



The News - Banner

www.News-Banner.com

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023

BLUFFTON, INDIANA · Wells County's Hometown Connection

\$1.00

Two new members joining health board

By HOLLY GASKILL
Wells County Commissioners have made three appointments to the Board of Health, two of which are new to the board. During their regular meeting on Monday, the commissioners unanimously approved three board members — Dr. Bartholomew Hott and Tamara Troutt, who are new to the board, and Ann McNabb, who was up for re-

appointment. Tom Longenberger, current board member, did not re-apply for his position. The commissioners expressed a desire to make appointments of “qualified” individuals with medical backgrounds. Hott, who is a Bluffton dentist, will fill the board’s vacancy for a second doctor. Troutt is also a licensed physician’s assistant working with Parkview Health, and McNabb is

a nurse. The remaining board members are Chris Esterling, Steven Bales, Dr. Mary Donley and Molly Hoag. Recent updates in the Indiana Code permit the County Council to make an appointment to the health board, whereas the commissioners used to be solely responsible. Commissioner Jeff Stringer asked Council member Steve Huggins, who was present, if the

council would permit the commissioners to fill the three current vacancies to bring more medical experience to the board. In exchange, Stringer offered that the council could make an appointment with the next member’s term expiration. Bales’ and Donley’s terms end on Dec. 31, 2024. Huggins emphasized he couldn’t speak on behalf of the

council, but that there had been discussion regarding a qualified candidate they had in mind. The board’s final meeting of the year is 6:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 21. A hearing regarding the potential removal of Health Officer Dr. Kay Johnson is scheduled for 8 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20. The commissioners also made a series of appointments to mul-

(Continued on Page 2)

Getting charged up in Bluffton

‘Fast charger’ makes Hiday’s a destination for EV drivers

By MARK MILLER
Bluffton took another step into the future about two months ago when Hiday Automotive invested in what is called a “Level 3 charger.” Bluffton’s Chevrolet dealer has had a Level 2 charger but that requires several hours for an electric vehicle to get enough charge to make it to the next charging station. “We bought this so that we could sell EVs,” Greg Hiday said. “But we will get a number of people each week come through and likely several more during the nights and weekends we don’t see.” Hiday has enjoyed chatting with the visitors and learning about their experiences with their new vehi-

cles. Friday afternoon, Jay Julow, a retired project manager from Northville, Mich. was getting his 2023 Ford F-150 Lightning recharged, midway on a trip he and his wife were making to Fishers, just north of Indianapolis. “My feel-good meter said we’d have 20 minutes left when we got to our destination,” Julow said. “My wife said ‘Go for it’ but that’s outside of my comfort zone.” He did not want to take the time to get his truck fully charged. He figured that about 20 minutes will add another 50 miles to his range. “That’s the biggest thing we hear from people who talk about getting one of these EVs,” Hiday shared. “It’s called range anxiety. I



Jay Julow of Northville, Mich. was in Bluffton Friday afternoon, getting his EV re-charged in order to make it to Fishers. Owning and driving an electric vehicle is “just the right thing to do,” Julow said. (Photo by Mark Miller)

think everyone understands that.” That aspect of owning and driving an EV has not been a big issue for Julow. “It’s just the right thing to do,” he said. He also has solar panels to

power his home in Michigan. He has three apps on his cell phone to help him find fast-charging stations. “This is the only one in about a 50-mile radius,” Julow said,

“except for one at a Kelley dealer in Fort Wayne.” Julow is familiar with Wells County, having once interviewed for the plant manager position at

(Continued on Page 2)



Pajama meeting

The fourth grade Webelos and Cub Scout siblings celebrated the Christmas season at their weekly meeting on Monday. Above, Scouts dressed in Christmas pajamas, enjoyed cookies, popcorn and cocoa, and opened surprise gifts at the meeting.

At right, pictured left to right are Kylie, Dominic, and Rob Rolston, “pack parents” for the Cub Scouts, dressed in festive pajamas for the final pack meeting of the year. (Photos by Sydney Kent)



BHMSD welcomes sixth grade authors

By JONATHAN SNYDER
Over 30 people were in attendance at the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District Board meeting Monday as sixth graders shared their stories. Sixth grade English teacher Clarissa Tijerina and the BHMSD board allowed some of Tijerina’s students to share excerpts from short stories they wrote and published earlier this year. The stories ranged from the adventures of a dog named Koontz, a soccer player competing in an important game and retellings of classic fairytales. Eli Brooks, Abe Atkins, Wes Kunkel, Rowan Drayer, Abby Garrett, Jordan Simpson-Barkley, Emily Priester, Leona Veselji

and Madelyn Platt all shared stories. Each excerpt was met with a round of applause and sometimes laughter from the audience and board members. These books were written as a part of the National Young Authors Fair, a writing festival that gives young students an opportunity to write, publish and sell books they have written. The books are then made available on Amazon, and the kids collect royalties based on the amount sold. So far, 32 books have been published and 169 copies have been purchased, according to Tijerina. The board also announced that they will be buying some of

(Continued on Page 2)

Commissioners override township decision

By HOLLY GASKILL
Wells County Commissioners have overruled a decision made by the Jefferson Township board regarding four requests for financial assistance. Township Trustee Larry Heckber and Karen Rydman, investigator, approached the board during their regular meeting Monday to ask for additional appropriations

to fill the requests. The township board had denied his request, and there were no remaining funds in the budget. The claims totaled roughly \$2,300. Heckber advised the requests filled all requirements, which Rydman confirmed. Two households were also present to answer questions regarding their requests.

(Continued on Page 2)

Inside
Local/Area
Obituaries 3
Police Notebook . . . 3
Opinion
Justin Peeper 4
Also...
Sports 6-7
Classifieds 9
Diversions 8

Outside
Sunny and breezy today, cold and cloudy tonight
Today Wed. Thursday
High 34 High 42 High 45
Low 24 Low 28 Low 34
More Weather on Page 2

Online
Follow us on Facebook!
Go to www.facebook.com/newsbanner
Place Your Classified Ads 24/7
Vol. 95 No. 41
TUESDAY
December 19, 2023

WINTER IS COMING! ARE YOU READY?
Bring your Vehicle in a for a Winter Check Up
 Tires Antifreeze Battery/Lights
 Heater Defroster Wiper Fluids
 Thermostat Brakes Wiper Blades
BLUFFTON TIRE INC. 1308 S. MAIN ST. 260-824-0418
Hours: Mon. - Fri. 7:30-5:00

How to contact us:
Call us: 824-0224
or 1-800-579-7476
email@news-banner.com
On the Web:
www.news-banner.com
Follow us at:
twitter.com/newsbanner

Health board hires

(Continued from Page 1)

tiple boards but deferred three decisions.

Firstly, the commissioners postponed appointments to Wells County Chamber of Commerce and Wells County Economic Development as a result of ongoing conversations regarding a contract with the organizations. Stringer currently represents the commissioners for economic development and Gerber for the chamber.

Additionally, with the departure of county engineer Nate Rumschlag, the commissioners will have to appoint a new Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator. Rumschlag, who happened to be present Monday, advised very little was required of the role, aside from annual training.

Rumschlag suggested the county consider Public Information Officer LeAnne Gibbs-Wyss, but Commis-

sioner Mike Vanover said she would not have time as a part-time employee. Vanover suggested building manager Bobbie Studebaker, and Rumschlag said Studebaker would have to become more involved with the other county buildings.

The commissioners advised they would contact prospective options and revisit the topic in January. Their first meeting of 2024 will be 5 p.m. Jan. 2.

Other board appointments made during the meeting were:

- Nathan Shrock and Ben Beer to the Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals (one-year term)
- Trent Markley to the Rockcreek Conservancy District (four-year term)
- Gerber, Stacy Herrold and Olimpia Gerber to the Community Correction advisory board (four-year term)
- Janessey Kline to the Alcoholic Beverage Commission (one-year term)

- Tim Rohr and Tyson Brooks to the Area Plan Commission (one-year term)
- Connie Brubaker to the Cemetery Board (five-year term)
- Mike Lautzenheiser to the Poka-Bache Connector Task Force (one-year term)
- Jeff Reed to the Wells County Convention and Tourism Commission (two-year term)
- Douglas Sundling to the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission (two-year term)
- Laura Dalrymple, Shari Duncan and Diana Collins to the Sick Bank Committee (one-year term)
- Mike Miller as 911 director, Rick Velasquez as emergency management director, Shawn Bonar as highway supervisor, Roger Richardson as IT director and Dewey Randall as veterans officer (one-year terms)

holly@news-banner.com

'Fast charger' at Hiday

(Continued from Page 1)

what was then Metaldyne and driving through to pick up an Ossian ham on occasion.

"Besides, going down I-69, going faster, uses up more juice," he shared. The air temperature and any headwinds also have an impact on his truck's range.

He traded in a Dodge pickup truck, "with a hemi," he said, when he picked up his EV in March. It now has about 9,000 miles on it.

He has paid as much as 68 cents per kilowatt at a charging station; Hiday's charges 48 cents which he says is about right, although "paying 55 cents is not unusual."

"But let me tell you, if you need a charge, you pretty much don't care what you pay," he continued, "but it still beats \$3 a gallon for gas."

The slower, class-two charging stations are often free, he added, "but they

take forever."

"What I've heard from people is the worry about having enough of a charge but also, they talk about going to a charging station only to find out it's out of order — not working," Hiday said. "That could put you in a tough spot if you don't have enough charge to get to another machine."

Hiday said that they have begun to get some interest in EVs, having delivered a new Volt within the past few weeks. While he is personally not a fan of the EV conversions, he knows his business needs to adjust. "They are fun to drive," he said.

"We have two EV Blazers that should be here pretty soon," he said. But when told by his Chevrolet representative that they could get more, he told them to hold up.

"I don't think we have that much demand," he said. "At least not yet."

miller@news-banner.com



Greg Hiday had the "Level 3 Fast Charger" installed at the family's Chevrolet dealership in Bluffton in order to sell electric vehicles. "We obviously want to service our customers," he said, "but we also see people coming through." It's just part of the future of being in the business, he explained, "but this thing itself is not a money-maker." (Photo by Mark Miller)

Sixth grade authors

(Continued from Page 1)

the books and creating space to display them in the middle school library. The board hopes that other kids will be inspired to write by seeing their friends' success.

"Every year I try to take something from the community ... to take (the students) writing outside of the classroom," Tijerina said. The board members — Angie Sheets, Bruce Holland, Mike Murray, Julie Thompson and Trent White — echoed their pride in the students.

In addition to the sixth graders, Ella Wheeler was also honored as the recipient of the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship, and as such, she was given a bouquet of lilies for her accomplishment. Wheeler's scholarship means that her tuition and other required fees for any public or private Indiana college or university are paid for.

"No doubt she will go on to do many great things in the future," Holland said.

After the celebrations passed, the board heard from Communications Specialist Jessica Bricker, who updated them about the success of ParentSquare's technology, which allows the school to send out electronic alerts via text and email for school delays and other important updates. Bricker also mentioned the success of both the new website and the roar report podcast on YouTube.

Assistant Superintendent Julie Meitzler also updated the board about the success of the Indiana Learns Tutoring Program, which has seen over 500 hours of tutoring given to fourth through eighth grade students from 14 adult staff members. Meitzler also mentioned that the Early Literacy

Achievement Grant funds have been received, but how they will be distributed amongst the Kindergarten through third grade staff is still unknown.

Superintendent Brad Yates updated the board further with construction updates involving the completion of middle school pool locker rooms, the coming updates to the high school storage area and a new window for security purposes in the main office. Yates further commented that the asphalt concourse area of the football stadium had some significant cracks that were filled in.

Other items the board discussed included:

- Closing on the bond issuance for the building envelope project, which totalled over \$9.6 million.
- Approved the 2023 and 2024 capital projects plan to include replacing the turf field, track surface and stadium lighting for the high school. Beynon Sports will be replacing the track at \$750,687, and Energy Harness will replace the lighting at \$168,466. The board is still looking for a vendor for the turf replacement, but the estimated cost is between \$600,000 and \$700,000.
- Approved of Middle School Food Service worker Jessica Clark's resignation and recommended employment for Danielle Macias, a speech language pathologist, Amy Hipsher, a middle school intense intervention instructional assistant, two long-term substitutes, two academic bowl coaches, a substitute cook, four substitute teachers and multiple sports assistant and head coaches.
- Approved an addition to the district's supplement payment plan because of Chris Kruchkow's role

expansion from a part-time Career and Technical Education Electrical Teacher to a full-time role.

• Added five contract days for Sebastian Baxter to address the needs of students who are taking dual credit and dual enrollment classes.

• Approved a fix to an error on Scott Ribich's contract, which listed him as an employee for one year, instead of the appropriate two years.

• Accepted donations from multiple organizations. These donations include: 50 school supply sacks from the Salvation Army; over \$2,750 for unpaid lunch accounts from Calvary Lutheran Church, Six Mile Church Missions and Clean Fuels National; dictionaries for every third grade student from Bluffton Rotary; 35 coats, hats and gloves for students in need from Midwest Credit Union; \$500 for both elementary and middle school students in need from Buckets for Santa, \$1,000 dollars to the eSports program from Auction IT, and \$2,000 dollars toward the wrestling program from First Bank of Berne, Edge Manufacturing, Dicky's Partners Bluffton, Family Ford of Bluffton, Craigville Appliance and Matt Bertsch.

- Approved to update the Community Use of School Facilities and Visitors to Schools policies.
- Adopted the Wells County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Approved an end of year transfer resolution, allowing the district to transfer funds that were underallocated.
- Approved the transfer of no more than \$1,000,000 from the education fund to the operations fund.
- Approved the BHMSD Healthy Operations Plan.

jonathan@news-banner.com

County commissioners

(Continued from Page 1)

Representing the board, David Haiflich said they rejected the requests because Heckber had never established guidelines, and therefore, the state restricted the board from granting requests.

Heckber refuted the claim, saying he had written criteria adapted from state guidelines and that the board had refused to approve it for multiple months.

Rydman echoed this, adding that the board members had been disrespectful. "I presented (guidelines) to Larry, and Larry presented them to the board," Rydman claimed. "One night, I had to leave the meeting — one of the (board members) said, 'We don't do Indiana

Code.'"

Despite the back and forth, the commissioners unanimously believed only one thing mattered in the conversation — were the individuals eligible for assistance? And having their answer, they approved the request for funds.

In doing so, however, the commissioners reprimanded the board's inflexibility, especially to the detriment of people in need.

"I've been doing this for 11 years now," Commissioner Blake Gerber said. "And I've never had a situation like this."

"You have four people that are in need that are caught in between some bureaucracy," added Commissioner Jeff Stringer.

"If there were other details that needed to be fought out, it should have been fought out in other meetings," Commissioner Mike Vanover concluded. "It never should've gotten to us."

holly@news-banner.com

Weather

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

(24-hour observations at 8:31 p.m. Monday)

High: 36; Low: 27; Precipitation: 0.01 inches of rain, trace of snow.

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.23 feet at 9:45 p.m. Monday

Wells County forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 34. Southwest wind around 10 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 24. South wind around 10 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 42. South wind 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 28. South wind around 5 mph.

Thursday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 45.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 34.

Friday: A 40 percent chance of rain, mainly after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 45.

Friday Night: A 40 percent chance of rain. Cloudy, with a low around 37.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 48.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 39.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 54.

Sunday Night: A chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 41.

Food bank drive in the home stretch

By MARK MILLER

So far, this year's holiday fund drive for the Wells County Food Bank is "going well," Mick Cupp said, "but..."

Cupp is one of a group of volunteers that operate the food bank. This is the 38th consecutive year that an anonymous local donor has issued a challenge match. This year's match is \$20,000.

As previously reported, the food bank has been hit by a "double whammy" of inflation and an unusual drop in mid-year financial donations.

Meanwhile, the numbers of clients coming to the facility on South Main Street have increased as the year has progressed.

"The need is still there," Cupp said, "we just really need to see a strong finish."

Donations can be sent to the Wells County Food Bank, P.O. Box 186, Bluffton IN 46714. The food bank is located at 1254 S. Main St. in Bluffton.

miller@news-banner.com

Parlor City OIL SHOP
1309 S MAIN ST
BLUFFTON, IN 46714
260.353.1610

Enjoy \$5 Off Your Next Oil Change With This Coupon
*No Appointment Necessary

Committed to Serving You Better!

Expert
Transmission & Automotive
1979 - 2023

2883 E State Road 124, Bluffton, IN 46714
(260) 824-4929

More Than Just Transmissions
Heating/AC - Tune-Ups - Brakes
Computer Diagnostics and More!

In Bluffton since 1979 www.experttrans.com

LeafFilter CLOG-FREE GUTTERS FOREVER
GUTTER PROTECTION

BEFORE LeafFilter AFTER LeafFilter

THE NATION'S #1 GUTTER GUARD

EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!

15% OFF + 10% OFF + 0% APR FOR 24 MONTHS*

USA Promo Code: 285
FREE GUTTER ALIGNMENT + FREE GUTTER CLEANING*

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE 1-877-361-4260

Mon-Thu: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

*Promo Code requires purchase of LeafFilter gutter protection system. Offer valid on new installations only. Offer ends 12/31/23. See website for details. ©2023 LeafFilter, Inc. All rights reserved. LeafFilter is a registered trademark of LeafFilter, Inc. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

close to home; far from ordinary

OSSIAN HEALTH COMMUNITIES

215 DAVIS RD. OSSIAN, IN 46781
PH: 260-622-7821

OBITUARIES

Steven A. Bussel, 70

Steven A. Bussel, 70, of Bluffton, died Monday morning, Dec. 18, 2023, at Parkview Hospital Randallia in Fort Wayne. Funeral arrangements are pending with Goodwin – Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton.

Julia Ann (Pond) Osborne, 70

Julia Ann (Pond) Osborne, 70, of Lansing, Mich., and longtime resident of Bluffton, died Sunday evening, Dec. 17, 2023, at Stoneleigh Residence & Hospice Home in Lansing, Mich. Funeral arrangements are pending at this time with the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

Holcomb celebrates income tax exemption for national guard soldiers

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Indiana's 12,000 national guard soldiers won't owe state income taxes on military pay beginning this tax season — a move approved in the spring but which Gov. Eric Holcomb lauded anew on Monday.

"By completely phasing out state taxes on military veteran retirement in 2022 and eliminating the state income tax for Hoosier Guardsmen in 2023, Indiana continues to demonstrate our state's enduring appreciation for the exemplary women and men who serve our local communities, state and nation in the Indiana National Guard," Holcomb said in a news release.

House Enrolled Act 1034 allows national guard soldiers and military reservists to deduct military wages from the adjusted gross income used to calculate income tax liability. Dual-status military technicians are included, according to an Indiana Department of Revenue bulletin.

Hoosier members of the armed forces will enjoy a similar exemption starting with 2024 income, as laid out in the bill.

Lawmakers approved the legislation in late April and Holcomb signed it into law on the first day of May.

Maj. Gen. Dale Lyles, Indiana's adjutant general, also celebrated the move.

"I'm grateful for Gov. Holcomb's and the legislature's meaningful support for Hoosier Guardsmen through this exemption from state income tax," Lyles said. "Soldiers and airmen in our many uniquely rewarding careers will enjoy the additional benefit of keeping more of what they earn while serving our state and nation."

Rust challenge set for argument in February

By NIKI KELLY
Indiana Capital Chronicle

The Indiana Supreme Court has set arguments in John Rust's election law challenge for February 12, three days after the filing deadline to run for U.S. Senate.

If Rust gathers the required 4,500 signatures — 500 from each congressional district — the court's decision could remove him from the ballot. The court on Friday did not stay an injunction in the case blocking the law.

Rust, running to succeed U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, is challenging a law prohibiting candidates whose last two primary votes don't match the party they wish to represent.

He sued to gain access to the Republican ballot, saying the measure barred the vast majority of Hoosiers from running under their preferred party — an argument that seemed to sway the court.

He wants to challenge Congressman Jim Banks for the GOP nomination in the May 2024 primary.

Marion County Superior Court Judge Patrick J. Dietrick found the two-primary requirement unconstitutional.

"When the immense power of the state is turned toward and upon its citizens in such a way that it imperils a sacred and cherished right of those same citizens, the state's actions must be for an articulated compelling and pressing reason, and it must be exercised in the most transparent and least restrictive and least intrusive ways possible," he said.

"The 2021 (law) fails in this regard. It unduly burdens Hoosiers' long-recognized right to freely associate with the political party of one's choosing and to cast one's vote effectively," Dietrick continued.

Rust's two most recent primary votes were Republican in 2016 and Democrat in 2012 — meaning under the questionable law he can't appear on the Republican ballot for the 2024 May primary election. The law allows an exception, should the county's party chair grant it. Jackson County Republican Party Chair Amanda Lowery elected not to do so in this case.

The Indiana Supreme Court set a briefing schedule for Rust's attorneys, as well as the Indiana Attorney General's Office, who is representing the Indiana Secretary of State in the case.

Indiana Rep. Randy Lyness says he will retire after current term

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — State Rep. Randy Lyness, a West Harrison Republican, announced his intention to retire from the Indiana House after eight years, becoming the latest Republican legislator to forgo reelection in the next cycle.

The lawmaker representing House District 68 in southeast Indiana said Monday he plans to complete his term but will not seek reelection in 2024. He did not cite a reason for his retirement in his announcement.

"Over the last eight years, it has been a privilege to represent the good people of House District 68," Lyness said in a statement. "I'm grateful for all the support I have received throughout my time in the legislature and for the opportunity to serve our communities."

Lyness has represent-

ed Ohio, Switzerland and Dearborn counties, and a portion of Jefferson County since 2015. He currently serves as vice chair of the House Committee on Local Government.

"During my time as a legislator, I have worked to keep government small, including cutting taxes to help Hoosiers keep more of the money they earned," he said in his announcement.

Lyness is the latest of a handful of Republican law-

INCIDENTS

City:
Friday, 2:25 p.m., Pizza King. Caller reported a lost Huffy bike with no seat.
Friday, 3:09 p.m., East Spring and South Wayne streets. Report of a bus arm violation.
Friday, 3:25 p.m., 400 block of West Wabash Street. Welfare check requested, officers unable to make contact.
Friday, 4:31 p.m., Addictions Body Art. Caller reported Brian Wygant was at the location, Wygant arrested for small claims warrant.
Friday, 4:58 p.m., 600 block of West Arnold Street. Welfare check requested for subject, subject was fine.
Friday, 6:19 p.m., 100 block of West Madison Avenue. Caller reported people in driveway in two vans.
Friday, 6:26 p.m., 500 block of East Central Avenue. Caller requested assistance with uninvited subject in residence. Bird was caught and released.
Friday, 7:46 p.m., Walmart. Caller reported an individual stealing from the lawn and garden area of the store. Subject left before arrival. Walmart will put case file together to submit for charges.
Saturday, 1:22 a.m., North Main Street and South Sutton Circle Drive. Driver cited for no insurance.
Saturday, 12:45 p.m., Farmington Drive and South Hoosier Highway. Officer assisted with domestic dispute.
Saturday, 2:29 p.m., 100 block of North Morgan Street. Caller reported issue with juveniles.
Sunday, 3:34 a.m., 900 block of South Marion Street. Caller reported suspicious vehicle. Unable to locate.
Sunday, 8:20 a.m., 300

Police Notebook

block of East Central Avenue. Report of harassment.
Sunday, 12:53 p.m., 500 block of West Market Street. Caller reported five-year-old out of control attempted to stab siblings with butter knife.
Sunday, 12:56 p.m., CVS. Caller reported wanted subject in store; Albert Marshall taken to Wells County Jail.
Sunday, 9:15 p.m., 300 block of East Dustman Road. Car versus deer.
Sunday, 9:35 p.m., North Main Street and East Dustman Road. Driver broke down. Vehicle had no insurance, driver's license was suspended, and a smoking pipe and pills were located in the vehicle.
Monday, 6:33 a.m., South Main and East Washington streets. Officer removed several boxes out of the roadway.
Monday, 1:10 p.m., Welches. Caller reported a subject repeatedly walks through their parking lot, uses the bathroom, and leaves a mess.
Monday, 1:25 p.m., Bluffton Post Office. Report of theft of a purse from vehicle while parked on Washington Street. Purse returned, no further details.
Monday, 1:29 p.m., 1300 block of West Cherry Street. Caller reported people living in vacant home.
County:
Friday, 3:13 p.m., 800 block of West Railroad Street, Uniondale. Caller reported an unwanted subject on property.
Friday, 5:51 p.m., Ind. 124 and 300 West, Bluffton. Caller reported small orange dog that appeared to have been injured. Animal control took custody of the dog.
Friday, 7:06 p.m., 1000 block of South Jersey Street. Officer drove by residence and noticed a car in the

driveway with multiple subjects and called for backup. One subject had a warrant for arrest and was taken to the Wells County Jail.
Saturday, 12:36 p.m., Ind. 218 and 100 West, Poneto. Officer conducted traffic stop for vehicle crossing center line. Child advised parents were fighting and her mom attempted to light father on fire with lighter. Father advised she sparked her lighter but "not close enough" and chose not to press charges. DCS hotline contacted.
Saturday, 2:51 p.m., 1100 West Otto Avenue, Uniondale. Caller reported subject broke into pop machine and stole money.
Saturday, 7:12 p.m., 900 South and South Maple Street, Petroleum. Report of a stop sign knocked down.
Saturday, 11:30 p.m., 4300 North 300 West, Markle. Report of a car accident with possible injuries. Driver refused PBT.
Sunday, 8:54 a.m., 2700 South Hoosier Highway, Bluffton. Caller requested to speak with officer regarding custody issues.
Sunday, 10:59 a.m., 4700 North 100 East, Bluffton. Attack on mailboxes continues; One mailbox kidnapped.
Sunday, 4:06 p.m., 100 block of Northwood Drive, Bluffton. Officer attempted to serve warrant to Karen Shaw and observed woman and child leave residence. Subject named Kenneth Shaw Jr. advised officer Karen Shaw was in rehab in Indianapolis and the woman who left earlier was his girlfriend. Officer conducted records check and found a no contact order in place between Shaw Jr. and his girlfriend. A warrant for his arrest was requested for invasion

of privacy, a Class A misdemeanor.
Sunday, 6:27 p.m., Ind. 116 and North Fairway Lane, Bluffton. Car versus deer.
Monday, 10:44 a.m., Wells County Courthouse. Warrant served at the courthouse.
Ossian:
Friday, 2:13 p.m., Ind. 1 and 800 North, Ossian. Officer checked on vehicle, driver advised daughter got sick in carseat and driver pulled over to change clothes.
Sunday, 5:50 p.m., 400 block of Greenwood Trail, Ossian. Caller reported her son was chased through Sandalwood by male with weapon. No description of suspect, advised to contact police if it happens again.
Sunday, 7:13 p.m., 300 block of Morton Lane, Ossian. Caller reported subject attempted to break into residence.
ARRESTS
Mikala Paige Bailey, 23, Bluffton, two counts of domestic battery with serious bodily injury, a Level 5 felony. Bond set at \$20,000.
Shu Bergman, 60, Keystone, domestic battery, a Class A misdemeanor, and possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor.
Renee Ceresina Fox, 28, Gary, disorderly conduct, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,000.
Joshua Allen Roe, 38, Michigan City, child molesting, a Level 4 felony. Bond set at \$10,000.
Dominique Denzel Kirby, 30, Bluffton, domestic battery and invasion of privacy, both Class A misdemeanors, and disorderly conduct, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$51,000.
Brian E. Wygant, 60, Bluffton, contempt of court. Bond set at \$500.

Indiana's first Dog Henry Holcomb dies

By NIKI KELLY
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Gov. Eric Holcomb's loyal best friend and First Dog Henry Holcomb has died.

The miniature schnauzer was 13.

"Henry, we were so lucky to be your humans. You will always be our very good boy," First Lady Janet Holcomb said in a written statement.

Gov. Holcomb said Henry "brought so much joy to Hoosiers young and old, two-legged and four-legged alike."

"He was more than a family pet to me and Janet as he gifted us daily with his funny, loving ways that we'll treasure forever," the governor said in a late Monday night statement.

"We thank everyone for embracing Henry and following his journey as the First Dog of Indiana. It warmed our hearts as we travelled the state to be met with the question, 'How's Henry?'"

"Henry's exuberance for

life will be missed, and his place in our hearts never replaced."

Henry was an Indiana celebrity of sorts, with his own social media accounts. And he accompanied his owners, especially First Lady Janet Holcomb, to many public events.

"Today we said goodbye to our best friend, First Dog Henry. We are profoundly saddened by this loss, but memories of sharing our very special boy with his thousands of fans and followers will forever bring smiles to our faces, and joy to our hearts," Janet Hol-

comb said.

She said from the first day they met Henry, he

captured their hearts with an expressive face, sweet snuggles and sassy attitude.

ONLINE ONLY PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION

EXCEPTIONAL COLLECTION OF ANTIQUES, HISTORICAL ITEMS, MCM, AND MORE!

SAT, DECEMBER 23RD - MON, JANUARY 1ST

PREVIEW LOCATION: 102 SOUTH JEFFERSON, OSSIAN, IN

ONLINE ONLY AUCTION GALLERY YEAR END AUCTION

Museum Quality Historical & Presidential Items • Antiques • Salesman Samples • Modeline MCM Lamps • Collectible Toys • Vintage Oil Cans Furniture • Haviland China • Firearm Holsters and Military Advertising • Christmas • Coins And Currency • And More!

VIEW COMPLETE CATALOG AT STEFFENGRP.COM

SALE MANAGER: ROD FETTERS (260.557.8451)
SELLER: VARIOUS CONSIGNORS

AUCTION PREVIEW & ONLINE BIDDING ASSISTANCE:
TUESDAY, DEC. 26TH AND THURSDAY, DEC. 28TH (3 PM - 6 PM)
FACEBOOK LIVE VIDEO ON TUESDAY, DEC. 26TH AT 6 PM

STEFFEN GROUP 260.426.0633
REAL ESTATE & AUCTIONS STEFFENGRP.COM
AU12000043 • AC30500053

INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

WE HELP YOU GET SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE AND MEDICAID READY!

Jerry Flack & Associates

WE REPRESENT MANY - MANY - MANY INSURANCE COMPANIES

WE HAVE ALL THE MEDICARE AND MEDICAID OPTIONS AVAILABLE

MARKETPLACE ANNUAL ENROLLMENT IS NOV 1ST - DEC 15TH

The Price Tag is the Same Everywhere Consider Local for Better Service

ANNUAL ENROLLMENT OCT 15 TO DEC 7 CALL US

WHEN YOU HAVE PROBLEMS AND YOU WILL HAVE PROBLEMS YOU WILL HAVE US TO COUNT ON
MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTS - MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS - PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLANS.

Life Insurance - Long Term Care Insurance - Investments - Individual and Small Group Health - Dental - Vision - Hearing - Cancer Insurance

Folks on Medicare A and B and Diabetic can get FREE Nice Looking Diabetic Shoes Every Year from Us | We Do FREE Information/ Education Seminars In Your Business (Again Former Teachers)

WE CAN MEET: IN OUR OFFICE - IN YOUR HOME - IN A FAVORED LOCATION

In the 1882 Building at Main & Market with the mural on the outside wall • 260-824-1618

THINKING OF SELLING YOUR LAND?

THE FINEST ASSETS IN THE WORLD, INCLUDING FARM LAND, ARE SOLD AT AUCTION!

CALL ISAAC STOLLER
AUCTIONEER • REAL ESTATE BROKER
260.413.3515

STEFFEN GROUP

Making mankind our business as Marley wished he had

Every year it is the omnipresent snow that covers London that first grabs your attention as you take a step back in time to Victorian-era England.

A few glowing streetlights and lanterns cast shadows across London's streets to help you feel like you're back in the 1800s because for the next two hours you are.

The scene is one that I am quite familiar with, as friend and News-Banner colleague Chet Baumgartner and I have "traveled" to England eight times since 2015.

Our England, however, is actually in downtown Indianapolis at the Indiana Repertory Theatre.

We head south every December to enjoy Charles Dickens' 1843 masterpiece "A Christmas Carol" performed on a snow-covered stage in front of a packed house.

The niveous landscape that covers the entire stage — and falls from the ceiling above during the play — is actually made of thin shredded plastic from recycled milk containers.

The actors walk, run and crawl through the shiny snow during the two-hour play, especially Ebenezer Scrooge — the protagonist who at the beginning of the story has lost sight of what really matters in life but throughout the course of the story sees the errors of his ways and changes before it's too late.

Dickens' tale of Ebenezer Scrooge is one of my favorites, a story I look forward to reading, watching on TV and seeing on stage every December.

It's a timeless story that teaches all of us valuable lessons still today. Every year multiple parts of the story resonate with me, but there always seems to be one part that stands out a bit more than the others.

This year, that part happened early in the story.

I try to read my 10-year-old copy of the novella each year before we see it on stage. This year it was a few days after Thanksgiving when I started reading only to pause 22 pages into the story.

The ghost of Jacob Marley has appeared at Scrooge's house to warn him that there is still time to change and escape Marley's fate. Once Scrooge believes that Marley's ghost is more than "an undigested bit of beef, a blot of mustard, a crumb of cheese (or) a fragment of an underdone potato," he later compliments his former business partner on being a good man of business when he was alive.

"Business!" cried the ghost, wringing its hands again. "Mankind was my business. The common welfare was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence, were all my business. The dealings of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!"

"Why did I walk through crowds of fellow-beings with my eyes turned down, and never raise them to that blessed Star which led the Wise Men to a poor adobe! Were there no poor homes to which its light would have conducted me!"

Powerful words.

Marley admits that his priorities in life were not what they should have been.

While he could have been both a great businessman and a great person, he focused on the former only and turned a blind eye to mankind. His sole focus on profit making blinded him when it came to charity, mercy and forbearance.

Marley regrets in death focusing so much on material possessions instead of concentrating more on what matters most — people and our relationships with each other.

Dickens' words about Marley's mistakes in life are just as impactful today as they were in 1843 even though Scrooge doesn't heed what Marley says early on in the novella.

By the end of the story, however, Ebenezer Scrooge is redeemed — transformed from a cold-hearted ruthless man to a kind and gentle soul who spreads joy and greatness of heart to everyone he meets.

His story of redemption is timeless and reminds us of what matters in life — mankind and how we treat each other and care for each other.

May we all be more intentional this Christmas season — and afterward — by making mankind our business each and every day.

Merry Christmas ... and as Tiny Tim observed, "God bless us, every one."

jdpeeper2@hotmail.com

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 19, the 353rd day of 2023. There are 12 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 19, 1998, President Bill Clinton was impeached by the Republican-controlled House for perjury and obstruction of justice. (Clinton was subsequently acquitted by the Senate.)

On this date:

In 1777, during the American Revolutionary War, Gen. George Wash-

ington led his army of about 11,000 men to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, to camp for the winter.

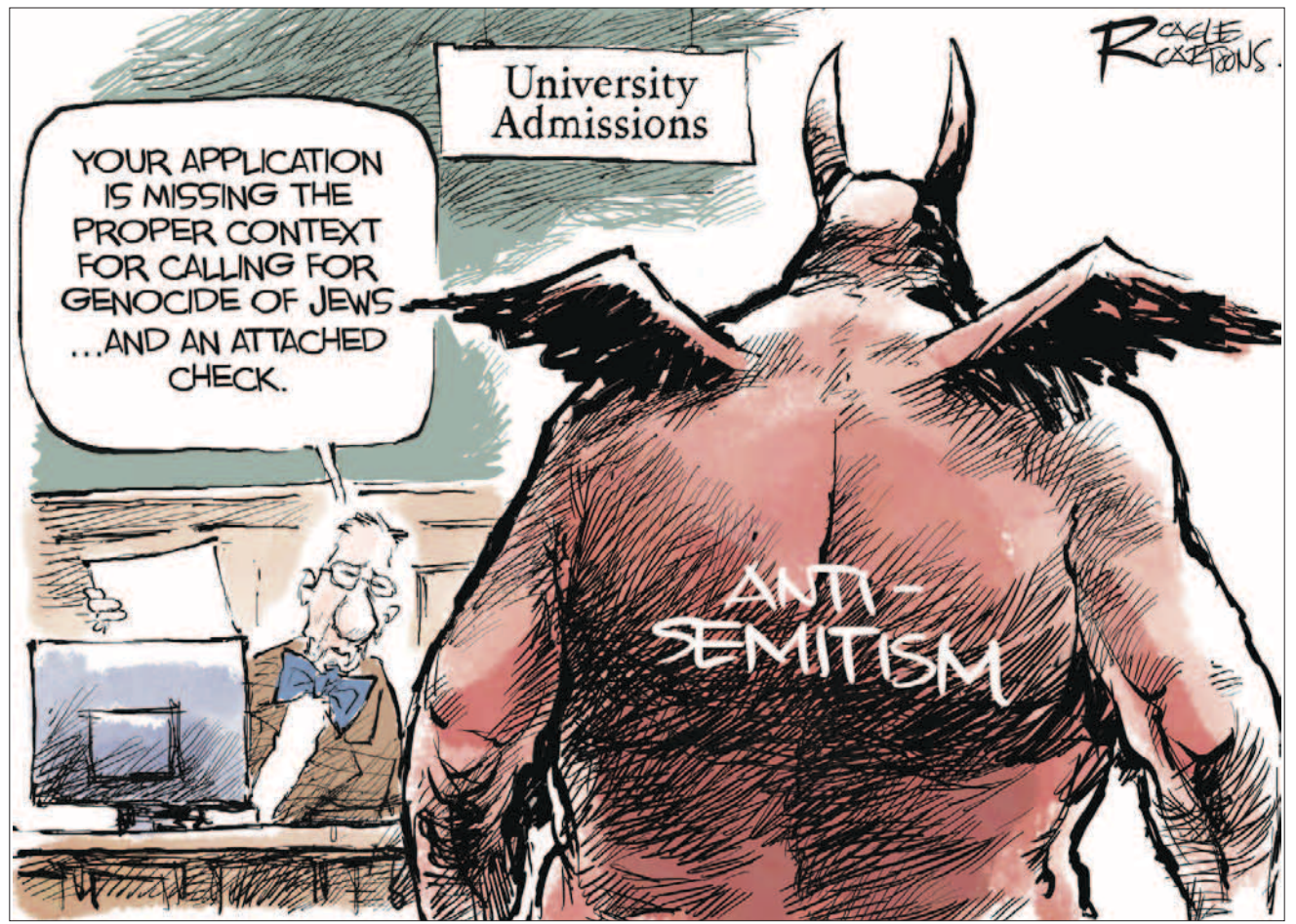
In 1907, 239 workers died in a coal mine explosion in Jacobs Creek, Pennsylvania.

In 1946, war broke out in Indochina as troops under Ho Chi Minh launched widespread attacks against the French.

In 1950, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower was named commander of the military forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.



Justin Peeper



The intellectual elite's institutional rot

Institutional rot. That's the verdict recorded in recent days on the performance of leading institutions by observers not known for pessimistic temperaments or alarmist analysis.

One occasion for such judgments was the testimony of three presidents of eminent universities — Harvard, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Pennsylvania — before a House committee on Dec. 6. In response to questions from Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.), a Harvard graduate, all three said calls for genocide of Jews might violate university rules, depending on "context."

That might sound like a principled defense of free speech, however repugnant. But coming from the chief executives of schools that punish teachers and students for being "fatphobic," using unwanted pronouns or asserting there are two sexes, it was a double standard at best and at worst an example of how people who are deemed members of oppressor groups are now treated as if they lack the rights and privileges of those deemed members of groups considered oppressed.

"A dark day for American higher education," ordinarily equanimous economist Tyler Cowen claimed in his blog, Marginal Revolution. "They have ended up disgracing their universities, in front of massive audiences (the largest they ever will have?), simply" for maintaining "maximum defensibility for their positions within their universities."

The hearing prompted the Wall Street Journal's Walter Russell Mead to post that "the Ivies" — leading universities, though MIT is not in the Ivy League — "reel from the inept performance of their deeply mediocre leaders." That's a scalding comment for a writer whose histories are imbued with optimism about the United States.

Meanwhile, historian Niall Ferguson, formerly at Harvard, decries "the willingness of trustees, donors, and alumni to tolerate the politicization of American universities by an illiberal coalition of 'woke' progressives, adherents of 'critical race theory,' and apologists for Islamist extremism."

The conduct of leaders of other supposedly intellectually distinguished institutions has also come in for scathing criticism from unlikely quarters.

Statistics expert and self-described liberal Nate Silver called a March 2020 paper — written at the behest of then-National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci and National Institutes of Health head Francis Collins to discredit the theory that COVID was spread by a leak from the Wuhan, China, laboratory — "a PR exercise rather than an effort to seek the truth." Amid evidence that Fauci and Collins used their control of federal research funding to downplay Fauci's culpability for approval of dangerous research in Wuhan,

Silver writes the paper "did enormous harm to science and it should be retracted."

Just as devastating is the description by liberal writers Joseph Nocera and Bethany McLean in City Journal and their book "The Big Fail" as the "unprecedented disaster" of the COVID lockdowns urged, against previous expert consensus, by Fauci and others in government and out.

America's historic achievements in higher education and public health are worthy of admiration. They were the result of government initiatives and imaginative philanthropy, of the enterprise of gifted people, and the steady work of those operating within functional institutional cultures.

But it is one of mankind's weaknesses that even in the most functional societies, success breeds failure. Bureaucratic defensiveness tends to overcome founding idealism, and covering one's anatomy can outweigh intellectual integrity.

As one whose recent book "Mental Maps of the Founders" has just been published, I am struck by the contrast in quality between the leaders of the early republic of 3 million people and the two candidates leading the polls in a mature nation of 333 million.

But the contrast is not limited to candidates. The independent economist Arnold Kling seconds the diagnosis of institutional rot and supplies details.

"The Left is not doing a very good job of maintaining those institutions. Public school enrollment has stagnated, while private school enrollment has increased rapidly (from a much smaller base). Major newspapers have folded. The NYT and WaPo got rich off of Trump-hatred for a while, but more recently their finances have deteriorated. ... Higher education as a whole has lost prestige in recent years, and enrollment figures reflect this."

What we are seeing now is, in Mead's words, "less the Rise of Trump than the moral and intellectual collapse of the American establishment. Sad. Tragic, really. Scary. But real."

The response of the liberal institutional leaders is to stand firm in their diatribes against the populist masses. They have taken to arguing that a second Trump administration, unlike the first one, will be an authoritarian dictatorship. They complain, justifiably, about Trump's attempts to delegitimize the 2020 election result without admitting responsibility and apologizing for their attempts to delegitimize the 2016 election result with the now completely discredited Russia collusion hoax.

They feel morally entitled to run the larger society. But first, they need to clean up their own institutional rot.



Michael Barone

© 2023 CREATORS.COM

The patriotism of Sen. Tommy Tuberville

After some 10 months blocking hundreds of promotions for senior military officers, Sen. Tommy Tuberville relented and backed off, allowing some 400 promotions to be confirmed by the Senate.

Tuberville stalled Senate confirmation for military promotions in order to pressure the Defense Department to back off its newly hatched policy on abortion in which DOD — i.e., U.S. taxpayers — will foot the bill for women in the military to travel out of the state where they are residing to get an abortion.

The policy was set forth after the Supreme Court ruling overturning the Roe v. Wade decision.

Per Tuberville, the Defense department acted outside of its authority with this measure. It goes against long-standing Defense department rules under which the Defense department provides coverage for abortion: rape, incest or threat to the life of the mother. We also have the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits taxpayer-funded abortion — although there are different opinions whether DOD falls under its purview.

Tuberville argues that the Defense Department using taxpayer funds for unrestricted abortion requires new law.

President Joe Biden called Tuberville's efforts "pointless," saying he, along with those who supported his efforts, "needlessly hurt hundreds of service members and military families and threatened our national secu-



Star Parker

— all to push a partisan agenda. I hope no one forgets what he did."

I echo the president's sentiments. I hope no one forgets the courageous efforts of Tuberville to stand alone in a high-profile effort that, rather than being narrowly partisan, has profound implications on our national culture and hence on our national security.

Much attention has been directed recently to our universities. Many Americans have been shocked to see the cultural rot that has taken hold at our elite institutions of learning.

Presidents of these universities mouth mindless, antiliberal, woke slogans while students speak out and demonstrate in support of atrocities committed by terrorists.

We would be mistaken to think this is a phenomenon and problem limited to our universities. Students are already arriving to our universities indoctrinated in our public schools and culture at large with distorted, destructive values.

In a Wall Street Journal/NORC poll from March this year, only 38 percent said patriotism is "very important," compared to 70 percent who in 1998 said it's very important.

Among those under the age of 30, only 23 percent said patriotism is very important.

Regarding religion, 39 percent said it is very important, compared to 62 percent in 1998.

Of those under 30, only 23 percent said having children is "very impor-

tant."

Does the major decline in the values of religion, patriotism, family and children point to something happening in our culture we should worry about? I think yes.

Does it have implications on our national security? I think yes.

Military recruiting officers testified last week before the Senate Armed Services Committee on personnel. The Army fell short of its recruiting goal by 25 percent in 2022, and the Army, Navy and Air Force all failed to meet recruiting goals in the fiscal year that ended in September.

Per Gallup polling earlier this year, 60 percent expressed "a great deal/ quite a lot" of confidence in the military, compared to 82 percent 20 years ago, in 2003.

War is about life and death. Abortion is about life and death. War is about values that go beyond self. Abortion is about values that go beyond self.

Tuberville may have caused inconvenience to hundreds of officers in line for promotion.

But if those officers do not see or understand the importance to our nation of the pro-life values to which Tuberville has drawn national attention, this is a sign of a major problem in national security.

I cannot imagine a healthy military guided by officers who do not appreciate the sanctity of life.

Tuberville may have lost this battle. But he shined light where light must be shined.

Our future depends on the values Tuberville has championed.

© 2023 CREATORS.COM

The News-Banner

(USPS 059-200)

Evening News est. 1892 • Evening Banner est. 1899 • Consolidated 1929

News-Banner Publications, Inc.

George B. Witwer, Chairman of the Board
Doug Brown, President, Publisher
Dianne Witwer, Secretary/Treasurer

Periodicals Postage Paid at Bluffton, IN 46714. Published every day except Sundays and principal holidays at 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton IN 46714, Post Office Box 436

Holly Gaskill, Editor

Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor

Friends Who Care hosts Gospel Concert & Auction

By BARBARA BARBIERI

This will be the 11th year for the Gospel Concert and Auction, sponsored by the Friends Who Care Cancer Relief Foundation, to be held on Saturday, Jan. 6, at the 4-H Community Building in Bluffton. Platinum sponsor of the event is Outdoor Concepts.

Doors will open for the free event at 4 p.m. when concessions from Uncle Matt's BBQ will be available. Silent auction tables also will be ready for shopping. Musical entertainment by eight local singing groups will begin at 5:30 p.m. with an active auction to be conducted during intermission at about 7 p.m.

Groups planning to sing include: Suzy Wood group, Jeff Adams, Tyler Kuntz with Braydon Hathaway, Edmiston Sisters, Mike & Jeff Shane with Paul Wickley, Musiclectics and Arlene Stoller (pianist).

Organizers of the event are now accepting donations for the auction. Anyone needing an item picked up should call Todd Reimschisel: 824-2300; Bruce or Kate Stinson: 824-4460 or Steve Gerber: 824-5189.

Sponsorships come with advertising benefits at the Official (\$1,000), Gold (\$500) and Silver (\$250) levels.

This event began as the Steve Kelly Concert Foundation event in 2012 with the first concert held in January of 2013. In 2016 the group renamed itself to Friends Who Care.

Over the years 450 local residents have been granted financial aid totaling over \$580,000. All proceeds from the evening will be used to assist those battling cancer in Wells County.

Anyone needing assistance may contact 260-307-1074 or any board member including: Jeff Adams, president; Skip Edwards, Steve Esterhai, Larry Peeper, Cheryl Buckland and Cindy Gordon.

Protect your fetus from harm

Also: Making social media safer for kids

Question: We are pregnant and want to make sure that our future child is not exposed to hazards in the environment that could lead to health problems. What should we be aware of? — Jenna D., Miami, Florida

Answer: Congratulations and thanks for your thoughtful question. When it comes to protecting the health of a fetus and a newborn, you know drinking alcohol, smoking and using recreational drugs (including cannabis) can damage a developing fetus. So can some over-the-counter and Rx medications. **Bottom line:** Consult your obstetrician before taking anything. (Prenatal vitamins are recommended, even before you become pregnant.)

But did you know that chronic prenatal stress can affect a child's brain? A woman's elevated levels of cortisol may lead to a child's hypersensitivity to stress later in life, according to a study in PNAS. Risks for future depression and heart disease also go up.

It's also important to be aware of the impact of environmental toxins on a developing fetus. Exposure to BPA (in the lining of food and soda cans), phthalates (in personal care products and plastics) has been linked to neurodevelopmental problems according to a report from the ACOG, "Reducing Prenatal Exposure to Toxic Environmental Agents." And a new study in Environmental Health Perspectives shows childhood obesity may be the result of in utero exposure to hormone-disrupting chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). These chemicals, found in stain-resistant and flame-retardant materials, fungicides, pesticides, some nonstick cookware, cosmetic products and plastic food containers, can cause rapid weight gain in kids between birth and age 9.

So, adopt stress-reduction techniques. Eat a plant-based diet, avoiding the EWG's "dirty dozen" fruit and veggies (info at ewg.org). Don't microwave food in plastic. Use personal care products and kitchen pans that are BPA- and PFAS-



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

free; avoid stain-resistant fabrics and upholstery; don't use pesticides/fungicides; and consider installing a two-stage water filter and using a HEPA air filter at home. You and your child will have years of healthy fun.

Question: I have a 15-year-old daughter who is hooked on social media. Now I hear that Meta, the company that owns Facebook, Reels, and Instagram, is being sued because the sites are not safe for children and teens. What can I do as a parent to make her use of the sites less risky? — Steven G., Denver, Colorado

Answer: The lawsuit you are talking about is the result of a bipartisan coalition of state attorneys general who looked into Meta's policies. The Washington Post says that the heart of the lawsuit alleges that social media sites knowingly "engaged in young users for profit" by misleading users about its safety features and the prevalence of harmful

content on its products, harvesting data from younger users and violating federal laws on children's privacy." Whatever the outcome, it is well-established that social media fuels children's insecurity and has even triggered suicidal thoughts and actions among vulnerable kids. The Surgeon General's report, "Social Media and Youth Mental Health," says that kids who spend three or more hours a day on social media double their risk for depression and anxiety.

What can parents do? A lot. Talk to your kids about the powers and downsides of social media. Let them tell you what they see, experience and feel. Listen, don't judge. Activate electronic parental controls on home computers and phones if necessary and tell your kids why you are doing it so they understand it's to their benefit, not a punishment. Don't let children and pre-teens use smartphones (give them basic phones instead). Set time limits on social media use and take phones out of their hands at bedtime. Have phone-free mealtimes. And most importantly, model responsible, non-addicted behavior with your use of your phone and social media. Show your kids that real-life interaction with friends, family and the world at large is where the fun is — and creates a healthier, happier future.

Area Things to See and Do

ARENA DINNER THEATER
"LMNOP," Jan. 19-28; "Funny Money," March 1-16; "A Delightful Quarantine," April 19-May 4; "The Drowsy Chaperone," June 14-29. www.arenadinner-theatre.org

CLYDE THEATRE, FORT WAYNE
Tribute to Elton John/Billy Joel; Debutants & Friends: Jan. 20; Foy Vance, Jan. 28. ClydeTheatre.com or at 1-800-514-3849.

EMBASSY THEATER
"Sleighin It Tour": Dec. 20; Straight No Chaser: Dec. 20; "Napoleon Dynamite Live!," Jan. 18; Tim Allen: Jan. 26; Joy Koy cinmenny: Feb. 4; http://fwembassytheatre.org/events

FIRE AND LIGHT PRODUCTIONS
"The Sound of Music," Jan. 18-20, Arts United Center, 303 E. Main St., Fort Wayne; "Finding Nemo Jr., April 11-13, Arts United enter, 303 E. Main St., Fort Wayne. Tickets at fireandlightproductions.com.

1ST PRESBYTERIAN THEATRE, FORT WAYNE
Almost Maine: Jan. 26-27; firstpresfortwayne.org/theater/

BOTANICAL CONSERVATORY
Timeless Tradition 40 Years through Jan. 7; info at botanicalconservatory.org.

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

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

HONEYWELL CENTER & EAGLES THEATRE Honeywell Center:
Dinosaur World Live: Jan. 26; Little River Band, Feb. 2; 360 Allstars, Feb. 3;

Princess Bride/Cary Elwes: 1954 The Tribute: March. 2; Tommy Jones/The Shondells: March 30; **Eagles Theatre:** Nelson, Jan. 18; Sons of Mystro, Feb. 8; Michael Palascak: Feb. 14; https://www.boxofficeticket-sales.com/honeywell-center

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

BAKER STREET CENTER, FORT WAYNE
Duke Turnabout & Power Trio: Jan. 20; www.bakerstreetcentre.com

LERNER THEATRE, ELKHART
Colin Mochrie: Feb. 10; Rodney Carrington: Feb. 23; TheLerner.com

ABCINEMA, DECATUR
130 W. Monroe St., Decatur. Information: www.abcinemainc.com or 260-724-SHOW

High blood pressure may also affect spouse

American Heart Association News
Middle-aged and older heterosexual men and women may be more likely to have high blood pressure if their spouse or partner has it, too, according to a large international study.

The study, published Wednesday in the Journal of the American Heart Association, showed that in up to nearly half of older couples in the United States, England, China and India both had high blood pressure, also known as hypertension. The findings highlight the potential for couples-based approaches to hypertension screening and management, researchers said.

"Many people know that high blood pressure is common in middle-aged and older adults, yet we were surprised to find that among many older couples, both husband and wife had high blood pressure," the study's senior author, Dr. Chihua Li, said in a news release. Li is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Michigan. "For instance, in the U.S., among more than 35% of couples who were ages 50 or older, both had high blood pressure."

Nearly half of all adults in the U.S. have high blood pressure, according to American Heart Association statistics.

Prior studies conducted in small, regional or single-country settings have shown couples may mirror each other's blood pressure status and other diseases. But the new study is the first to look at couples in multiple high- and middle-income countries, co-author Dr. Jithin Sam Varghese said in the release. Varghese is an assistant research professor at the Emory Global Diabetes Research Center at Emory University in Atlanta.

"We wanted to find out if many married couples who often have the same interests, living environment, lifestyle habits and health outcomes may also share high blood pressure," he said.

In the study, researchers analyzed blood pressure measurements for 3,989

couples in the U.S., 1,086 English couples, 6,514 Chinese couples and 22,389 Indian couples. Couples were married or described themselves as partnered and living in the same household. Blood pressure measurements were taken at a single point in time.

Among English couples, the prevalence of both partners having high blood pressure was 47%, compared to nearly 38% of U.S. couples, 21% of Chinese couples and 20% of Indian couples.

But although high blood pressure is more common in the U.S. and England than in China and India, the connection between couples' blood pressure status was stronger in China and India. Compared to women married to men without high blood pressure, women whose husbands had high blood pressure were 9% more likely to have it themselves in the U.S. and England, yet they were 19% more likely in India and 26% more likely in China. The findings were similar for men married to women with and without high blood pressure.

Cultural factors could play a role in the mirrored blood pressure results, study co-author Dr. Peiyi Lu said in the release. Lu is a postdoctoral fellow in epidemiology at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health in New York City. "In China and India, there's a strong belief in sticking together as a family, so couples might influence each other's health more," Lu said. "In collectivist societies in China and India, couples are expected to depend (on) and support each other, emotionally and instrumentally, so health may be more closely entwined."

Dr. Bethany Barone Gibbs, chair of the department of epidemiology and biostatistics at the School of Public Health at West Virginia University in Morgantown, said the findings suggest that current approaches for controlling hypertension on an individual level may not be adequate. Barone Gibbs, who was not involved with the new research, led the writing panel for a 2021 AHA scientific statement about physical activity's role in managing blood pressure and cholesterol.

Making lifestyle changes, such as increasing physical activity, reducing stress or eating healthier, "may be difficult to achieve and, more importantly, sustain if your spouse or partner are not making changes with you," she said in the release.

Hale Honeybells

The once a year citrus sensation!

ONLY

\$32.99

Reg. Price \$44.99
Special Limited Time Offer!

35% SAVINGS
INCLUDING SHIPPING

BUY 12 GET 12 MORE FREE!

Call 1-877-588-0343 to order item 2692X or Visit HaleGroves.com/H4YX04

* Only \$32.99 (reg. \$44.99) plus \$7.99 shipping and handling per pack to 48 contiguous states. Some restrictions may apply. Limit: 5 boxes per customer. IC: H4YX04

SMALL BUSINESS

Spotlight

SUPPORT

Local

BUSINESSES

LIN'S LOCK & KEY, INC.

Commercial - Business - Home - Industrial

Electronic Locks - Keypads • Safes
Handicap openers • Camera Surveillance

1132 S. Clark Ave. - Bluffton
Lin Harrold, CML • (260)824-3533 Cell 827-7632
CERTIFIED MASTER LOCKSMITH

Thanks for voting me #1 Travel Agency!
Let me help you plan your next adventure!

MVP

MAGICAL VACATION PLANNER

Specializing in:

- Theme Parks
- All Inclusive Resorts
- Cruise Lines

Complimentary concierge services for all of your travel planning needs.

Stephanie Hiday - Travel Specialist
260-417-7656
s.hiday@magicalvacationplanner.com

Put your business in the

SPOTLIGHT

Call 824-0224

Liberty Center's Dick Harris to be inducted to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 2024

The late Dick Harris of Liberty Center will be inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in the 2024 class.

The banquet is scheduled for Wednesday, March 20, of next year at the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame Museum in New Castle. A banquet will follow later in the day at the Primo Banquet Hall in Indianapolis.

In his time at Liberty Center, Harris played basketball, baseball and track according to the Hall of Fame's website. He was well-known for his scoring abilities as he is still the record holder in school history with 1,000 points, and even played in a game that lasted nine overtimes.

After graduating from Liberty Center, Harris attended Manchester and continued his athletic success. He was a four-time all-conference award winner, three-time all-NAIA district and All-American, scored 2,643 points and holds several records at the school.

He then went on to play 15 year's worth of independent professional basketball in the U.S. and in the FIBA.

For those who are interested in attending the banquet, reservations will soon be available online or through the mail early in 2024. You can call at (765) 529-1891, visit www.hoopshall.com or email at info@hoopshall.com.

High School Calendar

TUESDAY, DEC 19
BOYS BASKETBALL: Southwood at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL: Bluffton at Churubusco, 7 p.m.
SWIMMING & DIVING (CO-ED): Norwell at Bluffton, 5:30 p.m.
WRESTLING: Waye at Bluffton, 6:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, DEC 20
GIRLS BASKETBALL: Northfield at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m.
WRESTLING: Norwell at Adams Central, 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY, DEC 21
GIRLS BASKETBALL: Bluffton at Fairfield,

7:30 p.m.
SWIMMING & DIVING (CO-ED): Norwell at Angola, 6 p.m.
FRIDAY, DEC 22
BOYS BASKETBALL: Norwell at Bluffton, 7:45 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL: Garrett at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m.
WRESTLING: Bluffton at ECIC Tournament (Jay County High School), 9 a.m.
SATURDAY, DEC 23
GIRLS BASKETBALL: Lawrence North at Norwell, 3:30 p.m.
MONDAY, DEC 25
No events scheduled

Purdue jumps back to No. 1 in The AP Top 25 men's poll

By AARON BEARD
AP Basketball Writer

Purdue's slide from No. 1 in The Associated Press Top 25 men's college basketball poll turned out to be brief.

The Boilermakers headlined Monday's latest poll for the second time this season after beating former No. 1 Arizona over the weekend. The Wildcats had spent two weeks at No. 1 after Purdue's loss to Northwestern ended the Boilermakers' stint at the top after one week.

Purdue received 48 of 62 first-place votes in the latest poll to jump from third with the Arizona win, which marked the program's first win against a No. 1 team in 23 years. It also marked the latest impressive non-conference win to a resume that already includes ranked teams in Gonzaga, Tennessee and Marquette.

Preseason No. 1 Kansas stayed at No. 2 with six first-place votes, while Houston moved up one spot to No. 3 and had the other eight votes. Arizona fell to fourth.

THE TOP TIER

UConn, Marquette, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Kentucky and Baylor rounded out the top 10.

Of that group, the Sooners are making their first appearance inside the top 10 since February 2021. And the Wildcats cracked the top 10 for the first time this season after beating North Carolina in the CBS Sports Classic.

RIISING AND FALLING

Kentucky's five-spot rise marked the biggest jump of the week. Oklahoma and Tennessee were next with four spots to



push inside the top 10, while No. 13 Illinois rose three spots. In all, 10 teams climbed from last week's poll.

No. 15 Gonzaga and No. 18 Clemson took the biggest tumbles, with each falling five spots after losses. Baylor, which lost in a blowout to Michigan State, and No. 12 Creighton were next by falling four spots. A total of seven teams slid from last week's rankings.

STATUS QUO

Six teams held their position from last week, including UConn, No. 19 Texas, No. 20 James Madison, No. 21 Duke and No. 22 Virginia.

WELCOME ABOARD

No. 23 Memphis and No. 25 Mississippi were the week's new additions.

The Tigers handed Clemson its first loss after a 9-0 start to jump into the rankings for the first time this season.

As for Ole Miss, the Rebels (10-0) are off to their best start since opening at 13-0 in 2007-08. The program, in its first season under Chris Beard, is ranked for the first time since January 2019.

Miami (No. 24) and Northwestern (No. 25) fell out from last week.

CONFERENCE WATCH

The Big 12 led all conferences with six ranked teams, including No. 17 BYU. The Atlantic Coast Conference was next with four teams, followed by three each for the Big East, Big Ten and Southeastern conferences.

The American Athletic Conference had two ranked teams, while the Pac-12, West Coast, Mountain West and Sun Belt conferences each had one.

Troy hires Notre Dame's OC Gerad Parker as head coach

By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Football Writer

Troy hired Notre Dame offensive coordinator Gerad Parker to be its next head coach on Monday.

Parker, 42, will replace Jon Sumrall, who left Troy earlier this month after two successful seasons to become head coach at Tulane.

With Troy filling its vacancy, all head coach jobs in Division I's Bowl Subdivision are filled.

"Gerad Parker is a proven winner with an infectious personality and passion for success who has significant experience at some of the best programs in America," Troy athletic director Brent Jones said. "He competed in the SEC as a player, has been a recruiting coordinator in the Big Ten and has coordinated highly productive offenses in the Big 12 and now at Notre Dame."

Parker will be a first-time head coach after spending two seasons at Notre Dame, the last as offensive coordinator. Parker, who played at Kentucky, has also been an

assistant at West Virginia, Penn State, Duke, Cincinnati and Purdue.

He was interim head coach at Purdue at the end of the 2016 season, in which Darrell Hazell was fired.

After a season as offensive coordinator and receivers coach at West Virginia, he joined Notre Dame in 2022 as tight ends coach for Marcus Freeman.

Parker was promoted to offensive coordinator and this past season the Fighting Irish ranked ninth in the country in yards per play at 6.95. Notre Dame's offense improved its scoring average by more than a touchdown per game during his lone season as coordinator.

"I have had the chance to work closely with Gerad for a number of years and what stands out to me the most are his leadership skills and how tirelessly he works to get the most out of his players," Freeman said in a statement posted on social media.

Troy won consecutive Sun Belt titles under Sumrall and is playing in the Birmingham Bowl against Duke on Saturday.

Tigers salvage one win in middle school hoops

Bluffton-Harrison went 1-3 against Summit Middle School Monday night.

The eighth grade boys' team lost 38-27, falling to 6-4 on the season. Leading the team in points was Gavin Grieser with 15 points, followed by Reid Abbett and Gibby Grieser (3). Bennett Stoller, Dawson Lee and Cooper Jenkins (2).

The eighth grade girls' team lost 55-33. Khloe Dick led the way with 10 points, followed by Ava Trexler, Kamryn Ault and Grace Fry (7) and Bridget Steffen (2).

The seventh grade boys' team got the lone win on the night 30-29, improving to 10-0. Summit City was also unbeaten at the time. Leading the way on the scoresheet was Vince Lambert with 17 points, Maddow White (6), Chase Kistler (3), and Ethan Ribich and Wyatt Holmes (2).

The seventh grade girls' team lost 35-30. Josie Nash led the way with 11 points, followed by Audrey Mechling (6), Gracie Jellison and Madeliene Morgan (4), Averie Patton (3) and Khloe Gehrett (2).

NCAA athletes who've transferred multiple times can play through the spring semester, judge rules

By JOHN RABY
AP Sports Writer

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — College athletes who have transferred multiple times but were denied the chance to compete immediately can play through the remainder of the academic year, a federal judge ruled Monday.

U.S. District Judge John Preston Bailey in West Virginia made the ruling on a motion filed Friday by the NCAA and a coalition of states suing the organization. Preston extended a temporary restraining order he had issued last Wednesday barring the NCAA from enforcing its transfer rule for 14 days.

The earlier ruling had opened a small window for multiple-transfer athletes to compete. But that window was extended by Monday's decision, which converts the restraining order into a preliminary injunction. Bailey also canceled a previously scheduled Dec. 27 hearing and said the case would be set for trial no sooner than

the last day of competition in the winter and spring sports seasons.

"This is a great day for student athletes — they will finally be able to compete in the sport they love," West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey said in a statement. "It's the right thing to do and I couldn't be more pleased with the outcome."

Friday's motion came after the NCAA had circulated a document to its member schools clarifying that the redshirt rule for athletes would still apply if the court's restraining order was reversed: Basketball players who compete even in one game would be using up a season of eligibility.

Several multiple-transfer men's basketball players competed in games over the weekend, including West Virginia's Noah Farrakhan, Cincinnati's Jamille Reynolds and UT Arlington's Phillip Russell.

The lawsuit, which alleges the NCAA trans-

fer rule's waiver process violates federal antitrust law, could have a profound impact on college sports if successful. In court documents, the NCAA has said the plaintiffs "seek to remake collegiate athletics and replace it with a system of perpetual and unchecked free agency."

NCAA rules allow underclassmen to transfer once without having to sit out a year. But an additional transfer as an undergraduate generally requires the NCAA to grant a waiver allowing the athlete to compete immediately. Without it, the athlete would have to sit out for a year at the new school.

Last January, the NCAA implemented stricter guidelines for granting those waivers on a case-by-case basis.

"I hope this is the beginning of real change within the NCAA," Morrisey said. "We have to put the well-being of student athletes — physical, mental, academic and emotional — first. The NCAA needs to enact consistent, logical and defensible rules that are fair and equitable for everyone."

The states involved in the lawsuit are Colorado, Illinois, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee and West Virginia.

Breakout backup players keeping Colts in playoff hunt

By MICHAEL MAROT
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indianapolis Colts starting quarterback Anthony Richardson hasn't played since Week 5.

Jonathan Taylor, the 2021 NFL rushing champ, missed his third straight game Saturday.

So when the Colts lost their leading rusher, Zack Moss, and leading receiver, Michael Pittman Jr., in the span of three second-quarter offensive plays, they didn't fret. They excelled.

Short-handed Indy erased a 13-0 deficit by scoring the final 30 points to keep its hold on the AFC's No. 7 seed for one more week and eventually move into a three-way tie for the AFC South lead.

With the playing status of Taylor (right thumb surgery), Pittman (concussion protocol) and Moss (right arm) still unclear, Indy may need similar efforts from its backups to beat Atlanta on Sunday.

"I had a chance to talk to him (Saturday) night. He's doing good," coach Shane Steichen said Sunday, referring to Pittman. "We will see how the week progresses. Same with Zack, he's doing all right."

Steichen and Colts players have been reluctant to criticize the hits that knocked out Moss and Pittman, both of which drew personal foul penalties.

Quarterback Gardner Minshew even seemed to partially blame himself for the scariest play of the game.

Steelers safety Demontae Kazee launched himself into the diving, unprotected Pittman who remained on the ground for several minutes as players from both teams took to a knee before Pittman walked off the field.

Kazee was ejected from the game and

has been suspended for the rest of this season.

"I wish I wouldn't have put Pitt in that position, honestly," Minshew said. "So you always try to do your best to protect your guys, but sometimes unfortunate things just happen in the game."

Whether Kazee's hit or Mykal Walker's horse-collar tackle on Moss as he fought his way to a 16-yard TD catch, were intentional didn't matter to the Colts (8-6). They've been playing this way all season.

Moss emerged as one of the NFL's top rushers when Taylor opened the season on the physically unable to perform list. Minshew has proven himself to be one of the NFL's most capable backup quarterbacks.

Center Wesley French and rookie tackle Blake Freeland have been solid when asked to replace injured starters Ryan Kelly and Braden Smith.

Even linebacker Ronnie Harrison Jr. has two interceptions, including a pick-6, since stepping in following the release of three-time All-Pro linebacker Shaquille Leonard.

On Saturday, Trey Sermon, Tyler Goodson and D.J. Montgomery — who spent most of this season on the practice squad — added their names to the growing list.

And to make the playoffs for the first time since 2020, Indy may need to keep playing this way for three more weeks.

"Guys have to step up and go make plays when their number is called," Steichen said. "You never know when that's going to happen. Obviously, (Saturday) was that day for those guys and they made the most of it."

UP NEXT:

The Colts will travel to Atlanta on Christmas Eve at 1 p.m.

HIDAY CHRYSLER
Your local Mopar Dealer
WE HAVE THE PARTS YOU NEED

Looking for New Tires for Your Ride?
WE HAVE ALL THE MAJOR BRANDS
GOODYEAR Firestone
BRIDGESTONE
MICHELIN

See Us for All Makes and Models of **WeatherTech PRODUCTS**

~ DISCOVER WHY IT'S BETTER IN BLUFFTON ~

HIDAY Chrysler Dodge Jeep

1791 North Main • Bluffton • 260.824.1931
www.hidaychryslerdodgejeep.com

News-Banner Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	10	4	0	.714	441/294
Buffalo	8	6	0	.571	379/254
e-N.Y. Jets	5	9	0	.357	201/287
e-New Eng	3	11	0	.214	186/299

South					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Jacksonville	8	6	0	.571	321/313
Houston	8	6	0	.571	306/295
Indianapolis	8	6	0	.571	344/343
e-Tennessee	5	9	0	.357	257/301

North					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	11	3	0	.769	384/225
Cleveland	9	5	0	.643	309/289
Cincinnati	8	6	0	.571	307/311
Pittsburgh	7	7	0	.500	223/280

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Philadelphia	10	4	0	.714	359/341
x-Dallas	10	4	0	.714	431/264
N.Y. Giants	5	9	0	.357	189/338
e-Washington	4	10	0	.286	281/423

South					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	7	7	0	.500	309/267
Tampa Bay	7	7	0	.500	296/290
Atlanta	6	8	0	.429	258/278
e-Carolina	2	12	0	.143	206/348

North					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Detroit	10	4	0	.714	382/331
Minnesota	7	7	0	.500	290/269
Green Bay	6	8	0	.429	300/301
Chicago	5	9	0	.357	287/329

West					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-San Fran	10	3	0	.769	425/234
L.A. Rams	7	7	0	.500	327/310
Seattle	7	7	0	.500	300/335
e-Arizona	3	10	0	.231	259/376

Thursday's Games
Las Vegas 63, L.A. Chargers 21
Saturday's Games
Cincinnati 27, Minnesota 24, OT
Indianapolis 30, Pittsburgh 13
Detroit 42, Denver 17

Sunday's Games
Carolina 9, Atlanta 7
Cleveland 20, Chicago 17
Houston 19, Tennessee 16, OT
Kansas City 27, New England 17
Miami 30, N.Y. Jets 0

Monday's Games
New Orleans 24, N.Y. Giants 6
Tampa Bay 34, Green Bay 20
L.A. Rams 28, Washington 20
San Francisco 45, Arizona 29
Buffalo 31, Dallas 10

Monday's Games
Seattle 20, Philadelphia 17
Thursday, Dec. 21
New Orleans at L.A. Rams, 8:15 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 23
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 4:30 p.m.
Buffalo at L.A. Chargers, 8 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 24
Cleveland at Houston, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Seattle at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Washington at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Tampa Bay, 4:05 p.m.

Arizona at Chicago, 4:25 p.m.
Dallas at Miami, 4:25 p.m.
New England at Denver, 8:15 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 25
Las Vegas at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia, 4:30 p.m.
Baltimore at San Francisco, 8:15 p.m.

College

2023-24 Bowl Glance

Team	Opponent	Time	TV
Myrtle Beach Bowl	Conway, S.C.	Ohio 41, Georgia Southern 21	
Celebration Bowl	Atlanta	Florida A&M 30, Howard 26	
New Orleans Bowl	New Orleans	Jacksonville St. 34, Louisiana 31,	
OT			
Cure Bowl	Orlando, Fla.	Appalachian St. 13, Miami (Ohio) 9	
Albuquerque, N.M.	Fresno St. 37, New Mexico St. 10		
LA Bowl	Inglewood, Calif.	UCLA 35, Boise St. 22	
Independence Bowl	Shreveport, La.	Texas Tech 34, California 14	
Monday, Dec. 18			
Famous Toastery Bowl	Charlotte, N.C.	W. Kentucky 38, Old Dominion 35, OT	

Monday, Dec. 18

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.

Sunday, Dec. 24
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.

BASKETBALL
High School
Monday Boys' Scores
Christian Academy 81, Medora 49
Edon, Ohio 46, Hamilton 30
Evansville Central 68, S. Spencer 56
Faith Christian 76, W. Central 48
Ft. Wayne Luers 65, Columbia City 55
Horizon Christian 76, Central Christian 31

Indpls Chatard 66, Indpls Shortridge 61
Indpls International 74, Indiana Deaf 58
S. Bend Clay 65, S. Bend Trinity 58
Delphi Classic
First Round
Frankfort 72, Pioneer 39
N. Montgomery 38, Rossville 33
N. Newton 42, Winamac 39
Taylor 49, Delphi 42

Monday Girls' Scores
Angola 56, Woodlan 51
Blackford 52, Monroe Central 16
Carroll (Flora) 59, Northwestern 31
Christian Academy 59, Medora 41
Covington 50, Terre Haute South 30
Dubois 44, Shoals 26
Ft. Wayne Luers 65, Columbia City 55, OT

Greenwood Christian 66, Phalen 22
Indpls Herron 85, Providence Cristo Rey 5
Wapahani 44, Muncie Central 13
Central Christian Tournament

First Round=Crosspointe Christian

Team	Opponent	Score
Academy 60, Indpls Irvington 13		
Delphi Classic		
First Round		
Delphi 57, Taylor 19		
N. Montgomery 31, Rossville 27		
Pioneer 48, Frankfort 14		
Winamac 58, N. Newton 19		

College

Men's Basketball Scores

Monday, Dec. 18		
SOUTH		
Wake Forest 88, Delaware St. 59		
MIDWEST		
Evansville 98, UT Martin 91		
Michigan St. 79, Oakland 62		
Ohio 108, Defiance 28		
SIU-Edwardsville 99, Central Christian (Mo.) 56		
W. Illinois 92, Eureka 56		
Youngstown St. 117, Westminster (Pa.) 45		

Women's Basketball Scores

Monday, Dec. 18		
EAST		
Syracuse 78, Cornell 71		
UConn 88, Butler 62		
West Virginia 77, Wright St. 72		
SOUTH		
FAU 59, UCF 58		
Mississippi 64, South Alabama 41		
MIDWEST		
Detroit 59, Bellarmine 49		
Indiana 109, Evansville 56		
Kansas St. 102, Oral Roberts 59		
Loyola Chicago 77, SIU-Edwardsville 74		
N. Illinois 65, E. Illinois 55		
UCLA 77, Ohio St. 71		
SOUTHWEST		
Texas A&M 95, MVSU 45		

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Boston	20	5	800	—
Philadelphia	18	8	692	2½
New York	14	11	560	6
Brooklyn	13	12	520	7
Toronto	11	15	423	9½

Southeast Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Orlando	16	9	640	—
Miami	15	12	556	2
Atlanta	11	15	423	5½
Charlotte	7	18	280	9
Washington	4	21	160	12

Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Milwaukee	19	7	731	—
Cleveland	15	12	556	4½
Indiana	13	12	520	5½
Chicago	11	17	393	9
Detroit	2	25	074	17½

Western Conference				
Southwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Dallas	16	9	640	—
New Orleans	16	11	593	1
Houston	13	11	542	2½
Memphis	6	19	240	10
San Antonio	4	21	160	12

Northwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	20	5	800	—
Oklahoma City	17	8	680	3
Denver	17	10	630	4
Utah	9	17	346	11½
Portland	6	19	240	14

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Sacramento	15	9	625	—
L.A. Clippers	16	10	615	—
L.A. Lakers	15	11	577	1
Phoenix	14	12	538	2
Golden State	12	14	462	4

Sunday's Games
Boston 114, Orlando 97
New Orleans 146, San Antonio 110
Milwaukee 126, Houston 119
Phoenix 112, Washington 108
Golden State 118, Portland 114

Monday's Games
Chicago 108, Philadelphia 104
L.A. Clippers 151, Indiana 127
Toronto 114, Charlotte 99
Cleveland 135, Houston 130, OT
Minnesota 112, Miami 108

Atlanta 130, Detroit 124
Oklahoma City 116, Memphis 97
Brooklyn at Utah, 9 p.m.
Dallas at Denver, 9 p.m.
Washington at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
New York at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

Tuesday's Games

Memphis at New Orleans, 7:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Boston at Golden State, 10 p.m.

Phoenix at Portland, 10 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

Charlotte at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Miami at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Utah at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Montreal 31 14 13 4 32 87 106
New York at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Boston at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

HOCKEY

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division					
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Boston	29	19	5	5	43/94
Toronto	28	16	6	6	38/106
Florida	30	18	10	2	38/91
Detroit	31	15	12	4	34/110
Tampa Bay	32	14	13	5	33/105
Montreal	31	14	13	4	32/87
Buffalo	32	13	16	3	29/90
Ottawa	26	11	15	0	22/88

Metropolitan Division					
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
N.Y. Rangers	29	21	7	1	43/96
Philadelphia	30	17	10	3	37/90
N.Y. Islanders	30	14	8	8	36/94
Carolina	31	16	12	3	35/100
Washington	28	15	9	4	34/70
New Jersey	29	16	12	1	33/101
Pittsburgh	30	14	13	3	31/87
Columbus	32	10	17	5	25/96

Western Conference					
Central Division					
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Colorado	31	19	10	2	40/113
Winnipeg	30	18	9	3	39/99
Dallas	29	17	8	4	38/106
Nashville	31	18	13	0	36/99
Arizona	30	15	13	2	32/93
St. Louis	30	15	14	1	31/88
Minnesota	29	12	13	4	28/89
Chicago	30	20	2	1	19/70

Pacific Division					
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Vegas	32	21	6	5	47/113
Vancouver	32	21	9	2	44/120
Los Angeles	27	17	6	4	38/97
Calgary	31	12	14	5	29/94
Seattle	32	10	14	8	28/89
Edmonton	28	13	14	1	27/97
Anaheim	31	12	19	0	24/105
San Jose	31	9	19	3	21/62

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

Sunday's Games

Vancouver 4, Chicago 3
Washington 2, Carolina 1, SO
Anaheim 5, New Jersey 1
Colorado 6, San Jose 2
Vegas 6, Ottawa 3

Monday's Games
Pittsburgh 4, Minnesota 3
Anaheim 4, Detroit 3
Montreal 3, Winnipeg 2, OT
Seattle at Dallas, 8 p.m.
Florida at Calgary, 9:30 p.m.

Tuesday's Games
Columbus at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Boston, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at New Jersey, 7 p

How to forgive without an apology

Dear Annie: I have found myself pregnant again, seven years after my first pregnancy. I allowed myself to have fun on vacation and came home pregnant. The second party is aware and unbothered. And that bothers me. I've been ignored and disregarded while carrying this child. I attend my doctor's appointments alone and plan to raise the child alone, as I did with my first one.

I do not understand those who do not just do what is right. To me, there is a big difference between the dishes piling up and not getting around to it versus getting someone pregnant and ignoring it. I've been a little extra with a slew of messages toward this individual and his partner. I know this makes me look bad, but I have so much anger and nowhere to put it. I don't know enough about this person to do anything in court. I don't know whether to lie and say the second party has passed away or be truthful and say he just doesn't want to be there.

Deep down, I know karma will come and do what it does best; until then, however, I've been told I just need to "let it go."

How can something so miraculous make me feel so devastated? — Angry Mom

Dear Angry Mom: The father of your child has legal obligations to provide child support. Many states have different laws on this subject, so you really need to find an attorney who can help you, which might include tracking down "the second party," as you call him, and securing a court-ordered paternity test, if necessary. You don't have to do it all on your own.

Dear Annie

by Annie Lane



But yes, in answer to your question, that seems to be life. There is so much that is miraculous and so much that is tragic. The important thing is that you help to manage your anger and find a good therapist to help you sort through it — both for yourself and for your children. As the saying widely attributed to Buddha says, "Holding onto anger is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die." Best of luck to you and your children.

Dear Readers: Here is an excerpt from a beautiful poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson about forgiveness.

"Forgive my grief for one removed, Thy creature, whom I found so fair. I trust he lives in thee, and there I find him worthier to be loved.

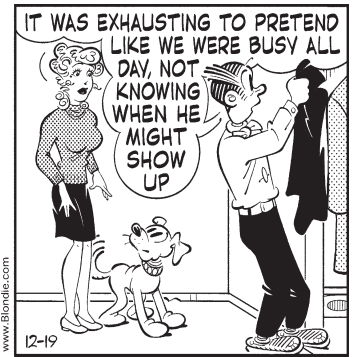
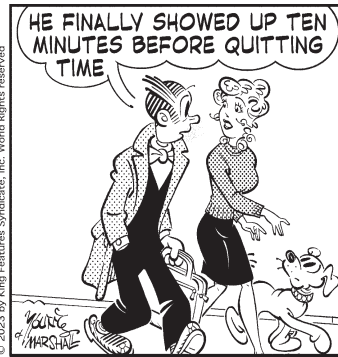
Forgive these wild and wandering cries, Confusions of a wasted youth; Forgive them where they fail in truth, And in thy wisdom make me wise."

"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. © 2023 CREATORS.COM

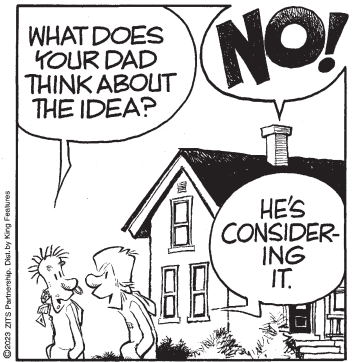
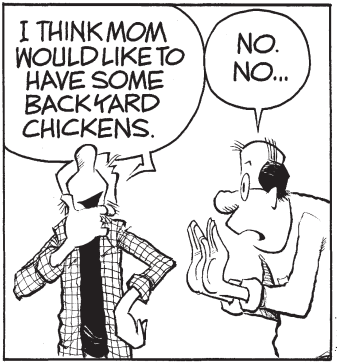
BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



ZITS



CRANKSHAFT



My Answer



By Dr. Billy Graham

Faith is the only approach to God

(Colossians 1:10, NIV).

Heaven with Him for eternity. God offers mankind salvation. It is a free gift from Him, because Christ has already paid for it by His death on the cross. But we must repent and receive Him as Savior and follow Him as Lord. Jesus said, "He who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life" (John 5:24, NKJV).

Faith is the only approach to God. No one goes to Heaven until he or she has faith in Jesus Christ.

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

©2023 Billy Graham Literary Trust. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Q: I work hard to live right, though I fail most every day in some way. I try hard to please God. I do want to be in Heaven someday and want to know if I can be assured of this if I keep working at it. — W.H.

A: It is wrong to want to please God for the wrong reason. Many people hope they can somehow get God to like them. They think they can earn God's love by being a good person. Then there are others — far too many — who simply ignore God or don't care what He thinks about them. The Bible urges us to "please [God] in every way: bearing fruit in every good work"

No matter how good we think we are, we can never earn God's love because God's standard is perfection. Even one sin — just one — would be enough to keep us out of Heaven. The Bible says, "For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all" (James 2:10, NKJV).

This doesn't mean that God will never love us. It doesn't mean that we cannot be saved. No human is perfect. But Jesus in His perfect righteousness came to forgive mankind their sins and make us part of His family forever. He did this because He loves us and wants us to be in

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



The LOCKHORNS



12/19	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 (32)	11	26	63		3D Woman Julie & Friends	Movie					TCT Today News-w	Place for Miracles James Robison	Dr. Robert Jewish Jeffrey Jesus	Andrew Womack	Ask the Pastor	Rabbi Lapin					
CBS WANE (35)	2	15	15		News (N) Inside Edition (N)	News at 6 (N) CBS News (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N) Jeopardy! (N)	The Price is Right at Night (N) The Bunker	Big Brother Reindeer Games (N)	FBI True "Boy in the Moment"	Nightcast (N) (35) Late Show-Colbert (N)	(35) Comics Unleashed									
Antenna WANE-2 (352)	106	20			Chicago Fire "Angry Is Easier"	Chicago Fire "A Beautiful Lie"	Chicago Fire "Nemesis"	Chicago Fire "Something for the Pain"	Chicago Fire "How Does It End?"	Chicago Fire "The Man of the Moment"	Chicago Fire "Run Like Hell"	Chicago Fire "Damage Control"									
ABC WPTA (21)	4	3	21		ABC21 News at 5 (N)	ABC21 (N) ABC World News (N)	Ent. Tonight (N)	Prep-Landing Prep & Landing	Light Fight The Rowe, Spacy, Hanson & Tran families compete for their shot at taking home the \$50,000 prize.	ABC21 (N) (35) Jimmy Kimmel Live! (N)	(35) Nightline										
NBC WPTA-2 (212)	7	8	14		Family Feud 25 Words or Less	News (N) NBC News (N)	Family Feud	The Voice (N)	The Voice Four icons compete to find & transform America's inspiring voices into music's next phenomenon.	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 Last Man Explorers	Chicago Fire	Chicago Fire	Mom Mom	Goldbergs "Airplane!"										
CW WISE (33)	4	4	33	33	The Steve Wilkos Show	TMZ Live (N)	Dish Nation (N)	TMZ (N)	Inside the NFL Week 15 "Country Roots"	Whose Line (N) Whose Line	Dish Nation (N) TMZ (N)	Family Guy Family Guy	Bob's Burgers Bob's Burgers								
PBS WFWA (38)	13	5	39	39	(4:00) Season CLOWN-Blake	PBS Newshour (N)	BBC News America	Healthline (N)	Finding Your Roots "Country Roots"	America-Judy (N)	Frontline Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's turbulent relationships with the U.S. & Palestinians.	Amanpour and Company (N)									
PBS WFPB (48)	3				(4:00) Season CLOWN-Blake	Context	PBS Newshour (N)	Finding Your Roots "Country Roots"	America-Judy (N)	Frontline (N)	Amanpour and Company (N)	Amanpour and Company (N)									
FOX WFTT (55)	6	5	55	55	WFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	Big Bang	Big Bang	LEGO Special guests pair up with former contestants to compete in ingenious holiday-themed challenges.	FOX 55 News First at 10 (N)	FOX 55 News First at 10 (N)	Young Sheldon Young Sheldon	Neighbor Neighbor								
CABLE CHANNELS																					
LIFE	23	113	108	252	Castle "Knockout"	Castle "Rise"	Castle "Heroes & Villains"	Castle "Head Case"	Castle "Kick the Bolider"	(55) Castle "Eye of the Beholder"	(55) Castle "Demons"	Castle "Head Case"									
FX	24	132	136	148	(4:00) Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back	Andy Griffith Andy Griffith	Modern Family Modern Family	Modern Family Modern Family	Modern Family Modern Family	Modern Family Modern Family	Modern Family Modern Family	Modern Family Modern Family									
TVLAND	25		106	304	Modern Family Modern Family	Modern Family Modern Family	Modern Family Modern Family	Modern Family Modern Family	Modern Family Modern Family	Modern Family Modern Family	Modern Family Modern Family	Modern Family Modern Family									
E!	26	142	114	236	Modern Family Modern Family	Modern Family Modern Family	Modern Family Modern Family	Modern Family Modern Family	Modern Family Modern Family	Modern Family Modern Family	Modern Family Modern Family	Modern Family Modern Family									
PARMT	30		241	241	Modern Family Modern Family	Modern Family Modern Family	Modern Family Modern Family	Modern Family Modern Family	Modern Family Modern Family	Modern Family Modern Family	Modern Family Modern Family	Modern Family Modern Family									
ESPN	31	50	140	206	Around (N) Pardon (L)	SportsCenter	College Basketball Florida vs. Michigan from Spectrum Center in Charlotte, N.C. (L) (N)	College Basketball Virginia at Memphis (L) (N)	College Basketball North Carolina vs. Oklahoma (L) (N)	SportsCenter (L) (N)	UFC (N)										
ESPN2	32	54	143	209	Football Football	The Point	NHL Hockey St. Louis Blues at Tampa Bay Lightning from Amalie Arena in Tampa, Fla. (L) (N)	Blues Post (L) (N)	Life News Facing Waves	Lights Out XF An elite fighting series that features crossover bouts, tournaments, title bouts and more.	Young Sheldon Young Sheldon	Neighbor Neighbor									
FSMW	33		418	671	(4:30) Live on the Line	Pregame (L) (N)	NHL Hockey St. Louis Blues at Tampa Bay Lightning from Amalie Arena in Tampa, Fla. (L) (N)	Blues Post (L) (N)	Life News Facing Waves	Lights Out XF An elite fighting series that features crossover bouts, tournaments, title bouts and more.	Young Sheldon Young Sheldon	Neighbor Neighbor									
USA	34	133	105	242	Law-SVU "Remember Me in Quarantine"	Law-SVU "Remember Me in Quarantine"	Law-SVU "The Long Arm of the Wines"	WWE NXT WWE Superstars compete to prove they've got what it takes. (N)	WWE NXT WWE Superstars compete to prove they've got what it takes. (N)	WWE NXT WWE Superstars compete to prove they've got what it takes. (N)	WWE NXT WWE Superstars compete to prove they've got what it takes. (N)										
DISC	35	72	182	278	Master Distiller "Big Box Store Showdown"	Moonshiners "A Very Moonshiners Christmas"	Distiller "Holiday Spirits Showdown"	Moonshiners "Making Spirits Bright"	Moonshiners "Making Spirits Bright"	Moonshiners "Making Spirits Bright"	Moonshiners "Making Spirits Bright"										
TLC	36	73	183	280	(4:00) 90 Day: The Other Side	The Curse of Oak Island "Shear Mystery"	1000-Lb. Sisters 1000-Lb. Sisters	1000-Lb. Sisters 1000-Lb. Sisters	1000-Lb. Sisters 1000-Lb. Sisters	1000-Lb. Sisters 1000-Lb. Sisters	1000-Lb. Sisters 1000-Lb. Sisters										
HST	38	77	120	269	(4:00) Nanny Day: From the Bible II	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.										
A&E	39	134	118	265	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.										
HALL	40	117	185	312	(4:00) It's Christmas, Eve (18) LeAnn Rimes.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.										
SYFY	41	135	122	244	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.										
TBS	43	130	139	247	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.										
TNT	44	131	138	245	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.										
AMC	45	131	1254		Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.										
COM	47	107	249		Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.										
FS1	48	64	150	219	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.										
WE	57	126	260		Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.										
FOOD	59	153	110	231	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.										
BRavo	60	140	129	237	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.										
NICK	68	170	299		Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.										
DISN	69	30	172	290	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.										
FREEFORM	70	32	180	311	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.										
HBO	301		300	501	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.										
MAX	325		310	515	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.										
SHOW	351	851	318	545	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.										
TMC	375	859	327	553	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.	Neighbor. Neighbor.										

BUY IT SELL IT RENT IT FIND IT FILL IT GET IT DO IT

IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

Place Your Ad 24/7/365!
www.news-banner.com

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Incubator neighbor
5 Fan's cry
8 Scat queen
12 Thus
13 Flamenco cheer
14 13, to Cato
15 Hiker's snack
17 Harrow rival
18 Nine-digit ID
19 Non-dairy milk variety
20 Potpourri aroma
21 Heavy weight
22 Actor Ferrigno
23 Snug
26 Nudges roughly
30 "Understood"
31 Kenny G's instrument
32 Yard tool
33 Chinese leader

DOWN

1 Favorites
2 Messes up
3 Novelist Jennifer
4 Luau
5 Kieran's role on "Succession"
6 Landed
7 Bewitch
8 Will VIP
9 Low-calorie
10 King of the jungle
11 "— She Sweet"
16 Booty
20 "Help!"
21 Hit sci-fi film with Keanu Reeves
22 Bagel topper
23 Bit of advice
24 Leb. neighbor
25 "My word!"
26 Cookie holder
27 Science room
28 Scrape (out)
29 Filming site
31 Stitch
34 — Jima
35 Rotate
37 Rib
38 Zilch
39 Actor Jannings
40 Staffer
41 Paris airport
42 Off in the distance
43 "Star Trek" captain
44 Chopping tools
46 Chai, e.g.
47 Biol. or chem.

Solution time: 22 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 12-19

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13			14		
15					16			17		
18					19			20		
23	24	25			26			27	28	29
30					31			32		
33					34			35		
					36			37		
38	39	40			41			42	43	44
45					46			47		
48					49			50		
51					52			53		

The Classifieds

Place Your Ad 24/7: GO TO www.news-banner.com AND CLICK ON "Classifieds"

OR CALL 824-0224 MON-FRI 8-5 • TOLLFREE 800-579-7476 • FAX 824-0700

WE ACCEPT



Plus! SEE your ad published every day in Wells County homes ...
All ads are searchable at classifieds.news-banner.com...

SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★

12/19

©2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Home Furnishings



ESTATE WASHER AND Roper dryer, excellent condition, \$75 each, 260-224-2685.

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.

REAL ESTATE

Real Estate

HELOISE HINT: If family members all seem to have allergies or are coughing when they are at home. Thoroughly clean your home. Get rid of dust, pollen, dirt and pet dander -- all of which contribute to the issue. Vacuum the carpets, drapes and bedding, and wash, if needed. Email HELOISE@Heloise.com.

Lottery Numbers

Monday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 21-30-33-41-43
Cash4Life — 04-18-28-36-60, Cash Ball: 02
Quick Draw Midday — 06-11-13-20-24-26-32-34-36-39-42-46-47-52-53-59-63-68-73-76, BE: 13
Daily Three-Midday — 09-03-00, SB: 01
Daily Three-Evening — 09-06-08, SB: 02
Daily Four-Midday — 01-01-00-03, SB: 01
Daily Four-Evening — 00-07-03-03, SB: 02
Quick Draw Evening — 06-10-17-20-22-26-27-33-38-41-49-54-59-64-66-67-70-75-76-78, BE: 20
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$1.4 million
MEGA MILLIONS
Estimated jackpot (for Tuesday): \$41 million
POWERBALL
Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$543 million

Home For Sale



COMPLETELY REMODELED, 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home at 711 W. Cherry St. All new appliances, paint, interior trim, water lines and drains, siding and windows. Call (260) 820-2765 or (260) 273-1580. Sale price \$172,000.

SERVICES

Services

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

DENIED SOCIAL SECURITY Disability? Appeal! If you're 50+, filed for SSD and denied, our attorneys can help get you approved! No money out of pockets! Call 1-855-995-4758 (I)

SERIOUSLY INJURED IN an AUTO ACCIDENT? Let us fight for you! Our network has recovered millions for clients! Call today for a FREE consultation! 844-517-6414 (I)

Services

BECOME A PUBLISHED Author. We want to Read Your Book! Dorrance Publishing-Trusted by Authors Since 1920 Book manuscript submissions currently being reviewed. Comprehensive Services: Consultation, Production, Promotion and Distribution Call for Your Free Author's Guide 1-888-965-1444 or visit dorranceinfo.com/hosier (I)

NEW WINDOWS FROM Window Nation. Special money saving offer zero down, zero payments, zero interest for TWO years AND buy 2 windows and get 2 FREE! Offer is valid for select models. Labor not included. Other restrictions apply. Call Window Nation today! 866-553-0725 (I)

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. Swearingen, has devoted his legal practice to assisting clients in preserving the family assets from the high cost of Nursing Home and In-Home Healthcare.
SWEARINGEN ELDER LAW
• Medicaid Planning • In-Home Healthcare Planning
• Durable Power of Attorney • Wills, Living Wills, & Advance Healthcare Directives
• Estate Planning & Deeds • Special Needs Trusts
• Long Term Care Planning
(260) 888-9256
FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION!

STOR-N-GO STORAGE UNITS
2740 E. 200 N. • Bluffton, IN • 260.273.8345
with Security Cameras

Primary Contracting, LLC 260-223-4276 Ask for Edwin Wickey
House's and barns - Metal or Shingle Roofs
Decks or New Construction Additions Pole Barns
Free Estimates and Inspections for remodeling
AN MUNCH MORE! COMPETITIVE RATES!

Home Remodel and Repair
Locally Owned
Repair Bowed Basement Walls
Foundations repaired
Floor joist repair or replaced
Concrete • Doors
Windows • Painting
Tile • Small Jobs Welcome
Text me at 260-301-1269
Jim Baker

Sure-Flo Seamless Gutters
5" & 6" Continuous Gutters
Leaf Protection Systems
Large Color Selection - FREE Estimates
260-888-5062
www.seamlessgutter.net

Genesis Pest Services
Locally Owned by Geoffrey Horner
260-227-0742
geoff@genesispestservices.com

YOUR LOCAL AGENTS, HERE FOR YOU.

INDIANA FARM BUREAU INSURANCE
BLUFFTON OFFICE: (260) 824-2234
1307 Baker Place • Bluffton, IN
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:
• FREE Medicare Supplement Comparison
• Life Planning
• Safe Money Ideas
• Dental • Vision • Hearing

JC'S GARAGE DOOR SALES & SERVICE
All makes & models • broken springs & cables
Owner: James Fisher • Sales: Carl Fisher
"50 Years of Combined Experience"
Call us at 824-3262

A-1 U-Stor
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

HIDEAWAY BEERBOURBON
THURSDAY - Dollar Off Drinks (Excludes Pop)
WEDNESDAY - KARAOKE
FRI. & SAT. - Live Music
Follow us on Facebook for our Events.
123 S JOHNSON ST. • 824-0455

South Side Storage Poneto, IN
260-273-7946
312 W. St. Rd. 218
Jim Ameter

Warren Pharmacy
(260)375-2135
Nature's Sunshine Distributor
222 N. Wayne St., Warren • 1-800-895-7035
Terry Daniels, Pharmacist • Melinda Daniels, RN

For as little as... **\$187** PER ISSUE
YOUR BUSINESS IN THE NEWS-BANNER Every Day!
Call 824-0224 or 622-4108
Jan. deadline is Tues. Dec. 26!

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

COUNTRY PLACE Apartments
408 Countryside Drive, Ossian
• 1 & 2 Bedrooms
• Laundry Facilities On-Site
• All Ground-level
• Private Entrances
• Equipped Kitchen
260 622-6429
Virtual Tours Offered
TDD: 7-1-1
OssianApartments.com

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

EXPERIENCED WORSHIP/YOUTH LEADER, Faith Community Church (Huntington In.), myfaithcommunity.org, FT/PT Flexible - Competitive Salary, Email: jason@myfaithcommunity.org

THE TOWN OF Warren is now accepting applications for a general labor position serving all departments of the Town - Water, Electric, Sewer, Street, and Park as well as any other duties which could/would be assigned under Town operations. Prior Municipal work experience, background in electric work, and/or licensing preferred but not necessary to be considered. Applications can be found online at warrenindiana.us or picked up at Town Hall, 132 N. Wayne Street and will be accepted until January 15, 2024. Call 260-375-2656 for further information. Town of Warren, Indiana, is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

THE TOWN OF Warren is now accepting applications for Operations Manager to oversee all departments of the Town - Water, Sewer, Electric, Street, Park as well as any other duties which could/would be assigned through the Town Council related to Public Works operations. Prior Municipal Work Experience, Managerial Experience, and at least one License preferred but all three not required. Wage based on experience level. Applications can be found online at warrenindiana.us or picked up at Town Hall, 132 N. Wayne Street. Applications and resumes will be accepted until January 15, 2024. Call 260-375-2656 for further information. Town of Warren, Indiana, is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

HELOISE HINT: If a co-worker takes credit for a project that you have done. Take these steps: Collect documents or proof that show who worked on which part of the project. Then you can take this information and calmly discuss the situation with your supervisor. Send your job-success story to HELOISE@Heloise.com.

Read & recycle

SUDOKU ANSWER

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

FOR SALE

Miscellaneous

EVEREST VX3 ICE & WATER VENDING MACHINE This Everest VX3 water/ice vending machine is the perfect addition to any business looking to boost their profits. With the ability to dispense both water and ice, this unit is sure to be a hit with customers. The machine is in great working condition and has been slightly used, making it a cost-effective option for those looking to invest in a vending machine. This unit is made in the United States and comes with a unit quantity of 1. Included is an all season insulation package, ice shield ozone disinfection, and cold fusion energy recovery. It is perfect for placement in other beverage and snack vending locations, as well as in restaurant and food service settings. Don't miss out on the opportunity to make extra money with this Everest VX3 vending machine. \$45,000.00 260-273-7020 glacierpure@outlook.com

Sporting Goods

NEW, 40 INCH, folding, mini trampoline with carrying case and bar, \$55, OBO, 565-4556.

Pets

HELOISE HINT: Cat misbehaving? If your kitty is jumping on or clawing furniture, and positive reinforcement isn't working, spritz a bit of water onto them and repeat this every time you see them on the furniture. They will eventually get the idea and stop. Fax Heloise @ 210-HELOISE (435-6473).

Public Sale Calendar

DECEMBER 23-JANUARY 1 - Online only auction - Various consignors, seller. Modeline MCM floor & table lamps and Art Nuevo, Presidential collection, advertising, toys, early Moxie thermometer, 25+ Nativity scenes, antiques, vintage primitives, artifacts, trains, Fenton, Haviland & Franciscan china, antique furniture, military items, salesman samples and miniatures, coins & currency. Preview: Dec. 26 from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. and Dec. 28 from 3 p.m.-6 p.m., 102 South Jefferson, Ossian. Sale manager, Rod Fetters. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.
BIDDING NOW OPEN AND STARTS CLOSING DECEMBER 27 - 10 a.m. EST - Whites Meat Market, owner. Complete liquidation. Meat saws, scales, display coolers, retail shelving, stainless sinks and tables, Herring Hall Marvin safe and much more! Auction pick up Dec. 29, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. EST, 46 W 400 S #1, Kokomo, IN. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com.
DECEMBER 31-JANUARY 7 - Estate of Mary Lynn Lautzenheiser, seller. Personal property online only auction. John Deere mower, lawn & garden, furniture, Christmas, books, household. Open houses: Jan. 4 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Jan. 6 from 10 a.m. to noon, 4917 E 100 N., Bluffton, IN. Isaac Stoller, sale manager, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, <http://www.steffengrp.com>, 260-824-3006.
JANUARY 11 - 6 p.m. - Estate of Mary Lynn Lautzenheiser, seller. 4917 E. 100 N., Bluffton, IN. One-of-a-kind property w/ quick access to Bluffton, Decatur, Fort Wayne. Main home was once township school building, and has covered porch walk through to previous dance studio that has potential to be fourth living unit. Property also offers detached two car garage and two-unit apartment building. Open houses: Jan. 4 from 4-6 p.m., Jan. 6 from 10 a.m.-noon. Isaac Stoller, sale manager, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, <http://www.steffengrp.com>, 260-824-3006.
JANUARY 12 - 10 a.m. - Secured creditors & various consignors, owners. 815 Adams St., Decatur. Online only truck and equipment auction. Online bidding only. Offering 500+ lots! 2012-2014 Freightliner M2106 box trucks, dump trucks, day cabs, sleepers, utility trucks, bucket trucks, utility & semi trailers, SUV's, pickup trucks, 250+ various skid steer attachments, various truck parts, fencing, work benches, tool boxes and much more! Accepting consignments! *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com.
BIDDING NOW OPEN AND STARTS CLOSING JANUARY 17 - 6 p.m. EST. - Gary Meyer, owner. Online only commercial real estate auction! 1,376 sq. feet building, 2 bay service area, 15'x16' office space, paved parking lot, .46 acre triangle lot located on N. Main Street, (Hwy. 27) Zoned: Commercial. Year built: 1950. Wabash Township, Section 29, Adams County, Indiana, South Adams School Corp. Auction preview Jan. 8, 4-5 p.m. or by appointment, 617 N. Main St., Geneva. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com.

U.S. envoys work for hostage deal, scale-down of Israel-Hamas war

But say no timetable

By TARA COPP,
MELANIE LIDMAN and
SAMY MAGDY
Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — The head of the CIA jetted to Europe for talks with Israeli and Qatari officials Monday, sounding out the potential for a deal on a new cease-fire and the release of hostages in Gaza, as the U.S. defense secretary spoke to Israeli military leaders about scaling back major combat operations against Hamas.

Still, there was no sign that a shift in the war was imminent after more than two months of devastating bombardment and fighting. Fierce battles raged in northern Gaza, where residents said rescue workers were searching for the dead and the living under buildings flattened by Israeli strikes.

Pressure is growing, as France, the U.K. and Germany — some of Israel's closest allies — joined global calls for a cease-fire over the weekend. Israeli protesters have demanded the government relaunch talks with Hamas on releasing more hostages after three were mistakenly killed by Israeli troops while waving a white flag.

U.S. officials have repeatedly expressed concern about the large number of civilian deaths in Gaza. But after talks with Israeli officials Monday, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said, "This is Israel's operation. I'm not here to dictate

timelines or terms." The U.S. has vetoed calls for a cease-fire at the U.N. and has rushed munitions to Israel.

The U.N. Security Council delayed a vote to Tuesday on an Arab-sponsored resolution calling for a halt to hostilities to allow unhindered access to humanitarian aid. Diplomats said negotiations were taking place to get the U.S. to abstain or vote "yes" on the resolution.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has insisted that Israel will keep fighting until it ends Hamas rule in Gaza, crushes its formidable military capabilities and frees hostages still held in Gaza since the deadly Oct. 7 attack inside Israel that ignited the war. Militants killed some 1,200 people and abducted 240 others in the attack.

The war has killed more than 19,000 Palestinians and demolished much of the north into a moonscape. Some 1.9 million Palestinians — nearly 85% of Gaza's population — have fled their homes, with most packing into U.N.-run shelters and tent camps in the southern part of the besieged territory.

HOSTAGE TALKS

In an apparent sign that talks on a hostage deal were growing more serious, CIA Director William Burns met in Warsaw with the head of Israel's Mossad intelligence agency and the prime minister of Qatar, a U.S. official said. It was the first known meet-

ing of the three since the end of a weeklong cease-fire in late November, during which some 100 hostages — including a number of foreign nationals — were freed in exchange for the release of around 240 Palestinians held in Israeli prisons.

National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said the talks were not "at a point where another deal is imminent."

Aiming to increase public pressure on the Israeli government, Hamas released a video showing three elderly Israeli hostages, sitting in white T-shirts and pleading for Israel to bring their immediate release.

The comments were likely made under duress, but the video signaled Hamas wants to move on to discussions of releasing sick and elderly men in captivity. Israel has said it wants around 19 women and two children freed first. Hamas says the women include soldiers, for whom it is expected to demand a higher price in terms of prisoner releases.

Hamas and other militants are still holding an estimated 129 captives. Hamas has said no more hostages will be released until the war ends.

SCALING DOWN THE WAR

Austin, who arrived in Israel with Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. CQ Brown, said he and Israeli officials exchanged "thoughts on how to transition from high intensity operations" in Gaza and how to increase the flow of humanitar-

ian aid.

American officials have called for targeted operations aimed at killing Hamas leaders, destroying tunnels and rescuing hostages. U.S. President Joe Biden warned last week that Israel is losing international support because of its "indiscriminate bombing."

Speaking alongside Austin, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said only that "the war will take time."

Israeli military spokesman Daniel Hagari said the Israeli chief of staff met with Austin and Brown and presented "plans for the continuation of the battle in the coming stages."

European countries appear to be losing patience. "Far too many civilians have been killed in Gaza," EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell posted on X.

Under U.S. pressure, Israel provided more precise evacuation instructions earlier this month as troops moved into the southern city of Khan Younis. Still, casualties have continued to mount and Palestinians say nowhere in Gaza is safe as Israel carries out strikes in all parts of the territory.

Israel reopened its main cargo crossing with Gaza to allow more aid in — also after a U.S. request. But the amount is less than half of prewar imports, even as needs have soared and fighting hinders delivery in many areas. Israel blocked entry off all goods into Gaza soon after the war started and weeks later began allowing

a small amount of aid in through Egypt.

MORE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION

At least 110 people were killed in Israeli strikes Sunday on residential buildings in the urban Jabaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza, Munir al-Boursh, a senior Health Ministry official, told Al Jazeera television.

Fierce fighting continued Monday in Jabaliya and the Gaza City districts of Zaytoun and Shijaiyah, where tens of thousands of Palestinians remain trapped, crowded in homes or schools.

In Jabaliya, first responders and residents searched the rubble of many collapsed buildings. "They use their hands and shovels," said Amal Radwan, who is staying at a U.N. shelter there. "We need bulldozers and above all the bombing to stop."

More than 19,400 Palestinians have been killed, according to the Health Ministry, which has said that most are women and minors and that thousands more are buried under rubble. The ministry does not differentiate between civilian and combatant deaths.

Israel's military says 127 of its soldiers have been killed in the Gaza ground offensive. It says it has killed thousands of militants, without providing evidence.

Israel blames civilian deaths on Hamas, saying it uses them as human shields. But the military rarely comments on individual strikes.

Sandra Day O'Connor, first woman on Supreme Court, honored as trailblazer

By LINDSAY
WHITEHURST
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, was remembered Monday as a trailblazer who never lost sight of how the high court's decisions affected all Americans.

O'Connor, an Arizona native who was an unwavering voice of moderate conservatism for more than two decades, died Dec. 1 at age 93. Mourners at the court on Monday included Vice President Kamala Harris, the first woman to serve in her role, and her husband Doug Emhoff.

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor spoke at a private ceremony that included the nine justices and retired Justice Anthony Kennedy, as well as O'Connor's family and court colleagues.

"She would often say, 'It was good to be first, but I don't want to be the

last,'" Sotomayor said of O'Connor's distinction as the first woman. She lived to see a record four women serving on the high court.

"For the four us, and for so many others of every background and aspiration, Sandra was a living example that women could take on any challenge, could more than hold their own in any spaces dominated by men and could do so with grace," Sotomayor said.

O'Connor's body lay in repose after her casket was carried up the court steps with her seven grandchildren serving as honorary pallbearers. It passed under the iconic words engraved on the pediment, "Equal Justice Under Law," before being placed in the court's Great Hall for the public to pay their respects.

Funeral services are set for Tuesday at Washington National Cathedral, where President Joe Biden and Chief Justice John Roberts are scheduled to speak.

O'Connor was nominated

in 1981 by President Ronald Reagan and confirmed by the Senate, ending 191 years of male exclusivity on the high court. A rancher's daughter who was largely unknown on the national scene until her appointment, she received more letters than any other member in the court's history in her first year and would come to be referred to by commentators as the nation's most powerful woman.

O'Connor had "an extraordinary understanding of the American people," and never lost sight of how high court rulings affected ordinary Americans, Sotomayor said.

She was also instrumental in bringing the justices together with regular lunches, barbecues and trips to the theater. "She understood that personal relationships are critical to working together," the justice said.

O'Connor wielded considerable influence on the nine-member court, generally favoring states in disputes with the federal government

and often siding with police when they faced claims of violating people's rights. Her impact could perhaps best be seen, though, on the court's rulings on abortion. She twice helped form the majority in decisions that upheld and reaffirmed Roe v. Wade, the decision that said women have a constitutional right to abortion.

Thirty years after that decision, a more conservative court overturned Roe, and the opinion was written by the man who took her place, Justice Samuel Alito.

O'Connor grew up riding horses, rounding up cattle and driving trucks and tractors on the family's sprawling Arizona ranch and developed a tenacious, independent spirit.

She built a career that included service as a member of the Arizona Legislature and a state judge before her appointment to the Supreme Court at age 51.

O'Connor retired at age 75, citing her husband's struggle with Alzheimer's

disease as her primary reason for leaving the court. John O'Connor died three years later, in 2009. After her retirement, she expressed regret that a woman had not been chosen to replace her.

She remained active, sitting as a judge on several federal appeals courts, advocating for judicial independence and serving on the Iraq Study Group. President Barack Obama awarded her the Presidential Medal of

Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

"She changed something," said Karen DiMario, 62, of Lake Forest, Illinois, who came to pay her respects with her husband Joe DiMario, 63. O'Connor's life and experiences brought an important perspective to the court that had long been lacking, and her centrist reasoning had strong legal, rather than political, underpinnings, the couple said.

Pentagon announces international mission to counter attacks on commercial vessels in Red Sea

By TARA COPP and
LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — The U.S. and a host of other nations are creating a new force to protect ships transiting the Red Sea that have come under attack by drones and ballistic missiles fired from Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin announced early Tuesday in Bahrain.

The seriousness of the attacks, several of which have damaged the vessels, has led multiple shipping companies to order their ships to hold in place and not enter the Bab el-Mandeb Strait until the security situation can be addressed.

The U.S. military's Central Command reported two more of the attacks on commercial vessels Monday. A strike by attack drone and ballistic missile hit a tanker off Yemen, at roughly the same time a cargo ship reported an explosive detonating in the water near them, the military said.

"This is an international challenge that demands collective action," Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said in statement released just after midnight in Bahrain. "Therefore today I am announcing the establishment of Operation Prosperity Guardian, an important new multinational security initiative."

The United Kingdom, Bahrain, Canada, France, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Seychelles and Spain will join the U.S. in the new mission, Aus-

tin announced. Some of the countries will conduct joint patrols while others provide intelligence support in the southern Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

Several other countries have also agreed to be involved in the operation but prefer not to be publicly named, a defense official said on the condition of anonymity to discuss additional details of the new mission that have not been publicly announced.

The mission will be coordinated by the already existing Combined Task Force 153, which was set up in April 2022 to improve maritime security in the Red Sea, Bab el-Mandeb and the Gulf of Aden. There have been 39 member nations in CTF 153, but officials were working to determine which of them would participate in this latest effort.

Separately, the United States has also called on the United Nations Security Council to take action against the attacks.

In a letter to council members obtained Monday by The Associated Press, U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said Houthi attacks targeting commercial vessels legalizing transiting the international waterways continue to threaten "navigational rights and freedoms, international maritime security, and international commerce."

The 15 council members discussed the Houthi threat behind closed doors Monday but took no immediate action.

Two U.S. warships — the USS Carney and the USS Mason, Navy destroyers — have been moving

through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait daily to help deter and respond to attacks from the Houthis.

Connect Anywhere, Anytime.

Enjoy Free Internet Data on Your Mobile Devices with ACP

You qualify today for the Government Free Internet Program if a household of two has an income of less than \$39,440, or if you receive:

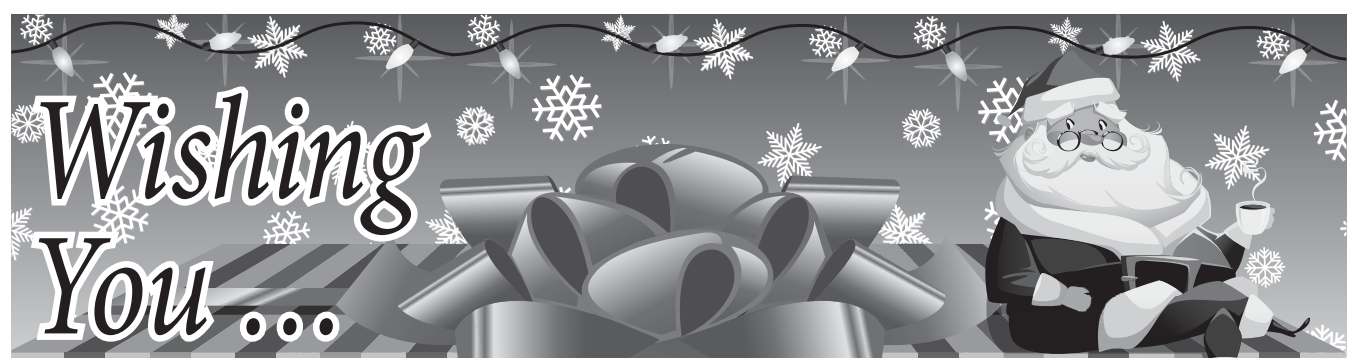
- Medicaid
- SNAP
- SSI
- WIC
- Veterans Pension
- Survivors or Lifeline Benefits
- Tribal Assistance Program
- Housing Assistance

maxsip
TELECOM



Get a subsidized 4G Android Tablet for \$20

CALL TODAY (866) 981-3302



The Season's Best & The Merriest Christmas Ever!



WE WISH YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

CLUTCH F.C.C. TECHNOLOGY

FCC (Adams), LLC

Apply via Text "fccapply" to 866-902-0138

936 East Parr Road Berne, IN. www.fcc-na.com

Merry Christmas

from all of us at ...

LEHMAN FEED MILL INC

HOLIDAY HOURS:
DECEMBER 24 & 31 • 7AM-12PM | CLOSED CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS

5111 S 000 Rd. • Berne, IN • 260.589.2451

Thank You for Your Support Through the Year. Have a Safe & Happy New Year!