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**State moves forward** 

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2024

BLUFFTON, INDIANA · Wells County's Hometown Connection

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# Extradition process is ongoing for Castleman

By SYDNEY KENT

The lengthy process of extradition continues for the Markle man accused of murdering his 72-year-old grandmother in her home late last year.

Anthony Castleman

37, refused to waive extradition and return to Indiana by his own volition. Because of this, a trail of paperwork must make its way from the Hun-

Anthony

Castleman,

tington County prosecutor, to the Indiana Attorney General and the Georgia governor. Once both officials approve the paperwork, a warrant will be issued to the Crisp County Jail for Castleman's return to the state.

This is according to Josh DeForce, a media representa-

tive with the Office of the Attorney General. DeForce confirmed that the necessary paperwork has arrived at their office, however, it is not yet clear if Georgia has received the request.

Huntington County Sheriff Chris Newton confirmed the department is well prepared to bring Castleman home to face his reported charges.

According to a probable cause affidavit, a warrant was issued for Castleman's arrest in late November after local authorities discovered the body of his grandmother, Bernice "Dianna" Eubank. Castleman allegedly left the state following the her death.

Over a month later, Castleman was taken into custody in a small town in Rochelle, Georgia, according to a press release from the Rochelle Police Department. His arrest was the result of nearly a dozen state and local agencies working in tandem.

Rochelle Chief of Police Jimmy
(Continued on Page 2)



Stephen Pastore (left) shook hands with Judge Kenton Kiracofe following the ceremony. (Photo by Sydney Kent)

# Wells County probation officer is sworn in to new role

By SYDNEY KENT

Stephen Pastore, a probation officer with the Wells County Probation Department, has been sworn in as assistant chief probation officer in the Wells Circuit Court.

Pastore explained that the role is new to the department, with the position still in preliminary stages of development.

"I'm excited," Pastore said. "This is a great opportunity to expand on some projects we're working on to

provide better service to the county and community."

Chief Probation Officer Greg Werich said he recommended Posters for the recition which he had

ommended Pastore for the position, which he has advocated for over the last several years.

"It's important for continuity of leadership when

I'm gone," Werich explained. "This is my now 37th year as a probation officer, 26 years here. I hired Stephen out of an internship. I've seen him grow and take interest. This will be a natural role for him."

tural role for him.′′ sydney@news-banner.com

# Wells EMS fund continues decline

By HOLLY GASKILL

"Healthcare is in general scary. What's it going to be like in the EMS world in 5-10 years? I don't know," said Rick Piepenbrink, CEO of Wells County EMS.

In a financial update to the Wells County Council Tuesday evening, Trent Bucher of Honegger, Ringger and Co. advised that the fund that supports county EMS services is on track for total depletion within the next five years. "It's coming," Bucher concluded.

The matter is something county officials have been aware of for years — EMS revenue has remained consistent, but costs continue to grow. A fund established with the sale of the Wells Community Hospital has supported EMS operations, but as the fund has dwindled, the County Council has contributed an additional \$100,000 in recent years to help subsidize costs.

According to Bucher, roughly two-thirds of EMS runs are billable, often meaning the individual required transport to a hospital.

The other one-third concludes with an individual being cleared medically or seeking other transportation.

Of the billable trips Bucher reported, 65 percent are billed to Medicaid or Medicare, which covers a portion of the cost. "We've found that price increases have very little effect on our revenue stream because so many of our ridership is Medicare, Medicaid," Bucher said.

The council has taken some steps to correct this curve — the EMS fund was discussed as a possible beneficiary of an expected increase in tax revenue due to the reduction of property tax credits last September.

Council member Seth Whicker asked Piepenbrink if Wells should consider following in the footsteps of Allen County, where firefighters are being cross-trained as para-

While Piepenbrink didn't take the prospect off the table, he expressed multiple concerns with (Continued on Page 2)

# House moves retiree 13th check, hears concerns on school referenda levy cap

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ Indiana Capital Chronicle

The House Ways and Means Committee on Thurs-

The House Ways and Means Committee on Thursday unanimously advanced a Republican leadership priority bill offering public retirees a bump in benefits.

Lawmakers also heard testimony on legislation that would extend a cap — worth \$87 million — on school operating referendum levies for another year.

House Bill 1004 author Rep. Bob Cherry said that thousands of former employees make just \$800 a month, and some only \$200 a month.

His bill would offer a 13th check between \$150 and \$450 to public retirees — teachers, former state employees and others — based on years of service. Dedicated funding in separate accounts already exists to cover the estimated \$33 million cost.

State police would be eligible for a 1 percent share of the maximum pension for a trooper with certain

years of service, paid from the budget-funded State Police Pension Trust Fund. That's expected to cost about \$400,000, according to a state fiscal analysis.

About 88,000 Hoosiers across the funds would get a supplement to retirement benefits that don't keep up with inflation.

Representatives for public educators and other retirees spoke in favor of the measure, along with union advocates.

The committee approved the measure 23-0. It will

next be heard on the House floor. But it already — again — faces an uncertain road in the Senate.

Lawmakers in that chamber have been hesitant to

authorize another ad hoc benefit bonus before a twoyear task force concludes its work. That body recently recommended that Indiana move to a long-term, mixed approach.

Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray, R-Mar-(Continued on Page 2)

# Millions of Americans face below-zero temperatures

By GILLIAN FLACCUS and CHRISTOPHER WEBER Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Subfreezing temperatures across much of the U.S. left millions of Americans facing dangerous cold as Arctic storms left four dead and knocked out electricity to tens of thousands in the Northwest, brought snow to the South, and walloped the Northeast with blizzard conditions that forced the postponement of an NFL game.

An estimated 95 million people

An estimated 95 million people nationwide faced weather warnings or advisories Sunday for wind chills below zero Fahrenheit. Forecasters said the severe cold was expected to push as far south as northern Texas while the bitter blast sends wind chill readings as low as minus 70 degrees in Montana and the Dakotas.

"It takes a matter of minutes for frostbite to set in," the South Dakota Department of Public Safety said in a statement Sunday urging people to stay indoors.

In Buffalo, New York, where snowfall of 1 to 2 feet was forecast, severe conditions led officials to postpone the Buffalo Bills-Pittsburgh Steelers NFL playoff game from Sunday to Monday. Winds whipped at 30 mph, and snow was falling at a rate of 2 inches per hour.

Workers with shovels and trucks worked to clear snow from the field at Buffalo's Highmark Stadium as the Bills warned volunteers eager to help with the shoveling to stay at home and not defy a travel ban on area roads.

"Looks like a pretty good day to not have a football game," New York Gov. Kathy Hochul, a Buffalo native, posted on X with a video clip of whiteout conditions in the western New York city.

At least one Bills player was out in the bad weather Sunday putting his newfound free time to good use. Offensive tackle Ryan Van Demark shared a video on Instagram showing fellow lineman Alec Anderson helping a motorist struggling with icy road conditions.

"Good Samaritan, Alec, helping the people," Van Demark narrates on the brief clip.

Zack Taylor, a National Weather Service meteorologist in College Park, Maryland, warned some parts of the Northeast would see intense snowfall and extreme winds, with gusts up to 50 mph possible.

"That's why they're expecting to see near-blizzard conditions at times," Taylor said.

Across the country in Oregon, more than 130,000 homes and businesses were without electricity, most of them in the Portland metro area, a day after high winds and a mix of snow and ice brought

down trees and power lines.

"Given the extent of the damage and the high level of outage events, restoration efforts will continue into the week and customers are encouraged to plan accordingly," Portland General Electric said in a statement. The utility said it was watching a second weather pattern that could bring high winds and freezing rain on Tuesday.

The City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services said its crews were working non-stop at multiple locations to make emergency repairs and prevent sew-

(Continued on Page 2)

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# Outside



Another freezing cold day, chance of snow tonight

Today	Tuesday	Wed.					
High 9	High 8	High 22					
Low 1	Low 3	Low 16					
M W 4 D 2							

More Weather on Page 2



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## **Extradition process**

Banks told The News-Banner he first encountered Castleman on Christmas Day outside of a popular gas station. In an effort to get to know the people in town, particularly on a holiday, Banks approached him.

"He absolutely refused to acknowledge my presence," Banks said. "I've been doing this for 26 years. I knew something seemed amiss with him, but he would not talk to me."

Banks said Castleman's

initial reaction further compelled him to believe he could be a subject that was wanted or hiding. He contacted a female officer with the department, Misty Eno, and asked her to approach the man. Banks believed she could have better luck.

Eno reportedly took video footage and photos of Castleman through her body camera while she attempted to speak with him. Banks then sent the footage to detectives in Indiana, who confirmed Castleman's iden"Not even a few minutes after that, the sheriff made contact with me," Banks continued. "(Castleman) sat in front of a small store in town. We're a small community — but it gets busy.

Our first thought was to do this in a safe manner so no more innocent people were hurt." Banks recounted that during the arrest, Castleman insisted he was someone

else and gave officials a false

name. His appearance was

significantly different from the mugshot shared on social media as authorities attempted to locate his whereabouts. Ultimately, three matching tattoos led detectives to believe he was the suspect wanted for murder.

"If it was not handled by every agency, exactly the way it was," Banks concluded, "he would have gotten away. Everyone went above and beyond the call of duty, both here and those in Indiana."

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# Weather

Monday, January 15, 2024 (24-hour observations at 9:39 p.m. Sunday) **High:** 17; **Low:** -3; **Precipitation:** 0.3 inches of snow

and 0.03 inches of melted snow Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 3.88 feet at 9:45 p.m. Sunday

### Wells County forecast

Today: Partly sunny and cold, with a high near 9. Wind chill values as low as -25. West wind around 10 mph.

**Tonight:** A 30 percent chance of snow, mainly after 1 a.m. Cloudy, with a low around 1. Wind chill values as low as -15. West wind around 10 mph. **Tuesday:** Mostly sunny and cold, with a high near 8.

Wind chill values as low as -15. West wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 3.

Southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 22. Breezy. Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow after 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 16. Breezy. Thursday: A 40 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a

high near 25. **Thursday Night:** A 40 percent chance of snow. Cloudy,

with a low around 13.

Friday: A 30 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy and cold, with a high near 18.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 3.

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny and cold, with a high near 14. **Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 4. **Sunday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 22.

"It's cold out here," said

Arkansas Gov. Sarah

Tramel, who told KSLA-TV

she bought bread and ingre-

dients for enough soup to

Huckabee Sanders declared

a state of emergency in

advance to give utility trucks

and trucks hauling essential

supplies greater flexibility to

capital city of Jackson were

preparing for days of freez-

ing weather after cold snaps

in 2021 and 2022 caused

pipes to burst and water

pressure to drop across the

as we can that we're pre-

pared for whatever comes

our way," Ted Henifin,

Jackson's interim manager

of Jackson's long-troubled

water system, told WAPT-

TV. He said crews were on

standby to respond to any

just bring snow and ice.

Record high tides that flood-

ed some homes in Maine

and New Hampshire on

Saturday also swept three

historic fishing shacks into

the sea from where they

had stood for more than

130 years in South Portland,

washed away," Michelle Ers-

kine said Sunday, a day after

capturing video footage of

the last two wooden shacks

Portland, 100 trees toppled

Saturday, including one that

fell on a house and killed a

man. Two other people died

of suspected hypothermia

and a fourth died in a fire

that spread from an open-

flame stove after a tree fell

winds had let up Sunday in

Oregon, but frigid tempera-

tures meant roads remained

treacherous and much of

Portland was shut down. In

nearby Lake Oswego, Glenn

Prohaska was looking for a

business that had WiFi so he

could book a hotel. With the

power out, the temperature

in his home had dropped to

the 20s overnight.

The snow and gusting

onto an RV.

In Oregon, just south of

sliding into the ocean.

"History is just being

The wild weather didn't

"We feel as confident

city of 150,000.

broken pipes.

Maine.

Officials in Mississippi's

last days.

respond.

### **EMS** fund

(Continued from Page 1)

the concept. Namely, the dual positions are compensated at a much higher rate and require greater training in positions that are already difficult to staff. At this time, Piepenbrink said his team is fully

Council member Vicki Andrews then asked if there was potential to tighten certain line items. Piepenbrink said he had recently been asked the same question by the EMS

Advisory Board: "Closing the south station would save \$400,000, but nobody wants to do that. I can't safely cover the county with two ambulances."

EMS utilizes three stations throughout the county, "one or two going to Fort Wayne at any given time," Piepenbrink said. Given the time required to make these runs, Piepenbrink said the third vehicle is essential to the county's emergency services. EMS's current

average response time is seven minutes and 39 seconds, Bucher reported.

Piepenbrink additionally emphasized how closing the station in the southern part of the county would be a significant disservice to residents in that part of the county. However, this doesn't appear to be a serious consideration at this time.

Nothing further was decided by the council on Tuesday.

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### **House moves**

(Continued from Page 1) tinsville, said Thursday that his caucus had learned "a lot" from the task force and is looking at a different approach than the House.

Legislation from task force chair Sen. Brian Buchanan, R-Lebanon, would require the Indiana Public Retirement System board to develop the capability to pay members of certain funds by category: one group would get a 13th check and the other a 1 percent COLA.

Who gets what? Senate Bill 275 says the General Assembly would set the "to be determined" cutoff date dividing the two groups. The bill requires the board to set surcharge rates to pre-fund those bonuses.

"We'll have a serious conversation about that. I can't tell you where we'll land," Bray told reporters.

School levy cap draws fire — but no vote

The committee also heard testimony from worried schools and supportive fiscal experts on legislation extending a cap on school operating referendum levies.

Chair and author Rep. Jeff Thompson said that nobody could have predicted the growth in assessed value — which increases the amount of money collected back when pre-2023 referenda were on the ballot.

He said House Bill 1120 is a "decrease in the increase" that schools would get. And he clarified that the decrease is based off the maximum levy to avoid penalizing "frugal" school corporations. They can choose to levy at a rate below the one voters approve or extend.

A fiscal analysis shows that 61 school corporations with 62 operating referendum levies would max out their levies at \$86.7 million less than what they would receive without the cap.

That also means property owners will save that amount.

The biggest losers would be Indianapolis Public

Schools, with a loss of \$12.5 million, and Carmel Clay Schools, with a loss of \$8 million. An additional 21 school corporations could miss out on at least \$1 million each.

Westfield Washington School executive Brian Carmichael called his school corporation one of the fastest-growing schools in the state. He said it gained 520 students in the last year, which came with an 8 percent increase in cost.

Former Rep. Tony Cook, now the executive director of the Indiana Coalition for Growing and Suburban Schools, said the bill "handicaps the ongoing success" of schools like Carmichael's.

Indianapolis Democrat Greg Porter additionally asked to not penalize "mature" districts that aren't growing — but still have significant needs for which voters have approved fund-

As education finance expert Denny Costerison testified in opposition to the bill, Cherry cautioned that assessed values are variable and can easily decrease in turn lowering the amount schools get through their levies.

"We can't get you used to spending all that," Cherry said.

David Ober, from the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, supported the measure because when assessed value grows so much, "there's a windfall that's captured." He said lawmakers should get to decide how that's handled.

But, he suggested that referenda going forward include projections of how much money could be collected across the lifetime of a levy, instead of just the

Voters, Ober said, "should know what they're voting for."

The committee didn't vote on the bill. Thompson said he was working on an amendment that could limit levy growth in some other

why," said 1st Lt. Bryan

Agustin, another of the stu-

dents behind the Oath Project

who is stationed at Goodfel-

low Air Force Base in Texas.

had a short time before

graduation, they were able

to change some of the lan-

guage in their commis-

sioning ceremony, adding

more history about the oath

before it was administered.

The incoming basic class

that fall also had the history

added to their ceremony.

According to copies pro-

vided by the academy, the

phrasing in both cases noted

that the oath had its roots

in the Revolutionary War

and was given to support

"the democratic processes

and civil liberties that our

Founders enumerated in the

Project has been instru-

mental in further changes,

including to basic training

for new students and to their

handbooks. The group's

work also is integrated

throughout cadets' academic

and military training. Future

plans include symposiums

for other service academies

and ROTC units.

Since then, the Oath

Constitution."

Although the seniors

age releases into homes and businesses. Portland's largest sewage pump station, which serves downtown and

ages affecting tens of thousands were also reported Sunday in Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. In Nebraska, the Omaha Public Power District asked customers to con-

due to a frozen pipe.

"The weather came on faster and has been more prolonged than anticipated," the district said in a state-

Airports across the country were impacted. More than half of flights into and out of Buffalo Niagara International Airport were canceled. Scores of flights also were canceled or delayed at Chicago, Denver and Seat-

conditions" possible.

Another Arctic storm that's dumped heavy snowfall in the Rockies was forecast to push further south, potentially bringing 4 inches to 6 inches of snow to parts of Arkansas, northern Mississippi and west Tennessee.

Juan Villegas wore layers of clothing beneath his heavy coat Sunday as he and roughly a dozen subcontractors in downtown Des Moines, Iowa, shoveled away a blanket of snow, which also covered park benches and partially buried fire hydrants the day before the state's presidential caucuses.

Working in temperatures of minus 15 degrees, Villegas said the best way to feel warm was to "just keep moving.'

"If you stay doing nothing, it's when you really feel the cold," Villegas said.

Much of Wisconsin were under advisories through Monday afternoon, with predicted wind chills as low as 30 degrees below zero.

Louisiana, Alabama and Georgia could see snow. In Shreveport, Louisiana, Mary Trammel was among residents who stocked up on bottled water, food and fuel for generators ahead of subfreezing weather expected to coat some roads in ice and up to an inch of snow.

### **Below-zero**

(Continued from Page 1) the surrounding inner city, was under partial service

Widespread power outserve electricity to prevent outages.

ment Sunday.

tle-Tacoma airports.

Forecasters also warned that rapid bursts of heavy snow and wind could cause drastic and sudden drops in visibility in eastern Pennsylvania and parts of northern New Jersey and Delaware with some "near whiteout

Even parts of northern

### to Constitution as political divisions intensify WEST POINT, N.Y. (AP) to the military leaders in tive, the Oath Project. allegiance to sovereigns or - For 75 minutes, Maj. his administration as "my "Instigation of potential individuals as opposed to Joe Amoroso quizzed his the U.S. military's oath to generals." Earlier this year, uprising or any issues on he suggested that a former students in SS202, Ameri-Capitol Hill creates immedithe Constitution. "We knew what it was can Politics, about civilian chairman of the Joint Chiefs ate concern for the military leadership of the military, of Staff, retired Army Gen. and for the larger public as and the do's and don'ts, but we didn't really go into the

U.S. military academies focus on oaths, loyalty

the trust between the armed forces and the public, and how the military must not become a partisan tool.

There was one answer, he said, that would always be acceptable in his class filled with second-year students at the U.S. Military Academy. Hesitantly, one cadet offered a response: "The Constitution.

"Yes," Amoroso said emphatically.

His message to the students, known as yearlings, was simple: Their loyalty is "not about particular candidates. It's not a particular person or personality that occupies these positions. It's about the Constitution."

The emphasis for the next generation of military officers that their loyalty must be focused on the nation's democratic underpinnings rather than on any individual is a reflection of how the armed forces are being forced to deal with America's deep political polarization at a time when trust in traditional institutions is eroding.

The role of the military in particular has come under scrutiny as former President Donald Trump runs to reclaim the White House and has laid out an aggressive agenda should he win. It includes potentially using the military in ways other presidents have not. That could mean invoking the Insurrection Act to send units to the border or patrol the streets of predominantly Democratic cities.

Trump's rhetoric about top commanders also has raised concerns. While in office, Trump once referred Mark Milley, be put to death for treason.

President Joe Biden, in his first campaign address of the year, warned about Trump's rhetoric on the military and its leadership.

With cadets and midshipmen drawn from across the United States, students at West Point and other service academies are aware of the national mood and the potential for political divisions to seep into the military.

They encounter an array of classes on the Constitution and, in some cases, the history of the civilian-military relationship. Each graduate who is commissioned takes multiple oaths at school and during their service. Milley emphasized the significance of the oaths in his retirement address last fall, appearing to take aim at Trump.

We don't take an oath to a king or a queen or to a tyrant or a dictator. And we don't take an oath to a wan-

nabe dictator," he said. At the Air Force Academy, the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol was a top subject of discussion in the Civil-Military Relations class when junior and senior-year cadets began the

spring semester the next day. The coincidental timing "brought introspection about their oath as future officers," said the instructor,

Marybeth Ulrich. One result

was a cadet-driven initia-

a whole. So we were very aware of the events as they were unfolding," said 1st Lt. Darrell Miller, now stationed with the Space Force at **Buckley Space Force Base** near Denver, and one of the 13 students in the class who started the project.

Dozens of former and active duty military members have been charged in the Jan. 6 assault, an attempt to stop Congress from certifying the 2020 presidential election that Democrat Biden won over Republican Trump. A recent Defense Department inspector general report showed that dozens of military members were suspected of extremist activities that included conspiring to overthrow the government, though the number represents a tiny fraction of the more than 2 million U.S. service members

When the students examined the three oaths they had sworn to, Miller said they realized there had not been much education about them -- "a line by line breakdown. What does it mean? What are you really swearing your allegiance to essentially.

The group suggested more emphasis on the history and purpose of their oaths and also "what you are actually swearing your allegiance to," he said. One point was showing the distinction between countries where the military professed

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## Bluffton-Harrison Middle School announces Quarter 2 honor roll

Bluffton-Harrison Middle School has released the names of its students on the high honor roll and honor roll for the second term of the 2023-24 school year.

5th Grade

**High Honor Roll** Naomi Fry, Landon Heer, Hunter Johnson, Roman Mills, Eric Rinkenberger, Samuel Roush, Stella Schroeder, Brayden Smith, Roman Vasquez, Mackenzie White, Aldan Wood and Liam Yates.

**Honor Roll** 

Amalia Ali, Harvey Bedwell, Leah Bertsch, T.J. Borabo-Hower, Amelia Burman, Remington Claghorn, Callie Craig, Keagen DeLaGrange, Trace Donahoe, Ethan Donovan, Rykker Dunn, Brynlee Gaskill, Kendall Gaskill, Averie Gavilanez, Grace Gillette, Aria Graham, Mianna Hall, Reid Harris, Finlay Herrold, Ember Hiser, Hunter Holloway, Kyla Isch, Griffin Kaehr, Sean Kelly, Saul Luciano-Camarena, Ryan McPherson, Evelyn Meyer, Patton Moore, Daisy Murray, Lakyne Neuenschwander, Brynn Reinhard, Titan Robles, Mia Smith, Nicholas Stanley, Paige Steffen, Brooklyn Stoller, Willow Todd, Landry Villanueva, Cameron Walker, Gambit Walton and Trace

**High Honor Roll** 

Abram Atkins, Kreigh Ault, Eli Brooks, Rowan Drayer, Blaine Ehrman, Molly Frauhiger, Abigail Garrett, Clive Gerber, Parker Grandlienard, Renley Hurst, Parker Klopfenstein, Wesley Kunkel, Cadence Lehman, Jessica Littell, Paisley Neuenschwander, Emily Priester, Erin Ramseyer, Ithan Rinkenberger, Seryniti Seale, Adrienne Smallman, Liam Smith, Rhys Smith, Leona Veselji and Dominic Wilson.

Honor Roll

Aleah Adams, Janeah Bennett, Riker Beste, Ethan Brown, Olivia Brown, Harrison Buroker, Christian Clubs, Brooklyn Coratti, Naomi Dailey, Mercedes Diaz Sanchez, Cooper Dunnuck, Olivia Ehrhart, Bianca English, Collin Ewart, Addison Gerber, Braxton Graham, Kinsey Hartman, Aaron Hay, Broderick Hohe, Maylee Holmes, Maddox Kauffman, Kole Kiefer, Brielle Lortie, Fernando Luciano-Camarena, Myah Martin, Molly Mills, Joel Moeller, Olivia Morgan, Lucy Moser, Phoebe Mygrant, Averie Pearson, Madelyn Platt, Hudson Reineck, Charlotte Rhoderick, Payson Rickard, Avalynn Scheiman, Easton

Schipper, Kasetyn Shuman, Jordan Simpson-Barkley, Cheyenne Sonnigsen, Ciomara Tello, Delilah Traynor, Autumn Watson, Hudson Withers, Lincoln Xayyachack and Nea Zuniga.

> 7th Grade **High Honor Roll**

Adelyn Atkins, Elijah Bendes, Adalynn Bertsch, Jeremy Brown, Lyla Feinberg, Otto Fiechter, Morgan Fox, McKenna Fry, Khloe Gehrett, Amelia Geisel, Heath Gerber, Landry Grandlienard, Ellah Grimes, Anna Hartman, Reece Himes, Barbie Jellison, Cleyton Kenworthy, Chase Kistler, Audrey McMillan, Audrey Mechling, Avery Meyer, Irene Monagle, Foster Monticue, Madeleine Morgan, Gabryella Pauley, Layne Philebaum, Quinton Saige, Charlie Schantz, Eli Seago, Croy Stout, Elizabeth Tlaclomulco-Moreno and Deacon Yates.

**Honor Roll** 

Wren Ault, Braxton Bebout, Cooper Bustos, Zain Butcher, Kayden Claghorn, Alexander Cortez, Alanna Croft, Virginia Cummins, Sahkorra Echevarria, Dane Fiechter, Asher Fritz, Marlie Fry, Kyla Hall, Keaton Ingram, Sebastian Jones, Vince Lambert, Alana Marquart, Christian Marshall, Aiden Martin, Rosemary Miller, Hadley Moehlenkamp, Madalynn Narvaez, Macy Onweller, Harper Patterson, Averie Patton, Ethan Ribich, Kolten Schlichter, Cameron Simpson, Trace Simpson, Laila Stein, Bailey Surbaugh, Liam Teeple, Aubrey Walker, Corban Wheeler, Maddox White and Harper

8th Grade **High Honor Roll** 

Reid Abbett, Kamryn Ault, Andy Baumgartner, Chayson Brown, Mason Engle, Tess Frauhiger, Eden Gerber, Rafe Gerber, Macy Lemler, Chloe Lesh, Emily Maggard, Abigail Ramseyer, Addison Smith, Kenley Smith, Addison Sonnigsen, Mia Sprunger, Bennett Stoller, Violetta Tarasova and Ava Trexler.

**Honor Roll** 

Wyatt Beer, Austin Bennett, Krista Blair, Grayson Crowder, Khloe Dick, Grace Fry, Kylee Gottschalk, Gavin Grieser, Gibson Grieser, Cora Kunkel, Dawson Lee, Leah Lovell, Klay Markley, Jaida Mills, Camora Otero, Cooper Pearson, Avery Pfister, Elizabeth Premo, Finn Reinhard, Kyla Reinhard, De'Twan Richardson, Natalie Scher, Breeanna Schmidt, Bridget Steffen, Alisa Stone, Brenton Zhang and Hunter Zoll.

# **Indiana Senators advance** omnibus health care, dental bill

By WHITNEY DOWNARD **Indiana Capital Chronicle** 

DeLayne Lefevre has two dental practices serving thousands of patients in Madison and Delaware counties. Her patient, whom she called Jim, needed dentures and extractions but his specific Assignment of Benefits with his insurance company didn't allow direct payment to Lefevre.

"I agreed to allow Jim to pay once his insurance carrier sent him the check. A couple of months passed without any payment so my team called the insurance company and asked where the payment was. They said they'd already processed that claim and they sent the check to Jim," Lefevre detailed before the Senate health committee on Wednesday.

But when Lefevre called Jim, he'd already spent the money thinking it was an insurance refund check.

"Jim says ... 'I don't have any money to pay you, Dr. Lefevre, but I sure do like my teeth," Lefevre recalled. "So he got the teeth, he got the extractions and I never got paid for it.

In another type of clinic, a patient's insurance might pay the bill directly. But dentists and insurers have a different relationship. Because of that, dentists say that many patients simply walk out of their offices without paying or get a check from their insurance and spend it without knowing it's meant for their dental care.

Senate Bill 132 seeks to remedy that by adding some additional regulations on insurers and, crucially for Lefevre and others, allow patients to assign benefits to dental providers whether or not their dentist is innetwork.

authored by The omnibus measure Fort Wayne Republican Sen. Liz Brown also includes requirements for the Family and Social Services Administration's rollout of Managed Care for Long-Term Supports and Services, tweaks telehealth law, eases licensing for foreign-born nurses, eliminates certain requirements for health facility administrators and more.

**Dental provisions draw debate** 

Lefevre, speaking as part of a team from the Indiana Dental Association supportive of the bill, said she now collects upfront for new patients or those whose out-of-network insurance policies mimic Jim's with an AOB that doesn't transfer rights and benefits to a third party like Lefevre.

"People hate to go to the dentist; they're scared, they're anxious for whatever reason ... now imagine what they have to go through to now change their provider because their insurance carrier won't pay us as dentists," Lefevre said. "The added stress to that — they may choose not to go to the dentist  $-\dots$  that is a loss of continuity of care."

But not everyone agreed, including one of the state's largest non-profit dental insurance providers: Delta Dental of Indiana, which has a participation agreement with roughly 80% of the state's dentists.

Dentist Jeff Johnston — Delta's senior vice president and chief science officer for Michigan, Ohio and Indiana — noted key differences between in-network and out-ofnetwork dentists, including requiring free replacements for improperly fitted crowns.

"Insurers require dentists to meet certain credentialing standards, abide by claims processing policies and adhere to quality of care standards ... (that) offer significant cost and treatment safeguards for patients," Johnston said. "We are convinced that (AOBs) will yield smaller networks (and) it will be creating an incentive for dentists to drop out of an insurance network because they're getting the payment directly.'

"Dentists can and will charge higher fees to avoid the insurance costs and quality protections. In other words, patients will end up paying more and receiving less," he contin-

Johnston said Indiana allowed AOBs in 2008 and subsequent efforts to tweak the dental insurance process resulted in one change: a requirement for insurers to specify if a payment is meant for dentists and not the patient.

"That's as far as the General Assembly has gone in the past, I think, because of concerns about the protections that will be lost for patients," Johnston said.

Delta's testimony was repeated by the Insurance Institute of Indiana, which said insurers would also be negatively impacted as providers dropped out — a cost they claimed would be passed onto consumers — as well as the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, which called AOBs a "billing and collection issue etween a doctor and patient."

Brown pushed back, saying she'd incorporated previous Delta concerns into the bill and called for insurers to pay dentists directly — even if it meant a reduced sum for outof-network providers.

Language for long-term care, nurses Another portion of the bill includes payment deadline requirements for the Family and Social Services Administration when it goes live with a new managed care plan for long-term care, otherwise known as Path-

ways to Aging. Hoosiers in nursing homes and assisted living facilities or those utilizing homeand community- based services are the last population not under a managed care plan, which is set to roll out this summer. Brown said this bill doesn't jeopardize or slow down that rollout but that other states transitioning to such plans had reported delayed payments to providers.

Managed care is a model for delivering health care services in which one key entity manages each aspect of care for a consumer for a flat, up-front sum per person, rather than providers individually charging the state piecemeal for each service, also known

# **Wells Court Docket**

Wells Superior Court **Criminal Cases** 

John M. Laisure, 64, Ossian, was sentenced to 730 days in jail with 728 days suspended and 2 days of jail credit. Laisure was

also ordered to serve one tional counts for intimidayear on probation and 180 days on home detention. Level 6 felony. Three addi- of \$769.

tion, all Level 6 felonies, were dismissed pursuant to The sentence was issued the plea agreement. Laisure after Laisure pled guilty to is required to pay court costs one count of intimidation, a and filing fees in the amount

## Parkview Huntington recognized for excellence in maternal, infant health

Parkview Huntington Hospital was recently recognized by the Indiana Hospital Association, in partnership with Gov. Eric J. Holcomb and State Health Commissioner Dr. Lindsay Weaver, for their commitment to infant and maternal health at the fourth annual INspire Hospital of Distinction recognition program.

INspire, funded by the Indiana Department of Health's Safety PIN grant, was developed to implement the delivery of best practice care for Hoosier moms and babies and recognize hospitals for excellence in addressing key drivers of infant and maternal

'We're proud to be recognized for the excellent care we provide to moms and babies," said Deb Potempa, market president, Parkview Health South. "At Parkview Huntington Hospital, we continually strive to ensure that mothers have a healthy pregnancy and the resources they need to raise a healthy

Parkview Huntington Hospital earned the Hospital of Distinction recognition - achieved by exceeding criteria in four or more categories – based on implementing best practices in seven key areas, including infant safe sleep, breastfeeding, tobacco prevention and cessation, perinatal substance use, obstetric hemorrhage, maternal hypertension and social determinants of

"This recognition reflects Parkview's unwavering commitment to healthy moms and babies," said Dr. Thomas Miller, physician executive, Women's and Children's service line, Parkview Health. "We strive to provide the highest quality of care to our communities, and we will continue to follow best practices that ensure mothers receive the care and support they need, while infants are given the best possible start in life."

Parkview Noble Hospital, Parkview Whitley Hospital and Parkview Hospital Randallia also received the Hospital of Distinction honor, while Parkview Regional Medical Center was honored in the Category of Excellence.

"Our birthing hospitals work tremendously hard to make sure all babies born in Indiana have the best start at life, while caring for the mothers who delivered them," Dr. Weaver said. "Reducing infant and maternal mortality requires a continued, multi-pronged approach over the course of many years to see impactful change. It is heartening to see the progress we've made, but we must continue to adopt best practices so that we can celebrate more first birthdays in

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### **Obituary Policy**

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

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

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

Preston Kaehr - Julie Myers - Connie Vangelakos

**Everlyn Joan** Brewer Calling: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Monday, January 15. Funeral: 1 p.m. Monday, January 15 at

the funeral home. Goodwin -Cale & Harnish 🎚 MEMORIAL CHAPEL

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### Report card: Grading the legislative agendas

Everyone has an agenda in the Indiana General Assembly. I thought I'd round them up for you — complete with

My grades will be based on key factors, such as whether the agenda makes a real impact, addresses a pressing need or ignores other critical matters.

### Gov. Eric Holcomb

Holcomb's agenda includes both governing and legislative priorities. Since it's session, I am focusing on his legislative goals.

Gov. Eric Holcomb pushes his legislative agenda at this state of the state speech Jan. 9, 2024. (Monroe Bush for Indiana

Hoosier **Opinions** Capital Chronicle) He starts with a variety

Niki

Kelly

of regulatory changes that could make it easier for child care providers to find staff. More staff means more seats that Hoosier parents desperately need. The lack of seats — and high prices — keep some parents out of the workforce. The changes must be balanced, though, to make sure child safety is not compro-

Holcomb also wants to improve reading rates for Indiana's third graders. His idea to require the IREAD-3 test to be taken first in second grade is a shockingly simple change that could make a real difference. The earlier we have data, the more remediation can happen. Remediating on the front end is far better than the other option: making children repeat third grade. It's clear some children are being promoted to fourth grade when they are not ready. But holding back nearly 8,000 children seems a bit extreme. Doing so might well result in them being able to read. But studies show these children are more likely to drop out of school

due to the social impacts. Holcomb's proposal to expand awards from the State Disaster Relief Fund seems pragmatic and helpful, if not

Creating yet another task force, this one on bail reform, is yawn-worthy, though.

Overall grade: B

### **House Republicans**

House Republicans have a small but interesting agenda. The first is a simple idea that could help fill the tens of thousands of empty jobs in the state. It would allow Hoosiers to receive financial aid from the Frank O'Bannon Grant and 21st Century Scholarship to include job training and not just traditional college coursework. Many youth aren't interested in college anymore and don't believe it's worth the money. But some kind of training, credentials and postsecondary education is necessary to make a living. This could be a nice move with the one caution that it could increase the costs of an already-expensive program.

The House will move a 13th check bill to make right a wrong from last year. To be fair, they weren't the problem. For decades lawmakers have provided an additional check or cost-of-living adjustment to public retirees. But inexplicably, the Senate blocked the move last year and thousands of public servants were left without. The money isn't an issue because it's already sitting unused in a dedicated

The House also has an administrative bill to "protect taxpayers and business owners who interact with state agencies." It's nebulous insider baseball. And I haven't been given any concrete examples of the problem they are

Lastly, a move to support Indiana's Jewish community against antisemitism is laudable but more complicated than it seems at first blush.

Grade: B+

### **Senate Republicans**

This caucus is helming efforts to improve literacy. Prior to the bill becoming public Thursday, there has been a lot of talk about the thousands of students who fail the state reading test and don't meet an exception but are still promoted to fourth grade.

It seems like the Senate plan doesn't materially change Indiana's retention policy because it generally codifies what is already in a State Board of Education rule while adding another exception. There is no enforcement and schools will still make the decision, but leaders clearly hope the bill's emphasis spurs a change.

Sen. Pro Tem Rodric Bray, R-Martinsville, addresses the Senate Chamber on Jan. 9, 2024. (Whitney Downard/Indiana Capital Chronicle)

They also want to give the state test in second grade for assessment and to provide more remediation opportunities. But again, the bill stops short of meaningful change in that it doesn't require the students who are struggling to actually go to summer school.

The Senate Republican agenda does include a pretty important bill limiting the use of prior authorization. The term "prior authorization" refers to a practice used by insurance plans to require a preemptive review of a planned service before the insurance plan will agree to pay for that service. It's a big swing that would really help but I imagine it will be amended significantly.

And a bill on child care likely doesn't go far enough. It aims to reduce bureaucracy and red tape to create additional child care seats. That red tape, though, is part of making sure the children are safe. It will be an interesting balancing act. Because it's a non-budget year, there are no incentives or subsidies to help ease the problem.

Grade: C

### **House and Senate Democrats**

House and Senate Democrats are automatically at a disadvantage because they're superminorities. That means Republicans don't need their support to pass legislation, and that most of their own bills are doomed to fail immediately. So, while pushing for things like ballot measures and drug caps are philosophically honest, they also are fruitless.

I do appreciate their focus on property taxes. The rising bills have barely made a dent in discussions on the GOP side, who would rather talk about eliminating income taxes.

And the Democrats are being more realistic that the child care problem is going to take a cash infusion.

I think the best Democrat proposal is expanding access to pre-kindergarten. The program has been around now for almost 10 years but has become stagnant. It would be an obvious way to strengthen literacy. GOP lawmakers raised the income threshold to 400% of the federal free and reduced-price lunch threshold for private school vouchers. Yet, pre-kindergarten vouchers are still limited to 150% of the federal poverty level.

Grade: B-

Niki Kelly is the editor of the Indiana Capital Chronicle, a nonprofit newsroom. nkelly@indianacapitalchronicle.com

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# Believe your own eyes on the Jan. 6 insurrection

U.S. Rep. Victoria Spartz kicked off the Indiana Republican exodus from Congress about a year ago, and this first week of 2024 she has been joined by Greg Pence and Larry Bucshon in heading for the exits. It comes as the legal and political fallout from the Jan. 6, 2021 U.S. Capitol insurrection continues.

Rep. Pence and his brother, Vice President Mike Pence and his wife and daughter, escaped the mob with just seconds to spare. The insurrectionists had been chanting, "Hang Mike Pence!"

Rep. Spartz had a jaw-dropping take on the events of that day during a House hearing this past week. "If

the January 6 insurrectionists wanted to do an insurrection they would have succeeded," Spartz said. "They were expressing themselves peacefully. It is un-American to

call them insurrectionists, they are good Americans." I, along with millions of Americans, watched in real time what happened that day. The whole world was watching. We have seen the replays. A mob was inspired by President Trump to march on the Capitol,

citing claims of massive election fraud that didn't exist.

"We won in a landslide," Trump told his supporters on the Ellipse. "This the most corrupt election in the history, maybe of the world. And we fight. We fight like hell. And if you don't fight like hell, you're not going to have a country anymore."

While Trump faces 91 criminal charges - the first former president ever to be indicted - four of them are connected to the Jan. 6 riot, including conspiracy to defraud the United States, obstruct an official proceeding, obstruction, and conspiracy against rights.

"Despite having lost, the defendant was determined to remain in power," the indictment read. "So for more than two months following election day on Nov. 3, 2020, the Defendant spread lies that there had been outcome-determinative fraud in the election and that he had actually won. These claims were false, and the defendant knew that they were false."

According to the Department of Justice's District of Columbia office this week, here are statistics on what happened at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6:

1. More than 950 defendants have been arrested in nearly all 50 states and the District of Columbia. (This includes those charged in both District and Superior Court).

2. More than 284 defendants have been charged with assaulting, resisting, or impeding officers or employees, including approximately 99 individuals who have been charged with using a deadly or dangerous weapon or causing serious bodily injury to an officer. It is one of the largest mass casualty events involving police in U.S. history.

3. Approximately 860 defendants have been charged with entering or remaining in a restricted federal building or grounds. Of those, 91 defendants have been charged with entering a restricted area with a dangerous or deadly weapon.

4. Approximately 59 defendants have been charged with destruction of government property, and approximately 36 defendants have been charged with theft of

government property

5. More than 295 defendants have been charged with corruptly obstructing, influencing, or impeding an official proceeding (the Electoral College certification process presided over by Vice President Mike Pence), or attempting to do so.

6. Approximately 50 defendants have been charged with conspiracy, either: (a) conspiracy to obstruct a congressional proceeding, (b) conspiracy to obstruct law enforcement during a civil disorder,

Howey

(c) conspiracy to injure an officer, (d) seditious conspiracy, or some combination of the four.

7. Approximately 140 police officers were assaulted at the Capitol, including about 80 from the U.S. Capitol Police and about 60 from the Metropolitan Police Department.

8. According to Factcheck.org, five police officers died as the result of the U.S. Capitol assault. A Capitol Police release the day after the riots said that USCP Officer Brian Sicknick "passed away due to injuries sustained while on-duty." Four other police officers committed suicide in the days and months after the riot.

9. Ashli Babbitt, 35, of San Diego and an Air Force veteran, died on the day of the riot after being shot in the shoulder by a Capitol Police officer as she attempted to force her way into the House chamber where members of Congress were sheltering in place, Factcheck.org reported.

10. Damage to the Capitol totaled \$2.7 million. 11. Approximately 484 individuals have pleaded guilty to a variety of federal charges and 119 have pleaded guilty to felonies. Another 364 have pleaded guilty to misdemeanors.

12. A total of 52 of those have pleaded to federal charges of assaulting law enforcement officers. An additional 22 individuals have pleaded guilty to felony obstruction of law enforcement during a civil disorder. Of these 74 defendants, 41 have now been sentenced to prison terms of up to 90 months. Four of those who have pleaded guilty to felonies have pleaded guilty to the federal charge of seditious conspiracy.

Donald Trump and U.S. Rep. Elise Stefanik, are now calling Jan. 6 defendants and convicts as "hos-

"They ought to release the J6 hostages. They've suffered," Trump said last weekend. "Some people call them prisoners. I call them hostages."

Stefanik, who is the No. 4 member of House GOP leadership, echoed Trump's words on "Meet the Press" Sunday, saying, "I have concerns about the treatment of Jan. 6 hostages." On Jan. 6, 2021, Stefanik told NBC News that the rioters should be prosecuted "to the fullest extent of the law."

I saw what happened at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, in real time. So did you. Believe your eyes. The whole world was watching. We still are.

The columnist publishes at www.howeypolitics.com. Find him on Twitter @hwypol.

### The evil of two lessers

Some voters in recent elections have complained about being forced to choose between "the lesser of two evils." In the 2024 election it appears we are heading for a worse choice - the evil of two Donald Trump continues

demeaning and defaming anyone who disagrees with him. He repeats unproven claims that the 2020 election was "stolen." A myriad of other inaccurate statements has apparently had a negative influence on President Biden who has joined him in the mud pit. Recall it was Biden who promised to "bring us together" - always an impossibility given the conflicting ideologies of Republicans

and Democrats. In his speech last week near Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, Biden invoked George Washington as an example of a selfless man who refused to be crowned a king, resigned his commission as an Army general following the Revolutionary War, and limited himself to two terms as president. An aside - Washington engaged in an insurrection according to the definition of that word: " an act or instance of rising in revolt, rebellion, or resistance against civil authority or an established government" (dictionary. com ). Wasn't the British government "established" over the colonies, however tyrannical it was? Some insurrections turn out better than others. The



insurrection at the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021 - whether one believes it fits the definition or not- was still a rebellion against a legitimately established government with the express purpose of changing the election results. But I

Thomas

Biden's speech shows voters that 2024 is shaping up as a contest between two lightweights pretending to be heavyweights. If Trump

is elected, Biden said, America will become like Germany in the '30s. The very future of democracy is at stake, he claimed. This is how Democrats think. Only when they win elections is the country safe.

This isn't Biden's first trip into the mud. During the 2012 presidential campaign Vice President Biden told a Black audience that Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney 'would put you all back in chains.'

Biden apparently thinks his posturing as a pugilist, rather than a pragmatist, will allow him to out-punch Trump. That isn't likely to happen as Biden has been viewed as a nice guy. No one calls Trump nice.

Where is this corrosive language getting us? Why can't we have a true debate over the best ways to fix our problems? Claiming your opponent would rule like a Nazi, or that the other is a crook, solves nothing.

When polls show Biden and his policies are increasingly unpopular

the president has two choices. One is to change course, which he is unlikely to do because that would mean acknowledging he has been wrong. When was the last time you heard a politician admit error? The other avenue is to ignore his failed policies - from the open border, to the national debt, crime, and foreign policy - and claim if he loses to Trump, it will be Armageddon time for the country.

That strategy is not working, so far. Polls also show most Democrats and Republicans prefer neither candidate. If Trump's upcoming criminal trials result in convictions, that might diminish his appeal except to the Kool-Aid drinkers. Perhaps Biden's potential impeachment, if the evidence of financial wrongdoing by his family can be proven, might have the same effect on some of the president's supporters, but this late in the game it seems unlikely.

One scenario that could assuage voter angst: Could the rules be changed at both conventions this summer so that if Trump and Biden win enough of their primaries to claim the nomination of their respective parties, the delegates could vote to replace them? One might wish leaders of both parties could get together and offer a deal that promises "we'll not nominate our guy if you agree not to nominate your guy." That might sound appealing to some, but it also seems equally unlikely. Too bad for America.

tcaeditors@tribpub.com

## What's happening at the Wells County Public Library

The Wells County Public Library takes its mission to "provide the community with access, knowledge and growth" very seriously and offers a variety of events each week for kids, teens, and adults.

Registration is preferred at most events. To sign up, go to www.wellscolibrary.org, click on the Library Event Calendar, navigate to the date of the event, and view more to get to the registration screen. Alternatively, call 260-824-1612 (Bluffton) or 260-622-4691 (Ossian) to register.

### **Craft Club**

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, Jan. 16 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Adults. Bring a current travel-sized project and your materials with you to work on vour craft projects while chatting with others and learning from each other. Open to those that knit, crochet, embroider, quilt, paper craft, and more. See what materials the library has to assist you as well. Registration appreciated, but not required.

### Kids' Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, Jan. 16 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

A club for kids in K-3rd grade who enjoy fun stories, activities, and crafts! The meeting will be held in the Story Hour room every third Tuesday of the month. The program lasts about an hour. Registration appreciated.

### **Bluffton History Talk** with Alan Daugherty

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, Jan. 16: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Adults. Alan Daugherty will be sharing

information from his new book on Edward

Williamson and Bluffton History. E.B. Williamson was a renowned naturalist with a particular interest in dragonflies and damselflies, as well as, a botanist and iris breeder. Learn more about his life from the early 1900s and how he ties into Bluffton's history. Registration appreciated.

### **How to Play Pokémon TCG!**

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Wednesday, Jan. 17 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Grades 6-12. We will be joined by Dustin Leimgruber, an official Pokémon League judge who has been to tournaments across the U.S., Canada, England, and even the 2023 World Championships in Japan. Hear about what the tournament circuit is like and how you can get started on your own competitive journey. Then stay to learn how to play Pokémon TCG or get advice on strategy! The library will be able to provide some starter decks, but please bring your own cards if able. Registration required.

### **Theater Thursday**

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, Jan. 18 at 10 a.m.

Adults. Join us for a movie, popcorn, and snacks. Sponsored by the Bluffton Parks & Recreation and the Friends of the Library. No registration needed.

### **Board Game Night**

At the Ossian Branch Library: Thursday, Jan. 18 from 6-8 p.m.

Adults (18+). Join us for a night of tabletop games at the Ossian Branch. Registration appreciated.

### **Interactive Movie: Club 456**

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thurs-

day, Jan. 18: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Grades 4-6. Connect with an interactive movie experience featuring "The Emperor's New Groove." All supplies provided. Registration requested.

### **Saturday Movies**

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Saturday, Jan. 20 at 11 a.m.

All ages. Drop-in for a family-friendly movie under the stars in the Story Hour

### **Trivia Night At The Parlor City Brewing Company**

Sunday, Jan. 21 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Adults (21+). Grab a team of up to four people and test your knowledge on a variety of subjects, from pop culture, sports, local history, and other trivia categories. Prizes awarded; space is limited. Sign up at the library or online at wellscolibrary.org.

### **Golden Gamers**

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, Jan. 23 from 3 to 5 p.m.

Adults. Are you bored? Do you need some social interaction? Come and enjoy two hours of

socializing, games, and snacks. Registration appreciated.

### Fort Wayne Philharmonic Performance

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, Jan. 25 from 7 to 8 p.m.

All ages. The Fort Wayne Philharmonic will be at the library for this Stories in Music community ensemble show. Join

# Your Go-To Spot ...

us as we musically explore the children's book "Where the Wild Things Are" through music, featuring the Calhoun Brass Quintet. The book will be narrated by Philharmonic staff member, Abby Cleveland. Registration appreciated.

### **Library Hours**

At the main library in Bluffton - Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

At the Ossian branch library — Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon.

Access the library online at www. wellscolibrary.org for digital books, magazines, online databases, event info, and

### Norwell Internship Spotlight award Lillian Norris

Senior Lillian Norris has been selected to receive the Norwell High School Internship Spotlight award. She has been doing her experience with Norwell High School Spanish teacher and Riley Marathon Director Lori White. Lillian is the daughter of Eventt and Kristy Norris of Ossian.

Lillian is the President of The Riley Dance Marathon, and helps raise funds for Riley Children's Hospital throughout the entire school year. Lilly

spends countless hours coordinating and planning many events with Mrs. White. The main thrust of the program is to raise funds, do promotional work, communicate with executives, and obtain supplies. In the Spanish classrooms, Lillian assists with grading, runs errands, and observes Mrs. White with her classroom teaching techniques and management styles.

Lilly plans to attend an undecided college to



Lillian Norris

obtain her Masters in Business Administration.

### Jon Winne to be **Master Gardener** speaker Jan. 18

Wells County's Master Gardeners will welcome Ouabache State Park's Property Manager Jon Winne as their speaker at their Thursday, Jan. 18, 7 p.m. meeting at the 4-H Community Center.

"Native Plants and Pollinators" will be the subject for Winne's talk as he tells of the "native plants' initiative at Ouabache where native plants are being planted to replace invasive ones in areas of the park. The Friends of Ouabache State Park have obtained grants to fund the projects.

Anyone interested in the topic is invited to attend.

# Marriage S

### **Marriage Tune-Up Weekend** at Hope Missionary Church

"Who says working on your marriage has to feel like work?"

Marriage speakers Jeff & Debbie McElroy of Forever Families have a heart for ministering to couples

and will be leading the 2024

Marriage Tune-Up Weekend at Hope Missionary Church in Bluffton on January 26-27. The cost for the event is \$79 per couple.

For more information and to register, go to www. hope4thefamily.com/events.

# Special Feature

# Learn how to budget and save for big-ticket items

When faced with making a significant purchase, or even financing an unexpected emergency expense, consumers are tempted turn to credit to pay for the goods or services. While credit utilization maintains an important place in building a strong financial reputation, it can quickly put a person underwater financially, and interest fees can increase the price of big-ticket items by a sig-

nificant amount. The financial resource The Motley Fool says American households carried a total of \$17.1 trillion in debt as of the second quarter of 2023. A report from Equifax Canada indicated Canadian consumer debt rose to \$2.32 trillion in 2023. Substantial consumer debt can limit financial flexibility, so individuals who are looking ahead to new vehicles or vacations or even home renovations can first try to save for such expenses in lieu of borrowing. Budgeting and saving may not lead to immediate gratification, but it can help consumers avoid debt and ultimately create more financial flexibility down the road.

- you have. Too often people take a casual approach to their finances. At any given time they may not know whether the money they're making is actually covering all of the bills, and how much money, if any, is left over. Spend a few months cataloguing all credits and debits to your accounts. Pay attention to times of year when income is higher or when spending increases.
- Know your goal and price. Rayhons Financial, a financial services company, suggests identifying exactly how much you'll need for a purchase. Estimate on the high side of expenses so as not to go over budget. Treat a bigticket item just like a utility bill.
- Create a separate expense account. When all of your funds are together in one bank account, it is easier to spend the money on other purchases rather than the larger one in mind. Open a separate account and move your "extra" earnings into that account to save for your large expense. Automating the savings by setting up an automatic deduction deposited into this account

• Know exactly what on payday can make savings even easier.

• Review your budget periodically. Figure out if there are areas where you can cut back and allocate more money to your overall savings or the special savings for the big-ticket item. For example, you may be able to downgrade to a more manageable mobile phone plan or dine out less frequently.

• Time the purchase right. In addition to only buying when you have the money saved, you can look at the calendar to figure out the best time to make that purchase. Does your state or province offer a sales tax holi-



day? Some times of year you may get a bonus, tax refund or birthday gifts that can be earmarked for big-ticket items. Avoid

purchasing big items during times when you must pay for other significant expenses, such as tuition, summer camp fees and

insurance payments.

Some simple financial planning can help people save and budget for bigticket items more readily.

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# Knights crush Braves, inch closer to NE8 title dream

Norwell's girls came up big on defense against Bellmont Saturday night and as a result took a major step toward securing the Northeast 8 Conference championship.

The Knights crushed the Braves in a surprisingly one-sided 52-22 rout to improve to 16-4 in all games and a perfect 5-0 in conference play with games left against New Haven and East Noble.

Bellmont dropped to 12-6 overall and 3-2

"Our 1-3-1 was disruptive," acknowledged Norwell coach Eric Thornton of his team's sterling defensive effort. "Our kids made it hard for them to score."

Hard to score, or do much of anything else

Bellmont managed just 8-33 shooting from the field for a dismal .242 shooting percentage while committing a whopping 18 turnovers against Norwell pressure.

The Knights had hands seemingly everywhere. There were hands in faces, hands in passing lanes and hands slashing at the bas-

Balls were being tipped, passes were being rushed, shots were being hurried and Bellmont's eyes were getting wider and

"They're good," said Bellmont coach Andy Heim. "They're quick and athletic in that 1-3-1. It's hard to simulate in practice. With that kind of pressure, it's hard not to rush."

A long stretch in the first half summed up Bellmont's evening.

After a Hailey Cole bucket underneath cut an early Norwell lead to 14-7 with 2:33 left in the first period, Bellmont scored just four more points over the remaining 10.5 minutes of the first half, all of them on free throws.

The Braves were 0-for-11 from the field with six turnovers during that stetch.

That doesn't even count the last 22 seconds of the first half when Bellmont frantically tried to get someone open and never got a shot off.

Offensively, though, it was a bit of a different story for Norwell.

Between the 3:00 mark in the first quarter and their first possession of the third, the Knights hit on just four of 19 shots for a paltry .211 percentage during that stretch.

At one point in the first half, they missed an uncharacteristic eight straight three-point

"After playing defense the way we did, it seemed like we could have been ahead by more than we were (23-11) at halftime," Thornton said. "Of course, as poorly as we were shooting, it could have gone the other way, too. I was really proud of our ability to play that kind of defense when we weren't scoring."

Thornton thought the first couple of minutes of the third quarter were pivotal.

"We missed a shot, and they scored; and

I was thinking, 'Okay, here we go,'" he said of bracing himself for a Bellmont onslaught. But it didn't happen.

An unfazed Makenzie Fuess drilled a three from the left corner, and Vanessa Rosswurm stole the ball and converted a pair of free throws.

That steal marked the start of five turn-

overs in six Bellmont possessions, interrupted only by a single Belle Laurent free throw Meanwhile, Rosswurm hit a runner in the

lane, Kennedy Fuelling converted a Fuess steal into a layup, and Fuess knocked down another three. Suddenly, it was 35-14; and the game, for

all intents and purposes, was over. Bellmont never got closer than 17 points after that, and a 14-0 Norwell run in

the fourth quarter widened the final mar-Fuess led Norwell in scoring with 16

points, and Fuelling added 15, but right in the center of everything was Rosswurm. She scored 12 points, grabbed 10,

rebounds, dished out six assists, and added a couple of steals to her night's work. Rosswurm was the catalyst in a firstquarter spurt that shot her team off to the

She drove the lane to open the scoring, dished off a sweet pass to Dekota Hubble underneath midway through the quarter for a 9-2 advantage, and scored again herself to open up Norwell's first nine-point lead at

She also collared four rebounds in the quarter and eight in the first half.

"She did a tremendous job for us tonight," praised her coach of her stellar effort on both ends of the floor. "She has really come a long way for us."

Norwell won the reserve contest, 54-16. Macie Saalfrank scored 14 points to lead the

Äshley Waldman added nine, Haley Williamson and Savanna Simerman eight apiece, Larkin Smith seven, and Jada Dale and Isabella Swineford four each.

Norwell will be at New Haven to clinch at least a tie for the Northeast 8 Conference title. sports@news-banner.com

### NORWELL 52, BELLMONT 22 At Norwell

**BELLMONT (12-6, 3-2 NE8)**: Kate Kitson 1-5 0-0 2, Emily Bleke 3-8 0-0 7, Belle Laurent 0-4 1-2 1, Kamryn Jarvis 1-4 2-2 4, Hailey Cole 2-9 2-4 6, Gwen Laurent 0-0 0-0 0, Lanie French 1-3 0-2 2, Ella Franze 0-0 0-0 0.

NORWELL (16-4, 5-0 NE8): Annabelle Johnson 0-2 0-0 0, Kennedy Fuelling 6-14 0-0 15, Makenzie Fuess 5-16 2-4 16, Vanessa Rosswurm 5-11 2-2 12, Dekota Hubble 2-3 0-0 4, Alivia Green 0-1 0-0 0, Addison Norris 1-1 0-0 2-5 0-6 4, Nivia Green 1-10-10 Addison Noris 1-10-10 3, Lillian Norris 0-1 0-0 0, Ryland Graft 0-0 0-0 0, Ali Riley 0-0 0-0 0, Jada Dale 0-0 0-0 0, Ashley Waldman 1-1 0-0 2, Larkin Smith 0-0 0-0 0. TOTAL: 20-50 4-6 52.

Bellmont 7 4 7 4 — 22

Norwell 14 9 15 14 — 52

Three-point shooting: Bellmont 1-12 (Kitson 0-3, Bleke 1-1, B. Laurent 0-2, Jarvis 0-1, Cole 0-3, French 0-2), Norwell 8-23 (Johnson 0-2, Fuelling 3-8, Fuess 4-10, Rosswurm 0-1, A. Norris 1-1, L. Norris 0-1). Rebounds: Bellmont 28 (Cole 14), Norwell 30 (Rosswurm 10). Turnovers: Bellmont 18, Norwell 6. Personal fouls: Bellmont 5, Norwell 12. Fouled Out: None. Technical

fouls: None.

Junior Varsity: Norwell 54, Bellmont 16.



Norwell's Makenzie Fuess (right) picks the pocket of Bellmont's Emily Bleke during Saturday night's Northeast 8 Conference clash at The Castle. The defense of the Knights led them to a 52-22 win to get closer to an NE8 title. (Photos by Ryan Walker)



Norwell's Vanessa Rosswurm (right) takes Bellmont's Kate Kitson to the cup with the Knights' student section cheering her on. Rosswurm tore up the stat sheet, scoring a double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds, had six assists and a few steals to help the Knights win

# Texans rout Browns, Stroud becomes youngest QB to win a playoff game

### **By KRISTIE RIEKEN**

**AP Sports Writer** 

HOUSTON(AP) — As the games get bigger, C.J. Stroud just keeps getting better.

The rookie became the youngest quarterback to win a playoff game after throwing for 274 yards and three touchdowns, and the Houston Texans returned two interceptions by Joe Flacco for scores in a 45-14 rout of the Cleveland Browns in a wild-card matchup Saturday.

"C.J. is the reason why we're in this position," coach DeMeco Ryans said. 'He's special, a special young man. Special player. Continues to shine no matter how big the moment is.

"Our whole team is leaning on him and he has the shoulders to carry that weight.

Stroud, the second overall pick in the draft last April, is also the highestdrafted rookie QB to win in the postseason. He picked apart Cleveland's vaunted defense, throwing touchdown passes of 15 yards to Nico Collins, 76 to Brevin Jordan and 37 to Dalton Schultz.

"It's been a heck of a year and I thank God, I can just go another week with my teammates," Stroud said. "This is like a dream come true."

At 22 years and 102 days old, Stroud passed Michael Vick, who was 22 years, 192 days old in 2002 when

his Falcons beat the Packers. "I'm super blessed to be considered with a great name like Michael Vick, who was my favorite quarterback growing up," he said. "And hopefully I can make it two (wins).'

Stroud threw for 236 yards and three touchdowns before halftime as the Texans built a 24-14 lead. The defense took over after that, with Steven Nelson and Christian Harris returning interceptions for touchdowns on consecutive drives in the third quarter to extend the lead to 38-14.

"It was really, really big to put up 14 points on top of what C.J. was already doing," Nelson said. "That just put the icing on the cake for us."

With the Texans up 45-14 with nine minutes to go, Stroud's work was done, and he was replaced by Davis

It's the Browns' worst postseason loss since a 34-0 thumping by the Baltimore Colts on Dec. 29, 1968.

Houston is back in the playoffs for the first time since 2019, and Stroud's stellar play and the leadership of Ryans, who's in his first year, transformed the Texans (11-7) from NFL laughingstock to AFC South champi-

Flacco, who turns 39 on Tuesday, came off the couch to go 4-1 as a starter to end the regular season. He led the Browns (11-7) to just their third playoff appearance since their 1999 expansion rebirth, but second in four seasons under coach Kevin Stefanski.

"We picked a bad day to have a bad day," Stefanksi said. "That's all of us. That's players, coaches, offense, defense, special teams. Not good enough.'

(Continued on Page 7)

# **High School Calendar**

**MONDAY, JAN 15** 

No events scheduled TUESDAY, JAN 16

BOYS BASKETBALL: Southern Wells at Adams Central,

SWIMMING & DIVING (CO-ED): Huntington North at Norwell, 5:30 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, JAN 17** 

WRESTLING: Norwell at South Adams, 6:30 p.m. THURSDAY, JAN 18

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Eastbrook at Bluffton, 7:30 p.m. SWIMMING & DIVING (CO-ED): Oak Hill at Norwell, 5:30 m.; Wayne at Bluffton, 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN 19 BOYS BASKETBALL: Bluffton at Adams Central, 7:30 p.m. GIBLS BASKETBALL: Norwell at New Haven, 6 p.m. (no

SWIMMING & DIVING (CO-ED): ACAC Swim/Dive Invitational, 5:30 p.m.

WRESTLING: Bluffton, Southern Wells at ACAC Tournament

(at Bluffton), 6 p.m SATURDAY, JAN 20

BOYS BASKETBALL: New Haven at Norwell, 7:45 p.m. GIRLS BASKETBALL: Bluffton at Heritage, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Jay County, 7:30 p.m.

SWIMMING & DIVING (CO-ED): NE8 Meet at Norwell, 10

WRESTLING: Norwell at NE8 Meet at Huntington North, 9

# Zack Edey and 3-point shooters help No. 1 Purdue rebound with win vs. Penn State

### By MICHAEL MAROT **AP Sports Writer**

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (AP) - Purdue fans treated Zach Edey to a pregame standing ovation in commemoration of him becoming the school's second player with 1,000 career rebounds.

They serenaded him again following another milestone moment.

The reigning national player of the year scored 30 points, grabbed a season-high 20 rebounds and watched his teammates make 11 3-pointers Saturday as No. 1 Purdue routed Penn State 95-78.

"Not many people can say they've had 30 and 20 multiple times in their career at Purdue," Edey said after achieving the feat for the second time. "I do get to say that, so it's a pretty surreal feeling.

For Edey, this was as impressive a game as he's played. In the first half, he had 19 points, 13 rebounds, three assists and two blocks while going 6

of 6 from the field. He finished 10 of 12 from the field and produced just the third 30-20 game with three blocks and three rebounds.

And he had plenty of help.

The Boilermakers added eight 3s in the first half as they took a 56-36 halftime lead. Lance Jones added 14 points, Fletcher Loyer had 11 and Braden Smith matched his career high with 11 assists.

Purdue (15-2, 4-2 Big Ten) rebounded from Tuesday's loss to Nebraska with its 10th consecutive home game — and their eighth straight over the Nittany Lions.

"The big guy played great today 30 and 20, that's Wilt Chamberlaintype numbers," Penn State coach Mike Rhoades said. "We just didn't have an

answer for him. Nick Kern Jr. had a career-high 18 points to lead Penn State and Kanye Clary added 16. The Nittany Lions (8-9, 2-4) have lost three of four over-

But this was a complete a mismatch and Purdue took full advantage after the first five minutes.

Camden Heide's 3 with 15:13 left in the half gave Purdue an 11-10 lead and spurred a 31-5 run, forcing the Nittany Lions to take a timeout twice. When the run ended, the Boilermakers led

The Nittany Lions responded with a flurry of 3s late in the first half but never got closer than 14.

"He's here and he's obviously a special player, but he's also one of those guys," coach Matt Painter said of Edey. "If you've faced him, he's hard to prepare for. You can watch him on film, but you don't realize how strong

### THE TAKEAWAY

Penn State: It's been an up-anddown first season for Rhoades and this revamped roster. At times, the Nittany Lions have shown promise. But against this size, depth, experience and

(Continued on Page 7)

# NFL Wild Card recap

Kansas City 26, Miami 7

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Patrick Mahomes threw for 262 yards and a touchdown, leading the Chiefs to a 26-7 rout of the Dolphins in the fourth-coldest game in NFL history. It was so cold that Mahomes' helmet was shattered on a helmet-to-helmet hit. Rashee Rice and Isiah Pacheco had TDs for the Chiefs, and Harrison Butker was perfect on four field-goal attempts. The Dolphins' Tyreek Hill had a 53-yard TD catch in his return to Kansas City, but that was just about all the offense for one of the NFL's highest-scoring teams. Miami still has not won a playoff game since Dec. 30, 2000. Bills, Steelers PPD.

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — A potentially dangerous snowstorm in the Buffalo region led the NFL to push back the Bills' wild-card playoff game against the Pittsburgh Steelers from Sunday to Monday. New York Gov. Kathy Hochul and the NFL said Saturday they made the change in the interest of public safety. Up to 2 feet of snow was projected to fall on the Buffalo region over a 24-hour period. Heavy snow began falling Saturday, accompanied by strong wind, and the Bills posted a video of whiteout conditions at Highmark Stadium. The game will now be played at 4:30 p.m. Monday instead of 1 p.m. Sunday.

Green Bay 48, Dallas 32

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Jordan Love threw for three touchdowns, Aaron Jones ran for three more, Darnell Savage returned an interception 64 yards for a score and the Green Bay Packers handed the Dallas Cowboys their first home loss since the 2022 opener in a 48-32 wild-card stunner. Romeo Doubs had a career-high 151 yards receiving a week after being hospitalized with a chest injury. The Packers won Love's postseason debut after finishing the regular season 6-2 to grab the NFC's final playoff spot. They will

(Continued on Page 7)

## **News-Banner Scoreboard**

### **BASKETBALL High School**

Saturday Boys' Scores Alexandria 60, Clinton Central 52 Bedford N. Lawrence 58, Jennings

Co. 57 Blackford 64, Winchester 59

Bloomington North 87, Evansville North 69 Boonville 51, Gibson Southern 49,

Brownstown 60. Carmel 59. OT Carroll (Flora) 59, Pioneer 43 Cascade 65, Traders Point Christian

Charlestown 74, Borden 44 Clarksville 44, Henryville 36 Clay City 59, Owen Valley 41 Crawford Co. 39, Corydon 37 Crown Point 51, Griffith 34 DeMotte Christian 49, Wheeler 36 E. Central 42, Franklin Co. 29 Evansville Memorial 61, Henderson

Co., Ky. 58 Faith Christian 79, Attica 46 Floyd Central 54, N. Harrison 45 Frankfort 54, Rossville 39 Ft. Wayne Luers 77, Ft. Wayne Blackhawk 65

Greenfield 64, Eastern Hancock 31 Greensburg 85, S. Dearborn 56 Guerin Catholic 48, Indpls Cathedral

Hamilton Hts. 67, Western Boone 49 Hamilton Southeastern 58. Anderson

Hebron 71, Lake Station 44 Heritage Hills 84, Tecumseh 34 Homestead 76, Marion 58 Illiana Christian 69, Hobart 49 Indpls Chatard 55, Providence Cristo Rey 17 Jac-Cen-Del 63, Waldron 42

Jeffersonville 64 Providence 45 Lafayette Harrison 57, Benton Cen-

Lawrenceburg 59, N. Decatur 45 Liberty Christian 63, Muncie Burris 37 Logansport 58, Cass 49 N. Central (Farmersburg) 76, Vin-

N. Central (Parmersburg) 76. cennes Rivet 38 N. Miami 60, N. Judson 50 N. Posey 63, Forest Park 54 N. Putnam 67, Monrovia 50 N. Vermillion 81, Danville Schlarman,

New Albany 77, Scottsburg 67 New Castle 49, Rushville 36 Northeastern 71, Knightstown 40 Orleans 60, Lanesville 23 Paoli 58, Eastern (Pekin) 48 Parke Heritage 82, Cloverdale 43 Pendleton Hts. 46, Shelbyville 39 Pike Central 56, Wood Memorial 42 Plainfield 76, Northview 44 Princeton 46, Southridge 35

Richmond 54, Madison 49 S. Bend Trinity 38, Lakeland Chris-S. Decatur 55, Southwestern (Shelby)

S. Ripley 57, Switzerland Co. 52 S. Spencer 64, Tell City 35 Seeger 46, Fountain Central 34 Seymour 59, Columbus East 56, OT Sheridan 64, N. Montgomery 48 South Knox 49, Bloomfield 47 Southmont 57, Riverton Parke 30 Springs Valley 101, Austin 98, OT Sullivan 52, Vincennes 46

(Continued from Page 6)

divisional round. Dak Prescott threw two

interceptions before three mostly empty

touchdown passes in another playoff flop

Detroit 24, L.A. Rams 23

a touchdown and completed a game-sealing

first down against the team that cast him

away, and the Detroit Lions won a playoff

game for the first time in 32 years, beat-

ing Matthew Stafford and the Los Angeles

Rams 24-23. The Lions ended a nine-game postseason losing streak — the longest in

NFL history — that dated to a victory over Dallas on Jan. 5, 1992. Detroit will have

two home playoff games for the first time in

franchise history, hosting either Tampa Bay

or Philadelphia in the divisional round next

DETROIT (AP) — Jared Goff threw for

for him and the No. 2 seed Cowboys.

visit top-seeded San Francisco in the

Taylor 53, Western 36 Tri-Central 67, Anderson Prep Academy 41 Trinity Lutheran 83, New Washington 68

Triton Central 76, Milan 35 Washington 34, Jasper 32 White River Valley 59, Crothersville Allen County Conference Tourna-

Championship Adams Central 74, Heritage 43 Clerc Tournament

33

Third Place Indiana Deaf 65, California School for the Deaf-Riverside, Calif. 58
Delaware County Tournament Championship Yorktown 61, Delta 44

Evansville Harrison Classic Brownsburg 44, Castle 39 Evansville Bosse 81, Indpls Ritter 68 Evansville Central 65, Springfield Southeast, Ill. 61

Evansville Central 72, Hopkinsville, Ky. 53

Evansville Christian 76, Christian Co., Ky. 54 Evansville Harrison 81, Springfield Southeast, III. 70 Evansville Reitz 48. Christian Co..

Johnson County Tournament Championship Center Grove 68, Whiteland 43 Marion County Tournament Championship Lawrence North 78, Franklin Central

Southern Roads Conference Tournament Semifinal

Medora 68, Columbus Christian 53

Saturday Girls' Scores Bedford N. Lawrence 60, Floyd Central 54

Benton Central 62, Lafayette Catholic 42 Brownstown 85. Rock Creek Acad-Cascade 69. Indpls Scecina 19 Clay City 47, S. Vermillion 14 Clinton Central 67, Faith Christian

Columbus East 65, New Albany 31 Corydon 48, Madison 38 Crothersville 42, Union (Dugger)

Delphi 54, Eastern (Greentown) 19 E. Central 31, Oxford Talawanda,

Eastbrook 48, Oak Hill 33 Eastern (Greene) 65, Greenwood Eastern Hancock 71, Waldron 30

Evansville Central 62, Bloomington South 58 Evansville Mater Dei 52, Vincennes Rivet 35 Evansville Memorial 47, Linton 38

Evansville Reitz 40, Jeffersonville Franklin Central 65, Greenfield 51 Franklin Co. 67, Hagerstown 15 Frankton 82, Madison-Grant 34 Ft. Wayne Blackhawk 62, Lakeland

Gibson Southern 62, Washington Guerin Catholic 55, Lebanon 36

**NFL Wild Card recap** 

Hancock Co., Ky. 53, Tell City 46 Hanover Central 59, Griffith 25 Hauser 45, Clarksville 38 Indian Creek 60, Westfield 55, OT Indpls Ben Davis 63, Indpls Pike

Indpls Lutheran 60, Eminence 55 Indpls Tech 42, Indpls Ritter 32 Indy Brebeuf 70, Indpls Herron 22 Jasper 51, Evansville North 37 Lafayette Harrison 61, Richmond

Lake Station 61, Calumet 26 Lanesville 65, Eastern (Pekin) 30 Logansport 47, Marion 21 Madison Shawe 62. Medora 24 Manchester 61, Wabash 58 McCutcheon 70, Muncie Central

McLean Co., Ky. 47, Evansville McLeari Co., Ry. 47, Evalisville Harrison 42 Merrillville 42, Crown Point 36 Monrovia 57, Crawfordsville 13 Morristown 52, Edinburgh 41

Mt. Vernon (Fortville) 58 Shelbyville 49 N. Miami 58, N. Judson 48

N. Midfill 36, N. Judsolf 46 N. Posey 44, Pike Central 21 Norwell 52, Bellmont 22 Oldenburg 51, S. Ripley 44 Pendleton Hts. 72, Rushville 40 Providence 62, Henryville 39 S. Putnam 57, Owen Valley 42 Shakamak 59, Bloomington Lighthouse 23

Shenandoah 40, Randolph Southern 35

Silver Creek 49, Austin 46 South Knox 75, Vincennes 37 Southridge 47, Loogootee 34 Speedway 50, Beech Grove 43 Union Co. 50, Union City 36 Western Boone 45, N. Putnam 43 Allen County Conference Tourna-

Championship Jay Co. 61, Woodlan 40 Clerc Tournament Championship Indiana Deaf 46, Austin TSD, Texas 30 Cloverport Classic

Burgin, Ky. 52, Cannelton 32 Lou. Doss, Ky. 43, Cannelton 17 **Delaware County Tournament** Championship
Delta 49, Yorktown 38 Pioneer Conference Playoffs Championship Bethesda Christian 44, University

Fifth Place Indpls Park Tudor 64, Muncie Bur-Third Place

Anderson Prep Academy 52, Ind-pls Shortridge 43

College Men's Basketball Scores Sunday, Jan. 14 EAST

Iona 87, Mount St. Mary's 70 Marist 83, Rider 60 St. Peter's 81, Manhattan 68 UConn 80, Georgetown 67 SOUTH

FAU 86, UAB 73 Louisiana Tech 80, Liberty 76, OT N. Iowa 70, Murray St. 60 UNC-Wilmington 79, Delaware 74 MIDWEST

Sunday. Stafford threw for 367 yards for the

Philadelphia at Tampa Bay,

Monday 8:15 on ABC

phia Eagles travel to Tampa Bay to meet the

surging Buccaneers in a wild-card matchup

on Monday night. The teams also met dur-

ing the regular season in Florida, with the

The defending NFC champion Philadel-

### Green Bay 79, Cleveland St. 71 Maryland 76, Illinois 67 Memphis 112, Wichita St. 86 Michigan St. 73, Rutgers 55 Valparaiso 59, Illinois St. 50 SOUTHWEST

Tulane 94, Tulsa 87, OT FAR WEST Hawaii 63, UC Riverside 56 Stanford 79, Utah 73

### Saturday, Jan. 13 EAST

George Washington 83, Davidson Lafavette 78. Navv 62 Loyola Chicago 78, Saint

Joseph's 75 Mass.-Lowell 86, UMBC 82 Merrimack 66, Le Moyne 62 Northeastern 67, Towson 59 Rhode Island 89, UMass 77 Sacred Heart 89, LIU 55 South Alabama 91, Marshall 85 VCU 71, La Salle 65

VCU 71, La Salle 65
Vermont 76, NJIT 55
West Virginia 76, Texas 73
Xavier 85, Providence 65
SOUTH
Alabama 82, Mississippi St. 74
Alabama St. 55, Alcorn St. 53
Appalachian St. 59, James Madi-

Auburn 93, LSU 78 BYU 63, UCF 58 Campbell 69, Hofstra 68 Charleston Southern 77, SC-

Clemson 89, Boston College 78 Coastal Carolina 79, Old Domin-

Duke 84, Georgia Tech 79
E. Kentucky 81, North Alabama 72
FIU 72, UTEP 68 FIU 72, UTEP 68 Florida 90, Arkansas 68 Miami 75, Virginia Tech 71 Mississippi 69, Vanderbilt 56 NC State 89, Louisville 83 New Orleans 83, Texas A&M-CC

North Carolina 103, Syracuse 67 SMU 75, East Carolina 64 Sam Houston St. 60, Middle Ten-Tennessee 85, Georgia 79

Tennessee St. 75, Lindenwood Tennessee Tech 70, SE Missouri

Texas St. 67, Louisiana-Monroe

Trov 82. Southern Miss. 56 UNC-Asheville 65, Longwood 61 UNC-Greensboro 70, Chatta-

ONC-Greensboro 70, Chatta-nooga 54 UT Martin 77, UALR 72 W. Carolina 64, Mercer 52 W. Kentucky 80, Jacksonville

Wake Forest 66, Virginia 47
Winthrop 92, Radford 88, 3OT
Wofford 72, The Citadel 71
MIDWEST Bowling Green 83, N. Illinois

72 Bradley 77, III.-Chicago 59 Cent. Michigan 77, Kent St. 62 Creighton 66, St. John's 65 Drake 76, S. Illinois 58 Florida St. 67, Notre Dame 58 Indiana St. 94, Belmont 64 Iowa St. 66, Oklahoma St. 42

Kansas 78, Oklahoma 66 Miami (Ohio) 71, E. Michigan Missouri St. 74, Evansville 64 N. Kentucky 81, Detroit 76 Oakland 88, IUPUI 66 Omaha 96, N. Dakota St. 92, OT Purdue 95, Penn St. 78

SIU-Edwardsville 61, Morehead St. 48 Seton Hall 78, Butler 72 South Carolina 71, Missouri 69.

St. Thomas (MN) 87, Oral Rob-Toledo 77, Ball St. 72 W. Illinois 63. E. Illinois 60

W. Michigan 81, Ohio 79 Wisconsin 71, Northwestern 63 SOUTHWEST

Ark.-Pine Bluff 70, Texas South-

ern 67 Baylor 62, Cincinnati 59 Cent. Arkansas 59. Bellarmine 57 Charlotte 66, UTSA 58 Houston Christian 69, Texas A&M

Commerce 65 Louisiana-Lafayette 84, Arkansas

North Texas 69, Temple 51 Prairie View 71, MVSU 60 TCU 68, Houston 67 Texas A&M 97, Kentucky 92, OT Texas Tech 60, Kansas St. 59 Texas-Arlington 80, Seattle 75 FAR WEST
CS Northridge 76, Cal St.-Fuller-

ton 71 Cal Baptist 68, Abilene Christian

Colorado 68, Southern Cal 58 Denver 99, S. Dakota St. 80 E. Washington 79, Idaho 58
Grand Canyon 74, Tarleton St. 48 Loyola Marymount 81, Pacific 64 Montana 90, N. Arizona 47 Montana St. 90, N. Colorado 81 New Mexico 88, San Diego St. 70 North Dakota 82, UMKC 69 Oregon 80, California 73

Sacramento St. 66, Idaho St. 64 Saint Mary's (Cal.) 73, Santa Clara 49

San Francisco 96, Portland 69 San Jose St. 70, Air Force 67 Stephen F. Austin 84, S. Utah 82 Utah St. 87, UNLV 86 Washington St. 73, Arizona 70 Wyoming 68, Fresno St. 67

### Women's Basketball Scores Sunday, Jan. 14 EAST American 75, Army 69

Boston College 84, Pittsburgh 71,

Davidson 66, Fordham 48 George Washington 78, St. Bonaventure 62 Maryland 88, Purdue 66 Memphis 59, Temple 57 Northeastern 66, Hofstra 53 Penn St. 94, Rutgers 80 Stony Brook 79, Delaware 67 Syracuse 83, Clemson 82 SOUTH

Arkansas 77, Alabama 59 Auburn 67, LSU 62 Campbell 69, Towson 59
Drexel 59, UNC-Wilmington 45
Duke 84, Georgia Tech 46
Florida 78, Georgia 69 Florida St. 89, Virginia Tech 81 Louisville 83, Wake Forest 62 Mississippi St. 69, Mississippi 57 Missouri 65, Vanderbilt 63 North Carolina 81, Virginia 68

MIDWEST
Belmont 61, Indiana St. 56 Creighton 81, Providence 70 Drake 82, III. Chicago 62 IUPUI 96, N. Kentucky 81 Illinois 93, Northwestern 52 Kent St. 73, N. Illinois 48 Minnesota 62, Nebraska 58 Murray St. 90, Evansville 72 N. Iowa 76, Valparaiso 52 Notre Dame 70, Miami 59 Ohio St. 70, Michigan St. 65 SOUTHWEST

North Texas 72, Wichita St. 68 Rice 67, South Florida 64 Texas A&M 71, Tennessee 56 Texas A&M /1, tennessee 5b UTSA 81, Charlotte 80, 2OT FAR WEST Colorado 71, Stanford 59 Oregon 70, Arizona 68 Oregon St. 92, Arizona St. 55 Southern Cal 73, UCLA 65 Utah 93, California 55 Washington St. 72, Washington

Washington St. 72, Washington 59 **Saturday, Jan. 13** Saint Joseph's 77, Duquesne 62 West Virginia 76, UCF 59

### NBA

Saturday's Games Boston 145, Houston 113 Washington 127, Atlanta 99 New York 106, Memphis 94 Milwaukee 129, Golden State 118 Oklahoma City 112, Orlando 100 Chicago 122, San Antonio 116 New Orleans 118, Dallas 108 Utah 132, L.A. Lakers 125 Sunday's Games

Denver 117, Indiana 109 Miami 104, Charlotte 87 Minnesota 109, L.A. Clippers 105 Milwaukee 143, Sacramento 142,

Phoenix at Portland, 9 p.m Monday's Games Detroit at Washington, 3 p.m. Chicago at Cleveland, 7 p.m. Indiana at Utah, 9 p.m.

### **FOOTBALL** NFL

NFL Playoff Glance Wild-card Playoffs Saturday, Jan. 13 Houston 45, Cleveland 14 Kansas City 26, Miami 7 Sunday, Jan. 14
Green Bay 48, Dallas 32
Detroit 24, L.A. Rams 23
Pittsburgh at Buffalo, ppd. to Jan.

Monday, Jan. 15 Pittsburgh at Buffalo, 4:30 p.m.

(CBS) Philadelphia at Tampa Bay, 8:15 p.m. (ESPN/ABC) Divisional Playoffs

Saturday, Jan. 20 and Sunday, Jan. 21 Green Bay at San Franciso, TBD Houston or Pittsburgh at Baltimore **TBD** 

NFC two remaining seeds at higher seed, TBD Houston at Kansas City or Kansas City at Buffalo, TBD

### **HOCKEY**

Saturday's Games Washington 3, N.Y. Rangers 2 Ottawa 5, San Jose 4 Vancouver 1, Buffalo 0 New Jersey 4, Florida 1 Seattle 7, Columbus 4 Tampa Bay 5, Anaheim 1 Colorado 5, Toronto 3 Carolina 3, Pittsburgh 2, OT Detroit 5, Los Angeles 3 Philadelphia 2, Winnipeg 0 Edmonton 2, Montreal 1, OT Nashville 3, N.Y. Islanders 1 Dallas 3, Chicago 1 Boston 4, St. Louis 3, OT Arizona 6, Minnesota 0

Arizona b, Minnesota U
Calgary 3, Vegas 1
Sunday's Games
N.Y. Rangers 2, Washington 1
Detroit 4, Toronto 2
Monday's Games
Vancouver at Columbus, 1 p.m.
Nashville at Vegas, 6 p.m. Colorado at Montreal, 7 p.m. Philadelphia at St. Louis, 8 p.m.

### **TRANSACTIONS**

Sunday's Transactions BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association DETROIT PISTONS — Received Fs Danilo Gallinari and Mike Muscala from Washington in exchange for Fs Marvin Bagley III and Isaiah Livers and two second-round draft picks

COLLEGE
WASHINGTON — Hired Jedd Fisch as head football coach.

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in his playoff debut.

to win a postseason game was the New York Jets' Mark Sanchez, who was the fifth over-

Cleveland's Deshaun Watson was under center for the Texans during their last playoff run but played just six games for the Browns this season before having seasonending shoulder surgery. He was on the sideline Saturday for just the second time since his surgery, watching the coming out party for the man who replaced him as

Houston's franchise quarterback.

dropped back to pass. Collins had six receptions for 96 yards and a touchdown, and Devin Singletary ran for 66 yards and a late score for Houston.

Kareem Hunt ran for a touchdown and had a TD reception in the first half, but had

(Continued from Page 6)

Purdue: If there's a common thread for

the Boilermakers it's this: They're not losing

back-to-back games. They played with the

edge that Painter wants, which was miss-

ing earlier this week at Nebraska. Purdue

needs to keep playing this way if it hopes to

defend last season's regular-season confer-

POLL IMPLICATIONS

talent, they didn't have a chance.

The Browns took a 7-3 lead on Hunt's

No. 1 Purdue win vs. Penn St

Jalen Hurts-led Eagles dominating Baker Mayfield and the Bucs 25-11 in a game that wasn't as close as the 14-point difference on the scoreboard. Philadelphia started the season 10-1 but dropped five of six games down the stretch to fall all the way to the No. 5 seed in the NFC. Tampa Bay went 5-1 over its past six games to rebound from a stretch of six losses in seven games to win its third consecutive NFC South division

title and earn the No. 4 seed.

### Texans rout Browns

(Continued from Page 6)

Playing in his 17th postseason game but first in nine years, Flacco couldn't continue his magical run under the bright lights of the

"It's definitely a shame the way it went down and hard to deal with at the moment," Flacco said. He finished with 307 yards and had a

touchdown pass in the first half, but his mistakes under pressure in the third quarter were too much for the Browns to overcome on a day when Stroud easily outshined him The previous highest-drafted rookie QB

all pick in 2009.

The sellout crowd was rowdy and ready for Houston's return to the postseason after three awful seasons where the team combined for just 11 wins. They chanted "MVP! MVP!" throughout the game when Stroud

just 26 yards rushing.

the first quarter. Collins' 15-yard TD catch put the Texans

1-vard run with about two minutes left in

back on top 10-7. The Browns regained the lead on their

next drive when Hunt grabbed a shovel pass from Flacco and ran 11 yards for a touch-But the advantage would last only 10 seconds as Jordan grabbed a short pass and

outran multiple defenders for a 76-yard

touchdown to make it 17-14. It was Hous-

ton's longest play this season and the longest in franchise playoff history. "I was a running back my whole life," Jordan said. "So I feel like that's one of those things that I really carry with me as a

tight end." Stroud's 37-yard TD pass to Schultz pushed the lead to 24-14 with about a min-

ute left in the second quarter. Flacco was hit by Derek Barnett as he threw and his pass was picked off by Nelson and returned 82 yards for a touchdown to make it 31-14 with about six minutes left

in the third quarter. The Browns went for it on fourth-and-2 on their next drive and Flacco was picked off again. This time, Harris returned it 36 yards for the score.

The Texans are the first team to return two interceptions for touchdowns in a game since Seattle did it against Washington on Jan. 5, 2008.

### **INJURIES**

Browns: LG Joel Bitonio injured an

ankle in the second quarter.

Texans: WR Noah Brown hurt a shoulder in the first quarter. ... LB Denzel Perryman injured his ribs in the third quarter.

### began. Can they extend the nation's longest

The Boilermakers' four-week reign at

Penn State: Hopes to hand No. 15 Wisconsin its first conference loss on Tuesday

Purdue: Visits archrival Indiana on Tues-

active streak of top-five rankings to 27? **UP NEXT** 

No. 1 may end despite four of the top five

ranked teams losing before the weekend

in State College.

# Giving is a year-round activity

Dear Annie: I'm stunned by the volunteers at our number of letters to advice columns local food bank. from parents who gave their children everything and are devastated that their adult children refuse or limit contact a story about an with them. I can understand their disappointment and loneliness; it must be painful.

There are people who believe that adult children are responsible for their aging parents' happiness. They feel entitled to time, attention and a sense of human connection from their grown children, but it's not a realistic expectation. We're each responsible for our own vitality, joy and sense of connec-

Adults who want close relationships with their parents put in the time and effort. If adult children avoid contact with their parents, there's a reason; there's some kind of disconnection. Parents and adult children need to accept responsibility for the part they play in relationship troubles and be willing to make amends and make changes.

Clinging to the narrative that you did everything for your children and they should now comply with your expectations for the relationship won't help to heal the disconnection.

If you're wondering, I have two middle-aged children and several "bonus children" who are estranged from their parents. I'm old, sick and extremely grateful that they all keep showing up here voluntarily. — Family Therapist

Dear Family Therapist: Yes, if you want a close relationship with your children, or really anyone for that matter — spouse, friend, sibling, etc. you have to put in the work and effort. We get out what we put in. Thank you for your letter.

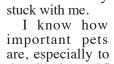
Dear Annie: I would like to add to the letter about continuing giving past the holidays. I have a good friend who

Annie

Dear

by Annie Lane

A few years ago, she told me older gentleman who came in looking for food for his cat. All she had were some pouches of tuna, which she gave him. The story



the elderly, and I imagined there are people who would go hungry in order to feed their pets.

So since then, every month, I donate small bags of dog and cat food to the food bank. I would like to encourage others to check with their local food bank and see if there is a need for pet food. And perhaps it would also ease the burden on our shelters, as if people have access to food for their pets, they wouldn't have to make the heartbreaking choice of surrendering their beloved pets. — Think About the Pets

Dear Pets: Thank you for your letter. You bring up such an important point, which is that taking care of our own four-legged pets, and helping all pet owners do the same, is a wonderful gift to be given year-round.

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

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### **BEETLE BAILEY**





### **BLONDIE**











THEY'LL HAVE TO FORFEIT



### **CRANKSHAFT**







### **My** Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham

Q: My friends talked me into attending an event called "Connecting with Spirit" where the speaker helped us explore our own abilities to intuitively/psychically sense the spirit world. I believe I was visited by an angel, but it was terrifying and not what I would have expected. As a Christian, I was not comfortable with what took place. Should I feel honored to have been invited or horrified that I went? - S.W.

A: New ideas about spirituality have become all too common. The New Age movement has introduced a whole host of strange and disturbing beliefs about God and His creation. The New York

## There are angels in our very midst

Times bestseller list once included eight separate books on the subject of angels. These works ranged from collections of poetry and fantasy to how-to courses

on contacting the spirits. Most of them seemed to be written for the growing number of people who believe in the dynamic forces of the spirit world but who have very little knowledge of what the Bible teaches on these subjects. At a time when many people have lost touch with their Christian heritage, there is a great risk of falling for ideas that sound exotic and appealing but that are

extremely dangerous. There are angels in our very midst — but not all

actually misleading and

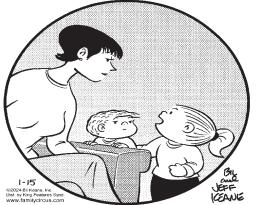
supernatural forces are good, and not all angels are from God. Paul warns that Satan transforms himself into an angel of light and deceives many people - including spiritual leaders. The apostle writes, "Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves" (2 Corinthians 11:14-15, NKJV).

Whether or not we sense and feel the presence of the Holy Spirit or one of the holy angels, by faith we are certain God is with us.

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

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"When Jeffy was born, how did we know what his name was?'

# By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS

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Solution time: 21 mins.

Saturday's answer 1-15



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### **Lottery Numbers**

Saturday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY **Cash 5** — 06-13-21-35-

**Cash4Life** — 05-17-23-25-47, Cash Ball: 01

**Lotto Plus** — 06-12-13-26-33-42 Quick Draw Midday —

01-08-16-19-21-22-29-30-39-45-47-52-54-56-62-65-71-72-75-80, BE: 52

Daily Three-Midday — 07-08-00, SB: 03 **Daily Three-Evening** 

08-03-00, SB: 02 Daily Four-Midday — 07-05-02-05, SB: 03 Daily Four-Evening —

08-03-08-01, SB: 02 **Quick Draw Evening** 03-09-13-25-31-33-34-35-36-37-39-49-64-66-71-72-73-74-78-79, BE: 09

**Hoosier Lotto** — 04-08-10-14-21-43 **POWERBALL** 

13-31-33-51-58-; Powerball: 15; Power Play: 2X

**Sunday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY** 

**Cash 5** — 03-24-29-41-

**Cash4Life** — 03-16-27-28-44, Cash Ball: 01

Quick Draw Midday — 04-11-15-18-22-27-42-46-48-50-54-57-58-60-64-65-68-72-73-76, BE: 50

Daily Three-Midday — 05-01-02, SB: 05

Daily Three-Evening — 08-02-07, SB: 02

Daily Four-Midday — 04-07-03-03, SB: 05 Daily Four-Evening —

08-07-05-03, SB: 02 **Quick Draw Evening** 01-06-09-13-25-31-33-

34-35-36-37-39-49-64-66-71-72-73-74-78-79, BE: 09 **Hoosier Lotto** — Estimated jackpot (for Wednes-

day): \$3 million **MEGA MILLIONS** 

Estimated jackpot (for Tuesday): \$208 million **POWERBALL** 

Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$88 million

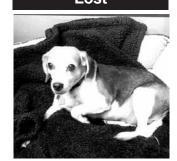
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# **Public Sale** Calendar

BIDDING STARTS CLOS-ING JANUARY 16 - 10 a.m. **EST - Carmel Wellness and** secured creditors, owner. Liquidation of Carmel Wellness featuring decompression table w/tension machine, body and therapy tables, hydraulic tables, washer and dryer, folding tables, chairs, desks, office supplies, and much more! Auction pick up Jan. 17, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402,

Kjauction.com.

BIDDING NOW OPEN AND STARTS CLOSING JANU-ARY 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 by appointment, 617 N. Main St., Geneva. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com. BIDDING ENDS JANUARY

21 - (Online only auction) - Various consignors, sellers. 1999 Ford F350 truck with lift bucket, antiques, display cases, advertising memorabilia, jewelry and pocket watches, Fenton and Indiana glass, mid-century modern, industrial quality fans and tools. Preview: Jan. 16th and Thurs. Jan. 18 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 118 East Craig Street, Ossian, IN. The Steffen Group Inc., 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

JANUARY 23 - 2-6 p.m. ET - Online - Farm: Susan Dunn Estate. Property Location: Three miles southeast of Markle, IN and Wells Co., Rockcreek Twp. 207.3+/- total acres, high quality farmland, mostly tillable. Tracts 1 & 2: Located on both sides of 200 N between 200 W and 300 W. Tract 3: Located at intersection of 300 N and 500 W. Tract 1: 19.83+/- acres. Tract 2: 110+/acres. Tract 3: 77.47+/- acres.

Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management, 800-424-2324, halderman.com, Rick Johnloz, 260-827-8181.

JANUARY 30 - 10 a.m. EDT - Stetzel Farm LLC. Farm machinery retirement auction. Tractors, planters, harvest equipment, tillage, miscella-neous and farm related, trucks and trailers. Timed online. No reserve. Inspection Jan. 20 and Jan. 29 from noon to 4 p.m., 7204 S 200 E, Warren. Contact Mike Stetzel, 260-450-2370, with equipment questions or to set up an inspection appointment. Merit Auctions, www.meritauctions.com. 833-273-9300, auction manager: Zach Hiner, 260-437-2771.

JANUARY 30 - 2 p.m.-6 p.m. ET - Online - Farm: Mann Farm. Property Location: Three miles northwest of Craigville, IN; 1/4 mile south of US 224 along 500 E in Lancaster Township, Wells County. 36.75+/- total acres, 34.5+/- tillable, 2.25+/- non-tillable, high quality farmland, Wells Co. Soil Types: Pewamo silty clay loam, Bount Del-Rey silt loam; WAPI: 140.6 bu. corn, 43.8 bu. soybeans. Additional information, drone flight, photos available at halderman.com. Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management, 800-424-2324, Rick Johnloz: 260-827-8181, Neal Wolheter: 260-336-2219.

FEBRUARY 12 - 6 p.m. - Daniel E. Schloss, Elizabeth L. Burchfield (f/k/a Elizabeth L. Schloss), Estate of Meshell Schloss. Wells County 4-H Community Center, Bluffton. Online bidding available. 164+/-A offered in 8 Tracts or combination. Productive tillable land, professionally designed and stocked pond, recreational woods, newer tree plantings w/conservation grasses, potential country building sites,

Huntington County, Salamonie

Township. Inspection Feb. 5.

3-5p.m., call for private show-

ing. Auction managers: Jerry

Ehle, 260-410-1996, Steven C

Coil, 260-446-2037, Schrader

Real Estate and Auction Com-

pany, Inc., schraderauction. com, 800-451-2709. FEBRUARY 13 - 6 p.m. -Keith L. Gilbert estate. Markle

Volunteer Fire Department, 150 W. Sparks St., Markle. Property: From Town of Markle, travel northeast on Marzane Road 4 miles. 67.5+/-A offered in 4 tracts or any combination, Wells County, Union Township. Tract 1: 18+/-A w/16.44+/-A tillable. Tract 2: 9.5+/-A w/7.26+/-A tillable. Tract 3: 20+/-A, mostly tillable. Tract 4: 20+/-A, mostly tillable. All tracts have road access! Online bidding available. Inspection: Jan. 16, 4-6 p.m., Feb. 3, 10 a.m.-noon. Auction manager Al Pfister, 260-760-8922, Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc., schraderauction.com, 800-451-2709.

### Public Notice

NOTICE

The City of Bluffton is accepting sealed bids for the demolition of an unsafe building at 418 Hale Street and 228 E Market Street. Bidding instructions and specifications may be obtained from the Clerk Treasurer's Office, 128 East Mar-ket Street, Bluffton, IN, during the hours of Mon-Fri, 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. Bids must be returned to the Clerk Treasurer's Office by 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, January 23, 2024, to be opened and read aloud at the public meeting of the Board of Public Works and Safety on January 23, 2024 4:4:20 p.m. 2024 at 4:30 p.m. nb 1/8, 1/15

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## State lawmakers move forward with bill to ban antisemitism

As well as a bill to expand workforce training funds

By CASEY SMITH **Indiana Capital Chronicle** 

Indiana lawmakers are fasttracking a bill they say will ban antisemitism in public educational institutions - although critics of the proposal maintain it limits free speech and conflates anti-Jewish rhetoric with criticism of a foreign government.

The legislation advanced from the House Education Committee on Wednesday in a bipartisan 12-0 vote, sending it to the full chamber.

Authored by Republican Rep. Chris Jeter, of Fishers, House Bill 1002 is a priority measure for the House GOP caucus.

Indiana law already bans discrimination on the basis of race and "creed," which means religion. The legislation would specify that antisemitism — bias against Jewish people — is religious discrimination and is not allowed within the public education system.

The legislation uses a definition of antisemitism adopted by the U.S. State Department, U.S. Education Department and the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. And it makes clear that "criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country" is not antisemitism.

"This bill does not tell anybody what they can or cannot say, does not tell anybody what they can or cannot do. There's no new crime. There's no police force enforcing it. It's simply a reflection of our values as a state when it comes to teaching our youth and our students," Jeter said before the House Education Committee on Wednesday. "We have a long tradition of support for our Jewish community, and particularly our Jewish students. This bill reaffirms that — it makes it clear that they're going to be safe here."

Jeter filed an identical bill in 2023. It passed out of the House in a 97-0 vote but never received a committee hearing in the Senate, effectively killing the proposal.

Sen. Jeff Raatz, R-Richmond, who chairs the Senate Education

Committee, said last month that he expects his chamber to support the bill this time around.

> Antisemitism on **Hoosier campuses**

Some 40 people testified on the bill Wednesday at the Indiana Statehouse. Many were students or faculty at Indiana colleges, including Indiana and Purdue universities. A handful of high school students also spoke before lawmakers, sharing stories about various antisemitic incidents in their classrooms.

Rabbi Sue Silberberg, executive director at IU Hillel, said the bill is a much-needed response to a problem she has "faced and struggled with" during her tenure at Indiana University.

Since the Hamas attack in October, she said antisemitic chalkings, drawings on bridges and flyers hung around the campus have prompted an increase of scared and crying students to her office.

"I've seen antisemitism regularly throughout my years at IU. Thankfully, IU has tried to address it," Silberberg said. "But the overarching problem has been that Indiana does not have a clear and strong definition of antisemitism, and it is not specifically identified or called out as a problem and something that we stand behind prohibiting or stopping in our state.

At Purdue, public health student Honor Fuchs said she has faced antisemitism "in the form of wildly biased curriculum, hateful posters on campus and outright verbal attacks from students.'

She described an experience last fall, when she and other Jewish students were "mobbed, yelled at and insulted by fellow students" while holding a fundraiser on the campus.

"I couldn't complain, because being called a Nazi pales in comparison to the real persecution my grandparents faced in Nazioccupied Romania," Fuchs said. "It is horrifying that in 2024, in the United States, I have to make these calculations of gradations of bigotry and discrimination.'

Günther Jikeli, associate direc-

tor of IU's Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism, also supported Jeter's bill, noting that criticism of Israel is not the same as "wanting to destroy this person or this community or this state."

But more than two-dozen critics of the bill pushed back, many emphasizing that criticism of the Israeli government does not amount to antisemitism. Some warned of witch hunts under the vague definition.

Daniel Segal, representing Jewish Voice for Peace – Indiana, said the bill "undermines the struggle against antisemitism and would thus make me and other Jews less safe in Indiana."

"House Bill 1002 makes it harder to fight the scourge of antisemitism, because its sole purpose is to sow confusion about antisemitism. We cannot fight what we are confused about," he continued.

"If people want to respond to criticisms of the Israeli state, they should provide reasoned counter arguments, not fake charges of antisemitism," Segal said. "Defenders of the Israeli state resort to these fake charges of antisemitism only when they lack such reasoned counter arguments."

He added that the legislation would also "trample education" by making teachers and students "fearful of speaking openly, in regard to the history and current events in Israel and Palestine."

Echoing others who testified, Anisse Adni, an Islamic studies teacher in Indianapolis, said lawmakers should take out "vague and ambiguous language" in the bill "that would restrict our constitutional right to freedom of speech."

"If I, as an American citizen, have the right to criticize my own government's policies — if I have the right as an American to ask my government to right its wrongs, to change its policies — and I have no fear of punishment or reprisal because free speech is enshrined in the constitution ... Why would I, as an American, be okay with my right of free speech being impeded or restricted when criticizing a foreign government's policies? It shouldn't be wrong."

"I'm not anti-Chinese if I criticize China's government policies or their behaviors or whatever it may be," he continued. "We should not conflate antisemitism with criticism of the Israeli government and its policies."

Fixes to last year's workforce training legislation

House lawmakers additionally advanced a bill that seeks to make fixes to a major work-based learning bill adopted during the 2023

The new measure, House Bill 1001, authored by Rep. Chuck Goodrich, R-Noblesville, primarily seeks to allow money from the 21st Century Scholars program and Frank O'Bannon grants to be used by high school graduates for training by an approved intermediary, employer or labor organization — rather than for education costs at a college or university.

The bill would also permit annual career savings account grants to be used by students to cover costs associated with obtaining drivers licenses, and extend the timeline for completing CSA applications.

> Transition to teaching scholarships

The House Education Committee additionally voted unanimously on Wednesday to advance House Bill 1042, which stipulates that any dollars leftover at the end of each fiscal year from the Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship Fund can be reappropriated to the state's Transition to Teaching Scholarships.

Bill author Rep. Dave Heine, R-Fort Wayne, said the change could make an additional \$3 million available for teaching scholarships.

Last year, Goodrich similarly authored HEA 1002, which put in motion statewide career-centered education and training programs that seek to graduate Hoosier students who are better prepared for the workforce. Paramount to that legislation was a provision to establish CSAs for students in grades 10-12 to pay for career training outside their schools.

Participating students can

use the \$5,000 CSAs to pay for apprenticeships, career-related coursework, or certification.

Goodrich said his 2024 bill 'widens the scope" of how those funds can be used and "removes barriers" faced by some Hoosier students who tried to access technical education and work-based learning opportunities over the summer.

Democrats on the committee took issue with multiple provisions in the bill, however.

Rep. Ed DeLaney, D-Indianapolis, pointed to language that expands the use of state-sponsored scholarships, which he said leaves out spending cap stipulations or specific restrictions around what funds can and can't be used for.

We're going to enter into the program without any guidance for how much we're going to spend?" DeLaney questioned.

Committee chairman Rep. Bob Behning, R-Indianapolis, said the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (CHE) will instead have to decide when 21st Century and Frank O'Bannon funds are eligible for students post-high school.

Democratic Rep. Vernon Smith, D-Gary, also expressed concerns over the provision to fund drivers licenses.

'Are we going to start buying used cars, too? Will the next step be uniforms, or technical equipment, coming out of the scholarship accounts?" he asked.

Goodrich said in response that access to transportation "has been a huge issue for kids getting access to opportunities.'

Before voting on the bill, the committee unanimously adopted two amendments offered by Goodrich; one to clarify data reporting requirements associated with work-based learning programs, and another to add teaching to Indiana's Next Level Jobs Employer Training Program grants.

DeLaney offered other amendments but they all failed.

The bill passed out of the committee in a 9-4 vote along party lines. DeLaney promised to call additional amendments to the bill on the House floor.

# Iowa principal who risked life to protect students during high school shooting has died

**By SCOTT McFETRIDGE** and TRISHA AHMED **Associated Press** 

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — An Iowa principal who put himself in harm's way to protect students during a school shooting earlier this month died Sunday, a funeral home confirmed.

Caldwell Parrish Funeral Home & Crematory confirmed the death of Perry High School Principal Dan Marburger after the family announced it on a GoFundMe page.

Marburger was critically injured during the Jan. 4 attack, which began in the school's cafeteria as students were gathering for breakfast before class. An 11-yearold middle school student was killed in the shooting, and six other people were injured. The 17-year-old student who opened fire also died of an apparent self-inflicted gun-

The day after the shooting, the state Department of Public Safety said Marburger "acted selflessly and placed himself in harm's way in an apparent effort to protect his students.'

News of Marburger's death was first posted on a GoFundMe page for his family. The post, by Marburger's wife, Elizabeth, said he died at about 8 a.m. Sunday, and said: "Dan lost his battle. He fought hard and gave us 10 days that we will treasure

The news that Marburger died triggered a flood of support on the Perry Facebook page with nearly 200 people posting condolences within the first hour after it was posted.

Iowa Republican Gov. Kim Reynolds offered her condolences.

'Our entire state is devastated by the news of Dan Marburger's death," she said in a statement Sunday. "Dan courageously put himself in harm's way to protect his students, and ultimately gave his own life to save them. He will forever be remembered for his selfless and heroic actions. May he rest in peace."

Reynolds ordered all flags in Iowa to be lowered to half-staff on Sunday and to remain that way until sunset on the day of Marburger's funeral and interment. People, businesses, schools and local governments are also encouraged to fly the flag at halfstaff for the same length of time as a sign of respect, the statement said.

In a Facebook post on the night of the shooting, the principal's daughter, Claire Marburger, called her father a "gentle giant" and said it wasn't surprising that her father tried to protect his students.

"As I heard of a gunman, I instantly had a feeling my Dad would be a victim as he would put himself in harms way for the benefit of the kids and his staff," his daughter wrote. "That's just Dad."

Marburger had been principal since 1995. Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation spokesman Mitch Mortvedt said after the shooting that Marburger did some "pretty significant things" to protect others, but didn't release details. Perry Superintendent Clark Wicks said Marburger was a "hero" who intervened with the teenage gunman so students could escape.

An 11-year-old sixth grader, Ahmir Jolliff, was killed in the shooting. Authorities said he was shot three times.

The shooting happened just after 7:30 a.m. on Jan. 4, shortly before classes were set to begin on the first day back after winter break. Mortvedt said the shooting started in the cafeteria, where students from several grades were eating breakfast, then spilled outside the cafeteria but was contained to the north end of the school.

Authorities said the suspect, identified as Dylan Butler, had a pump-action shotgun and a small-caliber handgun. Mortvedt told The Associated Press that authorities also found a "pretty rudimentary" improvised explosive device in Butler's belongings, and that experts advised "it was something that they needed to disarm." It was rendered

# North Korea says it tested solid-fuel missile tipped with hypersonic weapon

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea on Monday said it flight-tested a new solid-fuel intermediate-range missile tipped with a hypersonic warhead as it pursues more powerful, harder-todetect weapons designed to strike remote U.S. targets in the region.

The report by North Korea's state media came a day after the South Korean and Japanese militaries detected the launch from a site near the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, in the North's first ballistic test of 2024.

The launch came two months after North Korea said it successfully tested engines for a new solid-fuel intermediaterange missile, which reflected a push to advance its lineup of weapons targeting U.S. military bases in Guam and Japan.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency said Sunday's launch was aimed at verifying the reliability of the missile's solid-fuel engines and the maneuverable flight capabilities of the hypersonic warhead. It described the test as a success.

KCNA did not mention whether North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was present at the test, which it said was part of the country's regular weapons development activities.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missile flew about 620 milesbefore landing in the waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan. The North's existing intermediate-range missiles, including the Hwasong-12 that may be able to reach the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam, are powered by liquidfuel engines, which need to be fueled before launch and cannot stay fueled for long periods of time.

Missiles with built-in solid propellants can be made ready to launch faster and are easier to move and conceal, which theoretically makes it harder for adversaries to detect and preempt the launch in advance.

The North since 2021 has also been testing hypersonic weapons, which are designed to fly at speeds in excess of Mach 5, or five times the speed of sound. If perfected, such systems could potentially pose a challenge to regional missile defense systems because of their speed and maneuverability.

Hypersonic weapons were part of a wish-list of sophisticated military assets Kim unveiled in 2021, along with multiwarhead missiles, spy satellites, solidfuel long-range missiles and submarinelaunched nuclear missiles.

The North last year tested a solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missile for the first time, which added to its arsenal of weapons targeting the U.S. mainland, and also launched its first military reconnaissance satellite in November.

Tensions on the Korean Peninsula are at their highest point in years after Kim in recent months ramped up his weapons demonstrations. The United States and its allies Seoul and Tokyo responded by strengthening their combined military exercises and sharpening their nuclear deterrence strategies.

There are also concerns about an alleged arms cooperation between North Korea and Russia as they align in the face of separate, intensifying confrontations with Washington. In their latest sign of diplomacy, a North Korean delegation led by Kim's foreign minister, Choe Sun Hui, left Pyongyang on Sunday for a visit to Russia at the invitation of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, KCNA said. The report did not specify what would be discussed.

# Netanyahu: no one can halt Israel's war to crush Hamas, including world court

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israel will pursue its war against Hamas until victory and will not be stopped by anyone, including the world court, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a defiant speech Saturday, as the fighting in Gaza approached the 100day mark.

Netanyahu spoke after the International Court of Justice at The Hague held two days of hearings on South Africa's allegations that Israel is committing genocide against Palestinians, a charge Israel has rejected as libelous and hypocritical. South Africa asked the court to order Israel to halt its blistering air and ground offensive in an interim step.

"No one will stop us, not The Hague, not the axis of evil and not anyone else," Netanyahu said in televised remarks Saturday evening, referring to Iran and its allied militias.

The case before the world court is expected to go on for years, but a ruling on interim steps could

come within weeks. Court rulings are binding but difficult to enforce. Netanyahu made clear that Israel would ignore orders to halt the fighting, potentially deepening its isolation.

Israel has been under growing international pressure to end the war, which has killed more than 23,000 Palestinians in Gaza and led to widespread suffering in the besieged enclave, but has so far been shielded by U.S. diplomatic and military

Thousands took to the

streets of Washington, London, Paris, Rome, Milan and Dublin on Saturday to demand an end to the war. Protesters converging on the White House held aloft signs questioning President Joe Biden's viability as a presidential candidate because of his staunch support for Israel during the

Israel argues that ending the war means victory for Hamas, the Islamic militant group that has ruled Gaza since 2007 and is bent on Israel's destruction.

The war was triggered by a deadly Oct. 7 attack in which Hamas and other

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militants killed some 1,200 people in Israel, mostly civilians.

