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Knights win NE8 girls' tennis title

Page 6

A 'world's first' puts Bluffton on the map

By MARK MILLERA Bluffton-based company that produces "dvLED video walls" was recognized with a best "new product of the year" award that



Neoti CEO Derek Myers, left, and Gleb Romov, technical manager, display the "Best of Show" award their company's new dvLED product earned at the recent annual "NABShow" in Las Vegas. The video display wall technology was also recognized with a "World's first" designation by the

was also designated as a "world's first."
"We're pretty excited," Neoti CEO Derek Myers said, and it is clear in his voice that is an understatement. "These are

products we've been working on and it's neat to see them in use and being recognized like

The award was made at the annual "NABShow" - the National Association of Broadcasters' annual gathering in Las Vegas in mid-April. Concurrently, the Pantone Company, which has set the standards for color reproduction in print and video since the mid-1960s, awarded Neoti's new product, titled the UHD ProXF+, the world's first Pantone validated skin tone designation.

"Our color experts worked together with Neoti to test and validate their ability to authentically reproduce Pantone Colors and Skin Tones," said Iain Pike, senior global director of product and licensing at Pantone in the announcement.

Myers explained that a new technology they have dubbed "Infinitecolor technology" was developed in a new partnership with a German engineering firm. "We've merged our different market talents," Myers said, combining Neoti's video



The weather maps that Al Roker uses during broadcasts from the NBC studios in New York are now shown on "video walls," the product of Bluffton-based Neoti, whose video panels can also be seen on such networks as ESPN and the Big-10. (Photos provided)

wall technology with the German control systems. Together, the new products "have a significant market share" of indoor video wall installations in studios, government and video broadcast production. For example, the weather map displays that NBC weatherman Al Roker utilizes in their New York studios is a Neoti product.

"We have a number of displays in what we call 'three-letter government projects," Myers shared. "So, we've had to get classified government clearance, which was interesting.'

Neoti video walls can also been seen on such television networks as ESPN, the ACC and Big-10. They have what is called a virtual studio production facility at a Georgia location utilizing a curved video wall that is 92 feet wide and 11 feet tall with a 180-degree view.

"This is being used to produce 45 different television and web-streamed shows, mostly by faith-based organizations,' Myers explained. These screens are also increasingly being used as virtual back-(Continued on Page 2)

Two men plead not guilty to child solicitation

By SYDNEY KENT

Both men caught attempting to solicit a child for sex at Walmart in Bluffton last Saturday have pled not guilty to

Now-former Michigan planning commissioner, Seth Waxman, 39, was charged with a Level 4 felony for child solicitation, as well as one count of knowingly possessing a contraband legend drug a Level 6 felony and possession of controlled substance, a Class A misdemeanor. His bond is

According to a probable cause affidavit, Waxman purchased a room at a local motel the night before his arrest. A search of Waxman's room revealed 29 pills identified as a form of Viagra, Plan B, a camera tripod, expired condoms and testosterone gel.

In text messages with the decoy "Katie," Waxman directly says, "Sorry, I have to go out of state to have sex with a 13-year-old girl.'

Waxman's GMC Acadia contained a mostly empty bag of THC gummies, several boxes of Narcan and an old straw with white residue.

During booking at the jail, Waxman allegedly refused to answer any questions related to medical conditions, suicidal ideations or prescriptions. He was cleared at Bluffton Regional Medical Center despite his refusal to answer questions from medical personnel.

Jail staff located additional loose pills of generic Viagra in Waxman's pocket. Waxman is scheduled for a pretrial conference at 1 p.m. on June 26 in the Wells Circuit Court. (Continued on Page 2)



Ben Renkenberger peruses a few beloved books in the program. (Photo by Sydney

Wells County's Imagination Library continues growth, but needs funding

By SYDNEY KENT

"It is now 201,256 books," Ben Renkenberger grinned at the recent growth of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Through Imagination Library, free books are given out to registered kids from birth to age 5 every year in the county. The program was brought to Wells County by previous Executive Director of United Way of Wells County, Pamela Beckford.

"I feel a little like an imposter," Current Executive Director Renkenberger, said. "This is Pamela's win."

Renkenberger said that the work Beckford facilitated and

the money she raised during her tenure here has continued to sustain the program until recently.

In October, the Indiana State Library began funding half of the budget for programs across the state. Individuals and businesses also donate to the cause. However, Renkenberger said more funding is needed to support much-needed programs.

Anyone with an interest in supporting the program should contact Renkenberger at 260-824-2599. Checks may be designated specifically to the Imagination Library and can be mailed to the United Way office located at 122 Lamar St Suite 118 in Bluffton.

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College-going rate for state high schoolers continues flatline

Just more than half of graduating seniors in the Class of 2022 went on to pursue some form of postsecondary education.

high school seniors who go directly on to college remains stagnant, according to the latest data released by state officials.

New numbers for the Class of 2022 announced Thursday by the Indiana Commission of Higher Education indicated — for the third year in a row — that just 53% of Hoosier graduates furthered their educa-

The rate of Indiana tion with certificate training, a two-year program or enrollment at a four-year

> It's a 6% drop from the class of 2019, and 12% lower than in 2015.

> Still, because the data further shows that the total number of 2022 high school graduates increased by 3%, that translates to fewer students enrolled in postsecondary education directly

after high school.

"Even though the college-going rate held steady at 53%, we actually lost a number of first-time students enrolling from our headcount perspective," said Brooke Kile, associate commissioner for business intelligence.

CHE staff presented preliminary data during the commission's bi-monthly meeting on Thursday. Official numbers for 2022 are expected to be released next week.

The rate — called "dismal" by numerous state lawmakers and education officials — continues the state's lowest college-going trend in recent history. The decline began several years prior, however.

More students going out of state

CHE defines the collegegoing rate as the percentage of students who enroll in a postsecondary institution

within the year following high school graduation.

Per the 2022 data, 47% of students who completed Career and Technical Education training while in high school went on to pursue additional postsecondary coursework.

But among those CTE students, Kile noted that Indiana continues to have access gaps among different demographic groups.

About 70% of Asian students and 48% of White students who took CTE classes went on to college, according to the commission's numbers. Forty-four percent of Black students and 41% of Hispanic and Latino students continued education after graduation.

Kile said, too, that male students are "increasingly choosing" not to participate in postsecondary education.

Indiana's 21st Century Scholars students are making the jump, though, and have "a very strong collegegoing rate," Kile continued.

(Continued on Page 2)

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Small chance of rain, mostly sunny and hot

Today	Tuesday	Wed.
High 80	High 70	High 70
Low 60	Low 53	Low 49

More Weather on Page 2



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Putting Bluffton on the map

drops for full-production movies and television programs, rather than building a traditional "sound stage" or movie set.

"It's really pretty amazing, so realistic," Myers said. "Even for us who have been a part of this process."

Neoti, founded by Myers in 2006, has now grown to 14 employees in the U.S., one in China, and 30 more in Europe including the new partnership. There are 10 employees at the Bluffton headquarters where the firm's research and development and service departments operate. Manufacturing of the video components take place in China and a new location

But the "biggest news," Myers continued, involves the further development of the dvLED product itself.

Technically, "dvLED" stands for "direct view light emitting diodes" although the process actually utilizes liquid crystal displays —

LCD — with the diodes in the background.

"It's like a million flashlights shining directly into your eyes," Myers explained. What's new is that the space between each diode has now been reduced to 0.8mm, which is roughly equal to three one-hundredths of an inch.

"This has allowed us to infinitely control the color and achieve these new benchmarks," he told The News-Banner. In the Pantone news release, Myers referenced the new products to "authentically reproduce Pantone Colors and Skin Tones... and deliver true color fidelity." He added that it is essentially "making those flashlights smaller and smaller."

Myers has also recently become involved in another video-related company that is making inroads in helping people with macular degeneration. "This is exciting as well," he said, "we're doing some groundbreaking work in that field."

miller@news-banner.com



Neoti's accomplishments at the April trade show in Las Vegas are summarized by the crystal trophy and booth display in the background. (Photo provided)

Two plead not guilty

(Continued from Page 1)

Clifford Dale Koch, 39, Bellville, Ohio, was charged with one count of child solicitation, a Level 4 felony, and one count of resisting law enforcement, a Class A misdemeanor.

In a live-streamed video on the PCI Youtube page, Koch is seen walk-

ing at a brisk pace towards the exit of the store after he is confronted by PCI member Eric Schmutte.

'You're a registered sex offender aren't you?" Schmutte asked.

"I am, yes" Koch responds in the

Koch exits the store and immedi-

ately begins running through the North end of the parking lot. He was arrested in trees nearby moments later.

Koch's bond is set at \$6,500. The matter is scheduled for a pretrial conference at 9 a.m. on June 26 in the Wells Circuit Court.

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College-going rate

(Continued from Page 1) The scholarship fund covers

full tuition and fees at Indiana colleges and universities for low-income students, who enroll in the 8th grade.

Eighty-one percent of scholars in the 2022 cohort advanced to postsecondary education, according the the new data. That's compared to 59% of non-scholar students who continued their studies.

CHE officials also identified a new trend with the Class of 2022 — of the students who are going to college, more are enrolling in out-of-state schools.

Around 27% of graduating seniors enrolled in one of Indiana's public fouryear institutions, followed 10% who attend a public two-year school and 8% who enrolled at a private college or university.

Another 8% went to a school outside of Indiana, according to the data.

"This is the highest outof-state percentage that

we've seen in the last several years," Kile explained. She said Indiana's collegegoing rates only held steady the out-of-state enrollment

"One year is not a trend, so we are not necessarily sounding the alarm," she continued. "But we are definitely looking at what sort of early indicator data we can get from the 2023 and 2024 cohorts, looking at attendance patterns, to see if we need to do any sort of special initiatives to encourage students to stay in Indiana."

CHE initiatives continue Also previewed Thurs-

day was a data update on the Class of 2021.

CHE officials said 51% of the 2021 cohort that enrolled in a postsecondary program within a year after high school graduation met all three early college success benchmarks: they did not need remediation, they completed all courses they attempted during their first year of enrollment, and they

persisted to their second year of schooling.

According to the latest numbers, 77% of the 2021 cohort that enrolled in a postsecondary program persisted to the second year, which Kile said is the highest persistence rate in more than a decade.

Still, Kile and other commission officials emphasized ongoing efforts to boost postsecondary enrollment.

Current initiatives include:

• Additional support from the Frank O'Bannon grant — a 35% increase to awards took effect beginning with the 2023 cohort.

• "Pre-admissions letters," a program first started by CHE last year, which indicated to Hoosier students at least three Indiana colleges and universities to which they qualified to

• Automatic enrollment for eligible 21st Century Scholars — which doubled the number of scholars in the 2027 graduating class from 20,000 to over 40,000.

 Adding incentives for Indiana campuses to prioritize low-income youth and adult enrollment.

Kile also noted CHE's continued expansion of the Indiana College Core offerings, given that College Core completion "is the best indicator for college

The curriculum consists of a 30-credit-hour block of general education courses that transfer between all of Indiana's public institutions and some private colleges.

Adding to the effort, a new law signed by the governor in March will require College Core courses to be more accessible to high schoolers across the state, and compels Hoosier colleges and universities minus Ivy Tech Community College and Vincennes University — to offer three-year degree programs by July

Weather

Monday, May 13, 2024 (24-hour observations at 11:22 p.m. Sunday) **High:** 77; **Low:** 45; **Precipitation:** None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 2.69 feet at 9:45 p.m. Sunday

Wells County forecast

Today: A 10% chance of showers and thunderstorms after 5 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 80. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.



Tonight: A slight chance

of showers and thunderstorms before 8 p.m., then showers and possibly a thunderstorm between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m., then showers after 5 a.m. Low around 60. South wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

Tuesday: Showers likely, then showers and possibly a thunderstorm after 11 a.m. High near 70. South wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

Tuesday Night: Showers and thunderstorms before 11 p.m., then a chance of showers. Low around 53. Northeast wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is



80%. New precipitation amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

Wednesday: A 20% chance of showers before 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 70.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 49. Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 74.

Thursday Night: A 30% chance of showers, mainly after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy,

with a low around 57. Friday: A chance of

showers, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 74. Chance of precipitation is 60%. Friday Night: Showers and thunderstorms likely. Most-



ly cloudy, with a low around 58. Chance of precipitation is **Saturday:** A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms.

Partly sunny, with a high near 78. Saturday Night: A chance of showers and thunder-

storms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 59.

Sunday: A chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 79.



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Israel moves deeper into Rafah and fights Hamas militants regrouping in northern Gaza

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — The exodus of Palestinians from Gaza's last refuge accelerated Sunday as Israeli forces pushed deeper into the southern city of Rafah. İsrael also pounded the territory's devastated north, where some Hamas militants have regrouped in areas the military said it had cleared

months ago. Rafah is considered Hamas' last stronghold. Some 300,000 of the more than 1 million civilians sheltering there have fled the city following evacuation orders from Israel, which says it must invade to dismantle Hamas and return scores of hostages taken from Israel in the Oct. 7 attack that sparked the war.

Neighboring Egypt issued its strongest objection yet to the Rafah offensive, saying it intends to formally join South Africa's case at the International Court of Justice alleging Israel is committing genocide in Gaza — an accusation Israel rejects. The foreign ministry statement cited "the worsening severity and scope of the Israeli attacks against Palestinian civilians.

United Nations human rights chief Volker Turk said in a statement that he cannot see how a full-scale invasion of Rafah can be reconciled with international humanitarian law.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken reiterated opposition to a major military assault on Rafah, and told CBS that Israel would "be left holding the bag on an enduring insurgency" without an exit from Gaza and postwar governance plan.

Gaza has been left without a functioning government, leading to a breakdown in public order and allowing Hamas' armed wing to reconstitute itself even in the hardest-hit areas. On Sunday, Hamas touted attacks against Israeli soldiers in Rafah and near Gaza City.

Israel has yet to offer a detailed

plan for postwar governance in Gaza, saying only that it will maintain openended security control over the enclave of about 2.3 million Palestinians.

Internationally mediated talks over a cease-fire and hostage release appeared to be at a standstill.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a Memorial Day speech vowed to continue fighting until victory in memory of those killed in the war. But in Tel Aviv, hundreds of protesters stood outside military headquarters and raised candles during a minutelong siren marking the day's start, demanding an immediate cease-fire deal to return the hostages.

Netanyahu has rejected postwar plans proposed by the United States for the Palestinian Authority, which administers parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank, to govern Gaza with support from Arab and Muslim countries. Those plans depend on progress toward the creation of a Palestinian state, which Israel's government

The Oct. 7 attack killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took another 250 hostage. Militants still hold about 100 captives and the remains of more than 30.

Israel's offensive has killed more than 35,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants in its figures. Israel says it has killed over 13,000 militants, without providing evidence.

Palestinians reported heavy Israeli bombardment overnight in the urban Jabaliya refugee camp and other areas in northern Gaza, which has been largely isolated by Israeli forces for months. U.N. officials say there is a "full-blown famine" there.

Residents said Israeli warplanes and artillery also struck the Zeitoun area east of Gaza City, where troops have battled militants for over a week. They have called on tens of thousands of people to relocate to nearby areas.

"It was a very difficult night," said Abdel-Kareem Radwan, a 48-year-old from Jabaliya. He said they could hear intense and constant bombing since midday Saturday. "This is madness."

First responders with the Palestinian Civil Defense said they were unable to respond to multiple calls for help from both areas, as well as from Rafah.

In central Gaza, staff at the Al Aqsa hospital in Deir al-Balah said an Israeli strike killed four people.

Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, the top Israeli military spokesman, said forces were also operating in the northern towns of Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun, which were heavily bombed in the war's opening days.

Hamas' military wing said it shelled Israeli special forces east of Jabaliya and fired mortar shells at troops and vehicles entering the Rafah border crossing area.

"Hamas' regime cannot be toppled without preparing an alternative to that regime," columnist Ben Caspit wrote in Israel's Maariv daily, channeling the growing frustration felt by many Israelis more than seven months into the war. "The only people who can govern Gaza after the war are Gazans, with a lot of support and help from the outside.'

Rafah had been sheltering 1.3 million Palestinians, most of whom had fled fighting elsewhere. But Israel has now evacuated the eastern third of the city.

Most people are heading to the heavily damaged nearby city of Khan Younis or Muwasi, a coastal tent camp where some 450,000 people are already living in squalid conditions.





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OBITUARIES

Stacey R. Wilson, 72

Stacey R. Wilson, 72, of rural Poneto, passed away at 12:54 a.m. on Thursday, May 9, 2024 at his residence in Poneto, IN. He was born on Oct. 10, 1951, in Bluffton. He married Patricia Elaine (Carnes) Wilson on Nov. 11, 1989 at the Blanche Chapel Church. Stacey was a 1970 graduate of Norwell High School. He received an associate's degree in logistics. Stacey was in real estate and after retirement farmed. He raised cattle and horses.



He will be sadly missed by his wife, Patricia Elaine (Carnes) Wilson, Poneto; daughter, Ammber Wilson (Jeff) Schreiber, Bluffton; son, Justin (Mandy Lugar) Wilson, Baltimore, Md.; brothers, Bruce (Gloria) Wilson, Ossian, Jim (Ronda) Wilson, Bluffton, Steve (Lynette) Wilson, Dade City, Fla. and Roger Wilson, Uniondale; sister, Deb Charleston, Uniondale; and grandchildren, Hunter Schreiber, Fort Wayne, Jaida Wilson, Baltimore, Md., Braden Schreiber, Warren, Anna Wilson, Bluffton and Vanessa Wilson, Baltimore, Md.

He was preceded in death by his father, Robert A. Wilson and mother, Laurel (Fulk) Wilson.

Family and friends may gather to share and remember at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home located at 109 W Windsor St., Montpelier on Monday, May 13, 2024, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

A service to celebrate his life will be at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 14, 2024, with Jeremy Lord officiating; viewing will be held one hour before the service. Interment will follow in the McFarren Cemetery in Wells County.

Please make memorial donations to Paradigm Health Hospice, Fort Wayne or Indianapolis

Arrangements are being handled by Walker & Glancy Funeral Home in Montpelier.

Online condolences may be made at www.glancyfuneralhomes.com

Court News

Wells Superior Court Criminal Cases

Nathaniel E. Parrott, 32, Bluffton, was sentenced to 60 days in the Wells County Jail with all but 10 days suspended. The sentence was issued immediately after Parrott pled guilty to one count of operating a vehicle with a controlled substance in the blood, a Class C misdemeanor. He received two days of jail credit towards his sentence. Parrot is ordered to complete 355 days on probation and pay court costs and filings fees in the amount of \$799.50.

Bruce Lee Stevens, 48, Craigville, was sentenced to 545 days in the Indiana Department of Correction with no time suspended. Stevens received 120 days of jail credit towards his sentence for time spent incarcerated. He is also ordered to pay court costs and filing fees in the amount of \$189.

FSSA launches monthly **Medicaid reports detailing** enrollment, expenses, funding

By WHITNEY DOWNARD, Indiana Capital Chronicle In the wake of a Medicaid budget snafu, in which a fore-

cast missed the mark by nearly \$1 billion, the Family and Social Services Administration has launched monthly Medicaid finance reports detailing expenditures, enrollment and funding of the entitlement program. The move comes after lawmakers mandated additional

onitoring and oversight.

In a release, the FSSA Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning said the webpage provides "transparency and information" on the program. Additionally, the report compares the "actual monthly experience" with previous predications.

"As of February 2024, Medicaid enrollment across all programs and delivery systems totaled 1,999,726 individuals, which is 26,746 (1.3%) above the forecasted amount and 74,294 (3.4%) below enrollment in February 2023," the accompanying commentary read. "Average monthly enrollment year-to-date for (fiscal year) 2024 through February was 2.101.668.'

In response to the \$1 billion "variance," FSSA announced it would pursue several program changes to recoup an estimated \$300 million in costs, such as pausing an "index," or increase, in certain reimbursements.

But the biggest change included curbing payments to legally responsible individuals, usually parents, under attendant care for medically complex children. Parents rallied for weeks but saw little in terms of legislation.

Recently, families met with Gov. Eric Holcomb and FSSA Secretary Dan Rusyniak to discuss the transition to Structured Family Caregiving. Click here to read the latest development.

The Indiana Capital Chronicle explored ongoing challenges with Medicaid budgets in February, focusing on the difficulties that came from predicting long-term expenses for an ever-growing fund. Budget experts suggested monthly reports as one way to better keep the public informed.

Moms in the Statehouse: Hoosier women share how motherhood informs their legislative work

By CASEY SMITH **Indiana Capital Chronicle**

Thousands of lawmakers have cycled through the Indiana General Assembly in the last two centuries, but only a fraction have been women — and even fewer among them, moms.

More Hoosier women are serving in public office than ever before, bringing with them an important perspective to writing laws and governing.

But barriers remain for women — and moms, especially — to make it into the Statehouse. Current legislators said, too, that balancing a public and private life can also be more challenging than for their male counter-

"Being a state representative or state senator, for young parents, is difficult. And I think it may be a barrier to why many younger people, and moms, don't run for these offices," said Rep. Ragen Hatcher, D-Gary. "There are some things that the legislature can do to accommodate people better with younger children, and I just hope that we start doing that instead of leaving that age group out — those who may have the younger children but don't want to necessarily have to leave them

A history of Hoosier women at the capital

at home."

Julia Nelson, a Republican from Muncie, was Indiana's first woman to serve in the legislature. A long-time suffragette, she was 56 years old when she earned her spot in 1920.

She served a full term from 1921-1923. Her first speech called for the care and support of poor parents by their children.

Since Nelson's service, there has been at least one woman in every session of the Indiana General Assembly, according to Capitol and Washington political blog. Progress was slow, though. Nelson was replaced in 1922 by Elizabeth Rainey, a Republican from Marion County, who also served just a single term. She was followed by two more women in the House in 1924, another two in 1926, and three in 1928.

It wasn't until the onset of World War II — when many men went off to war that women's numbers grew in the General Assembly. And it wasn't until 1964 that a woman was elected to

serve in both chambers. At the close of the most recent 2024 legislative session, there were 40 women - 31 in the Indiana House and nine in the Indiana Senate — serving among the 150 elected assembly members. That's equal to 26.7% of all state legislators. Seventeen of the women are Democrats,

and 23 are Republicans. Woman make up 50% of the state population.

Sen. Jean Breaux, D-Indianapolis, died in March, however. Rep. Donna Schaibley, R-Carmel, additionally announced her plans to retire after the 2024 session. Rep. Sharon Negele, R-Attica, also won't return to the Statehouse after she

lost the GOP nomination for her District 13 seat in Tuesday's primary election.

It's up to voters to decide this November who will next fill those seats.

Currently, Indiana ranks 40th in the nation for its percentage of women officeholders in the legislature, according to the Center for American Women and Poli-

Getting elected and getting to work

When Hatcher was first elected to the House six years ago, she had three high schoolers, along with a four- and six-year-old. Not wanting to leave her kids in Gary during the legislative session, she instead opted to bring all five with her to Indianapolis.

"Between going to and being at the Statehouse, I was dropping off and picking up kids from school," she said. Her family later bought a house in the capital city "so they would have a solid place to live."

"My younger two, they knew everyone in the Statehouse by the time that first year was up," Hatcher continued. "But if it weren't for my mom, and my sisters, and just my family overall, I could not have done it without them. There was no way. You have to have a support system when you have little

Democratic Rep. Victoria Garcia Wilburn, of Fishers, also said she "wouldn't have had the opportunity to be in the Statehouse" without support from her family. Elected to the House in 2022, the mom of three school-aged kids recalled her youngest, then eight years old, joining her on the campaign trail at fundraisers and helping knock on doors.

"I remember voters saying, 'If you did this good of a job with your son, I can imagine how you'll do such a great job for our district," she said. "I have two daughters and a son, and I see their faces a lot in the different pieces of legislation that are brought up, and so because of that, I do feel as if I'm a fierce advocate for families."

She pointed to legislation she championed during the 2024 session that requires child care centers and preschools to test their drinking water for lead and take action if the toxin is found.

"I thought to myself, my goodness, if my children were drinking toxic water at preschool, that would have been devastating for them. That positions my heart a little bit differently than somebody that maybe wasn't so intimately involved in child rearing," Garcia Wilburn said. "I think as a mother, in particular, everybody wants mom. They want mom when they're hurting. They want mom when they've got good news coming through. They want mom's advice. And so, as a mother, I see myself often championing pieces of legislation to keep our children safe.'

Two of her children are special ability learners one has a visual processing disorder, another has an auditory processing disor-

der - which Garcia Wilburn said also leads her to "always think about how pieces of legislation impact education," especially those with individualized education program or other special education plans.

Although her children are older now, Sen. Liz Brown, R-Fort Wayne, said being a parent "certainly makes me thoughtful, in terms of issues with respect to raising children." Över her last decade in the senate, that's included a special focus on Indiana's Department of Child Services, maternal health issues, and expanding Medicaid up to a year for new moms.

"I have seven children, and they all have varying opinions on a whole lot of issues, and I respect them and appreciate that," Brown said. "I appreciate their concerns and listen to them. I think it informs my opinions.'

School-related legislation that increases parents' "access to information" and bills to increase consumer privacy have also been among her recent priorities.

"I definitely bounce discussions off of (my kids) on these things. I also seek out other people — it's not as if they're expert sources — but I think it's a great perspective to have someone who's younger," Brown said. "How is the world affecting them? How did these things affect them, and just what's their perspective on things?"

Helping other moms — and getting more in the Statehouse

A mom among the House Republicans, Rep. Julie McGuire, R-Indianapolis, has two adult daughters and two sons aged 17 and 18.

She said her experiences raising kids has notably made her "passionate about school choice."

"For my own kids, my children have been the benefit of school choice. We've done public, private and charter schools. So for me, I'm passionate about that, said McGuire, who spent 15 years working for St. Roch Catholic School, where her kids attended, before she was elected in 2022. U.S. Sen. Mike Braun this week put forth McGuire as his lieutenant governor running mate for the 2024 general election, following his primary victory.

In the most recent session, McGuire additionally spent multiple months on legislation that focused on adoption and foster care reforms: "As a mom, I'm just passionate for these kids and trying to give them some stability in the safest way possible," she said.

Still, she acknowledged that having older kids puts her "in a unique," less challenging position compared to moms of younger children.

"If you're called to do this, if you have a passion for this, I feel like if there's a will, there's a way - I think that you can make your schedule work. And Í encourage women to get involved and to find that balance and to find that right position," she said. "Maybe it's not running for state

rep right now, but maybe it's getting involved in your local club, starting there, building those relationships with that flexibility. Maybe it's looking at the school board or county commissioner, whatever it may be in your area. But I think that's a good way to start dipping your toes in and

being part of your party." Sen. Shelli Yoder, D-Bloomington, on the other hand, had young children between the ages of two and six — when she first decided to run for office. Although her kids are older now, Yoder said motherhood has made her keenly aware of the need to focus on legislation specifically affecting women, along with broader bills that will improve the livelihoods of all Hoosiers — moms included.

"The notion that legislation that is centered on motherhood is just about motherhood itself is misguided when it comes to wages and incomes," Yoder said. "We know that in Indiana, women earn less than men. So every time we can bring up those incomes for women, and opportunities for people to have better access to good paying jobs, that impacts motherhood."

Yoder additionally leads an ongoing effort to eliminate taxes on menstruation products. So far, such legislation has failed to advance in the legislature.

"My male colleagues said they appreciated my efforts, but they just don't see how it makes that big of a difference at the end of the day, in the pocketbook. But let me tell you, every woman I talked to says this makes a difference. So why won't we do it?" she asked.

Like Yoder, access to affordable, quality child care is also high on Hatcher's agenda. Free preschool is a large part of the conversations they're pushing, as well.

Financial Focus PSA: Financial freedom: A gift to

your family Here's a sobering statistic: 72% of re-tirees say one of their biggest fears is be-coming a burden on their families, ac-cording to a study by Edward Jones and the consulting firm Age Wave. If you're nearing retirement, how can you boost your financial independence?

For starters, contribute as much as you can afford to your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. Since you may be in your peak earning years, you might be able to put in substantial sums.

And once you do retire, establish a reasonable withdrawal rate from your investments and budget for expenses carefully, so you don't risk outliving

your money.

One more suggestion: Think about downsizing. If you are open to changing your living arrangements, you could save money and boost your liquidity.

Finally, think about the costs of long-term care, such as an extended nursing home stay. You might want to discuss

nome stay. You might want to discuss strategies for meeting these costs with a financial professional.

These moves could help you maintain your financial freedom and reduce your potential dependence on your family. Give them some thought.

This content was provided by Edward Jones for use by Jeremy Todd, your Ed-ward Jones financial advisor at 260-824-

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Key takeaways from the primary: Too much money and too many candidates

Election night might have been more of a whimper than a blowout, but digging into Tuesday's results reveals some key takeaways for both voters and politicos.

After hundreds of candidates, thousands of votes and millions in spending, here are my three lessons:

The Benjamins

Money has corrupted the system, and we might never be able to go back. Sorry to start on a depressing note, but every conversation I had about races in the past month always ended up at money. And speak-

ing with voters on Tuesday, Hoosiers hate that it has taken over elections.

The Citizens United ruling in 2010 changed the dynamics forever, allowing unlimited "inde-

pendent" election spending by corporations and labor unions. A few months later, a lower court used that case to strike down dates without donating to them directly.

And that brought us super PACs, a beefed-up version of political action committees. Unlike their brethren, super PACs are prohibited from donating directly to political candidates and cannot coordinate with a campaign but both can raise and spend unlimited sums, as detailed by the nonprofit OpenSecrets, which tracks election spending.

helping denounced their actions more often.

And self-funding of campaigns is also becoming much more common. Candidate after candidate this primary dipped into their own pockets to fund their campaigns. And their pockets are much deeper than mine.

gubernatorial race. That's a staggering amount of money.

District. He loaned his campaign \$4.5 million and it appeared to seal his win. Just months before that he bankrolled 93% of his unsuccessful mayoral campaign with \$13.5 million in contributions to himself, according to the Indianapolis Star.

So much for a candidate building a wide swath of support from citizens. But I do want to credit Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch for doing just that. She isn't a wealthy businesswoman. Instead, she has spent her life serving in public office and her campaign was funded by supporters who believed in her vision.

Haley effect

fact that Nikki Haley managed to snag one in five GOP presi-

The other option is that Democrats and independents took Republican ballots to vote in the governor's race for a more moderate candidate. There was even an advertising campaign pushing it. I also know a few people who did this.

Councilor, did some initial analysis that seems to back up the

He used precinct-level data that was available on the Indiana Secretary of State's site to do some math. While counties are still reporting, he looked at 2,527 precincts to create a correla-

tive (a 67% correlation) to Chambers' support. In fact, there are about 75 precincts around the state that they both won. For both candidates, heavily-Democrat Marion County was their best county in the state, with Chambers winning it outright as his only county win.

Again, more analysis is needed. But that theory seems to have some preliminary support.

encouraging civic involvement in the state. But there were a number of key races that just had too many candidates.

At the Indiana Capital Chronicle, a simple four-part questionnaire on a specific topic (with responses limited to 150 words) ballooned to thousands of words when each candidate weighed in. An hour-long forum meant each candidate had only a few minutes to appeal to voters — often creating more questions

themselves out of the equation.

I will forever wonder if Crouch or Chambers or Eric Doden, for instance, could have tightened that race against U.S. Sen. Mike Braun other candidates had dropped out. If the polling wasn't so clearly in his favor, he might have been forced to be more specific on issues and even make significant policy pro-

And if it'd been a one-on-one or a three-person race? Who knows how much more competitive and less fractured the vote might have been.

race. On the U.S. House side, there were 63 candidates running across nine House seats. That's an average of seven per race but some actually had 10 candidates. How is a voter supposed to educate themselves adequately on that many candidates to make an informed choice?

Regardless, a nominee who came through with 30% of a vote isn't particularly inspiring, especially when you remember that less than one-third of registered voters even bothered to cast a ballot. When you consider the above, it's no wonder that most of Indiana stayed home on Tuesday.

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Niki Kelly

Hoosier **Opinions**

limits on the size of contributions to groups that support candi-

These groups poured millions into Indiana races this year and often are behind the most misleading or downright false election ads. And yet the candidates who benefit from the attacks turn a blind eye. The PACs are supposed to be run independently. But I suspect their behavior would change if the candidates they're

Brad Chambers loaned his campaign \$10 million in the GOP

Or consider Jefferson Shreve in Indiana's 6th Congressional

Indiana — and national news outlets — are buzzing with the dential votes here. And that's even though she dropped out two months ago.

It's hard to tell without serious data crunching, but one of two things may have happened.

Occam's razor tells you the simplest explanation is probably the right one. Some Republicans just don't like Donald Trump. I know a few who voted exactly that way.

Nick Roberts, a Democrat Indianapolis City-County

tion graph.

Overall, he found that Haley's support was extremely predic-

Too many candidates

I freely acknowledge that this take will seem antithetical to

The governor's race is a perfect example, with six Republicans lining up. There is a fine line between having no options and too many. By having six, debates were less helpful and the campaigns themselves were less substantive.

than answers.

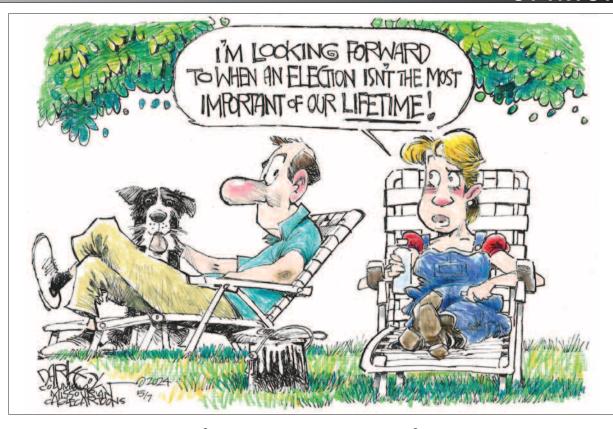
At least three of those candidates probably should have taken

The crowded primaries weren't limited to the governor's

Niki Kelly is the editor of the Indiana Capital Chronicle, a non-profit

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McCormick's race with Braun an abortion 'referendum'

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana is not a state where citizens can petition for an issue referendum to appear on the ballot. Voters in neighboring Michigan, Ohio and Kentucky voted to sustain abortion rights since the U.S. Supreme Court returned the issue to the states in June 2022. So did voters in red states such as Kansas

Democrat gubernatorial nominee Jennifer McCormick intends for her candidacy against Republican nominee Mike Braun and Libertarian Donald Rainwater to be an appeal for abortion rights between now and November.

"That's exactly right," McCormick told me last Tuesday, three hours before the polls closed and Sen. Braun won the GOP nomination. "A vote for me is a vote for

that purpose. There's a clear difference. I'm going to fight to restore those rights under any authority I can, working in a bipartisan fashion, using our committees, board and our agencies. I also know, too, what everybody's fear is, that [Republicans are] not going to restore those rights and will take them further.'

The first post-Dobbs Supreme Court decision election was in November 2022. Indiana Right to Life CEO Mike Fichter observed that not a single Republican legislator who voted for those abortion restrictions lost. When Ball State's Hoosier Poll in January asked about abortion access, 31.3% of respondents answered "legal in most cases" and 27.8% answered "legal in all cases" (or close to 60% want some access) while 27.2% answered "illegal in most cases," and 10.3% responded with "illegal in all cases."

"A lot of it was timing," said McCormick of the 2022 election. "People hadn't been informed as much as they should have been. They hadn't felt the impact; they hadn't watched the actions since then. It was pretty early.'

Since 2022, Indiana passed into law one of the most restrictive abortion laws in the U.S. a month after the Supreme Court ruling. Arizona's Supreme Court reverted to an 1864 law that made all abortions illegal, until the legislature rolled it back this month. The Alabama Supreme Court ruled that stored embryos are afforded the same legal protection as children under the state's Wrongful Death of a Minor Act of 1872. Texas and Florida have enacted abortion bans after six weeks. The Texas law provides for private civil action for women seeking abortion in another state. Former Vice President Mike Pence has called for a national abortion ban

Now people are paying attention to the rhetoric at the national level where they are talking about using Roe for other rights and other freedoms," McCormick said. "People weren't misinformed; they were uninformed. And now we have this piece that now there's been a little time for it to sink in on exactly what happened. People are coming up for air."

Sen. Braun is ardently pro-life. In 2020, he called for the Supreme Court to re-examine Roe v. Wade. In 2023, he proposed federal legislation that would have required parental notification before any unemancipated minor could seek an abortion, saying, "Hoosiers put their trust in me to stand up for the unborn, and that's what I've been proud to do every day in the Senate." His platform reads: "State lawmakers must work to ensure the gains we have made to protect life are secured and strengthened.'

Faced with a lieutenant governor campaign at the June Indiana Republican

Brian Howey

Convention by conservative **Politicking** Noblesville pastor Micah Beckwith, Braun announced just hours after he won the Republi-

can nomination that he would nominate Indianapolis state Rep. Julie McGuire, who defeated pro-life activist Rep. John Jacob in the 2022 GOP primary.

"Julie McGuire is a strong conservative who has lived the values of faith, family, and community," Braun said. "Like me, Julie didn't come from the farm system of politics — her experience comes from the real world serving her neighbors, raising a family, and getting things done on issues like child services and health freedom.

'Julie shares my vision of making Indiana a national beacon of freedom and opportunity, and I'm proud to have her on the team," Braun said.

Beckwith, who told State Affairs earlier this month that he has lined up support of 750 GOP delegates, congratulated Braun on his victory, saying, "With his leadership on jobs, parental rights, protecting life, supporting our law enforcement, and cutting taxes, I know that Hoosiers will thrive. I look forward to working with him to win this race in November and bringing conservative leadership to Indiana."

Asked whether he's worried about Beckwith's lieutenant governor campaign, Braun said, "No, I love competition, love transparency. So if he pushes, that's

McCormick is a rare nominee. She switched from the GOP to the Democratic Party after declining to seek reelection as the Republican superintendent of public instruction. That's an anomaly in modern Hoosier politics. Typically, gubernatorial nominees in Indiana are party stalwarts, not "swing voters," but that's what McCormick is. I wrote a column last week saying if Republicans

nominate Mike Braun, Micah Beckwith, Jim Banks and Todd Rokita, it will be the "testosterone ticket." I asked McCormick if she would consider an "estrogen ticket" or even a Republican?

"Maybe. Nothing is off the table," McCormick said. "I'm looking for the best person regardless of

Brian Howey is senior writer and columnist for Howey Politics Indiana/State Affairs. Tom Davies, Rory Appleton and Jarred Meeks of State Affairs contributed to this column. Find Howey on Facebook and X @hwypol.

The Columbia push to elect Donald Trump

"Let's finish what they did in 1968," a Columbia protester said the other day.

In political terms, that would mean electing Donald Trump.

The disorder of 1968 - when LBJ declined to run again and Hubert Humphrey, Richard Nixon and George Wallace faced off — played right into the hands of Nixon, who rode his opposition to the riots and campus unrest into the White House.

As Luke Nichter writes in his book on the 1968 campaign, "The Year That Broke Politics," great debate of the campaign, the issue that consistently struck the nation's nerve, and where there were the greatest differences among the three candidates, was law and order."

That's not going to be true this year, when other issues loom much larger than the student protests. But if "law and order" is broadly conceived to include the chaos at the border (as well as conflict abroad), it is a major theme of 2024, and has inarguably undermined Biden's presidency.

In sheer magnitude, the mayhem of 1968 was much larger and more consequential than anything that is happening today. After the Martin Luther King Jr. assassination, as Nichter notes, more than 50,000 federal and National Guard troops were called out "in one of the largest peacetime deployments



on American soil in history.

Nixon also went out of his way to position himself as the statesmanlike centrist, which is never Trump's impulse and rarely his tone.

Nichter explains that

ferentiate himself from Rich Johnson to appeal to **Lowry** liberals, while Wallace ran to Nixon's right. This ceded the center to Nixon.

Nixon's voice was firm but not

harsh, alarmed but not apocalyptic. Of course, Nixon emphasized the theme of "the silent majority." In a speech in May on CBS Radio, he referred to it as "the silent center," in other words, "the millions of people in the middle of the American political spectrum who do not demonstrate, who do not picket or protest loudly.'

In a different radio broadcast, on NBC in March, Nixon spoke of "the number one issue of 1968 the number one issue in the United States — and the number one issue in the world. This is the problem of order."

"By order," he explained, "I mean peace at home, and peace in the world. I mean the containing of violence, whether by armies or by mobs or by individuals. I mean the essential stability, the decent regard for the rights of others, that makes life livable and progress possible.'

For a while, Humphrey shifted to his own law-and-order theme.

He gave a speech in October calling for \$1 billion, as Nichter writes, "to hire more police, speed trials, and upgrade prisons." It didn't get him anything. According to Nichter, Humphrey made his gains at the end of the campaign by emphasizing a populist message

that won back Wallace voters. The Democrat got close to Nixon at the end, winning 42.7% to the Republican's 43.4, but was wiped out in the Electoral College.

To what extent will history repeat itself? Again, the violence this year barely compares to 1968, and statesmanship isn't Trump's mode. But the stark choice between a candidate who is perceived as strong and emphasizes the importance of order and a president who is perceived as weak and has presided over disorder — both here at home and abroad — obviously works to Trump's advantage.

In the latest Economist/YouGov survey, 58% say Trump has very or somewhat strong leadership qualities, while 64% say Biden has very or somewhat weak leadership qualities. Biden consistently lags behind Trump on the question of who can be trusted to handle the issues of crime and the border, which rate among the top issues of the election.

So, no, the brief takeover of a building at Columbia didn't equal 1968, but any echo of that annus horribilis helps Trump, with perhaps a homage to Chicago 1968 still to come.

Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry

Events at the Creative Arts Council of Wells County

428 S. Oak Street in Bluffton 260-824-5222

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Creative Arts office hours — Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday (by appointment only).

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If you are interested in finding out more, please call the Creative Arts office at (260) 824-5222.

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Dates: June 3-21, 2024

Creative Movement (Ages 3-5) For 3-5 year old students, the 45 minute Creative Movement class meets twice a week for three weeks.

Tuesday and Thursday (Choose 1 ses-

Session A: 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Session B: 10:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Tuition: \$50

Pre-Dance (Ages 6-8)

The Pre-Dance class is geared toward 6-8 year old students. Students will take two 45 minute classes (one in ballet and one dance elective) twice a week for three weeks.

Tuesday and Thursday from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Tuition: \$90

Continuing Dance (Ages 9-12)

For 9-12 year old students, Continuing Dance occurs twice a week for 3 weeks. Students will take two, one hour classes (one in ballet and one dance elective).

Tuesday and Thursday from 4:45 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Tuition: \$120

Intermediate/Advanced Class

For students that have reached an intermediate to advanced level of classical ballet. Students will take 1.5 to 2.5 hours of class three times a week for three weeks. Classes offered will included ballet, pointe, and contemporary dance styles.

Monday from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuition: \$190



Summer Theater - June 2024 Dreamworks Shrek the Musical JR (Ages 12-18)

Performances:

June 14 at 7 p.m.

June 15th at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets: \$11.00 – purchased online at:

https://tickets.artstix.org/ Disney Jungle Book Kids (Ages 8-11)

Performances:

June 28 at 7 p.m. June 29 at 3 p.m.

Tickets: \$11.00 - purchased online at:

https://tickets.artstix.org/

Audition Announcement

Announcing auditions for Parlor City Shakespeare's 2024 Shakespeare on the Plaza production, "Much Ado About Nothing". Sunday, May 19 and Monday, May 20 at 7 p.m. Creative Arts Council, 428 S Oak St, Bluffton, IN. Enter door 10 and follow the signs. Directed by Hayley E. Johnson.

For more information regarding auditions please visit https://www.facebook.com/par-

Audition Announcement

We are eager to announce that our Fall Theater Production will be Mark Twain's "Tom Sawyer!" This is a play adaptation of the classic story that is sure to draw in actors and audiences, both young and old! For more information on specific information please visit: https://www.facebook.com/ events/373432615684636

Auditions:

Thursday, August 1 from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, August 2 from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, August 3 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Ongoing Activities

Creative Crew: Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All forms of creativity welcome: painting, drawing, needlework and more.... spend the morning working on your craft and socialize with other artists. Enter Door 1 or Door 10 at Life Community Church, the creative crew meets in the cafe.

Readers' Brown Bag Luncheon: Meeting the last Tuesday of the month at noon at Life Community Church, enter door 10. All readers are welcome. Feel free to call the office for more information.

***Important Scheduling Note: Changes can occur after the Creative Happenings column has been published. Please confirm dates and times before planning to participate in programs and activities**

Creative Arts Council activities are supported by memberships, sponsors and grants from funders including Arts United, a regional agency; the Indiana Arts Commission, a state agency; and the National Endowment for the Arts, a national agency.

Auditions for upcoming productions

The Creative Arts office at 428 S. Oak St. in Bluffton will serve as the audition site for "Much Ado About Nothing' and Mark Twain's "Tom Saw-

The Parlor City Shakespeare group will hold auditions on Sunday, May 19 and Monday May 20 at 7 p.m. Those auditioning should enter the building through Door 10 and fllow the signs.

Haley E. Johnson will be the director with more information at https://www. facebook.com/parlorsityshakes.

Auditions for the fall production of "Tom Sawyer" will be held on Thursday, Aug. 1, 5-6 p.m., Friday, Aug. 2, 6-8 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 3, 10 a.m.-12 noon. More information about the production at https://www.facebook. com/events/373432615684636.

Zanesville News

by Melba Edwards

Voting day is over and I placed my ballot for this year's primary. I have never missed voting since I was old enough. On that day, I spent the afternoon with my granddaughter and stayed in the car while she voted for her first time.

There will be a clean-up day at the Lions Club on Saturday, May 18. Anyone is welcome to come over and help spruce up the park and the playgrounds. If you have a power washer, heavy yard rakes, and weed eaters please bring them along.

There were gobs of players and spectators at the ballpark on May 6. I have yet to get a schedule so you will just have to watch for the games for now. The concession stand was also open so you might want to buy some goodies there. The popcorn smelled great. On Saturday, May 25, the Lions Club will host a 5K Run Walk for all ages that starts at the Tower Life Center Church's back parking lot. The time is 8 p.m.

Schedule: 8 a.m. - 1 mile Fun Run (kids 12 & under), 8:15 a.m. - 5K Run/Walk, 9 a.m. - Awards

Entry Fee: \$1 Fun Run, \$10 Pre-race 5K, \$15 Race day 5K.

Awards: First, second. third, fourth and fifth place trophies for run to male and female winners overall, First and second place certificates in age groups, Top five Masters men and

Registration: Pre-Race, send to Zanesville Lions Club, P.O. Box 361, Zanesville, IN 46799 or register race day from 6:45 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. on site.

Contacts: Edwards, 638-4327 or

Robin Phillips, 758-2263. FCC (ADAMS), LLC

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Entry forms must be received by May 23 by mail or phone.

Coming up is ZYP (Zanesville Youth Program) at the Tower Life Center, Let's Read It and Centershot at the Zanesville Community Church of God.



Lumberjack Nachos Tues., May 14 & Wed., May 15



Crusted Chicken Fri., May 17 & Sat., May 18

205 W. Market St. Bluffton, IN on-Sat 10am - 3am · Closed Sunda



Norwell ICE Spotlight award Eli Ingle

Senior Eli Ingle has been selected to receive the Norwell High School Internship Spotlight award. He has been doing his experience at the First Church of Christ in Bluffton his entire senior year. His mentor is Mike Jefferson who resides as the worship and connections pastor at the church. Eli is the son of Doug and Cynthia Ingle of Bluffton.

Eli has had the oppor-

tunity to prep and assist with leading Sunday morning worship time. He does this with singing and the playing of the piano and guitar. He has also helped write biblical material for weekly small groups and observes periodic staff meetings.

After graduation, Eli plans to attend Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee to major in biblical studies.



Eli Ingle

Senior Games at Fort Wayne Parks

This will be the 45 year that the Fort Wayne Park Department has sponsored 50+Senior Games at a variety of sites in Fort Wayne including the Community Center, 233 West Main St.

Registration for the 40 events, to be held June 3-27, is now in progress and includes: axe throwing, basketball, bike tour, billiards, Bocce, bowling, cornhole, darts, disc golf, golf, horseshoes, jigsaw puzzling, miniature golf, paper airplane flying, pickeball, shuffleboard, skee ball, softball throwing/.hitting, table tennis, timed walk, trivia, bingo, Wii bowling and more.

More information at fortwayneparks.org or call 260-427-640.

Master Gardener plant sale at 4-H Park, May 18

Wells County's Master Gardeners will be holding their annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 18, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at the Wells County 4-H Park.

Annual and perennials will be available in addition to bulbs. Planting information also will be available from one of the Master Gardeners



Psi Ote's give to community groups

Members of the Bluffton chapter of Psi lota Xi were in a giving mood as they presented money to several community groups for their projects. The check presentation took place at the Wells County Public Library. In the photo left to right are Julie Holte and Liz Moser (both Psi Ote's) who presented a \$250 check to Connie Brubaker for the Wells County Historical Museum; Jenny Peterson (Psi Ote) who presented a \$500 check to Cindy Burchell for the library's summer reading program and a \$500 check to Ashlee VandenBoom for a YMCA project; and Janiece Lipsey who accepted a \$500 check for the Creative Arts Theatre and \$1000 for the Creative Arts Council from Jennifer Bultemeier (Psi Ote). (Photos provided)



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Ages 5+ Advanced 5:40-6:35pm (\$26 members, \$59 non-members)

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Knights win 6th Northeast 8 tennis title in a row

With its 4-1 victory at home over Huntington North, the Norwell Knights' tennis team was crowned Northeast 8 Conference champions for the sixth straight season on Saturday.

This season, head coach Holly Kimball's squad did it with a perfect 7-0 record in conference play and is now 13-2 on the season. They'll play their final match of the regular season on starting at 4:30 p.m. Monday at

Individual results:

- Addy Heyerly (N) defeated Kylee Burnau 6-2, 6-0 at No.1. singles.
- Ava Christiansen (HN) defeated Delaney Hoover 6-1, 6-2 at No. 2 singles.
- Macie Saalfrank (N) defeated Riley Wilson 6-4, 6-3 at No. 3 singles.
- Annabelle Johnson and Macy Felger (N) defeated Morgan Betterly and Olivia Craig 6-2, 6-4 at No. 1 doubles.
- Jordyn Xayyachack and Ciera Hiester (N) defeated Reece Bomewitz and Kelsie Lundmann 6-2, 6-1 at No. 2 doubles.

The junior varsity tennis team won the junior varsity invitational at Norwell. The team won 5-0 over Huntington North and 4-1 over Columbia City. Their record is now

Results for JV: Vs. Huntington North

Aubrey Meyer defeated Sarah Crist 8-2

- at No. 1 singles. Gabbi Hoeppner defeated Elsa Fortney
- 8-3 at No. 2 singles. • Lucy Gerbers won 8-5 at No. 3 singles.
- Hope Mitchell and Emmaline Johnson defeated Mia Nava and Gracie Shopoff 8-0 at No. 1 doubles.
- · Sam Evans and Charli Swindell defeated Addison Strone and Aver Szelis 8-3 at No. 2 doubles.

Vs. Columbia City

- Aubrey Meyer (N) defeated Saylor Yoder 8-1 at No. 1 singles.
- Gabbi Hoeppner (N) defeated Baylie Patton 8-2 at No. 2 singles.
- Sadie Lyse (CC) defeated Lucy Gerbers 8-3 at No. 3 singles.
- Hope Mitchell and Emmaline Johnson (N) defeated Ava Ward and Amaya Hedrick
- Sam Evans and Charli Swindell (N) defeated Kendra Hunter and Leslie Sims 8-3. The sectional tournament will begin on

Tuesday, May 14 at Bluffton High School. The drawing will take place Monday at 7



Norwell's tennis team poses with the Northeast 8 Conference trophy for the sixth time in a row Saturday in its 4-1 victory over Huntington North. The Knights currently have a 13-2 record on the season. The team will finish the regular season at Carroll on Monday before the sectional tournament begins on Tuesday. (Photo provided)

Bluffton hosts first thrower's showcase, hopes to continue event in the future

Bluffton hosted its first ever thrower's showcase for track and field on Saturday.

The unique event is discus and shot put events only, honoring Bluffton High School Hall of Famer Tony Fey. Tigers' coach Sebastain Baxter said he hopes that this event will become an annual one in the future and for it to grow. There were a total of 14 schools that participated.

The scoring was based on overall individual scores, but also included best shot put teams with two girls and two boys in

total distance and the best discus team.

Heritage was the overall champion in a tight race, finishing first in both shot put and discus. New Haven was second and Yorkton third. Bluffton finished in fourth place, placing third in the shot put and fifth in the discus.

Individual finishers were:

Bovs

- Johnny Cruz fifth in the shot put with a throw of 48-8.25 and Sam Mechling 16th at 40-7.25.
- Drayvin Shoemaker

throw of 134-6 and Chris

Kramer 20th at 110-9.

- Girls • Rori Drayer eighth in the shot put with a throw of 29-10.75 and Alexandria Koby 10th at 28-9.
- Koby 10th in the diseighth in the discus with a cus with a throw of 88-6,

Drayer 11th at 86-4 and Corina Rader 14th at 80-1.

All throwers will rejoin their track and field teams during the sectional at Marion this week, starting at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday with the girls going first.



Bluffton hosted the first annual Tony Fey thrower's showcase Saturday at the high school. The event featured some of the area's best shot put and discus throwers and combined their distances to score a winner. Above left, Bluffton's Drayvin Shoemaker tosses a discus during the event. Above right Rori Drayer gets her chance at the shot put. (Photos provided)

Sports Roundup

Raiders rout the Lions in softball

Southern Wells won the weekend game with Liberty Christian in softball in a 20-2 rout.

The Lions are also the Radiers' firstround sectional opponent and will meet again next week

The win pushes Southern Wells to a 5-14 record.

The team posted 20 hits in the contest with six doubles. Leading the Raiders with four hits was Collena Reeves, who doubled and brought home three RBI. Five had three-hit games — Gracie Reeves, Remi Holmes, Kim McCune, Kyah Thomas and Morgan Jones. Gracie Reeves had three RBI. Holmes had three doubles and three RBI. McCune had a double and two RBI. Thomas had three RBI. Jones had a double and an RBI. The team also stole 18 bases, three by Thomas.

Maddy Sutton pitched all five innings in the win, allowing only two runs (one earned), one hit and seven strikeouts.

Southern Wells will be at Lakewood Park at 5 p.m. Monday, May 13.

Tigers split baseball games with St. Mary's Memorial

Bluffton split the weekend doubleheader with St. Mary's Memorial over the weekend in baseball.

The Tigers moved to a 12-7 record on the season.

In Game 1, the Tigers won 14-4. The team compiled nine hits and 11 RBI in the game. That was led by the twohit games by Axton Beste and Braxton Betancourt, who both had an RBI. Brody Lewis went 1-3 with two RBI.

A.J. Streveler got the win, throwing five innings and allowing four runs and struck out five. Betancourt pitched an inning and didn't allow a hit, run, or walk and struck out three.

In Game 2, Bluffton fell 11-5. The

Tigers again had nine hits, three from Nick Pastore, who had two RBI. Betancourt went 204 with a double and an RBI, and Griffin Morgan had a double and two RBI.

Morgan got the loss, throwing 1.1 innings. Beste threw five innings and allowed three runs (two earned) with two walks and seven strikeouts.

Bluffton will host Blackhawk Christian at 5 p.m. Monday, May 13.

Knights place third in the 9/10 boys' invitational

Norwell competed at Huntington North for the boys' 9/10 track and field invitational Saturday.

The Knights came in third with Columbia City at 70 points, sitting behind Mt. Veron with 117 and Huntington North at 105.

Individual finishers:

- Caiden Petrie fifth in the 800m with a time of 2:10.84.
- Gage Reinhard fourth in the 3200m with a time of 10:51.38.
- Zane Borne first in the 110m hurdles with a time of 16.04 and Elijah Nunn second at 16.91.
- Borne third in the 300m hurdles
- with a time of 44.50. • Luke Harkless fourth in the shot put

Team Scores:

at 42-4.5

1. Mt. Vernon (117 points), 2. Huntington North (105), T3. Columbia City (70). T3. Norwell (70), 5. Marion (64), 6. New Haven (45), 7. Wabash (40), T8. East Noble (32), T8. Richmond (32), 10. Bellmont (24), 11. Muncie Central (21), 12. Jay County (20), 13. Rochester Community (18).

Norwell will be at Marion this week for the sectional, starting at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday with the girls

Raiders drop to Cavs in baseball

Southern Wells fell to Canterbury on the road in baseball Saturday.

The team fell to 3-15 on the season. Of the eight hits, Landon Johnson and Robby Freimuth had two-hit games and RBI. Johnson had a double. Wyatt Yoder had a hit and two RBI with a triple. Rugar Holmes went 1-2 with a double. Peyton Bertsch had an RBI.

Holmes picked up the loss in 3.1

Southern Wells will be at Bluffton for a nonconference match at 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 14.

Knights fall to the **Braves in NE8 softball**

Norwell's softball team fell 12-2 in five innings against Bellmont on the road Saturday.

The Knights fell to a team record of 9-7 and 3-3 in the Northeast 8 Confer-

Of the four hits, Reese Frauhiger's went for a triple, while base hits were by Jordan Markley, Hayden Herman and Makayla Young. Kara Brown had the lone RBI.

Sami Lemler pitched the loss. Norwell will host Columbia City at 5:30 p.m. Monday, May 13.

Knights split JV baseball doubleheader vs. Indians

Norwell split the junior varsity home baseball doubleheader with Mississinewa Saturday.

In Game 1, the Knights won 6-4. Of the three hits, Brayden Huffman's two-RBI single led the way. Will Case and Josiah Ray had the other hits.

Trey Privett picked up the win with seven innings pitched, four runs (one earned), six hits and five strikeouts.

In Game 2, the Knights fell 20-3 in six innings. Lincoln Shafer led the way with two hits. Krug had a double and two RBI. Jaxon Dohrman had a single and the final RBI.

Noah Comer picked up the loss.

Pacers take advantage of short-handed Knicks to even series with rout

By MICHAEL MAROT **AP Sports Writer**

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — After three games that went down to the wire, the Indiana Pacers were off and running early in Game 4.

The short-handed New York Knicks just didn't have the legs to keep up.

Tyrese Haliburton scored 20 points, T.J. McConnell finished with 15 points and 10 assists and the Pacers routed the Knicks 121-89, using the third-largest playoff victory in the franchise's NBA history to even the series at 2-2.

Game 5 will be played Tuesday at Madison Square Gar-

"All we did was do our job," Haliburton said after finishing with six rebounds, five assists and four 3-pointers. When you're at home, you have to protect home court, so we did our job. We understand the magnitude of Game 5 and we'll be prepared for that one."

The first three games all came down to key plays in the final three minutes.

Sunday's provided a different twist. Indiana led by as much as 43 — the largest deficit any playoff team has faced in these playoffs — and fell just short of matching its two largest NBA postseason victories, a 34-point blowout over Cleveland in April 2018 and a 33-point win over the Lakers in the 2000 NBA Finals.

And while Indiana could seemingly do nothing wrong, the Knicks couldn't do anything right.

Pascal Siakam and Obi Toppin each scored 14 points, Aaron Nesmith grabbed 12 rebounds and the Pacers shot 56.8% from the field, 45.2% on 3-pointers and erased their only deficit of the game, 2-0, just 44 seconds into the game.

The Knicks, who again played without four key players

because of injuries, looked fatigued. Alec Burks finished with 20 points for New York. Brunson, who entered the day with a league-best 34.6 points per game in the postseason, scored only 18 on a day the Knicks shot 33.7% from the field, 18.9% on 3s and flirted with posting the worst playoff loss in franchise history. The record, 41, came at Chicago in April 1991.

Brunson wasn't the only one struggling. Donte DiVincenzo, who had 35 points in Game 3, scored just seven on Sunday. The two guards were a combined 9 of 30 from the field and 1 of 11 on 3s.

'We can talk about fresher legs and you can give us all the pity we want," Brunson said. "Yeah, we're short-handed, but that doesn't matter right now. We have what we have. So there's no we're short-handed, there's no excuse. We lose, we lose. That's what that was.'

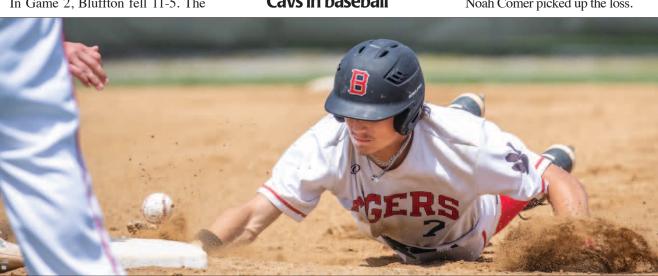
Once again, the Pacers fed off the energy of a nearly full Gainbridge Fieldhouse, where they are now 5-0 with Game 6 coming back to Indianapolis on Friday. Those watching from courtside included Indiana-born singer John Mellencamp, Indianapolis 500 winners Scott Dixon and Dario Franchitti and former Pacers stars Dale Davis and Derrick

What they witnessed was the most dominant perfor-

mance in the series. Without forwards OG Anunoby, Bojan Bogdanovic and Julius Randle as well as center Mitchell Robinson, New York produced a 14-point first quarter and a 41-point first half — its two lowest totals through the first 10 playoff games this season.

A predictable result ensued.

"We started slowly, they made shots, got a big lead and it snowballed," Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau said. "I thought (Continued on Page 7)



Bluffton senior Braxton Betancourt dives back to first base as the ball gets past the St. Mary's Memorial first baseman during the second game of Saturday's double header in Bluffton. The Tigers fell 5-11 in the game but won the first 14-4. (Photo by Chad Kline)

Southern Wells wins girls' ACAC championship, Bluffton

Bluffton boys and Southern Wells girls reigned the champions of the ACAC middle school track and field world Friday night.

The Tiger boys won with a team score of 154.5, while the Raider girls won with 127.5 points.

Southern Wells' boys finished fourth with 57 points and the Bluffton girls finished second with 101

Individual results: Bluffton

Boys

- Parker Barnes second in the 100m with a time of 12.18
- Croy Stout third in the 1600m with a time of
- Bluffton's 4x100m relay team first with a time of 49.19.
- Barnes first in the 200m hurdles with a time of 27.29 and Asher Kinsey third at
- Maddox White first in the 800m with a time of 2:19.17.
- Dawson Lee second in the 200m with a time of 26.08 • Bluffton's 4x400m
- relay team first with a time of 4:04.28.
- Davin Drayer third in the high jump at 5-0.
- Lee first in the long jump at 18-5.
- Grayson Crowder first

- in the shot put at 40-0.50 and Wyatt Holmes third at 38-8.50.
- Crowder second in the discus at 115-10.

Girls

- Adalynn Bertsch third in the 100m with a time of
- 14.44 · Cora Kunkel first in the 1600m with a time of 5:45.86 and Abigail
- Ramseyer second at 5:49.48. • Grace Fry second in the 800m with a time of 2:38.99.
- Bluffton's 4x400m relay team first with a time
- of 4:45.53 • Kunkel second in the high jump at 4-6 and Bridg-
- Kenley Smith third in the shot put at 24-10.

Southern Wells Boys

et Steffen third at 4-4.

- Adam Aulbach third in the 100m with a time of 12.21.
- Logan Leas second in the 1600m with a time of 5:16.72.
- Aulbach first in the high jump at 5-8 and Hunter Durham second at 5-1.

- Bailey Jenkins first in the 100m with a time of 13.95 and Kameron Hawkins second at 14.908.
- Aubree Neuenschwander third in the 1600m with a time of 5:52.95.

- The 4x100m relay team of Hawkins, Kyan Johnson, Leighann Carpenter and Jenkins first with a time of
- Grace Rogers second in the 400m with a time of 1:09.13 and Holly Pearson third at 1:10.27.
- Jenkins second in the 200m hurdles with a time of 32.28 and Carpenter third at
- Rogers third in the 800m with a time of 2:39.95.
- · Abbie Powell second in the 200m with a time of 30.19 and Carpenter third at 30.69.
- Southern Wells' 4x400m relay team of Laren Schneider, Reese Prible, Pearson and Rogers second with a time of 4:49.11.
- Carpenter third in the long jump at 14-3.25
- Carpenter third in the long

Team scores: **Boys**

1. Bluffton (154.5 points), 2. Woodlan (126.5), 3. South Adams (79), 4. Southern Wells (57), 5. Heritage (50), 6. Adams Central (44), 7. Jay County (28).

Girls

1. Southern Wells (127.5 points), 2. Bluffton (101), 3. South Adams (98), 4. Woodlan (69), 5. Heritage (58.5), 6. Jay County (52), 7. Adams Central (34).

High School Calendar SOFTBALL: Woodlan at Norwell, 5:30 p.m.;

MONDAY, MAY 13

BASEBALL: Blackhawk at Bluffton, 5 p.m. BOYS GOLF: Bluffton at South Adams, 4:30

GIRLS TENNIS: Norwell at Carroll, 4:30 p.m. SOFTBALL: Columbia City at Norwell, 5:30 p.m.; Bluffton at Wes-Del, 5:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Lakewood Park Christian, 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 14

BASEBALL: Norwell at Columbia City, 5:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Bluffton, 5 p.m. (non-

BOYS GOLF: Bellmont/East Noble at Norwell, 4 p.m.; Adams Central at Southern Wells,

GIRLS TENNIS: (Sectional) Bluffton, Norwell at Bluffton vs. TBD, 4:30 p.m.

TRACK & FIELD: (Girls sectional,) Bluffton, Norwell, Southern Wells at Marion, 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15 BASEBALL: Norwell at Northrop, 5:30 p.m.

SOFTBALL: North Side at Southern Wells,

GIRLS TENNIS: (Sectional) Bluffton, Norwell at Bluffton vs. TBD, 4:30 p.m.

Fremont at Bluffton, 5:30 p.m. THURSDAY, MAY 16

BASEBALL: Norwell at Carroll, 6 p.m.; Bluffton at Huntington North, 6 p.m.

BOYS GOLF: Eastbrook at Bluffton 4:30 p.m.; Madison-Grant at Southern Wells, 4:30 p.m. GIRLS TENNIS: (Sectional) Bluffton, Norwell

at Bluffton vs. TBD, 4:30 p.m. TRACK & FIELD: (Boys sectional,) Bluffton,

Norwell, Southern Wells at Marion, 5:30 p.m. SOFTBALL: North Side at Norwell, 5:30 p.m.; Winchester at Bluffton, 5 p.m. FRIDAY, MAY 17

BASEBALL: Anderson Prep at Southern Wells, 5:30 p.m. SOFTBALL: Bluffton at Norwell, 5 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 18

BASEBALL: Bluffton at Southwood, 10 a.m. BOYS GOLF: Norwell's NE8 Meet at Cobblestone Golf Course, 9 a.m.; Bluffton, Southern Wells' ACAC meet at Celina Linx Golf Course,

SOFTBALL: Norwell at Whitko (doublehead-

Sunday's Games

Boston 3, Washington 2 Arizona 9, Baltimore 2



Bluffton and Southern Wells dominated the ACAC competition Friday night for the conference track and field championships. Above, Southern Wells' girls' team poses with the trophy, winning with a team score of 127.5 points. Below, Bluffton's boys' team poses with its trophy, winning with 154.5 points. (Photos provided)

Pacers beat Knicks

(Continued from Page 6)

we missed some wide-open shots early that probably took some energy out of us and we can't allow that to happen."

The Pacers did not make that mistake.

Haliburton's first 3 gave Indiana the lead for good at 5-2 and the Pacers followed with a decisive 29-7 firstquarter spurt that made it

New York never recovered. It cut the deficit to 36-19 early in the second, only to see Indiana answer

with 10 straight points before extending the halftime margin to 69-41.

Things only got worse in the second half.

Indian led 101-63 after three quarters, a deficit so large both teams rested their starters the entire fourth quarter. Indiana's 43-point lead in the fourth quarter marked the third time this season it's led by at least that margin and the first time New York trailed by that much since Dec. 5, 2019, a span of 388 games.

But to the Pacers, this

was not a moment to celebrate; just a step on a journey they hope to continue when they return to New "We did what we needed

to do, protect home court," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said. "I'm not going to get into a dissertation about how great we are as a team because we're only halfway to our goal. We've got to understand that and have a great level of humility for what's coming Tuesday and be braced for it."

News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

NBA

Friday, May 10 Indiana 111, New York 106 Denver 117, Minnesota 90 Saturday, May 11
Dallas 105, Oklahoma City 101, Dallas leads series 2 - 1 Boston 106, Cleveland 93, Boston leads series 2 - 1

Sunday, May 12 Indiana 121, New York 89, series tied 2 - 2 Denver 115, Minnesota 107, series

tied 2 - 2 Monday, May 13
Boston at Cleveland, 7 p.m. Oklahoma City at Dallas, 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 14 Indiana at New York, 8 p.m. Minnesota at Denver, 10:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 15 Cleveland at Boston, 7 p.m. Dallas at Oklahoma City, 9:30 p.m. Thursday, May 16
Denver at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.

Friday, May 17
New York at Indiana, TBA x-Boston at Cleveland, TBA Saturday, May 18

x-Oklahoma City at Dallas, TBA Sunday, May 19 x-Cleveland at Boston, TBA x-Minnesota at Denver, TBA x-Indiana at New York, TBA

HOCKEY

NHL

Friday, May 10 Florida 6, Boston 2, Florida leads series 3 - 1 Edmonton 4, Vancouver 3, OT,

series tied 1 - 1 Saturday, May 11 Carolina 4, N.Y. Rangers 3, N.Y. Rangers leads series 3 - 1 Dallas 4, Colorado 1, Dallas leads series 2 - 1

Sunday, May 12 Florida 3, Boston 2 Vancouver at Edmonton late Monday, May 13
Carolina at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Colorado, 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 14
Boston at Florida, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 15 Colorado at Dallas, 8 p.m. Thursday, May 16 Edmonton at Vancouver, TBA x-N.Y. Rangers at Carolina, TBA **Friday, May 17**

BASEBALL

Kansas City Detroit

x-Florida at Boston, TBA x-Dallas at Colorado, TBA

MLB AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division W L GB 13 15 19 21 Baltimore 26 27 21 20 New York .643 Tampa Bay 22 GB 16 16 17 W Pct Cleveland Minnesota .600

29 .293 12 Chicago 13 West Division W L 19 20 Seattle Texas 23 25 26 Oakland 19 15 .452 .375 Los Angeles 15 26 .36 Saturday's Games .366 Toronto 10, Minnesota 8

Boston 4, Washington 2
Tampa Bay 7, N.Y. Yankees 2
Baltimore 5, Arizona 4, 11 innings
Detroit 8, Houston 2 Chicago White Sox 3. Cleveland 1 Colorado 8, Texas 3 L.A. Angels 9, Kansas City 3 Oakland 8, Seattle 1 Sunday's Games Minnesota 5, Toronto 1 Boston 3, Washington 2

Arizona 9. Baltimore 2 Cleveland 7, Chicago White Sox 0 Houston 9, Detroit 3 N.Y. Yankees 10, Tampa Bay 6 Colorado 3, Texas 1 Kansas City 4, L.A. Angels 2 Seattle 8, Oakland 4 Monday's Games
Toronto (Berríos 4-3) at Baltimore

(Burnes 3-2), 6:35 p.m. (Burnes 3-2), 6:35 p.m.
Miami (Sánchez 0-1) at Detroit
(Manning 0-1), 6:40 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Eflin 2-4) at Boston
(Crawford 2-1), 7:10 p.m.
Washington (Williams 4-0) at Chicago White Sox (Flexen 2-3), 7:40 p.m. Cleveland (Bibee 2-1) at Texas Cleveland (bluee 2-1) at lexas (Lorenzen 2-2), 8:05 p.m. Oakland (Stripling 1-6) at Houston (Arrighetti 0-4), 8:10 p.m. St. Louis (Liberatore 1-1) at L.A.

Angels (Soriano 1-4), 9:38 p.m.
Kansas City (Singer 3-1) at Seattle
(Kirby 3-3), 9:40 p.m.
Tuesday's Games
Toronto at Baltimore, 6:35 p.m. Miami at Detroit, 6:40 p.m. Tampa Bay at Boston, 7:10 p.m. N.Y. Yankees at Minnesota, 7:40

p.m. Washington at Chicago White Sox, Cleveland at Texas, 8:05 p.m. Oakland at Houston, 8:10 p.m. St. Louis at L.A. Angels, 9:38 p.m. Kansas City at Seattle, 9:40 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Eas	t Div	/isio	1	
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	28	13	.683	_
Atlanta [']	24	13	.649	2
New York	20	20	.500	71/2
Washington	19	20	.487	8
Miami	11	31	.262	171/2
Cent	ral D	ivisi	on	
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	24	16	.600	_
Chicago	24	17	.585	1/2
Pittsburgh	18	23	.439	61/2
Cincinnati	17	23	.425	7
St. Louis	16	24	.400	8
Wes		visio		
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	27			_
		21	.512	5½
Arizona		22		71/2
San Francisco			.452	8
Colorado	12		.300	14
Saturd				
Boston 4, Was			-	
Philadelphia 8				
Atlanta 4, N.Y.				

Pittsburgh 10, Chicago Cubs 9
Baltimore 5, Arizona 4, 11 innings

San Francisco 5, Cincinnati 1 Milwaukee 5, St. Louis 3

Colorado 8, Texas 3 L.A. Dodgers 5, San Diego 0

Miami 7, Philadelphia 6, 10 innings Chicago Cubs 5, Pittsburgh 4, 10 innings St. Louis 4, Milwaukee 3 Colorado 3, Texas 1 San Diego 4, L.A. Dodgers 0 San Francisco 6, Cincinnati 5, 10 innings N.Y. Mets 4, Atlanta 3 Monday's Games Miami (Sánchez 0-1) at Detroit

Miami (Sánchez 0-1) at Detroit (Manning 0-1), 6:40 p.m. Philadelphia (Sánchez 2-3) at N.Y. Mets (Manaea 2-1), 7:10 p.m. Chicago Cubs (Imanaga 5-0) at Atlanta (López 2-1), 7:20 p.m. Pittsburgh (Keller 3-3) at Milwaukee (Rea 3-0), 7:40 p.m. Washington (Williams 4-0) at Chicago White Sox (Flexen 2-3), 7:40 p.m. St. Louis (Liberatore 1-1) at L.A. Angels (Soriano 1-4), 9:38 p.m. Angels (Soriano 1-4), 9:38 p.m. Cincinnati (Ashcraft 3-2) at Arizona

Cincinnati (Asncratt 3-2) at Arizona (Montgomery 2-2), 9:40 p.m. Colorado (Hudson 0-6) at San Diego (Vásquez 0-1), 9:40 p.m. L.A. Dodgers (Stone 3-1) at San Francisco (Hicks 3-1), 9:45 p.m. Tuesday's Games Philadelphia at N.Y. Mets, 1:10 p.m. Miami at Detroit, 6:40 p.m. Chicago Cubs at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.

Pittsburgh at Milwaukee, 7:40 p.m. Washington at Chicago White Sox, St. Louis at L.A. Angels, 9:38 p.m. Cincinnati at Arizona, 9:40 p.m. Colorado at San Diego, 9:40 p.m. L.A. Dodgers at San Francisco,

9:45 p.m. Midwest League

East Division Great Lakes 20 L Pct. 13 .606

Lake County	20	13	.606	_
Lansing	16	17	.485	4
West Michigan	115	18	.455	5
Dayton	14	19	.424	6
Fort Wayne	12	21	.364	8
	t Di	visio	n	
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Wisconsin	21	12	.636	_
Quad Cities	19	14	.576	2
Cedar Rapids	18	14	.563	21/2
Beloit	17	15	.531	31/2
South Bend	13	20	.394	8
Peoria	12	21	.364	9
Saturd	ay's	Gar	nes	
Lansing 11 G	reat	Lake	s 8 11	1

innings Peoria 6 Beloit 3 South Bend 4, Cedar Rapids 3 Lake County 9, Dayton 3 Wisconsin 2, Quad Cities 0 West Michigan 4, Fort Wayne 3 Sunday's Games
Dayton 3, Lake County 0 Lansing 4, Great Lakes 3 Fort Wayne 7, West Michigan 10, 10 innings
Wisconsin 6, Quad Cities 3

Monday's Games No games scheduled Tuesday's Games
West Michigan at Peoria, 12:05 p.m.
Lake County at Lansing, 6:05 p.m.
South Bend at Fort Wayne, 6:35

Peoria 9. Beloit 3

Cedar Rapids 4, South Bend 2, 10

Great Lakes at Dayton, 7:05 p.m. Quad Cities at Cedar Rapids, 7:35 Beloit at Wisconsin, 7:40 p.m.



Wedding snubs and dishwasher dilemmas

Dear Annie: My husband and I have love the one you been together for 15 years. He has three children from a previous marriage. In the early days of our relationship, my nieces would often come and visit during the summers, and all the kids would play together. As everyone grew older, the visits lessened to just holidays.

Fast forward to now, when one of my nieces is getting married. She invit- I live in a condo ed my husband and me, and our two younger boys, but not the other three. I asked her if it was an oversight or if they were assumed in the family invitation. She told me that the four of them hadn't really spoken in years, with my husband's daughter ghosting her when she's reached out during her most recent visits. She also mentioned that because his daughter treats me poorly (she's often rude and disrespectful something my husband and I have been to therapy over), she doesn't want that behavior at her wedding.

I mentioned this to my husband so that we could talk about the event privately, without upsetting anybody. He became very upset and thinks we should invite them anyway. He said they probably won't come. He also said his daughter has mental health issues and we just need to accept her behavior (this is why we are in therapy) and look past it. I told him that my niece can choose who she wants to invite, and if there isn't a relationship and her concerns of possible drama are valid, then she shouldn't feel obligated to. Is my husband right? Should I ask my niece to reconsider? -- Blended Family Wedding Season

Dear Blended: This is a difficult situation, and I applaud that you are all in therapy to work on your relationships. If your niece just didn't invite the daughter who was rude and disrespectful to you, then I would say you have to explain to her the consequences of her actions toward you. When you are rude or mean to others, you probably won't get invited to events from people who

are being mean to. However, she didn't invite any of his children. That seems a bit exclusive and

mean. Dear Annie: complex, where we all own our

individual condos. Recently, I redid my kitchen to include a dishwasher. My next-door neighbor, who is elderly, found out and asked if I wouldn't mind putting a couple of dishes in with mine as she says that it is hard for her to stand at her sink and do them by hand.

Dear

Annie

by Annie Lane

At first, I didn't mind, but it's gotten out of control. She now wants me to come over and collect her dirty dishes, put them in my dishwasher and then return them to her. I feel guilty because she is elderly, but this has gotten completely out of control. How do I tell her no without being a "bad" neighbor? Please help! — Freeloading Neighbor

Dear Freeloading Neighbor: The reason she is taking advantage of your kindness is because you are kind. You were very generous with her in the beginning, but she took advantage of your kindness and now that has to stop. If you don't politely stop her now, laundry might be next. Just know that having boundaries is not unkind, and let yourself off the hook.

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

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BEETLE BAILEY





BLONDIE







ZITS





CRANKSHAFT





ACROSS

school

basics





"Megan says she has a great-grandmother, but I said I have the GREATEST grandmother."

The LOCKHORNS



"YOU'RE TAKING YOUR MOTHER TO THE DOCTOR?. BOLTS ON HER NECK NEED TIGHTENING?

DOWN

aide

2 One of

lead-in

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My Answer

By Dr. Billy

Graham

Question: Some years ago, I was carrying guilt that weighed me down and discouraged me from getting on with life. After hearing the Gospel, I got my heart right with God and He gave me a new lease on life, including the restoration of some relationships tha lost. As Chri we supposed to reveal other cause burden. our joy? -G.R

Answer: A gist from Yale stated once, ' to you that yo something to in one else, gui

Guilt is not all bad

you to do something to fix it, to repair the bond." An evidence of a true believer is to sense God's Holy

Spirit convicting us of any sin in our life. "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23-24, NKJV).

Our personalities, our intelligence, and our capabilities are gifts from God's own bountiful hand. If we divert their use for our own profit, we become guilty of selfishness. Guilt is not all bad. Without it, there is nothing to drive a person toward self-examination and toward God for His forgiveness. The psalmist prayed to the Lord, "Restore to me the joy

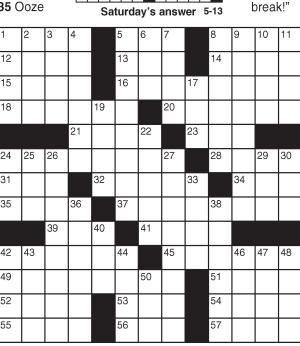


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Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively

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Lottery Numbers

Saturday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY Cash 5 — 26-29-37-42-

Cash4Life — 02-14-41-44-47, Cash Ball: 03

Lotto Plus — 23-28-33-

Quick Draw Midday — 01-09-11-12-13-17-23-25-32-33-35-36-38-42-45-48-

51-58-65-73-75, BE: 38 **Daily Three-Midday** 06-03-06, SB: 05

Daily Three-Evening —

03-09-06, SB: 08

Daily Four-Midday —

02-04-04-05, SB: 05 Daily Four-Evening — 07-00-01-07, SB: 08

Quick Draw Evening 05-17-18-19-21-24-26-

29-39-42-44-45-50-51-54-55-57-75-78-80, BE: 05 **Hoosier Lotto** — 09-15-

28-30-37-43 **POWERBALL** 03-06-39-49-67; Powerball: 21; Power Play: 2X

Sunday's Drawings HOOSIÉR LOTTERY

Cash 5 - 08-16-22-33-

Cash4Life — 02-07-38-39-57, Cash Ball: 04

Quick Draw Midday — 01-11-12-17-19-20-21-22-23-24-31-36-41-50-51-59-70-75-78-79, BE: 78

Daily Three-Midday — 04-08-04, SB: 07

Daily Three-Evening —

01-04-06, SB: 01 Daily Four-Midday —

03-07-09-09, SB: 07

Daily Four-Evening —

03-05-00-00, SB: 01 **Quick Draw Evening** 01-09-16-17-23-25-27-30-31-33-42-51-52-53-56-

57-64-67-68-71, BE: 23 **Hoosier Lotto** — Estimated jackpot (for Wednes-

day): \$12.2 million **MEGA MILLIONS**

Estimated jackpot (for Tuesday): \$363 million

POWERBALL Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$47 million

SUDOKU ANSWER

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EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

THE CITY OF Bluffton is accepting applications for Paid-On-Call Firefighters and Part Time Firefighters. Both positions require a high school diploma or equivalent and a Driver's License. The City utilizes E-Verify and follows EEOC guidelines. Applications may be obtained from the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, 128 E. Market St, Bluffton, Mon-Fri from 8a-4:30p or online at www.blufftonindiana.net. Applications due June 14th.

FOR SALE

Miscellaneous

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glacierpure@outlook.com Wanted to Buy

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BEAUTIFUL MOTHER'S DAY baskets, garden plants, & flowers Thursday & Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., 129 Beechwood Place, Bluffton. See you at the Farmers Market Saturday. Back to yard sale all next week.

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A 20 word, "For Sale" or "Automotive", line classified ad in the Bluffton News-Banner runs until your item is

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Public Notices

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me, directed from the Clerk of Wells Superior Court of Wells County, Indiana, in Cause No. 90D01-2311-MF-000027, wherein Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC was Plaintiff, and Joshua A. Moriarity and Mariner Finance LLC were Defendants, required me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree, with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder on the 12th day of June, 2024, at the hour of 1:00 PM, or as soon thereafter as is possible, at 102 W Market St, Bluffton, IN 46714, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Fetate in Wells County Indiana. Estate in Wells County, Indiana. Lot Numbered 49 as known

and designated on the recorded plat of Hi-Lo Addition No. 2 to the City of Bluffton, according to the recorded plat thereof, recorded in Plat Book 3 page 208, in the Office of the Recorder of Wells County of the Recorder of Wells County,

More commonly known as 52 Hi Lo Dr, Bluffton, IN 46714-1624 Parcel No. 90-08-05-509-049.000-004

Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisement

/s/ BRYAN K. REDMOND BRYAN K. REDMOND, Plaintiff Attorney

Attorney # 22108-29 FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C. 8415 Allison Pointe Blvd., Suite 400

Indianapolis, IN 46250 Scott Holliday, Sheriff

Harrison Township The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street address published herein. NOTICE

FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C. IS A DEBT COLLECTOR. nb 4/29, 5/6, 5/13

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me, directed from the Clerk of Wells Superior Court of Wells County, Indiana, in Cause No. 90D01-2312-MF-000032, wherein PennyMac Loan Services, LLC was Plaintiff, and Russell W. Carrick Jr, Jennifer C. Miles, Unit-ed States of America Department of Housing and Urban Develop-ment and Discover Bank C/O Discover Products were Defendants, required me to make the sum, as provided for in said Decree, with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder on the 12th day of June, 2014, at the hour of 1:00 PM, or as soon thereafter as is possible, at 102 W Mar-ket St, Bluffton, IN 46714, the fee

simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Wells County, Indiana. Lot Number 86 as known and designated on the recorded plat of Townley and Silver 's West Addition to the Town now City of Bluff-

More commonly known as 515 W Central Ave, Bluffton, IN 46714-2411 Parcel No. 90-08-04-530-

090.000-004
Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisement

/s/ Matthew S. Love MATTHEW S. LOVE, Plaintiff Attorney # 18762-29

FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C. 8415 Allison Pointe Blvd., Suite

Indianapolis, IN 46250 (317) 237-2727 Scott Holliday, Sheriff

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BIDDING ENDS 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 16 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 1556 Shadow Run Trail, Bluffton. Steffen Group, www.steffengrp.com, 824-3006, Pat Carter, sale

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.

MAY 21 - 6 p.m. - Patricia Mossburg & Joyce Shady, owners. Wells County 4-H Park, 1240 4-H Rd., Bluffton. Property location: 100S & 200W, Bluffton. 90+/-A, Zoned Agricultural, Liberty Township, Wells County. To be sold in individual tracts or any combination. Tract 1: 54+/-A tillable, frontage on both CR 100S & CR 200W. Tract 2: 12+/-A, 8+/-A tillable, 4+/-A woods, frontage on 100S & 200W. Tract 3: 24+/-A, mostly woods, 6+/-A tillable, frontage on CR 200W. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-

MAY 26-JUNE 2 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of John F. Holbrook, seller. 200+ pcs. Roseville, Rookwood, Hull, McCoy, VanBriggle, antique & modern furniture, 1950 Ford Sedan, Coca Cola vintage signs & collectibles, antique tools, 2-pc. Oak kitchen cabinet, JFK political buttons and advertising, vintage toys. Auction preview: May 23 from 3-6 p.m. and May 30 from

3-6 p.m., 10421 W. Yoder Rd., Roanoke, IN.

Patrick Carter, sale manager, The Steffen Group

Inc., www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.
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way 30, and May 31 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Troyer Auctions, LLC, 260-768-7246, ext. 3.

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8/ **PER ISSUE**

Schools turn to AI to spot guns as companies press lawmakers for funds

By DAVID A. LIEB and JOHN HANNA Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Kansas could soon offer up to \$5 million in grants for schools to outfit surveillance cameras with artificial intelligence systems that can spot people carrying guns. But the governor needs to approve the expenditures and the schools must meet some very specific criteria.

The AI software must be patented, "designated as qualified anti-terrorism technology," in compliance with certain security industry standards, already in use in at least 30 states and capable of detecting "three broad firearm classifications with a minimum of 300 subclassifications" and "at least 2,000 permutations," among other things.

Only one company currently meets all those criteria: the same organization that touted them to Kansas lawmakers crafting the state budget. That company, ZeroEyes, is a rapidly growing firm founded by military veterans after the fatal shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida.

The legislation pending before Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly highlights two things. After numerous high-profile shootings, school security has become a multibillion-dollar industry. And in state capitols, some companies are successfully persuading policymakers to write their particular corporate solutions into state law.

ZeroEyes also appears to be the only firm qualified for state firearms detection programs under laws enacted last year in Michigan and Utah, bills passed earlier this year in Florida and Iowa and legislation proposed in Colorado, Louisiana and Wisconsin.

On Friday, Missouri became the latest state to pass legislation geared toward ZeroEyes, offering \$2.5 million in matching grants for schools to buy firearms detection software designated as "qualified anti-terrorism technology."

"We're not paying legislators to write us into their bills," ZeroEyes co-founder and Chief Revenue Officer Sam Alaimo said. But "if they're doing that, it means I think they're doing their homework, and they're making sure they're getting a vetted technology."

ZeroEyes uses artificial intelligence with surveillance cameras to identify visible guns, then flashes an alert to an operations center staffed around the clock by former law enforcement officers and military veterans. If verified as a legitimate threat by ZeroEyes personnel, an alert is sent to school

officials and local authorities.

The goal is to "get that gun before that trigger's squeezed, or before that gun gets to the door," Alaimo said.

Few question the technology. But some do question the legislative tactics.

The super-specific Kansas bill — particularly the requirement that a company have its product in at least 30 states — is "probably the most egregious thing that I have ever read" in legislation, said Jason Stoddard, director of school safety and security for Charles County Public Schools in Maryland.

Stoddard is chairperson of the newly launched National Council of School Safety Directors, which formed to set standards for school safety officials and push back against vendors who are increasingly pitching particular products to lawmakers.

When states allot millions of dollars for certain products, it often leaves less money for other important school safety efforts, such as electronic door locks, shatter-resistant windows, communication systems and security staff, he said.

"The artificial-intelligencedriven weapons detection is absolutely wonderful," Stoddard said. "But it's probably not the priority that 95% of the schools in the United States need right now."

The technology also can be costly, which is why some states are establishing grant programs. In Florida, legislation to implement ZeroEyes technology in schools in just two counties cost a total of about \$929,000.

ZeroEyes is not the only company using surveillance systems with artificial intelligence to spot guns. One competitor, Omnilert, pivoted from emergency alert systems to firearms detection several years ago and also offers around-the-clock monitoring centers to quickly review AI-detected guns and pass alerts onto local officials.

But Omnilert does not yet have a patent for its technology. And it has not yet been designated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as an anti-terrorism technology under a 2002 federal law providing liability protections for companies. It has applied for both.

Though Omnilert is in hundreds of schools, its products aren't in 30 states, said Mark Franken, Omnilert's vice president of marketing. But he said that shouldn't disqualify his company from state grants.

Franken has contacted the Kansas governor's office in hopes she will line-item veto the specific criteria, which he said "create a kind

of anti-competitive environment."

In Iowa, legislation requiring schools to install firearms detection software was amended to give companies providing the technology until July 1, 2025, to receive federal designation as an antiterrorism technology. But Democratic state Rep. Ross Wilburn said that designation was originally intended as an incentive for companies to develop technology.

"It was not put in place to provide, promote any type of advantage to one particular company or another," Wilburn said during House debate.

In Kansas, ZeroEyes' chief strategy officer presented an overview of its technology in February to the House K-12 Education Budget Committee. It included a live demonstration of its AI gun detection and numerous actual surveillance photos spotting guns at schools, parking lots and transit stations. The presentation also noted authorities arrested about a dozen people last year directly as a result of ZeroEyes alerts.

Kansas state Rep. Adam Thomas, a Republican, initially proposed to specifically name ZeroEyes in the funding legislation. The final version removed the company's name but kept the criteria that essentially limits it to ZeroEyes.

U.S. special operations leaders doing more with less and learning from Ukraine war

FORT LIBERTY, N.C. (AP) — Forced to do more with less and learning from the war in Ukraine, U.S. special operations commanders are juggling how to add more high-tech experts to their teams while still cutting their overall forces by about 5,000 troops over the next five years.

The conflicting pressures are forcing a broader restructuring of the commando teams, which are often deployed for high-risk counterterrorism missions and other sensitive operations around the world. The changes under consideration are being influenced by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, including lessons.

U.S. Army Special Operations Command, which bears the brunt of the personnel cuts, is eyeing plans to increase the size of its

Green Beret teams — usually about 12 members — to bring in people with more specialized and technical abilities. One possibility would be the addition of computer software experts who could reprogram drones or other technical equipment on the fly.

But similar changes could ripple across all the military services.

"A 12-person detachment might be upgunned," said Gen. Bryan Fenton, commander of U.S. Special Operations Command. He said an Air Force pilot, Navy ship driver, cryptologist or cyber expert may be needed as battlefields become more challenging and high tech.

He said in an interview that the U.S. is "taking a lot of lessons learned out of the experience in Ukraine," including by special operations forces working in the country. The U.S. has no troops on the ground there.

The bulk of the cuts stem from the Army's decision to reduce the size of its force by about 24,000 and restructure its troops as the U.S. shifts from counterterrorism and counterinsurgency to focus more on large-scale combat operations. The Army also has struggled to meet recruitment goals and had to reduce the overall size of its force.

Army Special Operations Command, which Fenton said is absorbing about 4,000 cuts ordered over the past year and a half, is looking at bringing in people with high-tech skills.

"I think one of the questions is how much can you teach a Green Beret versus some of these specialties are

extremely technical," said Maj. Gen. Patrick Roberson, deputy commander of the command at Fort Liberty in North Carolina. "You can teach a person about how to use a drone. But then to say, I want to have a software engineer program that drone, that's something different."

The cuts to Army special operations forces have triggered some congressional opposition, including during recent Capitol Hill hearings where lawmakers noted the impact at Fort Liberty. Fenton also spoke bluntly at the hearings about the growing demand for special operations forces.

He said U.S. regional commanders around the world consistently want more and that cutting the forces means "we'll be able to meet less of what they demand. And I think we owe the secretary of defense our assessment as we go forward."

For years, during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, the number of special operations forces and support staff grew, particularly since they were often spread out in small, remote bases where they needed additional security and other logis-

tical help. Now, Pentagon leaders say the numbers can shrink a bit.

Fenton said a cut of about 2,000 personnel in special operations was ordered by the department about a year and a half ago, including about 750 in the Army. That was followed this year by a cut of 3,000 in Army special operations. The cuts are to be spread out across five years.





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