

The News - Banner

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Over \$250K available with local health grants

Health Board approves applications for Health First Indiana grants

By HOLLY GASKILL
Local organizations will soon be able to apply for grants from the Wells County Health Department. According to Public Health

Nurse Lynn Blevins, the county has budgeted over \$250,000 for local grants out of Health First Indiana funding. Wells County will receive \$549,510 through HFI in 2025.

The Wells County Board of Health approved a grant application on Thursday, and the application will soon be available for interested organizations. Applications will be open to any group with proposals that will help address local health issues identified by the state. The application period will be

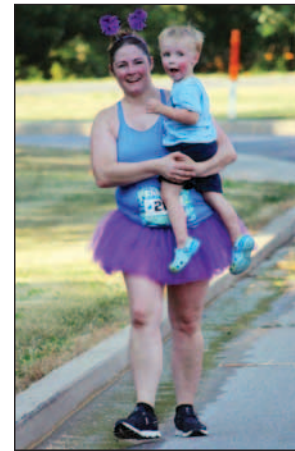
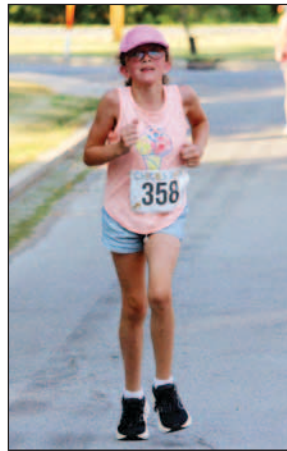
open for at least 30 days, and recipients will be selected at the board's Oct. 17 meeting. Funding will be awarded in 2025. Depending on the number of applicants and available funding, the county may offer a second grant cycle for 2025. Groups who receive grants will be required to report on how the funds have been used to address

local health issues called "key performance indicators." A full list of KPIs is listed on the HFI website, but Blevins has noted seven KPIs as priorities for the WCHD on the application. These KPIs are tobacco prevention and cessation, student health, fatality review and prevention programs, maternal (Continued on Page 2)



Run the World

Despite the extraordinary hot weather Thursday, over 120 women completed the annual Chicks Run 5K. Pictured above, Sydney Lambert (left) and Molly Kuhlenbeck near the finish line together. Diane Enterline cools off at a fire hydrant, which Bluffton firefighters had turned into a sprinkler for the runners, at right. Individuals below, left to right, are 1st place runner Abby Ramseyer, Sylvia Ulrich and Alyssa Brown holding Brantley Brown. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)



Two contested races for Wells school boards, none filed for Bluffton-Harrison District 1

By HOLLY GASKILL

There will be two contested races for Wells County school boards in November — one for Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan Schools and one for Norwell Community Schools.

Chris Koiner has challenged incumbent Trent White for the District 3 seat on the BHMSD board. White is finishing his first term and serves as the board's secretary.

Preston Kaehr is unopposed for the At-Large seat, which is currently vacant. District 2 board member Bruce Holland resigned from his duties on Monday, and former At-Large board member Angie Sheets was appointed to fill his term. The BHMSD board scheduled a special meeting for July 16 to appoint someone to fill the vacancy.

No one filed for Mike Murray's District 1 seat. In this case, Clerk Beth Davis stated that Murray will continue to serve unless he resigns from the board.

For NWCS, three newcomers have filed to take over from long-time board members Gene Donaghy and Angie Topp, who did not file for re-election. Donaghy has represented Jefferson Township on the board since 1997, and Angie Topp has represented

Lancaster Township since 2012.

The Lancaster Township seat holds the county's only other contested race with two candidates — Catherine Peterson, Craigville, and Jeremiah Tomlin, Bluffton. Todd Nash, Ossian, is the only candidate to represent Jefferson Township.

Both candidates for Southern Wells Community Schools are running unopposed. Gregg Vanover, Warren, has filed for Chad Roush's Jackson Township seat, and Todd Fiechter, Bryant, has filed for re-election for the Nottingham Township seat.

For county elections, Scott Burke, Ossian, has officially filed as an independent candidate for Wells County Council At-Large. The race for three At-Large seats currently includes Burke (I), Seth Whicker (R), Vicki Andrews (R), Scott Elzey (R) and Brian Hollingsworth (D).

Independent or minor party candidates have until noon on Monday, July 1, to file a petition with the Clerk's office. The Democratic Party has until noon on Wednesday, July 3, to fill general ballot vacancies — Hollingsworth is the only Democrat candidate filed for county-level elections.

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TikTok accuses federal agency of 'political demagoguery' in challenge against U.S. ban

By HALELUYA HADERO
AP Business Writer

TikTok disclosed a letter Thursday that accused the Biden administration of engaging in "political demagoguery" during high-stakes negotiations between the government and the company as it sought to relieve concerns about its presence in the U.S.

The letter — sent to David Newman, a top official in the Justice Department's national security division, before President Biden signed the potential TikTok ban into law — was submitted in federal court along with a legal brief supporting the company's lawsuit against measure. TikTok's Beijing-based parent company ByteDance is also a plaintiff in the lawsuit, which is expected to be one of the biggest legal battles in tech and internet history.

The internal documents provide details about negotiations between TikTok and the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, a secretive inter-agency panel that investigates corporate deals over national security concerns, between January 2021 and August 2022.

TikTok has said those talks ultimately resulted in a 90-page draft security agreement that would have required the company to implement more robust safeguards around U.S. user data. It would have also required TikTok to put in a "kill switch" that would have allowed CFIUS to suspend the platform if it was found to be non-compliant with the agreement.

However, attorneys for TikTok said the agency "ceased any substantive negotiations" with the company after it submitted the draft agreement in August 2022.

CFIUS did not immediately respond to

a request for comment. The Justice Department said it is looking forward to defending the recently enacted legislation, which it says addresses "critical national security concerns in a manner that is consistent with the First Amendment and other constitutional limitations."

"Alongside others in our intelligence community and in Congress, the Justice Department has consistently warned about the threat of autocratic nations that can weaponize technology — such as the apps and software that run on our phones — to use against us," the statement said. "This threat is compounded when those autocratic nations require companies under their control to turn over sensitive data to the government in secret."

The letter sent to Newman details additional meetings between TikTok and government officials since then, including a March 2023 call the company said was arranged by Paul Rosen, the U.S. Treasury's undersecretary for investment security.

According to TikTok, Rosen told the company that "senior government officials" deemed the draft agreement to be insufficient to address the government's national security concerns. Rosen also said a solution would have to involve a divestment by ByteDance and the migration of the social platform's source code, or its fundamental programming, out of China.

TikTok's lawsuit has painted divestment as a technological impossibility since the law requires all of TikTok's millions of lines of code to be wrested from ByteDance so that there would be no "operational relation-

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Supreme Court upholds tax on foreign income over challenge backed by business interests

By MARK SHERMAN, Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Thursday upheld a tax on foreign income over a challenge backed by business and anti-regulatory interests, declining their invitation to weigh in on a broader, never-enacted tax on wealth.

The justices, by a 7-2 vote, left in place a provision of a 2017 tax law that is expected to generate \$340 billion, mainly from the foreign subsidiaries of domestic corporations that parked money abroad to shield it from U.S. taxes.

The law, passed by a Republican Congress and signed by then-President Donald Trump, includes a provision that applies to companies that are owned by Americans but do their business in foreign countries. It imposes a one-time tax on investors' shares

of profits that have not been passed along to them, to offset other tax benefits.

But the larger significance of the ruling is what it didn't do. The case attracted outside attention because some groups allied with the Washington couple who brought the case argued that the challenged provision is similar to a wealth tax, which would apply not to the incomes of the very richest Americans but to their assets, like stock holdings. Such assets now get taxed only when they are sold.

Justice Brett Kavanaugh wrote in his majority opinion that "nothing in this opinion should be read to authorize any hypothetical congressional effort to tax both an entity and its shareholders or partners on the same undistributed income realized by the

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Outside



You guessed it: still hot. Wear sunscreen, hydrate.

Today	Saturday	Sunday
High 94	High 95	High 91
Low 73	Low 76	Low 87

More Weather on Page 2

Online

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FRIDAY
June 21, 2024

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Local health grants

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and child health, access and linkage, chronic disease prevention and reduction, and trauma and injury prevention and education.

Of these KPIs, Blevins highlighted maternal and child health as being particularly significant for the county in light of the recent closure of OB-GYN and labor and delivery services offered by Bluffton Regional Medical Center and Meridian Health Services in Bluffton. In her report, WCHD Administrator Sahara Wall said the closure has also led to a decline in the number of birth certificates issued. Wall expects this trend to continue and possibly for home births to increase — Wall said she recently issued a birth certificate for a baby born while in transit to Fort Wayne.

In his update, Environmental Special-

ist Ryan Bennett said there have been quite a few complaints to this department recently. In April and May, there were 20 complaints to the department for the food division and two in the septic division. “One in three is valid, and one in five is serious,” Bennett said.

Blevins reported an uptick in vaccinations following a clinic at Christian Care. He also indicated lead levels have become a bigger issue and conducted one home visit in April for high lead levels.

Health Officer Dr. Brandon Huggins attempted to join the meeting virtually, however, there was no response when the board asked for an update from Huggins. Since his appointment in March, Huggins has not been present in person for a board meeting due to his work schedule.

The board itself had just enough to meet quorum on Thursday — members Chris Esterling, Molly Hoag, Ann McNabb and Tamara Trout were present, and Dr. Bart Hott, Dr. Mary Donley and Steven Bales were absent. While the board had previously discussed moving their regular meeting time, Esterling has stated it was “incredibly hard” to accommodate everyone’s schedules.

The board has met seven times this year, four times of which have not been considered regular meetings, and have had a full board present for two meetings — both of which were in January regarding former health officer Dr. Kay Johnson.

The board’s next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 a.m. on Aug. 15.

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TikTok

(Continued from Page 1)

ship” between the Chinese company and the new U.S. app.

After the Wall Street Journal reported in March 2023 that CFIUS had threatened ByteDance to divest TikTok or face a ban, TikTok’s attorneys held another call with senior staff from the Justice and Treasury departments where they said leaks to the media by government officials were “problematic and damaging.”

That call was followed by an in-person meeting in May 2023 between TikTok’s attorneys, technical experts and senior staff at the Treasury Department focused on data safety measures and TikTok’s source code, the company’s attorneys said. The last meeting with CFIUS occurred in September 2023.

In the letter to Newman, TikTok’s attorneys say CFIUS provides a constructive way to address the government’s concern. However, they added, the agency can only serve this purpose when the law — which imposes confidentiality — and regulations “are followed and both sides are engaged in good-faith discussions, as opposed to political subterfuge, where CFIUS negotiations are misappropriated for legislative purposes.”

The legal brief also shared details of, but does not include, a one-page document the Justice Department allegedly provided to members of Congress in March, a month before they passed the federal bill that would require the platform to be sold to an approved buyer or face a ban.

TikTok’s attorneys said the document asserted TikTok collects sensitive data without alleging the Chi-

New York makes move to limit ‘addictive’ social media feeds for kids

By ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE

Associated Press

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul on Thursday signed a bill that would allow parents to block their children from getting social media posts suggested by a platform’s algorithm, a move to limit feeds critics argue are addictive.

Under the legislation, feeds on apps like TikTok and Instagram would be limited for people under age 18 to posts from accounts they follow, rather than content suggested by an automated algorithm. It would also block platforms from sending minors notifications on suggested posts between midnight and 6 a.m.

Both provisions could be turned off if a minor gets what the bill defines as “verifiable parental consent.”

The law does not take effect immediately. State Attorney General Letitia James is now tasked with crafting rules to determine mechanisms for verifying a user’s age and parental consent. After the rules are finalized, social media companies will have 180 days to implement the regulations.

“We can protect our kids. We can tell the companies that you are not allowed to do this, you don’t have a right to do this, that parents should have say over their children’s lives and their health, not you,” Hochul, a Democrat, said at a bill signing ceremony in Manhattan.

The signing is the first step in what is expected to be a drawn out process of rule making, and a probable lawsuit from social media companies to block the law.

NetChoice, a tech industry trade group that includes X and Meta, has criticized the legislation as unconstitutional.

“This is an assault on free speech and the open internet by the State of New York,” Carl Szabo, vice president and general counsel of NetChoice, said in a statement. “New York has created a way for the government to track what sites people visit and their online activity by forcing websites to censor all content unless visitors provide an ID to verify

their age.”

Most of the biggest social media platforms send users a steady stream of suggested videos, photographs and other content, using a computer to try and predict what will keep users entertained and engaged for as long as possible. The algorithms use a variety of factors to curate that content, including what a user has clicked on before and interests of other people with similar preferences.

The bill marks the latest attempt by a state to regulate social media as part of concerns over how children interact with the platforms.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom this week announced plans to work with the Legislature on a bill to restrict smartphone usage for students during the school day, though he didn’t provide exact details on what the proposal would include. Newsom in 2019 signed a bill allowing school districts to limit or ban smartphones while at school.

There hasn’t been broad legislation on the subject at the federal level but it is a common point of discussion in Washington. This week the U.S. surgeon general called on Congress to put warning labels on social media platforms similar to those on cigarettes, citing mental health dangers for children using the sites.

Some tech companies, with pressure mounting, have decided to set up parental controls on their platforms. Last year, Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, created tools that allowed parents to set time limits on the apps for children.

The New York legislation, debuted last October, had faced major pushback in the Legislature from the tech industry.

“Social media platforms manipulate what our children see online to keep them on the platforms as long as possible,” said James, a Democrat who pushed for the bill. “The more time young people spend on social media, the more they are at risk of developing serious mental health concerns.”

nese government has ever obtained such data. According to the company, the doc-

ument also alleged that TikTok’s algorithm creates the potential for China to influ-

ence content on the platform without alleging the country has ever done so.

U.S. veteran died at a nursing home, abandoned; Hundreds of strangers came to say goodbye

By PATRICK WHITTLE and JOHN SEEWER

Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) — Former U.S. Marine Gerry Brooks died alone at a nursing home in Maine, abandoned and all but forgotten. Then the funeral home posted a notice asking if anyone would serve as a pallbearer or simply attend his burial.

Within minutes, it was turning away volunteers to carry his casket.

A bagpiper came forward to play at the service. A pilot offered to perform a flyover. Military groups across the state pledged a proper sendoff.

Hundreds of people who knew nothing about the 86-year-old beyond his name showed up on a sweltering afternoon and gave Brooks a final salute with full military honors Thursday at the Maine Veterans’ Memorial Cemetery in Augusta.

Patriot Guard Riders on motorcycles escorted his hearse on the 40-mile route from the funeral home in Belfast, Maine, to the cemetery. Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars paid tribute with a 21-gun salute. Volunteers held American flags next to the casket while a crane hoisted a huge flag above the cemetery entrance.

Some saluted while filing by. Others sang The Marines’ Hymn.

“It’s an honor for us to be able to do this,” said Jim Roberts, commander of the VFW post in Belfast. “There’s so much negativity in the world. This is something people can feel good about and rally around. It’s just absolutely wonderful.” He said Brooks’ son, granddaughter and son-in-law came to the funeral but did not speak during the service.

Roberts said the VFW is called a

couple times a year about a deceased veteran with no family or with one that isn’t willing to handle the funeral arrangements. But “we will always be there.” Like other veterans helping out Thursday, he hadn’t known Brooks.

So many groups volunteered to take part in paying tribute that there wasn’t enough space to fit them into the 20-minute burial service, said Katie Riposta, the funeral director who put out the call for help last week.

“It renews your faith in humanity,” she said.

More than 8 million of the U.S. veterans living are 65 or older, almost half the veteran population. They are overwhelmingly men. That’s according to a U.S. Census Bureau report last year. As this generation dies, it said, their collective memory of wartime experiences “will pass into history.”

Much about Brooks’ life is unknown.

He was widowed and lived in Augusta. He died on May 18, less than a week after entering a nursing home, Riposta said. A cause of death was not released.

The funeral home and authorities reached his next of kin, but no one was willing to come forward or take responsibility for his body, she said.

“It sounds like he was a good person, but I know nothing about his life,” Riposta said, noting that after Brooks’ death, a woman contacted the funeral home to say he had once taken her in when she had no other place to go, with no details.

“It doesn’t matter if he served one day or made the military his career,” she said. “He still deserves to be respected and not alone.”

The crowd on Thursday wasn’t all

Weather

Friday, June 21, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:22 p.m. Thursday)

High: 94; Low: 75; Precipitation: None
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.32 feet at 7:45 p.m. Thursday

Wells County forecast

Today: Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 94. Heat index values as high as 97. Calm wind becoming west around 5 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 73. Calm wind.

Saturday: Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 95. Heat index values as high as 99. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday Night: A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 76. Southwest wind around 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Sunday: A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 2 p.m. Partly sunny and hot, with a high near 91.

Sunday Night: A 10% chance of showers and thunderstorms before 8 p.m. Mostly clear, with a low around 66.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 87.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 65.

Tuesday: A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 96.

Tuesday Night: A 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 71.

Supreme Court

(Continued from Page 1)

entity.”

Underscoring the limited nature of the court’s ruling, Kavanaugh said as he read a summary of his opinion in the courtroom, “the precise and very narrow question” of the 2017 law “is the only question we answer.”

The court ruled in the case of Charles and Kathleen Moore, of Redmond, Washington. They challenged a \$15,000 tax bill based on Charles Moore’s investment in an Indian company, arguing that the tax violates the 16th Amendment. Ratified in 1913, the amendment allows the federal government to impose an income tax on Americans. Moore said in a sworn statement that he never received any money from the company, KisanKraft Machine Tools Private Ltd.

But Kavanaugh said the tax the Moores disputed was akin to other taxes, including those on foreign-earned income and partnerships. A ruling for the Moores could have called into question those other provisions of the tax code and threatened losses to the U.S. Treasury of several trillion dollars, Kavanaugh noted, echoing the argument made by the Biden administration.

Justice Clarence Thomas, joined by Justice Neil Gorsuch, wrote in dissent that the Moores paid taxes on an investment “that never yielded them a penny.” Under the 16th Amendment, Thomas wrote, the only income that can be taxed is “income realized by the taxpayer.”

Lawyers for the Moores said they were disappointed by the ruling, but took some hope from its narrowness. “What this means is that the constitutionality of other species of future taxes — such as a national wealth tax — remains entirely unad-

ressed by the court’s opinion,” said Dan Greenberg, general counsel of the Competitive Enterprise Institute.

Greenberg pointed to a separate opinion from Justice Amy Coney Barrett, joined by Justice Samuel Alito, that agreed the Moores should lose this case. But Barrett also sided with the dissenters in arguing that income has to be realized — in essence, received — to be taxed in accord with the Constitution.

Kavanaugh’s opinion left the issue of realization open and there are now four justices, one shy of a majority, who have declared their opposition to taxes, like a wealth tax, that don’t require realization.

Leslie Samuels, a tax expert who served in the Treasury Department during the Clinton administration, said the court’s decision was unsettling because it seemed to encourage more legal challenges to taxes and warn Congress that its ability to impose new taxes may be restricted.

“While the government won, the Moores’ backers effectively achieved some important and disquieting successes for the future,” Samuels said.

The case also had kicked up ethical concerns and raised questions about the story the Moores’ lawyers told in court filings. Alito rejected calls from Senate Democrats to step away from the case because of his ties to David Rivkin, a lawyer who is representing the Moores.

Public documents show that Charles Moore’s involvement with the company, including serving as a director for five years, is far more extensive than court filings indicate.

The case is Moore v. U.S., 22-800.

U.S. will redirect air defense interceptor missiles to Ukraine

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House announced Thursday that it will rush delivery of air defense interceptor missiles to Ukraine by redirecting planned shipments to other allied nations, as Washington scrambles to counter increased Russian attacks on Ukrainian energy infrastructure.

National security spokesman John Kirby said the U.S. had taken the “difficult but necessary decision to reprioritize near-term planned deliveries of foreign military sales to other countries,” though he wouldn’t say which nations would be affected or how many.

“Right now, we know that Ukraine urgently needs these additional capabilities,” Kirby said on a call with reporters, adding, “Obviously more is needed, and it’s needed now.”

The announcement comes after President Joe Biden, during last week’s Group of Seven meeting in Italy, suggested such action might be necessary, saying, “We’ve let it be known for those countries that are expecting, from us, air defense systems in the future, that they’re going to have to wait.”

“Everything we have is going to go to Ukraine until their needs are met,” Biden said. “And then we will make good on the commitments we made to other countries.”

The U.S. was already sending Ukraine a consistent stream of interceptors for its air defense systems, including for the Patriot missile batteries and the National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile Systems, or NASAMS. But Kirby said that more was urgently needed as Russia’s military has accelerated missile and drone attacks against cities and infrastructure centers “trying to destroy Ukraine’s energy system ahead of this winter.”



The Democratic candidate for governor in 2024, Jennifer McCormick, announces former state lawmaker Terry Goodin as her pick for lieutenant governor on June 20, 2024 in Indianapolis. (Photo by Casey Smith)

Democrat Jennifer McCormick taps former Indiana Rep. Terry Goodin for lieutenant governor

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Democratic gubernatorial nominee Jennifer McCormick has picked former Indiana lawmaker and social conservative Terry Goodin as her running mate, despite pushback from some within her party.

McCormick made the lieutenant governor announcement Thursday afternoon in Indianapolis, just days after she called out Republican state delegates for choosing conservative Noblesville pastor Micah Beckwith as that party's lieutenant governor nominee.

"My selection of Dr. Terry Goodin is aligned to our unwavering commitment to restoring reproductive rights and freedoms, prioritizing education and ensuring good paying jobs," McCormick said. "It is also a selection that stays true to empowering all Hoosiers — and all means all. As a ticket, we are committed to bringing back common sense civility and bipartisanship, while focusing on issues that are impacting our daily lives."

Goodin must still be approved by convention delegates in July, however. In Indiana, delegates in private party conventions decide the nomination of lieutenant governor alongside picks for other statewide offices, such as attorney general.

Two Hoosiers — Bob Kern and Cliff Marsiglio — have also filed to run for Indiana lieutenant governor at the upcoming state convention.

Reaction to the announcement was mixed on social media, with some Democrats wishing for a more progressive candidate and others highlighting Goodin's legislative and education experience.

Shortly after McCormick's announcement, Sen. J.D. Ford, D-Indianapolis, added intrigue to the situation by telling Importantville's Adam Wren that he is also considering a convention run.

"I've traveled to many parts of the state in the last two years, and I was troubled by what I saw. In county after county, small towns and small cities seem to be going out of business," Goodin said. "Unfortunately, the current leadership in our state seems to be okay with this as they have implemented no real policies that will rebuild our small communities, our rural communities ... We can do better than that in Indiana, folks."

He said change starts with education reforms, creating more union jobs and ensuring Hoosiers get "equal pay for equal work."

"This race we're getting ready to undertake is between those who have a vision for a great future for our state, or those who simply want to be stuck in the past," he said.

A former Democratic member of the Indiana House of Representatives, Goodin represented District

66 — which includes portions of Scott, Clark and Jefferson counties — from 2000 to 2020.

He served as the Minority Leader of the House for a partial term in 2017 but was not re-elected to the position by the Democratic caucus the following year.

Goodin address his voting record

Goodin sparked controversy in 2011, when he voted with a majority of lawmakers for a constitutional ban on gay marriage in Indiana. Three years later, when the measure came up for a vote again, nearly every Democrat voted against it, but Goodin was excused and did not vote.

He also voted with Republicans in support of expanding the ability to carry firearms. In 2020, he co-authored a bill to let off-duty police officers carry firearms into casinos, and in 2019 he co-authored separate legislation to expand Indiana's "stand your ground" law.

Goodin's record also includes votes in favor of several bills adding restrictions or regulations on abortions.

Four years ago, Democrat candidate for governor Woody Myers was readying to tap Goodin as his running mate but progressive Democrats in the party rebelled and he ultimately chose Linda Lawson instead.

"There's a real battle going on in our state right now against women's personal freedoms and their individual rights. I know in my 20 years of service in the legislature, my votes on women's reproductive rights have been somewhat spotty at best," Goodin said of his prior votes on abortion-related measures. "But I was always counseled by those female colleagues who have told me that, 'Hey, if we go too far, Roe v. Wade will be there to catch us. There's a safety net there.' Well, folks, that safety net has gone."

Goodin said the 2022 Supreme Court decision to roll back federal-level rights to abortion "was an all-out assault on a woman's personal freedoms and individual rights," and that it "has put us in an entirely new universe."

"It was politically motivated. It was a partisan decision, and it was wrong," Goodin said. "As defenders of individual rights and personal freedoms and plain old common sense, we must do everything we can to restore the rights of women to make decisions about their own body."

Goodin also addressed his previous positions on gay marriage.

"In 2011, I voted against allowing gay couples to get married in our state. At that time, I did not realize that with that vote, I had totally dehumanized, demeaned and hurt thousands of Hoosiers," Goodin said. "I'm person enough to stand here and say I'm sorry for that, that I caused that hurt."

"Like many other Hoosiers, with time and growth I've come to realize my vote was wrong and misguided," he continued. "Now, I can't go back 13 years and change that vote. But I can confirm this. I can confirm that love is love. And if two people want to affirm that love with marriage, they should have the right to do so in the great state of Indiana."

Republicans respond

In February 2022, President Joe Biden appointed Goodin as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Indiana state director for rural development. A USDA spokesperson confirmed that Goodin has since resigned from that post. His last day was June 14.

Outside of the Statehouse, Goodin previously served for 24 years as superintendent of Crothersville Community Schools, and as an assistant teacher and principal in Brown and Scott counties. He additionally raises beef cattle on his family farm in Austin, Indiana, according to his USDA biography.

The Democratic duo — McCormick and delegates' pick for her running mate — will face Republican gubernatorial nominee Mike Braun and his running mate, Beckwith.

Indiana's GOP delegates narrowly named Beckwith as the Republican nominee for lieutenant governor in a shocking vote at the party's convention Saturday, rebuffing first-term Rep. Julie McGuire — Braun's hand-picked choice for the role — who had received a last-minute endorsement from former President Donald Trump.

Beckwith ran an unorthodox solo campaign for the number two spot, publicly pitching himself as both the prospective governor's cheerleader and a check on his power.

The GOP delegates' pick has since spurred turmoil within the Indiana Republican Party. In a confidential memo, prominent conservative attorney Jim Bopp predicted that Beckwith could be catastrophic for Braun's campaign and open the door for a Democratic victory.

"Liberal Democrat Jennifer McCormick continues to let us know who she is, a radical Biden ally. After facing multiple rejections from her own Democrat party friends, she turned to her old pal Joe Biden to pluck a member of his administration to plug in as her running mate," said Griffin Reid, a spokesperson for the Indiana Republican Party, in a Thursday statement. "She won't rest until she brings Biden's policies to Hoosier door steps! These radical, liberal ideas have no place in Indiana, which is still very much Trump country. We look forward to Mike Braun leading our party to victories up and down the ballot come November!"

The Libertarian ticket is Donald Rainwater and Tonya Hudson.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

County:

Tuesday, 3:55 p.m., 1000 North Washington Street, Bluffton. Caller reported verbal threats from ex-boyfriend.

Tuesday, 4:30 p.m., 2700 South Main Street, Liberty Center. Report of a very ill raccoon running in circles, officer put the animal down.

Tuesday, 5:38 p.m., 1400 West 100 North, Bluffton. Caller reported camera footage showing man and woman looking around their home.

Tuesday, 11:01 p.m., Bluffton Regional Medical Center. Officer transported subject to Maple Heights.

Wednesday, 12:47 a.m., Southern Wells School. Officer checked on suspicious vehicle parked in the grass. Vehicle belonged to a staff member, nothing further.

Wednesday, 6:16 a.m., East 300 North and North 450 East, Bluffton. Driver cited for speeding 73 in a 45 mph zone.

Wednesday, 10:57 a.m., 7600 South 200 East, Bluffton. Officers located wanted subject Brett Rowles as he attempted to escape from the back.

Wednesday, 3:44 p.m., North Meridian Road and 200 North, Bluffton. Report of a vehicle that keeps stopping in front of residence.

Wednesday, 11:23 p.m., South Cherry and East 1st streets, Petroleum. Report of fireworks in the area. Unable to locate.

Thursday, 12:18 a.m., 3600 West 1000 South, Poneto. Caller reported a potential burglary in progress. Officer did not locate burglars, but noted the caller appeared to be intoxicated.

Thursday, 1:37 a.m., 3600 West 1000 South, Poneto. Caller again reported hearing suspicious noises around the house, and believed 20-30 homeless people lived in the woods. No homeless people found in the woods.

Thursday, 6:59 a.m., Wells County Jail. Woman transported from Allen County without issue.

Thursday, 10:19 a.m., 4800 East S.R. 124, Bluffton. Report of an adult texting minor threats. Unclear if the threats were under 18.

Thursday, 11:47 a.m., 300 West 100 North, Bluffton. Caller reported they saw a car hit their mailbox when pulling out of the driveway.

Ossian: Wednesday, 5:25 a.m., South Jefferson and East Lafever streets, Ossian. Driver cited for driving while suspended.

Wednesday, 12:12 p.m., Silo Farms. Report of a verbal domestic dispute,

woman refused to get out of the roadway. Woman and her child were transported to a residence.

Thursday, 10:42 a.m., S.R. 1 and U.S. 224, Ossian. Driver cited for expired license plate.

ACCIDENTS

Brett Allen Rowles, 28, Bluffton; corrupt business influence, a Level 5 felony, and theft, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$35,500.

Charles Edward Sills Jr., possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

Randale Lee Thompson II, 44, Bluffton; operating while intoxicated, a Level 6 felony, and operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$5,000.

Hunter Logan Clark, 24, Spencerville; burglary, a Level 6 felony, theft, a Class A misdemeanor, possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$8,000.

Skylar Cole Stewart, 24, Hartford City; possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor, and possession of paraphernalia and operating with a controlled substance in body, both Class C misdemeanors. Bond set at \$3,000.

State adds five sites to eliminate firefighter training deserts

By MIA HILKOWITZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle

The state will build five new firefighter training sites across Indiana as part of Gov. Eric Holcomb's multimillion-dollar plan to eliminate "training deserts."

The state will build towers in Washington Township, Chrisney, Hartford City, Rushville and Paoli to train firefighters on live burn training structures. This is in addition to the four training sites built under the first phase of the plan — called the Hub-and-Spoke Training Model — which are in Wabash, Corydon, Linton and Rensselaer.

"For years, gaps have challenged and stretched Indiana's fire service across the state," Holcomb said in a press release. "Now, with this new program, we have the opportunity to properly support all those firefighters who sacrifice so much for each and every one of us everyday."

The Indiana General Assembly appropriated \$17.7 million toward Holcomb's plan in 2023, with \$7.7 million allocated for constructing new training sites in areas where

firefighters must drive more than 30 miles to train. The other \$10 million is intended to purchase personal protection equipment for volunteer firefighters, which Holcomb doled out to 66 different departments in April.

If there is any left over funding after constructing the new sites, the Indiana Fire and Public Safety Academy — an education and training branch of the state fire and building safety division — will evaluate how to use the funds.

Indiana Fire Marshal Steve Jones said in the release that most Indiana fire departments have volunteer firefighters who cannot travel to other areas of the state to further their education.

"This plan tells them we are about the quality of training available to them, and we're committed to making it more accessible," Jones said.

The training sites in Wabash, Corydon, Linton and Rensselaer will be fully operational this summer, although it is unclear when construction on the five new sites will begin.

Randy Head emerges as likely next Hoosier GOP chief

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Lobbyist and former state lawmaker Randy Head has surfaced as the Indiana Republican Party's next head.

Head would succeed Anne Hathaway, who recently resigned after a 10-month stint chairing the party.

"I am honored to be considered for Chairman of the Indiana Republican Party,"

Head said in a statement to the Capital Chronicle.

"Thanks to President Donald Trump, Indiana went from a toss-up state to a Republican state, carried by nearly 20 points," he continued. "Indiana is poised to be first on the board for Donald Trump again in 2024, and we have great leadership with Mike Braun, Micah Beckwith, Todd Rokita, and Jim Banks."

"Our party will bring great results for Hoosiers from the top to the bottom of the ticket and I am excited to get to work for the Republican Party and Mike Braun," he concluded.

Corrections and clarifications

An incident in Tuesday's Police Notebook misstated that several small dogs were loose in the 10 block of East Washington Street in Poneto. The police report states that there were reportedly two German Shepherds and a smaller dog growling at the caller and children.

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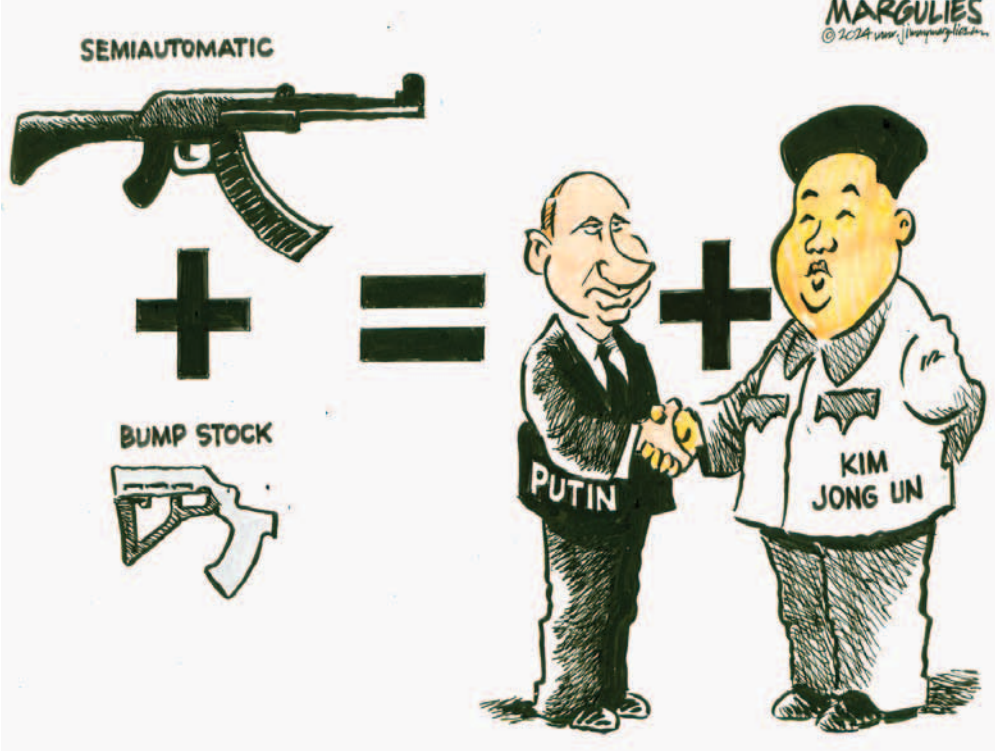
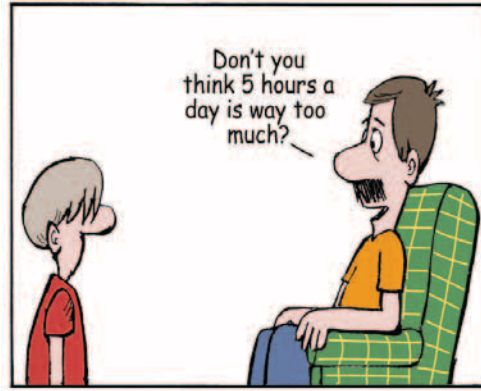
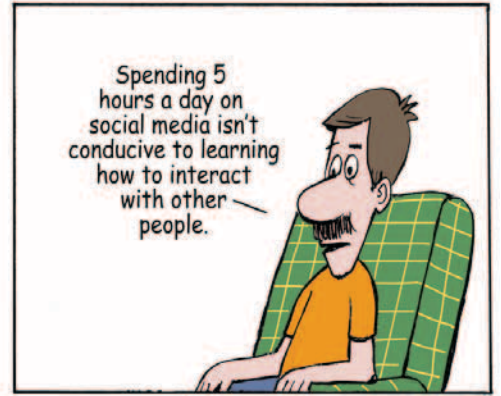
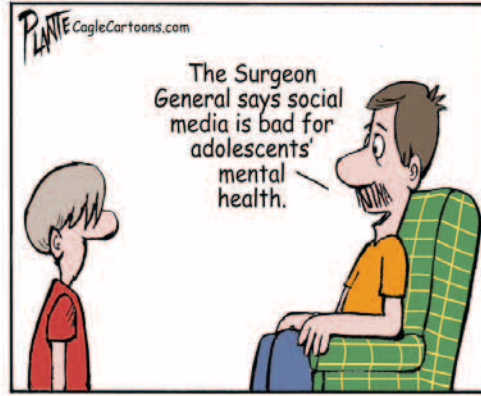
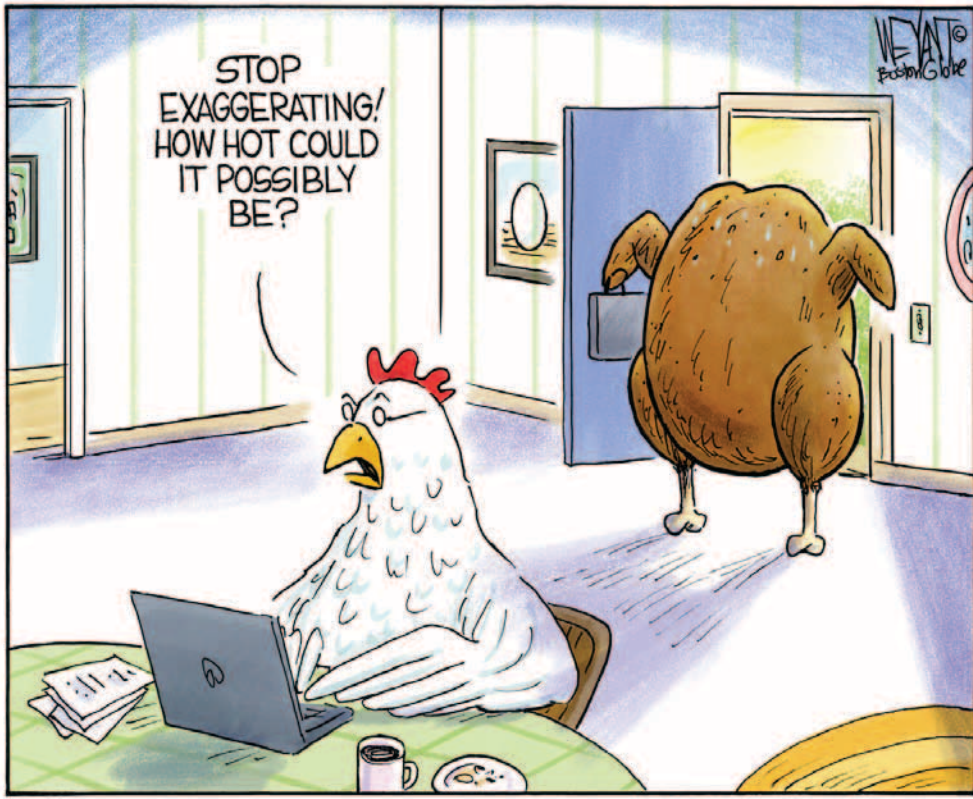
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The Week That Was - a look back through cartoonists' eyes...



Other Opinions

Exploring solutions to soaring home and car insurance rates

Most readers by now have experienced the sticker shock when their latest auto and homeowner insurance policies arrive. The Washington solution? Expand political control over insurers, naturally. But that misdiagnosis won't solve the problem.

Auto insurance rates are up 46.2% since January 2020, more than in the eight previous years combined. Homeowner premiums have increased 37.8% since 2019 and 5.8% in the first three months this year. Arizona (62.1%), Illinois (56.9%), Texas (54.5%), California (48.4%) and Florida (42.5%) have seen even higher increases. (See nearby chart.)

Insurers are withdrawing from states, forcing policy holders to scramble for alternative coverage. State-backed insurers of last resort are swelling. Florida's Citizens Property Insurance Corporation is now the largest insurer in the Sunshine State.

Progressives blame — what else? — climate change and corporate greed. Insurers have “underwritten financing fossil fuels, and then they profit from selling protection from the impacts of those fossil fuels on climate.” Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren proclaims. “And now when climate risks are rising, they’re trying to hang American families out to dry here and demanding either higher premiums or to get out of the market altogether.”

Well, no. The actual culprit is a bad storm of inflation, litigation abuse and government-made dysfunctions, which have been exacerbated by a string of bad weather.

Start with auto insurance rates, which have increased in tandem with accident claims and vehicle values. Used and new vehicle prices have increased 29.5% and 20.4%, respectively, since January 2020. More expensive cars cost more to insure. Prices for vehicle parts have risen 21.7% since the start of the pandemic while repair costs are up 48%.

Litigation abuse is also growing as plaintiff firms sue insurers for inflated damages. This is one reason, in addition to rising medical costs, that the average bodily injury claim has increased by some 80% since 2014. Excessive litigation accounted for about \$4 billion in commercial auto insurance claim costs in 2021.

Storms and wildfires are causing more damage, but this is largely because building values and repair costs have soared. Home construction material prices and labor costs have climbed by roughly 38% over the last five years. Insurers are also paying more for reinsurance against catastrophic events.

Higher interest rates and declining profitability are making it more expensive for insurers to raise capital, further pushing up premiums. Property and casualty insurers last year paid out \$101.70 for every \$100 they collected in premiums. Such losses are unsustainable, which means premiums will continue rising as insurers price in their growing costs.

Cue Democrats, who hope to exploit these problems to expand Washington's control over property and casualty insurers, as they did over health insurers with ObamaCare. While the 1945 McCarran-Ferguson Act enshrined state regulatory authority over insurance, the Dodd-Frank Act created a Federal Insurance Office to “monitor” insurers.

Ms. Warren and 23 Democratic Members of Congress last month urged the FIO to subpoena data from insurers and states “to monitor issues and gaps in insurance regulations that could contribute to a systemic crisis and leave traditionally underserved communities without access to affordable insurance products.”

Progressives want to establish a national insurer of last resort and empower the feds to regulate rates, putting Pennsylvanians on the hook for mansions in Napa Valley. Don't discount the odds in a second Biden term.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
Distributed by The Associated Press

Democrats turn lawfare into a campaign ad

President Joe Biden's reelection campaign has released a new ad that synthesizes the Democratic effort to use criminal charges and lawsuits against former President Donald Trump. “In the courtroom, we see Donald Trump for who he is,” the ad begins. “He’s been convicted of 34 felonies. Found liable for sexual assault. And he committed financial fraud.” Trump, the ad continues, is a “convicted criminal,” while Biden is “a president who’s fighting for your family.”

Maybe there were times when you wondered what accounted for the swarm of legal attacks on Trump, coming from elected Democratic prosecutors and appointees of the Biden Justice Department, in late 2022 and 2023. Part of it was delayed gratification; many Democrats had long been itching to go after Trump legally, but as long as he was president of the United States, until Jan. 20, 2021, that was hard to do.

But a larger reason was the coming 2024 presidential campaign. By the middle of 2022, it was clear that Trump intended to run for his old office again. For a moment, the impressive reelection victory of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis in November 2022 appeared to set up a primary contest between the two men, but DeSantis faltered. Trump always had the support of a majority of Republicans, and as the months went by, his strength in the GOP nominating contest grew and grew.

That's where the Democratic strategy came in. In September 2022, the elected Democratic attorney general of New York, Letitia James, filed a massive lawsuit against Trump, seeking to destroy his business and extract hundreds of millions of dollars from him by accusing Trump of committing financial fraud by overvaluing his real estate properties.

In November 2022, the writer E. Jean Carroll, who in 2019 accused Trump of defamation, filed a second lawsuit against Trump, this one accusing him of rape. The accusation was decades past the statute of limitations, but Carroll, using a special one-time-only New York me-too law, got in just under the line to allege that Trump attacked her sometime in the 1990s. She had never reported or publicly mentioned the event until she began selling a book in 2019.

In March 2023, the elected Democratic district attorney of Manhattan, Alvin Bragg, employed a rarely used legal maneuver to turn an out-of-date misdemeanor allegation into 34 felony counts against the former president. In June 2023, Jack Smith, the special counsel appointed by the Biden Justice Department to investigate Trump, indicted Trump on 40 felony counts in the classified records case. In August 2023, Smith indicted Trump again, this time on four felony counts related to the 2020 election and Jan. 6. And then, in August 2023, Fani Willis, the elected Democratic district attorney of Fulton County, Georgia, indicted Trump on 13 felony counts related to the 2020 election.

It was a multiple-redundant attack. That is, if one prong of the effort failed, or became mired in legal procedure, there were others ready to go forward. The

first success was the E. Jean Carroll suit, in which a jury, guided by a judge whose decisions made Trump's defense difficult, found Trump liable for the decades-old allegation of “sexual abuse” against Carroll. Trump was ordered to pay Carroll more than \$83 million in damages. That allowed the Biden commercial to say Trump was found liable for “sexual assault.” (The actual verdict was “sexual abuse,” but perhaps the Biden admakers thought “sexual assault” sounded better.)

The next hit was the Letitia James lawsuit. It was, in the eyes of some experts, a weak case, certainly not worthy of the penalties sought, but under New York law, Trump did not have the right to a jury trial. Another judge who made Trump's defense difficult decided Trump was liable and ordered him to pay a jaw-dropping \$354 million in damages, even though no victim of Trump's alleged corrupt scheme was ever identified. That allowed the Biden commercial to say Trump “committed financial fraud.”

The lawsuits paved the way for the Biden campaign to make two critical claims in the ad. But after that, things began to slow down. The special counsel's documents case became mired in questions of evidence, procedure, and other issues. There is very little chance it will come to trial, and zero chance it will be concluded, before the election. Smith's 2020/J6 case has slowed down because some of the special counsel's charges are so aggressive that the Supreme Court decided to rule on Trump's defenses. The court's opinions are expected soon, but there appears to be no way the case could go to trial before the election. And in Georgia, Fani Willis case is disintegrating over the prosecutor's misconduct. It might never come to trial.

But the Bragg case managed to avoid procedural pitfalls and go to trial starting in April. Now, with Trump's conviction on 34 counts, it has paid off beyond measure for the Biden campaign. Trump, the ad says, is a “convicted criminal” who was “convicted of 34 felonies” — the claim that makes up the centerpiece of the ad. (The ad shows Trump's infamous mug shot, which actually came from the Georgia case, but the ad isn't too fastidious about the details.)

So the new ad is made possible by the Democratic attack on Trump, successes that all happened to originate with Democrats in New York — the Carroll case, the James lawsuit and the Bragg prosecution. Together, the cases gave Biden admakers the material they needed to frame the campaign as a choice between a convicted criminal and a president who is working hard for you. It could not be better timed for a president struggling in the polls. The race is beginning to peak, with the run-up to the first debate and the Republican Convention approaching — and now an elaborate campaign of lawfare is paying off at just the right time.



Byron York

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Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, June 21, the 173rd day of 2024. There are 193 days left in the year. Summer begins today.

Today's Highlight in History: On June 21, 1788, the United States Constitution went into effect as New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify it.

On this date:

In 1377, King Edward III died after ruling England for 50 years; he was succeeded by his grandson, Richard II.

In 1834, Cyrus Hall McCormick received a patent for his reaping machine.

In 1942, an Imperial Japanese submarine fired shells at Fort Stevens on the Oregon coast, causing little damage.

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Holly Gaskill, Editor
Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor

Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.

Navigating family dynamics in the aftermath of a narcissistic parent's death

Dear Annie: Very late in my life, I realized I was raised and influenced in a narcissistic family. My late father was a (mostly angry) narcissist, and my late mother was a patient, long-suffering enabler.

Dear Annie by Annie Lane

Dear Annie by Annie Lane



Prior to this, I didn't know anything about narcissism. Family members jokingly (?) had called my father a narcissist. In hindsight, I think that the more we helped Dad, the more they resented me/us.

After my mother passed and as our father aged, I grew closer to him in spite of our family history. Basically, I felt sorry for him. He alienated himself from his other adult children due to real and perceived issues.

Never in a million years would I have predicted the terrible situation after his death. Have you heard of this happening before? And how do I proceed? They have no contact with me or my husband.

Do you think we are right to forgive? - Narcissistic Family

Dear Narcissistic Family: Yes, I think you made the right decision to forgive. While it sounds like your father was very far from perfect, you were able to see the good in him and enjoy the time that you had with him.

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.

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While this was happening, my siblings continued criticizing him, justly and unjustly, and basically severed ties. I encouraged them to reach out and would share things with them via text that I thought they may want to know from our visits.

Well, our father died and everything hit the fan afterward! The whole narcissistic house of cards fell. It was like a huge shift among the siblings. The golden child (youngest) was the executor and used my dad's large estate to secure loyalty among the others.

My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



Question: Why is it that so many people - even rockers, rappers, and sports stars - wear crosses or tattoo them on their skin, but curse Him with their lips? - A.C.

Answer: The appeal of the cross is universal. Many see it only as a symbol of hope. When Jesus walked on this earth, great crowds followed Him as He healed the sick, raised the dead, and fed the hungry.

But there are also people of every race who have trusted in Christ

The appeal of the cross is universal

who died on the cross for their salvation. The appeal of the cross touches the hearts [of the homeless] and penetrates into the mansions of the elite, bringing a peace and joy which money cannot buy.

When a famous financier died years ago, it was found that the year before his death he had made his will, consisting of about 10,000 words and 37 clauses.

the throne of my Heavenly Father. I entreat my children to maintain and defend at all hazards, and at all costs personally, the blessed doctrine of the complete atonement of sin through the blood of Jesus Christ once offered, and through that alone."

He acknowledged his vast wealth was as powerless as the beggar's poverty to bring him salvation. He was dependent upon the mercy of God as all of us are, no matter what our situation in life may be.

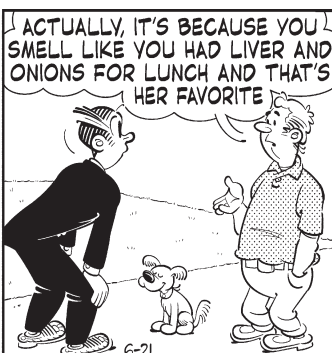
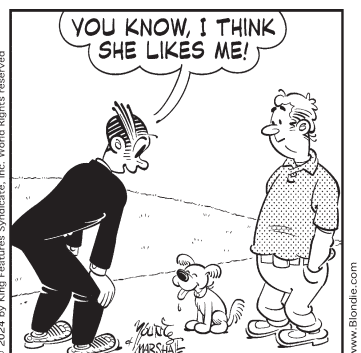
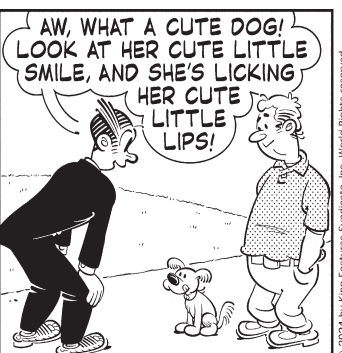
(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Graham.)

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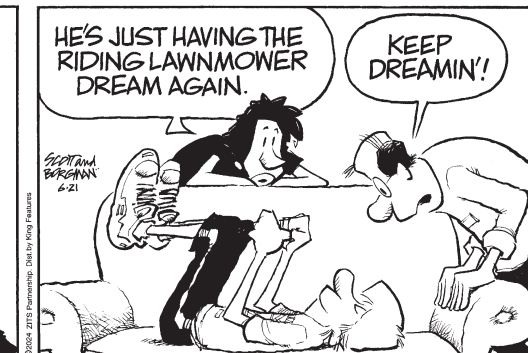
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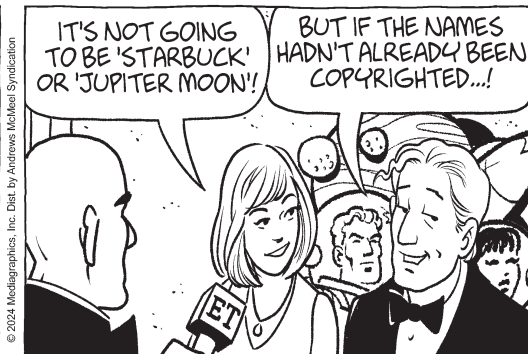
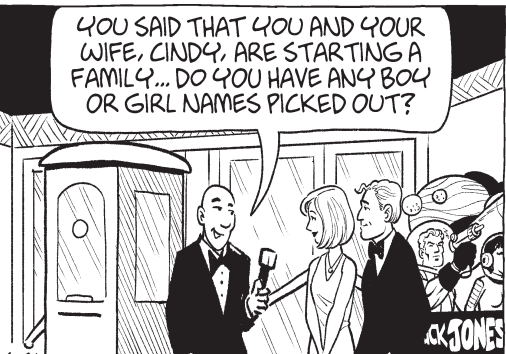
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By Bil Keane



The LOCKHORNS



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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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

Table for yesterday's crossword answer 6-21 with a grid of numbers and letters.

Orioles rout Yankees 17-5, win 22nd straight series vs. AL East

NEW YORK (AP) — Cedric Mullins hit a two-run homer to spark a six-run second inning, Gunnar Henderson reached base four times and the Baltimore Orioles knocked out rookie pitcher Luis Gil early in a 17-5 rout of the New York Yankees on Thursday.

On a 90-degree day, the Orioles improved to 5-2 against the Yankees and set a major league record by winning their 22nd straight series against an AL East opponent. According to the Elias Sports Bureau, the Orioles surpassed the mark set by the Atlanta Braves (1998-2000), Milwaukee Brewers (1991-92) and Cincinnati Reds (1975, 1969-1970).

"Really proud of how our guys went in this series, the way we came out and swung the bats today, that was incredible," Baltimore manager Brandon Hyde said. "So many hard-hit balls there early, just really, really good at-bats."

Baltimore also improved to 19-7 against the AL East this season and 51-27 since the start of last season.

"I don't know what kind of statement we're making," Hyde said. "I know teams think we're a good team and our record shows it and the way we've been playing against our division and how we've been playing baseball in the last couple of years."

Henderson doubled twice among his three hits to extend the majors' longest active on-base streak to 27 games and his hitting streak to a career-high 13 games. He also added an RBI



groundout in the sixth.

"It was awesome," Henderson said. Ryan Mountcastle had a bases-clearing double and an RBI single in the ninth off New York catcher Jose Trevino. Anthony Santander hit a three-run homer for his MLB-best 10th homer this month as the Orioles moved to within a half-game of first-place New York.

Ryan O'Hearn added an RBI double and drove in four runs, while Austin Hays hit a two-run homer in the seventh as the Orioles collected 19 hits and scored their most runs since an 18-5 win at Cleveland on June 6, 2021.

Baltimore also scored its second-most runs in the Bronx. The Orioles scored 18 in a nine-run win on June 8, 1986.

"I'm really proud of our guys not buying into too much that comes from outside noise and things like that," O'Hearn said.

Gleyber Torres hit a solo homer before exiting with a groin injury and Aaron Judge hit his major league-leading 27th homer by lining a two-run shot in the third off Baltimore starter Cole Irvin. Judge also had an RBI single in his return from a one-game absence after getting hit on the left

hand in New York's 4-2 win on Tuesday.

The Yankees lost for the fifth time in seven games and allowed their most runs since a 19-5 loss to Cleveland on Aug. 15, 2019. New York also "They're about as formidable as there is and the first couple of series they've had their way with us," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "They've had the upper hand."

Irvin allowed five runs and five hits in 4 2/3 innings. Bryan Baker (1-0) relieved him and was credited with the win.

Gil allowed seven runs and eight hits in a career-low 1 1/3 innings. "They got after him today and didn't miss some heaters in the center of the plate," Boone said. "That's been uncommon."

Henderson opened the game with a double over right fielder Juan Soto's head and scored on O'Hearn's two-strike single. Mullins blasted a slider into the right field seats for a 3-0 lead and Mountcastle chopped a double past third baseman Oswaldo Cabrera down the left field line for a 6-0 lead.

After Torres and Judge connected, Santander went deep in the fifth off Tim Hill, who signed with the Yankees before the game.

Gil's short outing ended New York's streak of 76 straight starts of at least four innings to start the season. It was the seventh-longest streak in baseball and the longest in the American League since the White Sox did it in the first 89 games of 2006.

Cruz, Deleon will play in All-Star Game

Wells County will send two recent graduates to the Indiana Football Coaches Association North-South All-Star Football Game.

Defensive tackle Johnny Cruz from Bluffton High School and Norwell High School kicker Austin Deleon will play in the All-Star game on Friday, July 12, at Decatur Central High School.

Deleon is committed to the University of Saint Francis, and Cruz to Indiana Tech for wrestling.

Six-time Olympic medalist Matt Grevers comes out of retirement

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Matt Grevers had a different perspective on the U.S. Olympic swimming trials this time around.

Returning to the pool at age 39, the six-time Olympic medalist competed Thursday in the preliminaries of the 50-meter freestyle without the least bit of pressure.

He didn't come close to advancing to the semifinals, tying for 47th out of 82 swimmers who competed in the all-out dash from one end of the pool to the other.

Grevers touched in 22.82 seconds, 1.12 behind top qualifiers Michael Andrew and Ryan Held.

The time wasn't really all that important. Grevers ended his three-year retirement from competitive swimming for the chance to swim in an NFL stadium and catch up with old friends without all the expectations that came along with being a leader of the U.S. team.

"It's cool to know at 39 that my body definitely still has it," Grevers said. "It's just what are you willing to put into it. So it was really fun to make the (trials), really fun just to know I get to swim here, hang out with a lot of friends, walking on the pool deck, saying hi to all the coaches and older athletes. It felt kind of like a homecoming."

Grevers was inspired by Gabrielle Rose, the oldest swimmer at the trials at age 46.

Rose, who competed in the 1996 and 2000 Summer Games, advanced to the semifinals in both of her breaststroke races, drawing large, appreciative cheers each time she walked across the deck.

"Gabby's cheer when she went out for semifinals, it was like one of the loudest ones of the meet," Grevers said. "So people are rooting for the old guys just to see what you can do. Like, hey, you're almost 40 and you're able to push your body to that level. I think everyone can kind of then picture themselves and say, 'Hey, what I can do if I was eating or training a little more carefully?'"

Grevers won two golds and a silver at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and repeated the feat four years later in London, including a victory in the 100 backstroke.

With limited time for training, he focused on meeting the qualifying standard for the 50 free at these trials rather than his signature backstroke event.

NCAA presents options to expand March Madness from 68 teams

By DOUG FEINBERG
AP Basketball Writer

The NCAA has presented a plan to Division I conference commissioners that would expand the lucrative men's and women's basketball tournaments by four or eight teams alongside an option to leave each field at 68 teams, according to a person familiar with the details.

The proposals were outlined to the commissioners this week by NCAA Senior Vice President of Basketball Dan Gavitt and NCAA Vice President for Women's Basketball Lynn Holzman, the person told The Associated Press on Thursday on condition of anonymity because no official announcements have been made. The news was first reported by Yahoo! Sports.

Under the proposal, expansion of the 68-team field included both four- and eight-team models. The NCAA would keep its 64-team bracket but would add play-in games involving the 10 through 12 seeds.

If the men's tournament were to expand it is expected the women's tourney would as well.

There are many in college basketball who have

said they believe the 68-team fields and three weekends of play are ideal but pressure has grown to add teams and games to one of the most popular sports events on the U.S. calendar. Last year, the NCAA Division I board of directors approved recommendations that included allowing one quarter of teams in larger sports to compete in championship events; in that scenario, March Madness tourneys could expand to nearly 90 teams.

The NCAA is currently in the midst of an eight-year extension of its TV deal for the men's tournament worth \$8.8 billion that runs through 2032. That would not be expected to change if a handful of teams are added.

More games would provide a small boost through ticket sales and merchandise, but the pool of money the NCAA uses to pay out conferences and member schools would essentially stay the same. What could change, however, is how that money would be divided up if the tournament broadens.

Expansion would also mean the men's tournament would have to find an additional site besides Dayton for its First Four

games. The Ohio city already has games on Tuesday and Wednesday and wouldn't be able to host additional play-in games ahead of the tourney's traditional first-round opening on Thursday. Women's play-in games are at the same campus sites as the first two rounds of the tournament.

Expansion is largely backed by larger conferences and smaller leagues do not want to lose the automatic bids that come with a conference tournament championship or face the prospect of always being slotted for the play-in games.

The earliest the NCAA Tournament could expand would be the 2025-26 season, the person told AP. The NCAA basketball oversight committee meets next week and the tournament selection committee has a meeting next month.

The men's tournament last expanded in 2011 when it went from 64 to 68 teams. The women's tournament matched that in 2022.

The women's tournament is coming off its most successful year ever that included a record audience of 18.7 million for the title game win by

South Carolina over Iowa, the highest for a basketball broadcast of any kind in five years. It outdrew the men's championship game — UConn winning its second consecutive title with a win over Purdue — by nearly 3 million viewers. The women's tournament also had record attendance.



Arrow McLaren makes another IndyCar driver change, signs 19-year-old Nolan Siegel

By JENNA FRYER
AP Auto Racing Writer

Arrow McLaren made yet another driver change Tuesday when it signed 19-year-old Nolan Siegel to drive the remainder of the IndyCar season. He will be the third driver to race the No. 6 this year.

Siegel will replace F2 champion Theo Pourchaire beginning this weekend at Laguna Seca in California. Pourchaire on Monday posted on social media: "Man I can't believe I'm gonna race on the legendary Laguna Seca this weekend."

McLaren had other plans, particularly after Siegel was part of the LMP2 class-winning team Sunday at the 24 Hours of Le Mans in a car co-owned by McLaren CEO Zak Brown. The team already had its eye on the young Californian, who had been running in the Indy NXT feeder series with occasional IndyCar starts.

Siegel will be the youngest driver on the grid. He was born one month after Chip Ganassi Racing rookie Kyffin Simpson.

"I'm looking forward to jumping right in with the Arrow McLaren team this week and confirming my place in the IndyCar Series in papaya moving forward," Siegel said. "This is an unexpected jump, but I'm thrilled to be in this position. I am looking forward to this new journey and learning alongside the entire team starting this weekend in my home state."

Siegel had hoped to remain eligible for IndyCar rookie of the year as early as next season, but two weeks ago at Road America he was plucked by Juncos Hollinger Racing to be an emergency replacement for Agustín Canapino. Siegel then decided to skip the Indy NXT race, which took him out of contention for that championship this season and ultimately changed the trajectory of his career.

Once he was out of Indy NXT championship contention, McLaren sporting director Tony Kanaan wanted Siegel driving for McLaren on a multi-year deal. Kanaan worked closely with Siegel on qualifying weekend for the Indianapolis 500, when two crashes kept Siegel out of the 33-car field.

It was on bump day that Kanaan became convinced the young driver is one of IndyCar's future stars.

Arrow McLaren team principal Gavin Ward called Siegel "one of the hottest prospects on the upcoming side for IndyCar and the North American racing scene."

Tiger Woods' son, Charlie, qualifies for first USGA event

CORAL SPRINGS, Fla. (AP) — Charlie Woods earned his way into his first USGA championship on Wednesday when the 15-year-old son of Tiger Woods had the leading score among qualifiers for the U.S. Junior Amateur next month at Oakland Hills.

Charlie Woods recovered from a bogey-double bogey start at Eagle Trace Golf Club to finish with a 1-under 71 to be medalist from his qualifier, one of four players to qualify for the site.

"I didn't play great my first two holes, but I played really good for the last 16. I just told myself not to make any more bogeys or doubles and I took advantage of some nice birdie looks when I had them," Woods said.

Tiger Woods was 14 when he qualified for his first U.S. Junior, reaching the semifinals. Woods won his first U.S. Junior Ama-



Charlie Woods

teur a year later at Bay Hill in 19 holes. Woods is the only player to win the U.S. Junior three straight times.

Players have to be under 19 before the championship ends.

The U.S. Junior Amateur is July 22-28 at Oakland Hills in the suburbs of Detroit. Woods will be among 264 players who will go through 36 holes of stroke play on the North and South courses at Oakland Hills to determine which 64 players

advance to match play.

Tiger Woods is a nine-time USGA champion — three straight U.S. Junior Amateurs, three straight U.S. Amateurs and three U.S. Open titles.

"The USGA means a lot to me," Charlie Woods said. "I want to win USGA championships and hopefully one day the U.S. Open."

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6/21

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Cash4Life — 13-15-30-54-57, Cash Ball: 02
Quick Draw Midday — 05-24-27-29-32-36-42-43-47-48-50-53-54-57-58-62-65-67-69-74, BE: 32
Daily Three-Midday — 02-01-06, SB: 03
Daily Three-Evening — 01-06-08, SB: 09
Daily Four-Midday — 06-07-03-07, SB: 03
Daily Four-Evening — 06-02-05-09, SB: 09
Quick Draw Evening — 02-03-07-11-12-18-19-21-30-33-41-43-46-50-56-57-58-66-67-71, BE: 56
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Public Sale Calendar

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 decorations, swords, coins & silver, Glock 45 9MM, more. 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! Pick up June 24, 1-6 p.m. and June 25, 9 a.m.-noon, 812 Elm Street, Decatur, IN. *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, Neal Wolhuter, 260-336-2219, Jason Johnloz, 260-273-9177. *Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management*, halderman.com, 800-424-2324.

This Week's Garage Sales

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BETHEHEM LUTHERAN SCHOOL gym, 7545 N 650 E, Ossiian, 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.

Receive a free garage sale kit when placing a three day line classified ad.

Public Notice

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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.

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The fate of latest cease-fire proposal hinges on Netanyahu, Hamas' leader

By TIA GOLDENBERG
Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — The fate of the proposed cease-fire deal for Gaza hinges in many ways on two men: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Hamas' leader in Gaza, Yahya Sinwar.

Each leader faces significant political and personal pressures that may be influencing their decision-making. And neither seems to be in a rush to make concessions to end the devastating eight-month-long war and free hostages taken by Hamas in its Oct. 7 attack.

Hamas has accepted the broad outline of the plan but requested "amendments." Netanyahu has publicly disputed aspects of it, even though the U.S. has framed it as an Israeli plan.

Among the major sticking points is how to move from an initial temporary truce in the deal's first phase to a permanent cease-fire that includes an end to the fighting and full withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza.

Here is a look at what may be driving the two leaders:

Netanyahu is 'buying time'

Throughout the war, the long-serving Israeli leader has been criticized for letting political considerations get in the way of his decision-making.

His government is buoyed by two ultranationalist parties that oppose cease-fire deals. Instead, they prefer continuous military pressure to try to defeat Hamas and free the hostages. They also talk about "encouraging" Palestinians to leave and reestablishing Israeli settlements, which were dismantled when Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005 after a 38-year occupation.

Netanyahu himself has taken a tough line on the cease-fire, saying he will not end the war until Hamas' military and governing

capabilities are destroyed.

But with his hard-line partners pledging to topple the government if a cease-fire is struck, Netanyahu has been pushed even farther into the corner. His reliance on them to remain in power recently intensified after a centrist member of his war Cabinet, former military chief Benny Gantz, quit over frustrations with Netanyahu's handling of the conflict.

Netanyahu has had to balance internal pressures against demands from the Biden administration, which is promoting the latest cease-fire proposal, and from families of hostages who believe only a deal can set their loved ones free. Tens of thousands of Israelis have joined mass protests in support of the hostage families.

Netanyahu appears to be siding with his far-right governing partners for the moment, knowing they hold the key to his immediate political survival, although he says he has the country's best interests in mind.

Their departure from the government could lead to new elections, which would open him up to a vote that could end his rule and likely the start of investigations into the failures of Oct. 7.

Netanyahu is also on trial for corruption, proceedings that have continued throughout the war yet have faded from the public consciousness. A cease-fire deal could refocus attention on the charges, which have dogged the Israeli leader for years and which he adamantly denies.

Netanyahu's political fortunes appear to have improved over the course of the war. His public support plummeted in the aftermath of Hamas' surprise attack on southern Israel. But over time it has gradually ticked up. While he would still face a tough path toward reelection, he isn't a write-off.

"He runs the war as he wants, which means very slowly. He's buying time," said Gideon Rahat, a senior fellow at the Israel Democracy Institute, a Jerusalem think tank, and chairman of the political science department at Jerusalem's Hebrew University.

Rahat said Netanyahu is also keen to push on with the war in the hopes that former U.S. President Donald Trump returns to office, possibly giving Israel more leeway in its fight against Hamas.

"I don't see any cease-fire that really comes close to being something he adopts," Rahat said. "But he's not the only one that controls reality."

Sinwar's mission is to survive

Hamas' leader in Gaza also appears to be in no rush to sign on to a deal.

The militant group's exiled leadership is somewhat varied in its opinion on how to approach a cease-fire agreement. But Sinwar — the mastermind of the Oct. 7 attacks — has particular weight on the matter.

As a Hamas stalwart who spent decades in Israeli prisons, he has incentives to keep the war going.

On a personal level, his life may be on the line. Israel vowed to kill him in response to the October assault, and Sinwar is believed to be hiding deep within Gaza's underground tunnels surrounded by Israeli hostages.

If a cease-fire takes hold, Sinwar will be taking a great risk stepping out in public.

"I think he understands that he's kind of a dead man walking. But it's a matter of how long can he hold out?" said Khaled el-Gindy, a senior fellow at the Washington-based Middle East Institute think tank.

But Sinwar is motivated by more than just his own personal fate. Steeped in Hamas' radical

Israel's pledge to guard an aid route into Gaza falls flat

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Israeli military said Sunday that it was establishing a new safe corridor to deliver aid into southern Gaza. But days later, this self-declared "tactical pause" has brought little relief to desperate Palestinians.

The United Nations and international aid organizations say a breakdown in law and order has made the aid route unusable.

With thousands of truckloads of aid piled up, groups of armed men are regularly blocking convoys, holding drivers at gunpoint and rifling through their cargo, according to a U.N. official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief the media on the issue.

The lawlessness is a major obstacle to aid distribution to southern and central Gaza — where an estimated 1.3 million Palestinians displaced from Rafah, or more than half of Gaza's entire population, are now sheltering in tent camps and cramped apartments without adequate food, water, or medical supplies.

Here is a closer look at the security challenges facing the U.N. and aid organizations.

Israel's 'tactical pause' stymied Israel said Sunday it would observe daily pauses in combat along a route stretching from Kerem Shalom — the strip's only operational aid crossing in the south — to the nearby city of Khan Younis. Before the pause, aid organizations had reported that the need to coordinate trucks' movement with the Israelis in an active combat zone was slowing aid distribution.

The head of the U.N.'s World Food Program said Thursday that the pause has made "no difference at all" in aid distribution efforts. "We haven't been able to get in," said Cindy McCain in an interview with Al-Monitor. "We've had to reroute some of our trucks. They've been looted. As you know, we've been shot at and we've been rocketed."

The U.N. official familiar with the aid effort said that there has been no sign of Israeli activity along the route. The U.N. tried to send a convoy of 60 trucks down the road Tuesday to pick up aid at Kerem Shalom. But 35 of the trucks were intercepted by armed men, the official said.

ideology, Sinwar seeks Israel's destruction and has made political gains by watching the war harm Israel's international standing and boost support for the Palestinian cause.

Israel has faced surging international criticism — from its Western allies, from the interna-

tional justice system, from protesters around the world — over its conduct during the war. That has deepened Israel's global isolation, brought accusations that it is committing genocide against Palestinians and driven the prosecutor at the International Criminal Court to seek the arrests of Israeli leaders.

Biden administration old-growth forest proposal doesn't ban logging

But still angers industry

By MATTHEW BROWN
Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — The Biden administration is advancing its plan to restrict logging within old-growth forests that are increasingly threatened by climate change, with exceptions that include cutting trees to make forests less susceptible to wildfires, according to a U.S. government analysis obtained by The Associated Press.

The analysis, which is expected to be published Friday, shows that officials intend to reject a blanket prohibition on old-growth logging that's long been sought by some environmentalists. Officials concluded that such a sweeping ban would make it harder to thin forests to better protect communities against wildfires that have grown more severe as the planet has warmed.

"To ensure the longevity of old-growth forests, we're going to have to take proactive management to protect against wildfire and insects and disease," Forest Service Deputy Chief Chris French told the AP. Without some thinning allowed on these forests, he said there is a risk of losing more trees.

The exceptions under which logging would be

allowed are unlikely to placate the timber industry and Republicans in Congress, who have pushed back against any new restrictions. French asserted that the impacts on timber companies would be minimal.

"There's so little timber sales that occur right now in old-growth ... that the overall effects are very small," French said.

The U.S. timber industry employs about 860,000 people, which is about 30% fewer than in 2001, according to government data. Much of their work shifted in recent years to timber from private and state lands, after harvests from national forests dropped sharply beginning in the 1990s due to new policies, changing lumber markets and other factors.

The proposed changes on old-growth mark a shift for an agency that has historically promoted logging. They're expected to be finalized before Democratic President Joe Biden's term ends in January, and they come after he issued a 2022 executive order that directed the U.S. Department of Agriculture to identify old-growth forests across the nation and devise ways to conserve them.

That order touched off a flurry of disagreement over what fits under the definition

of old-growth and how those trees should be managed.

Old-growth forests, such as the storied giant sequoia stands of Northern California, have layer upon layer of undisturbed trees and vegetation. There's wide consensus on the importance of preserving them — both symbolically as marvels of nature, and more practically because their trunks and branches store large amounts of carbon that can be released when forests burn, adding to climate change.

Underlining the urgency of the issue are wildfires that killed thousands of giant sequoias in recent years.

Most old-growth forests across the U.S. were lost to logging as the nation developed over the past few centuries. Yet pockets of ancient trees remain, scattered across the U.S. including in California, the Pacific Northwest and areas of the Rocky Mountains. Larger expanses of old growth survive in Alaska, such as within the Tongass National Forest.

Old-growth timber harvests in the Tongass were limited in 2021 to small commercial sales. Those would no longer occur under the administration's proposal.

The new analysis follows a separate report on threats to old-growth forests that

was finalized last week. It concluded that wildfires, insects and disease have been the main killers of old-growth trees since 2000, accounting for almost 1,400 square miles of losses.

By contrast, logging on federal lands cut down about 14 square miles of old-growth forests. That figure has been seized on by timber industry representatives who argue that further restrictions aren't needed.

"A binding restriction on timber harvest is not where their priority ought to be," said Bill Imbergamo, of the Federal Forest Resource Coalition, an industry group.

He added that exceptions by federal officials to allow some logging could be challenged in court, which could tie up even small logging projects that are focused on reducing wildfire risks.

Environmentalists have urged the administration to go even further as they seek to stop logging projects on federal lands in Oregon, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho and other states.

Jamie Williams, president of The Wilderness Society, said the proposal was "a step in the right direction."

"But it must go further to protect and restore resilient

old-growth forests in a way that meets the challenges of the changing climate," he added.

Government inventories have identified about 50,000 square miles of old-growth forests in federal lands across the U.S. and 125,000 square miles of mature forests that haven't yet reached old-growth status. That includes land overseen by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, which in April adopted a rule intended to put conservation on equal footing with extractive industries such as logging and energy development.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. fails to qualify for CNN's debate. It'll be a showdown between Biden and Trump

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Independent presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has failed to qualify for next week's debate in Atlanta, according to host network CNN, falling shy of benchmarks both for state ballot qualification and necessary polling.

The missed markers mean that the June 27 showdown will be solely between Democratic President Joe Biden and presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump. That denies Kennedy a singular opportunity to stand alongside the leading candidates in an attempt to lend legitimacy to his longshot bid and convince potential supporters that he has a shot at winning.

In a statement Thursday, Kennedy called his exclusion from the debate "undemocratic, un-American, and cowardly."

Both the Biden and Trump campaigns fear that Kennedy could play spoiler in what's anticipated to be a close general election.

According to the criteria set out by CNN, candidates would be invited to participate in the debate if they had secured a place on the ballot in states totaling at least 270 votes in the Electoral College, the minimum needed to win the presidency.

Biden and Trump have easily cleared

the polling threshold but won't be certified for the ballot until their parties formally nominate them later this summer. Both have secured enough delegates to lock in their nominations.

Kennedy's campaign says he has satisfied the requirements to appear on the ballot in 22 states, with a combined 310 electoral votes, though not all have affirmed his name will be listed. California, the largest prize on the electoral map with 54 votes, will not certify any candidates until Aug. 29.

Candidates were also required to reach a polling threshold of 15% in four reliable national polls by June 20, another metric CNN said Kennedy failed to meet. According to the network, Kennedy has received at least 15% in three qualifying polls so far and is currently on the ballot in six states, making him currently eligible for 89 Electoral College votes.

Last month, Kennedy filed an election complaint alleging CNN is colluding with Biden and Trump to exclude him from the June 27 debate, alleging that the participation requirements were designed to ensure only Biden and Trump would qualify and claiming that he is being held to a higher standard.

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