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Bluffton considers two new apartment projects

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Gorman and Company's Trent Claybaugh presented two development proposals for apartments, near Cottonwood Court and in northwest Bluffton east of the YMCA, to the Bluffton Common Council on Tuesday.

Gorman and Company, based out of Wisconsin, is looking to add subsidized apartments to downtown Bluffton. Claybaugh stated that 56 units, called the Wilson Park apartments, will provide rental housing for

people with high and low income rates. Gorman and Company also have in-house entities for development, construction, architecture and property management, according to Claybaugh.

Claybaugh stated that 28 of the apartments will be for people at 50% or under on the area median income. Claybaugh stated that this means people earning under \$19 hourly in Bluffton.

The proposed Wilson Park apartments

are planned to have 112 parking spaces surrounding the apartment buildings, a community room, fitness center, outdoor patio and a leasing office. Claybaugh also stated that the company will build out West South Street to have another roadway and entrance for the complex.

The other set of apartments, which was discussed in less detail, was stated as potentially age-restricted for residents 55 or older.

Claybaugh also presented a brief about

Rental Housing Tax Credit. These credits, provided by the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, are meant to help developers build affordable rental housing.

Claybaugh said Bluffton fails a good chance of receiving the credits, since the city has not received any since 2009.

Claybaugh offered three options for the local match — a payment in lieu of taxes (Continued on Page 2)

Bluffton band director Jim Bueter retires after 26 years

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Twenty-six years and many band camps and events later, Bluffton-Harrison band director Jim Bueter decided to slow down a bit.

Bueter started working with different music groups a year out of high school. Originally, he worked through a couple of rehearsals, then working on marching technique with the bands. Eventually, Bueter's desire snowballed into a need to instruct bands full-time.

Bueter got his start in Fort Wayne, earning his bachelor's degree in instrumental music education in 1992 from Indiana University at Fort Wayne. His first full-time teaching position was at Tippecanoe Valley High School in Akron, Indiana. He got a recommendation for the Bluffton job from a college friend living in the area.

In the years Bueter has taught, his students have criss-crossed the globe, heading to Hawaii, Florida, Tennessee and the Bahamas. His fondest memory came in 2004,

when one of his groups made the state finals for marching band, Bluffton's first state final appearance in 18 years.

"I didn't get them there. They're the ones that accomplished it," Bueter said. "So that was just a humongous accomplishment that I will never forget."

While Bueter had immense knowledge of music, some of his most notable actions came from the visual elements he incorporated into his concerts. Bueter's mastery of logistics and vision for concert themes proved Bueter's skills, according to Art Teacher Vicki VanMatre.

"Everything working together — that itself is a fine art," VanMatre said. "You have to have the knowledge not only in music, but you have to understand the themes of everything and how it all works together, and I think that's what makes Jim very knowledgeable."

Bueter's dedication to performance also made him stand out. Bluffton swim coach Justin Uptgraft recalled a story of Bueter driving out to the east coast to pick up a prop for one of his shows.

"(It was) somewhere in New York, Virginia, somewhere around there. He had this vision of how this show should go. And he thought, 'Man, I really need this.'" Uptgraft said. "I want to say it was like a clock, I'm not 100% sure ... But just to hear his excitement from 'I really want this for the show,' and then seeing ... that he took a weekend to go get it, brought it back, and then use it in the show is just incredible."

Bueter's bond with both middle school and high school band students is another example of his dedication to students, Uptgraft said. Bueter stuck with his students through highs and lows, teaching them all the way.

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Bueter thanks the crowd for coming to his final concert on May 16. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)



Until next year

At top, as the final bus faded out of the Norwell Middle School parking lot, staff members placed their hands in a circle before erupting in a unified, "Go Knights!" tribute to the students.

Middle, students Harrison Car and Harold Wagner wished each other a great summer before going their separate ways.

At left, staff wave to students. (Photos by Sydney Kent)

Southern Wells board meets with contractor for gym

By HOLLY GASKILL

Southern Wells heard a pitch from a contractor specializing in design-build construction at schools.

In a work session following its regular agenda, the board of trustees heard from Nick Allen and Steven Savoie of Performance Services about a potential partnership for an auxiliary gym. The design-build delivery allows the school to streamline much of the construction process through one contract. The process is generally considered to be a more expensive model, but Superintendent Trent Lehman explained that it could prevent ballooning costs and headaches from change orders.

Lehman worked with Performance Services for a renovation during his time as principal at South Adams High School. Going through another project in his previous position as superintendent of Bloomfield schools, Lehman said he was surprised by how much more involved and difficult the project became with change orders. Board member Todd Fiechter said the district had experienced similar issues in previous projects.

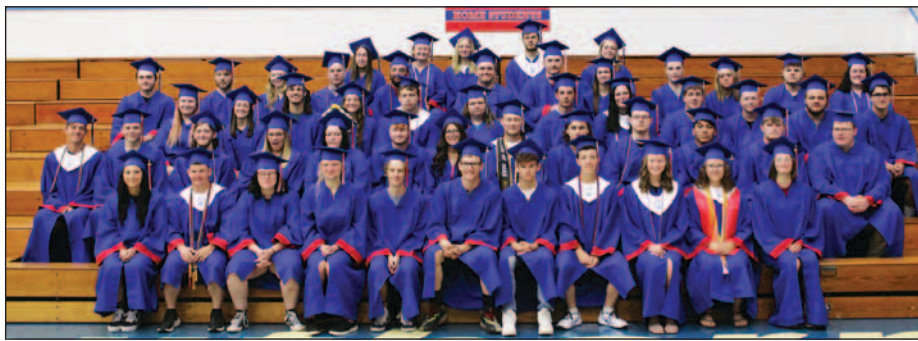
Performance Services is currently working with South Adams for an auxiliary gym addition.

Allen added that they would also prioritize local contractors the district wanted to partner with. In April, the board met with representatives from Meyer Building about the project.

Lehman said Performance Services is the only company pursuing the district and asked if the board would like to move forward with some preliminary discussions. However, Fiechter proposed the board should take it under advisement since not all members were present — board members Delora Schneider and Andrew Pursifull were also present; Chad Roush was absent.

Southern Wells has discussed adding a gym with a weight room, wrestling room, and capacity for batting cages and other equipment. On Tuesday, the board also stated they'd like to repair heating and add air conditioning in the Raiderdome, as well as repair the roof above the offices.

During its regular meeting, the board approved the purchase of a bus through (Continued on Page 2)



SW seniors final walk

Seniors at Southern Wells High School took their final walk through the elementary school to celebrate their graduation. Above is a photo of the Southern Wells class of 2024.

At right, Dhapne Gallegos waves to elementary students next to Kaiden Schmidt. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)



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Outside



Small chance of storms today and tonight

Today	Thursday	Friday
High 82	High 79	High 82
Low 60	Low 60	Low 62

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Apartment projects

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agreement, a full tax abatement and a partial tax abatement. Claybaugh notified that a PILOT agreement is considered most favorable for RHTC credits. Claybaugh also notified that any money received by the city from a PILOT agreement could be used in other areas, such as matching grants for READI 2.0 projects.

While the council was intrigued by both apartment developments, they also acknowledged that a more clear plan is needed from the council before they decide which route to take.

The council also consid-

ered subsidized versus market-rate apartments. Council member Chandler Gerber acknowledged that Bluffton needs housing, but a recent Bluffton housing study said that while people wanted cheaper rent, citizens are still living in their means.

"Of the survey responses that they (the study) got, largely people wanted cheaper rent," Gerber said. "But it also said, 'While they would prefer cheaper payments, they have the means to pay more.'"

Gerber further stated that Bluffton has a shortage of market-rate apartments and housing for people working

who do not want to live in subsidized apartments. The council as a whole decided that they need some more time to discuss their options, with Claybaugh offering to come before the council again to talk about the next steps.

Furthermore, the council approved four CF1 tax abatement continuation forms for Almco Steel, two for 20/20 Custom Molded Plastics, three for AT Ferrell and four for Pretzels Incorporated. Before approval, City Attorney Tony Crowell reminded the public that the CF1 tax abatement forms are continuations of

previously agreed upon tax abatements. CF1 forms are essentially renewals of these agreements, and they act as checkpoints for the council to see if the added equipment is still in use and functioning.

Additionally, the council approved \$3,418.40 in American Rescue Plan Act Funds for the Parks Department's Park Improvement line item. Clerk-Treasurer Michelle Simon stated that this is just an official accounting for dollars that was already appropriated for the Parks Department, they are just putting it into a line item.

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Weather

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:17 p.m. Tuesday)
High: 89; **Low:** 65; **Precipitation:** None
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 2.07 feet at 9:45 p.m. Tuesday

Wells County forecast

Today: A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 8 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 82. Southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Tonight: A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 60. West wind 5 to 10 mph.

Thursday: A chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 79. East wind around 5 mph becoming south in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Thursday Night: A slight chance of thunderstorms before 8 p.m. Mostly clear, with a low around 60. South wind around 5 mph becoming calm. Chance of precipitation is 10%.

Friday: A chance of showers before 11 a.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 82. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Friday Night: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before 8 p.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 8 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 62. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Southern Wells

(Continued from Page 1)

debt services. They also heard from School Resource Officer Chad Bradley, who spoke about his role in connecting with students and keeping the school safe. The SRO contract was also renewed.

Additionally, the board celebrated the recent accomplishments of Eva Laurence and Lily Runkel, who earned perfect scores on I-READ.

Also during the meeting, the board:

- Accepted teaching resignations from third grade teacher Betsy Needler, second grade teacher Alexandra Stanley, sixth grade teacher Nathan Busse and English teacher Ashley Wooten.

They approved recommendations to hire Shelley Preston as elementary assistant principal, Ashley Junk as a second grade teacher, Kylee Buckley as special education teacher, Sara Scott as junior/senior high art teacher, Janice McCallard as a high school special education resource teacher, Laurie Hoffacker as the elementary school counselor, Kimberly Twibell as an intern from Purdue University-Fort Wayne for the guidance department, Jenna Miller as an instructional assistant, Damion Watters as Livestock Coach, Joel Roush and Diane Rockwell for seventh grade Raider Up camp in July and August,

and Damion Watters, Kristina Miller, Martha Paxson, Emily Knight, and Annette Loney for junior and senior high school credit recovery.

- Accepted coaching resignations from assistant varsity football and varsity track coach Gary Paxson, junior varsity girls' basketball coach Jada Johnson, assistant football coach Byron Osborn, assistant cross country coach Taylor Thompson, junior varsity boys' basketball coach Jordan Szarenski, junior high girls' basketball coach Shelby Miller and 7th grade girls' basketball coach Kyle Penrod.

They approved recommendations to hire Penrod as varsity girls' basketball coach and Doug Smith as varsity boys' basketball coach.

- Recognized donations for Leas Electric for junior high track, Psi Iota Xi for the art teachers and Poneto Faith Community Church for unpaid lunch accounts.
- Approved the fundraising event of the football youth camp from July 29-Aug. 1.
- Approved field trip requests from the choir to Kings Island on May 11 and the senior trip to Tennessee Aug. 9-11.
- Approved an updated preschool handbook.
- Declared a list of books as surplus.

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Bluffton's Bueter retires

(Continued from Page 1)

"He talks to fourth graders before they come to the middle school, tries to see what instruments they're kind of leaning towards and promotes the program," Uptgraft said. "And then when they finally get here in middle school (going from) not knowing how to put their instruments together to graduating and going on to college and playing some of these instruments in the college realm — that's all him, that's all Bueter. So it takes a lot of dedication, a lot of time and energy and thought process. He's clearly got it down to a science."

Bueter's dedication spread beyond Bluffton Schools, it has also extended to the community. VanMatre noted Bueter's work with the On The Banks of the Wabash Festival, along with various Veteran's Day and Bluffton Free Street Fair performances, as a critical part of his ability to inspire students.

"I just know he interacts with the community and does some things to help them out as well as he does the school," VanMatre said. "And I think that's not only good for our community, but it's good for the students to see how Jim wants to give back to the community. So the students see that and they follow his example."

While Bueter has the knowledge and the dedication, he also carries an innate ability to inspire his students while keeping the classroom atmosphere light and fun. Senior Kristopher Cortez, who has been taught by Bueter since sixth grade, said Bueter gets along with the kids' sense of humor.

"We pick on him, he picks on us back ... that's how it is," Cortez joked.



Bueter poses with a collage made by his students. The man in the picture is made from kind words used by the kids to describe Bueter. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

"It's more of like a big family, after spending all this time with him in school and then marching band and everything (else)."

Senior Elijah Spencer echoed Cortez's statements. Spencer said that students would invite Bueter into conversations, where he would always find something witty to say and make his students laugh. Spencer, however, also praised Bueter's ability to keep his students engaged and jovial during lessons.

"He's very good at having a serious practice, while also being able to joke here and there and make sure the students are still having fun and enjoying themselves," Spencer said. "It's not just work, work, work ... It's not all like a serious competition every day. We're making music and we're making ourselves better, but we're also having fun doing it. So I really like that sort of classroom environment."

Cortez and Spencer alike are heading to music school, with Bueter giving advice on what's expected of them there.

"He has been pretty active in seeing where I'm going," Spencer said. "He's been very, very supportive throughout the whole thing. He's really helped me with his experience in school, telling me what the process is exactly on what it takes to be a band director in his position."

Whether it is a piece of advice, an example of his dedication or a memory of his personality, Bueter has had an impact on students and teachers alike.

"One thing that I struggle with is I always think I need to be perfect every time, that's just (not) how music is meant to be," Cortez said. "If I'm trying too hard to be perfect. I'm not going to get remotely close to being perfect versus accepting where I'm at and try to improve off of that. I will get closer."

"It's tough because he is somebody who's been here almost as long as I have," VanMatre said. "To not see him in the hallways and not see him at lunch, because he's there at lunch, you know, just to have those conversations that we have

in the afternoon because that's when he's over here. I'll miss those."

"He's a great dude. Always can make me laugh," Uptgraft said. "Even just when things are not going my way. I know if I go to Bueter, he's got something to say and it's always good."

As for Bueter, he's ready to slow down. Amidst his emotional retirement, he still sees the students as the hallmark of Bluffton schools. Bueter will still be joyful, never forgetting the importance of being a kid at heart.

"Acting like a kid. It's very important, that's part of the fun side," Bueter said. "You have to have fun and enjoy the kids. The students, ultimately, are what the special part of Bluffton is. I don't see our program as being Jim Bueter. I see our program as being (about) the kids. They're the ones that create the performances. They're the ones that create the memories. I just try and lead them down the right path."

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Board OKs change orders for wastewater plant

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Casey Erwin from DLZ gave the Board of Public Works and Safety an update on the wastewater treatment plant project, along with two change order directive requests for the project, on Tuesday.

Erwin notified that the project appears to be heading toward a completion date in late spring of 2025, and the timeline will crystallize in the next couple of months.

Since there is \$1,537,035.55 left in the work allowance budget for the project, Erwin pushed for two work change directives. DLZ is changing the retaining wall to a 6-inch curb around the southwest corner of the clarifiers at the wastewater plant. Erwin also stated that additional storm sewer piping is needed to account for areas where elevations were lowered.

Erwin said \$51,939 will cover the change totals for the curb work, which the board approved. Since the expense comes out of the work allowance budget for the project, the final cost will not change. Erwin's second request was for upsized stormwater pumps — the immediate cost for the pumps is \$38,000, but Erwin clarified that the new plumbing will see the total rise to about \$78,000.

The board also approved an agreement to allow the new sign for River Stone Dental to remain up, despite it

being within a city right-of-way. The agreement states that the encroachment is not seen as an obstacle to the city's use of the ROW.

Utility Director Jon Oman announced that phase two of the Parlor Bluffs Housing Project has begun. Oman requested that the on-call inspection contract with USI be carried over to phase two of the project. The service bill for USI is not to exceed \$25,000. Oman stated that the houses are similar in design and size to the houses USI inspected in phase one. The board approved the contract to carry over.

The board also awarded the asphalt repave of the police and fire building's rear parking lot project to Greens Asphalt. Greens had the low bid at \$23,895. Brooks Construction also bid, but their amount came in at over double what Greens bid.

Street Commissioner Tim Simpson also announced that the street department will seek a Community Crossings Matching Grant for improvements to south Hunter Road from Lamar Street to Dustman Road, north Hunter Road from Dustman Road to the dead end, Garr Street from Dustman Road to Hillcrest Road, and Hillcrest Road from Hunter Road to Main Street.

Additionally, the board approved a \$40,000 expenditure to help with survey data collection and consulting

work for writing the CCMG application request. A storm sewer will be replaced on Hunter Road as part of the project.

During public comments, Bruce Snyder presented concerns about the recently published water quality report. He noted that some of the testing years in the report are not up-to-date, with copper and lead testing statistics cited from 2022 and other contaminant data cited from 2021. In lead testing, the 2022 data showed there was a site over the action level, a limit that if exceeded could lead to health problems.

"I don't know if those are typos," Snyder said. "But it does not install a lot of confidence in this report."

Snyder recognized that the older plumbing, not the facility, may be the source of lead and that the plant does attempt to minimize the lead. However, he felt that a published revision would be necessary if there are typos.

Oman stated that while he was not aware of any exceedances in lead, he promised that he will meet with his team to check on the report.

Also during the meeting,

- The board paid a SRF Claim to Inliner Solutions totaling \$16,623.
- Electric Distribution Department Lineman Kevin King was approved a \$1 hourly raise.

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OBITUARIES

Karl Bolinger, 63

Karl Bolinger, 63, born March 12, 1961, of Markle/ Roanoke, passed away peacefully at his home on May 18, 2024. Loved deeply and dearly by his family, friends and two dogs.

Visitation will be held from 2-8 p.m. on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at the Myers Funeral Home Markle Chapel, 415 N. Lee St. in Markle.

Funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 24, 2024, at the Myers Funeral Home Markle Chapel with one hour of visitation prior to the service. If you will be attending, please come prepared for story sharing.

Interment will take place in the Horeb Cemetery in Uniondale.

Preferred memorials can be made out to the Riley Children's Hospital, sent in care of Myers Funeral Home, P.O. Box 403, Markle, IN 46770

Imogene Bultemeier, 98

Imogene Bultemeier, 98, of Decatur, passed away, Sunday, May 19, 2024, at Adams Woodcrest in Decatur.



She was born on April 17, 1926, in Preble Township, Indiana to the late Carl W. and Elsie (Roembke) Heckman.

Imogene was united in marriage to Gilbert W. Bultemeier on Sept. 20, 1947, at Zion Lutheran Church, Friedheim, and he preceded her in death on Oct. 12, 2019.

She was a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church where she served as a Sunday school teacher, on the Ladies Aide Society, and the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. In Imogene's younger years, she was a member of the Adams County Nurses Association, Lutheran Hospital Alumni, and the Sunny Circle Extension Homemakers Club.

Imogene graduated from Ossian High School in 1944 and went on to obtain her RN at the Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing. She was employed at Visiting Nurses Association in Fort Wayne as a registered nurse for 28 years.

She enjoyed quilting, sewing, fishing and cooking wonderful dishes... her applesauce. Imogene was dedicated to reading her Bible and her daily devotions.

She is survived by two sisters, Donna (Noel) Fenner of Cincinnati, and Betty Schroeder of Auburn; brother, Maurice "Butch" (Laura) Heckman of Fort Wayne; son-in-law, David Sinn of Decatur; son-in-law, John "Bobby" Powell of Greencastle; four grandsons, Christopher (Shannon) Sinn, Mark (Samantha) Sinn, Jason (Nichole) Monnier, Johnathon Monnier; 12 great-grandchildren, Shauri (Patrick) Burkart, Sean Sinn, Cameron Sinn, Kayla (Jared) Feller, Kiara Sinn, Kloe Sinn, and Kalan Sinn, Devin (Kayla) Monnier, Jordin Monnier, Madisyn Monnier, Coleston Monnier and Ava Monnier; 14 great-great-grandchildren, Kaven Small, Eliana Burkart, Camdyn Burkart, Everleigh Feller, Paisley Feller, Charlotte Turner, Mia Monnier, Maci Monnier, Madilyn Monnier, Mallori Monnier, Jaxen Monnier, Hendrix Monnier, Quinlyn Doan and Athena Monnier-O'Dell

In addition to her parents and husband, Gilbert Bultemeier, she was also preceded in death by two daughters, Carla Powell and Deanna Sinn; and a brother in infancy.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 25, 2024, Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Ossian with Pastor Samuel Wirgau officiating. Burial will follow at Oaklawn Cemetery in Ossian, Indiana.

Woodcrest residents will have viewing at the Woodcrest Chapel from 10-11 a.m. and friends and family will be received from 2-6 p.m. on Friday, May 24, 2024, at the Zwick & Jahn Funeral Home - Decatur, and one hour prior to the service on Saturday at the church.

Preferred memorials are to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Heartland Hospice or Donor's Choice.

Arrangements are by Zwick and Jahn Funeral Homes of Decatur, Indiana.

Robert D. "Bob" Jackson, 90

Robert D. "Bob" Jackson, 90, of Warren, passed away on Sunday, May 19, 2024, at Heritage Pointe of Warren.



Bob was born on May 13, 1934, in Warren, to Norman and Ruby Stroud Jackson. Bob graduated from Union High School in Wells County. He married Gloria "Ann" (Sheets) Jackson on June 12, 1954. He served in the U.S. Army from 1957-1959. After his service in the Army, he worked as a mechanic for several years. He served on the Markle Fire Department for 26 years and was a member of the Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association for 50 years.

Bob finished his working career as a maintenance technician at Peyton's in Bluffton. He enjoyed wood-working, fishing, golfing and gardening. His final hobby was baking. He enjoyed making cookies and cinnamon rolls.

Bob attended Hope Missionary Church in Bluffton, for over 20 years, and then began attending Warren United Church of Christ after he and Ann moved to Warren. Bob and Ann especially enjoyed traveling to Golf Shores Alabama during the winter.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Norman and Ruby Jackson; wife, Gloria "Ann" Jackson; and son Bryan Jackson.

Loving survivors include brothers, Tom Jackson and David (Ardona) Jackson, sisters, Ann Sparks and Barb (George) Keplinger, and several nieces and nephews.

Friends and family may gather to share and remember from 10-11 a.m. on Saturday, May 25, 2024, at Glancy-H. Brown & Son Funeral Home located at 203 N. Matilda in Warren. Chaplain Gerald Moreland will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to: Heritage Pointe of Warren, 801 N. Huntington Ave. Warren, IN 46792

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



Pictured in the photo from left are Wells County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Erin Prible, Christina Wittwer and Shannya Jackson of Sis & Bub's, Cyndee Fiechter of North Eastern Group Realty, Robin Phillips of Sis & Bub's, Danielle Thompson of Flagstar Bank, Melba Edwards and Helen Jones of Sis & Bub's, Barb O'Connor of the town of Zanesville and Teresa Fromm of Sis & Bub's. (Photo submitted)

Wells County Chamber of Commerce welcomes Sis & Bub's Restaurant to Zanesville

The Wells County Chamber of Commerce staff and Ambassadors are delighted hold a ribbon cutting celebration for the grand opening of Sis & Bub's, a new homestyle restaurant located at 3010 West Scott Street in Zanesville, Indiana. Owned by Christina Wittwer, Sis & Bub's promises to bring a taste of home with its hearty meals and homemade desserts.

After an extensive renovation and expansion of the building, Sis & Bub's now boasts additional seating and enhanced bathroom accessibility, creating a comfortable and inviting atmosphere for patrons. Christina Wittwer and her daughter, Shannya Jackson, will be at the helm, offering breakfast, lunch, and dinner from Tuesday through Saturday. "Most of our recipes are family recipes," Wittwer shared, reflecting the deep culinary traditions that inspire their menu.

Wittwer, a lifelong resident of Zanesville, expressed her passion for

cooking and her love for the community. "I have always wanted to start my own restaurant because I love to cook. We have a large family of seven kids and 14 grandkids and more on the way. My past 25 years in construction always gave me the chance to cook for the employees, and now it's time to pursue my true passion."

The menu at Sis & Bub's is extensive, featuring a variety of meals to suit all tastes. Additionally, they offer pre-ordered family meals for groups of four to 20 with a 24-hour notice, catering for events and company functions, and convenient Grab and Go breakfast sandwiches. "By the time you put your sugar in your coffee, your sandwich will be ready," Wittwer said with a smile.

Looking to the future, Sis & Bub's plans to expand its offerings to include soft serve ice cream and a beer and wine bar. The restaurant also aims to enhance its outdoor seating area

with a patio for dining and entertainment, including karaoke nights. "We come from a family of musicians, and my dad is still in three bands. We've always wanted to have a food trailer, which my husband is rebuilding now. Our goal is to make this a family-connected environment, bringing people together with the love of cooking."

In addition to their delicious food, Sis & Bub's proudly supports local artisans by featuring items such as cards, soaps, gift boxes, and jellies in the restaurant. "We love to support other individuals," Wittwer added.

For daily specials and more information, visit Sis & Bub's Facebook page or call 260-409-5187. The restaurant's hours are Tuesday from 6 a.m.-6 p.m., Wednesday through Friday from 6 a.m.-8 p.m., and Saturday from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. The team at Sis & Bub's is excited to serve the community and welcomes suggestions for menu items.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:

Friday, 3:59 p.m., 500 block of East Horton Street. Caller reported subject was selling items that were stolen from them.

Friday, 4:27 p.m., 900 block of South Mulberry Street. Officer requested to standby for custody exchange, one child refused to leave with father.

Friday, 4:32 p.m., Bluffton Police Department. Wallet found, no contact info.

Friday, 5:26 p.m., Walmart. Caller reported a subject watching female shoppers load their vehicles. Officer noted there was a language barrier, however, the subject advised he was trying to call 911 using someone else's phone as he lost his wallet.

Friday, 10:21 p.m., Elm Grove Cemetery. Report of a vandalized grave.

Saturday, 12:52 a.m., 800 block of Helen Drive. Caller reported they received disturbing calls from a child.

Saturday, 1:41 a.m., Unique Blue Bar and Grill. Report of a verbal altercation between 4-5 people in alley behind bar.

Saturday, 2:29 a.m., Lions Park. Subjects were advised the park was closed and to leave.

Saturday, 4:22 a.m., Picketts Run. Report of a pink tricycle under the street light.

Saturday, 3:41 p.m., Walmart. Report of a man that walked out with a cart load. Tristan Pharr arrested for theft.

Saturday, 5:24 p.m., Phils One Stop. Report of a necklace with pendant containing ashes. Left at lost and found counter.

Saturday, 6:14 p.m., 1000 block of West Market Street. Report of a bat in the home.

Saturday, 6:54 p.m., Walmart. Subject from previous incident returned to Walmart and had altercation with staff. Tristan Pharr warned for trespassing.

Saturday, 7:49 p.m., 40

block of Hi Lo Drive. Report of dog barking for two hours.

Sunday, 4:29 a.m., 200 block of South Jersey Street. Caller reported hearing knocking on windows outside. Unable to locate anyone.

Sunday, 7:09 a.m., Hiday Chrysler. Driver cited for speeding.

Sunday, 2:20 p.m., Walmart. Caller reported damage on her vehicle.

Sunday, 3:18 p.m., High Pointe Street and Dustman Road. Subject arrested during traffic stop for operating without a license, identity deception, and multiple warrants.

Sunday, 3:33 p.m., 1600 South Ellingham Pike. Caller reported subject threatened to kill his kids, in person, to the kids.

Sunday, 4:42 p.m., Pizza King. Report of juveniles carrying inflatable pool to the river. Three 15-year-olds advised they know how to swim.

Sunday, 9:02 p.m., South Williams and West Walnut streets. Report of a noise complaint.

Sunday, 11:47 p.m., 600 block of South Jersey Street. Caller reported subject stole child's bike. Bike was recovered.

Monday, 3:38 a.m., 400 block of West Miller Street. Report of a raccoon on porch. Officer requested to "shoo it away" for caller.

Monday, 4:41 a.m., Lancaster Elementary School.

Car versus deer.

Monday, 11:40 a.m., 300 block of West Miller Street. Report of fraud.

Monday, 1:40 p.m., 900 block of West Cherry Street. Report of longer grass in the backyard than the front yard.

County:
Monday, 4:11 p.m., Wells County Jail. Caller requested information regarding a protective order.

Monday, 5:03 p.m., 1500W 100N, Bluffton. Report of farm equipment that hit a pole, causing wires to dangle over.

Monday, 8:43 p.m., S.R. 124 and 600E, Bluffton. During traffic stop, woman advised she knew her license had not been valid since COVID-19 time frame and handed officer a state ID card. Cited for driving while suspended.

Tuesday, 4:16 a.m., 3100 Broadway Street, Zanesville. Search warrant conducted.

Ossian:
Monday, 2:42 p.m., 100E and East U.S. 224, Ossian. Report of a farm semi truck

that ran out of gas.

Monday, 2:47 p.m., Silo Farms. Caller reported issue with neighbor walking near property.

ARRESTS

Jaden Drake Maggart, 19, Zanesville; dealing marijuana, a Level 6 felony, possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$6,500.

Sydney Claire Mishler, 21, Ossian; dealing marijuana, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$5,000.

VISITATION & SERVICES

Jane Hamilton

Calling: 2 - 8 p.m.

Thursday, May 23 and one hour prior to the service.

Service: 10:30 a.m., Friday, May 24 at the funeral home.

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Memorable mistake makes magnificent memories

Last Friday was a busy day. I was looking forward to crawling in my bed at the end of the night and sleeping in Saturday morning. And then Sarah called. In true younger-sibling fashion, I'm going to blame all of this on her. Because I have obviously never done anything wrong in my life. Ever.



Carrie Penrod

Two things were brought up: First, Grandma had fallen and scraped her elbow pretty severely, and would I take her to the doctor to get it checked out? Yes. Let's be honest here, I would take that woman to the moon if she asked me. (Grams is okay, just sore.) Second, did I want to go to the peony festival tomorrow? Yes? Not really, but yes. I was needing some sister time anyway, and peonies are one of our favorite flowers.

I called Sarah later that night on my way to work so we could discuss the details. I was dreading going. Don't get me wrong, I wanted to go. It seemed like it could be fun. It would be fun, I continued to tell myself. I would pick Sarah up at her house, drop the nephews off, stop and get breakfast, and then drive to Noblesville — the city of torture. I mean roundabouts, but it's the same thing.

Before we left Sarah's, I gave her her belated graduation and birthday presents. Mom always bought us jewelry for major life events or birthdays. Her promise ring from Dad for my graduation, a pair of earrings for my first college graduation, Sarah bought me pearl earrings for my 30th, as Mom would have. I bought myself a labradorite ring for my second college graduation since she wasn't here. In my search for Sarah's present, I found a beautiful pendant of two gold hands holding onto a garnet. It wasn't what Mom would have picked out, but Sarah and I both loved it. The day was off to a good start.

Sarah confessed she had thought about texting me all night and asking if we really wanted to go to the festival tomorrow. I laughed and said I had considered the same thing, but we were already on the way, and we'd have fun. Mistakes were made.

Traffic was insane, but as Sarah commented, most people attending the festival were women, so fighting it wasn't as difficult as it could have been. We were all generally very nice in letting people turn in front of us or escape full parking lots in search of greener pastures elsewhere.

The first parking lot was completely full, but the second had a few open spaces, so I snagged the first one I could. There was a long wait for the shuttle, but neither of us cared, even though it was hotter than a solar flare. There was a Muslim woman in front of us who had the most beautiful floral top on and matching mauve hijab. I regret not telling her how pretty it was. We crammed onto the shuttle with her and her family. There was standing room only, and we had to brace ourselves — there were several comments made by everyone about how they were glad they put on extra deodorant that day.

The shuttle dropped us off about two blocks away; at first, I couldn't figure out why. And then I saw them — 20-30 thousand people crammed into a 1.5-acre park and the street circling it. Sarah and I squeezed our way into the crowd, where we bumped into other sweaty Hoosiers trying to look at some pretty flowers. It was so crowded we couldn't get into any booths, much less see what was in them. We both agreed we were glad we didn't bring the boys. Sarah wanted a peony bush and a tote bag with the festival logo on it. Great, so did I. The line for the totes or shirts wrapped nearly around the park. We nixed that idea. We thought maybe, instead, we could get a picture in front of their photo wall — that idea was also nixed when we saw the line for that as well.

"I know we drove all this way," Sarah said, "but do we want to just go?"

And that is exactly what we did after spending maybe 15-20 minutes fighting to get through a horde of people. One man was rushing through the crowd, an officer right behind him, yelling for a woman named Judith. I hope he found her.

I wanted to stop and ask a man protesting on his porch what he was protesting exactly. His sign read something along the lines of, "They lied to us. They said no vendors on 11th street." It's important to note his house was on 11th street, blocked in by barricades and vendors. I can't say I blame him for being upset. I myself had an anxiety attack on the way back to the shuttle. On the shuttle, we talked with the bus driver and found out that he was one of only two driving back and forth between three parking lots. I didn't envy him.

You would think Sarah and I would be furious about it, but we couldn't help but laugh at ourselves. Instead of forcing ourselves to stay, we left and went to Marshalls and a few rummage sales in a rich neighborhood. I bought my first pair of hot pink clown shoes (Crocs) and spent the day with my sister. In the end, I couldn't have asked for a better day — one spent with my sister, making memories out of mistakes.

Contact Carrie at: newsroom@news-banner.com

Today's Highlight in History: On May 22, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson, speaking at the University of Michigan, outlined the goals of his "Great Society," saying that it "rests on abundance and liberty for all" and "demands an end to poverty and racial injustice."

The News-Banner

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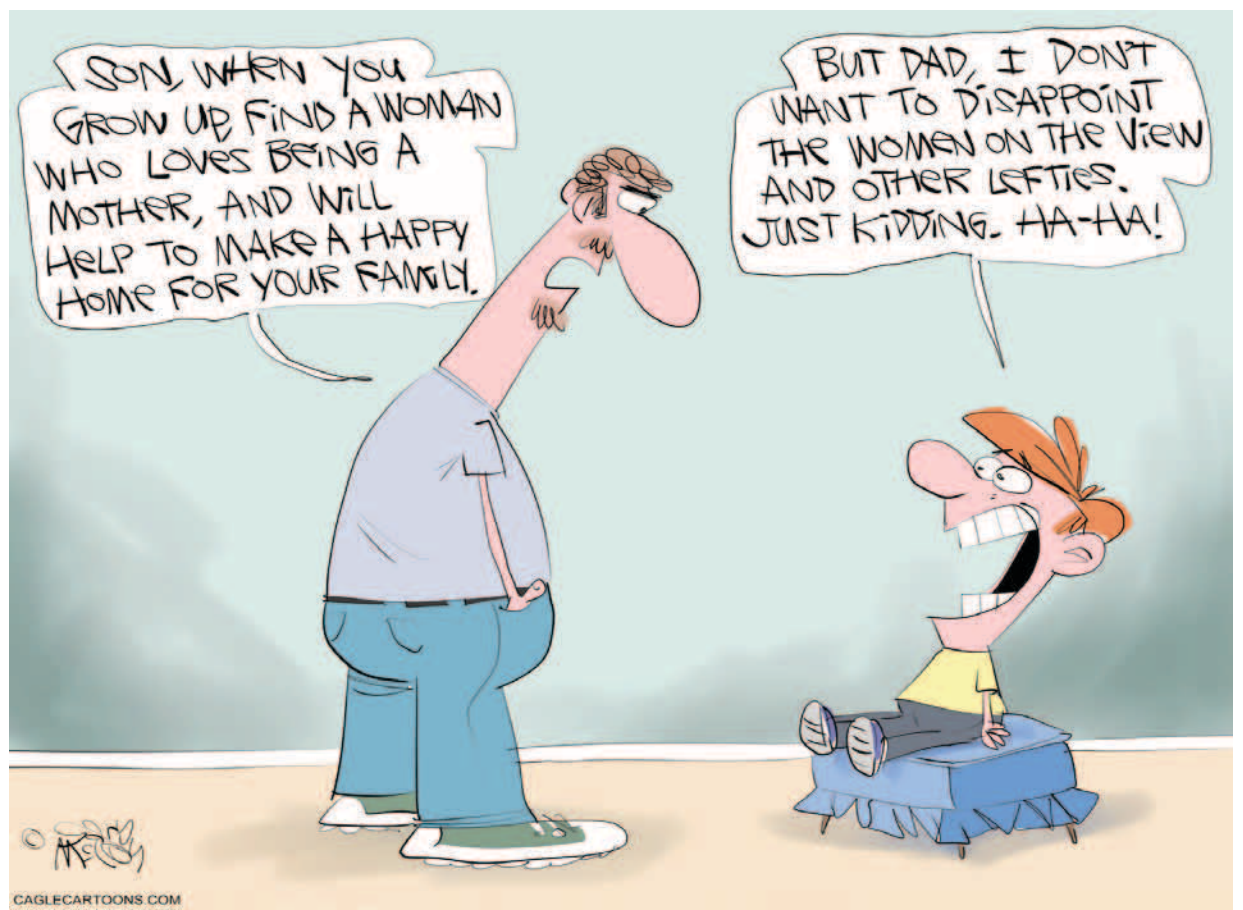
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Harrison Butker is right about men and women

To judge by the internet reaction, Kansas City Chiefs place-kicker Harrison Butker is guilty of a dreaded double-doink — a missed field-goal attempt that embarrassingly hits both uprights — with his commencement address the other day.

The NFL has distanced itself from Butker's unadorned socially conservative speech at Benedictine College, a Catholic school in Kansas. He's accused, meanwhile, of potentially driving women away from the NFL and, even worse, perhaps offending Taylor Swift by quoting one of her lyrics.

The first thing to say about this is that Butker is a traditionalist Catholic who gave a speech to traditionalist Catholic students graduating from a traditionalist Catholic school. Should we be surprised he sounded like a traditionalist Catholic?

He wasn't going to endorse abortion, or pride month, or transgenderism. And if you're not a Catholic (I'm not), his views on priests and the power of the Latin Mass are going to leave you cold, for a simple reason — they aren't for us.

Complaining about the intensely Catholic subject matter of his address is a little like listening to the keynote at a philately convention and being shocked that it's all about stamp collecting.

Of course, the substance of Butker's talk was much more serious, and he had important, indisputably correct things to say about men and women.

His line that has drawn the most fire was directed at the graduating women: "Some of you may go on to lead successful careers in the world, but I would venture to guess that the majority of you are most excited about your marriage and the children you will bring into this world."

Butker was surely making a sociologically true statement about the women of Benedictine. If he had been talking at Vassar, he might have couched his remarks differently. Still, his observation has a more general applicability.

According to an analysis of public-opinion surveys by the Institute for Family Studies, "Strong majorities of mothers under 55 agree that housework is as fulfilling as

employment. Depending on the year and the survey you prefer to cite, between 53% and 79% of mothers had this view." Yes, some mothers find employment outside the home more fulfilling, but many stay-at-home mothers "see the work they are doing as valuable, important and satisfying."

It should be OK for someone to occasionally give voice to their perspective. No one walked out when Butker delivered these lines; in fact, he got applause. And he wasn't being callous — he broke down when talking about his own wife embracing "her vocation as a wife and as a mother."

He had advice for the men in his audience, too, telling them to be "unapologetic in your masculinity," and to "never settle for what is easy." What's the counter to Butker's advice? That men should be defensive about their masculinity and always take the easy way out? That they should spend more time smoking pot and playing video games?

"As men," he continued, "we set the tone of the culture, and when that is absent, disorder, dysfunction and chaos set in. This absence of men in the home is what plays a

large role in the violence we see all around the nation." What Butker said is strongly supported by the research, as fatherlessness is associated with child poverty and reduced educational attainment, increased idleness and more jail time among young men.

An offended columnist at The Kansas City Star hammered Butker, saying the kicker insisted on "belittling the human value of others." But the kicker spoke of the importance of speaking and acting "in charity," and the columnist admitted that when he has discussed these matters with Butker in the past, "he's been remarkably respectful when I've expressed a contrasting view."

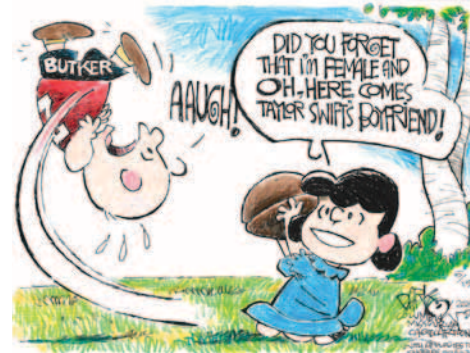
That sounds like someone who isn't a hater, but who has deeply grounded views and who believes — for good reason — that if he doesn't speak the truth, few others in his position will.

The verdict regarding Butker's address should be — good from 55 yards.

Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry



Rich Lowry



You won't hear much about campaign finance reform in 2024. Good.

President Harry S. Truman, launching his 1948 election campaign on Labor Day in Detroit's Cadillac Square, had to cut an important part of his speech because his campaign did not have money to pay for enough minutes of national radio time. Two days before the election, Eleanor Roosevelt was able to broadcast a six-minute endorsement of Truman on ABC radio nationally only because a Democratic operative produced a shopping bag stuffed with \$25,721 (ABC's price) in cash.

These historical tidbits (from David L. Roll's "Ascent to Power," about the transition from Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidency to Truman's) are discordant with a familiar progressive lament: "There is too much money in politics." Has the supposed problem of "too much" political speech ever actually existed?

All campaign spending finances, directly or indirectly, the dissemination of political speech. So, government limits on political giving and spending are attempts (written by incumbent legislators) to limit political speech to amounts that the government (including those legislators, with their myriad advantages of incumbency) deem proper.

Because the Supreme Court has largely agreed that campaign finance restrictions can violate free-speech guarantees, in 2014, not a single Democratic senator opposed amending the First Amendment to empower Congress to regulate the quantity, content and timing of campaign speech. That is, speech about the composition of Congress and the rest of the government. Campaign "reforms" were harbingers of progressives' subsequent embrace of

restrictions on many forms of speech, especially but not only on campuses.



George Will

The apogee of interest in campaign finance coincided with the supposed peak importance of political ads on broadcast television. Then came the migration of audiences to cable and the shift of cord-cutting viewers to streaming services (Netflix, etc.). This means many viewers this year will see few, if any, political ads on television. Among the almost one-fifth of the national population (61.4 million) who live in the seven swing states (Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, North Carolina, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin), those in the reduced TV audience will be bombarded with so many that the ads will be like their living-room wallpaper — always there, barely noticed.

Anyway, there might be more people undecided about whether to vote at all than are undecided about choosing between President Biden and Donald Trump. With both candidates painfully familiar to voters, no broadcast ad campaign will move many voters to reconsider their current allocations of their disapproval.

Restricting the amounts that can be given directly to candidates and their campaigns has diverted the flow of money to independent groups and super PACs. This has diminished the hollowed-out parties' relevance, making them ripe for piratical capture by boarding parties obedient to successive presidential nominees. This, too, weakens political mobilizations.

The Supreme Court's 2010 Citizens United decision ignited perhaps the final flaring of the progressive impulse to strengthen the government's ability to control the quantity of speech about the government. The court held that Americans do not for-

feit their free-speech rights when they band together in corporate form to magnify their political advocacy. And that government cannot restrict spending on independent (not coordinated with candidates' campaigns) political advocacy.

Although this decision was almost entirely relevant to incorporated nonprofit advocacy groups (e.g., the NAACP, the Sierra Club, Planned Parenthood) and unions, hysterics erupted. The New York Times: The court had "thrust politics back to the robber-baron era of the 19th century" and "paved the way for corporations to use their vast treasuries to overwhelm elections." In the next four election cycles, political spending by for-profit corporations averaged about 1% of spending from all sources.

As an unsuccessful candidate for her party's nomination in 2008, and accepting her party's nomination in 2016, Hillary Clinton wanted to "get money out of politics." But also in 2016 she overcame her aversion to money and outspent Trump 3 to 1. The progressive aspiration is to remove private money from politics.

This would extend government's domination of society to politics — to the debate about the composition of government. The maximum progressive aim is to remove voluntary political contributions from politics and restrict candidates to spending money that government extracts from voters by taxation. The overwhelming majority of voters — this we know — will not voluntarily pay for politics.

Every year, Americans can check a box on their tax returns, thereby giving \$3 (without increasing their tax liabilities) to fund the presidential campaigns of nominees who agree not to accept other money. In 2023, only 3.35% of tax filers checked the box.

georgewill@washpost.com

Warning...standing naked in the cafeteria may cause distress on occasion

Years ago, when I shared a classroom with students, they sometimes were hesitant to express what they were thinking or questioning. This happened whether they were voicing an opinion, writing an essay, composing a poem, or participating in a class discussion. They were dubious for a number of reasons,

but one of the most prominent was they were afraid of what others might say, do, or think of them if they verbalized their thoughts. I recognized this reluctance because when I was much younger, I too gave an inordinate amount of weight to what others might think.

I often related to students that stating your opinions or thoughts is very much like standing naked in the cafeteria. Sharing the truth about what you are thinking can feel like a pretty precarious position. If someone knows what you are thinking, really thinking, then you become vulnerable, and maybe even too "revealed."

Speaking one's truth is an act of personal bravery, especially if it seems in the world we live in today. What if I am not under-

stood? What if someone takes what I am saying the wrong way? What if I make someone uncomfortable or even angry because what I think is different from what he or she thinks? Well, one could almost be driven to distraction with the "what ifs." Incidentally, all of them are part and parcel of writing a column for the local newspaper.

When I submit an article, I have no way of ascertaining how the three, twelve, or forty readers will actually read what I have written. It is almost impossible to know what conscious and unconscious "crayons" readers will use to color what I mean and definitely difficult to know if a reader will "get" my intent. Guess I will have to put it out there and take my chances!

I must admit that I much prefer having these discussions of import face to face. Personal interaction has the benefits of hearing how the words are spoken, the intonation, tone, facial and body clues, the volume....well, all of those "clues" that our speech teachers explained when they talked about "identifying your audience."

Truth can be disagreeable on occasion. Truth is not always stat-



Here's the Thing

ic. Often, once we learn more, hear different views, take another look at an issue from another perspective or angle, our concept of truth can alter. Even when we

do not agree with another person's vision of truth, by hearing and questioning another's thoughts, we almost always gain understanding – not only about their position, but also about our own. That is a win-win.

I am a firm believer in the power of the question. In my experience, formulating the right question goes a long way in clarifying what I think. The answers almost always depend upon the quality of the questions. From that premise I find that I am far more intrigued by the questions than the answers. I have some and I would love to know just how each reader answers them. Jot down your thoughts, give me a call, and we can "do lunch" and discuss our answers.

First, we all have a line, or several, that serve as boundaries for what we think and do. Whether we have deliberately drawn that line in the sand or if the line just appeared is something to consider. Where is your line, you know, the one that you will not cross? What

helped form that line? Have you ever found it imperative to move or alter its placement?

Second, do you walk your talk and stand where you live? When has this worked best for you? When has it caused you a sense of discomfort? When have you stopped your talk or changed your figurative walk to appease another person or because of a situation? What feelings surfaced from this?

Third, one word I find curiously fascinating is the German word "schadenfreude." I admittedly can barely pronounce it; it does not trip over the lips like a smooth Bee Gees lyric. But the meaning of the word is interesting: pleasure derived by someone from another person's misfortune. Now, who or what would ever derive pleasure from another's misfortune?

Fourth, what do you think Christ looked like as a young male, who was a Middle Eastern Galilean Jew? Nazareth is the largest Arab city in Israel so based upon the physical features of the general population of that area, he was probably dark skinned, dark haired, with dark eyes, and a short trimmed beard. Second question to ponder is how would this person be received today if he should reappear? A dark skinned man who admonished his followers to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, love thy neighbor as thyself.... would he be heard or profiled by the TSA?

Fifth, does today's "atmosphere" make you weary? Do you relish the chaos, name calling, lying, vitriolic and caustic language that permeates the very air we breathe? Guess the question that naturally goes with this one is, what are you willing to do about it? Two choices it seems: exacerbate it or alleviate it.

So many questions, so few answers.

Here's the thing: I want to be happy, and I am working on that very thing. Happiness is a choice, not a result. It comes from within not from with out. It sounds borderline corny to say that what the world needs now is love, but I am putting it out there anyway. Love is unconditional and not judgmental. Relationships, on the other hand, often come with conditions. Love is meant to protect not to destroy. Life is a balance of hanging on and letting go. Final question for now: to what are we hanging on and what should we be letting go? Sure would love to talk with you about it all.

bkreigh@adamswells.com

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

Parlor City Market to open June 1

The Parlor City Market season will begin on Saturday, June 1. The market will continue through the summer on Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Applications for vendors are available blufftonnow.org/parlor-city-market. Cost is \$50 for the season. Bluffton NOW! is also seeking community partners and entertainment for the season.

Contact with questions or inquiries via email, blufftonnow@gmail.com, or Facebook, @blufftonparlorcitymarket.

Two June concerts at the Clock Tower Plaza in Berne



Bands playing in Berne this summer are Sweetwater All Stars Band (left) and CP Worship. (Photos provided)

On June 7 the Sweetwater All Stars Band from Fort Wayne will be in concert at the Muensterberg Plaza Clock Tower in Berne. The band is comprised of a large group of artists who combine their talent to produce a classic, horn-driven R & B and soul-music sound. The band appears at the many festivals held in Fort Wayne annually and performs at a wide range of charity and community events as well. The band has opened for soul favorites Tower of Power and the Isley Brothers, and headlined Fort Wayne's Three Rivers Festival. The concert will run from 7 to 9 p.m. The concert is underwritten by local businesses and is free to the public. Please bring lawn chairs. Food trucks will be on-site.

The following week on June 14 the CP Worship Band from Houston, Texas

will be in concert at the Muensterberg Plaza Clock Tower. The concert and evening of worship will be from 7 to 9 p.m. CP Worship leads worship weekly for a large congregation at Church Project, a large church in The Woodlands, Texas. The band offers a blend of original and current Christian music. The cost of the concert will be underwritten by local businesses Those attending should bring their own seating with food trucks offering food for pur-

chase. In the event of rain to the First Mennonite Church in Berne. the concert will be moved

Concerts at Foellinger Theatre

Foellinger Theatre is located at 3411 Sherman Blvd., near the FW Children's Zoo.

In addition to the free concerts these will be offered:

- Free Concerts**
 June 11, 7:30 p.m.: FW Area Community Band
 July 9, 7:30 p.m.: FW Area Community Band
 July 17, 7:30 p.m.: New Millennium Jazz Orchestra
 July 26, 7 p.m.: Fort Wayne Children's Choir
- Other Concerts**
 May 23: Rick Springfield
 Aug. 2: Rockin' the 80's

(Great White, Slaughter & Vixen)

- Aug. 13: Blue Monster Tour (Blues Traveler with Big Head Todd & the Monsters
 Aug. 21: High Kings & Gaelic Storm
 Aug. 22: Night Light (Fort Wayne Rescue Mission)
 Sept. 13, 8 p.m. & Sept. 14, 12 a.m.: The Rocky Horror Show
 Sept. 21: Indiana Jones & the Raiders of the Lost Ark/FW Phil
 Sept. 23: TESLA
 Tickets through Ticketmaster.com.

Cedarville University students named to Spring 2024 Dean's List

Four black and white The following students at Cedarville University have been named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2024 semester. This recognition requires the student to obtain a 3.50 GPA or higher for the semester and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Molly Koteskey of Ossian and Elena Ray of Markle.

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 5,456 undergraduate, graduate, and online students in more than 150 areas of study.

Headwaters Park events

Events scheduled at Headwaters Park in Fort Wayne include the following:

- June 1-2: Arab Fest
 - June 5-9: Arab Fest
 - June 13-16: Rib Fest
 - June 20-23: Greek Fest
 - July 12-20: Three Rivers Festival
 - July 26-27: Pride Festival
 - Aug. 10: Fiesta Fort Wayne
- More information at fortwayneparks.org.

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 Sunday, May 26th 2pm & 4:30pm

IF
 Thursday, May 23rd 6:20pm
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 Saturday, May 25th 2pm, 5pm & 8pm
 Sunday, May 26th 2:15pm & 4:45pm

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Norwell gets revenge, blanks Peru in the sectional opener

By RYAN WALKER

CONVERSE — Last year, the Peru Tigers ended the Norwell Knights' softball season in a heartbreaker. It was the sectional championship, and the Knights were on a roll, beating Oak Hill in extra innings and Maconaquah.

But the Tigers topped the Knights 12-4 nearly a year ago to the date — certainly a stinger that rang all throughout the off-season.

"Peru knocked us out last year in the sectional championship, and it's something I've used as motivation," Norwell head coach Kevin Baird said Tuesday night. "This entire season we've talked about Peru and just talking about this game and getting an opportunity to come back and play our game against a good team."

The sectional pairing gave Norwell a chance at revenge. To summarize it shortly, they got their payback.

Norwell (15-7) starting pitcher Sami Lemler, who started last year's game too, shoved through the first three innings and struck out seven of her first nine outs in three innings at Oak Hill High School.

At the plate, the Knights knocked home eight runs that began with Kara Brown and Kaydance Clark's RBI singles in the first. In the second, Brown drove in another on a base hit, now up to a .500 batting average. Reese Frauhiger and Nevada Lenwell drove in two more, and a bases-loaded walk brought in another.

Norwell didn't even drive in the seventh and eighth runs, as a passed ball by starting pitcher Jaylah Harlan plated two runs.

Baird's sentiment of what Peru (15-11) did to them last year brought a knockout blow in the first inning that the Tigers didn't come back off the mat from.

"It's huge," Baird said of the fast start. "I think the two strikeouts and then turn around

with Jordan's double. Just hitting the ball and scoring a couple of runs. I think it kind of settles you real quick because you get a two-run lead in the first inning and you just keep chipping."

As Lemler was dealing, the Grace College signee smacked a triple and was driven home by Lenwell's RBI single to finish the job in the fourth inning.

Lemler's final two innings of her five-inning shutout needed some defensive help. In the fourth, a bloop single put a runner on first and third. Lemler caught a comebacker in the air and fired over to first to record a double play. Then, a harmless ground ball to Addie Keller at second base ended the threat.

In the fifth, Lemler stranded a few more runners and kept the 10-run mercy rule intact.

Part of her performance both on the mound and at the plate might have been fueled by the name on the jerseys in the other dugout, but Baird knew what he was doing when he put the season in the hands of his senior.

"Composure. She's a senior this year — I trust her," Baird said. "There's certain pitch sequences we've worked on quite a bit and so I know that when she gets herself behind, we have a couple of pitches that we know that we settle into that she throws really well, high percentage strike, and try to fight back."

"She's a competitor. That's something I love about her," Baird said.

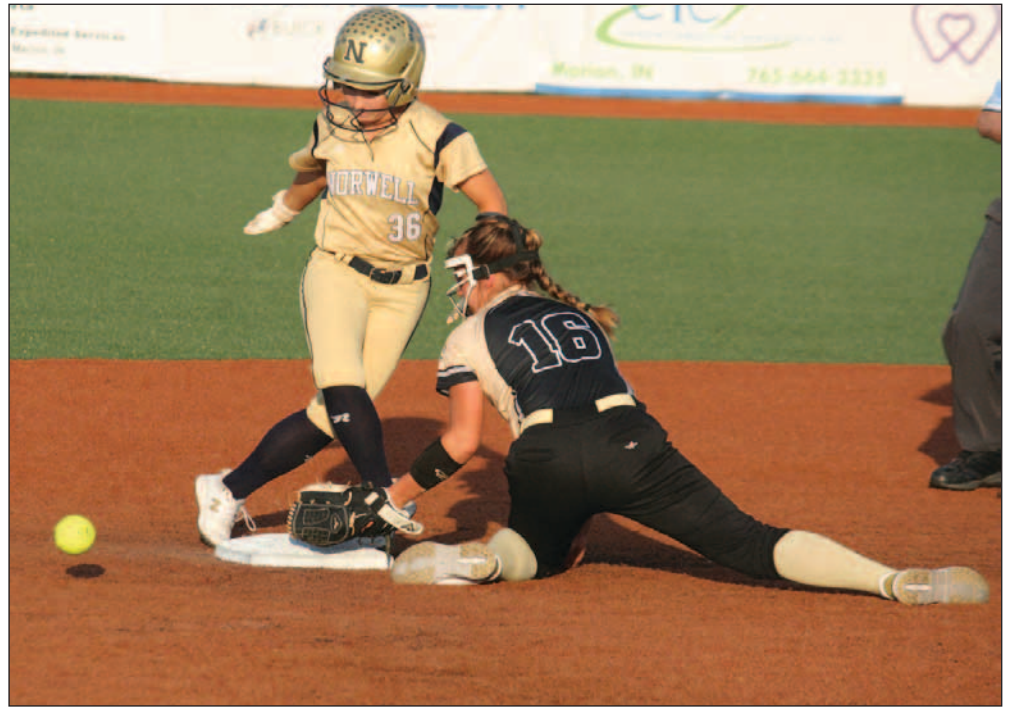
With the win, Norwell will head right back to Oak Hill to face the hosting school. The Golden Eagles, who boast the sectional's best record at 20-6, might be plotting their revenge on Norwell. The Knights won 8-6 in extras last season when the two squared off at Bellmont.

The game will approximately start at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 22.

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Norwell's Makayla Young (middle) receives a fireball thrown from Sami Lemler (left) to double up a Peru runner during the first round of the sectional Tuesday night at Oak Hill High School. Lemler's efforts on the mound along with her defense helped stifle the Tigers 10-0 and advance to the second round. (Photos by Ryan Walker)



Knights' base runner Jordan Markley (left) takes a peek at the ball that scurries away from Tigers' shortstop Kyannah Correll on her stolen base attempt. Markley later trotted home to score the first of her two runs.

High School Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

BASEBALL: (Sectional) Peru at Norwell, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS TENNIS: (Regional final) Norwell vs. Homestead at Bluffton, 5 p.m.

SOFTBALL: (Sectional) Norwell at Oak Hill, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 23

BOYS GOLF: Bluffton at Norwell, 4 p.m.; Heritage at Southern Wells, 5 p.m.

TRACK & FIELD (Girls): Bluffton, Norwell at Carroll, 6 p.m.

SOFTBALL: Bluffton vs. TBD at South Adams, 5:30 p.m.



Norwell's No. 1 doubles player Annabelle Johnson serves to her opponent during the regional semifinal Tuesday at Bluffton High School. Her and Macy Felger's win over Manchester's No. 1 doubles team helped the Knights win 4-1 and advance to the regional championship Wednesday night against Homestead. (Photo by Ryan Walker)



Norwell runner Jada Dale (left) races against Leah Highley (middle) of Oak Hill and Channing Xayarath (right) of Wayne in the 400m at the track and field regional Wednesday night. Dale finished in second place, qualifying for the state meet next week at Indiana University, Bloomington. (Photo by provided)

Norwell's Dale qualifies for state track meet in 400m dash

Norwell's Jada Dale will be heading to the track and field state meet next week.

The sophomore's second-place finish in the 400m was enough to qualify for her first-ever trip state to Indiana University, Bloomington. She finished with a time of 58.75, sitting behind Oak Hill's Leah Highley in first and was ahead of Wayne's Channing Xayarath by .05 seconds.

The event next week will be at the C. Haugh Track & Field Complex with the

400m dash set to start at 7:05 p.m. Friday, May 31.

Norwell finished the meet with a team score of 12.50 and finished in 16th place with two point-scorers. Emerson Meredith was the second scorer, finishing fourth in the pole vault at 10-3, falling just three inches short of Churubusco's Rosey Stephens at 10-6.

Bluffton was also at the event but did not score as a team.

Sports Roundup

Knights beat Squires in girls' tennis regional semifinal

Norwell is moving on in the girls' tennis sectional and will attempt to do something the program hasn't done.

The Knights picked up a solid 4-1 victory over a tough Manchester Squires squad in the regional semifinal Tuesday at Bluffton High School.

With the win, the Knights will go for their first regional title in school history with Homestead on deck. The Spartans took down Huntington North 4-1 on the other side of the 10 courts Bluffton now has, and defeated the Knights 3-2 earlier in the season.

In that first meeting, the rubber match between Delaney Hoover and Layla Kelly was played on a different day due to darkness the first time around. Kelly got the win in a tight 5-7, 6-3, 7-5 match, earning the Spartan's third point and team win. That was Norwell's second of only three losses on the season.

The rematch and regional championship will start at 5 p.m. Wednesday, May 22 at Bluffton High School.

Individual results:

- Addy Heyerly (N) defeated Sarah Kerlin 6-3, 7-6 (7-3) at No. 1 singles.
- Myla Crozier (M) defeated Delaney Hoover 6-3, 6-0 at No. 2 singles.
- Macie Saalfrank (N) defeated Bethany Penrod 6-1, 6-2 at No. 3 singles.
- Annabelle Johnson and Macy Felger (N) defeated Carleigh Blevins and Addison Brubaker 4-6, 6-1, 6-0 at No. 1 doubles.
- Jordyn Xayyachack and Ciera Hiester (N) defeated Hailey Krom and Kate Schroll 6-4, 6-2 at No. 2 doubles.

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- Jordyn Xayyachack and Ciera Hiester (N) defeated Hailey Krom and Kate Schroll 6-4, 6-2 at No. 2 doubles.

Raiders end softball season with loss to Blackhawks

Southern Wells fell 12-0 in its home sectional semifinal game against Cowan 12-0.

Individual results were not posted at the time of print.

The Blackhawks will compete for the sectional championship on Thursday against Daleville at Southern Wells High School.

The Raiders finish their season at 7-16.

Tigers drop baseball season finale to Lions

Bluffton lost 13-11 to Leo in home baseball Tuesday night.

The Tigers played their final regular season game on Tuesday, considering the sectional isn't until Saturday, when they face South Adams on the road at 1 p.m., May 25.

The loss Tuesday dropped the team to a 16-9 on the season.

Bluffton was led by Braxton Betancourt, who drilled two home runs in the game and drove in five runs. Lukas Gehrett went 3-4 with a double, while Eli Garrett and Nick Pastore had two-hit games. Garrett had a double and three RBI.

Axton Beste picked up the loss in only 1.2 innings pitched, allowing one run on two hits and no walks.

Green Valley Tuesday Senior Golf League results

The winning team in this week's Green Valley Tuesday Senior Golf League was Bruce Warner, Wayne Close, Ron McDonald and Mike Pursifull.

Steve Folk had the low gross at 37 and was the closest to pin, and Ron Blevins had the low net of 29. McDonald had the longest putt.

Norwell beats South Adams in golf at Timber Ridge

Norwell defeated South Adams in boys' golf at Timber Ridge Tuesday night.

The Knights improved their record to 7-3 on the season with the win.

Chase Hulvey led the team with a score of 38 and was the medalist. Following Hulvey was Cooper Sloan at 40, Derek Smith (41), Bodie Zimmer (49) and Cavin Smithley (50).

Norwell also won the junior varsity match, and defeated the Starfires 190-209.

Leading the way was Phil Gaier with a 44 and was good for the medalist. Following Gaier was Owen Wallis at 46, Grant Mishler (48), Zack Herrell (52), Josh Adams (53), Austin Renninger (59) and Logan Freiburger (62).

Norwell will host with Bluffton at Timber Ridge at 4 p.m. Thursday, May 23.

Tigers fall to Vikings in golf

Bluffton lost in boys' golf at Huntington North Tuesday night.

The Tigers scored a 175 compared to the Vikings 150.

Declan Grieser was the top scorer for Bluffton with a 42, followed by Kade Abbett and Kyler Potter (44), Max White (45) and Anthony Hartman (48).

Bluffton also fell in the junior varsity contest 186-226. The Tigers were led by Chris Castaneda with a score of 46, followed by Will Ault (55), Hutch Craighead (62) and both Landon Crist and Graham Linderwell (65).

Bluffton will be at Timber Ridge to face Norwell at 4 p.m. Thursday, May 23.

Raiders drop to Norseman in golf match

Southern Wells fell 165-206 at Northfield at Honeywell Tuesday.

The Raiders were led by Cash Banter's 45, followed by Chandler Oswald's 53, Dirk Frauhiger and Tristen Worster's 54 and Gabe McElhane (55).

Southern Wells will be at Dogwood Glen to face Heritage at 5 p.m. Thursday, May 23.

Feeling sidelined by in-laws

Dear Annie: I'm writing because I have two sisters-in-law through my husband, and together they have three kids, ages 2 and under. In both cases, they have full custody with minimal support from the fathers. Their entire family lives within five miles of each other, and yet my sisters-in-law choose questionable friends to babysit instead of family nearby, despite us offering to help.

It even got to the point where we have spare rooms open in our brand-new home, and we have offered for one sister-in-law to stay with us while she recovered from postpartum, but she opted to move into the tiny one-bedroom home with her sister instead, despite risking eviction.

Their brothers, mother and I are constantly left feeling like we are only reached out to for rides, grocery pickups or doctor's visits, but outside of that, we get baby photos in a messenger app. On top of all this, they consistently repost things on social media about having no help, feeling isolated and saying that their "village" doesn't exist. Meanwhile, the village we've been attempting to offer has seemingly been ignored at every turn.

We're hurt and tired and starting to feel like it may be better to stay away for the time being.

Any advice or tough love would be greatly appreciated. Are we trying too hard? Not hard enough? —

Village-in-Waiting

Dear Village-in-Waiting: Have you spoken to your sisters-in-law about this? Are you close? If not, then try to make an effort with them instead of judging them for their choices in who they want to have babysit their children. Trust is the most important thing when leaving your child in the care of someone, family or not. Keep trying to show that you are trustworthy and that you want to be close to them. Make sure you speak with them about your willingness to help babysit the children.

"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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Dear Annie by Annie Lane



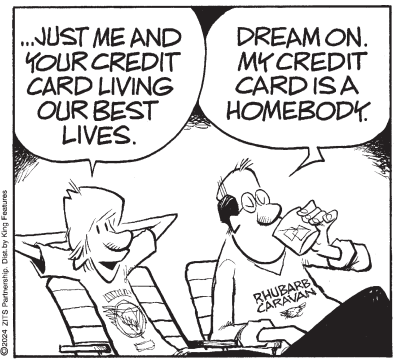
BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



ZITS



CRANKSHAFT



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



God is faithful to His promises

Question: My children were in a school drama — a play about angels who appeared to people in despair — proclaiming the goodness of God. What does the "goodness of God" mean? — G.G.

Answer: God's grace — God's goodness — is quite simply His love, mercy, and forgiveness — the wellspring of salvation to sinners who repent and receive Him. God is faithful to His promises.

A great preacher by the name of César Malan was put out of his church in Switzerland in the early 1800s because of his evangelistic zeal. He traveled to the British Isles and led a number of famous people to

God. Once while in England, he met a young woman by the name of Charlotte Elliott. Though gifted and attractive, she was embittered because of ill health. He told her that the greatest news that had ever come into his life was that the blood of Jesus Christ cleansed him from his sin.

Charlotte Elliott said, "I cannot believe in the goodness of God, and I don't need the blood of Jesus Christ to forgive me for anything!" Malan responded, "I didn't mean to be offensive; I only meant to tell you that God loves you and that He has forgiven you at a great cost." That night Charlotte Elliott could not sleep because of the words the preacher had spoken to her. She finally went

to her knees and asked Christ into her heart. Years later, she wrote these words:

Just as I am, without one plea, But that Thy blood was shed for me.

The power to proclaim the greatest news in Heaven or on Earth was not given to the angels. It was given to redeemed people. Every Christian should be a witness to the goodness of God. "The Lord is good! Blessed is the [one] who takes refuge in Him!" (Psalm 34:8, ESV).

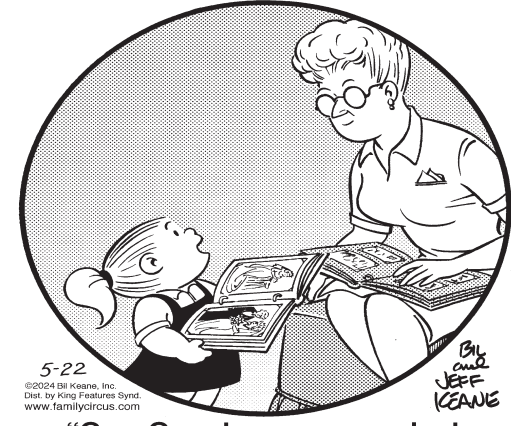
(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Graham.)

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



"Gee, Grandma, you sure look a lot different when you wear a wedding gown!"

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Grid for yesterday's crossword answer from 5-22.

TV schedule table with columns for time slots (5 PM to 12:30 AM) and channel listings.

Grid for crossword puzzle solution from 5-22.

