

FBB gives donation to Bluffton Parks

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Knights MS girls' wins swim NE8

Page 6





\$1.00

Federal charges filed against lead kidnapping suspect



By SYDNEY KENT

Federal charges have been filed against the lead suspect in the kidnapping of an 11-year-old from Zanesville last year.

According to a press release from the Wells County Prosecutor's office, Zachary Delozier, 27, South Dakota, has been indicted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Indiana.

The release explained that in order to facilitate the case with the federal government, local charges against Delozier will be dismissed without prejudice.

Delozier and two additional suspects were taken into custody after they were located at a traffic stop in Barneveld, Wisconsin, on New Year's Eve. Their arrests took place less than 24 hours after a Silver Alert was issued for the missing child in

In addition to a Level 5 felony for kidnapping,

Delozier was charged with child molesting, a Level

1 felony, child molesting, a Level 2 felony, promotion of child sexual human trafficking, a Level 3 felony, and child solicitation, a Level 4 felony. It is unclear if separate or additional charges will be



Indiana.

Zachary Delozier

Sara Gaudino



Isaiah Schryvers

filed by the federal government. The additional two South Dakota suspects in the case, Isaiah Schryvers, 24, and Sara Gaudino, 23, appeared in the Wells Circuit Court for separate hearings on Wednesday

Both Gaudino and Schryvers face a Level 5 felony for kidnapping. Additional charges have not yet been filed.

"We expect more discovery as this case evolves," Prosecutor Jeff Steinburg said on Wednesday. "There are quite a few moving parts here.'

(Continued on Page 2)

Senate hopeful Rust's ballot plea in hands of **Marion County judge**



Spring sunshine

The warm weather on Wednesday afternoon provided a lovely atmosphere for lunch on the river. Chelsea Pursifull (Left) and daughter Avery Pursifull chat with grandma Lisa Adams (right), who holds an excited Weslsey Pursifull. (Photo by Sydney Kent)

Markle approves bond ordinance for water distribution system

By JONATHAN SNYDER Markle's Town Council unanimously approved an ordinance allowing them to create an over \$16.9 million bond, which covers the cost of a rate study, DLZ Corporation's current work on the water distribution system, and any future water main projects.

The council did so in a meeting Monday, moved from their normal third Wednesday due to scheduling conflicts with the council members.

The total bond amount is not to exceed \$16,970,000. Operations Manager Mike Grant stated that the cost would only hit that number if all optional pieces were approved. The \$35,000 rate study, performed by Baker Tilly, will identify any additional needs for the water treatment plant.

The council further explained that the bond accounts for interim and startup financing of the project and will not exceed \$5,460,000. The cost amount for the survey, design, permitting and bidding for improvements to the treatment plant, along with the construction administration phase and observation services, were not available at the time of print.

Additionally, the council approved a new truck for the Water Department's fleet. Normally, the council replaces one truck every six years, but the council decided to bring the fleet up to four total trucks.

Markle also approved a quote for asphalt maintenance at 150 West Sparks St. Contractor Colton Hasty estimated a bill of \$1,200 for one coat of asphalt but noted that two coats would cost \$1,900 and additional patchwork on 116 W. Sparks St. and Conifer Court would cost \$750.

Clerk-Treasurer Stephenie Hensley announced (Continued on Page 2)

By CASEY SMITH Indiana Capital Chronicle

After a Tuesday court hearing, a Marion County judge is weighing whether the Indiana Election Commission's decision to deny U.S. Senate hopeful John Rust from accessing Indiana's GOP primary ballot should be upheld.

Rust's petition for judicial review was filed in Marion County Superior Court late last month, one day after the commission voted unanimously to block his Republican candidacy.

The basis for the state panel's decision was an Indiana party affiliation law that prohibits candidates from running whose last two primary votes don't match the party they wish to represent.

The Seymour egg farmer's two most recent primary votes were Republican in 2016 and Democrat in 2012 — meaning under the law he can't appear on the Republican ballot for the 2024 May primary election. The law allows an exception, should the county's party chair grant it. Jackson County Republican Party Chair Amanda Lowery elected not to do so in this case.

Michelle Harter, Rust's attorney, said the Indiana Election Commission misapplied the law to Rust. She argued that during the entirety of the candidate filing period, Rust was not legally obligated to comply with the twoprimary rule because it was put on-hold by a trial judge.

A motion from the Indiana State Supreme Court stayed the injunction in time for Rust's candidacy to be filed, however. The party affiliation law was back in effect as Rust stood before the election commission.

"The commission's position is that Rust had to comply with (Continued on Page 2)

Putin: Russia ready to use nuclear weapons if sovereignty threatened

The Associated Press

President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday that Russia is ready to use nuclear weapons if its sovereignty or independence is threatened, issuing another blunt warning to the West just days before an election in which he's all but certain to secure another six-year term.

The Russian leader has repeatedly talked about his readiness to use nuclear weapons since launching a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022. The most recent such threat came in his state-of-the-nation address last month, when he warned the West

that deepening its involvement in the fighting in Ukraine would risk a nuclear war.

Asked in an interview with Russian state television released early Wednesday if he has ever considered using battlefield nuclear weapons in Ukraine, Putin responded that there has been no need for that. He also noted that he doesn't think that the world is heading for a nuclear war, describing U.S. President Joe Biden as a veteran politician who fully understands the possible dangers of escalation.

When asked for U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres' reaction to Putin's remarks, spokesman Stéphane Dujarric said that "all rhetoric that could lead to miscalculation or escalation with obvious catastrophic consequences for the world must be avoided.'

Putin's comments appeared to be a message to the West that he's prepared to use all means to protect his gains in Ukraine. He said that in line with the country's security doctrine, Moscow is ready to use nuclear weapons in case of a threat to "the existence of the Russian state, our sovereignty and independence."

"All that is written in our strat-(Continued on Page 2)

House passes a bill that could lead to a U.S. TikTok ban

By KEVIN FREKING, **HALELUYA HADERO and** MARY CLARE JALONICK **Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) - The House on Wednesday passed a bill that would lead to a nationwide ban of the popular video app TikTok if its China-based owner doesn't sell its stake, as lawmakers acted on concerns that the company's current ownership structure is

a national security threat.

The bill, passed by a vote of 352-65, now goes to the Senate, where its prospects are unclear.

TikTok, which has more than 170 million American users, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Chinese technology firm ByteDance Ltd.

The lawmakers contend that ByteDance is beholden to the Chinese government, which could

demand access to the data of Tik-Tok's consumers in the U.S. whenever it wants. The worry stems from a set of Chinese national security laws that compel organizations to assist with intelligence gathering.

"We have given TikTok a clear choice," said Rep. Cathy McMor-ris Rodgers, R-Wash. "Separate from your parent company Byte-Dance, which is beholden to the

CCP (the Chinese Communist Party), and remain operational in the United States, or side with the CCP and face the consequences. The choice is TikTok's."

House passage of the bill is only the first step. The Senate would also need to pass the measure for it to become law, and lawmakers in that chamber indicated it would undergo a thorough review. Senate Majority Leader Chuck

Schumer, D-N.Y., said he'll have to consult with relevant committee chairs to determine the bill's path.

President Joe Biden has said if Congress passes the measure, he will sign it.

The House vote is the latest example of increased tensions between China and the U.S. By targeting TikTok, lawmakers are tackling what they see as a grave (Continued on Page 2)



Senate hopeful

(Continued from Page 1)

an enjoined statute — and because he didn't, now the commission can reach back and penalize him for not doing so," Harter said. "This court is the last arbiter for whether or not he has ballot access."

It's now up to Marion County Superior Court Judge Kurt Eisgruber to rule on Rust's request for a preliminary injunction that would block the election commission's decision — effectively restoring him to the ballot.

Eisgruber did not make clear a timeline for his decision, but emphasized that "we're kind of in a time constraint of ballots being issued." Although it varies by county, printing of ballots is expected to begin this month.

Rust leans on original injunction

Rust, running to succeed U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, wants to challenge Congressman Jim Banks for the GOP nomination in the May 2024 primary. He sued to gain access to the Republican ballot last fall, saying the measure barred the vast majority of Hoosiers from running under their preferred party.

At a Tuesday afternoon hearing before Eisgruber, Rust's attorney pointed to a December ruling from another Marion County Superior Court judge who found in Rust's original legal challenge that the two-primary requirement was unconstitutional.

The case heard Tuesday is separate, though, and directly appeals the election commission's ballot decision.

The Indiana Supreme Court heard oral arguments in Rust's challenge last month and ultimately blocked the trial judge's injunction one day before the state's deadline to challenge candidacies. That left Rust open to six challenges heard before the state election commission.

Indiana Supreme Court

Ultimately, the election panel voted unanimously to remove Rust from the GOP primary ballot. Commissioners said in their deliberations that Rust could have voted in one of several Republican primaries since 2016 or moved to a county with a "friendlier" party chair who would have signed off on his candidacy.

The Indiana Supreme Court then released a belated, 84-page opinion last week upholding the state's law limiting who can run on the Republican and Democrat primary ballots. The high court previously issued orders in the case but not a full ruling.

Rust and his legal counsel said the high court's initial action came after the filing period, giving him "no opportunity to go back to Lowery and see if she would change her mind and certify him."

"By the time of the supreme court order, there was nothing he could do," Harter said Tuesday, noting too that the court's decision has yet to be certified. She also said Rust's removal is invalid because he still retains the right to appeal the matter to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In his appeal, Rust filed an affidavit from LaPorte County Republican chair Allen Stevens, who testified that — had Rust established residency in LaPorte County — he would have certified his candidacy. Rust's court filing indicates that he has obtained a residence and bank account in LaPorte County.

Had the state law not been put on hold, he "could have and would have relocated to LaPorte County." But Rust's team said the timing of the stay — after the candidate filing period did not allow him time to relocate or seek certification elsewhere.

"If he would have been able to move and get certification, and then provide the (party) affiliation because the statute wouldn't have been enjoined, maybe he wouldn't have been challenged and we wouldn't be here," Harter said.

Further, Harter told the court the election commission is barred from removing Rust from a statewide ballot in light of the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision in Trump v. Anderson, in which high court justices ruled that states cannot disqualify former President Donald Trump from the ballot for his role in the Jan. 6, 2021, attacks on the U.S. Capitol.

Referring to the party affiliation rule, Eisgruber asked if "we're not just throwing out the baby with the bathwater" if Rust prevails.

"John is running for entire State of Indiana, and we can't say definitively that the whole party has rejected him — that's not true," Harter said, referencing different certification decisions from the party chairs in Jackson and LaPorte counties, as well as "thou-

sands of signed petitions" Rust collected from Hoosiers across the state. **Counsel for commission, challengers**

say Rust had other options

But Trent Bennett, representing the Indiana Election Commission, quoted the state supreme court's order, which he said "held firmly and clearly" that "Rust should not be on the ballot full stop."

Bennett said Rust failed to meet the necessary criteria to receive a preliminary injunction request, and his claim that the commission wrongly enforced the party affiliation statute in question "has no merit."

Echoing the election commissioners, Bennett said Rust "had every opportunity" to otherwise comply with the statue: "He could have moved to LaPorte and been certified there — he was aware this litigation was ongoing and there were questions about his ability to comply with two party rule."

He said Rust also could have "automatically been qualified" had he voted in previous elections.

"The harm to Rust is from himself, not the Indiana Election Commission," Bennett continued. "And Rust is not prohibited from being the U.S. senator for Indiana — he could run as an independent, minority party or write-in."

Even so, Eisgruber questioned if Rust could successfully run without the GOP title.

"He's put out his bona fides as a Republican, as a conservative, so is it realistic to ask him to run as an independent?" the judge asked.

Regardless, Bennett maintained the commission enforced the law as it was on the day they made their decision.

The commission attorney also argued Rust should be barred "from relitigating the very same issues upon which the Supreme Court has already adjudicated on the merits."

Bennett pointed to the "res judicata" doctrine which prevents "repetitious litigation of disputes that are essentially the same." Under that principle, the Indiana Supreme Court's final judgment is binding.

Banks has already earned an endorsement from the Indiana Republican Party for his Senate bid — marking the first time in recent history that the state party has made an endorsement before primary elections for an open seat.

Weather Thursday, March 14, 2024

(24-hour observations at 9:38 p.m. Wednesday) High: 73; Low: 44; Precipitation: None Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 2.58 feet at 9:45 p.m. Wednesday

Wells County forecast

Today: Showers and possibly a thunderstorm, mainly before 5 p.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 5 p.m. High near 67. South wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New rainfall amounts between a half and three quarters of an inch possible.

Tonight: Showers and possibly a thunderstorm, mainly before 2 a.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 a.m. Low around 47. Southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

Friday: A 30% chance of showers, mainly before 8 a.m. Cloudy, with a high near 51. North wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 33. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 56. Breezy.

Saturday Night: A 20% chance of showers before 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 36. Breezy.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 45.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 28.

Monday: A 20% chance of snow showers before 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 37.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 25.

Federal charges

(Continued from Page 1)

"The dismissal 'without prejudice' allows the Prosecutor's Office to refile charges if necessary," Prosecutor Colin Andrews stated. "On behalf of the Wells County Prosecutor's office, I would like to thank the Wells County Sheriff, the Bluffton Police Department, and all other state and federal agencies

Bond ordinance

(Continued from Page 1) that spring garage sales will be held in Markle on May 10-11, with registration available at Markle Hardware and the Town Hall. The following week, Markle Utilities will pick up larger items in their spring cleanup event on May 13-17. Items excluded from their event are hazardous liquids, tires, liquid paints, construction materials, brush, wire, fencing and other electronics.

Furthermore, the council was notified of an EasThe News Banner will continue to follow this story for updates. sydney@news-banner.com

involved in this case for

their excellent and profes-

for a pretrial conference in

the Wells Circuit Court at 9

a.m. on April 24. Gaudino is

scheduled for a pretrial con-

ference at 9 a.m. on May 15.

Schryvers is scheduled

sional work.'

ter egg hunt scheduled for March 23 at the Markle Fish and Game Club at 11 a.m. Newborns to 11-yearolds are welcome to participate, with the Easter bunny arriving at 10 a.m. The Fire Department will also hold an Easter-themed fundraiser on March 30. Firefighters will deliver and hide eggs in the front yards of people who purchase them. They come in 25, 50, 75 and 100 egg packages with the price increasing for each package.

jonathan@news-banner.com

(Continued from Page 1) egy, we haven't changed it," ingly. He claim if some NATO

he said. In an apparent reference to NATO allies that support Kyiv, he also declared that "the nations that say they have no red lines regarding Russia should realize that Russia won't have any red lines regarding them either." ingly. He claimed that even if some NATO allies deploy troops to Ukraine, it won't change the course of the war.

"If it turns to official foreign military contingents, I'm sure it will not change the situation on the battlefield ... just as the weapons supplies haven't changed near total crackdown on dissent and tight control over Russia's political system.

Russian authorities reported another major attack by Ukrainian drones early Wednesday. The Defense Ministry said air defenses downed 58 drones over six regions. One of the drones hit an oil refinery in Adm. Nikolai Yevmenov, was fired and replaced with Northern Fleet commander, Alexander Moiseyev. The Kremlin and the Defense Ministry haven't yet confirmed the reshuffle, which Russian commentators linked to the latest Black Sea Fleet's mishaps.

the Russian navy chief,

LOCAL/NATION

Lithuania's foreign minister, Gabrielius Landsbergis, recently lamented that the West too often constrains itself with self-imposed "red lines" regarding Russia. He also welcomed a comment by French President Emmanuel Macron that the possibility of Western troops being sent to Ukraine couldn't be ruled out.

Putin noted the statements from Biden and his administration that the U.S. wasn't going to send its troops to Ukraine. He charged that if the U.S. acts otherwise, Moscow would see the American troops as invaders and act accord-

anything," he said.

In the wake of recent battlefield gains, Putin argued that Ukraine and its Western allies will eventually have to accept a deal to end the war on Russian terms.

"It shouldn't be a break for the enemy to rearm, but a serious talk involving the guarantees of security for the Russian Federation," he said.

Putin said that a recent spike in Ukrainian drone attacks deep inside Russia is part of efforts to derail the country's three-day presidential election, which starts Friday and which he's set to win by a landslide, given his the Ryazan region, injuring at least two people and sparking a fire. Another was downed as it was approaching a refinery near St. Petersburg.

Along with drone attacks on facilities deep inside Russian territory, Ukrainian forces have launched a series of successful attacks on Russia's naval and air assets in the Black Sea region with sea drones and missiles. The strikes have crippled Moscow's naval capability and forced it to limit its operations in the Black Sea.

Earlier this week, Russian media reported that Ukraine, meanwhile, reported more Russian attacks early Wednesday.

A Russian strike killed two people and wounded another five in the town of Myrnohrad in the eastern region of Donetsk, about 20 miles from the front line, according to Gov. Vadym Filashkin. Local rescuers managed to pull a 13-yearold girl out of the rubble of an apartment building.

A five-story building in the northern city of Sumy was struck by a drone launched from Russia overnight, killing two people and wounding eight, according to the regional administration.





TikTok ban

(Continued from Page 1) threat to America's national security — but also singling out a platform popular with millions of people, many of whom skew younger, just months before an election.

In a video posted on Wednesday evening, TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew said that the company has invested to keep user data safe and the TikTok platform free from outside manipulation. If passed, he said the bill would give more power to a handful of other social companies.

"We will not stop fighting and advocating for you. We will continue to do all we can, including exercising our legal rights, to protect this amazing platform that we have built with you," Chew said in his message to the app's users.

In anticipation of the vote, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman, Wang Wenbin, accused Washing-ton of resorting to political tools when U.S. businesses fail to compete. He said the effort would disrupt normal business operations and undermine investor confidence "and will eventually backfire on the U.S. itself."

Overall, 197 Republican lawmakers voted for the measure and 15 against. On the Democratic side, 155 voted for the bill and 50 against.

Some Republican opponents of the bill said the U.S. should warn consumers if there are data privacy and propaganda concerns, but the final choice should be left with consumers.

"The answer to authoritarianism is not more authoritarianism," said Rep. Tom McClintock, R-Calif. "The answer to CCP-style propaganda is not CCP-style oppression. Let us slow down before we blunder down this very steep and slippery slope."

Democrats also warned of the impact a ban would have on users in the U.S., including entrepreneurs and business owners. One of the no votes came from Rep. Jim Himes, the ranking Democratic member of the House Intelligence Committee.

"One of the key differences between us and those adversaries is the fact that they shut down newspapers, broadcast stations, and social media platforms. We do not," Himes said. "We trust our citizens to be worthy of their democracy. We do not trust our government to decide what information they may or may not see."

The day before the House vote, top national security officials in the Biden administration held a closed-door briefing with lawmakers to discuss Tik-Tok and the national security implications. Lawmakers are balancing those security concerns against a desire not to limit free speech online.

"What we've tried to do here is be very thoughtful and deliberate about the need to force a divestiture of TikTok without granting any authority to the executive branch to regulate content or go after any American company," said Rep. Mike Gallagher, the bill's author, as he emerged from the briefing.

TikTok has long denied that it could be used as a tool of the Chinese government. The company has said it has never shared U.S. user data with Chinese authorities and won't do so if it is asked. To date, the U.S. government also has not provided evidence that shows TikTok shared such information with Chinese authorities.



LOCAL/AREA



First Bank of Berne donates to Bluffton Parks

The First Bank of Berne made a \$2,000 donation to Bluffton Parks Department. Pictured left to right are Erica Bennett, FBB Bluffton branch manager and Laurie Baumgartner, Bluffton Parks Department sports coordinator. \$1500 of the donation goes towards sports series sponsor to help with timing, awards, safety, food and scholarship costs. \$500 will go towards the rock steady boxing program. (Photo provided)

Governor Holcomb signed university anti-'viewpoint discrimination' bill, 74 others

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ Indiana Capital Chronicle

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb signed a whopping 75 bills into law on Wednesday, including a heavily debated proposal that conservative proponents hope will spur "intellectual diversity" in publicly funded college classrooms.

Other bills he approved will offer retirement bonuses to former public employees, relax some child care regulations, block underage Hoosiers from accessing pornographic content online, and more.

Six bills remain that Holcomb can sign, veto or allow to become law without his signature.

Faculty and students overwhelmingly contended Senate Enrolled Act 202 would micromanage their institutions and have a "chilling effect" on free expression.

Holcomb, in a statement Wednesday, said the bill aligns with his track record of "encourag(ing) diversity, inclusivity and respect for all" by "ensur(ing) freedom of expression" for faculty and students.

"The bill requires free inquiry and civil discourse programming for new students, strongly encourages academic freedom and protects faculty to express differing viewpoints from their colleagues and university leadership," Holcomb continued. "The Senate Bill statutorily recognizes faculty tenure and tasks each institution to develop its own

leagues for helping me to make it state law," Deery added.

Other items signed

Former public employees are expected to win big under legislation Holcomb also signed into law.

An estimated 175,000 – according to the Indiana Public Retirement System - will get a one-time benefit bonus by October. And they're guaranteed to get annual 13th checks or costof-living adjustments for the foreseeable future, under a compromise lawmakers struck on the final day of the legislative session.

It came after weeks of tussling over policy goals and years of differences in preferred approaches to additional benefits.

Sen. Brian Buchanan, who carried the long-term plan that his chamber inserted into House Enrolled Act 1004, said he was "thankful" Holcomb signed the legislation into law.

"This new law ensures public retirees will be taken care of and makes INPRS more sustainable for future generations," Buchanan, R-Lebanon, added.

Holcomb signed dozens of other bills, including:

• House Enrolled Act 1084, which lets four state officeholders carry handguns in and around the Statehouse. It also seeks privacy for firearm owners and fairness in transactions for firearm businesses.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City: Tuesday, 3:20 p.m., South Oak and West Ohio streets. Issue with vehicle parked on roadway.

Tuesday, 4:04 p.m., Bluffton Police Department. Woman requested to make report of a theft.

Tuesday, 4:37 p.m., First Bank of Berne. Driver cited for distracted driving.

Tuesday, 8:43 p.m., West Central Avenue and South Bond Street. Report of woman screaming in area, multiple callers. Officer located juvenile walking dog possibly yelling at it, however, no other disturbances observed.

Wednesday, 12:32 p.m., East 300 North and North 450 East. Driver cited for speeding.

County:

Tuesday, 8:42 p.m., 2600 West Rock Hill Lane, Zanesville. Report of a missing 13-year-old. Juvenile safely located, runaway charges not pursued.

River Road, Bluffton. Driver nace, heard a bang. No fire admitted to having Delta 8 THC cartridge and consented to search. Nothing else located.

Wednesday, 4:34 a.m., 116, Markle. Car versus or. deer.

Wednesday, 5:36 a.m., S.R. 124 and North 300 West, Bluffton. Driver cited for expired plates.

Wednesday, 5:54 a.m., S.R. 124 and North 100 West, Bluffton. Driver cited for driving while suspended. Ossian:

Tuesday, 1:17 p.m., 6600 North 100 East, Ossian. Report of a man that shattered windshield and ripped off a door handle. Man was angry his wife would not permit him to have a free bike to resell from a garage sale.

Tuesday, 2:22 p.m., 4000 East 800 North, Ossian. Landlord requested officer to stand by for eviction notice.

Wednesday, 12:48 a.m., Wednesday, 12:08 a.m., Silo Farms, Össian. Report South 450 East and East of smell of smoke from fur-

found.

ARRESTS

Christopher A Cook, 41, Woodburn; Driving while Wednesday, 4:34 a.m., suspended – prior infrac-North 300 West and S.R. tion, a Class A misdemean-

ACCIDENTS City:

Saturday, 1:38 p.m., 100 block of West Market Street. Kelly Lewis, 26, Bluffton, was attempting to park in a space on the 100 block of west Market Street when her Pontiac Vibe struck a parked and unattended Honda Odyssey. No injuries reported.

Friday, midnight, 628 North Main St. Matthew Harris, 29, Ossian, was backing from an angled parking stall in the parking lot of Taco Bell when his Chevrolet Express Van collided with a Ford F-150 driven by Daelin Stanfield, 21, Fort Wayne. Stanfield was waiting in a line of vehicles for drive-thru service. No injuries reported, damages did not exceed \$2,500

Hoosier political candidates can use donations for child care, election officials say

By LESLIE BONİLLA MUÑIZ

Indiana Capital Chronicle Political candidates in Indiana can use campaign contributions to pay for child care expenses incurred while campaigning or in office, according to Hoosier election officials.

Indiana's the 31st state to make that determination.

A recent advisory opinion came in response to a request from two state lawmakers seeking clarification on campaign finance laws.

Rep. Victoria Garcia Wilburn, D-Fishers, told the Capital Chronicle she made the request because finding after-school, evening and weekend care for her then-9-year-old son while campaigning in 2022 was challenging.

"Who's going to watch him while mom's canvassing? When I have these night events, we need a sit-

said Indiana Election Commissioner Karen Celestino-Horseman, a Democrat, at a February 27 meeting.

Chair Paul Okeson, a Republican, pushed back.

'It feels like this should be a legislative matter and codified by lawmakers," he said.

Garcia Wilburn previously told him she and Hunley chose an administrative rather than legislative route because this year's session is a short one - just two months - and because, she said, the commission had the authority to do it.

Commission proponents echoed that argument.

"This was asking us to provide an interpretation of what the existing statute says - which, of course, we do all the time," Vice-Chair Suzannah Wilson Overholt, a Democrat said.

Okeson maintained that

the issue was "ripe for legis-lative clarity."

He agreed to a narrower advisory opinion allowing only child care costs, in line with the FEC; the request pushed to allow for broader "caregiving" expenses, including for dependents with disabilities or medical conditions.

The commission also chose to end its advisory opinion by "respectfully recommending" legislators codify the clarification into law, in part to allay Okeson's concerns.

Indiana Election Division Co-General Counsel Valerie Warycha, a Republican, noted that the commission issued a similar advisory opinion in 2001, clarifying that candidates could take a salary from campaign contributions. That also included an invitation for lawmakers to weigh in.

review process.

"I have faith in our public universities to faithfully implement this law to foster the successful growth and intellectual vibrancy of academia while protecting the rights of all individuals," he concluded.

The bill's supporters say conservative faculty members and students are increasingly ostracized at progressively liberal college and university settings or at least perceive such shunning.

It makes changes to the institutions' diversity-oriented positions and their policies for tenure, contract renewals, performance reviews and more. It also establishes new reporting and survey requirements based on "free inquiry, free expression, and intellectual diversity."

Author Sen. Spencer Deery, R-West Lafayette, celebrated the signature in a statement.

"Indiana just sent a strong signal that our state is committed to academic freedom, free expression and intellectual diversity for all students and faculty," he said. "Universities that fail to foster intellectually diverse communities that challenge both teachers and learners fail to reach their potential. This measured bill makes it significantly less likely that any university will shortchange our students in that way."

Deery lauded the bill for making the creation of "truly diverse" communi-ties an "expectation across the state." He said it neither mandated nor prohibited any content, and wouldn't interrupt "minority student" university recruitment and retention efforts.

"This bill pushes our universities to improve with minimal disruption to how they already operate, and I am grateful to the governor and my col-

• House Enrolled Act 1093, loosening teenage labor laws.

• House Enrolled Act 1102, relaxing child care regulations in a bid to improve the state's seat shortage.

• House Enrolled Act 1137, requiring schools to approve parental requests for students to leave class during the day for religious instruction.

• Senate Enrolled Act 17, requiring that websites hosting pornographic content verify a user's age before allowing access.

• Senate Enrolled Act 282, which seeks to crack down on absenteeism in schools.

• Senate Enrolled Act 234, which limits how long a governor can call a statewide disaster emergency without legislative approval to 60 days.

Attorney General Todd Rokita applauded the emergency powers change, saying "Glad to see Hoosiers will no longer be controlled by any governor's view of what qualifies as a state of disaster emergency for months on end like we did in 2020. Now, our local elected leaders in the General Assembly will have the power to vote on this and make appropriate decisions for their constituents.'

Holcomb has yet to sign 6 bills, including measures defining and banning antisemitism in public education, constraining the state's public access chief, limiting "foreign adversary" land buys, ending a long-running local lawsuit against firearm manufacturers and altering an Indianapolis-based financial district.

He is scheduled to sign the sixth, which legalizes restaurant happy hours and carry-out alcohol orders, on Thursday afternoon at an Indianapolis establishment.

FW's FAME Festival at Grand Wayne Center

The 36th annual FAME Festival, that offer students the opportunity to create, exhibit and perform works of art, will be held March 16-17, at the Grand Wayne Center in Fort Wayne.

Students will be performing (piano, vocal, dance and drama), displaying art and be offered workshops in music, dance and the visual arts. Special guests will be hand weaver Christine Ann Novotry and Nordic folks musician Vidar Skrede.

Admission is \$5 for adults and free to those 18 and younger. Hours on Saturday are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. More information at https://famearts.org/

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK! www.news-banner.com or www.facebook.com/news-banner

ter. When I can't get out of obligations and events that don't wrap up by 3 p.m., what's going to happen after school?" she told the Capital Chronicle.

Disabled or sick dependents, like elderly parents in need of care, were also a concern.

Garcia Wilburn said she wanted to "remove barriers" for other "everyday families" that want to serve in elected office. She and Sen. Andrea Hunley, D-Indianapolis, asked the Indiana Election Commission to weigh in through a December 19 letter.

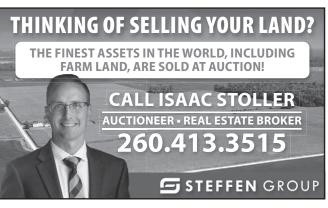
The request briefly split the bipartisan, four-member body over whether the clarification erred too close to policymaking, and has reignited debates over the gray area between personal and campaign expenses.

A topic for the **General Assembly?** There's precedent for

such a move. The Federal Election Commission has issued advisory opinions that campaign funds can go toward child care costs that directly result from campaign activities.

Indiana's campaign finance laws generally bar candidates and their campaigns from spending contributions for "primarily personal" purposes, but do say candidates can use funds to "defray any expense reasonably related" to campaigning or service in elected office.

"It lets these folks here, sitting in front of us, go ahead and make that expenditure for child care. They've got a little bit of cover because they can say they acted in good faith,







Stripping access counselor's authority harms the public as well as the press

It's easy to think of the Office of the Indiana Public Access Counselor as an agency that serves the media. And yes, reporters and media organiza-



tions routinely turn to the state's public access counselor for help in determining whether a public board, elected official or government office is following the state's public access and open records laws.

But the public access counselor spends as much or probably more time answering questions from people who aren't journalists — people in the public trying to get information from local governments or school boards, folks who have been denied access to meetings and elected officials trying to determine whether they are following the law.

The public access counselor's goal is to make sure government is open to its constituents — the people who pay for it to exist and the people it's set up to serve.

And so it's a huge concern that the Indiana General Assembly has passed legislation that will reduce what little clout the public access counselor has now.

House Bill 1138 — as amended by the Senate would limit what the access counselor can use in producing non-binding advisory opinions. The last part of that sentence is key: These are non-binding advisory opinions. The public access counselor can't order anyone to do anything.

Still, for the non-binding opinions, the legislation would require that the counselor consider only the "plain text" of the state's public access laws and court opinions. It removes any ability for the access counselor to interpret those laws or opinions when they don't speak directly to situations that crop up all the time, maybe because technology has changed or because lawmakers weren't able to anticipate the type of records that might someday exist.

Currently, state law directs the access counselor to "interpret" the state's open meeting and public records laws, which say they should be "liberally construed." That's because the goal is for government to be open.

The new language restricting the access counselor's authority comes from state Sen. Aaron Freeman, the Indianapolis Republican who has also pushed to strip Indianapolis of its ability to make some decisions related to traffic rules and ban IndyGo from using dedicated bus lanes.

He said Public Access Counselor Luke Britt has "issued some opinions I vehemently disagree with." And so, in addition to the language described above, Freeman also added a provision that makes it easier for a governor to fire the access counselor.

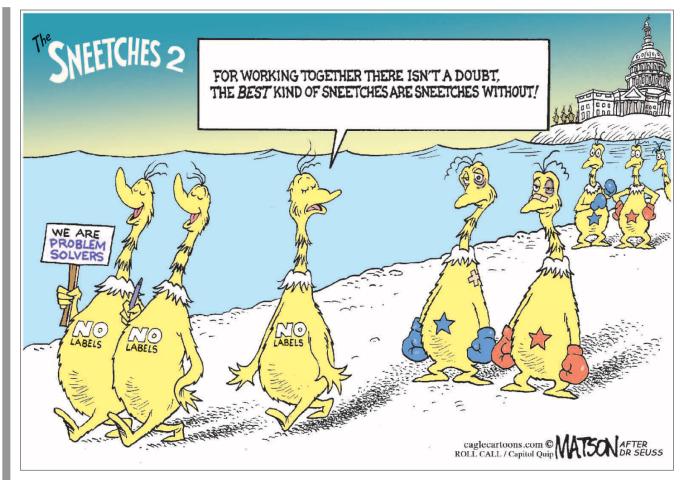
Under current law, the counselor is appointed for four years and can be fired only "for cause." The amended legislation would change the law to say the counselor serves "at the pleasure of the governor."

"That would strip the counselor's insulation from political processes, leaving the appointee vulnerable to being dismissed after issuing opinions that powerful state leaders dislike," the Indiana Capital Chronicle reports.

We agree. We call on Gov. Eric Holcomb to veto itnot for journalists but for the public who deserves access to government

INDIANAPOLIS BUSINESS JOURNAL





The 'No Labels' talent search

How do presidential candidacies start? Most begin with the ambitions of one person - one governor or senator or, in Donald Trump's case, one real estate mogul and reality TV star who thinks he should be president of the United States. Perhaps they even have a vision for leadership. The ambitious would-be candidate then sets out to win the support of his political party, and the race is on.

That's the usual way. Right now, though, we're seeing a strange variation on the process in which a party — a would-be party, actually — has decided it wants to have a candidate in the 2024 presidential election and is holding a sort of talent search as it looks for the right man or woman for the job.

The No Labels organization was founded in 2010 by a group of Democratic and Republican political operatives. The point of calling itself No Labels was that it would reject the partisanship of the major political parties. Instead, it would focus on centrism and "getting things done," although it has never been entirely clear what things the No Labels people want to get done.

You'd think it would be easy for the group to find a person to run for president. Many polls show majorities of Americans are unhappy with the prospect of a choice between President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump, so an alternative might be welcome. But finding a No Labels candidate has actually been hard — really hard. At various times in this campaign season, there have been reports that the No Labels group was very interested in a variety of potential candidates. There was retiring West Virginia Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin. There was former Maryland Republican Gov. Larry Hogan. There was just-dropped-out Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley. Problem was, all said no to running under the No Labels label. Others did, too

Finding a candidate has been so hard that one might expect the No Labels people to just sit 2024 out. But that's not what they have decided to do. Last Friday, the group got together in a virtual meeting and voted to go forward with a presidential run in 2024. But it still hasn't found anybody to run: No

Duncan is under consideration as the new No Labels standard-bearer. But who knows? Maybe he'll get a better offer and turn down No Labels, too.

One interesting aspect of this is that No Labels offers something that is hard for a would-be independent candidate to find. As of now, No Labels has access to the ballot in 14 states and will perhaps win access to another 14 in the months ahead. That is no small feat. By comparison, Axios reported recently that Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is on the ballot in just one state, Utah, but is nearing qualification for six more states. Getting on ballots is a lot of work. If a candidate were to run on the No Labels banner, a lot of that work would already have been done.

Some Democrats are angry at No Labels because they believe a No Labels candidate will hurt Biden more than Trump. Politico reported today that MoveOn, the progressive group, has put together a new ad attacking No Labels "urging voters not to support the third-party group." MoveOn has bought time on MSNBC's "Morning Joe," which is President Biden's favorite show, which it apparently thinks will make the president happy.

Why is all this happening? It's hard to say. One reason is that the centrist No Labels appeal does attract some donors, and there are always political operatives ready to jump on board if there is donor money to be had. Another is that the group allows some figures who once played big roles in our politics a way to stay in the game; No Labels is run by former Democratic Sen. Joe Lieberman, former NAACP executive director Ben Chavis and former North Carolina Republican Gov. Pat McCrory. A third possibility is that perhaps there are some people who really believe in the idea.

In any event, the search for a candidate goes on. The problem is, the lack of interest of high-level political players in running on a No Labels ticket means the process has become something of a joke. Perhaps No Labels officials could have an "Idol"style competition to identify a candidate. Or maybe



Byron York

10´S 'V

A continuing series on how to contact government officials

Here's how to contact local State Legislators: State Senator Travis Holdman $(\mathbf{\tilde{R}})$. He serves all of Wells County as part of the 19th Senate District. Toll-free: (800) 382-9467. Direct: (317) 232-9400. Web page: www. in.gov/S19 E-mail: Senator.Holdman@iga.in.gov

Rep. Matt Lehman (R). He represents the majority of Wells County as part of the 79th House District: Nottingham, Harrison, Lancaster townships and the portion of Jefferson Township east of Ind. 1, including all of incorporated Ossian. Toll free: (800) 382-9841, Direct: (317) 232-9677. Web page: www.in.gov/H79. E-mail: H79@in.gov

Rep. Lorissa Sweet (R). She represents all of Liberty, Union and Rockcreek townships and the portion of Jefferson Township west of Ind. 1, excluding incorporated portions of Ossian, as part of House District 50. Toll free: (800) 382-9841. Direct line: (317) 232-9651. Web page: www. in.gov/H50. E-mail: H50@in.gov

Gov. Eric Holcomb (R) The governor's phone number is (317) 232-4567. Email: go to www.in.gov/gov/ask-eric and click on "Contact Form.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, March 14, the 75th day of 2024. There are 292 days left in the year.

Today's highlight in history: On March 14, 1879, Albert Einstein, who would revolutionize physics and the human understanding of the universe, was born in Ulm, Germany.

On this date:

In 1794, Eli Whitney received a patent for his cotton gin, an invention that revolutionized America's cotton industry.

In 1951, during the Korean War, United Nations forces recaptured Seoul.

In 1962, Democrat Edward M. Kennedy officially launched in Boston his successful candidacy for the U.S. Senate seat from Massachusetts once held by his brother, President John F. Kennedy. (Edward Kennedy served in the Senate for nearly 47 years.)

In 1964, a jury in Dallas found Jack Ruby guilty of murdering Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy, and sentenced him to death. (Both the conviction and death sentence were overturned, but Ruby died before he could be retried.)

In 1967, the body of President John F. Kennedy was moved from a temporary grave to a permanent memorial site at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

In 1980, a LOT Polish Airlines jet crashed while attempting to land in Warsaw, killing all 87 people aboard, including 22 members of a U.S. amateur boxing team.

In 1990, the Soviet Congress of People's Deputies held a secret ballot that elected Mikhail S. Gorbachev to a new, powerful presidency.

In 1995, American astronaut Norman Thagard became the first American to enter space aboard a Russian rocket as he and two cosmonauts blasted off aboard a Soyuz spacecraft, headed for the Mir space station.

Labels decided to run a presidential campaign without a presidential candidate.

So now No Labels is also No Candidate. There is talk that, with the efforts to lure bigger names ending in failure, former Georgia Republican Lt. Gov. Geoff they could hold a drawing - you've got to enter to win! Or perhaps they could just auction off the nomination to the highest bidder. In the end, though, who is going to take this seriously?

Alan

Daugherty

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Old wives' tales (not Gwen)

Let me make it perfectly clear. This Angelkeep Journals' writer is not, repeat *not*, referring to my lovely wife, Gwen, when writing "Old Wives." That Godly woman speaks truth.

However, Gwen loves winter and adores a good snowfall, unlike her male marriage counterpart. With spring on the near horizon, today's column will attempt to clarify a few facts from fantasy.

Everyone knows, with the exception of the prognosticator on Groundhog's Day, spring usually falls on March 20 every year. So what happened to 2024? Think spring on March 19. A whole day early. Give us three cheers for spring fans. Spring! Spring! Spring!

"March'll search ye, April try ye, whether live or die ye."

The equinox connected to the calendar, oddly due to man's time adjustments. And you thought "springing ahead one hour" was bad. It is leap year. Every leap year until 2048 will have spring beginning on the 19. Spring will never again start on the 21st during the 21st century. Spring will last 3.764 days longer than winter this year. Yeah, Spring!

"To successfully grow hot peppers, one must get mad while planting them.'

Angelkeep once grew peppers, mostly bell, sweet, and banana types. It's a bygone. Getting mad occurred after planting. It seemed deer, chipmunks, and even the Easter Bunny, enjoyed a pepper plant now and again. They ate well before any blooms could convert to a garden veggie. Angelkeep's experience with the old wives' tale came as an after-

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Angelkeep Journals

planting madness. Angelkeep gained bliss by copycatting Peter Piper picking a pound of peppers in a produce aisle.

"If it rains on

the first Sunday of the month, every Sunday except one usually will be wet."

How can this old wives' tale explain the event that happened at Angelkeep once upon a time when the front lawn remained sunny, but the backyard, consisting primarily of Angelpond, received rainfall?

"Achy joints? Cold weather is coming!

Angelkeep, both male and female, can speak to the absolute accuracy of this particular old wives' tale. It's not rocket science. It's arthritic rheumatism. It's hereditary. Sorry kids, your day is coming. Gwen's father had arthritis severely. Gwen's father's name was Arthur. That explains a lot.

"Red sky at night, Sailor's delight; red sky in morning, sailors take warning."

Truer words are never more often spoken at Angelkeep. However Gwen learned it only slightly different. "Red sky at night, sailor's delight; red sky of morning, sailor takes warning."

"A heavy dew at night promises a good day to follow."

This writer had ample recollection of the truth to this wives' tale. Heavy night dew tended to bring out night crawlers. They emerged in great

abundance in the wet grass, often for the purpose of the romantic half-body "hug" that produced offspring, if you get the drift. They were so engrossed in their moment, grabbing them in pairs proved easy. Dozens collected within a half hour meant a generous supply for the next day's fishing jaunt. Any day of fishing was a good day, fully loaded with bait even better, and productive. Thus, one reason this old wives' tale speaks truth.

Balancing an egg on end during the equinox was not a wives' tale, it was actually fact. It required patience. True also for any day of the year. Sprinkling a bit of salt on the table helped eliminate some of the patience needed. Don't forget to save that egg for the old sidewalk egg fry of summer's blistering warm dog days.

"A wish made on the first robin of spring will be granted.'

If only! Angelkeep captured photos and videos of robins all winter. There was no robin migration from Angelkeep. Some fly away. Many robins migrate only sixty miles. If Angelkeep robins flew south sixty miles as "snow birds" they'd be basking in Richmond, Ind. Wasn't Richmond the historical hometown of East Haven, the Eastern Indiana Hospital for the Insane, at one time?

Robins were not a sign of spring. Robins eating earthworms from the ground were a sign of spring. Earthworms were the true sign. Robins were simply enjoying the spring charcuterie. After spending winter eating berries, vegetarian robins' old wives were being asked to "show me the meat.'

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

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Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper

Explain that one, old wives'.

DIVERSIONS

WHAT ARE

YOU WAITING

FOR²

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EVERY HOUSE IN THAT

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ORDERED SOMETHING!

REG + MORT WALKER

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CASSIUS WANTS TO PLAY "CATCH", YOU WANT TO PLAY "CATCH", AND I HAVE TONS

OF HOMEWORK

HAVE FUN OUR GRUBDASH

DELIVERY

Family troubles leaving me at a loss

Dear Annie: It has recently come sions about how to my attention that my middle adult to move forson has molested my adult daughter when she was 8 years old. She broke down and told me tearfully last week.

She is now 23, and he is 31. And I am completely at a loss of how I should feel, think, react. I'm basically an emotional wreck. He is married with four children (whom I now fear Additionally, for), not to mention what his wife exploring supwould think/do..

we were/are so close. Please, any thoughts on this? My daughter and I are OK; she knows I'm here for her and we will go at her pace and not therapist can help you deal with is push anything, but this explains a lot about her behavior over the years. I've looked for help on the web for this and all I get are hotlines. Thank you for your consideration. - Concerned Parent

Dear Concerned Parent: Firstly, I want to extend my deepest sympathies to you and your daughter. Discovering such heartbreaking news will inevitably leave you feeling shocked, devastated and completely at a loss for how to proceed.

Your first priority must be the safety and well-being of your daughter. Your unconditional love and support are undoubtedly a huge source of comfort and strength for her. And ing Partner?" features favorite colit's natural to feel conflicted about your son, grappling with the love you have for him and the shock, devastation and rage you likely feel about his actions.

Seek professional guidance and support to help you navigate your emotions and make informed deci-

ward. Consider reaching out to a therapist or counselor who specializes in family dynamics and trauma. port groups or



Dear

BEETLE BAILEY

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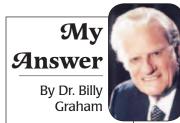
LOOK LIKE!

I'm REALLY at a loss because networks for families of survivors of

One of the biggest questions a talking to your son about what he did, and whether he should tell his wife. She deserves to know the truth and make an informed decision about what to do next; her children's safety is at stake. If your son is willing to take responsibility for his actions and seek professional help to address the issues that contributed to this behavior, then perhaps there is a way for his family to get through this intact.

alone in this. There are resources and support networks to help you – and your family – navigate this challenging journey.

questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.



Question: My life has taken a terrible turn after surviving a horrific accident leaving me impaired. I grew up in church and was active in my youth group. Now that I am unable to walk and drive a car, my social life has been snatched away. I know that the Lord has a purpose in this. How can I find it? -B.Y.

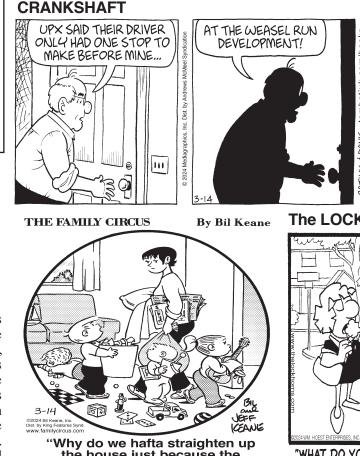
Answer: A happy

An existence void of faith is a fate worse than death

Crosby, her spirit aglow with faith in Christ many years ago, saw more with her sightless eyes than most do with normal vision. She has given us some of the great songs of the church that cheer our hearts and lives.

Joni Eareckson Tada, a bright-eyed and talented woman, has lifted spirits of children and adults through sharing her joy in the midst of suffering.

death. When we study God's Word and spend time in prayer before Him, His Spirit teaches us so much. Pray because Christ died to give us access to the Father in Heaven. Pray because God is worthy of praise. Pray because others need our prayers. The "God of



the house just because the cleaning lady is coming?'



The LOCKHORNS



"WHAT DO YOU MEAN, I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY **ABOUT BRAIN FREEZE?"**

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer ACROSS 37 Adjoining DOWN 22 Peru 1 C

Annie by Annie Lane

abuse can provide you with a sense of community.

Above all, remember you are not

"How Can I Forgive My Cheatumns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation. It is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit http://www.creatorspublishing. com for more information. Send your

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life is not one filled only with sunshine, but one that uses both light and shadow to produce beauty. All the masterpieces of art contain both light and shadow. The greatest musicians as a rule are those who know how to bring song out of sadness. Fanny

The self-sacrifice of God's people through the centuries has contributed immeasurably to our culture, ethics, and faith. Down deep, we know that there are still things worthy of doing. An existence void of faith is a fate worse than

to comfort those who are in any trouble" (2 Corinthians 1:3–4, NKJV).

all comfort, who com-

forts us in all our tribula-

tion, that we may be able

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

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Pictured above are the 2024 Northeast 8 Middle School Conference champion Norwell Knights holding the trophy Tuesday night at the East Noble YMCA. (Photo provided)

Knights take 6th straight NE8 MS conference title

Norwell brought home the hardware Tuesday night, winning its sixth straight Northeast 8 Conference title in a row.

The Knights breezed through the fiveteam field with a team score of 393 - 100plus points ahead of second place Indian Springs at 245.

Bellmont came in third at 217, East Noble at 187 and Huntington fifth with

Five events were crowned individual champions. They include: Katelyn Troutt in the diving events, Faith Grant in the 200yard freestyle, Mia Kurtz in the 50-yard freestyle and in the 100-yard freestyle, and the 300-yard freestyle relay team of Grant, Kurtz, Layken Mialkowski and Emma Easlev.

High School Calendar

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. **SATURDAY, MARCH 23** No events scheduled.

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, Mish-awaka (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. Jessfersonville (19-7) vs. Lawrence

Jessfersonville (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

12 p.m.

Championship at 8 p.m. **3A South (Seymour)** Guerin Catholic (21-7) vs. Danville ommunity (22-3), 10 a.m.

Sam Houston St. 78, FIU 59

Women's Basketball Scores Wednesday, Mar. 13 TOURNAMENT American Athletic

Championship Rice 61, East Carolina 41 Big Sky Championship E. Washington 73, N. Arizona 64

Big West First Round

UC Davis 81, Cal St.-Fullerton 56 Long Beach St. 90, UC Santa Bar-bara 75 Coastal First Round

Hofstra 71, Hampton 55 Northeastern 66, UNC-Wilmington 60

Conference USA Quarterfinal Middle Tennessee 78, UTEP 50 Liberty 62, W. Kentucky 59 Metro Atlantic Athletic Quarterfinal

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. Saturday's Games Cleveland at Houston, 5 p.m.

Brooklyn at Indiana, 7 p.m. Charlotte at Philadelphia, 7 p.m. Portland at New Orleans, 7 p.m. Oklahoma City at Memphis, 8 p.m. Washington at Chicago, 8 p.m. Golden State at L.A. Lakers, 8:30 p.m

Minnesota at Utah, 9:30 p.m New York at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

HOCKEY

Reception Sunday to honor Liberty Center's Dick Harris

The public is invited to a reception Sunday afternoon to honor Liberty Center native Dick Harris, who will be inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame next week.

Now a resident of San Diego, California., the 1964 Liberty Center High School graduate set numerous records during his high school years and college career at Manchester University. He was also a key player on the 1964 Liberty Center team that set an IHSAA record of nine overtimes in a regional semi-final basketball game.

The reception will be held from 2-4 p.m. at the Liberty Center Community Church, 2905 S. Main St. in Liberty Cen-



By JAY COHEN AP Baseball Writer

The San Diego Padres acquired righthander Dylan Cease in a trade with the Chicago White Sox on Wednesday for reliever Steven Wilson and three prospects: righthanders Drew Thorpe and Jairo Iriarte, and outfielder Samuel Zavala.

A person familiar with the move confirmed the deal to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the trade had not been announced.

Cease, who turned 28 in December, was second in AL Cy Young Award voting in 2022 after going 14-8 with a 2.20 ERA. He went 7-9 with a 4.58 ERA last year for a White Sox team that went 61-101.

He agreed in January to an \$8 million, one-year contract and is eligible for free agency after the 2025 World Series.

Cease is 43-35 with a 3.83 ERA in 123

three spring training starts this year. He averaged 95.6 mph with his fastball last season, throwing it on 43% of his pitches. He also throws a slider (39%), curveball (15%) and splitter (3%). San Diego is coming off a disappointing

major league starts over five seasons, strik-

ing out 792 and walking 79 in 658 innings.

He has a 2.16 ERA over 8 1/3 innings in

season. Favored to contend for the postseason with a team-record opening day payroll of almost \$258 million, the Padres skidded to an 82-80 record and missed the playoffs. San Diego traded star outfielder Juan Soto to the New York Yankees in December.

Cease joins a rotation that includes Yu Darvish and Joe Musgrove.

Wilson, a 29-year-old right-hander, made his big league debut in April 2022. He was 1-2 with a 3.91 ERA last year in 52 relief appearances, striking out 57 and walking 27 in 53 innings.

Joe Flacco is heading to the Colts on a 1-year, \$4.5 million deal

By ROB MAADDI AP Pro Football Writer

Joe Flacco is heading to the Indianapolis Colts after helping the Cleveland Browns reach the playoffs and winning the AP Comeback Player of the Year Award.

Flacco and the Colts agreed on a oneyear deal for \$4.5 million guaranteed, a person familiar with the terms told The Associated Press on Wednesday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the contract hasn't been finalized. Flacco's deal is worth up to \$8.7 million with incentives.

Flacco, a former Super Bowl MVP with Baltimore, was home in New Jersey with his family when Cleveland called him in November. He went 4-1 in five starts and passed for over 300 yards in four straight games with 13 touchdown passes. He wanted to stay in Cleveland to back up Deshaun Watson but the Browns didn't make him an offer, agent Joe Linta told the AP.

Instead, the Browns are bringing in Jameis Winston to serve as Watson's backup

Flacco turned down an offer from the Philadelphia Eagles to join the Colts. The Saints also had interest in the veteran QB.

He'll help mentor Anthony Richardson with Indianapolis, which let veteran backup Gardner Minshew go to Las Vegas.

Richardson, the No. 4 overall pick in last year's draft, was 2-2 with the Colts before sustaining a season-ending shoulder injury. Indianapolis went 7-6 with Minshew.



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. Central (25-4), 10 a.m. Forest Park (18-9) vs. Parke Heri-tage (23-5), 11:45 p.m. Championship at 7:30 p.m. **1A North (Michigan City)** Liberty Christian (17-9) vs. Mar-quette Catholc (12-15), 10 a.m. Elkhart Christian (17-9) vs. Fort Wayne Canterbury (16-9), 12 p.m. Championship at 7:30 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. Barr-Reeve (24-2), 11:45 p.m. Championship at 7:30 p.m.

College Men's Basketball Scores Wednesday, Mar. 13 TOURNAMENT American Athletic First Round Wichita St. 88, Rice 81 Temple 64, UTSA 61 Atlantic 10 Second Round Saint Joseph's 64, George Mason 57 VCU 69, Fordham 62 St. Bonaventure 75, La Salle 73 Duquesne 83, Saint Louis 73 Atlantic Coast Second Round Florida St. 86, Virginia Tech 76 Wake Forest 72, Notre Dame 59 NC State 83, Syracuse 65 Big 12 Second Round BYU 87, UCF 73 TCU 77, Oklahoma 70 Kansas St. 78, Texas 74 Big East First Round Xavier 76, Butler 72 Providence 74, Georgetown 56 Big Ten First Round Maryland 65, Rutgers 51 Penn St. 66, Michigan 57 Metro Atlantic Athletic Quarterfinal Quinnipiac 76. Canisius 52 **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** Quarterfinal Norfolk St. 75, Coppin St. 51 Mountain-West Conference First Round Fresno St. 77, Wyoming 73 Colorado St. 72, San Jose St. 62 New Mexico 82, Air Force 56 Pacific-12 Conference First Round Southern Cal 80, Washington 74 UCLA 67, Oregon St. 57 Patriot League Championship Colgate 74, Lehigh 55 Southeastern First Round Arkansas 90, Vanderbilt 85, OT Southland Championship McNeese St. 92, Nicholls 76 Southwestern Athletic Quarterfinal Alabama A&M 75, Alcorn St. 63 Western Athletic Quarterfinal

intield Rider 5 Niagara 70, Quinnipiac 56 Mid American Quarterfinal Toledo 72, W. Michigan 61 Buffalo 70, Bowling Green 64 Ball St. 77, Ohio 53 Kent St. 63, N. Illinois 60 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Quarterfinal Norfolk St. 75. SC State 43 Howard 49, Morgan St. 44 Southland Semifinal Lamar 83, Texas A&M Commerce 58 Texas A&M-CC 60, SE Louisiana 59 Southwestern Athletic Quarterfinal Grambling St. 66, Florida A&M 60 Jackson St. 67, Prairie View 58 Western Athletic First Round Texas-Arlington 67, S. Utah 53 Tarleton St. 54, Abilene Christian 41

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Boston 123, L	Jtah	107		-								
Minnesota 11	8. L./	A. CII	opers '	100								
Sacramento 1	129, 1	Milwa	aukee 9	94								
Wednes Detroit 113, Te												
Orlando 114.	Broo	klvn	106									
Denver 100, I	Viam	i 88										
Cleveland 116	3, Ne	w Or	leans 9	95								
Orlando 114, Denver 100, M Cleveland 116 Charlotte 110 Chicago 132, Golden State	, Mei	mphi	s 98									
Golden State		l Gni allac	29, UI	m								
Atlanta at Por	tland	anas, 1 10	n m									
L.A. Lakers at	t Sac	rame	ento, 10) p.m.								
Thurse	dav's	Ga	mes	•								

Thursday's Games Phoenix at Boston 7:30 p.m.

NHL EASTERN CONFERENCE

WESTERN CONFERENCE Central Division GP W L OTPts GF GA Dallas 67 40 18 9 89245 203 Winnipeg 65 41 19 5 87198 157 Colorado 66 41 20 Nashville 67 38 25 5 87247 199 4 80215 203 St. Louis 66 34 29 Minnesota 66 32 27 3 71187 201 7 71208 216 Arizona 66 26 35 5 57193222 66 18 43 5 41145 235 Chicago Pacific Division
 Pacific Division

 GP W L OTPts GF GA

 Vancouver 66 42 17
 7 91234 178

 Edmonton 63 39 21
 3 81222 180

 Los Angeles6533 21
 11 77198 174

 Vegas
 65 35 23
 7 77212 195

 Seattle
 64 28 24
 12 68178 184

 Colspan
 65 31 20
 5 6720 212
 Calgary Anaheim Calgary 65 31 29 5 67202 212 Anaheim 65 23 39 3 49169 236 San Jose 64 16 41 7 39141 253 NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to

playoffs. **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 6, Calgary 2 Vegas 5, Seattle 4. OT Wednesday's Games St. Louis 3, Los Angeles 1 Nashville 4, Winnipeg 2 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. Saturday's Games Buffalo at Detroit, 12:30 p.m. N.Y. Rangers at Pittsburgh, 3 p.m.

New Jersey at Arizona, 5 p.m. Tampa Bay at Florida, 6 p.m. Carolina at Toronto, 7 p.m. Montreal at Calgary, 7 p.m. Philadelphia at Boston, 7 p.m. San Jose at Columbus, 7 p.m. Minnesota at St. Louis, 8 p.m.

NASCAR CUP SERIES Food City 500

Site: Bristol, Tennessee.

Schedule: Saturday, practice, 5 p.m., and qualifying, 5:50 p.m.; Sunday, race, 3:30 p.m. (FOX).

Track: Bristol Motor Speedway.

Last race: Bell surged into the lead and pulled away for the victory at Phoenix after Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Martin Truex Jr. was forced to pit for tires and fuel.

NASCAR XFINITY SERIES

Last race: Chandler Smith moved to the lead after a blown tire cost Justin Allgaier a big lead and got a huge jump on an overtime restart to hold off Jesse Love and Sheldon Creed at Phoenix, giving Toyota its second straight victory in the series.

Next race: March 23, Austin, Texas.

NASCAR TRUCK SERIES Weather Guard Truck Race

Site: Bristol, Tennessee.

Schedule: Saturday, practice, 3 p.m., qualifying, 3:40 p.m., and race, 8 p.m. (FS1).

Track: Bristol Motor Speedway.

Last race: Rajah Caruth became the third Black driver to win in one of NASCAR's three national series, winning after starting on the pole at Las Vegas.

Next race: March 23, Austin, Texas.

FORMULA ONE

Last race: Three-time defending series champion Max Verstappen led another dominating 1-2 finish for Red Bull to win in Saudi Arabia, his ninth consecutive victory dating to last season, 19th in 20 races and 21st in the last 24 races.

Next race: March 24, Melbourne, Australia. INDYCAR

Last race: Josef Newgarden won from the pole position in the season-opener in St. Petersburg, with Pato O'Ward of Arrow McClaren disrupting a Team Penske sweep of the top three spots as teammates Scott McLaughlin and Will Power finished third and fourth.

Next race: March 24, Thermal, California.

NHRA DRAG RACING

Last event: Shawn Langdon won in Top Fuel and JR Todd won in Funny Car in Gainesville.

Next event: March 24, Pomona, California. WORLD OF OUTLAWS Next events: March 15 & 16, Paige, Texas.





1743 N. Main St., Bluffton • 824-0900

("Project")

Public Notices

Town of Ossian, Indiana Notice of Receipt of Bids Project: Baker Drive Extension

water main, and 700 linear feet of 10-inch gravity sanitary sewer. The project shall include common

excavation, compacted aggregate subbase, HMA surface and inter-

mediate, storm piping, water main, sanitary sewer, erosion control,

and surface restoration. All quali-fied Contractors are invited to bid

the work. General Plans and Specifi-

cations: Complete digital project bidding documents are available

at <u>www.questcdn.com</u>. Quest CDN will serve as the Issuing Office

and maintain the plan holder list.

Digital Bidding Documents may be downloaded for a non-refundable

fee of \$22 by inputting Quest proj-ect number QuestCDN eBidDoc

#9022951 on the website's proj-ects search page. Please contact QuestCDN Customer Support at 952.233.1632 or info@questcdn.

<u>com</u> for assistance in member-ship registration, downloading, and

ship registration, downloading, and working with digital project informat ion. No paper copies will be pro-vided by the Owner. **Pre-Bid Meeting:** Beginning at 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, a pre-bid meeting will be held at the Ossian Town Hall, 507 N lefferson Street Ossian Indi-

N. Jefferson Street, Ossian, Indi-ana 46777. Prospective bidders

are strongly encouraged to attend. Bids: All bids must be sub-

bids: All bids must be sub-mitted to the Town of Ossian by noon, Thursday, April 4, 2024, to be considered for the work. Bids submitted prior to 11:45 a.m. on April 4, 2024, shall be submitted at the Ossian Town Hall, 507 N. Jef-ferson Street, Ossian, IN 46777. Bids submitted after 11:45 a.m. on

Bids submitted after 11:45 a.m. on April 4, 2024, must be delivered to the Ossian Town Council meeting location at Collier's Comfort, 215

N. Jefferson St., Ossian, IN. Bid-ders are responsible for the timely

delivery of their bids. All bids shall be in sealed envelopes bearing the Project title, "Town of Ossian Baker Drive Extension" and include

the name and address of the bid-der. All bids shall include fully

completed and executed Contrac-tor's Bid for Public Work - Form 96

and E-Verify and Iran Investment Certification. Bids shall be accom-

panied by a bidder's bond or certi-

fied check equal to 5% of the bid

amount. Bids arriving after the time

set will be returned unopened and only complete bids with all required

materials will be considered. Review and Consideration:

All bids timely received shall be publicly opened and read aloud at Collier's Comfort, 215 N. Jefferson St., Ossian, IN at noon, April 4, 2024. The Town of Ossian, Indi-ana, reserves the right to reject all bide weige defectioned among the

bids, waive defects and amend the

Project's scope. It is anticipated

that the Ossian Town Council will

take bids received under advise-

ment and that a determination may

oj, nb 3/14, 3/21

hspaxlp

be made by April 8, 2024. By: Crystal Chapman, Town Manager Town of Ossian, Indiana

Summary: The Project shall generally consist of approximately 650 linear feet of roadway con-struction, 700 linear feet of 12-inch

Place Your Ad 24/7: GO TO www.news-banner.com AND CLICK ON "Classifieds" OR CALL 824-0224 MON-FRI 8-5 • TOLLFREE 800-579-7476 • FAX 824-0700 VISA WE ACCEPT

SUDOK

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

King Classic Sudoku

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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 ex-amination 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

Help Wanted



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. Vaca-tion & holiday pay. Please apply in person at 12005 Indianapolis Rd. Yoder, IN 46798 or send your resume

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.

Help Wanted

THE WELLS COUNTY Prosecutor's Office is looking to hire a person for an Investigator position. The position is a parttime county-paid position making \$21/hour. The investigator would be responsible for con-ducting 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 24hour 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.

HELOISE HINT: If you have a part-time job. Do your best while on the job and network with everyone. If people are impressed with how well you do your job, you might be offered a full-time position. Send your job-success story to HELO-ISE@Heloise.com.

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: Contribute to your local animal shelters. They do so much good for pets within the community. They can use donations of old sheets or comforters. You can also contact them to see what else they

NOTICE **Notices**

UPCOMING HAVING AN 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.

SERVICES

Services

ETHAN'S OUTDOOR SER-VICES LLC Lawn Care, Lawn Rolling, Spring & Fall Clean Landscaping & Grass Ups, Seeding. Call Ethan today for a free estimate. 260-827-7945. 260-827-7945

ethansoutdoor@gmail.com

PRECISION LAND MAN-AGEMENT Excavating-Drainage Driveways-Demolition Call us today for a free quote! Serving Ossian and surrounding 517-932-8063 areas

NEW WINDOWS FROM Window Nation. Special money saving offer - zero down, zero payments, zero interest for TWO years AND buy 2 win-dows and get 2 FREE! Offer is valid for select models. Labor not included. Other restrictions apply. Call Window Nation today! 866-553-0725 (I)

DIRECTV SPORTS PACK - 3 Months on Us! Watch pro and college sports LIVE. Plus over 40 regional and specialty networks included. NFL, College Football, MLB, NBA, NHL, Golf and more. Some restrictions apply. Call DIRECTV 1-888-885-8931 (I)

SERIOUSLY INJURED IN an AUTO ACCIDENT? Let us fight for you! Our network has recovered millions for clients! Call today for a FREE consultation! 844-517-6414 (I)

4G LTE HOME Internet Now Available! Get GotW3 with lightning fast speeds plus take your service with you when you travel! As low as \$109.99/mo! 1-877-327-0930 (I)

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Notice is hereby given the taxpayers of Wells County, Indiana, that the County Council of said County, will meet at the Courthouse Annex in Bluff-

ton, Indiana at <u>5:30 O'clock p.m.</u> on <u>Monday, the 25th day of March</u> 2024, to consider the following additional appropriations more than the

LOCAL TRAX GRANT 20.205 - Highway Department

Services

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

Lottery Numbers

Wednesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY **Cash 5** — 04-13-35-36-

44 Lotto Plus — 03-04-16-

24-36-42

Cash4Life — 02-08-28-29-49, Cash Ball: 02

Quick Draw Midday — 01-02-06-11-12-16-18-24-27-29-31-33-40-46-48-57-

58-60-64-78, BE: 40 Daily Three-Midday —

02-02-04, SB: 00 Daily Three-Evening — 03-05-05, SB: 06

Daily Four-Midday -04-05-09-07, SB: 00

Daily Four-Evening — 05-00-04-05, SB: 06

Quick Draw Evening — 01-05-08-13-15-16-27-38-39-43-53-55-56-57-65-67-69-70-71-78, BE: 57

Hoosier Lotto - 06-14-17-37-44-45

MEGA MILLIONS Estimated jackpot (for

Friday): \$792 million POWERBALL

21-29-54-59-62 Powerball: 04; Power Play: 2X

Public Notice

Truland Equipment 5068 E 100 N, Bluffton, IN 46714 is submitting a Notice of Intent to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management of our intent to comply with the requirements of Construction Stormwater General Permit (CSGP) to discharge storm water from construction activities associated with Truland Building Expansion located at 5068 E. 100 N, Bluffton, IN 46714. Runoff from the project site will discharge to Johns Creek, Questions or comments should be directed to Aaron Taylor of Meyer Building at (260) 273-9282.

nb 3/14 hspaxlp

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Randy Steele no later than 12:00 pm on March 15, 2024.

might need. Fax Heloise @ 210-HELOISE (435-6473).

(9118-40720-000-0000)

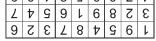
Hoosier Highway Local Match (1186-40720-000-0000)

RAINY DAY - Highway Department

budget for the current year.

\$984,800. oj, nb 3/14 hspaxlp

\$1,114,261.00



Tab Rate Chart for the year 2023 Payable 2024

Notice is hereby given that the Tax Duplicates for the Taxing Units of Wells County, for the year 2023 payable 2024, are now in the hands of the Wells County Auditor, who is ready to receive the Taxes charged thereon. The following table shows the rate of taxation on each \$100.00 of Taxable Real Estate, Personal Property and Mobile Homes. The first installment will be delinquent after May 10, 2024. Second installment will be delinquent after November 12, 2024. Lisa McCormick, Auditor, Auditor of Wells County.

		90 001 Chester	90 002 Poneto -	90 003 Harrison	90 004 Bluffton-	90 005 Poneto -	90 006 Vera Cruz	90 007 Jackson	90 008 Jefferson	90 009 Ossian	90 010 Lancaster		90 012 Bluffton City -		90 014 Poneto -	90 015 Nottingham	90 016 Rockcreek	90 017 Markle -	90 018 Uniondale -	90 019 Union	90 020 Markle -	90 021 Uniondale -	90 022 Zanesville
Func 61	I Fund Name County Rainy Day		Chester		Harrison	Harrison						Lancaster NW	Lancaster – BH		Liberty			Rockcreek	Rockcreek		Union	Union	
101 124 702	Wells County General 20015 Reassessment Highway	0.1678 0.0131	0.1678 0.0131	0.1678 0.0131		0.1678 0.0131	0.1678 0.0131		0.1678 0.0131			0.1678 0.0131				0.1678 0.0131		0.1678 0.0131	0.1678 0.0131	0.1678 0.0131	0.1678 0.0131	0.1678 0.0131	
706 790 801 2003	County Cum Bridge Health	0.0250 0.0072 0.0034	0.0072	0.0250	0.0072		0.0250 0.0072 0.0034	0.0072	0.0250 0.0072 0.0034	0.0072		0.0250	0.0072	0.0072	0.0072	0.0250 0.0072 0.0034	0.0072	0.0250 0.0072 0.0034	0.0250 0.0072 0.0034	0.0250 0.0072 0.0034	0.0250 0.0072 0.0034	0.0250 0.0072 0.0034	0.0072
	County 4-H County Cum Capital		0.0034				0.0034					0.0034				0.0034		0.0034	0.0034	0.0034		0.0034	
90 1	Development Total COUNTY	0.2498	0.2498	0.2498	0.2498	0.2498	0.2498	0.2498	0.2498	0.2498	0.2498	0.2498	0.2498	0.2498	0.2498	0.2498	0.2498	0.2498	0.2498	0.2498	0.2498	0.2498	0.2498
61 101 840 1101	Township Rainy Day Township General Township Assistance TWP Emerg Ambul/ Med Fire								0.0022 0.0095	0.0022 0.0095	0.0107	0.0107	0.0107	0.0058	0.0058	0.0067	0.0171	0.0171	0.0171`	0.0059 0.0020	0.0059 0.0020	0.0059 0.0020	
1111	Township Fire							0.0055	0.0534					0.0191		0.0122	0.0039			0.0055			
1181 1182	Township Fire Bldg Debt TWP Fire Equipment								0.0255					0.0148		0.0099	0.0199			0.0174			
1190	Debt TWP Cum Fire	0.0200							0.0007					0.0118		0.0166	0.0123			0.0119			
8604 8692	Special Fire Territory General Special Fire Territory																						
90 2	Equip. Total TOWNSHIP	0.0200	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0055	0.0913	0.0117	0.0107	0.0107	0.0107	0.0515	0.0058	0.0454	0.0532	0.0171	0.0171	0.0427	0.0079	0.0079	0.0079
61 101 342 706	CORP Rainy Day Corp General CORP Police Pension		0.7427		0.1228	0.7427	0.0907			0.1098		0.1228	0.1228		0.7427			0.9747	0.2959		0.9747	0.2959	0.0659
708	CORP Road & Street CORP Motor Vehicle				0.1187					0.1244		0.1187	0.1187										
1108 1111 1191										0.0167													0.1524
1301 1303		1			0.1219				0.0229	0.0229		0.1219	0.1219					0.0793			0.0793		
2379 2391 8604	CORP Cum Cap IMP CORP Cum Cap Dev Special Fire General				0.0437					0.0456		0.0437	0.0437					0.0206	0.0289		0.0206	0.0289	0.0500
8692 8704	Special Fire Equipment Spd Fire Territory Gen			0.1898	0.1898						0.1898	0.1898	0.1898										
8792				0.0333	0.0333						0.0333	0.0333	0.0333										
90 3 22	Post 22 Total CITY/TOWN REF SCH POST 09	0.0000 0.1221	0.7427 0.1221	0.2231	0.6302	0.7427	0.0907	0.0000 0.1221	0.0229	0.3194	0.2231	0.6302	0.6302		0.7427 0.1221		0.0000	1.0746	0.3248	0.0000	1.0746	0.3248	0.2683
61 180 287	School Rainy Day School Debt Service Referendum Debt Post 09	0.1244	0.1244	0.4879	0.4879	0.4879	0.4879	0.1244	0.3776 0.0790	0.3776 0.0790			0.4879	0.1244	0.1244	0.1244	0.3776 0.0790	0.3776 0.0790		0.3776 0.0790	0.3776 0.0790	0.3776 0.0790	
3101																							
3300	OPERATIONS, School	0.3974	0.3974	0.4810	0.4810	0.4810	0.4810	0.3974	0.4401	0.4401	0.4401	0.4401	0.4810	0.3974	0.3974	0.3974	0.4401	0.4401	0.4401	0.4401	0.4401	0.4401	0.4401
90 4	district Total SCHOOL	0.6439	0.6439	0.9689	0.9689	0.9689	0.9689	0.6439	0.8967	0.8967	0.8967	0.8967	0.9689	0.6439	0.6439	0.6439	0.8967	0.8967	0.8967	0.8967	0.8967	0.8967	0.8967
180	Library Rainy Day Library General Library Debt Service LIRF		0.0495 0.0154						0.0495 0.0154			0.0495 0.0154						0.2163	0.0495 0.0154		0.2163	0.0495 0.0154	
	Total LIBRARY		0.0649 0.0066						0.0649 0.0066									0.2163 0.0066	0.0649 0.0066	0.0649 0.0066	0.2163 0.0066	0.0649 0.0066	
90 6	Total SPECIAL UNIT 301-ROCKCREEK CONS.		0.0066 0.0157		0.0066	0.0066 0.0157	0.0066	0.0066	0.0066	0.0066	0.0066	0.0066	0.0066			0.0066 0.0157		0.0066	0.0066	0.0066	0.0066	0.0066	0.0066
90 7	Total CONSERVANCY Total Tax Rates (Less Conservancy)		0.0157 1.7079																	0.0000 1.2607			
Lisa I	McCormick, Auditor																						

Indigenous people rejoice after Berkeley votes to return sacred land

By OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ and JANIE HAR **Associated Press**

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) Ohlone people and others rejoiced Wednesday over the return of sacred Native land dating back thousands of years, saying the move rights a historic wrong and restores the people who were first on land now called Berkeley, California, to their rightful place in history.

The 2.2-acre (0.89-hectare) parking lot is the only undeveloped portion of the shellmound in West Berkeley, where ancestors of today's Ohlone people established the first human settlement on the shores of the San Francisco Bay 5,700 years ago.

Berkeley's City Council voted unanimously Tuesday to adopt an ordinance giving the title of the land to the Sogorea Te' Land

Trust, a San Francisco Bay Area collective led by women that works to return land to Indigenous people. The collective raised most of the money needed to reach the agreement with developers who own the land.

"We want to be a place for global Indigenous leadership to come and gather in solidarity," said Melissa Nelson, chair of the board of the Sogorea Te' Land Trust, at a celebratory news conference Wednesday. "We want to educate, we want to restore and we want to heal."

The crowd cheered as speakers talked of a movement to restore other lands to Indigenous people.

The site - a three-block area Berkeley designated as a landmark in 2000 -will be home to Native medicines and foods, an oasis for pollinators and wildlife, and a place for youth to learn about their heritage, including ancient dances and ceremonies.

"The site will be home to education, prayer and preservation, and will outlast every one of us today to continue telling the story of the Ohlone people," Mayor Jesse Arreguín said, adding that their history is "marked not by adversity, but more importantly, by their unwavering resilience as a community."

Before Spanish colonizers arrived in the region, the area held a village and a massive shellmound with a height of 20 feet and the length and width of a football field that was a ceremonial and burial site. Built over years with mussel, clam and oyster shells, human remains, and artifacts, the shellmound also served as a lookout.

The Spanish removed the Ohlone from their villages and forced them into labor at local missions. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, Anglo settlers took over the land and razed the shellmound to line roadbeds in Berkeley with shells.

"It's a very sad and shameful history," said Berkeley City Councilmember Sophie Hahn, who spearheaded the effort to return the land.

The agreement with Berkeleybased Ruegg & Ellsworth LLC, which owns the parking lot, comes after a six-year legal fight that started in 2018 when the developer sued the city after officials denied its application to build a 260-unit apartment building with 50% affordable housing and 27,500 feet of retail and parking space.

The settlement was reached after Ruegg & Ellsworth agreed to accept \$27 million to settle all outstanding claims and to turn the property over to Berkeley. The Sogorea Te' Land Trust contributed \$25.5 million and Berkeley paid \$1.5 million, officials said.

The trust plans to build a commemorative park with a new shellmound and a cultural center to house some of the pottery, jewelry, baskets and other artifacts found over the years and that are in the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley.

Corrina Gould, co-founder of the Sogorea Te' Land Trust and tribal chair of the Confederated Villages of Lisjan Ohlone, attended Tuesday's city council meeting via video conference and wiped away tears after the council voted to return the land.

The shellmound that once stood there was "a place where we first said goodbye to someone," she said. "To have this place saved forever, I am beyond words."

Prosecutor urges jury to convict Michigan school shooter's father

By ED WHITE Associated Press

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) A prosecutor urged jurors to convict the father of a Michigan school shooter on Wednesday, saying he ignored the "easiest, most glaring opportunities" to prevent the killing of four students, especially when confronted with his son's violent classroom drawing.

Instead of taking Ethan Crumbley home, James Crumbley left Oxford High School with his wife and made DoorDash runs, passing near their home during deliveries, prosecutor Karen McDonald said.

He didn't check the house for a gun similar to one in the drawing until news of the shooting started to spread in the small community. That's when he frantically called 911 and said the gun was missing - and his 15-year-old son could be the killer.

"There were 1,800 students at Oxford High School," McDonald said.

"There was one parent who suspected their son was a school shooter, and it was James Crumbley. You know what that's called? That's called foreseeability.'

Parents are not responsible for everything their kids do, she said later, but "this is a very egregious and rare set of facts.

A jury of six men and six women will resume deliberations Thursday after meeting for roughly 90 minutes Wednesday.

Crumbley, 47, is charged with involuntary manslaughter, accused of failing to safely secure the gun used by Ethan and not seeking help for the boy's mental distress.

Parents in Michigan have a "legal duty" to exercise reasonable care to prevent their child from harming others, the prosecutor said.

"James Crumbley was presented with the easiest, most glaring opportunities to prevent the deaths of four students and he did nothing," McDonald said. "He did nothing - over and over and over again."

The boy took the gun to school, killing four students and wounding seven more people on Nov. 30, 2021. Investigators said a cable that could have locked the gun was still in its package.

McDonald demonstrated for the jury how to use it, picking up the murder weapon, inserting a lock and

removing the keys. "Ten seconds," she said, "of the easiest, simplest thing.'

Ethan's mental state was declining: He made a macabre drawing of a gun and a wounded man on a math assignment and added disturbing phrases, "The thoughts won't stop. Help me. Blood everywhere. The world is dead."

But the parents declined to take Ethan home following a brief meeting at the school, accepting only a list of mental health providers. They didn't tell school staff that a Sig Sauer 9 mm handgun had been purchased by James Crumbley just four days earlier.

Ethan called it "my beauty" on social media. He pulled it from his backpack and began shooting. No one had checked the bag.

Earlier in November 2021, he wrote in his journal that he needed help for his mental health "but my parents don't listen to me so I can't get any help.'

Defense attorney Mariell Lehman rested her case after calling just one witness, Ethan's aunt. James Crumbley declined to testify, telling the judge he understood the risks and benefits of speaking to the jury.

In her closing remarks, Lehman said the father didn't know that Ethan knew where to find the gun. She also noted that school officials didn't seem to think the teen was an immediate threat to others.

A day earlier, a teacher saw him looking up bullets on his phone.

"They saw images that weren't concerning, that are common, that other kids write and draw about," Lehman said of the anguished drawing on the math paper. "The concern was that he was sad and needed to talk to someone." James Crumbley "had no

idea" that his son was capable of a mass shooting, she said.

"You can come up with your own reasonable doubt. You're not limited with what I come up with," Lehman said.

The Oxford victims were Justin Shilling, 17, Madisyn Baldwin, 17, Hana St. Juliana, 14, and Tate Myre, 16.

The Crumbleys are the first U.S. parents to be charged with having criminal responsibility for a mass school shooting committed by a child. Jennifer Crumbley, 45, was convicted of involuntary manslaughter last month.



Paul Alexander thrived while using an iron lung for decades after contracting polio as a child

DALLAS (AP) - Confined to an iron "Being around Paul was an enlightenment lung after contracting polio as a child, Paul Alexander managed to train himself to breathe on his own for part of the day, earned a law degree, wrote a book about his life, built a big following on social media and inspired people around the globe with his positive outlook. Ålexander died Monday at the age of 78 at a Dallas hospital, said Daniel Spinks. a longtime friend. He said Alexander had recently been hospitalized after being diagnosed with COVID-19 but he did not know the cause of death. Alexander contracted polio in 1952, when he was 6. He became paralyzed from the neck down and he began using an iron lung, a cylinder that encased his body as the air pressure in the chamber forced air into and out of his lungs. He had millions of views on his TikTok account.

in so many ways," Spinks said.

Spinks said that Alexander had learned

"He loved to laugh," Spinks said.

In one of his "Conversations With Paul" posts on TikTok, Alexander tells viewers that "being positive is a way of life for me" as his head rests on a pillow and the iron lung can be heard whirring in the background.

Spinks said Alexander's positivity had a profound effect on those around him.

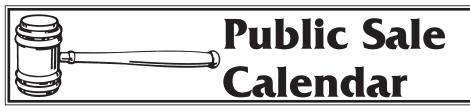
how to "gulp air down his lungs" in order to be out of the iron lung for part of the day. Using a stick in his mouth, Alexander could type on a computer and use the phone, Spinks said.

"As he got older he had more difficulties in breathing outside the lung for periods of time so he really just retired back to the lung," Spinks said.

Gary Cox, who has been friends with Alexander since college, said his friend was always smiling. "He was so friendly," Cox said. "He was always happy."

A book Alexander wrote about his life, "Three Minutes for a Dog: My Life in an Iron Lung," was published in 2020. Cox said that the title comes from a promise Alexander's nurse made him when he was a young boy: He'd get a dog if he could teach himself to breathe on his own for three minutes.

"That took a good maybe two years, three years before he was able to stay out for three minutes and then five minutes and then 10 minutes and then eventually he got the strength to learn to stay out all day," said Cox. And, indeed, Alexander did get that puppy.



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, sellers. 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 fur-niture. 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 rep-resented. Location: Farmers Grain & Ag LLC, 1257 St. Rd. 33, Willshire, OH. Tractors, com-bines, heads & carts, harvest equip., Grain carts, wagons, trucks, trailers, pickups, con-struction, manure equipment, livestock equip-ment, 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., 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com. 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.

APRIL 9 - 6 p.m. - Michael & Shelley Mossburg, owners. Wells County Chamber of Commerce, 211 Water Street, Bluffton. Commercial real estate & land auction. Seven tracts to be sold in individual tracts or any combinations. Open house March 26, 5-6 p.m. or by appointment, 1600 W. Washington St., Bluffton. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.