an extended time. Subjects in car were a young couple eating ice cream and advised they would leave.

Saturday, 10:11 p.m., 900 block of West Wabash Street. Report of dogs barking all day. Owners advised they would be back shortly.

Sunday, 8:04 a.m., Hope Missionary Church. Report of a wallet located inside door of building. Wallet was returned to owner.

Sunday, 12:29 p.m., Walmart. Caller reported trailer in parking lot, requested officer speak to driver about removal.

Sunday, 8:47 p.m., Capri Meadows. Report of a noise complaint, subject cited after refusing to answer door on multiple calls.

Monday, 1:03 p.m., PNC Bank. Report of subject slurring his words and unable to hold onto his wallet.

### **County:**

Wednesday, 5:12 p.m., 1100 South 400 West, Montpelier. Caller reported finding pig carcass on property approximately one week ago.

Wednesday, 7:50 p.m., Bryants Auto Parts. Car versus deer.

Thursday, 5:42 a.m., River Terrace Estates. Officer jump started callers dead battery with battery pack.

300 North 100 West, Uniondale. Caller reported her mailbox fell victim to a vehicle as well. She had no leads but wanted to make a report in case it was happening in other areas.

Thursday, 10:28 p.m., 5400 North 700 East, Craigville. Caller reported mailbox was run over by a pickup truck. No leads; not a good day for mailboxes.

streets. Jesse Aparicio subject sleeping in stairwell. K Auto Parts, Warren. Caller truck versus deer.

reported finding a gun in a recently purchased vehicle.

Friday, 9:17 p.m., 500 block of Countryside Drive, Markle. Caller reported package was taken from apartment.

Saturday, 9:53 a.m., 2300 East 350 South, Bluffton. Report of a gun found in barn at residence.

Saturday, 8:41 p.m., Ind. 116 and North Meridian Road, Uniondale. Car versus

Sunday, 3:23 a.m., 4200 West Ind. 124, Liberty Center. Car versus deer.

Sunday, 12:31 p.m., 3800 Ind. 116, Bluffton. Tag requested for deer in yard.

Sunday, 5:23 p.m., Ind. 224 and 800 East, Craigville. Driver was cited for speeding 78 in a 55 mph zone.

Sunday, 6:32 p.m., 2200 South Hoosier Highway, Bluffton. Caller reported dog in yard all day.

# Ossian:

Wednesday, 1:43 p.m., 11000 North Ind. 1, Ossian. Report of someone attempting to vandalize vehicle. Thursday, 11:54 a.m., 700

block of Highland Avenue, Ossian. Another vehicle victoriously unlocked. Friday, 2:37 p.m., 8200

North 750 East, Ossian. Caller reported issues with juveniles.

Friday, 11:13 p.m., 1100 North 100 West, Ossian. Caller reported harassment. Saturday, 5:05 p.m., 500

Thursday, 4:38 p.m., East 900 North, Ossian. Caller reported man trespassing on property. Man advised he was given permission to hunt on property. Saturday, 9:43 p.m.,

11000 North 450 East, Ossian. Caller reported two subjects walking around in field around truck. Subjects advised they were driving through the field and blew engine of vehicle. Monday, 12:23 a.m., Ind.

Friday, 1:32 p.m., B and 1 and Ind. 224, Ossian. Semi

# **Holiday visitors**

(Continued from Page 1)

pended in the foyer are "so cool," she said. "It's like they're leaping from the storybook's pages. I don't know how you feel about it. I feel it's just breathtaking."

The Library of Congress provided samples of editions of the book from the past 200 years that are on display in protective cases along the ground floor corridor. The traditional gingerbread White House includes a large sugar cookie replica of the book opened to a page that says "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night." Santa's sleigh and reindeer also fly above the cookie White House.

National Guard families, who joined the first lady as part of her Joining Forces initiative to support military families, were among the first members of the public to see the decorations. Children of these and other military families were also treated to a performance by the cast of the North American tour of the Disney musical "Frozen."

One of the first Christmas trees visitors see after entering the White House is decorated with wooden gold

star ornaments engraved with the names of fallen service members. The official White House

Christmas tree, an 18.5-foottall Fraser fir, stands in its usual place in the Blue Room. The massive tree highlights cheerful scenes, landscapes and neighborhoods from across the country. A toy train runs around

The State Dining Room has been transformed into Santa's workshop, with elves' workbenches, stools and ladders circling Christmas trees, and tools and gifts-in-progress rounding out the décor.

The dining room is the customary stage for the gingerbread White House, which was assembled using 40 sheets of sugar cookie dough for the book and 40 sheets of gingerbread dough for the house, 90 pounds of pastillage, a cake decorating paste, 30 pounds of chocolate and 50 pounds of royal icing.

The library honors the tradition of bedtime stories with dangling golden moons and shimmering stars; the China Room has been turned into a sweet shop

featuring baked goodies, and the Vermeil Room celebrates music with a display of rotating big Marine Band figurines with trumpets.

Glowing candles and stained glass in the Green Room celebrate faith, and holiday craft-making is the theme in the Red Room, where a tradition of featuring cranberries continues.

The official White House Menorah is on display in the Cross Hall connecting the State Dining Room and the East Room, which is decorated with trees and various advent calendars.

The décor also features likenesses of family cat Willow and dog Commander, who was recently sent away after multiple incidents of bittrees, nearly 34,000 ornaments, over 22,000 bells and more than 350 candles were used in the décor, according to the White House. Nearly 142,500 lights illuminate

trees, garlands, wreaths and

other displays, and nearly

15,000 feet of ribbon are

ing Secret Service personnel.

Ninety-eight Christmas

part of it all. Seventy-two wreaths sporting red ribbons adorn the north and south exteriors of the building.

Some 300 volunteer decorators and designers spent a few days last week gathering decorations from a warehouse. They spent Friday, Saturday and Sunday putting the decorations in their proper places.





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# It's beginning to look a lot like winter

The calendar tells us that we're still three weeks away from the official start of winter yet I'm guessing you saw and perhaps drove through the same precipitation as I did Sunday afternoon, especially if you were north of Bluffton.

I spent a little time on Friday raking the yard and running the lawnmower to bag up the last evidence of autumn. On Sunday, the sleet-snow mix arrived to shield the grass I had mowed just 48 hours earlier.



Peeper

What can I say ... we live in northeast Indiana. Getting ready for winter used to mean putting my shovel by the garage door, filling up the gas can in case I need to use my snowblower, putting an ice scraper in the trunk, and getting some salt for the driveway and sidewalk.

It took 30 minutes or less every year.

Nowadays, however, it takes a bit longer to get ready for Old Man Winter by doing those same tasks plus a

We have two big furry dogs at home; both top the scales at 100-plus pounds.

Our almost 6-year-old Bernese mountain dog Alicia weighs 110 pounds, and our almost 4-year-old golden retriever Santiago weighs a few pounds more. Both are on a diet at the moment, as both need to drop 10 to 12 pounds — a topic we'll save for another day.

They both love being outside, and the first snow of the year is always an adventure at the Peeper house.

The pups love to go outdoors every few hours on a normal day; when there is snow, every few hours turns into every few minutes it seems.

Who knew a wet wintery dusting of snow could be

My wife snapped a picture of Alicia outside Sunday afternoon in our backyard and accurately captioned it, "The only member of the family excited to see snow

Truer words were never spoken — or in this case, written and posted on social media next to a picture of Alicia sitting in the snow as happy as a clam.

Sunday's small amount of snow was the catalyst to get ready for the looming arrival of winter — a task that requires a bit more work, as I'm sure any of you with big dogs at home know.

We have put several more mats down around the house where the dogs come in and go out — to try to keep them from slipping and to try to keep the tile as clean as you can with two big dogs.

And this weekend turned into Operation Find Towel. The mission was to round up every old but still usable towel to stockpile for the winter ahead for a second detail: Operation Dry Paw-Coat.

I never imagined how hard it would be to get two big dogs to want to let you dry their paws and coats after frolicking and rolling around in the wet snow.

Perhaps the extra time outside playing in the snow will help them both burn a few more calories to drop some excess weight.

The towels are ready and the mats are down. Additionally, the dog groomer is on speed dial since keeping a Bernese mountain dog clean is about as easy as keeping one of our former presidents off social

Perhaps the extra precautions won't be necessary this winter. An El Niño winter is supposed to characterize this year's forecast, which means it could be drier for us in northeast Indiana.

Now that's some good news to hear going into winter, especially for those of us with big dogs at home pooches who just can't get enough of the snow.

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

# **Today in History**

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 28, the 332nd day of 2023. There are 33 days left in the

Today's Highlight in History: On Nov. 28, 1942, fire engulfed the Cocoanut Grove nightclub in Boston, killing 492 people in the deadliest nightclub blaze ever. (The cause of the rapidly spreading fire, which began in the basement, is in dispute; one theory is that a busboy accidentally ignited an artificial palm tree while using a lighted match to fix a light bulb.)

On this date:

In 1520, Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan reached the Pacific Ocean after passing through the

South American strait that now bears his name.

In 1919, American-born Lady Astor was elected the first female member of the British Parliament.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin began conferring in Tehran during World War II.

In 1961, Ernie Davis of Syracuse University became the first Black college football player to be named winner of the Heisman Trophy.

In 1964, the United States launched the space probe Mariner 4 on a course toward Mars, which it flew past in July 1965, sending back pictures of the red

# The News-Banner

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> Holly Gaskill, Editor Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor

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# A Supreme Court case with momentous implications for government power

"The accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive, and judiciary, in the same hands ... may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny.

– James Madison, Federalist 47 So, were the sainted Madison to see today's federal government, he would recognize the momentousness of the case the Supreme Court will hear Wednesday, when George Jarkesy, a hedge fund founder, will at last have his day in court.

If he prevails, the constitutional right of access to courts will be vindicated, constitutionally dubious delegations of congressional power will be curtailed, and administrative state agencies will have to respect the separation of powers. Let us hope for what progressives fear: the end of government as they have transformed it.

The Securities and Exchange Commission, having charged Jarkesy in 2013 with fraudulently valuing some assets, put his case not before a federal court and jury but before an SEC administrative law judge. The SEC judge sided with the SEC, imposing a financial penalty, requiring Jarkesy to disgorge some earnings, and barring him from the securities industry.

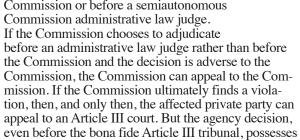
Jarkesy wants the Supreme Court to affirm, and the SEC wants it to overturn, an appellate court's ruling that the Constitution's Seventh Amendment guarantees Jarkesy a right to trial by jury. And that Congress unconstitutionally delegated to the SEC, without the guidance of an intelligible principle, the power to decide the judicial forum for adjudicating disputes. And that the SEC's administrative law judges are unconstitutionally exempt from presidential removal for policy reasons, which impedes the president's constitutional duty to see that the laws are "faithfully

Many targets of SEC enforcement quickly settle cases that the SEC assigns not to a regular court with a neutral judge but to its in-house tribunals. This practice is analogous to prosecutors overcharging defendants to coerce them into plea bargains, vitiating their right to jury trials.

The use of agencies' courts began in the 1970s In 1994, law professor Gary S. Lawson - then at Northwestern, now at Boston University - published a Harvard Law Review article ("The Rise and Rise of the Administrative State") describing what he called the typical enforcement activities of a typical federal agency, the Federal Trade Commission:

"The Commission promulgates substantive rules of conduct. The Commission then considers whether to authorize investigations into whether the Commission's rules have been violated. If the Commission

authorizes an investigation, the investigation is conducted by the Commission, which reports its findings to the Commission. If the Commission thinks that the Commission's findings warrant an enforcement action, the Commission issues a complaint. The Commission's complaint that a Commission rule has been violated is then prosecuted by the Commission and adjudicated by the Commission. This Commission adjudication can either take place before the full Commission or before a semiautonomous Commission administrative law judge. If the Commission chooses to adjudicate



both of fact and of law." Incestuous, isn't it? Today, Lawson says, the FTC still can operate like this, and other agencies often exercise such abusive power.

a very strong presumption of correctness on matters

The Institute for Justice is representing in an appellate court Joe and Russell Marino, former operators of a New Jersey vegetable farm, which has closed largely because of financial uncertainties caused by the Labor Department. In 2016, department agents notified the Marinos that they were being penalized more than \$550,000, with over \$320,000 of that because of a single paperwork error. Thus began a five-year ordeal before Labor Department agency judges. After the Marinos lost a four-day trial before a 25-year Labor Department employee, they appealed to a panel of five more judges appointed by the labor secretary. Unsurprisingly, they lost. The government is still trying to penalize them more than half a million dollars without allowing them their day in a real court.

By resisting such abuses, Jarkesy, like the Institute for Justice, is defending the nation's constitutional structure against unaccountable agencies operating as a fourth branch of government. Jarkesy is asking the Supreme Court to demonstrate, for the benefit of everyone but administrative state bureaucrats, something that Alexander Hamilton said (in Federalist 78) would be required to defend the Constitution against depredations by the elected branches: an "uncommon portion of fortitude."

georgewill@washpost.com

# A fraught battlespace awaits Israel after the pause

operations at a moment

when international pres-

permanent cease-fire. An

eign Ministry spokesman

example is Qatar's For-

Majed Al-Ansari, who

told reporters Thursday

in Doha, "Of course, our

aim is for this deal to end

sure will grow for a

Israel faces an agonizing and probably controversial dilemma ahead: After pausing the Gaza war for humanitarian reasons, how will the Israel Defense Forces start it up again to complete its objective of destroying Hamas's political power?

Friday's celebrations of the release of 13 Israeli women and children didn't mask the concern among senior Israeli officials about what's ahead in this stop-start war as Israel seeks to recover all 240 hostages and also crush the Hamas forces that hold most of them. "It's bittersweet," said one senior Israeli official in an interview on the eve of the hostage release. "I'm thinking of those who

will not come out tomorrow.' Israel hopes this round of trading hostages for Palestinian women and teenage prisoners can be extended until all the roughly 100 women and children held in Gaza have been freed. "At this point in time, Israel is focused on getting all 100 women and children released," the senior official said. It will be far harder to expand the process further to include the more than 100 male civilians and soldiers. That probably means a return to battle soon.

"The next stage will be high-intensity conflict," said the senior Israeli official. "The IDF is determined to go to the next stage of the war. We're not at the stabilization phase yet." Asked about the likelihood that this renewed Israeli attack will draw international criticism, he responded: "There is very strong determination on the part of the IDF and the Israeli people that we can no longer live with Hamas ruling Gaza."

Here's the nub of the problem: Israel will seek to resume offensive



**David** in a lasting truce." Qatar Ignatius

has been the key mediator between Israel and Hamas in the hostagerelease negotiations.

I've watched Israel repeatedly face similar dilemmas in past wars - of diplomatic pressure to halt fighting before the IDF believes it has completed its mission. In the 1973 Arab-Israeli War, Israel had trapped the Egyptian Third Army on the east side of the Suez Canal and was stopped only by the intervention of U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger. In the 1982 siege of Beirut, Israel resisted repeated calls for a cease-fire before finally agreeing to a U.S. deal that allowed Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasser Arafat to leave the city with his forces.

Perhaps the most relevant example of stop-start warfare against Hamas was Operation Protective Edge in 2014. Israel invaded Gaza to destroy Hamas tunnels and stop rocket fire. Israel attacked July 7. The United States and Egypt brokered temporary, short-lived cease-fires on Aug. 1, Aug. 10, Aug. 13 and Aug. 19 before a lasting truce was reached Aug. 26.

For all the devastation this latest war has brought to Palestinian civilians, Hamas fighters remain wellentrenched underground. Clearing operations aren't over in northern Gaza, and those in southern Gaza have barely begun. A second Israeli

official said the Hamas tunnel network "is more developed than we thought" and that at least 600 tunnel shafts have been discovered and closed in the north alone.

The next phase of the war probably will include heavy assaults on Khan Younis and other Hamas strongholds in southern Gaza. But Israeli officials hope that during this stage, more international humanitarian aid will be available to ease the suffering of Palestinian civilians, reducing the horrific images that drew global protests during the first six weeks of the war.

Hamas will undoubtedly use the pause to rest and regroup, and so will the IDF. "The pause will let our fighters get better prepared for the next stage of the war," said the first Israeli

After the pause, Israel must make some tough decisions about IDF force levels. After the Oct. 7 Hamas terrorist attack, Israel called up an estimated 300,000 reservists - an unprecedented number that left the Israeli economy badly depleted of young talent. Some unneeded reservists may be sent back to their civilian jobs.

But the first Israeli official stressed that destroying Hamas is an overriding concern. "There's an understanding that from an economic perspective, we need to win the war," he said. "The costs of war are short term, relative to the long-term benefit of people going back to living safely.'

In the political-military sphere, one of the hardest maneuvers is advancing forces against an information barrage to stop the conflict. After the joy of the hostage releases in the coming days, Israel will face that difficult challenge - of how to finish the job it started against Hamas without triggering renewed international outrage.

Follow David Ignatius @IgnatiusPost on X



# Rotary dictionary delivery

The Bluffton Rotary Club renewed its annual distribution of dictionaries to Wells County third-grade students, part of the club's literacy and youth efforts. Over 400 dictionaries were presented to students in all three public school systems. Above, Rotarian Mitch Harnish with students from one of the four Lancaster Elementary School classes. Rotary has been delivering non-powered-word-definition-devices to Wells County schools for 14 years. (Photo provided)

# **Christmas at the Limberlost Cabin**

On Sunday, Dec. 3 the Limberlost Historic Site in Geneva in will host a Christmas program from 1 to 5 p.m.

Visitors are invited to see the cabin

decorated for the holiday, listen to some carols and enjoy some cider. Admission is \$6 and reservations are asked to 317-232-



# Merry Christmas to the 'Mentor Moms'

Members of the Foltz Bay View Literary Club recently presented a "Merry Christmas" gift of \$300 to Dawn Fowler for the Mentor Moms program at Family Centered Services. Book club members left to right are President Amy Greiner, Marge Ellis, Fowler and Treasurer Pam Blessing. Book club meetings are held at the Family Centered Services building on Tuesday afternoons. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

# **Area Things to See and Do**

ALL FOR ONE PRODUCTIONS, **FORT WAYNE** www.allforonefw.org

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WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM

Le Chic Holiday Market, Dec. 1 & 2. www.memorialcoliseum.com

### ARENA DINNER THEATER, FORT WAYNE

"One Christmas Eve at Evergreen Mall," Dec. 1-17; "\*LMNOP," Jan. 19-28; "Funny Money," March 1-16; "A Delightful Quarantine," April 19-May 4; "The Drowsy Chaperone," June 14-29. www.arenadinnertheatre.org

# **CLYDE THEATRE, FORT WAYNE**

Brian Regan (comedy), Dec. 7; Tribute to Elton John/Billy Joel; Debutants & Friends: Jan. 20; Foy Vance, Jan 28. ClydeTheatre.com or at 1-800-514-3849.

# **EMBASSY THEATER, FORT WAYNE**

Lindsey Stirling: Dec. 4; "The Hip Hop Nutcracker (Touring)," Dec. 5; Cirque Dream Holidaze: Dec. 7; Phil Holiday Pops: Dec. 14-17; "Sleighin It Tour": Dec. 20; Straight No Chaser: Dec. 20; "Napoleon Dynamite Live!," Jan. 18; Tim Allen: Ja. 26; Joy Koy cinmendy: Feb. 4; http://fwembassytheatre.org/events

### FIRE AND LIGHT PRODUCTIONS, **FORT WAYNE**

PPG Arts Lab, 300 E. Main St., Fort Wayne; "Elf Jr.," Dec. 14-16, Arts United Center, 303 E. Main St., Fort Wayne; "The Sound of Music," Jan. 18-20, Arts United Center, 303 E. Main St.. Fort Wayne; "Finding Nemo Jr., April 11-13, Arts United enter, 303 E. Main St., Fort Wayne. Tickets at fireand light productions.com.

### 1ST PRESBYTERIAN THEATRE FORT WAYNE

Almost Maine: Jan. 26-27; firstpresfortwayne.org/theater/

# **BOTANICAL CONSERVATORY**

Timeless Tradition 40 Years through Jan. 7; info at botanical conservatory.org.

# FORT WAYNE CIVIC THEATER

'The Color Purple," Feb. 9-18, 2024; "Six Degrees of Separation," March 15-24; "Jersey Boys," May 4-19; "Something Rotten," July 21-30. Arts United Center box office 260-424-5220; info at www.fwcivic. org.

# FORT WAYNE MUSEUM OF ART

Open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (until 8 p.m. on Thursdays, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. www.fwmoa.org

FURTH CENTER, ANGOLA trine.edu/furth

### HONEYWELL CENTER & **EAGLES THEATRE, WABASH**

Honeywell Center: Cirque Dreams Holidaze: Dec. 5; Four Horsemen: Dec. 7; Scott McCreedy: Dec. 7; Pam Tillis/Phil Vasser: Dec. 13; American Girl Live Concert, Dec. 15; Thunderstruck Wizards of Winter: Dec. 16; Dinosaur World Live: Jan. 26; Little River Band, Feb. 2; 360 Allstars, Feb. 3; Princess Bride/Cary Elwes; 1954 The Tribute: March. 2; Tommy Jones/The Shondells: March 30; Eagles Theatre: A Bing Crosy Christmas: Dec. 12; Nelson, Jan, 18; Sons of Mystro, Feb. 8; Michael Palascak: Feb. 14; https://www.boxofficeticketsales.com/ honeywell-center

# ARTS UNITED CENTER-FW

Fort Wayne Ballet's "The Nutcracker:; Dec. 1-3. 7-10. fortwayneballet.og

# PURDUE-FORT WAYNE THEATER

Productions at Williams Theatre on the Purdue-FW campus. www.pfw.edu/visualperforming-arts.

# SCIENCE CENTRAL, FORT WAYNE

1950 N. Clinton St. in Fort Wayne. Hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Info at 260-424-2400 or at www.sciencecentral.org

### SWEETWATER SOUND, FORT WAYNE

**Performance Center** Tickets: 800-514-3849 or eTix

### BAKER STREET CENTER, **FORT WAYNE**

Christmas at the Centre (Maleena Felger, Aicia Pyle & Mike Conley, Los Galaxy, Snooth Edge 2): Dec. 9; Duke Tumatoe & Power Trio: Jan. 20; www.bakerstreetcentre.

### PIERE'S ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE Etix.com

LERNER THEATRE, ELKHART

Carpenter Tribute/Debbie Tayulor: Dec. 7; Colin Mochrie: Feb. 10; Rodney Carrington: Feb. 23; TheLerner.com

# WAGON WHEEL, WARSAW

""A Christmas Carol,: Dec. 1-17. Tickets 866-923-2618 or wagonwheelcenter.org

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# **Understanding pre-heart failure**

Also: Breaking the cycle of depression

Question: My doctor says I have pre-heart failure. What is that exactly and how can I prevent complete heart failure? – Glen G., Grosse Pointe, Michigan Answer: A report from

the Heart Failure Society of America reveals that 24 percent to 34 percent of U.S. adults have preheart failure. And many of those folks go on to develop heart failure. In fact, they caution that soon the lifetime risk of

heart failure may hit 24 percent, meaning that one in four adults will develop the

Heart failure, AKA congestive heart failure, is a progressive condition that happens when your heart doesn't fill up with enough blood or is too weak to effectively pump out blood to supply the rest of your body with what it needs to function properly. As a result, blood and fluid build up in your lungs, legs and feet. Breathing is compromised. Kidney and liver function are impaired.

It can be caused by high blood pressure, coronary heart disease, obesity or cardiomyopathy — the thickening, stiffening and/or enlargement of your heart muscle. It results in gradual worsening of your overall health, because your blood isn't able to supply your body with enough oxygen and nutrients or keep organ systems working properly.

Pre-heart failure, also asymptomatic left ventricular dysfunction (ALVD), means you have evidence of left-ventricular dysfunction and or leftventricular hypertrophy (enlargement and thickening of that area of the heart), but no outward symptoms of heart failure.

There are many ways to support your heart health and help control pre-heart failure. They include taking antihypertensive ACE inhibitors, beta blockers and statins. And for folks with electrical disturbances of their heart rhythm, automatic implantable cardioverter defibrillators and biventricular pacemakers may be helpful. In addition, adopting healthy lifestyle habits, including not smoking, getting doctor-supervised physical activity, eating a plant-based diet and managing stress, can provide major benefits. You're lucky you got this early diagnosis; take advantage of the opportunity to improve your longevity — and for more heart-loving choices, check out LongevityPlaybook.com.



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

Question: So many of my friends - and their teenage kids — are depressed. It's depressing me! What can we do to break out of this cycle? – Sheryl J., Providence, Rhode Island

Answer: You're right. There's an epidemic of the blues and of more serious chronic depression permeating every corner of the country. A recent study in JAMA Pediatrics found

that in 2021, 20 percent of adolescents were contending with a major depressive disorder - and less than half of them received treatment. And an ongoing Gallup poll on depression in America reports that this year, almost 18 percent of adults are being treated for depression and almost 30 percent have received treatment at some point over their lifetime. That's a 7 percent increase since 2015. And a truly upsetting statistic from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that the suicide rate in 2022 was the highest ever recorded — up 16 percent since

The physical repercussions of mild and chronic depression are far-reaching, including poor stress management, dementia, obesity, premature heart disease and high blood pressure, sleep disorders, disrupted relationships, and an increased risk of cancer and decreased effectiveness of cancer medication.

Kids and adults need support and treatment to manage or shed their depression. That includes talk therapy, medication (for some), and a wide variety of self-help habits including interacting with your posse of friends and family, finding a passion, getting physical activity (150-300 minutes a week), and enjoying yoga, meditation, moderateto-no alcohol consumption, and identifying what you have to be grateful for. One more important self-help technique: improved nutrition. A major study in JAMA Network Open found that eating highly processed foods is directly related to an increased risk for depression. Especially risky? Artificial sweeteners and artificially sweetened beverages; they seem to cause brain changes that lead to depression!

If you or your child is contending with depression, don't shy away from talking about it, reaching out to your doctor for advice, seeking treatment and upgrading your daily habits to support a happier healthier future.

# Ouabache office hours

The office at Ouabache State Park will be open 7 days a week through Dec. 24th.

Hours for the Wonderland of Lights will be from 6 to 9 p.m. each evening.

# **Auditions for "Noir Suspicious"**

Auditions for a murder mystery comedy "Noir Suspicious," to be presented at the Auditorium at Life Community Church, have been announced for Friday, Dec. 1, at 6 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 2, 9 a.m. at the Auditorium..

direct the production that has a cast of nine characters (five male and 4 female) with three being lead roles. Practices will be on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at the church.

Performance dates are Friday, Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. and "Tank" Lowe will Saturday, Feb. 17 at 3 p.m.





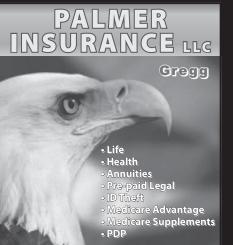
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••••••

**Tom Allen** 

# Tom Allen won't return as the Hoosiers head coach, agrees to a a \$15.5 million buyout

By MICHAEL MAROT **AP Sports Writer** 

Tom Allen spent four seasons steadily taking Indiana up the Big Ten ladder.

Then everything came crashing down in college football's rapidly evolving world.

Three consecutive losing seasons and a three-year conference record of 3-24 cost Allen his dream job on

Sunday, when the two sides reached a financial settlement to part ways.

"It has been my greatest professional honor to serve as Indiana's head football coach for the past seven years," Allen said in a statement released by his agent. "Representing this university and this state has meant more to me than you can imagine. Our entire journey here has been based on a simple concept – Love. Each. Other. It's what we've done, it's what we'll always do. I continue to believe it's a recipe to change the world."

Allen had four years remaining on a contract he received in 2021 and was owed \$20.8 million. But the athletic department said Allen agreed to take two payments worth \$7.75 million, all of which will come from donor funds. It's the biggest buyout ever paid by a Big Ten school, surpassing the \$15 million Scott Frost receiver from Nebraska last

Allen's successes and failures with Indiana mirrored the way college football has changed.

Before name, image and likeness deals and building programs through the trans-

fer portal became the norm, Allen's teams posted a 24-25 mark and he coached in three bowl games — all losses, the first coming in

his college head coaching debut in

Allen capped the ascension by going 6-2 during the pandemicshortened 2020 season. The Hoosiers celebrated the program's highest final ranking, No. 12, in The Associated

Press Top 25 since finishing fourth in 1967, and Allen was named the Big Ten and AFCA national coach of the

He was rewarded with a big contract, but nothing has gone as planned since then.

Oft-injured starting quarterback Michael Penix Jr. reunited with his former offensive coordinator at Washington following the 2020 season, and Indiana had three successive losing

But going just 9-27 overall and 3-24 in league play were only part of Indiana's problem. Shrinking crowds, intensifying criticism and a desire among some administrators and boosters not to embrace college sports' new era created a disadvantage for the Hoosiers on the recruiting trail.

Allen, meanwhile, continued arguing for acceptance of the new rules.

'College football has changed dramatically over the past several years," Allen said in his statement. 'Some of those changes have been a shock to the conscience of those who support IU football. The time has come to fully embrace those changes and I pray that IU does just

That will be a concern for whoever the Hoosiers choose as Allen's successor.

Indiana seemed to be changing directions when it promoted Allen from defensive coordinator to replace Kevin Wilson in December

An 8-5 mark (5-4 Big Ten) in 2019 resulted in Allen getting a seven-year contract extension. After the 2020 season, Indiana gave Allen a \$1 million pay raise to \$4.9 million and bumped him back to seven years.

Allen's emotional postgame speeches became must-watch video on social media in 2020 and after winning at Wisconsin, several Hoosiers players slapped him on the back or hugged him as he did a televised interview. One player even shouted that Allen was the best coach in America.

Those perceptions changed dramatically over the last three years, at least in the eyes of the athletic department.

'After continued evaluation of our entire football program, I have determined that we have lost momentum and that a change in leadership is necessary at this time," athletic director Scott Dolson said. "I want to thank Tom for all of the contributions he has made to IU in his seven years leading our program. His passion, character, and class made a positive impact on our student-athletes. We wish him well in his future endeavors."

Allen grew up in New Castle, Indiana, the son of a high school football coach and started his own coaching career at the prep level in Florida and Indiana.

(Continued from Page 7)



Kennedy Fuelling (middle) signs in front of her current and future head coaches with family members Monday morning at Norwell High School. The senior guard inked with Marian University to continue her basketball career. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

# **Fuelling signs with Marian** to continue basketball career

Norwell guard Kennedy Fuelling signed to play with Marian University for basketball Monday morning at the high school.

The Knights' leading scorer extended her hoops career and rocking the school's nickname "Knights" as the talented shooter heads to a dominant program.

The Marian Knights, currently ranked sixth in the NAIA in women's basketball, has made the national tournament for nine straight seasons to go along with their seven of the last eight Crossroads League regular season trophies.

The program was built under the leadership of now Purdue's head coach Katie Gearlds for eight seasons. Now, Steve Brooks is at the helm and has led Marian to three Sweet 16 appearances or better. The coach was just one of the reasons why Fuelling picked the blue and gold.

I really liked the coaching staff," Fuelling said. "Coach Brooks and (Norwell head coach Eric) Thornton have a lot in common in their coaching styles. And I just really like

the girls, the team and everything."

"He's a funny guy," she added. "He's so funny, and he wants to win. He's very competitive, and I like that."

Fuelling was a highly touted recruit in

the area, making noise for Norwell on the scoresheet ever since her freshman year.

The now senior eclipsed the 1,000-point mark last season and is off to a hot start averaging 20 points, 44 percent from three, and three steals a night.

She tag-teams with two other future college players who will be competing against her in the Crossroads League: St. Francis commit Makenzie Fuess and recent Huntington University signee Dekota Hubble.

Marian University in Indianapolis is the second largest school in the conference with 5,100 students. The campus is just five miles from downtown and Fuelling said it was much larger than what she

Both Knight programs are strong threats to win state and national championships. So far this season, Norwell is 6-2 with wins over ranked teams. Marian is also on a roll, going 7-1 to begin its season with a pair of ranked victories.

Comparing the two head coaches and the two teams that strive for success fits well with Fuelling's ultimate goal.

"They're really good and they're really competitive and they want to win and so do I," Fuelling said.

sports@news-banner.com

# Cardinals ink deal with AL Cy **Young runner-up Sonny Gray**

By DAVE SKRETTA **AP Sports Writer** 

The St. Louis Cardinals made their biggest splash yet in an attempt to revamp their lackluster rotation, agreeing with AL Cy Young runner-up Sonny Gray on a three-year contract Monday to anchor their staff heading into next season.

John Mozeliak, the Cardinals' president of baseball operations,

already had signed free agent right-handers Kyle Gibson and Lance Lynn to one-year deals. But Mozeliak also said the Cardinals were not at "the finish line," and a week later, they have one of the best pitchers on the free-agent market at the front of their rotation.

"We were hoping to sign a couple of pitchers we knew we could count on for innings," Mozeliak said, "and if we could accomplish that, we were hoping we could do something a little bigger, a little longer, and obviously that's where Sonny fits in.

The 34-year-old Gray went 8-8 with a 2.79 ERA for Minnesota last season. He turned down a qualifying offer from the Twins, who get an additional pick in next year's amateur draft as compensation for losing him, currently No. 33.

St. Louis will lose its second-highest selection. It could be a small price to pay for a big boost to their rotation.

"Where I am in my career," Gray said during a news conference at Busch Stadium, "I want to win. I'm coming to an organization like St. Louis — the tradition, just walking in here this morning, walking around seeing everything — the history is there. The feel is there. It's just a baseball town and city and a place that I'm thrilled to be able to come and be part of it."

The Cardinals went 71-91 last season for their worst record since 1995, and the biggest culprit was pitching. Their rotation had a 5.08 ERA, fifth worst in the major leagues, and when the bullpen was added to the mix, their 4.79 ERA ranked 24th.



The Cardinals only had right-hander Miles Mikolas and left-hander Steven Matz under contract for 2024, so it made sense for them to move quickly and sign Lynn and Gibson to absorb innings at the back of the rotation.

The 36-year-old Lynn, a two-time All-Star and part of the Cardinals' 2011 World Series title team, went 13-11 with the White Sox and Dodgers last season. Gibson, also

36, went 15-9 with a 4.73 ERA for AL East champion Baltimore last season. Gray is expected to be right at the front

of the rotation.

The former first-round pick of the A's spent four seasons in Oakland, struggled during the 2018 season with the Yankees, then had a breakthrough after a 2019 trade to the Reds. He went 23-20 with a 3.89 ERA over three seasons in Cincinnati.

Gray was dealt to Minnesota last year, where his season was derailed by hamstring and pectoral injuries. But he bounced back with the best season of his 11-year career, finishing second to the Yankees' Gerrit Cole in AL Cy Young voting.

"Going into the offseason we knew he was going to be someone of high interest," Mozeliak said. "The real question became the timing. How do we accomplish what we felt like we had to accomplish, and do it in an order where the music didn't stop and we were left standing? We feel good about where we are today because we were able to add these three arms."

Gray said the Cardinals were not the first team to discuss a deal this offseason. In fact, Gray and his agent, Bo McKinnis, were moving ahead with other offers and starting to imagine how he would fit in with other

"Then you do finally get a call and you get intrigued," Gray said. "You move down the road and once it becomes clear, I did tell Bo, 'This is the place. Let's make it work.' (Continued from Page 7)

# Tigers add 11 players to all-ACAC conference football award list Wells had one player on the second team. The ACAC released its selections for

all-conference football teams Saturday night after Adams Central's loss in the 1A state championship.

The Jets were again the top team in the conference with a perfect 6-0 record with Heritage right behind them at 5-1, and Bluffton third at 4-2. Southern Wells was last at 0-6.

The Tigers had 11 players on the list, nine of which were seniors. Southern

First team: Johnny Cruz (OL), Andrew Hunt (WR), Tucker Jenkins

(DL), Fletcher Wenger (LB), and Ben Ramseyer (DB). Second team: Sam Mechling (OL),

Hutch Craighead (DB), Cooper Craig (RB), Alex West (DL), Griffin Morgan (LB), and Praxton Betancourt (P). Peyton Long of the Raiders made it as an offensive lineman.

# BHMS nets four basketball wins

Bluffton-Harrison's basketball teams all defeated ACAC conference rival South Adams Monday night.

The eighth grade boys' team won 43-35 over the Starfires, improving to 3-1 and 2-0 in the ACAC with Gavin Grieser's 23-point performance. Dawson Lee followed with (6), Gibby Grieser, Rafe Gerber and Cooper Jenkins each added (4), and Braelon Terry (2).

The eighth-grade girls won 37-19. Leading scorer was Khloe Dick with 14 points, followed by Ava Trexler (9), Grace Fry, Kamryn Ault and Bridge Steffen (4) points, and Macy Lemler (2).

The seventh grade boys won 32-25, improving to 4-0 and 2-0 in the ACAC. Chase Kistler had 10 points to lead the Tigers, followed by Maddox White and Vince Lambert (6), Wyatt Holmes (5), Parker Christal (3), and Kamdyn Shuman

The seventh grade girls won 44-7 to improve to 4-0 and 2-0 in the ACAC. Josie Nash scored a team-high 14 points, Gracie Jellison (8), Madeliene Morgan and Khloe Gehrett (6), and two points each from Anna Hartman, Averie Patton, Madalynn Narvaez, Audrey McMillian and Luci Jenkins.

# High School Calendar

**TUESDAY, NOV 28** 

BOYS BASKETBALL: Norwell at Mississinewa, 7:30 p.m. SWIMMING & DIVING (CO-ED): Concordia at Norwell, 5:30 p.m.; Bluffton at Jay County, 6

WRESTLING: Eastside at Bluffton, 6:30 p.m. WEDNESDAY, NOV 29

**BOYS BASKETBALL:** Bluffton at Blackford, 7:30

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Southern Wells at Muncie Burris, 7:30 p.m.

**THURSDAY, NOV 30** GIRLS BÁSKETBALL: Bluffton at Blackford, 7:30

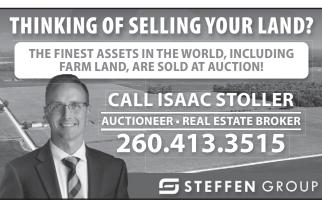
SWIMMING & DIVING (CO-ED): Bishop Luers, Blackhawk at Bluffton 5:30 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL South Adams at Bluffton, 7:30

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Huntington North at Norwell, 7:45 p.m.

**SATURDAY, DEC 2** BOYS BASKETBALL: Norwell at Oak Hill, 1:30 p.m. GIRLS BASKETBALL: Southern Wells at Bluffton,







# **News-Banner Scoreboard**

### **FOOTBALL** NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE East

W	L	Т	Pct PF PA							
Miami 8	3	0	.727 339 251							
Buffalo 6	6	0	.500 328 227							
N.Y. Jets 4	7	0	.364 163 238							
New England2	9	0	.182 148 248							
Š	Sou	th								
W	L	Т	Pct PF PA							
Jacksonville 8	3	0	.727 254 225							
Houston 6	5	0	.545 259 232							
Indianapolis 6	5	0	.545 269 268							
Tennessee 4	7	0	.364 185 224							
North										
W	L	Т	Pct PF PA							
Baltimore 9	3	0	.750 324 187							
Cleveland 7	4	0	.636 239 209							
Pittsburgh 7	4	0	.636 182 205							

Cincinnati 5 6 0 .455 212 242 West W L T Pct PF PA Kansas City 8 3 Denver 6 5 Las Vegas 5 7 L.A. Chargers4 7 .727 256 181 .545 246 280 0 .417 202 256 .363 269 258 NATIONAL CONFERENCE East

W L T Philadelphia10 1 0 Dallas 8 3 N.Y. Giants 4 8 Washington 4 8 .727 347 185 333 159 292 .333 246 350 South W L 5 6 Atlanta .455 213 232 .455 229 222 New Orleans 56 Tampa Bay 4 7 0 Carolina 110 0 .364 212 227 .091 173 292 North W L
Detroit 8 3
Minnesota 6 6 Pct PF PA 0 .727 294 258 .500 263 242 .455 231 224

Green Bay 5 Chicago 4 6 0 333 242 296 Chicago West
W L T Pct
San Francisco8 3 0 .727
Seattle 6 5 0 .545
L.A. Rams 5 6 0 .455
Arizona 2 10 0 .167
Friday's Games
Miami 34, N.Y. Jets 13
Sunday's Games
Atlanta 24 New Orleans 15 Pct PF PA .727 310 170 .545 229 249 .455 232 234 .167 206 321

Atlanta 24, New Orleans 15 Indianapolis 27, Tampa Bay 20 Jacksonville 24, Houston 21 N.Y. Giants 10, New England 7 Pittsburgh 16, Cincinnati 10 Tennessee 17, Carolina 10 Denver 29, Cleveland 12 Denver 29, Cleveland 12
L.A. Rams 37, Arizona 14
Kansas City 31, Las Vegas 17
Philadelphia 37, Buffalo 34, OT
Baltimore 20, L.A. Chargers 10
Monday's Games
Chicago 12, Minnesota 10
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.

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, 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. Kansas City at Green Bay, 8:20

Open: Baltimore, Buffalo, Las Vegas, Chicago, Minnesota, N.Y.

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

### **BASKETBALL High School** Monday Girls' Scores

as defensive coordinator.

Bedford N. Lawrence 51, N. Knox

Christian Academy 44, Lou. Portland Christian, Ky. 34 Clinton Prairie 52, Lebanon 45 Crothersville 55, Christian Academy Evansville Mater Dei 48. Boonville

Glenn 45, S. Bend Clay 29 Hammond Noll 58, River Forest 41 Indpls Herron 48, Indpls Riverside

Owensboro Catholic, Ky. 70, Castle 63. OT Tecumseh 65, S. Spencer 49 White River Valley 42, Clay City 33

# **NBA**

EASTER										
Atlantic Division										
	W	L	Pct	GB						
Boston	13	4	.765	_						
Philadelphia	12	5	.706	1						
New York	9	4 5 7	.563	31/2						
Brooklyn	9	8	.500	41/2						
Toronto	8	9	.471	5						
South				•						
	W	L	Pct	GB						
Orlando	12	5	.706	_						
Miami	10	7	.588	2						
Atlanta	8	8	.500	3½						
Charlotte	5	10	.333							
Washington	5	14	.176	6						
	tral Di									
9011	W	i i	Pct	GB						
Milwaukee	12	5	.706	_						
Indiana		7	.563	21/2						
Cleveland	ă	8	.529	3						
Chicago	9 9 5	13	.278	71/2						
Detroit	2	15	.118	10						
WESTER				10						
South										
Journ	MC21	פועום	1011							

GB .625 .571 .529 Houston 1½ Memphis 13 14 .188 7 7½ **Northwest Division** 4 5 6 11 12 GB Minnesota Oklahoma City 11 1½ Denver .313 7 7½ .294 **Pacific Division** GB **L** 6 6 8 9 Pct Phoenix 11 Sacramento .600 L.A. Lakers

.556 .471 Golden State L.A. Clippers 7 8 .46 Sunday's Games .467 Milwaukee 108, Portland 102 Boston 113, Atlanta 103 Minnesota 119, Memphis 97 Orlando 130, Charlotte 117 Phoenix 116, New York 113 Brooklyn 118, Chicago 109
Cleveland 105, Toronto 102
Denver 132, San Antonio 120
Monday's Games

Philadelphia 138, L.A. Lakers 94 Portland 114, Indiana 110

Portland 114, Indiana 110
Washington 126, Detroit 107
New Orleans at Utah, 9 p.m.
Denver at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.
Tuesday's Games
Atlanta at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Houston at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Golden State at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Wednesday's Games

Wednesday's Games L.A. Lakers at Detroit, 7 p.m. Washington at Orlando, 7 p.m. Phoenix at Toronto, 7:30 p.m. Philadelphia at New Orleans, 8 p.m. Utah at Memphis, 8 p.m. Houston at Denver, 9 p.m.

L.A. Clippers at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

Thursday's Games Portland at Cleveland, 7 p.m. Charlotte at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.

Allen won't return to Hoosiers

Indiana at Miami, 7:30 p.m. Atlanta at San Antonio, 8 p.m. L.A. Lakers at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m. Milwaukee at Chicago, 8 p.m. Utah at Minnesota 8 n m L.A. Clippers at Golden State, 10 p.m.

# College Men's Basketball Scores Monday, Nov. 27 EAST

Bryant 108, Springfield 74 Fordham 93, Manhattan 61 Rutgers 71, St. Peter's 40

UConn 84, New Hampshire 64 SOUTH E. Kentucky 77, Troy 76 Elon 82, Presbyterian 79 Louisiana-Lafayette 78, Loyola UMBC 80, Hampton 76 MIDWEST

Northwestern 89, N. Illinois 67 Oakland 78, Xavier 76 Omaha 104, York (Neb.) 68 S. Dakota St. 92, Mount Marty 70 Utah Tech 73, Lindenwood (Mo.) 66 Wisconsin 71, W. Illinois 49 SOUTHWEST

Ark.-Pine Bluff 85, Arkansas Baptist

TCU 101, Houston Christian 64

Women's Basketball Scores Monday, Nov. 27 EAST

lona 67, Wagner 55 SOUTH Lipscomb 64, MVSU 55 Louisiana-Lafayette 76, Loyola (NO) 47 UAB 85, Jacksonville St. 78, OT

Wofford 65, Southern Wesleyan 42
MIDWEST Bowling Green 68, Duquesne 66
Miami (Ohio) 58, Xavier 57, OT
Omaha 87, CS Bakersfield 79, OT
Wright St. 89, Marshall 78
SOUTHWEST

Houston Christian 79, Howard Incarnate Word 57, Prairie View 44 FAR WEST
San Jose St. 122, Bethesda 28

### **HOCKEY** NHL

**EASTERN CONFERENCE** Atlantic Division
GP W L OTPts GF GA

3 31 71 1 27 68 Boston Florida 3 25 74 5 25 78 3 23 67 2 22 64 2 20 59 60 75 66 Detroit Tampa Bay21 10 6 Toronto 19 10 6 22 10 10 21 9 10 wa 17 8 9 0 16 Metropolitan Division 0 16 60

RP W L OTPHS GF GA

N.Y. Rangers2015 4 1 31 67 50

Carolina 20 12 8 0 24 67 67

Philadelphia2111 9 1 23 64 58

Washington1710 5 2 22 43 48 1 23 64 2 22 43 6 22 52 0 20 63 1 19 67 Washington 1710 5 2 22 43
N.Y. Islanders208 6 6 22 52
Pittsburgh 20 10 10 0 20 63
New Jersey19 9 9 1 19 67
Columbus 23 7 12 4 18 67
WESTERN CONFERENCE

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

GP W L OTPts GF GA

Colorado 2014 6 0 28 77 58

Dallas 1912 5 22 66 65 77

Winnipeg 2012 6 2 26 71 59

St. Louis 20 11 8 1 23 60 62

Nashville 20 10 10 0 20 67 64 Arizona 20 9 9 2 2
Minnesota 19 5 10 4 1
Chicago 19 6 13 0 1
Pacific Division 2 20 65 4 14 57 0 12 49

GP W L OTPts GF GA
Vegas 21 14 5 2 30 69 50
Los Angeles1913 3 3 29 76 47
Vancouver 22 14 7 1 29 88 56
Seattle 22 8 9 5 21 62 78

8 10 9 12 7 12 Anaheim 21 Edmonton 20 0 18 58 1 15 66 San Jose 21 4 15 2 10 34 NOTE: Two points for a win, one 2 10 34 89

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

Sunday's Games

Sunday's Games

Detroit 4, Minnesota 1

St. Louis 4, Chicago 2

Carolina 3, Columbus 2

Nashville 3, Winnipeg 2

Edmonton 8, Anaheim 2

Monday's Games
Buffalo 5, N.Y. Rangers 1 Columbus 5, Boston 2 Florida 5, Ottawa 0 Tampa Bay at Colorado, 9 p.m. Vegas at Calgary, 9:30 p.m. Washington at San Jose, 10:30

Tuesday's Games Florida at Toronto, 7 p.m. N.Y. Islanders at New Jersey, 7

Carolina at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m. Dallas at Winnipeg, 8 p.m. Pittsburgh at Nashville, 8 p.m. St. Louis at Minnesota, 8 p.m. Seattle at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.

Tampa Bay at Arizona, 9 p.m.

Vegas at Edmonton, 9 p.m.

Anaheim at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

Wednesday's Games Montreal at Columbus, 7 p.m. Detroit at N.Y. Rangers, 7:30 p.m. Washington at Los Angeles, 10:30

Thursday's Games
Chicago at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Florida at Montreal, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Philadelphia, 7 p.m. Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m. San Jose at Boston, 7 p.m. Seattle at Toronto, 7 p.m. N.Y. Islanders at Carolina, 7:30

Buffalo at St. Louis, 8 p.m. Edmonton at Winnipeg, 8 p.m. Minnesota at Nashville, 8 p.m. Colorado at Arizona, 9 p.m. Dallas at Calgary, 9 p.m. Vegas at Vancouver, 10 p.m. Washington at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

# **TRANSACTIONS**

Monday's Transactions BASEBALL Major League Baseball American League CLEVELAND GUARDIANS —

Named Craig Albernaz as bench coach and Kai Correa as field coordinator. Promoted Rouglas Odor to infield coach and Brad Goldberg to bullpen

National League
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Agreed to terms with RHP Sony Gray on a three-year contract.

three-year contract.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
CAROLINA PANTHERS — Fired
head coach Frank Reich, running
backs coach Duce Staley and quarterbacks coach Josh McCown. Named
Chris Taylor interim head coach.
CHICAGO BEARS — Elevated LB DeMarquis Gates and DB Christian Matthew from the practice squad to the active roster.

HOCKEY National Hockey League
NHL — Suspended Minnesota F
Ryan Hartman two games for a dangerous trip on Detroit's Alex DeBrincat.

**ECHL** CINCINNATI CYCLONES — Added D Cole Fraser to the active roster. FORT WAYNE KOMETS — Placed D Logan Dowhaniuk on reserve.

COLLEGE EAST TENNESSEE STATE — Hired Tre Lamb as head football coach.
TEXAS A&M — Hired Mike Elko as head football coach.

want to win as bad as anybody," he

said Saturday after a 35-31 loss at rival

"There have been so many incred-

ible memories made and relation-

ships formed. I'll always be grateful

for the players, coaches and staff who

believed in our vision and gave their

heart and soul for this program."

In Sunday's statement, Allen added:







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# **Cardinals ink Sonny Gray**

(Continued from Page 6)

(Continued from Page 6)

sissippi and South Florida before Wil-

son brought him back to his home state

ment against Wilson surfaced during the

2016 season, Wilson resigned and then-

athletic director Fred Glass named Allen

When accusations of player mistreat-

He made college stops at Wabash, Lambuth, Drake, Arkansas State, Mis-

And I don't know if a lot of free agents say that but it's just who I am."

Gray said he spoke to several current and former Cardinals, including Adam Wainwright, who just wrapped up an 18-year big league career spent entirely in St. Louis. All of them spoke

highly of the club, the fanbase and the culture they created.

the new coach despite being in his first

adapt and the Hoosiers slipped back

urday's 35-31 loss to rival Purdue he

knew what was about to happen.

Allen took it from there and showed progress - until Indiana was slow to

But he showed indications after Sat-

"I understand you have to win. I

season with the program.

into the Big Ten basement.

"It's a place that every time I've come here as a visitor, I've looked at the stadium and said, 'Wow, this place is incredible," Gray said. "I looked around the seats and I saw the fans, and the fans continued to show up and sup-

port this team. Everyone raves about St. Louis, the Cardinals, the fans, and how the fans support you. How they are hard on you. How they expect you to win games, expect greatness, which is something as a player — as a competitor — that is something that you

# Purdue back at No. 1 in the AP Top 25 men's basketball poll, Arizona up to No. 2

By DAVE SKRETTA AP Basketball Writer

Purdue is back atop The Associated Press Top 25 men's college basketball poll, right where it spent so much of last season.

The Boilermakers ascended to No. 1 on Monday after an impressive run through a loaded field at the Maui Invitational. They beat Gonzaga, Tennessee and Marquette — three of the top 11 teams in the nation — in consecutive days, and that was enough to earn 60 of 63 first-place votes from the national panel of Top 25 voters.

It took the Boilermakers until Dec. 12 to reach No. 1 last year, where they spent seven weeks over two different stints.

"Our guys were resilient, I thought they hung in there, and I thought at times we didn't play our best basketball in the three days, but I thought we played really hard," Purdue coach Matt Painter said after the Maui Invitational. "We competed, and that is what you got to do. You got to just sometimes hang in there and just keep competing and make one more play.'

Purdue replaced preseason No. 1 Kansas, which fell to fifth after losing to Marquette in the Maui semifinals before beating Tennessee in the thirdplace game. Arizona moved up one spot to No. 2 with one first-place vote, Marquette climbed a spot to third and UConn was fourth with two first-place

The defending national champion Huskies play the Jayhawks on Friday night at Allen Fieldhouse.

Houston remained sixth while Duke climbed to seventh, Miami to eighth and Baylor to ninth. Tennessee only fell three places to 10th after its losses to Purdue and Kansas in Maui, a reflection of the stiff competition.

"I've said all along, I like being in big games. If you want to win a big game, you got to get in a big game, Volunteers coach Rick Barnes said. "I've been doing this a long time, and I enjoy these games because I want to see us play at the highest level. I want to see us execute at the highest level. I

want to see our guys learn from this." Gonzaga remained at No. 11 after its trip to Maui, and Kentucky was 12th. Florida Atlantic used its win over then-No. 12 Texas A&M on the way to an ESPN Events Invitational title to jump six spots to No. 13, right ahead of the Aggies. Creighton plummeted seven spots to No. 15 after getting walloped by Colorado State in the Hall of

Fame Classic championship game. Texas and North Carolina were followed by Villanova, which returned to the poll, and then BYU and the Rams, who both jumped into the poll for the first time this season. Mississippi State, James Madison, Alabama, Illinois and Oklahoma rounded out the Top 25.

RISING AND FALLING FAU made a big climb this week.

The Owls followed a humbling loss to

Bryant with an impressive trip to Kissimmee, Florida, where they followed tough wins over Butler and Texas A&M by dismantling Virginia Tech for the ESPN Events title.

Creighton took the biggest fall. The Bluejays easily beat Loyola Chicago at the Hall of Fame in Kansas City, Missouri, then were run out of T-Mobile Center by the Rams, who shut down Baylor Scheierman in their 69-48 victory.

# IN AND OUT

Villanova, BYU and Colorado State not only entered the poll but jumped right into the top 20. The Wildcats were No. 18 after winning the Battle 4 Atlantis, the Cougars right behind after a Vegas Showdown title and the Rams used their first top-10 win since 1984 against Creighton to enter at No. 20.

Illinois and Oklahoma joined them in the poll at the expense of Colorado, Michigan State, Arkansas, USC and Virginia.

# ON THE DOORSTEP

Memphis, San Diego State, Colorado, Ohio State and TCU received the most votes among those outside the poll. Princeton earned 14 votes after its 6-0 start; the Tigers have not been ranked since they were No. 8 in the final poll of the 1997-98 season.

# CONFERENCE WATCH

The Big 12 led all conferences with six teams in the Top 25, followed by the SEC with five and the Big East with four. There were 10 different conferences represented this week.



# Donald Trump set to return to the witness stand in his civil fraud trial

By JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — After a pugnacious first turn on the witness stand, former president Donald Trump plans to testify again next month in his civil fraud trial, his lawyers said Monday.

He is to return Dec. 11, defense attorney Christopher Kise said.

Trump had plenty to say during his initial testimony Nov. 6 in the case, which has questioned his net worth, accused him of misleading banks and insurers and threatened his future in business in New York.

The Republican 2024 presidential front-runner denies all the allegations, and he used his first stint on the witness stand to lambaste the case, the judge and New York Attorney General Letitia James, who brought the lawsuit.

"People don't know how good a company I built. You know why?" Trump complained as one of James' deputies questioned him. "Because people like you go around and try and demean me and try and hurt me, probably for political reasons."

He called James "a political hack" and dismissed a pretrial ruling against him as a "fraud on behalf of the court."

The second round of Trump's testimony could be still more expansive. James' office led the questioning the first time; next month, that role goes to Trump's own lawyers, and they can ask about a wider range of subjects than they could during cross-examination before.

When Trump's son, company Executive Vice President Donald Trump Jr., testified for the defense this month, for instance, he lauded his father, traced the family's history in business back to the late 1800s and talked the court through a glossy slideshow replete with sumptuous photos of skyscraper views, golf fairways, ballrooms, roof terraces and estates.

Eric Trump, who is Trump Jr.'s brother and fellow EVP, is due to testify for the defense Dec. 6, Kise

said. Both Trump sons also testified during the attorney general's part of the case.

Now finishing its second month, the trial is putting a spotlight on the real estate empire that vaulted Trump into public life and eventually politics. He maintains that James, a Democrat, is trying to damage his campaign.

At the heart of the case are Trump's 2014 to 2021 annual "statements of financial condition," which were used to help secure loans and other deals.

A Trump Organization executive testified Monday that the company no longer produces such statements.

The company continues to prepare various audits and other financial reports specific to some of its components, but "there is no roll-up financial statement of the company," said Mark Hawthorn, the chief operating officer of the Trump Organization's hotel arm.

He wasn't asked why the comprehensive reports had ceased but

said they are "not required by any lender, currently, or any constituency."

Messages seeking comment on the matter were sent to spokespeople for the Trump Organization.

Hawthorn, a certified public accountant, has worked since 2016 for the company's Trump Hotels arm. Trump Jr. testified earlier that Hawthorn is functioning as the entire Trump Organization's chief financial officer, calling him "the finance guy within Trump world now" and saying the CPA "has taken on all those decisional responsibilities."

But Hawthorn said it was incorrect to say "all."

Defense lawyer Clifford Robert used Hawthorn's testimony to try to show that companies under the Trump Organization's umbrella have produced reams of financial documents "that no one had a problem with." A lawyer for James' office, Andrew Amer, stressed that the suit is about Trump's

overall statements of financial condition, calling the other documents irrelevant.

Trump asserts that his wealth was understated, not overblown, on his financial statements. He also notes that the numbers came with disclaimers saying that they weren't audited and that others might reach different conclusions about his financial position.

Judge Arthur Engoron, who will decide the verdict in the non-jury trial, has already ruled that Trump and other defendants engaged in fraud. The current proceeding is to decide remaining claims of conspiracy, insurance fraud and falsifying business records

James wants the judge to impose over \$300 million in penalties and to ban Trump from doing business in New York — and that's on top of Engoron's pretrial order that a receiver take control of some of Trump's properties. An appeals court has frozen that order for now.

# Ukraine has new way to get grain to world despite Russia's threat in Black Sea

By HANNA ARHIROVA and COURTNEY BONNELL Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)

— Grain thunders into rail cars and trucks zip around a storage facility in central Ukraine, a place that growing numbers of companies turned to as they struggled to export their food to people facing hunger around the world.

Now, more of the grain is getting unloaded from overcrammed silos and heading to ports on the Black Sea, set to traverse a fledgling shipping corridor launched after Russia pulled out of a U.N.-brokered agreement this summer that allowed food to flow safely from Ukraine during the war.

"It was tight, but we kept working ... we sought how to accept every ton of products needed for our partners," facility general director Roman Andreikiv said about the end of the grain deal in July. Ukraine's new corridor, protected by the military, has now allowed him to "free up warehouse space and increase activity."

Growing numbers of ships are streaming toward Ukraine's Black Sea ports and heading out loaded with grain, metals and other cargo despite the threat of attack and floating explosive mines. It's giving a boost to Ukraine's agriculture-dependent economy and bringing back a key source of wheat, corn, barley, sunflower oil and other affordable food products for parts of Africa, the Middle East and Asia where local prices have risen and food insecurity is growing.

"We are seeing renewed confidence among commercial operators keen to take Ukrainian grain cargoes," said Munro Anderson, head of operations for Vessel Protect, which assesses war risks at sea and provides insurance with backing from Lloyd's, whose members make up the world's largest insurance marketplace.

Ihor Osmachko, general director of Agroprosperis Group, one of Ukraine's biggest agricultural producers and exporters, says he's feeling "more optimistic than two months ago."

"At that time, it was completely unclear how to survive," he said.

Since the company's first vessel departed in mid-September, it says it has shipped more than 300,000 metric tons of grain to Egypt, Spain, China, Bangladesh, the Netherlands, Tunisia and Turkey.

After ending the agreement brokered by the U.N. and Turkey, Russia has attacked Ukraine's Black

Sea ports — a vital connection to global trade — and grain infrastructure, destroying enough food to feed over 1 million people for a year, the U.K. government said.

The risk to vessels is the main hurdle for the new shipping corridor. Russia, whose officials haven't commented on the corridor, warned this summer that ships heading to Ukraine's Black Sea ports would be assumed to be carrying weapons.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that allies had agreed to provide ships to help his country protect commercial vessels in the Black Sea but that more air defense systems were needed.

"Air defense is in short supply," he told reporters Saturday at an international food security summit in Kyiv. "But what's important is that we have agreements, we have a positive signal and the corridor is operational."

While a deadly missile strike on the port of Odesa hit a Liberian-flagged commercial ship this month, not long afterward, insurers, brokers and banks teamed up with the Ukrainian government to announce affordable coverage for Black Sea grain shipments, offering shippers peace of mind.

Despite such attacks,

Ukraine has exported over 5.6 million metric tons of grain and other products through the new corridor, U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Bridget Brink tweeted Friday. Before the war, it was nearly double that per month, Ukrainian Deputy Economy Minister

Taras Kachka said.

"The way that they're transporting right now, it's certainly much more expensive and time consuming," said Kelly Goughary, a senior research analyst at agriculture data and analytics firm Gro Intelligence.

"But they are getting product out the door, which is better than I think many were anticipating with the grain initiative coming to an end," she said.

Farmers also are facing low prices for their grain, which makes sending trucks to Odesa's often-attacked port not worth the risk for one agricultural company near the front line.

Instead, Slavhorod, which farms near the border with Russia in the Sumy province that faces daily shelling, has chosen to store its peas, wheat, soybeans, sunflower and corn in warehouses.

There's risk in keeping the 8,650-acre farm running at all: Signs warned of explosive mines near where workers were collecting corn in a field nearly 2 miles from Russia.

But "who, if not us? It's the only industry that brings some income to the country," said Slavhorod's chief agronomist, Oleksandr Kubrakov, who survived driving over a mine last year

But it's becoming increasingly challenging to maintain morale.

"This year, there is less enthusiasm because grain

prices are low, the product remains near the border and at any moment" it could be destroyed, he said. "It's a big risk."

Since the war started, Ukraine has struggled to get its food supplies to countries in need. Even during the yearlong U.N. deal, when Ukraine shipped nearly 33 million metric tons of food, Russia was accused of slowing down ship inspections required to be done by all sides.





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# Israel and Hamas agree to extend truce for two more days

And to free more hostages and prisoners

### By TIA GOLDENBERG, **JACK JEFFERY** and SAMY MAGDY **Associated Press**

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) - Israel and Hamas agreed to extend their cease-fire for two more days past Monday, raising the prospect of further exchanges of militant-held hostages for Palestinians imprisoned by Israel and a longer halt to their deadliest and most destructive war.

Eleven Israeli women and children, freed by Hamas, entered Israel Monday night after more than seven weeks in captivity in Gaza in the fourth swap under the original four-day truce, which began Friday and was due to run out. Thirty-three Palestinian prisoners released by Israel arrived early Tuesday in east Jerusalem and the West Bank town of Ramallah. The prisoners were greeted by loud cheers as their bus made its way through the streets of Ramallah.

The deal for two additional days of cease-fire, announced by Qatar, raised hopes for further extensions, which also allow more aid into Gaza. Conditions there have remained dire for 2.3 million Palestinians, battered by weeks of Israeli bombardment and a ground offensive that have driven three-quarters of the population from their homes.

Israel has said it would extend the cease-fire by one day for every 10 additional hostages released. After the announcement by Qatar a key mediator in the conflict, along with the United States and Egypt — Hamas confirmed it had agreed to a two-day extension "under

the same terms.' But Israel says it remains committed to crushing Hamas' military capabilities and ending its 16-year rule over Gaza after its Oct. 7 attack into southern Israel. That would likely mean expanding a ground offensive from devastated northern Gaza to the south.

Monday's releases bring to 51 the number of Israelis freed under the truce, along with 19 hostages of other nationalities. So far, 150 Palestinians have been released from Israeli prisons.

After weeks of national trauma over the roughly 240 people abducted by Hamas and other militants, scenes of the women and children reuniting with families have rallied Israelis behind calls to return those who remain in captivity.

"We can get all hostages back home. We have to keep pushing," two relatives of Abigail Edan, a 4-yearold girl and dual Israeli-American citizen who was released Sunday, said in a statement.

Hamas and other militants could still be holding up to 175 hostages, enough to potentially extend the cease-fire for two and a half weeks. But those include a number of soldiers, and Hamas is likely to make much greater demands for their release.

### FOURTH RELEASE

The newly released hostages included three women and nine children — including 3-year-old twin girls and their mother — from the kibbutz Nir Oz, a community near Gaza that was hard hit in Hamas' Oct. 7 attack. The kibbutz said 49 of its residents remain in captivity, including the father of the twins. The Israeli military said late Monday that the hostages were undergoing initial medical checks in Israel before being reunited with their families.

Most of the hostages freed so far have appeared to be physically well. But 84-year-old Elma Avraham, released Sunday, was airlifted to Israel's Soroka Medical Center in life-threatening condition because of inadequate care, the hospital said.

Avraham's daughter, Tali Amano, said her mother was "hours from death" when she was brought to the hospital. Avraham is currently sedated and has a breathing tube, but Amano said she told her of a new greatgrandchild who was born while she was in captivity.

Avraham suffered from several chronic conditions that required regular medications but was stable before she was kidnapped, Amano said Monday.

So far, 19 people of other nationalities have been freed during the truce, mostly Thai nationals. Many Thais work in Israel, largely as farm laborers.

France said three of the hostages released Monday were French-Israeli dual citizens, two 12-year-olds and one 16-year-old. The French government is "working tirelessly" to free five other French citizens held hostage, the French Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The Palestinian prisoners released so far have been mostly teenagers accused of throwing stones and firebombs during confrontations with Israeli forces, or of less-serious offenses. But some were convicted in alleged attempts to carry out stabbings, bombings and shootings. Many Palestinians view prisoners held by Israel, including those implicated in attacks, as heroes resisting occupation.

The freed hostages have mostly stayed out of the public eye, but details of their captivity have started to trickle out.

Merav Raviv, whose three relatives were released Friday, said they had been fed irregularly and lost weight. One reported eating mainly bread and rice and sleeping on a makeshift bed of chairs pushed together. Hostages sometimes had to wait for hours to use the bathroom, she said.

In Washington, White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby welcomed the extension of the truce.

"We would, of course, hope to see the pause extended further, and that will depend upon Hamas continuing to release hostages," Kirby told reporters.

### **RESPITE IN GAZA**

More than 13,300 Palestinians have been killed since the war began, roughly two-thirds of them women and minors, according to the Health Ministry in Hamasruled Gaza, which does not differentiate between civilians and combatants. More than 1,200 people have been killed on the Israeli side, mostly civilians killed in the initial attack. At least 77 soldiers have been killed in Israel's ground offensive.

The calm from the truce allowed glimpses of the destruction wreaked by weeks of Israeli bombardment that leveled entire neighborhoods.

Footage showed a complex of several dozen multistory residential buildings that had been pummeled into a landscape of wreckage in the northern town of Beit Hanoun. Nearly every building was destroyed or severely damaged, some reduced to concrete frames half-slumped over. At a nearby U.N. school, the buildings were intact but partially burned

and riddled with holes.

The Israeli assault has driven three-quarters of Gaza's population from their homes, and now most of its 2.3 million people are crowded into the south. More than 1 million are living in U.N. shelters. The Israeli military has barred hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who fled south from returning north.



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4:30 Pm: Santa's Arrival

5-7 Pm: Dinner With Santa At Riverside 3:16 Church

5-7 Pm: Photos With Santa

5-7 Pm: Markle Library Open House

6-8 Pm: Carriage Rides

**6-8 Pm:** Candy Cane Cafe

**7 Pm:** Tree Lighting

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**HOOSIER LOTTERY** 

Cash 5 — 15-26-27-35-

**Cash4Life** — 10-24-35-

Quick Draw Midday -

Daily Three-Midday —

Daily Three-Evening —

Daily Four-Midday -

**Daily Four-Evening** —

**Quick Draw Evening** 

01-03-10-24-26-27-33-

**Hoosier Lotto** — Esti-

37-41-42-43-50-52-54-56-

mated jackpot (for Wednes-

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Calendar

DECEMBER 1 - 8 a.m. -

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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-Mis-sissinewa clay loam. WAPI:

133.5 corn bu, 40.2 soybeans

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Johnloz, 260-827-8181.

Tuesday): \$335 million

ball: 12; Power Play: 2X

Estimated jackpot (for

02-21-38-61-66; Power-

60-63-65-69-73, BE: 37

day): \$43.6 million

08-10-15-16-19-24-25-27-

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50-59, Cash Ball: 03

65-66-73-80, BE: 80

0-03-01. SB: 03

03-09-06-06, SB: 04

05-08-00-05, SB: 03

06-08-08, SB: 04

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# **Public Notice**

STATE OF INDIANA ) ÍSS: COUNTY OF WELLS IN THE WELLS CIRCUIT COURT

CAUSE NO. 90C01-2311-MI-000022 IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF: Zachery Buckley

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Zachery Buckley, whose mailing address is: 1104 W Jefferson Street, Bluffton IN, 26714, and if different, my residence address is: in the Wells County, Indiana, hereby gives notice that Zachery Buckley has filed a petition in the Court requesting that his name be changed to Zachery Eugene Den-

Notice is further given that the hearing will be held on said Petition on FEBRUARY 1, 2024, at 2:00 PM Zachery Buckley

Petitioner November 20, 2023 Date Kenton W. Kiracofe Judicial Officer nb 11/28, 12/5, 12/12 hspaxlp

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# WEDNESDAY - KARAOKE FRI. & SAT. - Live Music

# Perspective shift helps manage family drama

Dear Annie: When our son was family are getborn eight years ago this month, my ting the love husband and I were excited to have and support family from both sides come and help us and be there to support us. We had been told by many people, both at the hospital and birthing classes, what to expect. Quite the opposite happened, and while it was a confusing and difficult time for us, we got through it together.

However, as time went on, we felt both sides of our extended families struggle with accepting the changes we made in how often we spent time with them (we were truly doing our very best; we both came from close-knit families and were very family-focused people).

It was an incredibly difficult season in our young lives as a family, and it almost split us apart for good.

We got the counseling we needed and now have a better support system and things have, for the most part, been worked out since then. It's been a long, tiresome and stressful journey. I often felt it was unneeded and traumatizing, considering we loved our relatives very much and were trying to do our best.

my husband's is four to six hours away, depending on if you're traveling with a young child and need to make frequent stops.

I'm so very touched by "Grandma Already," this wise and genuine grandma who doesn't mind "sharing" her grandchild and is just happy to know that her son and his

Annie by Annie Lane

they need and

parents would

be wise to listen

and learn from

her and try to

More grand-

deserve.



Dear

give their nowgrown children the benefit of the doubt.

Thank you for taking the time to post her letter. I pray more people choose the "high road" when it comes to loving loved ones. – Been There, Don't Want to Do That

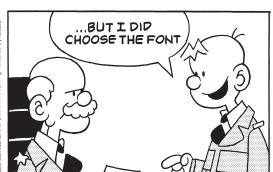
Dear Been There, Don't Want to Do That: I am printing your letter because it brings up some good points. One is that you acknowledge how difficult it was for you at the time and that the difficulty might have impacted some of your decision-making. Two, you talk about taking the high road. Looking at others from their perspective always helps for more harmonious relationships.

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

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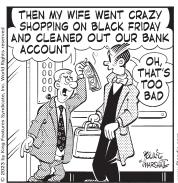
### **BEETLE BAILEY**





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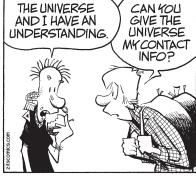




## **ZITS**







# **CRANKSHAFT**









# My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham Q: I've always been a "nervous father," never feeling adequate for the responsibility; I have tried to care for my family and meet their needs, but it creates a lot of stress. I give my family everything they want, so I don't know why people think it's wrong to treat

can't dads? - T.F.A: Children are in the care of their parents for a very short time. A highly respected attorney who lived in a small town stopped on the way home from

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News (N)

myself to a night or two

out enjoying a beer with

my buddies. Leaders,

coaches, entertainers,

and others, do it, why

# Our lives speak loudly to those around us

work for a drink every now and then. One evening on his way home, as the snow was falling, he heard a sound behind him. Turning, he saw his son stepping into his foot-

The father asked, "Son, what are you doing?" The son replied, "I'm following your footsteps." The father sent his son home, but he couldn't go into the bar. He realized, then, that a child will emulate a parent by what they see, not always by what they hear. Many parents provide for their kids but do not always set good examples. Children are

> Fortune (N) (N) Chicago Fire "Let Her

impressionable.

Our lives speak loudly to those around us, especially the children in our home. They will learn far more by watching than by just listening. We need to place God at the center of our families. God will honor parents who will teach their families by word and deed for He "blesses the home of the just" (Proverbs 3:33, NKJV).

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

Billy Graham.) ©2023 Billy Graham Literary Trust. Distributed by Tribune Con tent Agency, LLC.

NCIS: Sydney "Brothers NCIS: Sydney "Gone

### THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Italics makes it look like the wind's blowing.

# The LOCKHORNS

"HOW DID ONE IDIOT FIND ANOTHER BEFORE SOCIAL MEDIA?"

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375 859 327 553 (3:40) \*\*\*\* The Remains of the Day (P) Mark Strong, George MacKay.

| \*\*Emily (2022, History) Fionn Whitehead, Oliver Jackson-Cohen, Emma Mackey.

### **CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer ACROSS** 2 Region 25 Secret **39** D.C. 3 Bar fight figure 40 Humiliate 26 Peanut souvenir ticket

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the animals. In that case, I

believe the consumer or ani-

mal welfare activist would

demand a change. There is

no antibiotic residue in the

meat proteins at the time of

processing if the animal was

ever treated with antibiot-

ics in its life cycle, so why

is this level of cruelty being

ing this practice and slan-

dering a competitor who is

more interested in animal

welfare and the financial

health of the local family

farmer who must deal with

this cruel practice and nega-

tively affect their income

from the loss of chickens

because of this practice?

Yes, the producers are your

tested for residue before

it is processed to verify.

Please read scholarly peer-

reviewed scientific articles

such as Raised without

Antibiotics: Impact on Ani-

mal Welfare and Implica-

There are five freedoms

that the animal agriculture

industry practices, and I

have recently thought these

five freedoms aren't being

tions for Food Policy.

By the way, poultry is

local family farmer.

Why is Perdue continu-

allowed?

# Perdue Chicken's new ad stirs distrust in consumer perception

By MICHELLE MILLER **AgDaily** 

Recently, Perdue Chicken released a video ad about antibiotic usage and competitor companies' choices to move from the "no antibiotics ever" to a production program that's more aligned with best animal welfare practices. And this ad was quite disappointing.

While I have long respected Perdue Farms and their efforts to be a leader in animal welfare in the poultry industry sector, I recently lost some respect for Perdue in its published commercial concerning a competitor who has chosen to adjust its NAE program.

So, let's unpack this and look at some issues in this latest advertisement. There is a lot of false and misinformation about animal agriculture and agriculture in general that we fight daily. The main reason is that only 1.3 percent of the American population is involved in agriculture, with an average population of 340 million, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. There are many reasons this has happened over the years, but it has created a massive disconnect between the understanding of our food source and the consumer.

ated a culture of misinformation aimed toward the agriculture industry, and the most affected by this misinformation is animal agriculture. The Perdue commercial does not help with a transparent message but leads the consumer to believe the competitor has engaged in unethical antibiotic usage. That leads the consumer to project this practice as standard in the

food animal industry. Companies such as Perdue have a direct and moral obligation to convey truthful and transparent information that doesn't lead consumers to false assumptions to slander a competitor, play on the consumer's emotions, and take advantage of the disconnect most of the population has with agriculture.

At this point, I must say, Perdue Farms, shame on you for adding to the problem and not taking the opportunity to be transparent to the consumer and not lead them to a false conclusion about other companies' production practices.

Let's examine a few examples of how misleading ad campaigns cause issues. Have you looked at a package of chicken in the grocery store, and it says

"non-GMO?" The label isn't technically false, but it's misleading. I have asked many people what they think when they see this.

The response is companies who don't label "non-GMO" are chickens that are GMO, and they migrate and purchase a product with a "non-GMO" label and at a higher cost most of the time.

So, what's the problem? The problem is that there is no such thing as GMO poultry. They don't exist, and the label leads the consumer to a false conclusion that poultry companies use GMO poultry. GMOs also have many benefits — but fear sells - and people against GMOs likely don't even know what they are or be led down a tunnel of well-funded disinformation campaigns.

Some other disturbing trends the average consumer believes through misleading information with advertisements or labeling. Seventysix percent of the population believes that hormones and steroids are used in poultry production. That's false: The use of hormones and steroids has been against the law since 1956.

Seventy-five percent also believe there are antibiotics in the chicken protein they purchase. This is also false: The USDA mandates through law that there is a withdrawal time before processing for human consumption if the animal has been treated for diseases in its life cycle.

Here is one statement I particularly want to hone in on: "Eliminating antibiotics leads significantly to more chickens dying from disease?" Forty-nine percent of respondents indicated this was true, while 54 percent said it was false. (Karavolias, 2018).

The withholding of antibiotics to sick chickens could arguably be the worst consumer-demanded production practice that has ever happened in animal agriculture. When our children get sick, we take them to the doctor, and if needed, the doctor gives the child antibiotics to handle the infection. If a chicken gets sick, the mortality must be severe before the company vet prescribes antibiotics.

Then, the chickens will no longer be on the no antibiotics market. Many consumers believe the no antibiotics practice is for the betterment of the animal, but in reality, it's animal cruelty at the highest level.

Suppose American con-

sumers could see what this production program does to the health and well-being of

 Freedom from Hunger and Thirst

Freedom from Discom-

 Freedom from Pain, Injury, or Disease

• Freedom to Express Normal Behavior

· Freedom from Fear and Distress.

Perdue recognizes the five freedoms, and for the most part, they are followed, but with the no antibiotics program, the freedom from disease and distress is not followed. We cannot have a healthy animal if we cannot treat the illnesses in a reasonable period before the illness is so severe that there is a massive mortality.

Unlike the Perdue commercial implies, medications or antibiotics aren't being thrown at animals indiscriminately as growthpromoting or preventative treatments and whatever they deem as needed.

The part about "throwing" antibiotics at an animal without consideration of due process and best practice is misleading to the consumer. It doesn't happen. Perdue, what are you thinking? I would love to hear the rationale behind this kind of campaign.

# U.S. producers come up short in dairy-trade dispute

**By AGDAILY** 

In a ruling announced Friday, a U.S-Mexico-Canada Agreement dispute panel allowed Canada to restrict the dairy access that the United States negotiated for in the agreement.

An earlier panel ruled in January 2022 that Canada had improperly restricted access to U.S. dairy products. In response, Canada made inadequate changes to its dairy tariff rate quota system, resulting in a second challenge by the United States. The decision means Canada is not obligated to make further changes, which the National Milk Producers Federation says disappoints U.S. dairy farmers and exporters.

"It is profoundly disappointing that the dispute settlement panel has ruled in favor of obstruction of trade rather than trade facilitation," said Jim Mulhern, president and CEO of said Krysta Harden, presilimited access to TRQs to

By ERIC PFEIFFER

**Hoosier Ag Today** 

weed control for next year. Ron Geis, mar-

ket development specialist for Corteva, con-

tinues to encourage a program approach for

come back with something post emerge.

That way if Mother Nature throws us a

curve and one of those two doesn't quite

work up to par, the two of them help com-

plement each other to get good weed control

Geis gives his recommendation for a pro-

"Let's start with something down at planting time, near planting time, and then

farmers.

for the season."

It's never too early to start thinking about

pendent panel's adverse ruling, we'd like to thank the Biden Administration and the many members of Congress who supported us for their tireless pursuit of justice for America's dairy sector. We urge Ambassador Tai and Secretary Vilsack to look at all available options to ensure that Canada stops playing games and respects what was negotiated."

Since the U.S. Trade Representative initially launched the first dispute settlement case against Canada in 2021, USDEC and NMPF have worked with USTR, USDA, and Congress to try to secure full use and value of USMCA's dairy TROs for American dairy producers and proces-

"By allowing Canada to ignore its USMCA obligations, this ruling has unfortunately set a dangerous and damaging precedent,' NMPF. "Despite this indedent and CEO of the U.S. distributors — resulting

It's not too early to start thinking

about weed control for next year

tion.

Dairy Export Council. "We do however want to express our appreciation for allies in Congress and the Administration for their efforts and commitment to fighting for U.S. dairy. This is unfortunately not the only shortcoming in Canada's compliance with its international commitments. We are committed to working with USTR and USDA to evaluate efforts to address Canada's continued harmful actions that depress dairy imports while simultaneously evading USMCA's dairy export disciplines.'

When first implemented in 2020, USMCA established 14 different TRQs, which allow a predetermined quantity of imports at a specified low tariff rate. The TRQ system that Canada implemented awarded the vast majority of TRQ volumes to Canadian processors and granted very

duced last year in Kyro™. It brings a unique

combination of three active ingredients that

you can't find together, providing weed con-

soybeans, starting with that good founda-

Trivence® and Sonic® as that pre plant

application. And then of course, we're pretty

excited because over half of the soybeans in the US are now Enlist enabled. So, when we

come back post emerge we'd have Enlist as a foundation for that post application.

to put with the Enlist that is still await-

Geis teased a new residual herbicide

Geis says it's a similar approach with

"In your area, we would offer a lot of

trol for 65 weeds and grasses."

in limited market access for U.S. exporters. Minor modifications to that system made in 2022 have continued that imbalanced

The USDA's hearing on modernizing the Federal Order system reconvenes this week in Carmel, Indiana, where witnesses will explore NMPF's recommended updates to Class I differentials.

The House and Senate return to Washington this week, where lawmakers will continue working on funding bills for the coming year, including a possible supplemental spending bill for Ukraine and Israel.



# PRIME FARMLAND • TILLABLE • CRP

WELLS COUNTY | UNION TOWNSHIP

# **ONLINE** at halderman.com

Tuesday, December 5th, 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm et

PROPERTY LOCATION: 2 miles north of Markle, IN at the intersection of N Marzane Road and W 800 N.

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

1+/- total .Vacres

136.9+/- Tillable | 12.2+/- CRP | 8.2+/- Non-Tillable



**Rick Johnloz:** 260.827.8181

Auctioneer: Russell D. Harmeyer IN Auct. Lic. #AU10000277, HRES IN Auct. Lic. #AC69200019, HLS# RAJ-12963, Farm: Goodwin Trust

### gram approach for corn growers. ing EPA approval. He says it won't be "We like to start with a good foundation available for fields this coming year, but of Resicore®, Keystone®, or SureStart® he encourages you to keep an eye out for Enversa™ in their demo plots and ask and then follow that post emerge. We're excited with a new product that we introabout it for 2025.

**Veterans IN Farming tohost** 

2024 workshop at Fair Oaks Farm By HOOSIER AG TODAY

The Veterans IN Farming team has announced they are hosting an upcoming workshop in January 2024, designed for veterans interested in exploring homesteading

The workshop is scheduled for Jan. 19-21, 2024, at Fair Oaks Farms in Fair Oaks, Indiana.

The event will feature guest speakers from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Purdue University College of Agriculture, Indiana Grown, and Successful Farmers.

Beginner Topics Include: Business Planning, Marketability, Purchasing Real Estate, USDA Resourcing Opportunities, Q and A

Panel of Experienced Farmers. Advance Topics Include: Introduction to Beekeeping, Grant application tips, Rural Farming Opportunities, Farm Economics and QuickBooks, and Managing Farm

Ticket Stipends are available through the Indiana AgVet Program by enrolling in the program: Contact Linda Tarr at ltarr@hoosieruplands.org or 812-849-4447.

Hotel Information: The Farmhouse Restaurant and Conference Center 754 N 600 E Fair Oaks, IN 47943 Book directly with hotel at (219) 394-2025.

The guest rates for the workshop: Standard \$119, Studio Suite \$129. Hotel rates are guaranteed through Dec. 20.

For more information about the Veterans IN Farming 2024 Workshop, please contact Joe Ricker at 262-388-1261 or e-mail him at joericker@ateaseorchard.com.



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