

# The News - Banner

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FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2024

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### Silly songs with OES

Ossian Elementary School hosted a special "Bear Country Jamboree" Thursday night, where families enjoyed numerous activities, performances and snacks, including a book fair with children's book authors. Above, a bear mascot brings on cheers at the end of a performance in the gym. At right, Ella Murawski plays a number game with fourth grade teacher Diana Wyrich. Below, Rosie Heimann shows her bear picture. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)



## Area Plan Commission recommends new TIF district addition

By JONATHAN SNYDER

New parcels of land south of State Road 124, east of Meridian Road, north of County Road East 100 South, and west of South Adams Street were given a "do-pass" recommendation to be added to Bluffton's Tax Increment Financing district in a resolution approved by the Wells County Area Plan Commission on Thursday.

Josh Hunt represented the Bluffton Redevelopment Commission, who approved the parcel additions in their meeting on April 2. Hunt clarified to the board that all the owners know about the change and can opt in to negotiations with the city if they choose. Hunt also stated this change will help the building and running of a future electric substation on Cherry Street.

"All this does is put property on a list," City Attorney Tony Crowell said in a request for clarification. "If the (Bluffton) Redevelopment Commission wants to purchase property it must be on the Acquisition List. Being on the list doesn't obligate the RDC or the property owner to buy or sell. It's simply a statutory formality."

Area Plan Commission Executive Director Mike Lautzenheiser said that the area is either zoned for industrial development or next to industrial zoned ground. Lautzenheiser also noted that the parcels connect with other TIF districts.

The matter will now pass to the Bluffton Common Council, who will decide on the matter in next Tuesday's meeting.

The commission also took action on four junk accumulation violations. Cody Plagmann's junk violation on 5926 North Main St. in Uniondale was cleared and the proper-

ty is now to ordinance standards. Plagmann showed pictures of the property to the board and Lautzenheiser did not find any outstanding junk that needed to be cleared.

Lautzenheiser also announced plans to kick off development of individual community focus plans for Wells County as part of their Vision 2035 plan. A kickoff meeting and initial steering committee meeting is scheduled for next week, and public input will take place throughout the year.

Additionally, Lautzenheiser reported that three alleys for the downtown pathways project are almost complete. Lautzenheiser also said that the last part of the Interurban Trail project and phase two of the Lancaster Park project are scheduled to be completed later this year.

Lautzenheiser also announced that Wells County Trails has selected Isch Excavation out of Adams County to construct the Vera Cruz Paddlesports Launch site. A link to the 2023 housing and economic needs assessment study has been put on the APC's website, with Lautzenheiser clarifying that outside developers have taken a growing interest in building apartment and multi-family housing in the area.

Also, a violation for Rodger Watson on 766 S 200 E in Bluffton was given a 90-day continuance. It is estimated that eight or nine non-operational cars are still on the property with 10 to 12 cars already moved, according to pictures sent to the APC office. A rainy April has hindered progress, but the remaining scrap metal will be put into a dumpster and a local junkyard will help remove the rest of the cars.

(Continued on Page 2)

## Here's what's on the table for Israel and Hamas in the latest cease-fire talks

By SAMY MAGDY and DREW CALLISTER  
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Israel and Hamas appear to be seriously negotiating an end to the war in Gaza and the return of Israeli hostages. A leaked truce proposal hints at compromises by both sides after months of stalemated talks.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken this week praised Israel for offering what he described as significant concessions and saying "the time is now" for Hamas to seal the deal. Hamas leaders, meanwhile, say they are reviewing the proposal in a "positive spirit" and sending a team to Egypt in the coming days to continue the talks.

Here's what we know so far about the current proposal, confirmed by Egyptian and Hamas officials who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss behind-the-scenes negotiations.

### WHERE THE TWO SIDES STAND

Israeli leaders are weighing whether to accept a deal that would delay or prevent their planned ground invasion of the southern Gaza city of Rafah — a scenario

that falls short of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's pledges of "total victory" and the destruction of Hamas.

Hamas' militant leaders must decide if giving up the hostages, the group's biggest bargaining chip, is worth securing a long-term truce but not necessarily a permanent end to the war.

The plan offered by Egyptian mediators aims to stave off Israel's Rafah offensive, which the U.S. says would have devastating consequences for over a million displaced Palestinians crowded against the border with Egypt. The Egyptians have also warned Israel against the operation, fearing a flood of Palestinian refugees driven into its territory.

### DE-ESCALATE IN PHASES

The initial stage of the deal would last for 40 days. Hamas would start by releasing female civilian hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

After this first batch, Israeli troops would withdraw from a coastal road in Gaza and head inland to facilitate the entry of humanitarian aid. This would also allow displaced

(Continued on Page 2)



### Arby's and Axoles kick off season

Brok'n Axoles, a nonprofit car club, will be holding car shows at Arby's once a month from May through October. Prizes for the top 10 in show are given out, and the club partners with other nonprofits so both entities can show their work to a larger audience. Top, Matthew Battershell polishes his 2012 Dodge Challenger. Middle, Anne and Mike Cayot showcase their 1965 Cadillac. At left, Mike Stetzel shows off the engine of his 1932 Ford RatRod. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)

### Thursday's print edition

The News-Banner ran into printing press issues on Thursday, which caused us to miss the mailing deadline with the Post Office for Thursday's edition The News-Banner and The Ossian Journal. The original problem with the press has not been corrected as of Friday's press run, and the paper will look different than normal on Thursday and Friday. We hope to have the issue resolved in time for Saturday's News-Banner. We appreciate everyone who called or stopped in the office, but mostly we appreciate your patience as we work through the problem.

— Doug Brown, publisher

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### Outside



Showers and storms today through next week

Today	Saturday	Sunday
High 72	High 75	High 75
Low 57	Low 59	Low 56

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- Nascar Circuit
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- Indy Car

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## Area Plan Commission

(Continued from Page 1)  
A 30-day continuance was given to 10017 S 200 W. Cody Miller is currently seeking to buy the property and is searching for a place to scrap two fiberglass boats in violation of the ordinance. Two trucks are also in violation of APC ordinances, but Miller plans to take those with him when he moves in the next couple of months.

APC member Geoff Lance and Miller discussed how long it would take for the junk could be cleared. Miller stated that there are no designated boat scrap yards near Bluffton, slowing the process. Lance and the APC stated that the Tonner Solid Waste Transfer Station could take the boats, but their guidelines do not clearly state if they accept or deny fiberglass.

Since other junk on the ground has been cleared since the initial 90-day continuance in January, according to Lautzenheiser, the APC decided to grant more time to Miller.

Denny Foss' junk violation on 6010 S S.R. 1 in Bluffton was cleared and the property is now to ordinance standards. Foss showed pictures of the property to the APC and they agreed that

the property looks good.

Melissa Woodworth's substitute, Jeff Kemper, took her place at the meeting. All other members were present. Before closing the meeting, APC President Jerome Markley reminded the APC that they voted for the next meeting to be on June 13, deviating from the traditional first Thursday of the month date.

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## Israel and Hamas talks

(Continued from Page 1)  
civilians to return to their homes in the northern Gaza Strip. Hamas would provide a list of hostages who are still alive during that time. Israel estimates that Hamas is holding about 100 hostages and the remains of 30 others either killed in the Oct. 7 Hamas attack that sparked the war or who have died in captivity.

Within the third week, both sides would start indirect negotiations that aim to restore permanent calm. Three weeks into the first phase, Israeli troops would withdraw from central Gaza.

**NEXT STEPS TOWARD PEACE**  
The second six-week phase would seek to finalize arrangements for a permanent calm, the release of all remaining hostages held by Hamas, both civilians and soldiers, in exchange for more Palestinian prisoners. The soldier hostages would not be released before the start of the calm.

The third and final stage would include the release of the remains of deceased hostages still in Gaza, more prisoners held by Israel, and the start of a five-year reconstruction plan. The plan says that Hamas would agree not to rebuild its military arsenal.

### STICKING POINTS

Both sides want to end the war on their own terms.  
Hamas leaders have for months

refused anything short of a full Israeli pullout from the Gaza Strip and a permanent end to the fighting. Hamas negotiators will be seeking clarification on these issues when they return to Cairo.

Israel wants to see all remaining hostages home safe, with Hamas and other militant groups crushed on the battlefield and expelled from power in Gaza — unable to launch another attack like the one on Oct. 7 that sparked the war.

Israel says the Rafah invasion is critical for these goals. Netanyahu says Israel will invade the town with or without a hostage deal.

Netanyahu also faces heavy domestic pressure. Thousands of people have joined weekly demonstrations calling on him to reach a hostage deal immediately. At the same time, hard-liners in his Cabinet have threatened to bring down the government if he ends the war.

The Biden administration, which provides Israel crucial military and diplomatic support, says it opposes a Rafah invasion unless Israel provides a "credible" plan for protecting civilians there.

### POST-WAR UNCERTAINTY

It is not clear whether the cease-fire proposal addresses key questions about what happens in Gaza once the current round of fighting ends.

The United States has called for

a plan that includes a return of the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority, which was ousted from Gaza by Hamas in 2007 and now administers parts of the occupied West Bank.

The Biden administration seeks eventual Palestinian governance in Gaza and the West Bank as a precursor to Palestinian statehood. Netanyahu and his right-wing government reject a role for the Palestinian Authority in Gaza and say they will never allow a Palestinian state.

Israel wants open-ended freedom of action for its military in Gaza, while the Biden administration says it won't accept a return of Israeli military occupation of the Gaza Strip.

It also remains unclear who will run Gaza during the five-year reconstruction phase, what will happen to Hamas during that time and who will pay for the daunting job of rebuilding.

The stakes were underscored in a new U.N. report Thursday that estimated damage caused by the war in Gaza at over \$18.5 billion. It said it would take until 2040 to rebuild all of the homes destroyed in nearly seven months of Israeli bombardment and ground offensives. Gaza was already grappling with a 45% unemployment rate before the war, according to the U.N. Development Program.

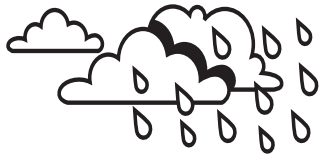
## Weather

Friday, May 3, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:43 p.m. Thursday)  
**High: 85; Low: 54; Precipitation: None**  
**Wabash River Level** (at the Main Street bridge): 3.2 feet at 8:45 p.m. Thursday

### Wells County forecast

**Today:** Scattered showers and thunderstorms, then showers and possibly a thunderstorm after 8 a.m. High near 72. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming northwest in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.



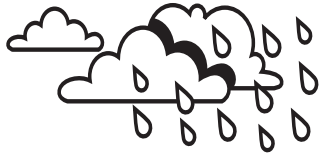
**Tonight:** Showers and possibly a thunderstorm before 8 p.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms between 8 p.m. and 2 a.m., then a chance of showers after 2 a.m. Low around 57. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%.



**Saturday:** A chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 75. East wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

**Saturday Night:** A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 59. East wind around 5 mph becoming south after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

**Sunday:** A chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 75. Chance of precipitation is 40%.



**Sunday Night:** A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 56.

**Monday:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 74. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

**Monday Night:** Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before 8 p.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 8 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 60. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

**Tuesday:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms, then showers and possibly a thunderstorm after 2 p.m. High near 79. Chance of precipitation is 80%.



**Tuesday Night:** Showers and thunderstorms. Low around 63. Chance of precipitation is 80%.

**Wednesday:** A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 81.

**Wednesday Night:** Showers and thunderstorms likely. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 61.

**Thursday:** A chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 75.

## Send us Patriots: Ukraine's battered energy plants seek air defenses against Russian attacks

By JILL LAWLESS  
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — At a Ukrainian power plant repeatedly hit by Russian aerial attacks, equipment department chief Oleh has a one-word answer when asked what Ukraine's battered energy industry needs most: "Patriot."

Ukrainian energy workers are struggling to repair the damage from intensifying airstrikes aimed at pulverizing Ukraine's energy grid, hobbling the economy and sapping the public's morale. Staff worry they will lose the race to prepare for winter unless allies come up with air-defense systems like the U.S.-made Patriots to stop Russian attacks inflicting more destruction on already damaged plants.

"Rockets hit fast. Fixing takes long," Oleh said in limited but forceful English.

The U.S. has sent Ukraine some Patriot missile systems, and said last week it would give more after entreaties from President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

The Associated Press on Thursday visited a plant owned by DTEK, the country's biggest private energy supplier, days after a cruise-missile attack left parts of it a mess of

smashed glass, shattered bricks and twisted metal. The coal-fired plant is one of four DTEK power stations struck on the same day last week.

The AP was given access on the condition that the location of the facility, technical details of the damage and workers' full names are not published due to security concerns.

During the visit, State Emergency Service workers in hard hats and harnesses clambered atop the twisted roof of a vast building, assessing the damage and occasionally dislodging chunks of debris with a thunderous clang.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba told Foreign Policy magazine that half of the country's energy system has been damaged by Russian attacks.

DTEK says it has lost 80% of its electricity-generating capacity in almost 180 aerial attacks since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022. It estimates that repairing all the damaged plants would take between six months and two years — even if there are no more strikes.

Shift supervisor Ruslan was on duty in the operations room when the air alarm sounded. He sent his crew to a basement shelter

but remained at his post when the blast struck only meters (yards) away.

He rushed out to darkness, dust and fire. He said he wasn't scared because "I knew what I needed to do" — make sure his team was OK and then try to help put out the flames.

Russia pummeled Ukraine's energy infrastructure to devastating effect during the "black-out winter" of 2022-23. In March it launched a new wave of attacks, one of which completely destroyed the Trypilyska power plant near Kyiv, one of the country's biggest.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has framed the attacks as retaliation for Ukrainian strikes on Russian oil refineries.

Oleh said the Russians are "learning all the time" and adapting their tactics. Initially they targeted transformers that distribute power; now they aim for the power-generating equipment itself, with increasing accuracy. The Russians also are sending growing numbers of missiles and exploding drones to exhaust Ukraine's air defenses, and striking the same targets repeatedly.

DTEK executive director Dmytro Sakharuk said in March that out of 10 units the company had repaired after earlier strikes, two-thirds had

been hit again.

More Russian missiles have been getting through in recent months as Ukraine awaited new supplies from allies, including a \$61 billion package from the U.S. that was held up for months by wrangling in Congress. It was finally approved in April, but it could be weeks or months before all the new weapons and ammunition arrives.

Ukraine's energy firms have all but exhausted their finances, equipment and spare parts fixing the damage Russia has already wrought. The country's power plants urgently need specialist equipment that Ukraine can no longer make at sufficient speed and scale.

Some 51 DTEK employees have been wounded in attacks since 2022, and three have been killed. Staff say they keep working despite the danger because they know how crucial their work is.

Machine operator Dmytro, who was on shift during the recent attack and took shelter in the basement, said that when he emerged, "my soul was bleeding when I saw the scale of the destruction."

He thought of the many people who had poured heart and soul into building the mammoth power plant.

## Biden: 'Order must prevail' during campus protests

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden on Thursday rejected calls from student protesters to change his approach to the war in Gaza while insisting that "order must prevail" as college campuses across the country face a wave of violence, outrage and fear.

"Dissent is essential for democracy," Biden said at the White House. "But dissent must never lead to disorder."

The Democratic president broke days of silence on the protests with his remarks, which followed mounting criticism from Republicans who have tried to turn scenes of unrest into a campaign cudgel. By focusing on a law-and-order message while defending the right to free speech, Biden is grasping for a middle ground on an intensely divisive issue in the middle of his reelection campaign.

He largely sidestepped protesters' demands, which have included ending U.S. support for Israeli military operations. Asked after his remarks whether the demonstrations would prompt him to consider changing course, Biden

responded with a simple "no."

Biden said that he did not want the National Guard to be deployed to campuses. Some Republicans have called for sending in troops, an idea with a fraught history. Four students were shot and killed at Kent State University by members of the Ohio National Guard during protests over the Vietnam War in 1970.

Tensions on college campuses have been building for days as demonstrators refuse to remove encampments and administrators turn to police to clear them by force, leading to clashes that have seized widespread attention.

Biden said he rejected efforts to use the situation to "score political points," calling the situation a "moment for clarity."

"There's the right to protest, but not the right to cause chaos," Biden said shortly before leaving the White House for a trip to North Carolina. "People have the right to get an education, the right to get a degree, the right to walk across campus safely without fear of being attacked."

The White House also maintained its focus on combating antisemitism. Doug Emhoff, husband of Vice President Kamala Harris, spoke to Jewish students and Hillel leaders on Thursday to hear about their experience with threats and hate speech, according to a White House official.

Biden will make his own visit to a college campus on May 19 when he's scheduled to deliver the commencement address at Morehouse University in Atlanta.

His last previous public comment on the demonstrations came more than a week ago, when he condemned "antisemitic protests" and "those who don't understand what's going on with the Palestinians."

The White House, which has been peppered with questions by reporters, had gone only slightly further than the president. On Wednesday, press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said that Biden was "monitoring the situation closely" and that some demonstrations had stepped over a line that separated free speech from unlawful behavior.

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**In Next Weeks News-Banner**

**OBITUARIES**

**Gail Hollister, 71**

Gail Elaine Hollister, 71, of Wolcottville, Indiana, died at her home on May 1, 2024.

Mrs. Hollister was born on March 6, 1953, in Bluffton, to Clarence Albert and Mary Lou (Hankins) Mossburg; they preceded her in death.

Mrs. Hollister taught at Wolcott Mills Elementary School in Wolcottville. She taught 5th grade for most of her career but had also taught 4th grade, Reading Recovery and Gifted and Talented Class.

Gail was a member of the Open Door Community Church in Wolcottville, where she was involved in outreach and membership, was the social secretary, and helped with Bible school and Kids Club Youth Group. She was also an essay reader for the LaGrange County Community Foundation, enjoyed visiting friends and family, traveling, reading, doing puzzles, playing Wordscapes and Sudoku, and watching Hallmark movies. She liked to watch birds, especially hummingbirds and cardinals, and loved to be around flowers.

On Aug. 6, 1977, in Bluffton, she married Jeryl Wright Hollister; Jerry survives in Wolcottville.

Also surviving is a son, Nathan (Stephanie) Hollister of Lafayette; a sister, Christine Mossburg of Wolcottville; brothers, Steven (Dona) Mossburg of Wolcottville, Bruce W. Mossburg of Grand Rapids, and Brian K. Mossburg of Bluffton; and a close family friend, Marsha Bartrom of Wolcottville.

Visitation will take place from 3-7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at Frurip-May Funeral Home, 309 W. Michigan St. in LaGrange.

Funeral services will take place at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at the funeral home.

Graveside services will take place at 1 p.m. at Woodlawn Cemetery in Warren.

Memorials may be made to Open Door Community Church in Wolcottville.

Condolences may be left for the family at [www.fruripmayfuneralhome.com](http://www.fruripmayfuneralhome.com).



**Contention brews in ongoing state abortion ban lawsuit over confidential documents**

By CASEY SMITH  
**Indiana Capital Chronicle**

A three-day bench trial scheduled for later this month will put Hoosier abortion providers and the state attorney general's office back in court as the battle over Indiana's near-total abortion ban continues. Already in contention, however, is whether certain testimony and internal hospital documents entered as exhibits in the case should become public.

Attorneys for the abortion providers, along with those for Eskenazi Health — which is not a party in the case — maintain that dissemination of those confidential materials will create a “significant risk of substantial harm” to the hospital, as well as patients who received abortion care.

The special judge presiding over the case has so far ordered temporary exclusion of some documents from public view, but it's not yet clear if they'll be presented at trial, slated for May 29-31 in Monroe County.

The matter stems from an amended complaint filed in November by the American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana on behalf of Indiana's Planned Parenthood, Women's Med Group, All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center and obstetrician-gynecologist Dr. Amy Caldwell.

Their original court challenge — which alleged the ban would infringe on a constitutional right to privacy and violate guarantees of equal privileges and immunities — kept enforcement on hold for about a year. The Indiana Supreme Court upheld the ban in June 2023, but said Hoosiers could still sue over specific parts of the ban or concrete examples of its consequences.

With the door left open for additional litigation, the plaintiffs are now seeking new injunctions against health and hospital clauses in the state abortion law which they argue are overly narrow or unnecessary.

Women's Med Group has since been dismissed from the case, though. The provider indicated earlier this year it had closed its only facility in Indiana and no longer seeks to provide abortions.

**What should be public?**

In February, Special Judge Kelsey Blake Hanlon laid out parameters for confidential discovery and exhibits, including those containing health-related details, information protected by physician-patient privilege, or other information “that may cause harm” to those involved.

Information designated as “confidential” can only be accessed or reviewed by the judge and court staff, the named parties and their counsel, and experts who sign confidentiality agreements.

The Indiana Attorney General's Office, representing defendants in the lawsuit, filed its list of exhibits in March, including six to be kept from public view. Among those were depositions of Caldwell, the Indianapolis OB-GYN, and Indiana Planned Parenthood COO Sharon Dudash; an IU Health/Eskenazi Health “Complex Family Planning Care” document; and IU Health internal documents relating to abortion-related policies and practices put in place after the statewide ban took effect.

But Eskenazi attorneys pushed back, saying in an April 11 filing that the court should “permanently exclude” the confidential documents from public access. Not doing so will create a “significant risk of substantial harm to Eskenazi Health, its workforce members, and others,” according to the court filing.

Shortly after, ACLU of Indiana counsel, on behalf of the plaintiffs, additionally requested several other exhibits be permanently excluded, including:

- Documents that contain “sensitive, non-public information about Dr. Caldwell” and Indiana Planned Parenthood's abortion practice

prior to the near-total ban going into effect. Other document excerpts include confidential information about specific individuals affiliated with Planned Parenthood and AllOptions, as well as “confidential and proprietary business information.”

- Exhibit pieces containing “sensitive, non-public information concerning patients who either received or sought abortion care — and who are not parties to this litigation.”

- Two additional “sensitive internal documents” that contain “confidential and proprietary” business information about Planned Parenthood's abortion care procedures prior to the state's new abortion law going into effect.

“If the confidential versions of these documents are not permanently prohibited from public access, (Indiana's Planned Parenthood) and its providers, Dr. Caldwell, All-Options, and the patients discussed in these documents will be at significant risk of substantial harm,” the plaintiffs wrote. They noted that permitting the confidential versions of the documents to remain sealed is consistent with the approach that Indiana courts have taken in other circumstances involving a “significant risk of substantial harm.”

“Given the volatile climate surrounding abortion care, the patients discussed in these documents deserve to have their privacy rights respected and protected,” the plaintiffs continued. “Moreover, given the very low number of abortions performed in Indiana, there is a risk that the patients who received the healthcare discussed in this confidential testimony could be identified and risk reputational damage or much worse.”

Hanlon has so far ordered the exhibits in question to be excluded, pending further review and a hearing. The two depositions are available but redacted.

In Caldwell's deposition, for example, the doctor said she's performed 14 or 15 abortions in Indiana since the near-total ban took effect. At least “half, if not more” were for fetal anomalies, she said, while one or two other abortions she performed were for victims of rape.

Another five or six abortions were to protect the “life or health” of the mother, she said. Most of those cases came from outside clinics or health facilities, though one or two were referred by maternal-fetal medicine physicians at IU Health, Caldwell noted.

Caldwell's response when asked to list the diagnoses of the patients she performed abortions on for “life or health” reasons is redacted.

The doctor said there have been “probably just as many” patients who sought an abortion because of other “potential health consequences of continuing a pregnancy” — such as clotting disorders, uterine anomalies, hypertension, diabetes, complex obstetric histo-

ries, or history of obstetric complications — but were turned away because their condition did not qualify under the new law. Those patients were ultimately referred out for other sorts of care, Caldwell said.

Eskenazi attorneys argued that the attorney general's office “should not have made the confidential documents ‘court records’ in the first place” because they are “wholly unnecessary” for the state's defense.

They pointed to the defendants' 41-page brief in which counsel from the attorney general's office group-cites the confidential documents just once to “support a single proposition” about Indiana hospitals having guidance, procedures and consultations to assist doctors with best practices for abortion care.

That fact, Eskenazi counsel said, was already established by the non-confidential testimony of the hospital's Chief OB-GYN Dr. Elizabeth Ferries-Rowe.

“It is uncontestable that access to abortion care is a fraught, politicized, and emotionally charged issue in Indiana and across the United States,” Eskenazi attorneys wrote. “It is also uncontestable that healthcare providers — both individuals and entities — have been subject to threats and violence because they provide this care.”

The attorneys emphasized that the likelihood for those threats will increase if the confidential documents don't remain under seal, putting both doctors and patients in danger.

**The new underlying complaint**

The Supreme Court ruled that the state constitution protects a woman's right to an abortion to prevent death, or to avoid a “serious health risk.” But the ban itself is more stringent.

It stipulates a “serious risk of substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function” and specifically excludes psychological conditions alongside threats of self-harm and suicide.

The plaintiffs call that exception “unconstitutionally narrow” and maintain

that people with “debilitating” conditions — or conditions that could become life-threatening over the course of pregnancy — could be “forced to remain pregnant and to suffer serious and potentially life-long harms to their health.”

Additionally, plaintiffs argue, the law could exclude patients with conditions requiring treatment that would harm a fetus — like many psychiatric medications. They allege that the mental health write-out will harm pregnant Hoosiers.

The state disagrees. Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita's office said in a March 25 oppositional brief that plaintiffs are only “lob(ing) accusations” about how the new abortion law “supposedly prevents abortions they deem ‘necessary.’”

“By ‘necessary,’ however, they do not mean ‘medically required,’” the office added. “Plaintiffs themselves admit that there are various ways to manage nearly every health condition that women experience during pregnancy, without pursuing abortion. Instead, plaintiffs consider abortion to be ‘necessary’ whenever a woman prefers abortion to childbirth. As our Supreme Court held, nothing in Indiana's traditions justifies abortion on demand.”

The plaintiffs asked the court for three preliminary injunctions.

Two would halt enforcement of the health risk language — for a broad range of physical health conditions and for mental health conditions — and one would pause the hospital requirement.

They also requested that the court eventually find both elements of the ban unconstitutional.

**Police Notebook**

**INCIDENTS**

**County:**

Wednesday, 5:44 a.m., South 300 West and West 1100 South, Keystone. Car versus deer.

Wednesday, 10:39 a.m., 7900 East U.S. 224, Adams County. Officer provided escort services.

Wednesday, 1:09 p.m., West 100 North and North 100 West, Bluffton. Driver issued two citations for speeding and ignoring a stop sign.

Wednesday, 2:12 p.m., 6800 South S.R. 3, Warren. Report of a semi truck that drove through a yard.

Wednesday, 3:05 p.m., South 300 West and West 500 South, Bluffton. Traffic hazard cleared from road.

Wednesday, 5:38 p.m., Silo Farms. Officer requested for property retrieval.

Thursday, 7:56 a.m., South Hoosier Highway and East 300 South, Bluffton. Report of a loose horse in the area.

**Ossian:**

Thursday, 12:09 a.m., S.R. 1 and East 500 North, Ossian. Report of an injured deer, deer put down.

Thursday, 1:21 a.m., 100 block of West Roe Street, Ossian. Report of someone attempting to come through front door.

**ARRESTS**

Brandon Michael Betz, 31, Geneva; possession of a hypodermic syringe or needle, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$5,000.

**Congressional candidate hits back at ‘spliced’ ad, threatens legal action**

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ  
**Indiana Capital Chronicle**

An attack advertisement featuring garbled audio clips of a congressional candidate could provoke an early test of a 50-day-old law cracking down on digitally altered campaign media.

Judge Wendy Davis, one of eight Republicans running for Indiana's Third Congressional District, accused conservative political action committee (PAC) Club for Growth Action of “dub(ing) together words and unrelated statements ... to form a sentence that fits their absurd claims.”

The advertisement asserts that Davis “instituted” woke, race-based hiring” during her time as judge. It purports to quote Davis as saying the government lacks ethnic and religious diversity.

“We don't have enough inclusion. I believe the Constitution — still a breathing and living document — requires,” Davis appears to say.

She denounced the advertisement as “dishonest” in a news release Wednesday.

“It's laughable to call me a ‘Liberal Judge’ — I forfeited my position on the bench to run for office because I was too conservative to maintain the neutrality the job requires,” Davis said.

“I am disappointed that Club for Growth spliced my words together to fit their fake narrative in support of a failed, career politician ...” she continued, referring to primary competitor Marlin Stutzman.

The news release indicated the original audio came from an hourlong panel that Davis participated in about religious freedom. The campaign said it had issued a cease and desist letter.

dismissed Davis' claims. “Wendy Davis has expressed her strong opinion on diversity and that she believes the Constitution is a ‘breathing and living document,’ but now she's trying to rewrite history to cover-up her past leftist woke statements,” group President David McIntosh said in a statement.

The super PAC has spent more than \$100,000 on ads in recent days against Davis, according to Federal Election Commission records.

An Indiana law approved just weeks ago could apply to the spat.

House Enrolled Act 1133 requires disclaimers on political campaign communications featuring “fabricated media” depicting a candidate that a “reasonable person” wouldn't know is fake.

That includes audio recordings of speech that have been altered without the affected candidate's consent so that the media “conveys a materially inaccurate depiction of the individual's speech, appearance, or conduct as recorded in the unaltered recording.”

It also includes visual recordings, artificially generated imitations of the affected candidate and more.

Under the law, the disclaimer must state: “Elements of this media have been digitally altered or artificially generated.” When in a video, it must be displayed “continuously for the duration” of the advertisement.

If not, the affected candidate can bring a civil action against people that paid for or sponsored the advertisement.

Although most new laws take effect in July, lawmakers had this one take effect immediately; Gov. Eric Holcomb signed it into law March 12.

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# Today's campus protests aren't as big or violent as those last century

At least, not yet

By ALLEN G. BREED and JOCELYN GECKER  
Associated Press

In a way, the black-and-white Palestinian scarf draped over Hannah Sattler's shoulders this week and the tie-dyed T-shirts of 1968 are woven from a common thread.

Like so many college students across the country protesting the Israel-Hamas war, Sattler feels the historic weight of the anti-Vietnam war demonstrations of the 1960s and 70s.

"They always talked about the '68 protest as sort of a North Star," Sattler, 27, a graduate student of international human rights policy at Columbia University, said of the campus organizers there.

"Even the choice to take over Hamilton Hall was always the plan from the start of the encampment," she says. "Not only because it just made a lot of sense logistically, but it also has that ... strong historical connection with the 60s protests."

Still, although it might be tempting to compare the nationwide campus protests to the anti-Vietnam War movement of a half century ago, Robert Cohen says that would be an overreaction.

"I would say that this is the biggest, in the United States, in the 21st century," said Cohen, a professor of history and social studies at New York University. "But you could say, 'Well, that's like being the tallest building in Wichita, Kansas.'"

So far, there have been no bombings, like the one in August 1970 at the University of Wisconsin that killed a postdoctoral researcher and did \$6 million worth of damage. There has been no repeat of the infamous Kent State massacre of May 1970, when National Guard

troops opened fire on protesters at the Ohio campus, killing four.

Police have cleared encampments and made more than 2,000 arrests, and some, like the crackdown Thursday at UCLA have involved violent clashes. A police officer involved in clearing Columbia's Hamilton Hall of protesters Tuesday fired his gun inside the building. But demonstrations elsewhere have been peaceful and even led to agreements with administrators to address students' demands.

Yet, to some, there is a feeling that the situation is just one hair-trigger moment away from tragedy, says Mark Naison, who took part in the sometimes violent protests at Columbia in 1968.

"People are terrified," said Naison a professor of history and African & African American Studies at nearby Fordham University.

In many ways, this does feel like the America of what Cohen calls "the long 60s."

In September 1970, barely five months after the Kent State tragedy, the President's Commission on Campus Unrest delivered to Richard M. Nixon a "Letter To The American People."

"This crisis has roots in divisions of American society as deep as any since the Civil War," the panel wrote. "The divisions are reflected in violent acts and harsh rhetoric and in the enmity of those Americans who see themselves as occupying opposing camps."

Watching the gyre of emotions on campuses from Connecticut to California, those words feel as if they could have been written this week. Even U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert made an allusion to that earlier time.

"This is not the summer of love!" the Colorado Republican shouted through a bullhorn during a visit to chide protesters at George Washington University on Wednesday.

But Cohen says emotions — and sheer numbers — are nowhere near the levels they reached at the height of the Vietnam era.

"Look. NYU was one of the first campuses to mobilize," he says. "Maybe there's 200 students — maybe. There are 30,000 (undergraduate) students at NYU, right?"

Another difference that has struck observers is the quick crackdown by campus authorities. In 1968, students occupied Columbia's Hamilton Hall for nearly a week before authorities moved in. The bust — when it finally came — saw more than 700 arrested.

"It's funny because Columbia is very proud of ... Columbia students' history of activism," said Ilana Gut, a senior at the university's sister school Barnard College. "So their attitudes toward the modern-day activists, at least in the eyes of protestors, is very ironic — that they're so proud of their past protestors, but so violently repressive of their modern-day ones."

Robert Korstad, who protested in the 1960s and is now a professor emeritus of public policy at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, does see comparisons.

Then, as now, they were protesting a violent war. And now, in addition, students have felt pervasive conflict, said Korstad, with the country's rash of mass shootings and the murder of George Floyd by Minnesota police.

"I'm really thinking about what's motivating these young people and

what they've grown up with and thinking about over their short lifetime," he says.

Another disturbing difference between then and now, says Jack Radey, is the lack of respect on campuses for differing views.

Radey was a 17-year-old

activist during the original Free Speech Movement at the University of California, Berkeley. He says today's students have succeeded in amplifying the Palestinian cause, but, in some cases, at the cost of civility.

"We did not look on

those students who had not joined the free speech movement as idiots or traitors, but as people we needed to convince," said Radey, president of the movement's archives. "You don't do that by violence or with super-heated rhetoric."

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# Captain sentenced to 4 years in fiery deaths of 34 aboard scuba boat

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A federal judge in Los Angeles on Thursday sentenced a scuba dive boat captain to four years in prison and three years supervised release for criminal negligence after 34 people died in a fire aboard the vessel.

The Sept. 2, 2019, blaze was the deadliest maritime disaster in recent U.S. history, and prompted changes to maritime regulations, congressional reform and several ongoing lawsuits.

Captain Jerry Boylan was found guilty of one count of misconduct or neglect of ship officer last year. The charge is a pre-Civil War statute colloquially known as seaman's manslaughter. It was designed to hold steamboat captains and crew responsible for maritime disasters.

Family members pleaded with U.S. District Judge George Wu to give Boylan the maximum 10-year sentence in an impassioned hearing. Many cried, and Robert Kurtz, father of the sole deckhand killed, Alexandra Kurtz, brought a small container with him up to the lectern to address Boylan and the court.

"This is all I have of my daughter," he said.

Yadira Alvarez is the mother of 16-year-old Berenice Felipe, who volunteered at an animal shelter and dreamed of becoming a marine biologist, and was the youngest of the 34 victims killed on the boat.

"He's not a victim. He is responsible for my daughter not being here," Alvarez said, while sobbing in court. "Can you imagine my pain?"

The Conception was anchored off Santa

Cruz Island, 25 miles south of Santa Barbara, when it caught fire before dawn on the final day of a three-day excursion, sinking less than 100 feet from shore.

Thirty-three passengers and a crew member died, trapped in a bunkroom below deck. Among the dead were the deckhand, who had landed her dream job; an environmental scientist who conducted research in Antarctica; a globe-trotting couple; a Singaporean data scientist; and a family of three sisters, their father and his wife.

Boylan was the first to abandon ship and jump overboard. Four crew members who joined him also survived.

During the hearing, Boylan's attorney read a statement aloud to the court in which he expressed his condolences and said he has cried every day since the fire.

"I wish I could have brought everyone home safe," the statement said. "I am so sorry."

In determining a sentence, Wu said he took into account Boylan's age, health, the likelihood of recurrence and the need for deterrence and punishment.

He said while Boylan's behavior was reckless, the guidelines for sentencing would not warrant a 10-year sentence.

"This is not a situation where the defendant intended to do something bad," Wu said.

The defense had asked the judge to sentence Boylan to a five-year probationary sentence, with three years to be served under house arrest.

Boylan's appeal is ongoing.

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### Biden says he will debate Trump. When?

Is President Biden going to debate Donald Trump as the November election nears? "I am. Somewhere. I don't know when," Mr. Biden said Friday in an interview with Howard Stern. "I'm happy to debate him." Nice to hear, though we'll believe it when we see it.

If the 81-year-old President wants to skip the stage this fall, Mr. Trump's refusal to debate his GOP primary opponents has handed Mr. Biden an easy excuse. Now Mr. Trump, who for the record is 77, is demanding to debate early and often, because he wants to suggest that Mr. Biden isn't up to taking hard questions.

Well, is he? Since Mr. Biden took office, according to Politico, he has given interviews to only two print reporters. He speaks only to friendly venues like Mr. Stern's radio show. (We're available for an interview on foreign or economic policy, sir.) Meanwhile, Axios reported Friday that Mr. Biden no longer walks solo to Marine One on the White House lawn. Instead he's surrounded by a phalanx of aides because advisers worry that "videos of Biden walking and shuffling alone—especially across the grass—have highlighted his age."

Mr. Biden's forceful performance at the State of the Union was designed to dispel the idea that his next move ought to be retirement. Yet 63% of voters still think his public appearances "give credibility to the fears about his age and memory," the Harvard-Harris poll found in March. Only 37% said Mr. Biden's appearances are "just fine."

The White House insists that despite his age Mr. Biden is as vigorous and capable as ever. When the New York Post asked why Mr. Biden has taken to wearing tennis shoes with his suits, this was the comment from deputy press secretary Andrew Bates: "I know y'all aren't partial to presidents who exercise, but don't worry—you'll get used to it." More likely they're afraid the President will fall.

Mr. Trump is ready to debate "ANYWHERE, ANYTIME, ANYPLACE," he wrote on the internet Friday. "I suggest Monday Evening, Tuesday Evening, or Wednesday Evening." Mr. Biden won't take that bait, but if he truly wants to debate, he should formally agree to somewhere, sometime, someplace. Otherwise voters might decide Mr. Trump is right about him.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

### Should armed troops clear peaceful protests?

On Wednesday during a visit to Columbia University, House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) warned that if the wave of protests against Israel's U.S.-funded war in Gaza on college campuses, including UCLA and USC, is not contained quickly, "there is an appropriate time for the National Guard. We have to bring order to these campuses."

How troubling that the man who is the third in line to the presidency seems to think that it's OK to silence largely peaceful student protests by sending in armed troops.

It's a terrible idea, with a deadly history in the U.S. It was the Ohio National Guard that killed four unarmed students and wounded nine others at a rally against the Vietnam War at Kent State University in 1970. Since then, there have been uncountable examples of armed responses to nonviolent activities ending with innocent people getting hurt or killed.

Sens. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) and Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) have called on President Biden to deploy the National Guard to quash pro-Palestinian protests. Republican state lawmakers in New York want Gov. Kathy Hochul to deploy the National Guard to Columbia University. And more than two dozen Republican senators signed a letter urging the Biden administration to "restore order to campuses" by using federal law enforcement, prosecution and deportation against "the outbreak of anti-Semitic, pro-terrorist mobs."

Never mind that they are unfairly assigning racist motives to thousands of people protesting the killing of more than 34,000 Palestinian people, most of them women and children. It's clear that these Republican politicians are less concerned with the wave of antiwar protests than using them for their own political ends.

Johnson also threatened to use his power as speaker to punish colleges that don't eject protesters by withholding federal education funding. "If these campuses cannot get control of this problem, they do not deserve taxpayer dollars."

This kind of tough talk is especially rich coming from a man who has shown no interest in cracking down on the most serious threat to our democracy: President Trump's lies, and his supporters' use of violence to try to prevent the peaceful transfer of power.

To the contrary, Johnson played a key role in helping Trump try to overturn the election. He has suggested the Jan. 6 insurrectionists who participated in the attack on the Capitol were innocent people who "just happened to be walking through the building" and wanted to blur their faces from video so they could not be charged with crimes.

It seems that his send-in-the-troops mentality applies only to some Americans.

Part of living in a free society is accepting the right of others to speak out and protest, even when you don't agree with them.

How someone in power responds to 1st Amendment rights being exercised in criticism of the government says a lot about what they value. Republicans' eagerness to deploy armed troops to quash peaceful protests suggests that they don't really believe in free speech after all.

THE LOS ANGELES TIMES  
Distributed by The Associated Press

### Other Opinions

Excerpts from recent U.S. editorials



### The 'Biden bump' that didn't last long

"The election is clearly changing now, moving towards Biden," the influential Democratic strategist Simon Rosenberg declared on March 26. "The Biden bump is real." For Republicans, Rosenberg is someone worth listening to; he was right about the non-existent "red wave" that many in the GOP expected back in 2022. When he said the election was moving, it was worth noting.

Now, though, the situation is a little more complicated. Ever since President Joe Biden's State of the Union address on March 7 — the one in which he appeared to shout much of the time to prove his vigor — Democrats have been hoping for a Biden surge. A lot of that was just wish-casting; it simply did not make sense to many Democrats that former President Donald Trump could be under four indictments, and starting trial in one case, and still be leading Biden. It just seemed too crazy to accept. But it was true.

Then, in late March and early April, Biden did rise a bit in the polls. According to the RealClearPolitics average of national polls, Trump has led Biden in head-to-head matchups since September 2023. (They were tied for one brief moment in October.) During his March-April "bump," Biden's deficit shrank, coming within two-tenths of a point of catching Trump. Democratic hopes rose.

"Biden's position in the polls is improving against Trump," declared the polling analyst Nate Silver on April 18. "It looks to me like Biden's numbers against Trump have improved by a hair, probably to a degree that isn't just statistical noise." Even a slight improvement was like manna from heaven for Democrats and their allies in the media.

Alas, it didn't last long. On Sunday came a poll from CNN that was simply devastating for the president's reelection hopes. Remember, a poll is just a freeze frame of the race at this moment. It doesn't mean things won't change in the future. But it gives us an idea of where things stand right now. And the CNN poll showed Biden's standing deteriorating before our eyes.

The headline was that the poll showed Trump with a 6-point lead over Biden, 49% to 43%, in a head-to-head national matchup. And, as of now at least, many voters say they have made up their minds. When the pollsters asked respondents who did not support Biden whether there is any chance they might eventually vote for Biden, 52% said there is "no chance

whatsoever" they would vote to reelect the president. When pollsters asked people who did not support Trump whether there is any chance they might eventually vote for Trump, 47% said there is "no chance whatsoever" they will vote for Trump. That suggests a lot of people have very strong feelings which they do not expect to change.

Another problem for Biden was that the poll was taken from April 18 to 23, when Trump's trial in Manhattan was underway and the subject of wall-to-wall news reports. So voters knew about it — they couldn't avoid it — and more of them still preferred Trump to Biden.

Even more damaging for Biden was that, when asked to assess both the Trump and Biden presidencies, 55% of those surveyed called Trump's presidency a success, while 61% called Biden's presidency a failure. This is a unique election in which both candidates have been president of the United States. That means the voters can make an apples-to-apples comparison, and it doesn't look good for Biden.

Two more national polls have come out in the 48 hours since the CNN survey was released. A Harvard-Harris poll had Trump leading Biden by 4 points, 52% to 48%, while a Morning Consult poll had the two candidates tied at 43%.

The RealClearPolitics average of polls, which a couple of weeks ago showed the race nearly tied, now shows Trump ahead of Biden by 1.4 percentage points. It's not much of a lead by any means, but it has lasted for more than six months. And then there is Trump's bigger lead in some of the key states that could decide the election.

Again, it's all polls. But note this, from the RealClearPolitics analyst Sean Trende: "Polls are just snapshots in time. The problem is that the political science literature is pretty consistent that this is the time when the electorate's views about the election start to harden, particularly with respect to the economy." So public opinion can be volatile, but after a while, it is not. And remember that where the economy is concerned, voters believe Biden has done a terrible job. Put it all together, and while yes, there is a lot of time left, there are also lots of reasons for Biden to be worried.



Byron York

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### Demonstrations today not like the 1960s

The current demonstrations on college campuses against Israel remind some of the unrest on college campuses during the 1960s.

But the comparison is not a good one.

The unrest of the 1960s was defined by the war in Vietnam and by the Civil Rights Movement. Both had practical, personal impact on young Americans in their own country.

American soldiers were fighting and dying in Vietnam. There was real, life-and-death impact on all Americans, and certainly on young Americans.

The military draft was still operative then. Despite various deferments, including deferment for university attendance, the draft was still a reality and was a looming presence for all college-age Americans. They knew they could be drafted and had friends and friends of friends who were.

The official number of American soldiers killed in Vietnam stands at 58,220.

Although there were legitimate moral concerns about American involvement in this war, the moral concerns were accompanied by young Americans having real skin in this game.

The Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s also had real personal moral impact on all Americans. And youth are always highly sensitive to the moral failings around them.

The reality of segregation and Jim Crow started getting national attention with the Civil Rights Movement, the activism of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference and other more violent groups in the movement.



Star Parker

In contrast to the woke activism of today, which is totally political in character, the Civil Rights Movement was led by a charismatic and articulate Black pastor and had a religious, moral tone rooted in the Christian church.

Anyone that questions this should read, or reread, King's "I Have a Dream" speech from 1963.

But King's moral appeal was to an America very different than today.

In 1965, per Gallup, 70% of Americans said religion was personally "very important" to them. In 2023, by contrast, only 45% of Americans say religion is "very important."



In 1962, per Gallup, 46% of Americans said they attended religious services over the last seven days.

In 2023, this was down to 32%. During this period there were two major wars involving Israel and the surrounding Arab states.

In 1967, Israel prevailed in the Six-Day War, which began with pre-emptive action by Israel against the Egyptian army mobilized for attack, and subsequent aggression by Syria

in the North and Jordan in the East. In 1973, Israel again prevailed against attacks on these same fronts.

In 1967, per Gallup, 45% of Americans supported Israel against 4% who supported the Arab states, with 26% with no opinion. In 1973, 48% of Americans expressed support for Israel versus 6% expressing support for the Arab states and 24% with no opinion.

Support for Israel among Americans during this period was one-sided and clear.

But, again, America today is very, very different.

Our young people in the 1960s understood what personal responsibility is about.

On a national level, in the 1960s, all young Americans faced the reality of military conscription. Today, regarding national obligation and service, there are virtually no demands on our youth.

Now President Joe Biden is even erasing their student loan obligations.

On a religious, moral level, religion then held a much stronger hold on the nation. Religion teaches and inspires a culture where individuals have a sense they belong to and have obligation to something beyond their own egotistical inclinations.

Nature abhors a vacuum, and as religion has weakened and disappeared from our culture, it has been replaced by politics and the welfare state.

The end of it all is we now have a generation of youth insulated from all sense of national and religious and moral personal responsibility.

So now they demonstrate in support of terrorists and against the only free country in the Middle East that shares the very values that made our own country great.

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# No. 3 Starfires shut out Raiders in conference play

By RYAN WALKER

BERNE — South Adams is the third-ranked team in the state according to the SCAI, and that was all out on display Thursday night.

The Starfires (12-1, 3-0 ACAC) are now winners of nine in a row with their 10-0 win in five innings over Southern Wells (4-10, 0-3 ACAC). That was capitalized by a six-run third inning, highlighted by a Mackenzie Neuenschwander two-run blast that launched them to a 9-0 at that point.

South Adams pounced early with a 1-0 lead that grew to a 3-0 lead in the first two innings, swiping bases and a sacrifice fly. This was off of the back of starting pitcher Addie Baker, who lowered her 1.09 ERA coming into the contest after a five-inning shutout with 11 strikeouts.

Needless to say, the Starfires have put together a complete team in hopes to win their first ACAC title since 2019.

"They're the best team in the conference by far," Southern Wells head coach Jason Riley said after the game. "I know Jay County, Woodlan and Heritage are going to say something a little different, but they're by far the best team. They're solid. When you look at it, there's not any weaknesses."

The Raiders fought hard in the first two innings, making stellar defensive plays. One by Emma Parks, who reached her glove out to snag a shot to centerfield and limited the

damage to just one run. Another by Kim McCune sprinting toward the left field line to hold runners in place.

In the second inning, the Starfires had bases loaded with no one out. A ground ball to shortstop Collena Reeves got the force out firing to home. Pitcher Kaylea Coffel got another force out at home after grabbing a comebacker on the mound. But, if not for a passed ball and a throwing error that plated two with two outs, the Raiders would have managed to get out unharmed. Coffel struck out Shea Alberson to end the total threat.

"It helps us build our character and it builds our strength and confidence," Riley said. "We talk about confidence all the time and just making that play. It makes them feel like 'Hey, I can do it every time.'"

"We're working. We're young," he added.

Southern Wells had a shot in the top of the fifth to have a run come across when McCune and Bristol Chapman walked and advanced once more on Reeves' single, but Baker, 10th and 11th strikeouts and a ground ball to third base put the fire out.

All South Adams needed was one run in the bottom of the fifth, and Avery Brown did just that on an RBI double to score Reagan Beitler.

Southern Wells will host Bishop Luers at 5 p.m. Friday, May 3.

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South Adams baserunner Bekah Patterson (right) slides in safety past Southern Wells' third baseman Gracie Reeves during the third inning at South Adams. The Starfires got the best of the Raiders 10-0 in the ACAC showdown. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

## Sports Roundup

### Tigers top Patriots, now one win away from ACAC title

Bluffton got the job done in ACAC baseball Thursday night and is now one win away from its first conference title since 2009.

The Tigers came away with a 5-4 victory at home against Jay County, holding off the Patriots' three runs in the sixth and seventh innings combined. A solo shot brought the Patriots back down by one, but an inning-ending ground ball to Nick Pastore at second base sealed the deal.

Bluffton is now 5-0 in the ACAC and is 10-5 overall, also winning nine of its last 10 games. The win over Jay County stretches their winning streak to seven games.

Easton Blair led the team with the stick, driving in two runs with two hits and a double. Braxton Betancourt doubles in one of his two hits. Pastore also had an RBI single.

Betancourt got the win on the mound, throwing 5.1 innings worth and allowing three runs on five hits, two walks and 11 strikeouts.

Cameron Williams came in for Betancourt in the sixth and allowed a hit and two walks and finished the day recording one out. A.J. Strevler then relieved him and got crucial outs in the sixth and seventh for the same, throwing 1.1 innings and allowing one run and struck out one.

Bluffton's next game will be at home against Eastbrook at 5 p.m. Monday, May 6. But the marquee matchup will be on Tuesday when the Tigers go for the ACAC championship at home against the reigning champion Heritage Patriots.

### Knights improve to 4-0 in NE8 baseball

Norwell beat East Noble 8-1 in home NE8 competition Thursday night.

Norwell improved its record to 11-4 on the season and 4-0 in conference play. Columbia City and Norwell are the two final unbeaten teams in the NE8, and will face head-to-head in two weeks on May 14.

Norwell's 12 hits were led by Drew Graft, who went 3-4 at the plate. Lane Lewis and Logan Cotton had two hits and drove in runs. Collin Burnes had an RBI double, while Drew Jolley and Korben Neuenschwander brought home RBI.

Cade Shelton tossed the victory with six innings, two hits, one unearned run, two walks and 11 strikeouts. Noah Turk came in for an inning of relief and allowed no runs or hits.

Norwell will visit South Adams at 5 p.m. Monday, May 6.

### Norwell picks up NE8 girls' tennis win over East Noble

Norwell picked up a home tennis victory against East Noble 4-1 Thursday night.

The win brings the Knights' record to 10-2 after the match.

#### Individual results:

- Addy Heyerly (N) defeated Sadie Potts 6-3, 6-1 at No. 1 singles.
- Delaney Hoover (N) defeated Maria Bona 6-0, 6-0 at No. 2 singles.
- Macie Saalfrank (N) defeated Keegan Ball 6-1, 6-2 at No. 3 singles.

(Continued on Page A3)



Norwell had two signings Thursday morning for college athletes. The first was Macy Felger's (above), who is signing to play tennis at Huntington University. Her family in the front row from left to right is P.J. Felger, Macy Felger and Tonya Felger. Back row is Huntington women's tennis head coach Kreg Eckert and Norwell girls' tennis coach Holly Kimball. Below, Lukas Mashuda signs with Geneva College to run cross country and track. His family in the front row from left to right are Andrew Mashuda, Lukas Mashuda and Tara Mashuda. Back row is Norwell boys' track coach Adam Prater, sister Madison Mashuda and Norwell boys' cross country head coach Cody Hannie. (Photos by Ryan Walker)

# Felger signs with Huntington, Mashuda inks with Geneva

By RYAN WALKER

Norwell had two of its student-athletes sign off for the next four years at colleges Thursday morning.

The first was Macy Felger, who will be attending Huntington University for tennis. Lukas Mashuda followed and signed with Geneva College for cross country and track.

Both were thrilled to be able to extend their athletic and academic careers, closing out their final days before graduation and wrapping up their spring sports seasons.

"I honestly was so sad about having to end tennis season because it's definitely my favorite sport. So the fact that I get to go on four more years is exciting," Felger said.

"Simple. Close to home town. It's got all the majors I want and it's affordable. For a small Christian school, I mean, you can't get much better," Mashuda said.

The two Knights emphasized their field of study at their new schools along with their new homes and team cultures.

Felger will be heading down the road for the Foresters and will study elementary education with a minor in special education. She had her current head coach, Holly Kimball, and her future one, Kreg Eckert, attend her signing.

Eckert was just announced on April 30 to be the new women's tennis coach for Huntington, serving as the men's assistant coach recently for the school and also at the head of the program for nine seasons.

"I like that he's very straightforward ... He's just upfront, and I really appreciate that," Felger said.

Mashuda was pumped to boast about his school, nicknamed the Golden Tornados in NCAA DIII. The school is near the Pittsburgh area and close to the Ohio border in Beaver Falls. Mashuda's family roots are close to Beaver Falls as well.

As a cross-country runner, Mashuda will be able to enjoy the landscape of the surrounding area and meet new people. He also plans to study civil engineering.

"To sign today just means I have the fortune of running in state parks in Pennsylvania, which I'm looking forward to," Mashuda said. "I've got to get better at hills — there's a lot of hills out there. I love my current team; it's a great group of seven for cross country and like 50 for track, but really just new people, new experience. I have no idea what kind of friends I'm going to make, and that's the fun of that."

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# Bluffton to host free physical day

In a partnership with Alliance Health Centers, Bluffton's athletic department will be hosting a free sports physical on Saturday, June 8.

Student-athletes must be in grades 6-12 by the 2024-25 school year to participate. The doors will be open at 8:45 a.m.

The student must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Final forms must be completed for the 2024-25 school year. Computers will be available on June 8.



# Red Bull chief tech officer Adrian Newey to step down from F1

MILTON KEYNES, England (AP) — Adrian Newey, the designer who was a pivotal figure in Red Bull's dominance of Formula One, will step down early next year, the team said Wednesday.

The 65-year-old Newey will end his near two-decade career with Red Bull in the "first quarter of 2025."

"For almost two decades it has been my great honor to have played a key role in Red Bull Racing's progress from upstart newcomer to multiple title-winning team," he said. "However, I feel now is an opportune moment to hand that baton over to others and to seek new challenges for myself."

Newey joined Red Bull in 2006 and helped the team win seven drivers' titles — including the last three seasons for defending champion Max Verstappen — and six constructors' titles.

Red Bull said its chief technical officer would be stepping back from F1 design and focus on its first hypercar, the RB17.

"All of our greatest moments from the past 20 years have come with Adrian's hand on the technical tiller," Red Bull team principal Christian Horner said. "For me, when Adrian joined Red Bull, he was already a superstar designer. Two decades and 13 championships later he leaves as a true legend. He is also my friend and someone I will be eternally grateful to for everything he brought to our partnership."

News of Newey's departure could spark a bidding war for his services. As Newey is free to join another team when he leaves Red Bull, it paves the way for him to have an impact on the 2026 car for whichever team he joins. The next major change in regulations is due in 2026 and having Newey on board would give his next employers a significant advantage.

Newey's departure comes in the wake of Horner being accused of "inappropriate behavior" by a female employee. Horner was exonerated by Red Bull's parent company GmbH and has always denied the claims.

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