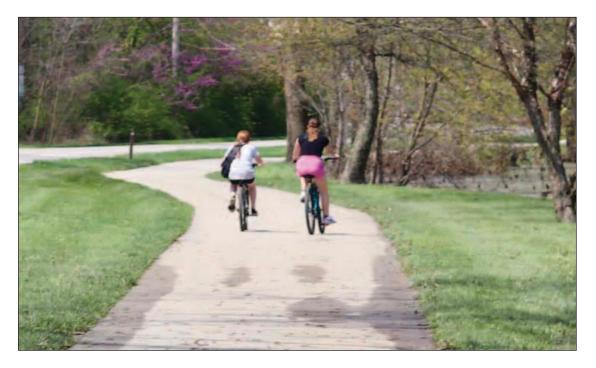
Entertainment Guide

Spring showcase will be held April 26-27

Knights crush the Hornets in baseball

Page 6





Spring on the Rivergreenway

The Rivergreenway reopened on River Road in time for bike riders and birds alike to enjoy the trail. (Photos by Sydney

GOP gubernatorial hopefuls talk Indiana's dormant death penalty

By NIKI KELLY **Indiana Capital Chronicle** Indiana's death penalty law

exists in name only. What would Indiana's GOP candidates for governor do differently?

In recent years some public defenders have suggested it's time to repeal the law, which hasn't been used to execute someone since 2009. That's because Indiana — along with other states — has struggled to obtain the drugs necessary to carry out a lethal injection.

Alabama recently carried out the nation's first execution by nitrogen hypoxia. An AP reporter who viewed the execution described Kenneth Smith thrashing and gasping as prison officials administered the gas. Ohio is considering adding the new method to have a crime today and it takes

None of the six candidates immediately backed changing methods. They spoke mostly in generalities.

"I don't think it's time to get rid of the death penalty. I believe in it. I support it in the sense that there are certain levels of crime in our code that they require, they call for the death penalty. I think it's necessary in that sense," said Curtis Hill, a former state attorney general.

But he said it has become "somewhat irrelevant" because procedural issues cause cases to

linger too long. That's a pretty good incentive, if you will, for staying away from

major crimes of that nature. If you

20 years to carry out the sentence - it definitely doesn't become as

important in our current justice system as it would have been had the sentence been carried out more quickly," Hill said. Indiana has eight men on Death

Row and at least four of them have exhausted all their appeals. One man has been waiting 31 years. But the Indiana Department of Correction doesn't have the three drugs it would use for the lethal injection cocktail: methohexital, pancuronium bromide and potassium chloride.

There also are fewer death penalty cases making it through the system, partly due to cost. Four death penalty cases statewide are (Continued on Page 2)

Ukraine, Israel aid advances in House vote as Democrats help Republicans

By STEPHEN GROVES, LISA MASCARO and KEVIN FREKING **Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) - With rare bipartisan momentum, the House pushed ahead Friday on a foreign aid package of \$95 billion for Ukraine, Israel, Taiwan and humanitarian support as a robust coalition of lawmakers helped it clear a procedural hurdle to reach final votes this weekend. Friday's vote produced a seldom-seen outcome in the typically hyperpartisan House, with Democrats helping Republican Speaker Mike Johnson's plan advance overwhelmingly 316-94. Final House approval could come this weekend, when the package would be sent to the Senate.

It was a victory for the strategy Johnson set in motion this week after he agonized for two months over the legislation. Still, Johnson has had to spend the past 24 hours making the rounds on conservative media working to salvage support for the wartime funding, particularly for Ukraine as it faces a critical moment battling Russia, but

also for his own job as the effort to remove him as speaker grew.

"Ukrainians desperately need lethal aid right now. ... We cannot allow Vladimir Putin to roll through another country and take it," Johnson told the conservative host of The Mark Levin Show about the Russian president's invasion of Ukraine. "These are very serious matters with global implications."

Johnson said after the vote that while it wasn't "perfect leg-islation," it was the "best possible

(Continued on Page 2)

Paddlefish Solar offers electricity credit

By HOLLY GASKILL

Paddlefish Solar has announced plans to credit a portion of electrical bills for neighbors of its prospective solar development.

Jesse Laniak, project manager, said 49 properties directly adjacent to the development were offered \$750 annually toward their electricity bills for the first 15 years of the project life. The develop-ment reportedly has leases for over 3,000 acres in Wells County.

According to a letter sent to residents, this credit would begin 30 days after the company begins construction. The credit will be pro-rated quarterly to utility bills, and unused credit will roll over.

Laniak said the company is partnering with an existing non-

profit to manage this offer. Should all properties participate, this would be over \$550,000 in total. He stated that the nonprofit does not want to be named publicly at this time, but provides similar ser-

Residents were asked to opt in by June 1 to receive this benefit.

The company is currently awaiting a ruling from the Wells County Commissioners, who have until June 6 to approve a zoning request from Paddlefish. Should the zoning be approved, they will then be required to submit a development proposal. The company hopes to break ground on the development in 2026-27, their website states

holly@news-banner.com

Governor Holcomb talks final months

By WHITNEY DOWNARD **Indiana Capital Chronicle**

In a virtual press call from Mexico City Thursday, Gov. Eric Holcomb talked economic development in the final months of his administration and reacted to reports of an Indiana National Guard member involved in a border shooting on Sunday.

Holcomb is in Mexico on an economic development trip after visiting Brazil earlier in the week in his first trip to the countries as governor. Just over two dozen Brazilian and Mexican companies have a presence in Indiana but Holcomb hinted there could be more to come.

"... we've made some progress on some projects that we've been working on while we were at home but we've made more progress here. Details yet to be shared but I'm growing in confidence that they will be realized. And we have some new prospects and some new possibilities," Holcomb shared, summarizing the trip. "Obviously this trip was centered on ag(riculture) and agbioscience

... over 1,000 international companies are growing roots in the state of Indiana. We want to continue to watch that number grow."

As to the guard shooting, he said "This incident shows just how dangerous the mission can be. It shows, or highlights, that there are criminals attempting to illegally enter our country. The investigation is still ongoing but they're willing to murder in doing so,' Holcomb continued. "I have full faith in our military justice system and process to investigate and get all the details in the case nailed

The trip and Holcomb's future

Even with roughly 270 days left in his term, he said that discussions with stakeholders haven't changed. But he also acknowledged there was work to be done by his eventual successor.

"Folks that I'm sitting across the table with — knowing that I have that 6,480 hours left — they want to make sure that the trajectory is moving in the right direction and it's going to continue. So (Continued on Page 2)

Israel, Iran play down apparent Israeli strike

By JOSEF FEDERMAN and JON GAMBRELL **Associated Press**

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel and Iran on Friday both played down an apparent Israeli airstrike near a major air base and nuclear site in central Iran, signaling the two bitter enemies are ready to prevent their latest eruption of violence from escalating into a fullblown regional war.

But the indecisive outcome of weeks of tensions — which included an alleged Israeli strike that killed two Iranian generals, an unprecedented Iranian missile barrage on Israel and the apparent Israeli strike early Friday in the heart of Iran — did little to resolve the deeper grievances between the foes and left the door open to further fighting.

"It appears we're closer than ever to a broad regional war, despite the fact that the international community will most likely

make a great effort to de-escalate tensions," wrote Amos Harel, the military-affairs commentator for the Israeli daily Haaretz.

Israel has long considered Iran to be its greatest enemy — citing the Islamic Republic's calls for Israel's destruction, its controversial nuclear program and its support for hostile proxies across the Middle East.

These tensions have risen since Hamas and Islamic Jihad, Iranian-backed Palestinian groups, attacked Israel on Oct. 7, sparking a devastating Israeli offensive in Gaza that has continued for more than six months. Hezbollah, an Iranian-backed proxy in Lebanon, immediately began striking Israeli targets, opening up tit-for-tat fighting along a second front, while Iranian-backed militias in Iraq, Syria and Yemen have also fired missiles and drones at Israel through-

(Continued on Page 2)

Local/Area

Obituaries.....3 Police Notebook . . .3

Opinion Saturday Sub 4

Also...

Sports. 6-7 Classifieds 9 Diversions 8



Sunny and cool today with wind gusts, cloudy tonight

Today	Sunday	Monday
High 50	High 56 Low 36	High 62
Low 35	Low 36	Low 46

More Weather on Page 2

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Gubernatorial hopefuls

(Continued from Page 1) pending trial, according to the Indiana Public Defender Council. No one new has been added to Death Row since 2014.

Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch said she would direct the DOC to "redouble its efforts to find the required drugs or other appropriate drugs to carry out these sentences."

And she said any change in execution method should be done in consultation with medical and public safety experts and the General Assembly.

"If they recommend a change in the execution method to me as governor, I would consider their proposal," Crouch said.

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun said he would consider input from federal authorities and other states in addition to health experts but that "When used, the death penalty should be swift and painless.

"All life is precious, and the death sentence is a very serious penalty reserved for those guilty of the most heinous of crimes. I trust Hoosier jurors and judges to understand the gravity of the sentence and hand it down when appropriate," he said.

Pro-life? Both Crouch and Hill are staunch anti-abortion advocates but distinguished their beliefs on life.

"A human being growing and living in a mother's womb is innocent life: a person convicted of a capital offense does not represent innocent life. I will always stand for the protection of innocent life," Crouch said.

Hill said the death penalty involves a person who has forfeited their right to life based on an egregious act determined in a court of law.

There's no comparison between a convicted murderer who was found to have committed aggravated circumstances and an unborn child who requires some protection," Hill said.

Eric Doden, a Fort Wayne businessman also seeking the governorship, said he "would continue to work with other states and stakeholders to enforce Indiana's laws through whatever legal means or methods available."

And he differentiated his pro-life views by say-"America is built on a bedrock commitment to law and order. Upholding that commitment and protecting our most vulnerable citizens means accountability through our justice system, including capital punishment in the most heinous

Candidate Brad Chambers was sent three questions on the death penalty but only responded with, "It'll be my obligation as governor to enforce state law as written. If the state can carry out executions as the law provides, we'll do so.'

The devout Jamie Reitenour shared the story of Jesus on the cross when asked about the death penalty, saying that when the two thieves next to him talked about getting down, he offered "eternal hope" after death to those willing, rather than releasing

.. a baby hasn't done anything wrong, so I kind of put those two in separate categories," she responded when asked about how her anti-abortion beliefs squared with her position on the death penalty.

"... I would just say that the death penalty is super, super rare — it should be. But in the cases where it needs to apply, the judges have weighed in on that and I would not be a person that would interfere with that," she concluded.

Weather

Saturday, April 20, 2024 (24-hour observations at 10:21 p.m. Friday) High: 64; Low: 48; Precipitation: 0.65 inches of rain Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 5.31 feet at 9:45 p.m. Friday

Wells County forecast

Today: Sunny, with a high near 50. West wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 35. West wind 5 to 10 mph.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 56. West wind 5 to 15 mph.

Sunday Night: Areas of frost after 3 a.m. Otherwise, clear, with a low around 36. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest after midnight.

Monday: Areas of frost before 8 a.m. Otherwise, sunny,

Monday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 46. Tuesday: A 50% chance of showers, mainly after 2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high

near 62. Breezy. **Tuesday Night:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms before 8 p.m., then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm between 8 p.m. and 2 a.m., then a chance of

showers and thunderstorms after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 41. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

Wednesday: A 30% chance of showers before 8 a.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 57.

Wednesday Night: Widespread frost. Otherwise, mostly clear, with a low around 33.

Thursday: Areas of frost. Otherwise, sunny, with a

high near 59. Thursday Night: A slight chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around

Friday: A chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high

Holcomb talks final months

(Continued from Page 1)

they are heartened, at least what they've shared with me, they are heartened that I'm still on the road, pitching Indiana ag," Holcomb

"This has just reminded me, 'Eric, get out on the road more.' Because Indiana has such a great story to tell and share," Holcomb concluded.

Most of the six Republicans vying to succeed him have been critical of the state's economic development choices and it's unclear whether they would support the same tactics utilized by Holcomb.

Still, Holcomb touted the "strong bonds" formed on the trip, specifically ones dealing with food and nutrition research and collabora-

"... to go deep into the subject matter about resiliency, about different terrains ... it has been a real joy to know that this ag sector and agbiosciences means \$58 billion to our Hoosier bottom line each year but that number could be even bigger because of the work those companies are doing," Holcomb said.

'We need Mexico and Brazil ag to feed and fuel the world and I'm proud (Hoosier) companies that have operations abroad become stronger because of the work we're doing together," he

Holcomb was joined by a sizable delegation, including business leaders from Indiana companies and university experts as well as representatives from corn and soybean interest groups.

Reported shooting on the border

While on the Zoom with reporters, he also touched on the recent border shoot-

On Sunday, an Indiana National Guard member reportedly shot at someone stabbing another migrant in El Paso. After the soldier shot at the individual, they fled back into Mexico and it's unclear what they were shot with or whether they were struck.

Details remain murky as an investigation unfolds but Holcomb emphasized his support for both the soldier and the mission to support efforts by Texas' state government to close off their portion of the U.S.-Mexico border.

"First and foremost, I just want to say again ... just how proud I am of our Hoosier soldiers and airmen in our Indiana National Guard and Air National Guard," Holcomb said.

At the departure ceremony, Holcomb - who authorized the mission characterized the role of the National Guard as assisting, not arresting or apprehend-

"I am beyond thankful to this individual who potentially saved two lives by defending them and themselves. I'm reassured that the training that they got before they deployed and assumed this active duty on the southern border was beneficial," he concluded.

Israeli strike

While Israel and Iran have waged a shadow war for years, mostly in neighboring Syria, they have largely avoided direct confrontations. That changed after an April 1 airstrike killed two Iranian generals at an Iranian diplomatic compound in the Syrian capital of Damascus. Although Israel did not comment, Iran blamed Israel for the strike and vowed revenge.

Iran responded with its first-ever direct attack on Israel, launching over 300 missiles and attack drones late Saturday night. Israel, working with a U.S.-led international coalition, said it intercepted 99% of the incoming fire, though a handful of missiles managed to land, causing minor damage to an Israeli military base and seriously wounding a young girl.

In Friday's attack, Iranian state television said that air defense batteries fired in several provinces over reports of drones in the air. Iranian army commander Gen. Abdolrahim Mousavi said crews targeted several flying

'The explosion this morning in the sky of Isfahan was related to the shooting of air defense systems at a suspi-

cious object that did not cause any damage," Mousavi said.

Authorities said air defenses fired at a major air base near Isfahan, which long has been home to Iran's fleet of American-made F-14 Tomcats — purchased before the 1979 Islamic Revo-

Isfahan also is home to sites associated with Iran's nuclear program, including its underground Natanz enrichment site, which has been repeatedly targeted by suspected Israeli sabotage attacks. The apparent attack Friday came on Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's 85th birth-

State television described all Iranian atomic sites in the areas as "fully safe." The United Nations' nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, also said there was "no damage" to Iran's nuclear sites.

Iranian officials made no mention of possible Israeli involvement. That could be intentional, particularly after Iranian officials for days have been threatening to respond to any Israeli retaliatory attack.

Israel also had no comment on the apparent attack, though one hard-line

government minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir, hinted at his dissatisfaction, with a oneword tweet early Friday, using a slang word for weak or lame.

But Italy's foreign minister, Antonio Tajani, said at a summit of Western leaders in Capri that the U.S. received "last-minute" information from Israel about the attack. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken did not dispute that, but said: "We were not involved in any offensive operations.

Yoel Guzansky, a former Iran expert in the Israeli prime minister's office, said Israel appears to have carried out the attack to "check off a box" by sending a message to Iran without doing anything too provocative that could upset the United States, which had urged restraint, or spark further Iranian retaliation.

"It seems very limited, to send a message that 'we can strike you inside of Iran," said Guzansky a senior researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies, a Tel Aviv think tank.

He said "the current round" of violence appears to be over, but that "nothing has changed" with Israel still facing Iranian-backed threats on vari-

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Wells County Highway DUST CONTROL 2024

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Sign-up is Mon • April 1st – Wed • May 1st

DUST CONTROL OIL PRODUCT: \$2.07 PER FOOT

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There is a 200 ft. minimum.

Office hours are 7:00am to 3:00pm Monday to Friday

New Location: 828 E 200 S, Bluffton • 824-6430

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SATURDAY | APRIL 20

Make every effort to live in peace with everyone.

Ukraine, Israel aid advances

(Continued from Page 1) product" Republicans can get given their thin majority in one chamber of Congress.

After months of delay, the House worked slowly but deliberately once Johnson made up his mind this week to plough ahead with a package that matches, with a few alterations, what the Senate passed in February. President Joe Biden sent a swift endorsement of the speaker's plan and, in a rare moment, Donald Trump, the Republican presumed presidential nominee who opposes most overseas aid for Ukraine, has not derailed the speaker's work.

"The world is watching what the Congress does,' the White House said in a statement. "Passing this legislation would send a powerful message about the strength of American leadership at a pivotal moment."

In an extremely rare step, the members of the House Rules Committee joined forces late Thursday in a near midnight vote, the four Democrats giving their support on a procedural step, to push past the Republican majority's three hardline holdouts to send the pack-

age to the House floor for debate on a 9-3 vote. It was a moment unseen in recent House memory.

Democratic leader Rep. Hakeem Jeffries said that he spoke with Johnson on Thursday night to ensure the bill would clear the Rules Committee.

"It's long past time that we support our democratic allies," Jeffries said after the

"House Democrats have once again cleared the way for legislation that's important to the American people."

Johnson will need to rely on Democrats again Saturday to turn back amendments Republicans have offered that could kill the package. One from hardline Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene would reduce spending for Ukraine to zero.

Greene has filed a "motion to vacate" the speaker from office, and it drew another supporter Friday as Rep. Paul Gosar, an Arizona Republican, cosponsored the motion. Rep. Thomas Massie of Kentucky, another co-sponsor, suggested that before the House breaks next week others could follow, building pressure on Johnson to step down.

Rep. Eli Crane, a hardline conservative from Arizona, also said he was "open" to joining the move to oust Johnson.

"I definitely sense that there's a souring to Republican leadership," he said.

Greene could launch a bid to evict Johnson from the speaker's office, should she call it up for a vote, much the way Republicans booted Kevin McCarthy from the position last fall. Jeffries, the Democratic leader, remained noncommittal to helping Johnson keep the speaker's gavel, though some Democrats have suggested they would be inclined help defeat the motion to vacate through procedural maneuvers.

With one of the most narrow House majorities in modern times, Johnson can only afford to lose a single vote or two from his Republican ranks to pass any bill. That dynamic has thrust him into the arms of Democrats as he searches for votes to

pass the package. Without his Republican majority fully behind him,

Johnson could not shape the package as the ultra-conservatives demand lest he lose Democratic backing.



From our family to you ...

The Reimschisel family at Family Ford of Bluffton hope that you will take a few moments at least once each week to spend some time with what really matters during these "interesting times." This short essay is from

Our Daily Bread®

- a free publication we would love to share with you. Stop in anytime. There is no cost or obligation.

Family Ford of Bluffton 970 N. Main St., Bluffton

824-2300

FAMILY MATTERS

HEBREWS 12:14]

MEBREWS 12:14-17

y sister, brother, and I flew from our separate states to our uncle's funeral and stopped to see our ninety-year-old grandmother. She'd been paralyzed by a stroke, had lost the ability to speak, and had only the use of her right hand. As we stood around her bed, she reached out that hand and took each of our hands, placing one atop another over her heart and patted them in place. With this wordless gesture, my grandmother spoke into what had been our somewhat broken and distant sibling

In God's family, the church, we can grow apart as well. We might allow bitterness to separate us from each other. The writer of Hebrews references the bitterness that separated Esau from his brother (HEBREWS 12:16) and challenges us as brothers and sisters to hold on to each other in God's family. "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone" (V. 14). Here the words every effort convey a deliberate and decisive investment in peacemaking with our brothers and sisters in God's family. Every such effort is then applied to everyone. Every. One.

Family matters. Both our earthly families and God's family of believers. Might we all invest the efforts needed to hold on to

What would it mean for you to "make every effort to live in peace with everyone" in God's family? Is there a particular person you might need to approach for reconciliation?

Dear God, thank You for drawing me to Yourself. Help me to make every effort to live at peace with everyone in Your family.

Elisa Morgan, *Our Daily Bread*®, Copyright © 2024 by Our Daily Bread Ministries, Grand Rapids, Ml. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. www.odb.org/. For further distribution, please contact - permissionsdept@odb.org

OBITUARIES

Mona L. Brown, 73

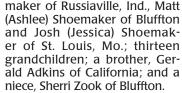
Mona L. Brown, 73, passed away Thursday afternoon, April 18, 2024, at Bluffton Regional Medical Center in Bluffton.

Mona was born in Dunkirk on Jan. 6, 1951, to Earl E. and Flora W. (Geiger) Adkins, both parents preceded her in death. She married Billy E. Brown in Tennessee on March 24, 2006, he survives in Bluffton.

She was a graduate of Dunkirk High School class of

1969. Mona worked for Franklin Electric in Bluffton for 24 years, retiring in 2012. She enjoyed camping, spending time with her children and grandchildren, working with her flowers around her home and sharing her strong faith in God.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her four sons, Paul (Dana) Shoemaker of Greenwood, Craig (Cara) Shoe-



Mona was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Richard Adkins; and a sister, Elaine Boyle.

Visitation will be Wednesday, April 24, 2024, from 12:00

p.m. until 3:00 p.m., at Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton, followed immediately by a funeral service at 3:00 p.m. Burial will follow at Elm Grove Cemetery in Bluffton.

Memorials can be made to Heart to Heart Hospice in Ft. Wayne, IN.

Online condolences can be made to www.goodwincaleharnish.com.

Tonya S. Buzzard, 73

Tonya S. Buzzard, 73, of Warren, passed away Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at her home in Warren.

Tonya was born March 14, 1951, in Huntington, to William Otto and Edna Irene (Wall) Swain. She married Gary Buzzard on

Tonya was preceded in death by her parents, Bill and Edna Swain; son, William Paul Buzzard; brother, Paul Swain; sister, Vickie Bickel; and beloved dog, Betsy.

Loving survivors include her husband, Gary Buzzard; daughter, Taya (Terry) Buzzard Holmes; son, Andy (Angie) Buzzard; eight grandchildren; siblings, Trudy K. Swain, Cindy (Bob) Dillahay and Cindy Carter; sister-in-law, Vickie Swain; many nieces and nephews; and her loving dog,

Friends and family may gather to share and remember at the First Baptist Church of Warren, located at 727 N Wayne St. Warren, IN 46792 on Sunday, April 21, 2024 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and again on Monday, April 22, from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. A celebration of life service will be held on Monday at 10:30 a.m. with Pastor Rusty Strickler officiating. Burial will follow at Gardens of Memory in Marion.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Glancy-H. Brown & Son Funeral Home in Warren, Indiana.



Cleaning up the park

The Southern Wells girls and boys track teams worked at the 4-H Park cleaning up leaves, grass clippings and pulling weeds Friday night. (Photo provided)

Local Roundup

Bluffton Board of Works to project and football and baseball facility meet Tuesday afternoon

The Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 23, in the meeting room on the first floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Topics on the agenda include:

- Continued discussion of the sidewalk program.
 - CRP application from Bluffton NOW! • Nuisance animal discussion.
 - A parking request.
- A personnel request from Derrick

Deininger.

Norwell school board will meet Tuesday evening

The board of the Norwell Community Schools will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 23, at Norwell Middle School, 1100E. U.S. 224 in Ossian, for a tour of the construction site.

The board's regular meeting will follow at 5:30 p.m. in the high school.

Items on the agenda include:

- Personnel and financial matters.
- A superintendent's report of the NMS

improvements

• Recommendation to approve easement

meeting is also open to the public.

and right-of-way. Recommendation to approve 2024-25

support staff benefits manual.

The regular meeting will be directly followed by a strategic planning meeting. This

Wells County BZA will meet Tuesday evening

The Wells County Board of Zoning Appeals will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 23, in Room 214 on the ground floor of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St. in Bluffton.

Topics on the agenda will include:

 A request from Solid Rock Rentals to reduce the setback from 20 ft. to 14.5 ft. on the corner of South and Union streets in Bluffton. The property is zon-

• A request from Dustin and Melissa Kelly to increase the size allowance for an accessory structure from 1,500 sq. ft. to 2,400 sq. ft. at 538 W Washington St. in Bluffton. The property is zoned R-2.

Bluffton Parks Rec News Notes



Fiechter

Destination Recreation

This morning at 9 a.m. is our Earth Day 5K. Check-in and race start is at the Bluffton City Gym (128 E Market St.). Join us for a race, walk, or jog to celebrate Earth Day. We are minimizing our footprint on this event as we reduce waste, reuse old race bibs, and recycle past event shirts; even our awards are live plants and trees.

The City-Wide Garage Sale weekend is fast approaching. This event is May 2-4, typically from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The list of participants will be advertised in the newspaper and on the city's website at www.blufftonindiana.net. If you would like to register your sale, drop off an ad of 20 words or less to the mayor's office in City Hall no later than April 25 to be included on the printed list or fill it out online at https://blufftonindiana.net/citywide-garage-sale. If you plan to shop that weekend, you can pick up the paper sales listing at City Hall. Remember, sale signs are not permitted in the parks, and hanging signs on utility poles is illegal and subject to fines.

It's time to register for the annual Stuff and Fluff event. Bring that special child in your life for a memorable day they will never forget. Watch their eyes light up as the two of you make an adorable stuffed animal to take home. This event is held June 24, from 10-10:30 a.m., at the Roush Park Pavilion. The cost to participate is only \$15 per child (pay day of the event, exact change preferred) and is open to both boys and girls. Call 824-6069 or email events@blufftonindiana. gov to register and pick out your animal (please check to see if the animal that you would like is still available when registering) by May 31 or until supplies last.

Calling all Volunteers! The Bluffton Parks Department needs volunteers to bring their animals (kittens, reptiles, pigs, cows, puppies, and any animals that are

good around kids) to our **Animal Explorers**

By Brandy

event. Animal Explorers is a fun drop-in event for all ages to see animals up close and even pet a few. The event is Tuesday, June 18, from 9-9:30 a.m. at Roush Park (925 W Silver). We are looking for a variety of pets for the children to see and interact with. If you have any kid-friendly pets you would be willing to bring to our event, contact the Bluffton Parks Department at events@ blufftonindiana.gov or call 824-6069.

Registration for Summer Swim lessons is next Saturday, April 27, in the foyer of City Hall (128 E Market) from 9-11 a.m.

Early swim lessons set a positive foundation for a lifetime of participation and enjoyment in and under the water. Swim lessons for children who have just finished grades K-11 are held Monday through Friday, June 3-14 at either 10-10:50 a.m. or 11-11:50 a.m. OR June 24-July 5 at 11-11:50 a.m. at the Wells Community Pool. Diving lessons are only offered at the June 24-July 5 class for students who have passed all the swim levels. The cost is \$20, due at registration.

Pee Wee Swim Lessons for ages 4 through pre-K will run M-W-F the week of June 17. Swim time is from 11-11:45 a.m.; a parent must get in the water with each child. The cost is only \$6 per child.

NEW! **Tot Swim lessons** for ages 2-3 will be M-W-F the week of June 17 from 10-10:45 a.m. An adult must get in the water with each child.

If your child would benefit from oneon-one lessons, call the Wells Community pool starting May 25 to schedule private lessons at 824-1550. Dates and times vary according to the rental calendar. Lessons cost \$25 per half hour, and openings fill up fast!

Have a great week!

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS County:

Thursday, 3:51 a.m., U.S. 224 and North 600 East, Craigville. Driver cited for speeding 88 in a 55 mph

Thursday, 5:26 a.m., North 100 East and East 800 North, Uniondale. Driver cited speeding for speeding 72 in a 45 mph zone.

Thursday, 8:58 a.m., Wells County Courthouse. One subject detained by courthouse security.

Inursday, /:5/ p.m., East 350 South and South 600

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.

ed two horses running loose in a field. Thursday, 10:11 p.m.,

Wells County Jail. Warrant served to Zachary Osborn at the jail. Ťhursday, 11:10 p.m.,

South 300 West and West 1000 South, Keystone. Caller reported she lost her service dog in training. Friday, 12:00 a.m., North

300 West and West 200 Zachary Andrew North, Bluffton. Carvs. deer. Osborn, 32, Ossian; con-North Miller Street, Union- Bond not set.

East, Bluffton. Caller report- dale. Report of electrical wires cut. Ossian:

Thursday, 7:27 a.m., U.S. 224 and North 100 East, Ossian. Driver cited for speeding. Thursday, 5:21 p.m.,

5100 North 100 East Ossian. Caller reported a white truck parked in his lot during the

ARRESTS

Friday, 9:24 a.m., 5900 tempt of court — civil.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Dan's Fish **Dine-In or Carry-Out** Date: Saturday, April 27, 2024

Time: 4:30 to 7:00 pm

Place: Lighted Gardens - 10794 N St. Rd. 1, Ossian, IN Dine-In Menu: Fish, Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans, Applesauce, Roll, Dessert and Drink **Carry-Out Available**

Tickets: Adult, \$14.00 pre-sale thru April 21st /

\$15.00 at the door Children ages 5 to 10, Dine-In only, \$7.00 pre-sale / \$8.00 at the door

Children age 4 and under are free Contact: Cheryl Louison 260-414-5526 / clouison@ymail.com

Pat Meyer 260-227-0400 / spmeyer82@gmail.com

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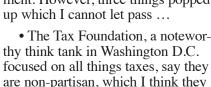
Lowry

Yahoo. Another tax article (sarcasm alert)

After writing another lengthy paean (sarcasm

Saturday's Sub

alert) a couple weeks ago about property taxes, I planned on putting that horse to bed for a while and getting back to a friendlier version of retirement. However, three things popped up which I cannot let pass ...





Mark Miller

are. But they definitely tend to encourage and focus on fiscal responsibility, which unfortunately is not non-partisan. But after typing that, I am not encouraged about that perspective's continued viability at the national level. But I digress.

I signed up for a weekly email from them a while back. The one that showed up two weeks ago as I was formulating that last lengthy discourse contained 43 charts of updated data: "Facts and Figures 2024: How Does Your State Compare?" Of course, I had to dig into it. How does Indiana compare nationally? And just as important, how do we compare to our neighbors?

If you'd like to see the 43 charts, send me an email and I'll send you the link. Meanwhile, a few highlights:

— Total State and Local Tax Burden as a Percent of Income. New York leads this category at 15.9%. Michigan has a slightly lower number than Indiana (8.6%), Ohio and Illinois are significantly higher — 10.0% and 12.9% respectively. Indiana's 9.3% is the 12th lowest in the country.

— State Business Tax Climate. This ranking has been referenced in earlier writings here. Indiana is very competitive, providing the 10th best tax climate for business. But we used to be 9th, which was cited as a concern during the November meeting of the State and Local Tax Review task force that our local State Sen. Travis Holdman is chairing. Michigan is nipping at our heels at 11th place. Ohio and Illinois are way down the list in 36th and 38th place.

In the property tax sub-category of this ranking, Indiana's property tax climate for business is third best in the country. Which is good except somebody has to pay that freight. Guess who?

— An interesting one: State Gas Taxes (per gallon). No surprise that California leads this race at \$0.68 per gallon. Illinois is No. 2 at \$0.665; Indiana has the 5th-highest gas tax in the country, \$0.517. If you drive much into Ohio, you have surely noticed they almost always have lower prices. They should. Their gas tax per gallon is \$0.385 yet their roads seem at least as nice as ours. Alaska is the lowest at just under 9 cents per gallon, but then they don't have very many roads.

— One more: Property Taxes as a Percent of Owner-Occupied Housing Value. Our research has revealed that despite the increases homeowners have seen in Wells County the last several years, we are doing better in this statistic than our neighboring counties. How does the state rate? The state average of 0.71% (which I find surprising and which also means we are a bit higher than that state average) is the 30th highest in the country, just a few notches below the national average of 0.91%. Illinois is 2nd highest at 1.95%; Ohio and Michigan are well above the Indiana number. New Jersey gets the prize for first at 2.08% while the lowest is somewhat of a surprise. Hawaii property taxes are just 0.26% of assessed values, but — a big but — the value of land and homes there is astronomical.

• A couple of the Indiana gubernatorial candidates are now mentioning property taxes in their TV commercials. They say they can fix it. Just like, I am certain, other candidates have vowed to end government waste.

One is proposing to freeze property taxes for seniors. Sounds good, but it would be a lawsuit waiting to happen. The basic tenet of our property tax system — now enshrined in the state constitution — is that it is market-driven and equitable, the result of a lawsuit about 20 years ago that brought about the assessment process which recognizes that in our current market, homes are selling a lot with higher prices while business real estate is not, resulting in stable assessments.

It is all, of course, much more complicated than the candidate purports. But it sounds good on TV. And it strikes me as not unlike President Biden's efforts to forgive student loan debt in order to buy some votes.

• And then the latest episode of the aforementioned State and Local Tax Review task force was streamed live from Room 130 of the Indiana Statehouse Wednesday morning. While the interim committee was originally created to look at perhaps eliminating the state income tax, the entire focus of this meeting was on property taxes. It is encouraging to observe that these people are taking this seriously.

"Where there is simplicity, there is accountability," task force member Rep. Jack Jordan, (R-Nappanee) said. "Where there is complexity, there is no accountability."

But they also recognize the obstacles.

"We're not going to solve this is a single session," House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Jeff Thompson (R-Danville) told the group. "But if we're not making an effort fix this, we're not doing our job."

There were other new insights from the session, enough for another paean (sarcasm alert) for another day.

miller@news-banner.com

Today in History

By The Associated Press

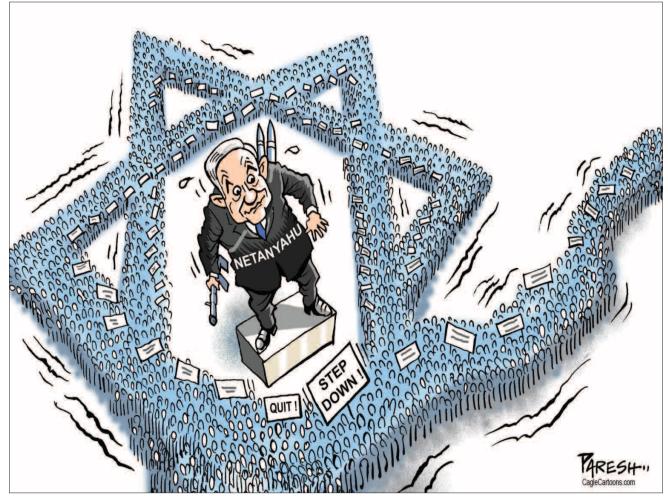
Today is Saturday, April 20, the 111th day of 2024. There are 255 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On April 20, 1999, the Columbine High School massacre took place in Colorado as two students shot and killed 12 classmates and one teacher before taking their own lives.

On this date: In 1812, the fourth vice president of the United States, George Clinton, died in Washington at age 72, becoming the first vice president to die while in office.

In 1861, Col. Robert E. Lee resigned his commission in the United States Army. (Lee went on to command the Army of Northern Virginia in the Civil War, and eventually became general-in-chief of the Confederate forces.)

erate forces.)
In 1912, Boston's Fenway Park hosted its first professional baseball game.



The anti-Israel delusion

Surely, you've heard of the brutal conflict that has displaced millions of people and killed more than 14,000, while aid convoys have trouble getting where they need to go?

No, the Sudanese civil war hasn't been on your radar screen?

OK, but how about the crisis that has led to more than half the population of a country needing humanitarian assistance amid constant turmoil and war?

You haven't heard much about the conflict in Yemen lately, either?

Perhaps, then, the war that has forced large numbers of people to flee the fighting multiple times, while as much as a quarter of the population is facing hunger or illness?

Actually, the fight between the military and armed opposition groups in Myanmar also isn't top of mind?

These are terrible situations that garner very little or almost no attention, in contrast to the overwhelming level of focus on Israel's war in Gaza, almost all of it through a hostile lens.

This is nothing new. The Jewish state has long been singled out for opprobrium and held to a standard different than that of other societies. Some of this is justified. As an advanced Western-style democracy and ally of the United States, Israel should be better than whatever armed faction is preying on people in some Third World country -- and, indeed, Israel is better.

International organizations, the media and leftwing activists create exactly the opposite impression, though. Given the amount of time and energy devoted to condemning Israel, one would be forgiven for thinking that the world would be a much more peaceful, just place if only it weren't for the existence of a Jewish state.

There are important distinctions between the war in Gaza and the other conflicts mentioned above. Israel isn't staging a coup or fighting a civil war. It was perfectly content -- indeed, in retrospect, much too content -- to live with a Gaza controlled by Hamas, until it was subjected to a heinous attack that no other society today or in any other period in history would tolerate.

Israel also fights differently. It seeks to honor the rules of war while operating in a dense urban environment against a merciless enemy that wants as many civilians to be killed as possible. In other conflicts around the world, there are no rules. In Myanmar, people aren't just fleeing the fighting, but "executions and killings, forced recruitment, torture, arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances and persecution," according to the European Union.

Nonetheless, it is Israel that is accused of committing genocide. The people braying about Israel's alleged crimes against humanity apparently never spare a thought for the Uyghurs, subject to a massive ongoing campaign of repression by the Chinese government; or the Rohingya people, viciously targeted by the government of Myanmar; or the Baha'i in Iran, the Hazaras in Afghanistan or the Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh.

There are all sorts of candidates for a list of the most oppressive countries in the world, from North Korea to Equatorial Guinea, from Turkmenistan to Venezuela, from Russia to China. Yet, practically all we hear about is Israel.

The old Soviet Union was long at the forefront of propagandizing against Israel, a cause readily taken up by the so-called non-aligned countries and the left around the world. This tendency has been rife with antisemitism and hypocrisy, exemplified back in the 1970s by the brutal tinpot dictator of Uganda, Idi Amin, denouncing Israel at the United Nations.

Since then, the names and the players have changed, but the tendency -- to single out Israel for special obloquy and lie about and obsess over the world's only Jewish state -- has remained the same.

A common lament in commentary about other conflicts is that they aren't getting enough attention. An official with the World Food Programme lamented recently, "The people of Sudan have been forgotten." The EU noted, "In a world of growing humanitarian emergencies and fleeting media attention, Myanmar is getting ignored."

There's a reason for that.

Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry

Growing Latino support for border wall, strict enforcement

A new poll by Axios and Noticias Telemundo finds that 42% of Latino Americans support building a wall or fence along the entire U.S.-Mexico border. When pollsters asked the same question in December 2021, the number was 30%. That's a significant increase as the border crisis created by President Joe Biden's policies worsens.

It's also a more severe action than virtually anyone is now proposing. The border is about 2,000 miles long, but some of that is physically impassable and does not need a wall. Former President Donald Trump proposed building a wall on about 1,000 miles. That was enough for many Democrats to unite in hysterical opposition. Now, the Latino voters polled say they would like to see a wall or fence along the entire 2,000-mile border.

The new poll also finds that 64% of those surveyed support "giving the president the authority to shut U.S. borders if there are too many migrants trying to enter the country." And 38% of those surveyed support "sending all undocumented immigrants in the U.S. back to their country of origin." In 2021, that number was 28%.

In all, the poll marks a real shift in the direction of stricter border enforcement. It's a significant change. One explanation for the



Byron York

consider the question has changed, too. At various times in the past, the majority of illegal border crossers came from Mexico or Central America, especially the Northern Triangle countries of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. Now, with Biden's virtually open border, the situation is much different. People are

change is that the context

in which Latino voters

coming from all over the world, in large numbers, to cross illegally into the United States.

On Feb. 22, Fox News' Bill Melugin posted on X, "Internal [Border Patrol] data we've obtained reveals more Chinese nationals have crossed illegally into Border Patrol's San Diego sector in recent months than Mexican nationals." Melugin published the top 10 nationalities apprehended in the San Diego sector since Oct. 1, 2023. Four of them were not from Mexico, Central America or South America — China, Turkey, Guinea and India. In the period Melugin listed, 28,000 people from Colombia crossed illegally into the United States, while 21,000 came from China, 6,100 from Turkey, 5,000 from Guinea and 5,000 from

Given that, if the point of polling Latino voters is to gauge their views on people coming illegally to the

United States from Latin American countries — that's not the way things work today. These days, illegal crossers are entering the U.S. from everywhere. Perhaps that is contributing to the changing views of Latino Americans toward border security.

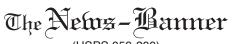
In any event, Latino Americans are an important voting bloc, and in the 2024 presidential election, it appears they are moving more toward Trump than Biden.

In 2016, Hillary Clinton beat Trump among Hispanic voters by a whopping 38 points, 66% to 28%. In the 2020 election, Biden beat Trump among that group by 21 points, 59% to 38%. Now, a New York Times-Siena poll in March found Trump leading Biden by 6 points, 46% to 40%. That's a huge change in eight years.

Of course, the first two examples are actual election results, while at this point in the 2024 race we're relying on polls that might not be accurate and, in any event, might change before the election. But there have been many, many surveys suggesting movement of Latino voters away from Biden and toward Trump.

Shifting Latino views on border security are part of that, but remember that the top issue for Latino voters, as it is for everyone else, is the economy and inflation. Put it all together, and it appears falling Latino support will be a major problem for Biden's reelection effort.

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USPS 059-200)

Periodicals Postage Paid at Bluffton, IN 46714. Published every day except Sundays and principal holidays at 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton IN 46714, Post Office Box 436 Evening News est. 1892 • Evening Banner est. 1899 • Consolidated 1929

News-Banner Publications, Inc.

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

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A CITY ON A HILL CHURCH

705 W.-900 N., Uniondale 10 a.m. - Worship.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH - COUNTRY 1970 S.-800E., Bluffton 9:45 & 11:45 a.m. - Worship.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH - NORTH 630 E. Dustman Rd. 9:45 & 11:45 a.m. - Worship.

ASBURY CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST 8013 W.-1100S.-90, Montpelier 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

BETHEL

(Independent Bible) 4500E-300S, Bluffton 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

> **BETHLEHEM** LUTHERAN **CHURCH LCMS**

6114E-750N, Ossian bethlehemossian.org 9 a.m. - Divine Service. 10:15 - Adult Bible Class, Youth Bible Class & Sunday School. 11:30 - Voice of Bethlehem on 92.7 FM.

BLUFFTON CHURCH OF GOD

327 W. Cherry St. 10 a.m. - Sunday School. 11 a.m. - Worship. 6 p.m. - Service.

> **BOEHMER UNITED METHODIST**

3467 S 600 W, Liberty Center boehmerumc.org 9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:45 - Sunday School.

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BLUFFTON WESLEYAN CHAPEL (Independent Holiness

Church) 1309 W. Washington St. blufftonwesleyan.net 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 & 6:30 p.m. Worship.

CALVARY LUTHERAN, ELCA 1532 N. Main St. 9 a.m. - Worship.

CHESTER CENTER 900S-300W, Poneto 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

> **CHRISTIAN NEW LIGHT**

1011 W. Washington St. 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship. 6 p.m. - Praise & worship.

CHURCH OF CHRIST 735 S. Marion St. 10 a.m. - Bible Study. 10:45 - Worship.

COVENANT CHAPEL 3550 S. SR 1 mycovenantchapel.org 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:15 - Worship. (Children's Church for

DILLMAN UNITED BRETHREN 8888S-1100W-90,

Warren

ages 6-12).

9 a.m. - Worship. 10 a.m. - Sunday School.

DOMESTIC CHURCH OF CHRIST

9 a.m. - Sunday school. 10 a.m. - Church service.

EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST 1204 W. Cherry St.

9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:40 a.m. - Sunday School.

FAIRVIEW CHURCH OF GOD

5511 W. Yoder Rd., Yoder fairviewlife.com 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

> **FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST**

210 W. Townley fbc-bluffton.com 10 a.m. - Worship. 11 a.m. - Discipleship.

FIRST BAPTIST 202 W. Cherry St. fbcbluffton.com 10:15 - Worship.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OSSIAN

1001 Dehner Dr. 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. - Worship. 6:30 - Service.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST 909 W. Spring St. FCCfamily.com 9:30 & 11 a.m. - Wor-

ship.

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

1515 Clark Ave. blufftonnazarene.org 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 9-10 a.m. - Free ESL classes. 10:15 - Worship. 6 p.m. - Service.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN 215 E. Dustman Rd.

firstpcbluffton.org 9:30 a.m. - Children/ youth & Adult Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN (EVANGELICAL) 123 S. Jefferson St.,

Ossian www.OssianChurch.com 8:45 a.m. - Sunday school. 10 a.m. - Wor-

FORGIVEN CHURCH

1409 S. Main St. forgivenonline.org 9 a.m. - Worship.



824-0900 General Motors **824-1931** Chrysler

Time to Take a Devotional Break

by Martha

Paxson

THE REST OF THE STORY

Born in Oklahoma in 1918, this well-known figure spent much of his early adult life making radio commercials. Moving from Missouri to Hawaii, he covered news for the US Navy dur-

ing World War 2. Although enlisted in the US Army Air Corps, a medical discharge changed the trajectory of his life, eventually catapulting him to international fame. Despite his

work on multiple radio stations, it wasn't until May 1976 that his voice and fascinating telling of unheard stories

caught America's attention. Paul Harvey premiered his long-running series The Rest of the Story that year, and his popular, supposedly factual tales ended only with his death in 2009.

Although some questioned the veracity of the back-stories he shared about famous events and people, Mr. Harvey's dramatic voice and retelling of familiar news made him a household name long before the era of the 24-hour news cycle. Newspapers increased his exposure when they published his broadcasts in print, and today you can still find snippets of Paul Harvey's commentaries in the occasional advertisement or online remembrance videos. His voice and personable

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BLUFFTON

301 W. Cherry St.

School. 10:30 - Worship.

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METHODIST

325 W. Washington St.

blufftonfirstumc.com

GRACE BAPTIST

1621 S. 350 E.

Stogdill Rd. Ext.

gbcbluffton.com

9 a.m. - Sunday School.

GRACE BIBLE

6626 Village Way, Berne

gracebibleberne.com

9 a.m. - Sunday classes.

HARVEST TIME BIBLE

11015S-600E, Keystone

HOPE MISSIONARY

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hope4thefamily.com

8 a.m., 9:30 & 11 a.m. -

Service at Main Campus.

9:30 & 11 a.m. - Service,

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UNITED METHODIST

4510 E 400N, Craigville

9 a.m. - Sunday School.

9:40 - Fellowship. 10 a.m.

MARKLE CHURCH

OF CHRIST

455 E. Morse St. marklechurch.org

9 a.m. - Adult Bible study

groups. 10:30 - Worship.

Children's & student pro-

gramming both hours.

Worship.

10 a.m. - Worship.

north campus, Ossian.

9:30 a.m. - Worship.

10:30 - Sunday School.

9:10 a.m. - Prayer. 10

a.m. - Worship.

10 a.m. - Collective Wor-

10 a.m. & 6 p.m. - Wor-

ship.

ship.

9:30 a.m. - Worship.

10:45 - Sunday School.

9:15 a.m. - Sunday

style enshrined him forever as a beloved and trusted national and international character.

The Bible introduces twelve men who lived with and learned from Jesus during His three years of earthly ministry, each with a back

story. Peter — a rough fisherman denied Christ three times. Thomas doubted the resurrection until he had a personal encounter with Jesus. Nathaniel was a skeptic, wondering if anything good could come from Nazareth (John 1:45-46). James and

John earned nicknames as the "Sons of Thunder."

These originally unremarkable men became great leaders in the early church, many martyred due to their unyielding testimony about Jesus being the Son of God. They were everyday human beings forever changed by the Messiah's message of salvation. Even their critics recognized the company they kept (Acts 4:13).

We may never be featured on a news report or earn international accolades, but we CAN effect change in our world. As with the lives of those first disciples of Christ, God wants to transform us into the likeness of His Son (Romans 8:29). Let Him begin YOUR "rest of the story" today. mpaxson99@yahoo.com

LIBERTY CENTER **BAPTIST**

3071 W. Cherry St. 8:30 a.m. - Pastor/Deacon's Prayer. 9 - Sunday School. 9:55 - Fellowship. 10:15 - Worship.

LIBERTY CENTER **COMMUNITY CHURCH** 8:45 a.m. - Choir prac-

tice. 9 a.m. - Coffee, donuts, conversation. 9:30 - Worship w/infant nursery & children's church. 10:45 - Sunday School.

> LIFE COMMUNITY 428 S. Oak St.

lifecommunity.net 10:30 a.m. - Service (Children's programs available).

> LIVING FAITH **MISSIONARY**

17718 Bluffton Rd., Yoder 10 a.m. - Worship. 11:30 Sunday School.

LIVING WATER UNITED CHURCH 6486 S 700E, Bluffton 8:45-9 a.m. - Prayer. 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

MARKLE CHAPEL HILL SEVENTH **DAY ADVENTIST** 470 E. Morse St. Saturday: 9:30 a.m. -

Worship. 10:45 - Sabbath

School (Bible study). **MARKLE RIVERSIDE 316** 145 W. Morse St.

10 a.m. - Worship. **MURRAY MISSIONARY** 1117 N. Washington St.,

Murray murraymc.org 9:30 a.m. - Worship. 11 a.m. - Sunday School.

NEW BEGINNING 2187 W. SR 218 10 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

OSSIAN CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 302 N. Metts St. ossiannaz.org 9:15 a.m. - Bible study. 10:30 - Service.

TO REPORT CHURCH NEWS:

• E-mail to churchnews@news-banner.com • Drop information at 125 N. Johnson St. in Bluffton **NEW HOPE LUTHERAN**

(Missouri Synod) 8824 N. SR 1, Ossian newhopelutheran-ossian. webs.com

9 a.m. - Sunday School & Adult Bible study. 10 a.m. - Worship.

> **NOTTINGHAM** 1100 S. SR 1

9:30 - Sunday School. 10:30 & 6 p.m. - Worship.

OSSIAN UNITED

METHODIST 201 W. Mill St. ossianumc.org 9 a.m. - Worship, Worship child care nurse. 10 a.m. - Fellowship. 10:15 -

PARK COMMUNITY 617 S. Bennett St. parkccbluffton.org 10 a.m. - Connection. 11 a.m. - Worship.

Adult Sunday School.

PETROLEUM COMMUNITY CHURCH 3625 E. 2nd St. 9 a.m. - Worship. 10:30 -

PONETO BAPTIST Grape Street 8:30 a.m. - Sunday

School. 9 a.m. - Worship.

Sunday School.

PONETO FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH 36 E. Walnut St. 9 a.m. - Worship. 10

a.m. - Fellowship. 10:15 -

Sunday School.

RIVER OF HOPE 1224 W. Central 11 a.m. - Worship & the Word.

RIVER OF LIFE 122 Lamar St. Suite 108, 110 riveroflifebluffton.com 10:30 a.m. - Worship.

SIX MILE 4790 SE SR 116 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

SONLIGHT WESLEYAN 2350 S. SR 1 sonlightwesleyan.org 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship. Nursery & Children's classes available during

SOUTHERN WELLS COMMUNITY CHURCH 9450 S 300 W, Poneto 9 & 10:45 a.m. - Wor-

Sunday School & Wor-

ship.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC

1300 N. Main St. Saturday: 7:45 a.m. -Prayer. 8 a.m. - Mass. 8:30 - Rosary. 4 p.m. or by appointment - Confessions. 5 p.m. - Mass. Sunday: 7:30 & 10 a.m. Mass.

ST. LUKE CHURCH 4960W-100N, Decatur stlukechurch.in 9 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 -Sunday School.

ST. MARK EV. **LUTHERAN** 16933 Thiele Rd. stmarkfw.org 8:45 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

ST. MARK'S **LUTHERAN (NALC)** 5912 N. Sugar St.,

Uniondale 10 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Children's Sunday School.

TURNPOINTE

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN 500 W. Logan, Markle turnpointechurch.com 9:30 a.m. - Fellowship. 10 a.m. - Adult & Children's Worship.

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9221 W 800 S-90, Montpelier 8:30 a.m. - Coffee fellowship. 9:15 - Worship.

THE MEETING PLACE 115 E. Market St. 6:30 p.m. - Bible study.

TOWER LIFE CENTER 11811 N. Wayne St.,

Zanesville towerlifecenter.com 9:30 a.m. - TLC Groups. 10:30 - Worship.

UNIONDALE COMMUNITY CHURCH 5867 N. Main St. 9 a.m. - Worship.

UNIONTOWN **CHURCH OF CHRIST** 11419 N-200W, Ossian 9 a.m. - Sunday School.

10 a.m. - Worship.

VERA CRUZ FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER CCCU

2771 SE Mulberry St., Vera Cruz 9-10 a.m. - Sunday School. 10-10:30 - Fellowship. 10:30 - Worship.

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH 205 S. Adams St.,

Monroe

9 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Discipleship for adults & children.

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CHURCH OF GOD

11984 N. Marzane Rd. 9 a.m. - Bible Class. 10 a.m. - Worship.

ZANESVILLE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST 3092 W. Broadway 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.





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one unearned run.

Knights get back on track, stomps Hornets in blowout

By RYAN WALKER

On a cold, brisk Friday night, the Knights warmed up with the sticks and on the rubber.

Norwell topped the struggling Angola Hornets (2-8) 11-1 in six innings with a strong offensive performance and Cayden Cassel's best start in his young varsity career.

This was following a rough two-game stretch this week where the Knights fell in the Jay County game on Tuesday and 2-0 to Homestead the night before.

"I think the guys responded well tonight," head coach Christian Bohata said. "The energy in the dugout, even in pregame when we're taking batting practice, just the energy. There was a different feel tonight. I just stressed to the guys to keep that up all year, and we'll be just fine."

With a young roster, there have been some

inconsistencies at the plate considering the team graduated six of the nine starters from last year. But Friday night showed a sign of an identity of manufacturing runs and some pop. Of the 11 runs scored, six of them were via the walk or sacrifice fly. Against Bluffton on Monday, the team even brought out the rare suicide squeeze card to score. And as talented of a program like Norwell is, there are hitters that can get it done as well. Cassel brought home two RBI on a base hit

in the first inning, and Noah Turk's single and Drew Graft's double increased the lead to 5-0 by the end of the second.

Outside of those hits, the Knights came in without putting the ball on the ground, and that's OK for Bohata.

"The biggest thing is putting the ball in play with two strikes," Bohata said. "We've been stressing that ever since the first weekend, we notice that's a major weakness we have ... If we're a small ball team, we're a small ball team."

The Hornets only came into the contest averaging three runs per game and with a .193 batting average. Cassel took full advantage of it, too.

In his six complete innings, Cassel allowed only three hits, an unearned run and nine strikeouts. He held Angola to a

.142 batting average against and only allowed six base runners.

"He worked ahead in a lot of counts. We stress to our pitchers, the first two out of three pitches should be strikes and he did a lot of that tonight. It's nice for him to get a complete game win. I think that's a big confidence booster."

Norwell will travel to Concordia next Monday at 5 p.m., April 22. This will be the first of a five-game week.

ryan@news-banner.com

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Norwell's Drew Graft (left) escapes from a diving Payton Fulton of Angola after an overthrow to second base Friday night. Graft would later score, helping the Knights win 11-1 over the Hornets. (Photos by Ryan Walker)

Sports Roundup

Knights sweep Wayne, improve to 6-0 on the year

Norwell's tennis team defeated Wayne in a sweep on the road Friday night.

With the win, the Knights improved to 6-0 on the season.

Individual results:

- Addy Heyerly defeated Kyla Harroff 6-0, 6-0 at No. 1 singles.
- Delaney Hoover defeated Tessa Summers 6-0, 6-0 at No. 2 singles.
- Macie Saalfrank defeated Sydney Gorman 6-0, 6-0 at No. 3 singles.
- Annabelle Johnson and Macy Felger defeated McKenna Cartwright and Kaylin Tin 6-0, 6-0 at No. 1 doubles.
- Jordyn Xayyachack and Ciera Hiester defeated Erianna Greene and Gally Martinez 6-0, 6-0 at No. 2 doubles.

The junior varsity team won 9-0. **Results for JV:**

- Aubrey Meyer defeated Vic Hargrove
- Gabbi Hoeppner defeated Kayleigh Guevara 8-0.
- Lucy Gerbers defeated Vic Hargrove
- Charli Swindell defeated Kayleigh Guevara 6-1. • Hope Mitchell and Emmaline Johnson
- defeated Carma Bryant and Jamya Turner Sam Evans and Aubryn Keller defeated
- Rose Reyes and Jessica Puzuelos 6-2.
- Melissa Hoag and Campbell Sloan defeated Camra Bryant and Jamya Turner
 - Hazel Lewis and Molly Threewits (Continued on Page 7)



Knights' starting pitcher Cayden Cassel

throws during the fourth inning against the

Hornets. His six innings of work got him

the win, striking out eight and allowing

Bluffton senior football player Sam Mechling (bottom row, center) signs his letter of intent with Manchester to extend his football career Friday morning at the high school. Members of Mechling's family are from left to right, bottom row: Alex Mechling, Eric Mechling, Sam Mechling, Tammy Mechling and Audrey Mechling. Behind is Athletic Director Steve Thompson, Principal Steve Baker, coach Sebastian Baxter, coach Brent Kunkel, and family members Susan and John Houlihan. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

Mechling signs with Manchester

ning will spend the next four years with the Manchester Spartans.

Friday morning at the high school, the offensive guard signed his national letter of intent to extend his football career with the Spartans with friends and family gathered. The Tigers' senior was a second-team all-ACAC this past season and was one of the main pieces on an offensive line that led the Tigers to their second sectional championship.

Mechling was humbled by the offer from Manchester to continue play-

ing the sport he loves.
"It was good," Mechling said. "I've worked so hard for this and not a whole lot of people get to play at the next level, so I'm glad for the opportunity."

He said that part of the reason he choose Manchester was the small feel to the campus and he didn't want to go to a big

school. Manchester was cise science. Bluffton's Sam Mech- the perfect fit, and the coaching staff neip made

him feel at home too. "The coaches really made me feel welcome there," Mechling said. "They're really nice and the other players there are really nice too and I feel like I fit best at that school."

This past season, Manchester finished its season 1-9 and 1-6 in the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference.

This is the Spartans' first season under head coach Vann Hunt, who was hired after serving Allegheny College in roles all over the coaching staff. He was a defensive coordinator, co-offensive coordinator, recruiting coordinator and interim head coach for two sea-

Mechling said that his likely role on the team will be at guard, in which he played for the Tigers as well.

He plans to study exer-

well, 5:30 p.m. GIRLS TENNIS: Wayne at Norwell, 5:30 p.m.

BASEBALL: Angola at Nor-

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

SOFTBALL: Norwell at Homestead, 5 p.m.; Bluffton

at Oak Hill, 5:30 p.m.
SATURDAY, APRIL 20 BASEBALL: Mississinewa

Southern Wells, 10 a.m. BOYS GOLF: Norwell, Bluffton, Southern Wells at South Adams Golf Invitational, 9 a.m.

GIRLS TENNIS: Norwell at Concordia, 10 a.m.; Bluffton at Argyll Invitational, 9

SOFTBALL: Bluffton at Northfield, 10 a.m.

TRACK & FIELD (CO-ED): Southern Wells at Eastern, 10:30 a.m. **MONDAY, APRIL 22**

High School Calenda

BASEBALL: Norwell at

Concordia, 5 p.m. SOFTBALL: Leo at Nor-

Bluffton, 5 p.m.; South Side at Southern Wells, 5:30 p.m.
TUESDAY, APRIL 23

well, 5:30 p.m.; Union City at

BASEBALL: Norwell at Leo, 5:30 p.m.; Bluffton at Southern Wells, 5 p.m.

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.
BIDDING ENDS APRIL 20 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of Dr. Hugh and Rhea Glidewell, seller. Major personal property auction. 2008 Mercedes sedan, large quantity of highequipment, professional telescop 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. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

APRIL 20-APRIL 27 - (Online Only Auction) - By order of

the secured creditor, seller. Over 400+ designer wedding and bridesmaid dresses, designed by Christina Wu, Morilee, Allure Bridal, Maddison James, Maggie Sottero, and more, all size and styles. Preview: April 24 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 215 E. Market St., Bluffton, IN. The Steffen Group Inc., www.steffengrp.com, 260-

APRIL 21-APRIL 28 - (Online Only Auction) - The estate of Loring and Sandra McCay, seller. Huge antique and primitive auction. Outstanding collection of antique furniture including primitive cupboards, dry sinks, pie safes, large qty. of country primitives, feather light sewing machines, early quilts, 100's of fabric bolts, crocks, vintage Christmas, costume jewelry. Preview: April 25 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 102 S. Jefferson St., Ossian. Pat Carter, sale manager, The Steffen Group Inc., www.steffengrp.

APRIL 22 - 6 p.m. - Kevin Reinhard, seller. Wells County 4-H Park, 1240 4-H Park Rd., Bluffton. Property: From Bluffton travel 3 miles southwest on Hoosier Highway. Online bidding available. 75+/-A offered in 5 tracts or any combination, Wells County, Harrison Township. Buyer will have 2024 farming rights. Productive farmland in great location (southwest of Bluffton). Development potential. Truck farm opportunity. Auction manager Al Pfister, 260-760-8922, Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc., 800-451-2709, schraderauction.com

BIDDING STARTS ENDING APRIL 28 - 6 p.m. EST - Phil Vorhees, owner. 2005 Homiers Farm Pro 2425 4x4 tractor w/ loader & backhoe, Massey Harris 44 Special tractor, 1995 Coachman Catalina 5th wheel camper, several 3 pt attachments. Husqvarna Z248f zero turn mower, yard & garden, hand tools, power tools, muzzleloader pistols .41 cal, household, glassware, furniture, Chrane bedroom suite, WWII video reels, 1960 Roy Smeck steel guitar Gold Edition, more! Preview April 25, 3-5 p.m., 2414 W 1100 S, Geneva. Pick up April 29, 2-6 p.m. Krueckeberg

Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

APRIL 28-MAY 5 - (Online Only Auction) - Various consignors, sellers. Over 4,000+ older and newer comic books, sports trading cards, vintage toys including Cabbage Patch dolls, vintage toys, 45 records, much more. Preview: April 30 and May 2 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 118 E. Craig St., Ossian. Rod Fetters, sale manager, The Steffen Group, Inc., www.steffengrp.com 260-824-

MAY 9 & 10 - 9 a.m. - Secured creditors & various consignors, owners. Two day truck & equipment auction. Day 1 online bidding only: 100+ various skid loader attachments, tool boxes, workbenches, iron gates, chains & binders, 1 trip 40' high side shipping container w/side doors, dome shelter containers, various truck take off parts, plumbing, electrical and mechanical surplus including urinals, toilets, electrical components, more! Day 2 onsite and online bidding offering 700+ lots! 100+/- municipal units! Cars, SUV, 1/2 ton & 3/4 ton pickups, cargo & passenger vans, large group of Chevy Impalas, Tahoes & Dodge Chargers, Harley-Davidson motorcycles, dump trucks, 2012-2014 Frieghtliner M2106 box trucks, day cabs, sleepers, utility trucks, bucket trucks, utility & semi trailers, SUV's, pickups, 100+ various skid steer attachments, more! Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

MAY 12-MAY 19 - (Online Only Auction) - Phyllis Montgomery, Seller. Major auction of fine antiques and collectables. "An Auction of the Year." Extensive cast iron skillet collection, early candy scales, primitives, salesman samples, early rare gum dispenser, De Laval signs, beer signs, firearms, butter churns, large Westmorland glass collection, much more. Preview: May 9 and 16 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 1556 Shadow Run Trail, Bluffton. Steffen Group, www.steffengrp.com, 824-3006, Pat Carter, sale man-

MAY 19 - 4 p.m. - Multiple consignors, owners. Online only consignment auction. 1,000+ lots! Furniture, oak kitchen table, large assortment of household items, tools, 100+ lots of collectible glass including Fostoria, Fenton, Candlewick, Pyrex and much more! Preview May 16, 3-5 p.m., 812 Elm Street, Decatur. Pick up May 20, 1-6 p.m. & May 21, 9 a.m.-noon. *Krueckeberg* Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.



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Tigersharks honored by Elks

The Bluffton Elks Lodge honored the Bluffton swim and dive team Thursday night, which included a certificate of achievement and a \$250 donation. The Tigersharks won their first-ever sectional championship this past season and sent multiple swimmers to the state finals. Above, the team accepts the award and poses together for a picture. (Photo provided)

Sports Roundup

(Continued from Page 6)

defeated Rose Reves and Jessica Puzuelos 6-2.

Knights fall to Spartans in softball

Norwell's softball team fell to 2-3, falling to Homestead on the road 10-3 Friday night.

The Knights amassed three hits in the game, including extra-base hits by Jordan Markley (double) and Kara Brown (triple). Brown's went for two RBI and went 2-3.

Kaydance Clark hit a sacrifice fly to score the

third run. Kayla Watkins picked up

the loss.

Norwell will be at home against Leo in the first Northeast 8 Conference game of the season starting at 5:30 p.m. Monday, April 22.

Cyber Tigers heading back to the state finals

Bluffton's eSports team is heading back to the state finals.

The Bluffton Cyber Tigers will be competing at Ball State University in the annual state finals on Saturday, April 27.

The team won the semistate match against Oregon-Davis in the game Super Smash. With the win, the team advances to play Blackford in the state finals. Members of the Super Smash team include Jordan Troyer, Jayden Suman (captain), Noah Zoll, Tristan Ault and Eli McCollum.

The Overwatch team won over Wabash last week, a rematch of last year's state final, and advanced to the championship to face Union City. Members of that team are Zull, McCollum, Caleb Dailey (captain), Leighton Elkins, Mack Bakerm Chris McClain and Lily Pulfer.

Taillon, **Cubs beat Marlins**

Jameson Taillon allowed one run over five innings in his first start this season after recovering from a strained back, and the Chicago Cubs beat the Miami Marlins 8-3 on Friday.

Nico Hoerner doubled twice for the Cubs, who have won five of six.

Miami fell to an NLworst 4-16.

Taillon (1-0), in the second season of a \$68 million, four-year contract, did not pitch in any spring training games, then made a pair of minor league rehab outings on April 7 and 12.

The 32-year-old righthander gave up three hits, struck out four and walked none. He threw 73 pitches, including 27 fastballs that averaged 93.7 mph.w

"I thought he was very sharp," Cubs manager Craig Counsell said. "He got ahead and finished at-bats quickly."

The state championships will be live-streamed on Twitch, while also providing updates on Twitter (now

each match with a link. In Tetrio, Sam Holloway won first against 50 other competitors in the state and will be honored at the awards

X) @esports_bhmsd before

ceremony on April 27. "This is truly a historical year for Bluffton eSports,' said coach Jonathan Morgan. "What an accomplishment for these students who have worked so hard all year long.'

Tigers win MS track with the Raiders, Warriors

Bluffton Middle School won both the boys' and the girls' track meets, while Southern Wells placed third in the and second in the Thursday night.

The Tigers had a team score of 64 in the boys' meet, while the girls had a 60. The Raiders scored a 53.5 in the boys, and a 58 in the girls. Woodlan was second at 53.5 in the boys and third in the girls at 27

> **Event winners:** Boys

• Maddox White (B) in

the 800m with a time of 2:27.87.

• Logan Leas (SW) in the 1600m with a time of 5:29.80.

• Bluffton's 4x800m relay team of Deacon Yates, Andy Baumgartner, Croy Stout and White with a time of 10:18.20.

• Adam Aulbach (SW) in the high jump at 5-10.

• Barnes (B) in the 200m hurdles with a time of

• Bluffton's 4x100m relay team of Asher Kinsey, Davin Drayer, Dawson Lee and Chase Kistler with a time of 50.90.

• Bluffton's 4x400m relay team of White, Drayer, Barnes and Kistler with a time of 4:05.20.

• Grayson Crowder (B) in the shot put at 37-6. Girls

• Averie Patton (B) in the 200m with a time of 30.50.

• Grace Rogers (SW) in the 400m with a time of 1:09.60 and in the 800m with a time of 2:37.50.

• Cora Kunkel (B) in the 1600m with a time of 5:54.90 and in the high jump at 4-10.

• Parker Barnes (B) in the 110m hurdles with a time of 16.60.

• Southern Wells 4x400m relay team.

Ramseyer, Addison Sonnig-

sen and Grace Fry. • Bailey Jenkins (SW) in the 200m hurdles with a

• Southern Wells 4x100m relay team with a

time of 57.50. • Kameron Hawkins

• Kenley Smith (B) in the

Knights split in **MS** soccer

team won over East Noble 2-1, and the girls fell 1-0 Thursday night.

Knights place 2nd

Norwell's golf team finished second in middle school golf Thursday night.

The Knights scored a 255, trailing Crestview (247) and defeating Riverview (298).

top scorer for Norwell with

• Bluffton's 4x800m relay team of Kunkel, Abby

- time of 33.10.
- (SW) in the long jump at
- shot put at 23-11.

with East Noble

Kaival rs

LytusTch

SolunaHl rs 2.21 Expion360 2.58

Norwell's boys soccer

Cooper Nagel and Augi Arellano were the goalscorers for the Knights.

in MS golf match

Isaiah Geoglein was the

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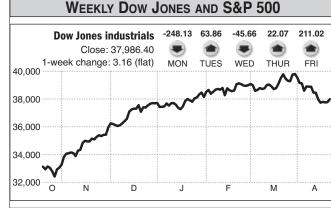
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THE WEEK IN REVIEW





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52-\ High	Week Low	Name	Last	Wk Chq	Wk %Chq	YTD %Chg	12-mo %Chg							
39,889.05	32,327.20	Dow Jones Industrials	37,986.40	+3.16	+.01	+.79	+12.36							
16,717.04	13,400.45	Dow Jones Transportation	15,083.72	-414.39	-2.67	-5.13	+4.65							
979.98	765.47	Dow Jones Utilities	875.61	+20.70	+2.42	69	-9.67							
18,342.24	14,638.37	NYSE Composite	17,458.77	-180.27	-1.02	+3.60	+12.07							
16,538.86	11,798.77	Nasdag Composite	15,282.01	-893.08	-5.52	+1.80	+26.59							
5,264.85	4,048.28	S&P 500	4,967.23	-156.18	-3.05	+4.14	+20.17							
3,056.49	2,322.38	S&P MidCap	2,836.88	-62.84	-2.17	+1.99	+13.53							
53,009.37	39,864.87	Wilshire 5000	50,451.31	-1008.36	-1.96	+4.46	+23.52							
2,135.46	1,633.67	Russell 2000	1,947.66	-55.52	-2.77	-3.92	+8.72							
18,201.38	13,068.01	Lipper Growth Index	16,726.93	-1006.22	-5.67	+3.15	+24.55							

STOCK EXCHANGE HIGHLIGHTS

SE G	AINERS	\$ (\$2 OF	R MORE)	NYSE L	OSERS.	(\$2 or	MORE)	NYSE A	CTIVES (\$1 or i	MORE)
ne	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
enHI r	s 3.75	+.74	+24.6	CazooG rs	4.98	-4.74	-48.8	BkofAm	3126630	36.97	+1.18
	s 3.16			Skillsft rs	5.34	-3.35	-38.6	FordM	2437258	12.14	47
gerMtr	176.78	+23.87	+15.6	GCT Semi	3.90	-2.16	-35.6	AT&T Inc	2021509	16.51	+.20
Prop	4.42	+.58	+15.1	LithiAm	4.73	-2.35	-33.2	Pfizer	1976535	26.00	+.14
lgSys	11.88	+1.48	+14.2	Biohaven	38.99	-14.09	-26.5	SnapInc A	1888385	11.16	+.31
ılthĞp	501.13	+61.93	+14.1	Cheetah	3.54	-1.07	-23.2	Palantir	1757600	20.47	-2.20
оВkН	39.06	+4.59	+13.3	BP Pru	2.24	63	-22.0	Vale SA	1699789	12.18	+.16
Life	66.74	+7.65	+12.9	BioRadB	279.91	-58.64	-17.3	BarrickGld	1485962	17.10	76
uPrt	162.39	+17.01	+11.7	Forestar	31.61	-5.97	-15.9	Carnival	1344704	14.12	24
Auto	78.69	+8.19	+11.6	GrayTvA	5.95	-1.10	-15.5	ItauUnH	1258656	6.05	30
SDAQ	GAINER	s (\$2 o	R MORE)	NASDAQ	Losers	\$ (\$2 OR	MORE)	NASDAQ	ACTIVES	(\$1 or	MORE)
ne	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
mW r	s 6.06	+3.81	+169.3	Iczoom A	3.95	-41.10	-91.2	Tesla	4613688	147.05	-24.00
ilHl A	n 27.27	+12.27	+81.8	Solarmax i	1 6.42	-7.03	-52.3	AMD	3204546	146.64	-16.64
atawa	14.13	+4.54	+47.3	Benefic A	s 3.92	-3.84	-49.5	SummW rs	3197580	6.06	+3.81
cllBio	5.55	+1.74	+45.7	NRX Phar	rs 3.04	-2.08	-40.6	Apple Inc s	3087716	165.00	-11.55
ath rs	4.29	+1.24	+40.7	Edgio rs	11.12	-6.72	-37.7	Nvidia	2620983	762.00	
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	STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST												
								Amazon	1987545	174.63	-11.50		
	4.19	+.99	+30.9	Agenus rs	5.31	-2.84	-34.8	RiviaAu A	2233296	8.63	50		
	3.97	+1.02	+34.6	DigitBrn rs	2.73	-1.49	-35.3	Intel	2304996	34.20	-1.49		
)	2.58	+.67	+34.7	RntRnwA rs	12.35	-6.88	-35.8	INVO Bio i	s2357819	1.37	+.56		
				Graphjet A									
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				NRX Phar rs				Apple Inc s					

Name	DIV	Last	Chg	%Ch	g %Chg	Name	DIV	Last	Chg	%Chg	%Ch
AFLAC	2.00	83.23	+2.95	+3.7	+.9	IBM	6.64	181.58	69	-0.4	+11.0
AGBA Gr		1.25	+.81+	-184.1	+157.2	Inv QQQ	1.16	414.65	-23.62	-5.4	+1.3
AT&T Inc	1.11	16.51	+.20	+1.2	-1.6	INVO Bio rs		1.37	+.56	+68.1	+1.5
AMD	1.60	146.64	-16.64	-10.2	5	JaguaH		.16	+.07	+74.4	+4.
Amazon		174.63	-11.50	-6.2	+14.9	Kroger	1.16	56.57	+1.37	+2.5	+23.
AmAirlines	.40	14.11	+.96	+7.3	+2.7	LincNat	1.80	27.65	63	-2.2	+2.:
AEP	3.52	84.20	+2.10	+2.6	+3.7	Lowes	4.40	230.24	-1.81	-0.8	+3.
Apple Inc s	.96	165.00	-11.55	-6.5	-14.3	MarathDig		16.50	+.39	+2.4	-29.
ApldMatl	1.60	189.77	-18.09	-8.7	+17.1	McDnlds	6.68	271.99	+4.60	+1.7	-8.
BP PLC	1.74	38.52	92	-2.3	+8.8	Microsoft	3.00	399.12	-22.78	-5.4	+6.
BkofAm	.96	36.97	+1.18	+3.3	+9.8	NL Inds	.32	7.81	12	-1.5	+39.
BrMySq	2.40	48.93	+.65	+1.3	-4.6	NiSource	1.06	27.58	+.51	+1.9	+3.
CampSp	1.48	44.20	+1.89	+4.5	+2.2	Nikola		.64	06	-8.0	-26.
Caterpillar	5.20	354.66	-9.67	-2.7	+20.0	NorflkSo	5.40	241.28	-4.46	-1.8	+2.
Chevron	6.52	160.00	+1.04	+0.7	+7.3	Nucor	2.16	191.36	-3.17	-1.6	+10.
Cisco	1.60	48.32	17	-0.4	-4.4	Nvidia	.16	762.00	-119.86	-13.6	+53.
Citigroup	2.12	59.14	54	-0.9	+15.0	Palantir		20.47	-2.20	-9.7	+19.
CleanSp		17.20	+2.35	+15.8	+55.9	PepsiCo	5.06	174.13	+6.03	+3.6	+2.
CocaCola	1.84	60.17	+1.89	+3.2	+2.1	Pfizer	1.68	26.00	+.14	+0.5	-9.
DirSPBr		10.36	+.94	+10.0	-10.3	PrUltPQ		49.48	-9.24	-15.7	-2.
DxSOXBI		30.79	-10.72	-25.8	-1.9	PShtQQQ		12.84	+1.95	+17.9	-4.
Disney	.30	112.61	-1.40	-1.2	+24.7	RiviaAu A		8.63	50	-5.5	-63.
Eaton	2.92	303.02	-15.48	-4.9	+25.8	SpdrDJIA	3.98	379.80	07		+.8
EliLilly	5.20	726.31	-25.33	-3.4	+24.6	S&P500ETF	4.13	495.16	-15.69	-3.1	+4.
ExxonMbl	3.80	119.88	49	-0.4	+19.9	SiNtxTc		.04	+.02	+75.0	-89.
FordM	.60	12.14	47	-3.7	4	SnapInc A		11.16	+.31	+2.9	-34.
FrankElec	.90	101.44	+.99	+1.0	+5.0	SPDR Fncl	.46	40.38	+.32	+0.8	+7.
FrptMcM	.30	49.61	+.14	+0.3	+16.5	StlDynam	1.84	136.90	-3.73	-2.7	+15.
GE Aero	1.12	148.06	-6.57	-4.2	+45.5	SummW rs		6.06	+3.81+	+169.3	-65.
GinkgoBi		.87		-14.4	-48.8	SuperCm				-20.3	-43.
HP Inc	1.02	27.81	72	-2.5	-7.6	Tellurian		.50	01	-1.0	-34.
HomeDp	9.00	335.36		-2.2	-3.2	Tesla		147.05	-24.00	-14.0	-40.
ShSilver		26.20	+.57	+2.2	+20.3	Vale SA	3.08		+.16	+1.3	-23.
ShChinaLC	.87	24.01	+.17	+0.7	1	VerizonCm	2.66	40.49	+.77	+1.9	+7.
iSh20 yrT	3.05	89.15	-1.14	-1.3		WalMart s	.83	59.53	61	-1.0	
ShiBxHYB	5.09	75.98	39	-0.5		WalgBoots	1.00		+.39	+2.2	-30.
iShR2K		193.14	-5.55	-2.8	-3.8	WsteMInc		207.07	+1.70	+0.8	+15.
Intel	.50	34.20	-1.49	-4.2	-31.9	WellsFargo	1.40	60.35	+3.88	+6.9	+22.

Money	RATES	S
	Last	Pvs Day
Prime Rate	8.50	8.50
Discount Rate	6.00	6.00
Federal Funds Rate	5.33	5.33
Treasuries		
1-year	5.17	5.18
2-year	4.99	4.99
5-year	4.66	4.68
10-year	4.63	4.64
30-year	4.72	4.73

	Cu	RRENCIES	
ay		Last	Pvs Day
50	Australia	1.5586	1.5577
33	Britain	1.2369	1.2436
3	Canada	1.3753	1.3775
_	Euro	.9390	.9394
8	Japan	154.60	154.61
9	Mexico	17.1388	17.0891
8	SwitzerInd	.9099	.9121
3	British pound expothers show dolla	oressed in U.S. r in foreign curre	dollars. All ncy.

	Mυ	TUAL	FUND	S			
Name	T Obi	otal Asse (\$MIns)		Tot 4-wk	al Return	/Rank 5-year	Pct Load
American Funds AmrcnBalA m		104,177	32.57	-2.3	+12.4/B	+7.5/B	5.75
American Funds EuroPacGrA m	FG		56.04	-3.7	+6.5/B	+4.9/C	5.75
American Funds EdmillnvsA m	LB	71,946	75.56	-3.0	+24.2/A	+11.6/D	5.75
American Funds GrfAmrcA m		138,543	67.00	-4.1	+30.4/C	+12.8/C	5.75
American Funds IncAmrcA m	AL	76,586	23.43	-1.8	+5.6/E	+6.3/D	5.75
American Funds InvCAmrcA m	LB	86,246	52.89	-3.1	+25.0/A	+12.4/C	5.75
American Funds NwPrspctvA m		59,714	57.43	-4.4	+15.1/C	+10.6/B	5.75
American Funds WAMtInvsA m	LB	84,412	59.28	-2.9	+18.5/D	+11.4/D	5.75
Davis NYVentureA m	LB	4,854	28.80	-1.0	+29.7/A	+9.8/E	4.75
Fidelity 500ldxInsPrm		534,035	172.54	-4.0	+21.4/B	+13.2/A	NL
Fidelity Contrafund		124,462	18.12	-3.8	+38.5/A	+15.6/A	NL
Fidelity TtlMktldxInsPrm	LB	90,963		-4.0	+20.9/C	+12.4/C	NL
Fidelity Advisor EquityGrowthA m		2.260	18.43	-5.7	+32.8/B	+16.7/A	5.75
Fidelity Advisor GrowthOppsA m	LG	,	136.99	-6.0	+36.2/A	+15.3/A	5.75
George Putnam BalA m	MA		23.52	-3.1	+15.9/A	+8.5/A	5.75
INVESCO MnStrA m	LB	9,097	52.89	-3.8	+20.6/C	+11.3/D	5.50
PIMCO Inclusti	MU		10.38	-1.0	+6.4/B	+2.6/B	NL
Putnam DiversIncA m	NT	533	5.35	-1.4	+3.9/D	-0.3/E	4.00
Putnam SustLeadersA m	LG	5,821	115.49	-5.2	+25.3/D	+13.3/C	5.75
Putnam TEIncA m	ML	537	7.73	-1.3	+3.9/B	+1.3/B	4.00
Schwab SP500ldx	LB	91,414	76.44	-2.6	+22.5	+13.4	NL
Thornburg IntermMnA m	MI	261	13.15	-0.8	+3.3/B	+1.3/C	2.00
Thornburg LtdTrmUSGvtA m	GS		11.60	-1.1	+0.4/E	-0.4/E	2.25
Vanguard 500ldxAdmrl		505,179		-4.0	+21.4/B	+13.2/A	NL
Vanguard GrldxAdmrl	LG	75,443		-5.9	+29.8/C	+15.7/A	NL
Vanguard InTrTEAdmrl	MI	69,955	13.51	-0.9	+2.8/C	+1.7/A	NL
Vanguard PrmCpAdmrl	LB	70,617		-3.6	+21.4/B	+12.4/C	NL
Vanguard TrgtRtr2025Fd	TG	77,474	18.42	-2.4	+8.5/A	+5.5/B	NL
Vanguard TrgtRtr2030Fd	TH		35.65	-2.8	+9.7/A	+6.2/B	NL
Vanguard TrgtRtr2035Fd	TI	96,066	22.32	-2.9	+10.8/C	+6.9/C	NL
Vanguard TrgtRtr2040Fd	TJ	85,087	39.78	-3.1	+11.8/D	+7.5/C	NL
Vanguard TrgtRtr2045Fd	TK	82,605	27.08	-3.3	+12.9/D	+8.2/C	NL
Vanguard TrgtRtr2050Fd	TN		45.23	-3.4	+13.5/D	+8.4/C	NL
Vanguard TtBMldxAdmrl	CI	98,643	9.32	-1.5	-0.1/C	0.0/C	NL
Vanguard TtlnSldxAdmrl	FB	75,190	31.02	-3.1	+6.4/C	+4.7/D	NL
Vanguard TtlnSldxInv		195,268	18.54	-3.1	+6.3/C	+4.6/D	NL
Vanguard TtlSMldxAdmrl		373,296	119.39	-4.0	+20.8/C	+12.4/C	NL
Vanguard WingtnAdmrl		98,087	72.26	-2.3	+11.7/B	+7.9/A	NL

-Conservative Allocation, CI -Intermediate-Term Bond, FB -Foreign Large Blend, GS -Short Government IB -World Bond, IH -World Állocation, LB -Large Blend, LG -Large Ğrowth, LV -Large Value, MA -Moderate Allocation, MI -Muni National Intermediate, MI -Muni National Long, NT -Nontraditional Bond, WS -World Stock, Total Return: Chng in NAV with dividends reinvested. Rank: How fund performed vs. others with same objective: A is in top 20%, E in bottom 20%. **Source**: Morningstar.

Stock Footnotes: g = Dividends and earnings in Canadian dollars. h = Does not meet continued-listing standards. If = Late filing with SEC. n = New in past 52 weeks. pf = Preferred. rs = Stock has undergone a reverse stock split of at least 50 percent within the past year. rt = Right to bus security at a specified price. s = Stock has split by at least 20 percent within the last year. un = Units. vj = In bankruptcy or receivership. wd = When distributed. wi = When issued. wt = Warrants. Mutual Fund Footnotes: b = Fee covering market costs is paid from fund assets. d = Deferred sales charge, or redemption fee. f = front load (sales charges). m = Multiple fees are charged. NA = not available. p = previous day's net asset value. s = fund split shares during the week. x = fund paid a distribution during the week. Source: The Associated Press. Sales figures are unofficial.

Smile!

Dear Annie: I notice many readers have problems and anxieties. Maybe something my mother taught me will help them.

She lost two husbands to illness and had a chronic illness herself. We almost lost my brother on the same day my dad died. She raised three boys in a small town taking any job available. Through all these hard times, she always found something to make us laugh. People loved her laugh and smiling face. There is a fine line between laughing and crying, of course. I know she crossed it many times, but few knew.

I was married for 62 years. Our disagreements were short-lived because one of us would make the other laugh. There is a side benefit to this type of lifestyle. When she died at age 82, neither of us had any wrinkles.

In business, I printed small yellow cards with the word SMILE and gave them away. Many people told me they put it on their bathroom mirror and always started their day with a smile.

Whatever your problem is today you won't remember it in six months. Why ruin a beautiful day feeling miserable. There are other things to think about. If life deals you a hard blow, and you don't know what to do, remember this.

water; you drown by staying there. -Larry T.

Dear Larry: Thank you for the big smile and big perspective. I'm grateful to people such as yourself, who find little ways to make the world a brighter

Dear Annie: About one year ago, I ended my very first relationship. We were together for about six months. He was a horrible boyfriend, but that was only the beginning of it. He sexually violated me the entire time we were together. He didn't listen to a single thing I asked him to either do or not do. He would kiss me even when I told him I didn't want to kiss him, sit close by me when I told him I wasn't comfortable with it, and touch my legs no matter

what I did.

When it was happening, I pinned the blame on myself. I thought I was just scared to do all of this stuff because I'd never done it before. But now I realize it wasn't my fault.

I haven't seen or talked to him since I broke up with him. But since

then, I've been tortured by the thought of him. Everything reminds me of him and makes me feel anxious. I told myself things would get better and in a month I'd be back to normal. But it's been a year and I still feel tortured remembering what happened. Every night, I'm scared to fall asleep because my dreams are filled with him sexually abusing me. What do I do? — Desperate

Dear

Annie

by Annie Lane

Dear Desperate: It is horrendous that your ex-boyfriend treated you so poorly. Intimate relationships are premised on the idea of feeling safe enough around one another to be vulnerable. He turned that on its head. I'm sorry You don't drown by falling in the this happened. But I promise you won't feel this way forever. With the help of the right people, you can process what happened, seek justice and begin to experience life again. Call the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-4673 or visit rainn.org to connect with trained specialists who can help you identify the next steps in the path toward healing.

> "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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Young children ask

BEETLE BAILEY





BLONDIE







ZITS







CRANKSHAFT





My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham

Question: Children

amaze me with their ques-

tions. I protect my children

from listening and watch-

ing the wrong things, so I make sure they are looking

at wholesome books and

watching good programs

carefully selected to instill

in them the right values.

When they ask questions,

is it wise to try and find

a Bible verse for them to

understand, or should I

wait until they have a more

mature understanding of

ask the most amazing

questions about God and

Heaven! And when they

do, we shouldn't ignore

them or act like their ques-

tions aren't important –

When children ask

because they are.

A: Young children can

spiritual things? – I.M.



the most amazing questions about God about God, we must do our best to answer simply and honestly in terms they can understand. Of course,

they don't need deep and complicated answers, but just because they can't understand everything about God doesn't mean they can't understand something about Him. We may not understand electricity, but it doesn't mean we can't turn on a light switch. Adults need to ask God

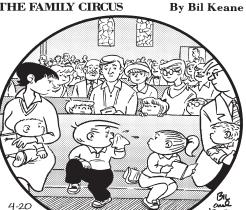
for patience also, because children have a way of asking questions until we run out of answers! We should be thankful for their interest in spiritual things and do all we can to encourage them, making it fun and challenging to choose a Bible verse to memorize, or a particular Bible story to read and help them retell it. We should do all that is possible to let them know that the things of God are important in life. They can begin to sense the love of Jesus through our love for

Jesus told His disciples to let the children come to Him (see Mark 10:14), and He continues to open His arms to them centuries later. Jesus cares; we must encourage them in their learning of Him.

(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Gra-

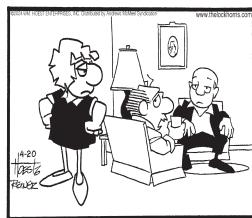
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"I've never heard so many 'bless yous' for one sneeze.'

The LOCKHORNS



"I MARRIED LORETTA FOR HER LOOKS ... BUT NOT THE ONE SHE'S GIVING ME NOW."

N THE CLASSIFIEDS

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Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope with a notation clearly indicating that the envelope contains a sealed bid for the solid waste and recycling contract and the name of the bidder. Bid packets, with instructions and bid forms, are available in the Markle Town Hall, contact Stephenie Hensley, Clerk-Treasurer, 154 E. Morse Street, P.O. Box 367, Markle, Indiana 46770, 260-758-3193, clerk@ townofmarkle.in.gov. Bids shall be firm for thirty (30) days following

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41-42-43-44-49-52-60-63-68-69-80, BE: 15 **Daily Three-Midday** — 02-00-04, SB: 04

Daily Three-Evening — 08-01-07, SB: 08

Daily Four-Midday — 05-09-05-06, SB: 04
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Quick Draw Evening — 01-07-17-19-25-32-36-37-3943-44-47-48-57-61-63-67-69-72-79, BE: 44

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Victims of Columbine shooting to be remembered at 25th anniversary

DENVER (AP) — The 12 students and one teacher killed in the Columbine High School shooting will be remembered Friday in a vigil on the eve of the 25th anniversary of the tragedy.

The gathering, set up by gun safety and other organizations, is the main public event marking the anniversary, which is more subdued than in previous milestone

Former Arizona Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, who began campaigning for gun safety after she was nearly killed in a mass shooting, will be among those speaking at the vigil. So will Nathan Hochhalter, whose sister Anne Marie was paralyzed after she was shot at Columbine. Several months after the shooting, their mother, Carla Hochhalter, took her own life.

The organizers of the vigil, which will also honor all those impacted by the shooting, include Colorado Ceasefire, Brady United Against Gun Violence and Colorado Faith Communities United Against Gun Violence, but they say it will not be a political event.

Tom Mauser, whose son

Daniel, a sophomore who excelled in math and science, was killed at Columbine, decided to set up the vigil after learning school officials did not plan to organize a large community event as they did on the 20th anniversary. Mauser, who became a gun safety advocate after the shooting, said he realizes that it takes a lot of volunteers and money to put together that kind of event but he wanted to give people a chance to gather and mark the passage of 25 years since the shooting, a significant number people can relate to.

"For those who do want to reflect on it, it is something for them," said Mauser, who is on Colorado Ceasefire's board and asked the group to help organize the event at a church near the state Capitol in Denver. It had been scheduled to be held on the steps of the Capitol but was moved indoors because of expected rain.

Mauser successfully led the campaign to pass a ballot measure requiring background checks for all firearm buyers at gun shows in 2000 after Colorado's legislature failed to change the law. It was designed to close a loophole that helped a friend of the Columbine gunmen obtain three of the four firearms used in the

A proposal requiring such checks nationally, inspired by Columbine, failed in Congress in 1999 after passing the Senate but dying in the House, said Robert Spitzer, professor emeritus at the State University of New York-Cortland and author of several books on gun politics.

Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore ran on a gun safety agenda against Republican George W. Bush the following year, but after his stance was mistakenly seen as a major reason for his defeat, Democrats largely abandoned the issue for the following decade, Spitzer said. But gun safety became a more prominent political issue again after the 2012 Sandy Hook shooting, he said.

Without much action nationally on guns, Democrat-led and Republicancontrolled states have taken divergent approaches to responding to mass shootWhite House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre on Friday called on Congress to do more, including ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, require safe storage of guns, enact universal background checks and and pass a national red-flag law.

"Since Columbine, there have been hundreds of school shootings, exposing hundreds of thousands of students to the horrors of gun violence. As the president has said, this is not normal, and it must end," Jean-Pierre said.

Colorado lawmakers on Sunday advanced a bill banning semiautomatic firearm sales and transfers. The measure would bring Colorado in line with 10 other states — including California, New York and Illinois — with prohibitions on semiautomatics. It still must get through the Senate, and Democratic Gov. Jared Polis has indicated he's wary of such a ban.

Those killed at Columbine included Dave Sanders, a teacher who was shot as he shepherded students to safety during the attack. He lay bleeding in a class-

room for almost four hours before authorities reached him. The students killed included one who wanted to be a music executive like his father, a senior and captain of the girls' varsity volleyball team, and a teen who enjoyed driving off-road in his beat-up Chevy pickup.

Sam Cole, another Colorado Ceasefire board mem-

ber, said he hopes people will come out to remember the victims and not let the memory of them fade. The students killed would now be adults in the prime of their lives with families of their own, he said.

"It's just sad to think that they are always going to be etched in our mind as teenagers," he said.

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Biden administration restricts gas, oil leasing in 13M acres of Alaska's petroleum reserve

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — The Biden administration said Friday it will restrict new oil and gas leasing on 13 million acres (5.3 million hectares) of a federal petroleum reserve in Alaska to help protect wildlife such as caribou and polar bears as the Arctic continues to warm.

The decision — part of a yearslong fight over whether and how to develop the vast oil resources in the state — finalizes protections first proposed last year as the Democratic administration prepared to approve the contentious Willow oil project.

The approval of Willow drew fury from environmentalists, who said the large oil project violated President Joe Biden's pledge to combat climate change. Friday's decision also completes an earlier plan that called for closing nearly half the reserve to oil and gas leasing

A group of Republican lawmakers, led by Alaska U.S. Sen. Dan Sullivan, jumped out ahead of Friday's announcement about the new limitations in the National Petroleum-Reserve Alaska before it was publicly announced. Sullivan called it an "illegal" attack on the state's economic lifeblood, and he predicted lawsuits.

"It's more than a one-two punch to Alaska," Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski said, "because when you take off access to our resources, when you say you cannot drill, you cannot produce, you cannot explore, you cannot move it — this is the energy insecurity that we're talking about."

The decision by the Interior Department doesn't change the terms of existing leases in the reserve or affect currently authorized operations, including Willow.

The Biden administration also Friday recommended the rejection of a state corporation's application related to a proposed 210-mile

road in the northwest part of the state to allow mining of critical mineral deposits, including including copper, cobalt, zinc, silver and gold. There are no mining proposals or current mines in the area, and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management determined the roadbuilding alternatives analyzed "would significantly and irrevocably impact resources," the agency said in a statement. A final decision on the recommendation is pending.

Brian Ridley, chief of Tanana Chiefs Conference, an Alaska Native nonprofit corporation, said the administration's "choice to reject the Ambler Road Project is a monumental step forward in the fight for Indigenous rights and environmental justice." The tribes of the Tanana Chiefs Conference had expressed concerns a road would harm their communities, land and wildlife.

Sullivan accused the administration of undermining U.S. national security interests with both decisions. Alaska political leaders have long accused the administration of harming the state with decisions limiting the development of oil and gas, minerals and timber.

"Joe Biden is fine with our adversaries producing energy and dominating the world's critical minerals while shutting down our own in America, as long as the far-left radicals he feels are key to his reelection are satisfied," Sullivan said Thursday at a Capitol news conference with 10 other GOP senators. "What a dangerous world this president has created."

Biden defended his decision regarding the petroleum reserve.

Alaska's "majestic and rugged lands and waters are among the most remarkable and healthy landscapes in the world," are critical to Alaska Native communities and "demand our protection," he said in a statement.

Nagruk Harcharek, presi-

dent of Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat, a group whose members include leaders from across much of Alaska's North Slope region, in a statement said the decision "does not reflect our communities' wishes." The group's board of directors previously passed a resolution opposing the administration's plans for the reserve, and Harcharek expressed frustrations that local leaders were not consulted before details of the administration's proposal were released last Septem-

"From our perspective, essentially what you're doing is you're taking the economic potential and shrinking it to a point where, we don't know," he said in an interview regarding Friday's announcement. "There's a lot of unknowns associated with that."

The American Petroleum Institute, the oil industry's top lobbying group, called the rule "misguided" and said it sharply limits future oil and natural gas development in the petroleum reserve, "a region explicitly intended by Congress to bolster America's energy security" and generate revenue for Alaskan communities.

"At a time when the world is looking for American energy leadership, this is yet another step in the wrong direction," said Dustin Meyer, an API senior vice president.

The petroleum reserve, about 100 miles west of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, is home to caribou and polar bears and provides habitat for millions of migrating birds. It was set aside around a century ago as an emergency oil source for the U.S. Navy, but since the 1970s it has been overseen by the Interior Department. There has been ongoing, longstanding debate over where oil and gas development should occur.

Most existing leases in the petroleum reserve are clustered in an area that's considered to have high development potential, according to the Bureau of Land Management, which falls under the Interior Department. The development potential in other parts of the reserve is lower, the

agency said.

The rules announced Friday would place restrictions on future leasing and industrial development in areas designated as special for their wildlife, subsistence or other values and call for the agency to evaluate regularly whether to designate new special areas or bolster protections in those areas. The agency cited as a rationale the rapidly changing conditions in the Arctic due to climate change, including melting permafrost and changes in plant life and wildlife corridors.

ConocoPhillips Alaska, which has leases and projects in the petroleum reserve, including Willow, is reviewing the decision "to determine its scope and effect," according to a company statement.

Environmentalists were elated by Friday's decision.

"The Biden administration's actions for America's Arctic shows a commitment to conservation that meets the needs of the region's outsized vastness and ecological value," said Kristen Miller, executive director at Alaska Wilderness League. "Our nation's public lands are an essential part of addressing the climate and biodiversity crisis, and this decision could not come at a more critical time."

Activist Bill McKibben called the decision a "massive win," adding: "We lost the fight over Willow, but the huge outcry meant that some real good came of that debacle."

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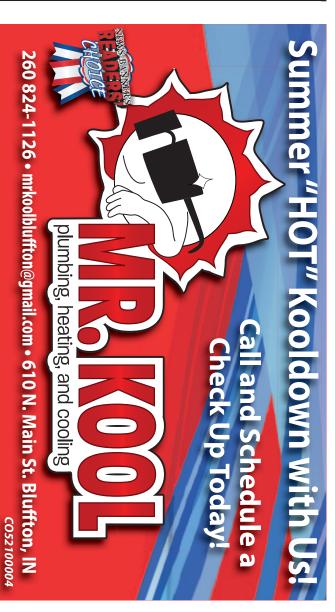
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A Talk with Tego



Luke is an eight-monthold, Border Collie/Blue Heeler mix male.



Lucy is an eight-monthold, Border Collie/Blue Heeler mix female.



These are just a few pets available for adoption at the Wells County Animal Shelter, 1613 W. Cherry St., Bluffton. For more information call 824-6063.



Lady is an eight-monthold, Border Collie/Blue Heeler mix female.



Tego



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