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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00

Creative chemistry

Mark Weinert is named Norwell Community Schools' Teacher of the Year

By **HOLLY GASKILL**
Raucous applause overtook Norwell High School's auditorium Monday morning. As a surprise conclusion to the school's preview of the upcoming musical, "Mean Girls," the performers asked, "Did you know Mark Weinert needs to come to the stage right now?"



Mark Weinert

Perhaps confused but always a good sport, Weinert made his way to the stage, greeted by several familiar faces and a big bundle of balloons. In a special celebration for the whole student body, Weinert was named Norwell Community Schools' 2023 Teacher of the Year.

"First off, I never even thought I was the best teacher in my hallway, and probably the people in my hallway would agree with that," Weinert quipped. "If I am honored and I do a good job, a lot of it's because of you, meeting us all halfway. Also, the colleagues

I work with, the strong administration we have, and all the Wells County parents who support us — from the bottom of my heart, I just wanted to say thank you to all of you. Thank you."

For 37 years, Weinert has taught with a relentless passion for his students and chemistry at Norwell High School. He recognized the two don't always easily coalesce, but as junior Colby Winkler described, it's Weinert's relationship with his students that sparks interest in science.

"Before Mr. Weinert, I didn't like science — and now I'm thinking about majoring in something science-related," Winkler said.

Through decades of teaching, Weinert has earned a reputation for his humorous integration of chemistry labs in the daily lessons. An annual tradition, Principal Kam Meyer noted, is Weinert's "alternative pumpkin carving" lab, where the chemistry class explodes a pumpkin.



Mark Weinert, 2023 Teacher of the Year for Norwell Community Schools, received his award as a surprise at the end of a preview of the high school's production of "Mean Girls." Pictured, he shares his gratitude for the district in response. Behind him stand Superintendent Mike Springer, Principal Kam Meyer, and Erin Prible, executive director of the Wells County Chamber of Commerce. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)

Weinert's commitment to engaging, creative teaching was reiterated by administrators and students alike. For Weinert, it's all part of his service to his students.

"I conveyed a level of learning to students by showing them that I care about them, treating them as

human beings, and forming relationships with them, which is just central to what I do and what we all do," Weinert said. "My motivation has always been the students."

Over the years, Weinert has seen his former students become

chemical engineers and doctors and even teach chemistry at a college level. Even so, one of the most meaningful teaching moments he recalls was when a student who was going through a difficult time pulled him aside

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Christmas countdown

Christmas is just 20 days away and Bluffton is getting ready. Downtown is decorated with lights (no snow yet) and Parlor City Christmas is fast approaching. (Photo by Carrie Penrod)

Residents address commissioners about potential road closure

Commissioners table decision on a petition from the Rock Creek Stone Quarry

By **HOLLY GASKILL**
Every seat in the audience, and then some, was filled for a public hearing with the Wells County Commissioners Monday evening.

The hearing was scheduled regarding a petition from Rock Creek Stone Quarry Inc., 781N 500W in Bluffton, which requested the county vacate a portion of County Road 500 West from CR 100N and stretching south past the Whitelock Ditch, approximately 1,650 ft. This closure would sever access to and from Ind. 124 through CR 500W.

After the hour-long hearing and contentious debate, the commissioners ultimately chose to take the matter under advisement. The agenda for their regular meeting, which directly followed the hearing, had included an opportunity to vote on an ordinance regarding CR 500W. All three commissioners — Mike Vanover, Blake Gerber and Jeff Stringer — were present.

Chase and Dave Fiechter, representing their business, explained they planned to expand their operations across the road. Given the nature of the work, they expect to be crossing with heavy machinery frequently. While vacating the road would ultimately help their business operations, they also advised it would save the county from a safety and traffic nuisance.

Chase Fiechter emphasized that the business has tried to have an open dialogue with property owners and concerned parties, but there's been mistrust and misinformation.

"The material we're carrying across the roads could fall off,

which could be 100 lb. rock on the road. If a vehicle collides with that, that is one of our bigger concerns, as well that we are trying to prevent by not having road access there," said Chase Fiechter.

"We feel like we're here for a need for the community too," said Dave Fiechter. "It's not just for ourselves, I think it's a win-win. As far as the road being closed, a lot of people say, 'Hey, it's only for financial gain,' for ourselves as a quarry ... but we feel like if we can produce for a lesser cost, it's going to funnel down to all the customers in Wells and Huntington counties."

Jon Bomberger, their legal representation, additionally explained that the business is willing to take on several projects to assist in the transition. The business would agree to cover the costs of creating a cul-de-sac at the end of the roadway, moving any utilities, and adding a dry fire hydrant. They also discussed postponing the closure until Dec. 31, 2025, after currently scheduled county projects that would use CR 500W as a detour.

Bomberger noted the business had consulted with local emergency services and paid for a traffic study, which found the road saw a maximum of 87 cars daily.

Comments from the public on Monday, however, were overwhelmingly in disagreement with the proposition. While disdain for the detour was a part of the conversation, it was largely in the background — instead, many expressed their frustration with the quarry operations altogether.

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Yellen heads to Mexico after Treasury launches a new fentanyl strike force

By **FATIMA HUSSEIN**
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen is heading to Mexico this week to promote her agency's new strike force to help combat illicit fentanyl trafficking as the U.S. and China step up efforts to stop the movement of the powerful opioid and drug-making materials into the United States.

In Mexico City, Yellen will talk with government and private sector leaders about stopping illicit finance that funds the drug trade and boosting supply chains through her "friendshoring" initiative. A major focus of the trip will be on stopping fentanyl financing.

The Counter-Fentanyl Strike Force announced Monday will bring together personnel and intelligence from throughout the Treas-

ury Department — from its sanctions and intelligence arms to IRS Criminal Investigations — to more effectively collaborate on stopping the flow of drugs into the country.

The creation of the group and Yellen's Mexico trip are the beginning of the Biden administration's plan to redouble its efforts to stem the tide of illegal fentanyl after President Joe Biden and Chinese

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Outside

Rain and snow mix today and tonight

Today	Wed.	Thursday
High 38	High 40	High 52
Low 28	Low 30	Low 39

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Norwell Teacher of the Year

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 in the hallway and said, "Thank you for seeing me."
 And, while his commitment has always been to students, his influence has undoubtedly spanned to his peers. When current Assistant Superintendent Anna Murphy began as a math teacher at the high school in 1993, Weinert was a comrade and encourager. "I wanted to be just like him," she shared.
 "He was just always so calm," Murphy continued. "He never had to raise his voice in a classroom. And he was funny — that's hard to do when you're trying to wrangle 35-40 kids in a class. I remember thinking, 'OK, he can do this, then I can do this.'"
 Similarly, Meyer recalled a run-in he had with Weinert in the copier when Meyer was only a student teacher. Weinert took the moment to compliment and encourage Meyer, and as a 22-year-old, it meant the world.
 "Not only did he show me that relationships are meaningful, but he went out of his way, as a veteran teacher — even at that time — to talk to a rookie student teacher and give him a compliment," Meyer said.
 Soon after graduating with his undergraduate degree, Weinert taught in Africa with the Peace Corps, then worked with the World Food Program for the United Nations in Benin. It was there that he met his wife, Salamatou, and the two moved to the area after Weinert began teaching at NHS.
 The rest is history — or



Pictured at top, Mark Weinert celebrated the honor with his daughter, Erica Pearson, and his four grandchildren, Dominic, Jayla, C.J. and Lani. At bottom, students gave a standing ovation when Weinert was announced as Norwell Community Schools' Teacher of the Year. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)



in Weinert's case, chemistry. This academic year marks his 42nd year teaching, Weinert said.
 Weinert continues to serve the district as a mentor to younger teachers, acts

as the teacher sponsor for prom, and continually assists in coordinating student trips, including the recent trip to Japan.
 "Thank you from the bottom of my heart for this,"

Weinert concluded. "It means more to me than you could ever imagine to be recognized by my peers, my administrators, and also my students."
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Commissioners

(Continued from Page 1)
 Laura Roberts, 1275N 500W, stated she didn't want to "burn bridges" with the Fiechters, but took issue with minimizing the road closure itself and its impact on area residents, who are already affected by the quarry.
 "I'm not sure now I even want them to expand because many people out there already have foundation issues from the blasting — and now 100 lb. rocks in the road," Roberts said. "It just doesn't sound like a great plan all the way around."
 Gary Mounsey, 48N 500W, explained that properties within the area have just 2-6 ft. of soil before the bedrock. He claimed this shallow depth allows the reverberations from excavation to be much stronger than other quarry areas. Mounsey further alleged the quarry has been negligent and disrespectful to the neighboring property owners.
 This was later echoed by Ron Marshall, 1539 Parlor City Dr., who said he had previously lived in the area for over 37 years. "It'll be a win-win for them, but not for anybody else — they're not that good of neighbors," Marshall said.
 Dan Gordon, 4445W 100N, and David Hedrick, 4977W 100N, also spoke against the request.

"Everything that I have heard so far in this presentation is liability issues on the Rock Creek Stone Quarry," said Hedrick.
 Todd Fiechter, 4197E 1200S-90 in Bryant, however, took a different tone. Todd Fiechter advised he wasn't associated with the business and hadn't even attended the meeting with this matter in mind. However, considering the county was willing to approve a 10-year total tax abatement for Paddlefish Solar — an out-of-county business — Todd Fiechter expressed that the county should be able to make sacrifices that would lead to economic growth for local businesses as well. He noted that the competitive, local pricing has been advantageous to many local businesses and projects, including county operations.
 Regarding the safety element, Jon Gray and Trent Markley, representing the Markle and Liberty Center volunteer fire departments, ran multiple routes to determine the effect on possible emergency response. They subsequently found that new alternative routes would be nearly five minutes in response time to three affected households in the area.
 Markley stressed the closure could force fire trucks to cross the bridge on CR 100N or a further detour.
 "Our main priority is public safety,"

said Gray. Markley added, "Minutes are everything ... You're really hurting the people that live in that area."
 Later in the meeting, Chase Fiechter was permitted to respond to the comments. While affirming these safety concerns, Fiechter saw no issues with these alternative routes, specifically with a bridge that is supposed to handle that weight.
 "Even if they hit their brakes and come to a complete stop, they should make it to Rockford quicker than traveling the additional half mile traveled down 500W," he said. "So, I don't fully understand why they won't be taking that route. It definitely seems like a quicker route to get to any emergency in Rockford."
 From the audience, Markley called this argument "grasping for straws."
 Bonberger also noted that there are growing pains with any change but that the growth of the quarry would ultimately lead to more tax revenue and continued employment opportunities for the county.
 Concerning complaints about the business operation, Chase Fiechter concluded, "We are more than willing to correct any mistakes our quarry has on any of our neighbors."
 holly@news-banner.com

Yellen heads to Mexico

(Continued from Page 1)
 President Xi Jinping met in California in November. At the meeting, they announced that China is telling its chemical companies to curtail shipments of the materials used to produce fentanyl to Latin America.
 China has also resumed sharing information about suspected trafficking with an international database.
 Mexico and China are the primary source countries for fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances trafficked directly into the U.S., according to the Drug Enforcement Administration. Nearly all the precursor chemicals that are needed to make fentanyl are coming from China.
 Among other things, the Treasury task force will analyze the financial flows of trafficking organizations, especially those that rely on cryptocurrency to move funds; work with local law enforcement in areas hardest hit by the fentanyl epidemic and use financial institution records to detect transactions related to drug and human smuggling.
 "Combating the flow of deadly fentanyl into communities across the United States is a top priority for President Biden as well as the Treasury Department," Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen in a statement.

She said the new group will "allow us to bring the department's unrivaled expertise in fighting financial crime to bear against this deadly epidemic."
 The Biden administration has taken a slew of actions against fentanyl traffickers — charging powerful traffickers with drug and money laundering offenses and announcing indictments and sanctions against Chinese companies and executives blamed for importing the chemicals used to make the dangerous drug.
 Still, fentanyl is the deadliest drug in the U.S. today. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 71,000 people died from overdosing on synthetic opioids such as fentanyl in 2021, up from almost 58,000 in 2020.
 The death toll is more than 10 times as many drug

deaths as in 1988, at the height of the crack epidemic.
 U.S. lawmakers have proposed a variety of measures to combat fentanyl's explosive use in the U.S.
 Many of the GOP presidential candidates have said they would use military force against Mexico in response to the trafficking of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids.
 And the leaders of the Senate Banking and Armed Services Committees, along with others, want to compel the Biden administration to declare international fentanyl trafficking a national emergency and pass legislation that would hold Treasury to reporting requirements and enable the president to confiscate sanctioned property of fentanyl traffickers to use for law enforcement efforts.
 Treasury officials,

including Brian Nelson, the department's undersecretary for terrorism and financial intelligence, have been traveling to the southern border this year to work with local authorities on quelling drug trafficking through sanctions efforts.

Weather

Tuesday, December 5, 2023
 (24-hour observations at 10:06 p.m. Monday)
 High: 41; Low: 32; Precipitation: None
 Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.21 feet at 9:45 p.m. Monday

Wells County forecast

Today: Rain, possibly mixed with snow, mainly before 5 p.m. High near 38. South wind around 5 mph becoming north in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 90 percent. New snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.
Tonight: A chance of rain and snow showers, mainly before 7 p.m. Cloudy, with a low around 28. North wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.
Wednesday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 40. West wind around 10 mph.
Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 30. Southwest wind 5 to 15 mph.
Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 52. Breezy.
Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 39. Breezy.
Friday: Partly sunny, with a high near 54. Breezy.
Friday Night: A 50 percent chance of rain, mainly after 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 45.
Saturday: Rain likely, mainly after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 56. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent.
Saturday Night: Rain likely. Cloudy, with a low around 37. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent.
Sunday: Rain and snow likely. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 45. Breezy. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.
Sunday Night: A chance of rain and snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 26. Breezy.
Monday: A slight chance of snow. Mostly sunny, with a high near 40. Breezy.

Notre Dame trustees select Robert Dowd as 18th president

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) — University of Notre Dame trustees have selected the Rev. Robert Dowd as the school's 18th president. The university announced the move Monday.
 Dowd will take over as president on July 1. He will replace the Rev. John Jenkins, who announced in October that he plans to step down at the end of the academic year after serving as president for 19 years.
 Dowd has served as vice president and associate provost for interdisciplinary initiatives at Notre Dame since 2021. He graduated from Notre Dame in 1987 with a bachelor's degree in psychology and economics. He entered Moreau Seminary that fall and was ordained a priest in 1994.
 He earned a master's degree in African studies in 1998 and a doctorate in political science in 2003 from the University of California-Los Angeles. Dowd joined Notre Dame's political science department in 2004 as a member of the faculty.
 Notre Dame has been led by a priest-president from the Congregation of the Holy Cross since the school was founded in 1842.

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OBITUARIES

Charles Okeley, 85

Charles Edward Okeley, 85, from Denham, Ind., and of Bluffton for over 30 years, passed away Nov. 30.

He is survived by his wife, Orpha, and three children, Michael, Barbara and Diana. Also surviving are five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Charles retired from Fort Wayne Metals in Markle. He loved to fish, hunt, I.U. basketball and the Cubs.

Services will be held Dec. 9 at Roanoke Baptist Church, 11015 Laffayette Center Rd. in Roanoke. Visitation will be at 3 p.m. and a service will follow at 4 p.m.

Memorials can be sent in care of the church in his name.



Jerry Lee Poulson

Jerry Lee Poulson of Sebring, Fla., passed away on Thursday, Oct. 24, 2023, at Lake Wales Hospice Hospital in Florida.

He graduated from Warren High School in 1963, and married Marjorie Blair Hunnicutt on Nov. 5, 1988 in Sebring, Fla.

Jerry was an avid sports player and fan. He and Marjorie went to all NASCAR races in the '80s and '90s. They had a mowing service and mowed 90-100 yards per week.

Jerry was preceding in death by his parents, Harold and Georgia Poulson.

Loving survivors include his wife; daughter, Lynn Huffman; sons, Jacey and Corey Poulson; stepsons, Heath and Nick Hunnicutt; siblings, Larry Poulson of Warren, Conchita Wesco of Warren, and Sherri Decker of Grandbury, Texas.

Friends and family may gather to share and remember at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at First Christian Church, 202 E 2nd St. Pastor Troy Drayer will conduct the memorial services. Burial will take place at Woodlawn Cemetery in Warren.

Obituary Policy

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

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

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

INCIDENTS

City:
Friday, 3:03 p.m., Hollyhock Lane and Stogdill Road. Report of a male subject who refused to move his vehicle that was parked at stop sign.

Friday, 5:37 p.m., 80 block of Sunset Drive. Welfare check requested for caller who hasn't heard from son.

Friday, 5:47 p.m., 80 block of Sunset Drive. Officer requested to stand by and document failed custody exchange.

Friday, 6:12 p.m., 900 block of South Jersey Street. Caller reported two juveniles scoping out a lawn mower. Unable to locate teens.

Friday, 6:38 p.m., Pine Grove Apartments. Report of smell of marijuana.

Friday, 7:06 p.m., 100 block of West South Street. Report of an unwanted subject refusing to leave. Subject left without issue.

Friday, 10:06 p.m., 100 block of West Central Avenue. Report of a man who came to location to meet underage female, Predator Catchers arrest.

Saturday, 12:13 a.m., 900 block of West Market Street. Caller reported unwanted individuals in home.

Saturday, 3:51 a.m., Walmart. Officer out with semi that has had multiple complaints.

Saturday, 7:27 a.m., Walmart. Caller reported semis in parking lot.

Saturday, 11:50 a.m., East South and South Main streets. Report of an SUV on jack with no wheels in parking lot.

Saturday, 1:20 p.m., 1000 block of West Central Avenue. Welfare check requested for subject.

Police Notebook

Saturday, 5:08 p.m., 400 block of West Townley Street. Report of issue with juvenile and parent. Issue resolved.

Saturday, 6:15 p.m., 800 block of Lancaster Street. Report of man living out of shed on property. Owners did not allow officers to search shed.

Saturday, 9:06 p.m., Capri Meadows. Caller reported a book with candy was left on doorstep the day before.

Saturday, 9:16 p.m., Pine Grove. Caller reported someone was attempting to break into apartment.

Sunday, 3:34 a.m., North Main and East Market streets. Report of an injured dog.

Sunday, 7:35 a.m., 900 block of South Morgan Street. Report of a dog barking in garage, concerned about animal abuse.

Sunday, 3:01 p.m., Wells County 4H Park. Report of dogs in park all day, acting aggressive. Unable to locate.

Sunday, 3:44 p.m., Walmart. Report of theft.

Sunday, 5:45 p.m., 400 block of West Cherry Street. Report of a theft.

Sunday, 9:36 p.m., 300 block of East Central Avenue. Welfare check requested for subject, subject was fine.

Monday, 8:39 a.m., North Johnson Street. Report of domestic issue.

Monday, 11:47 a.m., Capri Meadows, Report of fraud from deceased mothers account.

Monday, 12:59 a.m., 800 block of Melody Lane. Caller refused to give information but requested officer to stand by to get stuff from a daughter in law.

County:
Friday, 6:47 p.m., River Terrace Estates. Caller

reported cards taken out of wallet in unlocked car while caller was at work.

Friday, 11:18 p.m., Ind. 1 and East 500 South, Bluffton. Report of a vehicle in ditch with missing tire.

Saturday, 12:37 a.m., 5800 Sugar Street, Uniondale. Caller reported commotion outside before they located a broken window in vehicle. Officer noted it appeared the damage was caused from the vehicle backing into an unknown item at a different location.

Sunday, 4:40 p.m., 9000 South Main Street, Petroleum. Report of man inside truck firing gun at dog. Neighbor advised they shot at and missed the dog in order to protect themselves when dogs entered neighbors property. Advised they would keep dogs under control.

Sunday, 6:46 p.m., Lowes Home Improvement Store. Caller requested officer follow her home due to threatening call.

Monday, 9:25 a.m., Wells County Jail. Kitchen staffer brought in a running at large dog. Animal shelter took possession.

Ossian:
Friday, 5:49 p.m., North 100 East and 700 North, Ossian. Car versus deer.

Saturday, 3:54 p.m., 450 East and 1000 North, Ossian. Driver cited for speeding 60 in a 45 mph zone.

Saturday, 5:47 p.m., 700 block of East Settlers Trace, Ossian. Officer requested to stand by for custody exchange.

Saturday, 9:17 p.m., 1200 Baker Drive North 11000 Ind. 1, Ossian. Report of a domestic dispute, caller reported boyfriend threw her phone into the river.

Saturday, 10:35 p.m.,

North 175 East, Ossian. Report of a dirt bike or ATV driving up and down road for several hours. Unable to locate.

Sunday, 12:34 a.m., 200 block of Lynfield Court, Ossian. Report of a possible break in, officers also located a step stool outside callers window and large handprints on the window. The caller was added to watch list, investigation ongoing.

Monday, 5:58 a.m., 8200 North 750 East, Ossian. Report of a loose horse on the side of the road. Advised the creature may belong to a neighbor on the West side of the street.

ACCIDENTS

City:
Wednesday, 2:04 p.m., East Market and Scott streets. Kristine Hankes was reversing from a parking spot as Ciera Macklin was pulling into a space approximately 1.5 spaces down. Hankes' Jeep Compass collided with Macklin's Honda Odyssey. Damages did not exceed \$5,000.

ARRESTS

Eric Sheets, 59, Fort Wayne, possession of a firearm by a domestic battery, a Class A misdemeanor.

Samantha Lynn Bennett, 31, Muncie, operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more and operating a vehicle while intoxicated — endangerment, both class A misdemeanors. Bond set at \$1,500.

Sebastian Leonel Rivera Morales, 19, Bluffton, operating with a controlled substance in body, a Class C misdemeanor, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated — endangerment, a Class A Misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

Indiana lawmakers want to hold back more 3rd graders

Research is wavering over whether retention helps students become better readers and learners.

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Scrambling to improve literacy rates among Hoosier students, state lawmakers seem adamant to toughen Indiana's policy that requires most kids who are deficient in reading to repeat the third grade.

But the proposal has so far been met with skepticism from Hoosier teachers, school officials and education experts who maintain that a more stringent statewide retention law could further inflate classroom sizes and have negative social and emotional effects for students. Critics additionally caution that holding back more kids will cost the state hundreds of millions dollars more in education expenses.

The idea has so far been tossed around by Republican legislative leaders, who said the current state law isn't being implemented effectively. The latest reading scores showed that one in five Hoosier third graders continue to struggle with foundational reading skills.

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb said he also working on a similar proposal, but hasn't provided specific details.

Currently, Indiana third-graders who fail the statewide reading exam can be held back, although there are numerous exceptions, and deciding how to implement the state policy is ultimately left up to schools.

Indiana does not track third grade retention related to IREAD-3 testing, making it hard to quantify how many students are required to repeat the third grade specifically as a result of their inability to pass the exam.

No bills have been released yet, but drafts are expected when lawmakers reconvene for the 2024 legislative session Jan. 8. Indiana's State Board of Education is expected to discuss retention at its monthly meeting, scheduled for Tuesday.

dents that it just takes a lot of time and effort for them to learn — they can learn, but it's not going to look like a majority of kids. And you've also got students who are brand new English speakers — any rational person can easily guess that they're not going to pass (standardized testing)," said Fortville Elementary School principal Vincent Edwards.

"Are we going to retain those students in third grade indefinitely? What's the approach there when we know all of these other factors?" he added. "That's what scares me about the broad, state-level policy on mandated retention — you're removing so much of the important decision making from the professionals who know those kids are the best."

How retention started
Most states require students to take standardized tests that measure progress in reading and math in the third grade. Concerns over pandemic learning losses led some states to suspend such retentions, but now that schools are back to in-person learning, the controversy over whether to hold kids back has heated up in state legislatures across the country.

Indiana's third grade reading policy dates back to a 2010 law passed by the General Assembly.

Then-Gov. Mitch Daniels and state superintendent Tony Bennett asked the legislature to pass a law requiring schools to retain third-graders if they didn't pass a statewide standardized test, called IREAD-3.

Lawmakers declined to do so, however. Instead, House Act 1367 tasked the Indiana Department of Education with implement-

ing a plan for teaching kids to read by third grade, with retention "as a last resort" and in "appropriate consultation with parents or guardians." Mandatory retention for third graders who don't pass IREAD-3 was not clearly stated in the 2010 statute.

Even so, in early 2012, the State Board of Education created an administrative rule — with the force of law — which mandates that kids who failed the third-grade literacy test should be held back.

Exceptions were carved out for students in special education, certain English language learners and students who have already been retained twice or more.

Lawmakers from both sides of the aisle later said that mandatory retention wasn't what they wanted. Bennett's successor, Glenda Ritz, tried in 2013 to get rid of the rule but was unsuccessful.

Still, it's possible for a child who fails to pass IREAD-3 to "socially" move on to fourth grade.

Guidance from the IDOE says decisions about retention should be made on the basis of "the overall academic performance of the student in all subject areas." The state agency adds that students who are promoted without passing IREAD-3 "must continue to receive third grade reading instruction during the subsequent school year" and until they pass the test or get an exception.

Research shows those instructions have since caused a lack of consistent retention practices among schools across Indiana.

Does repeating third grade help?
In 2023, 81.9 percent

of Indiana's third-graders were proficient in reading, according to IREAD-3 test results. The dismal literacy rates were slightly improved from the year prior but are still notably lower than a decade ago, when proficiency rates were 91.4 percent.

State literacy exam scores have been on the decline since 2015 but bottomed out during the COVID-19 pandemic, when pass rates dropped six percentage points to 81.2 percent.

On the National Assessment of Educational Progress, which allows for state-by-state comparisons, Indiana's fourth-grade reading scores have been consistently above average, but not by much.

Research about the effectiveness of third grade retention varies and often shows marginal literacy improvements among students that have been held back.

IDOE spokesperson Molly Williams told the Indiana Capital Chronicle that retention "is a complex decision and there is often not a single reason why a student was retained."

Research completed by Edwards, who completed his doctoral dissertation at Ball State University in 2021, estimates that — based on an analysis of

IREAD-3 data — an average of 5.2 percent of Indiana third-graders could have been held back each year, between 2012 and 2019, due to the IREAD-3 policy. That's equal to more than 4,000 students that could have been retained every year, although fewer than that actually ended up repeating third grade, he said.

Edwards' research suggests "a slight positive effect" for students who are retained. He told the Capital Chronicle "we can't be sure, though, because it's complex," and held that "the data just is not there" to sup-

port retention.

"I truly don't see that there's a basis for a strong statewide mandatory retention policy. Because on those types of broad policies, you really want to target the really big bang-for-your-buck things — the things that we feel certain about and there's strong evidence and research for. Those of your statewide policies that you want to go after," he said, pointing to policies that support before and after school supplemental tutoring, or literacy interventions delivered through small group settings during the school day, for example.

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December 8, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.
Christian New Light Fellowship Hall
1011 West Washington St., Bluffton, IN
Jonathan White **Ticket Price \$15.00**
Tickets are available at the church and from Rose McKnight
For More Information Call 260-273-0522

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The 'Great Discordance' of economic fact and feeling

I'm calling the time we live in the 'Great Discordance' between the perceptions Americans have about the economy and the actual state of the economy. By nearly every measure we are in a period of remarkably strong economic performance. This is especially true of those measures economists typically use to judge the overall strength of an economy.

However, the widely respected Consumer Sentiment Survey, along with several political surveys about the economy, tell a very different story. The disagreement here isn't just wonky economist talk about data. The real 'Great Discordance' is between what Americans say they feel about the economy and how they are actually behaving in their real lives.

Much of our perception about the national economy comes from our local experience. America's cities are growing quickly, and remain places of prosperity and opportunity. However, outside cities, growth is largely stagnant. Half of Midwestern counties have lost population for three or four decades. These are places where grown children will not return, and home values won't keep up with inflation.

The national divergence in economic conditions means that perhaps a third of Americans will live in or be from counties that are in decline. Even if these folks do well individually, the perception of decline in these places weighs heavily on opinions.

Obviously, recent inflation plays a role in perceptions of economic unease. For some this is warranted, but for most it is not. That understanding requires an understanding of inflation and what caused it.

Our current bout of inflation was caused by too much spending during the COVID recovery, and monetary policy that responded too late. Most of that overspending was in the 2020 CARES Act, which was supported by the Trump administration and nearly every member of Congress. Later bills, such as the American Recovery Plan, worsened it. Inflation is always and everywhere a monetary phenomenon—too much money chasing too few goods.

Inflation is a decline in the value of the dollar. The choice we made in during COVID was between the risk of inflation and a deeper, longer economic downturn. We got inflation. It's normal to complain about inflation, but again the inflation we just went through involved a trade off between higher, longer unemployment and higher inflation. It is clear that political sentiment favors higher unemployment to higher inflation. That Americans appear to prefer higher unemployment over historically mild inflation is not something any of us should be proud of.

By 'historically mild,' I mean that inflation since the start of COVID has averaged 4.6 annual rate of growth. But, the average over my lifetime is 3.8 percent. The trade off between that extra 0.8 inflation and employment is pretty clear. It took 6 years and 8 months for employment to rebound from the 2007-2009 recession. It took only 2 years and 1 month to recover from the far deeper job losses of the COVID downturn.

Moreover, private sector wage growth has outpaced inflation since the start of COVID. Likewise, Social Security has also kept pace with inflation. So, the vast share of Americans are earning more in inflation-adjusted terms than they were before COVID. That is not true for everyone.

No other public sector pension—military, federal or state—has kept up with inflation. Pay for public sector employees has likewise trailed inflation, sometimes substantially. That is the source of the recruiting problems in the military, which is spreading to other occupations from school teachers to police officers. Indeed, almost all the budget windfall by state governments is simply money illusion.

Retirees who live on savings have felt a pinch, as stock markets have suffered a bad couple years due to inflation. So, there are reasons for some folks to feel glum about the economy. Still, for most Americans this is a time when we should be pleased with the national economy and hopeful that we might be entering a period of more robust growth. There is even some evidence we are entering a national period more like the 1990s than the last decade.

Labor markets are tight, but we've seen three quarters of productivity growth. That is a very robust sign of a longer expansion. Labor force participation has returned to pre-COVID levels, for both men and women. Again, average wages have outpaced inflation since the start of COVID, with the greatest wage growth among the bottom two-thirds of workers. We have more people working, at higher inflation-adjusted wages, than at any time in history.

The lack of a lengthy COVID business cycle and the increase in home values has led to substantial growth in wealth by households. The balance sheet of American households has never been stronger than it is today. Consumer spending is likewise at a record pace. Black Friday and Cyber Monday sales were at a record high. This is surprising given the longer period between Thanksgiving and Christmas this year, which tends to reduce early sales.

The simple fact is that Americans are behaving as if they are in the midst of a very strong economy. But, that is not what they are telling surveyors. And yes, I am aware there are a lot of young people worrying about mortgage rates. This week a 30-year fixed rate mortgage averaged 7.29 percent. But, the average over the past 50 years was 7.74 percent. In fact, from the year the first Baby boomer turned 30 until the last one turned 30, the 30-year fixed rate mortgage average was 10.43 percent.

Doubtless part of the perception about the economy is due to election season politicking. That's to be expected, but we shouldn't be seeking our own bespoke reality. I have plenty of complaints about the current administration, but since Joe Biden took office, GDP growth topped has topped 3.1 percent annualized rate. In contrast, Trump managed only 2.4 percent, Obama 2.0 percent and Bush only 1.9 percent. We are in the best economy since the late 1990s boom.

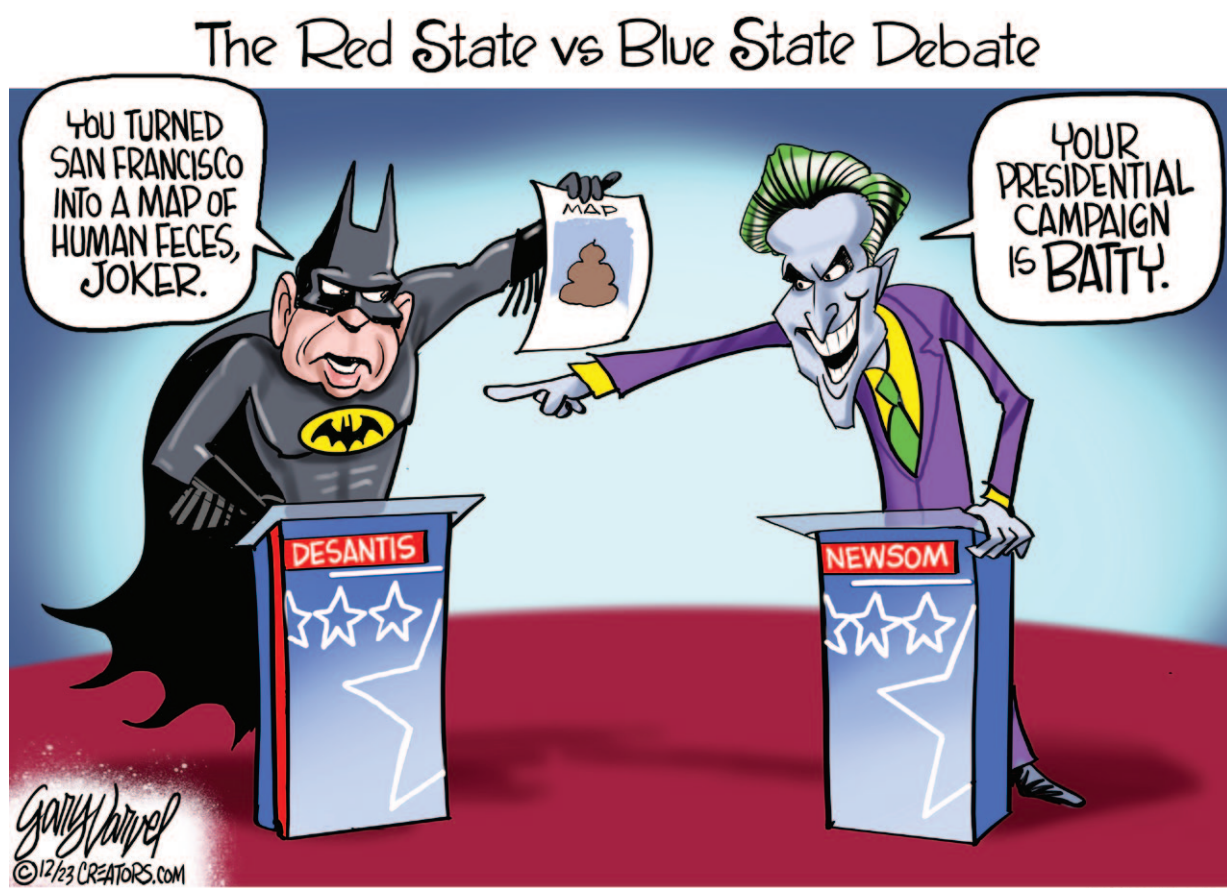
The plain fact is that we are in the midst of an unusually robust recovery, that is broadly beneficial to Americans. That is what economic data plainly report, but more importantly, that is how Americans are actually acting, both as consumers and as business owners.

Michael Hicks is the George and Frances Ball Distinguished Professor of Economics and the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at Ball State University.



Michael Hicks

Hoosier Opinions



A disappointing non-debate

If you watched the so-called "debate" between Florida Governor and Republican presidential candidate Ron DeSantis and California Democratic Governor Gavin Newsom (a presidential candidate in waiting), hoping to witness something that elevated the political rhetoric from the corrosive to the tolerable, even the admirable, you were probably disappointed. I was.

Instead of showing the audience something different from what we have become accustomed to, it was a verbal slugfest and insult festival. It looked like Donald Trump was debating himself.

Each man called the other man a liar. Each repeatedly interrupted the other. Moderator Sean Hannity kept asking them not to interrupt and for a short time they behaved, but then couldn't help themselves and reverted to what used to be called rudeness. Had I behaved that way as a child, I would have been sent to my room after a proper spanking and possibly denied dinner. Theirs was childish behavior.

When Hannity displayed statistics from the CDC and FBI on Covid and crime, Newsom would not acknowledge their validity. Neither would DeSantis acknowledge anything Newsom said might be true. According to Nielsen Media Research, 4.7 million watched, including 742,000 in the 25-54 age range, the demographic group preferred by advertisers. Ads are fundamentally what TV is about, aren't they?

How the audience benefited is anyone's guess. I suspect not very much. How Newsom and DeSantis benefited we might learn shortly from polls. I learned nothing and tuned out after an hour, figuring the last 30 minutes would be more of the same.

The Washington Post fact-checker appeared to give the edge to DeSantis when it came to the accuracy of his claims, but just barely.



Cal Thomas

What would have helped both men — and benefited viewers — is Hannity asking each man if there is something he liked about the other (clothing, hair styles and other externals excluded). He might have also asked what they love about America. And he could have asked if there are any programs or services that could be eliminated to reduce debt. California's debt is projected to be over \$600 billion by 2027, according to Statista.com. What cuts would President DeSantis make to reduce the national debt, which is approaching \$34 trillion? That would have been useful information.

Instead, the insults flew. Is this the new normal? Apparently so.

One other question that might have revealed some of each man's inner thinking and inner being. Hannity might have asked, "Tell the audience if you have made mistakes as governors, what they were and whether you learned anything."

Here's another: "Calvin Coolidge became president 100 years ago. He said: 'It is a great advantage to a president, and a major source of safety to the country, for him to know that he is not a great man.' Do you think you are a great man? Do you think your opposite is a great man?" It would have been good to know if an ounce of humility exists in either man.

Follow-up: "Is there anything you admire about each other?"

Another question Hannity might have asked: "How would each of you make America stronger through more government in our lives, or less?"

The public needs to know the inner workings of a politician's heart and soul beyond studied right-left talking points. This event failed to deliver. Instead of what had been billed as a "Thrilla from Alpharetta," it was more of a snoozer.

tcaditors@tribpub.com

Ukraine aid's best-kept secret: Most of the money stays in the U.S.A.

Here is the best-kept secret about U.S. military aid to Ukraine: Most of the money is being spent here in the United States. That's right: Funds that lawmakers approve to arm Ukraine are not going directly to Ukraine but are being used stateside to build new weapons or to replace weapons sent to Kyiv from U.S. stockpiles. Of the \$68 billion in military and related assistance Congress has approved since Russia invaded Ukraine, almost 90 percent is going to Americans, one analysis found.

But you wouldn't know that from the actions of some U.S. lawmakers. When Ohio Sen. J.D. Vance (R) joined a United Auto Workers picket line in October at the Jeep assembly plant in Toledo, he said he wanted to "show some support for the UAW workers" in his state. Yet he has not shown the same solidarity with the UAW workers in Lima, Ohio, who are churning out Abrams tanks and Stryker combat vehicles for Ukraine thanks to the military aid that Congress has approved. Vance opposes Ukraine aid, as does Rep. Jim Jordan (R), whose House district includes Lima.

Ohio voters might have expected their elected leaders to be pushing the (reluctant) Biden administration to give Ukraine more Lima-produced tanks and vehicles — or to require that more of them be included in the aid package for Ukraine that Congress will soon take up. Instead, Vance and Jordan are fighting to stop Ukraine from receiving any more union-made tanks and combat vehicles from America's only tank factory.

It's not just them. In all, 31 senators and House members whose states or districts benefit from funding for Ukraine have voted to oppose or restrict that aid. They include some of the most prominent anti-Ukraine voices in Congress, such as Republican Sens. Josh Hawley (Mo.), Tommy Tuberville (Ala.) and



Marc Thiessen

Mike Braun (Ind.), as well as Republican Reps. Matt Gaetz (Fla.), Bill Posey (Fla.), Anna Paulina Luna (Fla.) and Lance Gooden (Tex.).

At a time when both major parties are competing to win working-class votes and strengthen the U.S. manufacturing base, our military aid to Ukraine does exactly that — it is providing a major cash infusion into factories across the country that directly benefits American workers. It is also creating jobs and opportunities for local suppliers, shops, restaurants and other businesses that support the factories rolling out weapons.

Nor does a list count the suppliers that provide contractors with parts, such as plastic and computer chips, or produce smaller items for Ukraine, such as cold-weather and night-vision gear, medical supplies, spare parts and millions of rounds of small-arms ammunition. As one Ukrainian official told me, "Every single state in the U.S. contributes to this effort."

In other words, as happens with foreign military aid, our aid to Ukraine is not only creating American jobs but also reinvigorating our dangerously atrophied defense industrial base. Vance said in October that "the condition of the American defense industrial base is a national scandal. Repairing it is among our most urgent priorities." Well, our aid to Ukraine is doing exactly that.

Our aid to Ukraine is not only forcing the Pentagon to rapidly increase the United States' ability to produce weapons; it's also modernizing the U.S. military. As retired Army Maj. Gen. John G. Ferrari, now a colleague at the American Enterprise Institute, recently pointed out, we are giving Ukraine weapons systems that are often decades old and then replacing our stockpiles with more advanced versions. "Because of the existing budget pressures on the Army, it wouldn't be able to afford this needed modernization of equipment on its

own," Ferrari wrote in an op-ed. "By transferring weapons and gear to Ukraine, the Army would receive more modern weapons in return."

The U.S.-led effort to arm Ukraine reinvigorates our defense production capacity in still other ways. The United States is also creating incentives for NATO allies to donate their old U.S.-produced and Soviet-era weapons systems to Ukraine by authorizing the sale of newer, modern U.S.-made systems to replace them. For example, Poland sent 250 older Soviet and German tanks to Ukraine and signed a \$4.75 billion deal in April 2022 to buy 250 M1A2 Abrams replacement tanks that will be produced at the Lima, Ohio, factory. Poland subsequently made a \$1.4 billion deal for additional tanks. Poland also sent its Soviet-made Mi-24 attack helicopters to Ukraine and then signed a \$12 billion deal to purchase 96 Apache helicopters that will be built in Mesa, Ariz.

In all, our analysis found that there are at least 13 production lines in 10 states and 11 U.S. cities producing new American-made weapons for NATO allies to replace the equipment they have sent to Ukraine. As I have pointed out, it is in the United States' vital interests to arm Ukraine in its fight to defeat Russian aggression. Our support for Ukraine is decimating the Russian military threat to NATO, restoring deterrence with China, dissuading other nuclear powers from launching wars of aggression and improving American military preparedness for other adversaries. The "America First" case for helping Ukraine is clear.

But if those arguments are not persuasive, then this should be: Our military aid to Ukraine is revitalizing manufacturing communities across the United States, creating good jobs here at home and restoring the United States' capacity to produce weapons for our national defense. Helping Ukraine is the right thing to do for U.S. national security. It is also the right thing to do for American workers.

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

Christmas in the Mansion showcases decorated trees

By BARBARA BARBIERI

The Wells County Historical Society's "Christmas in the Mansion" is now accepting guests to view the decorated Christmas trees at the Historical Museum on Saturdays and Sundays through Dec. 17th.

Historical Society members will be hosting from 2 to 6 p.m. both days. There is no admission charge, however donations are gratefully accepted at the refreshment table in the dining room.

Businesses and individuals have decorated the 30 trees located on three floors of the museum. The front window and lobby area were decorated by Cindy Hedges and the candle lights in all of the museum's windows were installed by Melanie Durr. Garlands on the grand stairway were added by Becky Behning and Marcia Hotopp added garlands to the Parlor Archway.

Main Floor Decorators

Medical room window: Tammie Imel; Medical Room: Antique Engine Rebuilding

West room: 20/20 Custom Molded Plastics; History of Wells County Schools, A Perfect Blend, Nancy & Steve Wagner and Jen Sturgeon (display case)

Hall of Fame: 1913-2003 Flood of Wabash River

Deam Room: Tiny Barclay, Let's get Lit and Carolina Style

Back Hallway: Marcia Hotopp and Barbie Tree (ornaments from Bargain Hut)

Parlor: Appalachian Christmas and Dining



Holiday decorations in the front window of the Wells County Historical Society were arranged for by Cindy Hedges. (Photos by Barbara Barbieri)

Room: Posy Pot (Donna Anderson)

Lower Level

Library: (Celia Behning), Post Office Safe: Markle Antique Mall, Basement Landing: Brandy Stronczek, Williamson tree: Alan Daugherty, Basement Bank: Genalogy Society, General Store: Kroger's Robin Lane, Kitchen: Penguin's on Parade, Pat Wall and Cindy Hedges.

Second Floor

North window: Bargain Hut; Top of Stairs: Wells County Public Library; Doorway: Psi Iota Xi; Children's Bedroom: LeRee Gompert & Evelyn Best

Hours on Saturday, Dec. 9th will be from 10 a.m. to



Klarksen Ley, at right, was checking out the cookie refreshments at "Christmas in the Mansion" Saturday afternoon along with his grandmother Annette Kistler. Kistler often is at the museum as she is the museum's housekeeper.

5 p.m., during Parlor City Christmas. The Trolley Museum.

Ossian Rotary to host local blood drive with the American Red Cross

Heroes come in all shapes and sizes. They don't wear capes or special suits, and their badge of honor is the bandage that shows they gave the gift of life. The community is invited to become a hometown hero and answer the call of patients in need by donating blood with the American Red Cross from 1 to 6 p.m. on December 11th at First Baptist Church of Ossian, 1001 Dehner Drive on Ossian's north side.

Donors for this specific blood drive will not only feel great about helping others but will also receive an Amazon gift card. Pre-scheduled appointments are highly encouraged to allow your donation time to better match your availability.

To make an appointment or to learn more, download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App or visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=ossian>. You may also call 1-800-RED CROSS at 1-800-733-2767. Completion of a RapidPass® online health history questionnaire is encouraged to help speed up the donation process. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in.

According to Ossian Rotary President Jeremy Penrod, "Ossian Rotary strives to help those in need in our community even during the busy holiday season. What better way to do that than taking a few minutes to give blood?"

Music at the library for Parlor City Christmas

Wells county youngsters will be providing musical entertainment on Saturday morning Dec. 9, during Bluffton's Parlor City Christmas at the Wells County Public Library beginning at 9:30 p.m.

Students from Amy Chaplin's Studio 88 will also be playing piano selections and include: Maddy Tanner, Abigail Garner, Elizabeth Garner, Riley Kelly, Ithan Rinkenberger, Eric Rinkenberger, Emily Maggard, Cora Clem, Porter Steigerwald, Sebastian Steigerwald, Sloan Steigerwald and Gracey Yergler..

Students from Jeanette S. Lundeen Music Studio will include Amelia Abbott, MaKayla Berkey, Jacob Bultemeier, Jonah Bultemeier, Ezra Karns, Elias Nussbaum and Halleigh Valenti. Creative Arts Vocal students will include Deb Johnson, Shiloh Gerber, Maddy Tanner, Emily Maggard and Emma Shane.

Creative Arts Guitar Students will be Eli Bender and Carson Bender.

From Tammy Ray Piano Studio the students will be Audrey Breunig, Grace Bender, Oliver Richhart, Madalyne Richhart, Ava Schlemmer, Abby Schlemmer, Bri Schlemmer, Caedon Confer, Elias Nussbaum, Avery Thornton, Findley Oakleaf and Ruby Oakleaf.

Gretchen Steffen's piano students will include: Jonathan MacNeill, William MacNeill, Macy Reinhard, Shaelyn Reinhard, Abby Duell, Delaney Tomlin, Lakelyn Gerber, Walker Gerber, William Kipfer, Lucas Kipfer, Sofie Kipfer and Violet Leman.

Vendors announced for Parlor City Shopping Fair at Wells County Commerce & Visitors Centre

During Bluffton's Parlor City Christmas event on Saturday, Dec. 9, a Shopping Fair will be offered at the Wells County Commerce & Visitors Centre from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Vendors planning to be present include:

Petra Baumgartner (papercraft & stocking stuffers); Rebecca Bogner (craft variety); Connie Bultemier (tumblers); Deb Carson (Tastefully Simple); Nicole Curry (crafts/food); Angie Day (Young Living essential oils); Kayla Demuth (tumblers & tees); Ryan Frauhiger (journals, cards, e-prints); Katherine Frauhiger (soaps/wood crafts); Judy Carver (crocheted items/jewelry); Becky Goshorn (Mary

Kay products).

Others include: Angie Honegger (stocking stuffers); Stephanie Kipfer (macrame/small scale wood cutting); Billy Kreigh (cards, eco prints); Lana Miller (baked goods); John Musselman (Tiny Dog Woodworking); Randy Neuenschwander (wooden items); Kayleen Reusser (WWII books); Todd & Debbie Roop (KT Custom Engraving).

Others include: Jessica Salyer (crafts/food); Megan Schantz (handmade items/ sugar cookies); Dan Schrier (re-purposed items/ artificial succulents); Phyllis Smith (knit & crocheted items); Leah Springer (laser engraved items); Kenzie Steel (Ken-

zie's Coney's); Nedra Steury (hand painted china); Brandy Stronczek ((Tinkertique); Diana Wedlar (Daddy's Delights).

Woodcarving on the Patio

While the shopping is taking place inside the Visitor's Centre the action on the patio will include the wood carving of Ryan Frauhiger of Forrest Carvings.

Pinewood Derby Track

Area Boy Scouts will have a Pine-wood Derby Track set up on the patio for some racing action.

Warm Up Fire

If the weather is cool an outdoor fire will offer a site to warm up before heading off to another Saturday event.

Reducing your risk of stroke

Also: Are you a walking polypharmacy?

Question: I have high blood pressure and elevated cholesterol (I take meds) and was a smoker. My doctor has said that I am at risk for a stroke. What can I do to lower my risk? — Andy T., Mobile, Alabama



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

A: An ischemic stroke is caused when something (a blood clot, for example) blocks the blood flow in your brain. Every year, around 795,000 folks in the U.S. have a stroke and 85 percent of those are ischemic. If treated very quickly, its worst repercussions may be avoided. The drug Alteplase IV r-tPA, if administered within three hours (up to 4.5 in some cases), can dissolve the clot and improve blood flow, enhancing recovery. The other form of stroke, hemorrhagic stroke, happens when a blood vessel in your brain leaks or ruptures. It requires immediate treatment using medications and sometimes surgery.

Unfortunately, a report in The Lancet Neurology says the number of folks who die from stroke will increase by 50 percent by the year 2050 — causing almost 10 million deaths that year — unless we act now to limit the risk factors that are fueling the increase.

So, what are the risk factors and what can you do to reduce your chances of contending with the often life-altering aftermath of a stroke?

Risk factors are unmanaged stress, inactivity, high blood pressure, elevated lousy LDL cholesterol, smoking, diabetes, heart disease, obesity, sickle cell disease, drinking more than one or two drinks a day, and being overweight/obese. Those factors make it pretty clear what lifestyle

upgrades help protect you from stroke: regular stress management, walking, and maybe aerobic and strength-training exercise; a plant-based diet high in fiber and phytonutrients, low in saturated fat, red and processed meats and highly processed foods; quitting smoking (anything); weight reduction and management; control of glucose levels; and moderation in drinking.

You have the power to improve your cardiovascular health — so take advantage of that. For information and guidance, check out CDC.gov, my.clevelandclinic.org and LongevityPlaybook.com.

Question: My cardiologist just wrote me a prescription for a blood thinner because I have A-Fib. I am also taking a statin, using two asthma control medications, and a thyroid medication, plus a whole bunch of vitamins and minerals. Is there any way of knowing if this is all OK? — Beth R., Lincoln, Nebraska

Answer: You have identified a truly serious and wide-spread situation that affects millions of Americans, especially older folks. It's called polypharmacy — taking five or more medications at the same time. And it does cause trouble.

A new study, titled "Life Course Patterns of Prescription Drug Use in

the United States," reveals that in the mid-1900s, most people taking medication were on one drug, but now many people are taking as many as five. No wonder, around 10 percent of hospital admissions for older adults are associated with hazardous drug interactions. And for older cancer patients who are getting chemo, there's been up to a 114 percent increase in hospitalizations related to medication reactions. Overall, cholesterol-lowering medications, minerals, and thyroid therapy are most commonly involved in potential drug interactions. However, many non-Rx meds, including laxatives, antihistamines, heartburn remedies, herbs, vitamins and minerals, can be trouble-makers, too.

But remember, these meds may be saving your life, too. That's why everyone who is taking multiple medications — even if fewer than five — should sit down with their primary care physician and do a careful review of potential interactions with Rx drugs, over-the-counter meds and supplements that you take. When you are in a hospital you need for the specialist(s) to know every medication and all supplements and OTC drugs you take. Don't leave out anything. And when you are prescribed a new medication, always ask, "Have you checked this for interactions with the other meds and supplements I am taking?"

You can't determine the safety or efficacy (some interactions simply mute the effectiveness of a medication) of taking your meds together. So make a doctors appointment today for a careful review.

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Jim Leyland elected to baseball's HOF, becomes 23rd manager in the hall

By RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Jim Leyland left his living room in Thornburg, Pennsylvania, and had gone upstairs to lie down, convinced the call to Cooperstown wasn't coming.

"They had told us it would be between 6:30 and 7:15," he said, "but I thought when I didn't get it by a quarter to 7, it wasn't going to happen, so I went up just to rest a minute, kind of get my thoughts together."

Just then, as son Pat arrived upstairs, the phone rang. Hall chairman Jane Forbes Clark was on the line and Leyland had been voted in, two weeks shy of his 79th birthday.

"There was definitely a tear in my eye," Leyland said.

An entertaining and at-times crusty manager who led the Florida Marlins to a World Series title in 1997 and won 1,769 regular-season games over 22 seasons, Leyland received 15 of 16 votes Sunday from the contemporary era committee for managers, executives and umpires. He becomes the 23rd manager in the hall.

Honest, profane and constantly puffing on a cigarette, Leyland embodied the image of the prickly baseball veteran with a gruff but wise voice. He is 18th on the career list for manager wins but is second behind Joe McCarthy among those who never played in the major leagues. He also was ejected 73 times, tied with Clark Griffith for 10th in major league history.

Leyland's players included Barry Bonds, Gary Sheffield, Larry Walker, Miguel Cabrera, Justin Verlander and Max Scherzer.

"I think young people, young players are searching for discipline," Leyland said. "So we all have our insecurities and I think even sometimes players do, even though they're great play-

ers. And I think that they're always looking for that leadership. I tried to impress on them what it was to be a professional and how tough this game is to play. And I also told them almost every day how good they were."

Former player and manager Lou Piniella fell one vote short for the second time after also getting 11 in 2018. Former player, broadcaster and NL President Bill White was two shy.

Managers Cito Gaston and Davey Johnson, umpires Joe West and Ed Montague, and general manager Hank Peters all received fewer than five votes.

Leyland managed Pittsburgh, Florida, Colorado and Detroit from 1986 to 2013. He will be inducted into the Hall on July 21 along with players voted in by the Baseball Writers' Association of America, whose balloting will be announced on Jan. 23.

Adrián Beltré, Joe Mauer, Chase Utley, David Wright, José Bautista and Matt Holliday are among the players eligible for the BBWAA ballot for the first time in the current vote. Holdovers include Todd Helton, who fell 11 votes short this year, and Billy Wagner, who was 27 shy.

Leyland grew up in the Toledo, Ohio, suburb of Perrysburg. He was a minor league catcher and occasional third baseman in the Tigers organization from 1965-70, never rising above Double-A and finishing with a .222 batting average, four homers and 102 RBIs.

"Being not a very good player myself, I realized how hard it was to play the game," he said.

Leyland coached in the Tigers minor league system, then started managing with Bristol of the Appalachian Rookie League in 1971. After 11 seasons as a minor league manager, he left the Tigers to serve as Tony La Russa's third base coach with the Chicago White Sox from 1982-85, then embarked on a major league managerial career that saw him take over the Pirates from 1986-96.

The Pittsburgh Press was said to have run a headline: "Jim Who?"

"Yeah, it was 'Jim Who?' when I

got here and, you know, I'm still here," Leyland said. "At least people know me a little better than they did when I first got here."

Pittsburgh got within one out of a World Series trip in 1992 before Francisco Cabrera's two-run single in Game 7 won the NL pennant for Atlanta. The Pirates sank from there following the departures of Bonds and ace pitcher Doug Drabek as free agents, and Leyland left after Pittsburgh's fourth straight losing season in 1996. Five days following his last game, he chose the Marlins over the White Sox, Red Sox and Angels.

Florida won the title the next year in the franchise's fifth season, the youngest expansion team to earn a championship at the time. But the Marlins sold off veterans and tumbled to 54-108 in 1998, and Leyland left for the Rockies. He quit after one season, saying he lacked the needed passion, and worked as a scout for the St. Louis Cardinals.

"I did a lousy job my last year of managing," Leyland said. "I stunk because I was burned out. When I left there, I sincerely believed that I would not manage again. ... I always missed the competition, but the last couple of years — and this stuck in my craw a little bit — I did not want my managerial career to end like that."

He replaced Alan Trammell as Tigers manager ahead of the 2006 season and stayed through 2013.

Leyland's teams finished first six times and went 1,769-1,728. He won American League pennants in 2006, losing to St. Louis in a five-game World Series, and 2012, getting swept by San Francisco. Leyland was voted Manager of the Year in 1990, 1992 and 2006, and he managed the U.S. to the 2017 World Baseball Classic championship, the Americans' only title.

Now he's alongside the elite. "It's the final stop," Leyland said. "To land there in Cooperstown, it doesn't get any better than that. I mean, that's the ultimate. I certainly never thought it was going to happen. Most people probably don't. But it did, and I'm sure I'm going to enjoy it."

Tigers go 4-0 over Raiders in MS hoops

The Bluffton-Harrison Middle School basketball teams picked up wins across the board against Southern Wells on Monday.

The eighth grade boys' team won 36-16 and improved to 4-2 (3-0 ACAC). Gavin Grieser had nine points to lead the team. Cooper Jenkins (8), Rafe Gerber (5), Reid Abbett (4), Bennett Stonner and Andy Baumgartner (3), and Gibby Grieser and Parker Barnes (2).

The eighth grade girls' team won 29-24 and improved to 5-1 (3-0 ACAC). Khloe Dick led the way with 11 points, followed by Bridget Steffen (8), Kamryn Ault and Krista Blair (4), and Ava Trexler (2).

The seventh grade boys' team won 47-7 to improve to 6-0 (3-0 ACAC). Chase Kistler scored 13 points to lead the Tigers, followed by Corban Wheeler (6), Pierce Renner (5), Cooper Bustos, Kamdyn Shuman and Maddox White (4), Vince Lambert (3), and Croy Stout, Parker Christal, Trace Simpson and Wyatt Holmes (2).

The seventh grade girls' team won 35-14 and improved to 6-0 (3-0 ACAC) on the season. Gracie Jellison and Khloe Gehrett led the Tigers with eight points, Audrey Meching (7), Luci Jenkins and Josie Nash (4), and Averie Patton and Madalynn Narvaez (2).

High School Calendar

TUESDAY, DEC 5

BOYS BASKETBALL: Dwenger at Norwell, 7:45 p.m.; Eastbrook at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Wabash at Bluffton, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Blackhawk, 7:30 p.m.

SWIMMING & DIVING (CO-ED): Norwell at Belmont, 5:30 p.m.; Bluffton at Adams Central, 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC 6

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Eastbrook at Norwell, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC 7

SWIMMING & DIVING (CO-ED): Jay County at Norwell, 6 p.m.; Bluffton at Blackford, 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC 8

BOYS BASKETBALL: Lakeland Christian at Bluffton, 7 p.m. (JV one half).

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Norwell at Columbia City, 7:30 p.m.; Bluffton at Woodlan, 7:30 p.m.; Heritage at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m.

WRESTLING: NE8 DUALS at New Haven 6 p.m.; Bluffton, Southern Wells at ACAC Team Duals (Jay County High School), 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC 9

BOYS BASKETBALL: Blackhawk at Norwell, 7:30 p.m. SWIMMING & DIVING (CO-ED): Norwell Boys Invitational, 9 a.m.

WRESTLING: NE8 Duals at Columbia City, 9 a.m.; Bluffton, Southern Wells at ACAC Team Duals (Jay County High School), 9 a.m.

MONDAY, DEC 11

No events scheduled

TUESDAY, DEC 12

BOYS BASKETBALL: Northfield at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Woodlan at Norwell, 7:45 p.m.; Southern Wells at Elwood, 7:30 p.m.

SWIMMING & DIVING (CO-ED): Snider/Wayne at Norwell, 6 p.m.

WRESTLING: Jay County at Norwell, 6 p.m.

Three QBs announced as Heisman finalists, Daniels, Penix, Nix with OSU WR Harrison Jr.

By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Football Writer

LSU's Jayden Daniels, Oregon's Bo Nix and Washington's Michael Penix Jr., transfer quarterbacks who have all played at least five college seasons, and Ohio State receiver Marvin Harrison Jr. were announced as the Heisman Trophy finalists on Monday night.

The Heisman has been given to the nation's most outstanding college football player since 1935. This year's winner will be announced Saturday in New York. The top four vote-getters determined by more than 870 voters, which include members of the media and former Heisman winners, are selected as finalists.

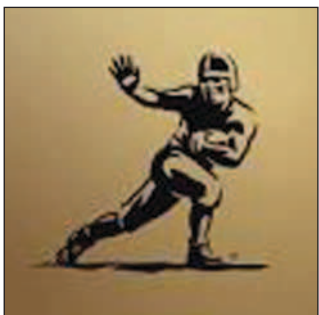
With Nix and Penix, the Pac-12 has two Heisman finalists for the first time since 2010 when Stanford's Andrew Luck was the runner-up to Auburn's Cam Newton, and Oregon running back LaMichael James finished third in the balloting.

The Pac-12 is in its final season with its current membership before 10 schools depart, including Oregon and Washington to the Big Ten.

A look at each finalist's road to Manhattan.

DANIELS

Daniels had one of the most prolific seasons in Southeastern Conference history for the 13th-ranked Tigers (9-3), his second at LSU and fifth overall after starting his career at Arizona State. He passed for 3,812 yards



and 40 touchdowns and ran for 1,134 yards and 10 TDs.

Daniels is trying to become the third LSU player to win the Heisman, first since Joe Burrow in 2019 — another transfer quarterback in his second season in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Daniels is also trying to become the rare Heisman winner in the BCS/CFP era to win the award with a team that wasn't in contention for a championship late in the season. The last player to win the Heisman on a team with a 9-3 record was Louisville quarterback Lamar Jackson in 2016.

HARRISON Jr.

Harrison has 67 catches for 1,211 yards and 15 touchdowns, and his trip to New York gives No. 7 Ohio State (11-1) Heisman finalists in five of the last six seasons.

Harrison's overall numbers lag behind some of the other star receivers around the country, but he was the

most consistent threat for a Buckeyes offense that was breaking in a new starting quarterback and dealt with injuries to its supporting cast all season.

He would be the fifth receiver to win the Heisman in the award's 87-year history, but the second in the past four years. Alabama's DeVonta Smith won in 2020 to become the first receiver to take the trophy in nearly three decades.

NIX

While Daniels went from the Pac-12 to the SEC and found stardom, Nix went the opposite way.

After three years at Auburn, the former five-star recruit transferred to Oregon in 2022 and became one of the best players in the country, leading the eighth-ranked Ducks (11-2) to the Pac-12 title game.

Nix has completed 77.2% of his passes, which is slightly behind the major college football record, and has thrown for 4,145 yards and 40 TDs.

PENIX

Penix is in his sixth college season after four injury-filled years at Indiana. He transferred to Washington in 2022 to play for coach Kalen DeBoer, his former offensive coordinator at Indiana, and has guided the second-ranked Huskies to 23 victories, a Pac-12 title and their second College Football Playoff appearance this year.

This season, Penix has passed for 4,218 yards and 33 touchdowns.

Arizona rises to No. 1 in the AP Top 25 poll; Gonzaga and North Carolina crack top 10

By AARON BEARD
AP Basketball Writer

It is Arizona's turn to sit atop The Associated Press Top 25 men's college basketball poll.

The Wildcats rose to No. 1 in Monday's poll for the first time in nearly nine years, making Tommy Lloyd's squad the third team to hold the top spot this season. Last week's No. 1 team, Purdue, slid after an overtime loss at Northwest-ern.

Arizona claimed 59 of 63 first-place votes to move up one spot, putting the Wildcats comfortably ahead of preseason No. 1 Kansas. The Jayhawks rose three spots to No. 2 with a win against last season's NCAA champion, Connecticut.

Arizona hasn't been No. 1 in the AP Top 25 since an eight-week stint that ended in January 2014 under former coach Sean Miller.

Lloyd is in his third season after a long run as an assistant at Gonzaga, and his first two teams each spent multiple weeks inside the top five.

"I know when I came to this program, my dream is to make it one of the best in the country," Lloyd said of the possible rise to No. 1 after a weekend win against Colgate. "If you're one of the best in the country, you're going to stumble into being No. 1 once in a while. So you know what? Handle it. And that'll be the message."

It was a busy day for the poll: No team in the Top 25 was in the same spot it was a week ago.

THE TOPTIER

Houston rose three spots to No. 3, while the Boiler-makers fell to fourth after the Northwestern loss. UConn slid only one spot to No. 5 after the loss at Kan-

sas, followed by Baylor.

Gonzaga and North Carolina cracked the top 10 for the first time this season.

The Bulldogs jumped four spots to No. 7 after a neutral-court win against USC. The Tar Heels jumped eight spots to No. 9 after beating Tennessee in the ACC/SEC Challenge, followed by a home comeback win against Florida State.

NET RANKINGS

The NCAA's initial NCAA Evaluation Tool rankings were released Monday and differed quite a bit from the AP poll.

Houston was No. 1 in the NET rankings, followed by BYU, Arizona, Creighton and Purdue. Kansas was 16th in the NET.

The NET is the primary sorting tool for determining NCAA Tournament teams.

RISING

The Tar Heels' leap marked the week's biggest

jump, though No. 13 Colorado State was right behind them after rising seven spots on the strength of its 8-0 start. There was also a six-spot rise for No. 19 Oklahoma, which made its poll debut last week.

In all, 14 teams climbed from last week's poll, including No. 10 Creighton rising five spots to rejoin the top 10 after spending the first three polls at No. 8.

SLIDING

Duke took the biggest tumble of the week of 15 spots to land at No. 22 after a pair of road losses against unranked opponents. First came a loss at Arkansas then a loss at Georgia Tech after starting point guard Tyrese Proctor went down with an early ankle injury.

No. 15 Miami, No. 17 Tennessee and No. 21 Texas A&M each fell seven spots.

WELCOME ABOARD

(Continued on Page 7)

News-Banner Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
East						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Miami	9	3	0	.750	384	266
Buffalo	6	6	0	.500	328	227
N.Y. Jets	4	8	0	.333	171	251
New England	2	10	0	.167	148	254
South						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Jacksonville	8	3	0	.727	254	225
Houston	7	5	0	.583	281	249
Indianapolis	7	5	0	.583	300	292
Tennessee	4	8	0	.333	213	255
North						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Baltimore	9	3	0	.750	324	187
Cleveland	7	5	0	.583	258	245
Pittsburgh	7	5	0	.583	192	229
Cincinnati	5	6	0	.455	212	242
West						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Kansas City	8	4	0	.667	275	208
Denver	6	6	0	.500	263	302
L.A. Chargers	5	7	0	.417	275	258
Las Vegas	5	7	0	.417	202	256

NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Philadelphia	10	2	0	.833	329	286
Dallas	9	3	0	.750	388	220
N.Y. Giants	4	8	0	.333	159	292
Washington	4	9	0	.308	261	395
South						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Atlanta	6	6	0	.500	226	240
New Orleans	5	7	0	.417	257	255
Tampa Bay	5	7	0	.417	233	245
Carolina	1	11	0	.083	191	313
North						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Detroit	9	3	0	.750	327	286
Minnesota	6	6	0	.500	263	242
Green Bay	6	6	0	.500	258	243
Chicago	4	8	0	.333	242	296
West						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
San Francisco	9	3	0	.750	352	189
L.A. Rams	6	6	0	.500	268	253
Seattle	6	6	0	.500	264	290
Arizona	3	10	0	.231	230	331

Thursday's Games						
Dallas	41	Seattle	35			
Sunday's Games						
Arizona	24	Pittsburgh	10			
Atlanta	13	N.Y. Jets	8			
Detroit	33	New Orleans	28			
Houston	22	Denver	17			
Indianapolis	31	Tennessee	28			
L.A. Chargers	6	New England	0			
Miami	45	Washington	15			
Tampa Bay	21	Carolina	18			
L.A. Rams	36	Cleveland	19			
San Francisco	42	Philadelphia	19			
Green Bay	27	Kansas City	19			
Open:	Baltimore, Buffalo, Las Vegas, Chicago, Minnesota, N.Y. Giants					

Monday's Games						
Cincinnati	Jacksonville					
Thursday, Dec. 7						
New England	at Pittsburgh	8:15 p.m.				
Sunday, Dec. 10						
Carolina	at New Orleans	1 p.m.				
Detroit	at Chicago	1 p.m.				
Houston	at N.Y. Jets	1 p.m.				
Indianapolis	at Cincinnati	1 p.m.				
Jacksonville	at Cleveland	1 p.m.				
L.A. Rams	at Baltimore	1 p.m.				
Tampa Bay	at Atlanta	1 p.m.				
Minnesota	at Las Vegas	4:05 p.m.				
Seattle	at San Francisco	4:05 p.m.				
Buffalo	at Kansas City	4:25 p.m.				
Denver	at L.A. Chargers	4:25 p.m.				
Philadelphia	at Dallas	8:20 p.m.				
Open:	Arizona, Washington					
Monday, Dec. 11						
Green Bay	at N.Y. Giants	8:15 p.m.				
Tennessee	at Miami	8:15 p.m.				

College						
2023-24 Bowl Game Schedule						
Saturday, Dec. 16						
Myrtle Beach Bowl						
Conway, S.C.						
Georgia Southern vs. Ohio, 11 a.m.						
Celebration Bowl						
Atlanta						
Howard vs. Florida A&M, noon						
New Orleans Bowl						
New Orleans						
Jacksonville St. vs. Louisiana, 2:15 p.m.						
Cure Bowl						
Orlando, Fla.						
Miami (Ohio) vs. Appalachian St., 3:30 p.m.						
New Mexico Bowl						
Albuquerque, N.M.						
New Mexico St. vs. Fresno St., 5:45 p.m.						
LA Bowl Hosted						
Inglewood, Calif.						
UCLA vs. Boise St., 7:30 p.m.						
Independence Bowl						
Shreveport, La.						
California vs. Texas Tech, 9:15 p.m.						
Monday, Dec. 18						
Famous Toastery Bowl						
Charlotte, N.C.						
W. Kentucky vs. Old Dominion, 2:30 p.m.						
Tuesday, Dec. 19						
Frisco Bowl						
Frisco, Texas						
UTSA vs. Marshall, 9:00 p.m.						

Thursday, Dec. 21						
Boca Raton Bowl						
Boca Raton, Fla.						
USF vs. Syracuse, 8:00 p.m.						
Friday, Dec. 22						
Gasparilla Bowl						
Tampa, Fla.						
Georgia Tech vs. UCF, 6:30 p.m.						
Saturday, Dec. 23						
Camellia Bowl						
Montgomery, Ala.						
Arkansas St. vs. N. Illinois, noon						
Birmingham Bowl						
Birmingham, Ala.						
Troy vs. Duke, noon						
Armed Forces Bowl						
Fort Worth, Texas						
No. 24 James Madison vs. Air Force, 3:30 p.m.						
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl						
Boise, Idaho						
Georgia St. vs. Utah St., 3:30 p.m.						
68 Ventures Bowl						
Mobile, Ala.						
South Alabama vs. Eastern Michigan, 7:00 p.m.						
Las Vegas Bowl						
Las Vegas						
Utah vs. Northwestern, 7:30 p.m.						
Hawaii Bowl						
Honolulu, Hawaii						
Coastal Carolina vs. San Jose St., 10:30 p.m.						
Tuesday, Dec. 26						
Quick Lane Bowl						
Detroit						
Bowling Green vs. Minnesota, 2:00 p.m.						
First Responder Bowl						
Dallas						
Texas St. vs. Rice, 5:30 p.m.						
Guaranteed Rate Bowl						
Phoenix						
Kansas vs. UNLV, 9:00 p.m.						
Wednesday, Dec. 27						
Military Bowl Presented						
Annapolis, Md.						
No. 23 Tulane vs. Virginia Tech, 2:00 p.m.						
Duke's Mayo Bowl						
Charlotte, N.C.						
North Carolina vs. West Virginia, 5:30 p.m.						
Holiday Bowl						
San Diego, Calif.						
No. 16 Louisville vs. Southern Cal, 8:00 p.m.						
Texas Bowl						
Houston						
No. 22 Oklahoma St. vs. Texas A&M, 9:00 p.m.						
Thursday, Dec. 28						
Fenway Bowl						
Bronx, N.Y.						
No. 17 SMU vs. Boston College, 11:00 a.m.						
Pinstripe Bowl						
Boston, Mass.						
Rutgers vs. Miami, 2:15 p.m.						
Pop-Tarts Bowl						
Orlando, Fla.						
No. 19 NC State vs. Kansas St., 5:45 p.m.						
Alamo Bowl						
San Antonio, Texas						
No. 12 Oklahoma No. 14 Arizona, 9:15 p.m.						
Friday, Dec. 29						
Gator Bowl						
Jacksonville, Fla.						
Clemson vs. Kentucky, 12:00 p.m.						
Sun Bowl						
El Paso, Texas						
No. 15 Notre Dame vs. No. 21 Oregon St., 2:00 p.m.						
Liberty Bowl						
Memphis, Tenn.						
Memphis vs. Iowa St., 3:30 p.m.						
Cotton Bowl						
Arlington, Texas						
No. 7 Ohio St. vs. No. 9 Missouri, 8:00 p.m.						
Saturday, Dec. 30						
Peach Bowl						
Atlanta						
No. 10 Penn St. vs. No. 11 Mississippi, noon						
Music City Bowl						
Nashville, Tenn.						
Maryland vs. Auburn, 2:00 p.m.						
Orange Bowl						
Miami						
No. 5 Florida vs. No. 6 Georgia, 4:00 p.m.						
Arizona Bowl						
Tucson, Ariz.						
Toledo vs. Wyoming, 4:30 p.m.						
Monday, Jan. 1						
ReliaQuest Bowl						
Tampa, Fla.						
No. 13 LSU vs. Wisconsin, noon						
Citrus Bowl						
Orlando, Fla.						
No. 20 Iowa vs. No. 25 Tennessee, 1:00 p.m.						
Fiesta Bowl						
Glendale, Ariz.						
No. 8 Oregon vs. No. 18 Liberty, 1:00 p.m.						
Rose Bowl						
College Football Playoff Semifinal						
Pasadena, Calif.						
No. 1 Michigan vs. No. 5 Alabama, 5:00 p.m.						
Allstate Sugar Bowl						
College Football Playoff Semifinal						
New Orleans						
No. 2 Washington vs. No. 3 Texas, 8:45 p.m.						
Monday, Jan. 8						
CFP National Championship						

Houston Semifinal winners, 7:30 p.m.

BASKETBALL

High School

Monday Girls' Scores						
Clinton Christian	40	South Bend Career Academy	25			
Hammond Central	55	Michigan City	Marquette	53		
S. Spencer	40	Pike Central	33			
Switzerland Co.	59	Carroll Co., Ky.	42			
Tri 54	Blue River Valley	26				
W. Washington	43	Perry Central	32			

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE						
Atlantic Division						
W	L	Pct	GB			
Boston	15	5	.750	—		
Philadelphia	12	7	.632	2½		
New York	12	7	.632	2½		
Brooklyn	10	9	.526	4½		
Toronto	9	11	.450	6		
Southeast Division						
W	L	Pct	GB			
Orlando	14	6	.700	—		
Indiana	11	9	.550	3		
Atlanta	9	10	.474	4½		
Charlotte	6	12	.333	7		
Washington	3	16	.158	10½		
Central Division						
W	L	Pct	GB			
Milwaukee	14	6	.700	—		
Indiana	11	8	.579	2½		
Cleveland	11	9	.550	3		
Chicago	7	14	.333	7½		
Detroit	2	18	.100	12		

WESTERN CONFERENCE						
Southwest Division						
W	L	Pct	GB			
Dallas	11	8	.579	—		
New Orleans	11	10	.524	1		
Houston	8	9	.471	2		
Memphis	5	14	.263	6		
San Antonio	3	16	.158	8		
Northwest Division						
W	L	Pct	GB			
Minnesota	15	4	.789	—		
Oklahoma City	13	6	.684	2		
Denver	14	7	.667	2		
Utah	7	13	.350	8½		
Portland	6	13	.316	9		
Pacific Division						
W	L	Pct	GB			
Sacramento	11	7	.611	—		
Phoenix	12	8	.600	—		
L.A. Lakers	12	9	.571	½		
L.A. Clippers	9	10	.474	2½		
Golden State	9	11	.450	3		

Sunday's Games						
No games scheduled.						
Monday's Games						
Indiana 122, Boston 112 (Quarterfinal Game 1)						
New Orleans at Sacramento, late (Quarterfinal Game 1)						
Tuesday's Games						
New York at Milwaukee, 7:30 p.m. (Quarterfinal Game 1)						
Phoenix at L.A. Lakers, 10 p.m. (Quarterfinal Game 1)						
Wednesday's Games						
Memphis at Detroit, 7 p.m.						
Orlando at Cleveland, 7 p.m.						
Philadelphia at Washington, 7 p.m.						
Brooklyn at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.						
Miami at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.						
San Antonio at Minnesota, 7:30 p.m.						
Charlotte at Chicago, 8 p.m.						
Oklahoma City at Houston, 8 p.m.						
Utah at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.						
Denver at L.A. Clippers, 10 p.m.						
Portland at Golden State, 10 p.m.						
Thursday's Games						
No games scheduled.						

College						
Men's Basketball Scores						
Monday, Dec. 4						
SOUTH						
Alabama	89	Arkansas St.	65			
Coastal Carolina	110	St. Andrews	46			
East Carolina	63	Md.-Eastern Shore	52			
Georgia St.	89	Middle Georgia	57			
MIDWEST						
Bellarmine	88	Boyce	54			
N. Dakota St.	83	San Jose St.	78			
Purdue	87	Iowa	68			
Arkansas	97	Furman	83			
Women's Basketball Scores						
Monday, Dec. 4						

Zelensky to address U.S. senators by video as White House pushes aid

By ZEKE MILLER
AP White House
Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky will address U.S. senators by video Tuesday during a classified briefing as the Biden administration urges Congress to approve the White House's nearly \$106 billion request for funds for the wars in Ukraine, Israel and other security needs.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer announced Zelensky's appearance after the administration Monday sent an urgent warning about the need to approve the military and economic assistance to Ukraine, saying Kyiv's war effort to defend itself from Russia's invasion may grind to a halt without it.

Schumer said the administration had invited Zelensky to address the senators so they "could hear directly from him precisely what's

at stake." They will also be hearing from the secretaries of Defense, State and other top national security officials.

In a letter to House and Senate leaders and released publicly, Office of Management and Budget Director Shalanda Young warned the U.S. will run out of funding to send weapons and assistance to Ukraine by the end of the year, saying that would "kneecap" Ukraine on the battlefield.

She added that the U.S. already has run out of money that it has used to prop up Ukraine's economy, and "if Ukraine's economy collapses, they will not be able to keep fighting, full stop."

"We are out of money — and nearly out of time," she wrote.

President Joe Biden has sought a nearly \$106 billion aid package for Ukraine, Israel and other needs, but it has faced a difficult recep-

tion on Capitol Hill. There is growing GOP skepticism about the magnitude of assistance for Ukraine and even Republicans supportive of the funding are insisting on U.S.-Mexico border policy changes to halt the flow of migrants as a condition for the assistance.

"Congress has to decide whether to continue to support the fight for freedom in Ukraine as part of the 50-nation coalition that President Biden has built, or whether Congress will ignore the lessons we've learned from history and let (Russian President Vladimir) Putin prevail," National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said Monday. "It is that simple. It is that stark choice, and we hope that Congress on a bipartisan basis will make the right choice."

But negotiations over the border security package broke down over the weekend as Republicans insisted

on provisions Democrats said are draconian, aides said. Talks are expected to resume this week, along with a test vote expected Wednesday.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said Monday that his party is "still at the table."

Congress already has allocated \$111 billion to assist Ukraine, including \$67 billion in military procurement funding, \$27 billion for economic and civil assistance and \$10 billion for humanitarian aid. Young wrote that all of it, other than about 3 percent of the military funding, had been depleted by mid-November.

Meanwhile, the GOP-controlled House has passed a standalone assistance package for Israel as it fights the war with Hamas in Gaza, while the White House has maintained that all of the priorities must be met.

Growing increasingly uneasy about the death toll in the Israel-Hamas war, Biden's own allies in Congress are pushing the administration to have Israel commit to reducing civilian casualties and allowing aid to Gaza before sending more military aid.

On Monday, Sen. Bernie Sanders said it would be "irresponsible" for the U.S. to send billions in military aid to Israel war without such conditions.

"What the Netanyahu government is doing is immoral, it is in violation of international law, and the United States should not be complicit in those actions," Sanders of Vermont said in a floor speech.

"Don't count me in to support that," Sanders said.

The new package pro-

poses an additional \$61 billion for Ukraine, mainly to buy weapons from the U.S., \$14.3 billion for Israel, which includes \$10.6 billion for weaponry. There's also nearly \$14 billion for border security, along with aid for the Asia-Pacific region and other U.S. national security provisions.

The Biden administration has said it has slowed the pace of some military assistance to Kyiv in recent weeks to try to stretch supplies until Congress approves more funding.

"We are out of money to support Ukraine in this fight," Young wrote. "This isn't a next-year problem. The time to help a democratic Ukraine fight against Russian aggression is right now. It is time for Congress to act."

Israel orders evacuations as it widens offensive

Palestinians are running out of places to go

By NAJIB JOBAIN,
SAMY MAGDY
and JACK JEFFERY

Associated Press
KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli warplanes heavily bombed an area around Khan Younis in southern Gaza on Monday as the military ordered mass evacuations from the town in the face of a widening ground offensive that is pushing Palestinians into a progressively shrinking portion of the besieged territory.

The expanded assault posed a deadly choice for hundreds of thousands of Palestinians — either stay in the path of Israeli forces or flee within the confines of southern Gaza with no guarantee of safety. Aid workers warned that the mass movement would worsen the already dire humanitarian catastrophe in the territory.

"Another wave of displacement is underway, and the humanitarian situation worsens by the hour," the Gaza chief of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, Thomas White, said in a post on X.

Adding to the chaos, phone and internet networks across Gaza collapsed again Monday evening, the Pales-

tinian telecom provider Pal-Tel reported. The network has broken down multiple times during the war, making it largely impossible for residents to communicate with each other or the outside world for hours or sometimes several days until it is repaired.

Israel has vowed to eliminate Gaza's Hamas rulers, whose Oct. 7 attack into Israel killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and triggered the deadliest Israeli-Palestinian violence in decades. The war has already killed thousands of Palestinians and displaced over three-fourths of the territory's population of 2.3 million people. Palestinian health officials say bombardment has killed several hundred civilians since a weeklong truce ended Friday.

Already under mounting pressure from its top ally, the United States, Israel appears to be racing to strike a death blow against Hamas — if that's possible, given the group's deep roots in Palestinian society — before any new cease-fire. But the mounting toll is likely to further increase international pressure to return to the negotiating table.

Airstrikes and the ground offensive in northern Gaza have reduced large swaths of Gaza City and nearby areas to a rubble-filled wasteland. Hundreds of thousands of residents fled south during the assault.

Now around 2 million people — most of the territory's population — are crowded into the 90 square miles of southern and central Gaza, where Israel's ground offensive is now moving, threatening to render even larger areas uninhabitable.

Since the truce's collapse, the military has ordered the population out of an area of about 24 square miles in and near Khan Younis, according to the evacuation maps issued by the Israeli military. That further reduces the space available for Palestinians by more than a quarter.

FIGHTING IN CENTRAL GAZA
Constant bombardment on the edges of Khan Younis, Gaza's second-largest city, lit up the sky over the town Monday evening, and a stream of ambulances carrying wounded, including several women and children, flowed to the main hospital.

Over the past few days,

Israeli strikes have been "on a ferocious scale," said Mohammed Aghaalkurdi, an aid worker with the group Medical Aid for Palestinians in Khan Younis. "Barely has any kind of aid been delivered to the people, nor is there any food left in shops."

He said neighborhoods and shelters were emptying as people fled. Leaflets dropped by the Israeli military warn people to go south toward the border with Egypt, but they are unable to leave Gaza, as both Israel and neighboring Egypt have refused to accept any refugees.

The area that Israel ordered evacuated covers about a fifth of Khan Younis. Before the war, that area was home to some 117,000 people, and now it also houses more than 50,000 people displaced from the north, living in 21 shelters, the U.N. said.

It was not known how many were fleeing. Some Palestinians have ignored past evacuation orders, saying they do not feel any safer since areas where they are told to flee have also been bombed. Many also fear they will never be allowed back to their homes.

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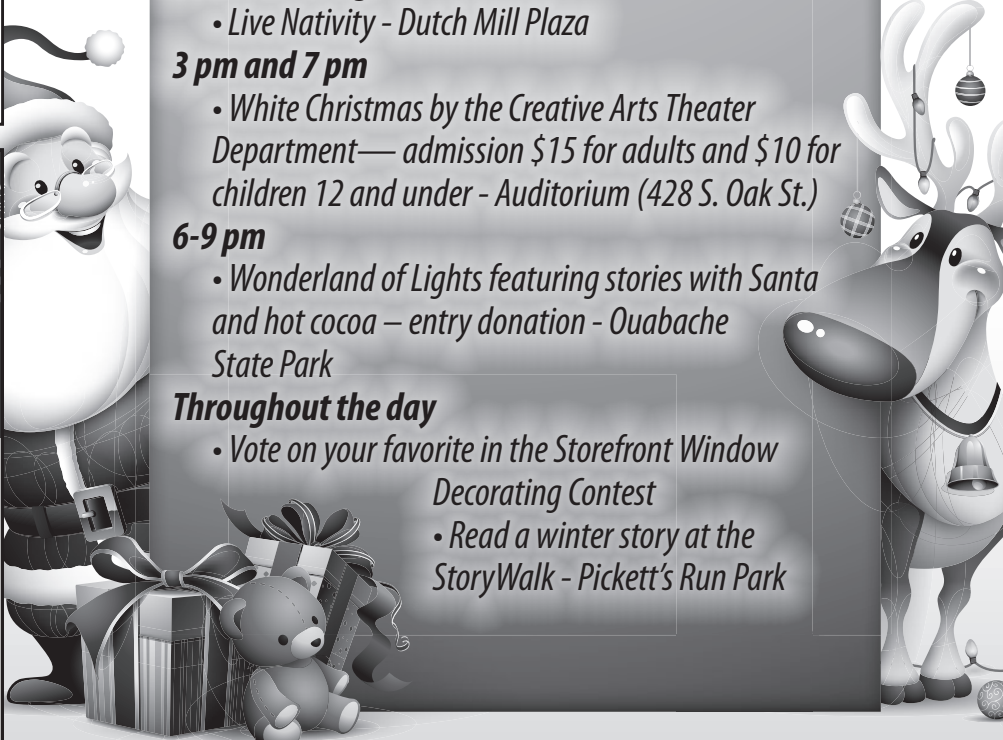
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- Cookie Walk Benefiting Grace & Mercy Transitional Housing - The Lounge (303 W. Market St.)
- 9:30 am-1 pm**
- Musical Entertainment featuring Studio 88, Jeanette S. Lundeen Music Studio, Creative Arts School of Music, Tammy Ray Piano Studio, and Gretchen Steffen's piano students - Wells County Public Library
- 10 am-3 pm**
- Parlor City Shopping Fair – shop local with more than 35 artisans and vendors - Wells County Commerce & Visitors Centre patio (211 W. Water St.)
 - Wood Carvings by Ryan Frauhiger of Forrest Carvings; warm up by the outdoor fire on the patio and enjoy a Pinewood Derby track - Wells County Commerce & Visitors Centre patio (211 W. Water St.)
- 10 am-3:30 pm**
- Trolley Rides - Stations: Wells County Commerce & Visitors Centre, Market Street, Wells County Historical Museum, and Wells County Public Library
- 10 am-5 pm**
- Christmas at the Mansion - Wells County Historical Museum
- 11 am-12 pm**
- Owl and Raptor Demonstration - 100 block of W. Market St.
- 11 am-1 pm**
- Live Reindeer - Parlor City Plaza
- 11 am-2 pm**
- Sentimental Journeys horse-drawn wagon rides - Start from the Wells County Public Library
 - Goodie Walk – free food and treats by local businesses - Throughout downtown Bluffton
 - Connect 4 Basketball and various games - 200 block of W. Market St.
 - Santa photos – free for kids - Hosted by Ben Burman State Farm with pictures by Burman Photography (Parlor Studios – 224 W. Market St.)
 - NeuEnchanted Expressions Face Painting by Carissa—free facepainting; A Balloon Above – free balloon animals; Jessica Shoemaker Events – free photo booth - 209 W. Market St.
 - Princess Meet-and-Greet and Busted Haft Throwing - 100 Block of W. Market St.
 - Crafts, goodies, and mini organ concerts at 11:15 am, 12:15 pm, and 1:15 pm - First Reformed Church
 - Snowman character and photo ops - Throughout downtown (tag "parlorcitychristmas")
- 11 am-Evening**
- Live Nativity - Dutch Mill Plaza
- 3 pm and 7 pm**
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 - Read a winter story at the StoryWalk - Pickett's Run Park



Farm sector profits forecast to fall in 2023 from record highs

By AGDAILY

Based on today's report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service, net farm income, a broad measure of profits, is forecasted to be \$151.1 billion in the calendar year 2023, a decrease of \$31.8 billion (17.4 percent) relative to 2022 in nominal (not adjusted for inflation) dollars.

Meanwhile, the median total farm household income is forecast to increase to \$99,802 in 2023. That is a nominal increase of 4.6 percent (a 1.2 percent increase after inflation) between 2022 and 2023.

This follows an increase of \$42.4 billion (30.2 percent) from 2021 to a record high of \$182.8 billion in 2022. After adjusting for inflation, net farm income is forecast to decrease by \$37.9 billion (20.0 percent) in 2023 relative to 2022. Despite this expected decline, net farm income in 2023 would be 31.4 percent above its

20-year average (2003–22) of \$115.0 billion in inflation-adjusted dollars.

Net cash farm income is forecasted to be \$157.9 billion in 2023, a decrease of \$42.5 billion (21.2 percent) relative to 2022 (not adjusted for inflation). This follows an increase of \$51.1 billion (34.2 percent) from 2021 to 2022.

When adjusted for inflation, 2023 net cash farm income is forecast to decrease by \$49.2 billion (23.8 percent) from a record high of \$207.1 billion in 2022. Despite the decrease, net cash farm income in 2023 would be 15.0 percent above its 2003–22 average of \$137.3 billion.

Net cash farm income encompasses cash receipts from farming as well as cash farm-related income (including Federal Government payments) minus cash expenses. It does not include non-cash items (including changes in inventories, economic depreciation, and gross imputed rental

income of operator dwellings) reflected in the net farm income measure.

Cash receipts from the sale of agricultural commodities are forecast to decrease by \$25.2 billion (4.7 percent, in nominal terms) from a record high of \$534.8 billion in 2022 to \$509.6 billion in 2023. Total crop receipts are expected to decrease by \$12.1 billion (4.4 percent) from 2022, led by lower receipts for corn and soybeans. Total animal/animal product receipts are expected to decrease by \$13.0 billion (5.0 percent), following declines in receipts for milk, broilers, eggs, and hogs.

Also contributing to lower forecast net income in 2023 are lower direct Government payments and higher production expenses. Direct Government payments are forecast to fall by \$3.5 billion (22.3 percent) from 2022 to \$12.1 billion in 2023. This decrease is expected largely

because of lower supplemental and ad hoc disaster assistance in 2023 relative to 2022. Meanwhile, total production expenses, including operator dwelling expenses, are forecast to increase by \$14.9 billion (3.5 percent) to \$443.4 billion in 2023. Interest expenses and livestock/poultry purchases are expected to see the largest increases in 2023 relative to 2022.

Average net cash farm income for farm businesses is forecast to decrease 8.6 percent from 2022 to \$99,300 per farm in 2023 (in nominal terms). Six out of nine USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) Farm Resource Regions are expected to see average net cash farm income fall in 2023 relative to 2022, with farm businesses located in the Northern Crescent region expected to see the largest decline. In contrast, the average net cash farm income for farm businesses in the Eastern Uplands region is forecast to increase from

2022 to 2023.

All farm business specializations except cattle/calves, wheat, and specialty crops are forecast to see lower average net cash income in 2023 when grouped by commodity specialization. Farms specializing in dairy are expected to see the largest decline relative to 2022.

Farm sector equity is expected to increase by 6.9 percent (\$229.4 billion) in 2023 to \$3.57 trillion in nominal terms. Farm sector assets are forecast to increase 6.6 percent (\$254.0 billion) in 2023 to \$4.09 trillion following expected increases in the value of farm real estate assets. Farm sector debt is forecast to increase 5.0 percent (\$24.6 billion) in 2023 to \$520.7 billion. Debt-to-asset levels for the sector are forecast to improve from 12.93 percent in 2022 to 12.73 percent in 2023. Working capital is forecast to fall 5.0 percent in 2023 relative to 2022.

Don't let cold freeze cattle performance this winter

By AGDAILY

Maybe you can't tell the difference between 15 and 32 degrees Fahrenheit after spending a few minutes outside, but your cattle can.

"Slight changes in temperature can have a considerable impact on energy and cow nutritional requirements," said Elizabeth Belew, Ph.D., cattle nutritionist with Purina Animal Nutrition.

Cold stress occurs when cattle require more energy to sustain basic bodily functions at a specific temperature, called the lower critical temperature. The LCT helps us understand when cows start experiencing cold stress.

"As temperatures decrease, cow nutritional requirements increase. Add in precipitation or wind, and requirements increase even more," said Belew.

If cows are shorted on nutrition during cold stress, it can have a domino effect on performance.

"Nutritional deficiency resulting from cold stress can lead to cows producing lighter and weaker calves," said Belew. "Low-quality colostrum and later return to estrus in the breeding season can also result, compromising conception rates and weaning weights."

Strategies for managing and feeding cattle in the winter can help alleviate cold stress and support cow nutritional requirements.

How can you mitigate cold stress?

Cold stress mitigation should start with keeping cattle warm. Offering protection from the elements like bedding, windbreaks, snow breaks and a place to get out of the mud can all help keep cattle warm and dry. Protecting cattle from wind, rain and snow isn't always enough, however.

"Snow often reminds us to think about cow nutritional requirements and supplementation options. But what if the snow never falls? Temperature is the underlying factor in cold stress," said Belew.

When feeding cattle in winter, provide them with nutrition to meet their needs during cold stress. Plan out feeding strategies early, before cow body condition scores start to slip, to help your cows weather cold temperatures.

Know your forages

Feeding cattle stored forage can be challenging. Testing forages gives you a better understanding of what you're feeding cattle in winter when temperatures drop.

Testing total digestible nutrients will provide an estimate of the total amount of nutrients that could be digested by the animal. The greater the TDN value, the more energy cattle get from forages.

"Forage intake is another consideration," said Belew. "Cows will likely spend less time grazing as temperatures decline. Less grazing time results

in reduced forage intake which makes it challenging to meet cow energy requirements. Feeding cattle in winter with low-quality hay might not be enough to offset reduced forage intake."

Once you know forage nutritional value and assess intake levels, monitor cow body condition score and temperature to identify cow energy requirements.

As a rule of thumb, a cow's energy requirement, or TDN, increases by 1% for every degree below the LCT.

"Cow body condition scores impact nutritional requirements," said Belew. "A cow in a BCS 5 needs 30 percent more energy to maintain body condition than a cow in a BCS 6 at 32 degrees F. The same principle holds true as BCS decreases below 5."

A third-trimester 1,300-pound cow requires 13 pounds of TDN at 32 degrees F. However, at 0 degrees Fahrenheit, the same cow needs an additional 4 pounds, or roughly 17 pounds of TDN. For comparison, the temperature drop means the same cow now requires 8 more pounds of 50 percent TDN hay.

"When feeding cattle in winter, consider a high-quality supplement to help fill a cow's energy gap while helping cows get the most out of existing forages," said Belew. "The ideal supplement should provide additional energy, balance forage nutrient deficiencies, and support performance."

Farm bill priorities for the banking industry

By C.J. MILLER

Hoosier Ag Today

A new Farm Bill in 2024 will impact more than just Indiana's farmers and the ag industry. It will also have a huge impact on America's banking industry.

"I guess the big things have changed for us is how we deal with this large ag transition that's going to happen in the next few years," says Ed Elfmann, Senior Vice President of Agricultural and Rural Banking Policy for the American Bankers Association.

He says the credit title of the Farm Bill is one of the top priorities for the banking industry as many farms over the next decade may be switching hands as older farmers decide to retire.

Ed Elfmann, Senior Vice President of Agricultural and Rural Banking Policy for the American Bankers Association.

"We want to increase the FSA farm

ownership and farm operating loan programs," says Elfmann. "They're currently a lot smaller than we'd like them to be. They're about \$2 million, but we want to increase them to \$3.5 million on ownership and \$3 million on operating. It is costing more and it's harder to get operations up and running. Landowners in Iowa and Missouri are having contests for who can spend the most on land right now. We're trying to set up our credit to make sure that we can help those beginning Farmers especially get into ag."

That's why Elfmann says that some of the rules regarding beginning farm loans need to be restructured.

"We have a lot of issues in the structure around beginning farmer loans and how they're set up. If a farm was put into a trust 20 years ago and the farm owner has died, now there are 20 people involved in that trust. If you try to get a beginning farmer loan, you can't because

you have to lend against the trust. That's a barrier to entry and we want to remove barriers to entry and make it easier for beginning farmers to get into ag," says Elfmann.

He adds that high interest rates for farm loans are another concern for the banking industry.

"From a legislative standpoint we have a bill called the Acre Act, which is the 'Access to Credit for our Rural Economy' Act," says Elfmann. "In essence, it would lower interest rates by removing the taxation on farm real estate and rural housing. But it would also lower interest rates, we estimate, by 50 to 150 basis points, which is the biggest thing our banks are talking about right now—where interest rates are, how they matter, and how it's affecting their customers."

The American Bankers Association represent 83 percent of all banks nationwide—including a number of banking operations that have agricultural loans in their portfolio.

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OSU, Adapting to Prop 12: Sow farm challenges, strategies

By AGDAILY

Decisions around sow barn remodeling, reducing sow herd inventory, and adjusting gilt flow are some of the challenges U.S. pork producers face as they explore and consider options to make farms compliant with California's Proposition 12 requirements. A new resource from the Iowa Pork Industry Center offers information for producers planning to transition their production.

Matt Romoser, swine specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, is one of the authors. He said the goal of the publication, "Sow Management Considerations with California Proposition 12," was to provide some considerations for producers on how to manage the breeding herd under the guidelines of California Prop 12.

Animals that are used in research studies, during individual treatment, transportation, fairs, at slaughter, while nursing piglets and five days prior to farrowing are exempt from Prop 12 practices.

Managing females in breeding herds

The report reviews considerations for managing aggressive interactions with sows. Within the requirements of Proposition 12, sow groups will be formed after weaning.

Sows are currently weaned into stalls and mixed after breeding.

"Feeding system and competition level should be considered at the time of renova-

tion and managed by mixing females with others of similar age and size," reads the report.

Group management

Two primary methods: Static pens (grouping sows once) and dynamic pens (periodically adding new sows) — are used during gestation. Static pens, pre-Proposition 12, managed breeding groups effectively, but space constraints now limit their efficiency. Strategies involving segmenting gestation periods or hybrid approaches between static and dynamic grouping might be necessary.

Dynamic pens offer space efficiency but raise concerns about increased aggression and labor requirements due to mixing sows multiple times. Large group dynamics seem more suitable for dynamic pens to minimize social hierarchy issues.

Space limitations and strategies for managing static groups under Proposition 12 are also important to consider. Producers must consider the benefits and challenges of dynamic pens, including increased mixing aggression and labor requirements.

Breeding

Breeding pigs in compliance with Proposition 12 presents challenges, especially in conducting estrus detection and insemination while restricting stall time to less than 24 hours in a 30-day period.

Agricultural Services Guide

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A mother retaliates to daughters' snubs

Dear Annie: Are you aware that, according to experts, approximately 25 percent of adult children do not speak to one or both of their parents? I'm in that situation. I gave my two daughters everything they wanted that I could afford to give them: dance and music lessons, dive and soccer teams, trips throughout the U.S. and overseas and expensive private schools of their choice. While my daughters wore designer clothing, I bought my clothing from discount stores. I never beat them or spoke unkindly to them or about them. I was always very proud of them.

Now my daughters are in their 30s, and neither one of them speaks to me. The last communication was a phone call I made to my 32-year-old daughter who, when I asked her what I did to deserve to be treated this way, said she wanted us to go for family counseling so we could have an "ADULT relationship" (emphasis on adult). I told my daughter to make an appointment with a counselor and I would be there. That was 1 1/2 years ago and was the last I ever heard from her. I finally took her off my phone plan last month. Isn't it ironic that the person who wanted an adult relationship with me allowed me to pay her phone bill for an additional 1 1/2 years?

Instead of doing what I did in the past, waiting for the rare text (regarding going out to dinner one time while they're in town) and appreciating what I had, I moved on. I'm currently packing up all of their belongings that they left in my house when they moved away, and I am putting it all outside for them to pick up while I'm out of

town. I changed the locks on my house so they can't get in. Then I'm changing my will.

I'm surrounded by people who love me, want the best for me and treat me with great respect. Those are the people who are going to benefit from my estate. — Ungrateful Daughters

Dear Ungrateful Daughters: What you are is hurt by your daughters, and so you are trying to shut them out as a way of retaliating. That might make sense on the surface, but it is not the best thing in the long run. You can't control their actions, but you can control how you spend time with them.

You are angry at their inability to grow up. Don't let that anger totally destroy your relationship. They are your daughters. Why don't you take the initiative in setting up family counseling instead of being angry that your daughter proposed it but failed to follow through?

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

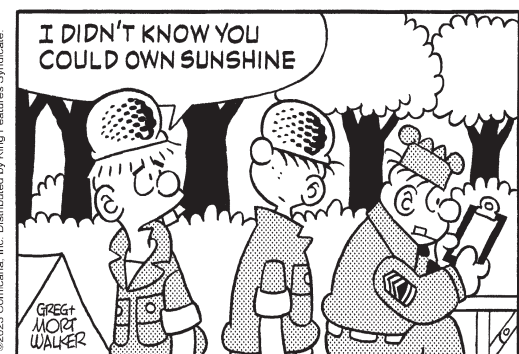
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Dear Annie

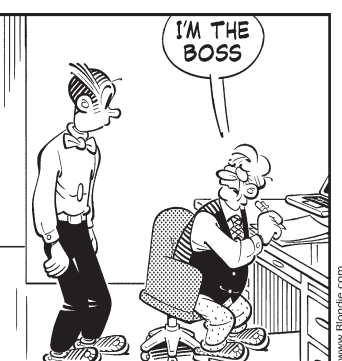
by Annie Lane



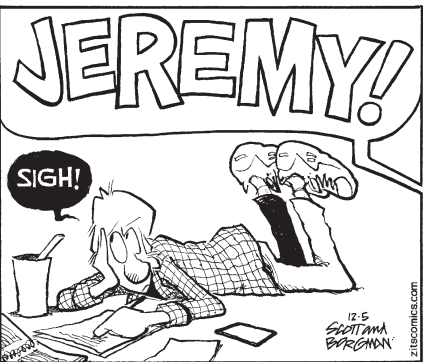
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



Christians have tremendous responsibilities

Q: My husband and I don't agree about anything, and my children think their parents are wrong about everything. We're active in church and sports programs, my husband works all the time, and I do volunteer work and serve in our community center. We are successful, but we irritate one another. Where are we going wrong? — H.F.

A: Christians have tremendous responsibilities. Husbands and wives are to love each other and to submit to one another. We are to train our children in the way in which they should go. If we neglect the responsibilities within our own families, we will suffer the consequences.

Sometimes we are too busy to notice the needs within our own families

and relationships. Sometimes we are too busy to listen when someone needs to talk. Sometimes we're too busy to fellowship within our own homes. Dr. Alan Redpath, who served as pastor of Moody Church in Chicago, had a plaque on the wall of his study that said, "Beware of the barrenness of a busy life."

Many times, we take our families for granted. While there are many deep problems that face families, we sometimes make problems bigger than there are. A keen sense of humor helps us to overlook the unbecoming. Often we'll show grace to those outside our home but fail to give grace to those we love most.

Cutting out some

social engagements can strengthen home life and help focus on family. We must also consider the lack of discipline that is present in many homes. Children do need the guidance of their parents, and we guide them more by the example we set than by any other way. We need to be firm, fair, and consistent — and above all, we need to discipline in a spirit of love. Likewise, parents need to receive discipline from the Lord to be useful members of God's family.

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

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"Shall I play for you, pa-rum-pa-pum-pummm ...?"

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	35 Sultry	DOWN	21 Oil
1 Shopping center	36 Paris	1 Super Bowl	22 Taboo
5 Entryway	37 Carnival attractions	2 Tire filler	23 Service suppliers
9 Cpl.'s subordinate	38 "The Merry —"	3 Brazilian city	24 IRS employees
12 Henry —	40 Oahu souvenirs	4 Short-form video-sharing app	26 Loyal
13 Competent	42 Rushmore face	5 Loony charge	27 "Uh-huh"
14 Classic car	43 Taking the Wolf" composer	6 Theater award	28 Fork part
15 "Peter and the Wolf" composer	48 Aachen article	7 Yucatan "Bravo!"	29 Salty septet
17 Ear-related prefix	49 Squad	8 Adored	31 Ale seller
18 London gallery	50 Love god	9 Wented	34 Tokyo, once
19 Spreadsheet software	51 UFO passengers	10 Big party	35 "Hear me out"
21 Stoned	52 Striped fish	11 Hip	37 Docu-mentarian
24 Manitoba tribe	53 Salamander	12 Granola morsel	38 Test the waters
25 Beans go-with		20 Ballot marks	39 "Yeah, right"
26 Works on galleys			40 "Family Guy" mom
30 Rock producer Brian			41 Diner sign
31 The staff of life			44 Genetic letters
32 Conk out			45 Page
33 Concealment of crimes			46 "I do," for one
			47 "Guinness Book" suffix

Solution time: 22 mins.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 12-5

12:05	M	A	D1	D2	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM	12:30	
WINM (12)	11	26	63		3D Woman	Julie & Friends	* Movie				TCT Today	News-w	Place for Miracles	James Robison	Dr. Robert	Jewish Jesus	Andrew Womack	Ask the Pastor		Rabbi Lapin	
CBS WANE (15)	2	2	15	15	News (N)	Inside Edition (N)	News at 6	CBS News (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	NCIS: Sydney "Ghosted" (N)	FBI	FBI True "Chasing the Olympic Bomber" (N)	Nightcast (N)	(35) Late Show-Colbert	(35) Comics Unleashed					
Antenna WANE-2 (352)	106	20			Chicago Fire "Rhymes With Shout"	Chicago Fire "You Will Hurt Him"	Chicago Fire "Not Like This"	Chicago Fire "Change of Plans"	Chicago Fire "Red Waterfall"	Chicago Fire "Shoved in My Face"	Chicago Fire "Out With a Bang"	Chicago Fire "Tonight's the Night"	Chicago Fire "Tonight's the Night"	Chicago Fire "Tonight's the Night"	Chicago Fire "Tonight's the Night"	Chicago Fire "Tonight's the Night"	Chicago Fire "Tonight's the Night"	Chicago Fire "Tonight's the Night"	Chicago Fire "Tonight's the Night"	Chicago Fire "Tonight's the Night"	
ABC WPTA (21)	4	3	21	21	ABC21 News at 5 (N)	ABC21 (N)	ABC World News (N)	ABC21 (N)	Ent. Tonight (N)	Dancing Professional dancers pair with celebrities to train and compete in ballroom dancing. (N)	Press Your Luck (N)	ABC21 (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel	(35) Nightline							
ABC WPTA-2 (212)	7	8	14	14	Family Feud With Shout	25 Words or Less	News (N)	NBC News (N)	Family Feud	The Voice (L) (N)	The Voice "Live Top 12 Results" (L) (N)	Found "Missing While Inoculated" (N)	News (N)	(35) Tonight Show (N)	(35) Seth Meyers (N)						
MNT WPTA-3 (213)	10	9	56	34	The King of Queens	The King of Queens	Modern Family	News (N)	Last Man Standing	Chicago Fire	Chicago Fire	Seinfeld "Pilot"	Seinfeld	Mom	Mom	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs				
CW WISE (33)	8	4	33	33	The Steve Wilkos Show "Criminal Allegations"	TMZ Live (N)	Dish Nation (N)	TMZ (N)	Inside the NFL Week 13	Whose Line (N)	Whose Line (N)	Dish Nation (N)	TMZ (N)	Family Guy	Family Guy	Bob's Burgers	Bob's Burgers				
PBS WFWA (39)	13	5	39	39	Iconic America "The Cowboy"	PBS Newshour (N)	BBC News America	Healthline America	Yacht Rock Revue: 70s and 80s	Neil Diamond: Thank You Australia	Frontline "Inside the Unalutic Response" (N)	FOX 55 News First at 10 (N)	Young Sheldon	Young Sheldon	Neighbor	Neighbor					
FOX WFFT (55)	6	5	55	55	WFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	Big Bang	Big Bang	Name That Tune	TMZ's Merry Elf! Christmas (N)											
CABLE CHANNELS																					
LIFE	23	113	108	252	Castle "A Death in the Family"	Castle "Deep in Death"	Castle "The Double Down"	Castle "Inventing the Girl"	Castle "Fool Me Once"	(35) Castle "When the Bough Breaks"	(35) Castle "Vampire Weekend"	Castle "Inventing the Girl"	Castle "Inventing the Girl"								
FX	24	132	136	148	3:30 * Instant Family	* * * Daddy's Home 2 (117) Will Ferrell	* * * Daddy's Home 2 (117) Will Ferrell	Fargo "Insolubilia" (N)	Fargo "Insolubilia" (N)	Fargo "Insolubilia" (N)	Fargo "Insolubilia" (N)	Fargo "Insolubilia" (N)	Fargo "Insolubilia" (N)	Fargo "Insolubilia" (N)	Fargo "Insolubilia" (N)	Fargo "Insolubilia" (N)	Fargo "Insolubilia" (N)	Fargo "Insolubilia" (N)	Fargo "Insolubilia" (N)	Fargo "Insolubilia" (N)	
TVLAND	25		106	304	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	
E!	26	142	114	236	(4:30) Mod Fam	(4:30) Mod Fam	(4:30) Mod Fam	(4:30) Mod Fam	(4:30) Mod Fam	(4:30) Mod Fam	(4:30) Mod Fam	(4:30) Mod Fam	(4:30) Mod Fam	(4:30) Mod Fam	(4:30) Mod Fam	(4:30) Mod Fam	(4:30) Mod Fam	(4:30) Mod Fam	(4:30) Mod Fam	(4:30) Mod Fam	
PARMT	30		241	241	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	
ESPN	31	50	140	206	Around (N)	Pardon (L) (N)	SportsCenter (L) (N)	The Point	Basketball Villanova at Kansas State (L) (N)	NASCAR 2022 Auto Club: Wise Power 400	AVP Pro Beach Volleyball Tour Manhattan Beach	AVP Pro Beach Volleyball Tour Manhattan Beach	Lights Out XF An elite fighting series that features crossover bouts, tournaments, title bouts and more.	Lights Out XF An elite fighting series that features crossover bouts, tournaments, title bouts and more.	Lights Out XF An elite fighting series that features crossover bouts, tournaments, title bouts and more.	Lights Out XF An elite fighting series that features crossover bouts, tournaments, title bouts and more.	Lights Out XF An elite fighting series that features crossover bouts, tournaments, title bouts and more.	Lights Out XF An elite fighting series that features crossover bouts, tournaments, title bouts and more.	Lights Out XF An elite fighting series that features crossover bouts, tournaments, title bouts and more.	Lights Out XF An elite fighting series that features crossover bouts, tournaments, title bouts and more.	
ESPN2	32	54	143	209	NFL Live (N)	The Point	Basketball Villanova at Kansas State (L) (N)	NASCAR 2022 Auto Club: Wise Power 400	AVP Pro Beach Volleyball Tour Manhattan Beach	AVP Pro Beach Volleyball Tour Manhattan Beach	Lights Out XF An elite fighting series that features crossover bouts, tournaments, title bouts and more.	Lights Out XF An elite fighting series that features crossover bouts, tournaments, title bouts and more.	Lights Out XF An elite fighting series that features crossover bouts, tournaments, title bouts and more.	Lights Out XF An elite fighting series that features crossover bouts, tournaments, title bouts and more.	Lights Out XF An elite fighting series that features crossover bouts, tournaments, title bouts and more.	Lights Out XF An elite fighting series that features crossover bouts, tournaments, title bouts and more.	Lights Out XF An elite fighting series that features crossover bouts, tournaments, title bouts and more.	Lights Out XF An elite fighting series that features crossover bouts, tournaments, title bouts and more.	Lights Out XF An elite fighting series that features crossover bouts, tournaments, title bouts and more.	Lights Out XF An elite fighting series that features crossover bouts, tournaments, title bouts and more.	
FSMW	33		418	671	Live on the Line	The Rally (N)	NASCAR 2022 Auto Club: Wise Power 400	AVP Pro Beach Volleyball Tour Manhattan Beach	AVP Pro Beach Volleyball Tour Manhattan Beach	Lights Out XF An elite fighting series that features crossover bouts, tournaments, title bouts and more.	Lights Out XF An elite fighting series that features crossover bouts, tournaments, title bouts and more.	Lights Out XF An elite fighting series that features crossover bouts, tournaments, title bouts and more.	Lights Out XF An elite fighting series that features crossover bouts, tournaments, title bouts and more.	Lights Out XF An elite fighting series that features crossover bouts, tournaments, title bouts and more.	Lights Out XF An elite fighting series that features crossover bouts, tournaments, title bouts and more.	Lights Out XF An elite fighting series that features crossover bouts, tournaments, title bouts and more.	Lights Out XF An elite fighting series that features crossover bouts, tournaments, title bouts and more.	Lights Out XF An elite fighting series that features crossover bouts, tournaments, title bouts and more.	Lights Out XF An elite fighting series that features crossover bouts, tournaments, title bouts and more.	Lights Out XF An elite fighting series that features crossover bouts, tournaments, title bouts and more.	
USA	34	133	105	242	Law & Order: SVU "Institutional Fail"	Law & Order: SVU "Community Policing"	Law-SVU "Hunt, Trap, Rape, and Release"	WWE NXT WWE Superstars compete to prove they've got what it takes. (L) (N)	Street Outlaws "Aussie Salute"	Street Outlaws "Aussie Salute"	Street Outlaws "Aussie Salute"	Street Outlaws "Aussie Salute"	Street Outlaws "Aussie Salute"	Street Outlaws "Aussie Salute"	Street Outlaws "Aussie Salute"	Street Outlaws "Aussie Salute"	Street Outlaws "Aussie Salute"	Street Outlaws "Aussie Salute"	Street Outlaws "Aussie Salute"	Street Outlaws "Aussie Salute"	Street Outlaws "Aussie Salute"
DISC	35	72	182	278	Street Team USA is looking for the sweep with hopes of taking home a quarter of a million dollars.	Street Outlaws "Aussie Salute"	Street Outlaws "Aussie Salute"	Street Outlaws "Aussie Salute"	Street Outlaws "Aussie Salute"	Street Outlaws "Aussie Salute"	Street Outlaws "Aussie Salute"	Street Outlaws "Aussie Salute"	Street Outlaws "Aussie Salute"	Street Outlaws "Aussie Salute"	Street Outlaws "Aussie Salute"	Street Outlaws "Aussie Salute"	Street Outlaws "Aussie Salute"	Street Outlaws "Aussie Salute"	Street Outlaws "Aussie Salute"	Street Outlaws "Aussie Salute"	Street Outlaws "Aussie Salute"
TLC	36	73	183	280	Welcome to Plathville	Welcome to Plathville	Welcome to Plathville	Welcome to Plathville	Welcome to Plathville	Welcome to Plathville	Welcome to Plathville	Welcome to Plathville	Welcome to Plathville	Welcome to Plathville	Welcome to Plathville	Welcome to Plathville	Welcome to Plathville	Welcome to Plathville	Welcome to Plathville	Welcome to Plathville	Welcome to Plathville
HL	38	77	180	269	History's Mysteri	The Curse of Oak Island "Taking Their Shot"	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.
A&E	39	134	118	265	My Norwegian Holiday (2023, Romance) David Elsendoorn, Peter Vollebregt, Rhiannon Fish.	My Norwegian Holiday (2023, Romance) David Elsendoorn, Peter Vollebregt, Rhiannon Fish.	My Norwegian Holiday (2023, Romance) David Elsendoorn, Peter Vollebregt, Rhiannon Fish.	My Norwegian Holiday (2023, Romance) David Elsendoorn, Peter Vollebregt, Rhiannon Fish.	My Norwegian Holiday (2023, Romance) David Elsendoorn, Peter Vollebregt, Rhiannon Fish.	My Norwegian Holiday (2023, Romance) David Elsendoorn, Peter Vollebregt, Rhiannon Fish.	My Norwegian Holiday (2023, Romance) David Elsendoorn, Peter Vollebregt, Rhiannon Fish.	My Norwegian Holiday (2023, Romance) David Elsendoorn, Peter Vollebregt, Rhiannon Fish.	My Norwegian Holiday (2023, Romance) David Elsendoorn, Peter Vollebregt, Rhiannon Fish.	My Norwegian Holiday (2023, Romance) David Elsendoorn, Peter Vollebregt, Rhiannon Fish.	My Norwegian Holiday (2023, Romance) David Elsendoorn, Peter Vollebregt, Rhiannon Fish.	My Norwegian Holiday (2023, Romance) David Elsendoorn, Peter Vollebregt, Rhiannon Fish.	My Norwegian Holiday (2023, Romance) David Elsendoorn, Peter Vollebregt, Rhiannon Fish.	My Norwegian Holiday (2023, Romance) David Elsendoorn, Peter Vollebregt, Rhiannon Fish.	My Norwegian Holiday (2023, Romance) David Elsendoorn, Peter Vollebregt, Rhiannon Fish.	My Norwegian Holiday (2023, Romance) David Elsendoorn, Peter Vollebregt, Rhiannon Fish.	My Norwegian Holiday (2023, Romance) David Elsendoorn, Peter Vollebregt, Rhiannon Fish.
HALL	40	117	185	312	* A Royal Christmas Crush	* A Royal Christmas Crush	* A Royal Christmas Crush	* A Royal Christmas Crush	* A Royal Christmas Crush	* A Royal Christmas Crush	* A Royal Christmas Crush	* A Royal Christmas Crush	* A Royal Christmas Crush	* A Royal Christmas Crush	* A Royal Christmas Crush	* A Royal Christmas Crush	* A Royal Christmas Crush	* A Royal Christmas Crush	* A Royal Christmas Crush	* A Royal Christmas Crush	* A Royal Christmas Crush
SYFY	41	135	122	244	* * * The Fast and the Furious	* * * The Fast and the Furious	* * * The Fast and the Furious	* * * The Fast and the Furious	* * * The Fast and the Furious	* * * The Fast and the Furious	* * * The Fast and the Furious	* * * The Fast and the Furious	* * * The Fast and the Furious	* * * The Fast and the Furious	* * * The Fast and the Furious	* * * The Fast and the Furious	* * * The Fast and the Furious	* * * The Fast and the Furious	* * * The Fast and the Furious	* * * The Fast and the Furious	* * * The Fast and the Furious
TBS	43	130	139	247	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang
TVT	44	131	138	245	* * * Den of Thieves (2018, Thriller) Pablo Schreiber, O Shea Jackson, Gerard Butler.	* * * Den of Thieves (2018, Thriller) Pablo Schreiber, O Shea Jackson, Gerard Butler.	* * * Den of Thieves (2018, Thriller) Pablo Schreiber, O Shea Jackson, Gerard Butler.	* * * Den of Thieves (2018, Thriller) Pablo Schreiber, O Shea Jackson, Gerard Butler.	* * * Den of Thieves (2018, Thriller) Pablo Schreiber, O Shea Jackson, Gerard Butler.	* * * Den of Thieves (2018, Thriller) Pablo Schreiber, O Shea Jackson, Gerard Butler.	* * * Den of Thieves (2018, Thriller) Pablo Schreiber, O Shea Jackson, Gerard Butler.	* * * Den of Thieves (2018, Thriller) Pablo Schreiber, O Shea Jackson, Gerard Butler.	* * * Den of Thieves (2018, Thriller) Pablo Schreiber, O Shea Jackson, Gerard Butler.	* * * Den of Thieves (2018, Thriller) Pablo Schreiber, O Shea Jackson, Gerard Butler.	* * * Den of Thieves (2018, Thriller) Pablo Schreiber, O Shea Jackson, Gerard Butler.	* * * Den of Thieves (2018, Thriller) Pablo Schreiber, O Shea Jackson, Gerard Butler.	* * * Den of Thieves (2018, Thriller) Pablo Schreiber, O Shea Jackson, Gerard Butler.	* * * Den of Thieves (2018, Thriller) Pablo Schreiber, O Shea Jackson, Gerard Butler.	* * * Den of Thieves (2018, Thriller) Pablo Schreiber, O Shea Jackson, Gerard Butler.	* * * Den of Thieves (2018, Thriller) Pablo Schreiber, O Shea Jackson, Gerard Butler.	* * * Den of Thieves (2018, Thriller) Pablo Schreiber, O Shea Jackson, Gerard Butler.
AMC	45	131	1254		* * * The Polar Express Tom Hanks.	* * * The Polar Express Tom Hanks.	* * * The Polar Express Tom Hanks.	* * * The Polar Express Tom Hanks.	* * * The Polar Express Tom Hanks.	* * * The Polar Express Tom Hanks.	* * * The Polar Express Tom Hanks.	* * * The Polar Express Tom Hanks.	* * * The Polar Express Tom Hanks.	* * * The Polar Express Tom Hanks.	* * * The Polar Express Tom Hanks.	* * * The Polar Express Tom Hanks.	* * * The Polar Express Tom Hanks.	* * * The Polar Express Tom Hanks.	* * * The Polar Express Tom Hanks.	* * * The Polar Express Tom Hanks.	* * * The Polar Express Tom Hanks.
COM	47	107	249		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
FS1	48	64	150	219	(4:30) Speak (L) (N)	NASCAR	College Basketball Delaware at Xavier	College Basketball Buffalo at Butler	College Basketball Buffalo at Butler	College Basketball Buffalo at Butler	College Basketball Buffalo at Butler	College Basketball Buffalo at Butler	College Basketball Buffalo at Butler	College Basketball Buffalo at Butler	College Basketball Buffalo at Butler	College Basketball Buffalo at Butler	College Basketball Buffalo at Butler	College Basketball Buffalo at Butler	College Basketball Buffalo at Butler	College Basketball Buffalo at Butler	College Basketball Buffalo at Butler
WGN	53		307		The Hill (L) (N)	VARGAS Report (N)	On Balance (N)	Cuomo (N)	Dan Abrams Live (L) (N)	Banfield (N)											

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

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Difficulty: ★★

12/5

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Your "Guaranteed Sold" ad (up to 20 words) with a Photo: \$44
Add'l Lines, 88 cents each

GARAGE SALES

Put your Garage Sale in Wells County's Easy-to-Use Garage Sale Guide!

Get a **FREE GARAGE SALE KIT** when you place your Garage Sale ad in The News-Banner for 3 days or more.

SELL YOUR WHEELS!

HOT DEAL!

20 Words, 10 Days
just \$25
ADD A PHOTO
for just \$5 more
One item per ad

GUARANTEED SOLD

Your ad runs 'til your item is sold! (6-month maximum). Limited to one-item, private party only.

20 words \$39
Add'l Lines: 88 cents each

ADD A PHOTO!
Your "Guaranteed Sold" ad (up to 20 words) with a Photo: \$44
Add'l Lines, 88 cents each

SERVICES SPECIAL!

Advertise Your Services EVERY DAY in Wells County's Most Popular Daily Marketplace!

20 Words,
2-Month Special: \$97

ATTENTION GRABBERS!

Add a photo or artwork to any ad! You can also add a headline or other attention-getters for less than you'd expect! Place your ad ON-LINE and explore the possibilities!

December GOODS & SERVICES DIRECTORY

Camelot Auto LLC
Get Holiday Cash NOW
260-307-1302
We Buy Junk Cars

Wickey Construction
Free Estimate on Metal Roofing & More
260-273-9776

As a resident of the Wells County community for decades, Attorney Gerret J. Swearingin, has devoted his legal practice to assisting clients in preserving the family assets from the high cost of Nursing Home and In-Home Healthcare.
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• Durable Power of Attorney • Wills, Living Wills, & Advance Healthcare Directives
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Primary Contracting, LLC 260-223-4276 Ask for Edwin Wickey
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AN MUNCH MORE! COMPETITIVE RATES!
House's and barns - Metal or Shingle Roofs
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Home Remodel and Repair
Locally Owned
Repair Bowed Basement Walls
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Concrete • Doors
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Tile • Small Jobs Welcome
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geoff@genesispestservices.com

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Mike Lampton | Michael Towne | Jacob Duncan

Jerry Flack & Associates
Jerry Flack & Julie Myers
Retirement Advisors
A Senior Citizen Answers Our Phone!
OFFICE 260-824-1618 • Corner of Main & Market • Bluffton, IN
ASSISTING IN:
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• Life Planning
• Safe Money Ideas
• Dental - Vision - Hearing

Zap Electric, Inc.
260-824-2927
Commercial-Industrial-Residential
24 Hr. Emergency Service
Charles Miller-Electician
1233 W. Cherry St., Bluffton
FREE Estimates

AMISH CREW
will do roofing, siding, remodeling, pole barns.
Specializing in redoing old barns. Free estimates.
Call 260-438-2508

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Safe & Secure Self Storage
824-1846
• Safety Lighting • Clean Units
• 24 Hr. Access
• Video Cameras
www.a1-ustor.com
After hours & Saturdays
Call 273-9678 or 824-4782
In Monroe at corner of U.S. 27 and S.R. 124
Office at 1180 N. Main, Bluffton

MOVING? DOWNSIZING SHORT ON SPACE?
10x10 \$45
10x20 \$65
South Side Storage Poneto, IN
260-273-7946
312 W. St. Rd. 218
Jim Ameter

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THURSDAY - Dollar Off Drinks (Excludes Pop)
WEDNESDAY - KARAOKE
FRI. & SAT. - Live Music
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"50 Years of Combined Experience"
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YOUR BUSINESS IN THE NEWS-BANNER Every Day!
For as little as ...
\$187 PER ISSUE
Plus The Ossian Journal Every Week!
... you can keep your name in the public eye!
Increase your business with regular advertising!
Call 824-0224 or 622-4108
Jan. deadline is Tues., Dec. 26!

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

CNC MACHINIST HI, tired of working in a dead end job? Running the same machine, making the same part? Feel like you're not getting any better? Not learning any new machining skills? Take this opportunity to become a master machinist. Learn to operate multiple machines, make precision component parts, in our AS100 Certified Job Shop. Perhaps you retired too early and are looking for a part time position we are offering this too.
Email: jturnbull@dedricktool.com
260 824-3334

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

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!
twitter.com/newsbanner

RENTALS

Office Space Rental

GREAT LOCATION

MAKE YOUR AD STAND OUT! Add a graphic or photo for an additional \$5. Contact the Bluffton News-Banner office, 125 N. Johnson St., 824-0224, or submit online at www.news-banner.com and click on classifieds.

Lottery Numbers

Monday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 04-12-22-28-31
Cash4Life — 05-12-14-24-33, Cash Ball: 02
Quick Draw Midday — 04-06-10-13-19-22-24-25-28-30-35-38-44-51-58-62-65-69-72-80, BE: 04
Daily Three-Midday — 07-04-00, SB: 07
Daily Three-Evening — 00-04-03, SB: 03
Daily Four-Midday — 04-08-05-07, SB: 07
Daily Four-Evening — 07-02-06-00, SB: 03
Quick Draw Evening — 04-05-09-14-17-20-21-26-40-44-48-49-55-59-62-65-68-74-75-76, BE: 65
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$44 million
MEGA MILLIONS
Estimated jackpot (for Tuesday): \$377 million
POWERBALL
18-19-27-28-45; Powerball: 09; Power Play: 3X

Public Sale Calendar

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

DECEMBER 7-DECEMBER 14 - Soft close at 6 p.m. - Joyce (Gale) Baumgartner, sellers. Online personal property auction. Baumgartner Hatchery memorabilia, Muensterberg clock tower globe, glass, Echo equipment, primitives, granite, cookware, furniture, and much more! Preview Dec. 6, 4-6 p.m. at 113 Northwood Drive, Bluffton, IN. Pick up Dec. 15, 3-6 p.m. at 113 Northwood Drive, Bluffton, IN. **Heartland Auction & Realty, Inc.**, heartlandauctionrealty.com, 260-724-3499.

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA)
)SS:
COUNTY OF WELLS)
IN THE WELLS)
CIRCUIT COURT)
CAUSE NO.)
90C01-2311-MI-000022)
IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:)
Zachery Buckley)
Petitioner)
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 Dennis.
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
hspaxip

SUDOKU ANSWER

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