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Additional \$1.5M grant available to Bluffton

Leaves some with questions and concerns

By JONATHAN SNYDER
A one-time maximum \$1.5 million Community Crossings Matching Grant is recently available for Bluffton.

Street Commissioner Tim Simpson told the Bluffton Com-

mon Council Tuesday that the Indiana Department of Transportation has an "overabundance" of funds that they need to spend. Because of this, the maximum for matching grants for the July application period was raised. The maximum will revert to the \$1 million amount in January 2025.

The grant cannot go toward the development of new roads or work on utilities. The grant is purely for road and curb repair work. Inspection is also not covered by the Community Crossings grant.

While the council was intrigued by the increase, a major problem lies in getting the money for the city's contribution. An estimated \$700,000 of the \$1 million match for last year's application came from American Rescue Plan Act funds. The council discussed creating a general obligation bond to help cover the cost.

Council member Scott Mentzer stated that he supports going for the maximum in matching funds, but advised that a land purchase from the Redevelopment Commission could tie up about \$2 million from the general fund.
Simpson stated that there is
(Continued on Page 2)



Heavy rain floods River Road

Heavy rainfall led to minor flood levels Tuesday. Pictured at right, the rising water level closed River Road in Bluffton. According to the National Weather Service, the Wabash River in Bluffton measured at 10.88 deep at its peak Tuesday — it was just 1.6 ft. deep on Sunday. Above is the pedestrian bridge on the Rivergreenway, submerged by the river. The water level at the White Bridge on County Road 450 East is shown below. 1.54 inches in rainfall were recorded. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)



Board of Works approves dump truck purchase

By JONATHAN SNYDER

A new Dodge Ram 5500 dump truck will be available for the Sewer Collections Department, following approval by the Board of Public Works and Safety on Tuesday.

The truck comes from Fox Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram and costs \$100,048. The old 2002 Ford F550 needed to be replaced, with the board noting that 22 years for a dump truck is a long lifespan.

Kelly Automotive Group had the low bid for the truck at \$97,806, but the truck would not arrive for four months and would require an additional two or three weeks to install the truck bed. Fox has the truck in stock and its estimate for installing the bed is about six to eight weeks.

Wastewater and Stormwater Collections Supervisor Derrick Deininger specified that the truck would be used for smaller jobs. Board of Works member Scott Mentzer noted
(Continued on Page 2)

Ossian police get debriefing policy, discuss remodel

By SYDNEY KENT

Ossian Police Department officers will now be required to complete a "debrief" within 48 hours of any incidents with significant trauma or fatalities.

Ossian Police Commissioners, along with several officers, discussed the topic during the regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday.

Commissioner Jay Esparza asked the department if any psychological services or counseling following traumatic incidents for officers were currently in place. Ossian Chief of Police Kurt Jack said that there was nothing formal.

The Ossian Police Officer Russ Mounsey said that there had been mention of a chaplain in the past. However, he had never met the person.

"All of a sudden when someone (commits suicide), people say they had no idea," Mounsey said. "It's like, well,
(Continued on Page 2)

Innkeeper's tax nets \$95K in 2023

By HOLLY GASKILL

A 5% tax on short-term overnight accommodations in Wells County brought \$95,267.07 in 2023.

In a quarterly update to the County Council Tuesday evening, Tourism Coordinator Audry Dudley said she was "very pleased" with the total. The tax took effect in February 2023, meaning the total did not account for a full calendar year. Given this January's data, Dudley expects Wells could garner roughly \$105,000 in tax revenue annually.

These funds are then used to promote tourism to the area through various endeavors outlined by the Wells County Convention and Visitors Commission, the appointed board tasked with advising tax use. Their plans include developing visitor guides and

maps, creating signage, and distributing marketing grants.

According to Dudley, marketing grants have provided the most immediate progress. Grants have already been given to Bluffton NOW!, Horizon Events Corporation, and Ossian and Bluffton parks departments, who used the money to market an event to other counties through print, radio, social media, and other paid advertising.

By receiving a grant, the organizations also agree to promote the Visitors Commission and track data regarding their event attendance. Dudley said this data has helped her, as well as the host organizations, determine where marketing is most effective and where people are traveling from.

Dudley also now has access to data

about Wells County tourism through the state. The most recent available data shows visitors spent \$5.1 million in Wells County in 2022.

"It's a pretty substantial opportunity," said council member Scott Ezley, who serves on the commission. Dudley added, "It's something we shouldn't be negligent of at all."

Dudley also expressed her excitement to see how the solar eclipse will bring in tourism revenue to local businesses. The innkeeper's tax revenue will give a peek into the economic impact of the event in Wells County, however, that complete data will not be available until at least June.

Additional information about Wells County tourism can be found at visit-wellscounty.com.

holly@news-banner.com

County prepares for upcoming total solar eclipse

By HOLLY GASKILL

On the heels of the highly anticipated total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8, Wells County Sheriff Scott Holliday and Emergency Management Director Rick Velasquez have presented their safety preparations for the natural phenomena.

According to Velasquez, the state is estimating Wells County to see anywhere between 20,000-50,000 tourists driving through or staying in the area. Tourism Coordinator Audry Dudley believed most overnight accommodations were "filling up."

Because of this potential influx of people — and the large estimate window — Holliday told the Wells County Commissioners that officers would be stationed throughout the county to respond as needed.
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Outside

Chance of rain today with strong wind gusts

Today	Thursday	Friday
High 43	High 45	High 45
Low 34	Low 32	Low 29

More Weather on Page 2

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Ossian Rotary to hear from Commissioner Jeff Stringer

At its regular weekly meeting on Thursday, April 4, Ossian Rotary will hear from Jeff Stringer, Wells County Commissioner, District 3.

Stringer and his family moved to Wells County in 2008 and has since been involved in several business and building projects. Stringer says, "I was honored to be caucused in as the District 3 County Commissioner in 2021. My goals, as a commissioner, were and continue to be: 1) bring transparency to county activities, 2) recruit businesses to Wells County, 3) work to ensure taxpayer funds are used wisely and effectively, 4) help structure department boards, so they are active participants in the processes for which they govern and manage spending."

Going forward, he says he will focus on limited and wise spending while continuing to work on Economic Development, opening Wells County to businesses that help retain our young people. He says a goal is to continue to fight for what's right, doing it with full transparency. Stringer says he will listen to the citizens to make sure they are heard, and their concerns and needs are met. He says he considers it an honor to serve and will continue to serve the people of the county and their well-being.

Anyone is welcome to attend Ossian Rotary this Thursday morning, at 7:30

at First Baptist Church of Ossian, 1001 Dehner Drive for this program.

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

Please note that Ossian Rotary will not meet if there is a weather cancellation for Norwell Community Schools.

Next week's speaker will be Denise Hughes with Aging and In Home Services speaking about Alzheimer's disease.

Ossian Rotary is a small part of a larger organization, Rotary International, which was founded almost 120 years ago in Chicago. Ossian Rotary is a group of people with a desire to meet new people, network, get involved and make a difference in Ossian and the surrounding community. Each week we have a different speaker, usually business experts, political and civic leaders, and entrepreneurs, who help us stay informed on topics that are relevant to our community.



Jeff Stringer

Local solar eclipse events listed

On Monday, April 8, Wells County residents will have the opportunity to view a total solar eclipse. The partial eclipse begins at 1:53 p.m.; totality begins at 3:08 p.m. and will last for approximately three minutes.

To celebrate the occasion, many area businesses and organizations are offering free viewing events. Events include the following:

- Markle Fish and Game Park, 100 Park Dr. in Markle — Food available for purchase from a variety of vendors and music entertainment, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Warren Watch Party, 132 N Wayne St. in Warren — Beginning at 10 a.m., Riverside Park will have music, and a variety of food trucks will be parked along 2nd Street. At 3:30 p.m., the Pulse Opera House will offer an eclipse-focused free concert.
- Archbold-Wilson Park, 116 S Braeburn Dr. in Ossian — From 1-4:30 p.m., enjoy music, food and fun at the park. A limited number of glasses have been donated by Paddlesih Solar and memorabilia from Made by Mamaw Embroidery will be available for purchase.
- First Presbyterian Church, 215 E Dustman Rd. in Bluffton — Starting at 1 p.m. Enjoy hot dogs, popcorn, cookies or a walk through the labyrinth while waiting for the solar event. Eclipse glasses available while supplies last. Participants are asked to bring a lawn chair.
- Caylor-Nickel YMCA, 550 W Dustman Rd. in Bluffton — beginning at 1:30 p.m., the YMCA will offer live music, activities and food available for purchase from food trucks. WANE 15 meteorologists will be on-site to answer questions. Additionally, a free Zumba class will be offered from 2:30-3 p.m. Free eclipse glasses available while supplies last.
- Wells County Public Library — At 2 p.m., the library will offer a safety briefing and some solar-themed refreshments. Those

registered for the event, either at the main branch or Ossian branch, will receive a pair of eclipse glasses. Registration can be completed on the event page at wellscolibrary.org. Space is limited.

- Dazey's Supply, 1879 N Main St. in Bluffton — Watch party beginning at 2 p.m.
- Markle Health and Rehabilitation, 170 N Tracy St. in Markle — A bounce house, music and food available from 2-4 p.m. Limited supply of glasses available.
- Wells County 4-H Park — The park is offering camping spots. Contact 260-820-1128 or aalma@purdue.edu.
- Ouabache State Park, 4930 IN-201 in Bluffton — the Friends of Ouabache will be selling pre-packaged food at the tennis court area in the Lodge, a food truck will be located at the boat house, and the Fort Wayne Astronomical Society will have some telescopes for the public to use. The park is anticipated to be full and will close once full.

Ouabache State Park is also offering a variety of events leading up to the eclipse, including the following:

- Solar 101, 2 p.m. Friday, April 5, at the Lodge — Learn what you need to know about the eclipse and how to enjoy it safely. Glasses available, donation suggested.
- Lake Hike, 4:30 p.m. Friday, April 5, meet at the Boathouse — Stroll around Kunkel Lake to look at the flora and fauna while doing a scavenger hunt for prizes. Also learn more about the eclipse and some possible viewing spots at the park.
- Eclipse Fun, 1 p.m. Saturday, April 6, at the Campview Shelter — Learn about the eclipse tips on how to view it safely, and do some activities.
- Eclipse bracelets, 10 a.m., Sunday, April 7, at the Campview Shelter — Make your own UV reactive bracelet to help stay safe during the solar eclipse.

Corrections and clarifications

The cost for dust control was misstated by the Wells County Highway Department during Monday's commissioner meeting. The cost is \$2.07 per foot, not

\$2.02. Also, early voting will be available at Lighted Gardens from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 2, and Friday, May 3.

Obituary Policy

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

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

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

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:
Monday, 4:04 p.m., 1000 South Scott Street. Report of a man pulling screens from windows. Wife locked her husband out of windows.

Monday, 7:02 p.m., 500 block of West Market Street. Report of two juveniles potentially causing issues. Juveniles returned home.

Monday, 7:20 p.m., North Oak and West Market streets. Caller requested information about juveniles from previous call.

Monday, 11:30 p.m., North Main Street and East 300 North. Driver cited for speeding 80 in a 55 mph zone.

Tuesday, 2:44 a.m., O'Reilly Auto Parts. Driver detained for intoxicated driving.

Tuesday, 10:34 a.m., Bluffton High School. Student cited after being found in possession of vape by school staff.

County:
Monday, 12:22 p.m., Wells County Jail. Two warrants served to Troy

Kristofer Forrest Jones.
Monday, 1:18 p.m., 5200 North 100 West, Uniondale. Caller reported a Kabota zero turn lawn mower as stolen, possibly by ex-husband.

Monday, 3:51 p.m., South 100 West and West 300 South, Bluffton. Welfare check requested man and woman walking in field. Subjects advised they were looking for arrowheads.

Monday, 11:21 p.m., South 400 West and S.R. 124, Liberty Center. Report of a vehicle that blew through stop sign and ended up in field.

Ossian:
Monday, 2:35 p.m., 3700 East 1200 North, Ossian. Report of theft of two cell-phones and a Playstation 4.

ARRESTS
Troy Kristofer Forrest Jones, 25, Fishers; criminal trespassing, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.
Faylynn Crystal Virginia Stein, 23, Bluffton; operating a vehicle while intoxicated — prior conviction, a Level 6 felony, operating while intoxicated — endangerment, a Class A misdemeanor, and operating with controlled substance in body, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$5,000.

FIRES

Friday, 6:55 p.m., 3000 West 200 North, Bluffton. Report of a grass fire.

ARRESTS

Troy Kristofer Forrest Jones, 25, Fishers; criminal trespassing, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.
Faylynn Crystal Virginia Stein, 23, Bluffton; operating a vehicle while intoxicated — prior conviction, a Level 6 felony, operating while intoxicated — endangerment, a Class A misdemeanor, and operating with controlled substance in body, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$5,000.

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BHMSD begins construction

The Bluffton-Harrison MSD school community will begin to see a lot of activity on campus this spring as students get closer to the end of the academic year and BHMSD ramps up multiple construction projects.

In February and March, overhead field lights at the Fred F. Park Field were replaced. Then on April 1, contractors with FCI Construction began to deliver materials for the Bluffton High School roof replacement and building envelope projects.

Beginning this month, the roof replacement project will get underway, as will tuck pointing and masonry repairs. Metal wall panel installation will follow in June and window installation will follow in July. Overall, the project will continue through the fall and early winter months with a tentative completion date in December.

FCI signage will be visible on Wayne Street, and construction crews will use the north entrance near the BHMSD Transportation Building. Construction materials will be staged in the north staff parking lot throughout the project. At this time, normal commute routes for students, car riders and buses should not be impacted by the ongoing work.

The tentative schedule for additional projects on the BHMSD campus this spring and summer is as follows:

- Removal of track turf from May 15 (following last track meet) to May 30.
- Mill/surface track: May 31 to June 5
- Install turf: June 6 to July 4
- Install track: July 5 to Aug. 5

BRMC collects peanut butter for food bank

To help address hunger in the community and in celebration of National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day on April 2, Bluffton Regional Medical Center collected 240 jars of peanut and other nut butters for Wells County Food Bank.

The jars were donated by Bluffton Regional Medical Center employees, medical staff members, volunteers and community members during a recent Jars of Love Peanut Butter Drive which was launched to help support neighbors facing food insecurity — a social determinant of health.

"Food insecurity has a significant impact on a person's overall health and wellbeing," said Julie Thompson, chief administrative officer for BRMC. "Through our Jars of Love Peanut Butter Drive, we are working to help fight hunger in our community. Our generous employees really stepped up and exceeded our donation expectations."

The Wells County Food Bank serves hundreds of families a month and peanut butter is one of the

high-demand food items food banks can provide to offer a protein source that has an extended shelf life. All Lutheran Health Network hospitals participated in the drive collecting a total of 3,451 jars of nut butters that were donated to area food banks in Fort Wayne, Warsaw, Peru and Bluffton.

Marlene L. Macon
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Funeral: 2 p.m.
Thursday, April 4 at the funeral home.
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Passing on a love of board games



Jessica Bricker

I grew up in a family of gamers. From a young age, I was playing Skip-Bo and Phase 10, then Labyrinth and dominoes at the kitchen table. By middle school, my friends and I were playing Kemps and euchre during recess and on the bus. In high school, “Uno Spin” was a staple on our bus to go to golf tournaments to play after we competed while we waited for the results.

I have a lot of fond memories playing games throughout my life. With my Grandma Doris, we would often alternate between Rummikub, Skip-Bo and Aggravation.

When I would visit my grandma regularly well into my 20s, we would continue to play games even though macular degeneration stole her eyesight. I would help her with the cards or with the marbles, never cheating because that was always Grandma’s one rule: “If you cheat, I won’t play with you and I’m sending you home.”

That was easier to do when she lived on the same property as my family growing up, and my siblings and I could walk to and fro within seconds if needed. Nevertheless, the impression was made from an early age and you never tried to cheat with her.

When Grandma Doris died in 2018, I latched onto her hand-carved Aggravation board that has been in my family for a long time, as well as her marble and dice collection. Countless hours were spent rolling those dice and moving the colorful glass marbles around the board.

All of these memories have resurfaced recently in the purest of ways.

Within the past six months or so, my almost-5-year-old son has shown quite the propensity for board games. As a way to promote this, I re-imagined our dining room to feature a two-shelf console table where we can store and display all of our board games for easy access. Then for Christmas, I made sure to fill it up with a variety of games and cards.

We now have all sorts of games, like a few of the classics — a Labyrinth Junior board, a thrifted Rummikub game unopened in the box, and a set of dominoes — and new games that we’ve discovered along the way. Some focus on strategy, some are luck games, and some we’ve modified in small ways to encourage learning the game before enforcing tough rules.

Want to practice counting and identifying colors? Break out Candy Land. Want to work on fine motor skills? Get out Trouble. (Is it just me, or is it extremely difficult for little hands to pop that die in the center?) Looking for a silly game? Let’s play Rock, Paper, Scissors, Pickle — a take on the classic battle game but with the twist that the elusive and goofy cartoon Pickle trumps all.

A recent favorite in our house? My very own Uno Spin board, which my parents got for me in high school and that has miraculously made multiple moves with me over the years without losing a card.

It combines the classic Uno game with special cards that indicate when to “spin” the board. Whatever action the arrow lands on, you have to do. For example, draw until you pick up a blue card or a wild card, discard all but two cards for an “Almost Uno,” or let everyone see your hand. Our personal favorite actions: switch hands (even if you are down to one and the person beside you has accumulated 10 cards), and the first person to yell “Uno Spin” gets to discard one card. (How we were allowed to play this game on any golf course, I will never know.)

If you purchase games second-hand or discounted, there is little risk in trying something new or building a collection from scratch. We play at least one game almost every single day. It has served us well as an incentive for completing chores or as a way to wind down at the day’s end.

More importantly, it has become a great way to spend time together, without the distraction of a TV or tablet screen, making new memories in a family of gamers.

Jessica Bricker is a former editor of The News-Banner. Although she’s no longer in journalism, she enjoys writing about life in Wells County. jessicabrickerwrites@gmail.com

Letters to the Editor

Tax articles appreciated

I would like to commend Mark Miller for his cogent articles on property taxes. Although his writing and accompanying diagrams were clear, there still seems to be a lot of room for uncertainty in the assessment and tax levies in Wells County.

This is not meant as a slight to the assessor’s office, which has a difficult job. I think more of “too many fingers in the pie” might cover a lot of my sentiment.

Thanks again for the good information on local property taxes. Another good reason to maintain a local newspaper such as the News-Banner.

RICHARD T. JACKSON
Rural Bluffton

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One more try at reducing the debt

“Neither a borrower nor a lender be.”
—Polonius to his son Laertes in “Hamlet”

It may be too late given the number of Americans who have willingly allowed themselves to become dependent on government more than themselves, but it’s worth trying.

Our \$34 trillion debt is unsustainable, according to most economists. If we don’t act soon, we will be worse off than we are now. Our economy could collapse. The economic future is not bright if we continue down our current path. According to Statista Research, by 2034, the gross federal debt of the United States is projected to be about \$54.39 trillion.

President Biden wants to raise taxes again on “the rich” and corporations without cutting spending. Revenue is not in short supply. Fiscal discipline is. A change in spending will require a change in attitude about what government should and should not do.

The U.S. has experienced a fiscal year-end budget surplus five times in the last 50 years, most recently in 2001. Debt is bipartisan and it will take a bipartisan approach to reduce or eliminate it. During President Biden’s term, national debt has increased by \$4.7 trillion (he wants to spend more), a rise of 16.67 percent as of last September. During Donald Trump’s one-term presidency, the national debt increased by \$8.18 trillion, a 40.43 percent boost. Part of that was spending to fight Covid-19, part was the fallout from tax cuts for the wealthy. Still, this was less of an increase than Barack Obama (69.98%) and George W. Bush (105.8%), but each of them served two terms. Part of Bush’s spending was on Afghanistan and Iraq after 9/11.

Only 14 of 45 American presidents have overseen a decrease in debt. Calvin Coolidge was the last one. That was 15 presidents ago. Coolidge said: “... a good many proposals are made by people that have very excellent things that they would like to have the Government do, but they come from people that have



Cal Thomas

no responsibility for providing ways and means by which their proposals can be carried out. I don’t think in all my experience, which has been very large with people that come before me in and out of Government with proposals for spending money, I have ever had any proposal from anyone as to what could be done to save any money.”

Why not form a group of consultants I would call a “what works coalition.” Invite historians, scientists, economists, people of good character and others who love America and ask them to examine government spending, separating the “wheat from the chaff,” the necessary from the unnecessary.

They could issue a report to the public and Congress ridiculing wasteful and needless spending and pressure our elected representatives to end those underperforming or nonperforming programs, earmarks and agencies as a patriotic gesture. And yes, Social Security and Medicare must be reformed to save it for the future. The media could help if they would. Weaning people from addiction to government will take time, though some have been able to go “cold turkey” when it comes to other addictions.

Most importantly, what is needed is a change in attitude back to the view some previous presidents, the Founders and the public had toward government. Just as we don’t see a doctor when we are having car trouble, neither should we look to government to solve problems best dealt with individually. Government can encourage good choices and penalize bad ones (lower taxes on the successful is one reward and allowing people to suffer the consequences of bad choices — within reason — is another). Government should not subsidize bad choices, as if good and bad are equal. That will ensure more bad choices and fewer good ones.

If we don’t start making good choices now and seriously reduce our debt there may be no way back. History teaches us that lesson. Look it up.

tcaditors@tribpub.com

These two GOP Senate candidates exemplify today’s political squalor

PHOENIX — From Herbert Hoover’s “a chicken for every pot” (1928) to Ronald Reagan’s “It’s morning again in America” (1984), some campaign slogans have been humdingers. The slogan of Republican Kari Lake’s Senate campaign could be: “Oh, never mind.”

Here in Arizona and in Ohio, GOP Senate candidates force conservatives to choose between awful outcomes: the consequences of losing the Senate, or the disappearance of the conservative party.

Running for Arizona’s governorship in 2022, Lake practiced the kamikaze politics of subtraction. Today, she says she was joking when she told John McCain voters — they elected him to two House and six Senate terms — to “get the hell out” of a GOP event. McCain voters were not amused. She lost, then mimicked her hero, saying that her election was stolen. Courts disagreed.

Today, she seems intermittently aware that many Arizonans are weary of her high-decibel imitation of Donald Trump’s sour, self-absorbed, backward-looking, fact-free, sore-loser, endless grievance tour. So, she sometimes seems to say of her protracted harping on 2022: Oh, never mind.

A former local TV news whiz, Lake has the sheen of Limoges porcelain, and the manners of Al Capone. It was revealed in January that she secretly taped the state Republican chairman, then accused him of bribery because he suggested finding her a job pending her run another year. Seasoned Republicans here believe that the candidate she defeated in the 2022 gubernatorial primary would have easily won, and today school choice and other conservative achievements would not be endangered.

Lake’s Democratic opponent this year, Rep. Ruben Gallego, is a



George Will

Marine Corps veteran of combat in Iraq but otherwise a standard-issue progressive who dismays conservatives regarding almost everything. Lake dismays Arizona conservatives who are political legatees of Arizona’s Sen. Barry Goldwater, whose 1964 presidential nomination prepared his party for Reaganism: limited government, military strength, collective security through sturdy alliances and a general inclination toward a sunny Sun Belt libertarianism — everything the Trump-saturated GOP rejects.

In Ohio, three-term Democratic Senate incumbent Sherrod Brown is a progressive reliably wrong — and indistinguishable from Trump — regarding many matters. These include ignoring the unsustainable trajectories of Social Security and Medicare. And embracing the nonsensical notion that national security will be jeopardized if a superior steel company (Nippon) from an allied nation (Japan) buys U.S. Steel, which has a market capitalization about equal to the Skechers shoe company and fewer employees than BJ’s Wholesale Club. Brown is, however, a progressive more concerned about practicalities (e.g., jobs) than pronoun protocols.

His Republican opponent, Bernie Moreno, once called Trump a “maniac” and a “lunatic” akin to “a car accident that makes you sick.” He scoffed at Trump’s claims of election fraud and called the Jan. 6, 2021, rioters “morons” and “criminals.” But Trump, like a marsupial, has tucked Moreno into his pouch, and the amazingly malleable Moreno calls (as does Lake) the Jan. 6 defendants “political prisoners” and says the 2020 election was “stolen,” Joe Biden should be impeached and Trump is well.

Moreno, who projects the Trumpkins’ chest-thumping faux toughness,

disdains bipartisanship. Evidently, he plans to advance his agenda with 60 Republican votes. There have not been 60 Republican senators since 1910.

Granted, if elected senators, Lake and Moreno would be votes against ending the Senate filibuster, a Democratic aspiration that would unleash even more statism than Trumpian “national conservatives” favor. And Lake and Moreno would be obedient votes for sound judges. Both would, however, impede a larger, longer-term conservative objective.

The nation no longer has a reliably conservative party of sound ideas and good manners. If conservatism is again to be ascendant in their party, Republicans must stop electing the likes of Lake and Moreno. They would join other chips-off-the-orange-block in a Senate caucus increasingly characterized by members who have anti-conservative agendas, from industrial policy (government allocation of capital, which is socialism) to isolationism. And whose unconservative temperaments celebrate coarseness as an indicator of political authenticity and treat performance poses as substitutes for governance.

Gallego and Brown are mistaken about much, but they are not repulsive. Conservatives can refute them and, by persuading electoral majorities, repeal or modify progressive mischief. The new breed of anti-conservative Republicans think persuasion, and the patience of politics, is for “squishes,” a favorite epithet of proudly loutish Trumpkins, who, like Lake and Moreno, seem to think the lungs are the location of wisdom.

The current version of Moreno says: About my talk regarding the maniac, lunatic, sickening-car accident Trump? Oh, never mind. Moreno and Lake are useful, if only as indexes of today’s political squalor. Neither, however, should be a senator.

georgewill@washpost.com

Caregivers, put on your own oxygen mask first

Dear Annie by Annie Lane



Dear Readers: A recent column about the caregiver who felt worn out prompted a deluge of letters, mostly from others who are, or have been, caregivers themselves. As I read the letters, I thought of the fact that airlines tell mothers to put on their own oxygen masks first, and then help the children. Here is a sampling of the letters we received:

Dear Annie: Please add to the caregiver ("Not Good Enough") that human beings have a finite mental capacity for each day. This is why Steve Jobs wore a black turtleneck and jeans every day; it left him mental room for more important decisions.

absolutely alone, there are others who are going through almost the same thing you are. You already reached out, writing to Annie — that's an incredible first step, and if you do a quick Google search on caregiver support groups, many resources can pop up. There may be some local support groups, but most likely there will be online groups.

This caregiver is mentally exhausted due to the load they are carrying and needs to find ways to lessen that burden. Too many people don't realize the impact of stress on functionality and hold themselves to too high a standard.

This person should decide what tasks are most important for them, get help with things that are needed but that others could do, and focus on the tasks that would make them feel happy and productive. — Therapist in Illinois

I'm the sole caregiver of my husband, who has severe combat-related PTSD; he is in his early 30s. The online support I found is amazing, because the people I know in person do not have real-life experience with the everyday struggles that we have. It's so helpful to have a support system, even if it's just a message online asking if you're OK from someone who knows what you're going through. Caregiving isn't for the faint of heart. You are your husband's lifeline, and in order to be the best for him, you have to take care of yourself too. Keep going. It's not an easy road and it doesn't get easier, but you don't have to go it alone. You've got this! — Another Caregiver

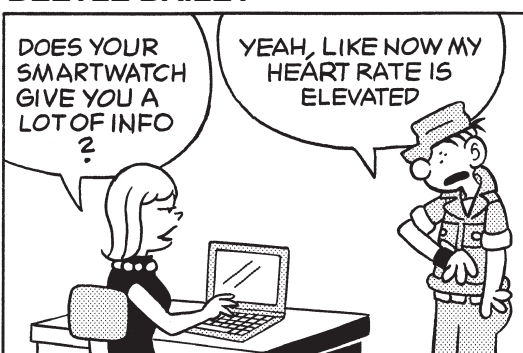
Dear Annie: Having been a caregiver, I know firsthand how this lady feels. When you are taking care of everything, you are forgetting about your needs, and one of the most important is your own health. Please take care of yourself so you don't end up with a bad disease like I did. You are suffering from stress and that's why you are tired, which could damage your health. If family isn't close, contact a church, neighbors or even some online help. I wish my husband were still here, but wish I would have taken care of me, too. — Been There

Dear Annie: First, let me start by saying that reading your column is the marriage to my morning cup of coffee. I have never responded or written to you, but I just read about the caregiver who is taking care of their partner and is overtaken by exhaustion. Your response was to seek community support, local resources, etc. You neglected to also suggest seeing her physician as there may be underlying health issues that are causing her exhaustion. Taking care of herself is taking care of her loved one! Thank you for the caring advice over the years. Everyone can relate to someone else's life challenges. — Helping the Caregiver

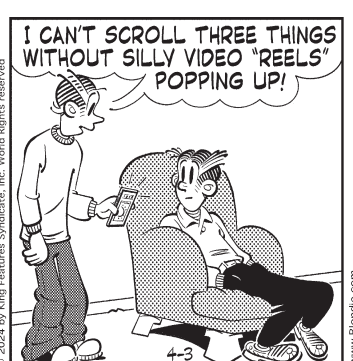
Dear Annie: Depression is a common occurrence in caregivers. There are support groups online for caregivers of those with dementia, Alzheimer's disease and other conditions. While you may feel

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. © 2024 CREATORS.COM

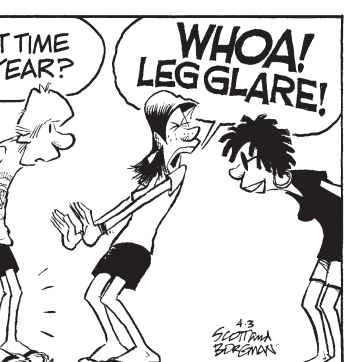
BETLE BAILEY



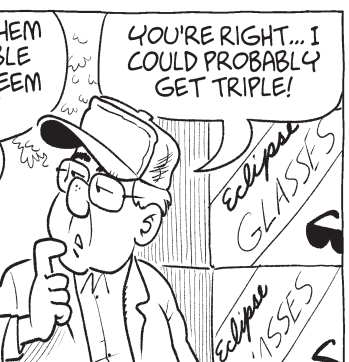
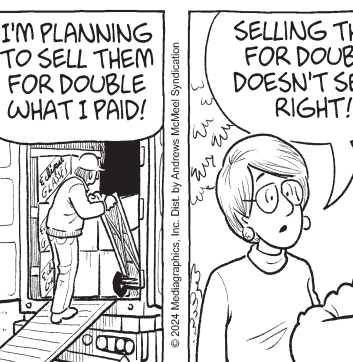
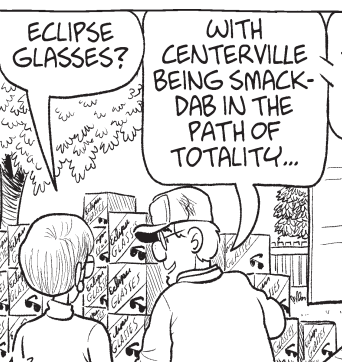
BLONDIE



ZITS



CRANKSHAFT



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



Jesus willingly became the sacrifice for the sin of mankind

Question: When people use the phrase "this may be your Gethsemane," what does that mean? — H.L.

Answer: The garden of Gethsemane is at the base of the Mount of Olives outside the gates of Jerusalem. The word Gethsemane means "oil press." When olives are harvested, they are squeezed under an enormous revolving stone that mashes the fruit to pulp and recovers the valuable oil.

This is where Jesus revealed His humanity. There, in the garden of Gethsemane, He faced the wheel of humiliation, and death would squeeze Jesus to the point of His greatest agony. In this place, He pleaded with His Father for release — but only if it were God's will.

But there was no other way for our just and loving God to deal with our sins. Sin must be punished. If God were simply to forgive our sins without judging them, then there would be no justice, no accountability for wrongdoing. God would not be truly holy and just.

If God were to judge us for our sins as we deserve, there would be no hope of salvation for any of us. His love would have failed to provide what we need. So Jesus willingly became the sacrifice for the sin of mankind.

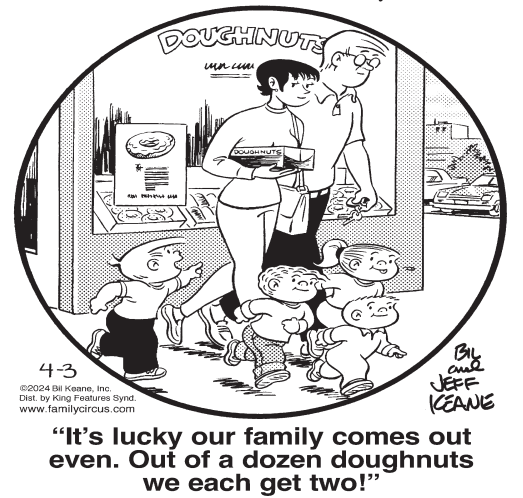
The cross was the only way to resolve the problem of sin. At the cross, God's love and justice came together. Jesus took the punishment we deserve, and now those who receive

His salvation are clothed in His perfect righteousness. We never have to question His love for us. He proved it once and for all on the cross. We should thank Him continually for coming to this earth. We should always be mindful of His sacrifice for us. And we forever should glory in His resurrection, for we also have new life and hope for eternity with Jesus Christ forever. "I will praise You ... with all my heart, and I will glorify Your name forevermore" (Psalm 86:12, NKJV).

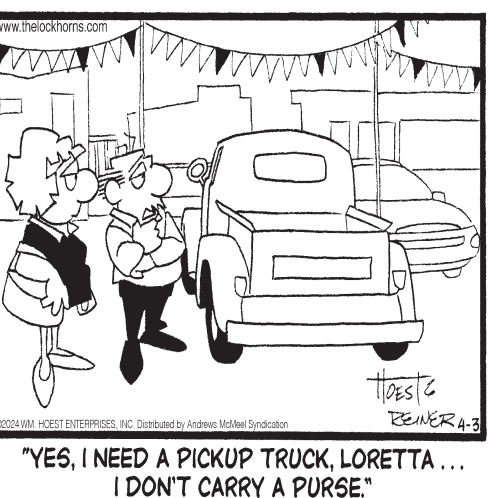
(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Graham.) ©2024 Billy Graham Literary Trust. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



The LOCKHORNS



TV schedule table with columns for time slots (4:00 AM to 12:30 AM) and rows for various channels (WINM, CBS, etc.) listing programming.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with ACROSS and DOWN clues. Clues include '41 Nitwit', '43 Bowler's goal', '46 Orange variety truck', etc.

Solution time: 23 mins.

Answer key for the crossword puzzle, showing the filled-in grid with letters and numbers 1 through 59.

News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

College

Men's Basketball Scores
Indiana St. 100, Utah 90

Women's Basketball Scores
No Games.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Table with columns W, L, Pct, GB for Eastern Conference Atlantic Division.

Table with columns W, L, Pct, GB for Eastern Conference Southeast Division.

Table with columns W, L, Pct, GB for Eastern Conference Central Division.

Table with columns W, L, Pct, GB for Eastern Conference Western Division.

Table with columns W, L, Pct, GB for Eastern Conference Northwest Division.

Table with columns W, L, Pct, GB for Eastern Conference Pacific Division.

Golden State 40 34 .541 7
x-clinched playoff spot
z-clinched conference

Monday's Games
Boston 118, Charlotte 104
Miami 109, New York 99

Tuesday's Games
L.A. Lakers 128, Toronto 111
Washington 117, Milwaukee 113

Wednesday's Games
L.A. Lakers at Washington, 7 p.m.
Portland at Charlotte, 7 p.m.

Thursday's Games
Atlanta at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami, 7:30 p.m.

Friday's Games
Oklahoma City at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Orlando at Charlotte, 7 p.m.

Saturday's Games
Atlanta at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Atlanta at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami, 7:30 p.m.

Monday's Games
Atlanta at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday's Games
Atlanta at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday's Games
Atlanta at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday's Games
Atlanta at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami, 7:30 p.m.

Friday's Games
Atlanta at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday's Games
Atlanta at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Atlanta at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami, 7:30 p.m.

Monday's Games
Atlanta at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday's Games
Atlanta at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday's Games
Atlanta at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday's Games
Atlanta at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami, 7:30 p.m.

Friday's Games
Atlanta at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday's Games
Atlanta at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Atlanta at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami, 7:30 p.m.

Monday's Games
Atlanta at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday's Games
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Philadelphia at Miami, 7:30 p.m.

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Sunday's Games
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Philadelphia at Miami, 7:30 p.m.

Monday's Games
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Philadelphia at Miami, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday's Games
Atlanta at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday's Games
Atlanta at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami, 7:30 p.m.

Atlantic Division

Table with columns GP, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA for Atlantic Division.

Metropolitan Division

Table with columns GP, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA for Metropolitan Division.

Western Conference

Table with columns GP, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA for Western Conference.

Pacific Division

Table with columns GP, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA for Pacific Division.

St. Louis 3, Edmonton 2, OT
Seattle 4, San Jose 2

Tuesday's Games
Pittsburgh 6, New Jersey 3
Buffalo 6, Washington 2

Wednesday's Games
New Jersey at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Toronto, 7 p.m.

Thursday's Games
Boston at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Florida at Ottawa, 7 p.m.

Friday's Games
N.Y. Rangers at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Buffalo, 7 p.m.

Saturday's Games
N.Y. Rangers at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Buffalo, 7 p.m.

Sunday's Games
N.Y. Rangers at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Buffalo, 7 p.m.

Monday's Games
N.Y. Rangers at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Buffalo, 7 p.m.

Tuesday's Games
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Philadelphia at Buffalo, 7 p.m.

Wednesday's Games
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Philadelphia at Buffalo, 7 p.m.

Thursday's Games
N.Y. Rangers at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Buffalo, 7 p.m.

Friday's Games
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Philadelphia at Buffalo, 7 p.m.

Saturday's Games
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Philadelphia at Buffalo, 7 p.m.

Sunday's Games
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Philadelphia at Buffalo, 7 p.m.

Monday's Games
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Philadelphia at Buffalo, 7 p.m.

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Wednesday's Games
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Thursday's Games
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Friday's Games
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Philadelphia at Buffalo, 7 p.m.

Saturday's Games
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Philadelphia at Buffalo, 7 p.m.

Sunday's Games
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Monday's Games
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Wednesday's Games
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Thursday's Games
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Friday's Games
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Philadelphia at Buffalo, 7 p.m.

Saturday's Games
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Philadelphia at Buffalo, 7 p.m.

Sunday's Games
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Philadelphia at Buffalo, 7 p.m.

Monday's Games
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Philadelphia at Buffalo, 7 p.m.

Tuesday's Games
N.Y. Rangers at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Buffalo, 7 p.m.

Wednesday's Games
N.Y. Rangers at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Buffalo, 7 p.m.

Thursday's Games
N.Y. Rangers at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Buffalo, 7 p.m.

Central Division

Table with columns W, L, Pct, GB for Central Division.

West Division

Table with columns W, L, Pct, GB for West Division.

National League

Table with columns W, L, Pct, GB for National League.

American League

Table with columns W, L, Pct, GB for American League.

Baseball

Table with columns W, L, Pct, GB for Baseball.

Baseball

Table with columns W, L, Pct, GB for Baseball.

Baseball

Table with columns W, L, Pct, GB for Baseball.

Baseball

Table with columns W, L, Pct, GB for Baseball.

Baseball

Table with columns W, L, Pct, GB for Baseball.

Baseball

Table with columns W, L, Pct, GB for Baseball.

Baseball

Table with columns W, L, Pct, GB for Baseball.

The Classifieds

SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers filled in.

Difficulty: ★★★ 4/3

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

THE CITY OF Bluffton Street Department is accepting applications for a Laborer/Truck Driver.

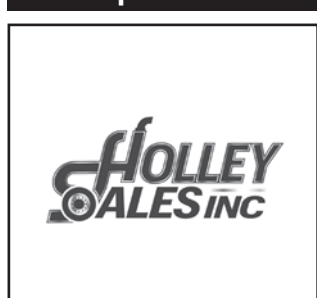
Help Wanted

Place a 20 word line classified ad for a month for \$52. Add a graphic or photo for an additional \$5.

Lottery Numbers

Tuesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY Cash 5 - 11-15-30-32-33

Help Wanted



HOLLEY SALES, INC. is looking for an experienced medium duty / heavy duty truck mechanic.

This Week's Garage Sales



MOVING SALE APRIL 4, 5, and 6, starts 8 a.m., 216 Ridge Ct., Ossian. Household items, dishes, frames, toys, tools, gently used clothing, costume jewelry, and much more.

Help Wanted

WELLS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE is currently seeking applicants for the position of Full Time Deputy Sheriff.

Help Wanted

HELOISE HINT: If you are unhappy at work. Discuss this with your supervisor or human resources department.

Thank you for reading The News-Banner

Swiss Village logo and advertisement for a Summer Maintenance Worker.

Public Notice

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS Notice is hereby given to the Taxpayers of the City of Bluffton, Wells County, Indiana.

Wanted to Buy

WANTED: ANTIQUES & OLD TOYS Cash Paid for old toys! Gi Joe, Transformers, Tin toys, Robots, Pressed Steel Cars/trucks, Action Figures, Antiques of all kinds, etc.

SERVICES

Services

LIVE PAIN FREE with CBD products from AceWellness. We guarantee highest quality, most competitive pricing on CBD products.

Public Sale Calendar

BIDDING STARTS CLOSING APRIL 4 STARTING AT 6 p.m. EST - Joann Groves, Anita Miller & Veda Ewart POA, owner.

Services

MARV'S CONSTRUCTION Room additions, fix old saggy floors, all types remodeling.

PRECISION LAND MANAGEMENT Excavating-Drainage Driveways-Demolition

Read & recycle this newspaper

SUDOKU ANSWER

9x9 grid showing the solution to the Sudoku puzzle.

Liver and onions – and other bad smells

When I was a child of seven, my father lost his job as an advertising salesman and auctioneer for a large livestock-oriented magazine. So instead of working cattle auctions over the eastern half of the country, he decided to move his pregnant wife and family of five kids from town to his father's run-down 160-acre farm about ten miles east of Marion, Indiana, and one mile from Oak Chapel Evangelical United Brethren Church where I was saved many times at revival meetings, required due to my constant backsliding. Things like swearing (only under my breath), wanting to watch The Beverly Hillbillies more than attend Wednesday night prayer meeting, and obsessively thinking about girls even though I was too shy to talk to them. Guilty as charged on each count.

Just so you know, there were many kind and good people at the Oak Chapel EUB. I hold them in high regard, but I have changed my thinking about the whole heaven/hades' paradigm, and I am very comfortable with my choice of the Beverly Hillbillies, among many other such numerous sins. There is one question, however, from my kind and gentle Sunday School teacher that seems never to leave my consciousness. I am no biblical scholar, but it goes something like this: What if you gain the whole world, but lose your soul? Loosely translated: Try to do the right thing.

We had livestock on this financially disastrous agrarian experiment. Beef, hogs, sheep, chickens, and ponies just for fun. We butchered our own (not the ponies). It was normal to see headless chickens hanging upside down on the clothesline, waiting patiently to be doused in a boiling cauldron for defeathering while their unsuspecting siblings pecked the ground beneath them. Fresh sides of beef hung in the barn as I mostly watched dad and whatever neighbor came to help flash their knives.

I remember smells, the most wonderful in my life being the smell of mom's yeast rolls coming from the oven just as we got off the school bus. But, on the other side, dad insisted to everyone's horror on mom serving all parts of our butchered animals. We had chicken gizzards and livers, mutton, beef tongue, brains, beef heart, and the worst smelling dish of all time - liver and onions. Its odiferous preparation permeated the home and cast a fetid pall worthy of Poe's House of Usher on all inhabitants. My stomach recoiled in dyspeptic response with reverse peristaltic contractions of my

alimentary canal. In other words, I wanted to throw up.

Please forgive me for the circuitous path I have taken to get to the point of this essay. I think about this often, but I want to be careful in relaying my thoughts. When I hear or read of people professing to be Christian who suggest or outright claim that the demagogue who was POTUS 45 and who aspires to be POTUS 47 is a vessel of Christ, anointed to save a wayward world, or to prepare us for the apocalypse, I have the same response as I do in the face of liver and onions for dinner. I don't know that I can explain it any more clearly than I did in the previous paragraph. It sickens me.

I am fully aware that three out of every four voters in Wells County, a place that has been good to me and my family, voted for him in 2020. However, I am genuinely concerned with my legacy as I have now turned 73 years of age. With the alleged Yogi Berra quote in mind, "Predictions are hard, especially about the future.", I believe DT will lose the election in 2024 and that history will toss him and his supporters into the proverbial dust bin of history, there to be studied for their callous infamy. Of course, I may be wrong. I was wrong in 2016. My prediction is aspirational for sure.

I apologize if I have offended you, the reader, but I do not apologize for the harshness of my words. When my grandchildren ask, "Where did grandpa stand? What did grandpa say about DT in his time?" they will know I did not kiss the ring and I was not swayed by this serial liar for the sake of political expediency. That will be my legacy. That is what I want.

I will not list for you the perverse and various sins of this man who will soon take his place in the pantheon of menacing demagogues the world has known. These sins are well documented for the objective observers of history.

In my youth I was often warned about hanging out with bad people. They will define you; I was told. With this in mind, I would suggest that not all DT supporters are white nationalists. However, all white



nationalist hate groups (Ku Klux Klan, Oathkeepers, Proud Boys, Three Percenters, etc.) are full-throated supporters of DT. That fact should make our Christian blood run cold. History will remind us of those who were ensnared by this cult of personality. I choose not to be among them. I think it is important to speak up.

Here's the thing: Having read Liz Cheney's book, "Oath and Honor," I would highly recommend it to you. In the end, I agree with: General Kelly, General Mattis, General Milley, General McMaster, General McCaffrey, Admiral Stavridis, John Bolton, Secretary of State, Rex Til-

erson, Secretary of Defense, Mike Esper, Nikki Haley, Dick Cheney, Liz Cheney, Mike Pence... and countless others who say he is incompetent, dangerous and a threat to our democracy. He has lost his soul.

ken.ballinger@yahoo.com

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



Ken Ballinger

April GOODS & SERVICES DIRECTORY

<p>A-1 U-Stor Safe & Secure Self Storage 824-1846 •Safety Lighting •Clean Units •24 Hr. Access •Video Cameras www.a1-ustor.com After hours & Saturdays Call 273-9678 or 824-4782 In Monroe at corner of U.S. 27 and S.R. 124 Office at 1180 N. Main, Bluffton</p>	<p>We Carry Prevacen and CBD Oil! R Warren Pharmacy (260)375-2135 Nature's Sunshine Distributor 222 N. Wayne St., Warren • 1-800-895-7035 Terry Daniels, Pharmacist • Melinda Daniels, RN Camelot Auto LLC Get Cash NOW 260-307-1302 We Buy Junk Cars</p>	<p>HIDEAWAY BEER & BOURBON THURSDAY - Dollar Off Drinks (Excludes Pop) WEDNESDAY - KARAOKE FRI. & SAT. - Live Music Follow us on Facebook for our Events. 123 S JOHNSON ST. • 824-0455</p>
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ASSISTING IN:
• FREE Medicare Supplement Comparison
• Life Planning
• Safe Money Ideas
• Dental - Vision - Hearing

Solar eclipse viewing at the Library

A total solar eclipse occurs on a given spot on the planet only once every 375 years, so you won't want to miss this special event at the Main Library in Bluffton.

The event will be from 2 to 4 p.m. on Monday, April 8 at the Main Branch in Bluffton.

The total solar eclipse should be visible in our area starting around 3:06 pm. Participants of this program will get a safety briefing before going outside to view the eclipse. Each participant who registers will receive a pair of glasses to view the

eclipse safely. Eclipse glasses will only be handed out at the event. The library does not have extras to hand out to the public, so you need to be registered to get a free pair of glasses. Space is limited at the Bluffton branch. All ages.

There will also be an event at the Ossian Branch, which is currently full. There is a wait list in case anyone cancels. Registration can be found on the library's site wellscolibrary.org under the News and Events tab.

Events at Fort Wayne's Promenade Park

Among the events at Fort Wayne's Riverfront at Promenade Park are the following:

West Coast Swing: Wednesdays from April 10 to May 1, 6:30-8 p.m., Dance Lessons and Dance Party on Wednesday, May 8, 6:30-8 p.m. Park Foundation Pavilion with registration to fortwayneparks.org or 260-427-6000. \$10 per lesson (\$12 if drop in), open to all ages.

Sunday Heritage Concert: April 14, 2 p.m.: Joy Bell (combination of acoustic, folk, pop and rock), Park Foundation Pavilion, free.

Spring Cookie Decorating: Friday, April 12, 6-8 p.m., Park Foundation Pavilion

Sunday Sweat on the Riverfront: Sunday, April 14; Kickboxing with 9Round: 9-10 a.m. and Yoga on the riverfront: 10:30-11:30 p.m., Park Foundation Pavilion, free. (A 2nd Sunday free event.)

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Friday, April 5th 6pm & 8:50pm
Saturday, April 6th 2:30pm, 5:15pm & 8pm
Sunday, April 7th 2pm & 4:50pm

Ghostbusters Frozen Empire
Thursday, April 4th 6:20pm
Friday, April 5th 6:20pm & 9pm
Saturday, April 6th 3pm, 5:45pm & 8:15pm
Sunday, April 7th 2:20pm & 5pm
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