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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024

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NWCS will not offer latchkey services for solar eclipse e-learning

By HOLLY GASKILL

The board for Norwell Community Schools has decided not to hold latchkey services during a recently scheduled e-learning day for the total solar eclipse on April 8.

Administrators told the district board Tuesday that only six respondents said they would use the service among the over 200 surveyed. Comparatively, they estimated that about 30-50 at either school used the service during a typical cancelation.

However, it was also noted that the service on that day would have an increased price.

Ginger Butcher, principal at Lancaster Elementary School, said this price change was decided due to the e-learning day being held asynchronously, meaning without streamed teacher instruction throughout the day, and the average expense of childcare. It had also been discussed at the board's Feb. 13 meeting to offset the potential for the service to be overwhelmed.

Ultimately, the board unanimously decided they would not maintain Bear and Bobcat Care at LES and Ossian Elementary School. Superintendent Mike Springer recommended the decision, noting that there was still substantial warning despite the e-learning day

previously not being on the year's calendar.

Even so, board member Angie Topp emphasized that the school should make every effort to help find alternative care for the families who responded that they would use the service.

"I appreciate the time and effort in putting together a survey to get a better understanding because I think that's more helpful than the last conversation that we had," board member Chad Kline said. "Because (the results) could have gone two totally different directions ... This really allowed us to make an informed decision."

The board also approved an updated policy regarding involvement in board meetings. According to Springer, the board had been operating under the outlined procedure but had not updated the policy. The formal procedure would normally have the board approve a policy change through a first and second reading, but the board approved it at the first reading, given the circumstances.

The policy previously restricted public comment only to a set time during meetings. The policy now reads, "Prior to any agenda item for which the school board will vote or within all discussion items, the presid-

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Golden Gamers

Pictured from left to right, Anna Holloway, Doris Smith, Martha Frank and Venita Hall all enjoy a board game as part of the Wells County Public Library's Golden Gamers on Tuesday. Dominos, Cribbage and other games were available to play. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

Wells zoning board approves reduced road frontage

By JONATHAN SNYDER

The Board of Zoning Appeals only had one item on the agenda on Tuesday; an appeal for reduced road frontage for plots of land east of Wayne Street and south of Harrison Road.

There are eight lots in that section of land and the road connecting them is considered a private drive, which will be accessed via a series of driveways on common lots. This means that the private drive

will be the responsibility of the homeowner's association in the area, and they will have to plow any snow.

In the official statement on the BZA information packet, Secretary Mike Lautzenheiser stated that this request is unique for Bluffton, but not for neighboring communities. He advised that if this process goes forward, it may instigate an ordinance amendment.

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Board of Works and Police Chief discuss potential noise issues at shooting range

By JONATHAN SNYDER

The Board of Public Works and Safety discussed a potential issue involving the Bluffton Police Department shooting range on Tuesday.

The range located next to the plant is used by the police department and the Wells County Sheriff's Department. Chief of Police Kyle Randall stated that the range is used year round and that they try to be done by 10 p.m. every night.

Randall, Utility Director Jon Oman and board members Josh Hunt and Scott Mentzer, all discussed a potential increase in noise coming from the shooting range. Oman believes that the movement of dirt and a new building being constructed as part of the wastewater treatment plant affected the acoustics of the range. Sally Haus, was scheduled to discuss the issue, but was not present at Tuesday's meeting.

This usage rate is so that the department can get used to shooting in adverse weather conditions such as snow or rain, something Hunt was very proud of.

"It's encouraging to know that even if it sucks to be outside ... you guys are still sharpening your skills," Hunt said.

Oman suggested that some dirt could be set up in piles around the range to help deflect the sound away from unwanted areas. While no official action was taken, the board decided the situation was worth monitoring.

There were two pay raises and two resignation requests that the board granted. Accounts Receivable Clerk Karen Shaffer of the utility office received a \$1 hourly raise, while Building Department Assistant Karen Nash, who has been a full-time department employee for two years, was put to her maximum salary of \$17 hourly.

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County boards will hold special session on Health First Indiana

By HOLLY GASKILL

The Wells County Commissioners and County Council have scheduled a joint special session to learn more about Health First Indiana on Friday, March 1.

The two boards will hear from Sheila Paul, the northern regional director for the Indiana Department of Health. Wells County is eligible for at least \$549,510 in health funding in HFI's second year, but will also have to commit \$137,377.50 to health programs. Wells was one of six counties in the state that did not join the program in 2024.

The special session will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the meeting room of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex.

During their last regular meeting, the Wells County Board of Health expressed their intent to schedule an additional meeting to review potential plans to opt-in for 2025. However, the County Commissioners will ultimately decide for the county.

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House keeps retention mandate; makes tweaks to higher ed measures

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle

A mandate to require reading-deficient third graders to be held back a year in school withstood challenges from Democrats on Monday — though some Republican lawmakers joined in opposing stricter retention.

The provision in question is part of a GOP literacy overhaul measure, Senate Bill 1, which seeks to remedy Indiana's literacy "crisis" by requiring schools to administer the statewide IREAD test in second grade — a year earlier than current requirements — and directing new, targeted support to at-risk students and those struggling to pass the exam.

But if, after three tries, a third

grader can't meet the IREAD standard, legislators want school districts to retain them.

House Republicans who voted for an amendment to remove mandatory retention of third graders from Senate Bill 1: Rep. Ed Clere, R-New Albany, Rep. Cory Criswell, R-Middletown, Rep. Michelle Davis, R-Whiteland, Rep. Joanna King, R-Middlebury, Rep. Randy Lyness, R-West Harrison, Rep. Ethan Manning, R-Logansport, Rep. Kyle Pierce, R-Anderson and Rep. J.D. Prescott, R-Union City.

While much of the rest of the bill has received bipartisan support, the retention language has come under increasing scrutiny from Democrats, parents, teachers

and numerous education experts.

Rep. Ed DeLaney, D-Indianapolis, offered an amendment on the House floor in an attempt to strike the retention requirement from the bill. The effort failed in a 36-56 vote, however.

All Democrats and eight Republicans voted in favor of the amendment, while five other Republicans chose not to vote at all.

"In light of the money we're spending under this bill for education and training of the kids who are falling behind, there should be less need for retention, I hope and pray. But ultimately, the decision has to be the parents'," DeLaney said. "This says we're going to

(Continued on Page 2)

U.S. Army slashing posts in revamp to prepare for future wars

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Army is slashing the size of its force by about 24,000, or almost 5%, and restructuring to be better able to fight the next major war, as the service struggles with

recruiting shortfalls that made it impossible to bring in enough soldiers to fill all the jobs.

The cuts will mainly be in already-empty posts — not actual soldiers — including in jobs related to counterinsurgency that swelled during the Iraq and

Afghanistan wars but are not needed as much today. About 3,000 of the cuts would come from Army special operations forces.

At the same time, however, the plan will add about 7,500 troops in other critical missions, including air-defense and counter-drone

units and five new task forces around the world with enhanced cyber, intelligence and long-range strike capabilities.

Army Secretary Christine Wormuth said she and Gen. Randy George, the Army chief, worked to thin out the number of places where

they had empty or excess slots.

"We're moving away from counterterrorism and counterinsurgency. We want to be postured for large-scale combat operations," Wormuth told reporters on Tuesday. "So we looked at where

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Outside



Rain and snow likely, clear and cold tonight

Today	Thursday	Friday
High 29	High 40	High 47
Low 21	Low 27	Low 37

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NWCS latchkey services

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ing officer will invite members of the public in attendance at the meeting to make comments.”

Following the regular agenda, the board participated in an open strategic planning meeting with administrators, teachers and members of the public. The meeting continued conversations regarding the district’s vision statement and the results of the previously presented staff survey. Springer advised he is conducting another survey this week.

Also during the regular agenda, the board:

- Accepted the resignation of Deb Yohma, a former food service employee.
- Approved the employment recommendations of Abigail Rodenbeck as a speech pathologist, Kathleen Messmann as a Norwell Middle School teaching assistant, Mellannie Brandon as an OES teaching assistant, Shelby Schaufelberger as an OES temporary teaching assistant, Dusty Clifton as a Norwell High School assistant baseball coach, Carson Wright as an NHS

volunteer baseball assistant coach, MaKayla Study as an NMS assistant swim coach, Richard Utterback as an NHS volunteer assistant swim coach, Erin Hitzfield as an NMS assistant track coach with Melanie Jacob as a volunteer, Garrett Bucher as an NMS volunteer golf assistant coach, and Mari Brock for food service.

- Recognized a \$500 teaching grant from the Sailsbery Family Memorial Endowment Fund for Mark Weinert, the district’s Educator of the Year.

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Board of Works

(Continued from Page 1)

Bradley Nelson, a full-time firefighter and Chelsea Dick, a part-time firefighter both resigned from the Fire Department. Nelson has had troubles with attending trainings on Wednesday nights due to commitments at the church he pastors at. In Dick’s case, the long hours of her job north of the city left little time to commit to the Fire Department. Fire

Chief Don Craig stated he understood both of their situations and is willing to stay connected with them for any CPR training updates.

“It’s unfortunate, but I get it,” Mentzer said.

Additionally, the board paid \$18,217.50 to renew their Office 356 subscription. Since the city performs this action through Reliance IO, a Microsoft partner, the city gets a discount

on the product. Director of Information Systems Karen Morris stated that in the next renewal cycle, she will attempt to trim out anything they do not feel is necessary from the subscription.

Furthermore, the board approved an SRF claim totalling \$165,217.35 to Inliner Solutions for shoring up existing eight and 10 inch sewer pipe linings for the wastewater treatment plant

project. They also approved a work order directive for DLZ Corporation, which pays for them to remove the sludge from the wastewater treatment plant, revise the storm inlet so NIPSCO does not have to move any infrastructure and upgrade some manholes in the plant.

Mayor John Whicker was absent from Tuesday’s meeting.

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Zoning board

(Continued from Page 1)

“This will set a precedent for this type of thing to happen in the future,” said Lautzenheiser.

The board approved the reduced road frontage request from 25 feet to zero feet, provided that an ingress egress agreement is recorded for the common lot, a maintenance agree-

ment put together for the common driveway, and that is where each owner has a say in the maintenance of the common lot access. There will be no owned road frontage by the lot owners.

Since this was the BZA’s first meeting of the year, they also voted to keep Tyson Brooks as president,

Jerry Petzel as vice president and Lautzenheiser as secretary. They also took a look at the 2023 annual report, which stated that there were 18 total petitions to the BZA last year. Fifteen of these petitions were variance requests, a high number compared to previous years.

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House keeps retention mandate

(Continued from Page 1)

change what goes on in the family and in the life of an individual child because the General Assembly deems it’s appropriate. That’s a very powerful action. In my view, the presence of this provision in the law undercuts all the positive parts of the bill.”

Another failed amendment offered by DeLaney would have delayed the retention portion of the bill from taking effect until the 2025-2026 academic year. Under the latest draft, the provision takes effect for the upcoming 2024-2025 school calendar.

retained.

Exceptions are carved out in Rogers’ bill for students who have been retained in third grade before, special-education students, certain English language learners, and students who pass the math portion of the statewide assessment and receive remedial reading instruction.

Even so, Rep. Mike Andrade, D-Munster, authored an amendment to exclude English language learners from the retention mandate altogether, citing state and federal guidelines that holding students back should not be based solely on English language proficiency or on one piece of test data. His amendment failed 34-60.

learning to read toward reading to learn.

“The goal of this bill is not to retain a single student. However, if a student is not proficient in reading by third grade, we know that those students go on to have higher rates of dropping out. They enter DOC custody at higher rates. They have higher rates of teen pregnancy, and so on, and so forth,” said bill sponsor Rep. Jake Teshka, R-South Bend. “By not doing this, we would be failing our students.”

action at the request of the governor, a member of the General Assembly, members of CHE and the State board of Education, or an Indiana taxpayer.

Emotions in the House chamber also flared over a separate, contentious higher education bill that GOP lawmakers said seeks to push speech in college classrooms toward “intellectual diversity.”

An amendment from Rep. Bob Behning, R-Indianapolis, was approved unanimously and clarified who can handle complaints against faculty members relating to “free inquiry, free expression and intellectual diversity” criteria laid out in the bill.

“This is not the appropriate time to retain kids. I understand we’ve got to get them to read. It is a crisis,” said Rep. Tonya Pfaff, D-Terre Haute, referring to the latest reading scores showing that one in five Hoosier third graders continue to struggle.

“My parents came as immigrants to this country, and I was one of those English learning students at school. We were kind of secluded from society as immigrants, being scared of immigration and the whole process. We spoke Spanish in our households, we spoke Spanish in our community. We spoke Spanish with our primos,” Andrade said. “Unfortunately, when I got to school, it was hard to be able to transition into the English language and be taught for several hours a day. It creates, I believe, anxiety and mental health issues with students who get bullied.”

Amendments to other education proposals

Slight changes were made on Monday to other education bills, as well.

In a voice vote, the House chamber approved an amendment to Senate Bill 8 — a broad higher education measure — requiring the state education department to offer an online option for all Indiana College Core courses by 2027.

Multiple attempts by Democrats to amend the bill were defeated. That included a proposal by Rep. Vernon Smith, D-Gary, to remove tenure language from the bill. He said politics should not be part of the tenure process and should “remain in the hands of educators.”

“To deal with this issue, which might have been the genesis of this particular bill, that there are some students who feel like their conservative views are not heard or tolerated in the classroom ... I started teaching as an adjunct in 1978. Since I got my doctorate, I’ve never seen that as being a problem,” Smith said. “I think most professors want the debate, they want the discussion in the classroom. I don’t think there’s all this indoctrination and this lack of tolerance that is being reported. We’ve got some insecure students. Sometimes, they’re introverts. Sometimes, they are not secure in their feelings about themselves, their self esteem — they feel like they’re being persecuted.”

“But it is kindergarten or first grade. We don’t need a high stakes test. Teachers know at the end of kindergarten if their kid is on track or not. Teachers know at the end of first grade if that kid is on track or not,” she continued. “Waiting until third grade ... and the parent is now out of the equation, and we’re just going to mandatory-retain them — it’s not the proper place to do it.”

A full vote on the bill could happen Tuesday.

Last year, 13,840 third-graders did not pass IREAD, according to test data. Of those students, 5,503 received an exemption and 8,337 did not. But about 95% of students without an exemption moved onto 4th grade and just 412 were retained.

Multiple education experts emphasized that third grade is a critical year for literacy because it’s at that time students shift from

another amendment to the bill approved on Monday allows Indiana’s attorney general to sue state higher education institutions that fail to report to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education any contracts of value with or gifts from foreign “sources” located in foreign adversaries, like China, Iran, North Korea or Russia.

Under the latest version of the bill, the attorney general can launch such legal

debate, they want the discussion in the classroom. I don’t think there’s all this indoctrination and this lack of tolerance that is being reported. We’ve got some insecure students. Sometimes, they’re introverts. Sometimes, they are not secure in their feelings about themselves, their self esteem — they feel like they’re being persecuted.”

Weather

Wednesday, February 28, 2024
(24-hour observations at 9:43 p.m. Tuesday)
High: 67; Low: 52; Precipitation: None
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 2.34 feet at 7:45 p.m. Tuesday

Wells County forecast

Today: Rain and snow showers likely before 11 a.m., then a chance of snow showers between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Some thunder is also possible. Mostly cloudy, with a temperature falling to around 29 by 3 p.m. Windy, with a west wind 20 to 30 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. Little or no snow accumulation expected.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 21. West wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 40. West wind 5 to 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 27. South wind around 10 mph.

Friday: Partly sunny, with a high near 47.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 37.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 57.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 44.

Sunday: Partly sunny, with a high near 66.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 53.

Monday: A 40% chance of rain. Partly sunny, with a high near 68.

Monday Night: A chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 43.

Tuesday: A chance of rain. Partly sunny, with a high near 56.

U.S. Army

(Continued from Page 1)

were there pieces of force structure that were probably more associated with counterinsurgency, for example, that we don’t need anymore.”

George added that Army leaders did a lot of analysis to choose the places to cut.

“The things that we want to not have in our formation are actually things that we don’t think are going to make us successful on the battlefield going forward,” he said.

State group.

Over time the military’s focus has shifted to great power competition from adversaries such as China and Russia, and threats from Iran and North Korea. And the war in Ukraine has shown the need for greater emphasis on air-defense systems and high-tech abilities both to use and counter airborne and sea-based drones.

Army leaders said they looked carefully across the board at all the service’s job specialties in search of places to trim. And they examined the ongoing effort to modernize the Army, with new high-tech weapons, to determine where additional forces should be focused.

According to an Army document, the service is “significantly overstructured” and there aren’t enough soldiers to fill existing units. The cuts, it said, are “spaces” not “faces” and the Army will not be asking soldiers to leave the force.

Instead, the decision reflects the reality that for years the Army hasn’t been able to fill thousands of empty posts. While the Army as it’s currently structured can have up to 494,000 soldiers, the total number of active-duty soldiers right now is about 445,000. Under the new plan, the goal is to bring in enough troops over the next five years to reach a level of 470,000.

According to the plan, the Army will cut about 10,000 spaces for engineers and similar jobs that were tied to counter-insurgency missions. An additional 2,700 cuts will come from units that don’t deploy often and can be trimmed, and 6,500 will come from various training and other posts.

There also will be about 10,000 posts cut from cavalry squadrons, Stryker brigade combat teams, infantry brigade combat teams and security force assistance brigades, which are used to train foreign forces.

The planned overhaul comes after two decades of war in Iraq and Afghanistan that forced the Army to quickly and dramatically expand in order to fill the brigades sent to the battlefield. That included a massive counterinsurgency mission to battle al-Qaida, the Taliban and the Islamic

The changes represent a significant shift for the Army to prepare for large-scale combat operations against more sophisticated enemies. But they also underscore the steep recruiting challenges that all of the military services are facing.

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Jerry Flack
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OBITUARIES

John P. "Jack" Dobson, 89

John P. "Jack" Dobson, 89, of Markle, passed away Monday morning, Feb. 26, 2024, at his home.

He was born Sept. 26, 1934, in Howard, Pa. to Preston and Virginia (Strunk) Dobson.

After graduating from Bluffton High School, Jack joined the Army and served his country during the Korean War. On his return, he worked at Ratliff's Meat Market as a meat cutter before he began working at BRC. After his retirement from BRC, he continued working at Temp-Masters.

On July 27, 1957, in Portland, Ind., John married Nancy Steed and shared 64 years of marriage before her passing on March 2, 2022.

John attended the Murray Missionary Church and was involved in the American Legion Post 111 for more than 56 years. He also enjoyed gardening, yard work, woodworking and was a talented wood-carver, and enjoyed spending time with his family.

Survivors include two sons, Jon V.



(Peggy) Dobson of Murray, James C. Dobson of Huntington; three grandchildren, Zak (Brittany) Dobson and Shelby (Evan) Saunders, all of Murray, and Jessica (Brian) Funderburg of Huntington; and four great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a brother Norman Dobson and a sister Beverly Day.

There will be a graveside service for Jack at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 2, 2024, at Elm Grove Cemetery with Pastor Mike Gilbert officiating. Military honors will be conducted by the United States Army Honor Guard and the American Legion Post 111 Honor Guard.

In lieu of flowers and gifts, the family prefers memorials be made to United Home Care Services, Elara Caring Hospice or to Tunnels for Towers and can be directed to the funeral home.

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 John's family at www.thomarich.com.

Kay Eugene Earhart, 90

Kay Eugene Earhart of Los Angeles passed away peacefully on Feb. 3, 2024 of natural causes.

He was born Nov. 2, 1933, in Bluffton, son of Roland and Lucile Earhart. He was preceded in death by his wife Patricia, and is survived by his daughters, Katharine and Elizabeth, and son, Charles, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his two stepchildren, Brant and Brenna, and eight step-grand and step-great-grandchildren.

During high school, he participated in sports and was active in the Baptist Church and Boy Scouts. With the rank of Eagle Scout, he was selected as Senior Patrol Leader to lead 50 Anthony Wayne Council Boy Scouts at the 1950 World Boy Scout Jamboree held at Valley Forge Park, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Bluffton High School in 1951, Miami University (Ohio) in 1955, and attended Southern Methodist University post graduate school. During college he was a member of the swim team and Alpha Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity.

He became a commissioned U.S. Navy Officer and earned his Aviator Wings

of Gold in 1958. He served 22 years of Navy active duty worldwide service, and retired in 1978 with the rank of Commander. Upon retiring from the military, he worked in the aerospace industry for 10 years in the Los Angeles area. Upon his final retirement, he and his wife, Patricia, enjoyed extensive travel, entertaining family and friends, playing bridge, and attending church, where he was an usher. He enjoyed deep sea fishing, scuba diving and spent numerous hours restoring a classic 1947 MGTC. He was a life member of the VFW, Military Officers Association, and Lions International.

Private family services will be held later in the fall of 2024.

In lieu of flowers, tribute gifts for Kay Earhart may be made to: The American Macular Degeneration Foundation, P.O. Box 515, Northampton, MA 01061-0515, macular.org, 1-888-622-8527.

Arrangements are entrusted with Springer-Voorhis-Draper Funeral Home of Monticello, Indiana.

Family and friends are encouraged to share a memory or messages of condolence at springerfuneralhome.com.



Elks makes donation to backpack program

Bluffton Elks 796 donated \$2,000 to Wells County 4-H Backpack Program from its Elks National Foundation Community Investment Program grant. They continue to help 150 plus kids in the county. For donations and information call 260-824-6412. Pictured left to right are Elks Trustee Nick Huffman, members of Wells County 4-H Association Brandon Gephart, Gretta Nusbaumer, and Roger Sherer and Elks Leading Knight Cheyenne Harris. (Photo provided)

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:
Friday, 3:59 p.m., 700 block of South Williams Street. Report of theft.

Friday, 4:05 p.m., South Main and East Cherry streets. Driver cited for expired license plate.

Friday, 5:49 p.m., 300 block of West Wiley Avenue. Report of custody issue.

Friday, 6:29 p.m., 600 block of West Spring Street. Report of loud music.

Friday, 8:05 p.m., 1200 block of Lancaster Street. Report of subject causing issues, caller requested removal. Adam Baker arrested for battery on LEO, resisting law enforcement and parole retake warrant.

Saturday, 3:05 p.m., South Merchant Street and West Central Avenue. Report of subject fleeing from law enforcement during arrest for warrant, subject was tased.

Saturday, 5:34 p.m., 700 block of Clark Avenue. Report of a black lab running near park, dog was aggressive. Caller was asked if they would be willing to keep the dog overnight if after shelter hours, caller said no.

Saturday, 8:59 p.m., Washington Park. Caller reported they pushed window out of friends vehicle.

Sunday, 4:35 p.m., Bluffton Police Department. Caller reported subject possibly stabbed someone, unsure who or where.

Sunday, 4:42 p.m., 200 block of West South Street. Officer requested to stand by for property retrieval.

Sunday, 5:11 p.m., Walmart. Report of two juveniles in asset protection office for theft.

Sunday, 10:43 p.m., Airplane Express. Report of elderly man that left on moped after getting upset.

Monday, 5:29 a.m., Hope Missionary Church. Report

of a truck and trailer blocking entrance.

Monday, 12:58 p.m., Walmart. Report of an RV in parking lot, subjects asking for money, walking up to windows and scaring people.

Monday, 2:57 p.m., 200 block of West South Street. Report of fraud.

Monday, 5:36 p.m., North Main Street and East Dushman Road. Driver cited for no valid license, waited for ride.

Monday, 7:36 p.m., Comfort Inn. Report of truck in ditch. Private citizen stopped and helped pull out vehicle. No damage or injuries.

Monday, 10:51 p.m., Airplane Express. Report of woman in bathroom for half an hour, possibly intoxicated. Woman said she was on her phone and did not appear to be intoxicated.

Tuesday, 2:09 a.m., 200 block of West Cherry Street. Worried father requested welfare check. Daughter advised she has been working third shift and sleeping but will call her dad back.

Tuesday, 6:45 a.m., 100 block of West Silver Street. Officer gave courtesy transport to high school.

County:
Monday, 3:22 p.m., Wells County Jail. Protection order served to Wade Smelser.

Monday, 5:20 p.m., Ind. 124 and South 400 West, Liberty Center. Driver cited for driving 79 in a 55 mph

zone.
Monday, 6:14 p.m., Ind. 116 and East 300 South, Bluffton. Car vs. deer.

Monday, 8:54 p.m., 7100 East 1100 South, Geneva. Report of a bicycle in ditch.

Tuesday, 6:50 a.m., South Hoosier Highway and East 200 South, Bluffton. Car vs. deer.

ARRESTS

Desmond Donald Barton, 36, Monroeville; battery, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

Ilse Arellano, 32, Fort Wayne; driving while suspended, a Class A misdemeanor.

Indiana justices, elections board kick GOP U.S. Senate candidate off primary ballot

By ISABELLA VOLMERT
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The bipartisan Indiana Election Commission voted unanimously Tuesday to remove one of two Republican U.S. Senate candidates from the primary ballot, and the state Supreme Court rejected his legal challenge to the law barring his candidacy.

The decision to remove John Rust from the ballot leaves U.S. Rep. Jim Banks as the only GOP candidate for the seat.

Rust had sued state officials over Indiana's law requiring that candidates must have voted in their party's past two primaries or received the approval of a county party chair in order to appear on the primary ballot.

Rust voted as a Republican in the 2016 primary but as a Democrat in 2012. He said he didn't vote in the 2020 Republican primary due to the pandemic and the lack of competitive Republican races in Jackson County, and that his votes for Democrats were for people he personally knew.

The county's Republican Party chair said in a July meeting with Rust that she would not certify him, according to the lawsuit. Rust has said she later cited his primary voting record.

The Election Commission — composed of two Republicans and two Democrats all appointed by the governor — voted unanimously to accept the challenges and remove Rust from the ballot.

"The affiliation statute applies to Mr. Rust just like it applies to all other candidates in

the state," Ryan Shouse, an attorney representing five of the six individuals challenging Rust's candidacy, told the commission.

Michelle Harter, Rust's attorney, argued that Rust did not take steps to ensure his place on the ballot because the affiliation statute was blocked by the lower court during the candidate filing period.

"I don't see how we can get around the Indiana Supreme Court," said Karen Celestino-Horseman, a Democratic commission member, in reference to its original stay.

Rust told reporters that he plans to appeal the Indiana Supreme Court's decision up to the United State Supreme Court. He said the Republican Party is trying to keep him off the ballot "because I'm not under their control."

The state GOP and former President Donald Trump have endorsed Banks in the Senate race. According to campaign finance records, Rust has mainly bankrolled his own campaign, giving it \$2.5 million last year.

Banks ended the year with more than \$3 million in cash on hand, according to records. Banks is running to replace U.S. Senator Mike Braun, who is vacating the seat to run for governor.

Two candidates, Marc Carmichael and Valerie McCray, are running in the Democratic primary for the U.S. Senate seat, according to Secretary of State records.

In a written statement, Banks said the commission's decision does not change anything for him or his campaign, and he will continue to work until Nov. 5 to "be Indiana's next conservative Republican Senator."

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SB202 offers the wrong solutions to a real problem

I was initially reluctant to weigh in on SB202, but the testimony by fellow professors and administrators almost perfectly illustrates the lack of viewpoint diversity the bill targets. Indeed, from what I've seen, not a single professor or administrator who testified on this bill admitted a lack of ideological diversity in higher education. That is troubling, and at best reveals an unhealthy institutional blind spot. There are other perspectives.



Michael Hicks

I begin by noting that among my early columns was a criticism of tenure. My view hasn't changed. But, as a lifelong conservative, I deeply value the principles and results of a classical education. Our universities must be places where students are challenged by difficult and potentially controversial ideas, not provided safe spaces for inquiry and learning.

Hoosier Opinions

However, in my three decades in higher education, I've seen that ideal slowly erode from view. Today, American public universities are among the least ideologically diverse institutions in the world. Indiana is no exception. I am certain there is more ideological diversity in a typical infantry platoon than would be found at any public university.

That is a real problem that should concern taxpayers and their representatives. More importantly, it should alarm those of us who've committed a life to nurturing free inquiry and debate.

Indiana's SB202 tries to address the lack of ideological diversity at state universities in three ways. One is to challenge tenure and create ideological evaluation of faculty. The second is to force universities to report their spending on some institutional programming. The third is to modestly alter the oversight structure of universities. Let me address each.

First, it is a plain, well-documented fact that faculty are overwhelmingly progressive. Many disciplines have fewer than one in 20 professors who self-identify as anything other than progressive or extremely progressive. Yet, classrooms remain the one place on campus with a thriving marketplace of ideas. The best evidence for this is simply that the most ideologically unbalanced disciplines are losing students at record rates. English, writing, gender and ethnic studies, history, sociology and anthropology face historic enrollment declines.

More ideologically balanced majors, such as engineering, health professions, law, business, and economics continue to thrive. Now, none of these disciplines have even a quarter of professors who are conservative. However, that makes them ideologically balanced within the monolith of deeply progressive orthodoxy that modern American universities have become.

Eliminating tenure or policing classroom speech will do nothing to balance the ideological composition of campus, and could worsen it. That is because the problem lies within the institutional structure of modern universities, not the classroom.

To address this, SB202 requires universities to report spending on diversity, equity and inclusion programming—an area that is especially susceptible to ideological narrowness. It also asks the Commission on Higher Education to survey students to determine their experience with a culture of free speech. These questions are too narrow. If universities were to conduct an honest audit, they would find that they spend far more on ideological programming by administrators than they do researching policy issues that confront Hoosiers every day.

The spending on this ideological programming includes salaries for large staffs, hefty travel and honorarium to outside speakers, as well as spending on campus activities and programming that are so ideologically conforming that it nurtures an intolerant and illiberal climate.

One clear example comes from a colleague who attended a brainstorming session on how to convince more faculty to live near the university. He suggested that highlighting the many high-quality local schools would be helpful in attracting new faculty. Most normal folks view this as self-evident. Yet, this professor was scolded by a senior university administrator, who said that the university would not discuss that because "concern about school quality is white privilege."

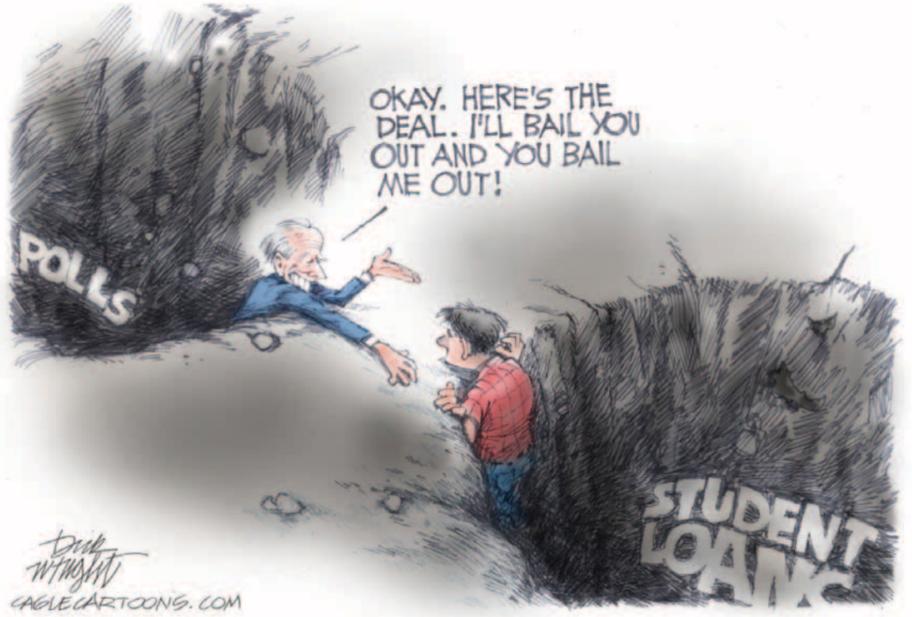
This unhealthy stifling of debate is symbolic of much broader problems that are injurious to a climate of free expression and inquiry. It is anti-intellectual, counter to the principles upon which our Republic was founded and inconsistent with the mission of a public university. Yet, this mindset is pervasive on public university campuses, here in Indiana and elsewhere. Taxpayers and their representatives have every reason to be concerned. Faculty members and administrators who think scrutiny of this problem will disappear are foolishly naive.

If you think my example is cherry picked, I invite you to visit the website of any public university in Indiana. Read through their diversity, equity and inclusion programming, review their freshman readers or peruse the many racial or gender-based scholarships they offer. Make your own judgments about their ideological balance.

Thirdly, SB202 seeks to allow the legislature to appoint two members of the governing bodies of every Indiana university. Because the stifling intellectual climate on campuses has thrived under the current oversight structure, it is time for change.

Finally, I do not support SB202 as written. Though it identifies a weighty problem, it offers the wrong solution. The problem is not tenure or the ideological composition of faculty. The problem is that from the moment a student considers attending a Hoosier university, to long after they graduate, they are immersed by a singular world view. Within this there is no counterpoint, no nuance and little debate. That environment is counterproductive to nurturing diversity of all types—racial, gender, religious and other viewpoints. Until it is dismantled, with public dollars redirected to more balanced programming, nothing will change. That will be disastrous for our universities, and rightfully summons even more legislation.

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.



Will forgiving college debt win or lose votes?

President Biden recently sent an email to 153,000 student-loan borrowers reminding them to vote for him this autumn.

Actually, his email said that he is going to put America into even more hock to repay the college loans they had willingly taken out years ago.

Putting it bluntly, his email said that the millions of Americans who repaid their student loans, or worked two or three jobs to minimize their college borrowing, or who never went to college at all, must cover the debt of 153,000 people who did.

As it goes, last summer, the Supreme Court said Biden's ambitious \$20,000-per-student college loan-forgiveness plan — which would have cost the rest of us \$420 billion — was unconstitutional.

Not to worry, Biden's staff quickly went to work looking for other avenues to relieve student-loan debt.

They looked for wiggle room in a law that was passed nearly 60 years ago, the Higher Education Act, that they said gives the Secretary of Education the ability to waive student-loan debt.

That bureaucratic trick gave them the authority to forgive debt for the 153,000 people enrolled in the income-driven SAVE program — Saving on a Valuable Education — who originally borrowed \$12,000 or less and have made payments for at least 10 years.

Of course, the program doesn't "save" anything. It simply transfers the bill for about \$1.2 billion to the rest of us.

To date Biden boasts he has "saved" \$138 billion for 3.9 million borrowers.

But those savings are tacked right onto our \$34 trillion national debt that, thanks to the reckless spending of both parties in Washington, is on track to hit \$54 trillion in 10 years.

Which brings us back to the student-loan situation. The New York Times shares the story of Biden visiting the home of one student-loan borrower, 49-year-



Tom Purcell

old educator Eric Fitts.

The middle-aged elementary school principal, who still owed \$125,000 in college loans, told Biden "how much of a burden it was and how much of a barrier it was for certain things and opportunities," reports the Times.

I feel for Fitts. Debt is unpleasant. But why didn't he consider the consequences of all that debt before he willingly signed the paperwork to borrow it and promise to pay it back?

Why didn't millions of other young Americans — or their parents — think things through before they took on a cumulative \$1.7 trillion in student-loan debt?

I'm not sure how this student-loan situation is going to play out come voting time.

On one hand, no small number of able-bodied young people feel it is not their responsibility to pay off the college debt they willingly took on. They will vote for the candidates who promise them more forgiveness.

On the other hand, I'm betting a lot more people who did make great sacrifices to repay their college debts are not only angered at being forced to repay other people's loans, they're worried about this country's financial future.

They're worried that millions of Americans feel no shame about letting others relieve them of their financial responsibilities — and that millions couldn't care less about America's runaway spending and debt.

They'll likely vote against candidates like Biden who are trying to buy their votes with their own taxpayer contributions.

Then, again...

Hey, Joe, if you cut me a check for the \$15,000 in student loans and interest I paid back years ago, I'll consider giving you my vote!

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

Donald Trump's con-man hustle for the Black vote is not going to work

Donald Trump's con-man hustle for the African American vote is cringe-worthy, cynical, infuriating, insulting, racist, super-racist — take your pick. Just don't call it sincere. And don't expect it to work.

On Friday night, speaking to an audience mostly of Black conservatives in Columbia, S.C., Trump likened his indictment on 91 felony charges to historic discrimination against African Americans. "A lot of people said that's why the Black people liked me, because they had been hurt so badly and discriminated against. And they actually viewed me as I'm being discriminated against," Trump said.

He added that "the Black people" are "on my side now because they see what's happening to me happens to them." Presenting himself as some sort of martyr for civil rights, he claimed that "I am being indicted for you, the Black population."

And there's more: Trump claimed that African Americans are especially drawn to him by the mug shot that was taken when he surrendered to custody on felony charges in Fulton County, Ga. "The mug shot, we've all seen the mug shot, and you know who embraced it more than anybody else? The Black population. It's incredible. You see Black people walking around with my mug shot, you know, they do shirts," Trump said.

For the record, none of the Black right-wing luminaries who joined Trump at the campaign event — a group that included Sen. Tim Scott (R-S.C.), Rep. Byron Donalds (R-Fla.) and former housing secretary Ben Carson — stormed off the stage. Donalds later went so far as to defend Trump's remarks. I guess hearing



Eugene Robinson

African Americans stereotyped as ignorant, gullible and criminally inclined doesn't bother some folks.

In honor of Black History Month, let's review a bit of Trump's history with Black people. In 1973, his real estate company was sued by the Justice Department for discrimination against African American renters; the company entered a consent decree

promising to end the practice. In 1989, Trump took out full-page ads in four New York newspapers urging the state to "bring back the death penalty" in reference to the Central Park Five, a group of Black and Latino men wrongly convicted of a brutal rape; even after the men were exonerated, Trump refused to apologize.

Trump launched his career in politics by making himself the most prominent advocate of the racist "birther" conspiracy theory falsely alleging that Barack Obama was not born in the United States. During Trump's first year in the White House — after a rally by white supremacists and neo-Nazis in Charlottesville led to the death of a counterprotester — Trump said there were "some very fine people on both sides." In 2018, referring to immigration figures, Trump referred to Central American, Caribbean and African countries as "shitholes" that "send us the people they don't want." And that's in addition to Trump's opposition to views held by majorities of African Americans on issues such as affirmative action and voting rights.

Trump won 12 percent of the Black vote in 2020. That was more than GOP presidential candidates usually get — but still, just 12 per-

cent. Republicans have been salivating over recent polls showing more African American support for Trump this time around, along with relatively tepid approval of President Biden.

But on the one occasion so far when substantial numbers of Black voters have had the opportunity to cast ballots — the admittedly not-very-competitive Democratic primary in South Carolina earlier this month — they showed greater enthusiasm for Biden's reelection than other Democrats did.

In election after election, the African American vote has been fool's gold for the Republican Party. The problem is not that there are no Black conservatives; in fact, there are many. It is that the GOP, broadly, has faced African Americans with cluelessness or outright hostility. When Republican officials such as Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis try to censor African American history so that no one feels uncomfortable, or when GOP candidate Nikki Haley insists that "America has never been a racist country," the party's credibility among Black voters tends to evaporate.

Trump's crude rhetorical pandering is certainly a different approach. But not in a good way.

In his speech Friday, Trump boasted of getting a better deal on the cost of a new Air Force One than the Obama administration had negotiated — a claim that turns out to be utterly false. He asked, "Would you rather have the Black president or the White president who got \$1.7 billion off the price?" The crowd of African American conservatives applauded, and Trump boasted, "I think they want the White guy."

Obviously, I can't speak for all African Americans. But my prediction is no, not really. No, we don't.

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Heart surgery, a hero dog, and second chances

What began as some mild symptoms (occasional shortness of breath, a little chest tightness, and a rare sensation radiating down his left arm) took Jim and me on a journey we hadn't anticipated. Jennifer Stevens, our PA, ordered a stress test. Jim failed it, prompting the addition of a cardiologist to Jim's list of specialists.



Anna Spalding

Dr. Akinwande ordered a heart catheterization that was done on Dec. 6, 2023, at Kosciusko Lutheran Hospital. We arrived at 8:30 am that Wednesday. Paperwork and prep were finished at 11:00, and Jim was taken elsewhere for the heart cath. He returned to the room just before noon. At 12:05 Dr. Reed explained that Jim's main cardiac artery was 95 percent blocked. Three to five bypasses would be needed to get around the blockage. Wow! We thought we came in for a heart cath and the placement of a stent or two. Surprise!

Jim wasn't released to go home. Instead he would ride that evening by ambulance to Fort Wayne Lutheran where cardiac surgery would be performed. Knowing the seriousness of the

blockage, the doctor didn't want to take a chance of any of that nasty plaque clogging his arteries breaking free and causing a heart attack before his "plumbing" could be repaired. Jim sent me home after dinner to take care of Java (our chocolate lab) while he waited for transport. He texted at 10:36 to say he'd survived the bumpy ride to FWL.

After days of tests and new medicines and walks around the ward with his IV pole, Jim learned surgery would occur on Monday, Dec. 11. Until then, he strolled around the ward (29 laps = 1 mile). Because Jim was used to walking Java three times a day, walking with an IV pole seemed normal—sort of. I spent most of those days at the hospital with Jim. Dog-loving neighbors (Diane and Jane) let out Java to take care of her potty needs during those days.

We were told what to expect the day of surgery. I would be informed when they took Jim into the operating room, when they put him on by-pass (meaning when they'd stop his heart and let the by-pass machine do the blood-circulating work), when they took him off by-pass and let his heart begin its job again, and when he arrived in a room after leaving



Here's the Thing

Warsaw home and the hospital. Dear friends, the Harveys, stayed with us the day of surgery. Karen, my "soul sister," spent a couple hours with us as we waited. Care Pastor Jamy from Warsaw Community Church sat with us a couple times that day offering comfort, humor, and prayer.

After surgery Dr. Roether explained that the 95 percent blocked left anterior descending artery (a.k.a. the widow maker) was severely diseased and moderately calcified. A 90 percent blockage presented in one of the arteries off the main and 99 percent in the other. The right coronary artery, moderately diseased and moderately calcified, revealed lesser degrees of blockage: 50 percent, 60, and 75. But the ramus coronary artery presented with 90 percent blockage. All that blockage resulted in a quadruple by-pass. While the coronary "plumbing" wasn't healthy, his heart is. Thank God!

A few days later, Jim asked the good (no, make that great) doctor why, with all that blockage, he

hadn't had a massive heart attack. He explained that Jim had a lot of things going for him: he was a nonsmoker, he wasn't obese, and he had been active—going to the Y occasionally and walking Java three times a day. Something known as vascularization had been occurring. Jim's arteries developed new pathways, created new vessels to supply blood to the heart. Jim is sure Java saved his life. Those three walks a day for 9 years made all the difference in the world. Thank Java!

Jim was released from the hospital the following Saturday, Dec. 16. He continued walking indoors. And as he walked that circle around the four main rooms, a furry brown shadow walked with him. I'm thrilled to report that Jim, Java, and I are walking outdoors again, weather permitting. Jim is doing cardiac rehab three days a week and getting in 5,000 steps a day between walks with Java and trips on the new treadmill.

Jim believes he was given a second chance. As he noted on his Facebook post: "I am resolved to try to make some more connections, do some things that can help others, maybe start a small business, travel and see some more of the world."

February is American Heart Month. While the month is nearly over, we still need to be heart conscious. The CDC tells us that "heart disease is the leading cause

of death for men, women, and people of most racial and ethnic groups in the US." Statistics in 2023 reveal that one person dies every 33 seconds from cardiovascular disease. High blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, and smoking are key risk factors. Other medical conditions and lifestyle choices create greater risk: diabetes, obesity, unhealthy diet, low physical activity, and excessive consumption of alcohol.

Here's the Thing: Let's not limit the focus on heart health to one month. All year long we should listen to our bodies and be on the lookout for symptoms, share them with our health professionals, take the medicines prescribed to treat risk factors, and make necessary lifestyle changes. And if a procedure or surgery is recommended that will improve our heart health, we should seriously consider it. Second chances are a blessing that not everyone gets. And, by all means, if we've got a dog, let's walk it—for its health and for ours. n.

Let's talk. annaspalding1956@gmail.com

Editor's Note: This is one of a series of articles written by a group of retired and current teachers — LaNae Abnet, Ken Ballinger, Billy Kreigh, Kathy Schwartz, and Anna Spalding. Their intent is to spur discussions at the dinner table and elsewhere. You may also voice your thoughts and reactions via The News-Banner's letters to editor.



Bluffton Elks donates to Friends Who Care

Bluffton Elks #796 donated \$2,000 to the Friends Who Care Cancer Relief Foundation. The funds are from the Elks National Foundation Community Investment Program grant. Pictured from left are Elks Trustee Nick Huffman, Friends Who Care Board Member Jeff Adams, and Elks Leading Knight Cheyenne Harris. (Photo contributed)

Fort Wayne's Youtheatre presents "The Prom"

Fort Wayne's Youtheatre will present the next two productions at the First Presbyterian Theater.

"The Prom" will be on stage March 1-17. There are 7:30 p.m. performances on March 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16 and 2 p.m. ones on March 2, 10, 17. Admission is \$16 adults and \$12 seniors and children 18 and younger and group rates. Tickets at Artixix o 260-422-4226.

"Ruby Bridges" will run from April 19-21. "Go Dog Go" will be presented at the Allen County Public Library Theatre April 25-28. Both will have sensory friendly performances.

'Making Waves' art at Fort Wayne's Orchard Gallery

"Making Waves" art will be featured at the Orchard Gallery in Fort Wayne throughout the month of March.

All items by the 30 artists will be have a water focus and include wall art, jewelry and pottery.

An open house will be held on Saturday, March 2, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Other hours will be Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The website is www.TheOrchardGallery.com.

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ARENA DINNER THEATER, FW

"Funny Money," March 1-16; "A Delightful Quarantine," April 19-May 4. www.arenadinnertheatre.org

EMBASSY THEATER

Ailey II (dance): March 7; Jason Bell & the 400 Unite: March 8; John Crist: March 9; Disney Princess: Concert: March 12; Simon & Garfunkel Story: March 14; Phil Wockhan: March 16. <http://fwembassytheatre.org/events>

FIRE AND LIGHT PRODUCTIONS, FW

"Finding Nemo Jr., April 11-13, Arts United enter, 303 E. Main St., Fort Wayne. Tickets at fireandlightproductions.com.

BOTANICAL CONSERVATORY

Botanical Speedway: through April 7; botanical-conservatory.org.

FW CIVIC THEATER

"Six Degrees of Separation"

tion," March 15-24; "Jersey Boys," May 4-19. Arts United Center box office 260-424-5220; info at www.fwcvic.org.

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Face2Face April 26; Don McLean: May 18; trine.edu/furth

HONEYWELL CENTER, WABASH

1954 The Tribute: March. 2; Tommy Jones/The Shondells: March 30; Los Lobos: April 6; Etta May & Southern Fried Chicken: April 7; Wayne Newton: April 18;

EAGLES THEATRE, WABASH

Judy Garland Tribute March 27; Free Fall: March 28; Topmy James & Shondells: March 30; Doug Church & The Change of Habait Tribute Band: May 2; Iron Madians & Paradise Kitty: May 7. <https://www.boxofficeticketsales.com/honeywell-center>

SWEETWATER SOUND Performance Pavilion

KennyWayne Shepherd, May 18; Tickets: 800-514-3849 or eTix

BAKER STREET CENTER, FORT WAYNE

Ally Venable: March

9; Tinsley Ellis: March 16; Classic Seger: March 23; Coco Montoya: April 27; www.bakerstreetcentre.com

LERNER THEATRE, ELKHART

Rodney Carrington: Feb. 23; Saxon & Uriah Heep: Hell, Fire & Chaos: May 12; TheLerner.com

WAGON WHEEL, WARSAW

The Man Who Came to Dinner: March 15-17; wagonwheelcenter.org

ABCINEMA, DECATUR

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Jay Leno: March 23; vanwertlive.com

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Knights too much for Raiders, ending hoops season

By RYAN WALKER

PONETO — The Southern Wells basketball season didn't finish the way Raider fans wanted it to — the Southwood Knights (8-14) blitzed the hosting Raiders (8-15) in the sectional quarterfinal 81-50 Tuesday night.

Similar to the two teams' meeting on Dec. 19, the Knights jumped on the Raiders early and quickly, causing a mass of turnovers.

It was a 10-0 run in the first three minutes of the game, already prompting a timeout by head coach Joel Roush to get his group organized. But the full-court press mixed with a mismatch of size and speed, the Knights continued to pounce.

The Raiders had 17 turnovers in the first half, as a 21-8 first quarter bled over to a 42-19 by the break. Southwood scored almost all of its shots on two-point baskets

or free throws — the one that wasn't was a three-pointer by Emery Liddick.

"We haven't gotten off to very good starts all year. I think it speaks to the quality of Southwood," Roush said after the game. "The skill, the talent, the cohesion. If you come out nervous or tentative against a team like that, they're going to bury you, and they did."

Bryce Wilcox, a 6'6" sophomore forward, dropped a game-high 25 points and snagged 11 rebounds, while Maddox Marshall, a speedy 5'9" guard led the fastbreak with 22 points.

Roush said that his team prepared all week for Southwood's style of play, especially after playing them once already in the season. But the size and speed is difficult to simulate in practice, no matter which way they tried it.

On top of Southwood's attack, Southern Wells perhaps played tight and had the magnitude of the game on their minds.

"For the first five minutes, I thought we were extremely nervous," Roush said. "To some degree, everybody is, and if you don't care about (the sectional), maybe you're not nervous, but our guys truly care and truly want to be good, and I just think the nerves got the better of us in the first quarter."

At halftime, perhaps the nerves settled down for a while — Southern Wells outscore Southwood 20-17 in the third quarter.

Chandler Oswalt hit nylon twice from long range, two of his three from there. CJ Reber added a triple and a bucket. The two traded them off back-to-back before Perrin Gates' old-fashioned three in the paint, helping spark a 9-2 run.

Unfortunately, that run didn't carry over for the rest of the game. Southwood put together its third 20-plus point quarter performance to leave no question in the victory.

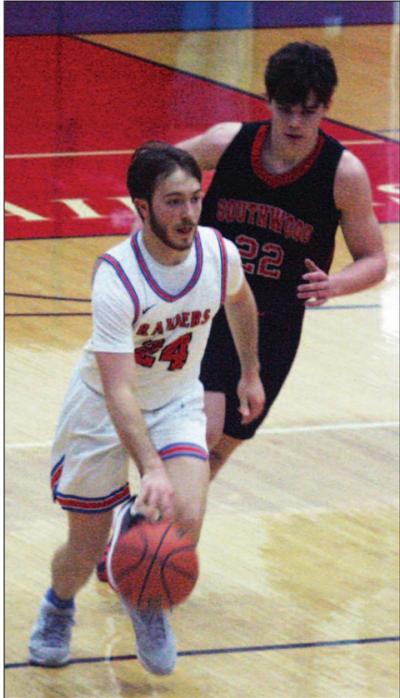
"You saw it in the third quarter how we wanted to play the whole game, but I guess we settled down after halftime and it was probably too late," Roush said.

Last year, Southern Wells graduated a handful of seniors and passed the torch to this group. This was the final game in the careers of Oswalt, Gates, Evan Pennington, Andrew Aker and Caleb Johnson — one of Roush's favorite groups.

He mentions what those four leave behind is a model of hard work and dedica-



Southern Wells seniors Andrew Aker, Chandler Oswalt, Perrin Gates and Evan Pennington (all facing forward) check out for the final time in their high school basketball careers during the fourth quarter Tuesday night at the Raider Dome. The Raiders fell to the Southwood Knights 81-50 in the quarterfinal of the 1A sectional tournament. (Photos by Ryan Walker)



Southwood's Will Winer (right) trails behind Southern Wells' Evan Pennington on a fastbreak.

tion to the game for the players behind them.

The five will also leave behind is something special on the court, as Oswalt, Pennington and Gates are the top three scorers, while Gates and Aker are the top two rebounders on the team.

But Roush hopes that players in the future will pick that up from the five,

"Number 1 there's no give up in them. That's probably the thing that I'm most proud of," Roush said. "I'd like to hope I had something to do with that. They're hard workers, they outlasted a lot of kids in their grade that maybe it didn't mean as much to them. I just think they left a legacy of hard work, commitment, discipline and those types of things."

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SOUTHWOOD 81, SOUTHERN WELLS 50

At Southern Wells
SOUTHWOOD (8-14): Bryce Wilcox 11-16 2-3 25, Maddox Marshall 9-14 2-3 22, Will Winer 8-12 0-0 16, Dalton Barney 2-6 0-2 4, Jaret Denney 1-7 1-2 3, Emery Liddick 1-3 0-0 3, Caleb Wyatt 1-1 0-0 3, Drake Cooper 1-1 0-0 3, Aiden Hawkins 0-1 0-0 0, Randall Boone 0-0 0-0 0.
TOTALS: 34-63 5-10 81.
SOUTHERN WELLS (8-15): Perrin Gates 4-6 5-5 13, Chandler Oswalt 5-15 0-0 13, CJ Reber 4-14 2-2 11, Andrew Aker 2-6 0-1 4, Evan Pennington 2-7 0-0 4, Joshua Aulbach 1-1 1-4 3, Caleb Johnson 1-2 0-0 2, Landon Johnson 0-2 0-0 0, Trey Slusher 0-1 0-0 0. **TOTALS:** 19-54 8-12 50.
Southwood 21 21 17 22 — 81
S. Wells 8 11 20 11 — 50
 Three-point FG: Southwood 5-13 (Marshall 2-4, Cooper 1-1, Wyatt 1-1, Liddick 1-3, Wilcox 1-2, Winer 0-1, Hawkins 0-1), Southern Wells 4-17 (Oswalt 3-11, Reber 1-4, Aker 0-2, Gates 0-1, L. Johnson, Slusher 0-1). Rebounds: Southwood 29 (Wilcox 11, Denney 5, Barney 5, Winer 3, Liddick 2, Marshall 2, Wyatt 1, Southern Wells 24 (Gates 6, Aker 6, Oswalt 4, Reber 3, Pennington 2, C. Johnson 2, Aulbach 1). Turnovers: Southwood 15, Southern Wells 22. Fouls: Southwood 13, Southern Wells 10. Fouled Out: None. Technicals: None.

Knights top Vikings in MS swim

Norwell's swim teams defeated Huntington North on the road at the Huntington YMCA Monday.

The girls team won 129-39, while the boys won 110-60.

First-place finishers were:

- Boys**
- Tyler Zent in the 200-yard freestyle.
 - Ben Peterson in the 50-yard freestyle and in the 50-yard butterfly.
 - Wyatt Goulet in the 100-yard freestyle.
 - Evan Swallow in the 400-yard freestyle.
 - Easton Reinhard in the 100-yard breaststroke.
 - Goulet, Zent, Swallow and Peterson in the 200-yard medley relay.

the 200-yard freestyle relay.

- Girls**
- Faith Grant in the 200-yard freestyle and in the 100-yard backstroke.
 - Mia Kurtz in the 50-yard freestyle and in the 100-yard freestyle.
 - Emma Easley in the 50-yard butterfly and in the 400-yard freestyle.
 - Grant, Kurtz, Easley and Mialkowski in the 300-yard freestyle relay.
 - Swineford, Haiflich, Grisafo and Holmes in the 20-yard freestyle relay.
 - Grant, Haiflich, Easley and Kurtz in the 200-yard medley relay.

High School Calendar

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 28
BOYS BASKETBALL: (Sectional) Bluffton vs. Bishop Luers at Bluffton High School, 7:30 p.m.; Norwell vs. Peru at Mississinewa High School, 7:30 p.m.
THURSDAY, FEB. 29

No events scheduled.
FRIDAY, MARCH 1
TRACK & FIELD (CO-ED): Bluffton at Hoosier State Relays (IWU Troyer Fieldhouse), 5:30 p.m.
SATURDAY, MARCH 2
 No events scheduled.

News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

High School

Monday Boys' Scores

IHSAA Sectionals

First Round

Class 4A

1. E. Chicago Central
- Munster 67, Hammond Morton 66, 20T
2. Chesterton
- Chesterton 57, Portage 51
3. Mishawaka
- Michigan City 71, Plymouth 60
- Mishawaka 50, LaPorte 44
4. Elkhart
- Concord 50, Goshen 44
- Penn 39, Northridge 34
5. E. Noble
- Ft. Wayne North 79, Carroll (Ft. Wayne) 67
- Ft. Wayne Snider 59, E. Noble 47
6. Homestead
- Ft. Wayne Wayne 74, Ft. Wayne South 48
- Homestead 64, Huntington North 53
7. Lafayette Jeff
- Kokomo 69, Lafayette Harrison 50
- Marion 64, McCutcheon 58
8. Noblesville
- Fishers 54, Carmel 41
- Noblesville 67, Zionsville 49
9. Greenfield
- New Palestine 58, Mt. Vernon (Fort-wayne) 56
10. Lawrence North
- Warren Central 66, Lawrence Central 60
11. Southport
- Indpls Roncalli 57, Franklin Central 46
12. Terre Haute South
- Brownsburg 65, Plainfield 53
13. Bloomington North
- Bloomington South 59, Greenwood 32
- Center Grove 60, Mooresville 37
14. E. Central
- Columbus East 41, Columbus North 33

- Whiteland 63, Shelbyville 54
15. Seymour
- Jeffersonville 45, Seymour 27
- New Albany 63, Bedford N. Lawrence 61
16. Evansville North
- Castle 68, Evansville North 39
- Jasper 49, Evansville Reitz 38
- Class 3A**
17. Calumet
- Hanover Central 64, Lake Station 43
18. Tippecanoe Valley
- Glenn 47, Culver Academy 41
19. S. Bend Washington
- Jimtown 58, New Prairie 50, OT
- Mishawaka Marian 51, S. Bend Washington 47
20. Lakeland
- Lakeland 55, Wawasee 53
21. Woodlan
- Ft. Wayne Concordia 61, Garrett 44
22. Frankfort
- Twin Lakes 56, Western 54
23. Mississinewa
- Mississinewa 57, Bellmont 55
24. New Castle
- Yorktown 64, Centerville 45
25. Lebanon
- Danville 75, Western Boone 34
- Tri-West 68, Monrovia 48
26. Owen Valley
- Owen Valley 38, W. Vigo 36
27. Guerin Catholic
- Guerin Catholic 78, Indpls Herron 17
- Indy Brebeuf 52, Indpls Shortridge 32
28. Beech Grove
- Christel House Manual 47, Indpls Ritter 44
- Purdue Polytechnic 60, Speedway 46
29. Greensburg
- Greensburg 43, Rushville 27
30. Scottsburg
- Silver Creek 63, Salem 40
31. Princeton
- Southridge 37, N. Daviess 31
32. Boonville
- Evansville Mater Dei 45, Boonville 40

- Mt. Vernon (Posey) 43, Gibson Southern 36
- Class 2A**
33. Bowman
- Gary 21st Century 72, Lighthouse 42
34. N. Judson
- LaVille 61, South Bend Career Academy 32
35. Westview
- Churubusco 49, Prairie Heights 46
- Westview 56, Fremont 44
36. Cass
- Wabash 56, Rochester 48
- Winamac 55, N. Miami 50
37. Bluffton
- Adams Central 75, S. Adams 52
38. Lafayette Catholic
- Carroll (Flora) 68, Delphi 56
- Lafayette Catholic 71, Seeger 34
39. Tipton
- Tipton 66, Elwood 34
40. Alexandria
- Winchester 67, Alexandria 59
41. Hagerstown
- Shenandoah 55, Knightstown 43
42. Triton Central
- Eastern Hancock 67, Indpls Scocina 41
43. Sheridan
- Covenant Christian 31, Cascade 30
44. Greencastle
- N. Putnam 60, Cloverdale 43
45. S. Ripley
- N. Decatur 62, Milan 57
46. Southwestern (Hanover)
- Providence 57, Eastern (Pekin) 40
47. Paoli
- Sullivan 47, Paoli 39
48. Forest Park
- Forest Park 61, Tell City 28
- N. Posey 60, S. Spencer 49
- Class 1A**
53. Southern Wells
- Southwood 81, Southern Wells 50
54. Fountain Central
- Faith Christian 82, Clinton Central 52
- Rossville 64, Attica 34
55. Tri-Central
- Liberty Christian 71, Anderson Prep Academy 49



Norwell football senior kicker Austin De Leon (bottom, middle) smiles with his family and coaches. Front row, Carlos De Leon (left) and Jessica De Leon (right) sit up front with their son. Back row, Norwell coaches stand with their former player. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

De Leon makes it official, continues kicking career with Saint Francis

By RYAN WALKER

Norwell kicker Austin De Leon inked with Saint Francis Tuesday morning.

It was a long time coming for the Knights' first-team all Northeast 8 Conference kicker, who battled through cartilage damage in his knee freshman and junior years and gave up soccer in the process. Now, De Leon has found a home on the football field for the next four years with the Cougars.

"It's amazing," De Leon said. "I've been working for this for a long time. Finally putting pen to paper is an amazing feeling."

The senior has been the varsity kicker for four years for Norwell, showing off his leg strength and nailed five field goals this year with distances of 51, 46, 41, 31 and 26 yards, 18 of 21 kicks going for touchdowns and 15-16 on PATs.

His experience on varsity gave him the chance to work with several teammates and coaches throughout the years, and plenty of them witnessed the morning signing.

"It means the world. I've grown up with

all these kids and being able to have them supporting me," De Leon said. "I've been playing football with them for the last four years. I've won big games with them and went through a lot with them, so having them here really means a lot."

The proximity to his family, coaches and friends in Fort Wayne was a primary reason for him to choose Saint Francis. The campus felt like home to him, and he gets to see all of his supporters watch him on Saturdays.

Saint Francis wrapped up their most recent season with a 6-4 record just six years removed from a NAIA semi-final appearance. De Leon will be joining 26-year head coach Kevin Donley, a four-time NAIA national coach of the year guy.

As far as special teams coaches, the Cougars are looking to replace their former one who left at the end of the season.

In his time with the Cougars, De Leon plans to study finance. He'll be joining the team in a few months with their summer workout program.

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Family wounds and forgiveness

Dear Annie: When I was 6 years old, my father left my mother for another woman who was 14 years his junior. She had actually been his secretary and had been with him for a couple of years before the divorce. My dad went so far as to even get an apartment for her in the city. She was 16 at the time.

Fast forward, he stayed married to her for about 25 years until she left him for another married man. My dad put her through law school with the money that had been the college savings for my sister and me. My mother had to fight my dad for child support. He did not want to pay.

I have one sister. Eventually, she got a very small child support check. When we would go to my father's house for the summer and some holidays, my dad would stop paying my mother. He would keep it but told us when we came to be sure that we brought everything we needed. He would never buy us anything, even personal items. My sister and I were scorned by his wife about needing anything, saying, "If I were your mom, I would never be taking child support."

After the divorce, Dad dated a girl not much older than me. I had taken them to the airport for a trip to France. I rode in the back seat with my 5-year-old son, and before we left my dad told me to tell her, if she asked, that I was only 20. I was 26 and married to my child's father. I was so embarrassed. Two years later, he married another woman.

I have three grown, independent, successful children, and my sister has two. The saga always continued though. My father's wives are always first.

My dad's 80th birthday came and went, and my sister and I were not invited to the big party that his wife threw for him. We only found out because when we called, he said something about us not being there. We both cried our eyes out; we told him we had been trying to make plans with his wife to do something, and she lied and told us that it wasn't a good time for a party. My dad, when confronted by us, grew angry with us for being upset with his wife, and he wouldn't talk to us for months.

When we visit Dad, we are only allowed to stay two nights, and we have

to make appointments way ahead of time to come. He is now nearly 90. At 62, I'm out of energy with the mental abuse. My sister and I have always kept our mouths shut to keep the peace, for the sake of family. He is the only grandfather our children have known.

Where do I find the strength to continue acting like his actions were OK? There is no confronting him now. His mind is good, but his health is giving out. The alcohol has taken its toll. I'm afraid if he passes before I do, that I will never have had any closure; however, I'm feeling he's too old to ever bring up any issues. Looking for a way to be at peace with the past. — Covering the Past

Dear Covering the Past: I think you can be finished acting. The way your father treated you and allowed your stepmothers to treat you is terrible, and you have every right to be angry. Now the question is, how do you want to channel that anger? First step is accepting the fact that your dad will never be, and has never been, the father you would have liked and deserved. That will be tough to do, but once you acknowledge that, you will see a bit of freedom in it.

Your mother must have been a rock star, judging from how great you and your sister turned out.

The next step would be forgiveness, forgiving this man who was very limited in his ability to truly love or to have a close bond with his children. He is a man who was too weak to stand up to his wife, who was being especially cruel to you and your sister. That is sad. It's sad for you, but it's really sad for him. In the end, he missed out on the special bond that a father can have with his daughter. Forgiveness is a gift that you give to yourself. So give that gift.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.
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Dear Annie

by Annie Lane



BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



ZITS



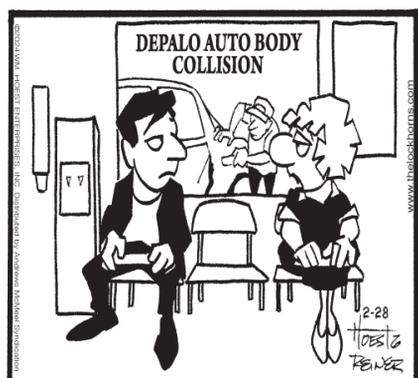
CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



Church is a storehouse of spiritual food

Question: Why are churches so inclined to bury the old hymns of the church and take up new chants that don't move the heart to compassion? When I go to church, I want to experience church, not a rock concert with strobe lights and smoke. My teenagers say that I am old fashioned and can't move with the times. I'm not sure it's wise to move with the times when I see the deception of our times. — P.P.

Answer: The book of Psalms is the Bible's hymnbook. It will show what it means to walk with God in prayer and praise. We must not lose sight of the great

musical heritage that preaches the Gospel message. God raised up men and women whose musical and poetic gifts enriched the lives of God's people and opened the hearts of millions to the Gospel. The hymns and songs of the faith still have a powerful and rich message for us.

Sadly, songs like "Rescue the Perishing, Care for the Dying," disappeared along with the hymnal; its theme has disappeared from many hearts. Those who are spiritually perishing need to hear the Gospel. The old hymns were written by men and women who came through terrible suffering and penned lyrics that have spoken to many people down through the

years. Paul and Silas sang their song of praise at midnight in a rat-infested jail in Philippi, their feet in stocks, their backs raw from the jailer's whip. But their patience in suffering and persecution led to the conversion of the prison warden.

The church is a storehouse of spiritual food whereby the inner person is fed, nourished, and developed into maturity. May we always lift up the Lord Jesus Christ in all that we do.

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

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Billy's final substitute cartoon gives us an overview of Daddy's handiwork.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 With it, once 4 Castle defense 8 Viral phenomenon 12 Jurist 13 Designer 14 Exam format 15 Holy Fr. woman 16 Mis-directed 18 "Poison" shrub 20 Homer's lament 21 Floor cleaners 24 Jazz genre 28 Pro bono 32 Wander 33 Rowing 34 Thousand, in France 36 Lincoln or Ford 37 Forehead 39 Un-defeated boxer nicknamed "Madame Butterfly"

DOWN

1 Radiator sound 2 Words to Brutus 3 Wordsworth work 4 "Outliers" author 5 Flamencho cheer 6 Put two and two together? 7 Frog's kin 8 Beyonce, to Blue Ivy 9 Blunder 10 Goat's cry 11 TV Tarzan Ron 17 Cry 19 Docs' 22 Sandbox toy 23 George Eliot's Marnier 25 — Raton 26 Cameo shape 27 Actress Gilpin 28 Earring site 29 Hoops great 30 Pirate's drink 31 552, in old Rome 35 Rapper Missy 38 Belted areas 40 "You've got mail" co. 42 Genetic curls 45 Curly cabbage 47 Corn Belt state 48 Nullify 49 Eternities 50 Gopher Trevino 51 "2001" computer 52 Request 53 Peace, to Caesar 54 Govt. stipend

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 2-28

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
15			16				17			
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61			62				63			64

02/28	M	A	D1	D2	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM	12:30	
WINM (12)	11	26	63		News	Washington Watch With Tony Perkins	Creflo Dollar	Joseph Prince	Morris	TCT Today	Joyce Meyer	Love Worth	James Robison	Dr. Robert Jeffrey	Jewish Jesus	Andrew Womack	Ask the Pastor	Foundation			
CBS WANE (15)	2	2	15	15	News (N)	Inside Edition (N)	News at 6 (N)	CBS News (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Survivor	Castaways attempt to outwit, outlast and outplay each other for a prize of \$1 million. (SP) (N)	FBI True "Angel of Death" (N)	Nightcast (N)	(35) Late Show-Colbert (N)	(35) After Mid. (N)					
Antenna WANE-2 (352)	106	20			Blue Bloods "Mind Games"	Blue Bloods "Blackout"	Blue Bloods "Thicker Than Water"	Blue Bloods "Trust"	Blue Bloods "By Hook or by Crook"	Blue Bloods "Stirring the Pot"	Blue Bloods "Why Are You Always Lying?" (N)	ABC21 (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel Live! (N)	(35) Tonight Show (N)	(35) Seth Meyers (N)						
ABC WPTA (21)	4	3	21	21	ABC21 News at 5 (N)	ABC21 (N)	ABC World News (N)	ABC21 News (N)	Special (N)	Connors	Not Dead Yet (N)	Abbott (N)	Celebrity Fam (N)	Judge "Why Are You Always Lying?" (N)	ABC21 (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel Live! (N)	(35) Nightline				
NBC WPTA-2 (212)	7	8	14	14	Family Feud	25 Words or Less	News (N)	NBC News (N)	Family Feud (N)	Family Feud (N)	Chicago Med (N)	Chicago Fire "Port in the Storm" (N)	Chicago P.D. "Survival"	News (N)	(35) Tonight Show (N)	(35) Seth Meyers (N)					
MNT WPTA-3 (213)	10	9	56	34	The King of Queens	King "Big of Queens"	Modern Family	News (N)	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Dateline	Dateline	Seinfeld "The Pilot"	Seinfeld	Mom	Mom	Goldbergs "The Goldbergs"				
CW WISE (33)	8	4	33	33	The Steve Wilkos Show	TMZ Live (N)	Dish Nation (N)	TMZ (N)	Wild Cards "Con With the Wind" (N)	Family Law "Bass Fishing" (N)	Dish Nation (N)	TMZ (N)	Family Guy	Family Guy	Bob's Burgers	Bob's Burgers					
PBS WFWA (38)	13	5	39	39	NOVA "Hunt for the Oldest DNA"	PBS NewsHour (N)	BBC News America	LIFE Ahead	Nature "Patrick and the Whale"	Living Wild: Plant-spiration With Hilton Carter (N)	Amanpour and Company (N)	Nature "Paradise: Born to Be Wild"	Amanpour and Company (N)	Sheldon "Pilot"	Young Sheldon	Neighbor	Neighbor				
PBS WFP (48)	3				Indiana Ball State Spo	PBS NewsHour (N)	Nature "Patrick and the Whale"	Nature "Paradise: Born to Be Wild"	Amanpour and Company (N)	Sheldon "Pilot"	Young Sheldon	Neighbor	Neighbor								
FOX WFFT (55)	6	6	55	55	WFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	Big Bang	Big Bang	We Are Family: The non-famous relatives of celebrities perform duets with their hidden famous family member.	FOX 55 News First at 10 (N)											
CABLE CHANNELS																					
LIFE	23	113	108	252	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Married at First Sight "Sex, Lies & Questionable Behavior" (N)	(35) Prison Brides (N)	(35) Married-Sight "Decision Day Dish" (N)	(35) TBA	Married "Sex, Lies & Questionable Behavior"								
FX	24	132	136	148	0000 Avengers: Endgame	Avengers: Endgame	Avengers: Endgame	Avengers: Endgame	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond
TVLAND	25		106	304	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	
E!	26	142	114	236	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	
PARMT	30		241	241	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	
ESPN	31	50	140	206	Around (N)	Pardon (N)	SportsCenter	ESPN BET Live	NBA (L) (N)	NBA Basketball Memphis Grizzlies at Minnesota Timberwolves From the Target Center in Minneapolis. (L) (N)	NBA Basketball Auburn at Tennessee (L) (N)	College Basketball Alabama at Ole Miss (L) (N)	SportsCenter (L) (N)	SportCtr	NFL Live						
ESPN2	32	54	143	209	SportsCenter Special	ESPN BET Live	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	College Basketball	
FSMW	33		418	671	Live on the Line	Life Missouri	Golf Life	Life Missouri	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Ridicule"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Ridicule"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Ridicule"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Ridicule"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Ridicule"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Ridicule"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Ridicule"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Ridicule"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Ridicule"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Ridicule"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Ridicule"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Ridicule"	
USA	34	133	105	242	Live-SVU "One More Tale of Two Victims"	Expedition X "The Beast of Andros Island"	Expedition X "The Beast of Andros Island"	Expedition X "The Beast of Andros Island"	Expedition X "The Beast of Andros Island"	Expedition X "The Beast of Andros Island"	Expedition X "The Beast of Andros Island"	Expedition X "The Beast of Andros Island"	Expedition X "The Beast of Andros Island"	Expedition X "The Beast of Andros Island"	Expedition X "The Beast of Andros Island"	Expedition X "The Beast of Andros Island"	Expedition X "The Beast of Andros Island"	Expedition X "The Beast of Andros Island"	Expedition X "The Beast of Andros Island"	Expedition X "The Beast of Andros Island"	
DISC	35	72	182	278	Expedition X "The Beast of Andros Island"	Dr. Pimple Popper	Dr. Pimple Popper	Dr. Pimple Popper	American Pickers "Chopper King"	American Pickers "Chopper King"	American Pickers "Chopper King"	American Pickers "Chopper King"	American Pickers "Chopper King"	American Pickers "Chopper King"	American Pickers "Chopper King"	American Pickers "Chopper King"	American Pickers "Chopper King"	American Pickers "Chopper King"	American Pickers "Chopper King"	American Pickers "Chopper King"	
TLC	36	73	183	280	Dr. Pimple Popper	American Pickers "Chopper King"	American Pickers "Chopper King"	American Pickers "Chopper King"	Court Cam "Court Cam"	Court Cam "Court Cam"	Court Cam "Court Cam"	Court Cam "Court Cam"	Court Cam "Court Cam"	Court Cam "Court Cam"	Court Cam "Court Cam"	Court Cam "Court Cam"	Court Cam "Court Cam"	Court Cam "Court Cam"	Court Cam "Court Cam"	Court Cam "Court Cam"	
A&E	39	134	118	265	American Pickers "Chopper King"	Court Cam "Court Cam"	Court Cam "Court Cam"	Court Cam "Court Cam"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	
HIST	38	77	120	269	American Pickers "Chopper King"	Court Cam "Court Cam"	Court Cam "Court Cam"	Court Cam "Court Cam"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	
RO	40	117	185	312	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	
HALL	40	117	185	312	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	
SYFY	41	135	122	244	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	
TBS	43	130	139	247	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	
THE	44	131	138	245	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Rena & Lee's Story"													

The Classifieds

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

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Difficulty: ★★★

2/28

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

WELLS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE is currently seeking applicants for the position of Full Time Deputy Sheriff. Applicants must be a US Citizen, at least 21 years of age upon graduation from police academy, possess a high school diploma or equivalent as well as a valid Indiana Operators License. Applicant can't have any felony convictions. Applicants must pass all aspects of the hiring process including physical agility testing, written examination, background investigation, oral interview, polygraph and physiological evaluation. Selected applicant must be able to graduate from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. ILEA certified applicants do not have to attend the physical agility and written examination portion of the process. 20-year matrix salary range for a Deputy Sheriff (no rank) is \$56,600 - \$68,400. Years of service and experience will be honored for a starting salary up to five years in the pay matrix. Pre-Application can be found on our website at www.wellscountysheriff.com. Once pre-application is completed, details on the paper application will be emailed to the applicant. Return completed paper application to 1615 W Western Ave, Bluffton, Indiana 46714 Attn: Chief Deputy Randy Steele no later than 12:00 pm on March 15, 2024.

THE WELLS COUNTY Prosecutor's Office is looking to hire a person for an Investigator position. The position is a part-time county-paid position making \$21/hour. The investigator would be responsible for conducting criminal investigations and assisting the Prosecutor in preparing cases for trial. The investigator must be an effective communicator, be proficient with a computer, be able to work independently, and have the ability to be on 24-hour call for assistance at crime scenes. Interested persons should go to wellscounty.org/prosecutor/ for a more detailed description of this position. Send any resumes to the Wells County Prosecutor's Office, 102 West Market Street, Suite 405, Bluffton, IN 46714 or submit them by email to prosecutor@wellscounty.org.

FOR SALE

5 for \$5

GREAT BUY!

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 and click on classifieds.

SUDOKU ANSWER

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

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

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Lottery Numbers

Tuesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY Cash 5 — 04-05-26-27-33

Cash4Life — 03-17-27-53-59, Cash Ball: 02

Quick Draw Midday — 03-11-14-15-17-22-24-32-38-42-46-50-60-62-63-64-69-75-78-80, BE: 69

Daily Three-Midday — 04-09-08, SB: 06

Daily Three-Evening — 05-09-09, SB: 05

Daily Four-Midday — 09-01-03-07, SB: 06

Daily Four-Evening — 09-05-00-03, SB: 05

Quick Draw Evening — 03-07-08-10-11-14-19-20-37-39-41-44-48-59-62-64-66-69-76, BE: 66

Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$5.4 million
MEGA MILLIONS 06-18-26-27-49; Mega Ball: 4; Megaplier: 3X.
POWERBALL Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$412 million

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Add'l Lines, 88 cents each

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Put your Garage Sale in Wells County's Easy-to-Use Garage Sale Guide!

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SELL YOUR WHEELS!

HOT DEAL!

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just \$25

ADD A PHOTO

for just \$5 more
One item per ad

GUARANTEED SOLD

Your ad runs 'til your item is sold! (6-month maximum). Limited to one-item, private party only.

20 words \$39

Add'l Lines: 88 cents each

ADD A PHOTO!

Your "Guaranteed Sold" ad (up to 20 words) with a Photo: \$44
Add'l Lines, 88 cents each

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Advertise Your Services EVERY DAY in Wells County's Most Popular Daily Marketplace!

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