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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2024 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00



Ossian Fire Department firefighter Jeff Miller (pictured) shows children the various compartments in the back of the engine. (Photos by Sydney Kent)

Stop, drop and roll into fire safety

The Ossian Fire Department visits local daycare to discuss fire safety

By SYDNEY KENT
The Ossian Fire Department is ensuring even the community's youngest members know how to prevent and react to fires. Firefighters Jeff Miller and Kyle White along with Chief Ben



Kyle White (right) demonstrates how to put on a firefighting uniform while Jeff Miller (left) explains why the various aspects are needed.

Fenstermaker met with several classes at the Ossian Presbyterian Church daycare last Thursday. Fenstermaker said that the department has traditionally visited the schools and daycares in the area each October to educate

Hurricane Milton makes landfall in Florida as a Category 3 storm

By TERRY SPENCER and KATE PAYNE
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Hurricane Milton crashed into Florida as a Category 3 storm Wednesday, pounding the coast with ferocious winds of over 100 mph and producing a series of tornadoes around the state. Tampa avoided a direct hit. The cyclone had maximum sustained winds of 120 mph as it roared ashore near Siesta Key, the Miami-based National Hurricane

Center said. Siesta Key is a prosperous strip of white-sand beaches that's home to 5,500 people about 70 miles (112 kilometers) south of Tampa. The Tampa Bay area has not taken a direct hit from a major hurricane in more than a century, but the storm was still bringing a potentially deadly storm surge to much of Florida's Gulf Coast, including densely populated areas such as Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota and Fort Myers. Heavy rains were also likely to cause flooding inland along rivers and lakes as Milton traverses the Florida peninsula as a hurricane, eventually to emerge in the Atlantic Ocean on Thursday. Milton slammed into a Florida region still reeling from Hurricane Helene, which caused heavy damage to beach communities with storm surge and killed a dozen people in seaside Pinellas County alone. Earlier, officials issued dire warnings to flee or face grim odds of survival.

Social Security's scheduled cost of living increase 'won't make a dent' for some

By FATIMA HUSSEIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sherri Myers, an 82-year-old resident of Pensacola City, Florida, says the Social Security cost-of-living increase she'll receive in January "won't make a dent" in helping her meet her day-to-day expenses. "Inflation has eaten up my savings," she said. "I don't have anything to fall back on — the cush-

ion is gone." So even with the anticipated increase she's looking for work to supplement her retirement income, which consists of a small pension and her Social Security benefits. About 70.6 million Social Security recipients are expected to receive a smaller cost of living increase for 2025 than in recent years, as inflation has moderated. The Social Security Administra-

Community survey for master plan is halfway complete

By JONATHAN SNYDER

A master plan, containing different implementation ideas touched on in the Wells County Vision 2035 plan, is halfway complete. After putting together the 2035 plan — a document detailing the decision making process for zoning changes, infrastructure needs, potential transportation improvements and other areas for improvement throughout the county — the county contracted The Veridus Group to put together a document detailing specific ways to accomplish community goals. Veridus, a project implementation firm based in Indianapolis, is

putting together a master plan document meant to specify different ideas and projects, so that communities can have a roadmap for the future. The plan acts as an expansion for the Vision 2035 plan, with the goal of moving from conversation starters, set out in Vision 2035, to creating implementation ideas and expanding on the goals set in Vision 2035. "If the Vision 2035 plan is goals and aspirations, the master plan is more specific ideas and how to implement them," Wells County Area Plan Commission Executive Director Mike Lautzenheiser said. Currently, Veridus is hold-

A series of deaths and the 'Big Fight' day

Uncovering police force in Evansville, Indiana

By RYAN J. FOLEY and JOHN SEEWER
Associated Press

EVANSVILLE, Ind. (AP) — It was the day of the "Big Fight" at the police academy, and rookie sheriff's deputy Asson Hacker groaned as the hulking instructor pressed down on his chest. Playing the role of a combative suspect, the trainer challenged Hacker to battle like his life was on the line. He punched Hacker, wrapped him in headlocks and tossed him against a padded gym wall. "C'mon, you got to go home!" another instructor yelled. The message: Hacker needed to fight harder to survive violent encounters on the street.

After seven exhausting minutes, Hacker managed to snap a handcuff on the trainer. Instructors and recruits ringing the gym clapped. Hacker toppled from his knees onto his back.

Within hours, the 33-year-old father of four young sons was dead. A classmate who fought the same instructor shortly after was himself rushed to the hospital with a disabling injury. The public would not be told the full story of that March 2023 day, which authorities described as routine training in which Hacker died of exertion tied to a genetic condition.

The Big Fight at the Southwest Indiana Law Enforcement Academy underscores a culture of aggression that persists at some police departments, where officers are taught to view virtually everyone they encounter as a potentially deadly threat. That mindset can lead officers to resort quickly to physical force and weapons on patrol.

A few years before the academy tragedy, four people died over just 14 months on Evansville's streets after officers used tactics that are not intended to kill — yet have contributed to the deaths of civilians across the nation, an Associated Press investigation found.

That cluster stood out for a mid-sized city among the more than 1,000 deaths AP documented after force such as Tasers and holds. At the same time, the deaths echoed encounters elsewhere in

which officers misused force during difficult behavioral and medical emergencies. AP found a pattern after the fatal incidents involving civilians and at the academy the Evansville Police Department runs: Authorities downplayed the violence, the county coroner who worked 25 years in law enforcement ruled that force did not contribute to the deaths, and no officer was criminally charged.

Video and records that AP unearthed show official narratives omitted key details of the force or mockery officers directed at those who would die. Operating with little independent oversight, Evansville police have been able to shield themselves from criticism, but not always liability. The city paid the parents of one deceased man nearly \$1 million to drop their lawsuit and keep quiet.

City officials declined interview requests and didn't answer a list of questions. A city lawyer said force by Evansville officers has "overwhelmingly been deemed lawful" when challenged in court.

Evansville was among the departments where AP found use-of-force training, tactics and oversight that was similar to practices in cities where the U.S. Department of Justice has raised concerns over the past decade. In June, for example, the DOJ faulted Phoenix police for training and oversight deficiencies that contribute to escalation and force.

Hacker's relatives feel abandoned and suspicious that the law enforcement family he wanted to join is covering up the role the Big Fight played in his death.

A fallen recruit
While Asson Hacker was thrilled to be a rookie deputy, he confided to his brother he was dreading the Big Fight, the culmination of a grueling week of training that already had given him a bruised face and sore ribs.

Hacker had been recruited to join the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office by a deputy who lived next door. A 6-foot-3-inch, 230-pound former college basketball player who became a competitive bodybuilder, Hacker told relatives he felt a calling to help people. As

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Outside

☀️

Don't put your summer wardrobe away just yet

Today	Friday	Saturday
High 69	High 78	High 74
Low 43	Low 52	Low 53

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Ossian Fire Department

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children on fire safety. In 1922, the National Fire Protection Association named the second week of October Fire Prevention Week in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire in 1871.

Toddlers and preschoolers sat in rows in the fellowship hall, their wide eyes frequently darting to the uniform sitting nearby. White put each part of the uniform on for the children, reminding them that a friendly face was under the heavy gear.

Miller demonstrated how to “stop, drop, cover your face, and roll” before heading outside to show one of the department’s fire trucks up close. He also asked the classes to identify a smoke alarm. The question was fitting for this year’s theme for National Fire Prevention Week: Smoke alarms — make



Classes at First Presbyterian Church daycare eagerly lined up for a chance to sit in the firetruck. (Photo by Sydney Kent)

them work for you.

According to the NFPA, this year’s campaign strives to educate everyone about the impor-

ance of having working smoke alarms in the home. The campaign advocates for smoke alarms to be installed in every bed-

room, hallway, and level of the home and encourages individuals to test the alarms once a month.

sydney@news-banner.com

Community survey

(Continued from Page 1)

ing focus group meetings with county communities to discuss potential ideas and other needs in the area. Lautzenheiser stated that the intent is to give community leaders key principles that they adhere to for future decisions.

“The goal would be that if you were making a decision at any government level, that these vision principles would be looked at and verified that, ‘Yes, our decision we’re making is taking one of these vision principles into effect, and is why we want to do this project, because it’s helping to implement or being true to it.’” Lautzenheiser said.

“It gives them a chance to put their vision for the next 10 to 15 years on paper,” Project Manager Jack Woods of Veridus said. “Once we understand what that vision is, some specific proj-

ects and action steps can get them to where they want to be, so that they have that roadmap or plan they’re working off of right there in front of them.”

Each community will have a say in what they want their community to look like. Woods acknowledged that each community has different assets that make it unique and stated that communities like Poneto, Vera Cruz and Uniondale are relishing the opportunity to see those communities get a say.

“It’s really a great opportunity for some of the smaller communities in the county,” Woods said. “Typically, types of communities that size don’t have the resources to do a plan themselves, especially of this scale, and the county being very intentional and allowing

each of those smaller municipalities to be involved. I’ve seen this as an energizing process for them. They’re really excited about it.”

Woods stated that Veridus has yet to meet with Ossian and Uniondale for their focus group meetings. Once those are completed, a community survey will be launched so the wider public can have input on the master plan. Woods stated that the survey is targeted for a late October to early November launch. Afterwards, a public open house discussing the master plan will be held.

Lautzenheiser noted that if the public is interested in being part of the steering or review process, they can contact the Area Plan Commission office and be added to the list.

jonathan@news-banner.com

Hurricane Milton makes landfall

(Continued from Page 1)

“This is it, folks,” said Cathie Perkins, emergency management director in Pinellas County, which sits on the peninsula that forms Tampa Bay. “Those of you who were punched during Hurricane Helene, this is going to be a knockout. You need to get out, and you need to get out now.”

By late afternoon, some officials said the time had passed for such efforts. By the evening, some counties announced they have suspended emergency services.

“Unless you really have a good reason to leave at this point, we suggest you just hunker down,” Polk County Emergency Management Director Paul Womble said in a public update.

Multiple tornadoes spawned by the hurricane tore across Florida, the twisters acting as a dangerous harbingers of Milton’s approach. Videos posted to social media sites showed large funnel clouds over neighborhoods in Palm Beach County and elsewhere in the state.

Milton, which has fluctuated in intensity as it approached Florida, was a Category 3 hurricane Wednesday evening. It was expected to remain a hurricane after hitting land and plowing across the state, including the heavily populated Orlando area, through Thursday.

“That doesn’t mean that it couldn’t happen,” said Luisa Meshekoff, who nevertheless was staying put with her partner and eight cats in their home, a brick warehouse in a mandatory evacuation zone in Tampa’s Channel District. The couple considered leaving but

felt bringing the cats to a shelter wasn’t an option, and they worried that getting stuck on the roads could be dangerous.

“I think if you have water and batteries, everything’s OK,” Meshekoff said. “I could be singing a different tune by 2 in the morning.”

Milton threatened communities still reeling two weeks after Hurricane Helene flooded streets and homes in western Florida and left at least 230 people dead across the South. In many places along the coast, municipalities raced to collect and dispose of debris before Milton’s winds and storm surge could toss it around and compound any damage.

With the storm weaker but growing in size, the surge was projected to reach as high as 9 feet in Tampa Bay.

Jackie Curnick said she wrestled with her decision to stay and hunker down at home in Sarasota, just north of where the storm made landfall. But with a 2-year-old son and a baby girl due Oct. 29, Curnick and her husband thought it was for the best.

Curnick said they started packing Monday to evacuate, but they couldn’t find any available hotel rooms, and the few they came by were too expensive.

She said there were too many unanswered questions if they got in the car and left: Where to sleep, if they’d be able to fill up their gas tank, and if they could even find a safe route out of the state.

“The thing is it’s so difficult to evacuate in a peninsula,” she said. “In most other states, you can go in any direction to get out. In

Florida there are only so many roads that take you north or south.”

The famous Sunshine Skyway Bridge, which spans the mouth of Tampa Bay, closed around midday. Other major bridges also closed.

“Yesterday I said the clock was ticking. Today I’m saying the alarm bell is really going off. People need to get to their safe place,” said Ken Graham, director of the National Weather Service.

At a news conference in Tallahassee, Gov. Ron DeSantis described deployment of a wide range of resources, including 9,000 National Guard members from Florida and other states; over 50,000 utility workers from as far as California; and highway patrol cars with sirens to escort gasoline tankers to replenish supplies so people could fill up their tanks before evacuating.

“Unfortunately, there will be fatalities. I don’t think there’s any way around that,” DeSantis said.

As of Wednesday evening, Milton was centered about 20 miles west-southwest of Sarasota, Florida, and had maximum sustained winds of 120 mph, the hurricane center reported. It was moving northeast at 15 mph, slowing slightly from earlier in the afternoon.

Heavy rain and tornadoes lashed parts of southern Florida starting Wednesday morning, with conditions deteriorating throughout the

day. Six to 12 inches of rain, with up to 18 inches in some places, was expected well inland, bringing the risk of catastrophic flooding.

One twister touched down Wednesday morning in the lightly populated Everglades and crossed Interstate 75. Another apparent tornado touched down in Fort Myers, snapping tree limbs and tearing a gas station’s canopy to shreds.

Authorities have issued mandatory evacuation orders across 15 Florida counties with a total population of about 7.2 million people. Officials warned that anyone staying behind must fend for themselves, because first responders were not expected to risk their lives attempting rescues at the height of the storm.

St. Petersburg Mayor Ken Welch told residents to expect long power outages and the possible shutdown of the sewer system.

By early afternoon, airlines had canceled about 1,900 flights. SeaWorld was closed all day Wednesday, and Walt Disney World and Universal Orlando shut down in the afternoon.

More than 60% of gas stations in Tampa and St. Petersburg were out of gas Wednesday afternoon, according to GasBuddy. DeSantis said the state’s overall supply was fine, and highway patrol officers were escorting tanker trucks to replenish the supply.

Weather

Thursday, October 10, 2024

(24-hour observations at 11:37 p.m. Wednesday)
High: 71; Low: 42; Precipitation: None
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.03 feet at 9:45 p.m. Wednesday

Wells County forecast

Today: Sunny, with a high near 69. East wind 5 to 10 mph.

Tonight: Clear, with a low around 43. East wind around 5 mph becoming south after midnight.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 78. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 52. Southwest wind around 5 mph.

Saturday: A slight chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 74. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Saturday Night: A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 53.

Sunday: A 20% chance of showers before 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 70.

Sunday Night: A slight chance of showers between 8 p.m. and 2 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 41. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Columbus Day: A 20% chance of showers after 8 a.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 56.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 35.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 55.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 36.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 58.

Social Security

(Continued from Page 1)

average benefit for a retiree who receives about \$1,920 a month by \$48 a month starting in January 2025.

“I think a lot of seniors are going to say that this is not really enough to keep up with prices,” said AARP Senior Vice President of Government Affairs Bill Sweeney.

The silver lining is that it’s an indication that inflation is moderating, he said.

The announcement comes as the national social insurance plan faces a severe financial shortfall in the coming years.

The annual Social Security and Medicare trustees report released in May said the program’s trust fund will be unable to pay full benefits beginning in 2035. If the trust fund is depleted, the government will be able to pay only 83% of scheduled benefits, the report said.

The program is financed by payroll taxes collected from workers and their employers. The maximum amount of earnings subject to Social Security payroll taxes was \$168,600 for 2024, up from \$160,200 in 2023. Analysts estimate that the maximum amount will go up to \$174,900 in 2025.

On the presidential campaign trail, Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump have presented dueling plans on how they would strengthen Social Security.

Harris says on her campaign website that she will protect Social Security by “making millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share in taxes.”

Trump promises that he would not cut the social program or make changes to the retirement age. Trump also pledges tax cuts for older Americans, posting on Truth Social in July that “SENIORS SHOULD NOT PAY TAX ON SOCIAL

SECURITY!”

AARP conducted interviews with both Harris and Trump in late August, and asked how the candidates would protect the Social Security Trust Fund.

Harris said she would make up for the shortfall by “making billionaires and big corporations pay their fair share in taxes and use that money to protect and strengthen Social Security for the long haul.”

Trump said “we’ll protect it with growth. I don’t want to do anything having to do with increasing age. I won’t do that. As you know, I was there for four years and never even thought about doing it. I’m going to do nothing to Social Security.”

Lawmakers have proposed a variety of solutions to deal with the funding shortfall.

The Republican Study Committee’s Fiscal Year 2025 plan has proposed cutting Social Security costs by raising the retirement age and reducing the annual COLA. Trump has not endorsed the plan.

Linda Benesch, a spokeswoman for Social Security Works, an advocacy group for the social insurance program, said “we are concerned about this Republican Study Committee budget, and the provisions in it that would cut benefits for retirees.”

Social Security Works endorsed Harris for president in July, in part for her decision as a California senator, to co-sponsor a bill that called on the Social Security Administration to use a different index to calculate cost of living increase: the CPI-E, which measures price changes based on the spending patterns of the elderly, like health care, food and medicine costs.

The COLA is currently calculated according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Consumer Price Index, or CPI.

Chester Center Church

Across from Southern Wells High School
Corner of 9009 S 300 W Poneto

Flea Market and Bake Sale

Thursday Oct. 10th, 9-5
Friday Oct. 11th, 9-5
Saturday Oct. 12th, 9-?
A variety of vendors outside

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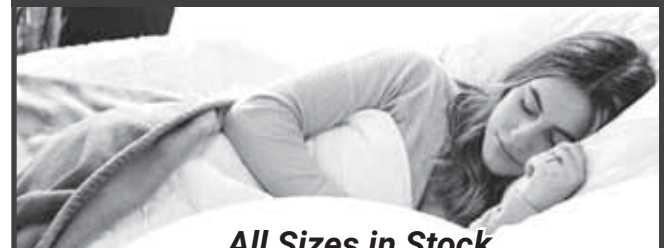
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OBITUARIES

Cheryl Gutshall, 74

Cheryl Lynn Gutshall, 74, passed away Sunday afternoon, Oct. 6, 2024, following an extended illness.



Cheryl was born in Decatur on July 12, 1950, to Ralph H. and Virginia (Beam) Robison; both parents preceded her in death. She married James "Jim" E. Gutshall in Bluffton on July 7, 1983; he survives in Bluffton.

She was a member of the Bluffton High School class of 1968. Cheryl operated her own day care service in Bluffton for 44 years, retiring in 2024. She enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren, teaching them to bake, spending summers at the lake and tending to her plants and flowers.

In addition to her husband, survivors include a son, S. Shane Kemper of Franklin, Indiana, and a daughter, Lauren E. (Aaron) Schlotter of Bluffton; two grandchildren, Riley J. and Chloe R. Schlotter; three stepsisters, Colleen (Ken) Miller of North Carolina, Deb (Brent) Wasyluk of Fort Wayne and Paula Johnson of Bradenton, Florida.

Aside from her parents, she is preceded in death by a stepsister, Charleen Cox and two brothers, Edward and James Robison.

A memorial gathering and receiving of friends will be held on Monday, Oct. 14, 2024, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel, followed by a memorial service at 1 p.m. at the funeral home. Barry Crosbie will officiate. Burial will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers and gifts, Cheryl's family request memorials be made to the American Lung Association.

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

Alonzo D. Kahn, 59

Alonzo D. Kahn, 59, of Rossford, Ohio, and a longtime Bluffton resident, passed away on Friday, Oct. 4, 2024, at his residence.



He was born on Dec. 5, 1964, in Wells County, Indiana to Robert E. "Strawberry" and Bertie Lou (Day) Kahn. He attended Southern Wells High School. Alonzo worked for the last 42 years for Hulcher Services as a train wrecker starting at the Bluffton Division and moved to work out of the Toledo, Ohio, Division in 1995.

He enjoyed riding his Harley Davidson motorcycles, and racing cars on the circle dirt track racing circuit. He was always willing to teach others how to do things and was a talented person that could build or fix anything.

Survivors include his children, Heath Alonzo (Alexis Scott) Kahn of Oregon, Ohio, DayLynn Kahn of Rossford, Ohio, Cody R. (Jenna) Kahn of Genoa, Ohio and Gabriel J. (Payton) Kahn of Rossford, Ohio. Alonzo was a loving grandpa and PaPaw to four grandchildren, Castiel Ball, Maya Kahn, Ryan Alonzo Kahn and Delaney Marilyn Kahn.

He is also survived by his siblings, Teresa Waitley of Bluffton, Robin Gaunt of Poneto, April Brandt of Bluffton, Canda Trissell of Bluffton and Kevin C. Kahn of Poneto.

Alonzo is preceded in death by his parents, Strawberry and Bertie Kahn; and a brother, Robert E. Kahn, Jr.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton with his niece, Brandy Gibson officiating.

Visitation will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, prior to the service at the funeral home. Burial will follow next to his parents at Woodlawn Cemetery in Montpelier, Indiana.

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.



Shannon Grimm, Amy Atkins and Whitney Lambert alongside their family and Chamber Ambassadors. (Photo submitted)

Studio 2190 Salon and Spa holds ribbon cutting

The Wells County Chamber of Commerce, alongside its ambassadors, is excited to announce the grand opening of Studio 2190 Salon and Spa, a new full-service salon in Bluffton, owned by the talented team of Amy Atkins, Whitney Lambert and Shannon Grimm.

Atkins, Lambert and Grimm have combined their individual talents and passion for the beauty industry to create a full-service salon offering customized services, including hair styling, skincare, nails and more. The team at Studio 2190 Salon and Spa is excited to bring a fresh new option for self-care and beauty to Bluffton.

Atkins, a licensed nail technician, brings a rich history to the salon, inspired by her grandmother who was a beautician. Originally pursuing a career in teaching, Atkins discovered

her passion for nails during college when she began doing her own due to a lack of time and funds. After deciding that teaching wasn't the right fit, Atkins attended nail school and quickly built a career in the beauty industry.

"I went to nail school on a whim, got certified, and had a job before graduating," Atkins said. With seven years of experience, Atkins has developed a loyal clientele and expertise in acrylics, dip and powder, gel polish, pedicures and detox foot baths.

Lambert has worked in the beauty industry for several years. After running a business in Bluffton and working in Monroe, she teamed up with Atkins to create Salon 2190.

"We live in Bluffton, and this was a perfect opportunity. I love doing hair, and I love working with Atkins and Shannon. We make a great team,"

Lambert shared.

Grimm, a licensed esthetician since 2019, specializes in providing customized skincare services, including facials, lashes, brow shaping and waxing.

The renovation of the salon was a true labor of love. "The space was basically just bones when we started," Atkins explained. "We built walls, removed old carpet, added water and drainage systems, and designed Shannon's room from scratch. It took nearly eight months, but we've created a space we're incredibly proud of."

Studio 2190, located at 2190 Commerce Dr., Ste 3, Bluffton, offers a unique blend of hair, skincare, and wellness services tailored to meet the needs of every client and is excited to serve the Bluffton community and beyond.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City: Tuesday, 2:02 p.m., Kroger. Report of two subjects asking for money.

Tuesday, 2:53 p.m., 500 block of McArthur Drive. Report of unwanted party.

Tuesday, 3:09 p.m., Whicker Park. Domestic issue.

Tuesday, 3:33 p.m., Roush Park. Welfare check requested for young child alone. Unable to locate.

Tuesday, 7:52 p.m., S.R. 124 and 500 E. Car versus deer.

Wednesday, 12:58 p.m., 1000 West Wabash Street. Caller reported someone recording them without con-

sent. Nothing criminal in nature found.

County: Tuesday, 2:36 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served without incident.

Tuesday, 5:08 p.m., 1000 S 900 W, Montpelier. Report of a potential scam online.

Tuesday, 7:13 p.m., 5100 W 1200 N, Roanoke. Officer requested to stand by for property retrieval.

Tuesday, 7:33 p.m., East Washington and South Main streets, Bluffton. Driver stopped for driving wrong way on one-way street.

Luis Felipe Felix Gonzalez charged with operating vehicle without receiving license and cited for driving wrong

way on one way.

Ossian: Tuesday, 4:23 p.m., 9000 N 750 E Ossian. Report of suspicious vehicle.

Tuesday, 8:25 p.m., North 750 E and 1200 N, Ossian. Caller reported they heard gunshots and car leaving area at high rate of speed.

ACCIDENTS

County: Tuesday, 2:40 p.m., S.R. 116 and 300 West, Markle. Franklin Williams, 61, Uniondale, advised he was looking at some farm equipment when his Dodge Ram drifted over the center line. The mirror on the Ram collided with the mirror on a Ford F350 driven by Steven Thomas, 62,

Huntington. Damages did not exceed \$1,001.

ARRESTS

Travis Aaron Lee, 40, Decatur; invasion of privacy, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$25,000.

Luis Felipe Felix Gonzalez, 19, Uniondale; operating without obtaining license, a Class C misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Christopher Michael Hayden, 39, Bluffton; driving while suspended — prior, a Class A misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Adam Lee Carew, 37, Huntington; child molesting, a Level 4 felony, and invasion of privacy, a Class A misdemeanor. No bond set.

Indiana governor deploys Indiana National Guard for Florida hurricane relief

By WHITNEY DOWNARD

Indiana Capital Chronicle

As Floridians evacuate en mass or shelter in place ahead of Hurricane Milton, a Category 5 storm that will bring winds up to 160 mph, Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb opted to activate Indiana National Guard units on Wednesday in advance of the anticipated destruction.

"Whether we're aiding North Carolina recovery efforts following Hurricane Helene, or assisting Floridians in the wake of Hurricane Milton, time and time again, when devastation strikes, Hoosiers of all backgrounds answer the call in helping those in desperate need," Holcomb said in a statement. "Indiana's finest who serve in the National Guard, chief among them, will continue to provide critical help on the ground and air while we back here at home mourn the great loss our neighbors down south are experiencing."

Approximately 400 Indiana National Guard soldiers

will mobilize today and be in Florida this week to assist in recovery efforts, prevent the loss of life and reduce human suffering caused by Hurricane Milton.

The announcement comes on the heels of Hurricane Helene, a Category 4 storm that hit several southern states last month and brought devastation throughout. More than 200 people have died and many more are still missing. Holcomb previously activated about a dozen guard members to provide assistance in North Carolina, where most of the damage occurred.

Unusually warm water conditions in the gulf, a byproduct of a warming planet, have fueled the back-to-back storms and made the hurricanes both wetter and more intense.

Units deployed the Florida will touch down today and assist with route clearance, shelter management and supply distribution as well as command and control.

"Hoosier Guardsmen

answer the call to uniquely serve our nation and our neighbors, and moments like this are precisely why the Indiana National Guard trains and prepares to ensure we're ready to mobilize

when the need arises," said Major General Dale Lyles, the Indiana adjutant general.

Florida's deployment include four units from Terre Haute, New Albany, Lawrence and Gary.

Ossian Rotary to host its first Annual Fall Marketplace

Ossian Rotary will host its 2024 Fall Marketplace on Saturday, Oct. 19. From 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Norwell Middle School at 1100 US 224, south of Ossian, will be transformed into an indoor fall market with a variety of crafts, home décor, jewelry, food and much more, as well as shoppers of all ages. Entrance will be through the cafeteria entrance on the north side of the attached Norwell High School. Signs and volunteers will direct buyers and sellers. Shopper admission and parking is free for this opportunity to start your craft and holiday shopping. In addition, food and beverages will be available during the hours of the event. Come join with like-minded individuals to enjoy

the fall season.

Ossian Rotary is a small part of the world's largest service organization, Rotary International. The club holds events like this to make our community a better place to live in a variety of ways. In addition, funds are raised for doing projects locally and worldwide to provide safe water, eradicate diseases such as polio, provide health care in impoverished communities, build parks, offer student development programs in schools, and many other programs to aid our communities and world.

For more information, or to secure a vendor application, please contact Carol Keplar at rotarycarolk@gmail.com.

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What is your local newspaper's role?

While it is certainly not unusual, particularly in these modern times, for someone to question the integrity and/or actions of a news organization, it is unusual for an elected local official to do so in a public meeting. When the facts are self-evident, one questions the need to respond. However, a lesson in what newspapers do and why we do it seems in order.

To set the stage: Wells County Commissioner Jeff Stringer utilized the conclusion of Monday's meeting of the commissioners to give what he felt was a necessary public lashing to the News-Banner for reporting a story he didn't like.

"It's not a story," he said.

An elected public official receives a death threat regarding issues before the governing board of which he serves as its leader. That's news, plain and simple. It is also a crime.

In Indiana, threatening to commit a forcible felony or threatening a witness, spouse, or child of a witness is a Level 6 felony. It was called the Stop Intimidation of Public Officials Act when it became part of Indiana Code, making it a felony to threaten a public official in an attempt to influence their vote, decision, or other official action.

Threats can be written or oral, or may even be implied by a person's conduct. The punishment for threatening a public official depends on the offender's status. For example, first-time offenders may face a misdemeanor charge, while repeat offenders may face a felony charge.

We would not be a newspaper if we did not follow-up on information received and verified by multiple sources about a possible crime being committed against one of our elected officials.

It is based "on rumors and innuendos," he said.

The existence of the threat was shared in a meeting with four other people, one of whom contacted the News-Banner and three of whom gave consistent details in separate, independent interviews. Given the chance to deny or confirm, Stringer chose "no comment." The story was reviewed by several people at the N-B, including myself. Editor Holly Gaskill, the reporter of this story, also had it reviewed by the Hoosier State Press Association's legal counsel.

It is noteworthy that no where in our reporting was it even inferred as to from which side of the solar issue this threat originated. Although the three witnesses shared their speculations and assumptions, none of that was included in the reporting.

Facts are facts.

"The people that reported it doesn't have the whole story," Stringer continued. "The people that brought it to the paper didn't have the whole story."

The commissioner was given the opportunity to share "the whole story." If he felt the "threat" did not rise to the level of being a concern, he could have shared that. But he passed. However, those who were in the meeting all expressed their common perception that it was genuine. Furthermore, nothing we have seen or heard since has contradicted what was reported. Indeed, social media conversations have only confirmed.

"We should not give credit to any violence," he added. "This is (not) things we should talk about."

Before confirming that he had received a threat, Commissioner Mike Vanover's initial response to a request for comment was that he didn't want to draw attention to the issue. Obviously no one wants to encourage violence but by trying to sweep it under the rug, how can a community address these issues and make it known it is not acceptable? Do we not report that a gun was found at a local school in order to "not encourage violence"?

The article was published "just to stir conflict," his statement continued.

Questioning the motives of why we do what we do goes to the core of what a newspaper is, particularly as opposed to being a "tabloid."

Local newspapers have an interesting dual role of being both a community booster and a community watchdog. To ignore tackling the hard things, to only focus only on what does not involve conflict and disagreements, is not what a newspaper does.

We are proud of the work Holly did. Without fear or favor, we cover the news in Wells County.

DOUG BROWN
President and Publisher

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Oct. 10, the 284th day of 2024. There are 82 days left in the year.

Today in history: On Oct. 10, 1973, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, accused of accepting bribes, resigned his office and pleaded no contest to one count of federal income tax evasion.

Also on this date:

In 1845, the U.S. Naval Academy was established in Annapolis, Maryland, with an inaugural class of 50 students.

In 1911, Chinese revolutionaries launched an uprising that led to the collapse of the Qing (or Manchu) Dynasty and the establishment of the Republic of China.

In 1935, the George Gershwin opera "Porgy and Bess," featuring an all-Black cast, opened on Broadway, beginning a run of 124 performances.

In 1964, the Summer Olympics began in Tokyo, the first Summer Games to be telecast around the world.

Election Letters Policy

The News-Banner accepts Letters to the Editor concerning local election candidates and issues. All letters must be signed; the writer's address and phone number must be included in case verification is desired. Letters are subject to editing for brevity, clarity and length; letters are limited to 500 words.

• There is a limit to one letter per writer per campaign period. • The editor reserves the right to refuse publication of any letter at all times. • An appearance of a letter-writing campaign will be deemed as such and discontinued. • Letters pertaining to the Nov. 5, 2024 election must be received by Sat., Oct. 26, with the exception of responses by a candidate to any letter published on or after that date.

Submit your Letters to the Editor via: • Our website link (Submit Your Letter) • E-Mail: email@news-banner.com • Mail: PO Box 436, Bluffton IN 46714 • Drop-off: 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton. (There is a 24-hour drop-slot available.)



Harris' interview on '60 Minutes'

It took two and one-half months for Kamala Harris to agree to an interview with a national journalist. She was interviewed on "60 Minutes" by Bill Whitaker, but her answers are not likely to help her with the few voters who say they are still "undecided."

Asked by Whitaker to explain her economic plan and how it would be paid for, Harris' response bordered on the meaningless: "My plan is about saying when you invest in small businesses you invest in the middle class and you strengthen America's economy. Small businesses are the backbone of America's economy."

Whitaker: "The question was how are you going to pay for it?"

Harris: "I am going to make sure that the richest among us who can afford it pay their fair share in taxes. It is not right that teachers, nurses and firefighters are paying a higher tax rate than billionaires and the biggest corporations. And I plan on making that fair."

"Fair" must be a poll-tested word, but it has no meaning unless it is defined. Democrats have been invoking it for years, but they never say what they mean. In some states the successful are paying more than half their income to federal, state and local governments. Is it fair when governments penalize success and subsidize its opposite? And who will define affordable? Whitaker should have asked Harris what she would do to cut spending, the main driver of debt, and how would she reform Social Security and Medicare, which will run out of money in the 2030s.

Whitaker asked Harris how she would get her plan through Congress.

Harris gave her usual nonsensical answer: "You know when you talk quietly with a lot of folks in Congress, they know exactly what I'm talking about 'cause their constituents know exactly what I'm talking about. Those constituents are those firefighters and teachers and nurses..."

I don't know what she is talking about.

In reporting on some of the same claims that President Joe Biden made in his last State of the Union address, Reuters reported: "The average American

worker paid about a 25% tax rate in 2022, the OECD reported. White House research found the wealthiest individuals paid about 8% from 2010 to 2018."

White House "research"? According to The Cato Institute: "The 8 percent is a concoction by Biden political appointees at odds with data from the U.S. Treasury, Congressional Budget Office (CBO), Internal Revenue Service and Joint Committee on Taxation. All these official sources find that tax rates on high earners are much higher than tax rates on lower- and middle-income folks."

On another topic, Harris was asked about Israel and the attacks by Iran and its proxies. Harris defaulted to the familiar position that Israel "has a right to defend itself," but seemed to separate the Jewish state from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu:

Whitaker: "Do we have a real close ally in Prime Minister Netanyahu?"

Harris: "With all due respect, I think the more important question is do we have an important alliance between the American people and the Israeli people? And the answer to that question is yes."

The Biden-Harris administration, like the Obama-Biden and Clinton-Gore administrations, have repeatedly tried to impose their will on Israel to get the Jewish state to act in ways that would put it in greater peril. For Harris to try and separate Israel from its duly elected leader is to give aid and comfort to Israel's enemies, who are also our enemies.

The question still waiting to be asked is why Harris and every Democrat who met with Biden engaged in what looks like a cover-up of his mental state that led to his withdrawal from the race.

After the "60 Minutes" interview, Harris decamped to more friendly territory, appearing on "The View" and Howard Stern's radio program. It is unlikely any of these interviews will change the minds of entrenched voters.

tcaceditors@tribpub.com



Cal
Thomas

The goblins are coming for snacks

Masquerade parties of yesteryear were but one of the memories that surface all month in October. No matter where you

turned, signs appeared to announce the advent of Halloween at month's end. Dad always teasingly claimed to celebrate Mom's birthday on Halloween, though her birth fell on the 30th, not the 31st.

Sunday School classes held hay rides culminating in a party. Everyone arrived in homemade disguises. Few actually paid good hard-earned dollars for full costumes back then. A sheet with holes had been saved over many years for one of our family to use. Mom's fur coat always went with the wolf's mask. Then, masks were made from woven and hardened cloth. Hobo's were always a favorite costume.

Pumpkins, Indian corn, corn stalks, dry leaves, bittersweet, and gourds adorned home displays topped with webs made of kite string. Bats and moons cut from construction paper dangled from lamp shades. Candy corn ruled the roost for most-often-purchased holiday fare. Pumpkin spice marketing on everything had not emerged anywhere on Earth.

October meant learning the verse, "In 14 hundred and 92, Columbus sailed the ocean blue. He had 3 ships and left for Spain..." The rest was lost over decades since elementary school, but the names of those ships, Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria, remained locked into brain cells. Columbus was celebrated in school on October 12.

Angelkeep considered using Columbus Day as Christmas tree decorating day. More traditionally at Angelkeep that occurred on Halloween. Tree decorating accompanied the

Angelkeep Journals

season's first batch of party mix.

The government found need of reorganizing Columbus history as taught in the fifties. Actually it began in 1937.

Forty years later the sacred date was ditched in favor of October's second Monday.

In 1929 the banks closed for what was then called Discovery Day. Little did they know then that they were but two weeks away from the famous stock market Crash of '29. It was the original Black Friday but its outcome a reverse to economics. In 1929 Black Thursday struck on October 24, followed by Black Tuesday. Then came the Great Depression.

Black cats, black bats, and black spiders eventually became a traditional part of October's Halloween Day, but were unrelated to the crash.

Angelkeep tended to mix up the holidays in October. Gwen's special recipe of a crust-less pumpkin pie soon appeared in the oven. Elsewhere October came around and the world began talking about pumpkin spice in everything. Chopped pecans or English walnuts appeared on the top of Gwen's dish with large dollops of Cool Whip placed on a chunk in a bowl. It mimicked Casper the Friendly Ghost. Or appeared like one of the Daugherty children robed in the family white ghost sheet with the two eye holes for each Halloween party.

Pie pumpkins appearing in the grocery in October were purchased



Alan
Daugherty

and baked. Sometimes an added squash made for variety. Angelkeep's refrigerator held a constant supply of baked pie pumpkin to be eaten straight. No pie. No crust, just pumpkin with a bit of butter. For a special treat a bit of brown sugar might be added. Or BBQ sauce.

Angelkeep's October candy delights evolved over the years. Childhood desire for bags of candy converted to special healthy foods of autumn. Retained were special Halloween candy delights like candy corn. It's mixed three to four times the volume with Spanish peanuts. Any nuts will do, but the hard-to-find Spanish peanuts with skins yet attached are best. It added to the October celebration of Columbus discovering the Indigenous, as some prefer records to show.

Chocolate was not omitted. It usually arrived in the form of M&M's Peanut, as soon as the variety appeared in the special holiday packs of orange and black colors.

Orange pumpkins appeared. The large maple tree out the kitchen window converted in October to orange leaves that looked like a pumpkin on a stick. The first batch of Christmas party mix joined the orange color spirit. Added to a batch of cheddar cheese party mix was a full bag of Snyder's cheddar cheese pretzels, Cheetos, extracheddar puffs, jumbo cashews, cruxa cheddar Goldfish crackers, spicy Cheese-It Crackers, and caramel corn.

This mix ended up appropriately orange colored for all of October, to Halloween, and through to Thanksgiving.

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

The News-Banner

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Slighted by not being invited

Dear Annie: I don't know how to act. My husband's nephew is getting married in another state. We heard all the aunts and uncles were invited, but we never received a save the date or an invite.

My sisters-in-law and mother-in-law are aware that we didn't get an invite. A couple brothers-in-law asked if we were attending the wedding — obviously assuming all would be invited. It was uncomfortable having to tell them we were never invited. They said it must have been an oversight, but there has been a month to correct the oversight, and still no invite.

Do I just let this go? I'm feeling pretty slighted by my husband's family. We've always had decent relations with all family members, nothing out of the ordinary besides some usual family drama over the years.

This is a large family, and I understand the invitation number is tight, and it will be a small wedding. Still, I can't help feeling slighted. How do I get past this? I'm uncomfortable calling my sister-in-law; if we get invited now, it is too late. The damage is done. — Feeling Slighted

Dear Feeling Slighted: I agree it's a bad idea to call your sister-in-law at this point. If the invite hasn't come, bringing it up might only create unnecessary tension. Since the wedding is small and space is limited, it's likely that the guest list had to be trimmed, even if that's hard to accept.

Instead, try to focus on the bigger picture — your relationship with your husband's family beyond this one event. Once the wedding passes, you can continue to maintain a positive relationship with them, so long as you don't hold on to any resentment. Although the lack of an invitation feels personal, weddings are bound by limitations such as budget and venue capacity, and sometimes decisions are made that don't reflect deeper feelings.

Dear Annie: I have two grown children. My daughter has a boyfriend, and I just don't get along with him. He's a military veteran, and he served during the Iraq conflict and was honorably discharged. His name is "John."

I am also a military veteran and served for 20 years. My daughter has mentioned that John

sees a mental health provider at the VA hospital. I also get medical care at the VA hospital and with mental health providers.

My daughter and I are on good terms, but we have had conflicts over her boyfriend. I currently don't speak to her boyfriend, and we don't attend the same family gatherings so that we won't run into each other. My son and daughter get along very well.

I don't want to be in this situation with John. He's very reserved and has mentioned that he has been diagnosed with PTSD. In the past, when he attended our family gatherings, he sat in a corner of the house and didn't want to interact with any of us.

I tried to be understanding and make him feel welcome, but he doesn't reciprocate at all. I know now to just let it be, but I think it's too late for me to make amends with John.

I'm 64 and my way of thinking is, life is short, and I want to embrace my whole family, including John. I don't know how to approach John and get along with him. I love reading your column. Please advise. — Concerned Mom in Texas

Dear Concerned Mom: PTSD can make social situations overwhelming for John, which might explain his withdrawal during family gatherings. It's not a reflection on you or your efforts at hospitality.

The best way to embrace John is to simply make an effort. Stop avoiding him. Initiate a conversation. The fact that you share a military background could be a starting point for finding common ground.

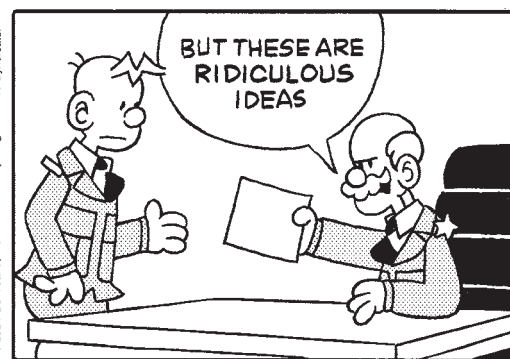
If he doesn't respond in kind, know that it isn't personal. Even if he doesn't appreciate your efforts, your daughter certainly will.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. © 2024 CREATORS.COM

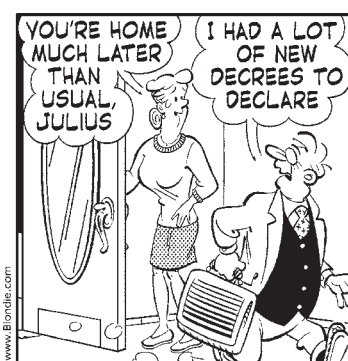
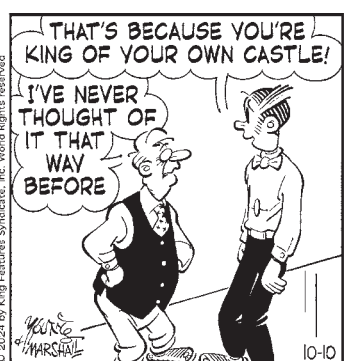
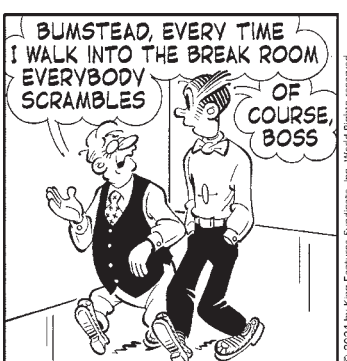
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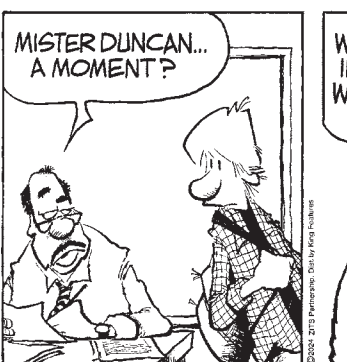
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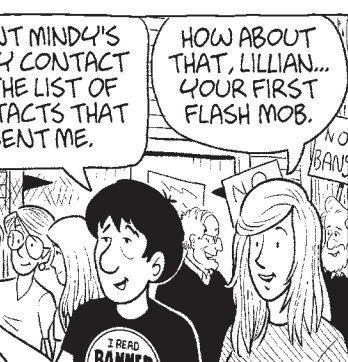
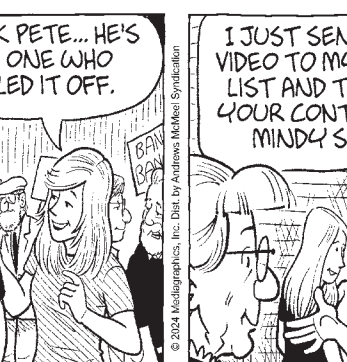
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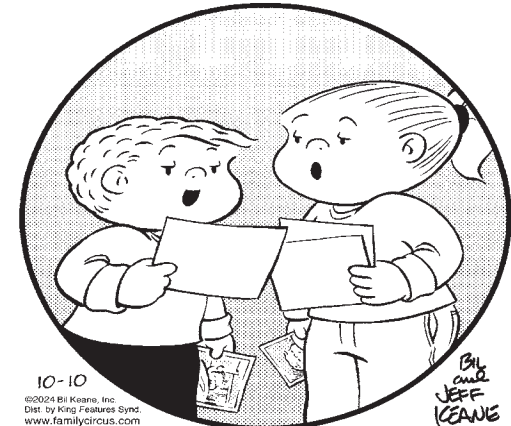


CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"But then you grew up."

THE LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



Peacemaking is a noble vocation

We must know the Peace Giver — the God of peace.

To make peace on Earth, we must know the peace of Heaven. We must know Him who "is our peace." Jesus didn't leave a material inheritance to His disciples. All He had when He died was a robe, which went to the Roman soldiers; His mother, whom He turned over to John the disciple; His body, which He gave to Joseph of Arimathea; and His Spirit, which returned to His Father. But Jesus willed His followers something more valuable than gold, more enduring than vast landholdings, and more to be desired than palaces of marble — He willed us His peace.

Jesus said, "My peace I give unto you; not as the world gives" (John 14:27, NKJV). Only as we know Him and the peace He imparts can we be peacemakers — and He promised happiness to a maker of peace! The key is commitment to become peacemakers — to be men and women who actively seek to bring the peace of Christ to others and to our world.

The world cannot be reborn until people are born again through the forgiveness of Christ — this brings peace with God.

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

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Question: In spite of the incessant search for world peace, we are watching our country — and the world — implode before our eyes. It's actually embarrassing to watch the governments of the world cry peace when none of them want it at all. Why can't people just STOP the insanity and start all over again? — S.O.

Answer: Peacemaking is a noble vocation. But people cannot make peace by their own power just as a mason cannot build a wall without a trowel, or a carpenter build a house without a hammer, or an artist paint a picture without a brush. We must have the proper equipment. To be a peacemaker,

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NBC WPTA-2 (212)	7	8		14	Family Feud	25 Words or Less	News (N)	NBC News (N)	Family Feud (N)	Family Feud (N)	Law & Order "The Perfect Man" (N)	Law & Order: SVU "Excavation" (N)	Found "Missing While Difficult" (N)	News (N)	(35) Tonight Show (N)	(35) Seth Meyers (N)						
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PBS WFWA (39)	13	5	39	39	Changing Planet Episode 2	PBS News Hour (N)			BBC News America	Arts In Focus (N)	This Old House (N)	Old House (N)	Velvet "Butterfly Wings" (N)	(P) (N)	This Old House	Amanpour and Company (N)	This Old House	Ask This Old House				
PBS WFPB (49)	3				Changing Planet Episode 2	Context	The Day		PBS News Hour (N)	Now Entering	Sports Link	Broadchurch	Luca Spagnoli - Queen of Chocolate	FOX 55 News First at 10 (N)	Young Sheldon	Young Sheldon	Neighbor	Neighbor				
FOX WFFT (55)	6	6	55	55	WFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	To Be Announced		HELL'S KITCHEN (N)		HELL'S KITCHEN (N)	HELL'S KITCHEN (N)	HELL'S KITCHEN (N)	HELL'S KITCHEN (N)	HELL'S KITCHEN (N)	HELL'S KITCHEN (N)	HELL'S KITCHEN (N)	HELL'S KITCHEN (N)	HELL'S KITCHEN (N)	HELL'S KITCHEN (N)	HELL'S KITCHEN (N)	
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LIFE	23	113	108	252	Castle "When the Bough Breaks"	Castle "Vampire Weekend"	Castle "Famous Last Words"	Castle "Kill the Bullets"	Castle "Love Me Dead"	(35) Castle "One Man's Trash"	(35) Castle "The Fifth Bullet"	Castle "Kill the Messenger"	Castle "Kill the Messenger"	Castle "Kill the Messenger"	Castle "Kill the Messenger"	Castle "Kill the Messenger"	Castle "Kill the Messenger"	Castle "Kill the Messenger"	Castle "Kill the Messenger"	Castle "Kill the Messenger"	Castle "Kill the Messenger"	
FX	24	132	136	148	(430) **** Deadpool 2	(118) Ryan Reynolds	**** The Avengers (12)	Chris Evans, Mark Ruffalo, Robert Downey Jr.	**** The Avengers (12)	Chris Evans, Mark Ruffalo, Robert Downey Jr.	**** The Avengers (12)	Chris Evans, Mark Ruffalo, Robert Downey Jr.	**** The Avengers (12)	Chris Evans, Mark Ruffalo, Robert Downey Jr.	**** The Avengers (12)	Chris Evans, Mark Ruffalo, Robert Downey Jr.	**** The Avengers (12)	Chris Evans, Mark Ruffalo, Robert Downey Jr.	**** The Avengers (12)	Chris Evans, Mark Ruffalo, Robert Downey Jr.	**** The Avengers (12)	
TVLAND	25		106	304	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	**** The Avengers (12)	Chris Evans, Mark Ruffalo, Robert Downey Jr.	**** The Avengers (12)	Chris Evans, Mark Ruffalo, Robert Downey Jr.	**** The Avengers (12)	Chris Evans, Mark Ruffalo, Robert Downey Jr.	**** The Avengers (12)	Chris Evans, Mark Ruffalo, Robert Downey Jr.	**** The Avengers (12)	Chris Evans, Mark Ruffalo, Robert Downey Jr.	**** The Avengers (12)	Chris Evans, Mark Ruffalo, Robert Downey Jr.	**** The Avengers (12)	Chris Evans, Mark Ruffalo, Robert Downey Jr.	**** The Avengers (12)	
E!	26	142	114	236	**** House of Villains	Villains "Three Villains Walk Into a Bar... Ouch"	Villains "One Less Rat in This House to Deal With"	Villains "The Last Dive"	Villains "The Last Dive"	Villains "The Last Dive"	Villains "The Last Dive"	Villains "The Last Dive"	Villains "The Last Dive"	Villains "The Last Dive"	Villains "The Last Dive"	Villains "The Last Dive"	Villains "The Last Dive"	Villains "The Last Dive"	Villains "The Last Dive"	Villains "The Last Dive"	Villains "The Last Dive"	Villains "The Last Dive"
PARMT	30	241	241	241	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	
ESPN	31	50	140	206	Around (N)	Pardon (L) (N)	SportsCenter (L) (N)	Countdown (L) (N)	WNBFA Game 1: Teams TBA Women's basketball action from the 2024 WNBA Finals. (L) (N)	SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (L) (N)	SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (L) (N)	SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (L) (N)	SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (L) (N)	SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (L) (N)	SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (L) (N)	SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (L) (N)	SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (L) (N)	SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (L) (N)	SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (L) (N)	SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (L) (N)	SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (L) (N)	
ESPN2	32	54	143	209	NFL Live (N)	ESPN BET Live (L) (N)	Countdown (L) (N)	WNBFA Game 1: Teams TBA Women's basketball action from the 2024 WNBA Finals. (L) (N)	SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (L) (N)	SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (L) (N)	SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (L) (N)	SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (L) (N)	SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (L) (N)	SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (L) (N)	SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (L) (N)	SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (L) (N)	SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (L) (N)	SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (L) (N)	SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (L) (N)	SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (L) (N)	SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (L) (N)	
FSMW	33		418	671	(300) Beach Volleyball Stars	FIBA Basketball	OverTime Select First Semifinal: All Knights vs. Double Dynasty from OTE Arena in Atlanta.	United USA 391 - Muay Thai For Life 8, Part 2	United USA 392 - Muay Thai For Life 8, Part 2	United USA 393 - Muay Thai For Life 8, Part 2	United USA 394 - Muay Thai For Life 8, Part 2	United USA 395 - Muay Thai For Life 8, Part 2	United USA 396 - Muay Thai For Life 8, Part 2	United USA 397 - Muay Thai For Life 8, Part 2	United USA 398 - Muay Thai For Life 8, Part 2	United USA 399 - Muay Thai For Life 8, Part 2	United USA 400 - Muay Thai For Life 8, Part 2	United USA 401 - Muay Thai For Life 8, Part 2	United USA 402 - Muay Thai For Life 8, Part 2	United USA 403 - Muay Thai For Life 8, Part 2	United USA 404 - Muay Thai For Life 8, Part 2	
USA	34	133	105	242	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Ripped"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Strain"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Strain"	Mysteries of "The Axiatrix's Sanctuary"	Mysteries of "Ghosts of Montana State Prison"	Mysteries of "Hunt for the Nazi Gold Train"	Mysteries of "Schindler's Deception"	Mysteries of "Operation Just Cause"	Mysteries of "Operation Just Cause"	Mysteries of "Operation Just Cause"	Mysteries of "Operation Just Cause"	Mysteries of "Operation Just Cause"	Mysteries of "Operation Just Cause"	Mysteries of "Operation Just Cause"	Mysteries of "Operation Just Cause"	Mysteries of "Operation Just Cause"	Mysteries of "Operation Just Cause"	
DISC	35	72	182	278	Mysteries	Mysteries of "The Axiatrix's Sanctuary"	Mysteries of "Ghosts of Montana State Prison"	Mysteries of "Hunt for the Nazi Gold Train"	Mysteries of "Schindler's Deception"	Mysteries of "Operation Just Cause"	Mysteries of "Operation Just Cause"	Mysteries of "Operation Just Cause"	Mysteries of "Operation Just Cause"	Mysteries of "Operation Just Cause"	Mysteries of "Operation Just Cause"	Mysteries of "Operation Just Cause"	Mysteries of "Operation Just Cause"	Mysteries of "Operation Just Cause"	Mysteries of "Operation Just Cause"	Mysteries of "Operation Just Cause"	Mysteries of "Operation Just Cause"	
TLC	36	73	183	280	90 Day: The Single Life	90 Day: The Single Life	90 Day: The Single Life	90 Day: The Single Life	90 Day: The Single Life	90 Day: The Single Life	90 Day: The Single Life	90 Day: The Single Life	90 Day: The Single Life	90 Day: The Single Life	90 Day: The Single Life	90 Day: The Single Life	90 Day: The Single Life	90 Day: The Single Life	90 Day: The Single Life	90 Day: The Single Life	90 Day: The Single Life	
HIST	38	77	120	269	Pawn Stars "The Pawnmaster"	Pawn Stars "The Mad Pawn"	Pawn Stars "The Mad Pawn"	Pawn Stars "The Mad Pawn"	Pawn Stars "The Mad Pawn"	Pawn Stars "The Mad Pawn"	Pawn Stars "The Mad Pawn"	Pawn Stars "The Mad Pawn"	Pawn Stars "The Mad Pawn"	Pawn Stars "The Mad Pawn"	Pawn Stars "The Mad Pawn"	Pawn Stars "The Mad Pawn"	Pawn Stars "The Mad Pawn"	Pawn Stars "The Mad Pawn"	Pawn Stars "The Mad Pawn"	Pawn Stars "The Mad Pawn"	Pawn Stars "The Mad Pawn"	
A&E	39	134	118	265	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	
HALL	40	117	185	312	A Picture of Her (2023, Romance)	Tyler Hynes, Samantha Ferris, Rhiannon Fish.	The Perfect Catch (2017, Romance)	Andrew Walker, Chance Hurstfield, Nikki Deloach.	Sweet Autumn (2020, Romance)	Andrew Walker, Henriette Ivanans, Nikki Deloach.	Blade II (2002, Horror)	Stephen Dorff, Kris Kristofferson, Ron Perlman, Wesley Snipes.	Blade II (2002, Horror)	Stephen Dorff, Kris Kristofferson, Ron Perlman, Wesley Snipes.	Blade II (2002, Horror)	Stephen Dorff, Kris Kristofferson, Ron Perlman, Wesley Snipes.	Blade II (2002, Horror)	Stephen Dorff, Kris Kristofferson, Ron Perlman, Wesley Snipes.	Blade II (2002, Horror)	Stephen Dorff, Kris Kristofferson, Ron Perlman, Wesley Snipes.	Blade II (2002, Horror)	Stephen Dorff, Kris Kristofferson, Ron Perlman, Wesley Snipes.
SYFY	41	135	122	244	**** Hell Fest (18)	Reign Edwards, Amy Forsyth.	**** Jeepers Creepers 3 (2017, Horror)	Stan Shaw, Gina Phlips, Jonathan Breck.	**** Twister (1996, Action)	Bill Paxton, Cary Elwes, Helen Hunt.	**** Twister (1996, Action)	Bill Paxton, Cary Elwes, Helen Hunt.	**** Twister (1996, Action)	Bill Paxton, Cary Elwes, Helen Hunt.	**** Twister (1996, Action)	Bill Paxton, Cary Elwes, Helen Hunt.	**** Twister (1996, Action)	Bill Paxton, Cary Elwes, Helen Hunt.	**** Twister (1996, Action)	Bill Paxton, Cary Elwes, Helen Hunt.	**** Twister (1996, Action)	
TBS	42	130	139	247	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	
TNT	44	131	138	245	Mummy: The Movie	**** The Mummy (1999, Adventure)	Rachel Weisz, John Hannah, Brendan Fraser.	**** The Mummy (1999, Adventure)	Rachel Weisz, John Hannah, Brendan Fraser.	**** The Mummy (1999, Adventure)	Rachel Weisz, John Hannah, Brendan Fraser.	**** The Mummy (1999, Adventure)	Rachel Weisz, John Hannah, Brendan Fraser.	**** The Mummy (1999, Adventure)	Rachel Weisz, John Hannah, Brendan Fraser.	**** The Mummy (1999, Adventure)	Rachel Weisz, John Hannah, Brendan Fraser.	**** The Mummy (1999, Adventure)	Rachel Weisz, John Hannah, Brendan Fraser.	**** The Mummy (1999, Adventure)	Rachel Weisz, John Hannah, Brendan Fraser.	
AMC	45	131	125	254	**** I Know What You Did Last Summer (1997, Horror)	Emma Bell, Miles Fisher, Nicholas D'Agostino.	**** Final Destination 5 (2011, Horror)	Emma Bell, Miles Fisher, Nicholas D'Agostino.	**** Final Destination 5 (2011, Horror)	Emma Bell, Miles Fisher, Nicholas D'Agostino.	**** Final Destination 5 (2011, Horror)	Emma Bell, Miles Fisher, Nicholas D'Agostino.	**** Final Destination 5 (2011, Horror)	Emma Bell, Miles Fisher, Nicholas D'Agostino.	**** Final Destination 5 (2011, Horror)	Emma Bell, Miles Fisher, Nicholas D'Agostino.	**** Final Destination 5 (2011, Horror)	Emma Bell, Miles Fisher, Nicholas D'Agostino.	**** Final Destination 5 (2011, Horror)	Emma Bell, Miles Fisher, Nicholas D'Agostino.	**** Final Destination 5 (2011, Horror)	
COM	47	107	249		The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	
FS1	48	64	150	219	Speak Joy Taylor, Keyshawn Johnson and Paul Pierce discuss the biggest sports topics of the day.	Kevin H Hour (N)	Kevin H Hour (N)	Kevin H Hour (N)	Kevin H Hour (N)	Kevin H Hour (N)	Kevin H Hour (N)	Kevin H Hour (N)	Kevin H Hour (N)	Kevin H Hour (N)	Kevin H Hour (N)	Kevin H Hour (N)	Kevin H Hour (N)	Kevin H Hour (N)	Kevin H Hour (N)	Kevin H Hour (N)	Kevin H Hour (N)	
WGN	53	53	207		Vargas Report (L) (N)	The Hill (L) (N)	On Balance (L) (N)	Cuomo (L) (N)	Dan Abrams Live (L) (N)	Benfield (L) (N)	Cuomo	Dan Abrams Live	Benfield (L) (N)	Cuomo	Dan Abrams Live	Benfield (L) (N)	Cuomo	Dan Abrams Live	Benfield (L) (N)	Cuomo</		

Knights win on PKs over Patriots, survive elimination

By RYAN WALKER

FORT WAYNE — Two halves, two overtime periods and five penalty kicks were the barriers to Norwell's nail-biting 1-1 win over Heritage in the sectional semifinal.

Knights' goalie Philip Gaier made the game-winning save on the fifth shot of the Patriots to secure their spot in the sectional championship on Saturday.

"Our guys would not quit," a teary-eyed coach Kien Nunn said after the game. "They kept fighting, and as long as you kept fighting, we had hope."

From the game's standpoint, Heritage was the one making the comeback.

Norwell got on the board with five seconds left in the first half when senior captain Hudson Gerbers lofted a penalty shot from the deep left corner, and Kedric Borne swooped in to score on a header.

The penalty wasn't controversial, but how much time on the clock was — at least for Concordia.

When the official blew the whistle for the call, it appeared that there would be seven or eight seconds remaining. Ten seconds were added instead, but the goal was scored in five seconds regardless of how much time was remaining.

"There was no communication (to me) other than 'Hey, we're putting on 10 (seconds back on the clock),' " Nunn said. "So that's why I told our guys 'Hey, we need to be back just in case.'"

Similar to the first game played between the schools two weeks ago, Norwell held a one-goal game right toward the end. But again, Heritage prevailed in the late stages.

Sai Po La scored with four minutes to go in the regular season contest to tie the game. Monharmed Ali had the rights for the post-season game.

A pass slipped in through the Knights' defense and Ali snuck a shot in under Gaier with 40 seconds left for the tie.

Not much happened in the two seven-minute overtime halves, so the penalty kicks ensued to ramp up the action.

One by one, the Patriots and Knights

traded blows. The first three went in for both teams with Norwell having Gerbers, Kyler Morris and Noah Schamerloh score in that order.

On the fourth shot, Heritage was snuffed out by Gaier. Eli Randol followed with a goal and added the pressure on the Patriots in a must-score situation.

"Goalie to goalie, my money's on Philip," Nunn said.

Gaier dove toward his right on the final shot and kept it out of the net. The Norwell Knights bench sprinted from the sideline and surrounded Gaier in celebration.

Nunn said that its penalty kicks have been worked on since the loss in that same fashion against Huntington North on Senior Night last week.

In that game, the Knights were down 3-0 with no response in a collapse in the period. Since then, they've worked on their kicks and changed their strategy, putting its best scorers at the front of the lineup rather than anchoring the back.

Nunn said that Huntington North ended the game with Norwell's best kickers not getting their turn. Nunn made sure that didn't happen again. "We did make an emphasis on it,"

Nunn said. "Especially after the Huntington game. We needed to change something."

With the win, Norwell will head to the sectional championship at Concordia to face the hosting Cadets.

No. 9 Concordia is now 11-6 on the season after a 1-0 upset over No. 2 Bishop Luers. Nunn admitted he would rather face Concordia, but it isn't going to be easy regardless of who they play.

"I'm not going to lie, if I had to pick between the two, Concordia would be the one I'd pick for sure," Nunn said. "They're still going to be a tough solid battle. The game before it was a tough game. So, if I had picked my poison, that would definitely be the I'd rather."

ryan@news-banner.com



Knights' Eli Randol gets fired up after scoring the go-ahead goal in penalty kicks against the Patriots



Norwell's soccer team erupts in celebration after goaltender Philip Gaier's late save to secure a 1-1 sectional victory in penalty kicks over Heritage Wednesday night at Concordia. The Knights advance to the sectional final at 7 p.m. on Saturday. (Photos by Ryan Walker)

Sports Roundup

Tigers sweep Legends to finish regular season

Bluffton swept North Side in volleyball for the final regular season match of the season Wednesday night.

The Tigers won by scores of 25-9, 25-14 and 25-17. Their record is now 9-17 on the season.

Stat leaders: Maryn Schreiber with 11 kills and three aces, Isla Gibson 10 assists, Marly Drayer 29 digs and Konley Ault one block.

Bluffton also won the junior varsity match. The first set was won 25-17 with the second score not posted.

Stat leaders: Lucy Mace three kills, Kamryn Ault six assists, Ava Trexler, Mace and Aleyda Cruz one ace, Grace Fy and Trexler four digs and Trexler one block.

Bluffton will travel to Woodlan for the sectional against Whitko at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17.

Raiders pick up two wins in volleyball

Southern Wells won its past two contests in volleyball.

The Raiders defeated Anderson Prep at home in a sweep with scores of 25-9, 25-9 and 25-19. Abbie Powell led the way with 17 kills, seven aces and 12 digs. Sydney Alstoft with five kills and three aces. Kaylea Coffel seven digs.

On Wednesday, the Raiders won in a sweep as well over Wes-Del. Scores were 25-10, 25-18 and 25-13. Aly Green had nine kills and three aces. Powell had 17 kills and nine digs, 4.5 blocks and four aces. Kila Shelley had nine aces.

The two wins put the Raiders at 14-13 on the season on a quest to have a winning

record for the first time in program history.

Their next match will be at Adams Central at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 10.

Bluffton crushes Heritage in middle school football games

Bluffton put the hammer down on Heritage in middle school football Tuesday night.

The Tigers' eighth grade team won 54-0, improving to a 6-0 record and the seventh grade team won 33-0 over the Patriots to a 6-1 record.

In the eighth grade game, Ethan Ribich threw four touchdown passes for 201 yards on 10-15 completions. Recipients of those scores were Keaton Ingram for 50 yards, Maddox White for 46, Cameron Simpson for 43 and Kamdyn Shuman for two. Chase Histler had two carries for 109 yards and two touchdowns.

On defense, Wyatt Holmes and Jabraylon Hamer with five tackles. Hamer also a blocked punt. Rogan Jones, Kistler and Ribich had two tackles, while Croy Stout had a tackle and a pick.

Ribich went 6-6 on PATs.

In the seventh grade game, Kreigh Ault went 6-7 competitions for 53 yards and two touchdowns. Riker Beste went 1-2 and threw a touchdown. Easton Schipper caught a 23-yard score while Beste had Wes Kunkel had catches for six points. Bear Sprunger had three catches for 23 yards.

Davin Drayer had himself a day, carrying the ball five times for 141 yards and two touchdowns. Beste had 22 yards and Ault 18.

On defense, Beste made six tackles and had an interception. Charlie Eisenhut totaled six tackles, Drayer five, Kole Kiefer four and Clive Gerber two and had a sack.

High School Calendar

THURSDAY, OCT 10
GIRLS SOCCER: (Sectional) Canterbury at Norwell, 5 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL: Huntington North at Norwell, 7 p.m.; Southern Wells at Adams Central, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCT 11
FOOTBALL: Bluffton at Adams Central, 7 p.m.; Norwell at Huntington North, 7 p.m.; Southern Wells at Heritage, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT 12

BOYS SOCCER: (Sectional) Norwell at Concordia, 7 p.m.

CROSS COUNTRY (co-ed): Bluffton, Southern Wells ACAC meet at South Adams, 11 a.m.; Norwell at Delta Eagle Invitational, 10:30 a.m.

VOLLEYBALL: Norwell at Maconaquah Invitational, 9 a.m.

MONDAY, OCT 14
No events scheduled

Tigers blank Guardians in ALDS with clutch hitting and strong pitching, taking 2-1 series lead

By LARRY LAGE
AP Sports Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Riley Greene and Spencer Torkelson each drove in a run, and six pitchers combined to lift the Detroit Tigers to a 3-0 win over Cleveland Guardians on Wednesday and a 2-1 lead in their AL Division Series.

The Tigers, baseball's hottest team the past two months, will have their first chance to advance to the American League Championship Series since 2013 on Thursday night in Game 4 at Comerica Park.

"We're human," Torkelson said. "We know how close we are."

Cleveland has gone 20 straight innings without scoring since opening the series with a five-run first and a two-run sixth in its 7-0 win. Steven Kwan had three of its six hits in Game 3.

"Short sample size, obviously in the playoffs it's a lot more magnified," David Fry said after going 0 for 3 with two strikeouts, contributing to the team's eight runners left on base. "I think guys have hit balls hard. Balls aren't really falling."

After AL Cy Young Award favorite Tarik Skubal helped Detroit shut out Cleveland in Game 2, manager A.J. Hinch put a stream of pitchers on the mound and kept the Guardians quiet at the plate.

Detroit reliever Will Vest entered with two on and two outs in the seventh, and Fry lined to a leaping Matt Vierling at third.

"He likes to pull the ball a lot, so I was ready for anything that came my way," Vierling said. "I didn't have time to think. I just had to react."

Fans were fired up all day, chanting "Let's go Tigers!" before the first pitch in Detroit since 2014, and 44,885 were in the stands for the largest crowd in Comerica Park's 25-year history.

"This is a huge victory for us, just to see

the stadium and the whole city come out for the first playoff game in a decade," Vierling said.

Right-hander Keider Montero retired the side in order in the first, and the previously slumping Greene hit a two-out RBI single in the home half.

Brant Hurter gave up five hits in 3 1/3 innings. Beau Brieske pitched two innings and Sean Guenther got one out. Vest threw 1 1/3 innings before Tyler Holton handled the ninth.

"Nothing that happened caught us off guard," Cleveland manager Stephen Vogt said. "We were prepared for all of it."

It's the first time Detroit has recorded two shutouts in a postseason series. It's also the first time since the 1905 World Series that the first three games of a postseason series all were shutouts.

The Guardians had a chance to score in the third. Kwan reached on a one-out infield single and advanced on shortstop Tyler Sweeney's throwing error. José Ramírez was intentionally walked with two outs, but Josh Naylor hit an inning-ending groundout.

The Tigers took a 2-0 lead in the third after No. 9 hitter Jake Rogers led off with a double, advanced to third on Parker Meadows' grounder and scored on Vierling's sacrifice fly.

Cleveland's pitchers did enough to keep the AL Central champions in the game, but the lack of offense made it moot.

The Guardians went 0 for 8 with runners in scoring position.

The Guardians gave righty Alex Cobb the start for his first appearance since Sept. 1. He gave up two runs and three hits in three innings.

Eli Morgan gave up Torkelson's RBI double in the sixth. The slugger had been 0 for 14 with nine strikeouts in the postseason.



NASCAR Cup Series
Bank of America ROVAL 400.
Schedule: Saturday, practice, 12:30 p.m.; qualifying, 2 p.m., Sunday, race, 2 p.m. (NBC)
Last race: Ricky Stenhouse Jr. became the second consecutive non-playoff driver to win as he conquered Talladega in overtime to end a 65-race drought dating back to last year's Daytona 500.
Next race: Oct. 20, Las Vegas.

NASCAR Xfinity Series
Drive for the Cure 250 presented by BCBS
Site: Concord, North Carolina.
Schedule: Saturday, practice, 10 a.m.; qualifying, 11 a.m.; race, 4 p.m. (CW)
Last race: Sammy Smith surged from last in the playoff standings to become the first driver to reach the second round with an overtime win in the United Rentals 250 at Talladega.
Next race: Oct. 26, Homestead, Florida.

Formula 1
Last race: Lando Norris chipped seven points from Max Verstappen's lead with a dominating victory at the Singapore Grand Prix from the pole on Sept. 22. It was Norris' third career victory, all coming this season.
Next race: Oct. 20, Austin, Texas.

IndyCar
Last race: Alex Palou claimed his second consecutive IndyCar championship.
Next race: March 2, 2025, St. Petersburg, Florida.

NHRA Drag Racing
Texas Fall Nationals, Ennis, Texas.
Last event: "Fast" Jack Beckman, driving for John Force Racing, took the Funny Car title at the NHRA Mid-West Nationals, outracing fellow veteran Ron Capps for the title.
Next event: Oct. 31-Nov. 3, Las Vegas.

World of Outlaws
Keystone Showdown, Abbottstown, Pennsylvania.
Last events: Carson Macedo overcame fog postponements and subsequent runs in preliminary events to top qualifying, win a heat, earn a front-row start and then win the Weis Markets National Open feature at Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.
Next events: Oct. 18-19, Joliet, Illinois.

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News-Banner Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

NFL

Thursday's Games
Atlanta 36, Tampa Bay 30, OT
Sunday's Games
Minnesota 23, N.Y. Jets 17, London, GBR
Baltimore 41, Cincinnati 38, OT
Chicago 36, Carolina 10
Houston 23, Buffalo 20
Jacksonville 37, Indianapolis 34
Miami 15, New England 10
Washington 34, Cleveland 13
Arizona 24, San Francisco 23
Denver 34, Las Vegas 18
Green Bay 24, L.A. Rams 19
N.Y. Giants 29, Seattle 20
Dallas 20, Pittsburgh 17
Open: L.A. Chargers, Tennessee, Detroit, Philadelphia

BASKETBALL

WNBA

WNBA Finals
(Best-of-5)
Thursday, Oct. 10: Minnesota at New York, 8 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 13: Minnesota at New York, 3 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 16: New York at Minnesota, TBD
x-Friday, Oct. 18: New York at Minnesota, TBD
x-Sunday, Oct. 20: Minnesota at New York, 8 p.m.

BASEBALL

MLB

DIVISION SERIES (Best-of-5)
American League
New York 2, Kansas City 1
Saturday, Oct. 5: New York 6, Kansas City 5
Monday, Oct. 7: Kansas City 4, New York 2
Wednesday, Oct. 9: New York 3, Kansas City 2
Thursday, Oct. 10: New York (Cole 8-5) at Kansas City (Wacha 13-8), 8:08 p.m. (TBS, truTV, Max)
x-Saturday, Oct. 12: Kansas City at New York, 8:08 p.m. (TBS, Max)
Detroit 2, Cleveland 1
Saturday, Oct. 5: Cleveland 7, Detroit 0
Monday, Oct. 7: Detroit 3, Cleveland 0
Wednesday, Oct. 9: Detroit 3,

Cleveland 0
Thursday, Oct. 10: Cleveland (Bibee 12-8) at Detroit, 6:08 p.m. (TNT, Max)
x-Saturday, Oct. 12: Detroit at Cleveland, 4:38 p.m. (TBS, Max)
National League
San Diego 2, Los Angeles 1
Saturday, Oct. 5: Los Angeles 7, San Diego 5
Sunday, Oct. 6: San Diego 10, Los Angeles 2
Tuesday, Oct. 8: San Diego 6, Los Angeles 5
Wednesday, Oct. 9: Los Angeles at San Diego (Cease 14-11), 9:08 p.m. (FS1)
x-Friday, Oct. 11: San Diego at Los Angeles, 8:08 p.m. (FOX)
New York 3, Philadelphia 1
Saturday, Oct. 5: New York 6, Philadelphia 2
Sunday, Oct. 6: Philadelphia 7, New York 6
Tuesday, Oct. 8: New York 7, Philadelphia 2
Wednesday, Oct. 9: New York 4, Philadelphia 1

HOCKEY

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE											
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA					
New Jersey	2	2	0	0	4	7	2	2	0	4	7
Florida	1	1	0	0	2	6	4	2	0	2	6
Montreal	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	0
N.Y. Rangers	1	1	0	0	2	5	0	0	2	5	0
Carolina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Columbus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Detroit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
N.Y. Islanders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ottawa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Philadelphia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tampa Bay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boston	1	0	1	0	0	4	6	0	1	0	0
Pittsburgh	1	0	1	0	0	0	5	0	1	0	0
Toronto	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Buffalo	2	0	2	0	0	2	7	0	2	0	2

WESTERN CONFERENCE											
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA					
St. Louis	1	1	0	0	2	3	2	2	0	0	2
Utah	1	1	0	0	2	5	2	2	0	0	2
Anaheim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calgary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colorado	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dallas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Edmonton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Los Angeles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minnesota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nashville	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
San Jose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vancouver	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vegas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Winnipeg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Chicago 1 0 1 0 0 2 5
Seattle 1 0 1 0 0 2 3
NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Tuesday's Games

St. Louis 3, Seattle 2
Florida 6, Boston 4
Utah 5, Chicago 2

Wednesday's Games

Montreal 1, Toronto 0
N.Y. Rangers 6, Pittsburgh 0
Calgary at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Colorado at Vegas, 10 p.m.
Winnipeg at Edmonton, 10 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Florida at Ottawa, 7 p.m.
Los Angeles at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Montreal at Boston, 7 p.m.
Toronto at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Utah at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30 p.m.
Columbus at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 8 p.m.
St. Louis at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

Friday's Games

Tampa Bay at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Philadelphia at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
St. Louis at Vegas, 10 p.m.

Saturday's Games

Los Angeles at Boston, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Florida at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Nashville at Detroit, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Washington, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at Montreal, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Utah at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Dallas, 8 p.m.
Seattle at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Columbus at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Anaheim at San Jose, 10 p.m.
Chicago at Edmonton, 10 p.m.
Philadelphia at Calgary, 10 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

Wednesday's Transactions

FOOTBALL
National Football League
CHICAGO BEARS — Signed TE Tommy Sweeney to the practice squad. Designated DR Jake Martin to return from injured reserve.
CINCINNATI BENGALS — Designated CB DJ Ivey to return from injured reserve.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Signed OT Jack Wilson to the practice squad. Released K Spencer Shrader from the practice squad.
TENNESSEE TITANS — Signed T Leroy Watson from the practice squad to the active roster. Signed QB Trevor Siemian to the practice squad.

Francisco Lindor's grand slam sends Mets into NLCS with win over Phillies in Game 4 of NLDS

By MIKE FITZPATRICK
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Francisco Lindor hit a grand slam in the sixth inning, his latest clutch swing in a storybook season full of them, and the New York Mets reached the National League Championship Series with a 4-1 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies on Wednesday.

Edwin Diaz struck out Kyle Schwarber with two runners aboard to end it as New York finished off the rival Phillies in Game 4 of their best-of-five Division Series, winning 3-1 to wrap up a postseason series at home for the first time in 24 years.

"I want to win it all. And ours will be a team that will forever be remembered," Lindor said, speaking in the interview room with one of his young daughters on his lap drinking from a Gatorade bottle.

"This will be a team that comes every 10 years and eats for free everywhere they go. And I want to do that. I want to do that. But the job is not done."

With tears in his eyes, outfielder Brandon Nimmo embraced Lindor as the Mets poured onto the field in excitement following the final out.

Then, in a raucous locker room, they enjoyed the team's first champagne-soaked clinching celebration in Citi Field's 16-season history. The last time the Mets won a playoff series in their own ballpark was the 2000 NLCS at Shea Stadium.

After a third bubbly clinching bash in 10 days and then some rest, New York opens the best-of-seven NLCS on Sunday at the San Diego Padres or Los Angeles Dodgers. San Diego led 2-1 heading into Game 4 of their NLDS on Wednesday

night. New York is chasing its third World Series title and first since 1986.

"I want to slay the negative Met fan perceptions, and we're on our way to doing that," owner Steve Cohen said.

For the NL East champion Phillies, who won 95 games and finished six ahead of the wild-card Mets during the regular season, it was a bitter exit early in the playoffs and a disappointing step backward after they advanced to the 2022 World Series and then lost Games 6 and 7 of the 2023 NLCS at home to Arizona.

After falling short in October again, Bryce Harper and the Phillies are still looking for the franchise's third championship.

"We have a really great group. We got beat in a short series," manager Rob Thomson said.

Perhaps overanxious at the plate with so much on the table, the Mets left the bases loaded in the first and second against Ranger Suárez and stranded eight runners overall through the first five innings.

They put three runners on again in the sixth, this time with nobody out, before No. 9 batter Francisco Alvarez grounded into a force at the plate against All-Star reliever Jeff Hoffman, who had warmed up three times before coming in.

With the season on the line, Thomson then summoned closer Carlos Estévez to face Lindor, who drove a 2-1 fastball clocked at 99 mph into Philadelphia's bullpen in right-center, giving New York a 4-1 lead and sending the sold-out crowd of 44,103 into a delirious, bouncing, throbbing frenzy.

Lottery Numbers

Wednesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY

Cash 5 — 02-04-06-29-42
Lotto Plus — 14-32-33-39-40-42
Cash4Life — 07-12-21-44-47, Cash Ball: 03
Quick Draw Midday — 01-11-13-15-16-22-24-25-27-34-35-37-41-44-47-50-55-62-67-76, BE: 34
Daily Three-Midday — 04-00-03, SB: 04
Daily Three-Evening — 05-03-02, SB: 02
Daily Four-Midday — 07-07-05-00, SB: 04
Daily Four-Evening — 04-00-03-01, SB: 02
Quick Draw Evening — 08-19-20-21-29-42-43-46-50-56-58-59-60-61-66-67-70-71-73-79, BE: 46
Hoosier Lotto — 05-06-20-34-42-46

MEGA MILLIONS

Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$150 million
POWERBALL
25-32-43-53-66 Powerball: 10; Power Play: 3X

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

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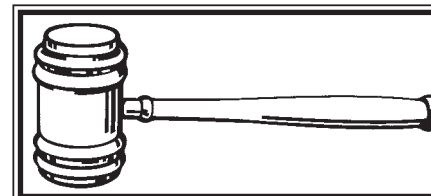
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Public Sale Calendar

BIDDING ENDS OCTOBER 12 - Private Family Collection, seller. Fine art work including five original pieces by William P. Silva, other quality artwork, 2006 Pontiac Torrent, 2005 Toyota Highlander, outstanding sterling silver, pewter and other serving pieces, early American primitives, unique furniture, antiques, glassware, early collectibles, taxidermy mounts, household, more! Open house Oct. 10 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 102 S. Jefferson St., Ossian, IN. Sale manager Rod Fetters, 260-557-8451, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

OCTOBER 12 - 9 a.m.-6 p.m. - (Online Only) - The Estate of Robert McNabb, seller. Spectacular 7,700 SF lake front home on 1.23 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 house Oct. 12, 9 a.m.-noon, 1180 LN 150 Hamilton Lake, Hamilton, IN. Brandon Steffen, sale manager, 260-426-0633, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-426-0633, www.steffengrp.com.

OCTOBER 12-19 - Online Only Personal Property - Brandon Steffen, seller. Outstanding luxury home furnishings. Restoration Hardware dining room table and chairs, Restoration Hardware bedroom furniture, pottery, barn furniture, Crate and Barrel furniture, Kimball baby grand piano, Restoration Hardware leather cigar sofa, fine rugs, wall art, lamps and lighting, home decor and mirrors, outdoor patio furniture, concrete garden fountain, planters, exercise equipment, pet accessories, kitchenware, household. Auction preview Oct. 13, 2-3 p.m., Oct. 17, 4-6 p.m., 915 W. Wayne St., Fort Wayne, IN. Sale manager Brandon Steffen, 260-710-5684, *Steffen Group Real Estate & Auctions*, 260-426-0633, www.steffengrp.com.

BIDDING ENDS 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 house Oct. 10 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 366 W 300 N., Bluffton. Sale manager Bobby Perry, 260-273-7260, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, www.steffengrp.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, collectible 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) - Estate of Larry N. Curry, seller. 1997 Chevy Express Conversion van, 2013 Chevy Impala LTZ w/73,000 miles, John Deere LA115 riding lawn mower, rare vintage Schwinn bikes, large quantity of hand and power tools, lawn and garden, modern and vintage furniture, household, games, toys, flat screen TV & home decor. Open houses Oct. 15 and Oct. 17 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 419 W. Roe St., Ossian. Sale manager Rod Fetters, 260-557-8451, *The Steffen Group*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

OCTOBER 24 - 9 a.m.-6 p.m. - (Online Only) - Estate of Larry Curry, seller. Excellent 1,398 SF, 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch home in Rose Ann Heights neighborhood on .52 acre lot, 2 car attached garage. Home has a ton of potential. "Explore the Possibilities." Open houses: Oct. 15, Oct. 17 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., Oct. 22 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., 419 W. Roe St., Ossian. Sale managers, Brandon Steffen, 260-710-5684, Rod Fetters, 260-557-8451, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

BIDDING STARTS CLOSING OCTOBER 27 - 6 p.m. EST - Chester & Phyllis Smith, owner. Online only real estate & personal property! Real Estate 6 p.m.: Three or four bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, 1,008 sq. feet, full basement, large detached 2-car garage, beautiful corner lot w/mature trees. Personal Property 6:30 p.m.: Machinist tools, Kennedy toolbox, vintage Fisher-Price toys, primitives, TV trays, NIB air purifier, furniture, treadmill, Pyrex, Corelle dishes, stove, refrigerator, 100 pieces Currier and Ives dishes, 50+ jewel, tea, dishes, luggage, blankets, scrapbooking, History of Adams County books, tillers,

bicycles, swing & more! Preview Oct. 15, 5-6 p.m., 318 E. Jackson Street, Monroe. Pick up Oct. 28, 1-5 p.m. EST, Oct. 29, 10 a.m.-noon. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

BIDDING NOW OPEN & ENDS OCTOBER 29 - 10 a.m. EST - Christine Pierce, owner. 526 E Market Street, South Whitley, IN. Online only apartment complex auction! Four duplex buildings, 8 units, 2 bedroom, 1 bath units, electric baseboard heat, wall AC units, 1,456 sq. foot buildings, new roofs in 2021, year built 1990, income producing! 100% rent capacity, .86 acre parcel, Whitko Community Schools. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

NOVEMBER 13 - 6:30 p.m. ET - (Live and online) - Gary and Jennifer Weibaker, farm. American Legion, 118 N. Broadway Street, Butler. Property location: Along and/or near CR 26 and CR 79 in Troy Twp. (Tract 1, North Part Tract 2) and Stafford Twp. (Tracts 2-4). Tracts 5-6 located near CR 20 and CR 27 in Smithfield Township. Adjoining tracts, road access, tile outlets, 264.651+/- acres, 6 tracts, DeKalb Co. Jon Rosen, 260-740-1846, Neal Wolhuter, 260-336-2219, *Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management*, halderman.com, 800-424-2324.

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.*, heartlandauctionreality.com, 260-724-3499.

SUDOKU ANSWER

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

Police force in Evansville, Indiana

(Continued from Page 1)

a Black man born in New York City, he would bring diversity to an overwhelmingly white department on Indiana's border with Kentucky.

First, Hacker had to complete four months at the academy.

For fight day, he was paired with Mike Fisher, a sheriff's major from a nearby county. A longtime instructor, Fisher had pummeled recruits during a boxing drill two days earlier in what one described as a "beatdown."

Police academies have long held fight days or similar drills to toughen up rookies before they hit streets, where one misstep could be deadly. Evansville's was based on a real-world scenario in which an officer ran up the stairs of an apartment building to apprehend two combative suspects.

Hacker paced a hallway before the drill, holding his ribs. When his turn came, he ran up the two-story building's stairs, punched a bag, ran across the gym and kneed another bag. Then he lay down on the mat so the fight could begin.

A little more than half-way in, video obtained by AP under Indiana's open records law shows, Hacker wobbled like a fighter in danger of being counted out. He continued listlessly for three more minutes as instructors urged him on and afterward slumped against the ropes of a nearby boxing ring.

About 15 minutes later, four instructors and recruits carried an unconscious Hacker across the gym as another fight continued. They anxiously waited for an ambulance before rushing Hacker to the hospital in the back of a police car.

Instructors told recruits that Hacker was probably just dehydrated or overheated. Among them was Tanner Corum, the Evansville Police rookie next up to face Fisher.

Before his fight, Corum gave a classmate his wife's number and said to call her if anything happened. He asked for a prayer.

Video shows Fisher sitting and lying on Corum's chest, holding him to the mat with an arm around his neck and punching him in the stomach as Corum fought to break free. Corum told Fisher he couldn't breathe, and one recruit later said the restraint "appeared to be suffocating" him. Fisher put him in a headlock and took him back to the mat.

Afterwards Corum couldn't move his head. His neck felt tight, his right arm trembled. He started walking to his truck to get Tylenol and collapsed.

Summoned to the gym, Corum's wife drove him to the hospital. As Corum checked in word spread that Hacker was dead.

Hospital doctors concluded that Hacker had rhabdomyolysis, a potentially life-threatening condition sometimes caused by excessive

exercise or trauma in which muscles release chemicals that damage the kidneys. Corum had both rhabdomyolysis and a spinal injury in his neck that caused weakness in his limbs. He could not walk without help and was hospitalized for two weeks.

When dozens of uniformed officers gathered at an Evansville church for Hacker's funeral a week after he died, Corum was up front — in a wheelchair. Vanderburgh County Sheriff Noah Robinson told the crowd they could honor Hacker by committing themselves to the "truth" — a message, he acknowledged later to AP, intended to stop chatter about what caused Hacker's death.

'Rough training'

Evansville police announced Hacker's death in a news release, saying he and an unidentified second recruit had suffered medical ailments during "routine physical tactics training." The department vowed to cooperate with an Indiana State Police investigation and pledged transparency.

Many departments around the U.S. face outside investigations into deaths involving officers, but for Evansville it was extraordinary. For decades the department had almost always itself investigated whether officers did anything criminally wrong during fatal encounters.

Even with outside scrutiny, records show some

recruits worried the state investigation was influenced by efforts to limit the academy from liability. Investigators repeatedly asked about unfounded claims that steroid use could be to blame and questioned Hacker and Corum's diets and exercise habits.

Some of the rookie officers said they saw nothing wrong with the training. But others felt investigators ignored the physical force the men endured and a culture in which recruits were pushed to the point of injury.

A state police spokesperson said the agency conducted a thorough investigation.

Five experts interviewed by the AP said Evansville's training appeared similar to "defensive tactics" drills used elsewhere, including some that have been linked to deaths and serious injuries.

Spencer Fomby, a longtime use-of-force trainer, questioned the design of Evansville's scenario, saying police on patrol would very rarely — if ever — fight a larger person on top of them while exhausted without backup or weapons. He said recruits should be taught to avoid trading strikes or engaging in prolonged ground fights, and instead transition to Tasers or other options.

Had academy instructors stopped when Hacker was clearly exhausted, he would have recovered, said Dr. Randy Eichner, a retired University of Oklahoma

professor who has studied exertion-related deaths. While the instructor let up at the end, that was too late, he said: "By then, Asson was fighting a different fight — fighting just to live."

Determining Hacker's official cause and manner of death was the job of Vanderburgh County Coroner Steve Lockyear. He was elected after working 25 years at the sheriff's office that hired Hacker, including as a detective.

A pathologist contracted by Lockyear's office conducted Hacker's autopsy. During the procedure, police officials showed him videos of the fights and said they reflected normal training, records show.

The coroner announced his ruling weeks later: Hacker died from "exertional sickling due to sickle cell trait." During exertional sickling, red blood cells become misshapen, causing a drop in blood flow.

Lockyear told AP that combat training had "absolutely" contributed to Hacker's death by causing him to strenuously exert himself. But he said he ruled the death natural — not a homicide, an accident or undetermined — because Hacker had been born with sickle cell trait.

Sickle cell trait carriers generally have no symptoms, though in rare cases military recruits and athletes have died after suffering heat stroke and muscle breakdown when doing intense exercise. Asson Hacker had

known since childhood that he carried the genetic characteristic, but his doctors said it was benign. Exertion had never been a problem for Hacker when he competed in football, basketball or bodybuilding, his brother Lij said.

Dr. Michael Baden, a former New York City medical examiner who has testified in dozens of police-involved deaths, reviewed Hacker's death for AP. He said several factors likely contributed, including exertion, body blows and dehydration.

He said sickle cell trait may have been a contributing factor but Hacker's medical records don't prove that. Testing at the hospital did not reveal any sickling — that was only detected later, at the autopsy, when it would be expected after cells were deprived of oxygen.

"He died as a result of the rough training," Baden said. "Here they had all these people looking around and nobody said, 'We ought to stop it.'"

The day the coroner announced his ruling, Sheriff Robinson said officials had been unaware Hacker carried sickle cell trait and his department would start testing recruits for it. Robinson told AP that he saw no misconduct by Fisher and defended the Big Fight.

After the coroner's ruling, state police closed their investigation. A prosecutor wrote on a form: "Evidence shows no crime was committed."

Voters in the U.S. don't directly elect the president; Sometimes that can undermine the popular will

By CHRISTINE FERNANDO
Associated Press

The U.S. has a unique system for electing a president, the Electoral College. In modern times, it has put disproportionate voting power in the hands of a few states that are fairly evenly divided politically.

That forces campaigns to dedicate most of their money to the so-called battleground states. There are seven of them this year — Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

The lack of attention to other states leaves voters in much of the country feeling as if they and the issues they care about are being overlooked during the presidential contest.

What is the Electoral College?

American voters don't choose their president directly through the popular vote. When they cast their ballot, they are technically voting for a slate of electors who will then vote for president and vice president on a specific day in December.

Nearly all states have laws binding electors to vote for the winner of their state's popular vote, but that doesn't mean the presidential candidate who gets the most Electoral College votes is the one favored by the majority of voters.

In two of the last six U.S. presidential elections, candidates have lost the nationwide popular vote but won the presidency. This includes former President Donald Trump, who lost the popular vote to Democrat Hillary Clinton in 2016 by nearly 2.9 million but still won enough votes in the Electoral College to become president.

This often sounds crazy to people who live in democracies in the rest of the world. The U.S. is the only country to have a system where voters select a body of electors with the sole function of choosing the president. In most other democracies, the president is directly elected through the popular will of the voters.

Each state's presidential electors are equal to the number of its representatives in the U.S. House and Senate. This benefits smaller states and sets the stage for presidential elections to

largely hinge on just a handful of swing states.

A presidential candidate must win a majority of the 538 total electoral votes to win (the District of Columbia gets three). Most states use a winner-take-all system in which all electors award their votes to the popular winner in the state. Maine and Nebraska are the exceptions, awarding theirs on a proportional basis.

Where is the presidential campaign trail leading?

The Electoral College incentivizes presidential campaigns to focus visits and spending on a small number of swing states.

This year's presidential battleground states represent 18% of the country's population but have dominated the attention of the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates and their running mates.

Through Tuesday, the Democratic and Republican tickets have had just over 200 total campaign stops — three-quarters of which have been to the seven battleground states, according to a database of campaign events that is based on Associated Press reporting. Pennsylvania alone has been visited 41 times, the most of any state. The AP data shows Michigan is second, with 31 visits through Tuesday, followed closely by Wisconsin, with 27. The rest: North Carolina, 18; Nevada, 13; and Arizona and Georgia with 12 visits each.

But it's not just the state visits: The presidential campaigns are tailoring their appearances to specific counties they believe are crucial to their success. The AP's database shows their campaign events in those seven states have been concentrated in counties with 22.7 million registered voters — just 10% of all voters registered nationally for this year's presidential election.

Waukegan, one of many overlooked places

The lack of attention from presidential candidates is felt acutely in places like Waukegan, Illinois, a majority Latino working-class city that has struggled as its factories closed and waterfront deteriorated. Except for the occasional fundraiser in Chicago, Illinois is mostly bypassed by presidential candidates because it votes reliably Democratic.

Its neighbor to the north, Wisconsin, is a common stomping ground for presidential hopefuls.

The last time a presidential candidate set foot in Waukegan was when former President Donald Trump landed at its airport in 2020. He walked off Air Force One, gave a single wave, and immediately climbed into an SUV headed across the border to Kenosha, Wisconsin.

But in Racine, a Wisconsin city of a similar size just 50 miles north of Waukegan, Trump hosted a rally in June near a harbor overlooking Lake Michigan, where he gushed about the development along the lakeshore, spoke about revitalization efforts in Racine and the Milwaukee metropolitan area, and emphasized their voters' importance in his attempt to return to the White House. Just a month earlier, before he dropped out of the race, President Joe Biden lauded a new Microsoft center in Racine County during a campaign stop in the city.

Waukegan residents say they feel lost in the national conversation during presidential elections and wish they could also be on the candidates' radar.

"It's not so much the candidates as it is the anti-democratic Electoral College," said Matt Muchowshi, chair of the Waukegan Township Democrats. "It's frustrating that certain voters' votes count for more, and they discount and discredit the votes of more urban, more people of color voters."

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