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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024

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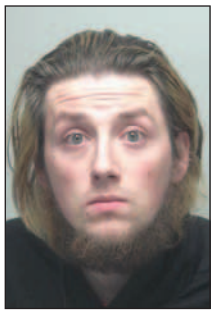
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## Bond reduction denied; Potential for new charges in local kidnapping case

By SYDNEY KENT

One of three South Dakota suspects charged in the abduction of an 11-year-old girl from Zanesville in December has been denied a reduction in his \$150,000 bond.

Isaiah Schryvers, 24, appeared in the Wells Circuit Court on Wednesday morning before Senior Judge Max Ludy, Jr. Schryvers requested his bond be lowered to \$10,000. The request was firmly denied.



Isaiah Schryvers

"If it's true that you and your wife (Sara Gaudino)," Ludy paused, "I did not know it was your wife until this morning. But if you and your wife and this other individual drove down from South Dakota and picked up an 11-year-old girl. That's a danger to any child in any place. South Dakota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana — you are a danger."

Prosecutor Colin Andrews raised a set of

concerns with the motion, with an emphasis on the egregious nature of the case. Additional concerns cited were method of transportation, prior charges for failing to appear, and Schryvers' lack of a home address — which would make it difficult to bring him back to the state.

Schryvers is currently charged with kidnapping, a Level 5 felony. Schryvers' appointed counsel, Patrick Miller, argued that he has children with a co-defendant in the case who are currently in foster care. Gaudino, 23, is also charged with kidnapping.

"He has little money," Miller told the court. "He has a van with a lien against it and receives a little more than \$800 per month in Social Security benefits. That would obviously go towards the bond. He understands if he doesn't (return) he could be subject to additional charges."

The van Miller referenced is currently in custody of the Wells County Sheriff's Department as part of the investigation. Andrews pointed out that the children of Gaudino and Schryvers were in foster care

(Continued on Page 2)

## Indiana House approves Congressional ask for term limits in Constitution

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Indiana's House of Representatives on Tuesday approved a resolution for the U.S. Congress to hold a convention to amend congressional term limits into the federal Constitution.

Author Dave Hall, R-Norman, said he hoped House Joint Resolution 3 would create a "constructive dialogue that ultimately results in a constitutional amendment bringing about opportunity for the American people."

To trigger a constitutional convention, two-thirds of the states — 34 — must also apply. The resolution specifies that the application could only be aggregated with others dealing with the same topic.

Three-fourths of the states, or 38, must ratify the changes resulting from a convention.

### Opposition from both sides

Lawmakers from both parties spoke against the bill on the House floor.

Rep. Aaron Morrison, R-Brazil, described a legislative branch split into four elements: elected officials, their staffers, bureaucrats and lobbyists.

"Silly to cap the amount of time that elected officials can serve but allow institutional knowledge and power to stay with all the others," Morrison said. "I'm a 'heck no.'"

Rep. Chris Judy, R-Fort Wayne, noted that the average length of service for the

current class of U.S. representatives was 8.5 years (4.3 two-year terms) and for the U.S. Senate, was 11.2 years (1.9 six-year terms.) That's according to a report by the nonpartisan U.S. Congressional Research Service.

And Rep. Matt Pierce, D-Bloomington, cautioned that it's unclear if a constitutional convention can be kept to the topic that birthed it.

"There are a lot of legal scholars who say that once you convene, it's a free-for-all," Pierce said, quipping that "close personal friends" from California, New York and other Democrat-run states could tweak the Second Amendment and other rights that Indiana's Republican supermajority often and vocally supports.

"To me, it's much too great of a risk to have that kind of convention meeting because who knows what the heck the Constitution will look like after it (goes) through that process?" he concluded.

Another member pointed out the term limits would apply to federal office but not the state House and Senate.

### Reaction

Lawmakers passed the resolution 59-33, with both bipartisan support and opposition.

U.S. Term Limits, a nonprofit advocating for congressional term limits, celebrated the resolution's passage.

"The Indiana House got it right today in a big way. People I talk to all over the state are demanding term limits, and the House has

(Continued on Page 2)



### Putting down pavement

Warm weather has allowed for work to progress on Bluffton NOW's alley project in downtown Bluffton. Pictured are the alleys from Market Street to Perry Street, located between Johnson and Main streets (at left) and Johnson and Marion streets (above). (Photos by Holly Gaskill)

## U.S. blames umbrella group of Iran-backed militias for deadly drone attack in Jordan

By JON GAMBRELL,  
AAMER MADHANI  
and ZEKE MILLER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States on Wednesday attributed the drone attack that killed three U.S. service members in Jordan to the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, an umbrella group of Iran-backed militias, as President Joe Biden weighs his options to respond to the strike.

Iran threatened to "decisively respond" to any U.S. attack on the Islamic Republic after the U.S. said it held Tehran responsible. The U.S. has signaled it is preparing for retaliatory strikes in the Mideast in the wake of the Sunday drone attack that also

wounded more than 40 troops at Tower 22, a secretive base in northeastern Jordan that's been crucial to the American presence in neighboring Syria.

National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said Wednesday the U.S. believes the attack was planned, resourced and facilitated by the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, an umbrella group that includes the militant group Kataib Hezbollah. He said Biden "believes that it is important to respond in an appropriate way."

He said Biden was continuing to weigh his options, but Kirby said "the first thing you see won't be the last thing," adding it "won't be a one-off."

(Continued on Page 2)

## Deal on wartime aid, border security stalls in Congress

By STEPHEN GROVES,  
LISA MASCARO  
and MARY CLARE JALONICK  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With time slipping to bolster Ukraine's defenses, Senate negotiators struggled Wednesday to finalize a bipartisan deal that would pair policy changes at the U.S. southern border with wartime aid for Kyiv as their carefully negotiated compromise ran into strong resistance

from House Republicans and Donald Trump.

Senate negotiators have kept a close hold on the details of a bipartisan package on border enforcement and immigration policies that was supposed to unlock Republican support in Congress for aiding Ukraine. But conservatives view the tens of billions of dollars in proposed support with growing skepticism, unmoved by arguments about the larger stakes for global

security. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg was making the case for the aid on Capitol Hill Wednesday, including at the Heritage Foundation, a power center for Trump's allies in Washington.

President Joe Biden, who is pushing for a deal alongside Republican and Democratic leaders in the Senate, faces a daunting task in convincing Republicans to defy Trump's wishes and embrace the deal — especially in the midst

of an election year.

Republican leaders, including House Speaker Mike Johnson, had looked to February as a potential deadline to approve another tranche of military aid for Ukraine. But the \$110 billion national security package that congressional leaders say is essential to buttressing American allies around the globe, including Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan, has been swept up in the fight over border policies.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian troops are running short of weapons, including air defenses and artillery to defend against Russia's ongoing attack. The Pentagon reported last week it is out of money for Ukraine.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer warned in a morning floor speech that "the survival of Ukraine is on the line."

"The only way we'll rise to the occasion is if both sides are seri-

(Continued on Page 2)

### Inside

#### Local/Area

- Indiana News . . . . . 3
- Police Notebook . . . 3

#### Opinion

- Angelkeep . . . . . 4

#### Also...

- Sports . . . . . 6
- Classifieds . . . . . 8
- Diversions . . . . . 7

### Outside



This week is paying hide and seek with the sun

Today	Friday	Saturday
High 47	High 42	High 47
Low 34	Low 27	Low 28

More Weather on Page 2

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## Kidnapping case

(Continued from Page 1)

for approximately five months prior to their arrests. He also noted that Schryvers lives 18 hours away via car.

"We're talking about miles and miles away," Andrews argued. "Judge (Kenton) Kiracofe was concerned with the ability for the state to bring the defendant to trial in this case under the circumstances. There's a chance that he will have increased charges and his bail will be raised. If it's raised, and he's not here, he will need to be brought back for that. At the time of

his arrest, he was staying in a trailer that had no running water I believe."

"There is no testimony or evidence to that," Miller interjected.

Andrews advised that the information was contained in the probable cause affidavit. Though available to the court, the file is currently locked to the public. During the hearing, it was revealed that Schryvers allegedly lived in the trailer with co-defendant Zachary Delozier.

Detective Quinton Greer with the Wells County Sheriff's Department testi-

fied confirmed Schryvers' alleged involvement in the case on Tuesday's morning. Prosecutor Colin Andrews advised the court that he may potentially receive charges that mirror Delozier.

Delozier, 27, was the first suspect to be extradited back to the state of Indiana, though he was last to waive extradition. In addition to a Level 5 felony for kidnapping, Delozier now faces charges for child molesting, a Level 1 felony, child molesting, a Level 2 felony, promotion of child sexual

human trafficking, a Level 3 felony, and child solicitation, a Level 4 felony.

Each of the three suspects were charged after they were located at a traffic stop in Barneveld, Wisconsin on New Year's Eve less than 24 hours after a Silver Alert was issued for the missing child.

Greer added that the investigation is ongoing with various lab results still pending. A pretrial conference is set for Schryvers at 9 a.m. on March 13 in the Wells Circuit Court.

sydney@news-banner.com

## Deadly drone attack

(Continued from Page 1)

Kirby dismissed a statement by Iraqi militia Kataib Hezbollah announcing "the suspension of military and security operations against the occupation forces in order to prevent embarrassment to the Iraqi government." He said the group can't be taken at face value, and he added, "they're not the only group that has been attacking us."

As of Wednesday, Kataib Hezbollah and other Iran-aligned militias had launched 166 attacks on U.S. military installations since Oct. 18, including 67 in Iraq, 98 in Syria and the one in Jordan, according to the U.S. military.

The U.S. has struck back at the militias a few times over the past three months. On Oct. 27, U.S. fighter jets struck two weapons and ammunition storage sites in eastern Syria near Boukamal that were used by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and Iranian-backed groups.

Also in Syria, fighter jets dropped bombs on an IRGC weapons storage facility near Maysulun in Deir el-Zour on Nov. 8. And U.S. airstrikes targeted a training facility and a safe house in the Bulbul district of Mayadin on Nov. 12.

On Dec. 26, the U.S. launched strikes on three locations in Iraq used by Kataib Hezbollah and affiliated groups, and on Jan. 23, the U.S. struck three sites in Iraq, again targeting Kataib Hezbollah.

Any additional American strikes could further inflame a region already roiled by Israel's ongoing war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip. The war began with Hamas attacking Israel on Oct. 7, killing some 1,200 people and taking about 250 hostage. Since then, Israeli strikes have killed more than 26,000 Palestinians and displaced nearly 2 million others from their homes, arousing anger throughout the Muslim world.

Violence has erupted across the Mideast, with Iran striking targets in Iraq, Pakistan and Syria, and the U.S. carrying out airstrikes targeting Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels over their attacks on shipping in the Red Sea. Some observers fear a new round of strikes targeting Iran could tip the region into a wider war.

A U.S. Navy destroyer in the waterway shot down an anti-ship cruise missile launched by the Houthis late Tuesday, the latest attack targeting American forces patrolling the key maritime

trade route, officials said. The U.S. later launched a new round of airstrikes targeting the Houthis.

The Iranian warnings first came from Amir Saeid Irvani, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations in New York. He gave a briefing to Iranian journalists late Tuesday, according to the state-run IRNA news agency.

"The Islamic Republic would decisively respond to any attack on the county, its interests and nationals under any pretexts," IRNA quoted Irvani as saying. He described any possible Iranian retaliation as a "strong response," without elaborating.

The Iranian mission to the U.N. did not respond to requests for comment or elaboration Wednesday on Irvani's remarks.

Irvani also denied that Iran and the U.S. had exchanged any messages over the last few days, either through intermediaries or directly. The pan-Arab satellite channel Al Jazeera, which is based in and funded by Qatar, reported earlier that such communication had taken place. Qatar often serves as an intermediary between Washington and Tehran.

But Iran's government has taken note of the U.S. threats of retaliation for the attack on the base in Jordan.

"Sometime, our enemies raise the threat, and nowadays we hear some threats in between words by American officials," Revolutionary Guard commander Gen. Hossein Salami, who answers only to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said at an event Wednesday. "We tell them that you have experienced us, and we know each other. We do not leave any threat without an answer."

"We are not after war, but we have no fear of war," he added, according to IRNA.

Kirby, for his part, said the U.S. doesn't "seek a war with Iran. We're not looking for a broader conflict."

On Saturday, a general in charge of Iran's air defenses described them as being at their "highest defensive readiness." That raises concerns for commercial aviation traveling through and over Iran as well. After a U.S. drone strike killed a top general in 2020, Iranian air defenses mistakenly shot down a Ukrainian passenger plane, killing all 176 people on board.

Meanwhile, attacks by the Houthis continue in the Red Sea. The pri-

vate security firm Ambrey reported Wednesday night a ship was targeted with a missile southwest of Aden, Yemen, near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait between the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. The Houthis claimed an attack on a vessel at the time called the Koi, a Liberian-flagged container ship. The ship's managers could not be immediately reached for comment. It was unclear if the reported missile attack caused any damage or injuries.

A missile launched Tuesday night targeted the USS Gravelly, an Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer, the U.S. military's Central Command said in a statement. No injuries or damage were reported.

A Houthi military spokesman, Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree, claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement Wednesday morning, calling it "a victory for the oppression of the Palestinian people and a response to the American-British aggression against our country."

Saree claimed the Houthis fired "several" missiles, something not acknowledged by the U.S. Navy. Houthi claims have been exaggerated in the past, and their missiles sometimes crash on land and fail to reach their targets.

On Wednesday, a U.S. military jet struck a surface-to-air missile that was about to launch from Houthi-controlled Yemen, a U.S. official said. The missile was deemed an immediate threat and destroyed. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity to provide details ahead of a public announcement.

Since November, the rebels have repeatedly targeted ships in the Red Sea over Israel's offensive against Hamas in Gaza. But they have frequently targeted vessels with tenuous or no clear links to Israel, imperiling shipping in a key route for global trade between Asia, the Mideast and Europe.

The Houthis hit a commercial vessel with a missile on Friday, sparking a fire that burned for hours.

The U.S. and the United Kingdom have launched multiple rounds of airstrikes targeting the Houthis as allied warships patrol the waterways affected by the attacks. The European Union also plans to launch a naval mission in the Red Sea within three weeks to help defend cargo ships against the Houthi attacks, the bloc's top diplomat said Wednesday.

## Wartime aid, border security

(Continued from Page 1)

ous about finding a bipartisan compromise," he said, adding, "We have not concluded negotiations so we will keep going to get this done."

Even if the Senate is able to finish the deal and pass it, resistance is strong in the House, where Trump, the likely Republican presidential nominee, holds significant sway over lawmakers. His opposition has left Republican leaders increasingly questioning whether the border legislation should be jettisoned from the package in a last-ditch effort to get the Ukraine funding through Congress.

"It's time for us to move something, hopefully including a border agreement, but we need to get help to Israel and to Ukraine quickly," said Senate Republican Leader

Mitch McConnell.

Johnson discussed the idea of splitting up parts of the national security package in a Tuesday meeting with the speakers of the parliaments of Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania, but did not commit to any course of action, according to a person familiar with the meeting who spoke anonymously about the private discussion.

The speaker has long been skeptical of sending economic assistance to Kyiv, though he has also said he wants to halt Russian President Vladimir Putin's advance in Europe. But a large portion of Johnson's conference in the House is more firmly against the aid.

Stoltenberg, the longest-serving chief in NATO's history, pleaded Wednesday for lawmakers to act. In a speech Wednesday at

the Trump-aligned Heritage Foundation, he warned that Putin's ambitions don't just end with Ukraine. He said the Russian president is intent on "reestablishing Russia's sphere of influence and shaping an alternative world order."

As Russian forces and drone attacks pummel the region, the Ukrainians will face increasingly difficulty defending their cities and populations from incoming assaults.

Yet Republicans also want to cut portions of the package that would not go directly to Ukraine's defenses. Of the \$61 billion in the package for Ukraine, a portion, about \$16 billion, would go toward economic, security and operational assistance.

The U.S. economic aid has been keeping the Ukrainian government functioning,

paying for public works and employees and the services they provide, but Republicans prefer the U.S. focus its spending on military hardware to win the war.

The economic assistance for Ukraine is expected to be trimmed back in the final supplemental package, according to a person familiar with the situation and granted anonymity to discuss it. The person said changes in the amount of humanitarian aid for Gaza, which was stripped from the package by House Republicans, are also being discussed.

Senate Republicans initially insisted on pairing border policy changes with Ukraine aid as part of a strategy to push the package through Congress. But so far, compromising on border policies has only made things more difficult.

## Weather

Thursday, February 1, 2024

(24-hour observations at 9:49 p.m. Wednesday)

High: 40; Low: 34; Precipitation: None  
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 3.96 feet at 9:45 p.m. Wednesday

## Wells County forecast

**Today:** Partly sunny, with a high near 47. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**Tonight:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 34. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming northeast after midnight.

**Friday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 42. Northeast wind around 10 mph.

**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 27. East wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 47.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 28.

**Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 48.

**Sunday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 30.

**Monday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 45.

**Monday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 28.

**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 46.

**Tuesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 28.

**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 47.

## Indiana House

(Continued from Page 1)

heard them loud and clear," said Micah Beckwith, the organization's Indiana chair. Beckwith is also a Republican candidate for Indiana lieutenant governor.

The group's president, Philip Blumel, commended lawmakers, saying that Indiana's House "... understands that Congress is reluctant to establish term limits on itself. Consequently, the onus is on the states

to pick up the mantle to both propose and ratify the term limits amendment."

The resolution next goes to Indiana's Senate.

If passed, Indiana would join the six states that have passed identical term limits-focused applications, according to U.S. Term Limits' "progress" tracker. Sixteen other states have passed different term limit language in multi-subject applications.

## Deadly school bus crash in Ohio yields new safety features and training

By JULIE CARR SMYTH, Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — After a deadly school bus crash last summer, a task force convened by Republican Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine recommended Wednesday more training, driver benefits and safety features — but not a seat belt mandate.

How and when safety upgrades are made would be up to individual school districts, DeWine said at an event releasing the Ohio School Bus Safety Working Group's final report. He said his office has begun discussions with the Legislature about establishing a grant fund to help school districts pay for vehicle upgrades or new safety-enhanced buses.

DeWine created the working group in August, after a school bus crash in Clark County's Lawrenceville, about 55 miles (88.51 kilometers) southwest of Columbus, left one child dead and 23 others injured.

"We know that buses are the safest way to transport children to school; that remains true," he said Wednesday. "But when we have a tragedy like this, I think it's important for us to reexamine what we can do to make the trips that our kids are taking, and grandkids are taking, as safe as we can."

The working group issued 17 recommendations. Sixteen related to bus driver recruitment and retention, training and education, school bus safety features, road and traffic safety, and emergency response.

Ohio Public Safety Director Andy Wilson said the group stopped short of recommending that the state mandate that all school buses have seat belts, instead leaving the decision to individual school districts.

"As a group — after hearing from the experts, hearing from our bus drivers, looking at the data or the lack of data from states that have mandated seat belts, and listening to the school districts who have tried pilot programs on their buses — we became convinced that the statewide mandate of seat belts on buses is not the most effective use of government resources to keep our kids safe," he said.

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# Police Notebook

## INCIDENTS

**City:**  
 Tuesday, 3:31 p.m., 800 block of South Wayne Street. Report of a subject with shot gun on his arm looking up into a tree, no shots fired.  
 Tuesday, 4:26 p.m., East Monroe and North Main streets. Report of two vehicle car accident.  
 Tuesday, 7:24 p.m., 700 block of Clark Avenue. Caller reported a fifth grade boy sent a photo of himself vaping and holding a firearm. The child advised it is a BB gun and was not displayed in a harmful way.

Wednesday, 5:15 a.m., North Main Street and Charles Deam Court. Driver cited for obstructed license plate.  
**County:**  
 Tuesday, 1:30 p.m., Wells County Courthouse. Transported Jared West from courthouse to Wells County Jail.  
 Tuesday, 1:59 p.m., Wells County Courthouse. Report of bomb threat.  
 Tuesday, 5:23 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served to Carlos E. Slater at the jail.  
 Tuesday, 7:43 p.m., 4100 East 900 South, Keystone. Report of vehicles in the

road. Officer spoke to owners who moved their vehicles.  
 Tuesday, 9:13 p.m., Lancaster Elementary School. Report of male in red hoodie knocking on door. Subject had left phone inside gym.  
 Wednesday, 12:06 a.m., Ind. 1 and Ind. 224. Report of flames. Located a small controlled fire.  
 Wednesday, 8:47 a.m., 5400 West 1000 South, Warren. Car versus deer.  
**Ossian:**  
 Wednesday, 7:32 a.m., 100 East and 800 North, Ossian. Driver cited for speeding.



Rep. Jim Lucas, R-Seymour, speaks on the House floor on Feb. 16, 2023. (Photo courtesy of Indiana House Republicans)

## 'Blown out of proportion': Lucas defends student handgun flash

By **LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ**  
**Indiana Capital Chronicle**

Young gun safety advocates clashed with an avowed gun-rights lawmaker on Tuesday, in a 10-minute exchange that featured a brief flash of a holstered handgun.

The students and a chaperone told The Statehouse File they felt threatened after Rep. Jim Lucas, R-Seymour, opened his coat and flashed his handgun.

Lucas, however, denied any intent to intimidate the students in comments to the Capital Chronicle on Wednesday.

He observed that about 20% of Hoosiers are licensed to carry, according to Indiana State Police, although a 2022 law removed the requirement for handguns.

"People that are carrying a gun are among us every day, everywhere, and I simply wanted to show them that I was one of those people," he said. "There was no intimidation whatsoever ... I did not put my hand on my firearm. I did not make any threats."

Lawmakers and their staff are allowed to carry in the Statehouse though citizens are not.

### The conversation

The students, from Burriss Laboratory School in Muncie, were visiting the Statehouse for an annual gun safety rally. They are members of Students Demand Action, one of the organizations hosting the event.

In a video a student recorded — which begins part-way through the interaction — Lucas said that, under high court decisions, police do not have a duty to protect a person from harm. That includes during school shootings.

"That means you're on your own ... when it comes to protecting (yourself)," he said.

Students noted that they can't legally carry firearms because they are minors.

They went on to describe the fear of school shootings, including of false shooting threats.

"We shouldn't have to live in fear," argued parent chaperone Alison Case.

Lucas protested that more laws wouldn't stop "people who aren't being stopped by the hundreds of existing laws right now."

About two minutes later into the conversation, he opened his jacket to reveal a handgun strapped to his torso, adding, "I'm carrying right now!"

"Nothing about that makes me feel safe, though," one student responded.

The back-and-forth continued for about four minutes until Lucas grew visibly frustrated — calling the conversation "off the rails" — and walked away, wishing the group a good day.

### The aftermath

One of the students, Makynna Fivecoats, told The Statehouse File that the handgun flash "felt like a threat."

Indiana Democrats on Wednesday denounced Lucas' actions.

"Indiana Republicans say laws can't stop gun violence. They have no plan to stop gun violence because they do not believe it is possible," Indiana Democratic Party Chair Mike Schmul said. "We all deserve an Indiana where students — and everyone in our communities — feel safe and gun-owning Hoosiers can do so safely and responsibly."

On Facebook Wednesday, Lucas wrote that he feared for and pitied "those that are being indoctrinated to fear that which is their best means of self defense."

Lucas told the Capital Chronicle that he was in the elevator alone when the group entered and that he started the conversation — by asking what brought them to the Statehouse — out of politeness.

"This is being intentionally blown out of proportion, as these issues generally are," he said. "But the video should speak for itself."

Lucas said that he hadn't known he was being recorded, but added, "I stand by everything I said."

It's at least the second time Lucas has raised eyebrows by revealing he carries. In 2019, he flashed a firearm to a room of constituents in response to a student question about gun safety, according to The Republic.

He pleaded guilty to two misdemeanors over the summer after he drove under the influence and crashed his vehicle — but successfully resisted calls to resign. Lucas has previously sparked controversy for statements on social media.

# Bills striking some child care regulations pass Senate, House

By **WHITNEY DOWNARD** and **LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ**  
**Indiana Capital Chronicle**

Both chambers of the Statehouse passed measures Tuesday designed to increase access to child care by reducing existing regulations.

But while the Senate passed its bill — a priority for the Republican caucus — with almost the full support of the chamber, the House version faced adversity from Democrats.

House Bill 1102 author Rep. Dave Heine, R-Fort Wayne, said that child care should generally cost no more than 10 percent of a household's income. But Hoosier families, he emphasized, are spending about 24 percent of their incomes on it. Families frequently report leaving the workforce because of child care expenses and lack of access.

He said his bill would make "common-sense reductions to burdensome requirements" for child care providers while "maintaining the safety of our children."

Under the bill, unlicensed home providers can care for up to eight children — an increase from the previous limit of six children and not including their own children — so long as they provide care for no more than 30 hours per week.

Other child care centers would see license renewals every three years instead of every two years. Programs operating out of a private or public school would also be exempt from licensure, so long as they comply with health and safety regulations.

Although Heine said the Family and Social Services Administration had vetted the bill "every step of the way" and been scrutinized by lawmakers of both parties, some still had concerns.

Rep. Vanessa Summers, D-Indianapolis, opposed the bill in a statement following the vote.

"I am horrified that this bill has passed through the House. We have a responsibility to parents to protect their children. This bill instead shows that as a state, we are perfectly okay with inexperienced, unaccredited individuals potentially caring for our children," she said. "Lowering standards for state licensure is not an acceptable solution... Not only are we allowing inexperienced individuals to watch over Hoosier children, but we are also pushing more children on this already overburdened system."

She said the real answer is investing in child care infrastructure.

Rep. Carey Hamilton, D-Indianapolis, called the bill a "very small step in

the right direction" even though it didn't make structural changes to further professionalize the industry.

House Bill 1102 easily passed on a 75-21 vote.

### Action in the Senate

With nearly 4,200 regulated child care providers, Indiana has the capacity to serve roughly 206,000 children. But that number falls far short of the estimated 502,000 Hoosier children who need care, according to Brighter Future Indiana, a partnership between the state's Family and Social Services Administration and Early Learning Indiana.

Those 206,000 seats represent facilities operating at full capacity, not the on-the-ground availability as providers struggle to recruit and retain staff.

Senate Bill 2 requires FSSA to study compensation for child care workers while relaxing some staffing requirements in the hopes of growing the workforce. The overall age limit falls from 21 to 18 for hiring staff and centers can hire workers as young as 16 in certain cases.

Additionally, workers no longer have to recertify for CPR annually and more easily qualify for their own child care subsidies.

But for Sen. Ed Charbonneau, the author, the most promising component might be the pilot study of three "microcenters," or facilities with less overhead and regulations caring for 3-30 children.

"Generally to be economically feasible, you have to have a relatively large number of children in the daycare setting," said Charbonneau, R-Valparaiso. "With changes to some of the regulations, microcenters can ... help."

Senate Democrats noted further work to be done in child care, such as increasing the upper threshold for receiving child care subsidies, but threw their support behind Charbonneau's bill.

"The Senate Democratic caucus has been working on this issue for several years. In a year where we kept hearing, 'We're not opening the budget,' you had a real difficult needle to thread," Sen. Shelli Yoder said.

Earlier this month, Yoder, of Bloomington, said more action was needed on child care, especially in the form of funding.

"We've got work to do to make it even better. But what we were able to do in a non-budget year — you worked really hard to accomplish that," Yoder concluded.

Only one senator voted against the measure: Sen. Gary Bryne, a Republican from Bryneville.

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## Lawmakers curb student cell phone use, expand religious instruction

By **WHITNEY DOWNARD** and **LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ**  
**Indiana Capital Chronicle**

The Indiana General Assembly's two chambers on Tuesday passed a pair of education bills — including a proposal requiring schools to let students out of school for religious instruction — alongside a health care merger measure.

State statute currently allows students to leave school for up to 120 minutes a week for religious instruction organized by a church or religious organization. That's as long as instruction takes place off school premises, the religious organizations provide private transportation and no tax dollars for used throughout.

But schools don't have to approve parental requests.

Rep. Kendall Culp, R-Rensselaer, seeks to change that through House Bill 1137. He said, under the new legislation, "the principal and the parents or the entity providing instruction must work in a collaborative manner" to find the best time during the school day for the student to leave the school.

The bill 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.

The bill passed 92-4 and now moves to the Senate.

In the meantime, Senators unanimously passed another education measure: a bill requiring school districts to have cell phone policies that are posted publicly.

"There's all kinds of data out there that show that it's distracting to learning and as we try to increase outcomes in the state, this is one way I believe that we can accomplish that," said Richmond Sen. Jeff Raatz, the author.

Following an amendment from Indianapolis Democrat Sen. J.D. Ford, the bill includes an exception for children with individualized education plans. Schools may adopt more stringent requirements.

Senate Bill 185 now moves to the House for further consideration.

In the health care realm, senators unanimously voted in favor of a bill to require health care entities to file notice with the Attorney General's Office 45 days before an anticipated merger with a price tag of \$10 million or more.

Author Sen. Chris Garten, R-Charlestown, said Senate Bill 9 came from a list of recommendations approved by an interim committee he led in the fall.

He noted that 29 other states already require notification as part of their antimonopoly efforts — and that 13 of those states also require approval.

In Indiana, the office would only conduct an antitrust review.

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## Do Record Levels of Capital Investment Benefit Citizens?

Over the past couple years, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation has advertised record capital investment numbers. In 2022, they reported new investments of \$22 billion and in 2023 another \$29 billion. These are both record years for the IEDC. Still, more than one state official has lamented that taxpayers don't seem to grasp how 'big' these numbers are, and how important they are to Indiana. That's a good question, worth exploring.



Michael Hicks

The IEDC was formed during the Gov. Daniels Administration as a privatized development group, overseen by a board of business and elected leaders. It is small, fewer than 100 folks, and it performs a dizzying array of activities from managing the READI Grants to helping businesses navigate state regulatory agencies. Recently, the agency began taking on a role as a real estate developer. That decision warrants a separate column (along with months of legislative hearings). Otherwise, the IEDC has been a model development agency for close to two decades.

The data they report comes from deal agreements for businesses planning to come to Indiana. These are promised investments that will play out over a number of years. Recent reporting suggests about one-third of these projects have investment lower than expected. Close to another third aren't fully reported. So, the ultimate level of these investments should be taken with a grain of salt. But, that isn't why taxpayers should view these announcements with some skepticism.

Indiana's total stock of capital reported to local governments is more than half a trillion dollars. About 35 percent of that total avoids taxation through abatements, exemptions and deductions. Nearly all of the investment claimed by IEDC will be subject to abatements. So, under the very best circumstances, it'll be years before these entities pay any meaningful amount of property taxes. Moreover, any property that is not abated will surely land within a Tax Increment Financing District. In those places, taxes will be diverted from their intended use for 25 years.

Taxpayers who are skeptical about these announced investments have a very good point. Of course, this investment often brings new jobs, or at least the claims of new jobs. There, the skepticism of taxpayers is even more justified.

Most of the new job announcements are manufacturing firms. That makes sense, because most businesses aren't 'footloose' in the sense that they can locate somewhere other than where their customers are located. So, new job announcements are almost always limited to manufacturing, logistics and sometimes a corporate headquarters. These are all establishments that 'export' their goods or services to consumers outside their general vicinity. So how has our success at attracting capital investment translated into jobs?

Manufacturing employment in Indiana peaked back in 1973, and we've been chasing more of it ever since. We started the Great Recession with more than 545,000 factory jobs, but shrank by more than 120,000 in two years. From 2009 to 2018, we slowly recovered those jobs. Then, Indiana started to slip into recession. COVID offered a huge boost to manufacturing production and sales, but not jobs. Factory employment in Indiana clawed its way back, peaking in late 2022, within a few hundred jobs of our 2007 and 2018 levels. We are back onto our long-term trend of fewer factory jobs.

Our transportation and warehousing jobs have grown, adding close to 30,000 since the start of COVID. So, we might be thankful for these jobs, but we might have other questions as well, such as how good are these jobs. Well, that is another uncomfortable answer.

The average inflation-adjusted wage for Indiana's transportation and warehousing workers is about 0.5 percent lower today than it was in 1998. The reason for this is that job growth in these sectors has been concentrated among low-wage occupations, with turnover topping 40 percent per year. This sort of job creation dynamic cannot deliver prosperity to Indiana.

One thing the additional capital investment does provide is GDP growth. Inflation-adjusted GDP in Indiana manufacturing is up almost 13 percent since before COVID, and almost 8 percent for transportation and warehousing. Thus, the overall size of the Hoosier economy is correlated with growth in capital investment among these industries. That is about the most unsurprising observation any economist could make. But it prompts the question, how could capital and investment in Indiana manufacturing be so much higher today, but employment lower?

Well, all that capital is designed to save labor. So, the investment numbers outlined by the IEDC include equipment and software used to cut labor costs. This is a good thing that healthy economies have been doing for several centuries. Labor-saving technologies make our lives better in many diverse ways. Broad uses of these technologies enrich us all, but the effect is not uniform.

Better-educated workers benefit enormously from labor-saving technologies. The reason for this is that labor-saving technologies complement the skills of well-educated workers. So, firms with high capital-to-labor ratios typically hire a larger share of better-educated workers. However, poorly-educated workers are far less likely to benefit from labor-saving technologies. The reason for this is that these technologies substitute for less-educated workers, rather than complement them.

The growth of GDP that accompanies capital investment does so without adding new workers. Indiana's factories today are more productive than they have ever been, and they produce more goods (in inflation-adjusted terms) than at any time in history. We're just doing so with much fewer workers.

There's nothing wrong with firms purchasing labor-saving technology. Indeed, we should celebrate these investments. However, the typical taxpayer isn't going to experience any real benefit from this investment. In fact, there's more than a little evidence that the promiscuous use of tax incentives—particularly abatements—actually makes most taxpayers worse off from this new investment. After all, they are the ones who suffer from additional road congestion and fund the increased demand for public services and road repairs. Normally, a new business would help shoulder at least part of the costs of these public services, but abatements place all the burden on the existing businesses and families.

Alone, none of these observations constitute an argument against business attraction policies, business tax exemptions, deductions or abatements. They are, however, food for thought. We should continue to celebrate labor-saving technology, and we should prepare more of our citizens to thrive as their job tasks are replaced by machines. Also, we shouldn't be surprised that voters are suspicious of economic development policies that offer substantial costs with minimal benefits. They may be right.

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

## Hoosier Opinions



## Biden's bad deal

President Biden offered a deal on the border to congressional Republicans that they could refuse. To their credit, they did.

The president, speaking from South Carolina, said he would shut down the border "right now," if Congress passed the proposed bipartisan deal now in front of them.

The proposed deal, Biden said, would "give me as president, the emergency authority to shut down the border until it could get back under control."

This deal offer is ridiculous on its face. The administration has refused to enforce immigration laws that have been in place for years, but now the president says he will selectively enforce a new law?

Through the first 27 days in December, border authorities "encountered more than 225,000 migrants along the US-Mexico border ... marking the highest monthly total recorded since 2000, according to preliminary Homeland Security statistics," reports CNN.

About 50,000 more arrived at official border crossings. There have been more than 96,000 "known gotaways" at the southern border since Oct. 1, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Who knows how many have come into the country with Fentanyl?

Perhaps the most ridiculous suggestion made during what some have rightfully called an "invasion" came from the mayor of Boston, Maura Healey, who is asking people to open their homes and businesses to the migrants. This isn't equivalent to the temporary housing offered to the 7,000 passengers and crew from airplanes forced to land in Newfoundland following the 9/11 terrorist attack. Who in their right mind would take in unvetted migrants?

According to the Center for Immigration Studies, there are 11.35 million people living in the U.S. who arrived without documentation. They're still coming. Why wouldn't they when so much free stuff awaits?

The political element behind the grand migration is not hard to discern. Democratic megadonor George Soros has made six-figure donations through

his Democracy Pac II to a group called Texas Majority PAC, whose goal is to turn Texas into a Democrat-majority state. The group was formed by people associated with Beto O'Rourke, who failed in three attempts to seek various offices.

In a statement, Texas Majority PAC spokeswoman Katherine Fischer said the Soros donations are intended to help the migrants register and turn out voters "on a scale never seen before." She couldn't be clearer as to the PAC's intentions and presumably the goals of other enablers of those who broke our laws to get here.

It appears Vice President Kamala Harris is in on this deal. She wants the migrants to have "a pathway to citizenship." There is no mystery how she and other Democrats expect most of them to vote should they acquire citizenship. If some of them break more laws after becoming U.S. citizens, what then? Would they get pardoned by the current or a future Democratic president?

As Ronald Reagan said: "A nation that cannot control its borders is not a nation." Reagan signed a bipartisan, but flawed, immigration bill. This is different and if it continues, the United States of America will be "fundamentally transformed," which former President Barack Obama and current President Joe Biden have said is their goal.

Uncontrolled immigration has reached the top of the list of voter concerns, ahead of the economy. Voters will decide in November what kind of America they want.

When Benjamin Franklin was supposedly asked what kind of country he had given us, he is said to have replied: "A Republic, if you can keep it." Whether that quote is true or not is not important. The sentiment is correct. We'll soon know if we are able to keep it. President Biden - and George Soros - have made their intentions clear.

teaeditors@tribpub.com



Cal Thomas

## Awaiting the Hobomok Skipper

Groundhog-speak should have been the topic of today's Angelkeep Journals' enlightenment. After all, tomorrow, February 2nd, is the day all winter-loathers anticipate with greater awe than any white Christmas with Santa sliding in with his sleigh-filled seasonal visit. Tomorrow, every major newscaster worth his, or her, winter sidewalk salt, will be leading with the unspoken, but somehow fully-attributed, prognostication of spring's arrival.

Angelkeep has always found it suspect that a groundhog was never personally asked for a prediction, whether it be Punxsutawney Phil, St. Paul's W. Chuck Paul, or Poneto Philomena. It's an abomination of the original celebration of Candlemas (perhaps a topic for 2025.) If the official groundhog was truly asked why it staggered out of its winter slumber, the likely reply would be...

"I'm old in groundhog-years, I had to pee."

Or, "Leg cramp! Youch!"

Or, "Who dragged me outta my hole on a winter day? Don't you own a calendar? Six weeks yet to spring. Six months yet to a Hobomok Skipper. Now that's something to write about."

Angelkeep warmly anticipates another visit from Hobomok. Not two (2) days into February, but two (2) centimeters of delight more likely to appear spring to summer than in February. 2 cm, according to the latest Angelkeep groundhog calibration, equals 13/16 inch, or the width of Alan Daugherty's end pinky digit.

"But he has fat stubby fingers," pipes up Poneto Philomena.

Angelkeep spotted it August of 2023. Two (2) portraits were

## Angelkeep Journals

accomplished before it flew off. Angelkeep began searching for information to identify this beautiful insect with wings of orange with dark brown trim. Research failed. Finally a brother-in-law tipped off Angelkeep that Hobomok Skipper was not a moth, as originally suspected. Hobomok set a record for the tiniest butterfly ever photographed at Angelkeep.

Hobomok, is a fun name to say three times fast... without spitting. It takes to wing, as they say, in the spring and lasts through summer. Hobomok, Hobomok, Hobomok only flies between the Rocky Mountains and the Atlantic in the northern part of the States, plus some of lower eastern Canada.

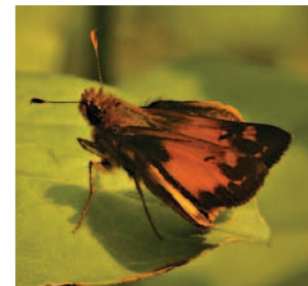
Angelkeep falls pretty much smack dab in the center of Hobomok society.

Learned through research, once Angelkeep understood the small lovely creature was a butterfly, not a moth, was the fact that Hobomok Skipper females come in two (2) forms. Two (2) forms, and neither of the two (2) ladies will appear looking for any shadows on February two (2.) The two (2) forms of the female are the "normal" as compared to the "Pocahontas" form.

Wikipedia provided no knowledge



Alan Daugherty



regarding the reason for one female to get a fancy name like Pocahontas, while its counterpart had no name, just a referral as "normal." Regarding science names, that's not normal.

"DYK Wikipedia turned age 23 last month?" asked Poneto Philomena.

"What's DYK mean?" questioned Punxsutawney Phil groggily.

"How come you're so Pfat, Phil, if you've been hibernating all winter?" chimed in Ouabache Philabache, who, by the way, had never previously uttered a Groundhog Day spring arrival prediction in its life.

Butterflies have two (2) antennae. You will not see any February two (2) tomorrow as it will not be spring for six (6) more weeks. There you have it, Angelkeep declares, ahead of Phil, Philomena, and Philabache, that spring's arrival, as per the calendar, is on March 19. Okay, that's not normal either, and it likely has to do with Leap Year with that extra day added to the end of February.

Hobomok Skipper had capitate antennae in the portrait of last August. That means it had a knob or club at the end of each antennae. Moths have feathery antenna. Angelkeep learned a thing. Moths tend to be out at night, and Hobomok was photographed in sunshine. Angelkeep relearned a thing and two.

Full disclosure regarding the lowly groundhog. Angelkeep's columnist has eaten roasted, smoked, groundhog. Once. Tasted like picnic ham.

Mr. Daugherty is a Wells County resident who, along with his wife Gwen, enjoy their backyard and have named it "Angelkeep."

# Gloria reflects on school days and quiet rest

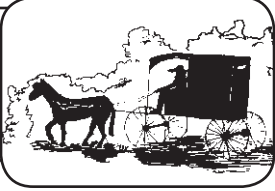
Good morning from the Yoder Seven!

It's a quiet Monday morning, and all six children are sound asleep at the moment. The week stretches ahead untouched. I wonder what it holds? God alone knows, but with him to guide, it will be excellent and safe. Last week, children Jesse and Elijah had their last four days of kindergarten; now, this week, it has come to a close for the year, and I will be teaching them at home. They want to go back to school to visit their friends and siblings sometime soon. School is only a skip and a hop from our house, they can even watch the children through the narrow strip of woods during recess time.

It is amazing how it works; on school days, the solace of being in the house with little Joshua is relished, and then on days with Jesse and Elijah back home, there is that rich joy of both mothering and teaching them. They miss school and are eager to be in first grade next year.

Yesterday, a brother in church shared that we need time to rest and time to be active. It clicked with me. That's it. I need quiet and rest, which energizes me to keep mothering and leading when the flock is all gathered at home. I am eager for them to be in first grade, but I am also thankful it won't happen until next fall.

**The Amish Cook**  
by Gloria Yoder



In addition to doing school, I plan to wrap up what I can on our project of remodeling portions of the bathroom this week. Last week the children helped me paint it. They were excited about wearing painted clothes like Mom. I explained that it was an old dress I had made before Daddy and I were married, and now it could be used for painting.

Little Joshua was a hilarious sight in an old, oversized T-shirt and inside-out sweatpants (my mom had taught me to wear clothes inside out for painting if I wanted to use them again). Last week, while the older children were still in school, Joshua patiently knelt in the bathroom closet and brushed away, pleased with his work. Ultimately, he was super excited for the children to come home from school so he could show them his accomplishments.

We also plan to get new flooring to replace the old moldy one. My Dad is helping with details beyond my skills, including doors and trim that need to be replaced.

Each step of the process is promising, but it will be a blessing to have it all done and everything



back in place. I shake my head at everything I take for granted every day. Lord, teach us to thank you more for little things!

For breakfast this morning, we'll have granola, which Julia and Austin helped me make last week. They decided to help me make enough to stock the freezer for the summer. Enjoy a bowl of fresh granola!

### GLORIA'S BUTTERSCOTCH GRANOLA

- 10 cups oatmeal
- 2 package graham crackers (crushed)
- 2 cups coconut (optional)
- 1 cup chopped pecans (optional)
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons soda
- 1 teaspoon salt

- 2 cups of butter
  - 1 cup of butterscotch chips
- Instructions**  
Melt butter and add to dry ingredients.  
Spread evenly on 2 large cookie sheets.  
Bake at 300 for 40 minutes.  
Stir every 5 – 10 minutes.  
Add butterscotch chips during the last minute of baking.

## What to do about debt in retirement

By KATE ASHFORD of NerdWallet

A growing number of older adults are in debt in retirement, according to the 2022 Survey of Consumer Finances from the Federal Reserve. Among people ages 65 to 74, the share with debt rose to 65% in 2022, up from 50% in 1989 (the first time this question was asked). For people 75 and over, 53% report holding debt in 2022 versus 21% in 1989. This is a big challenge, since people's income in retirement is traditionally limited. But there are strategies for tackling your balance sheet later in life.

Take note: Not all debt is bad debt. "It's not necessarily the worst thing to have," says Jack Heintzelman, a certified financial planner in Boston. If it's debt that earns you a tax deduction, he says, like a mortgage, it may be fine to hang onto it while you give your money elsewhere a chance to grow.

But if debt is straining your retirement budget or you're paying a high interest rate, a pay-it-off plan is key. Here are some methods that can help.

### PICK UP SIDE WORK

The traditional retirement model — work for 40 years and then quit forever — may not be the most appropriate approach anymore. Supplementing retirement savings and Social Security benefits with part-time earnings can make your money go further and help you pay off remaining debt.

For some people, consulting in their field is a natural step between full-time work and full-time play. Other people can monetize an interest or pick

up hourly work a few days a week.

"We have a client who works in a music repair shop for part-time income," says Colin Day, a CFP in St. Louis. "They get to explore their hobby while also getting some level of income."

### CONSIDER MOVING OR DOWNSIZING

Your home is usually one of your biggest expenses, and if you live in a high-cost area, you might be paying high property taxes and maintenance costs, which eat into your ability to pay for other things.

Moving to a smaller home or to an area with a lower cost of living can free up room in your budget. You might also get better weather, to boot.

"We have a fair amount of clients who are moving from more northwestern states with a higher income tax and colder weather down to places like Florida," says Crystal McKeon, a CFP in Houston, who notes that Florida has no state income tax and decidedly warmer weather.

Andrew Herzog, a CFP in Plano, Texas, recalls a client who's considering moving to a smaller home that's closer to his daughter, easier to maintain and potentially mortgage-free if he can sell his current house for a high enough price.

"Downsizing can absolutely work," Herzog says. "It's best when you do it for multiple reasons."

### TIME YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

The Social Security equation — when to claim, when to wait — depends on your health, your marital status and your savings. But debt can also affect

your plans.

Taking Social Security early might give you the income you need to get rid of your balances. "As long as I'm not blowing up my plan by drawing Social Security early, it could help sustain me by not having to draw down my investment assets," Day says.

On the other hand, waiting to claim means you'll have a higher Social Security check later — benefits increase by 8% per year after full retirement age until age 70. Depending on the type of debt, it may be better to wait until you can throw more money at it. Talk to a financial professional about the best option for you.

"I would do the calculations," Herzog says. "That's a pretty big asset for people when you're older."

### TAP HOME EQUITY — CAUTIOUSLY

If you have equity in your home, you might be able to get a home equity loan or line of credit to help you consolidate or pay down higher-interest debt. Take your time in considering this, however, since an inability to keep up with these payments puts your home at risk of foreclosure.

"You have much more to lose if you mess that up," Herzog says.

Keep in mind, too, that the interest on a home equity line of credit is only deductible if you use it for home improvement-related expenses. And this is a better option for a one-time debt, not ongoing expenses.

"Those living expenses are just going to continue," McKeon says. "Home equity loans should not be a first priority."

## A Talk with Tego



Uno is a 14-week-old, domestic short hair male. He is blind in one eye.



Jax is 1½-year-old, German Shepherd male.



Willow is a four-month-old, domestic short hair female.



Tego

**Tego's Tips:** When training a dog praise it for a job well done.

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### Bi-County Special Olympics

The Bi-County Bluffton Special Olympic Basketball teams competed at Huntington North High School over the weekend. The Eagles and the Bulldogs split the two games they played on Jan. 27. (Photo provided)



Norwell senior Cade Shelton (middle) signs his national letter of intent to play baseball at Huntington University Wednesday morning at the high school. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

## Norwell's Shelton signs with Huntington University for baseball

By RYAN WALKER

Norwell's Cade Shelton officially inked with Huntington University to play baseball Wednesday morning at the high school.

The senior outfielder helped lead the Knights to a 23-8 record along with the sectional and regional championships. He hit .296 in his junior season, tallying 12 RBIs and 19 runs in 76 plate appearances.

Shelton liked many things about the Foresters' campus and baseball program, who finished second in the Crossroads League conference last year with a 27-9 record.

"The family culture that they have in the locker room, the faith-based program that they have there, and Coach Frame, his coaching style and how he has his players compete," Shelton said.

Shelton shared that while on his visit, he felt comfortable with the agriculture professors and will be studying that in his time at Huntington. The school recently acquired two new fields of study, crop science and

agronomy and animal science, to its programs in 2020.

To expand on its investment to the agriculture program, Huntington built a 10,000-square-foot building for learning purposes.

And of course, Shelton is eager to play on the baseball team. The Foresters have been in the top three in the conference every year since 2017, and were runners-up in the end-of-the-year tournament in two straight years, falling to Taylor and Indiana Wesleyan.

The Foresters have also renovated their state-of-the-art baseball field at Forest Glen Park, adding artificial turf in the infield. The improvement helped Huntington host its first-ever Crossroads League tournament and is aiming to host a national Opening Round host site in the near future.

"I'm really excited to get on the field and start competing and playing games there," Shelton said.

sports@news-banner.com

## Zach Edey scores 10 of his 30 points in overtime to send No. 2 Purdue past Northwestern

By MICHAEL MAROT  
AP Sports Writer

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (AP) — Zach Edey scored 10 of his 30 points in overtime and Lance Jones had a season-high 26 to lead No. 2 Purdue past Northwestern 105-96 on Wednesday night.

Edey also grabbed 15 rebounds as the Boilermakers (20-2, 9-2 Big Ten) avoided a third consecutive loss in this series. They have won six straight overall, 12 in a row at home and are the first Division I team with 20 wins this season. Braden Smith had 11 points and 16 assists.

The Wildcats (15-6, 6-4), as usual, didn't make it easy.

Boo Buie and Ty Berry each had 25 points for Northwestern, which led 78-73 with 2:37 left in regulation and had a chance to win it on Buie's 15-foot runner at the buzzer. But the ball bounced off the front of the rim, and the 7-foot-4 Edey dominated in overtime.

With 1.7 seconds to go, Northwestern coach Chris Collins walked onto the court and yelled furiously in the face of an official with the ball still in play.

After being restrained by one of his players, Collins calmed down and congratulated Edey and Purdue coach Matt Painter on his way off the court. Collins gestured to the booing crowd to get louder, and the Boilermakers were given four technical free throws.

Northwestern's harassing defense never allowed Purdue to pull away, and the Boilermakers couldn't take advantage from the free-throw line, where they were just 29 of 46.

But in overtime, it was all Edey. He started with a short hook shot, drew a foul on a dunk, made two free throws on Purdue's next possession and added two more dunks to give Purdue a 91-87 lead. Northwestern could only get as close as two the rest of the way.

Edey also had one block, falling two short of becoming the fourth Big Ten player with 2,000 points, 1,000 rebounds and 200 blocks. But he did pick up another basketball for his trophy case during a pregame ceremony to celebrate him becoming the second player in school history with 2,000 points and 1,000 rebounds.

Buie moved into second on Northwestern's career scoring list with his ninth straight 20-point game against a ranked opponent. He now has 1,936 points.

### BIG PICTURE

Northwestern: Collins' squad understands how to challenge Edey better than any other Big Ten team. But after topping the nation's No. 1 team twice on its home court in the past two seasons, the Wildcats came up just short this time. Still, Northwestern remains one of the conference's top teams.

Purdue: The Boilermakers protected their home court again — thanks to Edey's late charge. They can't rely exclusively on the reigning national player of the year, but he's certainly a nice go-to option on an off night.

### UP NEXT

Northwestern: Travels to Minnesota on Saturday

Purdue: Visits No. 6 Wisconsin in Sunday's matchup between the Big Ten's top two teams.

## High School Calendar

**THURSDAY, FEB 1**  
BOYS BASKETBALL: Bluffton at Eastbrook, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Jay County, 7:30 p.m.  
SWIMMING & DIVING (CO-ED): (sectional prelims, girls only) Norwell, Bluffton at Jay County, 5:30 p.m.  
**FRIDAY, FEB 2**  
GIRLS BASKETBALL: Southern Wells vs. Lakeland Christian at Northfield High School, 6 p.m.; Norwell vs. Maconaquah at Maconaquah High School; Bluffton vs. Bishop Luers at South Adams High School, 6 p.m.  
**SATURDAY, FEB 3**  
BOYS BASKETBALL: Columbia City at Norwell, 1:30 p.m.; Heritage at Bluffton, 2:30 p.m.  
WRESTLING: (regional): Norwell at Jay County, 8:30 a.m.  
SWIMMING & DIVING (CO-ED): (sectional finals, girls only) Norwell, Bluffton at Jay County, 9 a.m.  
**MONDAY, FEB. 5**  
SWIMMING & DIVING: (Boys only): Norwell at Adams Central, 6 p.m.  
**TUESDAY, FEB. 6**  
BOYS BASKETBALL: Heritage at Norwell, 7:45 p.m.; Bluffton at Manchester, 7:30 p.m.; Elwood at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m.  
SWIMMING & DIVING: (Boys only): Bluffton at Huntington North, 5:30 p.m.

## News-Banner Scoreboard

<b>FOOTBALL</b> <b>NFL</b> Conference Championships Sunday, Jan. 28 Kansas City 17, Baltimore 10 San Francisco 34, Detroit 31 Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 11 At Las Vegas Kansas City vs. San Francisco, 6:30 p.m. (CBS)	Indpls Pike 72, Indpls Perry Meridian 19 12. Avon Brownsburg 74, Avon 42 13. Mooresville Bloomington North 57, Martinsville 32 Center Grove 47, Bloomington South 20 14. Whiteland Franklin 37, Shelbyville 32 Whiteland 52, E. Central 23 15. Floyd Central Jennings Co. 59, Seymour 38 16. Evansville Harrison Evansville Central 51, Jasper 38 Evansville North 58, Evansville Harrison 29 <b>Class 3A</b> 17. Highland Highland 52, Calumet 10 18. Rochester Bremen 53, Glenn 35 Rochester 48, Knox 35 19. New Prairie S. Bend Clay 55, Mishawaka Marion 28 20. W. Noble Wawasee 42, Lakeland 15 21. Garrett Angola 50, Leo 43 22. Twin Lakes W. Lafayette 69, Frankfort 18 23. Maconaquah Maconaquah 50, Mississinewa 49 OT 24. Yorktown Jay Co. 56, Yorktown 48 25. Cascade Cascade 61, Monrovia 52 26. Owen Valley Edgewood 63, W. Vigo 43 27. Indpls Chatard Heritage Christian 67, Indpls Heron 18 Indpls Chatard 55, Indy Brebeuf 40 28. Beach Grove Speedway 56, Indpls Ritter 28 29. Lawrenceburg Batesville 49, S. Dearborn 25 30. Charlestown Charlestown 49, Corydon 43 Madison 64, N. Harrison 53 31. Southridge Vincennes 48, Heritage Hills 39 Washington 52, Southridge 37 32. Gibson Southern Gibson Southern 60, Evansville Mater Dei 44 Mt. Vernon (Posey) 42, Evansville Bosse 29 <b>Class 2A</b>	33. Lake Station Lake Station 50, N. Newton 8 34. N. Judson N. Judson 39, S. Central (Union Mills) 36 35. Eastside Central Noble 47, Eastside 42 Westview 51, Churubusco 42 36. N. Miami Winamac 52, Wabash 46 37. S. Adams Bluffton 57, Manchester 47 S. Adams 51, Adams Central 39 38. Delphi Clinton Prairie 46, Covington 37 Lafayette Catholic 71, Seeger 35 39. Elwood Eastbrook 65, Elwood 16 40. Lapel Winchester 64, Muncie Burris 29 41. Northeastern Union Co. 63, Hagerstown 30 42. Indpls Secina Indpls Secina 52, Indpls Riverside 11 44. S. Putnam Greencastle 39, N. Putnam 33 45. N. Decatur Switzerland Co. 47, Hauser 36 46. Providence Brownstown 63, Southwestern (Hanover) 32 47. N. Knox Linton 62, N. Daviess 27 Paoli 48, Mitchell 29 48. S. Spencer Crawford Co. 43, N. Posey 36 S. Spencer 41, Forest Park 35 50. Culver Michigan City Marquette 59, Culver 19 51. Lakewood Park Lakewood Park 49, Elkhart Christian 23 52. S. Newton Caston 62, W. Central 37 Tri-County 62, Frontier 13 54. Attica Fountain Central 49, Faith Christian 46 Rossville 51, N. Vermillion 30 56. Union City Blue River Valley 47, Cambridge City Lincoln 22 Tri 43, Randolph Southern 26 57. Bloomfield N. Central (Farmersburg) 51, White River Valley 46, OT
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## F1 rejects Andretti's bid to join series

By JENNA FRYER  
AP Auto Racing Writer

After a six-month review, Formula One announced Wednesday that it had rejected a bid by Andretti Global and GM exploring potential legal avenues. F1 said it would be willing to revisit the issue if GM has an engine ready for the 2028 season, but was adamant and sharply critical in telling Andretti no for 2025 and 2026.

The decision outraged American fans of the series and left Michael Andretti and GM exploring potential legal avenues. F1 said it would be willing to revisit the issue if GM has an engine ready for the 2028 season, but was adamant and sharply critical in telling Andretti no for 2025 and 2026.

In reaching its decision, F1 said it did not believe Andretti would be a competitive team; that the Andretti name does not bring the value to the series that Michael Andretti believes it would; and that getting on the grid in the next two years would be a challenge Andretti has never faced before.

"The fact that the applicant proposes to do so gives us reason to question their

understanding of the scope of the challenge involved," F1 said in a statement. "Formula 1, as the pinnacle of world motorsport, represents a unique technical challenge to constructors of a nature that the applicant has not faced in any other formula or discipline in which it has previously competed. On this basis, we do not believe that the applicant would be a competitive participant."

The Andrettis had realized in recent months that winning F1 approval was going to prove difficult but the dismissive announcement had an unmistakable sting. Mario Andretti is the 1978 F1 world champion, and son Michael ran 13 races in the 1993 season.

"I'm devastated," the elder Andretti wrote on social media. "I won't say anything else because I can't find any other words besides devastated."

General Motors under its Cadillac brand had signed on to partner with Andretti, but the bid received extreme pushback from most of the existing 10 teams, F1 leadership and Liberty Media Corp., the American company that owns the commercial rights to the series.

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When family dinners are a health hazard

Dear Annie: I want everyone to keep their germs to themselves. I am carefully training my children to avoid any contact with dirty hands or saliva when handling communal food.

My mother and mother-in-law routinely share their germs while preparing foods, such as eating off the stirring spoon while cooking or licking icing off their fingers in between frosting cookies.

My mother and mother-in-law concern me the most since they prepare the majority of the food at family gatherings, and we are duty-bound to eat their cooking.

How can I address these germ-sharing behaviors without alienating all of our family members? Thank you!

Dear Grossed Out: Tact is your secret weapon here. Express your concern for health without pointing fingers.

You could also consider gifting them

with a set of tasting spoons and serving spoons to minimize licking off the spoons used in cooking.

Dear Annie: Recently you printed a letter from a man whose wife has an alcohol problem. I had a problem with drinking more than I should, but a year ago, I learned what alcohol was doing to my body and mind and quit.

Dear Been There: Thanks for your suggestion. Any learned behavior can indeed be unlearned, though alcoholism is recognized as a disease, and there are many different treatment alternatives, as we know.

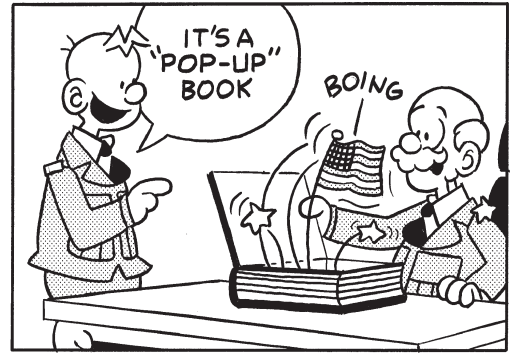
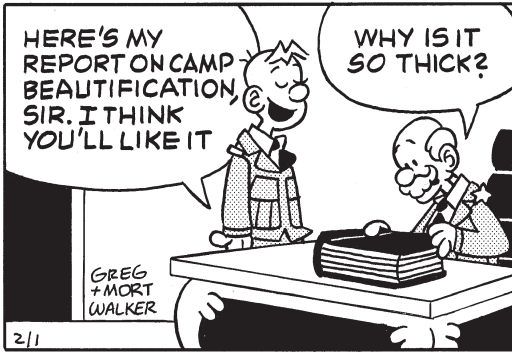
"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book.

Visit http://www.creatorspublishing.com for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearnnie@creators.com.

Dear Annie by Annie Lane



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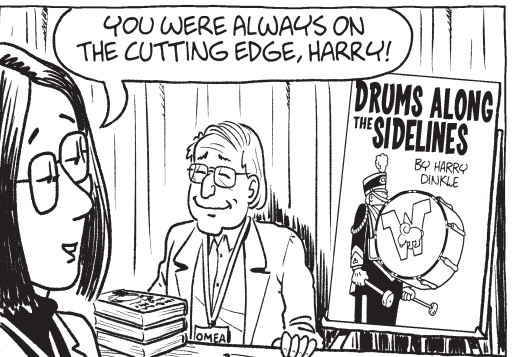
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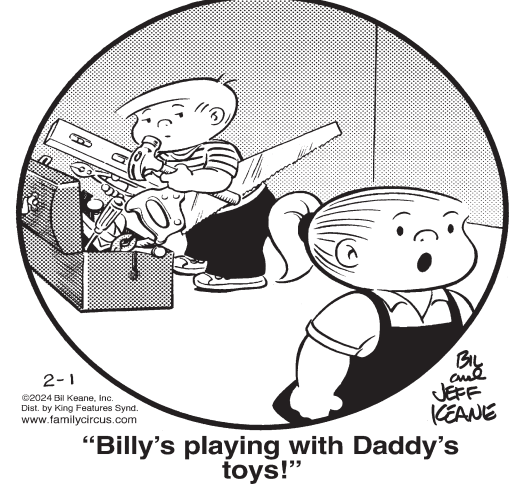


CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



Evil is real

Question: I know the subject of good and evil has been debated among people, but when I see what is going on in Israel, it is devastating to think that these atrocities continue in the "so-called" pursuit of peace.

Answer: Evil is real, and at one time or another most of us have wondered

why God doesn't just reach down and stop it. Sometimes He does — but not always, and the Bible says evil is a mystery that we won't fully understand until we get to Heaven.

There are many people we know who are going through their own battles of good and evil, whether it be a health crisis, a financial hardship, or a family torn to pieces over heart-wrenching choices.

If we are not aware that the devil's intent is to discourage us and render us hopeless, bitterness and anger can overwhelm

us. We must not let those emotions drive a wedge between us and God; it gains us nothing. In the long run, it will only destroy us.

Instead, our attitude should be that of the psalmist: "It is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God" (Psalm 73:28, NKJV).

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

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TV schedule table with columns for time slots (5 PM to 12:30) and rows for various channels (WINM, CBS, Antenna, ABC, NBC, etc.).

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words, and a solution time of 24 mins.

Table for 'Yesterday's answer' with a grid of numbers 1-61 and corresponding answers.

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## SUDOKU

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

### King Classic Sudoku

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

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Difficulty: ★★★

2/1

### FOR SALE

#### Miscellaneous

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

#### Pets

**WHEN VETERINARY CARE** is unavailable or unaffordable, ask for Happy Jack® animal healthcare for cats, dogs, & horses. At Tractor Supply® ([www.happyjackinc.com](http://www.happyjackinc.com)) (I)

**HELOISE HINT:** If you have several cats and dogs in your home. Make certain that all family members have your vet's number and a 24-hour emergency care number programmed into their phones. You can also keep the numbers on a note in the kitchen. Email [HELOISE@Heloise.com](mailto:HELOISE@Heloise.com).

### 5 for \$5

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**EARN EXTRA CASH** by selling your "unwanted" items during the month of February. A 20-word, line classified ad for 5 days is only \$5! For Sale Items Only. Excludes Garage Sales. Contact the Bluffton News-Banner office at 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton, (260) 824-0224, or place online at [news-banner.com](http://news-banner.com) and click on classifieds.

### EMPLOYMENT

#### Help Wanted

**WELLS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** is currently seeking applicants for the position of Maintenance/Custodian. Applicants must have general knowledge of heating/cooling, plumbing, electrical with the ability to make minor repairs and/or adjustments. Additional responsibilities include building maintenance and ground keeping. 20-year matrix salary range for the position is \$43,682 - \$52,774. Years of service and experience will be honored for a starting salary up to five years in the pay matrix. Apply at [www.wellscountysheriff.com](http://www.wellscountysheriff.com) under "Job Opportunities". Deadline for Pre-application submission is no later than February 5, 2024. A full job description is also listed on the website for review.

**HELOISE HINT:** After every job interview. Send a personal thank-you note to the interviewer. It is an important step that you should always take during your job search. Fax Heloise @ 210-HELOISE (435-6473).

## Public Notices

#### Public Notice

The Town of Ossian, Indiana, (507 N Jefferson St, Ossian, IN 46777) is submitting a Notice of Intent to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management of our intent to comply with the requirements of Construction Storm-water General Permit (CSGP) to discharge storm water from construction activities associated with Street Improvements located along Melching Court and Millside Court in Ossian, Indiana. Runoff from the project site will discharge to the regulated Bunn Tile Drain and Eightmile Creek. Questions or comments should be directed to Crystal Chapman of the Town of Ossian at 260.622.4251.

oj, nb 2/1  
hspaxlp

#### NOTICE OF HEARING FOR AREA PLAN COMMISSION 1/26/2024

Notice is hereby given that the AREA PLAN COMMISSION will hold a Public Hearing in Conference Room 105 in the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St., in the City of Bluffton, IN at 7:00 o'clock P.M. on the 15th day of February, 2024, for the purpose of reviewing and hearing comment on the request of Douglas K & Amy A Dunwiddle, 3915 E SR 218, Bluffton, IN 46714 for the purpose of a Rezoning.

#### Current Zoning: B-2

#### Proposed Rezoning: R-2

#### Common Location:

The subject property is located at 711 W Cherry, Bluffton, Indiana. 46714  
Brief Legal: The subject property is described as PT Lots 30 & 31 RW & JW Townley's West Addition in Harrison Township of Wells County.

Dated this 26th day of January, 2024

WELLS COUNTY AREA PLAN COMMISSION  
Michael Lautzenheiser, Jr.  
Director

oj, nb 2/1  
hspaxlp

#### STATE OF INDIANA )

COUNTY OF WELLS ) SS:

IN THE WELLS CIRCUIT COURT  
2024 TERM  
CAUSE NO.  
90C01-2401-EU-000006

#### IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF JANE A. HULLINGER, deceased

**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION**  
Notice is hereby given that Rebecca K. Worthman, was on January 29, 2024, appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Jane A. Hullinger, deceased, who died on January 7, 2024.

All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, this January 29, 2024.

Clerk, Wells Circuit Court  
Colin Z. Andrews #26767-49  
Andrews & Crell, P.C.  
116 South Main Street  
Bluffton, Indiana 46714  
(260) 824-0409  
Attorney for the Estate

nb 2/1, 2/8  
hspaxlp

#### SUDOKU ANSWER

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

### Lottery Numbers

#### Wednesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY

Cash 5 — 03-10-16-22-27

Lotto Plus — 04-12-19-23-37-44

Cash4Life — 05-13-51-52-59, Cash Ball: 04

Quick Draw Midday — 01-09-10-12-21-27-33-35-37-39-40-42-50-51-52-54-62-67-73-80, BE: 33

Daily Three-Midday — 04-02-01, SB: 01

Daily Three-Evening — 01-09-06, SB: 06

Daily Four-Midday — 05-00-09-04, SB: 01

Daily Four-Evening — 00-02-00-06, SB: 06

Quick Draw Evening — 03-07-11-15-18-19-20-21-24-25-26-27-40-44-46-51-54-59-60-67, BE: 24

Hoosier Lotto — 08-11-13-14-27-31

MEGA MILLIONS Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$333 million

POWERBALL 15-18-19-41-43 Powerball: 14; Power Play: 2X

### Help Wanted



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Apply online at [www.swissvillage.org](http://www.swissvillage.org) or send Resume to:

Taylor Lehman, Vice President of HR  
Swiss Village | 1350 W. Main St. | Berne, IN 46711  
or email: [careers@swissvillage.org](mailto:careers@swissvillage.org)  
EOE

## February

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