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Trump first former U.S. president convicted of felony

By **MICHAEL R. SISAK, JENNIFER PELTZ, ERIC TUCKER, JILL COLVIN and MICHELLE L. PRICE**
Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump became the first former American president to be convicted of felony crimes Thursday as a New York jury found him guilty of all 34 charges in a scheme to illegally influence the 2016 election

through a hush money payment to a porn actor who said the two had sex.
Trump sat stone-faced while the verdict was read as cheering from the street below could be heard in the hallway on the courthouse's 15th floor where the decision was revealed after more than nine hours of deliberations.
"This was a rigged, disgraceful trial," an angry Trump told report-

ers after leaving the courtroom. "The real verdict is going to be Nov. 5 by the people. They know what happened, and everyone knows what happened here."
Judge Juan Merchan set sentencing for July 11, just days before the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, where GOP leaders, who remained resolute in their support in the aftermath of the verdict, are expected

to formally make him their nominee.
The verdict is a stunning legal reckoning for Trump and exposes him to potential prison time in the city where his manipulations of the tabloid press helped catapult him from a real estate tycoon to reality television star and ultimately president. As he seeks to reclaim the White House in this year's election, the judgment presents voters

with another test of their willingness to accept Trump's boundary-breaking behavior.
Trump is expected to appeal the verdict and will face an awkward dynamic as he returns to the campaign trail tagged with felony convictions. There are no campaign rallies on the calendar for now, though he's expected to appear Friday at Trump Tower and to hold
(Continued on Page 2)

Bluffton Nazarene to send three to state, regional Bible quizzing competition

By **JONATHAN SNYDER**
Three Bluffton kids will represent the Bluffton Nazarene Church in regional children's Bible quizzing competitions.
Isaac Salazar Garcia, Caden Lynch and Abigail Salazar Garcia will compete at the regional competition at Olivet Nazarene Church in Bourbonnais, Illinois. Five students from four districts in Indiana are selected to represent the state in regional competition, consisting of kids from Wisconsin, Michigan and Illinois.

This year's competition cycle started in September and will go through the book of Matthew. After 20 weeks of studying, with some breaks in December, and various quizzes put on by various Nazarene churches in the state, 10 kids are selected to compete in the state competitions. After the state level, five others are picked to go to regionals.

The competition is open to kids from kindergarten through sixth grade, and it has taken dedication from the kids to get to the regionals. Julie Meredith, a volunteer for the Bible quizzing program, stated that it normally takes a couple of hours every week of studying on the kids own time for them to be ready for this level.

There are two levels in the competition, a red and a blue level. Red level competition is for younger readers and features less intense questions than the blue level, which is meant for older kids.
"We introduce it to the kids after each quiz," Meredith said. "We (the church) bring all of our kids up on stage and explain how the kids did. If they're interested, then they sign up and it's a commitment. So, they have to do homework ... that we study every week and we try to reward them and give them incentives."
The quizzing practices take the place of Sunday school for the kids involved. Bonnie Barger, who was involved with the program for over 10 years before taking a step back, found the different approach to learning rewarding



Abigail and Isaac Salazar Garcia pose with their medals and trophies. (Photos provided)



Abigail Salazar Garcia poses with a craft project.

not only for the kids, but for herself.
"In Bible quizzing, they have to learn things, work through the lessons and totally understand ... the Bible verses whereas in Sunday school class, they come in and sort of let you present it to them and then they get out, get up and go out the door. So, you don't know whether they are going to continue to study that and work on it."
Barger also stated that the program helps kids get a head start on learning about the Bible when they head into their teenage years.
"The studying that they do for these quiz
(Continued on Page 2)

Man arrested on second domestic violence charge

By **SYDNEY KENT**
A man with a previous conviction for domestic violence has been arrested for the same crime less than four years later.
Matthew Lewis Cassenta, 40, Bluffton, was charged with domestic battery and strangulation, both Level 5 felonies, and intimidation, a Level 6 felony.



Matthew Lewis Cassenta

According to a probable cause affidavit, Cassenta's wife reported that several months prior when he was upset, he allegedly grabbed her by the throat and pinned her against the wall, impeding her ability to breathe. She reported that Cassenta threatened to kill her if she reported the incident or attempted to leave the marriage. She reported the crime on May 13. Cassenta appeared in court to days later via video from the Wells County Jail.
"I can't work from in here," Cassenta told the judge. "I think I still have a job with Outdoor Concepts."
Cassenta was ordered to have no contact with his wife or child.
Cassenta was previously convicted for abusing and strangling his wife in December 2020. He was sentenced to 730 days in prison with 610 days suspended and 50 days of jail credit in the case. A motion to revoke the suspended
(Continued on Page 2)

Boeing tells regulators how it plans to fix problems

By **DAVID KOENIG**
AP Airlines Writer
Boeing officials explained their plan to improve manufacturing quality and safety during a three-hour meeting Thursday with federal officials, who will continue restrictions they placed on the company after one of its jetliners suffered a blowout of a fuselage panel in January.
Federal Aviation Administration chief Mike Whitaker said the plan is comprehensive and includes encouraging Boeing employees to speak up about safety concerns.

"This is a guide for a new way for Boeing to do business," Whitaker told reporters after the meeting. "Boeing has laid out their road map, and now they need to execute."
Boeing released an 11-page summary of its "Product Safety and Quality Plan," which described steps the company is taking, including increased inspections and tighter controls over suppliers. It also says how Boeing will measure its improvement.
CEO David Calhoun, who announced after the Jan. 5 blowout during an Alaska Airlines flight

that he would step down at the end of the year, said the document was crafted from comments by employees, the FAA, airlines and independent experts.
"Many of these actions are underway, and our team is committed to executing on each element of the plan," Calhoun said in a statement. "It is through this continuous learning and improvement process that our industry has made commercial aviation the safest mode of transportation. The actions we are taking today will further strengthen that foundation."

Stephanie Pope, a possible successor to Calhoun who was recently promoted to chief operating officer and chief executive of Boeing's commercial airplanes division, said the plan was designed to improve employee training, simplify manufacturing, "eliminate defects at the source, and elevate our safety and quality culture."
Nobody was hurt during the Jan. 5 blowout of a door plug on a relatively new Alaska Airlines Boeing 737 Max 9 as it flew above Oregon. Accident investigators determined
(Continued on Page 2)

Biden finalizing plans for migrant limits as part of border clampdown

By **COLLEEN LONG and SEUNG MIN KIM**
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House is finalizing plans for a U.S.-Mexico border clampdown that would shut off asylum requests and automatically deny entrance to migrants once the number of people encountered by American border officials exceeded a new daily threshold, with President Joe Biden expected to sign an executive order as early as Tuesday, according to four people

familiar with the matter.
The president has been weighing additional executive action since the collapse of a bipartisan border bill earlier this year. The number of illegal crossings at the U.S.-Mexico border has declined for months, partly because of a stepped-up effort by Mexico. Still, immigration remains a top concern heading into the U.S. presidential election in November and Republicans are eager to hammer Biden on the issue.
The Democratic administra-

tion's effort would aim to head off any potential spike in crossings that could occur later in the year, as the fall election draws closer, when the weather cools and numbers tend to rise, two of the people. They were not authorized to speak publicly about the ongoing discussions and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.
The move would allow Biden, whose administration has taken smaller steps in recent weeks to discourage migration and speed up asylum processing, to say he has

done all he can do to control the border numbers without help from Congress.
The talks were still fluid and the people stressed that no final decisions had been made.
The restrictions being considered are an aggressive attempt to ease the nation's overwhelmed asylum system, along with a new effort to speed up the cases of migrants already in America and another meant to quicken processing for migrants with criminal records or those who would

otherwise be eventually deemed ineligible for asylum in the United States.
The people told the AP that the administration was weighing some of the policies directly from a stalled bipartisan Senate border deal, including capping the number of encounters at an average of 4,000 per day over a week and whether that limit would include asylum-seekers coming to the border with appointments through U.S. Customs and Border Protection
(Continued on Page 2)

Inside

Local/Area

Obituaries 3
Police Notebook . . . 3

Opinion

Niki Kelly 4

Also...

Sports 6
Classifieds 7
Diversions 5

Outside

Sunny and warm today, showers likely tomorrow

Today	Saturday	Sunday
High 77	High 74	High 79
Low 53	Low 59	Low 59

More Weather on Page 2

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Trump convicted of felony

(Continued from Page 1)
fundraisers next week.

The falsifying business records charges carry up to four years behind bars, though Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg would not say Thursday if prosecutors intend to seek imprisonment, and it is not clear whether the judge — who earlier in the trial warned of jail time for gag order violations — would impose that punishment even if asked.

The conviction, and even imprisonment, will not bar Trump from continuing his White House pursuit.

Trump faces three other felony indictments, but the New York case may be the only one to reach a conclusion before the November election, adding to the significance of the outcome. Though the legal and historical implications of the verdict are readily apparent, the political consequences are less so given its potential to reinforce rather than reshape already hardened opinions about Trump.

For another candidate in another time, a criminal conviction might doom a presidential run, but Trump's political career has endured through two impeachments, allegations of sexual abuse, investigations into everything from potential ties to Russia to plotting to overturn an election, and personally salacious storylines, including the emergence of a recording in which he boasted about grabbing women's genitals.

The case's general allegations have also been known to voters for years and, while tawdry, are widely seen as less grievous than the allegations he faces in three other cases that charge him with subverting American democracy and mishandling national security secrets.

Ahead of the verdict, Trump's campaign had argued that, no matter the jury's decision, the outcome was unlikely to sway voters and that the election would be decided by issues such as inflation.

Even so, the verdict is likely to give President Joe Biden and fellow Democrats space to sharpen arguments that Trump is unfit for office, though for now

the White House offered only a muted statement that it respected the rule of law. Conversely, the decision will provide fodder for the presumptive Republican nominee to advance his unsupported claims that he is victimized by a criminal justice system he insists is politically motivated against him.

Trump maintained throughout the trial that he had done nothing wrong and that the case should never have been brought, railing against the proceedings from inside the courthouse — where he was joined by a parade of high-profile Republican allies — and racking up fines for violating a gag order with inflammatory out-of-court comments about witnesses.

Republicans showed no sign of loosening their embrace of the party leader, with House Speaker Mike Johnson lamenting what he called “a shameful day in American history.” He called the case “a purely political exercise, not a legal one.”

The first criminal trial of a former American president always presented a unique test of the court system, not only because of Trump's prominence but also because of his relentless broadsides on the foundation of the case and its participants. But the verdict from the 12-person jury marked a repudiation of Trump's efforts to undermine confidence in the proceedings or to potentially impress the panel with a show of GOP support.

“While this defendant may be unlike any other in American history, we arrived at this trial and ultimately today in this verdict in the same manner as every other case that comes through the courtroom doors, by following the facts and the law and doing so without fear or favor,” Bragg said after the verdict.

The trial involved charges that Trump falsified business records to cover up a hush money payment to Stormy Daniels, the porn actor who said she had sex with the married Trump in 2006.

The \$130,000 payment

came from Trump's former lawyer and personal fixer Michael Cohen to buy Daniels' silence during the final weeks of the 2016 race in what prosecutors allege was an effort to interfere in the election. When Cohen was reimbursed, the payments were recorded as legal expenses, which prosecutors said was an unlawful attempt to mask the true purpose of the transaction.

Trump's lawyers contend they were legitimate payments for legal services. He denied the sexual encounter, and his lawyers argued at trial that his celebrity status made him an extortion target.

Defense lawyers also said hush money deals to bury negative stories about Trump were motivated by personal considerations such as the impact on his family and brand as a businessman, not political ones. They also sought to undermine the credibility of Cohen, the star prosecution witness who pleaded guilty in 2018 to federal charges related to the payments, by suggesting he was driven by personal animus toward Trump and fame and money.

The trial featured weeks of occasionally riveting testimony that revisited an already well-documented chapter from Trump's past, when his 2016 campaign was threatened by the disclosure of an “Access Hollywood” recording that captured him talking about grabbing women sexually without their permission and the prospect of other stories about Trump and sex surfacing that would be harmful to his candidacy.

Trump did not testify, but jurors heard his voice through a secret recording of a conversation with Cohen in which he and the lawyer discussed a \$150,000 hush money deal involving a Playboy model, Karen McDougal, who has said she had an affair with Trump. Trump denies that affair.

Daniels herself testified, offering a vivid recounting of the sexual encounter she says they had in a Lake Tahoe hotel suite. The former publisher of the National Enquirer, David

Pecker, testified about how he worked to keep stories harmful to the Trump campaign from becoming public at all, including by having his company buy McDougal's story.

Jurors also heard from Keith Davidson, the lawyer who negotiated the hush money payments on behalf of Daniels and McDougal. He detailed the tense negotiations to get both women compensated for their silence but also faced aggressive questioning from a Trump attorney who noted Davidson had helped broker similar hush money deals in cases involving other prominent figures.

The most pivotal witness, by far, was Cohen, who during days of testimony gave jurors an insider's view of the hush money scheme and what he said was Trump's detailed knowledge of it.

“Just take care of it,” he quoted Trump as saying at one point.

He offered jurors the most direct link between Trump and the heart of the charges, recounting a meeting in which a plan to have Cohen reimbursed in monthly installments for legal services was discussed.

And he emotionally described his dramatic break with Trump in 2018, when he decided to cooperate with prosecutors after a decade-long career as the then-president's personal fixer.

“To keep the loyalty and to do the things that he had asked me to do, I violated my moral compass, and I suffered the penalty, as has my family,” Cohen said.

The case, though criticized by some legal experts who called it the weakest of the prosecutions against Trump, took on added importance not only because it proceeded to trial first but also because it could be the only one to reach a jury before the election.

The other three — local and federal cases in Atlanta and Washington alleging that he conspired to undo the 2020 election, as well as a federal indictment in Florida charging him with illegally hoarding top-secret records — are bogged down by delays or appeals.

Bluffton Nazarene

(Continued from Page 1)

meets is over and above what I think an average kid does, as far as studying the Bible,” Barger said. “They might have Bible devotionals that they read or something like that, but these kids have to memorize (things) about Bible verses. They have to understand the stories that's presented in the scriptures and be tested on. So, it's definitely going to give them an edge over just somebody coming in off the street and not having any Bible background at all.”

Kids involved are asked questions that challenge their Bible and reading comprehension skills, while also asking kids to recall information about specific events, such as Jesus' responses to different questions from priests.

According to Meredith, Bluffton Nazarene sends two kids each year to the regionals on average, with its best year in 2014, where it sent seven.

“We've got good district leaders that get everything organized, and present the material to us,” Barger said. “And then the quiz meets themselves are very exciting for the kids and rewarding. Then the awards program that they have with it is what really entices the kids. It seems like when the year first starts, and they (the kids) haven't earned any awards yet ... they're kind of sluggish and then as the year goes on and they see what can be accomplished, they get more and more excited. They are all pumped about the regional quizzing and getting to do that.”

While the quizzing focuses on the kids' knowledge of the Bible, the teachers and proctors have also seen benefits from helping with the quizzing. Meredith stated that helping with the quizzing team has forced her to grow closer to God in her spiritual journey. Barger also stated that helping with the quizzing team has aided in her concentration during her time growing closer to Christ.

“It forced me to concentrate more on the lessons,” Barger said. “And I like the fact that it challenged me to do a little more deeper digging on my own. It kinda stretched me as an adult. Even though it was children's quizzing it kept me digging into God's word and studying it.”

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Boeing plans to fix problems

(Continued from Page 1)

that bolts used to help secure the panel were missing after a repair job in a Boeing factory.

The mishap further battered Boeing's reputation, led to multiple civil and criminal investigations, and prompted Whitaker to order the report that Boeing delivered Thursday.

Whitaker said he wanted Boeing to develop a comprehensive, detailed plan that improves manufacturing process, quality and safety management, and encourages employees to raise concerns about safety.

“Those are all elements of the plan,” Whitaker said. He added that Boeing had accepted all the safety recommendations made earlier

this year by a panel of independent safety experts.

Still, Whitaker said, the FAA will continue to cap production of the 737 Max, Boeing's best-selling plane, and to insist on approving each plane that comes off the assembly line. He said the FAA also will maintain a “significant increase” in safety inspectors at plants run by Boeing and its key supplier, Spirit AeroSystems.

Boeing's recent problems could expose it to criminal prosecution related to the deadly crashes of two Max jetliners in 2018 and 2019. The Justice Department said two weeks ago that Boeing violated terms of a 2021 settlement that allowed it to avoid prosecution for fraud.

The charge was based on the company allegedly deceiving regulators about a flight-control system that was implicated in the crashes.

Whistleblowers have accused the company of taking shortcuts that endanger passengers, a claim that Boeing disputes. A panel convened by the FAA prior to the blowout found shortcomings in the aircraft maker's safety culture.

Most of the recent problems have been related to the Max, however Boeing and Spirit AeroSystems have also struggled with manufacturing flaws on a larger plane, the 787 Dreamliner. Boeing has suffered setbacks on other programs including its Starliner space

capsule, a military refueling tanker, and new Air Force One presidential jets.

Boeing officials have vowed to regain the trust of regulators and the flying public. Boeing has fallen behind rival Airbus, and production setbacks have hurt the company's ability to generate cash.

The company says it is promoting a positive safety culture, improving worker training, reducing “traveled work” — assembly tasks that are done out of their proper chronological order — and keeping closer tabs on Spirit AeroSystems, including preventing the supplier from shipping defective fuselages to Boeing.

Weather

Friday, May 31, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:11 p.m. Thursday)
High: 73; Low: 51; Precipitation: None
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 3.23 feet at 8:45 p.m. Thursday

Wells County forecast

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 77. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 53. Southeast wind around 5 mph.

Saturday: A chance of showers, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 74. South wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

Saturday Night: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before 2 a.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 59. South wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

Sunday: A 30% chance of showers before 8 a.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 79.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 59.

Monday: A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 84.

Monday Night: A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 66.

Tuesday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 80. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Tuesday Night: Showers and thunderstorms likely. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 66. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Wednesday: A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 82.

Wednesday Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 64.

Thursday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 80.

Domestic violence

(Continued from Page 1)

sentence has not yet been filed.

In September 2021, Cassenta pled guilty to one count of battery against a public safety official, a Level 6 felony, and resisting law enforcement, a Class A misdemeanor. Charges for battery by bodily waste and disorderly conduct were dismissed as part of a plea

agreement.

He received one year in prison for the charges. He was ordered to serve the executed portion of his sentence on home detention.

Cassenta's bond is set at \$15,000. He is scheduled for a pretrial conference at 1 p.m. on July 17 in the Wells Circuit Court.

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Border crackdown

(Continued from Page 1)

tion's CBP One app. Right now, there are roughly 1,450 such appointments per day.

Two of the people said one option is that migrants who arrive after the border reaches a certain threshold could be removed automatically in a process similar to deportation and would not be able to return easily. Migrants were able to more easily return to the border if they were expelled under the pandemic-era policy known as Title 42. Under that arrangement, Mexico agreed to take back some non-Mexican nationalities, including migrants from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

Migrants, especially families, claiming asylum at the southern border are generally released into the U.S. to wait out their cases. But there are more than 2 million pending immigration court cases, and some people wait years for a court date while they live in limbo in the U.S.

Anyone can ask for asylum regardless of whether they arrive illegally at the border, but U.S. officials are increasingly pushing migrants to make appointments, use a legal pathway

that avoids the costly and dangerous journey, or stay where they are and apply through outposts in Colombia, Guatemala and Costa Rica.

The Biden administration has grown ever more conservative on border issues as the president faces ceaseless criticism from Republicans and there are large numbers of migrants crossing into the U.S. from Mexico who are not easily returned, especially as global displacement grows from war, climate change and more.

The immigration authority that the administration has been looking to use is outlined in Section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. It gives a president broad leeway to block entry of certain immigrants into the U.S. if it would be “detrimental” to the U.S. national interest.

Senate Republicans last week again blocked a bill that would have enshrined some of the same efforts into law. The vote was meant to underscore GOP resistance to the proposal even as Republicans have clamored for more restrictions and argued that Biden has not done enough to stem the flow of migrants entering into the U.S.

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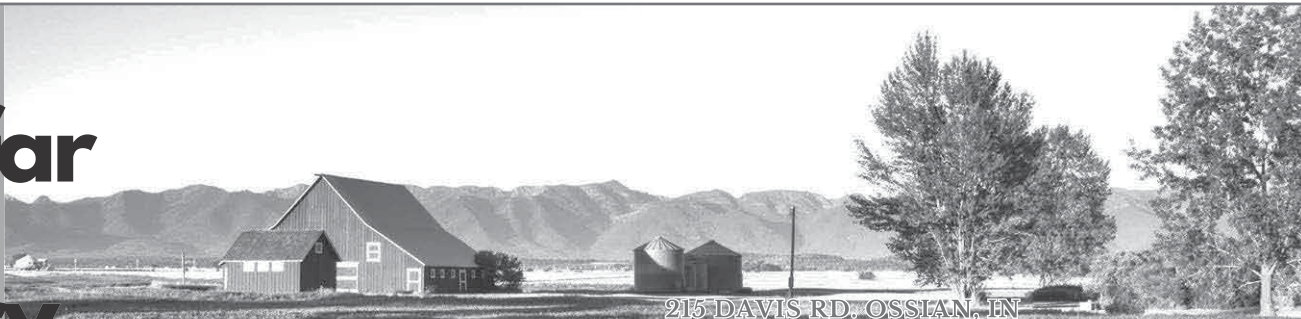
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OBITUARIES

Howard E. "Red" Adams, 95

Howard E. "Red" Adams, 95, passed away Wednesday evening, May 29, 2024, at Markle Health and Rehabilitation in Markle.



Howard was born in Bluffton, on Feb. 19, 1929, to John and Ruby (Shannon) Adams. He married Almeda Marcelle (Elzey) in Bluffton on Mar. 7, 1948. Almeda preceded him in death on Jan. 25, 1988.

A 1948 graduate of Bluffton High School, Howard worked at Franklin Electric in Bluffton for 40 years, retiring in 1987, after retirement he worked at Miller & Sons Tool and Die in Warsaw part time until 2007. He was a former member of the Bluffton Elk's Lodge 796. Howard loved to water ski, sailing on their sailboat, he played several musical instruments, and enjoyed dancing and singing. He loved music, being a karaoke entertainer, and he was selfless in nature, most of all, "He lived a fun filled adventurous life."

Survivors include two daughters, Becky (Kim) Hartman of Leesburg, Ind. and Pam (Ron) Lenwell of Markle; one son, Gary (Mary Lou) Adams of Leesburg, Ind.; eight grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and seven great-great-grandchildren; one sister, Elanda Sue (Dave) Poff of Bluffton; and one brother, Robert (Voneta) Adams of Muncie.

In addition to his parents and wife, Howard was preceded in death by three sisters, Betty Johns, Ruth Ann Hollingsworth and Mary Jo Satterfield; and two brothers, Richard and Billy Adams.

Visitation will be held Monday, June 3, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton, followed immediately by a funeral service at 2:00 p.m. Burial will follow at Oak Lawn Cemetery in Ossian. Tony Garton will officiate.

Memorials can be made to the Donor's Choice. Online condolences can be made at goodwincaleharnish.com.

Holcomb takes Europe trip for manufacturing, energy discussions

By CASEY SMITH, Indiana Capital Chronicle
Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb departed Thursday for his next economic development trip — this time to the Netherlands, Belgium and France — to build on discussions and "deepen relationships" within the microelectronic and semiconductor industries, according to his office.

It's the governor's third international economic development trip this year — his second visit to France and Belgium and first visit to the Netherlands — and his 23rd such trip as governor. His last privately funded international trip, in April, took him to Brazil and Mexico.

Holcomb's travel is being paid for through private donations to the Indiana Economic Development Foundation.

"Coming on the heels of our second Indiana Global Economic Summit, it's more top-of-mind than ever that our international partners have been key to the record-breaking levels of investment coming into Indiana in the last few years," Holcomb said in a statement. "These three countries have helped us level up in semiconductors and microelectronics and have forged new and prosperous relationships with our higher education institutions."

Holcomb will be joined by First Lady Janet Holcomb, Indiana Secretary of Commerce David Rosenberg and representatives from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, his office said.

Also in tow are representatives from the Bloomington-based Applied Research Institute, including David Roberts, CEO; Jimmy Costa, senior vice president of innovation and semiconductor strategy; and Roger Reeves, vice president of industrial relations.

The group is scheduled to return to Indianapolis June 8. In the Netherlands, the delegation will meet with the U.S. ambassador to the Netherlands, as well as the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy, and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In Belgium, the group will meet with Redwire, a space satellite design and development company, and the Chamber of Commerce Antwerp. Holcomb and the delegation will also meet with imec, a research and innovation hub in nanoelectronics and digital technologies.

In 2023, imec committed to work with Indiana officials and Purdue University to advance research and development in the state's semiconductor sector. In December 2023, imec additionally opened a new research and development hub on Purdue's campus.

Also on Holcomb's Belgium agenda are meetings with representatives of the European Union External Action Service, and the Minister-President of Flanders, Jan Jambon. The governor's office pointed to a 2023 memorandum of understanding between Indiana and Flanders "to further strengthen cooperation on semiconductors, life sciences and energy."

Later, in France, Holcomb will pay respects to members of the armed forces during a visit to Normandy and attend the U.S.-France D-Day Anniversary Ceremony. He'll also visit Utah Beach with Carver McGriff, a Hoosier D-Day veteran, according to his office.

There are 1,050 foreign-owned businesses in Indiana, according to the governor's office. Last year, those companies committed to investing \$20.49 billion to locate or expand operations in Indiana — a 182% increase from 2022 — which created approximately 8,500 new Hoosier jobs.

Democrat Wendy Dant Chesser selected to fill vacated House seat

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Party insiders on Wednesday unanimously selected Jeffersonville economic development leader Wendy Dant Chesser to fill a vacant state House seat, according to the Indiana Democratic Party.

She will take over for former Rep. Rita Fleming, who abruptly retired one week after an unopposed victory in this month's primary election.

Dant Chesser also won a concurrent caucus to be the party's candidate for House District 71 in the November general election. The district, which runs along the Ohio River, includes all of Jeffersonville and Clarksville, and part of New Albany.

"I am immensely grateful for this opportunity to represent my community at the

Statehouse. I will work vigorously to uplift the reputation of our area in Indianapolis," Dant Chesser said in a news release.

She said she'd continue Fleming's "bipartisan legacy" — and that of her predecessor, former Rep. Steve Stemler — of "getting results for Southern Indiana."

Dant Chesser currently works as the chief director of corporate strategy and external affairs at the River Ridge Development Authority. She's responsible for ensuring the business environment within Indiana and River Ridge replaces the economic loss suffered when the U.S. Army closed its operations at the site, according to the release.

Dant Chesser previously worked as president and CEO of Isi, the area's chamber of commerce and local economic development organization.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

County:
Wednesday, 12:01 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served to Carlos Slater.
Wednesday, 2:04 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served to Gustavo K. Mbo-boshi.
Wednesday, 7:01 p.m., Minnich's Antiques and General, Uniondale. Report of freezer broken into with items stolen.
Wednesday, 8:53 p.m.,

4100 North 100 East, Bluffton. Overly confident hamburgers roaming in the road again.
Thursday, 3:18 a.m., S.R. 1 and East 1200S, Montpelier. Report of a semi blocking lane with trailer in ditch.
Thursday, 8:41 a.m., Silo Farms. Report of man causing property damage. Subject was identified as combat veteran with PTSD, he surrendered himself to law enforcement and requested help.

Ossian:

Wednesday, 3:39 p.m., 300 block of Morton Lane, Ossian. Officer assisted with felony warrant arrest out of Allen County.
Thursday, 5:42 a.m., North Jefferson and West Mill streets, Ossian. Report of a confused elderly person, subject located safely.
ARRESTS
Gustave K. Mbo-boshi, 26, Fort Wayne; operating with a controlled substance

in body, a Level 6 felony, and driving while suspended, a Class A misdemeanor. No bond set.
Jared Lee Janing, 30, Three Rivers, Michigan; operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Level 6 felony, and operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$5,000.
Carlos Edward Slater, 45, Bluffton; probation violation, a Level 6 felony.

Testimony begins in case against Indiana's strict abortion ban

By MIA HILKOWITZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Attorneys in a lawsuit against Indiana's near-total abortion ban jumped right into testimony Wednesday, beginning a trial in which plaintiffs are seeking to widen medical exemptions and strike down a requirement that stripped abortion clinics of their licenses to perform the procedure.

The lawsuit comes almost a year after the state Supreme Court upheld the ban but left the door open for Hoosiers to sue over specific parts of the law.

In the first session of the three-day bench trial in Monroe County, lawyers for the ACLU of Indiana and Indiana Attorney General's Office questioned three witnesses for the plaintiffs; IU Health OB-GYN Dr. Amy Caldwell, D.C. based OB-GYN Dr. Steven Ralston, and All-Options Executive Director Jennifer Parker Dockray.

Prior to Senate Bill 1's enactment, Caldwell performed abortions at the Planned Parenthood clinics in Indianapolis and Bloomington. She still performs abortions at IU Health hospitals.

The ACLU of Indiana — which filed the complaint on behalf of Caldwell, Indiana's Planned Parenthood, Women's Med Group and All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center — is seeking three preliminary injunctions which would prevent the state from enforcing the law using clauses that they argue are "unconstitutionally narrow" and "needlessly restrictive."

The defendants are the Indiana Medical Licensing Board and six county prosecutors, who are represented by the Attorney General's Office.

Owen County Special Judge Kelsey Blake Hanlon, a Republican, is overseeing the proceedings. Hanlon previously issued the preliminary injunction to halt the state's abortion ban in September 2022. But the Indiana Supreme Court ultimately ruled in June 2023 that the law was constitutional, though women have a right to an abortion when their life or health is at risk.

Health or life exception

The first clause at the center of the lawsuit, which attorneys called the "Health or Life Exception," allows a person to receive an abortion only if the procedure is necessary to prevent death or a "serious health risk" to the pregnant person's life. Since the law went into effect, Caldwell said she has performed 12-15 abortions pursuant to this exception.

Caldwell said in her testimony the law's definition of serious health risk is "vague and incredibly unclear." She also said some of the terms used in the law — including "major bodily function" — are not terms used in the medical field. Due to this vagueness, she said she has been unable to provide abortions for patients who she believes have health risks, but is unsure if their conditions meet the exception.

The plaintiffs argue this exception prevents people with conditions that could become life threatening over the course of their pregnancy from receiving abortions. In her testimony, Caldwell said the only way to resolve conditions such as hyperemesis gravidarum, placental abruption and placenta previa is by terminating the pregnancy.

Caldwell also said the exception would not cover patients with conditions requiring treatment that would harm a fetus, such as cancer patients who require abortions before starting chemotherapy. The health or life exception also does not extend to patients with mental health conditions "who require abortions either to protect their own mental health or continue taking necessary medications," the complaint alleges.

The OB-GYN said she does not see abortion as the sole treatment for mental health, but rather as a therapeutic treatment. However, she said in certain situations where patients present a serious mental health concern — such as self-harm or suicidal ideation — abortion may be a reasonable response.

"The practice of good medicine is to not withhold appropriate care," she said.

Hospital requirement

The law also terminated licenses for abortion clinics and only allows the procedure to occur in a hospital or ambulatory surgical centers, a clause attorneys called the "Hospital Requirement." According to the Indiana Department of Health 2022 terminated pregnancy report, 98.5% of abortion in Indiana were performed in abortion clinics.

Caldwell said she is one of two physicians in Indiana still performing procedural abortions under the law's exceptions. However,

she said patients must go to an IU Health or Eskenazi Health hospital — located in Indianapolis — to access this care.

About 30 of Indiana's 170 hospitals are Catholic-sponsored and follow directives by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, which bar providers from performing abortions unless the purpose is the "cure of a proportionately serious pathological condition of a pregnant woman."

The ACLU argues the hospital requirement restricts residents from accessing care because many hospitals providing abortions under the ban's exemptions are concentrated in and around Indianapolis. Of the 10 Indiana hospitals that reported performing abortions in 2022, five were located in Marion County, according to the state's terminated pregnancy report. The remaining five hospitals were located in Allen, St. Joseph and Warrick counties.

During the state's questioning, Caldwell acknowledged there are some situations where abortions should be performed in a hospital setting, such as when there are risks of serious complications. However, she emphasized that complications during abortions are rare.

"It is certainly safer than the car ride I took today from Indianapolis to Bloomington," she said.

During her testimony, the defense asked Caldwell about a patient who she performed an abortion on and died after the procedure. She pushed back on the assumption the patient died due to the procedure, stating the patient had pulmonary hypertension, which led to her having a cardiac event in the operating room.

Caldwell performed this procedure in a hospital setting, and said the patient passed away even after being admitted to the ICU.

Effect of ban

In his testimony, Dr. Steven Ralston, an expert witness who performs abortions at George Washington University Hospital in D.C. and a women's clinic in Baltimore, said he has regularly seen patients coming from other states where abortions are banned. He said this has led to busier clinics and longer wait times for patients seeking the procedure.

Ralston also said he believes Senate Enrolled Act 1 does not offer enough protection for doctors. He said even if a doctor can perform an abortion under the law's exception, they will likely delay care to get further clarification and this delay could allow patients to get sicker.

"Doctors are going to read this law and be very worried the care they do will be illegal," Ralston said.

All-Options Executive Director Jennifer Parker Dockray, who also testified Wednesday, said since the new law went into effect, All-Options — which operates the Hoosier Abortion Fund to help fund costs related to obtaining an abortion — has only been able to fund one person to receive an abortion in Indiana.

She said all other clients have had to go to Illinois, Ohio or Michigan to receive an abortion, which costs All-Options more to fund. On average, Dockray said, the Hoosier Abortion Fund spent around \$225 per patient before the law went into effect. Now, the organization spends around \$450 per patient.

The litigants return to the courthouse Thursday for further testimony.

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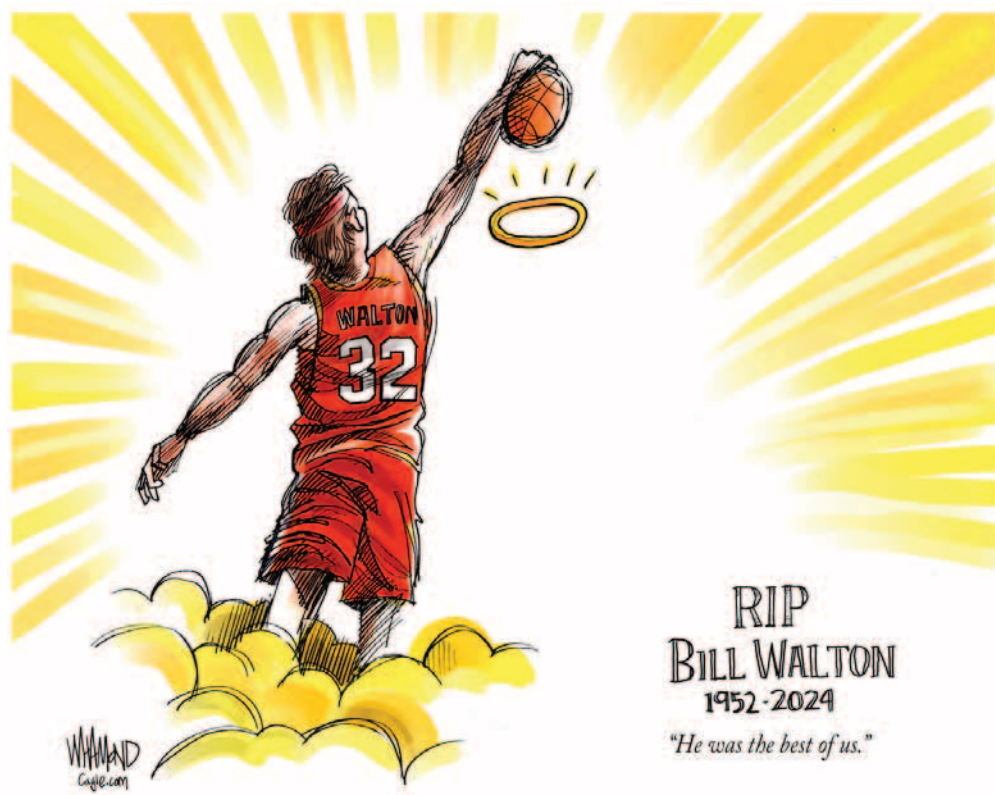
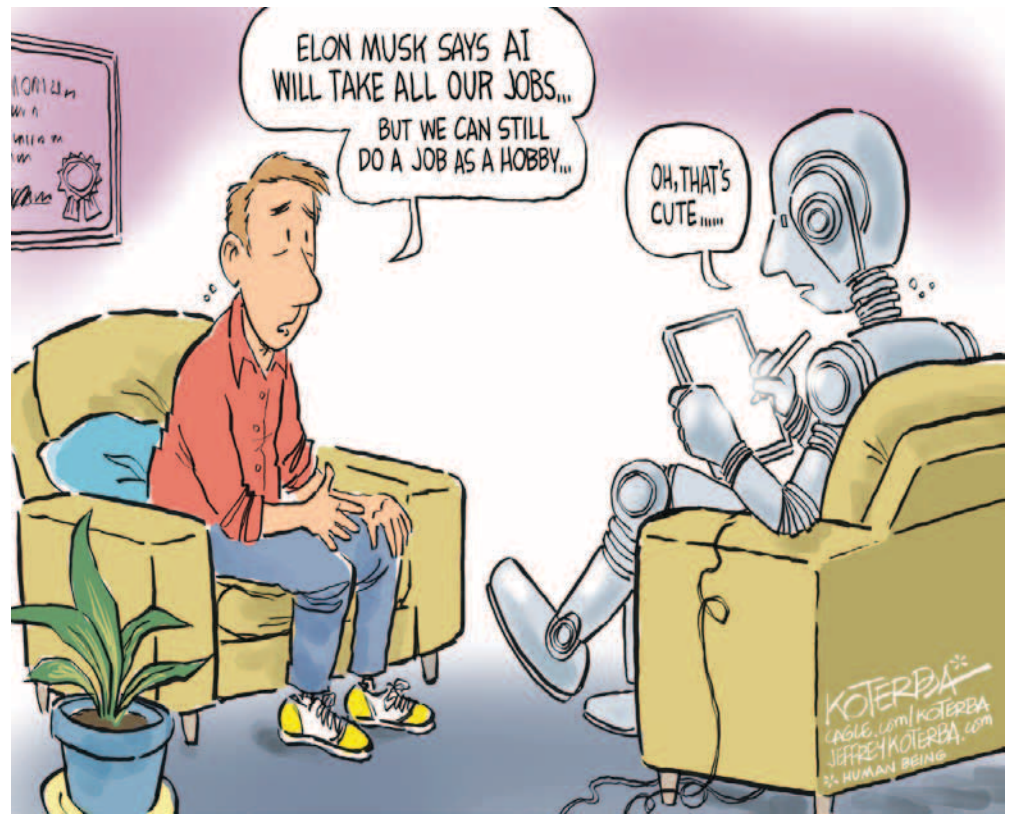
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The Week That Was - a look back through cartoonists' eyes...



It's time for Indiana to deal with marijuana law

The Indiana General Assembly has been hiding from the topic of marijuana for years now. But with the federal government set to ease restrictions, it's time for lawmakers to tackle the policy debate.

U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland has proposed loosening the illegal status of marijuana at the federal level. Moving marijuana from the government's list of the most dangerous and least useful substances to a less serious category is a clear signal that the federal government is turning the corner.

Cannabis has been listed as a Schedule I drug under the Controlled Substances Act since 1971, even as many states have moved to legalize recreational use for more than a decade and medicinal use for even longer.

We know where Hoosiers stand. Results from Ball State University's 2023 Hoosier Survey shows 54% of respondents say marijuana should be legal for personal use by adults. In comparison, 32.2% selected "It should be legal for medicinal use." Just 9.8% of respondents selected "It should not be legal."

Dozens of states have moved down this path. The National Conference of State Legislatures reports that as of April 2023, 38 states, three territories and the District of Columbia allow the medical use of cannabis products. As of November 2023, 24 states, two territories and the District of Columbia have enacted measures to regulate cannabis for recreational use.

This isn't new or groundbreaking. We can learn from other states and craft our own path. Until then we will continue to struggle with situations such as delta-8.

Another quagmire

Congress revived the industrial hemp industry in 2018's agriculture-focused farm bill by removing the plant and its seeds from the definition of marijuana. It's generally considered legal as long as it contains less than 0.3% delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol — or THC, the major psychoactive component in the plant — by dry weight. Above that, it's considered banned marijuana.

Indiana promptly followed suit. Lawmakers in 2018 legislation used the same delta-9 cutoff in legalizing low-THC hemp extracts, and added more hemp-related regulations in another law the following year.

The state's delta-8 industry has boomed, as an apparently legal alternative to marijuana.

About 540 Indiana retail stores and nearly 1,400 gas stations have sold about \$637 million worth of hemp-based cannabinoid products, according to a 2023 study by hemp-cannabis data firm Whitney Economics. Those sales made a total economic impact of about \$1.8 billion, the company found.

But the Indiana State Police, the attorney general and some prosecutors disagree on the law, which has led to a lawsuit.

It seems odd to be writing this since I have never used marijuana — not even a gummy or a college toke. And I certainly don't want Indiana to reek of the drug like other places that have legalized it.

But I also feel like it's time to stop avoiding the topic and craft a sensible law. We are surrounded by states that have legalized the drug, which creates its own issues along the border. Most importantly, I would love to see all lawmakers — not just Republicans making decisions in private caucuses — publicly weigh in.

Maybe it would pass. Maybe it wouldn't. But let's debate it. Let's put the votes on the board.

Niki Kelly is the editor of the Indiana Capital Chronicle, a non-profit newsroom. nkelly@indianacapitalchronicle.com



Niki Kelly

Hoosier Opinions

Daines looks to turn around the GOP's 2022 Senate debacle

There is an almost irrational exuberance on the right over the 2024 elections. President Biden is so unpopular, and Democrats are in such a panic-driven "freakout," that many assume victory is all but inevitable.

But when it comes to control of the Senate, Republicans would do well to recall what happened in the 2022 midterms. Then, as now, the Senate map was tilted in their favor, and Biden was one of the most unpopular presidents since World War II. Republicans expected a red wave to sweep them back into power. Instead, they watched as Biden turned in one of the best first midterm performances of any president since John F. Kennedy.

The mastermind behind this epic disaster was Sen. Rick Scott (R-Fla.), whose mismanagement of the National Republican Senatorial Committee — wasting nearly \$180 million on consultants and self-promotion while he vacationed in Italy aboard a luxury yacht — left the NRSC's coffers virtually empty in the final months of the campaign. The committee had to cancel ad buys in critical swing states and take out \$13 million in loans in September just to cover its operating expenses. And Scott's failure to intervene in the primaries left Republicans with a slate of unelectable candidates who lost winnable races in state after state.

Now, after leaving the NRSC \$20 million in debt and Democrats with an expanded majority, Scott has announced he will run for Senate GOP leader. His candidacy gives new meaning to the term "failing up."

There won't be a Republican majority to lead unless Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.) — the man left to clean up Scott's mess — succeeds where Scott disastrously failed. And the new NRSC chairman has a warning for his fellow Republicans: If the GOP blows it again, they won't get another chance to win Senate control for a decade or more.

In an interview in Daines's campaign offices, he pointed out that in 2024, the GOP is defending no seats in states Biden won, while Democrats are defending three in states Donald Trump won in 2020 (Montana, Ohio and West Virginia) and five in states Biden won by 5 points or less (Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Nevada, Arizona and Michigan). Add to this the surprise candidacy of former Maryland governor Larry Hogan (R) — who was recruited by Daines's chief of staff, Darin Thacker, the old-fashioned way, by a heartfelt letter urging him to run — having put a Democrat-held seat in play, and that's nine good pickup opportunities.

But after November, Daines warned, the opportunities dry up.

"I'm a Procter & Gamble exec from 13 years," he said. "They teach you how to think and lead strategically" and "look out over the horizon" to assess opportunities and risks. So he looked at the Senate map for 2026. "It started to get real quiet that night when I saw there were zero red states ... with Democrats up [for reelection] in '26," he said. Then he looked at 2028. "It even got quieter: It was zero."

In other words, he said, if Republicans fail to take back the majority this cycle, "we likely stay in the minority through 2030."

An early Trump supporter, Daines worked with the former president to secure his endorsement of candidates. Trump endorsed Gov. Jim Justice over Rep. Alex Mooney in West Virginia, and former Navy

SEAL Tim Sheehy over Rep. Matt Rosendale in Montana, as well as former representative Mike Rogers in Michigan, David McCormick in Pennsylvania (whom he had passed over for Mehmet Oz in 2022) and businessman Eric Hovde in Wisconsin.

His recruiting record is not perfect. In Ohio, Democrats have repeated their successful 2022 strategy of backing "poison pill" MAGA candidates, spending over \$2.5 million to boost Trump-backed Bernie Moreno with ads calling him "too conservative for Ohio." The RealClearPolitics average has the Democratic incumbent Sen. Sherrod Brown up by 5 points in a state where Trump is leading by 10.

And in Arizona, Republicans nominated the disastrous Kari Lake — a poster child for the GOP's 2022 midterm failure — who lost a winnable governor's race. Lake is so unpopular that far-left Democratic Rep. Ruben Gallego is leading her by 7 points in the RCP average in a state where Trump is leading by 4.

Despite those setbacks, the GOP is far better positioned to make gains this year thanks to Daines. The race in West Virginia is "all but over," he said, which means that, barring unexpected GOP losses, there will be at least a 50-50 Senate. Republicans would only need to flip one more seat to secure the majority outright.

In his home state of Montana, Daines predicts, "Trump is going to win by 15 to 20 points," which will benefit Sheehy in his bid to unseat Sen. Jon Tester (D). And in Ohio, Trump's 10-point lead could boost Moreno. In Michigan, "Biden's got real problems," not just with Arab American voters in Dearborn but also with the United Auto Workers, whose members are "very concerned [about] what's happening right now with these crazy green initiatives coming from the Biden administration, mandating EVs." And, Daines said, "nobody had Maryland on their dance card."

In addition, Daines said, Biden has a growing problem not just with swing voters but also with his own base. "These Senate races on election night may come down to 1 or 2 points. You start looking at where Biden and the Democrats are struggling right now with minority voters, including African Americans and Hispanics, and also Jewish voters. I think if you add that up, it becomes a real problem for the Democrats."

If he pulls it off, Daines will be an instant contender to lead the new Senate majority. Trump has already thrown his support behind him. But right now, he said, "Truly, I'm not aspiring to be leader. I'm focused on getting the majority back."

"The stakes could not be higher, and failure is not an option," he added.

"It's going to be important, when President Trump wins, that we have the ability for this new Senate majority to work closely and well with the new administration," he said. "I can play in that position in many different ways, and I'm focused here on winning the majority, and then policy wins once President Trump's elected with the Republican majority of the Senate."

This much is certain: If the guy who wins the Senate majority jumps in the race for leader, the guy who lost it two years ago has no chance.

Follow Marc A. Thiessen @marcthiessen on X



Marc Thiessen

Finding peace by forgiving parents

Dear Annie: I wanted to write in with a mind shift that I have had over the past couple of years. What helps me get over childhood trauma is the realization that I am who I am because of the things I've experienced — both the good things and the awful things that stem from my childhood and how I've lived as a result. Our parents were humans and went through their own trauma as well. I forgive them and realize they were doing the best they could. Life is a journey, and we're all still on it. — Moving Forward

Dear Moving Forward: It sounds like you have found grace for both your family and yourself, which is a pillar in living a peaceful, happy life. I hope your letter inspires others to let go of the ways they may have been wronged in the past and to embrace the journey of life — no easy feat!

Dear Annie: I fell in love. It's a big deal after a bad marriage and nightmare divorce, but this new guy is everything I've ever wanted — minus his best friend, a woman.

Please note that I am not the jealous type. I was looking forward to adding this woman to my besties! So, I accepted her invitation to go out on her million-dollar yacht as a sincere sign that she wanted to get to know me. It was a trap. Literally, I was trapped in a seat that I couldn't maneuver away from and had to endure hours of their conversation, hearing how this woman had convinced my fiancé to keep going out with me and how he once pledged to her that they were soulmates and if her husband ever left her, they'd be together.

I was devastated. My fiancé apologized profusely, but I can't seem to get over this, both the betrayal of their intimate conversations about me and his obvious attraction to her. He also made the mistake, in my opinion, of diminishing her intent in telling me all of this. He thought it was just her "oversharing" and lack of boundaries. I feel it was evil.

I questioned my reaction. Maybe I was being too sensitive? Took it all too personally? Then, I heard that her besties arranged an INTERVENTION to confront her saying negative things

about them behind their backs. Aha, I thought! It's not just me! However, my fiancé used the oversharing defense AGAIN!

Annie, I don't know how to truly get past her comments and be free to fully enjoy this relationship. I've tried the whole "don't give your power away" and "don't let her win" mindset, but it eats away at me, especially when we run into her or he misses anything about their decade-long friendship. He agreed to completely distance himself from her, but she still reaches out to him, heart emojis and all. If you know where I can get one of those "Men in Black" memory erasers, I fear that's my only hope to move on. — In Love and Seasick

Dear Seasick: It's clear that this situation has deeply hurt you, and it's important to validate those feelings rather than dismiss them as mere sensitivity.

It's great that your fiancé is willing to distance himself from his friend for your sake. However, it's vital he understands why it's necessary. Communication here is key — not just airing grievances, but actively working together to establish clear boundaries that protect and strengthen your relationship.

His friend's history of overstepping suggests a pattern. Encourage your fiancé to firmly communicate these boundaries to her. Focus on building trust with him and engaging in activities that strengthen your bond.

If these issues continue to recur, consider couples therapy. You're on the right track by focusing on what you can control — how you respond and how you and your fiancé work together moving forward. That's how you reclaim your power and enjoy the relationship you both deserve.

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

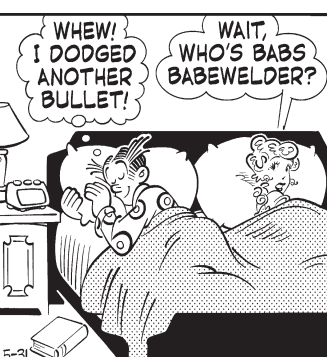
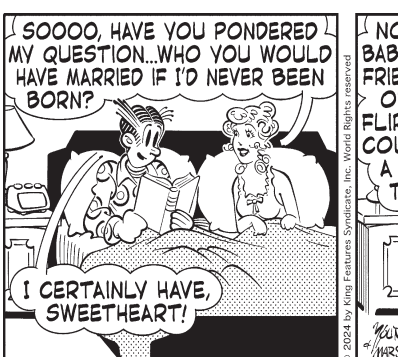
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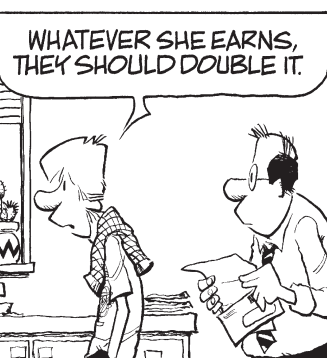
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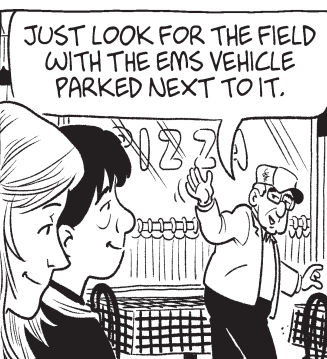
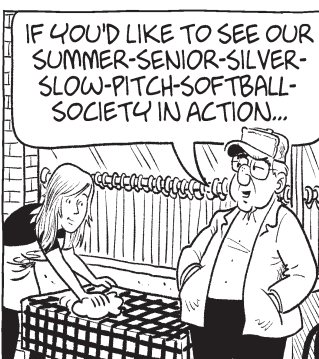
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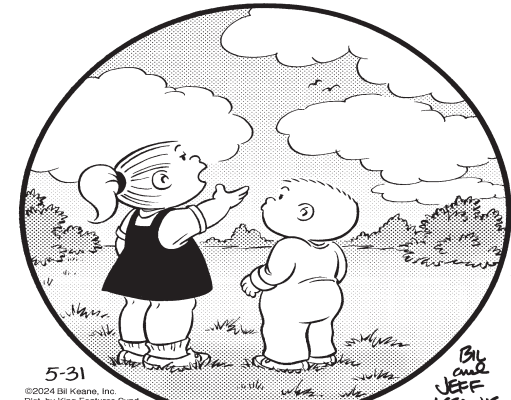
CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



My Answer



By Dr. Billy Graham

12 books of Minor Prophets are not minor in message

Question: I've tried with great diligence to study the Old Testament but I go into a daze. I desire to learn about the end times but am weighed down with things like the Minor Prophets, the numbers, the difficult names, and genealogies. Why the detail? I'm a Christian and understand the Gospel but to unlock the key to actual "study" is daunting. — B.R.

Answer: Studying names and numbers in Scripture is boring to some, but they carry an interesting significance. Consider the number 12 — an eternal number. From Genesis to Revelation we learn of the 12 patriarchs,

12 sons, 12 tribes of Israel, 12 judges, 12 gates, 12 stones, 12 fruits, 12 angels, 12 apostles, 12 stars, and a heavenly city 12,000 furlongs square.

The Bible also tells us that after Jesus' birth, nothing more is revealed about Him until He reached the age of 12, when His first words on Earth are recorded. Jesus told those who had been looking for Him, "I must be about My Father's business" (Luke 2:49, NKJV). This number is also foreshadowed when 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel will be saved to once again evangelize the world in the last days.

Anticipation builds as the 12 Minor Prophets bring the Old Testament to a close and the New Tes-

tament begins revealing the truth that "eternity" is coming to Earth. His Name is Jesus. The 12 books of Minor Prophets are not minor in message, but in terms of brevity only, and are power-packed messages from prophets whom God appointed and called to deliver His warnings of judgments and His ever-faithful invitation saying, "Return to Me." They provide an important study for those who desire to understand the end times. The Holy Spirit is the teacher and empowers us to comprehend God's truths.

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

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"Daddy phoned Mommy and said he was on cloud nine, but I don't see any numbers."

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes solution time: 25 mins.

Table with 11 columns and 11 rows representing a crossword puzzle grid.

TV schedule table with columns for time slots (5 PM, 5:30, 6 PM, 6:30, 7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30, 12 AM, 12:30) and rows for various channels (WINM, CBS, etc.).



Addy Heyerly (left), Macy Felger (middle) and Annabelle Johnson were recently honored as all-district by the Indiana High School Tennis Coaches Association in District 2 on Wednesday. (News-Banner file photos)

Heyerly, Felger and Johnson receive all-district honors

The Indiana High School Tennis Coaches Association released its all-district girls' tennis selections.

Norwell's singles player Addy Heyerly and the doubles team of Annabelle Johnson and Macy Felger were represented as all-district selections in District 2. There are eight districts that hand out honors.

In District 2, there were 12 singles players and eight doubles teams selected along with a coach of the year, which was given to Kyle Stoffel of Homestead.

Of the three honorees, Heyerly and Felger will be heading to college to play tennis as well. Heyerly will head to Angola and play for Trine, while Felger

will go to Huntington University.

Though the season is finished for the Knights, Johnson and Felger are continuing on as individuals in the regional tournament. The two recently won the sectional over Maconaquah at Bluffton High School. Their next match will be at Kokomo and face the team from Delta

— Kate Manor and Kelsey Vest 0 — who are 19-3 on the season. The match will take place at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 1 with the championship to follow at 2 p.m. The other side of the bracket is Angola's Ava Harris and Maya Harris vs. Lafayette Central Catholic's Ella Henry and Bliss Ulery.

High School Calendar

THURSDAY, MAY 30
No events scheduled.
FRIDAY, MAY 31
BOYS GOLF: (Sectional) Bluffton, Norwell and Southern Wells at Timber Ridge, 9 a.m.
TRACK & FIELD: (Girls state) Norwell at Robert C. Haugh Track & Field Complex, Indiana University, 3 p.m.
SATURDAY, JUNE 1
SOFTBALL: (Semi-State) Norwell vs.

Western at Twin Lakes, 11 a.m. with championship to follow at 7 p.m. vs. Leo/Prairie Heights.
TRACK & FIELD: (Boys state) Norwell at Robert C. Haugh Track & Field Complex, Indiana University, 3 p.m.
MONDAY, JUNE 3
No events scheduled.
TUESDAY, JUNE 4
No events scheduled.

ACAC softball awards released

The Allen County Athletic Conference award winners have been announced, and three Wells County players were represented.

Bluffton had two make the second team — Averi Petty as an infielder and Madyson

Sonnigsen as an at-large.
For Southern Wells, Gracie Reeves made it as an infielder on the second team.
Bluffton and Southern Wells finished sixth and seventh in the ACAC with South Adams winning the conference.

Chicago Bears are set to be on TV show 'Hard Knocks' for first time

By **ANDREW SELIGMAN**
AP Sports Writer
CHICAGO (AP) —

The Chicago Bears are set to be featured on "Hard Knocks" for the first time.

HBO and the NFL announced Thursday the founding NFL franchise was chosen for the 19th edition of the Emmy-winning series that first aired in 2001.

Chairman George McCaskey had long resisted having the Bears participate in the training camp documentary. The five-episode series debuts Aug. 6, with subsequent episodes airing on Tuesdays through Sept. 3.

"We are honored to feature such an iconic NFL franchise on 'Hard Knocks,'" NFL Films senior director and supervising producer Shannon Furman said in a statement. "The Chicago Bears have a talented roster, coaching staff and front office all determined to match the expectations of a hungry fanbase. We are thankful to the entire organization for opening their doors to us for what is sure to be an exciting training camp this summer."

Bears president Kevin Warren said the show will "provide our passionate fans across the world the ability to experience this unique and critical time in the history of our franchise."

The Bears have made just three playoff appearances since the 2006 team advanced



to the Super Bowl. They are 10-24 in two seasons under general manager Ryan Poles and Matt Eberflus, but there is no shortage of story lines.

Chicago drafted quarterback Caleb Williams with the No. 1 pick. It also traded for six-time Pro Bowler Keenan

Allen and drafted Washington's Rome Odunze ninth overall, giving it a deep group of wide receivers to go with DJ Moore.

The Bears are trying to secure funding to help build an enclosed stadium next to Soldier Field on the lakefront, after previously focusing on a tract of land they purchased in suburban Arlington Heights, Ill. And three members of this year's Pro Football Hall of Fame class — Devin Hester, Steve McMichael and Julius Peppers — played for Chicago.

"The 2024 training camp will be big for us in preparation for achieving our season goals and we look forward to bringing the fans at home along for the journey," Poles said.

The New York Giants are scheduled to appear on a new version of "Hard Knocks" that covers a period from January to July, featuring their work in the NFL combine, free agency, the draft and minicamps. That series will debut on July 2 and run through the 30th.

A new Larry Bird Museum officially opens in Terre Haute

By **MARK AMBROGI**
Associated Press

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (AP) — By his own admission, Larry Bird has always been a shy introvert.

So he wondered why he has to keep talking on stage in front of thousands of people.

"It's because of the love and respect I've had for my fans and the love and respect they've shown me back," Bird said.

The Indiana State University and Boston Celtics great addressed a public ceremony Thursday for the official opening of the Larry Bird Museum inside the Terre Haute Convention Center. After the ceremony, Bird took questions from the media, which he jokingly said might be his last interview.

"I got a little street named after me, I got a statue out there and now a museum here," Bird said of the city, the home of Indiana State. "Thank you, Terre Haute,

but I think that's enough for a while. You have no idea how much I respect the city and the people in it."

Coincidentally, the ceremony took place a few days after the Celtics advanced to the NBA Finals by sweeping the Indiana Pacers in the Eastern Conference finals. Bird, a former head coach and executive with Pacers, returned to his home-state team as a consultant in 2023.

"I remember at the All-Star Game, I told one of the Celtics owners that I thought they had the best team in the league," said Bird, who won three NBA titles with the Celtics. "I'm very proud of the Indiana Pacers. I think they've got a very good opportunity to keep moving on and doing very well. (Tyrese) Haliburton and other guys play well together. When the ball's moving, they win. If they guard a little bit, they win. Sometimes they don't guard. They have a very good team and they'll only grow together and get better."

News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL	BASEBALL	NATIONAL LEAGUE
NBA CONFERENCE FINALS (Best-of-7; x-if necessary) Thursday, May 30 Dallas 124, Minnesota 103. Dallas wins the series 4-1. FINALS (Best-of-7; x-if necessary) Boston vs. Dallas Thursday, June 6: Dallas at Boston, 8:30 p.m. Sunday, June 9: Dallas at Boston, 8 p.m.	WNBA Thursday's Games Seattle 103, Indiana 88 Chicago 83, Los Angeles 73 Saturday's Games Chicago at Indiana, 12 p.m. Sunday's Games Indiana at New York, 7 p.m.	Midwest League High-A Midwest League Glance Tuesday, May 28 Wisconsin 4, Fort Wayne 3 Wednesday, May 29 Wisconsin 4, Fort Wayne 3, 10 innings Thursday, May 30 Fort Wayne at Wisconsin, 7:40 p.m. Friday, May 31 Fort Wayne at Wisconsin, 7:40 p.m. Saturday, June 1 Fort Wayne at Wisconsin, 7:40 p.m. Sunday, June 2 Fort Wayne at Wisconsin, 2:10 p.m.
MLB AMERICAN LEAGUE Thursday's Games Minnesota 7, Kansas City 6 Tampa Bay 6, Oakland 5, 12 innings Houston 4, Seattle 0 Detroit 5, Boston 0 N.Y. Yankees at L.A. Angels, late Friday's Games Detroit (Maeda 2-1) at Boston (Houck 4-5), 7:10 p.m. Washington (Corbin 1-5) at Cleveland (Bibee 3-1), 7:10 p.m. Chicago White Sox (Fedde 4-1) at Milwaukee (Myers 1-2), 8:10 p.m.	Midwest League High-A Midwest League Glance Tuesday, May 28 Wisconsin 4, Fort Wayne 3 Wednesday, May 29 Wisconsin 4, Fort Wayne 3, 10 innings Thursday, May 30 Fort Wayne at Wisconsin, 7:40 p.m. Friday, May 31 Fort Wayne at Wisconsin, 7:40 p.m. Saturday, June 1 Fort Wayne at Wisconsin, 7:40 p.m. Sunday, June 2 Fort Wayne at Wisconsin, 2:10 p.m.	



Front Row buys NASCAR charter to expand to 3 Cup Series cars in '25

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Front Row Motorsports said Wednesday it has purchased a charter that will expand the NASCAR team to three cars in the Cup Series in 2025.

Front Row did not reveal the seller, but the announcement comes one day after Stewart-Haas Racing said it was shuttering its four-car Cup team at the end of the season. Front Row did not disclose how much it paid for its charter; Spire Motorsports last year paid \$40 million for one.

"We have a very positive outlook on the future of NASCAR and as the sport plans for success, so do we," said Front Row Motorsports owner Bob Jenkins. "Today that means having a plan for expanding back to three cars in the NASCAR Cup Series."

NASCAR's charter system guarantees entry into all 36 Cup races each season and thus guarantees revenue from the series' television package through participation. There are four "open" spots in the field each week for teams that do not hold charters and those are being held in case a future manufacturer enters the stock car series.

Current charters expire at the end of this season and teams have been in a bitter dispute with NASCAR over a new agreement. The teams want to make the charters permanent and NASCAR has refused that request.

Jenkins did not announce a 2025 driver lineup. The team currently fields Fords for former Daytona 500 winner Michael McDowell and Todd Gilliland, but McDowell is leaving for Spire next season.

Front Row this year has already extended its relationship with Ford Performance and created a competition alliance with Team Penske.

"It is good to get the news out now as we have a lot of work to do to prepare a new team," said Jerry Freeze, general manager of Front Row. "All of us on the leadership team will be working through that, obtaining the parts and pieces needed for the new team. And, most importantly, adding to the dedicated and talented staff and culture that exists today within our organization."

"Starting a new team from scratch is always a challenge, but with the opportunities in front of us, the talent we have in our leadership, and a bit of a runway to get there, I am confident that we can produce three competitive programs out of the box for the 2025 season," Freeze added.

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1			2		3			8
8		5	1					
	8			6	5			
4							7	
5		2	7					
2	7				1	6		
			4	2		7	3	
		1		5				2

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Difficulty: ★★★★★

5/31

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Lottery Numbers

Thursday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY

Cash 5 — 08-12-29-30-44
Cash4Life — 12-26-36-46-56, Cash Ball: 02
Quick Draw Midday — 05-08-10-14-15-19-26-30-32-39-42-49-50-52-56-58-62-69-70-71, BE: 19
Daily Three-Midday — 07-04-05, SB: 03
Daily Three-Evening — 03-03-05, SB: 07
Daily Four-Midday — 04-04-03-07, SB: 03
Daily Four-Evening — 05-00-09-04, SB: 07
Quick Draw Evening — 08-16-18-22-26-30-34-42-44-45-46-48-50-51-52-56-58-63-67-77, BE: 63
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$13.8 million

MEGA MILLIONS

Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$522 million

POWERBALL

Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$161 million

LINE CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINES:

Monday editions: Friday by 4 p.m.; Tuesday-Friday editions: day-before by 4 p.m.; Saturdays: Friday by noon.

May

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Public Sale Calendar

JUNE 1 - 8:30 a.m. - E & M Blacksmith Shop. 2404 W 350 S, Berne, IN. 13th annual consignment auction. Horses, ponies, horse-drawn machinery, produce equipment, buggies, harness, carts, new tack, saddles, shop tools, lawn & garden tools, sausage grinders & stuffers, new & used furniture, washing machines, Pat-hay, straw & firewood. Accepting consignments May 31 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. [Troyer Auctions, LLC](http://TroyerAuctions,LLC), 260-768-7246, ext. 3.
JUNE 1 - 9 a.m. - Multiple consignors. 6632 N. 500 W., Decatur. Personal property: Jewelry (gold, silver, costume), toys, collectables, furniture, household, antiques, trailer, Flow Blue, glassware, Star Wars. Preview May 31, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. [Wiegmann Auctioneers](http://WiegmannAuctioneers), 260-447-4311, wiegman-auctioneers.com.
JUNE 1 - 11:30 a.m. - Ardith Smith estate, Cheryl Heral estate & Sonja Bartlett, sellers. 320 Sparks St., Markle, IN. Live on-site. One story, two bedroom home on 1.6 acres, 1,144 sq. ft., 10x18 detached garage. Steve Ness, auction manager, 260-417-6556, SteveNess@NessBros.com, [Ness Bros. Realtors & Auctioneers](http://NessBros.com), www.NessBros.com.
BIDDING ENDS JUNE 2 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of John F. Holbrook, seller. 200+ pcs. Roseville, Rookwood, Hull, McCoy, Van-Briggle, 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. Patrick Carter, sale manager, [The Steffen Group Inc.](http://TheSteffenGroupInc), www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.
JUNE 4 - (Online Only Auction) - Bidding Opens at 9 a.m. and will close at 6 p.m.

- Holbrook estate, seller. 300 W, Markle, IN. Explore the potential of this property! 6.79+/- acre tract of land in Northern Wells, Union Township, easy access to I-69, 435' of road frontage on Wells County Road, rare opportunity for homesite or mini-farm. Inspection: Feel free to walk the property at any time. Patrick Carter, sale manager, 260-273-8294, [The Steffen Group Inc.](http://TheSteffenGroupInc), www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.
JUNE 5-JUNE 12 - (Online Only Auction) - Huston Waters, seller. Well cared for modern furniture, wood working tools, household, 2003 Chevy Impala, lawn and garden equipment, outdoor furniture. Open House June 10 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., 1338 Manor Dr., Bluffton, IN. [The Steffen Group Inc.](http://TheSteffenGroupInc), 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.
BIDDING STARTS CLOSING JUNE 9 - 6 p.m. EST - Berry estate, owner. Online only real estate & personal property! 6 p.m. real estate: 1 1/2 story craftsman style home w/covered porch, 1,700+/- square ft. w/ornate woodwork throughout, partial basement, 3-4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 bath, detached 24x24 two-car garage, several older outbuildings all sitting on 6+/- acres. Adams Central School District. 6:30 p.m. personal property: Antique tractors, farm machinery, tools, antiques, primitives, vehicles, furniture, household items, more! Pick up June 10, 2-6 p.m., 4854 N 400 W, Decatur. [KruceKreberg Auction & Realty LLC](http://KruceKrebergAuction&RealtyLLC), 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.
JUNE 15-JUNE 22 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of Glen Bowen, seller. Clean 2005 Buick Lesabre Custom with 77,000 miles, 2004 Toyota Sienna mini van, 1987 Riv-

iera Cruiser 24' pontoon, 2004 Yamaha XLT jet ski, floating WaveRunner dock, modern furniture, tools. Open House: June 9 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and June 22 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 500 Lane 101 Jimmerson Lake, Angola, IN. [The Steffen Group Inc.](http://TheSteffenGroupInc), 260-824-3006.
JUNE 16-JUNE 23 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of Marilyn McQueary, seller. 2023 GMC Terrain Denali, AWD Edition with 2,130 miles (like new), clean like new modern furniture, antiques, collectibles, tools, jewelry, designer purses, much more. Open Houses: June 18 and June 20 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 102 S. Jefferson St., Ossian, IN. [The Steffen Group Inc.](http://TheSteffenGroupInc), 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.
JUNE 23 - (Online Only Auction) - Bowen Family, sellers. Well cared for 2 bedroom lake cottage of Jimmerson Lake with 36' of frontage, three season room, 1 car garage, deck with outstanding views of Jimmerson Lake/Part of the Lake James Chain. Open House: June 9 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and June 22 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 500 Lane 101 Jimmerson Lake, Angola, IN. [The Steffen Group Inc.](http://TheSteffenGroupInc), www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

SUDOKU ANSWER

1/5/2024	*****	Difficulty						
1	2	8	4	9	1	6	3	5
1	6	4	6	2	7	8	9	9
6	9	9	1	8	6	7	2	2
9	8	6	7	6	2	1	9	9
9	2	6	2	1	8	6	9	7
7	1	2	9	9	6	6	8	2
6	2	7	9	2	1	9	6	8
8	9	9	6	6	2	1	7	1
2	6	1	8	7	9	9	2	6

Israel could have used smaller weapons to avoid deaths in tent fire

By TARA COPP and JOSEF FEDERMAN
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense experts who have reviewed debris images from an Israeli airstrike that ignited a deadly fire in a camp for displaced Palestinians questioned why Israel did not use smaller, more precise weapons when so many civilians were nearby. They said the bombs used were likely U.S.-made.

The strikes, targeting Hamas operatives, killed as many as 45 people sheltering in a temporary displacement camp near the southern Gaza city of Rafah on Sunday and have drawn international condemnation.

Israel is investigating the attack but says the Hamas targets were 1 mile away from a declared humanitarian zone and that its review before the strike determined no expected harm to civilians.

But displaced civilians were scattered throughout the area, and Israel had not ordered evacuations. So even if the tents that burned were not inside the marked humanitarian zone, the civilians there thought it was safe.

Israel, which was attacked by Hamas on Oct. 7, 2023, has not said where the burned tents were in relation to the compound it bombed on Sunday, but has released one satellite image showing there were some known civilian shelters located about 600 feet away. It emphasized that while there were no tents “in the immediate vicinity,” due to “unforeseen circumstances, a fire ignited tragically taking the lives of Gazan civilians nearby.”

Footage released by the Israeli military appears to show people walking next to the targeted buildings before the blast. The footage also appears to show tents nearby.

Israel has not identified the bombs it used, but Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, an Israel Defense Forces spokesman, has emphasized that the country chose the smallest munition its jets could carry — with 37 pounds of explosive material each — and that an

unintended secondary explosion may have caused the fire.

Even the smallest jet-launched munition may be too big when civilians are near because of how they explode and can send fragments far, defense experts said.

Images posted on social media from the tent camp on Monday and verified by The Associated Press showed a CAGE code, a unique identifier assigned to U.S. government suppliers, on pieces of the exploded weapons.

Based on those images and satellite photos of the debris field, two defense experts said the bombs used were likely U.S.-made 250-pound GBU-39 small-diameter bombs.

Though they’re smaller than many other weapons the U.S. has provided to Israel, these bombs can still create a wide swath of damage. The entire 250-pound shell and components are designed to spew fragments that can travel as far as 2,000 feet.

“You essentially have two bombs they use that the fragments can travel 600 meters in a densely packed area. So that just doesn’t check out if they’re trying to limit casualties,” said Trevor Ball, a former Army explosive ordnance demolition technician.

Ball said the serial number on the pieces of the tail kit and the shell debris shown in the photographs identify the munitions as the 250-pound GBU-39. It’s unusual to describe a bomb by its explosive load — in this case, 37 pounds — instead of its total weight, according to Ball and Mark Cancian, a retired Marine Corps Reserves colonel and senior adviser to the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

The debris field in Gaza is indicative of the bombs possibly being set to detonate before impact, which would ensure their intended targets were killed but also risk unintended deaths, Ball and Cancian said. The images showed a small hole where shrapnel was found.

The GBU-39’s fuse settings can be adjusted to have the bomb

explode on impact, which would create a crater at the site, or set for a delayed blast if the goal is to have it more deeply penetrate a target first.

They can also be set to detonate in the air, right before impact, to ensure multiple targets are hit. But that setting also maximizes area damage, which could explain a secondary explosion even if weapons or other flammable materials were some distance away, Ball said.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken told reporters on Wednesday during a visit to Moldova that the U.S. is waiting for an investigation to show what weapons were used and how they were deployed.

Even if that confirms Israel used a small-diameter weapon, “we also see that even limited, focused, targeted attacks — designed to deal with terrorists who have killed innocent civilians that are plotting to kill more — even those kinds of operations can have terrible, horrific, unintended consequences,” Blinken said.

The defense experts said Israel had better options to turn to than the GBU-39 when civilians were nearby.

The Israelis have previously deployed drones to launch weapons that are smaller and more precise, Cancian said. These precision airstrikes used over the years have caused little damage beyond the immediate target.

Israel, for example, in this strike could have used a smaller anti-personnel weapon called the mini-Spike, which would not have created as wide an area of debris, if it was targeting specific Hamas leaders, Cancian said.

The U.S. has withheld a shipment of even larger 2,000-pound (900-kilogram) bombs from Israel out of concern they would be used in Israel’s Rafah operation, where more than 1 million Palestinians crowded after Israel bombed other parts of Gaza. Now, that same number of people have escaped Rafah and are scattered across makeshift tent camps and other areas.

Israel says it’s taken control of key area of Gaza’s border with Egypt awash in smuggling tunnels

By TIA GOLDENBERG, WAFAA SHURAF and SAMY MAGDY
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel’s military said Wednesday it seized control of a strategic corridor along Gaza’s border with Egypt to cut off smuggling tunnels as it tries to destroy the militant Hamas group in a war now in its eighth month.

The capture of the Philadelphi Corridor could complicate Israel’s relations with Egypt, which has complained about Israel’s advance toward its border. Israel says the corridor is awash in tunnels that have funneled weapons and other goods for Hamas — despite a yearslong blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt.

Israel also deepened its incursion into the southern Gaza city of Rafah, where hundreds of thousands have been seeking shelter from fighting, and where intensifying violence in recent days has killed dozens of Palestinians. The military said that a fifth brigade — up to several thousand soldiers — joined troops operating in the city on Tuesday.

Egypt says any increase in troops in the strategic border area would violate the countries’ 1979 peace accord. It already has complained about Israel taking over the Rafah border crossing, the only crossing between Gaza and Egypt.

“The Philadelphi Corridor served as the oxygen line of Hamas through which Hamas carried out weapons smuggling

into Gaza on a regular basis,” said Israel’s military chief spokesperson, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari.

An Israeli military official said Israel had notified Egypt of the takeover. Some 20 tunnels, including some previously unknown to Israel, were found, as well as 82 access points to the tunnels, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with military regulations. It was not clear if the tunnels were currently in use.

The corridor is part of a larger demilitarized zone along the entire Israel-Egypt border. Under the peace accord, each side is allowed to deploy only a small number of troops or border guards in the zone, though those numbers can be modified by mutual agreement. At the time of the accord, Israeli troops controlled Gaza, until Israel withdrew its forces and settlers in 2005.

Egypt’s state-run Al-Qahera News TV reported there were “no communications with the Israeli side” on the allegations of finding tunnels on the border. Egypt has repeatedly expressed concerns that the Israeli offensive could push Palestinians across the border — a scenario Egypt says is unacceptable.

The narrow corridor — about 100 yards wide in parts — runs the 8.6-mile length of the Gaza side of the border with Egypt and includes the Rafah crossing into Egypt.

Hamas has had free rein of the border since its 2007 takeover of Gaza.

Sunday’s strike shows that even the smaller 250-pound bombs the U.S. has continued to provide can

be too large for use near densely packed refugee areas, Cancian said.

Roberts rejects request to discuss Supreme Court ethics, Alito controversy

By MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — Chief Justice John Roberts on Thursday declined an invitation to meet with Democratic senators to talk about Supreme Court ethics and the controversy over flags that flew outside homes owned by Justice Samuel Alito.

Roberts’ response came in a letter to the senators a day after Alito separately wrote them and House members to reject their demands that he recuse himself from major Supreme Court cases involving former President Donald Trump and the Jan. 6 rioters because of the flags, which are like those carried by rioters at the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol.

Senate Judiciary Chairman Dick Durbin, D-Ill., and Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., a member of the Judiciary panel, had written Roberts a week ago to ask for the meeting and that Roberts take steps to ensure that Alito recuses himself from any cases before the court concerning the Jan. 6 attack or the Republican former president’s attempts to overturn his 2020 election defeat.

“I must respectfully decline your request for a meeting,” Roberts wrote.

Justices decide for themselves when to step aside from cases, Roberts noted. Alito said he concluded nothing about the flags, both of which he said were flown by his wife outside their homes in Virginia and New Jersey, required his recusal.

Last year, Roberts declined to testify at a Judiciary Committee hearing on Supreme Court ethics, and he made mention of that Thursday in saying that chief justices only rarely have met with lawmakers.

“Moreover, the format proposed — a meeting with leaders only of one party who have expressed an interest in matters currently pending before the court —

simply underscores that participating in such a meeting would be inadvisable,” he wrote.

Both Alito and another conservative justice, Clarence Thomas, have rejected calls to recuse themselves from cases related to the 2020 election, which Trump lost to Democrat Joe Biden. Thomas’ wife, Ginni, supported efforts to overturn the election results.

Public trust in the Supreme Court is at its lowest point in at least 50 years.

Durbin’s office issued a statement downplaying Roberts’ concerns. Durbin’s only interest “is restoring the credibility of the Court in the eyes of the American people,” the statement said, adding that he would press efforts to pass an enforceable ethics code for the Supreme Court.

The justices are considering two major cases related to the Capitol attack, including charges faced by the rioters and whether Trump has immunity from prosecution on election interference charges.

The New York Times reported that an inverted American flag was seen at Alito’s home in Alexandria, Virginia, less than two weeks after the attack on the Capitol. The paper also reported that an “Appeal to Heaven” flag was flown outside of the justice’s beach home in New Jersey last summer. Both flags were carried by rioters who violently stormed the Capitol in January 2021 echoing Trump’s false claims of election fraud.

Alito has said the inverted American flag was flown by his wife amid a dispute with neighbors and he had no part in it. He said she also flew the “Appeal to Heaven” flag but was unaware of its ties to the Capitol rioters.

Judicial ethics codes focus on the need for judges to be independent, avoiding political statements or opinions on matters they could be called on to decide. The Supreme Court had long

gone without its own code of ethics, but it adopted one in November 2023 in the face of sustained criticism

over undisclosed trips and gifts from wealthy benefactors to some justices.

The code lacks a means

of enforcement, though, and the Judiciary panel approved legislation last year that would set stricter

standards. But Republicans have been staunchly opposed to any efforts to tell the court what to do.

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