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Norwell Middle School construction looks to finish line

By HOLLY GASKILL
 During a school board meeting Tuesday, Dylan Markley of Weigand Construction said there's been a "big push" in progress on Norwell construction projects. Weigand is currently circling three projects for the district — the new Norwell Middle School building, buildings for the high school football and baseball fields, and the Ossian Elementary School "refresh."

Markley attributed some of this progress to the decent winter weather. He advised they hoped to have the baseball building ready by April 2. As crews have completed finishing items on the baseball building, they've pivoted toward the same items for the football building. Final construction items are also following at the new middle school building. The school board plans to tour the site before a board

meeting in April. A ribbon cutting of the facility is planned for June. Demolition at OES has also begun, with crews planning to get into the weeds of the project over spring break, March 22-29. The renovation is set to include classroom reconfigurations and new lockers, classroom cabinetry, student furniture, carpeting and painting. OES Principal Theresa Casto said fifth grade classes will begin

instruction in alternative teaching spaces as work begins in their classrooms on Wednesday. She said these spaces were picked by the teachers, which included two classes that will be co-taught in a multipurpose room. "Those fifth grade teachers are champs," Casto said. "There's been good communication, even through the different campuses, principals, this team as well, in coordinating," Markley

said. "The door's always open if there are issues, which we don't anticipate, but I know there's end-of-the-year testing, so we've tried to accommodate with some of our phasing. We'll try to keep the noise mitigated as much as possible." Superintendent Mike Springer reminded the board that because the renovation work is starting now, it will conclude before the
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Wells Museum Cleanup
 The Wells County Historical Society is preparing for the museum's opening in April. A 1913 and 2003 Flood area is being created (pictured below), with the sports room being located to the second floor. Above, Connie Brubaker looks over the sports memorabilia, which includes local schools. At right, Larry McAfee, left, and Jim Sturgeon also help with the cleaning efforts. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)



Norwell partners with new health charting software

By HOLLY GASKILL
 Norwell's school board unanimously voted to add SchoolCare, a digital health charting system, during their meeting Tuesday. SchoolCare is a free healthcare technology for school nurses to track various aspects of their work. Its services include charting each student's use of nursing services, tracking student medications and monitoring health plans. School nurses Sara Clark and Ann McNabb spoke with the board about the software but stated that all of Norwell's nurses favored the technology. Clark said the nurses learned about the software through Fort Wayne Community Schools, who have reportedly used it for over 10 years. Norwell currently uses a combination of PowerSchool and paper documentation, which they described as unsophisticated and clunky. "I can't believe you don't have electronic charting," said board member Chad Kline. "We have a lot of binders," laughed Clark.

According to Clark, the company partners with Medicaid and UnitedHealthcare and allows parents to opt-in through their insurance for continuous tracking of their students' healthcare needs. Clark said this helps the companies learn more about medication usage, possible health warnings, and more, and they then alert parents if needed. However, no participation in that service is required for the free software. The software also comes with a parent app, should the district utilize it. McNabb expressed hesitation in this aspect, saying that notifications without context could cause more anxiety than necessary. That said, McNabb said they planned to utilize email alerts. Board member Corey Krug asked if parents could opt their students out of a chart-

ing service like this. "I imagine that we're probably going to have some people say, 'Don't vote in favor of this. We don't want anything electronic because we don't trust the government.' Even if they're not opting into that portion," Krug questioned. To this, McNabb stated that, in essence, students already have health records in a school database — this one just allows the nurses to track and record data without as much friction. "This is no different than you going into the doctor's office and there's a chart," Clark said. McNabb also noted that the software works alongside PowerSchool and will update records on that website simultaneously. "I think it seems smarter," said board member Traci Neuenschwander. "I mean, you guys are providing health care in the school setting." Krug, Neuenschwander, Kline and board member Angie Topp voted in favor of the software; board member Gene Donaghy was absent. The board also unanimously approved the removal of its COVID-19 Continuous Education Plan. Superintendent Mike Springer referenced recent guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which now give recommendations similar to the flu regarding return to school. The board later approved the purchase of various career and technical education and art-related curriculum and materials. Assistant Superintendent Anna Murphy advised all needed curriculum had not yet been identified, but asked approval for the roughly \$83,000 total. Alongside this, Ossian Elementary School Principal Theresa Casto requested approval for new English Language
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State session takeaways: next year's budget, a 'quieter' cycle

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑOZ, WHITNEY DOWNARD and CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
 Indiana's latest legislative session is over after a breakneck nine weeks that saw nearly 175 bills cross the finish line. After promising a session featuring "measured" changes, lawmakers took up some contentious proposals but shelved others, including several aimed at the city of Indianapolis. And the Legislature has teed up a busy budget season for 2025. Below, the Capital Chronicle team breaks down its top three takeaways. **Mega-session in the making** Legislative leaders sidestepped most

ideas with price tags, delaying Medicaid, education, taxes and roads decisions until next year's longer, budget-building session. "We tried to stay away from those things. ... We probably did punt a few things to 2025," Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray told reporters Thursday, after the Senate concluded its business for the year. House Speaker Todd Huston defended those decisions, telling reporters, "Most things end up having — in some way, shape or form — a budget impact." "Budget sessions are always going to be busy. There's always going to be a lot of issues to address," said Huston, R-Fishers. But Bray said he expected a "pretty mon-
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Board of Works hears bids for sidewalk, curb work


By JONATHAN SNYDER
 Bids for concrete used in sidewalk and curb improvement projects were opened in the Board of Public Works and Safety meeting on Tuesday. Two bids were opened and read, with KBL Transport in Portland having the low bid. Their details included ADA ramps at \$2,350 each, \$65 per lineal foot for both standing and roll curbs, \$18 per square foot for sidewalk concrete and \$20 for concrete drives and approaches six inches deep. JL Wilson Construction in Ossian's bid was over \$1,000 more expensive for ADA ramps, with curbs, sidewalk and approaches prices at over double and in some cases triple what KBL bid. The Board of Works did not approve any bid at the meeting, but Board member Josh Hunt mentioned that when they do, the prices will remain stagnant for the calendar year. Additionally, the board voted to extend their agreement with Christopher B. Burke Engineering, whom has provided support for completing permit activities so Bluffton can follow Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System requirements. The document has not changed over the last year,

with Burke continuing to review and assess Bluffton's programs to identify things and activities that count towards complying with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. Mayor John Whicker described Burke as "good to work with," and that there's still a lot of things to do with the MS4 agreement. Furthermore, the board approved a water bill adjustment for Landyn Wilson on 321 West Horton St. Wilson stated that an underground pipe was leaking throughout December and January. She was notified of the leak on Jan. 25, when she immediately called a contractor and fixed the pipe on Jan. 26. The bill, over the two-month period, rocketed to \$1,400, which the board cut in half. The board also approved a request to close some roads on July 13 for the 4-H 5K race. The race will be held from 7:30-8:30 a.m. The route will be the same as last year's run, with Spring, Johnson, Portman and Clark Streets all closed during that hour. The board also mentioned that the vacant city engineer position has been posted and they are waiting for applications. Scott Mentzer was also present for Tuesday's meeting.
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Outside

 Mostly sunny and warmer, showers tonight

Today	Thursday	Friday
High 69	High 67	High 58
Low 51	Low 53	Low 34

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Online

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NMS construction

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2024-25 school year. “(OES) has kind of embraced the idea that a little bit of sacrifice right now, and then we hit the door running in the summer, and we’re ready to go at the beginning of the school year, and that’s really important.”

Afterward, Springer reviewed the district’s assessed value growth and property taxes, as bills roll out. He recognized that the district has had the fifth-highest assessed value growth among 24 neighboring districts, but stated the board has been committed to keeping the same rate. The district falls into the sixth-lowest tax rate among the same neighboring districts.

“So, if somebody wants to complain about our tax rate, it’s not our tax rate, they need to call the assessor and talk to the assessor

about raising their assessed value,” stated board member Corey Krug.

Springer added, “So, from last year to this year if you’re looking at, ‘Why did my tax bill go up?’ Your tax, like in terms of the school system, our tax rates stay the same. And so that didn’t raise the taxes, but obviously, if your assessed value is more, increased of value is going to be more of a tax burden.”

Citing a recent Wells County Economic Development study, board member Chad Kline said, “While we might think our house values are going up significantly, they really aren’t. They’re actually still on the lower end of the state. We’re just not used to it going up as fast as it is.”

The district did anticipate a lower debt service rate in 2024, however, the board issued a \$6.1 million bond to

pursue a series of construction projects, including the OES renovation project and baseball and football buildings.

The board also heard an update from Raina Sisson, food and nutrition director, about food service. The program ran a promotion for National School Breakfast Week last week, including “Free Breakfast Friday” for the elementary schools. The schools served 674 students breakfast on Friday — in February, they served 283 per day on average.

Sisson hopes to conduct a “refresh” of her own in the OES cafeteria with some new decor. Lancaster Elementary School has already received some of these new items, and NMS has gotten new cafeteria tables and chairs.

Sisson also highlighted several efforts to include more fresh food variety and

homemade food options for the students, including the introduction of smoothies and the return of the Norwell-famed turkey shortcake. The latter was met with excitement by some of the board members.

“You brought back the original turkey shortcake?” asked board member Traci Neuenschwander.

Sisson admitted the recipe was modified, but added with a smile, “I will tell you — those ladies over at the high school, middle school campus, they worked tirelessly. That is a difficult, difficult recipe. The kitchen was an absolute mess, but it was worth it. It’s not something we can do every week — let’s just put it that way.”

Later, the board renewed the Norwell’s membership in the Food2School Cooperative, which Sisson has been a large asset to the district.

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Weather

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:03 p.m. Tuesday)

High: 68; Low: 42; Precipitation: None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 3.79 feet at 8:45 p.m. Tuesday

Wells County forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 69. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Tonight: A chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 51. South wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Thursday: Showers and possibly a thunderstorm. High near 67. South wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

Thursday Night: Showers and possibly a thunderstorm. Low around 53. Southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

Friday: Showers and thunderstorms likely before 11 a.m., then a chance of showers between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 58. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 34.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 53.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 40.

Sunday: Partly sunny, with a high near 47.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 29.

Health charting software

(Continued from Page 1)
Arts curriculum, Amplify/CKLA. The board gave approval, contingent on parent review, as the district planned to have two opportunities at Lancaster Elementary School on Wednesday.

According to Springer, the curriculum costs over \$300,000. However, Casto emphasized that the curriculum extends for six years. Springer also stated it was comparable to the cost of the district’s math curriculum.

The new curriculum follows new state guidelines for the initiative known as the “Science of Reading.” Casto said the curriculum identification process went quite smoothly between administrators, teachers and committee members. The board commended their initiatives, noting that the state change would probably create a backorder for similar materials.

In addition, the board:

- Recognized the athletic accomplishments of its winter athletes who competed at the state level, the girls’ basketball team, swimmer



The board for Norwell Community Schools celebrated the success of the girls’ basketball team, swimmer Rylan Heyerly and wrestler Hunter Douglas during their meeting Tuesday. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

Rylan Heyerly, and wrestler Hunter Douglas.

- Considered the first reading of a district policy regarding the Family and Medical Leave Act. Springer advised this was largely similar to the federal policy, but included several more specific prescriptions for both classified and certified personnel.

- Accepted the following resignations: NHS head wrestling coach John Johnson, NHS teaching assistant Kelly Putt, NMS teaching assistant Andrew Rodgers,

LES special education teaching assistant Hollie Inostroza and Kimberly Gerber from LES Bobcat Care.

- Approved the employment recommendations for Thomas Wolf as NHS E-Sports assistant coach, Damon Kulenbeck as NMS head tennis coach, Bradley Nelson as NMS assistant track coach, Kyle Murray as NMS volunteer assistant boys’ soccer coach, and Jeffrey Speicher and Charlotte Rex as NHS 2nd shift custodians.

- Recognized donations of \$100 from Truland Equipment to NHS FFA and \$780 from the Deb Neuenschwander Memorial Endowment for the OES library.

- Approved out-of-state trip requests for fifth grade students at OES to visit the Neil Armstrong Air and Space Museum in Ohio on April 12 and seventh grade students at NMS to travel to Kings Island in Ohio on May 16.

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Session takeaways

(Continued from Page 1)
umental” next session, highlighting a two-year task force seeking to reshape Indiana’s tax system.

“We may see some fairly significant tax reformation around the state of Indiana ... (20)25 will be a significant year, I think,” Bray, R-Martinsville, added.

The Legislature’s two primary budget architects have already started putting the pieces together.

“Medicaid, education (and) how much revenue will we have? It’s that simple, isn’t it?” said Rep. Jeff Thompson, chair of the House’s Ways and Means Committee.

Senate Appropriations Committee leader Sen. Ryan Mishler, R-Mishawaka, has been outspoken about his Medicaid growth worries. Spending on the program grew 2% last year, from 15% of the budget to 17%. That occurred even as the state’s spending on education fell by the same percentage, from 50% to 48%.

“You can’t sustain that,” Mishler said last week. “Now we find ourselves with ... unexpected growth in that eight-month period between the two forecasts. I think we have to get our arms around it.”

In December, the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) announced a nearly \$1 billion “variance” over the remainder of its Medicaid budget. In response, the agency adopted several cost-cutting measures, shelving a 2% Medicaid index and halting an attendant care program for parents of disabled children that it said counted for much of the unanticipated growth.

In response, lawmakers approved a proposal increasing FSSA accountability, primarily by requiring the agency to present a plan for monitoring Medicaid expenses to the Medicaid Oversight Committee along with an explanation of the \$1 billion error.

“We just have to figure out what we can do and you still have to offer the services, but at a cost you can afford,” Mishler said. “I guess that’s where we have to find that middle spot.”

Across the aisle, House Minority Leader Phil GiaQuinta noted an additional wrinkle to budget negotiations: the expiration of enhanced federal funding designed to offset COVID-19 losses.

“The budget has really been backed up by a lot of federal dollars,” said GiaQuinta, D-Fort Wayne. “I think there’s going to be a time when the rubber

hits the road here with regards to ... vouchers or private funding versus how we’re going to fund public education. So I think that’s going to be a real question on the table next year.”

Indiana has long allocated the largest portion of its budget on education. That sector could see major changes next year.

Mishler wants to overhaul Indiana’s private school vouchers with a grant program that would allow all Hoosier families — regardless of income — to choose where their students get educated. His Senate Bill 255 was discussed at the Statehouse but did not move during the session.

“I just took all of the different facets of education funding and threw them all into one pot, pretty much,” Mishler said of the legislation. “The vouchers, the (career savings accounts), the (education scholarship accounts). Parents say they want choices and we claim that we give them choices. We just have to decide what choices we’re going to give them.”

Whether the overhaul will have teeth is still to be determined, though.

“I (heard the bill) because a lot of people asked me about it. So this year I just kind of put it out there to see what kind of feedback I got. (It) was, ‘We want to protect ours. We don’t want a new one. We want to protect what we have,’” he continued. “I got a lot of that. ... I think you’ll see some changes but I don’t know what at this point in time. But there’s enough people, I think, that want to see some changes in that, so it’s something we’ll take a look at.”

State lawmakers have also teed up a road funding overhaul.

Municipalities, particularly the city of Indianapolis, have long complained the state’s formula shortchanges them. Separately, state officials are worried about the transition away from gas-powered vehicles, which funds the bulk of Hoosier road construction and maintenance.

As part of the overhaul, lawmakers expect to consider having the Indiana Department of Transportation re-take former state highways ceded to Indianapolis. That includes almost 20 Indianapolis roads, according to a 2023 INDOT asset report.

Though debate has centered over on Washington and Meridian streets, Rep. Jim Pressel, R-Rolling Prairie, said, “The conversation is really about all of them.”

But Pressel, who leads the House’s

roads-focused committee, already has concerns.

“We set a dangerous precedent if we start taking back roads that were relinquished years ago,” Pressel said. “If we take them back, is everybody going to come to INDOT and say, ‘Well, you took it back for Marion County. Now are you going to take ours back?’”

He noted that the state pays local units to take possession of roads, but units typically don’t pay the state to re-take them.

Pressel also pushed for pavement condition ratings, asking, “What is going to cost us to bring them back up (to par)? We need to know that for a lot more (roads).”

Huston said infrastructure is key for a state known as the “Crossroads of America.”

“We’re going to have to look at if and how that might need to be modernized,” he told reporters last week. He said he’s looking forward to “hav(ing) that discussion” with “local government partners.”

But leaders have also been skeptical of communities asking for more road funding without maxing out their wheel taxes and other funding mechanisms. Indianapolis, for example, has historically shot down such tax increases until state funding increases.

Was it a quieter session?

Republican legislative leaders previously promised a less “aggressive” 2024 session that focused more on bills to tweak and fine-tune, rather than overhaul. Citing bustling sessions in the three years prior, they vowed to stay away from gambling expansion, water fights or costly initiatives during the non-budget reconvening.

And aside from a statewide reading overhaul that built off a “science-of-reading” effort begun last year, many of the other bills that passed were low-stake code changes.

To that end, lawmakers snuffed out several contentious bills.

That included proposals to further restrict abortions and ban certain funding for the procedures. Those bills and others like them never received hearings.

Also avoided was a potential culture war fight over the use of “gender” in state law. House Bill 1291, authored by Rep. Chris Judy, R-Fishers, would have replaced the term “gender” with “biological sex” in certain Indiana statutes to describe the condition of being physically male or female. The bill never made it on a committee schedule.

Inflation up in sign that price pressures remain elevated

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumer prices in the United States picked up last month, a sign that inflation remains a persistent challenge for the Federal Reserve and for President Joe Biden’s re-election campaign, both of which are counting on a steady easing of price pressures this year.

Prices rose 0.4% from January to February, higher than the previous month’s figure of 0.3%, the Labor Department said Tuesday. Compared with a year earlier, consumer prices rose 3.2% last month, above January’s 3.1% annual pace.

Excluding volatile food and energy prices, so-called “core” prices also climbed 0.4% from January to February, matching the previous month’s rise and a faster pace than is consistent with the Fed’s 2% inflation target. Core inflation is watched especially closely because it typically provides a better read of where inflation is likely headed.

“It’s a disappointment, but not a disaster,” said Eric Winograd, U.S. economist at asset manager AB. “The underlying details are more encouraging than the top-line number, which was boosted by a few volatile categories — the type of prices that tend not to repeat month-to-month.”

Those volatile items include gas prices, which jumped 3.8% just from January to February but are still below their level of a year ago. Air fares surged 3.6% after two months of much

smaller increases. Clothing prices rose 0.6% after three months of declines but are unchanged compared with a year earlier.

Housing and rental costs, though, which tend to change more gradually, cooled in February: They rose 0.4% from January, slower than the 0.6% increase the previous month. Measures of new apartment leases, which have cooled, are expected to feed into the government’s inflation data in the coming months.

New car prices ticked down 0.1% in February. Though these prices remain much higher than they were before the pandemic, they’re expected to decline further as more vehicles show up on dealer lots. Grocery prices were unchanged last month and are up just 1% from a year earlier.

Despite February’s elevated figures, most economists expect inflation to continue slowly declining this year. At the same time, the uptick last month may underscore the Fed’s cautious approach toward interest rate cuts.

Voter perceptions of inflation are sure to occupy a central place in this year’s presidential election. Despite a healthy job market and a record-high stock market, polls show that many Americans blame Biden for the surge in consumer prices that began in 2021. Though inflationary pressures have significantly eased, average prices remain about far above where they stood three years ago.



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OBITUARIES

Barbara Van Vactor Miller, 69



Barbara Carol Van Vactor Miller passed away Sunday, March 10, 2024, at the age of 69, surrounded by her family. She was born in Plymouth, Indiana, to Harold and Marjorie (Mudgie) Van Vactor. Barb graduated from Plymouth High School in 1973 and completed her undergraduate and graduate studies at Indiana University in Bloomington. While at I.U., she met David Miller, and they married in June of 1978.

In 1979, Barb and Dave moved to Phoenix, Arizona, to start a business, and in 1981, had their first child, Patrick David. Missing their families, they sold their business and moved back to Indiana, settling in Bloomington. It was then that Barb started her storied 28-year career at the I.U. Kelley School of Business, first teaching Business Communications and shorthand, and then the Intro to Computers course, K201. Over the years she became known as "the Queen of K201," and led the design of the laboratory portion of the course and coordinated all of the Teaching Assistants and Peer Tutors.

In 1984, Barb and Dave welcomed their daughter, Sarah Maria, into the world. Even as a busy faculty member at I.U., Barb was the guiding hand in raising their two kids and coordinating their academic, arts and sporting activities. They spent their Bloomington years making great friends and spending time at "The Institute" and then hosting get-togethers at their Cabot Court Pub, Pool and Pong house.

In 2003, they moved from Bloomington up to Plymouth to be involved in the Van Vactor family real estate development, and while there, Barb designed and taught the Intro to Computer lab course at Notre Dame for six years. She took time off to care for both her parents in their later years. She made great friends in Plymouth and was active in her Book Club and the "Ladies of the Lake" social activities. She loved walking around the lake with her friends and catching up on the latest happenings.

Barb loved to spend hours in her garden and was certified as a Master Gardener. Her other outside activities in Plymouth included the P.E.O. Sisterhood as a Former President and member of Chapter DO; a member of the Tri Kappa Plymouth Associate Chapter; and the First United Methodist Church Community Meal Committee. Barb was the secretary of her Plymouth High School Class of 1973 and worked on all the reunion committees over the years. Barb also coordinated all the activities for the annual Hutchings Reunion, and she spent many years as the Secretary of the Pretty Lake Property Owners Association.

In Bloomington, she was on the Board of the Youth Services Bureau of Bloomington, and a member of the 100+ Women Who Care organization.

Barb is survived by her husband, David, formerly of Bluffton; son, Patrick (Natalie) Miller and daughter, Sarah (Pablo) Fuentes; siblings, David (Chris) Van Vactor, Stephen (Maria) Van Vactor and Patricia (Edward) Wright; four grandchildren, Abigail, Benjamin, Weston and Parker; in-laws, Rick and Kerrie Miller, and Leslie Miller and Lola; her Aunt Ruth Kinney, Aunt Helen (Larry) Beedy, Aunt Toni Hutchings and Uncle Jim Hutchings; as well as many cousins, nieces and nephews and their families who were so dear to her.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents; parents; sister, Judy; brother, Gary; and nephew, Michael. Friends and family say Barb was loving, selfless, compassionate and generous. She was a beautiful ray of light even through her last days, as she spent time with loved ones and looked out at the sunsets over Pretty Lake. She was at peace knowing she had lived a full, wonderful life, with so many people who have loved and supported her over the years. She was happy knowing she would be able to see the people she loved again.

They say that love always ends in grief, and many people are grieving the loss of an amazing woman. As we remember Barb's smiling face, we can be reminded of all of the beautiful memories we all made with her.

In lieu of flowers, Barb would prefer you make donations in Plymouth to the P.E.O. Star Scholarship Fund (3700 Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50312), the First United Methodist Church Community Meal Program (400 N. Michigan Street, Plymouth, IN 46563) or The REES Theatre (100 N. Michigan Street, Plymouth, IN 46563).

Visitation will be held from 12:30-2:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 16, 2024, at the First United Methodist Church, 400 N. Michigan St. in Plymouth. A memorial service will immediately follow at 2:30 p.m. with Pastor Lauren Hall officiating. A Celebration of Life will be held from 4-6 p.m. at The REES Theatre, 100 N. Michigan St., in Plymouth.

An additional Celebration of Life will be held in Bloomington from 1:30-3:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 24, 2024, at the I.U. Kelley School of Business, 1275 E 10th St. in Bloomington. In Bloomington, donations may be made to the Youth Services Bureau of Monroe County (615 S. Adams Street, Bloomington, IN 47403) or The Boys and Girls Clubs of Bloomington (PO Box 1716, Bloomington, IN 47402).

Johnson-Danielson Funeral Home is honored to be entrusted with the arrangements. Condolences can be left for the family at www.johnson-danielson.com.

Joel A. Hoehn, 67, peacefully passed away on March 9, 2024. Joel was born on Sept. 6, 1956, in Silver Lake, Indiana, to Robert and Norma Hoehn. He had one older brother, Jeff. His family later moved to Waynedale, where he was a graduate of Wayne High School in 1975. His childhood was spent riding bikes with his friends. He later upgraded his two wheels to a classic 1972 Nova leading to a lifetime love of classic muscle cars. As he and his brother got older they shared memories of cruising in their cars and attending NASCAR races together.

He met his wife of 37 years, LaDonna, in 1986. Joel has two children, a son Kortoney of Chicago, and daughter, Heather of Denver. Joel enjoyed many family vacations in Frankenmuth, Michigan, and to the beaches of the Carolinas.

Joel was an avid I.U. basketball fan, one of his final moments spent watching IU win with his children at his side. Joel enjoyed many hobbies including spending time outdoors, woodworking, and do-it-yourself projects.

The most notable, a complete remodel on the early 1900s family home in Ossian. He dedicated his life to providing for his family by servicing northern Indiana and parts of Ohio as a professional land surveyor and owner of Stody Associates in Bluffton. Joel began his career in land surveying at the age of 17. Joel volunteered for 35 years to wetland conservation. Joel was a kind and soft spoken man who was always offering a helping hand. He will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

Joel is preceded in death by his parents Robert and Norma Hoehn. He is survived by his wife, LaDonna; brother, Jeffrey (Faith) Hoehn; son, Kortoney Gaff; daughter, Heather Hoehn. As well as an extended family of beloved friends.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Joel Hoehn Memorial Scholarship Fund through the Wells County Foundation. Donations may be made online at wellscountyfound.org

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

of the Youth Services Bureau of Bloomington, and a member of the 100+ Women Who Care organization.

Barb is survived by her husband, David, formerly of Bluffton; son, Patrick (Natalie) Miller and daughter, Sarah (Pablo) Fuentes; siblings, David (Chris) Van Vactor, Stephen (Maria) Van Vactor and Patricia (Edward) Wright; four grandchildren, Abigail, Benjamin, Weston and Parker; in-laws, Rick and Kerrie Miller, and Leslie Miller and Lola; her Aunt Ruth Kinney, Aunt Helen (Larry) Beedy, Aunt Toni Hutchings and Uncle Jim Hutchings; as well as many cousins, nieces and nephews and their families who were so dear to her.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents; parents; sister, Judy; brother, Gary; and nephew, Michael.

Friends and family say Barb was loving, selfless, compassionate and generous. She was a beautiful ray of light even through her last days, as she spent time with loved ones and looked out at the sunsets over Pretty Lake. She was at peace knowing she had lived a full, wonderful life, with so many people who have loved and supported her over the years. She was happy knowing she would be able to see the people she loved again.

They say that love always ends in grief, and many people are grieving the loss of an amazing woman. As we remember Barb's smiling face, we can be reminded of all of the beautiful memories we all made with her.

In lieu of flowers, Barb would prefer you make donations in Plymouth to the P.E.O. Star Scholarship Fund (3700 Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50312), the First United Methodist Church Community Meal Program (400 N. Michigan Street, Plymouth, IN 46563) or The REES Theatre (100 N. Michigan Street, Plymouth, IN 46563).

Visitation will be held from 12:30-2:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 16, 2024, at the First United Methodist Church, 400 N. Michigan St. in Plymouth. A memorial service will immediately follow at 2:30 p.m. with Pastor Lauren Hall officiating. A Celebration of Life will be held from 4-6 p.m. at The REES Theatre, 100 N. Michigan St., in Plymouth.

An additional Celebration of Life will be held in Bloomington from 1:30-3:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 24, 2024, at the I.U. Kelley School of Business, 1275 E 10th St. in Bloomington. In Bloomington, donations may be made to the Youth Services Bureau of Monroe County (615 S. Adams Street, Bloomington, IN 47403) or The Boys and Girls Clubs of Bloomington (PO Box 1716, Bloomington, IN 47402).

Johnson-Danielson Funeral Home is honored to be entrusted with the arrangements. Condolences can be left for the family at www.johnson-danielson.com.

Joel was an avid I.U. basketball fan, one of his final moments spent watching IU win with his children at his side. Joel enjoyed many hobbies including spending time outdoors, woodworking, and do-it-yourself projects.

The most notable, a complete remodel on the early 1900s family home in Ossian. He dedicated his life to providing for his family by servicing northern Indiana and parts of Ohio as a professional land surveyor and owner of Stody Associates in Bluffton. Joel began his career in land surveying at the age of 17. Joel volunteered for 35 years to wetland conservation. Joel was a kind and soft spoken man who was always offering a helping hand. He will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

Joel is preceded in death by his parents Robert and Norma Hoehn. He is survived by his wife, LaDonna; brother, Jeffrey (Faith) Hoehn; son, Kortoney Gaff; daughter, Heather Hoehn. As well as an extended family of beloved friends.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Joel Hoehn Memorial Scholarship Fund through the Wells County Foundation. Donations may be made online at wellscountyfound.org

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:
Monday, 4:57 p.m., 500 block of Eastmoor Drive. Report of subject acting strangely and going into unknown residence. One woman taken to jail.

Monday, 5:33 p.m., Beth Avenue and West Jefferson Street. Officer flagged down in regard to a loose and aggressive dog in the area.

Monday, 8:46 p.m., 500 block of Beth Avenue. Officer spoke to owner of a dog who advised the animal got out but is typically contained.

Monday, 9:27 p.m., Walmart. Driver cited for speeding 60 in a 40 mph zone.

Tuesday, 4:58 a.m., North Morgan and West Wabash streets. Driver cited for speeding and driving while suspended.

Tuesday, 6:36 a.m., North Main Street and Charles Deam Court. Driver arrested for driving while never receiving license.

Tuesday, 11:11 a.m., North Main and East Wabash streets. Semi truck driver ran out of gas and requested traffic control.

Tuesday, 1:59 p.m., Walmart. Report of subject in vehicle for two days and making female employees uncomfortable. Told management to advise him to leave the property.

County:
Monday, 8:26 p.m., S.R. 116 and North 300 West, Markle. Report of a deer in ditch, still alive after accident.

Monday, 10:03 p.m., East 300 North and North Main Street, Bluffton. Driver cited for speeding 73 in a 55 mph zone.

Tuesday, 6:42 a.m., 4500 South 300 West, Poneto. Caller reported they hit a dog with their vehicle, unsure where dog went. Officer located the dog and contacted owner, who took animal to the vet.

Tuesday, 7:14 a.m., North Main Street and

S.R. 124, Bluffton. Driver cited for expired license plate.

Tuesday, 10:22 a.m., West 900 North and North 300 West, Markle. Driver cited for speeding and obviously oversized tires.

Ossian:
Monday, 2:13 p.m., 1600 West 1200 North, Ossian. Caller reported that a distant relative stopped by with a pink T-mobile bag and kissed the caller on the neck romantically when dropping the bag off. The man allegedly left several empty alcohol containers, a shot glass, underwear and a cob of corn, both with fecal matter.

ARRESTS
Serenity Gabrielle Southard, 20, Liberty Center; burglary, a Level 6 felony, and public intoxication by drugs, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$6,000.

Jorge Josihel Granados Caballero, 42, Fort Wayne; operating without ever obtaining a license, a Class C misdemeanor.

Ossian Rotary will hear about upcoming Solar Eclipse

Ossian Rotary is participating in the upcoming eclipse mania that seems to be sweeping the country. To prepare for our time in the path of the total eclipse, Ossian Rotary will welcome Adams County Emergency Management Agency Director Barb Lehman and Deputy Director Magen Wilson, who together have ten years' experience in emergency management for Adams County.

Barb and Magen have been planning for the 2024 total solar eclipse since February 2023, by attending webinars, training and contacting Emergency Management directors in other states who experienced the 2017 total solar eclipse.

The Emergency Management and Preparedness Agency provides the support, tools and resources to ensure that Adams County can build, sustain and improve its capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from and mitigate all hazards.

Although the eclipse is not considered a hazard, it may bring large crowds into the path of total darkness, in which Wells County sits.

Anyone is welcome to attend Ossian Rotary this Thursday morning, at 7:30 at First Baptist Church of Ossian, 1001 Dehner Drive, for this program.

For more information, please contact Jeremy Penrod, Ossian Rotary President, at jeremy.penrod@edwardjones.com.

Please note that Ossian



Magen Jinnings and Barb Lehrman will speak at Ossian Rotary this Thursday, March 14. (Photo provided)

Rotary will cancel when Norwell Community Schools has a delay or cancellation due to weather.

Next Thursday, March 21, Ossian Rotary will hear from Megan Jinnings of the Adams Wells Crisis Center.

Rotary International is the world's largest international service organization. Rotary brings together a global network of volunteer leaders dedicated to tackling the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges. Rotary connects 1.2 million members of more than 33,000 Rotary clubs in over 200 countries and geographical

areas. Their work impacts lives at both the local and international levels, from helping families in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world.

Juanita P. Russell
Calling: 3 - 7 p.m.
Thursday, March 14.
Funeral: 11 a.m.
Friday, March 15 at the funeral home.
Woodwin-Cole & Hamill Memorial Chapel
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Locally Owned and Operated Since 1922
St. Rd. 124 East, Bluffton
824-3852

Obituary Policy

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

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

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

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Biden as James Buchanan, Trump as Andrew Jackson

It is a matter of discipline with me to avoid listening to political speeches. They are hardly edifying and the current trend is a pronounced one toward less and less enlightenment each time a politician rises to his legs and starts talking. Last week's State of the Union address by President Biden accelerated the velocity in that direction if the news reports, all with their own biased spins of course, are indicative.



Mark Franke

Hoosier Opinions

Instead, I spent the time taking refuge in historical reflection. To avoid total depression when considering this election's offering of candidates, I found solace in looking backward through our history to find times that were not all that much different from ours. There have been tightly contested and bitterly controversial elections before; 1800, 1824, 1860 and 1876 come to mind.

As I contemplated those elections, what caught my fancy was not the similarity of circumstances but the resemblance of candidate characteristics. Which presidents in the past remind us of our current two?

Donald Trump's was the easier character to match so I will start with Joe Biden.

My immediate Biden thought turned to James Buchanan. Both served at a crisis time in our nation's history when we were tearing ourselves apart through vitriolic speech and a tendency toward violence. Buchanan failed miserably in keeping the nation together and my opinion of Biden's record is no better.

Another similarity is that both men seemed unduly subservient to their cabinet level and other federal officers. When the cabinet room is overpopulated with extremists and incompetents, that does not portend well. Buchanan's reputation was to have deferred to his cabinet on all important decisions, and Biden's track record suggest the same modus operandi as he has a proclivity for doubling down on the most controversial policy ideas the extreme left of his party can dream up.

My list could be longer but getting to Donald Trump is an irrepensible urge.

To find Trump's historical example, Andrew Jackson's case proved too good to pass up.

Andrew Jackson was viewed as the candidate of the common man, standing against the coastal elites who controlled the presidency. Prior to Jackson, every elected president was either a Virginia planter or a Massachusetts Adams. It was the eastern economic and intellectual aristocracy against the rough-and-ready settlers in what was then called the West, everything past the Appalachians.

At Jackson's inauguration his supporters scandalized polite society by tramping through the White House without formal invitation, treating it literally as the "People's House." They were the early nineteenth century deplorables, surely in love with their guns and their religion.

Old Hickory did not disappoint them as president. He took on the National Bank, the epitome of the "swamp" of that day. He faced down his political opponents, sometimes with physical threats, and caned a presumptive assassin to the point of death.

Donald Trump has never fought a duel; Jackson fought at least three and survived. Nor has Trump ever horsewhipped a United State Senator like Jackson tried. Trump's weapon of choice is his tongue, a weapon Jackson was not unwilling to use. I won't quote Jackson here; you can find his most outrageous ones with a simple internet search.

One final similarity is intriguing to consider. Jackson lost the 1824 election but contested the outcome. He claimed the election was stolen from him by East Coast elites. Sound familiar? Now look to his rematch with Adams in 1828, an election he won by a landslide. I will need to wait for November to learn if the same outcome holds.

If my Jackson-Trump comparison has any value, it will be with the MAGA crowd which sees Trump as a populist hero fighting to restore democracy to the common people. The major difference between Trump and Jackson was that Old Hickory was effective in advancing his agenda while Trump can point to precious few political victories during his term.

I had another thought about a Donald Trump historical doppelganger, one that will be more palatable to the Trump-haters. Aaron Burr never became president, not for lack of trying, and he got every bit as much metaphorical hate mail as Trump gets.

Burr was involved in his own election controversy in 1800 when he refused to concede to Thomas Jefferson, the apparent winner. Congress eventually put paid to Burr's ambition as did Mike Pence to Trump's.

Burr also was accused of instigating insurrection but acquitted by a jury based on a literal reading of the Constitution's language on treason. Trump's insurrection trial may, should, come down to a literal reading of the Fourteenth Amendment. Too bad for Trump that he doesn't have John Marshall as the presiding judge as Burr did.

Too bad for all of us that we don't have John Marshall on today's Supreme Court.

Mark Franke, an adjunct scholar of the Indiana Policy Review, is formerly an associate vice chancellor at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, March 13, the 74th day of 2024. There are 293 days left in the year.

Today's highlight in history: On March 13, 2013, Jorge Bergoglio of Argentina was elected pope, choosing the name Francis. he was the first pontiff from the Americas and the first from outside Europe in more than a millennium.

On this date:

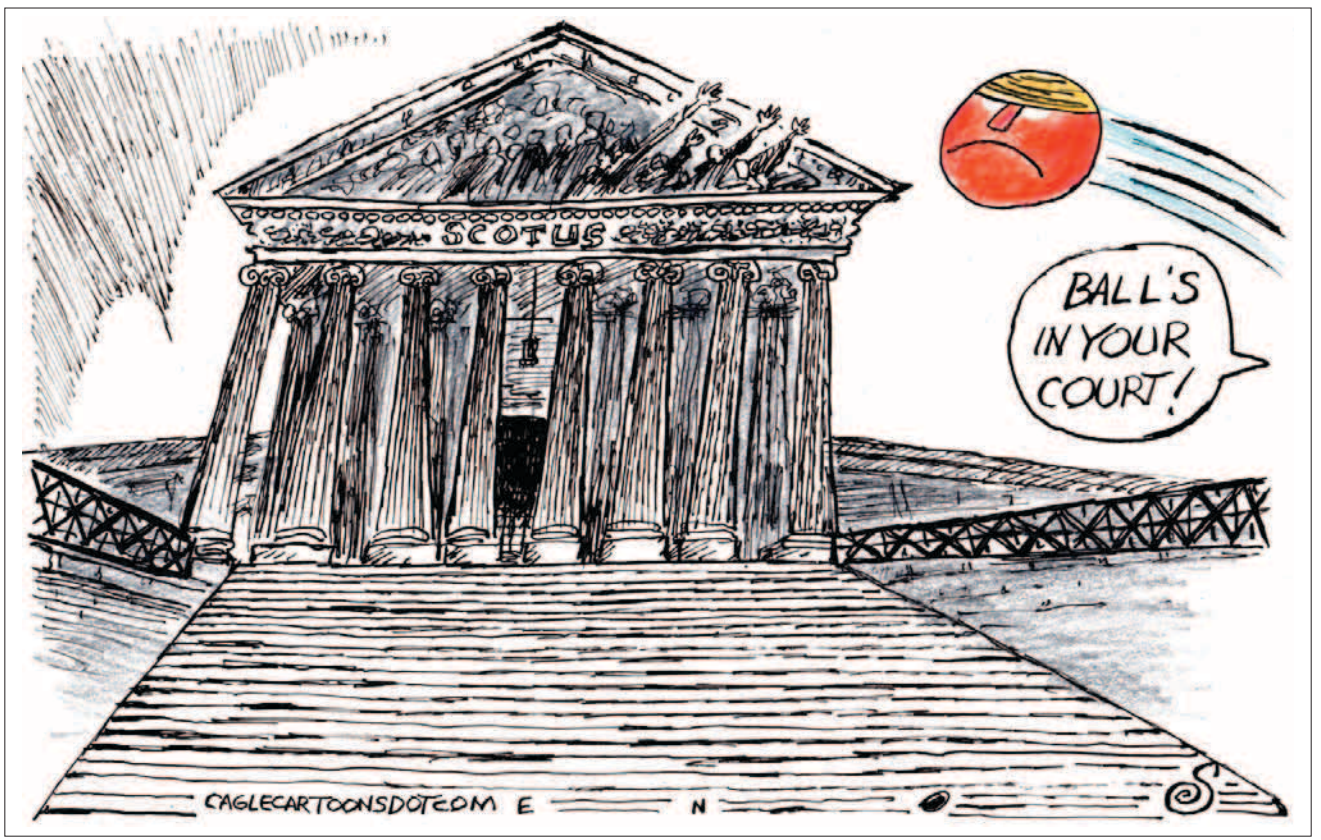
In 1781, the seventh

planet of the solar system, Uranus, was discovered by Sir William Herschel.

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed a measure prohibiting Union military officers from returning fugitive slaves to their owners.

In 1933, banks in the U.S. began to reopen after a "holiday" declared by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1938, famed attorney Clarence S. Darrow died in Chicago.



A so-called activist Supreme Court shrugs at extreme campus speech rules

Although the Supreme Court is frequently accused of improper "activism," it is often guilty of passive dereliction of duty. It was last week, when it refused to correct the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit's lackadaisical tolerance of the culture of enforced conformity on campuses.

Virginia Tech's "Bias Intervention and Response Team" policy designated teams composed of school officials to scurry about in response to reports of unacceptable ideas. The policy encouraged students to report — anonymously online, if they preferred — anything that "feels like" bias. The university defined bias broadly as "expressions" — students' conversations, posters, voice mails, emails, texts, jokes, etc. — seen or heard (or overheard, or heard about), on campus or off.

Bias could be against a "person or group" because of "age, color, disability, gender (including pregnancy), gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law." "Genetic information"? Bias-detectors cannot be too exhaustive.

The university warned students — as though they might not already be sufficiently nervous — to consider their "language, images, and other forms of communication to make sure all groups are fairly represented." The bias-sniffing bureaucracy's apparent assumption was that students should maintain a mental inventory of all possible forms of communication, every conceivable "group," and what constitutes "representation" and what representation is "fair."

This suffocatingly comprehensive policy provoked Speech First, a national organization opposing threats against free speech on campuses. It estimates that more than 450 schools have bias-response speech-policing regimes.

After a district court refused Speech First's request to enjoin Virginia Tech's practices, the organization appealed last year to the 4th Circuit, which allowed Virginia Tech's severe regulation of speech to continue. The 4th Circuit majority's reasoning was, however, shredded by Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson's dissent.

He correctly insisted that Virginia Tech's policy had "incipient inquisitorial overtones" and turned the campus into "a surveillance state" where the First Amendment existed "at the sufferance of a bureaucracy." His complacent colleagues said there was no "direct" evidence of "objectively" chilled speech. (Well, yes: Self-censorship is silent; suppressed thoughts are undetectable.) The 4th Circuit's majority said the bias response teams could not punish. (They could, however, refer any matter to university entities that can.) The majority said that bias response teams could only "invite" an accused student to a "voluntary" meeting with a

university official. (The mincing language does not disguise the menace.)

The name "Bias Intervention and Response Team" radiates prejudice by the university, which preserves a file of all complaints. And the blandly named Informational Activities Policy forbade distributing fliers or collecting signatures without the school administration's prior approval.

Last week, the supposedly activist Supreme Court passively refused to hear Speech First's appeal against the 4th Circuit's passivity. Justice Clarence Thomas, joined by Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr., vigorously dissented, saying that Virginia Tech's regulating of speech "appears limitless in scope": "From the moment a student enters the university until graduation, he is under the university's surveillance." On campus and off.

Citing Wilkinson's warning that wary students will decide that expressing their thoughts is not worth the potential trouble, Thomas warned that until the court clearly speaks about First Amendment rights on all campuses, there will be a national "patchwork" of rights. Students in regions covered by different circuit courts will be able to challenge oppressive school administrations. Students in less fortunate regions can still be pressured to avoid controversial speech in order, Thomas wrote, to "escape their universities' scrutiny and condemnation."

UCLA law professor Eugene Volokh says that nowadays "censorship envy" generates reciprocal speech suppressions: One ban (e.g., on speech celebrating Hamas's atrocities) causes people who disagree with it to assert an entitlement to a reciprocal ban (e.g., on speech defending Israel's countermeasures). Virginia Tech evidently suffers from "Stasi envy," a desire to emulate East Germany's surveillance-and-suppression apparatus that depended on a culture of anonymous informers.

After emphatically asserting the constitutionality of its speech-control apparatus, Virginia Tech suddenly modified it, clearly hoping that the Supreme Court would do what it did last week: It declared Speech First's challenge moot, meaning no longer a live controversy. Thomas, however, noted: "Other universities have attempted a similar maneuver" — what one circuit court dryly called "a sudden change of heart, during litigation," about their speech codes, to claim mootness. But, Thomas noted, two circuit courts "have found that these policy changes did not moot Speech First's challenges."

The Supreme Court, which can produce clarity when the circuits produce confusion, is, critics charge, too "activist." Hardly.

georgewill@washpost.com.



George Will

President and Congress need an intervention

When some people appear beyond help because of addiction or other circumstances they can't control, family members have been known to stage an intervention. Congress and President Biden need an intervention as their addiction to spending exceeds anything seen in history.

In his State of the Union address last week, the president invoked one of his party's favorite lines about corporations and the rich not paying their "fair share" in taxes. Notice they never say what they consider fair and when Democrats manage to hike the tax rate it's never enough.

The president claimed he has reduced the "deficit" (as opposed to the debt, which continues to grow). He takes credit for the reduction in spending following the Covid-19 pandemic, but that produced a decrease in the increase of spending, not an actual reduction. In the way the government mis-figures things, if you spent \$500 on a credit card one month and \$400 the following month, you would have decreased your spending, but still added \$900 to what you owe. See how this works?

The top 1 percent of taxpayers — those who earn \$561,351 or more — paid 42.3 percent of the total tax revenue collected in 2020, according to the latest figures from the IRS. In fact, the top 1 percent of taxpayers



Cal Thomas

paid more income taxes than the bottom 90 percent combined. And yet the president wants to squeeze more blood from these successful "turnips." Notice Democrats never suggest cutting a single dollar in spending, or eliminating programs that don't work, or have exceeded their "sell-by" date. Instead, they demand more from the successful to subsidize and buy votes from people who pay no taxes, many of whom receive government checks.

Basic economics appears among the casualties of what is not taught in today's public schools and universities. Let me help the uninformed and misinformed. Too much debt is a dead weight on the economy and on individuals.

From America's beginning, there have been warnings of the threat to the nation of large debt.

As this is the 100th anniversary of Calvin Coolidge's presidency, let's begin with a few of his thoughts on debt: "Public debt is a burden on all the people." Under Coolidge the debt fell. About taxes, he said: "The collection of taxes which are not absolutely required, which do not beyond reasonable doubt contribute to public welfare, is only a species of legalized larceny. Under this Republic the rewards of industry belong to those who earn them."

What has changed in one century? Again, it is the transition from self-reliance to an over reliance on government.

George Washington warned the new nation to avoid "the accumulation of debt, not only by shunning occasions of expense, but by vigorous exertions in time of peace to discharge the debts." Washington also believed it wrong to place "upon posterity the burden which ourselves ought to bear." As with many of the other Founders, Washington would likely be appalled that moderns are ignoring his sage advice.

Why don't more of us pay attention to the wise words of men like these and to what history teaches about nations that fall too deep into debt? Again, the answer is that so many people have been misled to rely on government first and themselves last that they have become addicted to government and the borrowed money that keeps those checks coming.

As with other addictions from which the addicted cannot free themselves, an intervention is much needed. One can happen in November if enough non-addicts vote for candidates who are committed to putting our financial house back in order. First, they have to change their thinking about what was supposed to be a limited government so that "we the people" might be unlimited in our pursuit of happiness.

tcaeditors@tribpub.com

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Don't settle for ordinary... jump off YOUR bank!

Note: The following is based on my 04-16-2015 journal entry from our Wabash River to the Gulf of Mexico (source-to-sea) kayak trip.

A storm chased us to the tent, resFor the first few miles after we left Logansport, Indiana, today, we encountered shallow waters again. The resulting rapids are stressful to me—John enjoys the challenge. I expected rapids before Markle, but not this far downstream. Before yesterday, I can't remember the last time I heard John say, "Follow me" as we maneuvered our way through the rocks that created the bubbling waters. Interesting how things disappear from your life without you even realizing they're gone. Fortunately, the North Eel River pours into the Wabash below Logansport, causing the river levels to increase and the rapids to go away. A disappearance I was aware of and thankful



LaNae Abnet

for. The water levels aren't the only things changing: the foliage is becoming lush, the soil sandier. In addition, the river flows around more islands. Yes, islands in the Wabash River! John, as always, had something to add—his definition of an island. "The difference between an island and a sandbar is an island has a tree."

I love to challenge John's pretense at knowledge, so I asked, "If an island has only one tree and the tree dies, does the island become a sandbar?" Silence—he didn't have an answer. (John without an answer? Amazing!) No matter what the actual definition of an island is, seeing islands in the Wabash River surprised me. Because of my research while preparing for our trip over the last year, I knew islands exist in the Mississippi but didn't realize they are also in the Wabash. Another example of the education my river view is providing.

Our wildlife spotting from our



river view today consisted of our first cormorant of this trip and a pair of pileated woodpeckers. John and I reminisced about an additional cormorant encounter we experienced

on our way home from the Arctic Ocean near Inuvik, Northwest Territories, several years ago. We had decided to spend a few days at a campground on a small lake in Nebraska. Kayaking in the lake one day, we saw a tree with dozens of black birds, wings outstretched in a drying position—a perfect picture for a Halloween poster. Before we could investigate, they flew away. (Question: What's more eerie than an assembly of black birds in a tree? Answer: An assembly of those same black-winged creatures flying over your head.) We snapped some pictures for identification. Pulling up the pictures on our camera when we returned to our tent, we searched in a bird book and identified the birds as cormorants. Now, every time I see a cormorant, I fondly remember the campground in

Nebraska and our Arctic Ocean trip. Years from now, what will spark cherished memories of this journey on the Wabash, Ohio, and Mississippi Rivers?

Just another day, another few miles, on the Wabash River. Rapids appearing and disappearing. Islands discovered. Definitions fabricated. Memories revisited and new ones made. All in a day on the river. All not seen from my land view. I'm thankful we left the bank and entered this adventure.

Here's the Thing: When our trip was just a conversation, I had reservations about jumping off the bank. *What will others think? How much will this adventure cost? What will I need to sacrifice? How much time will I have to give up? Are there dangers?* I wanted to stay safely on the bank.

As I thought about the types of trips we had already taken, I realized the travels that interest me were unusual to the ordinary person. I consider myself ordinary—I climb out of bed, brush my teeth, exercise, eat breakfast, read my devotions, complete my household chores, eat lunch, work in my garden, take a shower, prepare and eat dinner, watch *Dark Shadows*

(OK that's not ordinary), and then climb back into bed. Maybe some would describe me as boring.

Thank goodness, I have John to help me discover ways to jump off the bank. John says, "If you don't experience adventures for yourself, you don't have anything to share with others." I want to tell my family and friends about the exciting places I have traveled and voyages I have completed. I don't want to remain a typical friend, mother, and grandmother. I want the people I touch to want to do the unexpected and know they too can accomplish the extraordinary. I want them to jump off their banks!

Jump off YOUR bank!
Follow us at *Separate Boats on Instagram, Facebook, or on our webpage: www.separateboats.com*
jlabet@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.

Area Things to See and Do

ALL FOR ONE PRODUCTIONS, FORT WAYNE
www.allforonefw.org

ALLEN COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM
Journey: April 19; www.memorialcoliseum.com

ARENA DINNER THEATER, FORT WAYNE
"Funny Money," March 1-16; "A Delightful Quarantine," April 19-May 4; "The Drowsy Chaperone," June 14-29. www.arenadinnertheatre.org

CLYDE THEATRE, FORT WAYNE
ClydeTheatre.com or at 1-800-514-3849.

EMBASSY THEATER, FORT WAYNE
Simon & Garfunkel Story: March 14; Phil Wockhan: March 16; Buddy Nolan Memorial Organ Concert: Beatles Memorial Concert: April 17; May 4; Blippi: June 12; http://fwembassytheatre.org/events

FIRE AND LIGHT PRODUCTION, FORT WAYNE
"Finding Nemo Jr., April 11-13, Arts United enter, 303 E. Main St., Fort Wayne. Tickets at fireandlightproductions.com.

1ST PRESBYTERIAN THEATRE, FORT WAYNE
firstpresfortwayne.org/theater/

BOTANICAL CONSERVATORY, FORT WAYNE
Botanical Speedway: through April 7; botanical-conservatory.org.

FORT WAYNE CIVIC THEATER
"Six Degrees of Separation," March 15-24; "Jersey Boys," May 4-19; "Something Rotten," July 21-30. Arts United Center box office 260-424-5220; info at www.fwcivic.org.

FORT WAYNE MUSEUM OF ART
"Lucky Monster" work by Jiha Moon. Open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (until 8 p.m. on Thursdays, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. www.fwmoa.org

FURTH CENTER, ANGOLA
Face2Face April 26; Don McLean: May 18; Hotel California: May 31; trine.edu/furth

ABCINEMA
130 W. Monroe St. Decatur, IN • 260-724-SHOW

Gabirini
Wednesday, March 13th 6pm
Friday, March 15th 6:30pm
Saturday, March 16th 1:20pm, 4:30pm & 7:40pm
Sunday, March 17th 2:30pm

Kung Fu Panda 4
Thursday, March 14th 6:20pm
Friday, March 15th 6pm & 8:20pm
Saturday, March 16th 1:45pm, 4pm, 6:15pm & 8:30pm
Sunday, March 17th 2pm & 4:20pm

Dune Part 2
Thursday, March 14th 6pm
www.abcinemainc.com

HONEYWELL CENTER WABASH
Tommy Jones/The Shondells: March 30; Los Lobos: April 6; Etta May & Southern Fried Chicken: April 7; Wayne Newton: April 18; Warren: April 19; Mutts Gone Nuts: April 20; Led Zeppelin Evening: April 21; Alice: April 27; Salute to the 60's: April 31; Killer Queen: July 12; Sawyer Brown: Aug. 1; Tusk: Aug. 3; Happy Together Tour: Aug. 18; HoneywellArts.org.

EAGLES THEATRE, WABASH
Judy Garland Tribute March 27; Free Fallin: March 28; Topmmy James & Shondells: March 30; Doug Church & The Change of Habait Tribute Band: May 2; Iron Madians & Paradise Kitty: May 7; Duke Tumatote: Kulu 11; Twitty & Lynn: July 18; Lynch Mob with George Lynch: Aug. 22; War Hippies: Aug. 23; https://www.boxofficeticket-sales.com/honeywell-center

ARTS UNITED CENTER, FORT WAYNE
Fort Wayne Ballet: fortwayneballet.org

PURDUE-FW THEATER
www.pfw.edu/visual-performing-arts.

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424-2400 or at www.sciencecentral.org

SWEETWATER SOUND, FORT WAYNE
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; Bayou Country: May 11; www.bakerstreetcentre.com

PIERE'S ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE, FORT WAYNE
Etix.com

PARKVIEW FIELD, FORT WAYNE
ticketmaster.com

LERNER THEATRE, ELKHART
Saxon & Uriah Heep: Hell, Fire & Choas: May 12; TheLerner.com

WAGON WHEEL, WARSAW
The Man Who Came to Dinner: March 15-17; wagonwheelcenter.org

ABCINEMA, DECATUR
130 W. Monroe St., Decatur. Information: www.abcinemainc.com or 260-724-SHOW

NISWONGER CENTER, VAN WERT
Jay Leno: March 23; vanwertlive.com

Cookie selling crew
Girl Scouts from Troop 52172 visited the First Presbyterian Church in Bluffton Sunday morning as they arrived with cookies to thank church members for allowing their troop to meet each Thursday at the Church. (They also offered cookies for sale and announced they had already sold over a 1,000 boxes and had only a few more available for purchase.) The scouts pictured left to right are Brigette, Aurora, Aubree, Madalynn, Ella Destiny and Chloe. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

Events at the Fort Wayne riverfront

Upcoming events at Fort Wayne's Promenade park will include the following:

The free Green Thumb Garden Tour will be held on Sunday, March 17, from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be workshops, activities and displays with a garden presentation at 1 p.m.

On Saturday, March 23 the Spring Celebration of Birds, Bugs & Blooms will be held from noon to 3 p.m. at the Park Foundation Pavilion. Activities will include a scavenger hunt, creating a bug hotel and a demonstration by Soarin Hawks from noon to 1 p.m.

Kickboxing will be presented on the Sundays of April 14 and May 12 with Boxing 9 Round from 9 a.m. and Yoga from 10:30-11:30 a.m. A free event.

More information about all events at Riverfrontfw.org.

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Southern Wells FFA competes in contest

This past Saturday, Southern Wells FFA competed at Huntington University for District 6 contest. The chapter brought around 37 members and competed in many events, including public speaking, demonstrations and scrapbooking. With all of these entries, they earned first place in six contests, second place in 10 contests, and third place in five contests. Along with these many successes, Southern Wells also won Top District 6 Chapter. (Photo provided)

Biden clinches nomination and Trump is getting closer

By STEVE PEOPLES
AP National Political Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden clinched the Democratic presidential nomination with decisive victories in Georgia and Mississippi on Tuesday, overcoming concerns about his leadership from within his own party as the 2024 presidential contest shifts to a general election rematch that many voters do not want.

Donald Trump, too, was on pace to secure his party's nomination despite serious political and practical liabilities of his own. The Republican former president, a defendant in four felony cases, also won Georgia and Mississippi but was just shy of the threshold needed to clinch the GOP nomination with votes still being collected across Washington state and Hawaii.

Overall, Tuesday marked a crystallizing moment for a nation uneasy with its choices in 2024.

There is no longer any doubt that the fall general election will feature a rematch between two flawed and unpopular presidents. And that rematch — the first featuring two U.S. presidents since 1912 — will almost certainly deepen the nation's searing political and cultural divides over the eight-month grind that lies ahead.

In a statement, Biden celebrated the nomination while casting Trump as a serious threat to democracy.

Trump, Biden said, "is running a campaign of resentment, revenge, and retribution that threatens the very idea of America."

He continued, "I am honored that the broad coalition of voters representing the rich diversity of the Democratic Party across the country have put their faith in me once again to lead our party — and our country — in a moment when the threat Trump poses is greater than ever."

On the eve of Tuesday's primaries, Trump acknowledged that Biden would be the Democratic nominee, even as he unleashed a new attack on the president's age.

"I assume he's going to be the candidate," Trump said of Biden on CNBC. "I'm his only opponent other than life, life itself."

Despite their tough talk, both Biden and Trump are grappling with glaring flaws.

Trump is facing 91 felony counts in four criminal cases involving his handling of classified documents and his attempt to overturn the 2020 election, among other alleged crimes. He's also facing increasingly pointed questions about his policy plans and relationships with some of the world's most dangerous dictators. Trump met privately on Friday with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, who has rolled back democracy in his country.

The 81-year-old Biden is working to assure a skeptical electorate that he's still

physically and mentally able to thrive in the world's most important job.

He's also dealing with dissension within his party's progressive base, which is furious that he hasn't done more to stop Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza. Last month in Michigan, a related protest "uncommitted" vote attracted more than 100,000 votes and actually secured two Democratic delegates.

Ahead of Tuesday's vote, a scattering of lawn signs across Seattle urged primary participants to vote "uncommitted" as well, with some signs reading: "Over 30,000 dead. Vote Ceasefire by Tuesday 3/12."

Moments after Bella Rivera, 26, dropped off her ballot at a drop box in Seattle, they said they hoped that by voting "uncommitted" that it would serve as a wake-up call for the Democratic party.

"If you really want our votes, if you want to win this election, you're going to have to show a little bit more either support of Palestinian liberation — that's something that's very important to us — and ceasing funds to Israel," said Rivera, a preschool teacher who uses they/them pronouns.

Meanwhile, Trump is on pace to win the number of delegates needed to clinch the GOP nomination.

He picked up an additional 11 delegates ahead of Tuesday's primaries when the Texas Republican Party announced it was awarding all of the state's 161 delegates to the former president, based on results from last week's primary. The Texas GOP had been planning to award 11 delegates at the state party convention in May, but national party rules require the delegates to be awarded based on the presidential primary, which Trump won overwhelmingly.

That put Trump just 126 delegates short of the 1,215 needed to win the Republican nomination at the party's national convention this summer. There are 161 Republican delegates at stake on Tuesday in Georgia, Mississippi, Washington state and Hawaii.

With a strong showing on Tuesday, Trump can sweep all the delegates in Georgia, Mississippi and Washington state. Hawaii allocates delegates proportionally so other candidates could win a few, even with a small share of the vote.

Not certain he will hit the mark, Trump's campaign has not planned a big victory party like it did last week when hundreds packed his Mar-a-Lago club for a Super Tuesday celebration with drinks and passed hors d'oeuvres.

On the ground in Georgia, retiree Donna Graham said she would have preferred another Republican nominee over Trump, but she said there's no way she'd ever vote for Biden in the general election.

"He wasn't my first choice, but he's the next best thing," Graham said of Trump. "It's sad that it's the same old matchup as four years ago."

Russia says it killed 234 fighters while thwarting Ukraine incursion

By JIM HEINTZ and
HANNA ARHIROVA
Associated Press

Ukrainian long-range drones smashed into two oil facilities deep inside Russia on Tuesday, officials said, while an armed incursion claimed by Ukraine-based Russian opponents of the Kremlin unnerved a border region just days before Russia's presidential election.

The attack by waves of drones across eight regions of Russia displayed Kyiv's expanding technological capacity as the war extends into its third year. The cross-border ground assault also weakened President Vladimir Putin's argument that life in Russia has been unaffected by the war, though he remains all but certain to win another six-year term after eliminating all opposition.

The Russian Defense Ministry said that Moscow's military and security forces killed 234 fighters while thwarting the incursion. In a statement, the

ministry blamed the attack on the "Kyiv regime" and "Ukraine's terrorist formations," insisting that the Russian military and border forces were able to stop the attackers and avert a cross-border raid. It also said the attackers lost seven tanks and five armored vehicles.

The reports of border fighting earlier on Tuesday were murky, and it was impossible to ascertain with any certainty what was unfolding in Russia's Kursk and Belgorod regions. Cross-border attacks in the area have occurred sporadically since the war began and have been the subject of claims and counterclaims, as well as disinformation and propaganda.

Soldiers who Kyiv officials say are Russian volunteers fighting for Ukraine claimed to have crossed the border. The Freedom of Russia Legion, the Russian Volunteer Corps and the Siberian Battalion released statements and videos on

social media claiming to show them on Russian territory. They said they wanted "a Russia liberated from Putin's dictatorship."

The authenticity of the videos couldn't be independently verified.

Fighters coming out of Ukraine attempted to reach the town of Tetkino, which lies close to the border, according to the governor of Russia's Kursk region, Roman Starovoit. He said Tetkino was being shelled.

"There was an attempt by a sabotage and reconnaissance group to break through. There was a shooting battle, but there was no breakthrough," he said in a video message on Telegram.

The Russian Defense Ministry said the Tetkino attacks were driven back, but provided no further details.

It also said Ukrainian fighters made at least four attempts to cross into the Belgorod region but all attacks were repelled by warplanes, artillery and missiles.

U.S. lawmakers say TikTok won't be banned if it finds a new owner. But that's easier said than done

By MATT O'BRIEN
AP Technology Writer

U.S. lawmakers are threatening to ban TikTok but also say they are giving its Chinese parent company a chance to keep it running.

The premise of a bipartisan bill headed for a vote in the U.S. House of Representatives is that TikTok fans in the U.S. can keep scrolling through their favorite social media app so long as Beijing-based ByteDance gives up on owning it.

"It doesn't have to be this painful for ByteDance," U.S. Rep. Raja Krishnamoorti, an Illinois Democrat and bill co-sponsor, recently posted on X. "They could make it a lot easier on themselves by simply divesting @tiktok_us. It's their choice."

But it's not going to be as simple as lawmakers are making it sound, according to experts.

WHO WOULD BUY TIKTOK?

While some people have voiced an interest in buying TikTok's U.S. business — among them "Shark Tank" star Kevin O'Leary — there are a number of challenges including a 6-month deadline to get it done.

"Somebody would have to actually be ready to shell out the large amount of money that this product and system is worth," said Stanford University researcher Graham Webster, who studies Chinese technology policy and U.S.-China relations. "But even if somebody has deep enough pockets and is ready to go into negotiating to purchase, this sort of matchmaking on acquisitions is not quick."

Big tech companies could afford it but would likely face intense scrutiny from anti-trust regulators in both the U.S. and China. Then again, if the bill actually becomes law

and survives First Amendment court challenges, it could make TikTok cheaper to buy. "One of the main effects of the legislation would be to decrease the sale price," said Matt Perault, director of the University of North Carolina's Center on Technology Policy, which gets funding from TikTok and other tech companies. "As you approach that 180-day clock, the pressure on the company to sell or risk being banned entirely would be high, which would mean probably the acquirers could get it at a lower price."

HOW WOULD IT WORK?

The bill calls for prohibiting TikTok in the U.S. but makes an exception if there's a "qualified divestiture."

That could only happen if the U.S. president determines "through an interagency process" that TikTok is "no longer being controlled by a foreign adversary," according to the bill. Not only that, but the new U.S.-based TikTok would have to completely cut ties with ByteDance. That includes no more "cooperation with respect to the operation of a content recommendation algorithm or an agreement with respect to data sharing."

It reflects longstanding concerns that Chinese authorities could force ByteDance to hand over data on the 170 million Americans who use TikTok. The worry stems from a set of Chinese national security laws that compel organizations to assist with intelligence gathering.

It's an unusual bill in the way that it targets a single company. Typically, a government group led by the Treasury secretary called the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, or CFIUS, will review whether such a sale would pose any national security threats.

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

FUN PAGE

LEPRECHAUN LAUGHS

Where do leprechauns like to hang out?
On the paddy-o

What type of music do leprechauns like?
Sham-rock 'n' roll

How do leprechauns exercise?
They push their luck.

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BUILD A LEPRECHAUN TRAP

Set your trap on St. Patrick's Eve before going to bed. If you wake to find a treat in your trap, you caught a leprechaun!

- Use a jar, box or empty tissue box to build your leprechaun trap.
- Decorate your trap using rainbows, shamrocks, stickers, glitter or anything else you think might lure a leprechaun.
- Create a trapping mechanism at the entry point of your trap. You can angle a stick or straw to prop open a trap door, or drape some felt over the top.
- Build a ladder leading to your trap's entry point using pipe cleaners or craft sticks.
- Deposit some pennies, foil-wrapped coins or lucky charms inside your trap or on top of the felt as bait.
- Set your trap before going to bed on March 16. Remember, a leprechaun will only visit while you're sleeping.
- Check your trap in the morning. Sneaky little leprechauns rarely stay trapped, but if you caught one who escaped, you might find he left behind a treat for you!

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Edey and Painter give Purdue top AP Big Ten honors

By ERIC OLSON
AP Sports Writer

Purdue's Zach Edey repeated as Associated Press Big Ten player of the year Tuesday and Matt Painter of the Boilermakers is coach of the year for the second straight season.

Edey was the unanimous choice for top honors in balloting by 14

journalists who cover the conference. Illinois' Marcus Domask is the newcomer of the year.

Painter, who shared coach of the year with Northwestern's Chris Collins in 2023, edged out Nebraska's Fred Hoiberg by one vote for this year's coaching award.

The 7-foot-4, 300-pound Edey leads the Big Ten with 24.2 points and 11.7 rebounds per game and is shooting a conference-best

61.7% from the field. Since 1992-93, Edey is among three players nationally with two seasons of 700 points and 350 rebounds. He's the only player in Big Ten history to accomplish that.

Northwestern's Boo Buie joins Edey as unanimous picks to the AP All-Big Ten first team. Buie is averaging 18.9 points per game and has improved his 3-point percentage from 31.8% last year to 43.1% to rank second in the Big Ten.

Joining Edey and Buie on the first team are Purdue's Braden Smith and Illinois' Terrence Shannon Jr. and Domask.

Domask, a graduate transfer from Southern Illinois, started all 31 games and scored in double figures in 21 of his last 22 games,

including all 10 Big Ten road games.

Painter led Purdue to 28 regular-season wins and 17 conference wins, both school records. The Boilermakers also have won two straight Big Ten regular-season titles and will go for back-to-back conference tournament championships this week in Minneapolis.

Hoiberg's Cornhuskers, picked 12th in the Big Ten in the preseason, finished third for their highest conference finish since 1992-93. The Huskers' 22 wins are tied for second on the school's all-time list.

FIRST TEAM

u-Guard — Boo Buie, Northwestern, Gr., 6-2, 180, Albany, New York.

Guard — Braden Smith, Purdue, So., 6-0, 175, Westfield, Indiana.

Forward — Terrence Shannon Jr., Illinois, Sr., 6-6, 225, Chicago.

Forward — Marcus Domask, Illinois, Gr., 6-6, 215, Waupton, Wisconsin.

u-Center — Zach Edey, Purdue, Sr., 7-4, 300, Toronto.

— "u" denotes unanimous selection.

SECOND TEAM

Guard — Jahmir Young, Maryland, Sr., 6-1, 185, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

Guard — Tyson Walker, Michigan State, Gr., 6-1, 185, Westbury, New York.

Forward — Dawson Garcia, Minnesota, Jr., 6-11, 230, Savage, Minnesota.

Forward — Coleman Hawkins, Illinois, Sr., 6-10, 230, Sacramento, California.

Center — Kel'el Ware, Indiana, So, 7-0, 242, North Little Rock, Arkansas.

INDIVIDUAL HONORS

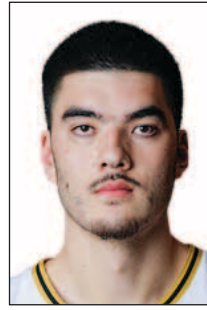
Coach of the year — Matt Painter, Purdue.

u-Player of the year — Zach Edey, Purdue.

Newcomer of the year — Marcus Domask, Illinois.

AP ALL-BIG TEN VOTING PANEL

Nick Bahe, Fox Sports; Mike DeCourcy, Sporting News, Fox Sports; Dave Eanet, WGN Radio (Chicago); Brian Fonseca, New Jersey Advance Media; Marcus Fuller, Minneapolis Star Tribune; Adam Jarly, Columbus Dispatch; Stephen Jones, Penn State Sports Network; Andrew Kahn, MLive.com (Ann Arbor, Michigan); Wilson Moore, Omaha (Nebraska) World-Herald; Zach Osterman, Indianapolis Star; Jim Polzin, Madison.com (Madison, Wisconsin); Scott Richey, Champaign (Illinois) News-Gazette; Dylan Sinn, Fort Wayne (Indiana) Journal Gazette; Tyler Tachman, Des Moines (Iowa) Register.



Zach Edey

Colts make Kenny Moore II NFL's highest-paid nickel corner with \$30 million deal

By MICHAEL MAROT
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indianapolis Colts continued their spending spree Tuesday by agreeing to re-sign cornerback Kenny Moore II on a three-year deal worth \$30 million, a person with knowledge of the deal told the Associated Press.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because no official announcement has been made.

Over the past two days, Colts general manager Chris Ballard has agreed to three-year deals with four starters — receiver Michael Pittman Jr., defensive tackle Grover Stewart, linebacker Zaire Franklin and now Moore — totaling more than \$140 million.

Franklin and Moore traded short, congratulatory notes on social media.

"I couldn't put any more flowers on Kenny's desk if I wanted to," Franklin said when last season ended. "Just his leadership for me, a guy that I follow in this building. To be honest, I tell him all the time, I don't know how it works without him to be honest."

Apparently, Ballard felt such a strong similar sentiment that he made Moore the NFL's highest-paid nickel cornerback.

And the deal comes just two years after Moore wanted to renegotiate the final two years of his previous deal.

The dissatisfaction led to a sub-par 2022 season, but Moore came to last summer's training camp with a new attitude and responded with a bounce-back season. He finished with 93 tackles, returned two of his three interceptions for scores, had six passes defensed and 1 1/2 sacks.

It was enough to warrant the pay raise Moore and others thought was warranted.

"I thought Kenny Moore II was a really good vet player, had a good year and we would like to have him back," Ballard said at the recent NFL scouting combine. "We'll see how it works out in free agency."

Last season, Moore was a key veteran presence in what was one of the league's youngest secondaries. His return should only help those second-year players continue to grow.

Plus, Moore's journey to and through the NFL provides a path for others to follow.

He entered the league as an undrafted rookie with New England in 2017. But the Colts claimed the versatile Valdosta State defensive back off waivers in 2017, and he's become a fixture in Indy's defense.

Moore has started 84 games over the past six seasons and was a 2021 Pro Bowl selection. He has 516 tackles, 17 interceptions, 9 1/2 sacks while forcing four fumbles during his career.

NFL free agency day 2 headlined with Derrick Henry, Patrick Queen

Day 1 and Day 2 of the NFL's free agency period were not short of big names getting swapped.

Teams have broken the bank for various players at all sorts of positions and have acquired through free agency and via trades. Here is the second day's recap of big names and teams surrounding Indiana.

Ravens grab RB Derrick Henry

A person with knowledge of the deal says the Baltimore Ravens have agreed to a two-year contract with free agent running back Derrick Henry. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the move can't become official until the new league year begins Wednesday. The deal is worth up to \$20 million and includes \$9 million guaranteed. The two-time NFL rushing champ joins a Baltimore team that annually produces one of the league's leading ground games. The running back room was a major offseason concern for the Ravens, because Gus Edwards and J.K. Dobbins became free agents.

Steelers sign LB Queen from rival Ravens, trade WR Johnson to Panthers

The Pittsburgh Steelers are luring inside linebacker Patrick Queen away from rival Baltimore. The Steelers and the inside linebacker have agreed to a three-year deal worth \$41 million, two people with knowledge of the deal tell The Associated Press. The people spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the move can't become official until the new league year begins Wednesday. The 24-year-old Queen is coming off a career year with Baltimore in 2023, when he led the team with 133 tackles and was selected to the Pro Bowl for the first time.

The Carolina Panthers are giving quarterback Bryce Young the No. 1 wide receiver he's been lacking. The Panthers have agreed to acquire Diontae Johnson from the Pittsburgh Steelers for cornerback Donte Jackson. The deal includes a swap of later-round picks in this year's draft, according to a person familiar with the deal who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because it has not yet been signed.

Texans spend big bucks to sign top free agent DE Danielle Hunter

The Carolina Panthers are giving quarterback Bryce Young the No. 1 wide receiver he's been lacking. The Panthers have agreed to acquire Diontae Johnson from the Pittsburgh Steelers for cornerback Donte Jackson. The deal includes a swap of later-round picks in this year's draft, according to a person familiar with the deal who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because it has not yet been signed.

Vikings sign RB Aaron Jones away from Packers

The Minnesota Vikings stayed aggressive in free agency by adding former Green Bay running back Aaron Jones and 2018 third overall draft pick Sam Darnold as a temporary replacement at quarterback. Jones was released by the Packers and agreed to a one-year, \$7 million contract with their biggest rival. Darnold played last season for San Francisco and gets a one-year, \$10 million deal. His deal was confirmed by a person with knowledge of the terms who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because it had not yet been signed.

Lions add another CB to their defense

A person familiar with the situation says the Detroit Lions and cornerback Amik Robertson agreed to a \$9.25 million, two-year deal containing \$1.5 million in incentives. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the move can't become official until the new league year begins Wednesday. Robertson had two interceptions for the second straight season last year for Las Vegas, starting 12 games and playing as a backup in five. The Raiders drafted Robertson in the fourth round in 2020 and he had 111 tackles and four interceptions with the team.

Browns add backup QB Jameis Winston

A person with knowledge of the negotiations says the Cleveland Browns have agreed to sign quarterback Jameis Winston as a backup for Deshaun Watson. The person says Winston is getting a one-year deal worth up to \$8.7 million. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the move can't become official until the new league year

(Continued on Page A2)

High School Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13
No events scheduled.
THURSDAY, MARCH 14
No events scheduled.
FRIDAY, MARCH 15
TRACK & FIELD (CO-ED): Bluffton, Norwell at

Taylor University Qualifier, 5:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16
No events scheduled.
MONDAY, MARCH 18
No events scheduled.
TUESDAY, MARCH 19

No events scheduled.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20
No events scheduled.
THURSDAY, MARCH 21
No events scheduled.
FRIDAY, MARCH 22
No events scheduled.

How to watch and when to watch March Madness this season

The beloved annual tradition that is the NCAA Tournament will begin next week. Tens of thousands will fill out those brackets in hopes of winning the office poll or at least a bit of respect after the matchups are set on Selection Sunday.

Who will win it all? UConn is a trendy pick to claim a sixth overall title and become the first team to repeat as NCAA champion since Florida in 2006-07. But there are no obviously dominant teams this year and it could be a wild ride again; last year's Final Four, remember,

included two 5 seeds (Miami and San Diego State), the fourth-seeded Huskies and 9 seed Florida Atlantic.

Get ready: The tournament tips off with the First Four on March 19 and the first round begins March 21.

HOW TO WATCH

Every game of the men's tournament will be aired — here is a schedule that will be updated with matchups — either on CBS, TBS, TNT or TruTV and their digital platforms, including Paramount+. TBS will handle the Final Four and national title game this year.

The NCAA is streaming games via its March Madness Live option.

WHEN ARE THE GAMES?

The First Four is in Dayton, Ohio, and first- and second-round games March 21-24 stretch from New York City to Spokane, Washington.


Sweet 16 weekend will see games March 28-31 in Boston (East Regional), Dallas (South), Detroit (Midwest) and Los Angeles (West).

The Final Four is in Glendale, Arizona, on Saturday, April 6, with the title game the night of Monday, April 8.


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Sen. Ted Cruz says there's a 50-50 chance of Congress passing college sports legislation this year

By STEPHEN WHYNO
AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Ted Cruz said Tuesday there is a 50-50 chance of Congress passing legislation that would provide antitrust protection and regulation to college athletics in the U.S. by the end of the year.

Cruz (R-Texas) lowered his previous estimate of 60-40 from last fall of a bill getting through before the election in November, saying he and his counterparts are running out of time.

"The clock is running," Cruz said after overseeing a panel on the topic that included former Alabama coach Nick Saban. "It's not too late to get it done, but we're getting close to it being too late to get it done. I still think there are elements there of getting bipartisan agreement. We just have not been able to get everyone to the table to sign off."

Cruz said something will eventually get done to standardize how athletes can be compensated for their names, images and likenesses and to give the NCAA and conferences the ability to govern college sports without the constant threat of lawsuits and state laws undercutting their authority.

The gathering was not an official hearing, but going on at the same time in the House was the 12th hearing on college sports on Capitol Hill since 2020. This one was held in front of the Committee on Education and the Workforce and was focused on the possibility of college athletes joining unions.

But Cruz's roundtable with Saban, Atlantic Coast Conference Commissioner Jim Phillips and Alabama athletic director Greg Byrne stole the spotlight. Sens. Jerry Moran (R-Kansas) and Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) also attended.

Moran and Blumenthal put forth a bipartisan proposal for a college sports bill last summer, but like several efforts before and after it has gone nowhere.

"Mostly we would tell each other, 'We're just this close to getting something done,' but it's been going on a long time," Moran said, pleading for stakeholders to provide feedback on what they can give and take. "This is the moment to strike. Please help us close that gap and get this done."

NCAA President Charlie Baker has encouraged membership to act on its own, putting forth a proposal in December that would create a new tier of Division I where schools would be required to pay some of their athletes.

The Big Ten and Southeastern Conference, the two wealthiest and most powerful conferences, formed a joint advisory committee earlier this year to try to tackle the issues facing college sports.

Nick Saban, who led Alabama football to six national titles in 17 seasons, said the

current landscape shaped by NIL funds and loosened transfer rules contributed to his decision to retire at 72.

"All the things I believed in for all these years, 50 years of coaching, no longer exist in college athletics," Saban said. "It's whoever wants to pay the most money, raise the most money, buy the most players is going to have the best opportunity to win. And I don't think that's the spirit of college athletics, and I don't think it's ever been the spirit of what we want college athletics to be."

Also taking part in the roundtable were NIL attorney Darren Heitner, Collective Association president Russell White, as well as current women's college basketball player Haley Cavinder and sister Hanna, a former player.

Other senators cycled through, offering concerns, such as Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) saying he believes the status quo is "going to destroy the student-athlete as we know it."

Byrne warned that even a school as prestigious as Alabama may have to cut non-revenue-generating sports, depending on what the final answer is for paying athletes. Cruz, citing the comments made by commissioners of conferences made up of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and concerns about Division II and Division III programs shuttering, does not believe there's as much interest in classifying college athletes as employees as there was six months ago.

"There are very few people advocating for student-athletes as employees now," Cruz said. "I think that makes it easier when you have widespread agreement that that's the wrong solution to have some clarity on that point."

Just last week, Dartmouth men's basketball players voted to join a union and several active antitrust lawsuits are challenging NCAA compensation caps and whether athletes should have employee status.

Baker said last month that Congress needed to act to protect what he described as the "95 percent" of athletes whose ability to play college sports would be endangered by a court ruling or regulatory decision declaring them as employees of their schools. The NCAA and Power Five conferences spent a combined \$2.97 million on lobbying efforts in 2023, according to records reviewed by The Associated Press.

Work has been ongoing for several years to figure out a solution for what Cruz called the current "Wild West" state of college athletics and the NCAA.

Cruz, who last summer introduced draft legislation to tackle the problems, prefers empowering the NCAA to oversee the landscape rather than a new governmental or quasi-governmental agency.

NFL free agency

(Continued from Page A1)

begins Wednesday. And Joe Flacco's agent, Joe Linta, tells the AP that his client didn't receive an offer from the Browns to stay in Cleveland. Flacco went 4-1 last season in place of an injured Watson to help the Browns reach the playoffs.

Bears lose WR Darnell Mooney to Falcons, sign TE Gerald Everett

A person familiar with the deal says the Atlanta Falcons and wide receiver Darnell Mooney have agreed on a three-year, \$39 million contract with \$26 million guaranteed. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the contract can't become official until the new league year begins Wednesday. Mooney provides another playmaker for new quarterback Kirk Cousins, who agreed to a massive \$180 million deal with the Falcons on Monday. Mooney had 31 catches for 414 yards and one touchdown last season for the Bears. Mooney's best year came in 2021 when he caught 81 passes for 1,055 yards and four scores.

A person familiar with the situation says the Chicago Bears and former Los Angeles Chargers tight end Gerald Everett have agreed to a two-year, \$12 million contract that guarantees \$6.1 million. The person

spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because free agents can't officially sign with new teams until Wednesday. Everett has 284 receptions for 2,833 yards and 19 touchdowns over seven seasons with the Los Angeles Rams, Seattle Seahawks and Los Angeles Chargers. The Bears also added help in the secondary, agreeing to a two-year deal with safety Jonathan Owens. Owens is married to Simone Biles, the most decorated gymnast of all time.

RB Joe Mixon goes to Texans

A person familiar with the deal says the Houston Texans are acquiring running back Joe Mixon from the Cincinnati Bengals. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the trade hasn't been finalized. Mixon will replace Devin Singletary, who has agreed to a deal with the New York Giants. Mixon led the Bengals last season with 1,034 yards rushing and nine touchdowns. Cincinnati planned to release him after agreeing on a contract with running back Zack Moss on Monday. Instead, the Texans are sending an undisclosed draft pick to the Bengals to keep Mixon off the open market. He'll join Dameon Pierce in the backfield for the AFC South champions.

News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL High School

Boys' Basketball
IHSAA Semi-State Scheudle
4A North (Elkhart)
Crown Point (20-5) vs. Fishers (26-1), 10 a.m.
Fort Wayne Wayne (22-3) vs. Mishawaka (20-7), 11:45 a.m.
Semi-State Championship at 7:30 p.m.

4A South (New Castle)
Center Grove (21-4) vs. Ben Davis (21-5), 10 a.m.
Jeffersonville (19-7) vs. Lawrence North (25-3), 12 p.m.
Championship at 8 p.m.

3A North (Logansport)
Peru (16-10) vs. South Bend Joseph (18-9), 10 a.m.
Delta (22-6) vs. Fairfield (20-6), 12 p.m.
Championship at 8 p.m.

3A South (Seymour)
Guerin Catholic (21-7) vs. Danville Community (22-3), 10 a.m.
Evansville Bosse (15-10) vs. Scottsburg (22-5), 12 p.m.
Championship at 8 p.m.

2A North (Lafayette Jefferson)
North Judson-San Pierre (21-6) vs. Wapahani (24-2), 10 a.m.
Wabash (21-5) vs. Fort Wayne Blackhawk Christian (21-6), 12 p.m.
Championship at 8 p.m.

2A South (Southport)
Park Tudor (20-5) vs. Brownstown Central (25-4), 10 a.m.
Forest Park (18-9) vs. Parke Heritage (23-5), 11:45 p.m.
Championship at 7:30 p.m.

1A North (Michigan City)
Liberty Christian (17-9) vs. Marquette Catholic (12-15), 10 a.m.
Elkhart Christian (17-9) vs. Fort Wayne Canterbury (16-9), 12 p.m.
Championship at 7:30 p.m.

1A South (Washington)
Greenwood Christian (18-7) vs. Bethesda Christian (21-7), 10 a.m.
Evansville Christian (24-2) vs. Barreeve (24-2), 11:45 p.m.
Championship at 7:30 p.m.

College

Men's Basketball Scores Tuesday, Mar. 12 TOURNAMENT America East

Semifinal
Vermont 66, New Hampshire 59
Mass.-Lowell 77, Bryant 70
Atlantic 10
First Round
Fordham 71, Davidson 63, OT
La Salle 61, George Washington 60

Saint Louis 74, Rhode Island 71
Atlantic Coast
First Round
Notre Dame 84, Georgia Tech 80
NC State 94, Louisville 85
Boston College 81, Miami 65

Big 12
First Round
UCF 77, Oklahoma St. 62
Cincinnati 90, West Virginia 85
Big Sky
Semifinal
Montana St. 74, Sacramento St. 71

Coastal
Championship
Coll. of Charleston 82, Stony Brook 79, OT

Horizon League
Championship
Oakland 83, Milwaukee 76
Metro Atlantic Athletic
First Round
Canisius 77, Mount St. Mary's 61
Iona 60, Manhattan 57

Northeast
Championship
Wagner 54, Merrimack 47
Southland
Semifinal
McNeese St. 76, Lamar 57

West Coast Conference
Final
St. Marys 69, Gonzaga 60

Women's Basketball Scores Tuesday, Mar. 12 TOURNAMENT American Athletic

Semifinal
East Carolina 55, UTSA 54
Atlantic Sun
Semifinal
Florida Gulf Coast 74, Austin Peay

52
Cent. Arkansas 68, E. Kentucky 57
Big 12
Championship
Texas 70, Iowa St. 53
Big Sky

Semifinal
E. Washington 56, Montana St. 39
N. Arizona 74, Montana 67
Conference USA
First Round
UTEP 78, Sam Houston St. 64
Horizon League

Championship
Green Bay 64, Cleveland St. 40
Metro Atlantic Athletic
First Round
Rider 66, Iona 56
Quinnipiac 68, St. Peter's 63, OT
Mount St. Mary's 60, Marist 47

Mountain-West Conference
Semifinal
UNLV 62, Colorado St. 52
Southland
Quarterfinal
Texas A&M Commerce 66, Incarnate Word 57
SE Louisiana 75, Nicholls 57

Summit League
Championship
S. Dakota St. 67, N. Dakota St. 54
West Coast
Championship
Portland 67, Gonzaga 66

NBA

Monday's Games

Detroit 114, Charlotte 97
Phoenix 117, Cleveland 111
Dallas 127, Chicago 92
Golden State 112, San Antonio 102
Denver 125, Toronto 119
Boston 121, Portland 99
Tuesday's Games

New York 106, Philadelphia 79
Indiana 121, Oklahoma City 111
Memphis 109, Washington 97
Houston 103, San Antonio 101
Boston 123, Utah 107
Milwaukee at Sacramento, late
Minnesota at L.A. Clippers, late

Wednesday's Games
Brooklyn at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Indiana, 7:30 p.m.
Denver at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Cleveland at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Golden State at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Portland, 10 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

Thursday's Games
Phoenix at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Philadelphia at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Washington at Houston, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Oklahoma City, 10 p.m.
New York at Portland, 10 p.m.

Friday's Games
Miami at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Orlando at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Denver at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Utah, 9:30 p.m.

HOCKEY

NHL

Monday's Games
N.Y. Rangers 3, New Jersey 1
St. Louis 5, Boston 1
Winnipeg 3, Washington 0
Los Angeles 3, N.Y. Islanders 0

Tuesday's Games
N.Y. Rangers 1, Carolina 0
Montreal 3, Columbus 0
Buffalo 7, Detroit 3
Ottawa 2, Pittsburgh 1, OT
Philadelphia 3, San Jose 2
Minnesota 4, Arizona 1
Florida 4, Dallas 3
Chicago 7, Anaheim 2
Colorado at Calgary, late
Vegas at Seattle, late

Wednesday's Games
Los Angeles at St. Louis, 7:30 p.m.
Nashville at Winnipeg, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at Edmonton, 10 p.m.
Colorado at Vancouver, 10:30 p.m.

Thursday's Games
Arizona at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Boston at Montreal, 7 p.m.
Florida at Carolina, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at Columbus, 7 p.m.
San Jose at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.

Toronto at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Anaheim at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
New Jersey at Dallas, 8 p.m.
Vegas at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Washington at Seattle, 10 p.m.

Friday's Games
Anaheim at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Los Angeles at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.

BASEBALL

MLB

Monday's Games
Boston 1, Pittsburgh 0
Atlanta 3, Minnesota 0
Detroit 5, Houston 3
Toronto 9, Tampa Bay 2
N.Y. Yankees (ss) 5, Baltimore 3
N.Y. Yankees (ss) 2, Philadelphia 1
Washington 11, St. Louis 4
Cleveland 5, L.A. Dodgers 1
Colorado 7, Chicago White Sox 2
San Francisco 12, Kansas City 9
San Diego 13, Seattle 3
Oakland 6, Arizona 5
Texas 15, L.A. Angels 5
Miami 1, N.Y. Mets 0

Tuesday's Games
Detroit 1, Minnesota 0
Baltimore 12, Tampa Bay 8
St. Louis 8, Boston 6
Pittsburgh 5, Atlanta 1
Toronto 8, N.Y. Yankees 1
Houston 9, Miami 1
Cleveland 3, Texas 0
Oakland 4, Seattle 2
L.A. Dodgers 6, San Francisco 4
Colorado 4, Kansas City 2
Arizona 2, San Diego 2
Washington 4, N.Y. Mets 1
Cincinnati vs Chicago White Sox at Goodyear, Ariz., 9:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs vs Milwaukee at Mesa, Ariz., 9:05 p.m.

Wednesday's Games
Minnesota (ss) vs St. Louis at Fort Myers, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees vs Boston at Tampa, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Philadelphia vs Detroit at Clearwater, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay vs Minnesota (ss) at Port Charlotte, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Toronto vs Pittsburgh at Dunedin, Fla., 1:07 p.m.
Miami vs Washington at Jupiter, Fla., 1:10 p.m.
Cleveland vs Chicago Cubs at Goodyear, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
Kansas City vs L.A. Angels at Surprise, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers vs Seattle at Phoenix, 4:05 p.m.
San Francisco vs Cincinnati at Scottsdale, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
Milwaukee vs Chicago White Sox at Phoenix, 4:10 p.m.
San Diego vs Oakland at Peoria, Ariz., 4:10 p.m.
Arizona vs Colorado at Scottsdale, Ariz., 4:10 p.m.
Baltimore vs Atlanta at Sarasota, Fla., 6:05 p.m.
N.Y. Mets vs Houston at Port St Lucie, Fla., 6:10 p.m.

Thursday's Games
Atlanta vs Tampa Bay at North Port, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Detroit vs N.Y. Yankees at Lakeland, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Minnesota vs Toronto at Fort Myers, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Philadelphia vs Boston at Clearwater, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
St. Louis vs N.Y. Mets at Jupiter, Fla., 3:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh vs Baltimore at Bradenton, Fla., 3:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs vs Oakland at Mesa, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox vs L.A. Angels at Phoenix, 4:05 p.m.
Cleveland vs Colorado at Goodyear, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
Arizona vs Kansas City at Scottsdale, Ariz., 4:10 p.m.
Seattle vs Milwaukee at Peoria, Ariz., 4:10 p.m.
Washington vs Houston at West Palm Beach, Fla., 6:05 p.m.
Texas vs Cincinnati at Surprise, Ariz., 9:05 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

Tuesday's Transactions
DETROIT TIGERS — Optioned RHP's Mason Englert, Wilmer Flores, and Keider Montero. C Dillon Dingler. INF Eddys Leonard, and INF/OF Wenceel Perez to Toledo.

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Watch for the NCAA Brackets in Monday's



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Bluffton, Indiana

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 extension.purdue.edu/wells	 3riversfcu.org	 myersfuneralhomes.com
 thegcmfamily.com	 riverstonedental.net	 blufftontire.com
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Healing from the heartache of abusive foster parents

Dear Annie: I come from a long history of family dysfunction. Child abuse, toxicity and abandonment are all I ever knew growing up. I developed severe complex PTSD and borderline personality disorder coming into my preteen years. I remember the blame was solely on me for my severe depression, suicide attempts and deep-seated suffering from my adoptive parents.

I moved out at age 17. The abuse continued despite my removal from their household, well into my late 20s. At that time, I cut off all contact with my abusers. I removed myself entirely from the family dynamic. (I have been in intensive therapy and medicated for years.)

My question is: How do I forgive my adoptive parents for manipulating me to place my infant fraternal twins with them when I was only 19 years old? Once they had my babies, they excluded me from the family and forced my hand into placing my children up for adoption with them.

How do I forgive them for the horrific abuse I sustained as a child in their home? How do I process the grief, which grips my heart and soul, I have for losing the opportunity to raise my son and daughter? They are 16 years young, and I do not even know them. Lastly, how do I ever forgive or come to terms with the fact that the people who were supposed to be my protectors, who were supposed to love me unconditionally, who chose to adopt me, failed me more than my biological parents ever could have? Do I have

any rights as an adopted child? I'm forever tormented by my nightmare childhood, but even more so, I relive my grief daily as a mother who lost her children to her abusers. — One Sad Little Girl Who Is Middle-Aged

Dear Sad Little Girl Who Is Middle-Aged: Yes, you do have rights as an adult to sue your parents for abuse, but even if you win, you are not likely to get what you want. I doubt if they have a lot of money, and you would wind up being intertwined in their lives in ways that would do the opposite of helping you with the healing process.

My advice is to continue working with your therapist to process ways to cope with your abusive childhood, and focus on trying to establish a relationship with your twin children. They are becoming old enough for you to reach out to them directly.

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

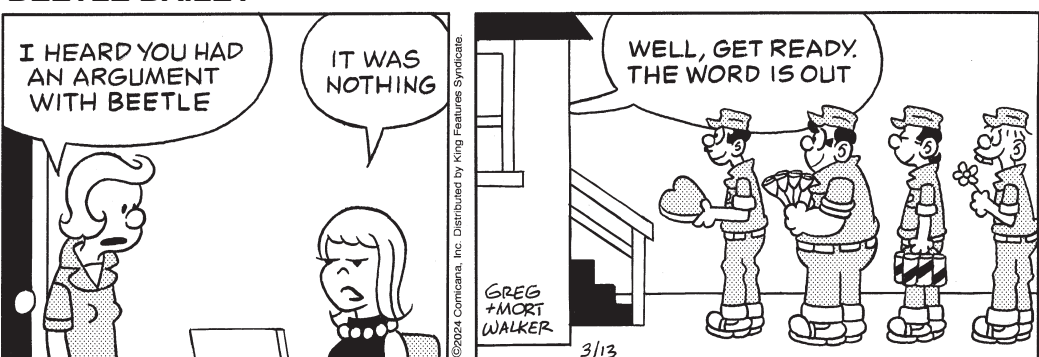
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Dear Annie

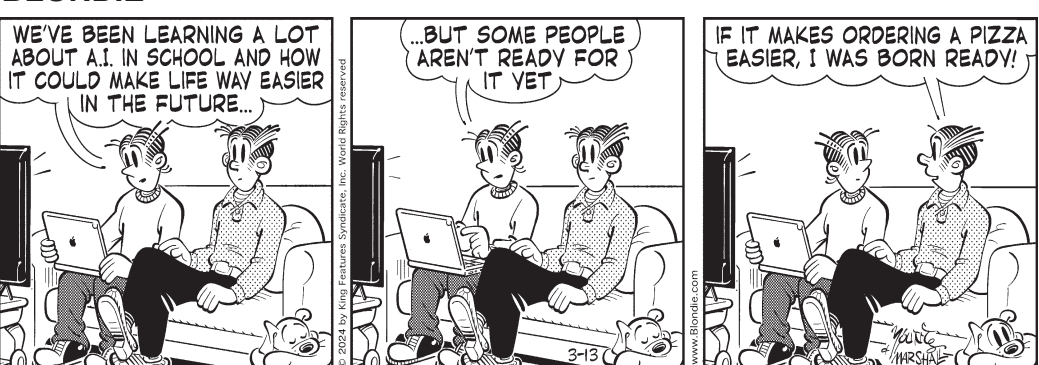
by Annie Lane



BEETLE BAILEY



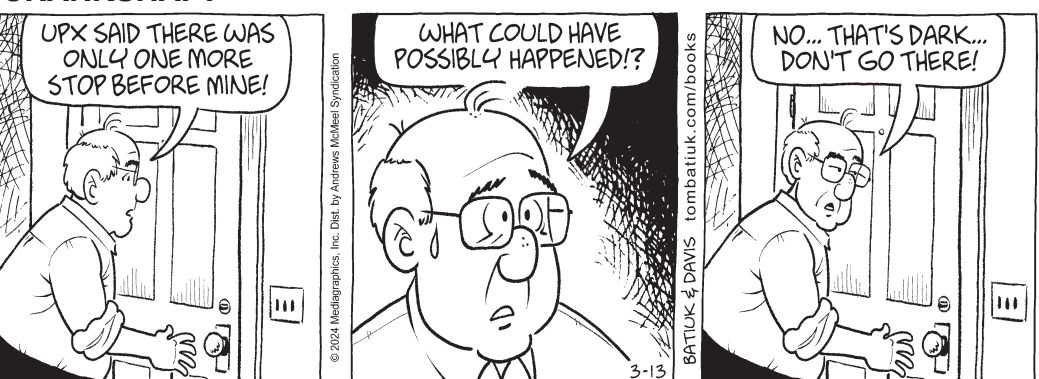
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ZITS



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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



Prejudice is a form of robbery

It is also a murderer because it kills the opportunity of advancement for those who are its prey. We are quick to denounce that which we do not understand or know or experience. If we would put ourselves in the place of other people, understanding their background, sensing their problems, sympathizing with their weaknesses, it would do society a great favor.

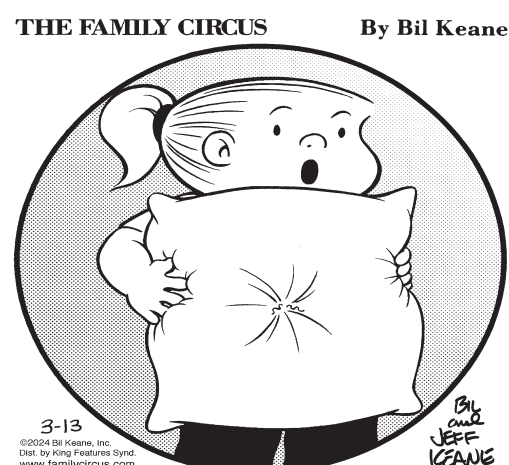
How can we conquer prejudice? By being transformed by the power of God. Only then can we begin to look at others through the eyes of God and see them as He sees them. Only then does God's love begin to take root in our hearts, pushing

out the hate and indifference that resides there.

We see this kind of transformation in the story of Saul of Tarsus, once one of the most prejudiced men of his day. But when the Lord overcame Saul and he submitted to Christ, he later wrote as the Apostle Paul, “The love of God has been poured out in our hearts” (Romans 5:5, NKJV). What the logic of Greece could not do for Saul, the grace of God did.

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

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“The belly button came off this pillow.”

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down, and a solution time of 23 mins.

Table with columns for date, channel, and program listings for various networks like WJLA, CBS, NBC, etc.

Table with columns for date, channel, and program listings for various networks like WJLA, CBS, NBC, etc.

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

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Difficulty: ★★★

3/13

Help Wanted

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.



HOLLEY SALES, INC. is looking for an experienced medium duty / heavy duty truck mechanic. Full-time. Starting pay is \$25.00 per hour. 40-45 hours per week. Some Saturday mornings required. Paid uniforms. Vacation & holiday pay. Please apply in person at 12005 Indianapolis Rd. Yoder, IN 46798 or send your resume to dirk@holleytruckparts.com. For more information, call 260-478-7411.

THE CITY OF Bluffton Street Department is accepting applications for a Laborer/Truck Driver. The minimum educational requirement is a high school diploma or equivalent. Applicants must possess and maintain a CDL License or obtain one within the time limit. The City utilizes E-Verify and follows EEOC guidelines. Applications may be obtained from the Clerk Treasurer's office, 128 East Market St, Bluffton, IN between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm Monday-Friday or at www.blufftonindiana.net.

HELOISE HINT: If you haven't looked for another job in a while, take these steps: First, make a list of your skills, experience, talents and things you love to do. Which career would best fit your skills? Research the fields you are interested in. Send your job-success story to HELOISE@Heloise.com.

SERVICES

Services

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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NOTICE

Notices

HAVING AN UPCOMING event? A 20 word, line classified ad for six days is only \$24.50. Add a border for an additional \$1 or a graphic for an additional \$5. Contact the Bluffton News-Banner office at 260-824-0224 or 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton, IN, or online at news-banner.com and click on classifieds.

Lottery Numbers

Tuesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 03-04-07-41-45
Cash4Life — 03-09-24-27-39, Cash Ball: 03
Quick Draw Midday — 08-10-14-28-29-33-44-45-47-49-51-52-54-61-67-68-70-75-77-78, BE: 54
Daily Three-Midday — 09-08-04, SB: 09
Daily Three-Evening — 02-07-04, SB: 01
Daily Four-Midday — 05-01-02-07, SB: 09
Daily Four-Evening — 09-03-01-09, SB: 01
Quick Draw Evening — 04-12-23-26-28-31-36-40-42-48-53-58-59-63-64-65-66-74-75-79, BE: 48
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$6.3 million
MEGA MILLIONS 02-16-31-57-64; Mega Ball: 24; Megaplier: 3X.
POWERBALL Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$559 million

FOR SALE

Miscellaneous

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

Pets

HELOISE HINT: Why do cats scratch so much? Cats use scratching to mark their territory, and it also helps to keep their claws sharp. Be sure you have a scratching post for them so that they don't scratch at your furniture. Email HELOISE@Heloise.com.

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.

Public Sale Calendar

BIDDING STARTS CLOSING MARCH 14 - 10 a.m. EST - Clemens and Carol Burger, owners. Ken-Bar Tool & Engineering Company liquidation! Over 300 lots. 2016 GMC Sierra, 2005 Chevrolet 3500 cargo van, 2008 Mercury Grand Marquis, CNC machines, mills, lathes, ladders, grinders, saws, tooling, tools, more! Pickup March 18 and 19, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., 3121 S. Walnut St., Muncie, large items can be picked up by appointment only up to 10 days. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

MARCH 14 - 6 p.m. - Denver Neuenschwander Estate, seller. Lehman Park, 212 Park Ave., Berne. 135+/- acres available. Selling in 3 tracts, as a combination or whole unit. Tract 1: 39+/- acres along SR 116, tillable/woods. Tract 2: 48+/- acres along 1000 S, tillable. Tract 3: 48+/- acres along 1000 S, tillable. *Heartland Auction & Realty, Inc.*, heartlandauctionrealty.com, 260-724-3499.

MARCH 17-25 - (Online Only Auction) - Various consignors, seller. Antiques, primitives, Lionel trains and train items, modern furniture, vintage advertising, household items, patio furniture. Auction Preview: March 19 and March 21 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 118 East Craig St., Ossian, IN. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

MARCH 23 - 10 a.m. - Various owners represented. Location: Farmers Grain & Ag LLC, 1257 St. Rd. 33, Willshire, OH. Tractors, combines, heads & carts, harvest equip., Grain carts, wagons, trucks, trailers, pickups, construction, manure equipment, livestock equipment, hay equipment, planters, no-till drills, sprayers, NH3 bars, farm related, miscellaneous, mowers & ATVs, toys, native lumber. Questions, call: Farmers Grain & Ag, LLC, 419-495-2338. Auction managers: Ritter Cox, 800-451-2709, 260-609-3306 & Tim Kreider, 260-413-8008. *Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc.*, 260-244-7606, 800-451-2709, SchraderAuction.com.

MARCH 23-30 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of Sandra McCay and others, seller. 2007 Dodge Caliber SXT sedan, 1999 Ford F250 with dump bed, 2013 12' utility trailer, primitives, Turn of the Century cast iron riding horse, quilts, large qty. of crocks, antique furniture, Fenton, Carnival and other glassware. Preview: March 21, March 28 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 816 S. 11th Street, Decatur, IN. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

APRIL 7-14 - (Online Only Auction) - Unique Blue Bar and Grill (Formerly Stag Bar), seller. Ongoing needs. Outstanding collection of beer signs, neon signs, beer taps, collectibles, tools, much more. Preview: April 4 and April 11 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 205 W. Market St., Bluffton, IN. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, <http://www.steffengrp.com>, 260-824-3006.

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Public Notice

NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION IN THE WELLS CIRCUIT COURT OF WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA DOCKET NO. 90C01-2402-EU-000009 Notice is hereby given that DUANE E. HEYNE was on the 4th day of March, 2024, appointed personal representative of the estate of OSCAR L. HEYNE, deceased, who died on the 24th day of December, 2023, and was authorized to administer his estate without Court supervision.

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

Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, this 4th day of March, 2024.
Beth Davis
Clerk, Wells Circuit Court

Matthew P. Hayes
Attorney for Personal Representative
Attorney No. 32002-02
GORDON & ASSOCIATES
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
119 East Oak Forest Drive
Bluffton, IN 46714
(260) 824-9377

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