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Suds 'n Buds

Over 200 people came to Pickett's Run Park on Wednesday for the Bluffton Parks Department's annual foam party, shown above. With perfect sunny weather, kids could have fun in the bubbles for about an hour and rinse off in the nearby park splash pad.

At right, Uriah Schlichter (right) dances with brother Miles in the suds. Siblings Brielle and Emmett Lortie are pictured enjoying the bubbles below left, and Kynsle Pole at below right. **More photos on page 8.** (Photos by Holly Gaskill)



Solar abatement ban expected in July

By HOLLY GASKILL

The Wells County Council was unable to vote on an ordinance to ban tax abatements for solar energy companies on Wednesday, as the legal documents were not finalized by its special session.

At the beginning of the session, Council President Seth Whicker told the council that the county attorney needed more time to prepare the ordinance.

"(County Attorney Ted Storer) sent out an ordinance (to the council) that was actually written pretty

well — I think most of us may have seen that," Whicker said. "But with some developments that have occurred, he's asked us (the council) to give a little bit more time."

Whicker stated that Storer plans to meet with attorney Rick Hall, who had helped prepare the economic development agreement with Paddlefish Solar. The prospective ordinance will not retroactively affect the Paddlefish agreement, but Whicker said Storer

(Continued on Page 2)

DORA may offer local tourism opportunities

By HOLLY GASKILL

A potential Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area poses a unique opportunity for the Wells County Convention and Visitors Commission.

The board discussed the proposed DORA during their meeting Wednesday, noting that it could play well in cross-promoting downtown Bluffton businesses. Created by the state last year, a DORA allows individuals to hold and consume alcoholic beverages openly within the boundary.

The proposal is ultimately in

early development — Tourism Coordinator Audry Dudley said there's no defined timeline to create the area.

Dudley said that within Bluffton, it could allow someone to take a beverage from one establishment into another or to a Parlor City Plaza event. It would also simplify the process for alcohol permitting for downtown events.

However, each business has the option to join the DORA. These businesses will also have to display signage for the DORA

(Continued on Page 2)

IEDC gets OK to spend \$88M on LEAP project

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle

The Indiana Economic Development Corp. on Tuesday won approval to spend about \$59 million buying out Boone County holdouts who — thus far — have resisted selling their farmland for a massive industrial park.

The quasi-public agency will use funds "repurposed" from a stalled deal to fill gaps in ownership. An additional \$29 million will be used for area infrastructure improvements.

Three unnamed companies — in advanced computing, biopharmaceutical manufacturing and information technology component manufacturing and — have expressed interest in building at LEAP, according to the State Budget Committee agenda.

IEDC officials were on defense over an hour of intense questioning.

Rep. Ed DeLaney, an Indianapolis Democrat, asked why IEDC needed more land: "So, the 9,000 acres was not enough?"

IEDC Senior Vice President Mark Wasky said the land buys would be part of that total. "Some" acres are "within the site" envisioned for the Limitless Exploration/Advanced Pace Innovation District, he added.

"You have holes in that? ... You're trying to close that off?" DeLaney asked.

Wasky said the IEDC needed control of the land "in order to make the investments work."

That's despite not having "an accepted commitment" from the firms, said Brock Herr, IEDC's senior vice president of business retention, expansion and attractions.

IEDC would spend about \$500,000 on options on 1,400 new acres of land. It would use \$58.5 million to buy 1,100 acres of land already under contract.

That averages out to more than \$53,000 per acre — lower than the \$88,000 Wasky said the IEDC has paid on average for LEAP land.

The money isn't new.

The State Budget Committee, during a December meeting, approved \$100 million to lure an advanced manufacturing project, dubbed Project Nora, to Indiana.

But that deal hasn't come together — yet.

"It has not disappeared. Due to company and industry changes, they have delayed a decision," Herr said. "We were very candid and clear with that company that it had an expiration date, should the project not proceed. ... The funds would be de-obligated and potentially repurposed, which is what we're here today to do."

Wasky said the IEDC learned it should wait to seek State Budget Committee funding approval until agreements are finalized.

"The company made clear that they needed to have the confidence, and having all the legal approvals taken care of, before they made a final decision," he added.

DeLaney said the company "didn't have the confidence it should've had" in December. He said he wanted to "learn from this mistake ... so we don't do that again."

Water worries reemerge
Skeptical lawmakers also pinned IEDC officials on water supply for LEAP.

Indiana has targeted advanced

(Continued on Page 2)

Supreme Court has a lot of work and little time to do it with case backlog

By MARK SHERMAN
and LINDSAY WHITEHURST
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court is headed into its final few weeks with nearly half of the cases heard this year still undecided, including ones that could reshape the law on everything from guns to abortion to social media. The justices are also still weighing whether former President Donald Trump is immune from criminal prosecution in the election interference case against him, more than a month after hearing arguments.

The court heard 61 cases this term, and 29 remain unresolved, with some decisions expected Thursday and Friday.

Here's a look at some of the major undecided cases:

Presidential immunity Donald Trump is arguing that former presidents are immune from prosecution

for official acts they took in office and that the indictment he faces on charges of election interference must be dismissed.



The Supreme Court has previously ruled that former presidents can't be sued in civil cases for what they did in office, but it has never weighed in on criminal immunity.

The timing of the decision may be as important as the outcome. Trump's trial in Washington, D.C., may not take place before the November election, even if the court rules he is not immune.

Jan. 6, 2021A former Pennsylvania police officer is challenging the validity of obstruction charges brought against hundreds of people who took part in the violent assault on the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Trump faces the same charge of obstructing an official proceeding.

The issue is whether a law meant to discourage

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Today	Friday	Saturday											
High 90	High 85	High 84											
Low 65	Low 58	Low 61											

Solar abatement

(Continued from Page 1)
er wanted to practice due diligence in preparing the ordinance.

Whicker anticipates the council will vote on the ordinance during its next meeting, 7 p.m. on July 2.

“Let’s do it once and do

it right,” Council member Brandon Harnish said.

Following that update, the council unanimously approved a 10-year total tax abatement agreement with Heartland REMC and a waiver for an application deadline error.

The council met via Zoom with William Dye of Heartland REMC, who explained the proper paperwork was late due to a clerical error in his first year at the company. Dye reported that Heartland REMC had invested \$6.6

million in Wells County in 2023 and planned to complete a \$10 million project in the next 18 months. Multiple council members expressed their appreciation for Dye taking responsibility for the error.

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Tourism opportunities

(Continued from Page 1)
and use special cups with the DORA logo for drinks taken from the establishment.

The proposed area draws boundaries around most of downtown and may include Kehoe Park; the Bluffton Parks board is slated to discuss the DORA during their meeting on Thursday. A similar DORA has been implemented in Fort Wayne’s downtown.

Meanwhile, Dudley told the commission she’s seeking quotes from

printers for various tourism map styles, with hopes of finding a local partner. Dudley said it’s been difficult to find the best map form, balancing between cost and utility. Board member Zane Herr referenced a map from Huntington County as a possible model — the map is one sheet of paper with highlighted tourism attractions.

Dudley said she’s also continued to work with local groups for grants to advertise their events to out-of-county areas. These grants are made

possible through revenue from the local innkeepers’ tax on short-term overnight accommodations, which accrued \$22,014.26 in the first quarter.

Board members present were Herr, Scott Elzey, Jeff Reed, Brandy Fiechter, Michelle Blount and Jon Winne; Steve Higgins, Jay Esparza and Justin Osborne were absent.

The board will meet next at 8 a.m. July 10 at the Wells County Commerce & Visitors Center.

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Leap projects

(Continued from Page 1)
manufacturing firms for the district, like semiconductors and batteries, but they’re water-intensive industries.

Wasky, during further questioning from DeLaney, said an initial investment phase by homegrown pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly & Co. “essentially has brought the capacity of Lebanon Utilities to its fullest.”

Lilly in 2022 said it would spend \$2.1 billion into a project on 600 acres of land, but increased that to \$3.7 billion at the groundbreaking in 2023.

Last month, the company added a whopping \$5.3 billion — for a total of \$9 billion — all on the original 600-acre lot.

Asked about projected water need on non-Lilly land, Wasky said, “We’ve been in discussion with water utilities about capacity they can bring to the area, and it’s ... somewhere

between 10 and 25 million gallons a day from existing water resources.”

But as other companies join LEAP, water need could increase, he said.

Across current and prospective companies, and when operating at full capacity in 18 to 20 years, LEAP could need as much as 55 to 60 million gallons of water per day, according to Herr. He said most would be “non-contact” — or used for cooling.

The state hoped to pipe up to 100 million gallons of water a day from the Wabash River in Tippecanoe County to LEAP, but residents have pushed back.

The IEDC, in early results from a study, claimed there was enough water to support the diversion. Still, Gov. Eric Holcomb directed the Indiana Finance Authority to take over the study and widen it for a more comprehensive examination.

Preliminary data were expected in late spring or summer, but IEDC officials indicated that the study’s not yet ready.

They also said electrical supply isn’t a concern, as long as utilities have enough time to build new capacity.

IEDC officials additionally requested to repurpose \$29 million from Project Nora to use on infrastructure improvements at LEAP.

The money would go toward local road improvements, engineering and design for interchange improvements and road realignment, utility improvements and relocations and other site prep and planning efforts for infrastructure and sites within the district. It would support five projects, according to the meeting agenda.

The State Budget Committee approved requests by voice vote, in one lump

adoption of the agenda. Rep. Greg Porter, who has been openly critical of the IEDC’s plans, abstained.

“I’ve never heard of a voting member abstaining from a vote on a State Budget Committee agenda. But I felt like I had to be the first one to abstain today,” Porter said in a statement. “I couldn’t move myself to vote for the agenda when I have no clue what I’m investing in. We’ve given the IEDC billions of state dollars for projects, but they’ve shared no information. We don’t know the investors, and we don’t have answers on the utility situation.”

“My goal is to protect the taxpayers and how their dollars are spent. Hoosier taxpayers deserve to know how we’re using their money,” he continued. “Once I get those answers, I’ll vote to approve a State Budget Committee agenda.”

Supreme Court

(Continued from Page 1)
tampering with documents sought in investigations can be used against the Capitol rioters.

Abortion pillAbortion opponents are trying to make it harder for pregnant women to obtain medication abortions. They want the Supreme Court to roll back changes made by the FDA that have made it easier to obtain mifepristone, one of the two drugs used in nearly two-thirds of abortions in the United States last year. Those include eliminating the need for in-person visits and allowing the drug to be mailed.

Most Republican-led states have severely restricted or banned abortion since the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in 2022. The high court’s decision in this case will affect abortion even in states where it remains legal.

Emergency abortion-There’s a second abortion case on the docket this year: whether doctors can provide that medical procedure in emergencies in states that banned abortion after the court overturned Roe v. Wade.

In a case out of Idaho, the Biden administration says abortions must be allowed in emergencies where a woman’s health is at serious risk.

The state argues that its strict abortion ban does allow abortions to save a woman’s life, and doesn’t need to expand exceptions for health risks.

GunsThe justices are weighing whether to uphold a federal law that seeks to protect domestic violence victims by keeping guns away from the people alleged to have abused them. An appeals court struck down

a law that prohibits people under domestic violence restraining orders from possessing firearms. That court found that the law violated the 2nd Amendment right to “keep and bear arms” following the Supreme Court’s 2022 ruling that expanded gun rights and changed how courts are supposed to evaluate gun restrictions.

HomelessnessThe most significant Supreme Court case in decades on homelessness centers on whether people can be banned from sleeping outdoors when shelter space is lacking.

A San Francisco-based appeals court decision said that amounts to cruel and unusual punishment.

Leaders from California and across the West say that the ruling makes it harder for them to regulate homeless encampments encroaching on sidewalks and other public places.

Advocates say it would criminalize homelessness just as rising costs have pushed the number of people without a permanent place to live to record levels.

Bump stocksThe Trump administration banned bump stocks, a gun accessory that allows rapid fire like a machine gun, after they were used in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

The ban is being challenged by a Texas gun shop owner who says the Justice Department was wrong to reverse course and declare them illegal machine guns after the 2017 Las Vegas massacre.

The Biden administration argues banning them after the shooting that left 60 people dead was the right call.

ChevronThe justices could overturn a 40-year-

old decision that has been cited thousands of times in federal court cases and used to uphold regulations on the environment, public health, workplace safety and consumer protections. The decision colloquially known as Chevron calls on judges to defer to federal regulators when the words of a statute are not crystal clear. The decision has long been targeted by conservative and business interests who say Chevron robs judges of their authority and gives too much power to regulators.

Social mediaThree cases remain unresolved at the intersection of social media and government.

Two cases involve social media laws in Texas and Florida that would limit how Facebook, TikTok, X, YouTube and other social media platforms regulate content posted by their users. While the details vary, both laws aimed to address conservative complaints that the social media companies were liberal-leaning and censored users based on their viewpoints, especially on the political right.

In the third case, Republican-led states are suing the Biden administration over how far the federal government can go to combat controversial social media posts on topics including COVID-19 and election security. A federal appeals court sided with the states in finding that administration officials unconstitutionally coerced the platforms to limit conservative points of view.

Purdue PharmaThe Supreme Court controls the fate of a nationwide settlement with OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma that would allocate billions of dollars to combat the opioid epidemic, but also provide a legal shield for members of the Sackler family who own the company. The settlement has been on hold since last summer after the Supreme Court agreed to weigh in.

Wealth taxA business-backed challenge to a tax on foreign income is being watched closely for what it might say about the fate of a wealth tax, an often discussed but never implemented tax on the wealthiest Americans.

Weather

Thursday, June 13, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:14 p.m. Wednesday)
High: 86; **Low:** 61; **Precipitation:** None
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.62 feet at 8:45 p.m. Wednesday

Wells County forecast

Today: Sunny and hot, with a high near 90. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Tonight: A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 65. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Friday: A slight chance of thunderstorms before 8 a.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 85. North wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 10%.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 58. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming northeast after midnight.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 84.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 61.

Sunday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 93.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 73.

Monday: Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 97.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 74.

Tuesday: A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 93.

Tuesday Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 71.

June 14th: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 91.

Blinken: some of Hamas’ proposed cease-fire changes are workable

BEIRUT (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Wednesday that mediators would keep trying to close an elusive cease-fire deal for Gaza after Hamas proposed changes to a U.S.-backed plan, some of which he said were “workable” and some not.

The back-and-forth laid bare frustration over the difficulty of reaching an accord that could end eight months of war that has decimated the territory, killed tens of thousands of Palestinians and left scores of Israeli hostages still languishing in militant captivity. Previous moments of optimism have been repeatedly dashed by the differences between the two sides.

The cease-fire proposal has global support but has not been fully embraced by Israel or Hamas. Blinken did not spell out what changes Hamas sought, but he said the mediators — Qatar, Egypt and the U.S. — will keep trying to “close this deal.” He put the onus on Hamas, accusing it of changing its demands.

“Hamas has proposed numerous changes to the proposal that was on the table. ... Some of the changes are workable. Some are not,” Blinken told reporters in Qatar. “I believe that they (the differences) are bridgeable, but that doesn’t mean they will be bridged because ultimately Hamas has to decide.”

Blinken’s comments came as Lebanon’s Hezbollah fired a massive barrage of rockets into northern Israel to avenge the killing of a top commander, further escalating regional tensions.

Hezbollah, an Iran-backed ally of Hamas, has traded fire with Israel nearly every day since the Israel-Hamas war began and says it will stop only if there is a truce in Gaza. That has raised fears of an even more devastating regional conflagration.

Air-raid sirens sounded across northern Israel, and the military said about 215 projectiles were fired from southern Lebanon, making it one of the largest attacks since the fighting began. There were no immediate reports of casualties as some rockets were intercepted while others ignited brush fires.

Hamas conveyed its official reply to the proposal to mediators on Tuesday. Hamas spokesman Jihad Taha told the Lebanese news outlet Elnashra that the “amendments” requested by the group aim to guarantee a permanent cease-fire and complete Israeli troop withdrawal from Gaza.

The proposal announced by U.S. President Joe Biden includes those provisions, but Hamas has expressed wariness about whether Israel will implement the terms. While the U.S. says Israel has accepted the proposal, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has given conflicting statements, saying Israel is still intent on its goal of destroying Hamas.

Blinken, on his eighth visit to the region since the start of the war, said the deal on the table was “virtually identical” to one Hamas put forth on May 6. The U.N. Security Council voted overwhelmingly in favor of the plan on Monday.

“At some point in a negotiation, and this has gone back and forth for a long time, you get to a point where if one side continues to change its demands, including making demands and insisting on changes for things that it already accepted, you have to question whether they’re proceeding in good faith or not,” he said.

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Long-term care for seniors must be a top priority

Indiana is overhauling delivery of its senior Medicaid services this summer in a move that, hopefully, will make care more efficient and effective.

It's a step in addressing a major issue facing Indiana — long-term care for elderly Hoosiers.

Hoosier Opinions

A recent collaboration between CNHI News and the Associated Press brought home how dire the situation is across the nation. According to the reporting, the number of Americans over the age of 65 is rising, and more than half will require long-term health care. But just a small percentage have begun planning for it, much less figuring out how they'll pay for it.

This puts pressure not just on our aging citizens but also on their families. As covered in the special report, children and grandchildren are increasingly becoming the caregivers for their parents and grandparents. While it's commendable that family members step up when needed, expecting working-age Hoosiers to be the primary caregivers for seniors isn't a viable solution to the problem.

Our state lawmakers will continue to explore Medicaid during interim committee meetings over the summer and fall. This will allow for important discussion and consideration of the new Medicaid system, and also exploration of other ways state officials can assist aging Hoosiers and their families.

It's certainly not breaking news that assisted living and nursing home facilities are becoming harder to staff and maintain. Providing incentives for employees to work at such facilities is a potential way the state could help offset this problem.

The opening of more adult daycare facilities would also help. Lawmakers must ensure that the adult day programs in place don't fall victim to changes in Medicaid management. More efforts should also be made to provide in-home care for seniors.

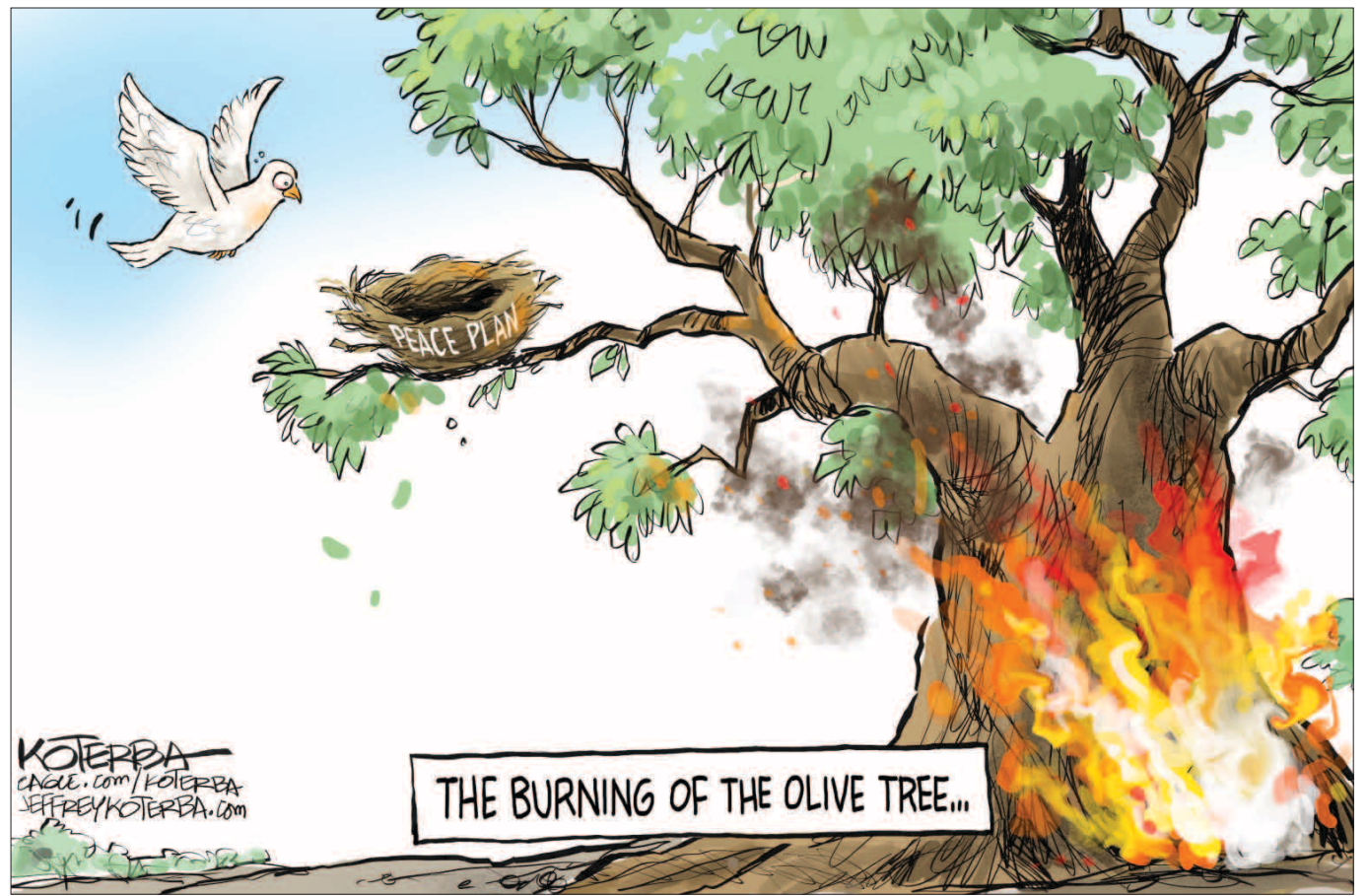
Medicaid can't be the only options for seniors. Financial restrictions and other issues lead to gaps for those in need. We're in danger of having a society where only the affluent or impoverished have access to long-term care, and that's a disaster in the making.

Personal responsibility also factors into this crisis. We must have tough conversations with our parents and grandparents about their long-term care. It's never easy to talk about dementia or the last years of life, but delaying those conversations doesn't solve the problem. Not having a plan in place only furthers the chaos and pain when the time for long-term care for our loved ones arrives.

There's enough heartache in seeing those we care about struggle with health and mental issues as they age. Not having a care system in place that enables them to age gracefully and with the respect they deserve makes the situation much worse.

It's going to take a massive public and private effort to solve this problem. Let's keep long-term care at the top of the legislative agenda and at the top of our minds. Our parents and grandparents deserve it.

Jeffersonville News and Tribune



The paradox ahead for Gaza: A postwar where war goes on

When I ask a senior Israeli official to describe what "the day after" will look like in Gaza, assuming a cease-fire can be reached, he gives an honest but chilling answer: "It's going to be long and bloody."

That's the stark reality facing U.S. mediators as they seek a truce with new support from the U.N. Security Council. Even if Hamas agrees and major fighting ends, Israel will remain committed to demilitarizing the terrorist group. No future Israeli government is likely to accept less. And Hamas will surely resist.

When we talk about a postwar Gaza, what does that mean? To me, it means that the international community, led by the United States, must create a security framework to reduce violence and civilian casualties as this awful conflict begins to unwind. The Biden administration is moving in that direction, with support from Israeli military leadership, if not Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken continued his intermittent shuttle diplomacy this week when he traveled to Israel and the region. He reminded Netanyahu that "total victory" can be a mirage, recalling that the United States learned the hard way in Iraq and Afghanistan that it could win every battle but lose the war — because it lacked a realistic political strategy.

Blinken's hope is that Hamas's leaders will accept the U.S. plan for a cease-fire and release of hostages and begin what would be a long — and undoubtedly bumpy — pathway to a permanent peace. The group sent a "response" on Tuesday seeking clarification, but administration officials wouldn't comment on what that might mean. Humanitarian aid and reconstruction could begin immediately if Hamas says yes. But Blinken has been talking with Israelis and Arabs about a path toward de-escalation, regardless of what Hamas decides.

The good news is that most Israeli leaders agree that it's time to think about a transition in Gaza. Israel wants a "downshift" there, as one U.S. official put it, in part so that it can focus more on the growing threat from Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Israel has a plan for the day after that officials tell me was endorsed by the war cabinet (including Netanyahu) before opposition leader Benny Gantz resigned this past weekend. This plan was proposed by Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, who remains in the government. It goes by the shorthand name "humanitarian bubbles."

The idea is that Israel would start a unilateral transition in an area in northern Gaza that's largely clear of Hamas fighters. After establishing a firm perimeter there, the Israelis would withdraw and leave governance and local security to a loose council drawn from prominent local families, merchants, trade unions and other notables.

To provide muscle to keep Hamas out and maintain order, this governing group would rely on vetted local Palestinians supported by an international force, including some experienced Arab troops from countries such as Egypt. For good measure, the "bubble" might also employ Western security contractors like ... well, they wouldn't be from Blackwater, but that's the idea.

U.S. officials tell me they are skeptical of this plan, and I share those doubts. It's something between a "gated community" in an imaginary suburb far from Gaza and the "strategic hamlet" concept that proved so unsuccessful in Vietnam. What's more, it wouldn't be connected to the Palestinian Authority, which in addition to being the legitimate governing group remains Hamas's most potent Palestinian foe.

Israeli officials counter that the bubble would be a pilot that might gradually draw support from other Palestinians who desperately need work and security. The goal, these officials say, would be to weaken Hamas while creating an alternative political space where humanitarian aid could be delivered safely and reconstruction could begin. Meanwhile, outside the bubble, the battle to eliminate Hamas would continue.

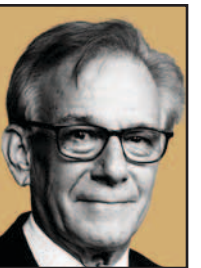
Some of Israel's most experienced officials argue for the bubble approach because, they say, most Gaza Palestinians don't believe Hamas has lost power. To break that psychology, they argue, Israel had to halt Hamas smuggling by seizing the Rafah corridor last month. Similarly, it must continue trying to eliminate Hamas's leadership and stick decisively to the goal of demilitarization.

Turning to the Palestinian Authority doesn't make sense, these officials contend, because it has only a few thousand reliable members in Gaza, and its leaders are old, tired and disliked by the public. There is no "revitalization" of the PA yet, only "makeup," says one official.

What is the Biden administration's alternative vision of the path forward? It begins with the reality that Israel can't go it alone. To wind down the war, with or without a cease-fire, it needs support from the international community. The Security Council has backed the U.S. plan for a phased truce; next, it can support a framework for actual transition — which would provide legitimacy for a transitional governing authority and an international security force to work with local Palestinians.

We're not yet at the day after, and even when we get there, it won't be a bloodless process. But maybe this is "the day between," and Biden and his team deserve credit for staying the course, dodging brickbats from left and right, in trying to halt this terrible war.

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Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, June 13, the 165th day of 2024. There are 201 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On June 13, 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson nominated Solicitor-General Thurgood Marshall to become the first Black justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

On this date:

In 1865, Nobel Prize-winning poet-playwright William Butler Yeats was born in Dublin, Ireland.

In 1942, a four-man Nazi sabotage team arrived on Long Island, New York, three days before a second four-man team landed in Florida. (All eight men were arrested after two members of the first group defected.) President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Office of Strategic Services and the Office of War Information.

In 1966, the Supreme Court ruled in *Miranda v. Arizona* that criminal suspects had to be informed of their constitutional right to consult with an attorney and to remain silent.

In 1971, *The New York Times* began publishing excerpts of the Pentagon Papers, a secret study of America's involvement in Vietnam from 1945 to 1967 that had been leaked to the paper by military analyst Daniel Ellsberg.

In 1977, James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., was recaptured following his escape three days earlier from a Tennessee prison.

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There goes the neighborhood

New neighbors built their small home within a stone's throw of Angelkeep's patio. The pair were somewhat transient, not seen in or near their home very much since the construction. Will they let the place begin to fall apart from neglect? Should Angelkeep fear its neighborhood's appreciating home appraisals might do a turn and begin to plummet as a result? That's not a good way to lower property taxes. The entire home development began a bit squirrelly from the beginning.

It was a pair of squirrels that built the wooden structure in the upper branches of the corkscrew willow tree growing on the shore of Angelpond. This new home fell about eye level when standing on the deck over the rear patio. The deck offered looks into the new home. Windows on Angelkeep's second floor likewise became a peeping-squirrel opportunity to gaze into the human's home.

Why did they have to build so close?

Angelkeep never had a squirrel home within the border of the property in the past quarter century. They likely existed earlier, but at the turn of the century the tallest cottonwood trees had been removed, clearing space for a wood structure that humans designed. Squirrel nests remained high in trees on both the east and south sides of the property. Squirrels at that time probably thought, "Well, there goes the neighborhood."

Recent changes in the woods directly to the south of Angelkeep brought about devastating and rapid destruction of a large village of squirrel homes. They never saw it coming. Huge machinery swept through the forest

Angelkeep Journals

slicing off the largest trees, many oaks, and literally tossed them to and fro like Angelkeep tosses wooden sticks into the patio campfire.

Dozens of squirrel homes, naturalistically called nests and built of wooden sticks, were part of the removed branches tossed into large piles of tree debris. The obvious human goal had been lumber. Squirrel village decimation simply became an unavoidable by-product of the greater human desire, selling logs.

Rabbits gained from the timber harvest with giant skyscraper brush piles under which new bunny homes will surely be snatched up prior to winter. Wildflowers and saplings gained greatly from the opened sun spaces with which to spread. Fresher air movement aided in growth of younger trees that would not have made it in a dense older forest.

Harvesting mature trees prior to rot and wind damage became a good thing for some. Not good for the local squirrel population.

They'd worked hard to obtain the supremacy of all the upper level, penthouse-view, stick-built, squirrel homes constructed over the many years of the woods' existence. Squirrels resembled the second of the Three Little Pigs living in a stick home. The lumberjack machinery's arm huffed and puffed and blew their homes down.

Desperation drove the squirrels to



Alan Daugherty

build a new nest so near Angelkeep's love nest. On the human's plus side, construction days resulted in a unique opportunity to see up close the active scampering taking place of a squirrel home under construction.

One squirrel raced upward to top limbs and nibbled off varying twig segments averaging about a foot in length. It reversed to scamper downward with a piece of construction material in its mouth to the building site. It rapidly wove the ends into segments of the structure already standing.

The other squirrel mimicked the partner in the construction team, but ran downward or outward to secure select pieces of its own lumber for the new home. One returned clinging to a choice piece of nest structure resulting in a need to wait on a limb just outside the nest while the companion squirrel completed weaving a twig-size stud into the wall of the home.

One weaver at a time inside the home proved to be the rule of this building company.

The pair seemed to be extremely efficient, diligent, highly skilled, and energetic, exactly opposite the former description pronounced on them as "squirrelly" when trees were used in playtime.

Summer to fall might hold interesting continued-patio observation of the new nearby squirrel home. Will Angelkeep's tree house become a vacation spot? A birthing center? An abandoned derelict dwelling? A squatter's abode?

It's hard to guess the future since the construction crew proved to be totally "squirrelly."

Mr. Daugherty is a Wells County resident who, along with his wife Gwen, enjoy their backyard and have named it "Angelkeep."

The gift of sobriety

Dear Annie: My daughter is the co-owner of a salon in Florida. All the folks there work extremely hard trying to make a living.

Here is the problem: Let's say "Karen" books a hair color treatment that requires three hours to complete on a Thursday. That time frame is now blocked off on the schedule. On Wednesday, Karen is contacted to verify she will be in to receive her color treatment, and she verifies. As the time approaches Karen's appointment, several folks walk into the salon to request a service but are denied because the time has been allotted to Karen.

Karen is 10 minutes late and then 20 minutes late and then 30 minutes late. The salon then calls Karen to make sure she has not run into a ditch. Karen says: "Oh, I forgot all about it. I'll have to reschedule." Apparently, these no-shows have no concept that they have not only cost the salon three hours of productivity but also denied service to many walk-ins.

In some cases, folks who cannot make their appointment have the courtesy to call and inform the salon so the time allotted for their service can be filled. Would Karen just blow off an appointment with her doctor or dentist?

Folks have to come to the realization that salon owners and employees have careers that have always catered to the customer. Customers also have to understand that they have a responsibility to the salon to either uphold their commitment and show up when scheduled or have the decency to call and cancel their appointment in a timely fashion so the salon can fill the time.

The "I forgot" excuse is bogus. Remember, the owners and employees are trying to earn a living while providing the best service possible. Do you have any suggestions to make it easier to address these Karen moments? — Customer Etiquette

Dear Customer Etiquette: Yes, to

answer your question, I think that Karen could also blow off a doctor or dentist appointment. It is not a personal attack on your daughter; it is a personality flaw of Karen's, in that she didn't learn about consideration for others.

In order to deter people from forgetting about appointments, your daughter could install a cancellation policy. Many businesses have them, including doctors and dentists. She could also look into an automatic email reminder for customers, with a note stating the salon's cancellation policy.

Dear Annie: I just read the letter from "Finally Crawled Out of the Bottle," who wrote in response to "Outside the Bottle Looking In." I want both of those writers to know that they have someone praying for them who they will never meet.

My husband gave me, and our children, the gift of his sobriety 15 years ago. We were so blessed that he recognized what was happening to him, even before I did. I know his Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, and the people he came to know through them, made all the difference.

I hope "Finally Crawled Out of the Bottle" can feel me, and I'm sure many others, lifting her up and rejoicing with her in her sobriety. — Someone Who Cares

Dear Someone Who Cares: Thank you for your heartfelt letter. Your gratitude toward your husband, and the gift he gave you, is simply beautiful.

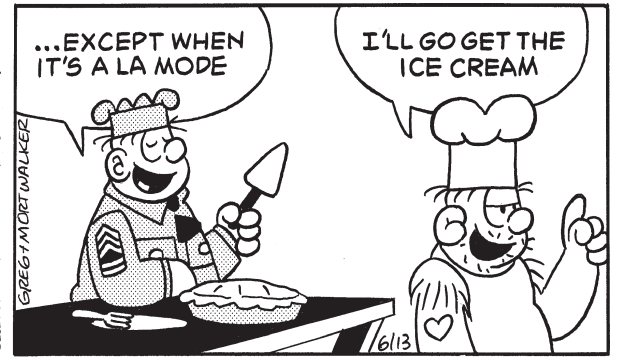
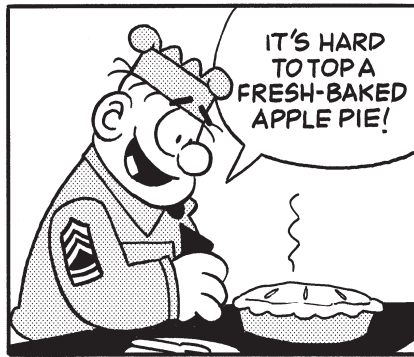
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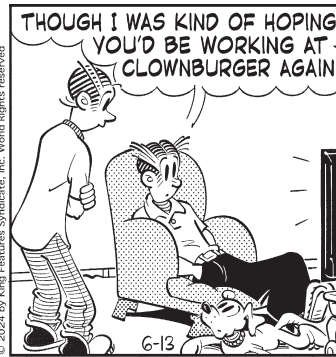
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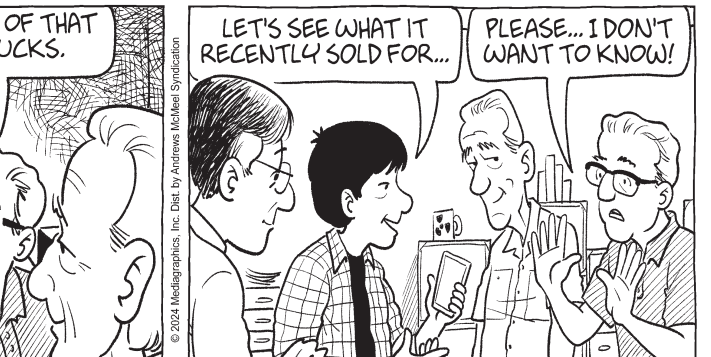
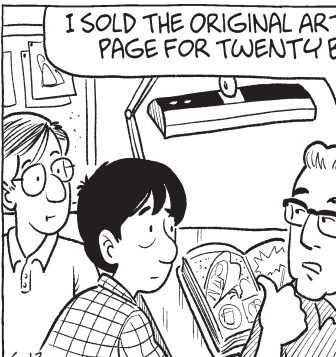
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



It was divine love that enabled Christ to endure the cross

Question: "For God so loved the world," has become a rather accepted phrase — even in pop culture. Football players stamp it on shoes and faces, rock singers quote it, and branding companies use the reference (John 3:16) to sell products. I've found that most people aren't really offended by God's love. What's often offensive is people who credit God with allowing His own Son to die on a cross at the hands of man. If God loved His Son so little as to allow such a death, how can he love regular people more than that in order to give them life? Seems complex. — G.L.

Answer: It was God's love that enabled Jesus to become poor so that we

might be made rich. It was divine love that enabled Christ to endure the cross. It was this same love that restrained Jesus when He was falsely accused of blasphemy and was led to Golgotha to die with common thieves, never raising a hand against His enemies.

It was love that kept Him from calling 12,000 angels to come to His rescue. It was that same love which made Him, in times of agonizing pain, pause and give life and hope to a repentant sinner dying beside Him who cried, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom" (Luke 23:42, NKJV).

After terrible torture had been inflicted upon Him by degenerate man, it was love that caused Him

to lift His voice and pray, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23:34, NKJV).

From Genesis to Revelation, from Earth's greatest tragedy to Earth's greatest triumph, the dramatic story of man's lowest depths and God's most sublime heights can be expressed in 25 tremendous words: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16, KJV).

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

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes a solution time of 24 mins and a section for yesterday's answer.

TV schedule table with columns for time slots (5 PM to 12:30) and rows for various channels (WIMN, CBS, etc.) listing programs and their durations.

FOAM PARTY



Isaac Salazar joins in on the foam party fun above. At right is Ava Winget. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)



Above, kids gather at the front of the crowd Pickett's Run foam machine to cover themselves completely in bubbles. Below, Ridley Bustos (right) scoops bubbles on the head of her friend, Alaina Gephart.



At left is Lilly Ann and above is Asher Moser.

Fed sees progress on inflation but envisions just one rate cut this year

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve officials said Wednesday that inflation has fallen further toward their target level in recent months but signaled that they expect to cut their benchmark interest rate just once this year.

The policymakers' forecast for one rate cut was down from their previous projection of three cuts, because inflation, despite having cooled in the past two months, remains persistently above their target level.

The scaled-back estimate for rate cuts came as something of a surprise, given that the government reported earlier Wednesday that consumer inflation eased in May more than most economists had expected. That report suggested that the Fed's high-rate policies are succeeding in taming inflation.

Financial markets took encouragement, though, from the policy statement the Fed issued after its latest meeting ended, which underscored that it sees progress in its fight against high inflation. Broad stock indexes rose sharply, and bond yields fell in response.

The policymakers, as expected, kept their key rate unchanged Wednesday at roughly 5.3%. The benchmark rate has remained at that level since July of last year, after the Fed raised it 11 times to try to slow borrowing and spending and cool inflation.

Whenever the Fed does begin to reduce its benchmark rate, now at a 23-year high, it would eventually lighten loan costs for consumers, who have faced punishingly high rates for mortgages, auto loans, credit cards and other forms of borrowing.

The central bank's rate policies over the next several months could also have consequences for the presidential race. Though the unemployment rate is a low 4%, hiring is robust and consumers continue to spend,

voters have taken a generally sour view of the economy under President Joe Biden. In large part, that's because prices remain much higher than they were before the pandemic struck. High borrowing rates have imposed a further financial burden.

Speaking at a news conference after the Fed meeting ended, Chair Jerome Powell seemed to downplay the significance of the policymakers' collective forecast of just one rate cut in 2024. That forecast is derived from the individual predictions of 19 policymakers, and Powell noted that 15 of the officials projected either one or two rate cuts this year.

"I would look at all of them as plausible," he said.

"No one," the Fed chair added, "brings to this a really strong commitment to a particular rate path. It's just what they think in a given moment in time."

Economists say two rate cuts, with the first one coming as early as September, are still possible despite the central bank's prediction of just one.

"I don't think September's off the table," said Matthew Luzzetti, chief U.S. economist at Deutsche Bank. "To get there, you'd have to have a string of inflation reports like the one we got this morning."

At his news conference, though, Powell cautioned, "We'll need to see more good data to bolster our confidence that inflation is moving sustainably toward 2%."

He also underscored that with the economy still overall healthy, Fed officials feel little urgency to cut rates.

"What we've been getting is good progress on inflation, with growth at a good level and with a strong labor market," the Fed chair said. "Ultimately, we think rates will have to come down to continue to support that. But so far they haven't had to."

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