

The News - Banner

www.News-Banner.com

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00

Federal charges filed against lead kidnapping suspect



Zachary Delozier



Sara Gaudino



Isaiah Schryvers

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 Indiana.

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 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)



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 Wesley 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)

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

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 two-primary 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 TikTok'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 McMorris Rodgers, R-Wash. "Separate from your parent company ByteDance, 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)

Inside

Local/Area
Police Notebook . . . 3
Indiana News. 3

Opinion
Angelkeep 4

Also...
Sports 6
Classifieds 7
Diversions 5

Outside

Showers and storms today and into tonight

Today	Friday	Saturday
High 67	High 51	High 56
Low 47	Low 33	Low 33

More Weather on Page 2

Online

Follow us on Facebook!
Go to www.facebook.com/newsbanner

Place Your Classified Ads 24/7

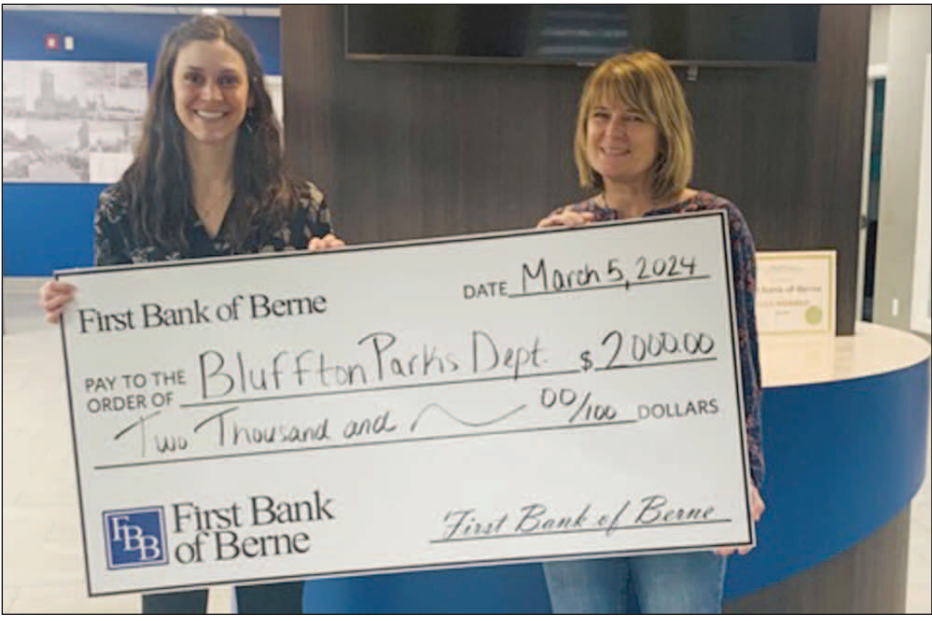
Vol. 95 No. 113
THURSDAY
March 14, 2024

Contributions to unrestricted funds at The Wells County Foundation provide grants to agencies serving Wells County.

Visit our website to learn more about the Foundation or give online at: www.wellscountyfound.org

How to contact us:

Call us: 824-0224
or 1-800-579-7476
email@news-banner.com
On the Web:
www.news-banner.com
Follow us at:
twitter.com/newsbanner



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)

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.
 Wednesday, 12:08 a.m., South 450 East and East

River Road, Bluffton. Driver admitted to having Delta 8 THC cartridge and consented to search. Nothing else located.
 Wednesday, 4:34 a.m., North 300 West and S.R. 116, Markle. Car versus 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., Silo Farms, Ossian. Report of smell of smoke from fur-

nace, heard a bang. No fire found.
ARRESTS
 Christopher A Cook, 41, Woodburn; Driving while suspended — prior infraction, a Class A misdemeanor.
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.

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 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" communities 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-

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 cost-of-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.
- 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.

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

By **LESLIE BONILLA 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 sitter. 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,"

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 — 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 legislative 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.

THINKING OF SELLING YOUR LAND?
 THE FINEST ASSETS IN THE WORLD, INCLUDING FARM LAND, ARE SOLD AT AUCTION!
 CALL ISAAC STOLLER
 AUCTIONEER • REAL ESTATE BROKER
 260.413.3515
 STEFFEN GROUP

Yergy's BBQ
 Prime Rib Dinner
 Every Friday after 4pm
 Includes Green Beans & Baby Potatoes with Bread
 Locally Owned Restaurant in Wells County!
 260-824-4950
 1415 South Main Street, Bluffton, IN 46714

FORT WAYNE Box Drop
 Mattress & Furniture
 260-227-2145
 All Sizes in Stock
 Take Home Today
TIRED OF YOUR OLD MATTRESS?
 WE CAN HELP WITH THAT!
 Family Owned & Operated
 Amy & Tracy Houtz
 260-227-2145
 7824 Bluffton Rd.
 Fort Wayne, IN
 Best Selection Incredible Savings
 By Appointment:
 Tues - Wed - Thurs
 Showroom Open:
 Fri & Sat 11am - 4pm

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

www.news-banner.com or www.facebook.com/news-banner

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 organizations 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.

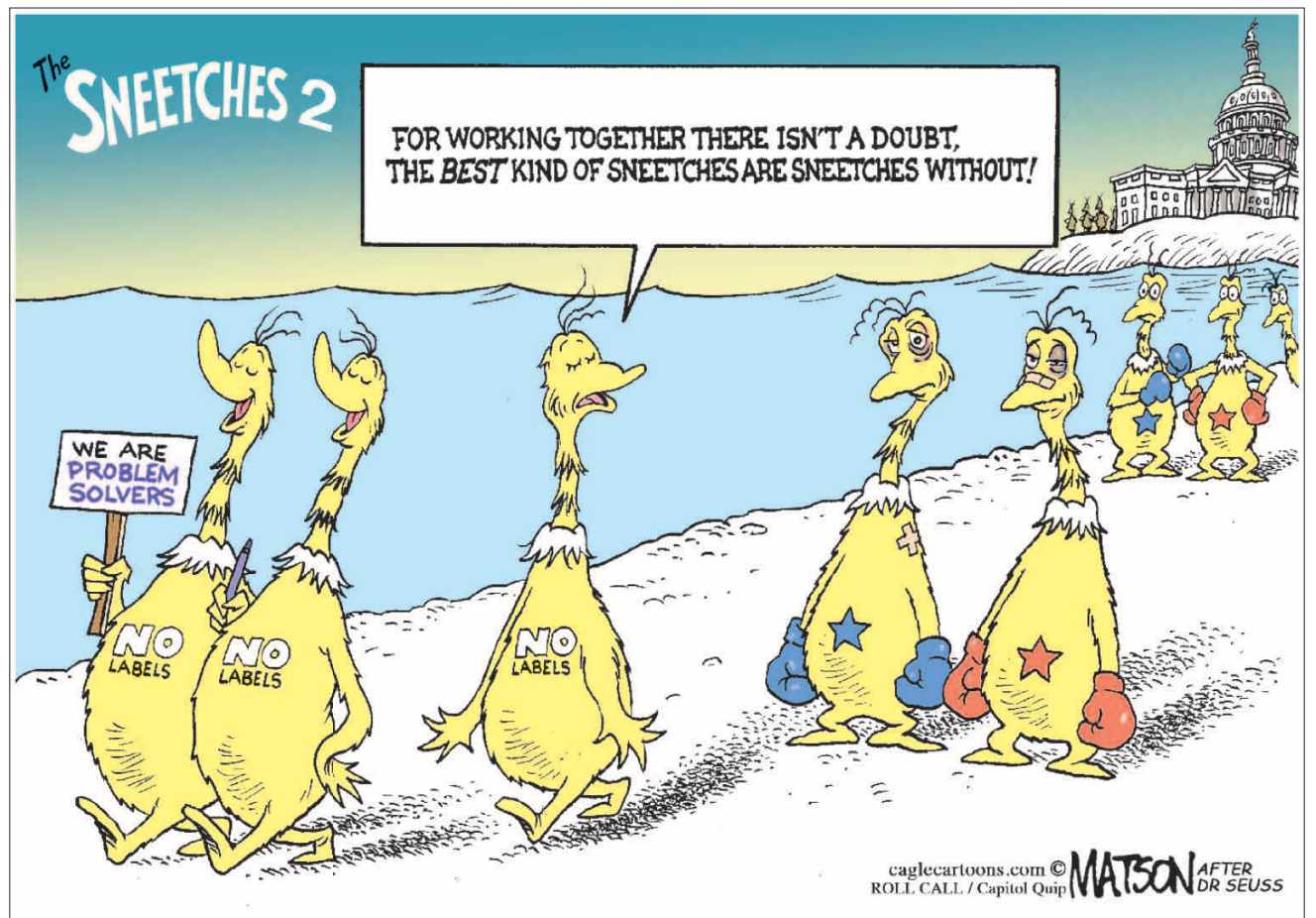
Under current law, the counselor is appointed for four years and can be fired only "for cause." The amended legislation would change the law to say the counselor serves "at the pleasure of the governor."

"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 it — not for journalists but for the public who deserves access to government.

INDIANAPOLIS BUSINESS JOURNAL

Hoosier Opinions



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 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

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 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?



Byron York

© 2024 BYRON YORK

Who's Who

A continuing series on how to contact government officials

Here's how to contact local State Legislators:

State Senator Travis Holdman (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 assassinator of President John F. Kennedy.

sin 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.

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-

Angelkeep Journals

planting madness. Angelkeep gained bliss by photocopying 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? Explain that one, old wives'!

"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



Alan Daugherty

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."

The News-Banner

(USPS 059-200)

Periodicals Postage Paid at Bluffton, IN 46714. Published every day except Sundays and principal holidays at 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton IN 46714, Post Office Box 436

News-Banner Publications, Inc.

Evening News est. 1892 • Evening Banner est. 1899 • Consolidated 1929

George B. Witwer, Chairman of the Board; Doug Brown, President, Publisher; Dianne Witwer, Secretary/Treasurer; Holly Gaskill, Editor; Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor.

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

Family troubles leaving me at a loss

Dear Annie by Annie Lane



Dear Annie: It has recently come to my attention that my middle adult son has molested my adult daughter when she was 8 years old.

She is now 23, and he is 31. And I am completely at a loss of how I should feel, think, react.

I'm REALLY at a loss because 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 push anything.

Dear Concerned Parent: Firstly, I want to extend my deepest sympathies to you and your daughter.

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.

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

sions about how to move forward. Consider reaching out to a therapist or counselor who specializes in family dynamics and trauma.

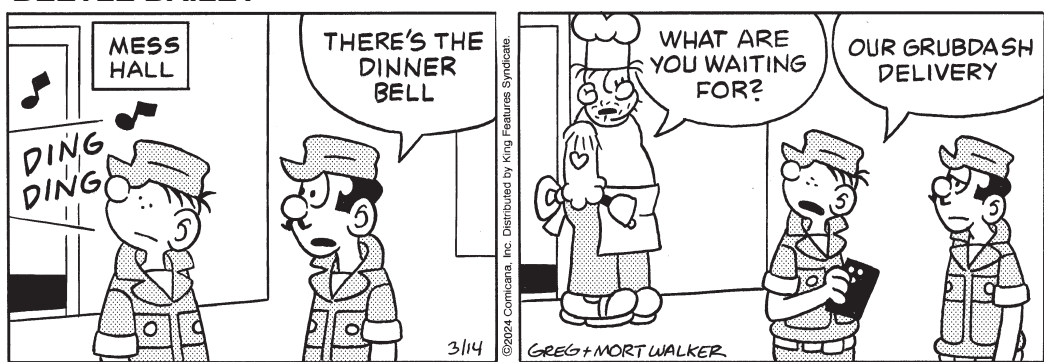
One of the biggest questions a therapist can help you deal with is talking to your son about what he did, and whether he should tell his wife.

Above all, remember you are not alone in this. There are resources and support networks to help you — and your family — navigate this challenging journey.

"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" features favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation.

© 2024 CREATORS.COM

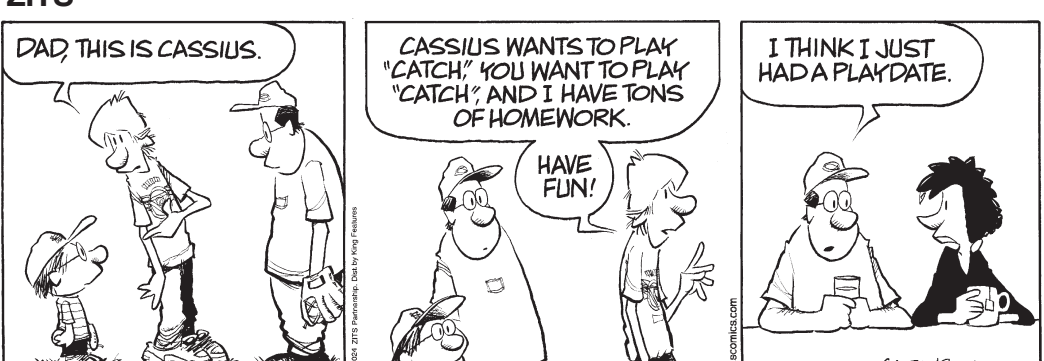
BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



ZITS



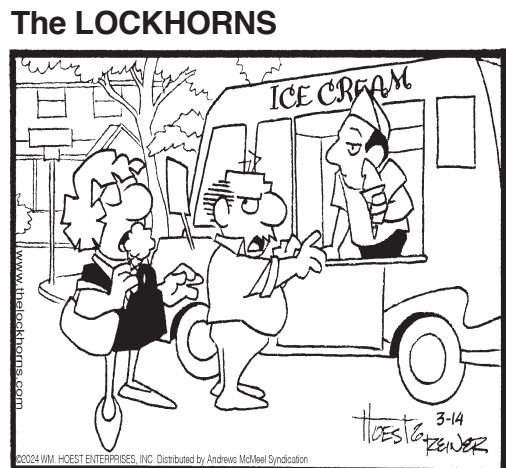
CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



An existence void of faith is a fate worse than death

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.

Answer: A happy life is not one filled only with sunshine, but one that uses both light and shadow to produce beauty.

Crosby, her spirit aglow with faith in Christ many years ago, saw more with her sightless eyes than most do with normal vision.

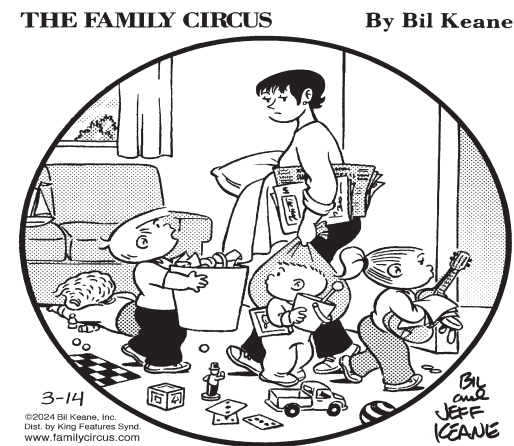
Joni Eareckson Tada, a bright-eyed and talented woman, has lifted spirits of children and adults through sharing her joy in the midst of suffering.

The self-sacrifice of God's people through the centuries has contributed immeasurably to our culture, ethics, and faith.

When we study God's Word and spend time in prayer before Him, His Spirit teaches us so much.

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

©2024 Billy Graham Literary Trust. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.



"Why do we hafta straighten up the house just because the cleaning lady is coming?"

BUY IT SELL IT RENT IT FIND IT FILL IT GET IT DO IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS! Place Your Ad 24/7/365! www.news-banner.com

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes solution time: 24 mins.

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

Grid for yesterday's crossword puzzle answer, showing numbers 1 through 56.

