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The Handkerchief on the Rim

Uncovering the revived Norwell tradition

By RICK SPRUNGER

When Norwell coach Eric Thornton affixed a bandana to a rim shorn of its net in the post-game celebration at Huntington North Saturday night, probably more than a few old-timers had to smile.

At the same time, a younger generation who had never seen or heard of such a thing must have scratched their heads in bewilderment — why tie a hanky to the rim?

But between 1972 and 1988, Norwell celebrated tournament championships by doing precisely that — which included sectional titles in '72, '73, '75, '78, '80, '81, '83 and '88.

It also included regional crowns in '73 and '88. It even encompassed Allen County Athletic Conference tournament championships in '75, '78, '80, '81, and '88. It also included the girls' sectional championships in '76, '77, '82 and '84, regional crowns in '76 and '77, and the '77 semi-state title.

That's a lot of bandanas.

But that old tradition had been disregarded, forgotten about, and gathering dust for 36 years until it was revived Saturday night. Thornton said that he was unaware of the tradition and was handed the bandanas by athletic director Kelby Weybright, who himself was given them by longtime fan and school board member Gene Donaghy.

But the question remains — why tie a hanky to the rim?

The answer: courtesy of the Norwell pep block.

In 1972, Norwell was in its fifth year of existence as a high school, and the students' parents were still trying to adjust from their days at Lancaster, Ossian, Rockcreek and Union. These were also the days when basketball was king in Indiana, and winter in the community revolved around its team and the tournament.

"We had a very strong pep block — girls and boys," said Jerry Lewis, the Norwell head coach at the time, now living in Rochester, Minnesota. "We had a very close group of students, and we had a really good team. Everything just came together."

While the sound of a girls' pep block chanting in rhythm had become part of the background music of high school basketball, Norwell added a new chapter in the 1972 season with its boys' pep block. It started in the ACAC tournament with flannel shirts and bandanas. Although the Knights did not win that tournament, it planted a seed.

When Norwell won the school's first-ever sectional championship that year, it was time to cel-



The 1988 sectional championship against the South Adams Starfires was the last found documented occurrence of handkerchief tradition, pictured above with coach Jerry Lewis. The team also went on to secure the regional title against Homestead High School, and fell to Concord High School at the semi-state game. The original caption reads, "Old traditions never die." (News-Banner file photo)

brate. Particularly satisfying was the fact that the Knights won it with a convincing 63-46 victory over arch-rival Bluffton. That's the same Bluffton team that had won four straight sectionals between 1967 and 1970 and probably would have won a fifth in 1971 but for a massive first-round upset at the hands of Southern Wells. The were back in the title game in 1972 — with a foot planted firmly on Norwell's neck. Between 1968 and 1971, Bluffton had run over the Knights seven straight times by an average margin of 17 points per game.

"People today don't realize the intensity of that rivalry," said Rex Decker, longtime Norwell athletic director. "They started calling us farmers right from the beginning of the school in '67-'68. They called us the 'Farmers of Drywell High School,' because a well spouts water, and a dry well spouts nothing. That was why the kids started wearing bandanas to the games."

But things were different in 1972. Norwell had finally beaten Bluffton during the regular season, albeit by a narrow 54-52 score. In the sectional finals, however, the Knights left no doubt, pulling away from a tight game through three quarters to that lopsided 17-point margin

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Township will get new truck, board approves tax rate

By SYDNEY KENT

An additional tax rate will apply to some Jefferson Township homeowners outside of Ossian next year.

The increase will help pay for a new fire truck in 2026. The rate was discussed during a special meeting Wednesday evening with the Jefferson Township Advisory Board and trustee Larry Heckber.

AJ Springer, board member, motioned to approve the rate, which would be in addition to the debt fund levy that is currently paying off an old fire truck. In conjunction, some taxpayers will pay \$58.73 per \$100,000 in assessed property value for 2025. In 2026, that cost will drop to \$33.33.

Member Tim Baker could not vote due to his virtual presence, and Board President David Haiflich said he was against it. Heckber, as the tiebreaker, voted yes.

"It's going to save the taxpayers a lot of money in interest," Heckber said. "After the one year, it's going to be very smooth sailing."

Heckber clearly proposed four potential financing options to accumulate the funds for the new fire truck. Of

(Continued on Page 2)

Antisemitism bill changes could drain support from many

By CASEY SMITH, Indiana Capital Chronicle

A major change to a bill that would define and ban antisemitism at Indiana's public education institutions led to a reversal of support and opposition among those who testified on the proposal at the Statehouse Wednesday.

In contention is the removal of a definition of antisemitism adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, which was included in the original version of House Bill 1002.

The IHRA's "working definition" includes contemporary examples of antisemitism, like "denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor," and "holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the State of Israel."

Lawmakers in the Senate education committee amended the legislation on Wednesday to remove mention of IHRA

(Continued on Page 2)

Private lander makes first U.S. moon landing in more than 50 years

By MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A private lander on Thursday made the first U.S. touchdown on the moon in more than 50 years, but managed just a weak signal back as flight controllers scrambled to gain better contact.

Despite the spotty communication, Intuitive Machines, the company that built and managed the craft, confirmed that it had landed. There was no immediate word from the company on the condition — or even the exact location — of the lander. The company ended its live webcast soon after confirming a touchdown.

Mission director Tim Crain said the team was evaluating how to refine the lone signal from the lander, named Odysseus, which delivered experiments to the moon for NASA.

"But we can confirm, without a doubt, that our equipment is on the surface of the moon," he said.

Added Intuitive Machines CEO Steve Altemus: "I know this was a nail-biter, but we are on the sur-

face and we are transmitting. Welcome to the moon."

The landing put the U.S. back on the surface for the first time since NASA's famed Apollo moonwalkers.

Intuitive Machines also became the first private business to pull off a lunar landing, a feat achieved by only five countries. Another U.S. company, Astrobotic Technology, gave it a shot last month, but never made it to the moon, and the lander crashed back to Earth.

Astrobotic was among the first to relay congratulations. "An incredible achievement. We can't wait to join you on the lunar surface in the near future," the company said via X, formerly Twitter.

The final few hours before touchdown were loaded with extra stress when the lander's laser navigation system failed. The company's flight control team had to press an experimental NASA laser system into action, with the lander taking an extra lap around the moon to allow time for the last-minute switch.

(Continued on Page 2)



Resting WELLS

Ten Wells County nonprofits came together for a conference about rest and mental health at the Wells County Commerce and Visitors Centre on Thursday. Brenda Jank, pictured at top left, spoke at the conference and led the group through fun stretch breaks, shown at left. The event was made possible through a grant from the Wells County Foundation. Above right is Jank, Tammy Slater and Alicia Hill (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)

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Outside



Sunny and cool today,
rain, snow tonight

Today	Saturday	Sunday
High 46	High 32	High 50
Low 20	Low 23	Low 35

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New truck, tax rate

(Continued from Page 1)
 the four options, raising the rate next year would allow taxpayers to save over \$20,000 in interest on the tanker.
 During the meeting, member Tim Baker outlined his issues with the additional tax rate next year. Baker insisted that the money from the raised rate would not be collected until 2026, rather than in 2025 as Heckber had estimated.
 "It will be in the budget in 2026," Baker said. "That's when we're going to buy the tanker, and you'll need a loan. We aren't going to gain anything."

However, Heckber said that he spoke with several people on the topic who assured him the township would receive the funds next year.
 "So, you're taking more money from taxpayers now and less later on to do the same thing?" Baker questioned.
 "Yes, if I take it from them now, I save them (in) interest," Heckber explained again. "If you guys don't mind paying interest, then go ahead. There are different options. If you don't want to raise the rate, you don't have to, but you have to pay more (in) interest."

County Council member Todd Mahnensmith a confirmed he also believed the process worked this way.
 President of the Ossian Police Commissioners Caleb Chichester said that, as a taxpayer, he does not want to pay interest.
 Baker also took issue with the potential for rates to change based on assessed value. Heckber cited data from the last five years, which showed value had increased rather than decreased. Baker explained that farmland assessments are based on a number of factors that don't affect homeowners.

The board also discussed the ongoing topic of guidelines that would set stricter limits on assistance people could receive.
 "I don't want to see someone getting more (assistance) than someone else," Springer said. "I want to see an equal playing field so they know this is the max (and) this is how many times they can get assistance. The township can set further limits than what the state has."
 A meeting to discuss and finalize the guidelines is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on April 10 at LPL Financial.
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Antisemitism bill

(Continued from Page 1)
 and its examples of antisemitism, however. The newest draft of the bill instead defines antisemitism as "a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews."
 The measure was unanimously approved by the committee and now heads to the Senate floor.
 "We've made some changes to try to ensure that we're not referencing outside entities, but that we're making the definition our own in the code, and the bill really tries to strike a balance of not impeding on any free speech, but just saying if we fund state education, we want that education to reflect our values as a body," said Rep. Chris Jeter, R-Fishers, who authored the priority measure for the House GOP caucus.
 "We wanted to be careful about referencing sort of outside groups, because if their definition changes, we don't want anybody to impose that ours is supposed to be changed," he continued.
 But numerous members of Indiana's Jewish community said they can't support the bill unless it codifies the IHRA definition into state law.
 "I'm extremely disappointed that the amendment that passed did not include reference to the IHRA statement. This essentially gutted the bill we wrote, and now leaves Jews without equal protection," said Allon Friedman, president of the Jewish Affairs Committee of Indiana, which helped craft the bill. "This is essentially abandonment of the Indiana Jewish community and unwittingly rewards our enemies. ... The Jewish community is absolutely united on this issue — we do not want the bill without IHRA."

- ity of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
 - Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
 - Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
 - Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
 - Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
 - Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
 - Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.
- Jeter filed an identical bill in 2023. It passed out of the House in a 97-0 vote but never received a committee hearing in the Senate, effectively killing the proposal.

He conceded Wednesday "there was some issue with some of those examples," though.
 "Anytime we do lists in bills and legislation, I feel like it gets a little iffy," he told the Senate committee.
 Before the amendment, critics of the proposal maintained it limits free speech and suggests criticism of a foreign government would count as anti-Jewish rhetoric.

More than two dozen people who testified against the original bill emphasized that criticism of the Israeli government does not amount to antisemitism. Some warned of witch hunts under the vague definition.
 Many of those issues appeared to be resolved with the updated version of Jeter's bill.
 "Most of our concerns with this bill were related to very specific language that was in there that conflated antisemitism with criticism against the State of Israel. As this amendment stands now, most of those concerns have been addressed," said Syed Ali Saed, president of the Indiana Muslim Advocacy Network. "I don't think the IHRA definition is the best definition. It's not the most complete, most fluid definition that's out there."
 Maliha Zafar, executive director of the Indiana Muslim Advocacy Network, added that although the examples in the IHRA definition "undeniably address antisemitic sentiments," the list is "concurrently overly broad and would have inadvertently stifled legitimate criticism and analysis of Israeli policies."
 Daniel Segal, representing Jewish Voice for Peace — Indiana, said the group "strongly objected" to the IHRA definition's examples of anti semitism and its "confusing criticism of the State of Israel, and its policies, with antisemitism."

"We believe that the amendments that have been made render this bill acceptable — the harmful elements have been removed," Segal said. "The previous bill, we thought, was harmful to our Arab brothers and sisters, and we committed as Jews to ensuring that 'never again' is for everybody. And that includes Palestinians. As Jews, that is part of our faith and is part of what we learned from the horrible experience of the Holocaust."

Jewish community withdraws support

Although originally in support of the bill, many from Indiana's Jewish community said "hateful" and "harmful" acts of semitism will continue across the state's colleges and universities unless the IHRA definition is added back in.
 "As a Jewish student, we navigate a world where concealing our identity has become a necessity. On a campus where 10 to 12% of students are Jewish, incidents of antisemitism have skyrocketed by over 800%," said Indiana University junior Kaylee Werner, who is also chair of the school's Antisemitism Prevention Task Force.
 She pointed to vandalism and swastikas "stained" on campus walls, as well as "unfair treatment" against Jewish students by some professors.
 "This is the harsh reality that we face daily. The House-passed IHRA statement offers a beacon of hope in this darkness. It equips our administration with the necessary tools to combat antisemitism effectively and educate our community," Werner said. "In this conversation, there is no room for ambiguity. There is either hate, or there is acceptance. There's either right, or there's wrong. We urgently need this statement to clearly identify and denounce these acts as antisemitism."
 Rabbi Sue Silberberg, executive director at IU Hillel, additionally emphasized that "we need the bill as passed through the House in order to protect the Jewish students on campus who are suffering every single day."
 "We must recognize that Jewish students are marginalized, hated and discriminated against based on their spiritual connection, and this is antisemitism. ... They are being harassed, they are being bullied, and they are being marginalized," she said, noting that — since the Hamas attack in October — she has been "working with and seeing students who are facing severe antisemitism on campus every single day, in a way that I have never seen in the past 35 years."
 Even so, Sen. John Crane, R-Avon, said antisemitism and mistreatment of "Jews or any ethnic or racial group" is "absolutely abhorrent, the challenge is whether "government will be able to solve that."

Several other Republican senators said Wednesday they were concerned about the amended bill, citing oppositional testimony from those in the Hoosier Jewish community.
 Those lawmakers still voted in favor of the bill but said they want additional changes on the chamber floor to address those grievances.

Weather

Friday, February 23, 2024
 (24-hour observations at 9:37 p.m. Thursday)
High: 53; **Low:** 43; **Precipitation:** 0.53 inches of rain
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 2.02 feet at 8:45 p.m. Thursday

Wells County forecast

- Today:** Partly sunny, with a high near 46. Northwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
- Tonight:** A chance of rain and snow before midnight, then a chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 20. North wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.
- Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 32. North wind 5 to 10 mph.
- Saturday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 23. South wind 5 to 15 mph.
- Sunday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 50. Breezy.
- Sunday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 35.
- Monday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 59.
- Monday Night:** A 20% chance of rain after 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 49.
- Tuesday:** Rain likely, mainly after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 64. Breezy. Chance of precipitation is 60%.
- Tuesday Night:** Rain and possibly a thunderstorm. Low around 52. Windy. Chance of precipitation is 80%.
- Wednesday:** Rain. High near 61. Breezy. Chance of precipitation is 80%.
- Wednesday Night:** Rain likely. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 27. Breezy.
- Thursday:** A slight chance of rain and snow. Mostly sunny, with a high near 40.

Rockcreek Township trustee appointed

By HOLLY GASKILL

Douglas Dohrman has been appointed by the Wells County Republican Party to the vacant Rockcreek Trustee seat.
 Wells County Clerk Beth Davis notified the Election Board of this appointment during their regular meeting Tuesday. Nathanael Wilson had resigned from the position in January. Rockcreek Township includes part of Markle and Uniondale townships.
 Davis also advised she expected a challenge on the May primary ballot at the state level, and that might create stress near deadlines. She expressed no issues with the local ballot, but said there was a slight amendment to shorten the list by removing unopposed precinct committeemen.
 Later, the board also agreed to move their March 19 meeting to March 21, to coordinate with a scheduled testing of polling equipment.
 Roy Johnson, the Republican member of the board, was not present Tuesday.
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A Los Angeles woman was arrested in Russia on charges of treason

By RIO YAMAT, Associated Press

Russia's main domestic intelligence agency has arrested a woman with dual U.S. and Russian citizenship on charges of treason, accusing her of collecting money for the Ukrainian military.
 The Federal Security Service said in a statement early Tuesday that the Los Angeles resident was arrested in the Ural Mountains city of Yekaterinburg, about 1,100 miles east of Moscow. She had returned to Russia to visit family.
 Authorities did not name the woman, but her longtime employer in California identified her as Ksenia Khavana.
 Here is what is known about Khavana and Russia's case against her:
WHO IS KHAVANA?
 Khavana, 33, is a citizen of the U.S. and Russia.
 The independent Russian news outlet Mediazona identified her as Ksenia Karelina, her maiden name, and said that she had received U.S. citizenship after marrying an American.
 Isabella Koretz, owner of Ciel Spa at the SLS Beverly Hills where Khavana has worked for eight years, told The Associated Press that Khavana, a ballet dancer, came to the U.S. to study at the University of Maryland in Baltimore before relocating to Los Angeles.
 She said Khavana is divorced and does not have any relatives in the U.S., but Koretz said she has grown close to Khavana over the years and treats her like "she's family."
 According to Koretz, Khavana tried to see her family in Russia at least once a year, usually around Christmas and New Year's. This year, Koretz said, Khavana flew into Russia from Istanbul in early January for a two-week trip to spend time with her 90-year-old grandmother, parents and younger sister.
 Koretz grew concerned when Khavana stopped returning her messages and phone calls after entering Russia. She said panic set in when Khavana ultimately did not return from her trip in mid-January as planned.
 "This girl is like an angel," Koretz said. "You have to understand that she wouldn't hurt a fly."
WHAT IS SHE ACCUSED OF?
 Russia's Federal Security Service alleges that Khavana had been "proactively" raising funds for a Ukrainian organization since February 2022 — money that it says was "subsequently used to purchase tactical medicine, equipment, weapons and ammunition by the Ukrainian Armed Forces."
 The agency said she also took part in "public actions" in the U.S. in support of Kyiv. It did not provide further details about the allegations.
 Koretz said Khavana actually was collecting funds for humanitarian aid and had made a donation to Razom for Ukraine, a U.S.-based nonprofit that says it provides medical kits and disaster relief to those affected by Russia's invasion of the country.

First U.S. moon landing

(Continued from Page 1)
 With this change finally in place, Odysseus descended from a moon-skimming orbit and guided itself toward the surface, searching for a relatively flat spot among all the cliffs and craters near the south pole.
 Tension mounted in the company's Houston command center following the designated touchdown time, as controllers awaited a signal from the spacecraft some 250,000 miles away. After close to 15 minutes, the company announced it had

received a weak signal from the lander.
 Launched last week, the six-footed carbon fiber and titanium lander — towering 14 feet — carried six experiments for NASA. The space agency gave the company \$118 million to build and fly the lander, part of its effort to commercialize lunar deliveries ahead of the planned return of astronauts in a few years.
 Intuitive Machines' entry is the latest in a series of landing attempts by countries and private outfits look-

ing to explore the moon and, if possible, capitalize on it. Japan scored a lunar landing last month, joining earlier triumphs by Russia, U.S., China and India.
 The U.S. bowed out of the lunar landscape in 1972 after NASA's Apollo program put 12 astronauts on the surface. Astrobotic of Pittsburgh gave it a shot last month, but was derailed by a fuel leak that resulted in the lander plunging back through Earth's atmosphere and burning up.
 Intuitive Machines' tar-

get was 186 miles shy of the south pole, around 80 degrees latitude and closer to the pole than any other spacecraft has come. The site is relatively flat, but surrounded by boulders, hills, cliffs and craters that could hold frozen water, a big part of the allure. The lander was programmed to pick, in real time, the safest spot near the so-called Malapert A crater.
 The solar-powered lander was intended to operate for a week, until the long lunar night.

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OBITUARIES

Victor M. Bennett, 63

Victor M. Bennett, 63, of Bluffton, passed away early Wednesday morning, Feb. 21, 2024, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.



He was born on March 5, 1960, in Tularosa, New Mexico, to Kay and Georgia (Provencio) Bennett, and attended Tularosa High School. After school, Victor moved to Bluffton area where he worked a Sterling Casting for many years and retired as a supervisor at Ward Aluminum in Fort Wayne.

He enjoyed fishing, hunting and cars. Victor had a green thumb and enjoyed working in his garden growing tomatoes, cucumbers and hot peppers.

On July 8, 1983, in Bluffton, Victor married Jewell Randall.

Survivors include his wife, Jewell Bennett of Bluffton, and children, Nicole D. Cruz and Dustin (Jessica) Bennett, both of Fort Wayne. He was a loving "Pa" to his grandchildren, David Lee Cruz, Jasmine Findley, Nova Bennett and Aydrion Bennett. He is also survived by his siblings, Louise Mendenhall of Bluffton, Zella Marshall of Mt. Zion, and Darwin "Buzzy" Bennett of Liberty Center.

He is preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Terry L. Moya.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 25, 2024, at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Visitation will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, prior to the service at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to help the family at this difficult time.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the family at www.thomarich.com.



Chili by the Fire

Ouabache State Park hosted a fireside chili hike on Thursday. Over 20 people showed up for hiking and a bowl of chili, followed by a meeting of the Friends of Ouabache. Pictured above, left to right, is Alan Arnold, Kent Koteskey, Emily Monticue, Amy Koteskey and Kathy Schwartz. At left, Tom and Judy Shively scoop out a bowl of chili. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

County:
Wednesday, 1:17 p.m., Wells County Courthouse. Officer transported subject to jail.

Wednesday, 2:27 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served to Ryan Mullins at the jail.

Wednesday, 2:44 p.m., Ind. 116 and East 200 North, Bluffton. Report of a traffic hazard in the form of boxes blowing all over.

Wednesday, 3:38 p.m., 3000 North 300 West, Bluffton. Car vs. deer.

Wednesday, 10:09 p.m., Ind. 125 and North 700 East, Bluffton. Abandoned vehicle towed due to position in roadway.

Thursday, 9:17 a.m., 5000 South Meridian Road, Bluffton. Woman reported she was overcharged for stone and work for her driveway and canceled check for the services. Officer advised she wasn't forced to accept the contract and would likely face civil litigation if she didn't pay for the services.

Ossian:
Wednesday, 6:54 p.m., North 100 East and East 950 North, Ossian. Car vs. deer.

ACCIDENTS
County:
Friday, 11:18 p.m., Ind. 1 and 1100 North. Soe Win, 61, Fort Wayne, advised she was driving when an unknown vehicle crossed the center lane and collided with her Honda Pilot. Officer noted a scratch down the driver's side door. Damages did not exceed \$2,500.

ARRESTS
Jaden Drake Maggart, 19, Zanesville; possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

Ryan Edward Mullins, 41, Fort Wayne; child solicitation, a Level 4 felony. Bond set at \$7,500.

Aaron Emmanuel Anaya, 35, Bluffton; sex offender violation, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$5,000.

Chad Shawn Sweet, 50, Kalamazoo, Michigan; criminal trespassing, a Class A misdemeanor.

American Legion to host breakfast

The American Legion Post 111 will host its monthly breakfast all-you-can-eat buffet from 8-10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, 111 W. Washington St. in Bluffton. The breakfast will cost \$11 for adults, \$5 for children 12 years and younger, and free for children under 5 year-old.

Bill sets up cosmetology apprenticeship as licensing alternative to beauty school

By WHITNEY DOWNARD, Indiana Capital Chronicle

Dozens of beauticians, barbers and stylists flooded the Statehouse Wednesday, urging senators to take action on a House bill establishing a cosmetology apprenticeship program but the crowd was evenly split when it came to their views.

Lawmakers appeared more unified than testimony, approving the proposal on a 6-2 vote, with two of the committee's Democrats voting against it.

Rep. Tim Wesco said he authored House Bill 1135 to create a second pathway for licensing that better served rural areas — which may not have nearby beauty schools — and was more affordable for students.

"(House Bill 1135) expands opportunities for people to be able to enter a profession that can change their lives, change their families' lives," said Wesco, R-Osceola. "It expands opportunity geographically; it expands opportunity economically for people to rise up who could never afford the current single pathway into the profession."

The original version of the bill included a compact with other states that would allow certain licensed cosmetologists from other states to work in Indiana but that move created a cost to the state so committee members struck the language.

They also adopted another amendment shifting oversight of the apprenticeship program from the State Board of Cosmetology and Barbers Examiners to a registered apprenticeship program with the U.S. Department of Labor. Such a move will increase the number of apprenticeship hours from 1,500 to 2,000.

"Moving to a Department of Labor apprenticeship program also would only allow one apprentice or licensed cosmetologist in a registered apprenticeship as opposed to up to two in the current bill," Wesco continued.

Marta Stephens, the Terre Haute salon owner who brought the idea to Wesco, said apprentices will get real-world experience, practical skills and one-on-one training they wouldn't otherwise receive in a beauty school.

"This bill broadens the doorway of entry into the cosmetology field and allows some apprentices to quickly enter the workforce without incurring any student debt," Stephens told the committee.

Other salon owners said they frequently hired graduates as assistants for six months to a year to teach them skills they felt were missing in their beauty school education.

Several young beauticians shared how much they'd struggled to get through school, which can cost as much as \$26,000 annually for a degree but can take up to three years.

But others had concerns about creating a program that would have just one vendor approved by the Department of Labor for Indiana, creating a bottleneck with no competition.

Despite changes, bill to end "viewpoint discrimination" draws ire

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Indiana's House Education Committee voted along party lines Wednesday to move a controversial bill that seeks to push speech in college classrooms toward "intellectual diversity."

Debated language from the original draft of the proposal — which would have given House and Senate majority leaders the power to choose some members of the boards of trustees at Hoosier public colleges and universities — was removed before the vote, however.

Sen. Spencer Deery, R-West Lafayette, who authored Senate Bill 202, said it adds protections to state law to ensure professors can't be retaliated against "for criticizing administrators for the content of your research or for your outside political views."

But Democrats and college faculty continue to disagree.

An attempt by Rep. Ed DeLaney, D-Indianapolis, to further amend — and essentially gut Deery's bill — was rejected on Wednesday.

"This (bill) is simply unnecessary and will embarrass us and will cost us contracts, cost us faculty, and reduce our academic reputation," DeLaney said. "This is one more attack on institutions, for its own sake, so that we can wear a badge saying, 'I attacked an institution.' ... We do not need to add the universities to the list of people we don't like."

The bill is now headed to the full Republican-controlled House chamber. The Senate approved the proposal earlier this month on party lines.

What's left in the bill

Deery and other Republican lawmakers contend that conservative students and faculty members are increasingly ostracized at progressively liberal college and university settings — or at least perceive such shunning.

His bill would require institutional boards of trustees' existing diversity committees to consider "intellectual diversity" alongside cultural diversity in employment policies and faculty complaints.

The legislation would additionally require the committees to make recommendations promoting recruitment and retention of "underrepresented" students rather than the "minority students" specified in current law.

The measure re-shapes tenure and promotion policies, too.

Boards of trustees would be required to prevent a faculty member from getting tenure or a promotion if the board thinks the member is "unlikely to foster a culture of free inquiry, free expression and intellectual diversity" and unlikely to offer students scholarly works

from a range of "political or ideological frameworks." Boards could also dock members considered likely to bring up personal political views unrelated to their specific field or class.

The bill also mandates that boards conduct reviews of tenured professors every five years based on the above, as well as if faculty members "adequately" carry out academic duties and more.

Institutions would additionally be required to adopt policies establishing disciplinary actions — termination, demotion, salary cuts and more — for tenured faculty members who fail those reviews.

Boards would get wide latitude in making those policies. The bill says decisions would be based on past performance "or other determination by the board."

Still, a separate amendment to the bill approved on Wednesday bars board policies from considering the following when determining 'tenure and promotion:

- Expressing dissent or engaging in research or public commentary on subjects.
- Criticizing the institution's leadership.
- Engaging in any political activity conducted outside the faculty member's teaching or mentoring duties at the institution.

Opposition continues

Professors who testified against the proposal last week emphasized that Indiana campuses would struggle to recruit faculty if the bill becomes law.

Faculty councils at multiple Hoosier schools, including Indiana, Purdue and Ball State universities said Wednesday they remain vehemently opposed to the bill.

The Indiana Conference of the American Association

of University Professors said in a statement that its members are adamant to "keep big government out of university classrooms."

"Faculty, students, and administrators statewide see Senate Bill 202 as government interference in education," the statement said.

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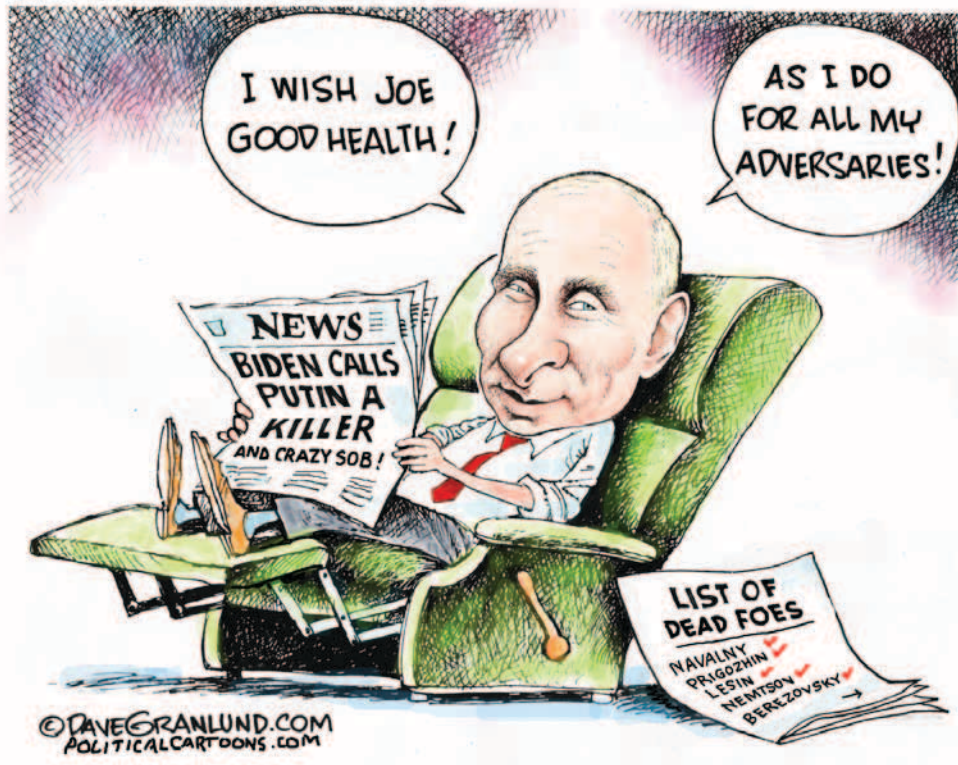
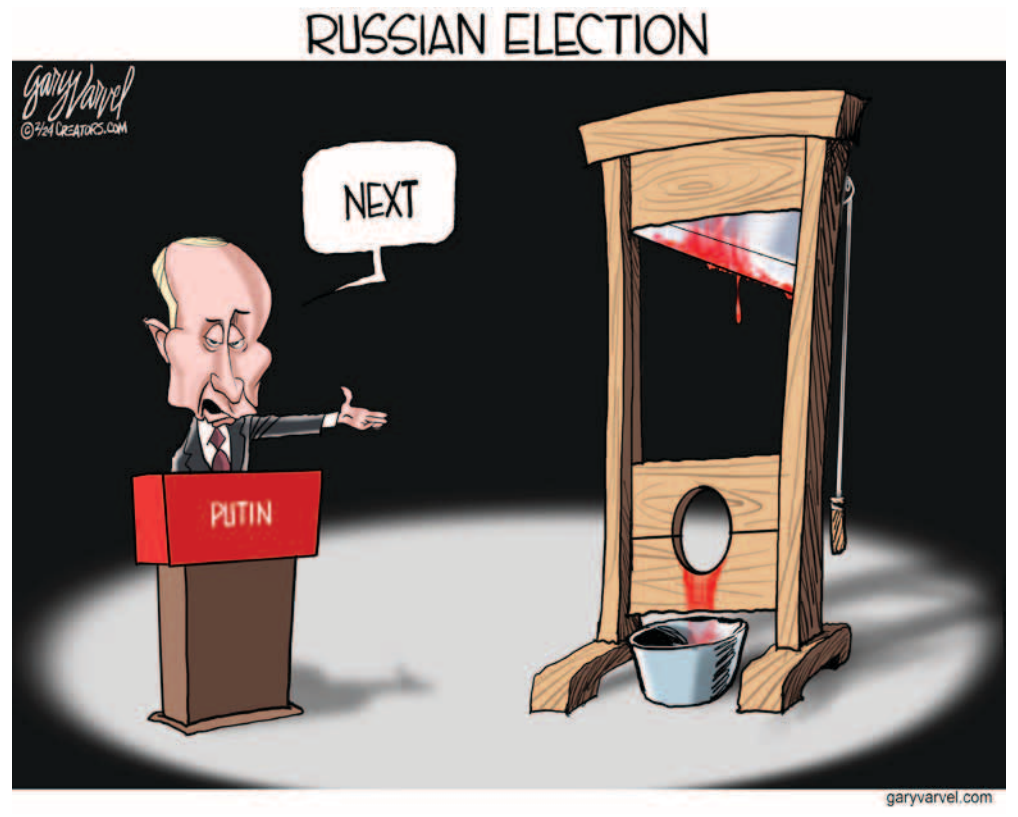
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The Week That Was - a look back through cartoonists' eyes...



The never-ending wealth tax campaign

Wealth taxes are like a specter in search of a host, and an already overtaxed New England state may be the first to succumb. Vermont lawmakers want to tax residents' unrealized gains, hoping to finally break the barrier that's kept them from draining asset values year after year.

Other Opinions

The state's top tax legislator has spent recent weeks pushing bills that would dial up taxes on high earners. The biggest reach is a proposal to tax the paper gains from assets above \$10 million. The plan would slap Vermont's 8.75% top income-tax rate on half of those gains. That means a family whose business gains \$3 million in value could owe \$131,000, even if they don't take out a single dollar of cash.

Like levies on capital gains, the new tax would cut into investment returns and leave well-off Vermonters less reason to deploy their money in wealth-producing investments. Unlike a capital-gains tax, the wealth tax would create a mess of confusing estate appraisals and endless disputes with the revenue department.

This is why no state currently taxes unrealized gains, but the author of the Vermont plan says the novelty is the point. "Given the state of our national politics, it really is up to states to be moving these things along," said Ways and Means Committee Chair Emilie Kornheiser last year. Lawmakers in 10 states are working on wealth taxes this year, and she wants the progressive Green Mountain State to be first to enact one.

Vermont is a popular haven for escapees of the punitive taxes in New York and Boston, and GOP Gov. Phil Scott has made the modest suggestion that a wealth tax might drive these newcomers out. Alas, Ms. Kornheiser has an answer for that one. Before introducing the bill, she brought in a Cornell sociologist to debunk the "myth" of millionaire tax flight. Never mind the masses leaving the Northeast for Florida and Texas. Relying on sociology explains a lot about progressive tax policy.

Few state tax increases are launched without the aid of teachers unions, and the national wealth-tax push began with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT). Ms. Kornheiser wrote her bill with help from Fund Our Future, an advocacy group that traces its origin to a 2019 AFT campaign and has spawned tax proposals in California, Maryland, New York and more. The unions want to open new revenue streams for future contracts.

Ms. Kornheiser also introduced a fallback plan to tax higher earners if the wealth-tax bill doesn't win enough support. Instead of targeting assets, the second bill adds a 3% surtax on incomes above \$500,000, bringing the state's top income-tax rate to 11.75%. This Plan B could raise nearly \$100 million a year in revenue—at least until New York's tax refugees decide to relocate elsewhere.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
Distributed by The Associated Press

Ukraine faces a valley of death. There's a way Biden can help it get across.

The message at the Munich Security Conference last weekend couldn't have been clearer: Russia is advancing, Ukraine is struggling to survive and the West needs to provide more military assistance now.

"Ukraine is headed for a morale gulch" unless its allies move quickly to bolster support, said Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), who led a bipartisan Senate delegation to the conference. "Russia is up, Ukraine is down," and the West needs to help Kyiv's brave soldiers find a way across "the valley of death" until Congress acts to send more weapons, Whitehouse said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky signaled exactly what he needs — long-range ATACM-300 missiles — during a private meeting with a bipartisan congressional group. He brought out a map showing the Russian targets in occupied Crimea that could be hit by those ATACMS. The strikes wouldn't liberate Crimea, but they would rattle Russia's confidence and lift Ukrainian morale at a time when Russian President Vladimir Putin thinks he's in control.

President Biden has been reluctant to send the ATACMS, for good reason. The United States needs them for its own defense. And Biden doesn't want an escalatory spiral with Russia. But nothing is more important to U.S. security right now than helping Ukraine halt Russia's momentum on the battlefield. And Ukraine has shown that it will keep its promises not to fire U.S. weapons into Russian territory. Don't wait for legislation; send the missiles.

Two events last weekend underlined Putin's macabre momentum. The death of heroic dissident Alexei Navalny in a Siberian prison camp shows that Putin is conducting a "no limits" assault, as Russian mobsters like to say. Russia's capture of Avdiivka in eastern Ukraine showed that Putin will sacrifice tens of thousands of soldiers in his "meat assaults," as Zelensky described them.

Avdiivka matters not because of its strategic importance, but because Ukrainian troops there were running out of artillery ammunition and air defenses — a sign of their growing vulnerability. The shortage of air defenses is especially worrying: Russian planes could drop precision bombs on Avdiivka at will. If Ukraine doesn't get new air-defense supplies soon, that threat could extend to cities across the country.

Russian troops are grinding forward using their two great national resources — warm bodies and coldblooded patience. That's how Russia fights its wars, from Napoleon to Hitler to now. "They are crazy, they are raging... tens of thousands of their soldiers. That's what they have," Zelensky told the conference. Ukraine, in contrast, was struggling to protect its troops, whom he described as "our main weapon."

"This war is going Russia's way now," warned a European ambassador who's one of the West's wisest observers of the Kremlin. He remembered cautioning U.S. officials when the war started that "it will take 500,000 dead before Russia stops." Their estimated casualties total more than 300,000 dead and wounded,

according to U.S. officials.

Putin can keep sending troops not just because of Russian stoicism, but because he has cleverly drawn his forces from the poorest and most disadvantaged areas of the country. Those dying are disproportionately ethnic minorities from backwaters such as Chechnya and Dagestan, U.S. analysts say. The pay for soldiers at the front is three times what they would normally earn, and the families of dead soldiers receive a bonus worth more than \$50,000, noted the European ambassador. "The war has brought a kind of prosperity for poor Russians," he said.

This war is a character test for the West.

Navalny's death displayed Putin's calculus. He doesn't care about elite public opinion because it doesn't threaten his control. Demonstrators laying flowers or staging small marches don't faze him. "Anything below a million we can handle," a Kremlin official told the European ambassador several years ago. The message, the diplomat told me, was that "thousands of demonstrators are a drop in the ocean."

Yet even Putin knows he can't keep the killing machine operating indefinitely. That's why U.S. congressional support for continued military aid matters so much. It buys Ukraine time to consolidate its defenses and protect its territory from attack this year — so that maybe next year, it can relaunch an offensive. For Ukraine, sustaining the fight and blocking Russia is a kind of victory.

One sign that the Kremlin is nervous is that Russian officials continue their nuclear saber-rattling. Dmitry Medvedev, a former Russian president, said on Telegram that if the West tried to force Russia back

from the Ukrainian territory it has occupied to its "1991 border," then Russia would use its "nuclear triad" to attack targets including Kyiv, Berlin, London and Washington. Even for a Kremlin henchman, it was outrageous bullying.

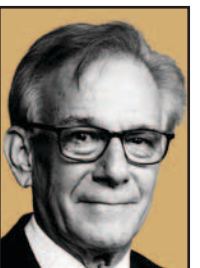
This war is a character test for the West. Europe, to my surprise, is behaving with admirable fortitude, at least compared with the United States. Biden has been steadfast, but it's time for him to do more.

As for congressional Republicans ready to abandon Ukraine at the whim of former president Donald Trump, one can only feel sorrow — especially for someone who once knew better, such as Sen. Lindsey Graham (S.C.), who had been until this year a bedrock member of the Munich conference's consensus to resist Russian aggression. He has become a living sign of the corrosive effect of Trump's embrace.

One of the most poignant images I took away from Munich was shared by Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii). He described reports that Ukrainian soldiers at the front have been checking their cellphones to see what House Republicans will do about the military-aid package. What must those soldiers, huddling under Russian shells and bombs, think of the members of Congress who are ready to abandon them?

Let's hope that House Republicans find some backbone before the curtain of shame descends.

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Bride gets giddy over wedding gift

Dear Annie: I have a friend whose son was taking a job across the country after his wedding. She hosted a bridal shower since many of us had met her future daughter-in-law and her parents didn't live nearby. We were asked to give our best marital advice and bring a gift. Since I wasn't married and I had a custodial job, I made a list of every-day products and what they could be used to clean.

At the wedding reception, the bride came to me and gave me a hug. Then she told me that mine was the best gift because she didn't know how to clean very well. That's one gift that could be used again and again and passed down for generations. Plus it's something that made me feel good. — Still Feeling Good

Dear Still Feeling Good: What a wonderful example of how thoughtfulness and creativity can go a long way. Many people experience stress or anxiety over the financial cost of attending a wedding — from travel fare to hotel reservations to wedding gifts, not to mention separate occasions altogether like bachelorette parties and bridal showers. Your thoughtfulness and your pride in your work are shining through in your gift, and the bride clearly appreciated the personal touch. Well done!

Dear Annie: My husband and I just moved from Ohio to South Carolina for better weather. We also went from a tiny house to a big, beautiful home.

My in-laws always threaten to move in with us and they think it's funny. I can't stand them. I loathe them. They are alcoholics, and when we lived in Ohio, my husband would go to their house every weekend and drink heavily with them.

Since we've moved, my husband hasn't gotten drunk, which I appreciate. When they come to visit, is it

wrong to ask them not to bring liquor to our house and to ask them to stay at an Airbnb or hotel instead of with us? The thought of them being here with us makes me cringe. I should also mention that our lives and relationship are much healthier and happier without them around. Please help! — In-Law Annoyance

Dear In-Law Annoyance: It sounds like this move has brought nothing but good things to you and your husband, and protecting that peace is important. Through honest communication with your partner, it can be done.

Discuss your in-laws' upcoming visit together and figure out the best way to approach setting boundaries with them. It's your house, which means your guests should abide by your rules — in this case, no booze. Suggest to your husband that they secure alternative accommodations, but host them for outings, dinners or other visits while they are in town.

Navigating family dynamics like this can be tricky. The keys to success are honesty and open communication with your husband. If you two are on the same page, it will be much easier to keep the peace with your in-laws.

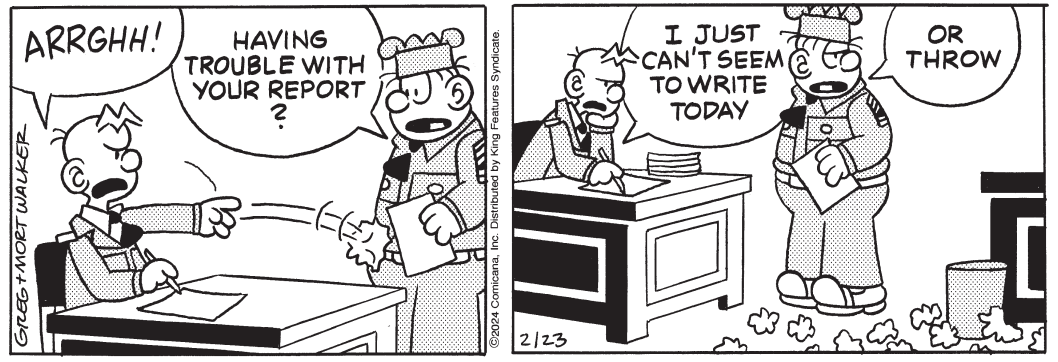
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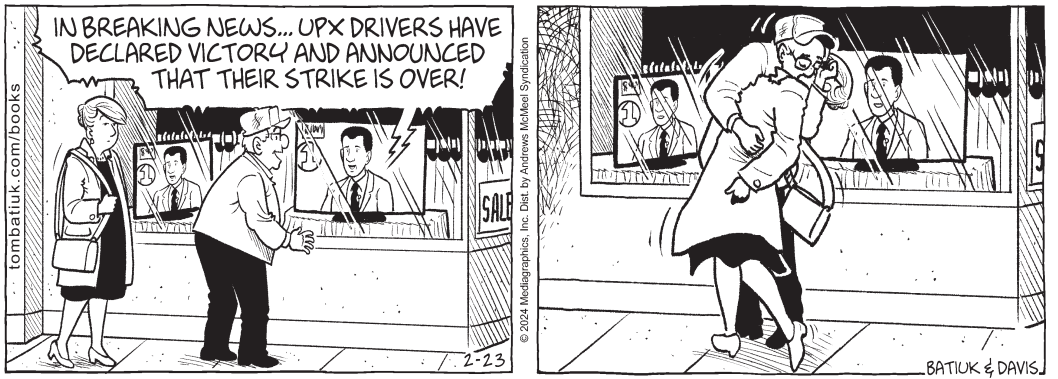
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My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



A person may believe in God, the Bible, and the church but not surrender to Christ

repent of our sins and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior. "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name" (John 1:12, NKJV).

To illustrate, a person can go to the airport with the intention of making a trip to a certain destination. He makes a flight reservation, purchases the ticket, and gets in line at the gate. There are three calls for boarding, but he fails to enter through the gate and walk the ramp to the plane's cabin. He has not committed himself by getting on board.

A person may believe in God, the Bible, and the church but not sur-

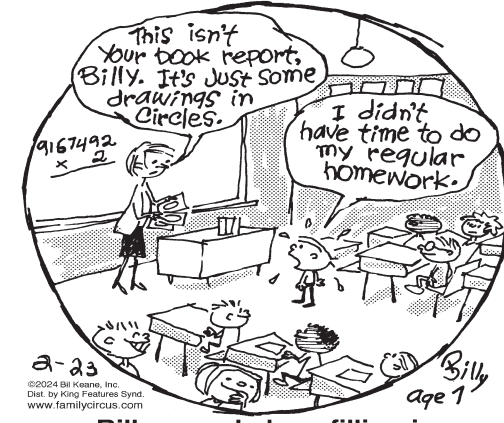
render to Christ. This kind of belief does not involve complete commitment and obedience to Him. The moment we receive Him, we are born again and belong wholly to Christ. The Holy Spirit comes on board in our souls and God's nature begins to transform us into His obedient children. We are to pray that His Word will put our hearts and minds on Him, thereby granting peace of mind that comes only from God in Heaven.

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

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

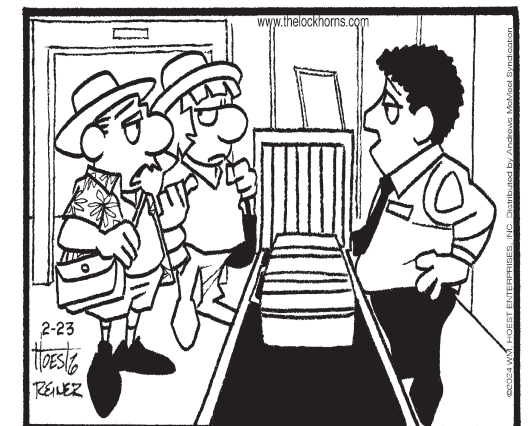
By Bil Keane



Billy reveals how filling in for Daddy affects his personal life.

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The LOCKHORNS



"NO SECURITY THREAT, BUT MY WIFE HAS A TENDENCY TO OVER PACK."

Question: Is it true that a person can go to church and believe in God and still not go to Heaven? This is concerning to me, yet I know many people from around the world that say they believe in God and go to church (or in some cases a mosque or temple). - C.G.

Answer: Many people from around the world claim that they believe in Jesus, the church, and even the Bible. But that isn't enough to be accepted as a follower of Christ, for "even the demons believe — and tremble" (James 2:19, NKJV). We must confess and

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 Ozone, for one 4 Black, in verse 8 Voice in an iPhone 12 Mel of baseball 13 Traditional tales 14 Eye part 15 Tapered cigar 17 Algeria's neighbor 18 Gymnast Korbut 19 Fork prongs 20 "Roots" author 22 Shadow 24 "Legally Blonde" role 25 Discern 29 One of the Stooges 30 Paper packs 31 Diarist 32 Anais on stage

Crossword grid with solution time: 25 mins. and Yesterday's answer 2-23

Table with columns for date, channel, time, and program titles. Includes programs like Power Play, Wheel of Fortune, Jeopardy!, etc.

Grid for yesterday's crossword puzzle with numbers 1-31 and 34-45.

Alabama IVF providers pause treatment after ruling on frozen embryos

By **KIM CHANDLER**
Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Additional in vitro fertilization providers in Alabama paused parts of their treatment Thursday, sending patients scrambling to make other plans after the state Supreme Court ruled that frozen embryos are legally considered children.

The decisions by Alabama Fertility Services and Mobile Infirmary come a day after the University of Alabama at Birmingham health system said in a statement that it was pausing IVF treatments so it could evaluate whether its patients or doctors could face criminal charges or punitive damages.

Alabama Fertility Services said in a statement that it “made the impossibly difficult decision to hold new IVF treatments due to the legal risk to our clinic and our embryologists” and was working to find solutions for patients.

Mobile Infirmary, a hospital in the Infirmary Health system, decided the ruling left the provider with no choice but to pause treatments, system President and CEO Mark Nix said in a statement.

“We understand the burden this places on deserving families who want to bring babies into this

world and who have no alternative options for conceiving,” Nix said.

Doctors and patients have been grappling with shock and fear this week as they try to determine what they can and can't do after the ruling by the all-Republican Alabama Supreme Court that raises questions about the future of IVF.

Alabama Fertility Services' decision left Gabby Goidel, who was days from an expected egg retrieval, calling clinics across the South looking for a place to continue IVF care.

“I freaked out. I started crying. I felt in an extreme limbo state. They did not have all the answers. I did not obviously have any answers,” Goidel said.

The Alabama ruling came down Friday, the same day Goidel began a 10-day series of injections ahead of egg retrieval, with the hopes of getting pregnant through IVF next month. Goidel, who experienced three miscarriages and turned to IVF as a way she and her husband could fulfill their dream of becoming parents, found a place in Texas that will continue her care and plans to travel there Thursday night.

“It's not pro-family in any way,” Goidel said of the Alabama

ruling.
Dr. Michael C. Allemand, a reproductive endocrinologist at Alabama Fertility, said Wednesday that IVF is often the best treatment for patients who desperately want a child, and the ruling threatens doctors' ability to provide that care.

“The moments that our patients are wanting to have by growing their families — Christmas mornings with grandparents, kindergarten, going in the first day of school, with little backpacks — all that stuff is what this is about. Those are the real moments that this ruling could deprive patients of,” he said.

At the Fertility Institute of North Alabama, Dr. Brett Davenport said his clinic will continue providing IVF as always.

“What we do could not be any more pro-life. We're trying to help couples who can't otherwise conceive a child,” Davenport said.

He added that a fraction of fertilized eggs result in pregnancy when a couple is trying to conceive naturally. What fertility doctors do with IVF is in many ways “mimicking the natural process that happens in a female body,” he said.

In their ruling last week, justices — citing language in the Alabama Constitution that the state recognizes the “rights of the unborn child” — said three couples could sue for wrongful death when their frozen embryos were destroyed in an accident at a storage facility.

“Unborn children are ‘children’ ... without exception based on developmental stage, physical location, or any other ancillary characteristics,” Justice Jay Mitchell wrote in the majority ruling. Mitchell said the court had previously ruled that a fetus killed when a woman is pregnant is covered under Alabama's Wrongful Death of a Minor Act and nothing excludes “extrauterine children from the Act's coverage.”

Republican state Sen. Tim Melson, who is a doctor, said he's not surprised by the unintended consequences of the ruling and intends to file legislation to protect IVF services in the state. Melson said the legislation seeks to clarify that a fertilized egg has legal protections once it is implanted in the uterus but until then is a “potential life.”

“I'm just trying to come up with a solution for the IVF indus-

try and protect the doctors and still make it available for people who have fertility issues that need to be addressed because they want to have a family,” Melson said.

Although the Alabama court case centered on whether embryos were covered under the wrongful death of a minor statute, some said treating the embryo as a child could have broader implications.

Rachel Rebouche, dean of Temple University Beasley School of Law in Philadelphia, sees the ruling as “emblematic of the long march toward fetal personhood.”

“This may not be the case that launches it, but this is a very strategic decision on the part of anti-abortion forces because they know that personhood bills have failed,” Rebouche said.

Dr. John Stormont, a reproductive endocrinologist in Lafayette, Louisiana, said the Alabama decision could affect whether fertility doctors want to move to or stay in that state.

“I don't think that any doctor knowing that there's a potential for criminal prosecution would even want to be in that position,” he said. “There's 49 other states and many other countries they could practice in without the same threat.”

New York AG says she'll seize Trump's property if he can't pay \$454M

By **MICHAEL R. SISKAK**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump could be at risk of losing some of his prized properties if he can't pay his staggering New York civil fraud penalty. With interest, he owes the state nearly \$454 million — and the amount is going up \$87,502 each day until he pays.

New York Attorney General Letitia James told ABC News on Tuesday that she will seek to seize some of the former president's assets if he's unable to cover the bill from Judge Arthur Engoron's Feb. 16 ruling.

Engoron concluded that Trump lied for years about his wealth as he built the real estate empire that vaulted him to stardom and the White House. Trump denies wrongdoing and has vowed to appeal.

“If he does not have funds to pay off the judgment, then we will seek judgment enforcement mechanisms in court, and we will ask the judge to seize his assets,” James, a Democrat, said in an interview with ABC reporter Aaron Katersky.

Trump's ability to pay his mounting legal debts is increasingly murky after back-to-back courtroom losses. In January, a jury ordered him to pay \$83.3 million for defaming writer E. Jean Carroll.

Trump claimed last year that

he has about \$400 million in cash — reserves that would get eaten up by his court penalties. The rest of his net worth, which he says is several billion dollars, is tied up in golf courses, skyscrapers and other properties, along with investments and other holdings.

But don't expect James to try to grab the keys to Trump Tower or Mar-a-Lago immediately. Trump's promised appeal is likely to halt collection of his penalty while the process plays out.

Here's a look at where things stand in the wake of Trump's costly verdict.

COULD THE STATE REALLY SEIZE TRUMP'S ASSETS?

Yes. If Trump isn't able to pay, the state “could levy and sell his assets, lien his real property, and garnish anyone who owes him money,” Syracuse University Law Professor Gregory Germain said.

Seizing assets is a common legal tactic when a defendant can't access enough cash to pay a civil penalty. In a famous example, O.J. Simpson's Heisman Trophy was seized and sold at auction in 1999 to cover part of a \$33.5 million wrongful death judgment against him.

Trump could avoid losing assets to seizure if he has enough cash — or can free up enough cash — to pay his penalty and mounting interest.

How much he has isn't clear

because most information about Trump's finances comes from Trump himself via his government disclosures and the annual financial statements that Engoron has deemed fraudulent.

Trump reported having about \$294 million in cash or cash equivalents on his most recent annual financial statement for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

After that, according to state lawyers, he added about \$186.8 million from selling the lease on his Washington hotel in May 2022 and the rights to manage a New York City golf course in June 2023. Part of Trump's penalty requires that he give those proceeds to the state, plus interest.

Engoron's decision last week spared Trump's real estate empire from what the Republican front-runner deemed the “corporate death penalty,” reversing a prior ruling and opting to leave his company in business, albeit with severe restrictions including oversight from a court-appointed monitor.

James didn't specify to ABC which of Trump's assets the state might want to seize, though she noted that her office is right across the street from a Trump-owned office building in Lower Manhattan that was the subject of some of the fraud allegations in her lawsuit.

“We are prepared to make sure that the judgment is paid to New

Yorkers,” James told ABC. “And yes, I look at 40 Wall Street each and every day.”

HOW WILL AN APPEAL AFFECT PENALTY?

With Trump promising to appeal, it's unlikely he'll have to pay the penalty — or face the prospect of having some of his assets seized — for a while. If he wins, he might not have to pay anything.

Under state law, Trump will receive an automatic stay if he puts up money, assets or an appeal bond covering the amount he owes. A stay is a legal mechanism halting enforcement of a court decision while the appeals process plays out.

“Even if we choose to appeal this — which we will — we have to post the bond, which is the full amount and some, and we will be prepared to do that,” Trump lawyer Alina Habba told Fox News on Monday.

Trump's lawyers can also ask the appeals court to grant a stay without obtaining a bond or with a bond for a lower amount.

In his Georgia election interference criminal case, Trump paid \$20,000 — or 10% — for a \$200,000 release bond. After losing at a first trial involving Carroll last year, Trump put \$5.55 million in escrow to cover the cost of the judgment while he appeals. He has said he would appeal the \$83.3 million

January verdict but has yet to do so.

“If he can't post a bond or meet the appellate division's bonding requirements, then I would expect him to file bankruptcy to take advantage of the automatic stay on collection,” Germain said. “But that's a couple of chess moves away, so we will just have to see what happens.”

Trump's vow to appeal all but assures the legal fight over his business practices will persist into the thick of the presidential primary season as he tries to clinch the Republican nomination in his quest to retake the White House.

The appeal is also likely to overlap with his criminal trial next month in his New York hush-money case, the first of his four criminal cases to go to trial.

Trump's 30-day window to appeal won't start until the clerk at Engoron's courthouse files paperwork making the verdict official. Engoron sent the paperwork to the clerk's office Thursday, but it has yet to be filed. The judge rejected a request from Trump's lawyer Clifford Robert asking for the enforcement of the penalty to be delayed 30 days “given the magnitude” of the judgment. Engoron, replying to the lawyer by email, said: “You have failed to explain, much less justify, any basis for a stay. I am confident that the Appellate Division will protect your appellate rights.”

Space telescope spies neutron star in the debris of famous supernova

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
AP Science Writer

Scientists have confirmed what became of a star that exploded in a stunning supernova visible to Earth more than three decades ago: It morphed into a neutron star, one of the oddest objects in the universe.

In 1987, a star in a nearby galaxy went supernova and its fiery demise was detected in Earth's night-time sky with the naked eye for months. Scientists figured when its core collapsed, the remnants would turn into one of two things: a black hole, where nothing escapes; or a neutron star, the most dense object in the universe besides a black hole.

The trouble was there was so much debris, astronomers couldn't see past the dust. But NASA's Webb Space Telescope cut through the clutter by peering in infrared light and saw two telltale chemical signatures — argon and sulfur — of a pulsing super-hot neutron star, according to a study published Thursday in the journal *Science*.

Since the explosion was recent and well-tracked, this discovery should help astronomers better understand this type of cosmic oddball and its predecessors that helped seed the universe with important elements such as carbon and iron.

This neutron star is only 12 miles from end to end, yet weighs 1 1/2 times our sun. It's densely packed with little space between parts of its atoms. The aftermath of the so-called supernova 1987A is like-

ly the only time modern astronomy has witnessed the birth and early years of a neutron star, even though there are closer but older ones in our own galaxy, scientists said.

“Besides the black hole, these are the most exotic objects we have in the universe,” said lead author Claes Fransson, an astrophysicist at Stockholm University in Sweden. “We know about these objects from the 1960s, but we haven't seen any of them being really formed.”

Images of the distant supernova remnant shows

what Fransson calls “a ring of pearls” encircling a cloud of dust. Somewhere in the middle of that dust is the neutron star, he said.

Scientists had long suspected the collapsed core was now a neutron star. But this measurement by the Webb telescope, even though it isn't a direct image of the neutron star, provides a pretty definitive answer, Fransson and outside scientists said.

The case for a neutron star is well-made, said Stanford University astrophysicist Roger Blandford, who wasn't part of the study.

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10 years, seven seniors – and one final challenge

Norwell's girls' basketball seniors get ready to finish what they started, together

By RYAN WALKER

If you listen closely, from about 9:20 a.m. to 11:10 a.m., you might hear the faint sound of singing down I-69 heading down to Indianapolis.

It isn't a party bus. Nobody is going on tour. It's the Norwell girls' basketball team traveling to play the biggest game of their lifetime for the Class 3A state championship game.

It's exactly what head coach Eric Thornton wants to hear, but "I'm not going to admit that it's good singing, but it is singing."

There's a variety of genres they'll play during road trips, and perhaps the loudest is "Hallelujah" by Pentatonix.

The song choice isn't what's important. What is important is Thornton's team is loose and has a sense of normalcy under the spotlight of Gainbridge Fieldhouse.

"It makes me happy because I know they're ready to play, so sing along," Thornton said. "I want them to sing. I want them to do what helps them play their best."

Gibson Southern, the No. 3 ranked team in 3A, awaits them at the end of the road trip. The opening tip will take place at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24 in the first game of session two.

No. 2 Norwell has crushed anything in its path in the tournament thus far, topping No. 1 Hamilton Heights by 14 and Bremen by 44 in the Semi-State.

There's no question that Norwell can shoot it, overwhelm opposing offenses in their 1-3-1 zone trap defense — but none of that at the top of the team's strengths. It's their team chemistry that has been building since they were in third grade.

Six seniors — Makenzie Fuess, Dekota Hubble, Annabelle Johnson, Lilly Norris, Haley Green, and Ali Riley — have been playing on the same team for 10 years now. The seventh senior, Kennedy Fuelling,

joined the group in middle school.

They grew up living and breathing the game and doing it while representing Norwell on their jerseys. When the Thornton-led girls' basketball team would play, the seven girls could be found sitting as close to the varsity benches as possible, idolizing and dreaming of doing the same someday.

Fuess shared, "Normally, whenever we would go to varsity games, we'd all sit behind the bench. Whenever it was sectionals, we would get pictures with their teams when we were younger. Just always looking up to them and always wanting to fill their shoes. That's kind of been a big thing for us."

Now they have, and they've gone further than all of the teams they grew up watching.

This is the Knights' second state championship appearance since 1977, the year after the IHSAA started the tournament for the girls.

"We talked about how we went to all of the high school girls' games as they'd win and

go further in the tournament as little girls," Norris said. "I think it's something we all dreamed about and it was in the back of all of our minds. Just seeing that come true and really start to take us places is really cool, — and that's what it means to us, knowing that we've dreamed of this."

"I think it's really fun to do it with this group of seniors because it's just a dream for everyone," Hubble said. "From going to third grade to going all the way to state is an amazing feeling."

Some of their favorite memories together were getting milkshakes from McDonald's after tournaments or practices — also a way that coach Vic Reinhard would motivate the team to play at their best.

The team could also be found getting Pizza Hut after tournaments and after the season ended, haunted houses and Topgolf.

All of the team bonding and time they've

(Continued on Page A2)

"From going to third grade to going all the way to state is an amazing feeling."

— Dekota Hubble



Admiring their idols

The current Norwell girls' basketball team has won the sectional, regional and Semi-State over the past month. But growing up, it was them who were watching their favorite coach and players. Above, head coach Eric Thornton fills in for a middle school coach who was absent during a tournament. The girls pictured from left to right, Makenzie Fuess, Haley Green, Ali Riley and Dekota Hubble listen closely to what the parents said was their "Bob Knight." Bottom from left to right, Green, Annabelle Johnson, then fourth is Fuess and Hubble get the closest seat they can find to observe their favorite basketball team, the Norwell girls' varsity team. (Photos provided)

Handkerchief on the rim



Coach Jerry Lewis was pictured tying a handkerchief to a basketball rim for the first time in a 1972 Norwell High School yearbook.

(Continued from Page 1)

of victory — and venting a lot of frustration in the process.

Making it equally delicious for Norwell was that the decisive win was accomplished on Bluffton's own floor. In the postgame celebration, someone got the idea of tying a tiger tail, cut from the back of a stuffed animal, to the rim — *Bluffton's own rim* — as a symbol of what had happened that night to its beloved Tigers.

"Someone stole a stuffed tiger from the Bluffton cheering section and cut the tail off," remembered Kay (Fox) Schwartz ('73). She's pretty sure she knows who swiped the soft toy but can't confirm it. "I know who cut that tail off," she chuckled. "They were waving it around during the game."

"The Bluffton-Norwell rivalry was so fierce," added Decker. "They wanted to hang (that tail) in *Bluffton's own rim* just to spite them."

Almost as an afterthought, someone else got the idea of making sure that Bluffton was reminded of who did it and produced a conveniently handy red bandana to tie to the rim as well. No one knew it at the time, but a tradition was being born.

But the heckling and the harassing about being farmers and coming from farm country wasn't limited to Bluffton.

"(Norwell's) glowing flannel shirts looked like rejects from a Sgt. Preston of the Yukon flick," scoffed the Decatur Daily Democrat's Eric Mann. "Added to the outfits were flashy red kerchiefs which, when waved, appeared suspiciously like rags usually tied to the back of slow-moving vehicles. My guess is that there are a number of deflagged farm vehicles in upper Wells County. Either that or someone is missing a pair of crimson long johns."

Lewis got a kick out of hearing about that blurb in the Decatur paper and added, "We were being called 'farmers' by someone (other than Bluffton). Was it Bellmont? I was thinking it was Marion at the regional."

According to Lewis himself back then, it was Marion. "Actually, the 'farmer' tag was stuck on us last year in the regional tournament at Marion when several of the fans made remarks to the effect that we were farmers," he said in a preview to the 1973 semi-state a year later that ran in the Democrat under the headline "Norwell 'farmers' to battle 'city-slicker' (Northrop) Bruins."

"I don't know why we were being called that," says Dennis Elick, a starter on both the '72 and '73 teams. "I didn't live on a farm. None of us did. Well, maybe two of us. Gordon Wall might have lived on a farm, I think, and Mark Drabensstott did, too. But none of our dads were farmers, at least not full-time. Gordon's dad worked at International Harvester. Drabensstott's dad might have done some farming, but he was a teacher, too. We lived in Tocsin, and my dad worked for the railroad."

The tag, of course, had nothing whatsoever to do with actually being a farmer. "Farmer" was teenage slang for hick or hayseed or unsophisticated. In other words: *you're not cool*. Those would have been fighting words for any 17-year-old.

Farmers or not, Norwell very nearly force-fed Marion its own words before falling 58-57. A missed Marion free throw with 0:16 left gave the Knights a chance, but they missed two shots in the remaining time.

"We should have won that game," insisted Elick about the near-miss against the eventual regional champion.

But instead of running away from the "farmers" tag, the Norwell students embraced it. After all, they'd been hearing it for five years. They called it, "Farmer Power."

They came back for more the following season. The flannel shirts, hats and handkerchiefs, whether red or blue, became a sort of dress code. But there was more than just dress and hanky-waving, there were the yells — the testosterone-soaked whoops and hollers coming from the boys that were more provocative than anything the girls cooked up.

While the girls were producing standard-issue but innocuous stuff like "Re-bound that basketball," the boys had other things in mind. If a particularly egregious call went against the Knights, fans might hear a bass-pitched "I'm blind, I'm deaf, I wanna be a ref," or perhaps a menacing, "We got a rope, we got a tree, all we need now is a referee!" An opponent who made an exceptional play could expect to be serenaded with "Watermelon, watermelon, watermelon, rind; look at the scoreboard, see who's behind!" And those were three of the tamer ones. There were others.

If those creative barnyard taunts and cat-calls intended to get under someone's skin, it worked.

"Some of the four- and five-letter words used in some of their cheers and songs

should not be allowed," huffed the Berne Witness after seeing its hometown South Adams team eliminated in the sectional finals and no doubt after hearing a rapid-fire, "We got a high school, we got a yell; we got a team that fights — like Helen in a high chair, we're up there! Rah-rah-rah, zis-boom-bah, we're going to beat you, ha-ha-ha!" If the Norwell administration does not stop this kind of mockery, nonsense, and insults, then tourney officials should," fumed the Witness. "Some of the chants and cheers in both the Adams Central and South Adams games have absolutely no place in high school basketball circles."

The offending cheer was rattled off at drink-from-a-firehose speed to be almost indecipherable. Almost. But one word in it was clearly audible to the Witness. Or so the paper thought.

The question is: was "Helen" one word or two? The cheer makes sense either way.

Some, like Brian Schwartz ('73), remember "Helen in a high chair." Others remember it differently. Some plead the Fifth — with a twinkle in their eye. And maybe that, after all, was the point: plausible deniability.

"I think there were maybe times when they were doing some things that maybe they shouldn't have been doing," said Lewis. "Our principal back then was Lex Dormire, and I know he had some anxious moments during games."

Anxious moments for a principal equal a barrel of laughs for a bunch of fun-loving teens.

"They were very mischievous," added Elick. "Nothing would surprise me coming from that bunch."

In any event, while the Norwell students in the bleachers were bothering the South Adams faithful, the ones on the floor were taking care of business, ripping the Starfires 75-58 for Norwell's second straight sectional championship. While there was no reason to fasten a tiger's tail to the rim this time, the bandana came out anyway, along with a silent message, maybe not one directed at South Adams so much as toward Marion — *we're coming*.

Even the adults got into the act. The News-Banner's Gary Books reported seeing a doctor at the regional wearing bib overalls and other businessmen wearing bandanas instead of neckties with their sport coats. Lewis mentioned that to the Democrat, too. "I've seen well-known businessmen come to our games dressed in bib overalls, and when you can get that kind of support behind you, it can't help but to make for a higher morale," he said at the time.

Norwell did, indeed, come to Marion, ready to serve revenge up cold to their supposedly "big-city" tormenters. The only problem was that Marion wasn't there. The Giants were ousted in the sectional by Madison-Grant, an embarrassment in itself. No matter. The Knights came, they saw, and they conquered, beating the team that Marion couldn't along the way.

After the nets were cut down, someone

climbed the ladder and proudly tied farmer's bandanas to the rims — *Marion's own rims* — in the same gym where Norwell's players and fans had been so derided a year earlier. Just as Bluffton had "had it coming" last year, so Marion "had it coming" this year.

In the run-up to the semi-state a week later, a Fort Wayne News-Sentinel story on Norwell was headlined, "Farmers Are Coming," though the author of the story was quick to point out that the majority of the students, "probably don't know the difference between a Holstein and an Angus, or at least don't care."

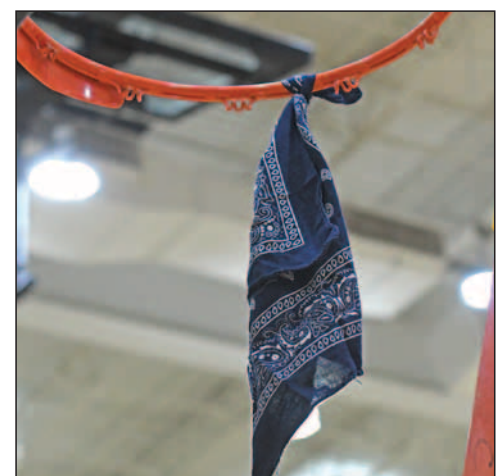
Although the crop failed for Norwell that week, every tournament championship won by the Knights in the years that followed was celebrated by tying a farmer's handkerchief, red or blue, to the rims after the nets were cut down. When the Knights won sectional and regional titles in 1988, a rally T-shirt was even made that depicted an empty rim with a bandana hanging from it.

But after that 1988 regional championship, nothing. Lewis retired after the 1989 season. When the new coach, Larry Lael, led his team to the Northeast Hoosier Conference tournament championship in 1991, the rims at the Coliseum were left conspicuously bare. When asked about it, Lael admitted that he was unaware of the tradition and pledged to restart it if his club won the sectional.

But none of Lael's teams ever did. It was not until 1995 under the leadership of Bruce Ballinger that Norwell claimed another sectional title, seven years and two coaches removed from the previous one. No one thought to tie bandanas to the rims, and the tradition quietly died off.

But now, the Norwell girls have revived it. And hopefully, come this Saturday, the girls will be able, once again, to tie a farmer's hanky 'round the old iron hoop — after scoring what would be the biggest championship in the history of Norwell basketball.

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After last Saturday's semi-state win, a blue handkerchief was tied to the rim of the north basket of Bob Straight Court, reviving a decades-gone Norwell basketball tradition. (News-Banner file photo)

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Daily Three-Midday — 07-03-05, SB:00
Daily Three-Evening — 02-02-04, SB: 08
Daily Four-Midday — 05-02-07-02, SB: 00
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Public Notice

NOTICE OF FINAL REPORT IN ESTATE ESTATE NO. 90C01-2303-ES-000004 CIRCUIT COURT OF WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA
Notice is hereby given to all persons entitled to share in the final distribution of the Estate of PAULINE E. KAEHR, deceased, that REBECCA S. MAGGART, Personal Representative of said estate, has filed a report of final accounting and a petition to distribute the remaining assets of said estate to the persons believed entitled thereto. The report and petition will be acted upon by the Circuit Court on March 14, 2024, unless written objections are presented to the Court. The deadline for filing such objections to the final accounting shall be fourteen (14) days prior to the date set for hearing.

Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, on February 14, 2023.
Beth Davis, Clerk
WELLS CIRCUIT COURT
David N. Baumgartner
Attorney for Estate
No. 4288-01
Baumgartner Attorneys PC
360 W. Main St.
Berne, IN 46711
Telephone: (260) 589-3139

nb 2/23 hspaxlp

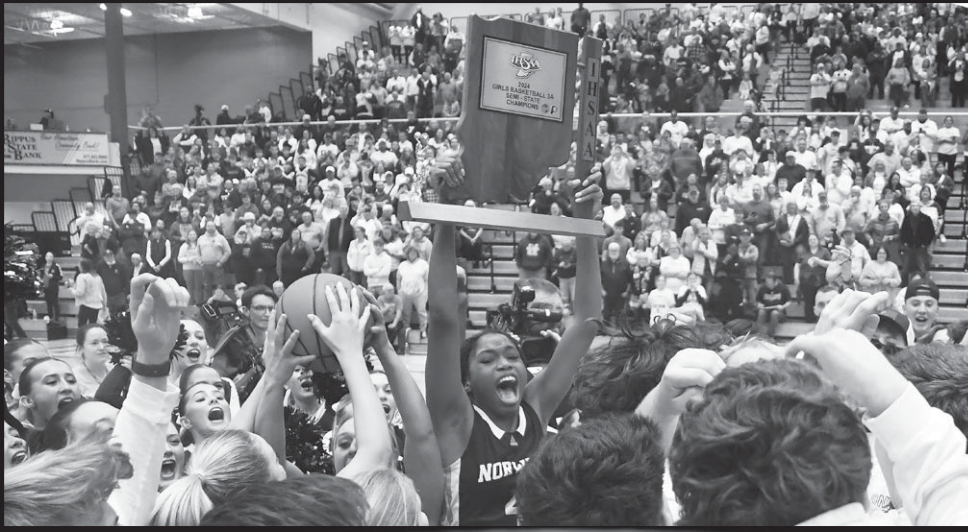
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On to state

With Knight students surrounding her and Knight fans in the stands behind her, Norwell girls' basketball center Dekota Hubble holds high the trophy Saturday after the Knights won the north semi-state at Huntington North High School. Norwell dispatched top-ranked Hamilton Heights in the morning game 64-50 and then obliterated unranked Bremen in the nightcap 64-20. The Knights will play third-ranked Gibson Southern, a school just north of Evansville, for the Class 3A state championship at 6 p.m. Saturday at Gainbridge Field House in Indianapolis. At right, a blue handkerchief is tied to the rim of the north basket of Bob Straight Court, honoring a tradition begun in 1973 when the Norwell boys' basketball team won its first regional. At far right, Coach Eric Thornton hugs Norwell guard Lilly Norris while hanging onto the trophy after the game. At right bottom, the team poses with a championship trophy for the third time in as many weeks. (Photos by Glen Werling)

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Celebrating

Members of the Norwell student section erupt onto Bob Straight Court Saturday Night after the Knights rolled past Bremen 64-20 to advance to the state championship in girls basketball for the first time since 1977. At right, Kennedy Fuelling erupts in celebration. (Photos by Glen Werling)



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