



Trivia at the brewery

Chamber Bucks were awarded to the trivia team of Les Quizerables (above), as they were declared the winners at Trivia Night at the Parlor City Brewing Company Sunday evening.

The event is jointly sponsored once a month by the Wells County Public Library and the brewery. Library staff members Lisa Powell-Sabinski (left) and Jason Habegger (middle) were the "quizzers" for the this month's event. (Photos by Barbara Barbieri)



Wells County public information officer details first year

By HOLLY GASKILL

Well's County hired its first-ever public information officer in 2023, and one year later, LeAnne Wyss shared how the job's responsibilities have adapted and developed.

Wyss, formerly Gibbs, began in the position in February 2023. At the time, the position was loosely defined as one interceding in the county's communication with the public, particularly through the county's website and social media presence. Commissioner Mike Vanover had championed the position, which was approved by the County Council in 2022, and renewed in 2023.

As she began the position in 2023, Wyss explained that a large portion of taking the position off the ground would be observing the communication and using creativity to develop an appropriate system to address these needs. One year later, she referred to this process as a "trial and error." There are changing seasonal needs within the county government, many of which she encountered on the fly in her first year.

"I think I'm still kind of in that learning and adapting, and some of that is, we try something and evaluate, and go back to the drawing board of somethings," Wyss explained. "It's a lot of experimenting with whatever that 'secret sauce' is."

For example, Wyss said Wells County Commissioners had been asked to explain their decision not to join Health First Indiana. She then worked

with the commissioners to create a press release with their combined and individual statements on the matter.



Not only LeAnne Wyss did Wyss find this

important to understanding the large decision, but it also gave a quick introduction to coordinating between commissioners, who are limited in their communication due to the Open Door Law. The release ultimately included individual statements from each of the commissioners, as well as combined statements about HFI.

"It was a more lengthy process because we knew we wanted to get it right the first time and (Continued on Page 2)

Michigan woman sentenced on child solicitation charge

Jill Swee-

ney, 46, from

Elise, Michi-

gan, was

sentenced to six years in

prison with

three years

of that time

suspended. Sweeney

also received

193 days of



By SYDNEY KENT

The first woman caught in a string of online predator stings last year was sentenced in the Wells Circuit Court last week.



Jill Sweeney

jail credit for the time she spent incarcerated while waiting for disposition in the case.

Sweeney was convicted of one count of child solicitation, a Level 4 felony, and is now required to

register as a sex offender.

According to a probable cause affidavit, Sweeney drove the nearly three-hour trip from Michigan to meet with a child she met through the social media app TikTok. The child claimed to be 13 years old. Repeated sexual advances from Sweeney were identified in the messages.

When Sweeney arrived at the Bluffton Walmart last September, she was met by a decoy from the nonprofit group Predator Catchers Indianapolis. Sweeney is one of nine arrests the group has facilitated in the county in recent years.

The sentence imposed for Sweeney is similar to that of fellow offenders.

Unlike fellow offenders, Sweeney was offered the opportunity for a shorter sentence upon com-(Continued on Page 2)

Hippity hoppity Easter's on its way

The Easter bunny was happily hopping through Walmart over the weekend to give shoppers a smile. Bryce Kilander (center) and Megan Kilander (right) added to the festivities with a set of bunnies people were welcome to pet. (Photo by Sydney Kent)

Palestinians describe bodies in Israel's raid at Gaza's main hospital

By WAFAA SHURAFA and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Palestinians who fled an ongoing Israeli raid of Gaza's main hospital described mass arrests and forced marches past bodies in interviews on Sunday, while the United Nations said Israel is now blocking its main agency helping Palestinians from sending food aid to the enclave's devastated north. Israel's military says it has killed more than 170 militants and detained about 480 suspects in the raid on Shifa Hospital that began Monday, calling it a blow to Hamas and other armed groups it says had regrouped there as the war nears the six-month mark.

The fighting highlights the resilience of Palestinian armed groups in a heavily destroyed part of Gaza where Israeli troops have been forced to return after a similar raid in the war's earliest weeks.

Kareem Ayman Hathat, who lived in a five-story building about 100 meters from the hospital, said he huddled in the kitchen for days while explosions sometimes caused the building to shake.

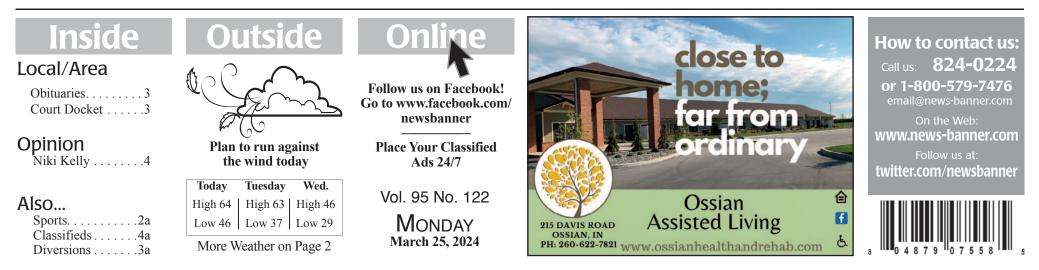
Early Saturday, Israeli troops stormed the building and forced dozens of residents to leave. He said men were forced to strip to their underwear and four were detained. The rest were blindfolded and ordered to follow a tank south as blasts thundered around them.

"From time to time, the tank would fire a shell," he told The Associated Press. "It was to terrorize us."

Israeli jets on Sunday launched several strikes near Shifa Hospital, which largely stopped functioning following the November raid. After claiming that Hamas maintained an elaborate command center there, Israeli forces months ago exposed a single tunnel leading to a few underground rooms.

Hardly any aid has been delivered in recent weeks to northern Gaza and Gaza City, where Shifa is located. The isolated area suffered widespread devastation in the early days of Israel's offensive launched after the Oct. 7 Hamas attack that triggered the war.

As of Sunday, Israel has told (Continued on Page 2)



LOCAL/NATION

Public information officer

(Continued from Page 1) we wanted to get an explanation, but we also knew that the county had a lot of attention to it (with the decision)," Wyss said.

Wyss explained that the bulk of the year has been developing how certain systems should work within the county's communication. This has involved a certain level of research and development, as she learns how certain departments work, where Wells County looks for information, and more.

On a day-to-day, Wyss said she manages some of the posts on the county's Facebook page, specifically those regarding special announcements from the county, stays up-to-date on local news, and responds to queries from the public.

Wyss maintains 10 hours weekly in the position, which she said has been limiting in some ways but still permits her to accomplish what needs completed. In an August update to the Wells County Council, roughly 33% of her work was spent on various social media tasks, 9% tuning into the live stream of public meetings, 5% on various meetings, and 5% on keeping up-to-date on local news, among other items.

"From Facebook posts that have reached tens of thousands and provided education to Wells County residents, to drafting joint statements and providing insight

and guidance to elected officials, LeAnne has proven the importance of the PIO position in Wells County with limited resources to do so," Vanover stated.

As she entered her second full year, Wyss met with several officials to plan adjustments for the upcoming year. She also planned to complete an analysis of the previous year's accomplishments, where growth is needed, and "craft a more uniform strategy" to address these needs.

"The hard part is a lot of things with government is we're all really impatient to get something accomplished and to prove something effective or ineffective, Wyss said. "And I think this

is the unique situation where it's really responsive to what is happening in government, so sometimes it's really busy and there's a lot going on, and other times it's really slow and there's a dry spell.'

Vanover added, "As a County Commissioner, I can see the potential of this position as an asset to the work we do as elected officials across county-wide government. I know there are other elected officials in the courthouse and on Council who can see the same. This is a great foundation on which to build some consensus with other office holders to utilize this new position to benefit Wells County residents."

Wyss can be reached at pio@wellscounty.org.

Israel's raid at Gaza

(Continued from Page 1)

the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees it will no longer approve agency food convoys to northern Gaza, UNRWA chief Philippe Lazzarini said on social media.

"This is outrageous and makes it intentional to obstruct lifesaving assistance during a man-made famine," he said. The agency, Gaza's biggest humanitarian provider, is repeatedly accused by Israel of having links to Hamas. Israel's government didn't immediately respond.

Experts have said famine is imminent in northern Gaza, where more than 210,000 people suffer from catastrophic hunger.

A day after standing near some of the estimated 7,000 aid trucks waiting to enter Gaza and calling the starvation a "moral outrage," U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres urged an immediate humanitarian cease-fire, the release of hostages held in Gaza and Israel's removal of "obstacles" to allow a flood of aid delivery.

"Looking at Gaza, it almost appears that the four horsemen of war, famine, conquest and death are galloping across it," Guterres said in Egypt, adding that nothing justifies the collective punishment of Palestinians.

Gaza's Health Ministry said that five wounded Palestinians trapped at Shifa Hospital died without food, water or medical services. The World Health Organization's director-general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, described conditions as "utterly inhumane."

Jameel al-Ayoubi, among thousands sheltering at Shifa when the current raid began, said tanks and armored bulldozers plowed into the hospital courtyard, crushing ambulances and civilian vehicles. He saw tanks drive over at least four bodies of people killed in the raid.

Israel's military said Saturday it had evacuated patients and medical staff from Shifa's emergency department because militants "entrenched" themselves there, and set up an alternative site for seriously wounded patients.

Abed Radwan, who lived about 200 meters (yards) from the hospital, said Israeli forces stormed all area buildings, detaining several people and forcing the rest to march south. He saw bodies in the streets and several flattened homes.

"They left nothing intact," he said.

Israel's military early Sunday also stormed al-Amal and Nasser hospitals in the southern city of Khan Younis amid "very intense shelling," the Palestinian Red Crescent Society said. Israel's military announced operations in Khan Younis targeting Hamas infrastructure but said troops weren't currently operating in the hospitals. It accused Hamas of using hospitals as shields.

The war has killed at least 32,226 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. It doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants in its toll, but says women and children make up around two-thirds of the dead.

Among the latest killed were at least seven people, including three children, when an Israeli airstrike hit a house in Rafah overnight, according to health authorities. And an airstrike near Deir al-Balah late Sunday killed at least 10 members of a family including two children, according to an AP journalist who saw the bodies at a hospital.

Israel says it has killed more than 13,000 militants, without providing evidence. It blames civilian casualties on Hamas, accusing it of embedding in residential areas.

More than 80% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million have fled their homes, with most seeking refuge in the southernmost city of Rafah, which Israel calls the next target of its ground offensive. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejects pleas from the United States and others to avoid a major ground operation there, calling it essential for defeating Hamas.

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said that he was traveling to the U.S. on Sunday at Washington's invitation, with a goal of preserving "our ability to obtain air systems and munitions" for the war and maintaining critical ties with Israel's top ally.

The Hamas-led Oct. 7 attack across southern Israel killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took scores hostage. Hamas still holds an estimated 100 hostages and the remains of 30 others. Most of the rest were freed in exchange for the release of some Palestinian prisoners in November.



Monday, March 25, 2024 (24-hour observations at 9:51 p.m. Sunday) High: 47; Low: 26; Precipitation: None Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.73 feet at 8:45 p.m. Sunday

Wells County forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 64. South wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Tonight: Showers, mainly after 11 p.m. Low around 46. Breezy, with a southeast wind 15 to 25 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100 percent. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.

Tuesday: Showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 5 p.m. High near 63. Windy, with a south wind 25 to 30 mph, with gusts as high as 45 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80 percent. New



rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

Tuesday Night: Showers and thunderstorms before 11 p.m., then a chance of showers between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m. Low around 37. West wind 10 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80 percent.

Wednesday: Partly

sunny, with a high near 46. Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 29.

Thursday: Sunny, with a

cloudy, with a low around 33.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 59.

Friday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 42.

Saturday: A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 63.

Michigan woman

(Continued from Page 1) pletion of the Indiana Sex Offender Management and Monitoring Program in prison

"I want to apologize for my actions and the choices that have brought me here," Sweeney told the court. "I plan on, as soon as I'm released, finding resources to find why this happened and make sure it doesn't happen again. It's just not in my nature. I truly apologize for my actions. As part of her sentence,

Sweeney was ordered to complete a period of probation for three years. However, should she complete an approved sexual maladaptive treatment program or the SOMM program, she may petition the court to terminate probation after two vears.

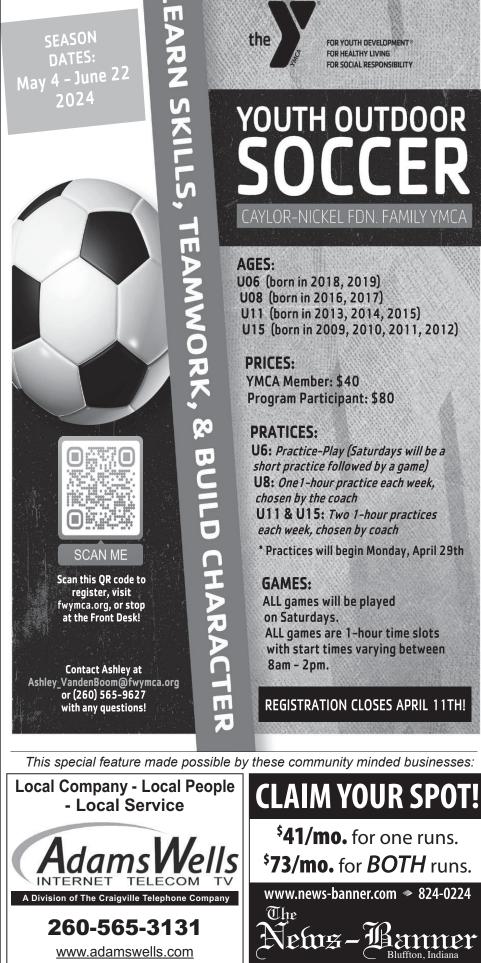
Sweeney is also required to pay a sexual assault victim assistance fee, child abuse prevention fee, and additional court costs and filing fees in the amount of \$1,039

sydney@news-banner.com

Hardy souls across New England, New York dig out after winter storm

By STEVE LeBLANC, Associated Press and drivers grappled with icy roads, while BOSTON (AP) — Thousands of hardy

Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Philadelphia



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FOR HEALTHY LIVING FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



high near 50. Thursday Night: Partly

souls across New England spent Sunday digging out after a major weekend storm dumped more than two feet of snow in some areas, caused multiple road accidents, downed power lines and left hundreds of thousands across the Northeast in the dark, some perhaps for days.

Heavy snowfall from the storm stretched across the region, including upstate and northern New York through Vermont, New Hampshire, and most of Maine. Many areas saw totals of 8 inches to 12 inches of snow, and some of the highest totals exceeded 30 inches in south central Vermont, said Zack Taylor, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service.

'So overall, it was a pretty significant winter storm and for some areas that was some of the most snow they've seen all winter with a single storm," Taylor said.

The combination of sleet, freezing rain and heavy wet snow took down trees and power lines and was blamed for hundreds of delayed and canceled flights.

In New York City, floodwaters snarled subway service, closed part of the Cross Island Parkway and trapped motorists on flooded roads through Central Park, where more than 3.5 inches of rain fell. On Fifth Avenue, a giant tree fell down over several cars, prompting a road closure.

In Lodi, New Jersey, flooding from the Saddle River inundated nearby roads.

Central Maine Power, the state's largest utility, said crews began clearing damage and fixing downed lines Sunday - but that it anticipated a multi-day effort in areas hit hardest by the storm. By late Sunday, about 170,000 customers were without power in Maine.

"Damage to trees, poles, and wires was significant overnight on Saturday, and our assessors are taking stock of the damage today so we can begin restoring power to our customers as quickly and as safely as possible," said Jon Breed, from Central Maine Power.

Another 54,000 customers were without power in New Hampshire. In New York, more than 57,000 customers were without power late Sunday, down from more than 90,000 earlier in the day.

Areas north of New York City were among the hardest hit, according to online maps from National Grid and PowerOutage. us, a power outage tracking website.

The combination of sleet, freezing rain, and heavy wet snow that took down trees and power lines was also blamed for hundreds of delayed and canceled flights at area airports.

Police across the Northeast reported hundreds of traffic accidents as cars spun out and Boston also saw heavy rain and flooding,

In Portland, Maine, city officials opened a warming center at the East End Community School for residents without power who needed a warm place to visit, charge electronics or sleep overnight from Sunday evening to Monday morning.

The New Hampshire Department of Safety announced Sunday it had activated an emergency operations center to help local communities clean up from the storm, including those with significant power outages.

Across the country in Southern California, heavy rain and quarter-sized hail fell in neighborhoods around Los Angeles. A severe thunderstorm warning was issued through Sunday afternoon, with the National Weather Service predicting lightning and wind gusts in mountain areas approaching 60 mph.

The California storm was moving south from the Sierra Nevada, where areas around Lake Tahoe received about a foot of new snow and Mammoth Mountain reported up to 18 inches by Sunday morning. A day earlier, the resort was forced to close several ski lifts after a 91-mph wind gust was recorded.

Fans of cold weather — including skiers reveled in the snow from coast to coast.

Kevin Bell, vice president of marketing for Loon Mountain in New Hampshire's White Mountains, said the more snow New England gets, the better it is for ski resorts operating in the late season.

Taylor said another significant winter storm is developing in the West and will continue through Monday across much of the Rockies, the Plains and the upper Midwest. The National Weather Service warned of heavy snow and blizzard conditions for the northern Plains and Upper Midwest persisting to Tuesday.

That system is expected to bring heavy snowfall across portions of Wisconsin, Minnesota, much of the Dakotas and even down into Nebraska and western Kansas with the potential of 8 to 12 inches of snow, with higher amounts across the eastern Dakotas and portions of central Minnesota, Taylor said.

"We're looking at a pretty strong area of low pressure that'll develop across Kansas tonight and then quickly lift up toward the upper Midwest by late Monday into early Tuesday," he said.

A winter weather advisory also was issued through Sunday night for parts of northern Arizona, the Grand Canyon and Flagstaff to the New Mexico border with up to a half foot of snow possible at upper elevations and winds gusting to 40 mph.

LOCAL/AREA

OBITUARIES

Duane M. Sprunger, 74

Duane M. Sprunger, 74, of Berne, was welcomed into his eternal home by his Lord and Savior on Friday, March 22, 2024, surrounded by his loving family.

Duane was born April 1, 1949, to Marvin and Margaret "Pill" (Parr) Sprunger.

Duane grew up in and around the Berne area and was a part of the inaugural class of South Adams High School in 1967.

Duane was blessed with a golden tenor voice and pursued his love of music and ministry at the Grand Rapids School of the Bible and Music, now Cornerstone University, in Grand Rapids, Mich. During his time there, Duane toured with the music group the Choralaires and made many life-long friends and had many wonderful memories and stories to share of his time at GRSBM.

He married the love of his life, June M. (Sprunger) Sprunger on June 14, 1968. Together they served as leaders of the youth group at Grace Bible Church, where they have been faithful members. He continued to use his talents to serve Grace Bible as a deacon, Sunday School teacher, Sunday School Superintendent, music leader, and soloist. Duane was most passionate that people know the love of Christ and accept Him as a personal Savior.

Duane loved driving truck. He was a faithful employee for Teeple Truck Lines for many years.

In his 74 years on this earth, Duane was always social, eager to make a friend with a ready smile, a twinkle in his blue eyes, and a teasing comment that let you know that he cared. He was an avid University of Michigan fan. He will be remembered as a loving husband and an affectionate and doting father and grandfather. His warm hugs and funny little sayings will be dearly missed.

Duane is survived by his devoted wife of 55 years, June Sprunger of Berne; his loving daughters, Shannon (James) Gause and Rochelle (Eric) Criss both of Warsaw; five grandchildren, Graham Criss, Sydney Gause, Travis Gause, Grant Criss and Ainsley Criss all of Warsaw,; one sister, Nancy (Stan) Van Emon of Berne; brother, Randy (Vicki) Sprunger of Berne; and many loving brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces, and nephews.

Duane was proceeded in death by his eldest daughter, Jodi Sprunger; his parents Marvin L. Sprunger and Margaret "Pill" Sprunger; a nephew, Jeffrey Sprunger; and brother-in-law, J. Steven Sprunger.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, March 28, 2024, at Grace Bible Church in Berne with Pastor Jeff Gaskill officiating. Burial will follow at M.R.E. Cemetery in Berne.

Friends and family will be received from 3-5 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at Zwick & Jahn Funeral Home, Yager-Kirchhofer Chapel in Berne and one hour prior to the service at the church on Thursday. Arrangements are by Zwick & Jahn Funeral Home,

Yager-Kirchhofer Chapel in Berne, Indiana. For complete obituary information and to sign the

on-line guestbook, visit www.zwickjahn.com.

Carol Jane Dailey, 86

Carol Jane Dailey, 86, died Saturday, March 23, 2024, at Ossian Health and Rehabilitation.

She was born March 10, 1938, in Geneva.

Her survivors include a daughter-in-law, Susan Dailey; son, Don (Carol) Dailey; eight grandchildren; 13 greatgrandchildren; and 9 great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, Donald E. Dailey and parents, Carol was preceded in death by a son, Douglas L. Dailey; two sisters; and brother, Robert Everhart.

A funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at Zwick & Jahn Funeral Home, Yager-Kirchhofer Chapel in Berne. Burial will follow at Apostolic Christian Cemetery in Bluffton, Indiana.

Friends and family will be received from 5-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at Zwick & Jahn Funeral Home, Yager-Kirchhofer Chapel in Berne, Indiana and one hour prior to the service on Wednesday at the funeral home.

Wells Court Docket

Criminal Cases

Preston Jonathan Thomas Hopkins, 26, Poneto; Sentenced to 547 days in prison with all but 429 suspended. He received 118 days of jail credit and was also ordered to complete one year of probation. The sentence was issued after Hopkins pled guilty to one count of residential entry, a Level 6 felony. One count of resisting law enforcement, a Class A misdemeanor, was dismissed pursuant to the plea agreement. Hopkins is also required to pay court costs and filing fees in the amount of \$869.

Wells Superior Court

prison with 485 days suspended for one count of possession of cocaine, a Level 6 felony. Ramirez was sentenced to 60 days in the Wells County Jail, concurrent to count one, for one count of operating a vehicle with an ACE of .08 or more, a Class C misdemeanor. Ramirez is required to complete one year of probation and pay court costs and filing fees in the amount of \$639.50.

Dillon Jackson, 27, Liberty Center; Sentenced to 547 days in prison with 545 days suspended for one count of possession of marijuana where the defendant has a prior drug offense con-Arturo Jesus Ortiz Ramirez, 30, viction, a Level 6 felony. One count of fees in the amount of \$439.

Fort Wayne; Sentenced to 545 days in operating a vehicle while intoxicated and one count of operating a vehicle with a controlled substance were dismissed pursuant to the plea agreement. Jackson is also required to pay court costs and filing fees in the amount of \$439.

Wells Circuit Court **Criminal Cases**

Marvin Wayne Arnold, 43, Fort Wayne; Sentenced to 730 days in prison with 550 days suspended for one count of failure to register as a sexual offender - prior conviction, a Level 5 felony. Arnold received 96 days of jail credit towards his sentence and is ordered to pay court costs and filing

DNR considers deer hunting reform

By WHITNEY DOWNARD

Indiana Capital Chronicle A hybrid public hearing on reforming the state's deer hunting programs managed by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources got little feedback Wednesday, but roughly 90 Hoosiers submitted comments online

beforehand. Of the public comments reviewed by the Indiana Capital Chronicle, a few of the proposed changes were clear standouts, especially crossbow licensing and the elimination of a special season for antlerless deer, or does, at the end of the year.

The Indiana Natural Resources Commission meeting, scheduled at the Garrison at Fort Harrison State Park in Indianapolis, appeared to have no members of the public in attendance and less than a dozen who tuned in online.

In a lengthy outline on the DNR website, the agency detailed the 17 proposed changes and said it would simplify the process for hunters and reduce confusion.

"The DNR recognizes the desire of hunters to keep seasons specific to a type of equipment and to place certain limitations on others who hunt that season. However, the deer program aims to simplify the rules that govern deer hunting so that hunters desiring to enter the sport are less confused by the regulations," said DNR on its website.

"Much staff time and resources are taken up trying to explain the requirements of a license to an individual, and correcting

its site that the use of crossbows to hunt was legalized in 2012 but less than 1% of hunters purchase both licenses.

A 2022 Deer Management Survey of over 16,000 found that nearly threequarters, or 73%, supported the rule change while 19% were opposed.

Several people wrote that crossbows were far more powerful than their counterparts and should instead be included in the firearms or muzzle loaders seasons, rather than archery. Many said exceptions should only be made for those with physical or mental impairments.

"While I agree that this reduces confusion since crossbows are allowed during archery, I do not agree with the principle overall. Crossbows should not be allowed during archery seasons with the exception of those with special permits," said Nathan Flook, of Tippecanoe County. "Crossbows do not belong in the archery category. The only similarity they have with a traditional vertical bow is the presence of cam and strings."

But the change regarding crossbows didn't get nearly the same attention as the special antlerless firearms season from Dec. 26 to the first Sunday in the following January. A DNR 2021 survey found that 38% of hunters used that season in the last five years, dropping to 24% in the last year.

Citing the low usage and "ineffectiveness" in harvesting deer, DNR proposed striking the season.

But many hunters spoke out, saying it was one of the ed via rule-making, is the establishment of deer reduction zones. Such zones are created in areas where excess deer conflict with humans, such as car accidents and deer damage.

Managing the

deer population Other proposals included changes to muzzleloader licenses and a statewide bag

limit of six antlerless deer, similar to the current state limit on antlered deer. "This change is being proposed because the current county bonus antlerless quota (CBAQ) system allows individuals to shoot perceived excessive num-

bers of antlerless deer across multiple counties, if individuals in each county were to take the maximum number of bonus antlerless deer available in each county,' DNR said on its website.

"The proposed changes to the rules governing deer hunting will allow an individual to still take no more than one antlered deer during the regular deer seasons combined, as is allowed now, but it will also allow them to purchase up to six additional multiple season antlerless deer licenses to take antlerless deer in any of the regular deer seasons (e.g., archery, firearms and muzzleloader),' the agency continued.

DNR noted that fewer than 70 hunters took more than seven deer during a regular deer season and that nearly three-quarters of those surveyed in 2022, or 74%, supported the change while just 14% opposed.

Hunters weighing in appeared conflicted, with some reporting thinning

herds in their counties and others concerned about deer damage to their properties.

"The number of antlerless deer is staggering on my farm. I sustain over \$5,000 worth of deer damage every year on my 1,700-acre farm. It is hard enough to make a living growing corn and soybeans. I do not like feeding deer!" Dennis Simpson, of Gibson County, said.

But Marion County's Allen Glover, who said he'd hunted for decades, reported the opposite experience.

"The low number of deer that I have seen in recent vears have been very young and only two or three of them in the entire season. The Franklin County (herd), if you can call it that, has been decimated by over hunting antlerless deer or by (Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease)." Glover wrote in. "With the disease continuing to decimate the (herd), I hope that they would continue to limit the doe harvest for the next 5 years. Hopefully this would increase the number of deer available to be harvested."

The sometimes fatal EHD virus kills deer in Indiana, and in other parts of the country, annually and peaks in late summer to early fall. According to DNR, 67 deer were reported to have EHD last year, though the agency only tested 7 and confirmed one case.

But the department does allow hunters who kill such a diseased deer to not let it count against their limit, with reservations. Such a decision is made by evaluating the conditions of the deer meat and observations by biologists or conservation officers.

1 killed, 5 wounded in Indy shooting

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - One person was killed and five others including a police officer were wounded during an early morning shooting Sunday in Indianapolis, police said.

Two Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department officers in full uniform were working in off-duty employment at a bar in the 9400 block on East Washington Street when a disturbance erupted in the parking lot around 1:30 a.m., Chief Christopher Bailey said during a news conference.

Both officers exchanged gunfire with at least one suspect and one officer was shot in the upper thigh and sustained an additional shoulder injury that may have occurred when he fell after being shot, according to Bailey, who said the officer was in stable condition and expected to be released from a hospital on Sunday.

Additional officers responded and found four other people in the parking lot who had been shot. All were transported to nearby hospitals with non-life-threatening injuries. The victims included two 45-year-old men, a 42-year-old man and a 33-year-old woman, Bailey said.

an accidental mistake made when checking in a deer," the agency continued.

Several of the changes appeared to be responses to legislation passed in 2023 curbing the power of agencies to enact emergency rules. Previous limitations on youth hunters and the establishment of deer reduction zones were done through such administrative rulemaking.

The deadline to submit public comment was March 20. The commission still has to approve the rules at an upcoming meeting.

Feedback from public comments

Currently, the state offers a standalone crossbow license in addition to the archery license – both of which run from Oct. 1 to Jan. 5 — the change would combine both into one license. DNR notes on

few times of year when children were out of school and adults had time off work.

"This is an opportunity for adult hunters to take youth into the field. It doesn't really matter if significant numbers of deer are harvested during this season. The purpose is to give potential new hunters an opportunity in the field with someone they can learn from," said Mike Foster, of Johnson County. "I think removing this season is shortsighted if one considers the shrinking number of hunters taking to the field as each year passes."

Previously, the agency had an emergency rule prohibiting hunting antlerless deer with a firearm on certain Fish & Wildlife properties. Due to 2023 legislation, DNR needs to codify it.

The most complicated process, previously decid-



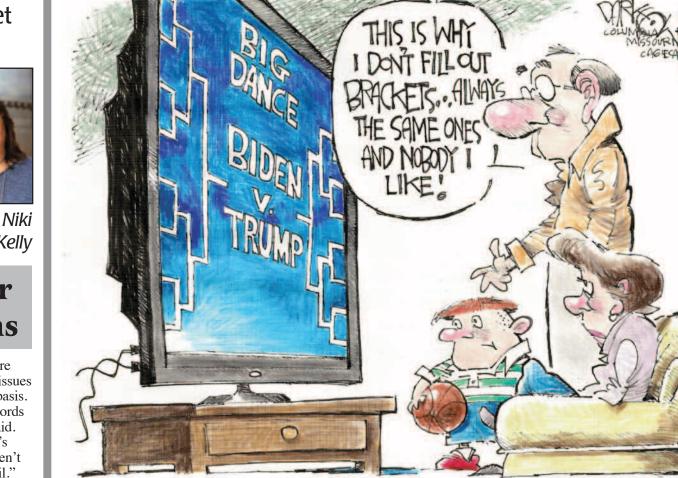
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Trump's Hoosiers passing on a second term

Politicking

In late spring of 2016, even as Donald J. Trump won the Indiana presidential primary with 53.6% of the vote, the Republican establishment was slow to come around. Gov. Mike Pence had given his milquetoast endorsement to Sen. Ted Cruz. Only former GOP Chair Rex Early and Sullivan County Chairman Bill Springer were on board with the Manhattan billionaire when the national convention delegates were announced.

Then came the veepstakes, with Gov. Pence slowly rising to the top of the pecking order by mid-July. Once the Trump/Pence ticket had formed, the Indiana

establishment came around. After the ticket pulled off the greatest upset in American history when Trump defeated Hillary Clinton in November, it paved the way for

more than two dozen Hoosier Republicans to join the fledgling administration.

This year we find the Indiana GOP establishment divided over the Trump question once again. Those who worked for President Trump are not embracing a second term.

Pence was the most conspicuous. "After a lot of prayer and reflection, I've come to the conclusion that I won't be endorsing Donald Trump this year," Pence said Sunday on CBS's Face the Nation. "I worked day in and day out for four-and-a-half years to build that record of the Trump/Pence administration. I'm incredibly proud of it. But as I look at what Donald Trump is running on now, I simply cannot, in good conscience, endorse his candidacy this year.'

None of these Hoosier Republicans who served in the Trump administration - neither Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats, Surgeon General Jerome Adams, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Administrator Seema Verma, nor former Pence Chief of Staff Marc Short — has endorsed or vowed to vote for Trump at this point. U.S. Sen. Todd Young has said he won't vote for Trump (or President Biden). Two

the dozens of people who had served in Trump's cabinet. Four have said publicly they support his run for reelection, including former Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker; Trump's final chief of staff, Mark Meadows; former budget chief Russell Vought; and former Acting Director of National Intelligence Richard Grenell.

The former president's 2024 campaign is based on retribution. Trump now calls the Jan. 6, 2021 insurrectionists, who chanted for the murder of Vice President

Pence, "hostages" and has vowed to pardon their convictions, many for assaulting police officers. He has greenlighted an abandonment of

Ukraine (Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said in a March 10 broadcast that Trump will cut off funding). He has pushed a litany of political violence, pre-dicting "blood in the streets" if indicted (he now faces 88 criminal charges).

Pence waged a six-month campaign for the presidency before bowing out last October. He had been endorsed by Holcomb, Coats and Reps. Pence and Bucshon.

NBC News reached out to Coats last summer. "I think he has all the qualities to be a great president,' Coats said of Pence. "I know it's a steep climb for him, but I think the steps he has taken now show the integrity of who he is and his qualifications."

Coats did not respond to Howey Politics Indiana about whether he'll back Trump in November now that Pence is out of the race.

Adams told Howey Politics on Tuesday: "I believe health care and public health should be nonpartisan, and as such I don't endorse candidates or reveal who I'm voting for. However, I stand ready to help whoever is president address America's poor health and inequitable health care system."

Verma, in a 2023 interview with Managed Health-

Time for candidates to get real on the real issues

Up until now, the GOP gubernatorial candidates have mostly fallen back on national talking points. But that does a disservice to Hoosier voters who want their next governor to be focused on Indiana issues.

And despite what many of their ads say, that's not China or the southern border or even online safety — which are largely federal issues.

It appears that even Gov. Eric Holcomb is getting impatient. Though

Kelly

Hoosier

Opinions

he has declined to endorse any candidates, he recently had some interesting comments about the race.

"My thought process is: there are a lot of folks

who approach me that are undecided because they're uninformed about where (the candidates) stand on issues that a governor has to address on a day in day out basis.

"We can repeat words. And (in) most of those words I see broad agreement within the candidates," he said. "But there are items that come across the governor's desk and what the Legislature grapples with that aren't being discussed that I think should be more in detail."

"And so," he continued, "I may offer some thoughts on that, as I said sooner rather than later."

Holcomb mentioned economic development, a new road program with funding options, mental health, broadband and a sustainable Medicaid program as subjects the candidates should focus on: "I want to see not just the vision, very important to have a vision, more so to have the mission, the plans to actually realize that vision and that's what I hope is shared because that will help whoever the next governor is carry out the planning of the day.'

So, as the race kicks into high gear, it's time for the candidates vying for the GOP nomination to get specific. And I have a few prompts myself.

Road funding – Legislators and the governor put together a long-term road funding program in 2017 that included a large gas tax increase. But those dollars are fluctuating and future infrastructure is at stake. Where do candidates stand on this topic, and how would they ensure Indiana's crossroads remain an asset?

Medicaid - Supporting poor and disabled Hoosiers through this health care program is a must. But the price of that care is rising exponentially and could threaten the state budget. How would candidates address the sustainability of Medicaid? If cuts are needed, where would they apply them? Are they across-the-board cuts or limits on optional parts of Medicaid?

Taxes – Indiana lawmakers seem set on cutting some tax no matter what. It is income tax? Sales tax? Or how about the tax the most Hoosiers despise: property tax? I want specifics on what they would recommend for tax reform. And not on just what they'd cut, but how they'd replace that money or do without in the state budget.

Death penalty – Indiana has a death penalty on paper but hasn't executed anyone since 2009, and several men on Death Row have languished there for decades. The holdup is that Indiana can't get the necessary drugs for the lethal injection cocktail. So do candidates support eliminating the death penalty and saving money on those court battles? Or, would they move to other execution methods? And how does their position square with their anti-abortion rhetoric? Education – After 20-plus years of Republican control over education, why aren't we seeing improvement? Test scores, graduation rates and more have stagnated while the state transitioned to money following the student and funding private vouchers. What innovative ideas do these candidates have to make improvements? And should we keep funding essentially three systems: traditional public, charter and private schools? Health care – Lawmakers have made attempts for several years to tackle this beast of a topic. But most of those efforts have focused on transparency and they simply aren't working. Some states have capped insulin and other necessary medication prices. Others have limited profit margins. What would these candidates do to make a dent in this problem for Hoosiers? When a candidate can answer these questions with depth and specifics they will earn my vote. And I don't necessarily have to agree with them philosophically on every matter — they just have to be willing to speak beyond slogans and political dog whistles. Column Note: Jennifer McCormick is the only Democrat running for governor and is the presumptive nominee. Libertarian Donald Rainwater was already nominated in a party convention.





Howey

Niki Kelly is the editor of the Indiana Capital Chronicle, a nonprofit newsroom. nkelly@indianacapitalchronicle.com

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, March 25, the 85th day of 2024. There are 281 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On March 25, 1931, in the so-called "Scottsboro Boys" case, nine young Black men were taken off a train in Alabama, accused of raping two white women; after years of convictions, death sentences and impris-

onment, the nine were eventually vindicated. On this date:

In 1894, Jacob S. Coxey began leading an "army" of unemployed from Massillon, Ohio, to Washington D.C., to demand help from the federal government.

In 1911, 146 people, mostly young female immigrants, were killed when fire broke out at the Triangle Shirtwaist Co. in New York.

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> Holly Gaskill, Editor Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor

Republicans in Congress – U.S. Rep. Greg Pence and Larry Bucshon — won't seek reelection after backing Mike Pence.

Gov. Eric Holcomb hasn't made an endorsement since Mike Pence folded his campaign last autumn. "We'll see what role Indiana plays in the whole process," Holcomb told reporters in October. "I'll be looking for the individual who best articulates a substantive agenda or plan and then, more importantly, how to execute it.'

Those Hoosiers lining up behind Trump in 2024 are most likely on the ballot this year, including the sixperson Republican gubernatorial field: U.S. Rep. Jim Banks, who is the heavy favorite to win the U.S. Senate nomination; U.S. Rep. Erin Houchin; and a dozen or so congressional candidates. Attorney General Todd Rokita, who plans to seek renomination at June's Indiana GOP convention, is backing Trump.

NBC News last summer reached out to 44 of

care Executive magazine, described working in the Trump White House. "Make no mistake. It (was) not a normal work environment where you disagree with somebody and it is disagreement. Over there, it was like, we're going to take off your head, we are going to come after you. It (was) a pretty toxic environment. Every day, you are kind of like 'what is going to happen today?'

Short told NBC: "If it's Biden versus Trump, the implicit assumption is efforts to hurt Trump are going to benefit Biden. If you're putting yourself against the Constitution, I think it's disqualifying, but I wouldn't want to be helping Biden."

Another former Pence staffer, Alyssa Farah Griffin, told ABC News in December 2023: "Fundamentally, a second Trump term could mean the end of American democracy as we know it, and I don't say that lightly."

Brian Howey is senior writer and columnist for Howey Politics Indiana/State Affairs. Find Howey on Facebook and X @hwypol.

The smell of mendacity

courtroom oath to "tell

the truth, the whole truth,

and nothing but the truth.'

"What's that smell in this room? Didn't you notice it, B rick? Didn't you notice a powerful and obnoxious odor of mendacity in this room? There ain't nothin' more powerful than the odor of mendacity. You can smell it. It smells like death."- (Big Daddy in"Cat on a Hot Tin Roof")

Court decisions can sound complicated because they sometimes contain legal language that is difficult for a layperson to understand. That's not the situation in the case of Fulton County, Georgia's District Attorney Fani Willis and special prosecutor Nathan Wade. Judge Scott McAfee gave Willis a choice - either dump Wade, with whom she'd had a romantic relationship, as prosecutor in the case against Donald Trump, or leave the case herself. Wade quickly tendered his resignation. It's hard to see how anyone except the most strident anti-Trumper will see the outcome of a trial with Willis on the case as fair.

The judge's ruling contained a word one rarely hears used these days. McAfee wrote that while a conflict of interest wasn't proved, "an odor of mendacity remains.'

For those who didn't get far with vocabulary in high school English class, mendacity is defined as " untruthfulness; tendency to lie."

Most people are familiar with the



Judge McAfee concluded Willis and Wade were not telling the whole truth, but the case could go forward anyway even while their relationship carried "the appearance of impropriety." If one is engaging in

behavior that appears inap-Thomas propriate to a judge, doesn't that potentially taint the outcome of a case in the public's eyes?

Judge McAfee's ruling is reminiscent of two other cases. FBI Director James Comey declined to prosecute Hillary Clinton for her mishandling of classified information while she was secretary of state. The New York Times reported: "Comey rebuked Mrs. Clinton as being 'extremely careless' in using a private email address and server. He raised questions about her judgment, contradicted statements she has made about her email practices, (and) said it was possible that hostile foreign governments had gained access to her account."

Then there was what Special Counsel Robert Hur said about Joe Biden's careless handling of classified documents during his time in the Senate, as vice president and until he became president. After five hours of interviewing Biden over two days, Hur concluded that Biden didn't break the law and besides, a

jury in heavily Democratic Washington would be unlikely to convict him because he would be viewed as a "well-meaning, elderly man with a poor memory."

Biden wasn't elderly when he began stashing documents in unsecured locations. Under the law he was not supposed to have them and didn't have the power in his previous posts to declassify them.

Is this the new standard for high government officials who violate laws that are supposed to protect classified documents? If so, Congress needs to re-write the laws and include the rest of us under their protection.

These cases will only fuel the growing belief that there is a twotiered justice system in America. It also further undermines what is becoming a cliche — that "no one is above the law."

One does not have to be a supporter of Donald Trump, as his former vice president Mike Pence announced last week he is not, to have the view that Trump is being treated "unfairly," as he likes to say, and that the 91 felony charges he must fight with his own money, as opposed to the endless cash governments can spend, has placed him at a disadvantage.

No one seems to mind that mendacity, while always present in the political arena, appears to be increasing everywhere. If allowed to spread it will create a "smell like death" in our legal system.

What's happening at the Wells County Public Library

The Wells County Public Library takes its mission to "provide the community with access, knowledge and growth" very seriously and offers a variety of events each week for kids, teens, and adults. Registration is preferred at most events. To signup, go to www.wellscolibrary.org, click on the Library Event Calendar, navigate to the date of the event, and view more to get to the registration screen. Alternatively, call 260-824-1612 (Bluffton) or 260-622-4691 (Ossian) to register.

Block Days

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, March 26 and Thursday, March 28 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

All ages of kids. Enjoy building with various types of blocks throughout the Children's Room at the library. No need to register for these events; show up and have fun!

LEGO Drop-in At Ossian

At the Ossian Branch Library: Tuesday, March 26 from 4 to 7 p.m.

Grades K-6. Create LEGO masterpieces using the library's blocks during this drop-in event. No registration needed.

Teen Advisory Board

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Wednesday, March 27 from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m.

Grades 6-12. Do you wish you had a say in Teen Programming at the Library? Do you need volunteer credit? Join the Teen Advisory Board! You don't need to sign up--just show up for the TAB meetings on the last

Wednesday of each month.

Library Closed: March 29-30

At the Main Library and the Ossian Branch.

The library will be closed on Friday, March 29 and Saturday, March 30 for Good Friday and Easter.

Bingo with Jason

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, April 1 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Adults. Enjoy a lively game of Bingo for a chance to win a candy bar with everyone's favorite librarian named Jason! Registration required.

Teen Gaming Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, April 1 from 6 to 7 p.m.

Grades 6-12. Enjoy a variety of different games each month, including video games, trading card games, and board games. No

registration needed.

Cooking Basics by the Book At Ossian At the Ossian Branch Library: Tuesday, April 2 from 6 to 7 p.m.

Adults. Join us as we focus on a different cookbook each month and make an easy recipe to taste. This month will be oven less breads. Registration required.

Children's Book Clubs

At the Main Library (Bluffton)

Grade 1-2 Book Club: Tuesday, April 2 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

very good.

Grades 3-4 Book Club: Tuesday, April 9

from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Grades 5-6 Book Club: Thursday, April 11 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Teen Book Club: Thursday, April 11 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Pick up a copy of the book-of-the-month when you sign up at the library. Talk about the book and enjoy an activity or craft based on the book.

Genealogy/Local History Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, April 4 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Ages 12+. Members help each other learn new things and obtain a greater appreciation for local history and genealogy research. Bring your own laptop or share one of ours. Registration appreciated.

Solar Eclipse Viewing

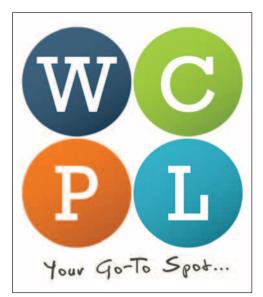
At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, April 8 from 2 to 4 p.m.

All ages. Participants of this program will get a safety briefing and can enjoy some solar-themed refreshments before we all go outside to view the eclipse. Each participant who registers will receive a pair of glasses to view the eclipse safely. There will also be a few different types of telescopes to get a different view of the eclipse. Glasses will only be distributed at the event and space is limited. Must be registered to attend.

Solar Eclipse Viewing At Ossian

At the Ossian Branch Library: Monday, April 8 from 2 to 4 p.m.

All ages. Participants of this program



will get a safety briefing before we all go outside to view the eclipse. Each participant who registers will receive a pair of glasses to view the eclipse safely. Glasses will only be distributed at the event and space is limited. Must be registered to attend.

Library Hours

At the main library in Bluffton - Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

At the Ossian branch library – Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon.

Access the library online at www.wellscolibrary.org for digital books, magazines, online databases, event info, and more.



Maundy Thursday music by A440 Strings

On Maundy Thursday (March 28) at 7 p.m. the A440 Strings, all musicians with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, will be performing excerpts from George Frederic Handel's The Messiah at the First Presbyterian Church in Bluffton. The public is invited to the program being jointly sponsored by the First United Methodist Church, Calvary Lutheran Church and the Presbyterian Church. (Photo provided)

Zanesville News

The Zanesville Community Church of God is having a Maundy Thursday Service on March 28 at 7 p.m. They are also having an 8:30 a.m. Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday followed by a breakfast at 9 a.m. before their 10 a.m. service.

All our area churches join in with an annual Good Friday Service that will be held March 29 at the Nine United Methodist Church that is located just a few miles north on Indianapolis Road,

The Coffee Cafe at

the Zanesville Community Church of God is open every weekday from 7:30 to 10 a.m. and all are welcome to attend.

Ellen Decker is getting ready for the Let's Read It Program that is held at the Zanesville Church of God. This will be held on six Tuesdays from 1 to 3 p.m. starting June 4 through July 9. Ellen was asking for reading partners and she may still need some. Please call the church if you would like to volunteer. The new restaurant

downtown is now open.

Weekday walking program at the City Gym

The Bluffton Parks Department is promoting a free weekday walking program. The City Gym will be open Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. through the end of March.

Walking has many health benefits but can be difficult during the colder months.

Participants can enter through the glass door on the West side of the building at 128 E Market St. Sign in on the wooden door each day. If you are the last to leave the gym, turn off the light in the southwest corner of the gym. 1 mile is equal to 20 laps.



CUR

by Melba Edwards

It is called Sis & Bub's

Kitchen and is located at

3010 Scott Street near the 4-way stop. The food is

& Pub is another great

place to eat. If you want

to pick up the Zanesville

Lions apple dumplings you

can get them there or by

the deli food you want at

Lengerichs Meats. They

are well known everywhere for all their products. They

are located right behind the

Zanesville Lions Ballpark.

You can also find all

calling me at 638-4327.

The County Line Pizza

How to find a tax prep pro

The deadline to file 2023 tax returns is Monday, April 15, 2024. Tax returns can be complicated, particularly for adults who own their homes and have dependents. Though it's not impossible for individuals to fill out and file their own returns, the complexity of the process and the stakes involved underscore how beneficial it can be to work with a tax accountant.

Advertisements promoting the services of tax preparation professionals are hard to miss between January and April. Though it's great to have options, it can be hard for taxpayers to find the right tax pro for them. The following tips can make that process a little easier.

• Ask around. Neighbors, family and friends can be a great resource when looking for a tax preparation service. Ask people you trust who does their taxes and inquire about fees and additional services if they recom-

260-589-8778

mend a certain individual or firm.

• Look local. Tax laws differ from state to state, and taxpayers typically must file both state and federal returns. While an out-of-state tax preparation professional may be qualified to work on your return, it might be easier to pick a local tax pro.

• Ask for a preparer tax identification number. The Internal Revenue Service notes that all tax return preparers who are compensated for preparing, or assisting in the preparation of, all or substantially all of any United States federal tax return, claim for refund, or other tax form submitted to the IRS are required to obtain a Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN). Though there are exceptions to that rule, taxpayers should recognize that anyone they pay to prepare their return must have a PTIN. Ask for this and ensure the PTIN is listed on your return.

• Check a tax preparer's credentials. The IRS maintains a Directory of Federal Tax Return Preparers with Credentials and Select Qualifications (https://irs.treasury.gov/ rpo/rpo.jsf) to help taxpayers find preparers in their area whose credentials are recognized by the IRS or who hold an Annual Filing Season Program Record of Completion. Taxpayers can utilize that directory to find professionals, and such an approach can ease some of the concerns they may have about working with someone new.

• Compare fees. When shopping around for a tax preparation professional, ask each about their fees. A 2023 survey from Drake Software found that tax preparers expected to charge between \$250 and \$300 per return. Taxpayers can compare fees and then choose a tax preparer

Edward Jones

> edwardjones.com Member SIPC

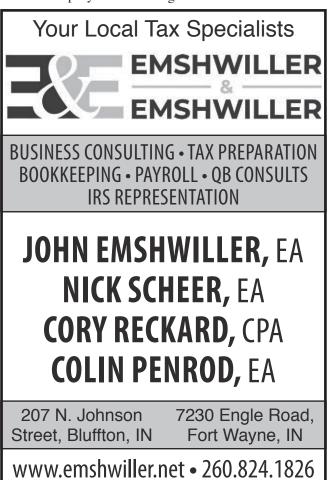
Make your

financial



who fits into their budget. These are just a handful of strategies taxpayers can employ to find a

tax prep pro. More information about filing tax returns is available at irs. gov.



P CPA FIR ACCOUNTAN CERTIFIED PUBLIC Topp notch tax service Individual Taxes Corporation Taxes Dean (Chip) Topp, CPA chip@toppcpa.com Partnership Taxes Mon-Friday 8-5; Sat 8-12 Bookkeeping & Payroll Call for evening appointments Property Taxes 159 N. Jefferson St., Berne, IN 46711

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MKT-58940-A AECSPAD

Memorial marks anniversary of battle between Native Americans and U.S.

By KIM CHANDLER Associated Press

ALEXANDER CITY, Ala. (AP) — Prayers and songs of remembrance carried across the grassy field where more than 800 Muscogee warriors, women and children perished in 1814 while defending their homeland from United States forces.

Members of the Muscogee Creek Nation returned to Alabama this weekend for a memorial service on the 210th anniversary of Horseshoe Bend. The battle was the single bloodiest day of conflict for Native Americans with U.S. troops and paved the way for white settler expansion in the Southeast and the tribe's eventual forced removal from the

region. "We don't come here to celebrate. We come here to commemorate, to remember the lives and stories of those who fought and honor their sacrifice," David Hill, principal chief of the Muscogee Creek Nation, said at the Saturday ceremony.

One thousand warriors, along with women and children from six tribal towns, had taken refuge on the site, named for the sharp bend of the Tallapoosa River. They were attacked on March 27, 1814, by a force of 3,000 led by future U.S. President Andrew Jackson.

"They were going to fight to the end. The warriors were going to do what they could do to protect the

women and children, protect themselves, protect our freedom, what we had here," Hill said.

Leaders of the Muscogee Nation on Saturday placed a wreath on the battle site. The wreath was made of red flowers, in honor of the warriors who were known as Red Sticks. It was decorated with six eagle feathers in recognition of the six tribal towns that had taken refuge there.

Despite signing a treaty with the U.S., the Muscogee were eventually forcibly removed from the Southeast to Oklahoma on the Trail of Tears. Some of their descendants made the journey back to the land their ancestors called home to attend the remembrance

ceremony.

"Hearing the wind and the trees and imagining those that came before us, they heard those same things. It wakes something up in your DNA," said Dode Barnett, a member of the Muscogee Nation Tribal Council.

RaeLynn Butler, the Muscogee Nation's secretary of culture and humanities, has visited the site multiple times but said it is emotional each time.

"When you hear the language and you hear the songs, it's a feeling that is just overwhelming. Painful. Even though it's hard to be here, it's important that we share this history," Butler said.

The Muscogee Nation

has announced plans to try to place a permanent memorial at the site.

At sunset, luminaries were placed on the field to remember the Muscogee people who lost their lives there. A song was sung in the Mvskoke language. The names of the tribal towns were read out over the site along with shouts of "Mvto," meaning thank you

Hill became emotional watching his young grandson frolic and play in the nearby woods. He could envision the children doing the same 210 years ago and then the fighting that followed as the warriors made their final stand, he said.

But Hill and others said

the story is ultimately one of strength and survival.

"Our tribal towns remain. Our culture remains. Our people remain. Our blood remains. And our ideas remain," Jonodev Chaudhuri, the Muscogee Nation ambassador to the United States, said

The "sacrifices and the loss of life of those 857 have provided light and life for us," Chaudhuri said.

"The battles we fight today, to protect our culture, and protect our way of life, protect our sovereignty is a direct through line to the lessons that were given to us by these brave. brave folks who lost their lives here protecting what is most dear to us," Chaudhuri said.

Pope Francis skips Palm Sunday homily at start of Holy Week

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

ROME (AP) – Pope Francis decided at the last minute to skip his homily during Palm Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Square, avoiding a strenuous speech at the start of a busy Holy Week that will test his increasingly frail health.

Hobbled by bad knees and persistent respiratory problems, Francis also didn't participate in the procession of cardinals around the obelisk in the piazza at the start of the Mass. Instead, the 87-yearold pontiff blessed the palm fronds and olive branches carried by the faithful from the altar.

Francis had been expected to deliver a homily halfway through the service and a prepared text had been distributed to journalists. But when an aide presented Francis with his glasses to begin reading, the pope made clear he wouldn't deliver the remarks, leaving the crowd waiting in silence.

Vatican officials didn't immediately explain why. The Vatican press office later said the homily was replaced by "a moment of silence and prayer."

Francis though did pronounce prayers throughout the service and offered a long appeal for peace at the end of the Mass. He said he was praying for the families of those killed in what he called an "inhuman" attack at a suburban Moscow concert hall and also asked for prayers for "the martyred Ukraine" and people of Gaza.

Vatican officials esti-

mated some 60,000 people attended the Mass, held under a sunny, breezy spring sky. Francis spent several minutes greeting them from the popemobile, making several loops around the piazza at the end of the service.

Palm Sunday kicks off a busy week for Francis leading up to Easter Sunday when the faithful commemorate the resurrection of Christ. On Thursday, Francis is due to travel to a Rome women's prison for the traditional washing of the feet ritual. On Friday he is scheduled to preside over the torchlit Way of the Cross procession at Rome's Colosseum re-enacting Christ's crucifixion.

The following day marks the Easter Vigil, during which Francis presides over a solemn nighttime service in the basilica, followed by Easter Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Square and his noontime blessing from the loggia above.

The Holy Week schedule is challenging for popes even under the best of circumstances. But that is especially true this year for Francis, who has been battling on and off all winter what he and the Vatican have described as a case of the flu, bronchitis or a cold. For the last several weeks he has occasionally asked an aide to read aloud his speeches and catechism lessons to spare him the effort.

On Sunday, there was no substitute called in, and the homily was skipped. Vatican officials said the prepared text was to be considered as never having existed. Usually, the pope doesn't deliver a homily at Easter, but he traditionally offers reflections on Palm Sunday.

Even when he isn't sick, Francis often speaks in a whisper and seems to run out of breath easily. He had part of one lung removed when he was a young man because of a respiratory infection.

At this time last year, he was hospitalized for three days with an acute case of bronchitis, but then rallied to get through Holy Week. He has been hospitalized two other times during his pontificate for abdominal surgery, including one 10-day stay in 2021 to remove a part of his large intestine.





Over 130 abducted schoolchildren in Nigeria's northwest are rescued after weeks in captivity

By CHINEDU ASADU Associated Press

KADUNA, Nigeria (AP) - More than 130 children abducted more than two weeks ago from their school in Nigeria's northwestern state of Kaduna were rescued Sunday and are getting psychological support before being returned to their families, the West African nation's military and government officials said.

"As the leader, I shouldn't bother myself about figures. What is more important is the return of the children," the governor said.

At least 1,400 students have been kidnapped from Nigerian schools since 2014, when Boko Haram militants seized hundreds of schoolgirls from Borno state's Chibok village. In recent years, abductions have been concentrated in "high spirits" and were receiving psychological support and medical attention, the governor said.

At least 17 other schoolchildren in northern Sokoto state were also rescued two weeks after they were taken hostage, according to a statement issued Saturday by the Sokoto state government.

Under growing pressure to end the mass kidnapextensive knowledge of the security crisis in Nigeria's northwest told AP that the identity of the abductors is known.



School authorities had told the state government that a total of $\overline{287}$ students were kidnapped when motorcycle-riding gunmen invaded the remote Kuriga school March 7. However, Kaduna Gov. Uba Sani told local media late Sunday that only 137 young people had been abducted during the attack.

"All of them have come back home safely," the governor said in a broadcast by the Lagos-based Channels Television. The Associated Press could not reach villagers or school authorities in Kuriga town, which does not have cellphone service.

Such varying reports are common in Nigeria's kidnapping crisis, sometimes because of inadequate recordkeeping or because some hostages escape moments after their abduction.

the country's northwestern and central regions, where dozens of armed groups often target villagers and travelers for ransom.

The 137 children were rescued in Zamfara state, an enclave notorious for kidnappings more than 124 miles away from their school, Nigerian military spokesman Maj. Gen. Edward Buba said in a statement.

Pictures released by the Nigerian military showed the children looking worn out as they were covered in dust, still wearing their bluewhite-and-brown uniforms while being transported following their release. Kuriga town leaders joined other government officials in waiting for their arrival at the Kaduna State Government House, which officials postponed until Monday.

The children were in

pings in northern Nigeria, President Bola Tinubu promised his administration is "deploying detailed strategies to ensure that our schools remain safe sanctuaries of learning, not lairs for wanton abductions.'

Tinubu had vowed to rescue the children "without paying a dime" as ransom. But ransoms are commonly paid for kidnappings, often arranged by families, and it is rare for officials in Nigeria to admit to the payments.

No group has claimed responsibility for the Kaduna kidnapping, which locals have blamed on bandit groups known for mass killings and kidnappings for ransom in the conflict-battered northern region, most of them former herders in conflict with settled communities.

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Boat Trailers

Zach Edey and No. 1 seed Purdue roll into Sweet 16

By MICHAEL MAROT AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLÎS (AP) — For Zach Edey and Purdue, it was just another step toward a goal. A dominant performance, but just another step regardless.

They want more.

"There's no satisfaction," Edey said. "I didn't come back to make the Sweet 16. I came back to make a run, a deep run."

So far, so good.

Edey had 23 points and 14 rebounds, and the top-seeded Boilermakers advanced to the second weekend of the NCAA Tournament by pounding eighth-seeded Utah State 106-67 on Sunday.

Trey Kaufman-Renn added 18 points and eight boards for Purdue (31-7), which broke the school's single-season record for victories. Fletcher Loyer had 15 points, and Braden Smith had all six of his assists in the second half when the Boilermakers shot 65.2% from the field before pulling the starters.

Purdue also set a school record for most points in a March Madness game. Edey, meanwhile, became the first player since Lew Alcindor in 1968 with at least 50 points,

35 rebounds and a field goal percentage of 65.0 through two rounds of the NCAA tourney. Next up is fifth-seed-

ed Gonzaga in the Midwest Region semifinals in Detroit.

"Nobody is satisfied with where we are now," Edev said.

Great Osodor, the Mountain West Player of the Year, had 14 points and six rebounds for Utah State. The Aggies (28-7) were outrebounded 49-26, and they headed home still in search of the program's first regional semifinal since 1970.

The biggest reason was Edey, who turned in another impressive showing in Indianapolis, just 60 miles southeast of campus.

Just two days after he produced the first 30-point, 20-rebound NCAA Tournament game since 1995, Edey was 8 of 11 from the field and 7 of 8 at the free-throw line. The 7-foot-4, 300-pound center also had three blocks, three assists and two steals in 26 1/2 minutes.

Fourth-seeded Indiana rolls past Fairfield in first round of NCAA Women's Tournament

By MARK AMBROGI

Associated Press BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP) — Indiana senior Sara Scalia hopes that her hot start can be a mental boost.

Scalia scored 27 points, hitting five of Indiana's 10 3-pointers, to lead the fourthseeded Hoosiers to an 89-56 victory over No. 13 Fairfield on Saturday in the first round of the women's NCAA tournament.

"It's always good for a shooter to have good shooting game and kind of go off that," Scalia said. "It just brings you more and more confidence. It was definitely a good start to the tournament."

Indiana coach Teri Moren said Scalia has shown more emotion this year and her teammates feed off of that.

"Every time she shoots it, we believe it's going to go in," the coach said.

Yarden Garzon, Chloe Moore-McNeil and Mackenzie Holmes each scored 13 points for the Hoosiers.

The Hoosiers (25-5) will face the winner of No. 5 seed Oklahoma and No. 12 Florida Gulf Coast on Monday night.

Fairfield (31-2) saw its 29-game winning streak come to an end. Janelle Brown led the Stags, who earned the first Top 25 ranking in school history earlier this month, with 19 points. Meghan Andersen was the only other Fairfield player in double figures with 10 points.

ÎU led 38-34 at halftime but dominated in the second half. The Hoosiers used a 13-0 spurt in the third quarter to take a 59-43 lead with 4:23 left in third quarter. Scalia scored 10 of those 13 points with two 3-pointers.

Indiana led 64-49 after three quarters and

"I think the biggest thing was we had a little bit of slow start and we had to lock in defensively and get out to the shooters and don't let them knock down 3s," Scalia said.

Moren said the team began switching defensively in the second half.

The Hoosiers shot 51% from the field while hold the Stags to 32% IU held a 44-29 rebounding advantage. IU held a 40-18 edge of points in the paint and 17-2 edge in points off turnovers.

IU had a big advantage in free throws, too, making 17-of-22 free throws while Fairfield only took four from the line.

"They have a great defensive team and always have been but this was incredibly tough environment to play in," Fairfield coach Carly Thibault-DuDonis said.

Brown said it was hard to communicate because of the crowd noise.

Trailing 31-26 with 4:46 left in the second quarter, the Hoosiers outscored the Stags 12-3 the rest of the quarter to take a 38-34 halftime lead.

Garzon led IU with 12 points in the opening half, including a 3-pointer that gave the Hoosiers the lead for good at 32-31.

Holmes had converted a 3-point play to give IU a 20-17 left with 52 seconds left in the opening quarter. Fairfield went on take that five-point lead before the bubble burst.

"We are going to remember this team forever, not because we're 31-2 but because of how they pushed each other and challenged each other," Thibault-DuDonis said. "They've brought joy to each other's lives, and they've done that not only within the locker room, but within our campus and



He became the first player with three consecutive NCAA tourney games with at least 20 points and three blocks since Shaquille O'Neal for LSU in the 1991 and 1992 tournaments, according to OptaS-TATS.

"Zach Edey, he's special," Utah State coach Danny Sprinkle said. "There haven't been many players like that in college basketball history. That's why I think they can just take it to another level. We told our guys, yeah, Zach Edey is obviously a national player of the year, but they've got other really good players and that can't go unnoticed."

Another win would put Purdue in its first Elite Eight since 2019, when it lost in overtime to eventual national champion Virginia — one year after the Cavaliers became the first No. 1 seed to lose to a No. 16 seed, UMBC.

With Edey in the middle, the Boilermakers are hoping to follow in that same path that the Cavs did when they won it all. If Loyer and

High School Calendar

MONDAY, MARCH 25 No events scheduled. TUESDAY, MARCH 26 No events scheduled. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27 No events scheduled. THURSDAY, MARCH 28 No events scheduled. FRIDAY, MARCH 29

BASEBALL: Norwell at Brownstown Central, 1 p.m. & vs. Evansville Central at Bloomington South High School, 7:30 p.m. SATURDAY, MARCH 30 BASEBALL: Norwell at Edgewood, 12:30

p.m. MONDAY, APRIL 1 No events scheduled. TUESDAY, APRIL 2

BASEBALL: Norwell at South Adams, 5 p.m.; Bluffton at New Haven, 5 p.m.; Southern Wells at Oak Hill, 5 p.m.

SOFTBALL: Bluffton at Eastbrook, 5:30 p.m. TRACK & FIELD (CO-ED): Eastbrook at Bluffton. 5:30 p.m.

Michigan hires Dusty May as head basketball coach after 6 seasons with Florida Atlantic

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

BOCA RATON, Fla. (AP) — The lure of Michigan became apparent to Dusty May not in the last few days, but almost 20 years ago when he was just starting his

coaching career.

He was an assistant at Eastern Michigan then and quickly realized Michigan's logo — the famed block M — was something that people took enormous pride in being associated with. And when Michigan offered him a chance to wear it, he couldn't say no.

May was announced as

the new coach at Michigan on Sunday, agreeing to a five-year contract worth almost \$19 million, the school said. He leaves Florida Atlantic after six seasons, highlighted by a Final Four run a year ago and more wins in the last two years than almost anyone nationally.

Dusty May

"This place allowed me to be extremely

"For almost two decades, Dusty May's proven track record as a winner, including Florida Atlantic's magical run to a 2023 Final Four, speaks volumes about him and his coaching," Michigan athletic director Warde Manuel said. "We are so delighted to welcome Dusty, and his family, to the University of Michigan. He embodies the values of high integrity and outstanding character, coupled with an unparalleled understanding of the game of basketball."

The 47-year-old May replaces Juwan Howard, a former Michigan star who was fired after five seasons with the Wolverines. Howard went 82-67 with two NCAA Tournament appearances, but the Wolverines went 8-24 this season — the school's worst record since 1960-61.

FAU did what it could last year to keep May, signing him shortly after the Final Four run to a 10-year extension. He earned \$1.25 million in base salary this season, plus an additional \$25,000 for making the NCAA Tournament. FAU is due a \$1 million buyout now that May has decided to leave.

"The University of Michigan has hired a phenomenal basketball coach and an even better

SPORTS

Smith play like they did against the Aggies, they are going to be one tough out this time

"We're a really deep team," Edey said.

"When I went out, we were good. When

Braden went out, we were good. We've got a

lot of guys who can and sustain a high level

It sent multiple players at him, tried to get

physical and attempted to frustrate him. Noth-

in the first half and four in the opening min-

utes to send two Utah State starters to the

the first four points in a decisive 16-0 spurt

that ended with Purdue holding a 39-24 lead.

Then the 3-point shooters got going, spur-

ring a 20-6 run to open the second half that

tled into the game, we were able to establish

Zach at the rim. That was just too much for

them and then we balanced some things out."

extended a 49-33 halftime margin to 69-39. "Today was just our day," Purdue coach Matt Painter said. "After we kind of get set-

Utah State threw everything it had at Edey.

The Toronto native drew eight fouls, seven

Edey easily controlled the middle, scoring

around.

of play.

bench.

ing worked.

kept expanding its lead in the fourth quarter. community.

News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL High School

Boys' Basketball State Final Saturday, March 30 1A Bethesa Christian (23-7) vs. Fort Wayne Canterbury (18-9), 10:30 a.m. 2A Brownstown Central (27-4) vs. Wapahani (26-2) 3A Scottsburg (24-5) vs. South Bend St. Joseph (20-9), 6 p.m. 4A

Ben Davis (23-5) vs. Fishers (28-1), 8:15 p.m.

College

Men's Basketball Scores Sunday, Mar. 24 NCAA Tournament Clemson 72, Baylor 64 Duke 93, James Madison 55 Marquette 81, Colorado 77 Purdue 106, Utah St. 67 Alabama 72, Grand Canyon 61 UConn 75, Northwestern 58

EAST

Evansville 64, Quinnipiac 63 Fairfield 82, UALR 75 SOUTH Georgia 72, Wake Forest 66 MIDWEST Indiana St. 76, Minnesota 64 FAR WEST Cleveland St. 51, N. Colorado 49 Montana 82, Presbyterian 79, OT

Saturday, Mar. 23 NCAA Tournament North Carolina 85, Michigan St. 69

7 Tennessee 62, Texas 58 NC State 79, Oakland 73, OT Creighton 86, Oregon 73, 2OT Gonzaga 89, Kansas 68 Illinois 89, Duquesne 63 Iowa St. 67, Washington St. 56 Arizona 78, Dayton 68

EAST Seton Hall 72, North Texas 58 SOUTH Norfolk St. 81, Alabama A&M 66 MIDWEST Cincinnati 74, Bradley 57 Ohio St. 81, Virginia Tech 73 SOUTHWEST Arkansas St. 86, Bethune-Cook-

FAR WEST

Chicago St. 77, UC San Diego 75 Seattle 79, Delaware St. 66

Women's Basketball Scores Sunday, Mar. 24 EAST Villanova 73, Virginia 55 SOUTH LSU 83, Middle Tennessee 56 Mississippi St. 68, TCU 61 NC A&T 48, Old Dominion 45 South Carolina 88, North Carolina 41

MIDWEST

Colorado 63, Kansas St. 50 Duke 75, Ohio St. 63 Fort Wayne 84, Cincinnati 58 Illinois 79, Stony Brook 62 Illinois St. 74, Coll. of Charleston 67 Saint Louis 68, N. Iowa 64 Toledo 72, St. John's 71 **SOUTHWEST** Texas 65, Alabama 54 Tulsa 73, Georgetown 61 **FAR WEST** Oregon St. 61, Nebraska 51 Saint Joseph's 63, California 61 Washington St. 73, Santa Clara 47 Wyoming 80, UTSA 64

Sunday, Mar. 24

NCAA Tournament Iowa 91, Holy Cross 65 USC 87, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 55

Notre Dame 81, Kent St. 67 UCLA 84, California Baptist 55 UConn 86, Jackson St. 64 NC State 64, Chattanooga 45 Indiana 89, Fairfield 56 Gonzaga 75, UC Irvine 56 Oklahoma 73, Florida Gulf Coast 70 Utah 68, South Dakota St. 54 Tennessee 92, Green Bay 63 Syracuse 74, Arizona 69 Ole Miss 67, Marquette 55 Creighton 87, UNLV 73 Kansas 81, Michigan 72 West Virginia 63, Princeton 53

NBA Saturday's Games

New York 105, Brooklyn 93 Sacramento 109, Orlando 107 Atlanta 132, Charlotte 91 Phoenix 131, San Antonio 106 Boston 124, Chicago 113 Houston 147, Utah 119 Washington 112, Toronto 109 Denver 114, Portland 111

Sunday's Games New Orleans 114, Detroit 101 Philadelphia 121, L.A. Clippers 107 Miami 121, Cleveland 84 Milwaukee 118, Oklahoma City 93 Golden State at Minnesota, 7 p.m. Indiana at L.A. Lakers, 10 p.m.

Monday's Games Charlotte at Cleveland, 7 p.m. Boston at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m. Brooklyn at Toronto, 7:30 p.m. Detroit at New York, 7:30 p.m. Portland at Houston, 8 p.m. Portland at Houston, 8 p.m. Dallas at Utah, 9 p.m. Memphis at Denver, 9 p.m. Philadelphia at Sacramento, 10 p.m. Indiana at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

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<u>HOCKEY</u>

NHL

Saturday's Games N.Y. Islanders 6, Winnipeg 3 Philadelphia 3, Boston 2 St. Louis 5, Minnesota 4, OT Nashville 1, Detroit 0 Ottawa 5, New Jersey 2 Toronto 6, Edmonton 3 N.Y. Rangers 4, Florida 3, SO Vancouver 4, Calgary 2 Los Angeles 4, Tampa Bay 3, OT Vegas 4, Columbus 2 Chicago 5, San Jose 4, OT Sunday's Games Washington 3, Winnipeg 0 Colorado 5, Pittsburgh 4, OT New Jersey 4, N.Y. Islanders 0 Florida 4, Philadelphia 1 Ottawa 5, Edmonton 3 Carolina 2, Toronto 1 Dallas at Arizona, 8 p.m. Tampa Bay at Anaheim, 8:30 p.m. Buffalo at Calgary, 9 p.m. Monday's Games Vegas at St. Louis, 8 p.m. Los Angeles at Vancouver, 9 p.m.

BASEBALL

MLB

Saturday's Games Philadelphia 6, N.Y. Yankees (ss) 6 Detroit (ss) 11, N.Y. Yankees (ss) 6 Washington (ss) 2, St. Louis 2 Detroit (ss) 10, Toronto (ss) 7 Seattle 8, Chicago White Sox 2 Cincinnati 6, Colorado 2 Milwaukee 7, Chicago Cubs 4 Cleveland 5, Arizona (ss) 0 Baltimore (ss) 3, Toronto (ss) 2 Sunday's Games

Sunday's Games Houston vs St. Louis at West Palm Beach, Fla., 12:05 p.m. Detroit vs Tampa Bay at Lakeland, Fla., 1:05 p.m.

Pits. 1.05 p.m. Pittsburgh vs N.Y. Yankees (ss) at Bradenton, Fla., 1:05 p.m. Cincinnati vs Cleveland at Goodyear, Ariz., 4:05 p.m. Colorado vs Chicago White Sox at Scottsdale, Ariz., 4:10 p.m.

Seattle vs Chicago Cubs at Peoria, Ariz., 4:10 p.m. Milwaukee vs Arizona at Phoenix, 4:10 p.m. selective, to take the job that was the perfect fit," May told The Associated Press. "I would never feel any remorse if I was at FAU forever. I almost wanted these other jobs to go away, to get filled, so I wouldn't have a decision to make."

The deal with Michigan was done Saturday night, one day after FAU lost to Northwestern in the NCAA Tournament. May brought players at his now-former school in for a series of team and individual meetings on Sunday morning, saying afterward those talks were "extremely tough." person," FAU athletic director Brian White said. "In addition to his historic level of competitive success, Dusty built a world-class culture within our men's basketball program; operating with a high level of integrity and representing our university and athletics department with dignity and class."

May went 126-69 in his six years at Florida Atlantic, finishing with winning records in each of those seasons — and seeing the victories really pile up in the last two years. The Owls went 35-4 last season on their way to the Final Four and finished this season at 25-9.

Byron dominates NASCAR's 1st road course race of season

By JIM VERTUNO AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — William Byron won the Daytona 500 with an agonizing final lap under a caution flag. He took the checkered flag on Sunday at the Circuit of the Americas at full throttle.

Bryon started from pole position and delivered a dominant drive in NAS-CAR's first road course race of the season. The Hendrick Motorsports driver led 42 of 68 laps and built the big lead he needed to hold off a hard-charging run from Joe Gibbs Racing's Christopher Bell over the final two laps.

Bell shaved nearly three seconds off Byron's lead to create some late drama before Byron slammed the door over the final corners.

"I was trying to not make mistakes," Byron said. "I knew that last lap he was going to be pushing hard." Even when he was building the lead, Byron said he knew the victory would be tight at the end.

"Everyone is too good, and that car (was) too close," Byron said.

A self-taught racer who used computer equipment to hone his skills, Byron earned career win No. 12 and his second on a road course.

The Circuit of the Americas, a track built for Formula One, has been the first road course for NAS-CAR each of the last four seasons. And unlike the crash-filled triple-overtime race of 2023, Sunday's race was mostly incident free as Byron made easy work of the field.

Byron led 23 laps of the first two stages, but found himself quickly dropped to

third at the start of the final stage as Ross Chastain, who won at COTA in 2022, jumped to the front.

Byron fought back to pass him with 25 laps to go and both cars pitted on the same lap. Chastain then got hung up in traffic on the reentry and fell several cars behind.

That gave Byron the chance to open the gap he needed to keep Bell behind him at the end. Ty Gibbs, the 21-year-old grandson of team owner Joe Gibbs, finished third after getting passed by Bell with three laps to go.

"Another lap I would have gotten there for sure," Bell said. "Passing (Byron) would have been difficult. I needed him to make a mistake and he didn't make a mistake."





DIVERSIONS

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2024 · The News-Banner · Page 3a

GREG

+MORT WALKER

Regret and renewal

Dear Annie: I could have written home all day the letter from "Regretful," who was sad that she and her husband had left the city and moved into a rural area where she is missing out on so much that had made her life fun. For me, it's been 12 years of misery. I used to see my daughters and grandkid almost every day, and now I'm lucky if it's once a year.

My physical and mental health I was reading have deteriorated to the point where, the newspaper, at times, I no longer have any motivation to live.

My husband knows how I feel but chooses to ignore me; he's happy here in the Northwoods where he can hunt and ride around on his fourwheeler. I'm 80 years old, and I feel like it's over for me, but I don't want my life to end in misery. What can I do? — Also Regretful

Dear Also Regretful: First off, I'm sorry that you are feeling so alone and isolated. Please reach out for help. You are not alone. If you are feeling like you do not want to live, visit the website https://988lifeline. org, which is a great resource.

Please tell your husband and your children how you are feeling. There is no reason that you should be feeling this alone and isolated. There are people who love you. Please reach out. There is help. Seek the help of a professional therapist to work through these feelings, if you can. Call your doctor and book a check-up, and see if there are exercises that you can do to boost your physical and mental health.

Dear Annie: Keep up your good advice.

When I was a young mother at

with two babies while my husband was at work, I was very unhappy. I thought of leaving my husband. But one day, when

I came across a letter describing

my same situation. The advice was, "Finish your education, then decide what to do."

I got a teaching degree and worked for 30 years, loving my profession.

My first husband and I agreed to divorce after 20 years. My second husband and I were married for 30 years until he passed away. My third husband — we're both 87 — and I have been married for four years. We are so much in love. - Kept Growing

Dear Growing: Thank you for your letter. It highlights that you are never too old to find love and or start a new career.

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

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BEETLE BAILEY I COULDN'T FIND A WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN THERE? ROPE, SO I GOT SOMEPILLOWS **BLONDIE** HONEY, TONIGHT LET'S WATCH WHICH I SUPPOSE IS PRETTY MUCH WHATEVER YOU IKE EVERY NIGHT,) HEY, THANKS, VOU'RE KINDA WANT HUH, DEAR? HONEY! TAKING THE FUN OUT OF IT SWEETHEART ZITS I DID A GOOD DEED YEAH? I HELPED AN OLD LADY YOU'RE I'M NOT WHAT DID WITH HER GROCERIES AGOOD ANOLD TODAY. BOY. YOU DO? CRANKSHAFT THEY DON'T CALL IT THE THE MAJORITY OF CARS AS MUCH AS ETERNAL COMBUSTION THEY'VE BEEN ON THE ROAD ARE TOUTING THE STILL GAS POWERED. ENGINE FOR NOTHING! ELECTRIC CAR. Dale Evan The LOCKHORNS THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Question: Working in the field of computer science has been fascinating-and sometimes scary, considering what goes into programming. *My boss often compares* computer software to the human brain. While *I disagree with him, the* brain is complex and as many say, "What goes into our brain eventually comes out in our thoughts, words, and actions." Are we programmed at birth? – C.P.

We must open our hearts to Christ

in information and images that impact how we think, what we say, and what we do.

While God does not program us in the same way as a set of instructions or as a robot, the Bible does tell us that God has "set eternity" in our hearts but no one knows the work God does from beginning to end (see Ecclesiastes 3:11).

We are responsible for what we allow into

should depend on Him to reveal what needs to be cleaned up, and then drink in the pure water of His wisdom. He will faithfully guide us; that it His desire. "Set up signposts, make landmarks; set your heart toward the highway" (Jeremiah 31:21, NKJV). The Bible is our road map for living a life that brings glory and honor to His Name, and

ask Him to help us see

the way He sees us we





WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU CLEANED OUT YOUR CLOSET?

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Answer: In a sense, we do get programmed by families, culture, education, and entertainment. Our minds

our minds. We need to program our minds and our hearts that when bad things permeate our thinking and take root, we are to seek the mind of Christ and replace bad with good from God's Word.

When we open our are constantly taking hearts to Christ and

we do well to follow the admonition of Scripture: "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things" (Colossians 3:2, NIV).

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This Week's

Garage

Sales

**BLOOMFIELD COMMUNITY** 

GARAGE sales March 29 &

30. 9-5. rain or shine. Five

miles north of Portland on

**NOTICE** 

Notices

HAVING AN UPCOMING event? A 20 word, line classi-

\$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

**SERVICES** 

Services

Room additions, fix old saggy

floors, all types remodeling. Redo bathrooms, old foundation repairs. Marv Schwartz:

DIAGNOSED WITH LUNG

CANCER? You may qualify

for a substantial cash award - even with smoking history. NO

obligation! We've recovered

millions. Let us help!! Call 24/7,

Lottery Numbers

**Saturday's Drawings** 

HOOSIER LOTTERY

**Cash 5** — 01-07-12-23-

**Cash4Life** — 33-39-43-

Lotto Plus - 29-33-40-

Quick Draw Midday -

04-06-13-15-20-22-23-24-

26-30-39-45-46-53-54-66-

51-59, Cash Ball: 04

CONSTRUCTION

and click on classifieds.

MARV'S

260-525-8877.

844-229-7933 (I)

28

42-44-46

Hwy. 27. 260-726-2407.

Clip & Save



All ads are searchable at classifieds.news-banner.com...

### Services

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

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)

### EMIPLOYMENT Help Wanted

### THE WELLS COUNTY Prose-

cutor'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 conducting criminal investigations and assisting the Prosecutor in preparing cases for trial. The investigator must be an effective communicator, be proficient with a computer, be able to work independently, and have the ability to be on 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 by email them to prosecutor@wellscounty.org.

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

### Help Wanted

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. Ap-plications may be obtained from the Clerk Treasurer's of-128 East Market St, fice. Bluffton, IN between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm Monday-Friday or at www.blufftonindiana.net.

FOOD SERVICE We are looking for a Food Service personnel to join our team. If you enjoy cooking, managing kitchen operations, and mentoring team members, we want to hear from you! For full details, visit www.canteenservices.com

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 in-vestigation, oral interview, polygraph and psychological evaluation. Selected applicant must be able to graduate from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. ILEA certified applicants do not have to attend the physical agility and written examination portion of the pro-cess. 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. Application can be found on our website at www.wellscountysheriff.com. Once application is completed, details on the testing date and location will be emailed to the applicant. The application must be completed by April 20, 2024.

**Need more employees?** A 20 word, line classified in the News-

### 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

### SUDOKU

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

### King Classic Sudoku

Thank you for reading your local newspaper The News-Banner



67-70-74-75, BE: 30 **Daily Three-Midday** — 00-04-00, SB: 02 **Daily Three-Evening** — 01-05-00, SB: 04 **Daily Four-Midday** — 00-02-06-02, SB: 02 **Daily Four-Evening** — 08-09-05-01, SB: 04 **Quick Draw Evening** — 09-10-14-15-18-19-21-30-31-34-36-41-47-48-52-56-65-66-68-79, BE: 66

**Hoosier Lotto** — 04-09-34-41-42-46 **POWERBALL** 

06-23-25-34-51; Powerball: 03; Power Play: 2X

Sunday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY Cash 5 - 02-06-08-27-37

**Cash4Life** — 14-15-23-53-54, Cash Ball: 02

Quick Draw Midday — 01-07-08-17-18-23-30-35-37-38-42-46-52-58-61-63-74-75-79-80, BE: 01

**Daily Three-Midday** – 07-00-01, SB: 08

**Daily Three-Evening** – 05-09-06, SB: 02

**Daily Four-Midday** – 07-04-01-09, SB: 08

**Daily Four-Evening** — 06-02-06-07, SB: 02

**Quick Draw Evening** - 06-10-18-20-22-29-32-34-35-45-52-54-58-60-64-66-68-69-71-77, BE: 71

**Hoosier Lotto** — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$7.6 million

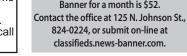
MEGA MILLIONS Estimated jackpot (for

Tuesday): \$1.1 trillion POWERBALL

Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$800 million

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to dirk@holleytruckparts.com. For more information, call 260-478-7411.





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

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

3006, www.steffengrp.com. BIDDING STARTS CLOSING APRIL 4 STARTING AT 6 p.m. EST - Joann Groves, Anita Miller & Veda Ewart POA, owner. 6 p.m.: 2,132 sf, 4 bedroom, 1 bath, partial basement, 2-car attached garage, sitting on .4 acre city lot, South Adams Community School, Wabash Township, Adams County. 6:30 p.m.: Furniture, household items, cast iron pans, lots of collectibles, dishes, Zippo lighters & more! Preview March 25, 5-6 p.m., 230 High Street, Geneva. Pick up April 5, 1-5 p.m. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.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 8-APRIL 15 - (Online Only Auction) - Fort Wayne Community Schools, seller. Excess needs of FWCS Transportation Department. Mechanic and shop equipment, shelving, computer monitors and electronics, office furniture, parts washer, air compressor, much more. Preview: April 10 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 6006 Ardmore Ave., Fort Wayne, IN. The Steffen Group Inc., 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

**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.

APRIL 12-APRIL 19 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of Dr. Hugh and Rhea Glidewell, seller. Huge jewelry and coin auction. Seven Rolex watches, fine diamond rings, necklaces, earrings, 14ct, 18ct and 22ct gold jewelry, sterling silver jewelry, 350+ Invicta luxury watches, coin collection. Auction preview: April 14 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., 2926 Smith Rd., Fort Wayne, IN. The Steffen Group Inc. 260-824-3006 www.steffengrp.com

The Steffen Group Inc., 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com. **APRIL 13-APRIL 20 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of Dr. Hugh and Rhea Glidewell, seller.** Major personal property auction. 2008 Mercedes sedan, large quantity of high-end camera equipment, professional telescope, new high end his and her golf clubs and accessories, huge qty. of power and hand tools, modern furniture, sterling silver flatware set, Smith and Wesson revolver, jewelers safes, much more. Auction preview: April 14 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., 2926 Smith Rd., Fort Wayne, IN. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

**APRIL 20 - 10 a.m. - (Live Auction) - Marc and Valerie Hamman, seller.** 6530 S. 300 E., Hamilton, IN. Three lots adjacent to Hamilton Lake with 2 car 26'x28' garage. This is the perfect property to build a new home, extra storage and parking. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.