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Markle and Uniondale fire department negotiations still ongoing

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Markle and Uniondale are still in negotiations in regards to payments to the Wells County Township trustees with the merging of their fire departments.

Uniondale wished to become a sixth partner to the four major townships and Markle, to support the newly merged stations and proposed a contract with them being a full partner. Concerns with Uniondale's previous abilities to pay for trucks and other equipment have been a main point of contention for Markle, which has prevented the contract from being accepted.

Council member Matthew Doss stated that while he is surprised and amazed at Uniondale's capability given their financial situation, he wishes that Markle would propose an idea that could create a lighter financial burden for Uniondale. Council member Nicolas Lund stated that budgeting for a new fire truck would cost \$1,000,000 in five years time, meaning that each of the six proposed partners in Uniondale's contract would pay \$33,000 a year for the truck to support the region.

Lund also cautioned that the \$33,000 does not include upkeep and maintenance cost for Uniondale to maintain its existing trucks and equipment, which Lund stated adds up quickly and could rise to over \$50,000 a year. While a new contract was not drawn up for the council meeting, council member Blake Caley, Lund and Doss all

proposed a \$25,000 a year budgetary need for Uniondale to help with the new truck needs, but would relinquish upkeep of their vehicles and buildings to the trustees.

Uniondale's fire department would still be able to use the trucks since they are a volunteer fire department and not a part of the town. In the past, Uniondale has helped with their fire department's utility expenses, but volunteer work means no salary payments. Doss also stated that he hopes a deal would be reached before their next meeting, but things are still to be determined.

"I highly suspect they are not going to find a better deal than that," Doss said. "I already know of at least one entity that's offered, and that offer was higher than that \$50,000 range."

Wastewater Superintendent Scott Spahr also stated that one of the wastewater plant's diffusers has ripped and needs repaired, but the only way to go down and repair it is to do a deep cleaning of the mix liquor tank the diffuser is housed in. Spahr presented a proposal from Merell Brothers, a biosolids management corporation based in Indiana, that would see them clean the whole liquor tank if its needed.

Spahr stated that the amount of waste that needs cleaned is unknown, but the last cleaning cycle saw about 30,000 gallons of waste hauled away. Citing those numbers, Spahr stated that getting down to the

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Bracelet building

Parents and kids built friendship bracelets and other art designs at the Washington Park Indoor Pavilion Wednesday. Above, Sutton Bebout carefully places beads onto the string. At left, Michael Schwartz proudly shows off the star he made. Below, Hadley and Mariah Hartman decide what beads go next in their bracelet. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)

Bluffton High School named performance qualified for the upcoming school year

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Bluffton High School Principal Steve Baker announced to the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District board that Bluffton High School is a performance qualified high school for the 2024-2025 school year.

Baker stated that the award is based on academic performance. Bluffton High School has received the award for several years in a row, which gives them flexibility to incorporate more restful and fun events throughout the year.

Board member Angie Sheets also announced that school resource officer Phil Kurut was chosen by the Indiana School Resource Association for the Regional Exceptional Service Award for region three. Sheets stated that Kurut has gone above and beyond his normal duties to enhance their school and community.

Additionally, Yates announced that the Creative Arts Council of Wells County will discuss a potential partnership with the district to house a performing arts center on BHMSD's campus. The issue will be discussed in school district's July 22 meeting.

During the meeting, the board approved policy updates regarding wireless communication devices, student attendance, aca-

demetic engagement and truancy prevention policies due to new legislative requirements.

BHMSD communications specialist Jessica Bricker also updated the board on the district's online presence. Bricker stated that she was in the classroom a lot more often this year, and the efforts to show teacher innovation and learning through the student's eyes was a focus.

Bricker also stated that she is looking into using ParentSquare to send newsletters to parents of BHMSD kids. ParentSquare has been used by the district to send notifications about delays and closures in the past.

Yates also notified that board that the Indiana Department of Education's review of BHMSD's school nutrition program went "very well." Yates stated that IDOE's findings have been noticed and some changes have been made to the program so it fulfills state standards.

The board also approved the following contracts and food bids:

- Milk and dairy for region eight was awarded to Prairie Farms.
- Cafeteria food, supplies and pass through value added commodities and bakery was awarded to Gordon Food Service.
- Produce for region eight was awarded

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Farmers ask for property tax 'intervention' as communities and schools talk challenges

The two-year tax task force has less than six months to deliver legislative recommendations.

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Property taxes again took center stage during tax reform discussions Tuesday — with farmers asking for a reprieve and local units of government seeking to head off significant cuts in revenue.

"That's it: how do you make (the system) simple, yet take care of those folks that have different needs? ... It's complex to fix it," Rep. Jeff Thompson, who chairs the State and Local Tax Review Task Force, told the Capital Chronicle upon adjournment.

Thompson in April warned of impending jumps in agricultural land property taxes. And on Tuesday the Indiana Farm Bureau said its members "need an intervention."

Indiana uses recent sales to assess most property types, but farmland is different.

The Department of Local Government Finance instead determines a "base rate," a rolling average with six years of capitalized net cash rent and net operating income. DLGF drops the highest value of the six and averages the remaining five years.

But Indiana Farm Bureau's advocacy lead, Katrina Hall, said the years-long delay

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U.S. aircraft carrier, crew have fought Houthi attacks for months

How long can it last?

By LOLITA C. BALDOR and JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press

ABOARD THE USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER IN THE RED SEA (AP) — The combat markings emblazoned on the F/A-18 fighter jet tell the story: 15 missiles and six drones, painted in

black just below the cockpit windshield.

As the jet sits on the deck of the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower aircraft carrier in the Red Sea, its markings illuminate the enemy targets that it's destroyed in recent months and underscore the intensity of the fight to protect commercial shipping from persistent missile and drone attacks by the

Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen.

But they also hint at the fatigue setting in, as the carrier, its strike group and about 7,000 sailors close in on their ninth month waging the most intense running sea battle since World War II. That raises difficult questions about what comes next as U.S. military and defense leaders wrangle over

how they will replicate the carrier's combat power if the ship returns home to Norfolk, Virginia.

Already, the carrier's deployment has been extended twice, and sailors post dark memes around the ship about only getting one short break during their steadily growing tour. Some worry they could be ordered to stay out even longer as the campaign drags on

to protect global trade in the vital Red Sea corridor.

At the Pentagon, leaders are wrestling with what has become a thorny but familiar debate. Do they bow to Navy pressure to bring the Eisenhower and the other three warships in its strike group home or heed U.S. Central Command's plea to keep them there

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Outside

Mostly sunny and hot, heat advisory remains

Today	Friday	Saturday
High 94	High 95	High 96
Low 72	Low 72	Low 76

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Markle and Uniondale

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diffuser may be impossible without the cleaning. While a final cost and expense were not approved by the council, Spahr suggested that the cleaning expense may be close to \$40,000. Lund stated that the only other contractor that does this kind of work is Fluid Services, a sub-contractor that Merell uses when they have too many requests at once.

Markle Town Marshal John Markley also stated that he found three bids for the purchase of a new police interceptor vehicle. Bloomington Ford Inc. had the low bid at \$47,946.25 for a 2025 Ford vehicle. Bob Thomas Ford Lincoln in Fort Wayne and Bill McCandless Ford

out of Mercer, Pennsylvania's bids both came in at over \$50,000. Since the expense for the vehicle was budgeted and approved by council at an earlier date, Markley will pursue Bloomington's vehicle.

Additionally, Lund announced that Heartland REMC purchased ground with plans to install a new electric substation to help support Markle's Industrial Park. Lund announced that the new substation is needed due to the power requirements for Novae Corporation and Sortera Technologies in Markle. An open meeting at Lincoln Elementary school from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. today will be available for public questions.

Additional council items and discussions are as follows:

- Signed a contract with Chad Kline for Economic Development consulting work in regards to business and residential opportunities.
- Bids for the water project will be opened at a special July 2 meeting. Conifer court drainage and Novae Parkway intersection projects are still on hold for bids.
- Approved CF-1 tax abatement forms for Novae and Sortera.
- Markle's Redevelopment Commission is holding a public meeting July 17 for modifications to the Markle Industrial Park.
- Purchased a 2012 Ford F350 bucket truck

with 43,000 miles on it for approximately \$29,000 for the water main project.

- Donated \$500 to the August 17 Ride2Provide fundraiser program for Mike Ormsby.
- Announced that the transition to GFL Environmental is progressing. Gray noted that the new company picks up cans earlier than Republic, urging the community to set cans out the night before.
- Region 3-A will meet tomorrow to discuss cybersecurity for the water and wastewater projects.
- Announced that due to Markle Town Hall staff vacations, the town hall may be closed at certain times from June 27 to Aug. 4.

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Weather

Thursday, June 20, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:19 p.m. Wednesday)
High: 93; Low: 75; Precipitation: Trace of rain
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.32 feet at 8:45 p.m. Wednesday

Wells County forecast

Today: Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 94. Heat index values as high as 99. Calm wind becoming west around 5 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 72. North wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.

Friday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 95. Heat index values as high as 99. Calm wind becoming west around 5 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 72. Calm wind.

Saturday: Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 96.

Saturday Night: A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 76.

Sunday: A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny and hot, with a high near 91.

Sunday Night: A chance of thunderstorms before 8 p.m. Mostly clear, with a low around 64. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

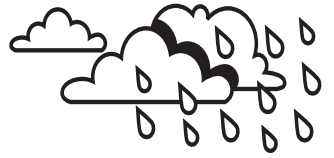
Monday: Sunny, with a high near 87.

Monday Night: Clear, with a low around 63.

Tuesday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 92.

Tuesday Night: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 70.

Wednesday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 92.



Property tax 'intervention'

(Continued from Page 1)
in the formula data means farm income per acre is dropping even as the base rate grows.

"It's kind of a fiscal cliff," she said.

That delay will keep hitting farmers.

As previous years' values roll off in the calculation, Hall said, "We're not going to have the low ones to moderate the increase. So it's going to go high and stay there."

While the formula does help farmers, Hall continued, it's still volatile because the net operating income calculation relies heavily on corn and soybean prices.

"We have homeowners and other folks whose bills go up a few hundred dollars, and that is real burden to them. But for farmers, it's several thousand at a time," she said.

Rep. Ed DeLaney, D-Indianapolis, said he was troubled by the contrast between the base value — \$2,280 per acre in 2025 — and what farmland actually sells for.

"I see why other other taxpayers would figure that you're perhaps being treated a little too kindly," he said.

Hall noted that farmers "don't get much of any" benefit from the state's tax caps and can't access tax relief mechanisms that other property owners can.

"Farmers in many small rural school districts are the primary taxpayers," she added. "And so to say that they're ... cheating the system — they certainly don't think that because they're paying for the majority of services out there."

Rep. Jack Jordan, R-Bremen, defended agricultural landowners.

"Coming from a rural county, it's become renting — it's almost like you're renting your own land as

you pay these taxes, that I think are fairly high," Jordan said. He also critiqued the state's tax system complexity, saying it has "its tentacles in every direction."

Local units weigh in
Groups representing Hoosier municipalities and counties, meanwhile, acknowledged rising tax bills but detailed their members' challenges.

The Association of Indiana Counties' Ryan Hoff expressed dissatisfaction with limits on how much money local units of government can raise in property taxes.

Indiana caps that amount — the maximum levy — and dictates how much that cap can rise each year via the maximum levy growth quotient. The quotient uses the statewide rate of average, non-farm personal income growth over the last six years.

Hoff said that, while the income-based growth quotient may reflect taxpayers' ability to pay, it doesn't account for service costs. That's unless a unit appeals its cap based on annexation or extreme assessed value growth.

Lawmakers, including Thompson, sought to crack down on three-year assessed value growth, the most popular exception to the state's limits, last session.

Hoff called the use of such exceptions "part of the manner in which we're forced to fight over property tax dollars."

"The current MLGQ calculations may really no longer function effectively to align costs to revenue distributions," he said. Hoff told lawmakers that, if they planned to reform the growth quotient, the new system should still consider rising service costs in some way.

Jordan, however, cri-

tiqued local units.

"The thing that I keep hearing is that local units have \$4 billion of untapped tax revenues through income tax ... and yet I see local officials unwilling to use that to fund extra services," Jordan said. "... We just keep looking at the state to change the formula behind the scenes, do these gymnastics. ... I, for one, am unwilling to continue to do these gymnastics."

Campbell Ricci of Accelerate Indiana Municipalities said local income tax is controlled at the county level, so interested cities and towns can't make changes unilaterally. He pushed to give individual municipalities that power.

"That is something that I think we can work on coming out of this committee as a way to ease tensions among all the units," Ricci said. "Because a lot of the time, when you talk about the property tax system, it's people fighting over similar pots of money. Everyone has an incentive to grow their levy because they want their share of the capped property taxes and they want their share of the (local income tax)."

He additionally defended municipalities as more likely to hit the caps and lose out on property tax revenue, and asked lawmakers not to make debt service controls too burdensome.

Schools lay out challenges
Organizations representing school boards, business officials and superintendents — alongside small and rural schools — said the state's current property tax system has some struggles.

In an analysis of property tax funding presented at the meeting, Policy Analytics found that growing districts and districts with high tax cap losses spend more on non-discretionary insurance,

transportation and utility expenses than they receive in operation fund levies.

Statewide, schools spend about 75% of operation fund money on those expenses, leaving them with about 25% to use on HVAC systems, parking lots and any other operational expenses. Districts with fewer than 2,000 students fared better than average, with non-discretionary expenses consuming about 67% of the money.

Growing districts, however, spent 87% on those necessary expenses, and districts with high tax cap losses spent the equivalent of 114% of their operation funds on such expenses.

The report also found that growing districts and districts with high tax cap losses turn to debt to fund students similarly.

Statewide, schools got \$3,324 per student on average out of their operations and debt levies.

"Small districts do a little better ... in their operations funds, so you can see their bar for debt decreases. Growing districts receive quite a bit less than the statewide figures, so they make up the gap with debt," said Scott Bowling, executive director for the Indiana Association of School Business Officials.

"High circuit breaker districts receive even less than the growing districts in their operations funds. And they try to make up for it with debt but they can't quite get there," Bowling continued, with such schools receiving less per student than average.

Bowling asked lawmakers for simplicity, but when asked for recommendations, said one-size-fits-all won't work: "rules that might look really good for one community might seriously hamper a different community."

BHS

(Continued from Page 1)

to Piazza Produce.

- Approved a 5% stipend for Superintendent Yates.
- Approved adjustments to procedural changes in driver protocols in the district transportation handbook.

The board also accepted the following donations:

- \$250 from Dicky's Partners Bluffton for high school student needs.
- \$300 Bluffton Psi Otes for a United Art and Education Gift Card for elementary school art class supplies.
- \$100 from Dicky's Partners Bluffton, Nutrition Loft/Nicolette Jo Dabb, Stockton Mortgage and Family Ford of Bluffton for middle school Color Run sponsorships.
- The Arch for the middle

school Color Run from the Bluffton Parks Department.

- \$100 from Meyer Building for preschool construction to its experiential classroom.

• Three LifeVac kits for each cafeteria from Pharaoh's Car Club of Bluffton.

Additional Policy Updates and additions include:

- Added a no distracted driving, civility and decorum and student homework policy.
- Updated its communicable disease, anti-bullying, programs for students with disabilities and IRE, student discipline, suspension and expulsion of students, and use of restraint and seclusion with students policies.

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Houthi attacks

(Continued from Page 1)
longer? And if they bring them home — what can replace them?

U.S. officials say that they're weighing all options and that a decision is expected in the coming weeks.

U.S. commanders in the Middle East have long argued that they need an aircraft carrier in the volatile region. They say that it's an effective deterrent to keep Iran in check and that the ship gives them critical and unique war-fighting capabilities against the Houthis, who say their attacks are aimed at bringing an end to the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

The massive ship is a flexible, floating flight line that can launch fighter jets on a moment's notice, without any of the limits that host nations in the Middle East can place on Air Force aircraft taking off from bases on their soil. And those carrier-based jets can get within striking distance of Houthi weapon systems quickly without crossing borders.

"What the carrier brings is an offensive platform that's mobile, agile and doesn't have any access, basing or overflight restrictions," said retired Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie, who

headed U.S. Central Command for three years, ending in 2022. "It's sovereign U.S. territory. You can do as you want with those airplanes on that carrier. So that gives you enormous flexibility when you consider response options across the region."

Rear Adm. Marc Miguez — who commands Carrier Strike Group Two, which includes the Eisenhower and supporting ships — agrees that the aircraft carrier is crucial to America's military.

"Every time that there's a crisis on the globe, what's the first thing the president asks? 'Where are the U.S. aircraft carriers?'" Miguez told The Associated Press during a visit to the Eisenhower and the USS Laboon, one of the guided-missile destroyers accompanying it.

On any given day, Navy F/A-18s roar off the Eisenhower and take out Houthi missiles or drones preparing to launch. The U.S. warships have fired volleys of Tomahawk missiles into Yemen to destroy warehouses of weapons, communications facilities and other targets.

Pentagon leaders worry that with-

out the Eisenhower, they will need to tap more Air Force fighter jets based in surrounding countries, including Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

But many Arab nations place flight or other restrictions on the types of offensive strikes the U.S. can do from their land because of regional sensitivities. Others worry about triggering another war between Saudi Arabia and Yemen or inflaming tensions with Iran.

U.S. military leaders say the U.S. can adapt and get forces where they need to be. But that can require longer fighter jet flights from distant bases, requiring refueling capabilities and presenting other hurdles.

Extending the Eisenhower's deployment again is an option — but for many, it's the least desirable.

Navy leaders worry about the sailors, who actually have been able to see incoming Houthi-launched missiles seconds before they are destroyed by the ship's defensive strikes. And officials in the Pentagon are talking about how to care for the sailors when they return home, including counseling and treatment for possible post-traumatic stress.

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OBITUARIES

Patricia J. Adams, 86

Patricia "Pat" J. Adams, 86, of Bluffton, passed away on Tuesday afternoon, June 18, 2024, at Stillwater Hospice Home in Fort Wayne, surrounded by her family.

Pat was born Oct. 9, 1937, in Wells County to Jason J. and Elizabeth Irene (Emerick) Masterson. She graduated from Bluffton High School in 1955. She married Billy K. Adams on Feb. 18, 1956.

Pat worked as a telephone operator, then worked for General Electric in Fort Wayne for 45 years. She enjoyed spending her winters at Indiana Creek in Fort Myers, Fla. And her summers at Lake Tippecanoe. She was always up for a trip to the casino or to play bingo. She attended Sonlight Wesleyan Church in Bluffton.

She is survived by her sons, Dennis Wayne Adams and Jeff (Lisa) Adams, all of Bluffton; four grandchildren, Erick Adams, Justin Adams, Chase (Anna) Adams and Chelsea (Nick) Pursifull; along



with nine great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 57 years, Billy; along with her siblings, Gene Masterson, William "Bill" Masterson, Martha Irvin, Thomas "Tom" Masterson and James "Jim" Masterson.

Visitation will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. on Friday, June 21, 2024, at Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton and for one hour prior to the service on Saturday.

Funeral services will take place at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 22, 2024, at the funeral home with Rev. Lyle Breeding officiating. Burial will take place at Fairview Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Stillwater Hospice.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the family at www.thomarich.com.

Elizabeth Ann (Carter) Aeschliman, 88

Elizabeth Ann (Carter) Aeschliman, 88, of Bluffton, passed away Monday, June 17, 2024, at her residence.

Elizabeth was born in Hartford City on Sept. 8, 1935, to Acel and Verna (Hiles) Hahn. She married Lloyd M. Carter in Hartford City on Aug. 11, 1955. Lloyd preceded her in death on June 27, 1987. She then married E. Bill Aeschliman in Bluffton on Feb. 15, 2003. Bill preceded her in death on April 17, 2019.

Elizabeth graduated from Hartford City High School and for many years attended the Montpelier Church of Christ with Lloyd and her children. Later in life she attended the Apostolic Christian Church. She was also a member of the Order of the Eastern Star in Montpelier for over 50 years.

For 17 years Elizabeth worked as a beautician before serving as a teacher's aide at Southern Wells Elementary School. She later worked at Citizens State Bank in Montpelier, followed by Farmers and Merchants Bank in Bluffton and First Source Bank in Bluffton, before retiring from Ossian State Bank. During her banking career, Elizabeth primarily held positions as either a teller or customer service representative.

Elizabeth enjoyed gardening, flowers and restoring antique furniture. For many years, she and Lloyd loved traveling and taking family vacations with



their children, including spending time at their lake cottage. Later in life Elizabeth especially enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren.

Survivors include two sons, Michael (Jill) Carter of Montpelier, and Patrick Carter (Jeni Mattmuller) of Bluffton; a daughter, Lori Carter (Bruce Henderson) of Fort Wayne; a stepson, William J. (Kathleen) Aeschliman, M.D., of Osprey, Fla.; along with seven grandchildren, Cameron Carter, Cristin Carter, Carissa Carter, Desmond Carter, Payton Carter, Ashley Henderson and Jeffrey Henderson.

In addition to her parents and husbands, Elizabeth was preceded in death by four brothers, Floyd, Charles "Chuck", Gail, and William Hahn; and two sisters, Marjorie Elikker and Carolyn Hodgkin.

Visitation will be Tuesday, June 25, 2024, from 3:00 until 7:00 p.m., at Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton. Services will be held Wednesday, June 26, at 10:00 a.m., at the funeral home, with one hour of visitation prior to the service. Brent Kaehr will officiate. Burial will follow at Brookside Memorial Park in Montpelier.

Memorial contributions may be directed to Shriners Hospitals for Children or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Online condolences may be made at www.goodwincaleharnish.com.

John E. Barnes, 72

John E. Barnes, 72, of Bluffton passed away Tuesday morning, June 18, 2024, at River Terrace Estates.

John was born on July 25, 1951, in Fort Wayne to Alva E. "Barney" & Ruth M. (Watson) Barnes. A 1969 graduate of New Haven High School, John worked at Hires Auto Parts and Villa North Motors for many years. John volunteered to help with the Dream Team, especially with the Hoop Shoot. He was a member of the Sons of the American Legion Post 111 of Bluffton and the Bluffton Elks Lodge 796.

Survivors include his son, Travis (Jackie) Barnes of Bluffton; his three grandchildren, Parker, Kenzie and Zayden Barnes



of Bluffton; and a brother, Phil R. (Sharon) Barnes of Fort Wayne.

He is preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Robert "Bob" A. Barnes in 2000; and a sister, Jeanne L. Burton in 2018.

A private family service will take place at Elm Grove Cemetery in Bluffton. Memorials may be made in John's memory to the Dream Team.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the family at www.thomarich.com.

Jean Garland (Saufley) Walmsley, 92

Jean Garland (Saufley) Walmsley, 92, was welcomed to her heavenly home by her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ when she passed away on the morning of June 14, 2024. Jean was born on May 17, 1932 in Weyers Cave, Va., to the late William and Janie Saufley. Her family moved to Huntington, Ind., when she was nine-years-old where she went on to graduate from Huntington County High School and Huntington University (HU) in 1955. She was married to the love of her life, John, on Dec. 25, 1959. Jean's life was marked by her love for Jesus, her husband, her three children and six grandchildren. She was an avid supporter of her children and grandchildren and all their sports and activities. She spent her working days helping others as a physical therapist. In recent years, Jean and John have been super fans of the HU men's and women's basketball programs and could be seen in the bleachers at many of their games. They also enjoyed traveling and had been in all 50 states, Canada, Mexico and had traveled to Europe several times. She was an active member of the Zanesville United Brethren Church and served in many different roles. Her desire was to point the people she met to Jesus.

Jean is survived by her husband John



Walmsley of Zanesville; Janice (Mark) Tobias of Zanesville, Joyce (Steve) Kitchin of Fort Wayne, and Jim (Wendy) Walmsley of Avilla, Ind.; six grandchildren including Tyler VanMeter, Noah (Danielle) Tobias, Kylie Kitchin, Colt Kitchin, Tate Walmsley and Bree Walmsley. She is also survived by her brother Will (Jeanne) Saufley.

Along with her parents, Jean was preceded in death by her sisters Geri Smith and Josephine Saufley.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, June 27, 2024 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Myers Funeral Home Markle Chapel, 415 N. Lee Street, Markle, Indiana.

Funeral service will be held on Friday, June 28, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. with one hour of visitation prior to the service from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Zanesville United Brethren Church, 3092 W. Broadway Street, Zanesville, Indiana.

Interment will be at a later date at the St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery in Uniondale, Indiana.

Memorial donations can be made out to Zanesville United Brethren Church Camp Cotubic sent in care of Myers Funeral Home, P.O. Box 403, Markle, IN 46770.

To sign Jean's on-line guest book visit www.myersfuneralhomes.com.

Robert H. "Woodie" Wood, Jr., 91

Robert H. "Woodie" Wood, Jr., 91, of Bluffton, passed away on Wednesday morning, June 19, 2024, at his residence, surrounded by his loving fam-

ily. Funeral arrangements are currently pending with the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

Central Indiana nonprofits relieve medical debt of more than 100,000 residents

The donations came from an anonymous donor, who spoke directly to lawmakers in a letter, and philanthropist MacKenzie Scott.

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ

Indiana Capital Chronicle
More than 100,000 people throughout central Indiana are now free of medical debt.

"You no longer have to pay this debt to anyone," say letters mailed out this weekend.

The United Neighborhood Centers of Indianapolis and United Way of Central Indiana jointly donated \$1.7 million to eliminate nearly \$240 million in medical debt for 112,018 impoverished or heavily indebted people living in Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Marion, Morgan and Putnam counties. About 90% live in Indianapolis.

Debt relief by the numbers:

- Boone County: \$437,300 relieved for 262 people
- Hamilton County: \$1.2 million relieved for 737 people
- Hancock County: \$466,600 relieved for 313 people
- Hendricks County: \$2.2 million relieved for 1,286 people
- Marion County: \$234.2 million relieved for 108,699 people
- Morgan County: \$710,200 relieved for 496 people
- Putnam County: \$272,100 relieved for 225 people

The groups partnered with Undue Medical Debt, an organization that bulk-buys medical debt at a discount, then wipes it out. The debt relief campaign will benefit those at or below 400% of the federal poverty level — which is \$125,000 for a family of four — and those with debt at 5% or more of their annual income.

"For countless neighbors, a visit to the doctor or a hospital stay can result in debt that can haunt them for years," said Peggy Frame, executive director of Southeast Community Services. She spoke on behalf of the 13-member United Neighborhood Centers of Indianapolis.

"It is time for us to acknowledge that health care is a fundamental human right, not a privilege reserved for the wealthy," Frame continued. "We must strive for a system that ensures affordable access to quality care without the fear of financial ruin."

One in five Marion County residents — and about 16% of Hoosiers overall — had medical debt in collections in 2022, according to an Urban Institute database. Indiana is eleventh in the country for the high share of its population with medical debt in collections, per a 2022 report by the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Almost two-thirds of Americans who've declared bankruptcy said medical expenses contributed, in a 2019 study.

Frame said the initiative began focused on Marion County but expanded beyond it when the United Way of Central Indiana joined the effort.

United Way of Central Indiana President and CEO Fred Payne said his organization hoped to do more than make a "crisis intervention."

"At United Way, we're fighting for the long-term health and economic well-

being of every person in our community," Payne said.

The United Way of Central Indiana's share of the donation — \$500,000 — was part of a gift made by philanthropist MacKenzie Scott, the ex-wife of Amazon billionaire Jeff Bezos. The United Neighborhood Centers of Indianapolis' share, \$1.2 million, came from an anonymous donor.

The donor spoke directly to state lawmakers in a letter read by Sean Huddleston, president of Martin University: "The bigger story is the massive problem medical debt creates in our country, state and neighborhoods. We would encourage our state legislators and our medical delivery entities to make policy changes in four areas."

Those four areas include:

- Charity care and financial assistance: Increase the income threshold to qualify, screen patients for eligibility before billing and notify patients of discount options at each payment point in case their income has changed.
- Credit scores: Prevent medical debt from being reported against patients' credit score — outright, or up to a certain balance — and avoid wage garnishment to collect unpaid debt.
- Collections: Require debt collectors to inform patients when their debt has passed statutory repayment terms.
- Cost of care: Require providers to delay a medical debt's referral to collections while the patient appeals billing, establish price transparency and standardization, encourage hospitals to enroll uninsured patients in

Affordable Care Act plans, Medicaid or other resources so future care may be covered.

Advocates have pushed for medical debt help before.

Huddleston said some health care systems had already made changes, noting that the state's four largest have raised income thresholds for charity care, and have links on their websites to find price estimates.

Several systems have also abolished wage garnishment for medical debt, he added.

Samuel Snideman, United Way of Central Indiana's vice president for government affairs, called the donor's policy recommendations "initial steps."

"Hundreds of thousands of people and their families will benefit from debt relief now and our communities will be better for it. While a one time investment will have a ripple effect ... it doesn't address the root causes of medical debt or financial hardship," he said.

Snideman told reporters that while letters to indebted Hoosiers were mailed out over the weekend, the money transfers have already been made.

Zane S. Nash

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What is driving perceptions about the economy?

Do Americans view the condition of the economy through a partisan political lens rather than judging it based on facts?

For decades, economists and political scientists used economic conditions to predict election outcomes. But, a widely read Harris Poll conducted last month strongly suggests that partisanship drives our views about the economy. This should prompt some introspection.

Americans are surveyed almost every week about their feelings toward the economy. The University of Michigan runs a monthly consumer sentiment survey. These are surveys of perceptions rather than facts. For more than a year, perceptions have diverged significantly from the actual data on inflation, consumption, unemployment rates and growth.

In May, the Harris poll changed its approach. Instead of asking respondents how they felt about the economy — an inherently subjective question — it asked them a series of objective questions. Is the economy shrinking or growing? Is the stock market rising or falling? Is the unemployment rate at a 50-year high or 50-year low? Is inflation increasing or decreasing?

The answers to all these questions could be compared to underlying facts, but fewer than half of respondents got them right. A whopping 55 percent said the economy is shrinking, when in fact it has been growing steadily for four years.

Moreover, we've enjoyed the fastest post-COVID recovery in the developed world. Fewer than half said the stock market has risen, even though it has hit record levels every few weeks for more than two years and was up 24 percent in 2023 and 12 percent so far in 2024.

A full 49 percent said the unemployment rate is at a 50-year high, even though the unemployment rate is at its longest period of 4 percent or lower since the late-1960s. Most surprisingly, 72 percent of Americans thought inflation was increasing, when it has been in steady decline for almost two years.

Much of this ignorance is understandable. I don't know who is ahead in the National League divisional races, or whether we've had good planting weather for corn this season. Nearly all Americans are experts at something and lack of knowledge on other matters. But, increasingly, political partisanship is driving perceptions of the economy.

The Harris poll asked respondents about political party affiliation. Republicans had far more dismal perceptions of the economy than Democrats. Or, to put it more bluntly, Republicans were much more uninformed about the economy than Democrats.

This challenged my preconceptions, since I've spent much of the past few decades arguing that Democrats were less informed about economic matters than Republicans. Something has changed, but it isn't really a partisan matter.

It turns out that Democrats also judge the economy wrongly when Republicans are in power. This is a relatively new problem that appears to be getting worse.

I searched a global archive of research studies for the words "political partisanship and consumer confidence." From 1890 to 2000, there were 2,130 studies published on the matter. But, from 2000 to 2010, the number of studies exploded to 7,370, and, since 2010, a stunning 16,200 such studies were published.

While the focus of academic researchers is not a perfect measure, it is evidence of an emerging problem. But what might be happening to cause more Americans to be mistaken about simple facts now than a generation or two ago?

I think there are three reasons.

First, we are in a much more disaggregated news environment. Americans over 50 came of age with three big TV news channels, a couple of cable news stations and perhaps two local papers. This environment didn't place many demands on viewers. These outlets all reported the same data, even though they each may have offered differing analysis. If one outlet got their basic facts wrong, the others would jump at the chance to embarrass them and maybe win over a few viewers. Those days are behind us.

Today's media, particularly national broadcast media, aren't trying to switch viewers. MSNBC isn't trying to woo Fox News audiences and vice versa. Both try to make their current viewers watch more regularly. Feeding them less nuance and more partisanship is the key to selling advertising and making money. Ironically, at a time when there is a far broader set of news options available, the breadth of news coverage or analysis on any one broadcast outlet is far less diverse, and far more partisan.

Second, social media algorithms give us a distorted view of the broader landscape of news and opinion. If you "like" a news post, or read an opinion piece on social media, you will be bombarded with similar stories. The marketing algorithms on Facebook, X (Twitter), Tik Tok or other social media platforms reinforce what you read rather than expose you to differing facts or opinions.

If you click on a social media post that claims the economy is bad, over the coming days, you'll receive more and more posts about a lagging economy and any good news about the economy will be diverted. These algorithms are built to make you click on more stories, which drive advertising revenue for the social media platform. On social media, you are the product, not the consumer.

Third, our enemies are adept at exploiting these weaknesses. Russia, China, and Iran amplify social media algorithms to polarize Americans. The goal isn't to elect a particular candidate, but to disrupt political life in general, weaken national resolve on important foreign policy issues and to sew distrust among citizens. Russia is actively seeding disinformation about Ukraine, targeting GOP-leaning voters, while funding a different disinformation about the conflict in Gaza, targeting progressive groups.

We live in a perfect storm of disinformation that touches all of us. I tell my students that the only remedy to this is ruthless intellectual bravery. Read opinions you dislike and force yourself to understand those positions.

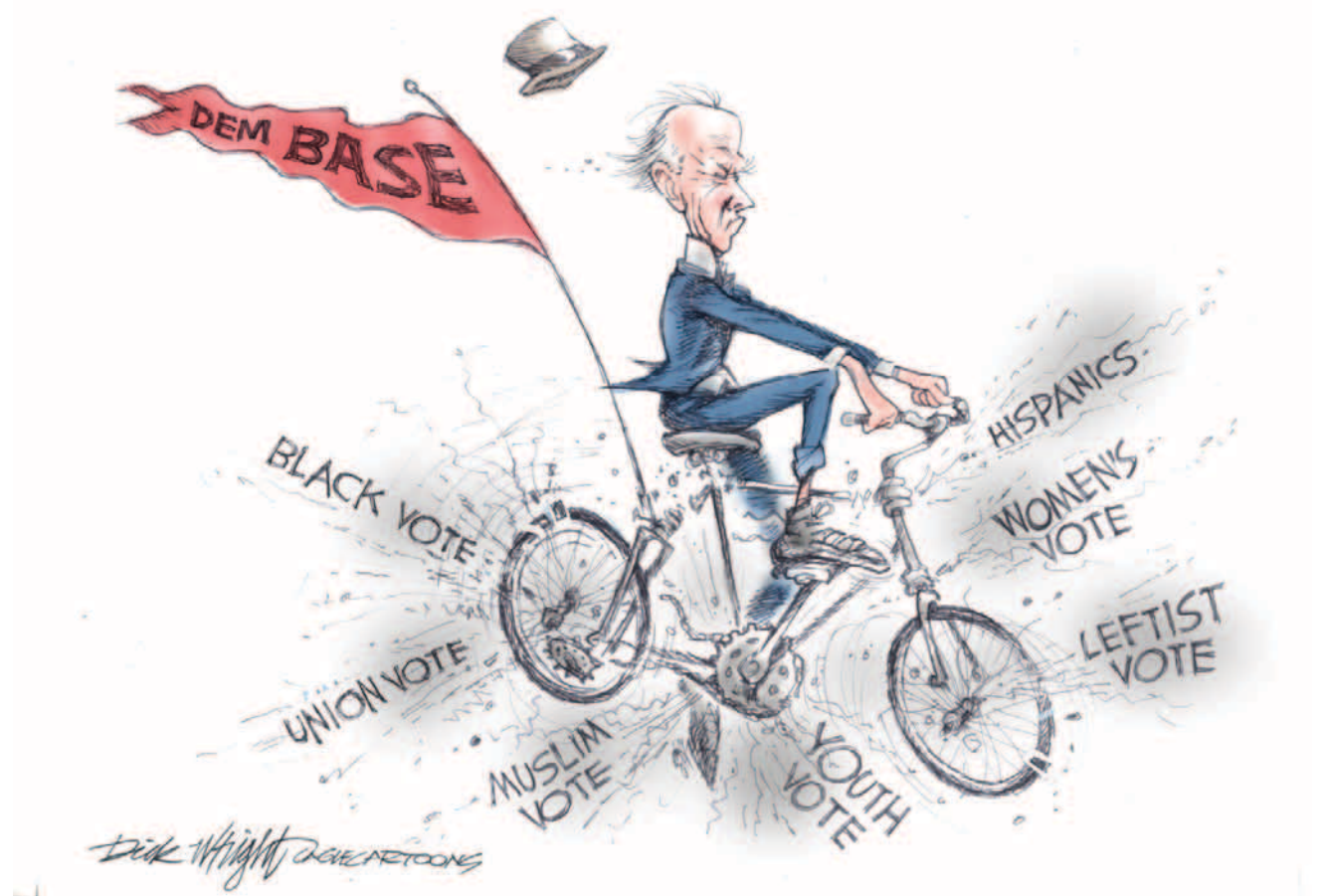
Take the ideological Turing test, which is to learn to argue an opposing position so well that no one can tell that you disagree with it. Of course, that's a bit dangerous, because it might cause you to change your mind, or at least to respect those who disagree with you.

Michael Hicks is the George and Frances Ball Distinguished Professor of Economics and the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at Ball State University.



Michael Hicks

Hoosier Opinions



Young voters leaving Democrats and Biden

A lot of attention is being given to support being picked up by Donald Trump among non-white voters. But the change taking place among young voters is even more dramatic.

In the elections in 2016 and 2020, Donald Trump was soundly defeated among voters 18-29. In 2016, Hillary Clinton defeated Donald Trump among voters ages 18-29, 55% to 37%. In 2020, Joe Biden defeated Trump in this same youth demographic, 60% to 36%. However, a new Quinnipiac poll shows Trump leading Biden by one point among voters 18-34.

Per Gallup favorability/non-favorability ratings, in October 2020, prior to the election, 58% of those 18-34 rated Biden "favorable" against 38% who rated Trump "favorable." However, in the same polling done by Gallup last month, Biden's favorability among those 18-34 was down to 33% and Trump's was up to 46%.

In early May, a New York Times/Philadelphia Inquirer/Siena College poll was done in six battleground states — Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Among those 18-29, in response to the question, "If you had to decide between the two today, who would you lean more toward?" 43% said Biden and 46% said Trump.

Follow-up questions in this same poll give an idea of dissatisfaction among these young voters.

Regarding the economy, 91% of ages 18-29 rate it either fair or poor. And they favor Trump over Biden regarding confidence in fixing the economy 68% to 25%.

Regarding the political and economic system of the country, 62% said it needs "major changes" and 16% feel it should be "torn down entirely."

None of this is particularly surprising. What is surprising is our nation's youth are just waking up to the raw deal they are getting. They are inheriting a once uniquely great nation now heading into fiscal and social bankruptcy as a result of totally irresponsible management by the current and preceding generations.

Despite current polling showing the youth vote leaning to Trump, according to the same poll, still

almost twice the percent of those voters ages 18-29 identify as Democrat, 27%, compared to Republican, 15%. However, 44% identify as Independent.

We need look no further than the nation's oldest and largest entitlement program, Social Security.

It is well publicized that the system is bankrupt. According to the latest Trustees Report, the system will be insolvent in the year 2035, with a shortfall of about 20%.

Yet all these youth, ages 18-29, are immediately forced to pay into this broken system with their very first paycheck, despite the cold fact that the funds are not there to pay them their benefits in full when they retire. In a private company, the management would be facing legal action.

Is it any wonder that our youth are cynical about their country?

The Biden administration continues to spend and borrow like economic reality does not exist. According to the Congressional Budget Office, "If current laws governing revenues and spending go unchanged ... Debt held by the public would soar from 99% of GDP in 2024 to 166% of GDP in 2054 — exceeding any previously recorded level and on track to increase further."

Let's note that in 1980, this debt was less than 25% of GDP. At the end of 2008, just prior to the Obama presidency, it stood at 43.6%.

Larded down by big government and debt, CBO projects annual growth 2024 and onward at less than 2% per year. Growth averaged more than 3.5% annually from 1950 to 2000.

Can things be fixed? Of course, with principled, courageous leadership. Trillions in wasteful spending needs to be cut, and dinosaur government programs should be eliminated or privatized.

But the last place to look for leadership for any of this is the current administration in Washington, which loves growing the welfare state by mortgaging the future of our next generation.

It's time for change, and our young voters know it. © 2024 CREATORS.COM



Star Parker

Thousands of antennae – zero TV viewing

Today's first day of summer arrives with antennae pointing tens of thousands of directions. Not one single TV or radio station can be tuned up. There's no need. Nature's abundance of antennae provide all the entertainment the first day of summer needs.

Summer, spelled in another form reads to be "outdoors." Even if it's raining lightly, a summer stroll in the rain beats any latest tune or TV social drama episode.

Summer antennae, pairs like the original television "rabbit ears" antennae, needing for daily adjustment to capture shows like Milton Burt and Captain Kangaroo, are second nature to ... well, nature.

Angelkeep spends a great deal of summertime seeking images of antennae protruding from creatures like butterflies, moths, ants, bees, and a myriad of bugs. Of course the most desired image sought at Angelkeep is that of its mascot, the dragonfly. If a dragonfly's too busy, then a damselfly will do.

Anyone not having a water feature providing delightful dragonfly activity in your own back yard should grab a camera, or just go to eyeball, and visit Ouabache State Park's Kunkel Lake.

Angelkeep once considered an insect antenna to simply be an antenna. Delight came from stumbling upon The Dragonfly Woman. Angelkeep long ago recognized local, world renown, E. B. Williamson, as The Dragonfly Man.

The Dragonfly Woman has been noted as an "aquatic entomologist with a blogging habit." E. B. mirrored that description, but he lived pre-internet, pre-electronics, pre-computer, and "blogged" his dragonfly lust and observations in national science publications, including that

Angelkeep Journals

of Carnegie and Smithsonian. Was Dragonfly Woman even close to Smithsonian recognition?

In 2011 the-dragonflywoman.com published a very enlightening antennae download. She provided both copyrighted drawn images of five types of insect antennae and fantastic macrophotography comparisons. Visit to see her images and words. She additionally publishes a Facebook page. Full-disclosure: Amateur Entomologists' Society claimed 8 types. NC State said 10. Wiki and BugGuide noted 11.

Angelkeep's previous awareness included knobbed and feathered antennae types. Moths have the feathered, butterflies identified with the knobbed (capitate), its standard antenna form.

Dragonfly Woman explained another form called a club antenna (capitate clavate) differing because the end resembled what Angelkeep saw as a police Billy club used by the Keystone Cops.

Ants and weevils, even some of the bees that Angelkeep so enjoys macrophotographing, support antennae this lady called geniculate or elbowed. On this variety the endmost segment extended appears to look something like an elbow. It is like a straight stick but broken into ten adjoining and nearly equal parts. It seems reminiscent of a stack of ice cream cones protruding one out of another awaiting the delicious summer's first day of ice cream filling. Perhaps similar to a ten-knuckle



Alan Daugherty

finger.

Study a housefly's antenna and you will see a similar structure but with each segment stretched longer, and all being tapered down to the very end piece. This end appears to be little more than the end of a hair. This narrow and thinning antenna Dragonfly Woman introduced as setaceous antennae. It had been observed on Angelkeep's dragonflies and damselflies (Ouabache State Park's also) but without knowing it had that specific name. Did E. B. use that term and was simply overlooked? Probably.

Grab yourself a summer cicada and you can take a good look at setaceous antennae on that bug too.

The greatest surprise came as a very unusual antenna not remembered as being seen previously at Angelkeep, or at least not aware when it was observed. Moniliform antennae each appear as a single stalk but look like a straight string of pearls. Angelkeep has no interest in capturing this type of antenna on a termite. Who wants termites photographed at your home? A termite Dragonfly Woman had photo-captured digitally had a strand of nineteen miniscule beads, each progressively diminishing in size and lightening by color from the bronze-like first bead attached to the head.

Angelkeep must admit to struggling with the fancy names attached to five types of entomological antennae. Simple suits Angelkeep. Summertime will be spent looking closely at the dragonflies, and many bugs, and determining which have knob, club, feather, hair, knuckle, or bead antennae.

If all else fails, at least Angelkeep mastered the plural form for antenna. Only a unicorn has the single antenna. Bugs grow antennae.

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

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Boyfriend spends too much time with his friends and not enough with me

Dear Annie: I've been dating my boyfriend, "Tom," for three years, and we recently moved in together. Things have been mostly great, but there's one issue I'm struggling with. Tom spends a lot of time with his friends and usually doesn't include me. He'll go out with them several times a week, sometimes staying out late, while I'm left at home by myself waiting for him to return.

I've tried talking to him about it, but he insists that he needs his "guy time" and that it doesn't mean he loves me any less. I understand the need for personal space, but I still feel sort of forgotten when he goes out all the time without me. I've suggested we find a balance where he can still see his friends but also spend quality time with me, but he brushes it off and says I'm being too clingy.

I love Tom and want our relationship to work, but I'm starting to resent his friends and even him for not making more of an effort to include me or spend time with me. — Feeling Neglected

Dear Feeling Neglected: I understand how tough it can be to feel left out, especially when you're sharing a home with someone.

Since talking directly hasn't worked, try shifting the conversation a bit. Instead of saying, "You're always with your friends," frame it around your relationship goals. You could say something like, "I'd really love for us to have a date night once a week."

You should also use the time he's out to focus on your own hobbies or see your friends. This can help you feel less dependent on his schedule.

Dear Annie: I recently found out that my younger sister, "Jenna," is planning to drop out of college. She's always been a bright student, but she says she's overwhelmed and doesn't see the point in continuing. Our parents are devastated, and they've asked me to talk to her since we're very close. I want to

help her without pushing too hard or making her feel worse.

I'm worried that if I handle this wrong, it might damage our relationship. I want to support her, but I also believe that finishing her degree is important. How can I talk to her in a way that's supportive without making her feel pressured and/or judged? — Worried Sister

Dear Worried Sister: Have an open conversation with Jenna, letting her know that you're there to listen, not to judge. Ask her to share what specifically is making her want to drop out. Sometimes, just talking about her struggles can help her see things more clearly. Avoid jumping in with solutions right away; let her get everything off her chest.

It might also be helpful to remind Jenna of her long-term goals and how her degree could play a role in achieving them. Sometimes, the immediate stress can cloud the bigger picture.

Lastly, reassure her that your relationship won't change no matter what she decides. Let her know you support her, whether she stays in school or chooses a different path.

"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit http://www.creatorspublishing.com for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. © 2024 CREATORS.COM

Dear Annie by Annie Lane



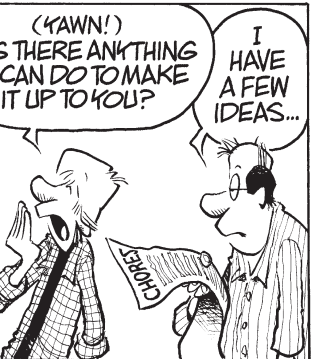
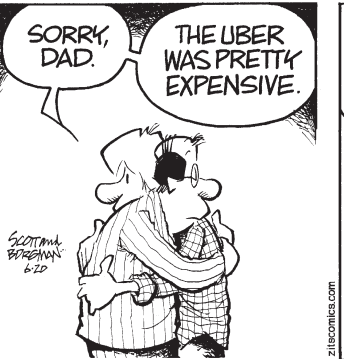
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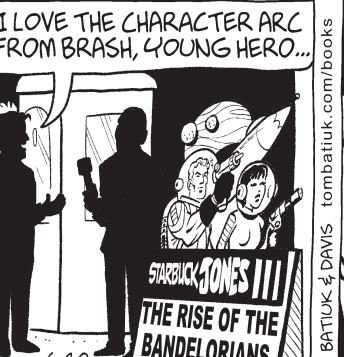
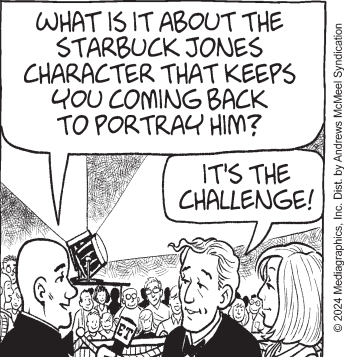
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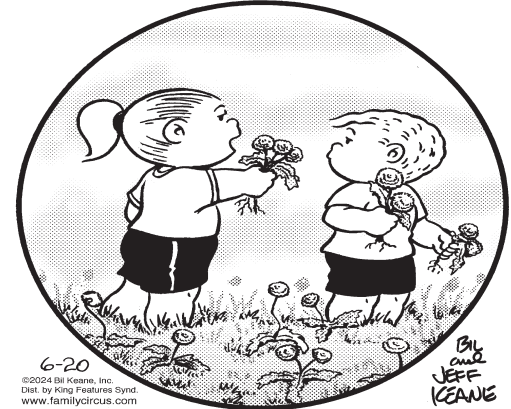


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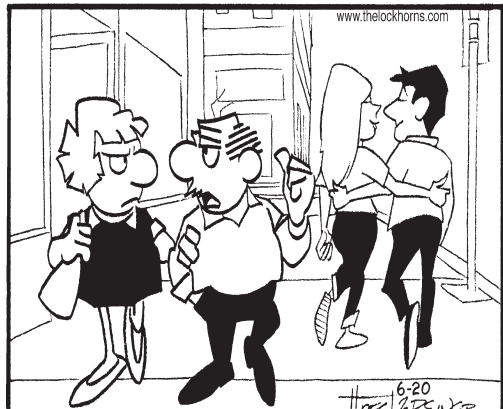


THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



When Jesus comes back the world will know safety and security

Question: I'm a Christian, but I don't share the same beliefs as many of my Christian friends who say Jesus is returning to Earth someday as a king. I doubt that, first because the world has moved away from royal thrones — even George Washington understood that kingship was outdated. Another reason is because the world did not accept Jesus the first time, so there's no chance for the world to change that dramatically and accept him the second time. History shows that no kingdom or dynasty lasts very long. — C.K.

Answer: When Jesus comes back, He is coming not as a Nazarene carpenter riding on a donkey. He is coming in divine maj-

esty and power and glory. He is coming as the Prince of Peace, the King of kings, and bringing with Him thousands of His angel-warriors with Him; the mightiest army the universe has ever known. And though the Antichrist will declare war on Him, the victory will be His. Emerging triumphant from the smoke of that last terrible, awful war will be the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

When Jesus comes back the world will know safety and security. George Washington's favorite verse of Scripture was Micah 4:4; he quoted it constantly: "Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the

Lord Almighty has spoken" (NIV).

During Christ's reign, political confusion will be turned to order and harmony, social injustices will be abolished, and moral corruption will be replaced by integrity. For the first time in history, the whole world will know what it's like to live in a society governed by God's principles. Man's dream for global harmony will be realized! Believe it! For the Almighty has spoken.

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

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Table with columns for date, time, and program details. Includes channels like WINM, CBS, ABC, NBC, FOX, HBO, etc.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes solution time: 24 mins.

Table for yesterday's crossword answer, showing a grid of numbers 1-61.

Willie Mays Appreciation:

The 'Say Hey Kid' inspired generations with immense talent and exuberance

By JOSH DUBOW
AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Long after “The Catch” and his 660 home runs, and the daring sprints around the bases with his hat falling off, Willie Mays could still command a room like no other.

Mays was a frequent visitor to the downtown ballpark in San Francisco at 24 Willie Mays Plaza with his statue outside the stadium. He would often hold court with his contemporaries and the younger generation of players who hung on every word said by a player they were too young to have ever watched play.

His commanding voice and high-pitched laugh were recognizable anywhere. He was simply the “Say Hey Kid” from his days patrolling center field at the Polo Grounds in the 1950s, when baseball ruled New York City, to his death at age 93 on Tuesday afternoon.

As Hall of Famer Ken Griffey Jr. said: “He’ll always be the godfather of all center fielders.”

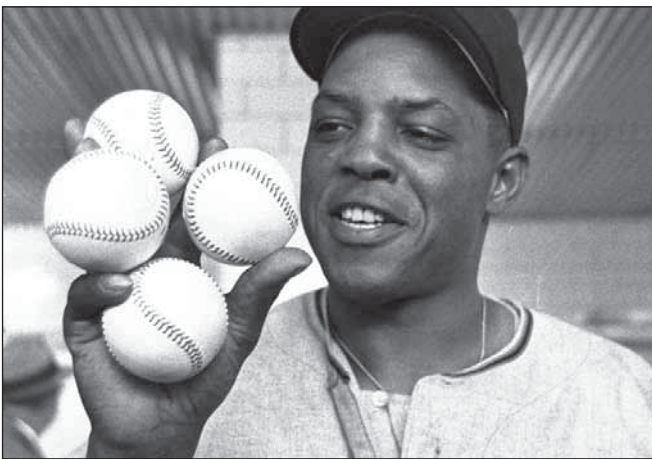
There may be players who hit more home runs, won more Gold Gloves, had more hits and captured more World Series titles than Mays. But there never was — and probably never will be — a player as dazzling and entertaining as he was for more than two decades on both coasts.

With a hat too small so it flew off his head as he raced around the field and his signature basket catches, Mays was a showman who could do it all as the consummate “five-tool player.” Perhaps no one combined the ability to hit for both average and power, to run the bases, field and throw like Mays did during his career spent mostly with the Giants in New York and San Francisco.

“Willie could do everything from the day he joined the Giants,” Hall of Fame manager Leo Durocher said. “Mays could do all the things you look for in a player better than anybody I ever saw.”

While Joe DiMaggio famously insisted on being introduced as the “Greatest Living Ballplayer” until he died in 1999, that title had really been held by Mays for more than a half-century.

The numbers are stagger-



San Francisco Giants outfielder Willie Mays displays the four baseballs representing the four homers which he hit against the Milwaukee Braves, April 30, 1961, in Milwaukee. (AP file photo)

ing: 660 homers, 3,293 hits, 6,080 total bases, 2,068 runs scored, two MVPs, and 24 All-Star games despite missing nearly two full seasons serving in the Korean War. There were also 12 Gold Gloves even though the award wasn’t even handed out his first five seasons in the majors.

But it was his joy that truly was infectious and inspiring, whether it was on the streets of Harlem where he famously played stick ball games with local kids before heading to the nearby Polo Grounds for his real job with the Giants or at the ballparks around the National League.

“You wanted to play like Willie and make those catches that he did,” Yankees slugger Aaron Judge said. “The numbers he put up on the field and what he did are impressive but him as a person and him as a human being is even bigger. He was bigger than baseball. He was something special and the baseball world is definitely going to be missing a great one.”

His greatness is best described by the reverence his contemporaries had for him.

“He played the game as if he was the only one out there,” Hall of Famer Ernie Banks once said. “His eyes would light up. His energy would kick in and he’d be ready to go. I had the privilege of watching and playing against a great talent.”

“He played so hard, it inspired me to get out there every game. I couldn’t wait to play the Giants and watch him.”

Mays’ ability to inspire went far beyond the baseball

field. He was born in 1931 in segregated Alabama, began his professional career in the Negro Leagues and became one of the early Black stars in baseball and the first Black player in the majors to be captain of his team.

But he also endured racism from his time in the minors in the previously all-white Interstate League and in San Francisco when he and his wife were initially rejected when they tried to buy a house in an exclusive neighborhood.

But later in life, he became almost universally loved.

“It’s because of giants like Willie that someone like me could even think about running for president,” President Barack Obama said when he gave Mays the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015.

Mays played his career when baseball truly was the American pastime and baseball’s best players were the biggest stars in all of American sports.

He was honored in song from Terry Cashman’s “Talkin’ Baseball (Willie, Mickey & The Duke)” that remembered the great New York center fielders of the 1950s with Mays, Mickey Mantle and Duke Snider to the 1955 classic by The Treniers: “Say Hey (The Willie Mays Song)” that perfectly encapsulated his style.

“He runs the bases like a choo-choo train

Swings around second like an aeroplane

His cap flies off when he passes third

And he heads home like an eagle bird.”

Happ, Swanson hit back-to-back homers as the Cubs hold off the Giants 6-5

CHICAGO (AP) — Ian Happ hit a 442-foot homer, Dansby Swanson made it back-to-back longballs and the Chicago Cubs hung on to beat the San Francisco Giants 6-5 on Wednesday.

Jorge Soler made it interesting in the eighth inning with a 444-foot grand slam over the bleachers in left field against Tyson Miller that got the Giants within one, but Colten Brewer pitched around back-to-back walks to Wilmer Flores and Brett Wisely in the ninth and finished for his first save.

Kyle Hendricks (1-4) pitched neatly into the sixth inning, allowing one run on two hits in his longest outing of the season and lowering his ERA from 8.20 to 7.46.

“We’ve got to win games,” manager Craig Counsell said. “You try to stack up wins. We’ve got to keep doing that. We haven’t been doing a good job of that, so just stacking up wins is a good deal.”

The Cubs took two of three from the

Giants, a small step for a team that’s struggled the past month after a rather promising start.

Chicago had lost three straight series following a two-game sweep of the crosstown White Sox, the team with the worst record in the majors. The Cubs hadn’t taken one of three or more games since winning two of three at Pittsburgh from May 10 to 12.

On Wednesday, there was a moment of silence before the game for Willie Mays, and the Giants wore patches on their jerseys in honor of the Hall of Famer, who died on Tuesday.

Hendricks was sharp in his first start since May 17. The veteran right-hander struck out a season-high eight and walked one.

Hendricks, who lost his spot in the rotation after struggling early in the season, didn’t allow a hit until Thairo Estrada doubled to left leading off the sixth.

Reynolds’ late HR lifts Pirates over Reds

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Bryan Reynolds hit a go-ahead home run in the bottom of the eighth inning and the Pittsburgh Pirates edged the Cincinnati Reds 1-0 on Wednesday.

Reynolds pounced on an 80 mph change-up from Nick Martinez (2-5) and sent it just over the wall in center field for his 10th homer of the season as the Pirates took two of three from Cincinnati.

The blast extended Reynolds’ hitting streak to 17 games, the longest by a Pirate since 2019. He is batting .357 during the streak, with three home runs and 10 RBIs. The surge comes during a time of year when Reynolds typically figures things out. He’s a career .345 hitter in June.

“I’ve got a good history in June, I guess,” Reynolds said with a characteristic shrug. “So, need to make it a longer month.”

Colin Holderman (3-0) retired the three batters he faced in the eighth after coming on for a brilliant Mitch Keller. David Bednar worked a perfect ninth for his 16th save.

Keller didn’t put up much of a fight when Pirates manager Derek Shelton came to get him after issuing a leadoff walk in the eighth even though Keller had thrown just 83 pitches.

“I had no idea how many pitches I was at, wasn’t really looking at that, just keep going,”

Keller said. “I don’t even know how much it ended up being. Felt like 150, though.”

The teams combined for just five hits on a steamy day at PNC Park in which Keller and Hunter Greene put on a show.

Keller allowed two hits — singles to Jonathan India and Santiago Espinal — over seven-plus innings while striking out seven. The 28-year-old has pitched at least five innings in 46 straight starts, the longest active streak in the majors.

The Reds failed to get a runner to third against Keller and did little against Holderman and Bednar.

“I don’t know if we’ve pitched better than we did in this series,” said Shelton of the Pirates, who allowed three runs in three games against Cincinnati.

Hunter Greene matched Keller pitch for pitch into the seventh. The hard-throwing 24-year-old right-hander struck out nine in 6 1/3 innings. Greene didn’t allow a walk, though he did hit two batters to boost his season total to 11, the most in the majors.

Greene’s only mistakes were giving up a double to right by Yasmani Grandal in the second and a double off the wall in center field by Rowdy Tellez with one out in the seventh.

Wells Community Swim Team beats South Adams 757-288

The Wells Community Swim Team beat the South Adams Summer Swim Club 757-288 at their Tuesday, June 18, meet.

Event winners:

Girls**Ages 8 and under:**

• Kenzie Kopp 50-meter freestyle, 25-meter breaststroke, 25-meter freestyle, 25-meter fly.

Ages 9-10:

• Hadassah Falk, 50-meter freestyle.

Ages 11-12:

• Emma Holte, Journey Kensey, Ady Atkins and Dara Nusbaumer, 200-meter medley relay, 200-meter freestyle relay.

• Ady Atkins, 50-meter freestyle, 200-meter IM.

• Olivia Ehrhart, 100-meter freestyle.

• Journey Kensey, 50-meter fly.

Ages 13-14:

• Ellie Coyne, 200-meter freestyle, 200-meter IM.

• Dessie Fritts, Ellie Bales, Emma Easley and Faith Grant, 200-meter medley relay.

• Faith Grant, 50-meter freestyle.

• Emma Easley, 50-meter backstroke.

• Maresa Gomez, Ellie Bales, Kianna Linderwell and Ellie Coyne, 200-meter freestyle relay.

Ages 15 and up:

• Marlee Meredith, 200-meter freestyle, 100-meter backstroke, 100-meter breaststroke.

• Rilynn Ervin, Marlee Meredith, Ryleigh Huffman and Emerson Meredith, 200-meter medley relay.

• Ryleigh Huffman, 100-meter freestyle.

• Emerson Meredith, 100-meter fly, 200-meter IM, 50-meter freestyle.

• Molly Threewits, Rilynn Ervin, Marlee Meredith and Emerson Meredith, 200-meter freestyle relay.

Boys**Ages 8 and under:**

• Clark Grant, 50-meter freestyle, 25-meter breaststroke, 25-meter free-

style.

• Roran Claghorn, 25-meter fly.

• Peter Burfield, 25-meter backstroke.

Ages 9-10:

• Abram Nusbaum, Josiah Landis, Dean Evans and Sam Burfield, 200-meter medley relay.

Ages 11-12:

• Liam Evans, Logan Craig, Parker Kopp, and Rowan Drayer, 200-meter medley relay.

• Logan Craig, 50-meter fly, 50-meter freestyle.

• Parker Kopp, 50-meter freestyle, 50-meter breaststroke.

• Liam Evans, 50-meter backstroke.

• Bryce Grant, 200-meter IM.

• Rowan Drayer, Parker Kopp, Logan Craig and Liam Evans, 200-meter freestyle relay.

Ages 13-14:

• Riley Hank, Michael Tierney, Tyler Zent and Hudson Withers, 200-meter medley relay.

• Foster Monticue, 100-meter fly.

• Riley Hank, 50-meter freestyle.

• Corban Wheeler, 50-meter back-

stroke.

• Evan Swallow, 200-meter IM.

• Michael Tierney, 50-meter freestyle.

• Vinny Fuhrmann, Gus Heyerly, Riley Hank and Corban Wheeler, 200-meter freestyle relay.

Ages 15 and up:

• Rhett Gerber, Kale Meredith, Braden Hoag and Griffin Linderwell, 200-meter freestyle relay.

• Griffin Linderwell, 200-meter free-

style.

• Ethan Williamson, Kale Meredith, Graham Linderwell and Braden Lemler, 200-meter medley relay.

• Kale Meredith, 100-meter freestyle, 100-meter breaststroke.

• Braden Lemler, 100-meter fly, 200-meter IM.

• Rhett Gerer, 100-meter backstroke.

• Rylan Heyerly, 50-meter freestyle.

Caitlin Clark has double-double as Fever win third consecutive

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Kelsey Mitchell and Aliyah Boston scored 22 points apiece, Caitlin Clark had her second career double-double and the Indiana Fever won their third-straight game with an 88-81 victory over the Washington Mystics on

Wednesday night.

Clark had 18 points and a career-high 12 rebounds plus six assists and four steals for the Fever (5-10). She also had six turnovers. Erica Wheeler had nine points off the bench in a big second half.

Indiana, which has won five of seven has its first four-game winning streak at home since August of 2015.

The Fever shot 55% and Smith, Mitchell and Boston were all in double figures with Clark adding nine with eight rebounds.

**NASCAR CUP SERIES
USA TODAY 301**

Site: Loudon, New Hampshire.
Schedule: Saturday practice, 12:35 p.m., qualifying, 1:20 p.m.; Sunday race, 2:30 p.m. (USA).

Track: New Hampshire Motor Speedway.
Last race: Reigning Cup champion Ryan Blaney won the first stage after starting second, was fourth in the second and went on to lead 201 of 350 laps for his first victory this season in the inaugural Iowa Corn 350. Blaney also clinched a playoff berth, closing the deal this time with plenty of fuel in his Penske Ford after running dry two weeks ago while leading the final lap in Madison, Illinois.

Next race: June 30, Nashville, Tennessee.

**NASCAR XFINITY SERIES
SciAps 200**

Site: Loudon, New Hampshire.
Schedule: Friday practice, 4:05 p.m., qualifying, 4:35 p.m.; Saturday race, 3:30 p.m. (USA).

Track: New Hampshire Motor Speedway.
Last race: Sam Mayer took charge on an overtime restart and won the HyVee 250 in the series’ return to Iowa Speedway after a four-year hiatus.

Next race: June 29, Nashville, Tennessee.

**NASCAR TRUCK SERIES
FORMULA ONE
Spanish Grand Prix**

Site: Montmelo, Spain.
Schedule: Friday practice, 7:30 a.m., 11 a.m.; Saturday practice, 6:30 a.m., qualifying, 10 a.m.; Sunday race, 9 a.m. (ESPN).

Track: Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya.
Next race: June 30, Spielberg, Austria.

INDYCAR**Grand Prix of Monterey**

Site: Monterey, California.
Schedule: Friday practice, 5 p.m.; Saturday practice, 1 p.m., qualifying, 5:15 p.m.; Sunday race, 6 p.m. (USA).

Track: Raceway Laguna Seca.
Next race: July 7, Lexington, Ohio.

**NHRA DRAG RACING
Virginia Nationals**

Site: Dinwiddie, Virginia.
Track: Virginia Motorsports Park.

Next event: June 27-30, Norwalk, Ohio.

WORLD OF OUTLAWS

Next events: Wednesday through Saturday at Brandon, South Dakota.

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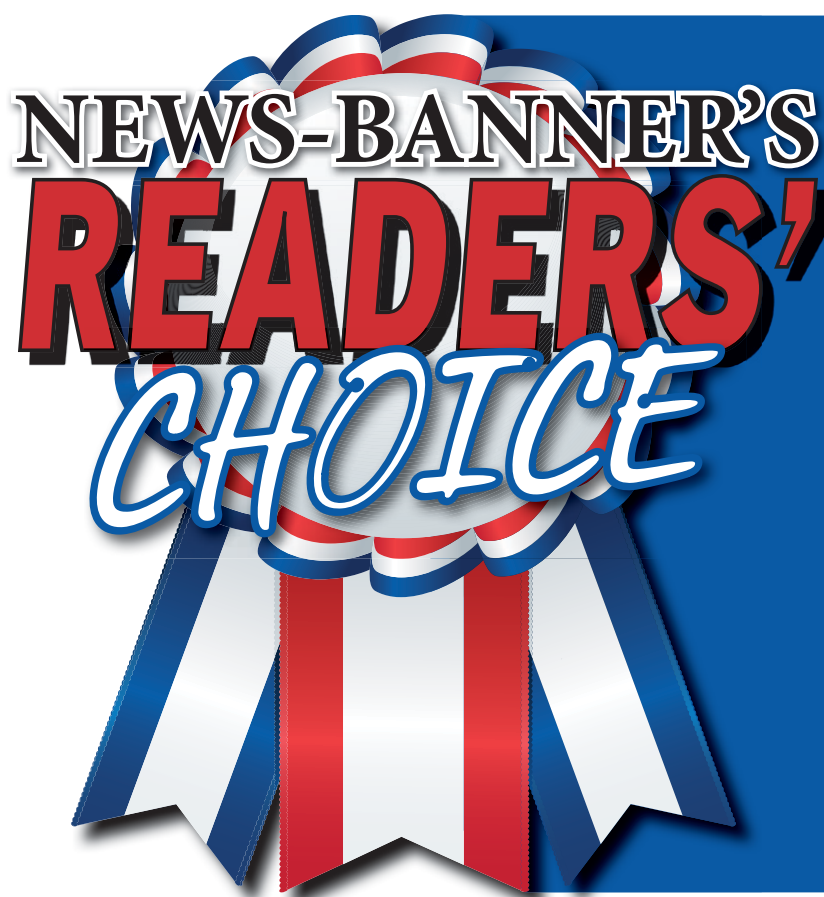
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Enter *The News-Banner's Readers' Choice Poll* by writing in your Wells County favorites. Only official ballots will be accepted and are available in the News-Banner on *Thursday, June 20, Tuesday, June 25, and Saturday, June 29, 2024*. Printed versions of our eEdition will be considered valid entries. Mail your completed entry form to the *News-Banner* or drop it off at our office at *125 North Johnson Street*.

Deadline is 5:00 pm on Monday, July 8, 2024.

The First, Second and Third, place winners will be published in our special section "*Readers' Choice*" to be distributed in *August*. You must vote in at least 50% of the categories. **HAPPY VOTING!**



FOOD AND DINING

- Best Place to Buy Groceries _____
- Best Place to Buy Beer, Wine & Spirits _____
- Best Place to buy Produce _____
- Best Bakery/Pastries _____
- Best Late Night Restaurant _____
- Best Reception Hall/Event Center _____
- Best Bar _____
- Best Locally Owned Restaurant _____
- Best Local Caterer _____
- Best Local Place for Appetizers _____
- Best Local Place for Buffet _____
- Best Local Place for Dessert _____
- Best Place for Ice Cream/Frozen Yogurt _____
- Best Place for Pizza _____
- Best Local Place for Steak _____
- Best Local Place for Home Cooking _____
- Best Local Place for Barbecue _____
- Best Local Place for Chicken _____
- Best Local Place for Dinner _____
- Best Local Place for Italian Food _____
- Best Local Place for Salad _____
- Best Local Place for Chinese Food _____
- Best Local Place for Tenderloin _____
- Best Local Place for Hamburger _____
- Best Local Place for Lunch _____
- Best Local Place for Subs/Sandwiches _____
- Best Local Place for Breakfast _____
- Best Local Place for Coffee _____
- Best Local Place for Mexican Food _____
- Best Local Place for Seafood _____
- Best Local Place for Sunday Brunch _____
- Best Local Place for Margarita _____
- Best Local Place for Donuts _____
- Best Place for a Business Lunch _____
- Best Place for Fast Food _____
- Best Drive Thru _____
- Best Place for a Date _____
- Best French Fries _____
- Best Biscuits _____
- Best Place for Milkshakes _____
- Best Place for Soup _____
- Best Place for Wings _____
- Best Place for Takeout _____
- Best Place for Meat Processing _____



AUTOMOTIVE

- Best Place to Buy Tires _____
- Best Place to Buy Auto Parts _____
- Best Place to Buy New Vehicle _____
- Best Place to Buy Used Vehicle _____
- Best Auto Body Repair Shop _____



AUTOMOTIVE (Continued...)

- Best Auto Repair Shop _____
- Best Place for Oil Change _____
- Best Car Wash _____
- Best Auto Towing Service _____
- Best Place for Auto Detailing _____



PETS & PET CARE

- Best Place to Buy Pets _____
- Best Kennel _____
- Best Place for Pet Grooming _____
- Pet Boarding _____
- Pet Supplies _____



MEDICAL

- Best Place to Buy Hearing Aids/Supplies _____
- Best Place to Buy Eyewear _____
- Best Hospital _____
- Best Dental Office _____
- Best Medical Clinic _____
- Best Home Health Services _____
- Best Chiropractic Clinic _____
- Best Pharmacy _____



HEALTH & RECREATION

- Best Fitness Facility _____
- Best Health Food/Vitamin Store _____
- Best Golf Course _____
- Best Bowling Center _____
- Best Park/Playground _____
- Best Dance Studio _____



HOME & GARDEN

- Best Place to Buy Appliances _____
- Best Place for Appliance Repair _____
- Best Garden Center _____
- Best Lawn Care Service _____
- Best Auction Company _____
- Best Place to Buy Flooring _____
- Best Place for Carpet Cleaning _____
- Best Pest Control Service _____
- Best Place to Buy Furniture _____
- Best Locksmith _____
- Best Place to Buy Plants and Flower _____
- Best Place to Buy Lawn Equipment _____
- Best Place to Buy Building Supplies _____
- Best Place to Buy Mattresses _____
- Best Place to Buy Paint _____
- Best Roofing Company _____
- Best General Contracting Company _____
- Best Heating & Cooling Company _____
- Best Landscaping Company _____

HOME & GARDEN (Continued...)

- Best Real Estate Agency _____
- Best Rental Store _____
- Best Apartment Complex _____
- Best Internet Provider _____
- Best Home Telephone Service _____
- Best Plumbing Service _____
- Best Asphalt Company _____

RETAIL

- Best Place to Buy Guns and Ammo _____
- Best Place to Buy Athletic Shoes _____
- Best Place to Buy Home Decor _____
- Best Place to Buy Footwear _____
- Best Place to Buy Farm Equipment _____
- Best Place to Buy Farm Products/Supplies _____
- Best Place to Buy Men's Clothing _____
- Best Place to Buy Women's Clothing _____
- Best Place to Buy Children's Clothing _____
- Best Place to Buy Jewelry _____
- Best Place to Buy Toys _____
- Best Place to Buy Antiques _____
- Best Consignment Shop _____
- Best Boutique _____
- Best Dry Cleaner _____
- Best Tattoo Parlor _____
- Best Place to Buy Sporting Goods _____
- Best Gift Shop _____
- Best Local Place for Manicures _____
- Best Resale Shop _____
- Best Cellular Store _____
- Best Convenience Store _____
- Best Place to Buy Gasoline _____
- Best Place to Buy Computers/Accessories _____
- Best Nail Salon _____

FINANCIAL

- Best Bank _____
- Best Credit Union _____
- Best Financial Advisor _____
- Best Mortgage Company _____
- Best CPA Firm _____

PROFESSIONAL

- Best Funeral Home _____
- Best Employment Agency _____
- Best Day Care _____
- Best Place to Buy Flowers _____
- Best Beauty Salon _____
- Best Insurance Agency _____
- Best Law Office _____
- Best Travel Agency _____
- Best Hotel/Motel _____
- Best Overall Industry _____
- Best Tanning Salon _____
- Best Storage Facility _____
- Best Printer _____

COMMUNITY

- Best Community Event _____
- Best Museum/ Gallery _____
- Best Church _____
- Best Retirement Community _____
- Best Assisted Living Facility _____
- Best Nursing Home _____
- Best Place To Take Visitors _____
- Best Non for Profit Organization _____

COMMUNITY (Continued...)

- Best Social/Service Club _____
- Best Local Street Fair Vendor _____

PEOPLE

- | Example _____ | First & Last Name _____ | @ _____ | Restaurant/Business _____ |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|---------------------------|
| Best Waiter/Waitress _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Caterer _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Bartender _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Butcher _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Electrician _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Pre-Owned Auto Salesperson _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best New Auto Salesperson _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Mechanic _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Veterinarian _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Nurse _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Pediatrician _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best OB/GYN _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Family Physician _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Chiropractor _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Dentist _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Pharmacist _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Opthamalogist _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Optometrist _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Orthodontist _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Personal Trainer _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Realtor _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Auctioneer _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Cashier _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Barber _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Nail Tech _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Insurance Agent _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Funeral Director _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Tax Professional _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Carpet Cleaner _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Teller _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Banker _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Attorney _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Plumber _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Photographer _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Boss _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Radio Personality _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best TV Personality _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Hair Stylist _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Police Officer _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Firefighter _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Favorite Elected Official _____ | | @ _____ | |
| Best Pastor _____ | | @ _____ | |
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7		9	4			3		
1			5					7
9		5			8			6
				1				9
4			3			5	2	

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6/20

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This Week's Garage Sales



GARAGE SALE WITH neighbors, 4688 E 100 N, Friday, June 21, Saturday, June 22, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Many items, little girl table and chairs, dolls, household items, women's clothing, Christmas tree. Too many items to mention.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN SCHOOL gym, 7545 N 650 E, Ossian, IN, garage sale fundraiser June 20, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., June 21, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., \$5 bag sale, June 22, \$2 bag sale, 8 a.m.-noon. Rain or shine. No reasonable offers refused! Proceeds benefit students and teachers at the school.

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Public Notices

NOTICE In accordance with Indiana Code 5-15-6-3 requiring prior notification to individuals when records will be destroyed:

Notice to any individuals born in the year 2002, who received special education services in Adams and/or Wells Counties. Please contact Adams Wells Special Services no later than August 9, 2024 if you wish to receive copies of your special education records. All records requested for pick-up and not picked up and non-requested records for persons born in the year 2002 will be permanently destroyed after August 16, 2024. If you wish to request records, you must call (260)824-5880 to do so. Records must be picked up by the person who received services unless otherwise legally designated.

nb 6/18 through 8/7 hspaxlp

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS 6/14/2024

Notice is hereby given that the AREA PLAN COMMISSION will hold a Public Hearing in Conference Room 105 in the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St., in the City of Bluffton, IN at 7:00 o'clock P.M. on the 11th day of July, 2024, for the purpose of reviewing and hearing comments on the petition(s) listed below.

1. Request of Jason & Cassandra Meyer, 208 Bittersweet Lane, Ossian, IN 46777 for the purpose of a Development Plan.

Current Zoning: B-3
Proposed Development Plan: Requesting approval for 7890 sq ft building and parking area.

Common Location: The subject property is located at 10350 N SR 1, Ossian, Indiana. 46777

Brief Legal: The subject property is described as Lots 6-8 of D.W. Hoopingarner Subdivision in the SE/4 9-28N-12E in Jefferson Township of Wells County.

Dated this 14th day of June, 2024

WELLS COUNTY AREA PLAN COMMISSION
Michael Lautzenheiser, Jr., Director

oj, nb 6/20 hspaxlp

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Notice is hereby given the taxpayers of Wells County, Indiana, that the County Council of said County, will meet at the Courthouse Annex in Bluffton, Indiana at 7:00 O'clock p.m. on **Tuesday, the 2nd day of July 2024**, to consider the following additional appropriations more than the budget for the current year.

AUDITOR HB 1328 Stipend (1000-10138-000-0002)	\$2,500.00
COUNTY ELECTION BOARD HB 1328 Stipend (1000-10138-000-0062)	\$2,500.00
DRUG FREE COMMUNITY Other Services (1148-30206-000-0000)	\$4,946.20
Treatment (1148-31005-000-0000)	\$4,944.22
Education/Prevention (1148-31103-000-0000)	\$4,946.22
Judicial (1148-31205-000-0000)	\$4,496.57
WELLS COUNTY CASA GRANT Travel, Lodging & Conf Fees (9115-30400-000-0000)	\$200.00
Volunteer Recognition (9115-30806-000-0000)	\$772.00
Room Rental (9115-37101-000-0000)	\$300.00

oj, nb 6/20 hspaxlp

Lottery Numbers

Wednesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 04-15-27-36-39

Lotto Plus — 02-12-14-17-18-40

Cash4Life — 04-11-23-43-45, Cash Ball: 01

Quick Draw Midday — 02-05-12-15-16-18-19-22-23-36-38-41-44-49-55-59-66-67-72-74, BE: 66

Daily Three-Midday — 09-09-09, SB: 02

Daily Three-Evening — 02-03-02, SB: 01

Daily Four-Midday — 07-05-05-03, SB: 02

Daily Four-Evening — 09-01-09-09, SB: 01

Quick Draw Evening — 01-03-13-17-24-28-31-32-36-37-39-40-41-43-59-63-64-71-77-80, BE: 37

Hoosier Lotto — 08-10-17-18-28-33

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04-27-44-50-64 Powerball: 07; Power Play: 3X

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Public Sale Calendar

BIDDING STARTS CLOSING

JUNE 20 - 10 a.m. - Steve and Dave Bell, owners. Bell's Auto & Truck Sale retirement liquidation! Antiques/primitives, automobile advertising, tool chests, rod iron, vintage enamelled signs, Ford tractor, Mercedes convertible, John Deere mowers, pedal cars/tractors, skid loader, fire hydrants, traffic lights, thermometers, automobiles, automotive tools, shop equipment, more! Pick up June 21, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., June 24, 1-5 p.m., June 25, 9 a.m.-noon, 1420 Goshen Ave., Fort Wayne. **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC**, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

JUNE 22 - 10 a.m. - Charles Uptgraft, deceased, and Dee Uptgraft. 3295 E 450 S, Bluffton, Indiana. 1931 Model A car with soft top, rumble seat, 1962 Galaxy, nonrunning, 1986 Chevy flatbed truck, non-running, Chrysler 3.6 outboard motor, mowers, tools, Craftsman tool box, Arco 250 amp single phase welder, lawn and garden, household, furniture, ice cream freezer, Noritake Gold Stein china, service for 12, old items, many other items. Vehicles will be sold at 12:30 p.m. both live and on Hi Bid. **Loy Auction.**

BIDDING ENDS JUNE 22 - (Online Only Personal Property) - Estate of Glen Bowen, seller. Clean 2005 Buick Lesabre Custom w/77,000 miles, 2004 Toyota Sienna LE mini van, 1987 Riviera Cruiser 24' pontoon, 2004 Yamaha XLT jet ski, floating WaveRunner dock, lake equipment, modern furniture, household, electronics, lawn and garden, patio furniture, tools, more. Auction preview & online bidding assistance June 22 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 500 Lane 101 Jimmerson Lake, Angola, IN. Sale manager Brandon Steffen, 260-710-5684, **The Steffen Group Inc.**, 260-426-0633, steffengrp.com.

BIDDING ENDS JUNE 23 - (Online Only) - Estate of Marilyn McQueary, seller. 2023 GMC Terrain Denali, AWD Edition w/2,130 miles (like new), 1990 Cadillac Allante, modern furniture, antiques, collectibles, tools, home furnishings, stained glass decorations, leaded glass lamps, home decor, kitchen items, jewelry, clothing, designer purses, Christmas & Halloween deco-

rations, swords, coins & silver, Glock 45 9MM, more. Preview & online bidding assistance June 20 from 3-6 p.m., 102 S. Jefferson St., Ossian. Sale manager Rod Fetters, 260-557-8451, **The Steffen Group Inc.**, www.steffengrp.com, 260-426-0633.

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 22 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 500 Lane 101 Jimmerson Lake, Angola, IN. **The Steffen Group Inc.**, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

JUNE 23 - 4 p.m. - Multiple consignors, owners. Online only consignment auction! 1,000+ lots! Huge amount of hand tools, large assortment of household items, camping supplies, gun safe, dollhouses, lodge cookware, hunting items, photography accessories, guitar, kitchen items, exercise equipment, restaurant equipment and much more! Preview June 20, 3-5 p.m., 812 Elm Street, Decatur, IN. Pick up June 24, 1-6 p.m. and June 25, 9 a.m.-noon. **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC**, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

JULY 11 - 10 a.m. - Online only - Secured creditors & various consignors, owners. 100+ skid loader attachments, tool boxes, workbenches, iron gates, chains & binders, 1 trip 40' high side shipping container w/side doors, dome shelter container, various truck take off parts, dump trucks, 2012-2014 Freightliner M2106 box trucks, day cabs, sleepers, utility trucks, bucket trucks, utility

& semi trailers, SUV's, pickup trucks, 100+ skid steer attachments & much more! Accepting consignments, 815 Adams St., Decatur. **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC**, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

JULY 14-JULY 21 - (Online Only Auction) - Dave and Brenda Double, seller. 40 Year collection of trains, 2 realistic model train railway layouts, professionally milled lumber, downsizing custom craft store, shop tools, porcelain & other dolls, antiques, furniture, McCoy cookie jars, Hull pottery, Sure-Trac utility tractor, Commercial Cyclone Rake. Preview: July 11 and 18 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 540 W US 224, Uniondale. Pat Carter, sale manager, 260-273-8294, **Steffen Group**, www.steffengrp.com, 824-3006.

JULY 16 - 2-6 p.m. ET - (Online) - Farm: William C. Lee Trust. Property Location: 6 miles south of Angola, IN, along E 700 S in Pleasant Lake, IN. 156+/- total acres, tillable farmland, timber, recreational, pole barn, chicken barn, Steuben Twp., Steuben Co. Tract 1: 101+/- acres. Tract 2: 50+/- acres. Tract 3: 5+/- acres. Open House by appointment: Rick Johnloz, 260-827-8181, Neil Wolther, 260-336-2219, Jason Johnloz, 260-273-9177. **Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management**, 800-424-2324, halderman.com.

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9	8	6	1	1	5	2	7	9
4	2	9	9	6	1	1	5	8
5	1	1	9	2	8	7	6	9
8	6	9	5	7	1	9	1	2

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New Mexico wildfire claims second life, rain offers hope of relief

By MORGAN LEE and ANDRÉS LEIGHTON
Associated Press

ROSWELL, N.M. (AP) — Heavy rain and hail fell Wednesday around an evacuated village in New Mexico threatened by wildfires that have killed at least two people and damaged more than 1,400 structures, offering the hope of some assistance for firefighters but adding the threat of high winds and flash floods.

Air tankers dropped water and red retardant earlier on the pair of fires growing in a mountainous part of the state where earlier in the week residents of the village of Ruidoso were forced to flee the larger of the two blazes with little notice.

New Mexico State Police spokesman Wilson Silver said Wednesday that officers discovered the skeletal remains of an unidentified second person in the driver seat of a burned vehicle. It's the second confirmed death in the blazes. The first fire victim was a badly burned

60-year-old man found by the side of the road near the popular Swiss Chalet Inn in Ruidoso.

Weather patterns were shifting Wednesday with moisture arriving from the Gulf of Mexico, said Bladen Breitreiter of the National Weather Service office in Albuquerque.

"It will be a challenging situation going into the late afternoon and evening," said Breitreiter, who has been an incident meteorologist at past wildfires. "The potential for scattered to isolated thunderstorms could help, but it depends on where they hit. If the rain misses the fires, downward winds could cause problems for firefighters on the ground."

He said rain could also lead to dangerous flash flooding in newly burned areas.

It wasn't immediately clear if the rain and hail that started around Ruidoso on Wednesday afternoon was falling on the fires themselves, or if it would slow

their progress. The National Weather Service issued a flash flood warning for the area until later Wednesday evening.

The two fires remained at 0% containment Wednesday afternoon as crews used heavy equipment to build fire lines while water and retardant was dropped from the air, authorities said.

Officials said hundreds of firefighters were on the scene and watching to stop any spot fires that could flare up. More personnel from departments from around the region were continuing to arrive.

Ruidoso and much of the Southwest has been exceedingly dry and hot this spring. Those conditions, along with strong wind, whipped flames out of control Monday and Tuesday, rapidly advancing the South Fork Fire into the village. Along with homes and businesses, a regional medical center and the Ruidoso Downs horse track were evacuated. Gov. Michelle Lujan

Grisham's office confirmed one fatality as a result of the fire but said it had no further details.

About 1,400 structures have been destroyed or damaged, but it's unclear how many were homes. A flyover to provide more accurate mapping and a better assessment of damage is being organized, Lujan Grisham said.

Ardis Holder left Ruidoso with her two young daughters, her gas tank nearly on empty as she prayed that they'd get out safely. She was sure the house she rented in the village she grew up in is gone, based on the maps she'd seen.

"We were already seeing where all the fire hit, it's everywhere," she said late Tuesday from a shelter in nearby Roswell. "If there's something standing, that's awesome. But, if not, we were prepared for the worst."

Lujan Grisham on Wednesday requested a major disaster declaration

from President Joe Biden's administration that would free up federal funding for immediate housing and other assistance for the people affected.

"New Mexico has faced disaster before, but the scale of this emergency requires immediate federal intervention," she said.

The day before, she declared a county-wide state of emergency that extended to the neighboring Mesquero Apache Reservation where both fires started and deployed National Guard troops. That declaration unlocks additional funding and resources to manage the crisis.

Nationwide, wildfires have scorched more than 3,280 square miles this year — a figure higher than the 10-year averages, according to the National Interagency Fire Center. About 20 wildfires currently burning are considered large and uncontained, including blazes in California and Washington state.

Lujan Grisham said the two southern New Mexico wildfires together have consumed more than 31 square miles. The exact causes of the blazes haven't been determined, but the Southwest Coordination Center listed them as human-caused.

Ruidoso and areas around Santa Fe and Española, New Mexico, have served as the backdrop this year for filming of a movie starring Matthew McConaughey and America Ferrera about the devastating 2018 wildfire in Paradise, California. That fire killed 85 people and nearly erased the community in the Sierra Nevada foothills.

While many older residents call Ruidoso home year-round, the population of around 7,000 people expands to about 25,000 during the warmer months, when people from hotter climates seek the cool of the leafy aspen trees, hiking trails and a chance to go fishing.

What's known, unknown, about Russia and North Korea agreement

By The Associated Press

Both Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un say the strategic partnership they signed Wednesday is a breakthrough. But neither side has released the text of the agreement that resulted from their summit in Pyongyang, and its consequences for the near and long terms are uncertain.

Relations between sprawling Russia and small, isolated North Korea — both of them nuclear powers — have warmed significantly in recent years amid Russia's growing acrimony with the West over the invasion of Ukraine and suppression of all domestic opposition.

The new agreement could bring them even closer, while also posing new challenges to the international community.

What's in the new partnership, according to Kim and Putin:

What defines aggression?

Putin told a briefing after the signing that "the comprehensive partnership agreement provides, among other things, for the provision of mutual assistance in the event of aggression against one of the parties to this document."

That sentence raises an

array of questions.

The first is what might be considered "aggression." Both parties historically have used the word to denounce actions that fall far short of a physical attack, or even a cyberattack.

North Korea takes an especially broad view. Pyongyang commonly terms the combined military exercises held between the United States and South Korea as "aggression," describing them as invasion rehearsals. It often conducts its own missile tests or other military displays as part of a tit-for-tat retaliation.

Nor do the so-called aggressions need to be actual actions. It has denounced U.S. criticism of North Korea's human rights record as "the main means of aggression, together with military threat, (that) the DPRK will have to take into consideration the resolute and decisive option for defending the sovereignty and security of the state in an all-round way." The country's formal name is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, or DPRK.

Russia has predicated the war in Ukraine on purported plans by NATO to commit aggression against Rus-

sia from its neighbor. Putin also once called the 2014 demonstrations that ousted Ukraine's Russia-friendly president an aggression.

What would be the response? The kind of support pledged in the agreement was not spelled out, unlike the Article 5 clause of the NATO charter that requires member nations to take the action they deem necessary.

In their explanations of the agreement, neither Putin nor Kim said whether it specified if the assistance would be troops, materiel or some other sort of aid.

What if there's no aggression?

North Korea and Russia may not find reason to claim any commission of aggression against them, but they say they will help each other's militaries.

Putin essentially linked such military cooperation with North Korea to Western supplies of weapons to Ukraine, referring to high-precision weapons systems, warplanes and other high-tech weapons.

"The Russian Federation does not exclude the development of military-technical cooperation with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in accordance with the document signed today,"

Putin said.

That statement in effect formalizes what Western countries claim is already happening.

The U.S. and other

allies allege that Russia has received ballistic missiles and ammunition from North Korea as the Ukraine war depletes Moscow's inventory, and that Rus-

sia has made technology transfers to Pyongyang that could enhance the threat posed by Kim's nuclear weapons and missile program.

New law requires all Louisiana public school classrooms to display the Ten Commandments

By SARA CLINE, Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Louisiana has become the first state to require that the Ten Commandments be displayed in every public school classroom, the latest move from a GOP-dominated Legislature pushing a conservative agenda under a new governor.

The legislation that Republican Gov. Jeff Landry signed into law on Wednesday requires a poster-sized display of the Ten Commandments in "large, easily readable font" in all public classrooms, from kindergarten to state-funded universities.

Opponents questioned the law's constitutionality and vowed to challenge it in court. Proponents said the measure is not solely religious, but that it has historical significance. In the language of the law, the Ten Commandments are "foundational documents of our state and national government."

The posters, which will be paired with a four-paragraph "context statement" describing how the Ten Commandments "were a prominent part of American public education for almost three centuries," must be in place in classrooms by the start of 2025.

Under the law, state funds will not be used to implement the mandate. The posters would be paid for through donations.

The law also "authorizes" but does not require the display of other items in K-12 public schools, including: The Mayflower Compact, which was signed by religious pilgrims aboard the Mayflower in 1620 and is often referred to as America's "First Constitution"; the Declaration of Independence; and the Northwest Ordinance, which established a government in the Northwest Territory — in the present day Midwest — and created a pathway for admitting new states to the Union.

Not long after the governor signed the bill into law at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School in Lafayette on Wednesday, civil

rights groups and organizations that want to keep religion out of government promised to file a lawsuit challenging it.

The law prevents students from getting an equal education and will keep children who have different beliefs from feeling safe at school, the American Civil Liberties Union, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and the Freedom from Religion Foundation said in a joint statement Wednesday afternoon.

"Even among those who may believe in some version of the Ten Commandments, the particular text that they adhere to can differ by religious denomination or tradition. The government should not be taking sides in this theological debate," the groups said.

The controversial law, in a state enconced in the Bible Belt, comes during a new era of conservative leadership in Louisiana under Landry, who replaced two-term Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards in January. The GOP holds a supermajority in the Legislature, and Republicans hold every statewide elected position, paving the way for lawmakers to push through a conservative agenda.

Similar bills requiring the Ten Commandments be displayed in classrooms have been proposed in other states including Texas, Oklahoma and Utah. However, with threats of legal battles over the constitutionality of such measures, no state besides Louisiana has succeeded in making the bills law.

Legal battles over the display of the Ten Commandments in classrooms are not new.

In 1980, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a similar Kentucky law was unconstitutional and violated the establishment clause of the U.S. Constitution, which says Congress can "make no law respecting an establishment of religion." The high court found that the law had no secular purpose but rather served a plainly religious purpose.

June

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