

# The News - Banner

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## A life well loved

Wells County lifetime resident celebrates 100th birthday

**By SYDNEY KENT**  
It was a negative 24-degree day in January of 1924 when a beautiful 10-pound baby girl was born in Liberty Township. As she sat around her kitchen table 100 years

later, a mere few miles from that spot, Roberta Gene Arnold smiled. "I was born right at my house, just like my brothers and sisters," Arnold explained. "The doctor came to us. It just was the way things were in those days."



Roberta Arnold. (Photo provided)

Fun and laughter filled Arnold's home as she grew up by the light of lanterns in various rooms. Despite not having the modern-day luxuries of indoor plumbing or electricity, Arnold said she and her siblings had a blast as early life passed. The Liberty Center United Methodist Church, the place of her 100th birthday party last weekend, has also been family for her since infancy.

A lifelong resident of Wells County, Arnold graduated from Liberty Center High School in 1942, where she was a cheerleader for three years. She smiled as she recounted how she married her high school sweet-



Roberta Arnold (pictured) sits at her kitchen table in the home she has lived in since 1955. This is where she spends most of her time enjoying coffee, watching T.V., and talking with her pet Parakeet, Jay. (Photo by Sydney Kent)

heart, Bob Arnold, three years later on March 10, 1945.

Though she never held a position in an office, Roberta spoke of the many titles she has worn throughout her life. She has been a farmer, a friend, a mother, a grand

and great-grandmother, a chef, a baker, and many other things as a happy homemaker.

Arnold sat at the table next to her daughter-in-law, Vicki Arnold.

"She's not my daughter-in-law," Roberta corrected with a

mischievous grin. "She's my daughter."

Vicki gave away Roberta's secret to such a long and lovely life.

"She's done it right," Vicki (Continued on Page 2)

### Celebrating 100 days

Southern Wells Elementary School students have been in school over 100 days. To celebrate, kindergartens and first grade students played fun games, brought in 100 items from home and dressed like they were 100-years-old. Second graders celebrated day 101 by many students dressing up as 101 Dalmatians. Even first and second grade teachers and aides participated with students. (Photo provided)

## Attempt to limit governor's executive powers advances

The bill would restrict a disaster emergency to just 30 days, unless lawmakers reconvene and approve additional time.

**By CASEY SMITH**  
**Indiana Capital Chronicle**  
Still reeling over a slew of executive orders issued by Gov. Eric Holcomb during the pandemic, Senate Republicans advanced a bill Tuesday that seeks to limit the governor's emergency powers.

The clackback legislation, Senate Bill 234, removes a Hoosier governor's ability to extend a state of disaster emergency after 30 days — or declare a new emergency — unless it is "wholly unrelated" to the first one. A longer disaster declaration would require approval from the General Assembly.

Critics worry it could delay responses in emergencies, while supporters argue it's about representation.

The measure advanced from the Senate 38-10, with all Democrats and one Republican, Sen. Greg Walker, voting in opposition. The bill now heads to the House.

"If we hit an emergency disaster declaration when we're not in session, Hoosiers' voices cannot be represented by its elected body here today. That's what this

bill does," said Sen. Chris Garten, R-Charlestown, lead author of the proposal.

"Supporting this bill ensures that every constituent in your district, Democrat or Republican, that elected you — or maybe didn't — has their voice be heard during an emergency disaster," he continued. "That may be the most critical time for a constituent's voice to be heard by its elected representative body."

"If we hit an emergency disaster declaration when we're not in session, Hoosiers' voices cannot be represented by its elected body here today," said Garten.

It's not the first time state lawmakers have gone after the governor's powers, however.

Most notably, legislators approved a law in 2021 following criticism from conservatives over Indiana's statewide mask mandate and other COVID-19 restrictions that Holcomb imposed by executive order.

The measure sought to give the Republican-dominated legislature the power to call themselves into (Continued on Page 2)

## Qatar lashes out at Israel's Netanyahu over critical remarks

**By NAJIB JOBAIN, JACK JEFFERY and TIA GOLDENBERG**  
**Associated Press**  
RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Qatar said it was appalled Wednesday by leaked remarks made by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in which he criticized the country's mediation efforts with Hamas, complicating already

arduous negotiations meant to halt the hostilities in exchange for a hostage release.

In a meeting with families of hostages held by Hamas, Netanyahu said Qatar's role in the mediation was "problematic." Qatar, a key mediator that also has deep ties to the militant group and hosts some of its exiled leaders, said Netanyahu's remarks were "irre-

sponsible and destructive."

The public spat came as sensitive talks were underway in an effort to advance a potential agreement that might offer some respite in the devastating 3-month-old war. The fighting has killed more than 25,000 Palestinians, according to the Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza, displaced some 85 percent of the territory's 2.3 million peo-

ple and triggered a humanitarian catastrophe that has spread hunger, malnutrition and disease across the embattled coastal enclave.

As the diplomacy continued, fierce fighting still raged, especially in southern Gaza, where the United Nations said an Israeli tank strike on a U.N. facility killed at least nine people and wounded dozens.

Netanyahu has vowed to press

ahead with the offensive until "complete victory" against Hamas, which started the war with its Oct. 7 assault across the border, killing some 1,200 people in Israel and abducting 250 others.

Israel says it is fighting in self-defense, but it faces charges that it is committing genocide at the U.N. world court at The Hague, which (Continued on Page 2)

**Inside**

Local/Area

Obituaries . . . . . 3  
Indiana News . . . . . 3

**Opinion**

Tom Purcell . . . . . 4

**Also...**

Sports . . . . . 6-7  
Classifieds . . . . . 7  
Diversions . . . . . 5

**Outside**

Someone turn off the fog machine

Today	Saturday	Sunday
High 42	High 44	High 40
Low 35	Low 34	Low 30

More Weather on Page 2

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**FRIDAY**  
January 26, 2024

**PADDLEFISH solar project**

Susan Poper - Local Representative  
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Bluffton, IN 46714  
Office Hours: Tues. 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Thurs. 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
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## 100th birthday

(Continued from Page 1)

spoke tenderly. “She loves the Lord. She forgives — always. She doesn’t hold onto anything except her family. She keeps her mind active, and she eats very well. She treats her friends well and she loves well.”

The only rough spot Roberta Arnold could recall in her life was when she earned a title she was not prepared to bear: widow.

“That really was the hardest part,” Arnold said softly. “He went fast. It was Christmas time. We ate dinner, oh, we had such a great day. We stopped at Gerber’s to shop for some Christmas presents for our boys. He passed so unexpectedly.”

Bob Arnold, a beloved member of the community, passed away at the age of 64. Arnold said she has been on her own since. Her deep love for her husband was reflected in the light in her eyes and the softness in her voice as she recalled their life together.

“We loved to do so much,” Arnold recounted. “Even if we weren’t next to each other. He would be out in the fields while I was milking the cows. And we loved going to fairs. We would go to fairs all over the place.”

Arnold presented a photo from the

Anderson County Fair taken during the 1980s. She and her husband stood together next to the championship horse.

Arnold said she found renewed purpose caring for her grandchildren after she lost her husband. She would spend time with them while Vicki, their mother, would tend to the needs of her parents.

“She was always there, every game, every practice,” Vicki Arnold said. “She never missed anything.”

“I don’t know what I would have done without them,” Roberta Arnold said tearfully.

One of five sisters, Vicki Arnold explained how her family has lovingly “adopted” Roberta as a mother figure. They celebrate holidays together and pour love into all of the gaps left by the grief life often brings.

Game shows fall somewhere high on the list of things Roberta Arnold loves. Though she couldn’t quite narrow down her favorites, The Price is Right, Family Feud, and Jeopardy are high in the ranks. The Young and the Restless is also a home run.

Her compassionate nature is reflected clearly in her morning routine. Arnold cares for her pet parakeet, Jay,

before even feeding herself each day. She said Jay has been a great conversationalist and companion for the past 11 years. Arnold also said she feels blessed to make lunch for her sons five days a week and continues to drive herself to church and run short errands when needed.

Nearby Jay’s cage sat a beautiful bouquet of red and white roses. The arrangement was one of many flowers and gift bags in her home from her birthday party on Sunday. Vicki Arnold said that over 250 people were in attendance.

In fact, the parking lot could not contain the number of people who showed up to celebrate Roberta Arnold — a testament to her steady, sweet presence in the lives of many. From church family to children to the friends of grandkids, she has fed and filled with love over the years, a line of people formed to greet her.

“I was shocked,” Tears fell from Arnold’s eyes as she clasped her hands over her chest. “Little did I realize, I had so many great friends.”

Arnold offered her own insight into living a 100-year life, no matter the circumstances: keep going, keep loving and stay busy.

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## Executive powers

(Continued from Page 1)

special session after the governor has declared an emergency. Holcomb vetoed, claiming it went against the Indiana Constitution, but the General Assembly overrode his veto.

Ultimately, Holcomb prevailed before the Indiana Supreme Court.

Garten maintained Tuesday that the bill “is not a shot at Gov. Holcomb” or “any administration.”

“The Supreme Court clarified a law that we passed, and they ruled it unconstitutional. That showed us a pathway, as a general assembly, to make sure that our constituents can be represented during a declared disaster emergency,” he said. “That’s what this bill does.”

Speaking to reporters last week, the governor held that disaster responses should happen in partnership with the legislature. He vowed to work with lawmakers in the coming weeks “to try to find the right spot, ultimately, that addresses both of our concerns.”

“There’s always going to be, understandably, a little tension between the legislative approach to an emergency — understanding that the policies affect their

districts, and their citizens, of which I share their concerns — and the executive approach,” Holcomb said.

### GOP lawmakers want more say

Garten’s bill was amended Monday to allow the governor to issue a one-time renewal of a state disaster emergency for an additional 30 days — for a total of 60 days under an executive order.

The renewal must be for the purpose of ensuring Indiana can receive federal relief funds, though.

Holcomb issued nearly 70 executive orders around public health in the year and a half after the pandemic broke out. But the governor has the ability to issue disaster orders in other instances, too, including in the wake of tornadoes and floods.

Still, Garten emphasized that “we do not have to be in an emergency disaster to receive federal funding.”

He pointed to an executive order issued by Holcomb in February 2018 following severe storms tore through southern Indiana. The disaster order lasted 30 days and was not renewed or extended.

Two months later, Holcomb sent a letter to former President Donald Trump,

requesting federal aid for Hoosiers affected by “catastrophic” and “historic flooding.”

The ask was granted, even though Indiana was no longer under the governor’s disaster order.

“You do not have to be in the absolute middle of the emergency disaster that is declared,” Garten reiterated.

### 30 days is ‘too short’

Even so, Sen. Shelli Yoder, D-Bloomington, said the bill would delay federal dollars when they’re needed most. She rebuked Garten’s example and called the bill “an added layer of bureaucracy” for times when Hoosiers “are facing, perhaps, the worst days of their lives.”

“I think it is dangerous that we pass legislation based on one example. That is not data. That is one example,” she said. “We have had multiple natural disasters and state of emergencies declared in the state of Indiana. Using one example, as the foundation upon which we would be able to respond to the need of Hoosiers, is quite frankly irresponsible.”

Democrats have repeatedly called out the attempts to curb executive authority, and said the latest legislative push could prove “dan-

gerous” and “deadly” in the aftermath of a disaster.

“I don’t think anybody understands that the 30 days is really a very short amount of time to understand the impact, hear from experts, hear what are the best options, and then try to get people together,” said Sen. Rodney Pol, D-Chesterton. “There are a number of emergencies that we’ve seen across the country that are non-COVID related that have gone on for a lot longer than 30 days. ... I think that there’s going to be a lot of unforeseen circumstances that we’re not really prepared for.”

Minority leader Sen. Greg Taylor, D-Indianapolis, additionally noted that it’s still up to the governor to call the General Assembly into a special session.

“What if the politics are not in your favor? What if you don’t have 40 members of the Indiana General Assembly who are Republican, and a governor who’s Republican?” Taylor asked. “I think that we need to be conscious of what we do in these scenarios, because you don’t know what’s going to happen down the line. Please don’t play around with people’s lives and their livelihoods.”

## Qatar lashes out

(Continued from Page 1)

announced that it would issue a decision Friday on South Africa’s request for an interim order telling Israel to halt the hostilities.

### A ‘PROBLEMATIC’ MEDIATOR

Qatar has been a critical link in negotiating efforts between Israel and Hamas.

In Netanyahu’s leaked remarks, which were broadcast Tuesday on Israeli Channel 12 television, he also told the families that he has intentionally not thanked Qatar for its mediation efforts, claiming it could put more pressure on the Islamic militant group.

“Qatar in my opinion is no different, in essence, from the U.N. It is no different, in essence, from the Red Cross, and in some ways it is even more problematic,” he said. Israel views those organizations with suspicion, seeing them as biased against it and not helpful enough in securing the hostages’ freedom.

Netanyahu also said in the leaked audio that he had expressed anger at the United States for renewing a military base in the Gulf state. He said he told the Americans to put pressure on Qatar to put pressure on Hamas.

Qatar helped secure a weeklong truce in November in which over 100 hostages were released. It also is involved in efforts to broker a new deal to bring home the roughly 130 hostages that remain in captivity.

In a post on X, formerly Twitter, Qatar’s Foreign Ministry spokesperson Majed al-Ansari said his government was “appalled” by the reported remarks by Netanyahu but that they were “not surprising.”

“If the reported remarks

are found to be true, the Israeli PM would only be obstructing and undermining the mediation process, for reasons that appear to serve his political career instead of prioritizing saving innocent lives, including Israeli hostages,” al-Ansari said.

Qatar, along with Egypt, is working on a new agreement that could set free more hostages. The White House’s Middle East envoy, Brett McGurk, was in Doha on Wednesday, National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said. The visit came a day after McGurk met with officials in Egypt in hopes of establishing a temporary truce between Israel and Hamas.

But officials say the gap between the two sides is still wide, and the spat between Netanyahu and Qatar could rattle the negotiations.

### FIGHTING RAGES IN SOUTHERN GAZA

Since the last truce ended in late November, fighting has intensified. The second-largest city of Khan Younis has been the latest focus of the war. The United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, said at least nine people were killed when tank rounds struck a U.N. training center where 800 people were sheltering, according to the agency’s Gaza director, Thomas White.

The number of deaths was likely to climb, agency head Philippe Lazzarini wrote on X. He said the compound was clearly marked and its coordinates shared with Israeli authorities.

“Once again a blatant disregard of basic rules of war,” he wrote. The agency said the same site was also hit earlier in the week, killing six.

The military said it had “currently ruled out” that its aircraft or artillery had carried out the latest strike but was still investigating. Israel has accused Hamas of fighting near U.N. shelters and of endangering civilians by positioning fighters and militant infrastructure in dense residential areas.

Earlier Wednesday, Israel battled Palestinian militants outside of the city’s main Nasser Hospital, where medics said 850 patients and thousands of displaced people were trapped by the fighting because the surrounding roads were inaccessible or too dangerous.

Thousands of people fled south Tuesday from Khan Younis toward the town of Rafah on Tuesday. The U.N. says some 1.5 million people — around two-thirds of Gaza’s population — are crowded into shelters and tent camps in and around Rafah, which is on the border with Egypt.

Even there, Palestinians have found little safety, with Israel regularly carrying out strikes in and around the town. At least five people were killed when a strike hit a mosque Wednesday in Rafah, according to Associated Press journalists who viewed the bodies at a nearby hospital.

At least 210 Palestinians have been killed in the past 24 hours, bringing the total death toll from the war to 25,700, according to the Health Ministry. The agency’s count does not differentiate between civilians and combatants, but it says most of the dead are women and minors.

### A TEMPORARY BUFFER ZONE

Hamas was still attacking Israeli forces, even in some of the most devastated areas,

## Weather

Friday, January 26, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:18 p.m. Thursday)

**High:** 44; **Low:** 39; **Precipitation:** 0.09 inches of rain  
**Wabash River Level** (at the Main Street bridge): 3.32 feet at 9:45 p.m. Thursday

### Wells County forecast

**Today:** Patchy fog. Otherwise, cloudy, with a high near 42. West wind around 10 mph.

**Tonight:** Patchy fog. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 35. West wind around 5 mph.

**Saturday:** Patchy fog before 10 a.m. Otherwise, cloudy, with a high near 44. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming northeast in the afternoon.

**Saturday Night:** Rain likely before 4 a.m., then rain likely, possibly mixed with snow. Cloudy, with a low around 34. Northeast wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent. Little or no snow accumulation expected.

**Sunday:** A chance of rain and snow before 1 p.m. Cloudy, with a high near 40. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

**Sunday Night:** Cloudy, with a low around 30.

**Monday:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 38.

**Monday Night:** A 20 percent chance of rain after 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 31.

**Tuesday:** A 30 percent chance of rain, mainly before 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 41.

**Tuesday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 30.

**Wednesday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 43.

**Wednesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 32.

**Thursday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 45.

## Ukraine, Russia trade accusations over fatal plane crash

By The Associated Press

Russia and Ukraine traded accusations Thursday over the crash of a military transport plane that Moscow said was carrying Ukrainian prisoners of war and was shot down by Kyiv’s forces, another heated episode in the information war that has been a feature of the conflict.

Though investigators reportedly found the flight recorder a day after Wednesday’s crash there was little hope that the circumstances would be clarified in a war where both sides have often used accusations to sway opinion at home and abroad.

The Il-76 crashed in a huge ball of fire in a rural area of Russia’s Belgorod region, which borders Ukraine, and authorities there said all 74 people on board, including 65 POWs, six crew members and three Russian servicemen, were killed.

The crash triggered a spate of claims and counterclaims, but neither side offered evidence for their accusations, and The Associated Press could not independently confirm who was aboard or how the plane was downed.

Russia alleged that Kyiv shot down the plane with two missiles and said the prisoners of war were headed for an exchange. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov described it as “a totally monstrous act.” Russia’s top investigative agency, known as the Investigative Committee, opened a criminal probe Thursday on charges that the crash was a terrorist act.

Ukraine responded by casting doubt on the fact that POWs were aboard and putting forward their own theories, including implying that the plane may have posed a threat.

Without mentioning the crash, the general staff of the Ukrainian military said the country would target any Russian military transport plane believed to be delivering missiles, especially near the border.

Ukrainian officials have noted that Moscow did not ask for any specific airspace to be kept safe for a certain length of time, as it has in past prisoner exchanges.

Mykola Oleschchuk, Ukraine’s air force commander, alleged that “rampant Russian propaganda is directing a fake stream of information to the international audience, attempting to discredit Ukraine in the eyes of the global community.”

Ukrainian officials confirmed that a prisoner exchange was due to happen Wednesday. But they said it was called off. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Ukraine would push for an international investigation.

At an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council called by Russia late Thursday, Russian and Ukrainian diplomats clashed in person.

Russia’s deputy U.N. ambassador Dmitry Polyansky accused Ukraine of a premeditated attack that sacrificed its own citizens “to Western geopolitical interests.” He said that if a preliminary investigation showing the plane was hit by an American or German missile is confirmed, the Western countries that supplied the weapons “will become direct participants of this crime.”

Polyansky reiterated Russian claims that the Ukrainian General Staff initially issued a congratulatory statement saying the plane was downed intentionally, and started a cover-up when they realized Ukrainian prisoners were on board.

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OBITUARIES

Joyce J. Gehring, 88

Joyce J. Gehring, 88, of Bluffton, passed away Wednesday evening, Jan. 24, 2024, at Stillwater Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

Joyce was born in Adams County, on Aug. 10, 1935, to William and Lydia I. (French) Grandlinard; both parents preceded her in death. She married Clarren L. Gehring on May 25, 1952; he survives in Bluffton.

She worked most of her life in the medical field, serving as an LPN for numerous hospitals and nursing homes in and around Bluffton. Joyce was a member of the Apostolic Christian Church. In her spare time, she enjoyed camping, knitting and baking.

Joyce is survived by her husband of 71 years, Clarren Gehring, and six children, Sharon Gehring of Clearwater, Fla., Kent (Barb) Gehring of Ossian, Scott (Chris) Gehring of Boise, I.D., Bruce (Marsha) Gehring of Tocsin, Lynn Gehring (Robert Wedding) of Bluffton, and Aleda Braun of Clearwater, Fla.; 14 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. In addition to her parents, Joyce is preceded in death by four sisters and seven brothers.

Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 29, 2024, at Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton, followed immediately by a funeral service at 2 p.m. Ron Kipfer will officiate. Burial will be held at Apostolic Christian Cemetery in Adams County.

Memorials can be made in Joyce's memory to the Apostolic Christian Church.

Online condolences can be made at [www.goodwincaleharnish.com](http://www.goodwincaleharnish.com).

Sue H. (Swartz) Cabbage, 68

Sue H. (Swartz) Cabbage, 68, passed away Thursday morning at her daughter's residence in Columbia City, following an extended illness.

Arrangements are pending with Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel 3220 East SR 124 Bluffton, IN.

# Grant programs establishing, sustaining localized health responses move forward

## Lawmakers also want to track health care mergers, monopolies

By WHITNEY DOWNARD  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Lawmakers moved several meaty health care bills forward Wednesday, though many have a fiscal component that will trigger additional scrutiny.

Many supporters and advocates saw two bills heard before the Senate health committee as companion bills, with one funding seed money for communities to start programs and another aimed at sustaining those services.

Under Senate Bill 10, the Division of Mental Health and Addiction, housed under the Family and Social Services Administration, would oversee the Community Cares Initiative Grant Pilot Program and its accompanying fund. But Senate Bill 142 would provide a mechanism for ongoing funding by requiring reimbursement for medical services for mobile integrated health.

### Community Cares

Author Sen. Scott Baldwin, R-Noblesville, said he saw Senate Bill 10 as a way to reduce public safety expenses by creating programs for non-emergency calls often routed to first responders. Communities could cater such offerings to address mental health, addiction, homelessness, elder care or maternity care deserts.

"Imagine a team of people — or one person in a very small community — whose sole job it is to be proactive instead of reactive. Whose sole job it is to understand every single resource in your community, be it food insecurity, places to find food or housing, mental health," Baldwin said. "(This is) encouraging local communities to adopt this type of response by providing seed money and encouraging them to put their own money in and sustain it for

more than three years."

Sens. Ed Charbonneau and Mike Crider, both members of the committee, said they saw this bill as a continuation of their 2023 legislative efforts to reform public health funding and 988 crisis line funding, respectively.

Several mayors testified in support of the bill, pointing to how their community could use the funding to redirect 911 calls to other services or connect with residents before a mental health crisis.

Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen, who approached Baldwin with the idea for the legislation, said his community's program launched just weeks before the COVID-19 pandemic surged in early 2020. Stakeholders aimed to identify at-risk community members and try to proactively reduce 911 calls, as public safety counts for over 50 percent of the city's budget.

"We've reduced the number of repeat calls to emergency services for some residents who needed support while connecting them with the full spectrum of resources," Jensen said.

### Mobile Integrated Health

The bill passed unanimously and was recommitted to the Appropriations Committee to approve the spending, which comes from existing funds. While cities and communities can now use the dollars to establish mobile crisis or mobile integrated health care programs, Senate Bill 142 would be the one tackling long-term funding.

Sen. Brian Buchanan, the author, described the legislation as another pilot program that would require insurer reimbursement for services provided by a mobile integrated health program. The experiment for coverage would be

limited to three counties — Delaware, White and Montgomery — with existing, established mobile integrated health units and run from July 1, 2024 until June 30, 2027.

"A mobile integrated health system integrates (Emergency Medical Services) professional and at-risk individual care plans to ensure that proper needs are being taken care of to mitigate hospital readmissions through preventative and comprehensive health care services," said Buchanan, R-Lebanon.

One of the most recognized programs in Crawfordsville aims to provide "cradle to grave" care through partnerships with local health providers and state grant funding. Getting reimbursed, rather than depending on charitable funding, would grant stability.

"Access to care is an issue everywhere but your health outcomes should not be determined by your zip code," said Paul Miller, the division chief of the Crawfordsville Fire Department.

In rural Monticello, located in White County, Nick Green highlighted his community's brand of paramedicine that focused on reducing hospital readmissions and connecting pregnant and postpartum moms with a local nurse's expertise. In the more urban Muncie, Mayor Dan Ridenour said the focus is more on repeat 911 callers who request ambulance services to the emergency department and tie up resources for routine care.

Currently, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security offers a mobile integrated health grant with a \$500,000 appropriation, awarding grants of either \$50,000 or \$75,000 to qualifying communities.

The bill passed unanimously and now moves to the Indiana Senate.

### Other action

An unrelated bill seeks to tackle high health care costs by targeting monopolies through a notification process with the Attorney General's Office. Author Sen. Chris Garten, R-Charlestown, said that 29 other states had such a requirement and many went even further, mandating that health care entities also get approval from that state department before merging.

The legislation's language conforms with recommendations from an interim task force led by Garten.

Under the bill, the office may analyze antitrust concerns, which "shall" be shared with the parties providing a notice of acquisition or merger. The department may also issue a civil investigative demand to a health care entity for more information — which Scott Barnhart, the chief counsel and director of consumer protection with the office, said would be kept confidential.

Gloria Sachdev, with the Employers' Forum of Indiana, said that current anti-monopoly reviews required by the Federal Trade Commission and Department of Justice weren't sufficient because of the high bar set by the agency, which she said missed acquisitions of smaller practices.

But representatives on behalf of the Indiana Hospital Association argued that this would duplicate federal efforts and didn't adequately address private equity concerns.

Despite those objections, the bill passed unanimously.

The Senate Health and Provider Services Committee also unanimously bills establishing requirements for nurses to learn about trauma-informed care and requirements for contract negotiations between providers and managed care organizations.

# Remains found at Indiana estate those of man missing since 1993

WESTFIELD, Ind. (AP) — Remains recovered from the central Indiana estate of a presumed serial killer have been identified as those of a man reported missing in 1993, a coroner said Thursday.

The remains recovered in 1996 at the Fox Hollow Farm estate of Herbert Baumeister were found to match Manuel Resendez, who was 34 when he disappeared, Hamilton County Coroner Jeff Jellison said.

Resendez was identified through a family reference sample provided in early 2023, Jellison said.

Approximately 10,000 charred bones and bone fragments have been found at Baumeister's 18-acre estate in Westfield, about 16 miles north of Indianapolis, Jellison has said.

Baumeister was 49 when he killed himself in Canada in July 1996 as investigators sought to question him about the remains discovered at Fox Hollow Farm.

Investigators believed Baumeister, a married father of three who frequented gay bars, lured men to his home and killed them. By 1999, authorities had linked him to the disappearance of at least 16 men since 1980, including several whose bodies were found dumped in shallow streams in rural central Indiana and western Ohio.

Jellison announced a renewed effort in 2022 to identify the charred bones and fragments by asking relatives of young men who vanished between the mid-1980s and the mid-1990s to submit DNA samples. He said investigators believe the bones and fragments could represent the remains of at least 25 people.

# Death penalty dismissed against man accused of killing Indianapolis officer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A judge on Thursday granted the state's motion to dismiss death penalty charges against a man charged with fatally shooting an Indianapolis police officer in 2020 because doctors have found him to be mentally ill.

The Marion County Prosecutor's Office on Wednesday filed a motion to dismiss its request for a death sentence against Elliahs Dorsey, who is accused of killing Officer Breann Leath of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department while she responded to a domestic violence call.

The motion came after the prosecutors reviewed psychiatric evaluations of Dorsey from two court-appointed doctors, the office said.

"The United States Constitution forbids the execution of mentally ill defendants. Based on all the available evidence, the State has determined that it is constitutionally prohibited from seeking the death penalty," officials said in a news release.

Leath, 24, and three other officers were responding to a domestic violence call involving Dorsey when Leath was shot twice in the head through the door of an Indianapolis apartment, police have said.



Elks make donation

Elks donated \$2,000 to the Norwell Food Bank using its Grand Lodge Community Investment Program grants. (Photo provided)

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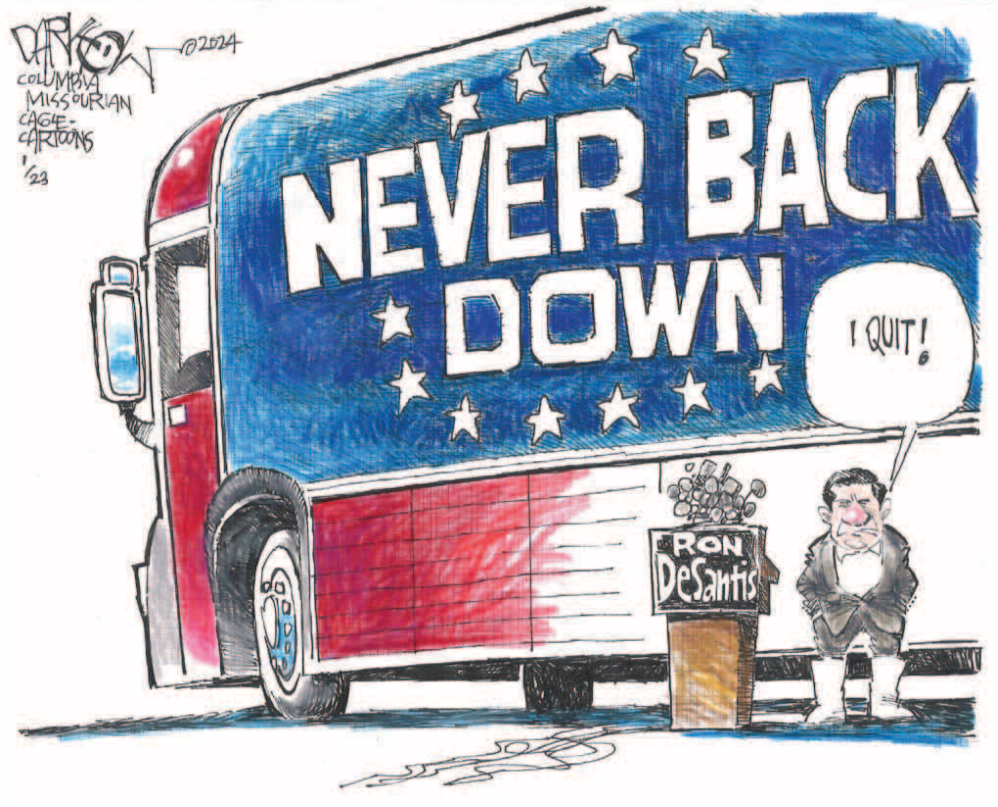
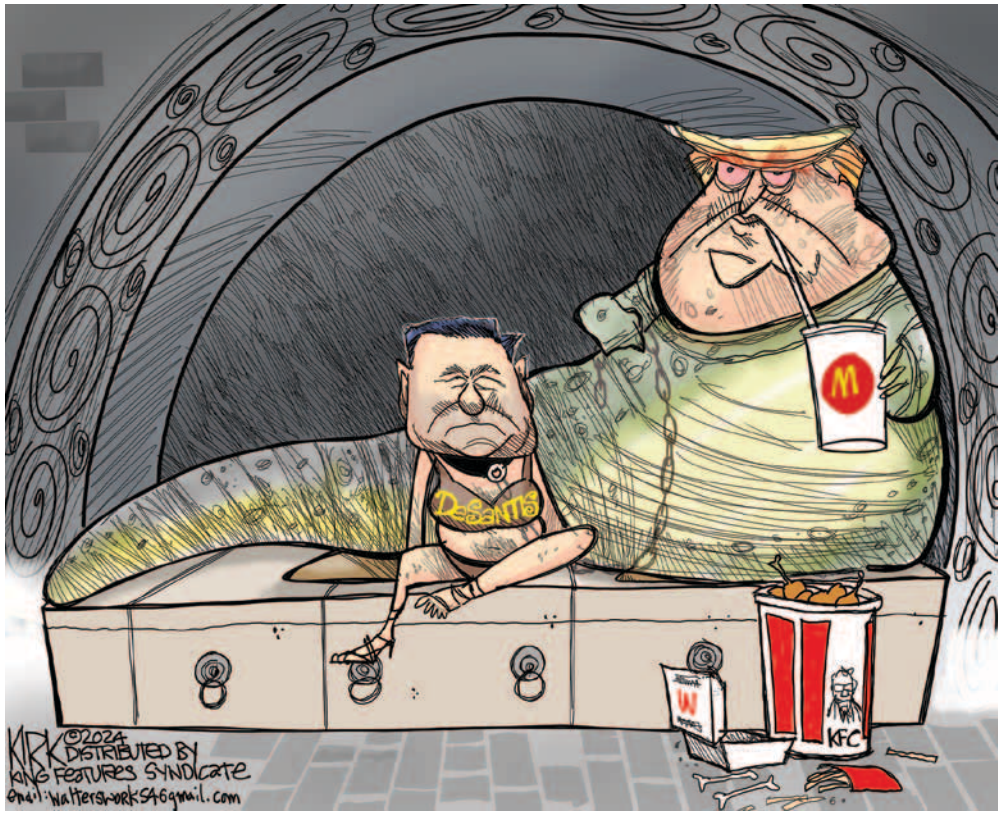
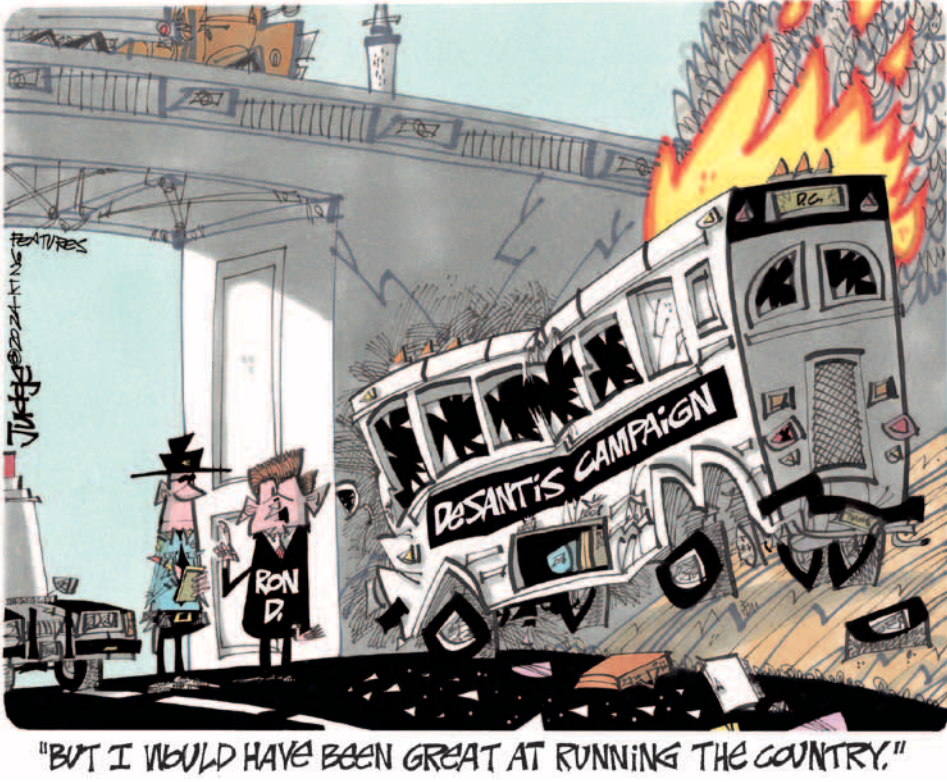
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Ron DeSantis - a look through cartoonists' eyes...



Our over-coddled kids

Get this: Gen Z job applicants are bringing their parents to job interviews, reports the New York Post.

As it goes, for several decades America's children have been over-coddled by their "helicopter parents" — parents who zoom in to resolve any challenge their children may face, even as they become adults.

Now they can't even conduct a job interview without mom or dad holding their hands and guiding the outcome?

Geeze. That makes me kind of worried.

Aren't the Zs the generation I'm supposed to count on for paying my future Social Security and Medicare checks?

I'm not exactly sure where American parents first went off the rails, but I suppose this latest "helicopter-ism" is a direct result of the way social media has impacted childhood.

According to Market Insider, some 20% of our young people spend more than 5 hours a day absorbing TikTok — the Chinese propaganda outlet where they learn how evil America is and that the values of their parents and grandparents are incredibly wrong and outdated.

They are being impacted daily by messages in the palm of their smartphoned hands that contradict what their parents and grandparents are desperately trying to teach them.

I suppose it is no wonder, then, why parents are staying so close to their children nowadays.

I suppose parents are doing their very best to control the many outside influences their children are getting.

I also suppose that is why the tough-love approach that was common before social media has evolved into the hyper-coddling "helicopter-parent" approach in which parents are accompanying their adult children on job interviews?

Maybe. Maybe not.

All I know is that over-coddling anyone never worked and never will.

It's true that older generations often think younger generations are messing everything up — but then again, I can't imagine ever asking my dad to be my chaperone at a job interview:

"I wouldn't hire this boy," he probably would have said. "He was late for school every morning, never took his homework seriously and, by the way, he wet the bed until he was 11."

Dads from his generation were masters of tough love — because they knew we needed to be tough and alert to flourish in an unpredictable, highly-competitive, often nasty world.

And they were right.

The world is just as unpredictable and competitive as ever — and with our bottomless sea of bizarre social media posts, it's certainly more confusing than it has ever been.

Sorry, kids, but in today's world we lack the time or the luxury of having mom and dad accompanying our overly sensitive young adults to job interviews.

Try as they may, no parent can prevent their child from eventually encountering the harsh realities of being an adult in the real world.

Sooner or later a nasty boss is going to snap at all of us, and running to mom and dad is not going to be an option — if we wish to keep our jobs, anyway.

Sooner or later an incredibly stressful situation is going to happen, and you better have the fortitude to navigate it with clarity and good sense.

The lessons taught by my tough-love dad were unpleasant as I learned them, but his wisdom prepared me for some very unpleasant adult situations.

Including going to my first adult job interview alone.

Tom Purcell is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist. tom@TomPurcell.com



Tom Purcell

Haley surprises the pollsters, still loses to Trump

Just a week ago, on Jan. 16, the RealClearPolitics average of polls for the New Hampshire Republican presidential primary showed former President Donald Trump leading former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley by 13.2 points. That was a significant lead, but then it just kept growing: 15.6 points on Jan. 19, 18.2 points on Jan. 22 and 19.3 on primary day.

In the face of such grim predictions, Haley and her top supporters sought to redefine downward what would constitute success in the primary. While at one time they had been quite brash -- in December, Haley's most important endorser, Gov. Chris Sununu (R-N.H.), predicted she would "win in a landslide, and that's not an exaggeration" -- they were reduced to saying only that Haley expected to be "stronger" than she had been in Iowa, where she lost to Trump by 32 points.

So, what would a "strong" finish be for Haley? Some observers settled on a single digit-double digit standard. If Haley lost to Trump by less than 10 percentage points, she could claim the race was on and head to the next primary in her home state of South Carolina. But if she lost by 10 or more points, it would be hard for her to make the case for staying in the race. Maybe that formulation was a little too rigid, but it at least got across the idea that Haley needed to hold back a Trump landslide for her to keep going.

Then came election night. There was never any question Trump would win; the race was called for Trump just minutes after the last polls closed at 8 p.m. But even before the polls closed, word spread around political circles that Trump's margin would not measure up to the 19.3-point blowout that the polling average suggested. Some even thought the margin would be a lot smaller. Half an hour before the polls closed, political communications guru Frank Luntz, firmly anti-Trump, posted on X that "my numbers have [Trump] beating Nikki Haley by about 4-8 points."

Now, that would have been big. And in the earliest minutes of vote counting, it looked like Luntz might be right. At 8:20, the early results showed Trump ahead by just over 7 points. It was close! At that moment, Haley decided to take the stage at her headquarters in Concord to make a speech that was a brief concession followed by a long vow to keep going. "This race is far from over," she told the rowdiest, most enthusiastic crowd of her New Hampshire campaign. "There are dozens of states left to go, and the next one is my sweet state of South Carolina."

As Haley spoke, the vote counting went on. The early returns came from some of the places she did the best, on top of exit polls that seemed to suggest the electorate was far more pro-Haley than had been the case in Iowa. The problem for Haley was that later returns would come from rural areas that were more pro-Trump.

Some observers saw a historical parallel in the making. "Shades of 1992 here, potentially," MSNBC analyst Steve Kornacki posted on X. "Exits/early results had Bill

Clinton even w/ Paul Tsongas. Clinton ran to the cameras to declare himself 'the comeback kid.' Late returns pushed Tsongas to a solid 8-point win. Tonight, Trump lead is expanding as small towns come in, 10+ point win possible."

Give Kornacki the Prediction of the Night award; that is exactly what happened in the hours after Haley's speech. Trump's lead crept slowly upward. Right now, with 91% of the vote counted, the lead is 11.3 points, 54.5% to 43.2%. That might change a little as the last votes are counted, but not much.

So, in the end, the polls were seriously wrong -- it's close to historically bad when the average of polls is off by 8 points -- and Trump still won a decisive victory.

For his part, Trump was a clearly sore winner. In his victory speech, delivered about an hour after Haley took the stage, he seemed angry at Haley's move to speak early and grab the cameras. "Today, I have to tell you, it was very interesting, because I said, 'Wow, what a great victory,'" Trump said. "But then somebody ran up to the stage, all dressed up nicely, when [the lead] was at 7 [points]. But now I just walked up, and it said 14. But she ran up when it was 7, and, you know, we have to do what's good for our party, and she was up, and I said, 'Wow, she's doing, like, a speech like she won.' She didn't win. She lost." Later, Trump added: "Who the hell was the imposter that went onstage before and, like, claimed a victory? She did very poorly. She failed badly." And still more: "You can't let people get away with bulls\*\*\*. And when I watched her in the fancy dress that probably wasn't so fancy, I said, 'What's she doing?' We won." Haley had clearly gotten under Trump's skin. As Kornacki said, it was shades of the old Clinton "comeback kid" gambit.

But Haley did lose, and lose by double digits, for those who subscribe to that theory of the race. Now, Haley has a big decision to make. Yes, she's vowed to go on. She has probably said 1,000 times that she is in it for the long run. But many candidates say that immediately after losing. Then, after they cool down, get some sleep, and think about it, they quit. And quitting is what some experienced voices are suggesting Haley do now in the face of a possible loss to Trump in her home state.

"Nikki's a fighter, I'll give her that," said Mike Murphy, the political consultant who helped guide John McCain to a big victory in New Hampshire and is now strongly anti-Trump. "But South Carolina will be very, very uphill, and her grip there is not strong, especially outside of the coastal areas. New Hampshire was where she needed to draw real blood with a victory. And alas, it was not to be."

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner



Byron York

Today in History

**By The Associated Press**  
Today is Friday, Jan. 26, the 26th day of 2024 there are 340 days left in the year.  
Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 26, 2020, NBA legend Kobe Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter Gianna and seven others were

killed when their helicopter plunged into a steep hillside in dense morning fog in Southern California; the former Lakers star was 41.  
On this date:  
In 1915, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Rocky Mountain National

Park Act, which created America's 10th national park.  
In 1962, the United States launched Ranger 3 to land scientific instruments on the moon. (The probe ended up missing its target by more than 22,000 miles.)

In 1992, Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton, appearing with his wife, Hillary, on CBS' "60 Minutes," acknowledged "causing pain in my marriage," but said past problems were not relevant to the campaign.

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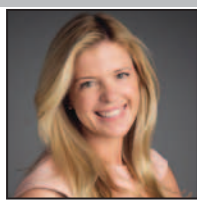


Boyfriend's kids give me the cold shoulder

Dear Annie: My husband's family have always been big drinkers, whereas mine are not. We have very different perspectives on the subject of alcohol. I can live with an "agree to disagree stance," but a situation has come up where I am finding it difficult to not speak my mind.

might make more sense to start with something small, like going on a walk every day, and then gradually add in healthy habits one by one.

Dear Annie by Annie Lane



Dear Annie: My boyfriend's kids hate me for genuinely no reason. He sees his kids twice a week for dinner, a dinner which I cook, but then I have to leave the house while the kids are visiting with him.

It's been five years of his kids ignoring me and kicking me out of the house when they come to visit. When this happens, I usually have to wait out in the car. It's ridiculous. What can I do? — Five Years Excluded

Dear Excluded: I am shocked that your boyfriend allowed this sort of behavior from his children at all, but even more so that he's let it continue for so many years. Something bigger is going on here, without a doubt. You might not have done anything directly, but it makes no sense for them to dislike you for "no reason."

Open up the lines of communication with your boyfriend. He needs to know what kind of toll this treatment is taking on you. Hopefully he can provide some clarity on how his kids feel and, better yet, ways to put you all on the path to a more amicable relationship.

"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. © 2024 CREATORS.COM

When I point out these things to my husband, he says I am being judgmental. My brother-in-law also thinks it's problematic, but as the in-laws, we don't know how much we should speak up. Obviously, we care about our father-in-law, and watching his health decline is very tough on our spouses, therefore affecting us as well. But should we speak up more to my mother-in-law? Or know our place and shut up? — Concerned Daughter-in-Law

Dear Concerned: With a sensitive issue like this one, communication is key. Instead of framing your concerns as a critique, express them with compassion. Share your observations about your father-in-law's health in a way that conveys you are all on the same side. It's important to strike a balance between voicing your concerns and respecting family dynamics.

It sounds like he has a long way to go on his health journey, and these changes probably won't all happen at once. It

My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



Be humble before the Savior and ask forgiveness of sin

Q: An article titled "How the West Became a Self-Absorbed Culture" appeared in a health and science journal claiming that "collective narcissism" is a fashionable idea these days. It named a man who had earlier launched the "California Task Force to Promote Self-Esteem," claiming that if people's self-esteem could be raised, it would make them more competitive—a kind of social vaccine that can overcome paranoia, victimhood, etc. Is self-awareness good for society? — S.A.

or entertain an exaggerated sense of our own importance. This brings great unhappiness.

An illustration is the paranoid person who sees two acquaintances talking together and jumps to the conclusion that they are discussing her faults. She retreats into the torture chamber of her own mind, where she manufactures misery. Run from paranoia as you would run from a plague.

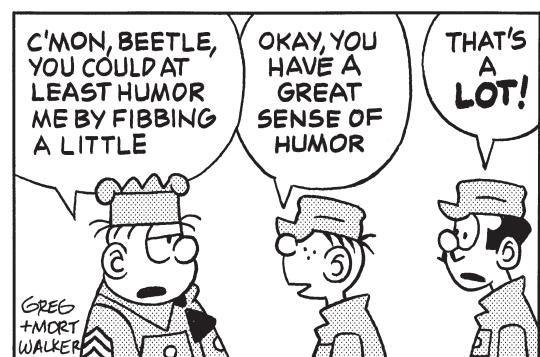
But the greatest solution to this very real problem is to surrender to Christ. Turn from self-absorption to being immersed in God's truth. The most important thing anyone can do on their own behalf is to be humble before the Savior and ask forgiveness of sin and receive Him as the Lord. He sends His

Spirit to help us through this journey. More important than what people think of us is what God knows about us, and His word tells us that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23, NKJV). But He is waiting to hear our confession. He is waiting to redeem us and give us a new life in Christ. "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19, NKJV).

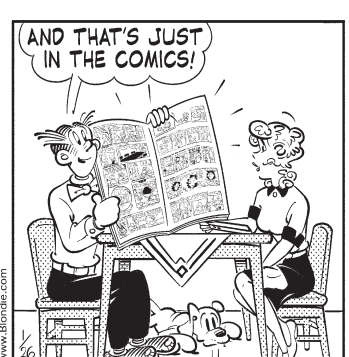
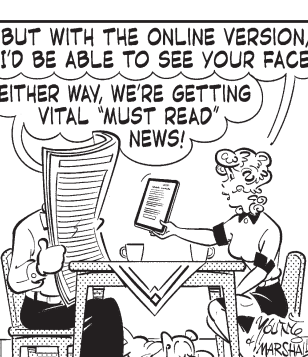
(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Graham.)

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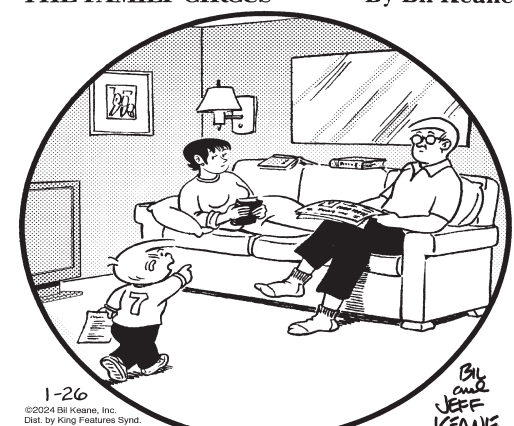


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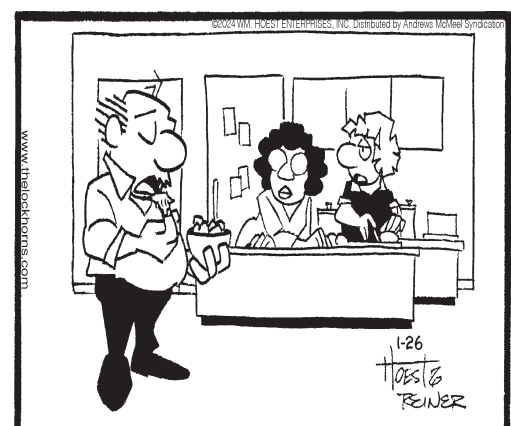


THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Yesterday's answer 1-26 crossword puzzle grid.

Television schedule table with columns for time slots (5 PM to 12:30) and rows for various channels (WJLA, CBS, etc.) listing programs.



# Tigersharks split with Braves in swimming

The girls' team prepares for sectionals, while the boys seek an undefeated season

By RYAN WALKER

Bluffton split its home swimming doubleheader with Bellmont as the boys took their contest 136-47 and the girls fell 87-71.

This was the last home meet for the girls' team, who switched around the lineup for the fun of it. Head coach Hunter Cunningham had her two seniors Lucia Corkwell and Zoey Schmidt pick which events they wanted to compete in, and she went down the roster to fill out the rest.

The purpose is to have relief from the grind that is the swim season, but still get a good workout in. Swimmers' bodies are put to the test and are not meant to fully recover until the end of the season for conference and sectional meets.

And even with seven members on its roster, Bluffton only lost by 16 team points out of its normal order. The team's numbers are small, but the quality Cunningham talks about throughout the season is what counts.

"It's more of a fun meet to give them a break, and they still came out and only lost by 16," Cunningham said after the meet. "They had fun with it, and it's a good way to go out, especially for our seniors."

Sectional preliminaries are just a week away to the date, where 11 other schools will give their all to advance to the final stage the following Saturday.

Cunningham is hoping to get at least five of her individuals to the finals along with her relay teams. Only 16 move on, but eight will move to the Heat 2 finals to compete at the top level and earn the team the most points.

Five freshman will lead the charge and are seeking that opportunity, and Cunningham is interested to see how they handle the bright lights of the sectional.

"I have five freshmen, so this is a very big meet," Cunningham said. "They thought conference was big, so they're nervous for sectional, but a good nervous. I'm excited for them to experience it and our goals are individual goals to get into the top-16. Our seniors — they know what to expect, so they'll push for that top eight. I'm excited to see where they end up on Saturday, and they want it."

For the boys, who have their sectional in three weeks, this was business as usual with a twist.

The team has a large roster, so swimmers are fighting for spots. So much so that it's enough to concern head coach Justin Upgraft with how he will construct a lineup for the sectional.

One example is an event he has a junior in is .700 of a second behind a freshman, but he might select the junior due to their sectional experience. He could also go with who is the faster swimmer, but by a thin margin.

Many individuals dropped in time Thursday night and the boys are starting to ramp up and prove they're worthy to crack the top spot in the lineup. One Upgraft wants every part of it.

"Just how the season kind of unfolded, some things have heated up as far as the team," Upgraft said. "We're coming down to spots, kids fighting for what spots. There's some good competition out there for spots. I had tons of guys drop times tonight because they know they're fighting for that spot. In practice, it's getting heated, in the Heat it's getting heated. We get guys getting upset because they didn't do X, Y, or Z. It's fun. It's a fun time."

The Tigershark boys are also trying to do some epic things in the 2023-24 season.

One of which has already happened with their 10th straight ACAC title over last weekend. The second is going undefeated, and the win against Bellmont earned them a perfect 13-0 mark with only Huntington North standing in the way.

Finally the sectional championship, the one that hasn't been accomplished in school history.

Right now, the team isn't focused entirely on the sectional meet itself, but rather, as individuals. The group is set on beating out their teammate in practice and during meets, and Upgraft keeps reminding them of what is at stake.

"We're trying to get them to realize that we could do something potentially pretty cool, but it doesn't happen three weeks from now. It starts today, two months ago, three months ago, but we've got to put in the work now so we can walk away from that (sectional) meet saying there's nothing else we could have done. We left it all in the pool," Upgraft said.

The preliminary rounds for the girls will start at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 1 at Jay County with the finals at 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 3.

The boys will finish the season at Huntington North starting at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 6.

### Individual winners:

- Boys**
- Noah Brooks, Ashton Arnett, Elija Robles and Isaac Wheeler in the 200-meter medley relay.
  - Wheeler in the 200-meter freestyle.
  - Brooks in the 50-meter freestyle and in the 100-meter backstroke.
  - Arnett in the 100-meter butterfly.
  - Griffin Linderwell in the 100-meter freestyle.
  - Jackson Meyer in the 400-meter freestyle.
  - Wes Frettinger, Griffin Linderwell, Graham Linderwell and Athan King in the 200-meter freestyle relay.
  - Wheeler, Braden Lemler, Rhett Gerber and Arnett in the 400-meter freestyle relay.
- Girls**
- Ellie Coyne in the 200-meter freestyle and in the 100-meter breaststroke.
  - Lucia Corkwell in the 100-butterfly.
  - Zoey Schmidt in the 100-meter freestyle.
  - Corkwell, Anna Zurcher, Coyne and Kierstynn Reed in the 200-meter freestyle



Bluffton's Lucia Corkwell competes during the 100-meter butterfly Thursday night at Bluffton High School. Corkwell was one of the seniors that got to pick her event for fun, a special meet on the girls' final home event. She won this event along with the 200-meter freestyle relay for her team. (Photos by Ryan Walker)



Tigersharks' 100-meter butterfly swimmer Ashton Arnett competes for his team, edging out Bellmont's Zayne Roop for the top spot. Arnett helped the team win the two relay races — 200-meter medley and 400-meter freestyle.

## High School Calendar

- FRIDAY, JAN 26**  
**BOYS BASKETBALL:** Jay County at Bluffton, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at South Adams, 7:30 p.m.  
**GIRLS BASKETBALL:** East Noble at Norwell, 7:45 p.m.
- SATURDAY, JAN 27**  
**BOYS BASKETBALL:** Norwell at East Noble, 1:30 p.m.; Bluffton at Madison-Grant, 7:30 p.m.; Lakeland Christian at Southern Wells, 7 p.m.
- GIRLS BASKETBALL:** Southern Wells at Southwood, 4 p.m. (JV 2 quarters).  
**WRESTLING:** (sectional): Norwell, Bluffton, Southern Wells at Jay County, 8:30 a.m.
- MONDAY, JAN 29**  
**SWIMMING & DIVING (CO-ED):** Norwell at Blackford, 6 p.m.
- TUESDAY, JAN 30**  
**GIRLS BASKETBALL:** (Sectional) Bluffton vs. Manchester at South Adams High School, 6 p.m.

## Tigers advance to ACAC middle school championship games

All four Bluffton-Harrison Middle School basketball teams will represent in the AACAC championships.

Thursday night, the girls' teams defeated Woodlan to advance to the tile round.

The eighth grade girls' team won 43-4. Khloe Dick was the leading scorer with 13 points, Grace Fry followed with 10, Kamryn Ault (8), Ava Trexler (5), Krista Blair (3) and Cora Kunkel and Macy Lemler (2).

The seventh grade girls' team won 33-9. Gracie Jellison led the way with 12 points, followed by Audrey Mechling (6), Josie Nash and Averie Patton (4), Khloe Gehrett (3) and Madalynn Narvaez and Luci Jenkins (2).

The eighth grade boys' team won 35-29 over Heritage in double overtime. Gavin Grieser led the Tigers with 15 points, followed by Gibby Grieser (7), Reid Abbett (6), Bennett Stoller (5) and Parker Barnes (2).

The seventh grade boys' team defeated Woodlan 42-14. Maddox White scored 14 points to lead the Tigers, followed by Chase Kistler (13), Wyatt Holmes (6),



Kamdyn Shuman (3) and Vince Lambert, Parker Kristal and Pierce Renner (2).

In the first round, the four teams beat Southern Wells.

The eighth grade girls' team won 43-23. Kamryn Ault scored 11 points to lead the way, followed by Khloe Dick (10), Ava Trexler (7), Krista Blair (5), Grace Fry (4) and Macy Lemler, Cora Kunkel and Bridget

Steffen (2).

The seventh grade girls' team won 35-23. Josie Nash and Audrey Mechling each led the way with 10 points, Averie Patton next (7), Gracie Jellison (4) and Luci Jenkins and Khloe Gehrett (2).

The eighth grade boys' team won 34-9. Reid Abbett was the leading scorer with 10 points, Gavin Grieser (8), Gibby Friesser, Parker Barnes and Rafe Gerber (4), Bennett Stoller and Dawson Lee (2) and Braelon Terry (1).

The seventh grade team won 47-10. Chase Kistler led the way with 18 points. Maddox White (8), Vince Lambert (7), Wyatt Holmes (6), Parker Christal, Cooper Bustos, Kamdyn Shuman and Corban Wheeler (2).

## Announcement for Bluffton boys' basketball games Friday night

The Bluffton athletic staff is announcing that due to an expected large crowd for the Jay County at the Bluffton boys' basketball game Friday night, they will be opening door No. 2 for this game only.

The freshman game will start at 5 p.m.

with the junior varsity to follow around 6 p.m., and varsity 20 minutes afterward for approximately at 7:30 p.m. tipoff.

Tickets can be purchased with debit or credit cards online at public.eventlink.com/tickets?t=67389.



## Charles Leclerc driving at Ferrari for 'several seasons' after new deal

MARANELLO, Italy (AP) — Charles Leclerc will continue driving for Ferrari after signing a multi-year contract on Thursday.

Ferrari did not reveal the length of the new deal but the 26-year-old Leclerc said he will be wearing the iconic red of the team for "several more seasons."

Leclerc has been part of the Italian team for eight years after joining its driver academy in 2016, although he made his Formula One debut with Sauber in 2018. He first raced for Ferrari the following year.

"To race for this team has been my dream since I was three years old," Leclerc said.

"This team is my second family ... and we have achieved a lot together through thick and thin over the past five years. However, I believe the best is yet to come and I can't wait for this season to start, to make further progress and be competitive at every race."

Leclerc claimed back-to-back wins in Belgium and Italy in his first season with Ferrari — becoming the youngest driver in the team's history to win a grand prix when he triumphed at Spa-Francorchamps.

Leclerc has since added three more race wins but Ferrari has struggled to keep pace with, first, Mercedes, and then Red Bull.

Despite his team's problems across an entire race, Leclerc has demonstrated his raw speed by amassing 23 pole positions. He's second on Ferrari's list, level with Niki Lauda and behind only Michael Schumacher, who was on pole 58 times.

"We know him for his incessant desire to push himself to the limit and we appreciate his extraordinary abilities when it comes to fighting and overtaking in a race," team principal Fred Vasseur said. "We are determined to give Charles a winning car."

Leclerc finished fifth in the drivers' championship last season, 369 points behind Max Verstappen.

He was runner-up the previous season, albeit still 146 points behind Verstappen.

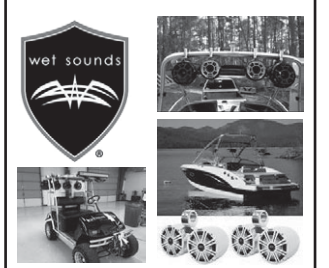
"My dream remains that of winning the world championship with Ferrari and I'm sure that we will enjoy great times and make our fans happy," Leclerc said.



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# Harbaugh returning to NFL to coach Chargers

By **JOE REEDY**  
AP Sports Writer

COSTA MESA, Calif. (AP) — Jim Harbaugh was hired as head coach of the Los Angeles Chargers on Wednesday, leaving Michigan after capping his ninth season as coach of college football's winningest program with the school's first national championship since 1997.

Harbaugh signed a five-year deal a person close to the negotiations told The Associated Press. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the Chargers did not announce the terms.

Harbaugh made the highly anticipated decision to go back to the NFL after a second interview and resume his chase for a Super Bowl that eluded him as a quarterback and coach.

He will be the first former Chargers player to return to the team as head coach. He played for the Bolts in 1999-2000 before retiring following the 2001 season.

"My love for Michigan, playing there and coming back to coach there leaves a lasting impact. I'll always be a loyal Wolverine," Harbaugh said in a statement. "I'm remarkably fortunate to have been afforded the privilege of coaching at places where life's journey has created strong personal connections for me. When I played for the Chargers, the Spanos family could not have been more gracious or more welcoming. "Being back here feels like home, and

it's great to see that those things haven't changed."

Harbaugh is the first coach in 26 seasons to win a national title and not return to the school the following season. Nebraska's Tom Osborne retired following the 1997 season after the Cornhuskers split the national title with Michigan.

Los Angeles was looking for a new coach and general manager after Brandon Staley and Tom Telesco were fired on Dec. 15, a day after a 63-21 loss in Las Vegas to the Raiders.

Harbaugh was first asked about possible interest in the Chargers job as his team was preparing for the Rose Bowl, but did comment. He first met with the Chargers on Jan. 15.

Harbaugh was the eighth of 15 coaching candidates to interview with the Spanos family. He was the only one to get a second interview.

The Atlanta Falcons also talked to Harbaugh on Jan. 16 and had booked a second interview before he decided to accept the Chargers job.

"Jim Harbaugh is football personified, and I can think of no one better to lead the Chargers forward," owner Dean Spanos said in a statement while also borrowing from one of Harbaugh's catch phrases. "Who has it better than us?"

The Chargers are the fourth of eight teams to fill their head coach job, following

New England, Las Vegas and Tennessee. Atlanta, Carolina, Seattle and Washington remain with an opening.

Harbaugh called Michigan athletic director Warde Manuel to inform him he was leaving to lead the Chargers. Michigan tried to keep Harbaugh, offering him a new six-year contract for \$11.5 million per season, according to a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to share details of the deal.

Manuel may promote Sherrone Moore to replace Harbaugh after the offensive coordinator filled in for him during the final three games of the regular season when he was suspended by the Big Ten for violating the conference's sportsmanship policy over alleged sign-stealing in a case that dominated the second half of last season.

"We are working quickly to hire the next head coach for the program and will do everything possible to keep this current staff and team together," Manuel said in a statement. "We appreciate Jim's dedication and passion for Michigan, the university and Ann Arbor, and I wish Jim and the entire Harbaugh family much success with the Los Angeles Chargers."

Harbaugh was 86-25 at Michigan and restored college football's winningest program to relevance after it slipped over sev-

eral seasons.

Following two straight losses in the College Football Playoff semifinals, extending Harbaugh's winless streak in bowl games to six, Michigan outlasted Alabama at the Rose Bowl and pulled away from Washington to win the national championship with a school-record 15-0 mark.

Harbaugh's alma mater could not offer the one thing he desperately wants — a Super Bowl title.

The Chargers have one of the league's top quarterbacks in Justin Herbert, but finished 5-12 this season and lost eight of their last nine, including the last five. Herbert will be playing for his fourth head coach and possibly fourth offensive coordinator in five seasons.

The Bolts though have made only three playoff appearances since 2013 and haven't won a division title since 2009.

Harbaugh will inherit a team that most of all needs a culture change. They were 0-7 in games decided by three points or fewer this season, tying the 1984 Houston Oilers for worst mark since the merger.

The offense this past season regressed because of injuries at wide receiver and on the offensive line. Herbert broke the index finger on his right hand and missed the last four games, but even when he was at the helm, Los Angeles was ranked 18th in total offense after six straight years being in the top 11.

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

1/26

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vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS, LEGATEES, DEVISEES, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS AND ASSIGNS, IF ANY, OF ANITA F ROGERS CATHY MORSE Defendants.

**NOTICE OF SUIT** SUMMONS - SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

The State of Indiana to the defendants above named, and any other person who may be concerned. You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above named. The nature of the suit against you is a foreclosure of the real estate mortgage, legally described as:

THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE LOCATED IN WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA:

PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION FOUR (4), TOWNSHIP TWENTY SIX (26) NORTH, RANGE TWELVE (12) EAST, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT:

COMMENCING AT A POINT WHERE THE EAST LINE OF OAK STREET INTERSECTS WITH THE NORTH LINE OF ARNOLD STREET, IN THE CITY OF BLUFFTON, THENCE NORTH ALONG THE EAST LINE OF OAK STREET 50 FEET, THENCE EAST PARALLEL WITH THE NORTH LINE OF ARNOLD STREET 140 FEET, THENCE SOUTH TO THE NORTH LINE OF ARNOLD STREET, THENCE WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF ARNOLD STREET 140 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 16/100 OF AN ACRE.

This property is commonly known as 527 W Arnold, Bluffton, IN 46714

This summons by publication is specifically directed to the following Defendants whose addresses are known:

Cathy Morse 527 W Arnold Bluffton, IN 46714

And to the following defendant whose addresses are unknown: Unknown Heirs, Legatees, Devisees, Executors, Administrators and Assigns, if any, of Anita F Rogers, Address Unknown

In addition to the above named Defendants, being served by this summons there may be other Defendants who have an interest in this lawsuit. If you have a claim for relief against the Plaintiff arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer. You must answer the Complaint in writing, by your attorney, on or before the 3rd day of March 3, 2024, (the same being within thirty (30) days after the Third Notice of Suit), and if you fail to do so a judgment will be entered against you for what the Plaintiff has demanded.

Matthew C. Gladwell (30493-49)

Christopher J. Arlinghaus (31680-15)

Aaron Rodgers (28418-84) Attorney's for Plaintiff Reisenfeld & Associates LLC 3962 Red Bank Road Cincinnati, OH 45227 Voice: (513) 322-7000 Facsimile: (513) 322-7099

ATTEST: Clerk of the Wells County Circuit/Superior Court nb 1/19, 1/26, 2/2 hspaxlp

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

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### Lottery Numbers

**Thursday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY**  
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Daily Three-Midday — 09-00-04, SB: 05  
Daily Three-Evening — 03-07-04, SB: 05  
Daily Four-Midday — 09-08-06-01, SB: 05  
Daily Four-Evening — 04-06-07-05, SB: 05  
Quick Draw Evening — 01-02-04-10-16-23-25-28-33-42-46-51-53-56-59-62-66-69-73-75, BE: 56  
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$3.6 million  
MEGA MILLIONS Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$285 million  
POWERBALL Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$164 million



# School chaplains, allow religious instruction bills move forward in state

By CASEY SMITH  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Lines between church and state blurred at the Indiana Statehouse on Wednesday as lawmakers gave the go-ahead for two education bills that seek to increase students' access to faith leaders and religious instruction.

One proposal, House Bill 1137, would require schools to approve parental requests for students to leave school during the day for religious instruction. A separate measure, Senate Bill 50, could bring paid chaplains into Indiana's public schools. Both bills advanced from their assigned committees and now head to the respective chambers for further consideration.

"Quite simply, this just gives the parent more control over their student," said Rep. Kendall Culp, R-Rensselaer, who authored the House bill. "If the students can go off-site and learn character qualities, and become better students, they're going to have a greater experience in the classroom, and I think that's really important."

In the opposite chamber, Sen. Stacey Donato, R-Logansport, said her bill can help traditional school counselors who are struggling to manage large case-loads and increasing numbers of students in need.

"We are just trying to provide another tool for schools to help with the production of great students ... offering an option for a chaplain to come in and assist," she said.

## Guaranteed time for religious instruction

Culp's bill aims to tighten existing Indiana law that already permits students to leave school for up to 120 minutes a week for voluntary religious instruction, as long as it takes place off school property, and private transportation is provided.

A 1952 U.S. Supreme Court ruling affirmed that "released time" programs are constitutional nationwide. As such, Hoosier parents can request religious instruction time for their child, but school administrators do not have to give approval.

Under the house bill, that "veto power" over the parent goes away, Culp said.

The bill — which passed unanimously — stipulates

that when a parent of a public school student provides a written request, the principal "shall" allow the student to attend outside religious instruction that is organized by a church or religious organization.

The legislation also says a school principal must work "in a collaborative manner" with the parent to find the best time during the school day for a student to leave the school.

"That's very important, because we don't want to interrupt the school day with students leaving at multiple times," Culp said. "It's best to work together to make sure that we don't have an interruption of that critical instruction that takes place during the school day."

An amendment to the bill adopted on Wednesday additionally clarifies that students who are habitually truant — those who have 10 or more unexcused absences — would not automatically qualify for religious instruction release. Students must also "be in academic good standing," though lawmakers said they could amend that language on the House floor to be more specific.

"I want to give kids this opportunity, for sure. But I want to make sure that they're not behind — or contribute to falling further behind," said Rep. Bob Behning, R-Indianapolis, who chairs the House education committee.

Multiple organizations around the state — mainly Christian-centered — offer out-of-school curriculum for religious teaching, Culp said.

One of those, Ohio-based LifeWise Academy, currently serves more than 80 percent of elementary schoolers in northwest Indiana's West Central School Corporation.

"These programs emphasize character," said Dennis Guttwein, who serves on the district school board. "Teaching from the Bible — it is full of character that is sorely lacking in our society today. Things like honesty, humility, integrity, patience."

The program is now in its third year at West Central. Guttwein said students are allowed to leave school once a week, during a designated "library time."

Joel Penton, founder and CEO of LifeWise, said the program actively serves

more than 300 schools across more than a dozen U.S. cities, nationwide. Every week, nearly 30,000 public school students attend LifeWise Bible classes, he noted.

"We know that parents desperately want Bible education for their students as part of their public school day," Penton said. "However, we're aware that it's simply not feasible for many, many of those families."

He emphasized that LifeWise is "entirely voluntary," and "zero core academic classes are missed" by students who choose to attend.

When asked why the programming couldn't take place after school, Penton maintained that many students still need to catch the bus to get home, and others are already involved in after-school extracurriculars.

He said, too, that non-participating students and families "are not really affected in any meaningful way."

But Chris Lagoni, executive director of the Indiana Small and Rural Schools Association, said it's difficult to avoid disruptions in a school when dozens — even hundreds — of students are leaving for an organized program.

"We have to be careful. Let's say the Archdiocese comes to the table and says, 'Well, we'd like to offer our own program, and the local mosque comes forward and says, 'Well, we'd like to own our own program,'" Lagoni said in an example. "Looking down the road, how do you implement this when you're dealing with multiple entities that are trying to get everybody to the table to agree upon a time that works and has minimal instructional interruption?"

Lagoni also recommended an amendment to ensure students can not leave school during state standardized testing times.

Lisa Tanselle, general counsel for the Indiana School Boards Association, said the organization representing all 290 school corporations across the state is opposed to the bill.

"We want to preserve the academic day for students. That doesn't mean we are opposed or don't appreciate the value of religious instruction," she said. "This statute is designed

to allow individual parents the opportunity to come to school officials and request release time for their students for up to 120 minutes. We believe that the current statute is working, and those requests are being accommodated for the vast majority of parents that make the request."

## Secular support throughout Hoosier schools

Testimony and discussion in the Senate education committee proved more tense.

Donato said her bill aims to give schools "an option to add additional resources for emotional needs of students."

Chaplains can already volunteer at public schools. The measure makes clear they can be employed to provide "secular support" to students and school employees, given they have a master's degree in divinity, theology, religious studies, or a related field, as well as two years of "counseling experience."

Donato further emphasized that chaplains "must follow the same rules as school counselors," including mandatory reporting of child abuse — although the bill does not say so, explicitly.

ISBA executive director Terry Spradlin said the bill "is structured in a good way" to give school districts a "local option" to hire or receive chaplains as volunteers.

Representing the Indiana School Counselors Association, Scott Carr said the group supports the proposal,

but recommended additional language to ensure that chaplains who work with students are familiar with the developing brain counseling of adolescent children.

He pointed to similar bills that have already moved forward in states like Ohio and Texas.

Although Donato maintained that students don't have to meet with a chaplain or traditional school counselor if they don't want to, conservative attorney Jim Bopp — who testified in support of the bill — read the language differently.

"Children have very limited legal and developmental competency to make decisions for themselves. The vast majority of decisions are made by parents — and this is one that they are perfectly competent and capable of, and in the best interest of the children, would consent to. And it doesn't matter that the kid doesn't want to," Bopp said. "The kid doesn't want to go to church on Sunday morning. Is that child abuse to say, 'Okay, Johnny get up, and we're taking you into church?'"

The provision in question dictates that a student, employee or parent can additionally permit a chaplain to provide "nonsecular advice, guidance and support."

Democrats held that could go against the wishes of a student or parents "who aren't on the same page."

Chris Daley, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of

Indiana, agreed, saying language in the bill that allows parents to direct a chaplain to provide religious counseling to the students "is a form of coercion outside of the school environment."

"That is a liberty issue that we do believe infringes on the constitutional rights of those students," Daley said.

"Focusing this only on chaplains and not other members of the community who would like to fill this role, certainly does implicate Establishment Clause issues," he continued, referring to the First Amendment. "Indiana has chaplains in any number of areas of public life. We do not have them in our schools in an official capacity for exactly this reason."

Members of the minority caucus voted against the measure in committee and said they would rather focus directly on Indiana's ongoing school counselor "crisis."

Gray Lesesne, pastor at Christ Church Cathedral in Indianapolis, also pushed back, telling lawmakers he feels "no way prepared or qualified — either academically or professionally — to serve as a secular counselor or academic advisor or a chaplain in a public school."

He said most seminars do not require courses in counseling childhood or youth psychosocial development.

Lesesne said he worried the legislation would also make it difficult for chaplain to maintain "appropriate professional boundaries."

## January

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