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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2024

BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

\$1.00

BHMSD celebrates opening of 'safety village'

• More photos on Page 10
By HOLLY GASKILL

Bluffton-Harrison schools celebrated the official opening of its new Our Town Safety Village with

a ribbon cutting on Friday morning.

The "safety village" at Bluffton-Harrison Elementary School offers students an opportunity to learn

community safety lessons through a play model of a city. The mock community includes sidewalks, intersections, miniature buildings and traffic signs, bikes, and children's motorized cars. Similar models exist in Fort Wayne and Decatur.

The project was made possible through a grant from the Indiana Department of Education, which the district received in the spring of 2022.

"BHMSD is excited to offer another opportunity for our students to engage in interactive learning," Superintendent Brad Yates said. "Our staff have been instrumental in developing curriculum to coincide with this project, and we know Our Town will be a great addition for our youngest learners to be more aware of pedestrian, bicycle and



Kindergarten teacher Jill Mounsey (right) and School Resource Officer Phil Kurut demonstrate how to safely cross the road. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)



At left, School Resource Officer Phil Kurut helps kindergarten-er Hunter McElveen get buckled into vehicle, as the group prepares to practice navigating through the safety village streets.

vehicle safety as well as the various career opportunities within our community."

BHMSD also worked with several local partners, Meyer Building and Min-

nich Excavating, as well as the construction trades class (Continued on Page 2)

Rocking Like a Hurricane

With the remnants of Hurricane Helene wreaking havoc, Southern Wells celebrated homecoming Friday night. At right, Owen King was crowned king while Aly Green was crowned queen. Below left the Raider cheerleaders react to the wind and rain. Middle left, teacher Tricia Tucker (left) was named Distinguished Citizen of the Year for the second time — the first in 2013. She teaches junior high social studies and is the junior high student council sponsor. Presenting the award were Colter Kiel student council president, and Monica Edgeman, student council sponsor. Middle right, Green is crowned by last year's queen, Ella Lahr. Bottom, the homecoming court anxiously awaits announcement of king and queen. (Photos by Glen Werling)



State considers new legislation to address student absences

Numerous state and local education leaders spoke before policymakers on Thursday about student attendance and absenteeism struggles.

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Why K-12 students don't show up to school — and how to make kids and their parents more accountable — was largely the focus of an hours-long policy meeting held Thursday at the Indiana Statehouse.

It's a conversation that's increasingly come before Hoosier policymakers in light of state data showing that thousands of Hoosier students are missing multiple days, even weeks, of school each year.

The latest attendance numbers released by the Indiana Department of Education last month reported that 17.8% of K-12 students — roughly 219,000 kids — were "chronically absent" during

the most recent 2023-24 school year, meaning they missed at least 18 days.

The Indiana Code specifically defines chronic absenteeism as being absent 18 or more days within a school year for any reason — a higher standard than "habitual truancy," which is ten or more days without an excuse.

It's the second year in a row that the number of chronically absent students went down, dropping from 19.2% in 2023, and 21.1% in 2022. Even so, Indiana's top education officials have conceded that too many Hoosier students are still missing a "significant" number of school days.

Thursday's discussion could be (Continued on Page 2)

Hurricane Helene kills at least 44, cuts a swath of destruction

Associated Press

PERRY, Fla. (AP) — Hurricane Helene left an enormous path of destruction across Florida and the southeastern U.S. on Friday, killing at least 44 people, snapping towering oaks like twigs and tearing apart homes as rescue crews launched desperate missions to save people from floodwaters.

Among those killed were three firefighters, a woman and her 1-month-old twins, and an 89-year-old woman whose house was struck by a falling tree. According to an Associated Press tally, the deaths occurred in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

The Category 4 hurricane knocked out power to some hospitals in southern Georgia, and Gov.

Brian Kemp said authorities had to use chainsaws to clear debris and open up roads. The storm had maximum sustained winds of 140 mph when it made landfall late Thursday in a sparsely populated region in Florida's rural Big Bend area, home to fishing villages and vacation hideaways where the state's panhandle and peninsula meet.

Moody's Analytics said it expects \$15 billion to \$26 billion in property damage.

The wreckage extended hundreds of miles northward to northeast Tennessee, where a "dangerous rescue situation" by helicopter unfolded after 54 people were moved to the roof of the Unicoi County Hospital as water rapidly (Continued on Page 2)

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Outside



Another chance of rain today through Tuesday

Today	Sunday	Monday
High 73	High 72	High 74
Low 62	Low 62	Low 60

More Weather on Page 2

Online

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SATURDAY
September 28, 2024

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Representatives from Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan Schools and its partners for the new Our Town Safety Village celebrated the project with a ribbon cutting Friday morning. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

BHMSD celebrates

(Continued from Page 1)
at Southern Wells Jr.-Sr. High School. Students in the course pitched, designed and built a miniature version of Bluffton's City Hall in hopes of bringing real-world context to the mock community. Other buildings represent both residential and commercial settings and include three buildings available for community partnerships.

The safety village also provides teachers another opportunity to address Indiana Academic Standards.

Beginning in pre-K, students will interact with the town in lessons about helping others and community workers, Assistant Superintendent Julie Meitzler explained. Future lessons will address pedestrian safety, traffic signs, fire safety, directions, school and commercial history, careers and work ethic.

Some students exhibited these lessons during the ribbon cutting Friday, with teachers and School Resource Officer Phil Kurut

guiding students in their vehicles in a lap around the safety village. The group talked about wearing seat belts, stopping at stop signs, looking both ways, and being mindful of their surroundings.

BHES students will continue to test the safety village this school year. The district anticipates students from neighboring schools in the county will be able to use the facility next school year.

"Our Town Safety Vil-

lage will enhance the work we are doing at BHES in our study of student safety, our community, and careers," said Meitzler. "With the work of a group of teachers, we have developed a curriculum that will continue to evolve as we utilize the space. We are also excited to be able to provide this opportunity to our Wells County schools to allow our neighbors to have these experiences with their students as well."

holly@news-banner.com

Student absences

(Continued from Page 1)
the precursor for additional legislation in 2025.

State legislators responded during the 2024 session with a new law that prompts Indiana school districts to take a tougher stance on student truancy, though it's up to schools to decide how to craft and execute local policies.

But multiple school and district officials who testified Thursday described the law as an "unfunded mandate" that's doing little to actually address absenteeism issues. Others said Indiana should instead focus on collecting data to better understand why students aren't making it to class so root causes can be addressed.

A deeper data dive

Student absences have been on the rise since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in Indiana and across the nation. Chronic absenteeism surged during the pandemic, nearly doubling to peak at 21.1% in 2022, according to IDOE.

John Keller, IDOE's chief information officer, noted during Thursday's Interim Study Committee on Education that Indiana appears to be reversing from its high-absence period during the pandemic. He emphasized that all grades levels improved their chronic absenteeism rates in 2023-24 by one to two percent when compared to the year prior.

According to the 2023-24 data, 23.7% of K-12 students who receive free or reduced lunch were chronically absent — nearly 11% higher than their peers. English language learners were also slightly more likely to miss class; 18.5% of English learners were chronically absent during the last school year, compared to 17.7% of non-English language learners.

"The numbers are pretty startling," Keller said. "But one of the questions that we're asking as part of this analysis is how chronic is chronic absenteeism? Because it's easy to talk about improvement of a rate in year over year terms, but it's also easy to lose a student in that conversation."

Of the more than 28,000 Hoosier 12th graders who were considered chronically absent by IDOE during the last school year, nearly half of those

same students were also considered chronically absent as 11th graders. Almost 9,400 of those students were additionally chronically absent in the 10th grade, and close to 5,000 were listed as such as high school freshmen.

"When you start to see this, you realize that there are probably some students whose absence from schools really could be denominated in terms of years, rather than weeks or months or days," Keller said.

Educators around the state have pointed to family challenges some students face at home, along with hard-to-break tendencies to keep kids home when even mildly unwell — a habit borne out of the pandemic — as key factors. Some lawmakers — like Indianapolis Democrat Rep. Ed DeLaney — also pondered whether parents are more culpable.

"I think people are getting used to saying, 'We'll go two days early for vacation, or we'll come back two days later from vacation, and Friday, we've got to go see grandma,'" DeLaney said. "One of my concerns is not just the schools, but we've got to get the message to the parents that you've got to get your kid in the seat."

Schools are getting creative to try to combat the growing problem, like increasing communication with parents and incentivizing absence-prone students to come to class.

Collecting better attendance numbers
Keller noted that chronically absent students "are more associated with disruptive behaviors in schools," as well as lower performance on standardized tests, like IREAD.

"It's a really integrated challenge. And so if we ever you know, we want to make sure that we're not just talking about, well, kids need to be in school. Well, these are the whys that they need to be in school, right?"

According to IDOE, roughly 7% of K-12 students — or 70,000 kids — had to sit out of the classroom for disciplinary reasons in 2022, an increase from 27,000 the year prior. In 2021, 850 Indiana students were expelled from schools. In 2022, that number jumped to 2,500.

Russ Skiba, professor emeritus at Indiana University, said that responsive

policies should focus less on consequences, though. He said current Indiana laws that "punish parents" for their student's absences — like the recently enacted Senate Enrolled Act 282 — can instead lead them to "pull their kids from school and rely on homeschooling."

Southport High School Principal Amy Boone, also representing the Indiana Association of School Principals, said she's already seen that happen in her district.

SEA 282 calls for schools to intervene early when younger students have repeated absences without excuses. Parents of a student in grades K-6 who has missed five days of school within 10 weeks, without being excused, are to be notified by the school and required to create a plan to improve the student's attendance. Boone said the policy is largely being implemented at the high school level, too.

But the five-day time limit often means no parent shows up for a meeting at all.

"This lack of engagement is concerning and hinders our ability to provide the necessary supports to students," Boone continued, adding that it also takes away time from "already stretched-then" school staff.

When asked by lawmakers, Boone agreed that the new law has become an "unfunded mandate — it's more clerical than it is a direct impact on our kids."

Skiba suggested a model chronic absenteeism policy recommended by the American Legislative Exchange Council, which calls for the creation of an early-warning system to help identify students who may be at risk for chronic absenteeism. Also cited is a "tiered system" to address absenteeism, and requirements for local school boards to adopt specific attendance policies and improvement plans.

Currently, it's generally up to local school districts to decide when students' absences are excused, though state law requires schools to excuse absences for certain reasons, including illness, mental or physical incapacity, required court appearances, helping in elections, service as a page for the general assembly, participating in the state fair and up to 120 minutes per week of religious instruction.

Weather

Saturday, September 28, 2024
(24-hour observations at 9:44 p.m. Friday)
High: 73; **Low:** 64; **Precipitation:** 0.27 inches of rain
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.27 feet at 9:45 p.m. Friday

Wells County forecast

Today: A 30% chance of showers after 3 p.m. Cloudy, with a high near 73. East wind around 10 mph.

Tonight: Showers likely, mainly before 2 a.m. Cloudy, with a low around 62. Northeast wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.

Sunday: Showers likely, mainly after 8 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 72. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.

Sunday Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms before 11 p.m., then a chance of showers between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 62. Northeast wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Monday: A 40% chance of showers, mainly after 2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 74.

Monday Night: A 30% chance of showers, mainly before 8 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 60.

Tuesday: A 20% chance of showers after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 76.

Tuesday Night: A 10% chance of showers before 8 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 46.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 65.

Hurricane Helene

(Continued from Page 1)
flooded the facility. Everyone was rescued and no one was left at the hospital as of late Friday afternoon, Ballad Health said.

In North Carolina, a lake featured in the movie "Dirty Dancing" overtopped a dam and surrounding neighborhoods were evacuated, although there were no immediate concerns it would fail. People also were evacuated from Newport, Tennessee, a city of about 7,000 people, amid concerns about a dam near there, although officials later said the structure had not failed.

Tornadoes hit some areas, including one in Nash County, North Carolina, that critically injured four people.

Atlanta received a record 11.12 inches of rain in 48 hours, the most the city has seen in a two-day period since record keeping began in 1878, Georgia's Office of the State Climatologist said on the social platform X. The previous mark of 9.59 inches was set in 1886. Some neighborhoods were so badly flooded that only car roofs could be seen poking above the water.

Climate change has exacerbated conditions that allow such storms to thrive, rapidly intensifying in warming waters and turning into powerful cyclones sometimes in a matter of hours.

As she surveyed the damage, her name and phone number were still inked on her arm in permanent marker, an admonition by Taylor County officials to help identify recovered bodies in the storm's aftermath. The community has taken direct hits from three hurricanes since August 2023.

All five who died in one Florida county were in neighborhoods where residents were told to evacuate, said Bob Gualtieri, the sheriff in Pinellas County in the St. Petersburg area. Some who stayed ended up having to hide in their attics to escape the rising water. He said the death toll could rise

as crews go door-to-door in flooded areas.

More deaths were reported in Georgia and the Carolinas, including two South Carolina firefighters and a Georgia firefighter who died when trees struck their trucks.

Video on social media showed sheets of rain and siding coming off buildings in Perry, Florida, near where the storm hit land. A news station showed a home that was overturned, and many communities established curfews.

Also in Perry, the hurricane peeled off the new roof of a church that was replaced after Hurricane Idalia last year.

President Joe Biden said he was praying for survivors, and the head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency headed to the area. The agency deployed more than 1,500 workers, and they helped with 400 rescues by late morning.

In Tampa, some areas could be reached only by boat.

Officials urged people who were trapped to call for rescuers and not tread floodwaters, warning they can be dangerous due to live wires, sewage, sharp objects and other debris.

More than 3 million homes and businesses were without power in Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas as of late Friday, according to poweroutage.us. The site also showed outages as far north as Ohio and Indiana due to Helene's rapid northward movement throughout the day.

In Georgia, an electrical utility group warned of "catastrophic" damage to utility infrastructure, with more than 100 high voltage transmission lines damaged. And officials in South Carolina, where more than 40% of customers were without power, said crews had to cut their way through debris just to determine what was still standing in some places.

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Bummitz

Rootbeer Stand

Bluffton, Indiana

Friends Who Care Day Saturday

September 28th!

A portion of all sales from that day will be donated to the friends who care cancer Relief Fund. We will also be accepting free-will donations. Come see us and help support this great local charity!

1263 S. Main • Bluffton • 824-3626

OBITUARIES

Dale B. Foreman, 68

Dale B. Foreman, 68 of rural Poneto, passed away on Thursday afternoon, Sept. 26, 2024, at his residence, surrounded by his family.

He was born on June 19, 1956, in Muskegon, Michigan to Thomas L. and Lucielle (Holley) Foreman, Jr. After attending Southern Wells High School, Dale served in the United States Army from 1976 to 1978. He worked for Ormsby Trucking for many years and retired in 2019 from E/R, National Oil & Gas in Bluffton, where he worked for 32 years.

Dale enjoyed hunting, lifting weights, driving semi, riding his 4-wheeler and his horse, along with helping on the family farm.

On Jan. 11, 1976, Dale and Susan L. Howell were married at the South Liberty Christian Church.

Survivors include his wife of 48 years, Susan Foreman of Poneto; and children, Eric T. (Emily) Foreman of rural Liberty Center and Tricia (Mark) Patch of Geneva; along with seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Dale is also survived by a brother, Dave (Kathy) Foreman of



Fort Wayne; and a step-sister, Sherrie Hicks of Portland.

He is preceded in death by his grandparents, Thomas and Opal Foreman, Sr.; and parents, Thomas and Lucielle Foreman, Jr.

Funeral Services will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 30, 2024, at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton with Pastor Jerrod Mounsey and Pastor Dan Eckelbarger officiating.

Visitation will be held from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday, Sept 29, 2024, at the funeral home and for one hour prior to the service on Monday.

Burial will follow at Miller Cemetery located in rural Southern Wells County, with military honors by the United States Army Honor Guard and American Legion Post 111 Honor Guard.

Memorials may be made to charity of the Donor's Choice.

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

Melvin L. Jones, 77

Melvin L. Jones, 77, of Keystone, passed away Thursday afternoon, Sept. 26, 2024, at Markle Health & Rehabilitation Center.

Mel was born in Battle Creek, Michigan, on Nov. 20, 1946, to Robert "Bob" and Bertha (Cobbum) Jones. He married Patsy "Pat" Addington in Bluffton on June 20, 1965; she survives.

Mel graduated from Bluffton High School and retired from Franklin Electric in Bluffton after over 30 years of service. He also farmed in southern Wells County for many years. Mel loved the outdoors, especially hunting, fishing, and camping. He also loved spending time with his grandchildren.

In addition to his wife, Mel is survived by two sons, Chris (Tami) Jones and Mike Jones, both of Bluffton; a daughter, Con-



nie (Matt) Mittlestedt of Bluffton; four grandchildren, Colten (Abby) Jones, Steven (Kristen) Mittlestedt, Stephanie (Ben) Eppard, and Josh (Jessie) Jones; along with 13 great-grandchildren.

Aside from his parents, Mel was preceded in death by a brother, Robert "Bob" Jones.

Visitation will be Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024, from 1:00 until 4:00 p.m., at Goodwin - Cale &

Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton, followed immediately by a memorial service at 4:00 p.m., officiated by Rev. Larry Lane. Burial will be held at a later date at Alberson Cemetery in Adams County.

In honor of Mel's love for animals, memorial contributions may be made to the Wells County Friends of the Shelter.

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

Carolyn J. Graham, 94

Carolyn J. Graham, 94, of Bluffton, passed away early Friday morning, Sept. 27, 2024, at her home.

Funeral arrangements are pending at this time with the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

Bluffton Parks & Rec News & Notes



By Brandy Fiechter

Destination Recreation

We want to thank everyone who has responded to the Wells Community Pool Survey so far. Over 1,060 people shared their thoughts in just the first two days. You can tell how much this facility has meant to so many of us over the last 50+ years, and we are looking forward to using these results to build something Bluffton can be proud of for years to come. The survey can be found on the City's Website at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HR85QVH>. It takes about 5 minutes to complete and will be available until Oct. 8.

As many of you may know, Bluffton has a long history of being recognized by the Iris community, thanks to the Cook and Williamson families. E.B. Williamson and Mary Williamson started the Longfield Iris Farm in 1918, located at the west edge of Bluffton. They were interested in making crosses between species and later worked mostly with Bearded. They produced many splendid varieties, especially those noted for their excellent growing qualities. Their work profoundly affected the development of the Iris flower in the United States.

We are pleased to announce that the great-granddaughter of E.B. and Mary has generously donated a beautiful monument to honor the memory of both families. Please join us on Wednesday, Oct. 16 at 3 p.m. at the Wabash River Park behind Hardees for a **monument dedication**.

If you want to learn more about Bluffton's Iris history, sign up for a free class at the Wells County History Museum at 10 a.m. on Oct. 16. To register for the talk, call 824-6069 or e-mail events@blufftonindiana.gov.

FREE Farm Wagon — The Community Harvest Farm Wagon visits Bluffton every Tuesday at 9 a.m. to give FREE fresh food to needy families at the Life Community Church South parking lot (428 S Oak St.). Please enter the parking

lot at the south entrance off Oak Street and park facing North.

This coming Tuesday, Oct. 1, will feature the annual **Community Vaccination Clinic** during the Farm Wagon Program from 7:30-9 a.m. Participants can stay in their vehicles, and nurses will come to your car. Please bring your insurance card; they will accept and bill all insurance (commercial, Medicare, Medicaid). There is no cost to those without insurance, except for the Shingles vaccine.

FREE Toddler Time starts Oct. 1. The Bluffton City Gym will be open every Tuesday and Thursday from 11 to noon, so you can bring your tots and burn off some energy. (October – March) This free drop-in program will allow young children to play with others their age in a large open space. Balls will be available in the storage closet at the East end of the gym when we hear the children arrive. Please note that this is not a staff-facilitated event, and parents are responsible for their children. We typically offer a special tour or activity on the first Thursday of each month. Please sign in on the wooden door each visit and turn off the gym lights if you are the last to leave. Call the park office at 824-6069 if you have any questions. Special visits include the Oct. 3 Police Station visit, the Nov. 7 Fire Station visit, and the Dec. 12 Story Time with Mrs. Claus.

City Gym Membership Sale—The price of a Bluffton City Gym Membership will drop on Oct. 1. Visit us in the park office on the 2nd floor of City Hall during business hours to purchase a key. A single member costs only \$25 until the end of the year, and a family membership is discounted to only \$50. Membership includes the weight room, locker room with showers and a sauna, racquetball court and the gym floor when there isn't a scheduled event.

Have a great week!

Indy man sentenced to 189 years for killing 3 men found along a path

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A 19-year-old man convicted in the fatal shootings of three young men found dead along a path in Indianapolis was sentenced Friday to 189 years in prison.

A Marion County judge sentenced Caden Smith about a month after a jury convicted the Indianapolis man of three counts of murder and other charges, including robbery and dangerous possession of a firearm, in the killings.

Smith was 16 in October 2021 when a police officer found Joseph Thomas, 18; Michael James, 22; and Abdulla Mubarak, 17, shot to death on a path lined by tall grasses on Indianapolis' south side. He was charged as an adult in the killings.

The Marion County Prosecutor's Office said after Smith's conviction that he was identified as a suspect through his communication with the victims prior to the killings. Investigators learned Smith had taken the victims to the area where they were shot to demon-

strate a gun conversion device known as a "Glock switch" that can make a semi-automatic weapon fire like a machine gun.

When Smith was arrested, investigators found the mur-

der weapon in his residence, the prosecutor's office said.

Prosecutor Ryan Mears said Friday in a statement that "justice was served for Abdullah, Joseph, Michael, and their families."

Local Roundup

Bluffton Board of Works to meet Tuesday afternoon

The Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 1, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Bluffton Common Council will meet Tuesday evening

The Bluffton Common Council will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 1, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Visitors Commission will meet Wednesday morning

The Wells County Convention and

Visitors Commission will meet at 8 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 2, at the Wells County Commerce and Visitors Centre, 211 Water St. in Bluffton.

Topics on the agenda include:

- Financial updates.
- Marketing and project updates.
- Discussion of upcoming board appointments.

Markle Town Council will meet Wednesday evening

The Markle Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 2, in the meeting room of the Markle fire station, 150 W. Sparks St. in Markle.

- Public hearing on water improvements.
- Public hearing on the 2025 budget.
- Town correspondence and regular reports.

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.

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GALATIANS 1:1-5 SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 28

[Jesus] gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age. [GALATIANS 1:4]

SEARCH AND RESCUE

Some friends went boating in the English Channel, hoping the forecast for stormy weather would change. But the winds rose, and the waves became choppy, threatening the safety of their vessel, so they radioed for help to the RNLI (the Royal National Lifeboat Institution). After some tense moments, they spotted their rescuers in the distance and realized with relief they'd soon be safe. As my friend reflected gratefully afterward, "Whether or not people ignore the rules of the sea, the RNLI still comes to the rescue."

As he recounted the story, I thought about how Jesus leads God's search-and-rescue mission. He came to earth to become a man, living as one of us. Through His death and resurrection, He provided us with a rescue plan when our sin and disobedience separated us from God. This truth is emphasized by Paul, when writing to the church at Galatia: "The Lord Jesus Christ... gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age" (GALATIANS 1:3-4). Paul reminded the Galatians of the gift of new life they received through Jesus' death so that they would honor God day by day.

Jesus, our rescuer, willingly died to save us from being lost. Because He did, we have life in the kingdom of God, and in gratitude we can share the life-saving news with those in our community.

AMY BOUCHER PYE

How do you express thanks for your rescue? With whom can you share the good news?

Dear Jesus, You give the gift of life and salvation. Please help me to receive Your love and give it to others.

Our Daily Bread

— a free publication we would love to share with you. Stop in anytime. There is no cost or obligation.

Family Ford of Bluffton
970 N. Main St., Bluffton 824-2300

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Some things seem pretty plain to me

I'm no lawyer, but it seems pretty plain to me that

Saturday's Sub

if you're an involuntary resident in any of Indiana's prisons and wanted to create a problem and get some attention, all you'd have to do is insist on a facelift.

Last week, a federal judge issued a preliminary injunction halting a statutory ban on gender-affirming procedures for those incarcerated by the Indiana Department of Correction.

It seems the ACLU of Indiana successfully argued that to deny what is essentially an elective surgery violates the plaintiff's right to "be free from cruel and unusual punishment under the Eighth Amendment." It seems the plaintiff has such a high degree of "gender dysphoria" that he/she is suicidal and thus qualifies for the state to pay for the procedure.

Ergo, an aging convict hates the wrinkles around his/her eyes and convinces someone they are suicidal and sues the state for a facelift. Ridiculous? You bet.

I'm no politician, but it seems plain to me that making campaign promises you obviously cannot keep ought to qualify as a crime at some point. Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch recently published a book titled "Over Ruled: The Human Toll of Too Much Law." An interesting tome in which he argues that a federal prosecutor could easily target just about anyone and find a federal law they've violated.

The point being: Somewhere in that pantheon of federal laws, there is a prohibition and penalty for any member of the American public to lie to the FBI. Contrary to Gorsuch's argument however, there ought to be one more law prohibiting any elected official from lying to the American public.

"If you like your medical plan, you will be able to keep it."

"Mexico will pay for the wall."

And now we have promises of tax cuts and other freebies — or there will be a new law banning this or allowing that — if you'll just vote for me. Certainly from both presidential candidates but Indiana's gubernatorial aspirants are pushing those buttons as well. They seem to be forgetting there is a legislative branch.

I'm no economic development guru but it seems pretty plain to me that there are some new businesses that are good for a community and some that are not.

I've been reading with interest about a proposal to build a \$500 million casino/hotel/entertainment complex in nearby New Haven. An initial public information meeting was held this past week; it appears a crowd estimated at about 500 people was equally divided on whether or not it would be an asset to the community. We should be thankful, I guess, that at least some people are asking the obvious question: "Why in the world do we need another casino in Indiana, let alone one in my community?"

However, New Haven opened this can of worms just a few years ago when a new off-track state-sanctioned betting facility was opened there with a gala ribbon cutting and full endorsement of an exuberant then-Mayor Terry McDonald placing the first bet. He was also, at the time, a part-time United Methodist minister. Strange bedfellows, indeed.

Speaking of strange, it seems the company behind the proposal (who pledged at the meeting to not seek any tax abatements or other tax relief, bless their hearts) would move an existing license to operate a casino from a community along the Ohio River to New Haven. I don't understand how they can do that.

But then, there are a number of things regarding economic development I don't understand. It seems pretty plain to me that if we had a local economic development director to help explain this to me, I could call him or her. But we don't.

If I were a local taxpayer, I would begin to wonder why that is. Indeed, I am. On both counts.

miller@news-banner.com

Letters to the Editor

Perhaps a better way to invest in rebranding

For \$20,000, city officials have undertaken a rebranding effort for Bluffton.

Reportedly over 700 Bluffton residents responded to a survey earlier this year to help create a rebranding of Bluffton. While an ensuing proposed new logo has been recently shown City Council, have the results of that survey prior to this new logo been made public to be shared with interested residents of Bluffton who might be curious about these over 700 survey responses?

And might those folks offer an understanding of these responses beyond what has been offered by those hired as consultants?

How beneficial is spending city money on people who haven't called Bluffton "home" to propose to us who do call or have called Bluffton "home" what our city symbol should be?

Why not trust the folks of this community who have the talent and ability

to respond to the calling by city officials for a new flag, a new logo, a refreshing rebranding — if that is what our community wants?

Why not ask for the public to submit their ideas by a certain deadline and have a committee of three select the top five or so for Bluffton residents to review and vote on? Have the committee be made up of representatives named by the City Council, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Creative Arts Council. Have ranked voting rather than just voting for your favorite, and award money for the top three vote-getters after eliminating the lowest vote-getters and redistributing their votes: \$3000 for 1st, \$2000 for 2nd, \$1000 for 3rd (or whatever amounts) add up to less than \$20,000.

Why not invest in the most valuable asset of this community — the folks who call this community "home"?

DOUG SUNDLING
Bluffton



Mark Miller

The sad truth of the 2024 election: They represent who we are

What has become paramount are personal desires, not the greater good.

Among the questions I am most often asked by people who don't like the two presidential candidates: "How did we get to this point where I can't enthusiastically vote for either one?"

What may be a partial answer comes from an essay by Daniel McCarthy, editor of Modern Age: A Conservative Review.

In the summer 2024 issue, McCarthy writes about "Democracy Beyond Elections." After recalling what Alexis de Tocqueville found admirable about America during his 10-month visit nearly two centuries ago, McCarthy says: "In the modern world freedom begins in virtue and ends with utility." He explains that "freedom once in hand comes to be defined by the lack of any clear aim. It means everyone can do anything he or she wants and every desire becomes equal."

So would call that "license." Another word for it might be "libertine," whose definition increasingly defines this country:

"a person who is morally or sexually unrestrained..." Must I offer examples?

This suggests that making money and indulging in things that give one personal pleasure with little regard to how it affects others and the unity of the country is now the highest priority for many.

"Whatever makes money," writes McCarthy, "will be perceived as good, while what makes less money — or loses money — must be bad: after all, money is simply a stand-in for the multitude (and scale) of human aims and desires."

McCarthy then gets to the heart of why we are discontented with many of our leaders: "In the cultural realm, and in morals too, democratic equality levels the good and bad. The only thing that remains truly bad is whatever is more-than-equal or gets deemed undemocratic. The good is increasingly understood in utilitarian terms, not only as what satisfies the greatest number but also as the most efficient means toward producing subjective satisfaction." McCarthy says this plays out in the thinking of people who are "outraged"



Cal Thomas

when someone suggests that Beethoven might be better than Beyonce.

Tocqueville, says McCarthy, feared that "what made human beings noble and good could be lost — men could forget their own souls."

It appears they already have, and in increasing numbers as the cultural elites demand we must accept any and every idea and form of human behavior (except conservative religious and political ideas).

We can't say we haven't been warned about this numerous times by the Founders and previous religious and political leaders.

I've quoted him before, but G.K. Chesterton was right when he said: "When men choose not to believe in God, they do not thereafter believe in nothing, they then become capable of believing in anything." The increasing secularization of our culture, including its hypersexuality without commitment in marriage, and the lack of interest in church attendance

by especially younger people, gives credence to his point.

If political leadership represents what the masses believe — from entitlement to other people's money, to no restraints on human behavior — that reflects who we are. We get what we deserve. What has become paramount are personal desires, not the greater good.

As C.S. Lewis stated in "The Abolition of Man:" We make men

without chests and expect from them virtue and enterprise. We laugh at honor and are shocked to find traitors in our midst."

More than 61 percent of voters think we are on the wrong track, according to Real Clear Polling. So why do we keep voting for people who keep us on the wrong track? The answer is they represent who we are at our core.

John Adams remarked that "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people." What happens when a majority appear no longer moral and religious? We get these two presidential candidates.

tcaeditors@tribpub.com.



As Putin's military barbarism continues, U.S. credibility is at stake

"We have now at last got far enough ahead of barbarism to control it, and to avert it, if only we realize what is afoot and make up our minds in good time." — Winston Churchill, 1938 radio broadcast to the United States

Barbarism is on the ballot this year. About Ukraine's future, as about everything important, Vice President Kamala Harris is largely uninformative, and perhaps uninformed. Even worse, the Trump-Vance ticket is why Russian President Vladimir Putin's supporters — such as Hungary's authoritarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban (Donald Trump swoons about his being "strong," a weak person's adjective of admiration) — eagerly await Nov. 5, U.S. Election Day. And then winter.

Winter rescued Russia from Napoleon's aggression, and, 129 years later, from Hitler's. Eighty-three years after that, Putin expects winter to help his aggression succeed. Hence, when his barbarian military is not targeting a children's hospital, a nursing home or civilians' apartments, it is degrading energy sources, the life-sustaining infrastructure of modern nations. Ukrainians are scavenging batteries from scrapped Teslas for winter power.

Zoltan Barany, a University of Texas political scientist, writes in the Journal of Democracy that Russia's military "is a quintessential reflection of the state that created it": corrupt (a Russian prosecutor "admitted that about a fifth of the Defense Ministry's budget was stolen; other officials said that it could be as high as two-fifths"), brutal, hyper-centralized and institutionally stupid because it is hostile to debate.

And until Feb. 24, 2022, inexperienced: Its engagements in Georgia (where Russian officers had to borrow war correspondents' cellphones to reach troops), Crimea and Syria were "against feeble adversaries and



George Will

said zero about how Russian forces would perform in a conventional land war against a resolute, well-armed enemy." Furthermore, "The 2018 decision to revive the post of zampolit (political officer) in units as small as infantry companies harks back to the Soviet era and signals that the state doubts its soldiers' loyalty."

Sen. JD Vance, the Met-ternich from Middletown, Ohio, says Ukraine does not have an "achievable objective." Ukraine's objective is to thwart Putin's, which is to erase Ukraine. The logic of Vance's diagnosis is to stop resisting Putin.

This presidential campaign features the least discussion of national security since the nation's 1990s, post-Cold War holiday from history. Perhaps even since 1936. This, even though the variety and totality of threats is the worst since 1945.

One candidate seems unaware that it is momentous for a powerful nation to lose a war. Even, perhaps especially, a proxy war, in which the most serious sacrifices — of lives — are done by others. The former commander in chief will not say it is vital for Ukraine to prevail.

Imagine what our watching enemies will conclude if U.S. policy, particularly regarding permission for Ukraine to strike military targets deep in Russia, continues to be timid, tentative and subject to minute presidential calibrations akin to those Lyndon B. Johnson made when personally approving bombing targets in Vietnam.

This timidity exists, even though

support for Ukraine is not politically risky. The number of Republican senators and representatives who, deviating from Trump, robustly support U.S. aid to Ukraine, and who this year lost in primaries, is zero.

In France in 1917, U.S. Gen. John Pershing reportedly told Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau: "We are here to fight and be killed. Do with us as you will, without counting." Many wars later, no U.S. leader would talk like that — or need to, regarding Ukraine.

Today, U.S. credibility, the coin that purchases deterrence, depends on the success of Ukraine, which does the dying. U.S. "sacrifices" are merely material and negligible as a portion of gross domestic product. They do not noticeably subtract from government's domestic spending because the government's incontinent borrowing has long-since severed the connection between revenue and outlays.

So, if U.S. "sacrifices" are deemed too excruciating to be justified by the goal of preventing the destruction of the geographically largest nation entirely in Europe, we will have earned from Russia and its friends (China, Iran, North Korea) what makes enemies doubly dangerous: contempt.

If Putin succeeds, historians generations hence might designate Russia's war against Ukraine — as they did, after World War II, the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) — the "great rehearsal": a bloody prologue to a blood-soaked aftermath. The politician and novelist John Buchan, Churchill's contemporary, said: "You think that a wall as solid as the earth separates civilization from barbarism. I tell you the division is a thread, a sheet of glass."

We have been warned, redundantly, by wise leaders and past events, and the sound of cracking glass.

georgewill@washpost.com.



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, Sept. 28, the 272nd day of 2024. There are 94 days left in the year.

Today's highlight in history: On Sept. 28, 1928, Scottish medical researcher Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin, the first effective antibiotic.

Also on this date:

In 1781, American forces in the Revolutionary War, backed by a

French fleet, began their successful siege of Yorktown, Virginia.

In 1924, three U.S. Army planes landed in Seattle, having completed the first round-the-world trip by air in 175 days.

In 1941, Ted Williams became the most recent American League baseball player to hit over .400 for a season, batting .406 for the Boston Red Sox.

In 1962, a federal appeals court

found Mississippi Gov. Ross Barnett in civil contempt for blocking the admission of James Meredith, a Black student, to the University of Mississippi.

In 1995, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat signed an accord at the White House ending Israel's military occupation of West Bank cities and laying the foundation for a Palestinian state.

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630 E. Dustman Rd.
9:45 & 11:45 a.m. - Worship.

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8013 W.-1100S.-90, Montpelier
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

BETHEL (Independent Bible)
4500E-300S, Bluffton
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS
6114E-750N, Ossian
9 a.m. - Divine Service. 10:15 - Adult Bible Class, Youth Bible Class & Sunday School. 11:30 - Voice of Bethlehem on 92.7 FM.

BLUFFTON CHURCH OF GOD
327 W. Cherry St.
10 a.m. - Sunday School. 11 a.m. - Worship. 6 p.m. - Service.

BLUFFTON WESLEYAN CHAPEL (Independent Holiness Church)
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boehmerumc.org
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CHESTER CENTER
900S-300W, Poneto
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

CHRISTIAN NEW LIGHT
1011 W. Washington St.
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship. 6 p.m. - Praise & worship.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
735 S. Marion St.
10 a.m. - Bible Study. 10:45 - Worship.

COVENANT CHAPEL
3550 S. SR 1
mycovenantchapel.org
9:15 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:15 - Worship. (Children's Church for ages 6-12).

DILLMAN UNITED BRETHREN
8888S-1100W-90, Warren
9 a.m. - Worship. 10 a.m. - Sunday School.

DOMESTIC CHURCH OF CHRIST
9 a.m. - Sunday school. 10 a.m. - Church service.

EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST
1204 W. Cherry St.
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:40 a.m. - Sunday School.

FAIRVIEW CHURCH OF GOD
5511 W. Yoder Rd., Yoder
fairviewlife.com
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST
210 W. Townley
fbc-bluffton.com
10 a.m. - Worship. 11 a.m. - Discipleship.

FIRST BAPTIST
202 W. Cherry St.
fbcbluffton.com
10:15 - Worship.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OSSIAN
1001 Dehner Dr.
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. - Worship. 6:30 - Service.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST
909 W. Spring St.
FCCfamily.com
9:30 & 11 a.m. - Worship.

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
1515 Clark Ave.
blufftonnazarene.org
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 9-10 a.m. - Free ESL classes. 10:15 - Worship. 6 p.m. - Service.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
215 E. Dustman Rd.
firstpcbbluffton.org
9:30 a.m. - Children/youth & Adult Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN (EVANGELICAL)
123 S. Jefferson St., Ossian
www.OssianChurch.com
8:45 a.m. - Sunday school. 10 a.m. - Worship.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
325 W. Washington St.
blufftonfirstumc.com
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:45 - Sunday School.

FORGIVEN CHURCH
1409 S. Main St.
forgivenonline.org
9 a.m. - Worship.

GRACE BAPTIST
1621 S. 350 E.
Stogdill Rd. Ext.
gbcbluffton.com
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. & 6 p.m. - Worship.

GRACE BIBLE
6626 Village Way, Berne
gracebibleberne.com
9 a.m. - Sunday classes. 10 a.m. - Collective Worship.

A Joyful Noise ...



HARVESTING WISDOM

A reporter once asked a well-known atheist, "What's wrong with the modern world?" Without hesitating she replied, "Never before has the world been so desperately asking for answers to crucial questions, and never before has the world been so frantically committed to the idea that no answers are possible."



by Chet Baumgartner

Even this committed atheist realized people need truth, just as sailors need the north star. Too many, though, listen to the wisdom of this world, which tells them to create their own north stars — no matter where it leads them. The Bible, however, promises a harvest of true wisdom, just as the advent of October promises a harvest of crops.

And just like an October harvest, a harvest of wisdom depends on both God's power and grace and man's willing cooperation, as Jesus said in the parable of the sower. "But he that received the seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and *understandeth it*; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty," He said (emphasis added).

God graciously plants the seed, and He graciously protects it. In particular, He gives the Holy Spirit to help believers apply His wisdom in their lives. The Spirit doesn't communicate personal truth, but it makes truth personal and practical.

But as Jesus implies in the parable, those who receive it must understand it. They don't passively wait for the Spirit to zap their minds with insights and wisdom. On the contrary, the Spirit works through man's personal efforts to study the wisdom of the Bible, particularly when they apply two skills — memorization and meditation.

And fortunately, people don't need advance study or theology to apply these skills. They only need time, concentration, and commitment, complemented with specific strategies. For instance, to start memorizing, readers might first select verses that relate to a topic addressing circumstances in their lives. After selecting verses, readers can possibly break them into smaller phrases, perhaps eight words or less, to make memorization easier.

Once they've prepared, readers might better memorize if they read aloud and write out the verses. They can also use these notes for reference as they recite the verses day after day. Those who memorize and retain verses more effectively also look for opportunities, such as while driving or completing chores, to practice. Ideally, they should choose moments free from distraction, such as their meditation time.

Unlike the Eastern religious concept of meditation, which tells people to empty their minds, Biblical meditation saturates the mind with God's truth. It communes with its wonders, implications, and convictions. Meditation pulls back the curtain of the mind so the sunlight of truth pours in, warming every corner. " whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Philippians 4:8). "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7).

Meditation invites the heart and soul to feast on truth, to savor each bite and all of its richness. In a world of fast-food thinking, where people gulp down quick answers and soundbites with no context or depth, meditation says, "Enjoy."

And in a world of fast-food living, where even Christians consume themselves with callings and commitments, meditation says "Stop."

Before settling into the Promised Land to begin busy lives, God commanded the Israelites, "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night" (Joshua 1:8). Meditation points to Mary, sitting at Jesus' feet while Martha was scurrying about, and says, "Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her" (Luke 10:42).

Those who better understand the Bible — its scope, its significance, its main ideas, its theme, its context — better understand the heart, mind, strength, and will of God, and the better they understand, the better they'll live lives of spiritual purpose and power, now and for eternity. They see the potential for truth — not just theology or abstract knowledge, but God's life-changing promises — to permeate every decision they make, every priority they pursue.

And they too will enjoy a harvest of eternal life now and forever.

baumofchet@gmail.com

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8824 N. SR 1, Ossian
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9 a.m. - Sunday School & Adult Bible study. 10 a.m. - Worship.

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1100 S. SR 1
9:30 - Sunday School. 10:30 & 6 p.m. - Worship.

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302 N. Metts St.
ossiannaz.org
9:15 a.m. - Bible study. 10:30 - Service.

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10 a.m. - Connection. 11 a.m. - Worship.

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9 a.m. - Worship. 10:30 - Sunday School.

PONETO BAPTIST
Grape Street
8:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 9 a.m. - Worship.

PONETO FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH
36 E. Walnut St.
9 a.m. - Worship. 10 a.m. - Fellowship. 10:15 - Sunday School.

RIVER OF HOPE
1224 W. Central
11 a.m. - Worship & the Word.

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122 Lamar St.
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riveroflifebluffton.com
10:30 a.m. - Worship.

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4790 SE SR 116
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

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2350 S. SR 1
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9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship. Nursery & Children's classes available during Sunday School & Worship.

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4960W-100N, Decatur
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9 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Sunday School.

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stmarkfw.org
8:45 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

THE CHURCH AT MCNATT
9221 W 800 S-90, Montpelier
8:30 a.m. - Coffee fellowship. 9:15 - Worship.

THE MEETING PLACE
115 E. Market St.
6:30 p.m. - Bible study.

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN (NALC)
5912 N. Sugar St., Uniondale
10 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Children's Sunday School.

TOWER LIFE CENTER
11811 N. Wayne St., Zanesville
towerlifecenter.com
9:30 a.m. - TLC Groups. 10:30 - Worship.

TURNPOINTE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
500 W. Logan, Markle
turnpointechurch.com
9:30 a.m. - Fellowship. 10 a.m. - Adult & Children's Worship.

UNIONDALE COMMUNITY CHURCH
5867 N. Main St.
9 a.m. - Worship.

UNIONTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST
11419 N-200W, Ossian
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

VERA CRUZ FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER
CCC
2771 SE Mulberry St., Vera Cruz
9-10 a.m. - Sunday School. 10-10:30 - Fellowship. 10:30 - Worship.

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH
205 S. Adams St., Monroe
9 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Discipleship for adults & children.

ZANESVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GOD
11984 N. Marzane Rd.
9 a.m. - Bible Class. 10 a.m. - Worship.

ZANESVILLE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST
3092 W. Broadway
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

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Tigers slip n' slide through Poneto, take down county rival

By RYAN WALKER
PONETO — It was a sloppy, rainy and windy mess occurred during the Bluffton and Southern Wells football game Friday night, but the Tigers just weathered the storm better.

Bluffton (6-0, 3-0 ACAC) picked up a 45-7 victory over county and conference rival Southern Wells (0-6, 0-3 ACAC) on an expected bad weather night for both squads.

Both fumbled four times and coughed it up twice, — and could have been more. — but the Tigers were able to capitalize on the mistakes to their favor.

The two Raider fumbles in the second quarter set up shop for Bluffton well inside enemy territory, scoring touchdowns on both turnovers.

That certainly helped the Tigers' 29-point onslaught in the second quarter and they took a 37-0 lead at half-time.

Other bad snaps that didn't end up in the scorebook were a loss of five or more yards a few times for Southern Wells.

That forced the Raiders to muster a -4 yards of total offense. And the big play was a well-executed hook-and-ladder play from Joshua Aulbach to Lane Dollar on the first play of the game, good for eight yards.

Other than that, the Bluffton front didn't allow for many chunk plays.

The defense gave up only 66 yards of offense for the night, eight tackles behind the line of scrimmage for a loss of 38 yards.

Dravin Shoemaker had two of them for a loss of 15 yards and freshman Gavin Griser led the team with six tackles.

"We were ready to play

tonight," Bluffton head coach Brent Kunkel said. "The mantra we talk about is 'Good.' We got every kid in the program a shirt that says that. We wore them during a pregame tonight and that's what we talked about the entire time. Like, 'It is what it is.' We can't control it. We want to embrace it."

The weather didn't help coach Blake Blaker's offense, which has been playing its best since getting back quarterback Trey Slusher from injury. Over the past two weeks, the Raiders have scored 19 of their 25 points from this season and have got 311 yards from Slusher through the air and 63 on the ground.

Slusher did score the only touchdown on a 23-yard scurry and dove ahead of the right pylon, but that was about it with the weather taking away the throwing game.

"We started out playing tough, it's just one of those things that we just kept shooting ourselves in the foot," Blaker said. "In our offense, we like to throw the ball a little bit, so the weather didn't help us. But that's no excuse. (Bluffton's) giving us stuff we just couldn't execute."

The beneficiary of Bluffton from the ground game was Cooper Craig, who now has back-to-back-to-back 100-yard games. This time, he rushed for 120 yards in the first half on 12 carries (10.0 average) and three total touchdowns.

Khamel Moore also got a few touches, the typical No. 1 running back on the team, as he recovers from a knee injury. He found a hole up the middle for a 12-yard score during that second quarter to make his mark in

the game. Axton Beste is still the leading rusher despite no yards on the ground Friday, but he's starting to find a budding star in Craig and the health of Moore to back him up, especially with Heritage and Adams Central on the horizon.

"It's nothing that Khamel's done wrong, but how do you pull Cooper Craig off the field?" Kunkel said. "The way that kid has played from the first game until now, he's kind of came into his own here running the ball these three games. Cooper has earned the right to be out there, and he does a lot of good things when he's got the ball in his hand, so we want to keep feeding him."

Having Slusher back for Southern Wells has been big for the development of the program. He's a junior with an ability to throw the ball and run it, taking leadership to a different level. It was evident Friday's conditions prevented his arm from being showcased, but Blaker is still thrilled to have him back.

"There's one thing that I'm going to say about Trey Slusher, is that he is tough as nails," Blaker said. "Anytime you have a kid who is just tough and hardworking and willing to put in the effort — he's a guy that leads our offense. Getting him back is a huge piece. He can throw the ball well, he can run the ball well. He's our guy ... Without him, you're missing that heartbeat."

Next week, Bluffton will face its biggest challenge and again the following week.

Heritage is seeking another win over the Tigers, spoiling their chances at the



Cooper Craig races to the end zone in the first quarter with the Raiders giving chase Friday night at Carnes Field. (Photos by Glen Werling)

ACAC last season with a late victory in Monroeville last season. The Patriots have already lost to Adams Central, which will make for an important game to their season with the Tigers.

A week after that, multi-defending ACAC champion and powerhouse Adams Central will host Bluffton.

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BLUFFTON 45, SOUTHERN WELLS 7			
At Southern Wells			
Score By Quarters			
Bluffton	8	29	0
Wells	0	0	7

So. Wells 0 0 0 7 — 0			
Scoring Summary			
First Quarter			
B—Cooper Craig	5-yard run	(2-pt conversion), 5:52	
Second Quarter			
B—Axton Beste	10-yard run	(Kick failed), 11:53	
B—Khamel Moore	12-yard run	(2-pt conversion), 8:41	
B—Craig	3-yard run	(2-pt conversion), 4:38	
B—Craig	6-yard run	(Abram Gehrett kick), 4:10	
Third Quarter			
No scoring			
Fourth Quarter			
SW—Trey Slusher	23-yard run	(Joshua Aulbach kick), 4:53	
B—Parker Barnes	63-yard run	(2-pt conversion), 2:17	

Team Statistics			
	SW	BLU	
First Downs	3	10	

Rushes-Yards	29-65	33-196
Yards Passing	1	19
Passing (C-A-I)	2-4-0	4-5-0
Penalties-Yards	3-15	4-25
Fumbles-Lost	4-2	4-2
Punts-Average	2-27	1-41
Time of Possession	23:00	25:00

Individual Statistics
 Rushing: Southern Wells: Trey Slusher 24-52, Robby Freimuth 1-17, Lyrik Maddox 3-(-2), Levi Blake 1-(-2). Bluffton: Cooper Craig 12-120, Parker Barnes 8-64, Khamel Moore 3-20, Colt Ternet 1-2, Axton Beste 6-0, Parker Nash 3-(-10).
 Passing: Southern Wells: Trey Slusher 2-4-0. Bluffton: Axton Beste 3-4-0 20.
 Receiving: Southern Wells: Joshua Aulbach 1-8, Lyrik Maddox 1-(-7). Bluffton: A.J. Strevler 2-15, Trey Bustos 1-5, Bennett Stoller 1-(-1).



Southern Wells executes the hook and ladder with Joshua Aulbach pitching the ball back to Lane Dollar in the first quarter as Bluffton defenders close in Friday night at Carnes Field.

High School Calendar

SATURDAY, SEPT. 28
 BOYS SOCCER: Norwell at Columbia City, 11:30 a.m.
 BOYS TENNIS: Norwell at Delta Invitational, 8:45 a.m.
 CROSS COUNTRY (co-ed): Bluffton, Norwell, Southern Wells at New Haven Classic, 9 a.m.
 VOLLEYBALL: Bluffton, Southern Wells at ACAC Tournament (Heritage), 9 a.m.
MONDAY, SEPT 30
 BOYS SOCCER: Huntington North at Norwell, 6:30 p.m.
 VOLLEYBALL: New Haven

at Bluffton, 7 p.m.; Adams Central at Norwell, 7 p.m.; Tri-Central at Southern Wells, 7 p.m.
TUESDAY, OCT 1
 BOYS TENNIS: Bluffton, Norwell vs. TBD at Bluffton, 4:30 p.m.
 GIRLS SOCCER: Norwell at Huntington North, 6:30 p.m.
 VOLLEYBALL: Bellmont at Norwell, 7 p.m.; Southern Wells at Jay County, 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, OCT 2
 GIRLS SOCCER: Woodlan at Norwell, 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCT 3
 BOYS SOCCER: Blackford at Norwell, 5:30 p.m.
 VOLLEYBALL: Norwell at New Haven, 7 p.m.
FRIDAY, OCT 4
 FOOTBALL: Heritage at Bluffton, 7 p.m.; DeKalb at Norwell, 7 p.m.; Southern Wells at Adams Central, 7 p.m.
SATURDAY, OCT 5
 CROSS COUNTRY (co-ed): Bluffton at the Bluffton Invitational, 10 a.m.; Norwell NE8 meet at Huntington North, 10 a.m.

Tigers clinch AL wild card with win over White Sox

By LARRY LAGE
AP Sports Writer

DETROIT (AP) — The Detroit Tigers, the hottest team in baseball the last several weeks, earned an American League wild card berth Friday night to end a decade-long postseason drought.

"This team is pretty dangerous," Tigers president of baseball operations Scott Harris said. "We got a chance to make some noise in October, and we're going to keep fighting for the opportunity."

Detroit clinched a spot in the playoffs with a 4-1 win over the Chicago White Sox, who set a modern major league record with their 121st loss.

The Tigers will play at top AL wild card Baltimore or AL West champion Houston in a best-of-three series starting Tuesday. They have been on a tear, winning six straight and 10 of 11 to surge into the playoffs for the first time since 2014.

Detroit was 55-63 on Aug. 10 — 10 games out of the last wild card — and then went 31-11. During that stretch, the Tigers have the lowest ERA in baseball and the largest run differential.

"It's been a dream come true," first baseman Spencer Torkelson said.

With two games left, the Tigers were in position for the second AL wild card, one game ahead of AL Central rival Kansas City, which also clinched a playoff spot on Friday while Minnesota was eliminated.

AL Cy Young Award favorite Tarik Skubal leads Detroit's rotation and Jason Foley has become a reliable closer in a strong bullpen. He earned his 28th save in the series opener against Chicago.

Riley Greene, an All-Star outfielder, is the team's top player in a lineup that gets timely hitting from the top to the bottom.

Torkelson, the No. 1 overall pick in 2020, was sent to the minors during the season and bounced back well enough to contribute to the team's late run.

East Noble shuts out Norwell in Northeast 8 showdown

By RICK SPRUNGER
KENDALLVILLE —

A strong East Noble team took control of its game with Norwell with three first-half touchdowns, then put it away with three quick lightning bolts in the third quarter.

The end result was a 42-0 win for East Noble on a blustery night in Kendallville.

The score sounds one-sided, and certainly East Noble was never in any real trouble.

But Norwell played the heavily favored East Noble club tough, at least through most of the first half.

A game-ending injury to starting quarterback Cayden Cassel with 4:38 left in the second quarter, however, helped ground the Norwell offense.

East Noble only got one offensive score in the second half, and that on blitzkrieg 76-yard touchdown pass.

The other two third quarter scores were defensive scores on fumble recovery returns.

"We didn't finish plays," said Norwell coach Josh Gerber of his team's performance. "There were times

when we didn't get off the field on third down when we should have. We missed tackles. We should have had tackles for a loss but let them break away. On offense, we were able to execute, just not consistently. Obviously, getting Cayden dinged hurt us a little bit. (Back-up quarterback) E.J. (Morgan) did a good job of managing the situation handed him."

East Noble scored on each of its first two possessions.

Quarterback Rylee Biddle set up the first with a 31-yard completion to Mason Treesh on third-and-six, and Dylan Krehl went straight up the middle untouched from eight yards out on the next play to give the home team the early lead.

Dallas Plattner went for 25 yards for a score on East Noble's ensuing possession after breaking a tackle.

Krehl, who rushed for 150 yards on 14 carries, then broke away from what seemed like a sure tackle for a loss and went the other way for a 25-yard touchdown run midway through the second quarter for the 21-0 halftime

spread. "We need to be finishing plays," said Gerber.

Although Cassel went down with his injury shortly after that, Norwell got off to a good start in the third quarter when it forced an East Noble punt on its first possession.

But on Norwell's second play, Krehl scooped up a fumble in the Norwell backfield and zipped in from just 15 yards out.

East Noble then forced a Norwell three-and-out, and Biddle hooked up with Treesh on that 76-yard scoring bomb.

That made it 35-0 and got the clock running, but not before Pace Agee picked up another Norwell fumble on the ensuing kickoff and dashed 17 yards the other way for a sudden 42-0 score.

Late in the final frame, Norwell reached the East Noble 18 on a 21-yard pass from Morgan to Lance Meriwether for its deepest penetration of the night. But the East Noble defense stiffened and preserved the shutout.

Next week, Norwell will host DeKalb.

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EAST NOBLE 42, NORWELL 0			
At East Noble			
Norwell	0	0	0
East Noble	14	7	21

First Quarter			
EN—Dylan Krehl	8 run	(Alexander Sprague kick), 6:44	
EN—Dallas Plattner	25 run	(Sprague kick), 3:26	
Second Quarter			
E—Krehl	25 run	(Sprague kick), 4:59	
Third Quarter			
EN—Krehl	15 fumble return	(Sprague kick), 9:28	
EN—Mason Treesh	76 pass from Rylee Biddle	(Sprague kick), 6:07	
EN—Pace Agee	17 fumble return	(Sprague kick), 5:20	
Fourth Quarter			
No Scoring			

Team Statistics			
	NOR	EN	
First Downs	7	17	
Rushes-Yards	29-39	31-197	
Passing Yards	90	131	
Passing (C-A-I)	10-16-0	7-14-0	
Punts-Ave	8-37.0	5-36.0	
Fumbles-Lost	2-2	1-0	
Penalties-Yards	8-65	7-60	
Time of Possession	28:10	19:50	

Individual Statistics
 Rushing: Norwell—E.J. Morgan 10-11, Adam Mahnensmith 8-16, Cayden Cassel 8-12, Drew Graft 3-0; East Noble—Dylan Krehl 14-150, Dallas Plattner 7-61, Alexander Phillips 4-(-1), Ian Ramey 2-0, Rylee Biddle 2-(-10), Landon Hicks 1-1, Mason Treesh 1-(-4).
 Passing: Norwell—Cayden Cassel 5-10-0 33, E.J. Morgan 5-6-0 57, East Noble—Rylee Biddle 6-12-0 134, Mason Treesh 1-2-0 -3.
 Receiving: Norwell—Drew Graft 4-18, Garry Riley 2-30, Lance Meriwether 1-21, Brady Smith 1-15, Max Babcock 1-9, Adam Mahnensmith 1-(-3); East Noble—Mason Treesh 4-111, Dallas Plattner 1-21, Dylan Krehl 1-2, Lucas Conley 1-(-3).

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All three county schools competed at Noble Hawk Golf Linx for the girls' golf regional on Friday. At left, Norwell's Ellie Gatton chips on Hole 18.



Left, Bluffton's Emma Schwartz tees off on Hole 13 during the regional. Right, Raiders' Sophia Meeks drives on Hole 18.



Knights, Tigers and Raiders finish girls' golf seasons at regional meet

KENDALLVILLE — All three girls' golf teams competed at the regional at a very windy Noble Hawk Golf Links Friday morning/afternoon.

The Knights' top scorer was Ellie Gatton with an 86, followed by Emma Burnau (96), Savanna Simmerman (99), Jordyn Schroyer (104) and Jessica Bynum (109).

Collena Reeves (104), Sophia Meeks (113), Callie Ripperger (113) and Erika Beavans (119). Team Scores: 1. Northridge (330 team points), 2. DeKalb (331), 3. Homestead (337), 4. Carroll (337), 5. Concordia (351), 6. Warsaw (354), 7. Northwood (358), 8. Leo (370), 9. Culver Academy (373), 10. Norwell (385), 11. Wabash (390), 12. Concord (390), 13. Bluffton (416), 14. Southern Wells (433), and 15. South Adams (435).

News-Banner Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

- High School Friday's Scores Adams Central 27, S. Adams 7 Alexandria 22, Oak Hill 21 Andean 38, Highland 7 Andrew, Ill. 44, Hammond Central 16 Angola 47, Fairfield 8 Bluffton 45, Southern Wells 7 Bremen 21, Glenn 0 Brownstown 27, Seymour 0 Carroll (Flora) 51, Tri-Central 14 Carroll (Ft. Wayne) 17, Ft. Wayne Wayne 16 Cass 49, Whitko 6 Caston 21, Culver 20 Churubusco 18, Fremont 0 Columbia City 70, New Haven 0 Concord 27, NorthWood 17 Covington 38, Parke Heritage 0 Crawfordsville 28, N. Montgomery 22, OT Crown Point 41, Valparaiso 7 Delphi 14, Clinton Prairie 8, OT E. Central 45, S. Dearborn 0 E. Noble 42, Norwell 0 Eastbrook 58, Elwood 0 Eastern (Greentown) 18, Clinton Central 0 Eastside 26, Prairie Heights 13 Elkhardt 38, S. Bend St. Joseph's 17 Fountain Central 20, Seeger 0 Franklin Co. 36, Greensburg 7 Frontier 53, N. Newton 0 Ft. Wayne Dwenger 27, Ft. Wayne Northrop 6 Ft. Wayne Luers 10, Ft. Wayne North 8 Ft. Wayne Snider 35, Homestead 0 Ft. Wayne South 9, Ft. Wayne Concordia 7 Garrett 17, W. Noble 6 Heritage 21, Tipton 7 Huntington North 21, DeKalb 0 Indpls Park Tudor 39, Ft. Wayne Blackhawk 20 Indpls Roncalli 37, Indy Brebeuf 18 JmTowner 14, Tippacano Valley 0 Knightstown 54, Cambridge City Lincoln 0 Knox 57, LaVille 24 Kokomo 28, Muncie Central 0 Lafayette Central Catholic High School 17, Rensselaer 6 Lafayette Harrison 36, Marion 6 Lafayette Jeff 70, Richmond 0

- Lakeland (IN) 55, Central Noble 14 Lawrenceburg 24, Batesville 0 Leo 51, Bellmont 0 Logansport 41, Hamilton Hts. 6 Maconaquah 42, Northwestern 2 Madison-Grant 49, Frankton 0 McCutcheon 35, Anderson 8 Merrillville 35, LaPorte 0 Milan 8, Eastern Hancock 0 Mishawaka 27, Northridge 7 Mishawaka Marian 41, S. Bend Washington 14 Mississinewa 43, Blackford 7 Monroe Central 36, Wes-Del 0 Mt. Vernon (Fortville) 14, Pendleton Hts. 10 Munster 42, Hanover Central 6 N. Judson 40, Triton 0 N. Miami 41, Winamac 14 N. Vermillion 47, Attica 0 N. White 51, Bowman 12 New Castle 16, Delta 14 New Prairie 49, S. Bend Riley 0 Northeastern 16, Centerville 12 Northfield 49, Wabash 12 Paoli 38, Eastern (Greene) 12 Penn 49, S. Bend Adams 14 Pioneer 57, S. Central (Union Mills) 6 Plymouth 33, Warsaw 32, OT Rochester 38, Peru 6 Rushville 18, Lapel 6 S. Putnam 32, W. Vigo 0 Taylor 12, Sheridan 11 Tri 14, Winchester 6 Twin Lakes 55, Benton Central 0 W. Lafayette 20, Western 0 Wawasee 36, Goshen 7 Western Boone 35, Frankfort 0 Woodlan 21, Jay Co. 0 Yorktown 33, Shelbyville 0

- Cleveland at Las Vegas, 4:25 p.m. Kansas City at L.A. Chargers, 4:25 p.m. Buffalo at Baltimore, 8:20 p.m. Monday's Games Tennessee at Miami, 7:30 p.m. Seattle at Detroit, 8:15 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 3 Tampa Bay at Atlanta, 8:15 p.m. College Rutgers 21, Washington 18 Miami 38, Virginia Tech 34 BASKETBALL WNBA WNBA Playoff Game (x-if necessary) First Round (Best-of-3) No. 1 New York 2, No. 8 Atlanta 0 Sunday, Sept. 22: New York 83, Atlanta 69 Tuesday, Sept. 24: New York 91, Atlanta 82 No. 2 Minnesota 2, No. 7 Phoenix 0 Sunday, Sept. 22: Minnesota 102, Phoenix 95 Wednesday, Sept. 25: Minnesota 101, Phoenix 88 No. 3 Connecticut 2, No. 6 Indiana 0 Sunday, Sept. 22: Connecticut 93, Indiana 69 Wednesday, Sept. 25: Connecticut 87, Indiana 81 No. 4 Las Vegas 2, No. 5 Seattle 0 Sunday, Sept. 22: Las Vegas 78, Seattle 67 Tuesday, Sept. 24: Las Vegas 83, Seattle 76 (Best-of-5) Semifinals No. 1 New York vs. No. 4 Las Vegas Sunday, Sept. 29: Las Vegas at New York, 3 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 1: Las Vegas at New York, TBD Friday, Oct. 4: New York at Las Vegas, TBD x-Sunday, Oct. 6: New York at Las Vegas, TBD x-Tuesday, Oct. 8: Las Vegas at New York, TBD Cleveland at Las Vegas, 4:25 p.m. Kansas City at L.A. Chargers, 4:25 p.m. Buffalo at Baltimore, 8:20 p.m. Monday's Games Tennessee at Miami, 7:30 p.m. Seattle at Detroit, 8:15 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 3 Tampa Bay at Atlanta, 8:15 p.m. No. 2 Minnesota vs. No. 3 Connecticut Sunday, Sept. 29: Connecticut at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29: Connecticut at Minnesota, TBD Friday, Oct. 4: Minnesota at Connecticut, TBD x-Sunday, Oct. 6: Minnesota at Connecticut, TBD x-Tuesday, Oct. 8: Connecticut at Minnesota, TBD WNBA Finals Thursday, Oct. 10: Game 1, TBD

- BASEBALL MLB AMERICAN LEAGUE Friday's Games Detroit 4, Chicago White Sox 1 Pittsburgh 4, N.Y. Yankees 2 Houston 5, Cleveland 2 Saturday's Games Pittsburgh (Skene's 11-3) at N.Y. Yankees (Gil 15-6), 1:05 p.m. Chicago White Sox (Burke 1-0) at Detroit (TBD), 1:10 p.m. Miami (TBD) at Toronto (Rodriguez 1-7), 3:07 p.m. Tampa Bay (Baz 3-3) at Boston (Crawford 9-15), 4:10 p.m. Houston (Verlander 4-6) at Cleveland (Lively 13-9), 6:10 p.m. Baltimore (TBD) at Minnesota (Matthews 1-3), 7:15 p.m. Kansas City (Lugo 16-9) at Atlanta (López 8-5), 7:20 p.m. Texas (Heaney 5-14) at L.A. Angels (Canning 6-13), 9:38 p.m. Oakland (Estes 7-9) at Seattle (TBD), 9:40 p.m. NATIONAL LEAGUE Friday's Games Chicago Cubs 1, Cincinnati 0 Pittsburgh 4, N.Y. Yankees 2 Milwaukee 8, N.Y. Mets 4 St. Louis at San Francisco, late Saturday's Games Pittsburgh (Skene's 11-3) at N.Y. Yankees (Gil 15-6), 1:05 p.m. Cincinnati (Lowe 2-2) at Chicago Cubs (Hendricks 4-12), 2:20 p.m. St. Louis (Pallante 8-8) at San Francisco (Snell 5-3), 4:05 p.m. N.Y. Mets (TBD) at Milwaukee (TBD), 7:15 p.m.

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

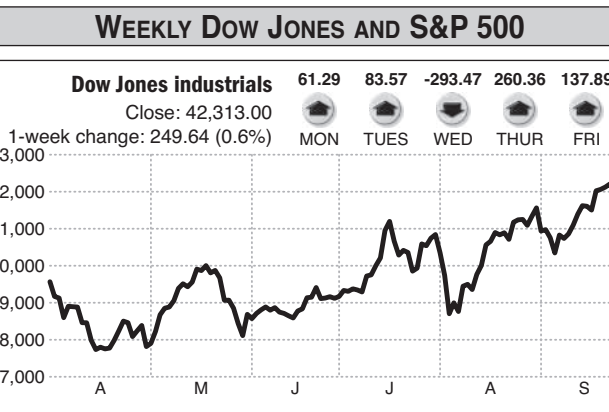


Table with columns: High, Low, Name, Last, Wk Chg, %Chg, YTD %Chg, 12-mo %Chg. Lists various market indices like Dow Jones Industrials, S&P 500, etc.

Table with columns: NYSE GAINERS (\$2 OR MORE), NYSE LOSERS (\$2 OR MORE), NYSE ACTIVES (\$1 OR MORE). Lists stock tickers and their price changes.

Table with columns: NASDAQ GAINERS (\$2 OR MORE), NASDAQ LOSERS (\$2 OR MORE), NASDAQ ACTIVES (\$1 OR MORE). Lists stock tickers and their price changes.

Table with columns: Stocks of Local Interest, Name, Div, Last, Wk Chg, YTD %Chg. Lists local stocks like AFLAC, AT&T, etc.

Table with columns: MONEY RATES, CURRENCIES, Last, Pvs Day. Shows interest rates and currency exchange rates.

Table with columns: MUTUAL FUNDS, Name, Total Assets, NAV, Total Return/Rank, Pct Load. Lists various mutual funds and their performance.

Table with columns: FOOTBALL, High School, Friday's Scores. Lists football game results and scores.

CA-Conservative Allocation, CI-Intermediate-Term Bond, FB-Foreign Large Blend, GS-Short Government, IB-World Bond, IH-World Allocation, LG-Large Blend, LV-Large Value, MA-Moderate Allocation, MI-Muni National Intermediate, ML-Muni National Long, NT-Nontraditional Bond, WS-World Stock, Total Return: Chng in NAV with dividends reinvested. Rank: How fund performed vs. others with same objective. As is in top 20%, E in bottom 20%. Source: Morningstar.

Wealthy cousin wants to bury grudges

Dear Annie: I am writing to you basically needing advice on a matter of snobbery and arrogance.

This in regard to one of my relatives. They say money changes people, and in this case, I think it has.

I'm now past 70 years of age. I have a male first cousin near my age. We grew up in the same Midwestern town only a few miles apart. Let's call him "Frank."

After high school, Frank left the Midwest and moved to California seeking bigger dreams. Having no skills, he worked part-time jobs and eventually found substantial employment. Then with a stroke of luck, he met and married a woman who had inherited a sum of wealth from her family. Together, they began to enjoy a comfortable life.

Frank had always been a genuine person, but after he moved into a higher income bracket, his personality changed from genuine to snobbish. He returned to the Midwest one time to visit and, in front of a group of relatives, bragged of being a "somebody" and referred to me as a nobody. I left the gathering determined not to speak to him again.

At our age, many of our relatives — uncles, aunts, cousins — have passed away. Five years have passed, and Frank called me. I believe, now realizing the family is smaller and wanting friendship, that he somehow wants to become friends again. I explained to him that he owed me an apology. He denied this. He wants to sweep the entire incident under the rug as if it never happened. I would not mind rekindling the friendship, but I don't know how to handle this. — "Pete" in the Midwest

Dear Pete: It makes sense why you're disheartened by Frank's attitude shift over the years, but it sounds like he misses you and finally wants to bury the hatchet. You need to decide which is more important — harboring

resentment and judgment over a comment he made many years ago or putting the past aside and giving him a second chance. Reconciliation doesn't happen overnight, so give yourself, and Frank, grace and time if you choose to reconnect. Better late than never.

Dear Annie: My new boyfriend told me he's polyamorous, and I am not. He often tells me he wants me plus another woman in order to satisfy his sexual needs. I do love him, but this is something I've never encountered. I'm willing to try different things, but I'm not sure if this is something I'm mentally ready to do. I want to stay with him, but I'm not sure if I can handle the whole situation. — Lost and Confused

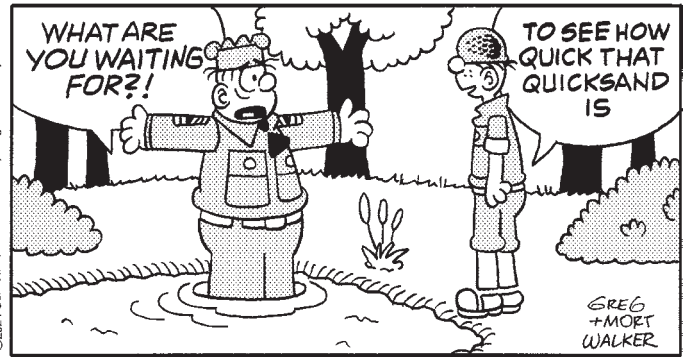
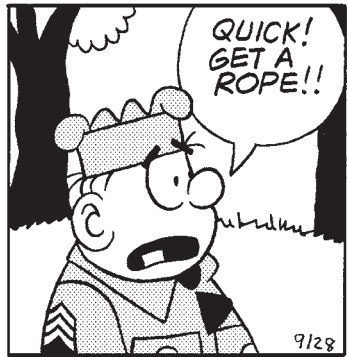
Dear Lost: Compromise in a romantic relationship is one thing, but this falls firmly into deal-breaker territory. Have an open, honest conversation with your boyfriend about your boundaries and the fact that you may never be ready or able to give him something polyamorous — which is 100 percent OK. If you can't land on something that works for you both, it's probably time to part ways. You both deserve to be in relationships that make you feel supported, seen and safe.

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

Dear Annie



BEETLE BAILEY



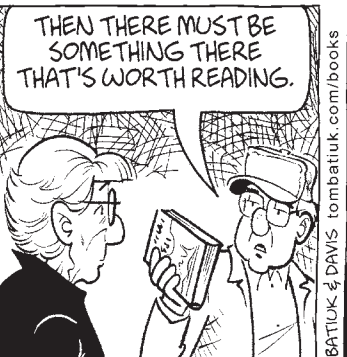
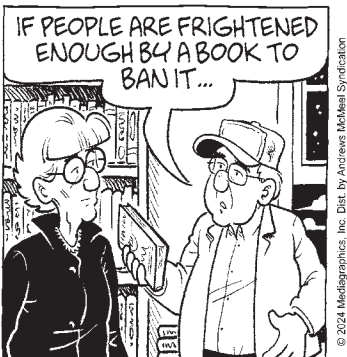
BLONDIE



ZITS



CRANKSHAFT



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



Going to church doesn't make one a Christian

Jesus Christ. The true church on Earth is made up of individuals who have repented of sin. The building is not the church, but those who follow Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Jesus established the church for the purpose of fellowship and instruction on how to live in obedience to God and His word. The Lord didn't design the church to cater to people's needs, establish community programs, or blend into the community by embracing what the world enjoys. When this happens, the world's ideas and interests infiltrate the church. The Bible warns of this: "For certain [people] have crept in unnoticed ... who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus

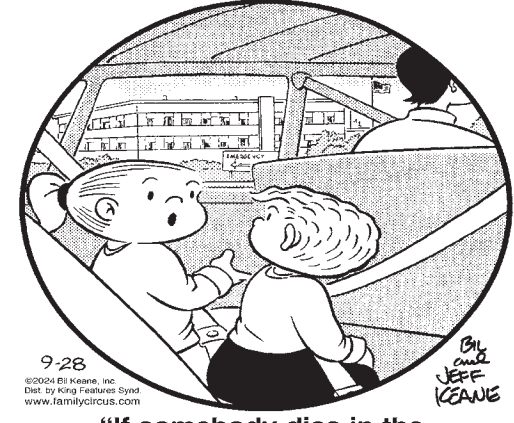
Christ" (Jude 4, NKJV). The Lord breathed life into the church to proclaim His truths. The church should never seek pleasures but seek after God. The church is a storehouse of spiritual food whereby the inner man is fed, nourished, and developed into maturity.

We must pray that the Lord will lead every believer into fellowship with others who desire to glorify God in everything. "Know how ... to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God" (1 Timothy 3:15, NKJV).

(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Graham.) ©2024 Billy Graham Literary Trust. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

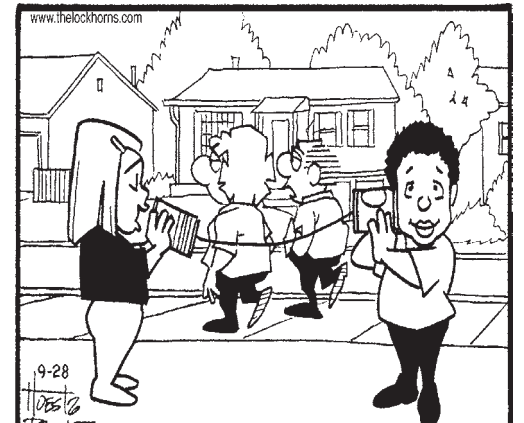
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"If somebody dies in the hospital, angels move them to the eternity ward."

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Question: After attending the same church for 40 years, the greatest challenge in moving to a different state has been finding a home church. When I ask about a certain church people tell me all about the music, sports and educational programs, but little about the Bible. Is this really a church, and are the people there truly Christians? — R.C.

Answer: Satan often invades Sunday school and Bible classes, and even the pulpit. Many people sit in some churches week after week without hearing the whole Gospel and learning what it is to be born again. Going to church doesn't make one a Christian, nor does every church building represent

Table with columns for date, time, and program details. Includes channels like WINM, CBS, Antenna, ABC, NBC, MNT, CW, PBS, FOX, and WFTF.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes solution time: 26 mins.

Yesterday's answer 9-28 crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

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		2	6	3		9		
		1	7		4	5		
6			1					9
		8		7	9		6	
	5					2		
	1		4		3		2	5
	8			6	7			4

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Difficulty: ★★★★★

9/28

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NOTICE

Notices

AUCTION NOTICE: BLUFFTON U-STOR to enforce storage lien per IC 26-3-8, for default in rental payment. Lien notice may still be in the mail to Lisa Jarrett, Unit #130. Auction to begin Oct. 7th at 8:00AM with StorageTreasures.com. Auction ID: 4419591. Bluffton U-Stor, 755 N Main St., Bluffton, IN 46714. 260-827-7679

Lottery Numbers

Friday's Drawings
HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 13-14-30-33-43
Cash4Life — 01-05-06-27-55, Cash Ball: 04
Quick Draw Midday — 01-05-07-08-12-23-25-29-30-36-41-43-48-55-59-61-65-70-74-79, BE: 23
Daily Three-Midday — 00-03-07, SB: 07
Daily Three-Evening — 02-09-05, SB: 05
Daily Four-Midday — 02-07-07-06, SB: 07
Daily Four-Evening — 05-08-07-09, SB: 05
Quick Draw Evening — 03-05-18-19-22-25-27-36-37-38-39-40-42-43-44-49-56-57-72-75, BE: 03
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$22.9 million
MEGA MILLIONS
29-46-53-69-70, Mega Ball: 23, Megaplier: 2X
POWERBALL
Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$243 million

September

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Public Sale Calendar

SEPTEMBER 28 - 9 a.m. - Charles (Chuck) Bertsch, 3898 East 400 North, Bluffton. This is the 3rd and final auction for the Bertsch Estate. Chuck was an avid collector of engines, motors and anything electrical. This auction has some hit and miss engines, over 100 motors, gas engines (4 hp to 12 hp), Honda 6500 generator, Aqua Blast hot water pressure washer, brass bell, Maytag motors, lots of lawn mower parts, scrap iron, Hammer drill, welder, anvil and lots more. **Miz Lehman Realtors/Auctioneers**, 260-589-2903, www.mizlehman.com.
BIDDING NOW OPEN & STARTS CLOSING SEPTEMBER 29 - 6 p.m. EST - Max & Vivian Minnich, owners. Online only real estate auction! Five bedroom, 1 full bath, 2,178 sq. feet home, hardwood floors throughout, full basement, 2 car detached garage, 20'x42' pole barn, 2.055 acres, Marion Township, Allen County, Indiana, East Allen County School Corporation. Auction preview by appointment, 13045 Wayne Trace, Hoagland. **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC**, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.
SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 6 - (Online Only) - The Estate of Wayne E. Penrod, seller. Artifacts, art, antiques, collectibles, home goods & decor, electronics, tools, furniture, lawn & garden, sports goods, household, & more! Open house Oct. 5 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 69 W 1st St., Poneto, IN. Sale manager, Isaac Stoller, 260-413-3515, TheSteffenGroup.com.
BIDDING ENDS SEPTEMBER 30 - (Online Only) - Various consignors, seller. Firearms consisting of Springfield, Hopkins & Allen, Colt, Browning, Stevens, Glock, Winchester, ammunition, arrowheads, duck decoys, & more. Open House Sept. 28 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 215 E Market St., Bluffton, IN. Sale manager, Isaac Stoller, 260-413-3515, TheSteffenGroup.com.
BIDDING ENDS OCTOBER 1 - (Online Only) - Grover, seller. Ford tractor, mower, Craftsman tools, various wood-working & shop tools, furniture, antiques, primitives, lumber, and much more! Open House Sept. 28 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., 8726 S 600 W-90, Warren, IN. Sale manager, Isaac Stoller, 260-413-3515, TheSteffenGroup.com.
OCTOBER 2 - 6 p.m. - Ruby Johnson, Brant Johnson, owner. Auction location: Lighted Gardens Reception Hall, 10794 N. State Road 1, Ossian. Property location: 14631 Smith Rd., Yoder. 48+/- acres offered in 4 tracts and combinations. Productive tillable land, excellent road front-

age and access along Smith Rd., 2,400+ sq. ft. sprawling brick ranch home on full basement with 20x30 outbuilding, Allen County. Auction manager Jared Sipe, 260-750-1553, SchraderRealEstate.com.
OCTOBER 3 & 4 - 9 a.m. - Secured creditors & various consignors, owners. 815 Adams St., Decatur. Two day truck & equipment auction. Day 1 (Online bidding only): Over 300+ lots including skid loader attachments, tool boxes, workbenches, iron gates, chains & binders, 1 trip 40' high side shipping container w/side doors, dome shelter containers, & much more! Day 2 (Onsite and Online bidding): Offering 600+ lots! 100+/- municipal units! Cars, SUV, 1/2 ton & 3/4 ton pickup trucks, cargo & passenger vans, large group of Chevy Impalas, Tahoes, & Dodge Chargers, dump trucks, large group of box trucks, day cabs, sleepers, utility trucks, bucket trucks, mobile food trailer (like new), utility & semi trailers, SUV's, pickup trucks, 100+ various skid loader attachments & much more! **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC**, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.
OCTOBER 5-OCTOBER 12 - Private Family Collection, sellers. Fine art work including William P. Silva oil paintings, 2006 Pontiac Torrent, 2005 Toyota highlander, sterling silver, primitive and early American antique furniture, country primitives; glassware, early collectibles. Open houses Oct. 8 and Oct. 10 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 102 S. Jefferson St., Ossian, IN. Rod Fetters, sale manager, TheSteffenGroup.com, 260-824-3006.
OCTOBER 6-OCTOBER 13 (Online Only) - Boots Estate, seller. 1993 Ford F150, boat mini bike, wagons, Pyrex, Corningware, antiques, collectibles, glassware, jewelry, advertising, furniture, toys, household, electronics, board games, much more. Open houses Oct. 3 and Oct. 10 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 366 W 300 N., Bluffton. Sale manager Bobby Perry, 260-273-7260, TheSteffenGroup.com.
OCTOBER 12 - 9 a.m.-6 p.m. - (Online Only) - The Estate of Robert McNabb, seller. Spectacular 1,720 SF lake front home on 7.23 acres w/200' of lake frontage on Hamilton Lake. Luxury home features 6 bedrooms, 7 baths, expansive entertaining space, 4-car attached garage. Selling absolute at or above 1.4 million dollars. Seller's have over 4.7 million invested in this one of kind lake property. Open houses Oct. 1, 5-7 p.m., Oct. 12, 9 a.m.-noon, 1180 LN 150 Hamilton Lake, Hamilton, IN.

Brandon Steffen, sale manager, 260-426-0633, TheSteffenGroup.com.
OCTOBER 13 - 3 p.m. - Multiple consignors, owners. Online only bidding only. 700+ lots! Furniture, Craftsman band saw and radial arm saw, ice maker, banjo, baseball cards, 100+ Pfaltzgraff, tools, pet doors, live traps, collectable glass, Detecto scales, Generac edger, tiller, yard cart, washer, Dryer 50 pc. Ruby Flash & Kings Crown glass and much more! Preview Oct. 10, 3-5 p.m., 812 Elm Street, Decatur, IN. Pick up Oct. 14, 1-6 p.m. & Oct. 15, 9 a.m.-noon. **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC**, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.
OCTOBER 13-OCTOBER 20 - (Online Only) - The Estate of Larry N. Curry, seller. 1997 Chevy Express Conversion van, 2013 Chevy Impala with 73,000 miles, John Deere LA115 riding lawn mower, rare Schwinn bikes, tools, furniture, household. Open houses Oct. 15 and Oct. 17 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 419 W. Roe St., Ossian. Rod Fetters, sale manager, TheSteffenGroup.com, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.
OCTOBER 24 - (Online Only) - The Estate of Larry N. Curry, seller. Excellent 1,400 SF, three bedroom, 2 bath ranch home in Rose Ann Heights on 1/2 acre lot. This home has a ton of potential. "Explore the Possibilities." Open houses: Oct. 15, Oct. 17 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Oct. 22 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., 419 W. Roe St., Ossian. Brandon Steffen and Rod Fetters, sale managers, TheSteffenGroup.com, 260-824-3006.
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.**, heartlandauctionrealty.com, 260-724-3499.

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2	1	6	8	8	9	2	7	9
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Israel strikes Hezbollah in large blast targeting the militant group's leader

By **BASSEM MROUE**
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The Israeli military said it struck Hezbollah's headquarters in Beirut on Friday in a series of massive explosions that targeted the leader of the militant group and leveled multiple high-rise apartment buildings. The biggest blast to hit the Lebanese capital in the past year appeared likely to push the escalating conflict closer to full-fledged war. At least six people were killed and 91 were wounded, Lebanon's health ministry said.

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah was the target of the strikes on the group's headquarters, according to two people familiar with the matter who requested anonymity, including one U.S. official. The Israeli army declined to comment on who it was targeting. It was not immediately clear if Nasrallah was at the site, and Hezbollah did not comment on the report.

The death toll is likely to rise significantly as teams are still combing through the rubble of six buildings. Israel launched a series of strikes on other areas of the southern suburbs following the initial blast.

After the strikes, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu abruptly cut short a visit to the United States to return home. Hours earlier, he addressed the U.N., vowing that Israel's intensified campaign against Hezbollah over the past two weeks would continue — further dimming hopes for an internationally backed cease-fire.

News of the blasts came as Netanyahu was briefing reporters after his U.N. address. A military aide whispered into his ear, and Netanyahu quickly ended the briefing.

Israeli army spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said the strikes targeted the main Hezbollah headquarters, saying it was located underground beneath residential buildings.

The series of blasts at around nightfall reduced six apartment towers to rubble in Haret Hreik, a densely populated, predominantly Shiite district of Beirut's Dahiyeh suburbs, according to Lebanon's national news agency. A wall of billowing black and orange smoke rose into the sky as windows were rattled and houses shaken some 18 miles north of Beirut.

Footage showed rescue workers clambering over large slabs of concrete, surrounded by high piles of twisted metal and wreckage. Several craters were visible, one with a car toppled into it. A stream of residents carrying their belongings were seen fleeing along a main road out of the district.

Israel provided no immediate comment about the type of bomb or how many it used but the resulting explosion levelled an area greater than a city block. The Israeli army has in its arsenal 2,000 pound American-made "Bunker Buster" guided bombs designed specifically for hitting subterranean targets.

Richard Weir, crisis and weapons researcher with Human Rights Watch, said the blasts were consistent with that class of bomb.

Israel's air forces followed with a new set of strikes early Saturday, also in the southern suburbs, shortly after an Israeli military spokesman warned residents of three buildings to evacuate, saying they were being used by Hezbollah to hide weapons, including anti-ship missiles.

To a degree unseen in past conflicts, Israel this past week has aimed to eliminate Hezbollah's senior leadership. But an attempt to assassinate Nasrallah — successful or not — would be a major escalation. The Pentagon said the U.S. had no advance warning of the strikes.

Nasrallah has been in hiding for years, very rarely appearing in public. He regularly gives speeches, but always by video from unknown locations. The site hit Friday evening had not been publicly known as Hezbollah's main headquarters, though it is located in the group's "security quarters," a heavily guarded part of Haret Hreik where

it has offices and runs several nearby hospitals.

Four hours after the strike, Hezbollah had still not issued any statement referring to it. Instead, it announced that it had launched a salvo of rockets at the Israeli city of Safed, which it said was "in defense of Lebanon and its people, and in response to the barbaric Israeli violation of cities, villages and civilians." The Israeli military said a house and a car in Safed were hit, and officials said a 68-year-old woman suffered mild shrapnel wounds.

Israel dramatically intensified its airstrikes in Lebanon this week, saying it is determined to put an end to more than 11 months of Hezbollah fire into its territory. The escalated campaign has killed more than 720 people in Lebanon, including dozens of women and children, according to Health Ministry statistics. A predawn strike Friday in the mainly Sunni border town of Chebaa killed nine members of the same family, the state news agency said.

The scope of Israel's operation remains unclear, but officials have said a ground invasion to push the militant group away from the border is a possibility. Israel has moved thousands of troops toward the border in preparation.

President Joe Biden said the U.S. had "no knowledge of or participation in" Israel's strikes. The White House said Biden ordered his national security team to assess if further action is needed to beef up security for American interests in the Middle East.

At the U.N., Netanyahu vowed to "continue degrading Hezbollah" until Israel achieves its goals. His comments dampened hopes for a U.S.-backed call for a 21-day truce between Israel and Hezbollah to allow time for a diplomatic solution. Hezbollah has not responded to the proposal.

Iranian-backed Hezbollah, the strongest armed force in Lebanon, began firing rockets into Israel almost immediately after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, saying it was a show of support for the Palestinians. Since then, it and the Israeli military have traded fire almost daily, forcing tens of thousands of people to flee their homes on both sides of the border.

An Israeli security official said he expects the campaign against Hezbollah would not last for as long as the current war in Gaza, because the military's goals are much narrower.

In Gaza, Israel aims to dismantle Hamas' military and political regime, but the goal in Lebanon is to push Hezbollah away from the border — "not a high bar like Gaza" in terms of operational objectives, said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity due to military briefing guidelines.

The Israeli military said it carried out dozens of strikes around the south Friday, targeting Hezbollah rocket launchers and infrastructure. It said Hezbollah fired a volley of rockets toward the northern Israeli city of Tiberias.

In the southern Lebanese city of Tyre, civil defense workers pulled the bodies of two women — 35-year-old Hiba Ataya and her mother Sabah Olyan — from the rubble of a building brought down by a strike.

"That's Sabah, these are her clothes, my love," one man cried out as her body emerged.

Israel says its accelerated strikes this week have already inflicted heavy damage on Hezbollah's weapons capabilities and its fighters. But the group boasted a large arsenal of rockets and missiles and its remaining capacities remain unknown.

Hezbollah officials and their supporters remain defiant. Not long before the explosions Friday evening, thousands massed in another part of Beirut's suburbs for the funeral of three Hezbollah members killed in earlier strikes, including the head of the group's drone unit, Mohammed Surour.

BHMSD 'SAFETY VILLAGE'



Southern Wells Jr.-Sr. High School's construction trades class designed and built a mock building of Bluffton's City Hall for the safety village. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)



Inside the garage, Assistant Principal Erin Roush talks about traffic safety signs and prepares the students to model traffic safety in the safety village.

Fall

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