Iran blamed for hacks on political campaigns

Knights win first volleyball match

Page 6

Steve Baker to retire after 2024-25 school year

By SYDNEY KENTBluffton High School Principal Steve Baker has announced his plans to retire following the graduation ceremony of the Class of 2025.

Baker has

served as an educator

with Bluffton-Harrison

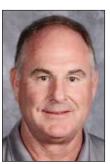
Metropoli-

tan Schools

for 40 years, with

years as a math teacher

and coach,



Steve Baker

three years as an assistant principal, and 26 years as the high school principal.

During this time, he's served on several committees with the Indiana Department of Education and on the board for the Indiana Association of School Principals. He was also named the IASP High School Principal of the Year in

He and his wife, Loni, have two adult children both BHS graduates, and four grandchildren. A district press release stated Baker plans to transition from principal to "Papa" in this next season.

The board of trustees for BHMSD begrudgingly approved Baker's resignation during their

meeting on Monday.
"You started when I was a senior in high school — the football coach. We met on the football field," board member Mike Murray said, looking at Baker across the room. "Our kids loved him, I loved him. Our kids appreciate everything he has done.'

"You have served the students well," board member Julie Thompson added.

Also during the meeting, elementary school counselor Kole Meyer, who served as the district's summer school administrator, spoke to the board about the accomplishments from the summer. Meyer highlighted students experience with the world of Hogwarts, creating duct tape sculptures and engaging in robotics activities.

"Almost 200 students received great programming in a safe environment with wonderful educators pouring into them," Meyer said.

Meyer extended gratitude to a long list of people for their part in providing and documenting the programming. Because of the combined efforts of Superintendent Brad Yates, Assistant Superintendent Julie Meitzler, and many more people, students received free access to summer school with free transportation and food.

Meitzler noted that over 5,351 meals were served through the summer food program in Bluffton,



The Bluffton-Harrison board of trustees took an updated photo, with recently appointed member Preston Kaehir. Pictured left to right are, Kaehr, Mike Murray, Julie Thompson, Angie Sheets, Trent White, and Brad Yates. (Photo by Sydney Kent)

with 478 second meals requested.

"Kids are getting so much more comfortable," Meitzler emphasized. "They're coming up and saying, 'I'm still hungry, I need more food."

Yates announced that the construction at Bluffton-Harrison Middle School is almost finished,

with minor items to be addressed in the science classrooms and the completion of the roof access door modifications. The OurTown Safety Village at the elementary has also made significant progress. Yates said the district anticipated a ribbon cutting in late September or early October.

Yates also discussed the potential for students to receive telehealth doctor visits at school with a parent or guardian's permission in the future. He acknowledged the demand the service would place on school nurses, however, he said that the district is exploring options.

(Continued on Page 2)

County Public Information Officer resigns, position will not be renewed

By HOLLY GASKILL

Wells County Public Information Officer LeAnne Gibbs-Wyss has submitted her resignation effective Aug.

The position was also not included for renewal in the county's 2025 budget proposal.

The commissioners and the county have decided to vacate the public information officer position ... Wells County just isn't in the place right now to dedicate the hours necessary to fully take advantage of the benefits of that position," Commissioner Mike Vanover

stated. "We feel these funds would be better allocated to other economic initiatives at this time.'

Gibbs-Wyss has held the part-time position since February 2023 after the county approved the new position to increase communication with taxpayers. She assisted in social media management for the county, communicated with department leaders and elected officials, and prepared press releases and announcements.

In her letter of resignation, provided to The News-Banner, Gibbs-Wyss high-(Continued on Page 2)

Rock Creek Stone Quarry petition to vacate road to get another hearing

a petition to vacate a portion of County Road 500 West, Wells County Commissioners indicated they're moving forward with Rock Creek Stone Quarry's recent

During the board's meeting Monday, County Attorney Ted Storer said the company supplied a sample ordinance that showed Rock Creek Stone Quarry's plan to pay the cost of rerouting a portion of CR 500W. The portion of the road from CR 100N past the Whitelock Ditch would close, allowing the company to expand across the current road-

The quarry originally petitioned the Although there is still no decision on county only for the road closure, which was opposed by a group of area residents in a public hearing in December 2023. On Monday, Storer asked the commissioners if they would like to hold another public hearing for the request.

The commissioners tentatively agreed to both an executive session and a public hearing on the matter for their next meeting on Sept. 2. However, there was not a unanimous understanding of the purpose of an executive session

Commissioner Blake Gerber asked if the item would meet the guidelines for a (Continued on Page 2)

Company seeks \$15,000 to attract remote employees

By HOLLY GASKILL

Make My Move, an Indianapolis company that helps governments attract workers, is seeking \$15,000 from Wells County for a northeast Indiana campaign.

Vice President of Enterprise Sales Ben Ledo spoke to the Wells County Commissioners about

the potential partnership during their meeting on Monday. Ledo explained that the company seeks out remote employees with government incentives, like \$5,000 for purchasing a house in the region.

"We think of this as economic development, but rather than necessarily incentivizing employers to create jobs that will bring population, we bring people that bring a job," Ledo explained.

Ledo asked the county to contribute \$15,000 to partner with other communities in a two-year program to relocate 100 families to the region. The idea is that these families would then pay taxes, contribute to the local economy and build families in the community, effectively earning back the investment.

According to Ledo, Make My Move has already partnered with the cities of Huntington, New Haven and Angola, as well as Wabash and Kosiasco counties,

and plans to continue meeting with other communities. The company has also received funding through the Indiana Economic Development Commission and Northeast Indiana Strategic Development Commission.

Ledo said the company's role (Continued on Page 2)

"No man's land": Hoosiers on Medicaid waitlist seek answers

By WHITNEY DOWNARD **Indiana Capital Chronicle**

Prior to May of 2021, James "Jim" Densmore lived alone and worked a full-time remote job in central Indiana as a quality systems data analyst. But when he stopped answering his phone, his family started to worry.

'We found him on the floor. Amazingly, he was understanding my commands, my questions and hearing me. And when I asked him, 'Did you have a stroke?' He gave me a thumbs up," Sarah Densmore, his sister, recalled.

After weeks in a hospital followed by months of rehabilitation, Jim Densmore moved in with his sister, his closest family, who had relocated to a ground floor apartment to better accommodate his

wheelchair. And while he no longer has a feeding or tracheostomy tube, he's still partially paralyzed on his left side.

"He is just now learning to stand on his own after three years, but he is still progressing. He couldn't do that six months ago," Sarah Densmore said. "It just made sense that I would be the person. So I gladly brought him in and — with the help of many, many wonderful at-home agencies and his regular doctor — he's been getting gradually better."

But the coverage options that got Jim Densmore, now 64, and Sarah Densmore, 63, through the first year or so didn't last. His company's short-term disability policy lasted six months, but Jim Densmore couldn't return to work

and lost that insurance. Then he made do with Medicaid, which lapsed once he started getting his social security because his income level was too high, Sarah Densmore said.

Now Jim Densmore uses that social security to pay out-of-pocket premiums for insurance under the Affordable Care Act Market-

(Continued on Page 2)

Local/Area

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A beautiful day to walk the Rivergreenway

Wed. Thursday Today High 73 | High 76 High 71 Low 46 | Low 49 | Low 52

More Weather on Page 2



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Stever Baker to retire

"The goal is to keep kids in class longer," Yates explained. "(And) to make it more convenient for parents and guardians."

The board also:

- Accepted resignations from fifth grade science teacher Heather Kryiss, bus driver Peggy Diffendarfer and special purpose bus driver Samantha White.
- Approved employment recommendations for: Allison Norman as a fifth grade teacher; Betsy Needler as a fifth grade mild disabilities teacher; Cruz Rinkenberger as an EL instructional assistant; Colin Sackett as a long-term substitute teacher; Neely Bultemeier as elementary school yearbook adviser; Holden Berlin as high school band director; Erica Bluhm as high school cheerleading sponsor with Sara Runyon as assistant and

Cheyanne Penrod as middle school sponsor; Hannah Gerig as high school vocal music director; Michael Vanderkolk as high school yearbook adviser; Tara Cocanower and Andrew Cook as high school teacher technology specialists; Steve Linderwell as BPA sponsor; Erin Schantz and John Price as NHS sponsors; Stacy Morrison and Jill Buskirk as student council sponsors; Sydney Jeffers as head junior class sponsor with Alyssa Hatfield, Kyle Linton, Nick Miller, Karen Reed, Carla Rizer and Vanderkolk also as sponsors; Brent Kunkel as head senior sponsor; Kevin Powell, ick Man Matre, Jackie Chaney, Andrew Cook, Price and Cocanower as high school team leaders; Meredythe Fritz, Sydney Jeffers, Miller, Cocanower, Nancy Fisher, Aby Ribich and Steve Linderwell as club sponsors; Jonathan Morgan as high school head eSports coach with Cook and Kurt Smith as assistants; Amy Rusu as middle school head eSports coach with Madison Sliders as assistant; Bailey Engle and Hallie Gallion as pre-K childcare adult supervisors; Laken Etzler as high school volleyball assistant coach; Felicia McElveen as preschool parent liason, Laurie Baumgartner as high school cross country assistant coach; and Cary McClure and Brandy Beer as substitute teachers.

- Announced their intent to employ an elementary instructional assistant, bus driver and special purpose bus driver.
- Increased substitute teacher pay from \$90 per day to \$95.
- Accepted donations of \$3,390 from Bargain Hut

for vape sensors; \$400 from Six Mile Church to students in need; school supplies for elementary and middle school students and staff from TI Fluid Systems; school supplies for students in need from Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Firefly and ProFed Credit Union; school supplies and hygiene products to high school students in need and \$2,000 to the athletic department from an anonymous donor; and a copy of "What's Your Callsign?" by Michelle Curran for the middle school library from Susan Flueckiger.

- Approved the advertisement of the 2025 budget
- Approved the 2025-2026 school calendar and review plan draft.

The next regular school board meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Sept. 16.

sydney@news-banner.com

Weather

Tuesday, August 20, 2024 (24-hour observations at 10:03 p.m. Monday) High: 74; Low: 62; Precipitation: None Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.14

Wells County forecast

Today: Sunny, with a high near 71. North wind 5 to 10 mph.

feet at 9:45 p.m. Monday

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 46. North wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 73. Calm wind becoming northeast around 5 mph in the afternoon.

Wednesday Night: Clear, with a low around 49. Calm

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 76.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 52. Friday: Sunny, with a high near 81.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 59.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 85. Saturday Night: A 20% chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 64.

Sunday: A 10% chance of showers. Sunny, with a high

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 67.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 89.

PIO resigns

(Continued from Page 1) lighted how the role has served the county over a year-and-a-half.

"Establishing this role from the ground up presented both unique opportunities and significant challenges," she wrote. "One of the most notable difficulties was addressing the disparate interests in measuring the role's successes and balancing the needs and wants the position of which I am most proud of include providing taxpayer education through social media, pre-

senting a united response by the Commissioners on the initial rejection of Health First Indiana funding, and fielding inquiries from and providing insight to Wells County elected officials regarding how best to respond to concerns of the media and various constituent groups."

Also in the letter, Gibbs-Wyss recognized new opportunities the county has to capitalize on development in southern Allen County, as well as the need for strategic economic development initiatives in Wells County.

holly@news-banner.com

Hoosiers on Medicaid waitlist

(Continued from Page 1)

place while Sarah Densmore — who also retired to care for her brother uses her social security to cover their basic living needs.

Then the Densmores found out about the state's Medicaid waiver programs and applied in November 2023. It would not only cover some medical expenses but could also pay Sarah Densmore a daily stipend as Jim Densmore's caregiver.

But the following month, the overseeing agency revealed a nearly \$1 billion shortfall in the state's Medicaid budget. One of the maneuvers used to save the state money was the implementation of a waitlist for waiver services, which have a higher income cutoff than traditional Medic-

"We don't have enough money for food throughout the month, so thank heaven for these wonderful people at local food pantries because they help me stretch the food budget. Gratefully, I can pay for our rent, our electricity and he can pay for his phone bill, his insurance premium, the therapy ...,' Sarah Densmore said. "We're very fortunate in that regard. But at the end of the month, there is absolutely nothing

Shortly after an interview with the Indiana Capital Chronicle, Jim Densmore, who was on the Aged and Disabled waitlist, got a message from FSSA inviting him to move to the PathWays waitlist.

The state split the Aged and Disabled waiver into a PathWays waiver, for older Hoosiers, and a Health and Wellness waiver for those with disabilities. Starting in July, the state transitioned those under the old waiver waitlist onto the new waivers, both of which also have waitlists.

The Densmores plan to start the PathWays process this week, but it is unclear how long it will be before he can get services.

There are many more people like Jim Densmore. Under the current process, if no new Hoosiers join the waitlists — an unlikely scenario — FSSA would process the PathWays waitlist in just over 11 months while the Health and Wellness waiver would take two and a half years.

Impact of budget on waitlist

Indiana has five different Medicaid waivers, at least two of which have a waitlist. Four of the waivers are administered by the Bureau of Disability Services and focus on serving Hoosiers with disabilities while the remaining waiver for PathWays - for Hoosiers aged 60 and older — is overseen by the Office of Medicaid and Planning.

The estimated length of each waitlist varies depending on capacity, but some officials warn that some waitlists already exceed the number of available slots. The Family and Social Services Administration only shared information related to waitlists for the Path-Ways and Health and Wellness waiver.

LIMITED

An analysis from health care policy group KFF recently reported that more than 692,000 people are on Medicaid waitlists nationally, most of whom (72%) have an intellectual or develop-

Seniors and adults with physical disabilities make up 25% of national waitlists and the remaining 3% includes children who are medically fragile, people with traumatic brain or spinal cord injuries, people living with HIV/AIDS and more.

The agency didn't respond to a question about whether there were waitlists for either the Family Supports Waiver, the Community Integration and Habilitation Waiver, or the Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver — though disability advocates said there are waiting lists for the Family Supports waiver as well.

According to a July 1 release, 9,015 Hoosiers are on the waitlist for Path-Ways and another 3,762 are on the waitlist for the Health and Wellness Waiver. FSSA invited 125 people off of the Health and Wellness waitlist and 800 people off of the PathWays waiting list in July and intends to do the same in August.

The pace that has been shared is based on making sure that the state's systems and processes could handle the capacity and to provide transparency. We will monitor the work closely," an FSSA spokesperson said. "We are currently working through just over 900 members each month and will continue to look for ways to increase the throughput."

Though the federal government has approved more slots for Indiana than it currently fills, FSSA isn't utilizing those additional slots. The state's Path-Ways waiver notes that "The State's budget process drives the number of annually available waiver slots."

FSSA told the Indiana Capital Chronicle, "All FSSA programs and waivers are dependent on the funding available" when asked about the impact of the budget on the waitlist.

But state lawmakers have indicated little appetite for more Medicaid spending, instead sharing concerns about the program's ballooning costs. Legislators will convene in January for the next budget writing session.

Few options for Hoosiers on waitlists Staff with The Arc of Indiana, which advocates on behalf of Hoosiers with disabilities, flagged concerns about whether people would be forced to seek institutional care in the absence

of the community supports the waivers

"... being on a waiting list not only can delay critical medical treatment and therapies, but also means critical supports to help individuals remain in the community are not available," The Arc of Indiana email said. "These lack of supports can lead families to seek placement in a Medicaid funded

group home, nursing facility or place-

ment for extended periods of time in

psychiatric wards of hospitals. Fam-

ily caregivers may feel forced to quit working, which puts the entire family at risk because they cannot pay their bills. Down the road, this will impact their social security and other retirement income."

The Arc's spokesperson said several family advocates with the organization had called 211, the state's informational hotline, to see what resources it would recommend for families on the waitlist.

"While the 211 operators were very sympathetic, there was very little they could direct them to ... Without Medicaid or a Medicaid Waiver, there is no substitute to cover attendant care or structured family caregiving. It is crushing for families to be told, "there are other services out there" when there are not," the email

Frequently, families are directed to their local Area Agency on Aging or the state's Bureau of Disability Services. Sarah Densmore said she'd received a call from the latter last week, after being directed to contact them by her local Area Agency on Aging.

She was dismayed to learn that FSSA prioritizes those who've recently left institutional settings on the waitlist and that the state can't give specific wait time estimates.

"What I still find perplexing is that (FSSA) could not tell me where Jim is on the waitlist and how many people are in front of them? (They) said they don't know, they have not been told,' Sarah Densmore said. "I said, 'Well, surely someone must know. It's computerized ... that doesn't seem logical

"When I call (others) and they say, 'You're number five, please hold. Your estimated wait time is seven minutes," Sarah Densmore continued. "Why can't do the same thing? I just don't understand it.'

In an email, an FSSA spokesperson said that those estimates couldn't be calculated "because of the factors involved, such as whether a person invited off the waitlist declines to continue the process and the number of individuals who are given waitlist priority in any given month."

"When an individual is invited to continue the process of joining the waiver, they will receive multiple notifications outlining the specific steps they must take and the timeframe in which they must be completed," the email continued.

The Arc notes that the state maintains a centralized waitlist for the Family Supports Waiver but that local Areas Agencies on Aging have the lists for PathWays, Health and Wellness and Traumatic Brain Injury

"It is very difficult to navigate. This is information that is vital for people to have," The Arc spokesperson said. "Right now, (families) are in no man's land and really feel adrift."

of the various stakeholders ... Some of the wins in

(Continued from Page 1) closed-door meeting; Storer believed it did but wanted to review the public access policy regarding open meet-

Rock Creek

Commissioners Jeff Stringer and Mike Vanover expressed support for both an executive session and a public later questioned why an executive session was necessary. He asked Gerber to explain his concerns for an executive session to Storer.

hearing, however, Stringer

Either meeting will be publicized in advance if scheduled for Sept. 2.

holly@news-banner.com

Remote workers

(Continued from Page 1) is primarily marketing to applicants and reviewing applications. Their profit comes from a cut of the partnership.

"I don't want to pay \$15,000 and see everybody go to Fort Wayne," Stringer said. "I'm for it, but I'd like to see more info.'

"Proportionally, Fort

Wayne has different housing, that sort of thing, we will probably get more people there than we will Wells or Bluffton," Ledo said. "But we will get some wins here, undoubtedly."

The commissioners did not vote on the request, but Ledo said he would follow up with further information.

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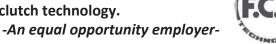
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OBITUARIES

Janet Marie Hockin, 85

Janet Marie Hockin, 85, of Berne, passed away Sunday morning, Aug. 18, 2024, at Adams Memorial Hospital.

She was born on July 10, 1939, in Sylvania, Ohio, to the late Albra "Pete" Clark and Mildred and Mildred (Papenhagen) Clark.

Janet was united in marriage to Robert Hockin on Feb. 11, 1961, Ottawa Lake, Michigan.

She served her family as a

Janet enjoyed crocheting daily for many years until she was unable. She loved bird watching and her flowers. Janet traveled around the state to play bingo. Bob and Janet in their earlier years spent time Square Dancing. Her most treasured thing in life was her grandchildren and family.

She is survived by her loving husband, Bob Hockin of Berne; son, Robert (Debbie) Hockin Jr. of Pensacola, Florida; son, Daniel (Laura) Hockin of Berne; daughter, Laurie (Karl) Gee of Williamsport, Indiana; sister, Sandra Beaver of Blissfield, Michigan; sister, Jeanne (George) Bates of Erie, Michigan; nine grandchildren, Heather (Blaine) Graham, April (Kevin) Overby, Brian (Anna) Hockin, Ashley (Kurtis) Guenzel, Boone (Chelsea) Rogers, Emily (Jared) Baker, Bryanna (Aaron) Osborne, Zachary Buckingham and Darren Gee, and 31 great-

Janet was preceded in death by a granddaughter, Victoria Buckingham and a brother Duane Clark.

A private family Celebration of Life will be announced at later date.

Arrangements by Zwick and Jahn Funeral Homes, Yager-Kirchhofer Chapel of Berne.

Kenny Brock, 66

Kenny R. Brock, 66, of Montpelier, passed away on Aug. 11, 2024. He was born on April 24, 1958, in Hartford City. He married Nancy Sitsler on Oct. 26, 2019. He served his country in the Army National Guard's serving in the 1st Squadron, 238th Calvary, Marion, IN. for 20

He will be sadly missed by his wife, Nancy (Sitsler) Brock of Montpelier; children, Gina Brock of Fort Wayne, Chris (Amanda) Brock of Fort Wayne, and Dwight Kinder of Montpelier; seven grandchildren; and a sister, Val (Greg) Adams of Montpelier.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George Harry Brock and Gayle Lea (Turner) Brock, and brother, Dennis Wavman Brock.

A Celebration of Life will be held from 1-3 p.m. on Aug. 24, 2024, at the Millard Brown American Legion Post 156 located at 112 W. Green St. in Montpelier.

Melissa Kay Wilson, 45

Melissa Kay (McElhaney) Wilson, 45, of Fort Wayne, passed away on Aug. 17, 2024. She was born on Monday, Nov. 6, 1978, in Huntington. Melissa was a graduate of Southern Wells High School and spent her early years in Jackson Township.

She will be forever missed by her parents, Terry Lee and Gwenda L. (Leas) McElhaney of Warren; children, Simone A. Wilson and Fiona Wilson, both of Fort Wayne; and siblings, Jenifer Roemer, Megan (Justin) Smith, and Brock (Jamie Quenzer) McElhaney.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Jack and Barbara Leas and Ed and Doris McElhaney.

Family and friends may gather from 3-7 p.m. on Aug. 22, 2024 at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W Windsor St. in Montpelier. A service will follow at 7 p.m. with Pastor Troy Drayer officiating.

Indy police sergeant faces internet child exploitation charges

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A police sergeant in Indianapolis faces child exploitation charges following an investigation by members of an internet crimes against children unit.

The 12-year veteran of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department was arrested Monday, the department

The Associated Press is not naming the officer because he has yet to be officially charged by prosecutors. He most recently was assigned to the department's internal affairs

The investigation was spurred Aug. 6 by a cyber tip from The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children which alerts law enforcement to material uploaded or downloaded of sexually exploited children on the internet.

An Internet Protocol address was traced to a personal home router under the same name as the sergeant and evidence from search warrants confirmed the suspect was an Indianapolis officer, police said.

Police Chief Chris Bailey suspended the sergeant Monday pending a recommendation of termination to the department's Civilian Police Merit Board.

"I am profoundly shocked and disturbed by the allegations involving an IMPD officer," Bailey said. "His alleged actions constitute a betrayal of the sacred oath we take to protect and serve our community.'

Obituary Policy

The News-Banner and Ossian Journal publishes "basic" obituaries free of charge for "local" deaths. "Basic" obituaries will include the deceased's name, age, community of record, date and place of death, basic genealogical information, the date, time and location of calling hours and services and the name of the funeral home handling arrangements.

If additional information and/or a photo is desired to be included, or if the deceased does not meet the definitions of a "local" person, there is a charge.

Area funeral homes will provide details on the policy and will coordinate obituary publication.



Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:

Friday, 5:22 p.m., 300 block of Willowbrook Trail. Caller reported unwanted

Friday, 7:01 p.m., Union and South streets. Report of juvenile playing on railroad

Friday, 9:21 p.m., 500 block of South Morgan Street. Report of loud juveniles. Unable to locate.

Friday, 10:55 p.m., 200 block of West Washington Street. Report of a teenager out of control. Advised to go to bed.

Saturday, 1:04 a.m., 700 block of South Morgan Street. Report of a man and a woman arguing outside.

Saturday, 11:44 a.m., Kroger. Report of damage to

Saturday, 4:26 p.m., 500 block of Normandy Drive. Report of a fire in a burn barrel. Man advised to put the fire out.

Saturday, 5:29 p.m., 200 block of East Washington Street. Caller complained of a vehicle in her parking space.

Sunday, 12:27 a.m., 300 block of Arrowhead Trail. Dispatcher helped subjects through difficult situation.

Sunday, 7:56 a.m., 100 block of Capri Court. Report of littering, subject's name was on items that were thrown away.

Sunday, 12:27 p.m., 800 block of South Morgan

Street. Report of protection order violation via email.

Sunday, 2:37 p.m., North Main and East Jackson streets. Report of kids in the middle of the road.

Sunday, 3:46 p.m., Outdoor Concepts. Caller reported safety concerns regarding a German Shepherd without

Sunday, 6:16 p.m., 500 block of East Spring Street. Report of theft of a carved walking stick. Sunday, 7:02 p.m., Kehoe

Park. Report of a syringe located under the bridge, trash bags provided for subjects cleaning up. Monday, 11:03 a.m.,

Fields of Grace. Report of man trying to get women to go into the bathroom with Monday, 1:06 p.m., 500 block of East Ohio Street.

Report of car damaged via tree limb. Monday, 1:46 p.m., East

Dustman Road and Hallendale Drive. Driver cited for speeding 58 in a 35 mph

County:

Friday, 1:11 p.m., 6900 North Backford Avenue, Montpelier. Attendance letter delivered to parent.

Friday, 3:36 p.m., Walmart. Report of possibly intoxicated woman opening products in store. Friday, 11:26 p.m., Wells

County Jail. Warrant served to Briana Wright.

of Chicago. Report of man called and it will not be the slumped over wheel in running vehicle.

Saturday, 8:01 p.m., S.R. 124 and 200W, Bluffton. Officer assisted with pushing vehicle out of lane.

Sunday, 2:09 p.m., Barchman Street and 200W, Keystone. Report of a damaged Sunday, 2:34 p.m.,

McDonalds. Caller reported driver beating passenger in vehicle. Monday, 12:19 a.m., 7400W 1000S, Warren. Caller reported ex-husband

crashed car into the house, the vehicle was on fire, and he was unable to get out of it. Fire under control. Monday, 9:33 a.m.,

7200N 300W, Markle. Report of theft of two mopeds and two saddles.

Monday, 10:56 a.m., 7800N 400E, Markle. Caller from Markle Post Office advised they are having "issues" with the mailbox. Issues include the mailbox being stuffed with hotdogs and also a live cat.

Ossian:

Saturday, 7:07 p.m., Norwell High School. Report of a woman that jumped out of vehicle. Driver continued.

Sunday, 6:17 p.m., 200 block of Countryside Drive, Ossian. Caller complained about loud music. Resident advised it wasn't the Saturday, 6:13 p.m., East first time her neighbor has

Monday, 8:33 a.m., 1100N and 600E, Ossian. Report of 18 used tired in a

ARRESTS

Chelsea Rae Ridley, 29. Fort Wayne; possession of marijuana, a Class A misdemeanor, and providing alcohol to a minor, a Class B misdemeanor. No bond set.

Jose Alfredo Velasco-Jimenez, 25, Delphos, Ohio; operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more and operating while intoxicated — endangerment, both Class A misdemeanors, leaving the scene of a crash, a Class B misdemeanor, and operating without ever obtaining a license, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$3,000.

Earnest Boosie Boens Jr., 46, Chicago, IL.; possession of firearm by a serious violent felon, a Level 4 felony, intimidation with a deadly weapon, a Level 5 felony, and interfering with public safety, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$21,500.

Briana Mercedes Ann Wright, 30, Marion; probation violation, a Level 6 felony. No bond set.

Gregory Kenneth Bowlin, 50, Avilla; operating with an ACE of .15 or more and operating a vehicle while intoxicated — endangerment, both Class A misdemeanors. Bond set at

Attorney shortage commission makes budgetary, legislative recommendations

By LESLIE **BONĬLLA MUÑIZ Indiana Capital Chronicle**

The bipartisan commission charged with assuaging the state's attorney shortage recommended funding legal practice startups and a regulatory "sandbox" agency among other budgetary and legislative suggestions — in an interim report released Thursday.

It comes ahead of the Legislature's brainstormfilled interim committee meetings and its January budget-writing session.

More than half the state's 92 counties are considered "legal deserts," defined as under one lawyer per 1,000 residents, according to the American Bar Association.

"This puts at risk access to justice for Hoosiers everywhere," Appeals Court Judge Nancy Vaidik and Indiana Supreme Court Chief Administrative Officer Justin Forkner wrote of the shortage.

The duo, which chaired the Commission on Indiana's Legal Future, called the crisis "a challenge entirely of our profession's own making.'

"Therefore, (it is) one we are fully capable of correcting so long as we rise to the occasion together," they wrote. "Stemming the tide will require bold and thoughtful innovation."

The Indiana Supreme Court created the commission in April and gave it an August deadline for suggestions involving financial asks or legal changes. That's because lawmakers are preparing to enter the biennial budget session.

Budgeting for the legal field The group put forth five "priority" funding recommendations.

At the top of its list was a stipend for legal practice startups, for use on expenses like rent, utilities, insurance, legal research services, databases, case management software and billing software.

Those costs are most burdensome in the startup phase because the attorney is still building clientele, per the commission. It also noted that new, small firms can't benefit from economies of scale.

"A modest stipend to those lawyers, particularly newer lawyers, would alleviate some of those overhead stressors and incentivize lawyers to practice in areas of high legal need," the commission wrote.

It next suggested funding scholarships for incoming law students who've committed to practicing as public prosecutors or defenders, similar to an existing program for Hoosier teachers.

The county-funded gigs typically pay poorly, so the scholarships could help law students lower their postgraduation debt loads and keep them in public interest work, the commission wrote.

It included a draft proposal for the scholarships.

Third, the commission proposed a regulatory "sandbox" program allowing "innovative" legal offerings in "a controlled manner outside the bounds of the typical rules governing the legal profession." It would authorize and evaluate nontraditional legal services pilots, as inspired by a 2020 Utah agency.

Fourth, the commission recommended startup funding for law firms using a nonprofit model, and included a slide deck on the idea in its report. It cast the model's slid-

ing scale fee structure as a solution to the middle-class affordability gap, in which the rich can pay full price and the poor qualify for legal aid, with middle-class Hoosiers in the lurch.

Finally, the commission encouraged the Indiana Supreme Court, the state's bar association and law schools to establish a statewide legal incubator for attorneys who want to start private practices in legal deserts.

Among several non-priority budget asks to address the attorney shortage were suggestions for student loan help, legal and service supplementary funding and court technology boosts.

Legislative, rule changes proposed

The commission asked lawmakers for four amendments to Indiana code, beginning with a "sandbox"friendly tweak complete with suggested legislative language.

It would allow those participating in Indiana Supreme Court-approved initiatives to act as attorneys without committing a misdemeanor.

Another change would let cities expand their hiring searches for law department leaders to those who live in contiguous counties, instead of the current single-county

A third proposal would loosen attorney requirements in small claims cases. Businesses could choose whether to hire counsel in actions worth up to \$25,000 instead of being forced to find representation in claims worth more than \$6,000.

A fourth would encour-

age counties to allow public internet access in their courthouses by protecting them from civil liability in the event of a data breach.

The commission also suggested nearly a dozen changes to court rules, like finalizing remote proceeding policies - and "cement(ing)" them as "part of the norm as opposed to an exception."

Other court rule recommendations included looser restrictions on attorneys licensed in other states, allowing artificial intelligence in court interpretation services, eliminating local bans on bringing electronic devices into courthouses, protecting judicial officers filmed without their knowledge, and offering attorneys working pro bono some discipline and liability protec-



Service: 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, August 20 at the funeral home.

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Michael

Reagan

Move travel to the top of your bucket list

"Travel makes one modest. You see what a tiny place you occupy in the world."

French novelist Gustave Flaubert wrote those 15 words more than 100 years ago. His words are always in the back of my mind when I'm exploring new places around the world, as I have found them to be true on every trip that I have ever taken.

I found myself thinking about Flaubert's two sentences two Saturdays ago — not because I was

traveling someplace new but instead because of taking a trip vicariously as I read colleague Holly Gaskill's fantastic feature about a Bluffton High School student who spent her junior year living overseas.

Justin

Peeper

If you missed Holly's Page-1 story about 17-yearold BHS senior Leah Brown, be sure to either open the Saturday, Aug. 10, e-edition or stop by our office to pick up a copy. You'll enjoy a wonderful story that chronicles Leah's 10-month experience living in Thailand as part of the prestigious Rotary International Youth Exchange program.

The exchange program is for 15- to 19-year-old students and allows them to live overseas with host families, as Holly explained in her story about Leah.

Leah's experiences in Thailand I'm sure will be with her for a lifetime. Traveling to new places just has that impact on you, especially when you're a teenager and you're living some 10,000 miles away from home in a new culture.

I had the chance to travel to Spain in 1997 when I was 16 years old with Bluffton High School's Spanish Club. It was a two-week trip and we were only 4,000 miles from home, yet that time in Barcelona with my friends and teachers sparked in me an interest in travel that is still going strong today 27 years later.

I didn't know about the Rotary Youth Exchange Program when I was in high school. I'd like to think today that I would have considered applying for such a program when I was Leah's age; however, I would not have been brave enough to do what Leah did for 10 months when I was her age back in the late 1990s.

Instead, it took me until I was a junior in college in 2001 to have the courage to pack my bags and move to a small city on the southwest side of Puerto Rico where I studied abroad for a semester. Three years later, I packed my bags again to live in South America for six

Those trips and every one since then has reminded me of the tiny place I occupy in the world. It's a humbling feeling.

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, "Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful, we must carry it with us or we find it not."

My hope is that more people — especially students Leah's age — will have the desire to want to travel to new places. Such trips not only expand one's horizons but also let others around the world get to know who we are as Americans — particularly when we show kindness, integrity, empathy, respect and compassion to those we meet.

jdpeeper2@hotmail.com

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> Call 1-800-228-6013 You may discuss your issue with an access counselor free

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 20, the 233rd day of 2024. There are 133 days left in the year.

Today in history: On Aug. 20, 1968, the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact nations invaded Czechoslovakia to crush the "Prague Spring" liberalization movement.

Also on this date:

In 1858, Charles Darwin's theory of evolution was first published, in the "Journal of the Proceedings of the Linnean Society"

In 1862, the New York Tribune published an open letter by editor Horace Greeley calling on President Abraham Lincoln to take more aggressive measures to free enslaved people and end the South's rebellion.

In 1866, President

Andrew Johnson declared the official end of the Civil

In 1882, Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" had its premiere in Moscow.

In 1910, a series of wildfires swept through parts of Idaho, Montana and Washington, killing at least 85 people and burning some 3 million acres.

In 1920, the American Professional Football Conference was established by representatives of four professional football teams; two years later, with 18 teams, it would be renamed the National Football League.

In 1940, exiled Communist revolutionary Leon Trotsky was attacked in Coyoacan, Mexico by assassin Ramon Mercader. (Trotsky died the next day.)

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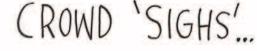
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> Holly Gaskill, Editor Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor





For the love – and hate – of Trump

For Democrats this historic election is about only one issue — Trump.

Whoever wins the White House, it won't be because of issues like high inflation, trillion-dollar annual budget deficits or the humiliation of Afghani-

It's going to come down to one simple but big thing — How many Americans love Kamala Harris and how many hate Donald Trump.

Democrats know that if they can convince voters to hate Trump more than they hate high interest rates, higher taxes and the open border, Harris will

It won't matter if she makes a fool of herself in a future interview with Jake Tapper, has a disastrous TV debate with Trump or never says an unscripted word to a journalist between now and election day. Republicans, meanwhile, know that if they can

convince more voters to love Trump, he wins. Trump is strong on the core Republican issues, and he already has the MAGA Nation solidly in his corner. But to defeat Harris he needs to get millions

of other non-Republican voters to love him. He has to win over the independents, the suburban women and the conservative Democrats who've had their fill of Biden-Harris failures at home and

Only Trump can capture the hearts of the noncommitted. But to do it, he needs to make some serious changes.

He needs to stop arguing like a teen-age boy over his crowd sizes. It's stupid — and no one but him

He has to stop calling Kamala Harris dumb. It may be true and it may get the people who already But nicknaming Harris "Lyin' Kamala" is not the

best way to endear yourself to voters who are still uncommitted.

Trump should let his 30-second campaign ads deliver the dirt and the insults, not him.

He should concentrate on tying her to all the policy failures of the last four years — everything from cancelling college loan debts to the war on covid.

He should hit her on how she blew it as the Border Czar.

And he should constantly remind people how Harris lied to the public by pretending Biden was sharp as a tack — right up until he proved he was no longer capable of running for re-election.

But to win more love and affection, and the election, Trump has to tone down, lift up, soften and streamline his campaign style and his core message.

He needs to realize it's 2024 - not 2015. His rambling, jokey, folksy, 90-minute speeches no longer cut it.

Instead of feeding his addiction to his followers' applause, he should be delivering punchy, 30-minute speeches that discuss the dinner-table issues people care about and talk about — inflation, illegal immigration, schools, war and taxes.

Nobody cares about tariffs. Nobody. Most people don't even understand what they are.

He needs to find a great speechwriter like Peggy Noonan or Ted Sorensen and become more like Reagan or JFK and less like Trump.

It may still make him feel good to be speaking to adoring crowds of 40,000 like it's 2016 again.

But if the uncommitted voter at the dinner table isn't clearly hearing his message today, and isn't deciding that Trump deserves a little love, Trump is going to lose.

He needs someone to write him a short, sweet but powerful stump speech targeted at Republicans and the uncommitted voters the GOP needs. He should deliver it over and over again — and he should stick to what is written on the teleprompter.

Democrats had problems when Biden went off script. He would say things that would even make Nancy Pelosi cringe and force the White House to clean up his weekly gaffes.

Well, Trump's no different. When he goes off script, he makes a lot of faithful Republicans cringe. The uncommitted voters he'll need to win in November are much less forgiving.

 $Reagan@caglecartoons.com \bullet X: @reaganworld$

past.

countries, too. Cutting the size and

cost of government, along with main-

taining the Trump tax cuts, which are

set to expire next year, would create

an economic boom. They have in the

A Wall Street Journal editorial

Most Americans Behind" i t said: "A

government spending boom fueled

inflation that has crushed real aver-

age incomes." Harris wants to spend

more. Does anyone think continuing

on a path that has led to inflation will

Democrats have played the envy

of the wealthy, greed for what they

last week had it right. Titled" How

the Biden-Harris Economy Left

San Francisco plus 40

The first Democratic National Convention I attended was in San Francisco in 1984. UN Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick indelibly labeled attendees "San Francisco Democrats," because of their leftleaning policies.

Forty years later it appears little has changed. Then, Vice President Walter Mondale, who was nominated to take another crack at the invincible Ronald Reagan, gave an acceptance speech that contained many promises and criticisms today's Democrats are likely to renew at their convention this week in Chicago.

Then, Mondale claimed to have learned a lesson from his and Jimmy Carter's defeat by Reagan in 1980, but it didn't sound like it,

nor does it sound like it now as Mondale's party has moved even further

In his acceptance speech, Mondale used the familiar buzzwords, including "family,"
"hope," "caring," "patriotism," (delegates were given small American flags to wave in front of the TV cameras), and "the future."

He claimed he would not raise taxes, but later in a debate with Reagan he said he would. He bashed corporations and "the rich" (sound familiar?), claiming they were better off, but "working Americans are worse off." They didn't think so and most voted for Reagan a second time, resulting in his winning 49 states. Mondale bemoaned the \$200 billion deficit (I wonder what he'd say about today's \$35 trillion debt?). He claimed Reagan and the Republicans

wanted to "Slash Social Security and



Thomas

Harris' speech last Friday in North Carolina is any indication of what she might say in Chicago on Thursday, she may be channeling Mondale and other Democratic presidential nominees, some of whom became president, raised taxes and increased the debt.

Medicare" (a golden oldie).

If Vice President Kamala

ris announced her support for more than a dozen economic policies aimed at "lowering costs for American families," including \$25,000 down payment assistance for first-time home buyers. Harris apparently has yet to realize that more government spending and increased debt causes inflation and inflation is

what has led to higher grocery and

gas prices and higher mortgage rates.

Once again, we hear the denunciation

of corporations and charges they are

"price gouging," a term they never

If Harris proposes to use the

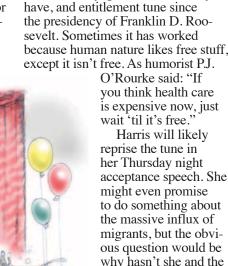
power of the federal government to

attempts at price controls. Richard

Nixon tried it and it failed. Socialist

lower prices she should consider past

In North Carolina, Har-



reduce inflation?

O'Rourke said: "If you think health care is expensive now, just wait 'til it's free.'

Harris will likely reprise the tune in her Thursday night acceptance speech. She might even promise to do something about the massive influx of migrants, but the obvious question would be why hasn't she and the president done anything about it during their administration, except falsely blame Republicans in Con-

Harris is dangerous because no one knows what she believes and the few things she said she once believed — no fracking is only one example - she has flipped on without explaining why.

Those San Francisco Democrats may have migrated to Chicago this

tcaeditors@tribpub.com

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

Gloria's special trip to Colorado with Julia continued

Editor's Note: This is part two of a three-part series Gloria has written about her recent trip with her daughter Julia.

We were getting closer to the end of our trip—closer than I dared think about too much. I was rejuvenated from the cares of everyday life and cherishing the mother-daughter time with 12-year-old Julia.

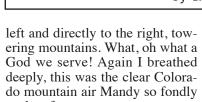
The last, and perhaps the best part, of the trip was on the horizon, just past the mountains ahead of us.

The trailer was packed with camping gear, we were heading back to remote mountains ranges.

Mandy suggested Julia and I sit up front where we can get a better view of the scenery. I simply could not fathom all my eyes were seeing. Every way you turned there was that pure beauty of what our great God had made. The little town of Crede grabbed my attention, nestled up against the mountain it holds an authentic beauty. The fire station is carved into the mountain. Touring it made it feel as if we were stepping back in the 1800s, only it was really used today. Since there a fire station, a tunnel was carved from the mountain, and all the needed equipment and tools kept inside. Not only does it stay cool in the summer, no heat is needed during the winter!

Heading farther back, winding through the mountains I breathed deeply from the fresh air blowwas happening to me... mountain ranges on all sides, the Rio The Amish Cook

by Gloria Yoder



Our four or five hour drive ended at a camp where we unloaded our tents, bedding, food, and chairs. It was obvious that Mandy and her brother Eli had camped many times before, everything was practical and orderly, and guess what else- on this trip I was not in charge! Ah, it felt so good to have someone else take the lead. After everything was set up I reclined on a camp chair and enjoyed a good nap and wrote in my journalsomething that I rarely took the time for the last weeks. I just relaxed, breathed deep, then did it all over again and again, feasting on the reality that there are no current demands waiting on me. There was no phone service back was not enough flat land to build in, I trusted the children would all

> Later Julia and I gathered sticks to build a fire for supper, since there was not an ample supply readily available we used Eli's hatchet and worked up a good appetite. Oh my, we weren't experienced, but we did have fun.

Mandy and Leanna had a ing into my open window. This yummy supper planned of sandcream cheese and wrapped in Grand river down the cliff to the bacon, hash browns, granola bars, thrilled to think of leaving camp

and fresh fruit. As I sat down with my plate loaded with steaming food, fresh from the campfire, I thought of my children. "They already all had their supper," I breathed. (They were two hours ahead of us.)

There were no dishes to wash, only food to be put away so as not to attract bears overnight. We kept adding more sticks to the fire and chatted away under the blanket of brilliant stars. Though Mandy is not actually related to us, it felt like it, especially since she is an aunt to two of my second cousins from our church.

At an altitude of 10,000 feet, the stars looked more brilliant and more numerous than at home. Mandy spied a falling star leaving an usually bright blaze. The last pepper poppers were eaten long after dark. If there were a thing like freezing and reliving those moments after dark around the fire, I'm guessing they could be sold for a good price. There is just nothing quite like it.

It felt good getting into the sleeping bags as the chilly mountain air made its way into the tent. Imagine this, the next morning when I got up Mandy had started a fire in the wood stove in our tent and warmed it to a cozy warmth. I had never scene the like- a tent wiches, peppers stuffed with made for a stove to safely be used. Though I didn't feel too

that day, I was intrigued when I got up and discovered Eli's wok. I never imagined an old iron disk to be turned into a frying pan, but that was the story. He had welded the center hole shut then ground it for a smooth surface. Homemade wooden boxes were made to store the plates along with gloves and other needed items to prepare the scramble over a fryer. According to Mandy, he's a pro at using this work the old-fashioned way and frying up Rocky Mountain

And for next week we'll be wrapping up with the story of our trip back East that left us blinking all the way home.

Rocky Mountain Scramble

1/2 pound bacon 1 pound sausage

1 onion, chopped

2 peppers, sliced 4 potatoes, sliced

8 eggs

8 ounces shredded cheese of your choice

Fry meats until almost done, add veggies of your choice. Fry and stir until tender, sprinkle with salt, black pepper, and your choice of seasonings. When done push out to the sides of wok or whatever pan you are using. The bacon drippings may stay in the center. Pour eggs into the center 'pond'. Continue to stir, and fry eggs until done. Next sprinkle with shredded cheese on egg pond in center of the veggie ring. Delicious! We ate it with toast, it could also be spooned into tortilla

Bluffton High School class of 1950 reunion

School class of 1950 will again hold their 74th reunion during Street

The Bluffton High House Restaurant at noon on Wednesday, September 18.

Reservations are not Fair week. Classmates required and guests are located at 1592 Harrison are invited to Hoosier welcome. Each person Street in Bluffton.

will order from the menu and be responsible for thier bill.

The restaurant is



Master Gardeners visit local farm

Wells County Master Gardeners recently visited the Broxonberry Farm, a certified naturally grown produce farm near Markle. The gardeners saw a large variety of fresh vegetables destined for local restaurants and the YLNI Farmers Market in Fort Wayne each week. Amber & Justin gave the group plenty of helpful gardening tips. Five cats keep the garden free of vermin. The couple's children are also involved in the farm operation. (Photo submitted)

Amphibians at the Wells County Public Library

On Thursday, Sept. 5, Indiana Wild will be bringing amphibians to visit at the Wells County Public Library, as part of the One

Book One County read of "Frog and Toad Together."

The program will begin at 6:30 p.m., with no registration required. Indiana Wild is a group that champions conservation, education rescue and culture with more information at www.indianawild.org.

Fort Wayne's Youtheatre plans 90th season

Fort Wayne's Youtheatre Director Christopher J. Murphy was announced the programs for the 90th Anniversary Season.

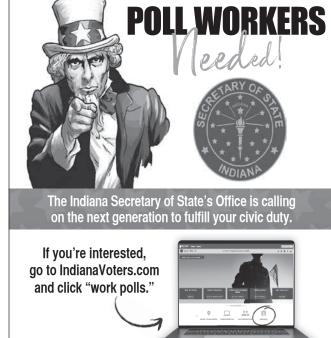
The season will begin in October at the First Presbyterian Church stage in Fort Wayne.

Shuddersome: Tale of Poe: Oct. 18-20 Anastasia: Dec. 13-22

Something Happened in Our Town: Feb. 21-23

Dragons Love Tacos: April 26-27 (on stage at the Allen County Public

Library's main branch) Tickets on sale through tickets.artstix.org or by calling the Box Office at 250-422-4226.



Upcoming events at FW's Swinney Homestead

On Sept. 7 and 8 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. the Swinney Homestead will celebrate with an open house and tour of the Herb Garden.Members of Settler's Inc. will offer the free tours.

The Swinney Homestead is located at 1424 West Jefferson Blvd. More information about the Settlers at settlersinc.org.

On Sept. 21, 22 the Settler's Pioneer Village will be set up at the Johnny Appleseed Festival in Fort Wayne. Entrance to the festival is free and costumed Settlers will be demonstrating a variety of historic hand arts, life skills and music. Hours on Saturday are from 10 am to 6 pm and on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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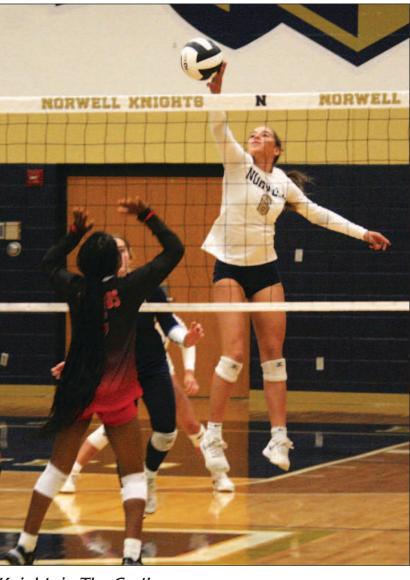
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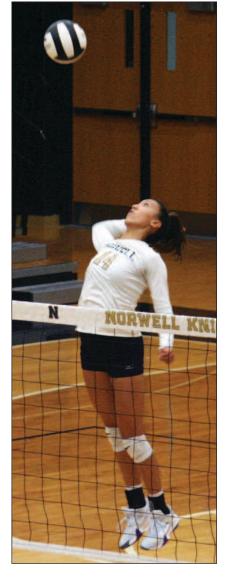
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Knights in The Castle

Monday began the 2024 sports season for most of the fall sports this season, therefore, the first match at The Castle was completed — a victorious Norwell volleyball team in its 3-0 win over North Side. At top, the Knights' team celebrates after a point in the first set. Above left, junior Reese Frauhiger swats away at the ball over the net for a point. Above right, Vanessa Rosswurm leaps high in the air for a spike. (Photos by Ryan Walker)

Tyler Reddick wins rain-delayed NASCAR Cup race at Michigan

By LARRY LAGE **AP Sports Writer**

BROOKLYN, Mich. (AP) — Tyler Reddick capped an emotional week with his second NASCAR Cup Series win this year.

Reddick's mentor, Scott Bloomquist, died in a plane crash just three days before he won at Michigan International Speedway on Monday.

"I can't help but sit here in victory lane and think of Scott Bloomquist,' he said. "Huge mentor to me, and an incredible role model and legend of dirt racing and motor sports.

"The last couple of days have been tough. This really helps it. This win should go for him, his family and friends.

Reddick moved past Kyle Larson into the top spot in the Cup standings, and his win opened another spot in the playoffs because he was one of 12 drivers who had already earned an automatic bid with a victory.

That leaves four spots available with races remaining at Daytona and Darlington.

Reddick also won at Talladega four months ago in his No. 45 Toyota for 23XI, the team owned by Denny Hamlin and Michael Jordan. The Basketball Hall of Famer and former Charlotte Hornets owner was at Michigan on Sunday, when the race was stopped

after 51 laps because of rain.

This is a fun hobby for him, fun business for him," said Hamlin, who was on the pole in his No. 11 Toyota and finished ninth. "This fills a lot of gaps of the competitiveness that he has lost by not being part of the Hornets anymore."

Martin Truex Jr. got loose in the No. 19 Toyota on lap 194, bringing out the yellow flag and a restart with six laps

Reddick was out front on the first restart and the race went to a second overtime when Ross Chastain was running 11th and was part of a crash that brought out another yellow.

William Byron led the second restart but Reddick passed him for the 26th lead change of the race. Byron was second in the No. 24 Chevy and Ty Gibbs was third in the No. 54 Toyota, improving his chances of making the playoffs even if he doesn't win one of the next two races.

Larson, who was the BetMGM Sportsbook favorite to win the race, lost control of the No. 5 Chevrolet on lap 115 and several cars were tangled

up in the mess. A few laps later, Joey Logano took his damaged No. 22 Ford to the garage and Bubba Wallace's No. 23 Toyota took a hit to stunt the relative success the on-the-bubble driver was having in

The pileup led to Logano finishing 33rd, with Larson one spot behind and Wallace 26th, pushing him from No. 15 to 17 in the playoff standings for the 16-car field.

Austin Dillon was 17th, a week after he wrecked Logano and Hamlin on the final lap to win at Richmond and had his automatic spot in the playoffs revoked by NASCAR. Dillon's appeal is scheduled for Wednesday.

Kyle Busch won the second stage, the first for him and Richard Childress Racing this season. Busch became the 19th driver to win a stage in 2024, setting a single-season record, and became the sixth to win a stage in every year since NASCAR added the wrinkle in 2017.

STREAK SNAPPED

Ford had won nine straight races at Michigan, a track record, until Reddick's Toyota ended the run.

Chris Buescher, who won last year, was seventh. Brad Keselowski finished sixth for Ford.

UP NEXT

Haulers had more than 1,000 miles of highway to transport cars to Daytona Beach, Florida, where qualifying was scheduled Friday for Saturday night's race.

The regular season wraps up the following week at Darlington.

No. 7 Notre Dame leaning heavily on new QB Riley Leonard to make expanded playoff field

By CURT RALLO Associated Prss

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) -Coach Marcus Freeman begins his third season at Notre Dame in a familiar spot. He has another new starting quarterback and another new offensive

Changes in the college football landscape — the expanded 12-team playoff field and a veteran quarterback at the helm — could put the seventhranked Fighting Irish back in national championship contention. And they

they stand.

Riley Leonard, a transfer from Duke, is expected to make his Notre Dame debut Aug. 31 at No. 20 Texas

"The best thing is he's taking care of the football," Freeman said of his third different opening-day starter. "We know he can do some things with his legs, but we've kind of forced him (to focus on the passing game). We've said, 'Hey, we know you can run the ball. Let's continue to watch you

will find out quickly exactly where progress in the passing game, making checks, being able to put the offense in great situations.'

Notre Dame followed a similar plan last season when former Wake Forest quarterback Sam Hartman led the Irish to a 10-3 mark with a final ranking of No. 14 while averaging 39.1 points per game. Hartman signed with the NFL's Washington Commanders when his eligibility ran out and last year's offensive coordinator, Gerad Parker, is now the head coach at Troy.

(Continued on Page 7)

Knights spike Legends, open volleyball season with 1-0 start

By RYAN WALKER

Norwell's volleyball season kicked off with a bang in The Castle Monday night..

In a 3-0, straight-set victory over North Side, the Knights improved to 1-0 with ease to open the 2024 campaign. The season is highly anticipated by head coach Kayla Hunter and for good reason.

The team returned a bulk of starters and varsity lettermen, but also is the first full year with the Class of 2026. Eleven of the 15 members on the roster are juniors. Some have played significant time with the big club — Vanessa Rosswurm, Macie Saalfrank, Hope Mitchell and Autumn Lee, which helped Norwell to its first winning season in 10 years, going from 16-18 in 2022 to 21-13 in 2023.

"That junior class specifically has meshed well since they were in middle school," Hunter said. "They just have always kind of gotten it. They all buy in. They like each other. They cheer for each other, which is really helpful when they're a really deep class.'

The junior and senior class led the way on the court. The Legends, the set scores were 25-7, 25-8 and 25-13.

Rosswurm and Mitchell led the way with eight and seven kills and were assisted by Emma Vachon with 18

Vachon added six aces to senior Rebecca Settle's five. Monday was the perfect way to start the season for coach Hunter.

She said that the coaching staff challenged the group to play intensely but to still have a blast.

North Side went just 6-22 last year, including a 3-0 loss to Norwell in the opening match. But Hunter wanted her team to take care of business in all three sets and keep the pedal to the medal. Her team did, playing a fast-paced game and with great team communication that seems to have a solid connection already.

"We said we want to set a tone," Hunter said. "And for (the team), we know that this group has such high potential, and we want them to see that. I think they had so much fun playing tonight, too and so it's nice for them to see that you can be focused and intense and still have fun and it's fun to play well."

The Knights will look to continue that early-season flow going. Their next match will be against Northrop on the road and will start at 6:45 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 20.

Other stat leaders were: Mekynzi Beck with two blocks, Lee and Settle with five digs.

The junior varsity team won 2-0 with both sets with a

ryan@news-banner.com

Knights win opening boys' soccer game against Generals

Norwell hosted and defeated Wayne in boys' soccer for the opening game of the season 2-1.

Kyler Morris got off to a hot start, scoring both of the goals. He was the team's leader last season with 13.

The goals were assisted by Eli Randol and Noah Schamerloh.

The junior varsity team won 3-1.

Norwell will be at Blackhawk at 6:30 p.m. Thursday,

High School Calendar

BOYS TENNIS: Union City at Bluffton, 5 p.m. GIRLS GOLF: Bluffton at Woodlan, 4:30 p.m.; Norwell and

Southern Wells at Eastbrook, 4:30 p.m. VOLLEYBALL: Huntington North at Bluffton, 7:30 p.m.; Nor-

well at Northrop, 6:45 p.m.; Eastbrook at Southern Wells, 7:30 **WEDNESDAY, AUG. 21**

GIRLS GOLF: Bluffton at Northfield, 5 p.m.; Norwell at

BOYS TENNIS: Norwell at Concordia, 4:30 p.m.

Wayne, 5:30 p.m. THURSDAY, AUG. 22

BOYS TENNIS: Bluffton at Bellmont, 4:30 p.m.; Jay County

at Norwell, 5 p.m. BOYS SOCCER: Norwell at Blackhawk, 6:30 p.m.

GIRLS GOLF: Norwell at Bellmont, 4 p.m. GIRLS SOCCER: Northrop at Norwell, 7 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL: Bluffton at Wabash, 7:30 p.m.; Norwell at

Heritage, 7 p.m.; Northfield at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m. FRIDAY, AUG. 23 FOOTBALL: Blackhawk vs. Bluffton (at South Adams),

7 p.m.; Norwell at Mississinewa, 7 p.m.; Elwood at Southern SATURDAY, AUG. 24

BOYS TENNIS: Bluffton, Norwell at Bluffton Tennis Invita-BOYS SOCCER: Woodlan at Norwell, 11:30 a.m.

CROSS COUNTRY (co-ed): Bluffton at Taylor University Invitational; Norwell at Huntington North Invitational, 8 a.m.; Southern Wells at Monroe Central Invitational, 10 a.m. GIRLS SOCCER: Norwell at Blachkawk, 6:30 p.m.

BOYS TENNIS: Bluffton at Argyll Invitational, 9 a.m.

Columbus trades Patrik Laine to Montreal

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The Columbus Blue Jackets traded forward Patrik Laine to the Montreal Canadiens in exchange for defenseman Jordan Harris and a second-round draft pick in 2026.

The Blue Jackets were without the 26-year-old Laine for much of the 2023-24 season. He sought help from the NHL's player assistance program in January and made it known that his issues were mental-health related. He was cleared in July.

"We want players that want to be Blue Jackets, and Patrik made it clear that he thought a change of scenery was best for him," Blue Jackets general manager Don Waddell said Monday. "We were able to acquire a good young player in Jordan Harris while maintaining financial flexibility in this deal, which was very important to us. We wish Patrik all the best."

Laine was drafted second overall by the Winnipeg Jets in 2016. He has two seasons remaining on a four-year, \$34.8 million contract he signed July 22, 2022.

In four seasons with the Blue Jackets, Laine had 64 goals and 74 assists in 174 games, including two 20-goal seasons.

The 24-year-old Harris has recorded eight goals and 24 assists in 131 career games over three seasons with Montreal.



Habegger, Silcox team up

Miken Habegger (right) of Bluffton and Elizabeth Silcox of Fort Wayne bowled in the IHSB Storm Bowling Youth 2024 Mixed Doubles Baker Tournament over the weekend in Lafayette. The duo qualified for fourth place with a total of 1,165 pins and made it to the final. In the final round, Habegger and Silcox finished second and only fell by a total of three pins. (Photo submitted)

News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

WNBA EASTERN CONFERENCE W L Pct

BASEBALL

MLB AMERICAN LEAGUE **East Division** Pct

73

GB

New York	73	52	.584	_
Baltimore	73	53	.579	1/2
Boston	65	59	.524	71/2
Tampa Bay	62	61	.504	10
Toronto	58	67	.464	15
Central Divisio	n			
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	72	52	.581	_
Minnesota	70	54	.565	2
Kansas City	70	55	.560	21/2
Detroit	61	64	.488	111/2
Chicago	30	95	.240	421/2
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	68	56	.548	_
Seattle	64	61	.512	41/2
Texas	58	68	.460	11
Oakland	53	71	.427	15
Los Angeles	53	72	.424	151/2
Sund	ay's	Gan	nes	
Houston 2. Ch	icaac	Whi	te Sox 0	

Baltimore 4, Boston 2 Milwaukee 2, Cleveland 0 Kansas City 8, Cincinnati Seattle 10 Pittsburgh 3 Toronto 1, Chicago Cubs 0 Tampa Bay 8, Arizona 7, 12 innings Texas 6, Minnesota 5, 10 innings Atlanta 3, L.A. Angels 1 San Francisco 4, Oakland 2, 10

Detroit 3, N.Y. Yankees 2, 10 innings

Monday's Games N.Y. Mets 4, Baltimore 3 Cincinnati 6, Toronto 3 Texas 4, Pittsburgh 3 Kansas City 5, L.A. Angels 3 Houston 5, Boston 4 Minnesota at San Diego, late Tampa Bay at Oakland, late Chicago White Sox at San Francisco,

late Seattle at L.A. Dodgers, late Tuesday's Games Cleveland (Boyd 0-0) at N.Y. Yankees (Gil 12-6), 7:05 p.m. Cincinnati (TBD) at Toronto (Berríos 11-9), 7:07 p.m. Baltimore (Kremer 5-9) at N.Y. Mets

(Quintana 6-8), 7:10 p.m. Detroit (TBD) at Chicago Cubs (Assad 5-3), 8:05 p.m.

Pittsburgh (Keller 10-7) at Texas (Bradford 4-0), 8:05 p.m. Boston (Pivetta 5-8) at Houston (Blanco 9-6), 8:10 p.m. Chicago White Sox (Martin 0-1) at San Francisco (Ray 2-2), 9:45 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

Cleveland at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m. Cincinnati at Toronto, 7:07 p.m. Detroit at Chicago Cubs, 8:05 p.m.

Chicago White Sox at San Francisco,

NATIONAL LEAGUE

73 66 65 56 Philadelphia Atlanta New York Washington Miami

Central Division £ 52 63 Pct W 72 61 .581 Milwaukee St. Louis 64 64 66 .488 Cincinnati Pittsburgh 58 West Division W L Los Angeles San Diego 73 70 .584 .560

.589 .532

520

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81/2

171/2

271/2

GB

111/2 11½

GB

3

52 55 56 63 79 Arizona 70 San Francisco 63 San riano Colorado 46 /5 Sunday's Games Miami 3, N.Y. Mets 2 Milwaukee 2, Cleveland 0

Kansas City 8. Cincinnati 1 Seattle 10, Pittsburgh 3 Washington 6, Philadelphia 4 L.A. Dodgers 2, St. Louis 1 Toronto 1, Chicago Cubs 0 Tampa Bay 8, Arizona 7, 12 innings Colorado 3, San Diego 2 Atlanta 3, L.A. Angels 1 San Francisco 4, Oakland 2, 10

Monday's Games Arizona 9. Miami 6 N.Y. Mets 4, Baltimore 3 Cincinnati 6, Toronto 3 Texas 4. Pittsburgh 3 Minnesota at San Diego, late Chicago White Sox at San Francisco.

in Leonard, who hopes to make an impact similar to Hartman, and hired Mike Denbrock from LSU, where

Notre Dame

(Continued from Page 6)

ly starting over. He brought

Still, Freeman isn't exact-

he oversaw the top offense in the Bowl Subdivision and played a critical role in Jayden Daniels' Heisman Trophy-winning season.

Leonard's strong start pushed the Blue Devils into the top 20 before an injured right ankle, suffered in a loss to Notre Dame and that required two offseason surgeries, hindered the rest of his season.

The result: Leonard threw for just 1,102 yards with three touchdowns and three interceptions while rushing for 352 yards and four scores in 2023 compared with 2,967 yards passing, 699 yards rushing and 33 total TDs in 2022.

Now, though, Leonard appears to be healthy. Plus, he'll have a stronger supporting cast.

Clemson transfer Beaux Collins and FIU transfer Kris Mitchell will team up with talented returnees Jayden Thomas, Jaden Greathouse and Jordan Faison to form a deep, dangerous receiving corps. The Irish are also banking on Jeremiyah Love and Jadarian Price to replace running back Audric Estime.

Defensively, the Irish will be led by All-American

safety Xavier Watts, defensive tackle Howard Cross II and cornerback Benjamin Morrison. Watts intercepted seven passes last season while Morrison has nine over the last two years.

FAMILIAR FOE

Leonard will see a familiar face on the sideline at Texas A&M in coach Mike Elko, who also left Duke to take the Aggies job. Though Leonard would rather the focus be on the game rather than the head-to-head matchup, he knows what to expect.

"Obviously, it's going to be that way," Leonard said. "To be able to play against him, it's awesome. It's not just him, it's a lot of the coaching staff from Duke, and it's a lot of people I'm really close with, and we're all extremely competitive, so this game means a lot to me."

BIG CONCERNS

One area of concern will be the offensive line.

All-American left tackle Joe Alt and starting right tackle Blake Fisher were both early-round picks in the NFL draft, and starting center Zeke Correll transferred to North Carolina State after starting the past 2 1/2 season with the Irish.

The Fighting Irish also suffered a setback when Charles Jagusah who was expected to replace Alt, suffered a shoulder injury that will keep him out this sea-



LET THE PROS Leafe

Agriculture

innings



The Price family poses with Agriculture Director Don Lamb (left). (Photo provided)

Wells County

• Price, 1919, Centennial

Centennial

Seattle at L.A. Dodgers, late

5-3), 8:05 p.m.

Tuesday's Games
Cincinnati (TBD) at Toronto (Berríos

3:45 p.m. Colorado at Washington, 6:45 p.m.

Cincinnati at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.

Milwaukee at St. Louis, 7:45 p.m. Detroit at Chicago Cubs, 8:05 p.m.

Midwest League

Sunday, Aug. 18 Great Lakes at Lake County, can-

celed West Michigan 6, Lansing 1

Quad Cities 9, Beloit 3 Peoria 3, Wisconsin 2

Dayton 7, Fort Wayne 1 Cedar Rapids 4, South Bend 1

Monday, Aug. 19 No games scheduled.

Tuesday, Aug. 20
Fort Wayne at Peoria, 7:35 p.m
Wednesday, Aug. 21

Fort Wayne at Peoria, 7:35 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22

Fort Wayne at Peoria, 8:05 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 24
Fort Wayne at Peoria, 8:05 p.m.

Fort Wayne at Peoria, 7:35 Friday, Aug. 23

103 historic farms presented Hoosier Homestead

INDIANAPOLIS -Recognized for their families' longstanding commitment to agriculture, 103 Indiana farm families were presented the Hoosier Homestead Award at the Indiana State Fair from Indiana State Department of Agriculture Director Don Lamb.

"The Hoosier Homestead ceremony at the Indiana State Fair is a prestigious event for all involved," said Lt. Gov. Crouch, Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "It is a true honor to celebrate these families for their work and commitment to bettering Indiana agriculture."

To be named a Hoosier Homestead, farms must be owned by the same family for more than 100 consecutive years, and consist of 20 acres or more, or produce more than \$1,000 in agricultural products per the farm, families are eligible for three different distinctions of the Hoosier Homestead Award. They can receive the Centennial Award for 100 years, Sesquicentennial Award for 150 years or Bicentennial Award for 200 years of ownership.

"Keeping a farm operational for 100 years or more is something these families can take great pride in," Lamb said. Each of the awarded family farms continues to adapt and evolve through each new generation on the farm to ensure their success.'

Since the program's inception in 1976, nearly 6,200 families have received the award. Often, a Hoosier Homestead farm is easily recognized because most recipients proudly display their awarded sign on their property.

Based on the age of nies, six Indiana farms received the Bicentennial Award for 200 years of continuous ownership: the Thornburg-Caldwell-Slack family from Fayette County, the Hodges family from Morgan County, the Bridges-Royer family from Putnam County, the Dale & Donna Hartwell and Ricky W. Hartwell family from Rush County, the Bass-Rhodes family from Shelby County and the James W. Holmes, Jeffrey W. Holmes, Jason M. Davidson family from Tippecanoe County.

The following local list includes the August 2024 Hoosier Homestead Award recipients.

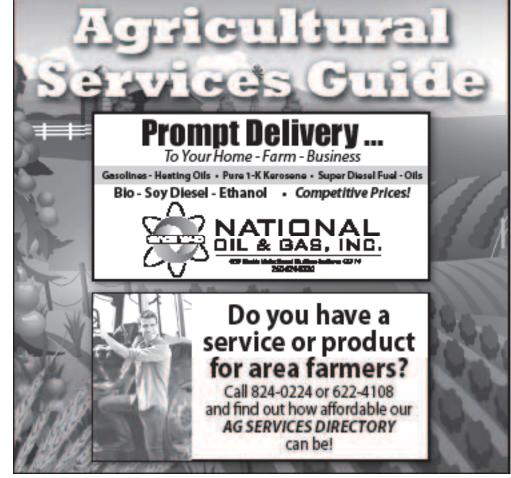
Adams County

- Bohnke, 1897, Čenten-
- Giro, 1906, Centennial • Kent L. Steiner, 1890, Centennial
- **Allen County** • Dafforn, 1874, Sesqui-

Huntington County







LL US WHAT YOU T

During the ceremo-

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Giving up on dating

Dear Annie: I want to know why people think it's OK to harass and abuse other people. My ex brought his girlfriend home, and they spent the night in the garage. That was when we were still married.

Then he took my 5-year-old daughter out on dates with the girlfriend, and find it difficult to he abused and harassed me for a year to try to get me to abandon the house and my daughter so he wouldn't have to pay child support.

During this ordeal, I was ripped off by a lawyer who knew my ex was harassing me and did nothing. My ex and the girl are not together anymore, but I later found out that the girlfriend was hitting my daughter on her hands to punish her when she did something wrong.

I just don't get why there are horrible people in the world who do awful things and don't think they've done anything wrong. It is not unusual for them to turn the situation on you, acting as if you deserved it.

After all this, I'm done with men. I don't even date. It ain't worth it. I talk to people on chat sites, and they tell me they don't date for the same reasons. Being alone in this day and age is just the better way to go. I feel so broken and empty inside; no one would want me anyway. I am ruined, and no one seems to care.

So, I just want to know — why?! Someone Who Just Wants to Know Why

Dear Know Why: Hurt people hurt people. Whether they were hurt when they were children and are repeating the same patterns or they were hurt when they were adults — it doesn't matter where the meanness came from. Being cruel to other human beings never feels good in the long run.

I'm not sure that making blanket statements, such as saying that you are finished with dating forever, is going to make you feel better in the long run. Just commit to only surrounding yourself with people who lift you up and have your best interests at heart. I would also let your ex know that his exgirlfriend is never allowed to be around

Annie your daughter by Annie Lane again. Child abuse is a serious crime and needs to be

Dear



This all started when I was 25 and hurt myself at work. That was followed by failed lower back surgery. My injuries are not visible at all. I'm 52 now and still get the looks. I have had the police called several times for parking with my handicapped placard because people have doubted my

It is extremely embarrassing and hurtful. However, I look at it like this: Those same people who give me looks or make snide remarks are the ones who would not think twice about using anything that was offered to them if they were handicapped.

Here's another thing to think about: By denying yourself the help you need, you are not allowing yourself the best care possible, nor are you truly taking care of yourself. If you are disabled, YOU must always come first. As the penguins from "Madagascar" would say, "Just smile and wave, boys; just smile and wave." — Surviving and Living Life with a Disability

Dear Living Life with Disability: Thank you for sharing your perspective. I hope it empowers others to smile and

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

BEETLE BAILEY





BLONDIE







ZITS





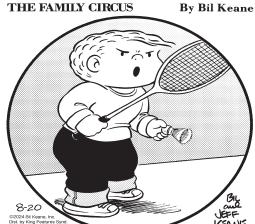
CRANKSHAFT







THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I'm not a badminton player, Dolly! I'm a GOODminton player.

NO CELL

"IT'S MY WIFE \dots SO I'M NOT TALKING, I'M JUST LISTENING.

1 H.S.

4 Lustrous

5 Toucan's

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34 Relaxed

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39 Vogue

rival 40 Streamlet

41 Pronto

Garten 45 "You've

got mail"

47 NASCAR

44 Chef

CO. 46 Stickum

porters

products 37 "Humbug!"

24 Leo's

26 Oolong

27 Miles

My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham

Question: The Bible indicates that we should show mercy to others, but I'm not sure that is what most people need. It seems to me that the world needs correction – one big therapy session. -WN.

Answer: The first and second commandments are the only therapy the world has ever needed. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ... Love they neighbour as thyself" (Matthew 22:37, 39, KJV).

The mercy the world needs is the grace, love, and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is His trans-

The mercy the world needs is the grace, love, and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ

forming and regenerating power that the world needs more than anything else. We are to take a cup of cold water in one hand and the Gospel in another and extend them to a physically and spiritually starved world. We have thought that people's needs were entirely physical but they are also spiritual. This is why the world is in dire need of the

Gospel of Jesus. If we ask God to help us reach out to others, He will answer our prayers. He will empower us to live lives that point people to Him. This is showing mercy to our fellow man. The path to happiness is not found in selfish living and indifference to oth-

375 859 327 553 (4:15) *Poppy ("21) Seb *** ** Bandslam (2009, Romance) Vane Hudgens, Gaelan Connell, Alyson Michalka

ers. Instead, when we have experienced the mercy of God, we will want to share it with others. We'll be twice-blessed because we'll perhaps meet a need of someone else while experiencing the blessing of obedience. "Happy are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy."

Only Christ can meet he deepest needs of our world and our hearts; He transcends all boundaries with His love, mercy, and

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

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♥★★★ Rocketman (2019, Musical) Jamie Bell,

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blufftonindiana.net. If you have questions about the application process, you may call the Bluffton Police Department at 260-824-3320, Kyİe Randall, Chief of Police. Last day to accept applications September 30, 2024 will be

THE BLUFFTON POLICE Department is seeking applications to fill the position of Ordinance Compliance Officer. This full-time civilian position is responsible for ensuring compliance with all city ordinances and is based in the police department working M-F 8a-4p. Duties include downtown parking enforcement and resolution of weed and junk complaints. The successful applicant must be at least 18 years old with a high school diploma or GED equivalent, possess a responsible driving history and clean criminal background. Knowledge of law procedures preferred. Application is available the city's website www.blufftonindiana.net. For more information contact Chief Police Kyle Randall at 824-3320 or kyle.randall@bluff tonindiana.gov. Applications are due back August 23, 2024 by 4:30 p.m.

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Cash4Life — 05-16-19-30-36, Cash Ball: 03

Quick Draw Midday — 03-09-11-12-28-29-34-35-41-42-53-56-57-63-64-68-69-70-75-77, BE: 64

Daily Three-Midday — 09-09-09, SB: 03

Daily Three-Evening — 01-01-04, SB: 03

Daily Four-Midday — 08-02-04-09, SB: 03 Daily Four-Evening — 04-07-05-07, SB: 03

Quick Draw Evening 05-13-16-17-21-25-34-35-37-39-44-49-54-55-56-61-65-66-77-78, BE: 21

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a public meeting of the Board of Public Works & Safety on Tuesday

August 27, at 4:30 p.m. nb 8/13, 8/20

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Betty Jean Hall, who paved way for women to enter mining, dies at 78

By LEAH WILLINGHAM **Associated Press**

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) - Betty Jean Hall, an Appalachian attorney and federal administrative judge who paved the way for women to enter the coal mining workforce, has died. She was

Hall died Friday in Cary, N.C., where she had lived since her retirement in 2019, her daughter Tiffany Olsen told The Associated Press on Monday. The Kentucky native obtained her bachelor's degree from Berea College in 1968 before studying law at Antioch School of Law in Washington, D.C., and founding the Tennessee-based advocacy group the Coal Employment Project, in

Hall became interested in women pursuing mining careers after learning that a Tennessee mining company was refusing to even let women tour its mine much less work there, according to a 1979 profile in The New York

Before Hall came on the scene, there were virtually no women in coal mining, said Davitt McAteer, who was assistant secretary for the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration under President Bill Clinton from 1993 to 2000.

There was a long-standing myth among miners that to go into a mine with a woman was bad luck, said McAteer. The legend was that the mine is a woman, and to bring another woman underground would make the mine jealous, he said.

The Coal Employment Project pressured mining companies across the U.S. to hire women by filing anti-discrimination lawsuits. McAteer said Hall had a simple, effective argument that coal companies couldn't deny.

"Her push was always, 'Mining is where the jobs are and women need to make money just as men do.' She would say, 'We need the money because we have babies and we've got families, too,' McAteer said.

Hall told the Times in 1979 that if women had to choose between making \$6,000 a year in a factory and mining coal for \$60 or more a day, "they'll go into the mines."

"Sure, coal mining is hard work," she told the newspaper.

"But so is housework and so is working in sewing factories for minimum wages."

Within a little more than a year, the Coal Employment Project filed a lawsuit charging 153 coal companies with gender bias in hiring. By December 1978, a settlement was reached with Consolidation Coal Company to pay \$370,000 to 70 women who were denied jobs and to hire one woman for every

As a result, U.S. coal companies had hired 830 women miners by late 1978, according to a history of the organization compiled by Hall. By the mid-1980s, that number had increased to over 4,000.

Kipp Dawson, a former coal miner in Pennsylvania and a friend of Hall, told the Lexington Herald-Leader that the organization did more than just help women like her get mining jobs. The Coal Employment Project advocated for paid parental leave for miners, an effort that contributed to the passage of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993. The organization also hosted trainings, annual conferences and support groups for female miners.

"We got taken more seriously because it wasn't just the voice of a single woman," Dawson told the newspaper. "She was our mother.

Hall led the Coal Employment Project from 1977 to 1988. In 2001, she was appointed as an administrative appeals judge for the U.S. Department of Labor Benefits Review Board, where she streamlined the process of issuing decisions on appeals of worker's compensation claims and black lung benefits to ensure injured miners received fair and timely

Retired journalist and financial professional Jim Branscome, who maintained a close friendship with Hall decades after they were freshmen debate partners at Berea College, said she and Coal Employment Project were so successful because "they caught a trend of women who were fed up with a world where a woman could only hope to be a typist in a coal company office or a clerk in the company store.

It's notable, he said, that Hall's first funding came from a small grant from feminist activist Gloria Steinem's Ms. Foundation for Women. One of her first awards came from Ms. Magazine. Branscome described her as "tougher than John Henry's steel driving tools — totally fearless."

"The coal companies were hit with forces they had never faced before, and fancy law firms were defeated by an attorney from a very small law school who had a force of coal-mining women

behind her," he said. In a statement Monday, United Mine Workers of America International President Cecil E. Roberts called Hall a "remarkable woman" and a "fearless advocate who revolutionized the coal mining industry for women.'

"As we remember her incredible contributions, we reflect on the words of Mother Jones: 'Whatever your fight, don't be lady-like," Roberts said. "Betty Jean "Roberts said. "Betty Jean Hall embodied this spirit, breaking barriers and paving the way for countless women in the mining industry."

Hall is survived by Olsen and her husband Kevin Olsen, her son, Timothy Burke, two grandchildren and a sister, Janet Smith.

U.S.: Iran to blame for hacks targeting Trump, Biden-Harris campaigns

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By ERIC TUCKER **Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) U.S. intelligence officials said Monday they were confident that Iran was responsible for the hack of Donald Trump's presidential campaign, casting the cyber intrusion as part of a brazen and broader effort by Tehran to interfere in American politics and potentially shape the outcome of the election.

The assessment from the FBI and other federal agencies was the first time the U.S. government has assigned blame for hacks that have raised anew the threat of foreign election interference. The hacking also underscored how Iran, in addition to more sophisticated adversaries like Russia and China, remains a top concern to U.S. officials tasked with protecting democratic processes.

Besides breaching the Trump campaign, officials also believe that Iran tried to hack into the presidential campaign of Kamala Harris.

The hacking and similar activities, federal officials said, reflect Iran's determination to "complicate the ability of any U.S. admin-

istration to pursue a foreign policy at odds" with its own interests. The goal is to sow discord, weaken faith in democratic institutions and influence the outcome of elections that Iran perceives to be "particularly consequential in terms of the impact they could have on its national security interests," officials said.

"We have observed increasingly aggressive Iranian activity during this election cycle, specifically involving influence operations targeting the American public and cyber operations targeting Presidential campaigns," said the statement released by the FBI, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

Iran's mission to the United Nations denied the hacks, saying that Iran had neither the motive nor intention to interfere with the election, and challenged the U.S. to provide evidence.

The statement was released at a time of significant tensions between Washington and Tehran as the U.S. hopes to halt or limit a threatened threatened retaliatory strike on Israel over the assassination of Hamas official Ismail Haniyeh. An Israeli strike last month in southern Beirut killed Hezbollah's top commander, but while Tehran and Iran-backed Hezbollah have vowed to retaliate, they have not yet launched strikes as diplomatic endeavors and Gaza ceasefire talks continue in Qatar.

The U.S. did not detail how it reached the conclusion that Iran was responsible, nor did it describe the nature of any information that may have been taken from the Trump campaign. But it said the intelligence community was confident "the Iranians have through social engineering and other efforts sought access to indi-

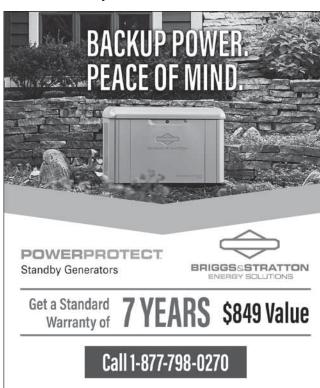
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viduals with direct access to the Presidential campaigns of both political parties.'

At least three staffers in the Biden-Harris campaign were targeted with phishing emails, but investigators have uncovered no evidence the attempt was successful, The Associated Press reported last week.

"Such activity, includ-

ing thefts and disclosures, are intended to influence the U.S. election process. It is important to note that this approach is not new. Iran and Russia have employed these tactics not only in the United States during this and prior federal election cycles but also in other countries around the world,' the statement said.



East Palestine residents want more time, information before deciding on settlement

By JOSH FUNK, Associated Press

Some East Palestine, Ohio, residents want more time and more information before they have to decide by a deadline this week whether to accept their share of a \$600 million class-action settlement with Norfolk Southern over last year's disastrous train derailment.

But it's not clear whether the judge will rule on their motion before Thursday's deadline for people who live within 20 miles of the derailment to file a claim.

Residents who live within 10 miles of the Feb. 3, 2023, crash near the Ohio-Pennsylvania border also have to decide whether to accept up to \$25,000 per person for personal injuries, although accepting that money will force them to give up the right to sue later if someone develops cancer or other serious illness because of the chemical exposure.

The amount residents can receive varies by how close they lived to the derailment, with people who lived within 2 miles receiving \$70,000 for property damage. People who lived at the outer edge of the area might only receive a few hundred dollars.

One of the key complaints in the motion filed by attorney David Graham is that attorneys who represented residents in the lawsuit haven't disclosed any of the results of testing done around town by their own expert, Stephen Petty, who has testified in hundreds of lawsuits about contamination concerns, to determine the extent of the contamination caused when toxic chemicals spilled and burned after the derailment.





Public Sale Calendar



AUGUST 22-23 - 9 a.m. - Secured creditors & various consignors, owners. 815 Adams St., Decatur. Two day truck & equipment auction. Day 1, online bidding only: 250+ various skid loader attachments, mini excavators, mini skid steers, tool boxes, workbenches, iron gates, chains & binders, 40' high side shipping containers, dome shelters, various truck take off parts & much more! Day 2, onsite and online bidding offering 700+ lots! 2024 Holiday Rambler, large group of off lease day cabs and sleepers, Freightliner day cabs, box, dump, utility & bucket trucks, lots of trailers, shipping containers, skid loader attachments, cars, SUV, pickup trucks, cargo & passenger vans! Accepting consignments! Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.

AUGUST 22, noon-5 p.m., AUGUST 23, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., AUGUST 24, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. - Estate Sale. 1513 Ridgewood Lane, Bluffton. Furniture, lamps, glassware, baskets, ironing board, sewing machine, luggage set, hand tools, antique BD electric drill, table saw, hand planer, router table/router, garden tools, wheel barrow, nail gun, ladders, weed sprayers, DVD and VCR players, Samsung TVs, sound system, old train set, fertilizer spreaders, rowing machine, storage cabinet, 1940's Boy Scout gear, wall hangings, battery charger, albums, tapes, CD's, more items. Call 260-341-5247 for details.

AUGUST 25-SEPTEMBER 1 - Online Only Personal Property Spaulding, seller. John Deere X304 riding lawn mower, household, modern furniture, vintage collectibles & Christmas, machinist tools, vintage patio furniture, machinist tool boxes, vintage boat motors, power tools, much more. Auction preview & online bidding assistance Aug. 27, 4-6 p.m., 27 Hi Lo Drive, Bluffton, IN. Sale manager Nick Huffman, 260-827-8255, *The Steffen Group* Inc., 260-426-0633, steffengrp.com.

AUGUST 31 - 10 a.m. - (Onsite) - Aaron & Lydiann Schmucker, owners. 9036W 800S, South Whitley. 50±A, tillable land, home, Whitley County. Offered in 4 Tracts. Tract 1: 20±A tillable productive farmland, Pewamo, Blount, Shoals, Sloan loam, Morley Clay soils. Tract 2: 20±A tillable productive farmland, Coesse, Sloan loam, Glynwood, Blount, Shoals soils. Tract 3: 4±A w/ approx. 3,184 sq. ft. 2-story home w/full walkout basement, 6 bedrooms, open concept layout, in-floor heat, outside deck, barn w/stalls, calf barn, straw shed, small utility type buildings. Tract 4: 6±A "Swing Tract", tillable, mostly Pewamo, Blount soils. Must be purchased w/another tract or by adjoining land owner. Inspection Aug. 24, 10 a.m.-noon. Sale manager Ritter Cox, 260-609-3306, Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc., 800-451-2709, SchraderAuction.com.

SEPTEMBER 7 - 9 a.m. - Various consignors, sellers. Lehman Feed Mill, 5111 S 000 Rd., Berne, IN. Farm Machinery Consignment Auction. Tractors, hay wagons, grain carts, discs, planters, plows, trucks, trailers, semis, livestock trailers, tools, lawn & garden equipment, shop equipment, livestock equipment & more! Consign anytime Sept. 4, 5, or 6 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call Heartland to advertise your items! Heartland Auction & Realty, Inc., 260-724-3499, heartlandauctionrealty.com

SEPTEMBER 8-SEPTEMBER 15 - (Online Only Auction) - Private Collector, seller. Outstanding collection of 2,000-plus comic books, large assortment of 8-Tracks, cassettes, CD's & DVD's, Star Wars figures, DJ lighting, vintage books, dolls, large Nativity set, toys, collectibles. Previews: Sept. 5 and Sept. 12 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 117 W. Craig St., Ossian. Pat Carter, sale manager, 260-273-8294, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006,

BIDDING NOW OPEN & STARTS CLOSING SEPTEMBER 9 - 6 p.m. EST -Susan Pollock estate, owner. Two bedroom, 1 full bath, 1,264 sq. feet, basement, 8'x12' utility shed, Root Township, Section 34, Adams County, Indiana, North Adams Community Schools. Open house Aug. 28, 5-6 p.m., 520 Nuttman Ave., Decatur, IN. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402,

SEPTEMBER 10 - 10 a.m. EST - (Live and Online) - Norman & Norwin Bauermeister. 815 Adams Street, Decatur, IN. Bauermeister Brothers retirement farm equipment auction! Tractors tillage & grain handling equipment, skid loader, JD 5320, JD 6300, JD 4240, JD 7820 FWA, JD 980 23' field cult., 24' UM dual wheel single rolling basket w/harrow, 1965 Dodge D600 & 1974 Chevy C60 grain truck, J&M 425 hopper wagon, 8"x52' Mayrath swing auger, 3 point attachments & much more! For questions on equipment please call Butch, 260-246-3656. Preview Sept. 3, 4-6 p.m., 7845 N 650 E, Ossian, IN. Checkout and pick up Sept. 10,

3-5 p.m. Sept. 11, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

SEPTEMBER 17 - 2-6 p.m. ET - Online - Greenbush, Inc., farm. Property location: 1231 N 740 E, Marion. 242.9+/- acres, classified forest, barns, quality farmland, timber, Van Buren Twp., Grant Co. Tract 1: 80+/-A, barns. Tract 2: 55.5+/-A. Tract 3: 18.3+/-A. Tract 4: 7.1+/-A, potential building site, 42'x56' barn, 30'x31' barn. Tract 5: 63+/-A, 55.28+/- classified forest. Tract 6: 19+/-A, 18.7+/- classified forest. Timber value appraisal available. Open house Sept. 7, 1-4 p.m., Steve Goodwin (forester) present. Rick Johnloz, 260-827-8181, Emma Barr, 260-494-0992, Jason Johnloz, 260-273-9177, Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management, halderman.com, 800-424-2324.

SEPTEMBER 24 - 2 p.m.-6 p.m. ET - Online - Don A. Heckber, farm. Property location: 11648 N SR 1 Ossian, IN. 31.63+/-total acres, agriculture prime farmland, 31.5+/- tillable, 0.13+/- nontillable, Topography: Level, Zoning: Agricultural, School District: Norwell Community Schools. Rick Johnloz, 260 827 8181, rickj@ halderman.com, Jason Johnloz, jasonj@halderman.com, 260-273-9177, Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management, 800-424-2324, halderman.com.

SEPTEMBER 24 - 6 p.m. - Online Only - The Estate of Jeffrey Brown. Two story country home situated on 2.41+/- acres with outbuildings. This 1,876 SF home features 3 bedrooms, large living room, eat-in kitchen, utility room and 1 car garage. Open houses: Sept. 12 and 19 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 7721 N. 300 W. Markle, IN. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, steffengrp.com, 260-

SEPTEMBER 25 - 6 p.m. - Online Only - The Estate of Jeffrey Brown. Land location: 1/4 mile west of Marzane Rd on Wells County Rd 1200 N (Scott Street), Zanesville. 9.27+/- acre prime building site in Union Twp., Northern Wells County. Property features open land, wooded acreage, a 24'x48' pole building. Perfect home site, country estate. "Explore the potential of this property." Open houses: Sept. 12 and 19 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, steffengrp.com.

SEPTEMBER 27 - 9 a.m. - Huntington University, owner. Civic Center, 339 S. Main St., Montpelier. Online bidding available. Property: From Montpelier, 1 mile east to CR 600E, north 3 miles to CR 1000S, 3 miles east. 256±A productive land, buyer will have 2025 farming rights, Wells County, Nottingham Township. Offered in 5 tracts, any combinations, tracts. Tract 1: 40±A mostly tillable, CR 1000S, CR 100E road frontage. Tract 2: 88±A mostly tillable, CR 1000S road frontage. Tract 3. 7±A mostly tillable, CR 1000S road frontage, potential building site! Tract 4: 104±A mostly tillable w/7±A woods, CR 1000S, CR 200E road frontage. Tract 5: 17±A mostly tillable, CR 200E road frontage. Inspection Aug. 29, 4-6 p.m., Sept. 7, 10 a.m.-noon, Tract 1. Auction managers Al Pfister, 260-760-8922, RD Schrader, 800-451-2709, Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc., schraderauction.com.

NOVEMBER 14 - 6 p.m. - Becher Family Farms LLC, sellers. Auction location: Adams Co. 4H Expo Hall, 160 W. Washington St., Monroe, IN. Four tracts, Washington Township, Adams County. Tract 1: 82.88 acres, County Rd. 200 West, Sec 18. Tract 2: 80.2 acres, County Rd. 450 North, Sec 8. Tract 3: 35.05 acres, County Rd. 450 North, Sec 9. Tract 4: 39.97 acres, County Rd. 400 North, Sec 9. Heartland Auction & Realty, Inc., 260-724-

3499, heartlandauctionrealty.com.