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Faithful service honored

Liberty Township Fire Department honors Fred Frantz for 63 years of service

By SYDNEY KENT

Firefighters at the Liberty Township Fire Department gathered together last month to celebrate Fred Frantz's 63 years of faithful service.

Frantz joined the volunteer department in July of 1961. It was a practical decision for him at the time — he could have joined in January when he turned 21, but fees were due in July. At the time, the landscape of the field looked far different.

Firefighters did not have access to the large assortment of protective gear, or equipment, that was available to fight fires in the early 1960s.

Teresa Gerwig, one of Frantz's beloved five children, recalled a memory of her father in typical average clothing and footwear — heading straight into a barn fire.

"I got home from town, and he had been paged to a fire. He walked into the fire in plain clothes and waited on the fire truck because he was seeing what was happening inside. They called them "smoke-eaters" back then, going in without masks. If you didn't have your coat, you didn't have a coat. You just went and took care of what you needed to do."

Frantz recalled a repurposed gas tanker, which was one of the first enclosed tankers that he had ever used.

"Our first enclosed tanker was an old gas

truck," Frantz laughed. "They hooked all the different compartments to the tank up to it, and you had to be careful how you filled it because one compartment could fill faster."

This was still a major improvement from what Frantz was accustomed to before.

"The first tanker I remember is an open cab," Frantz said. "The tank didn't have a top on it, you would go to stop and that water would slush over."

Over his entire career, the largest fire he faced was on Dec. 12, 1992, when the Southern Wells Elementary School erupted into flames. Frantz was one of 160 firefighters in 18 fire departments required to stop the fire, which took over 16 hours to extinguish.

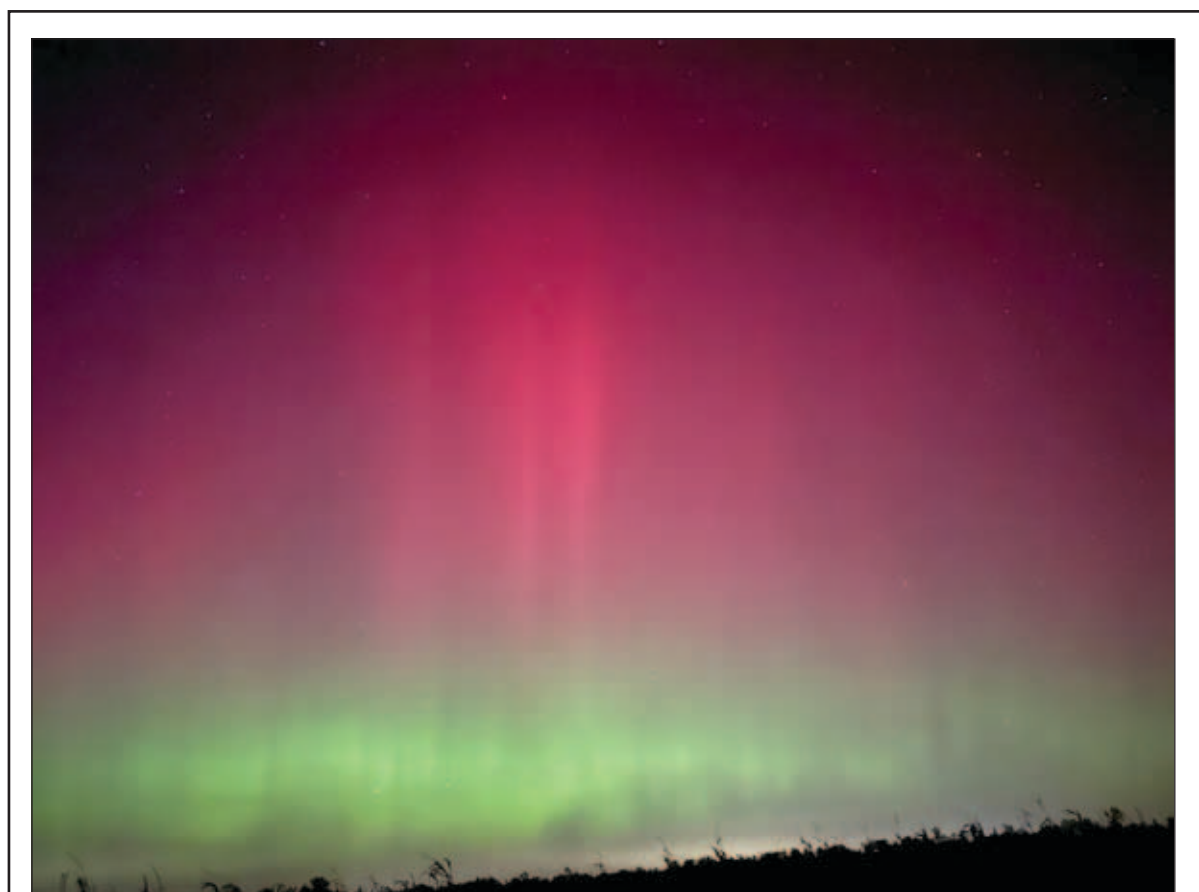
In the last 25 years, fire departments statewide have struggled to find volunteers willing or able to help, and Liberty Township has not been excluded from this change. Years after a knee replacement surgery, Frantz has continued to stay on at the department and even go out to fires he couldn't physically fight, even providing advice that ultimately stopped one of the fires.

"The guys out there have been awesome in making sure he attends the meetings and still includes him in it all," Gerwig added. "They kept teasing him that they

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Above, Frantz stands with fellow firefighters, friends, and family during his celebration in September. At left, Frantz stands with a Liberty Township fire truck. (Photos submitted)



Northern Lights visit Wells County

A recent solar storm has made the Northern Lights visible as far south as Louisville, Kentucky. The phenomenon was visible Thursday night into the early hours of Friday morning. The pink and green ribbons stretched across Wells County on what was thankfully a clear night. (Photo by Carrie Penrod)

Residents slog through flooded streets, clear debris after Hurricane Milton

By CHRIS O'MEARA, BRENDAN FARRINGTON and TY O'NEIL
Associated Press

LITHIA, Fla. (AP) — Florida residents slogged through flooded streets, gathered up scattered debris and assessed damage to their homes on Friday after Hurricane Milton smashed through coastal communities and spawned a barrage of deadly tornadoes.

At least 10 people were dead, and rescuers were still saving people from swollen rivers, but many expressed relief that Milton wasn't worse. The hurricane spared

densely populated Tampa a direct hit, and the lethal storm surge that scientists feared never materialized.

Gov. Ron DeSantis warned people to not let down their guard, however, citing ongoing safety threats including downed power lines and standing water that could hide dangerous objects.

"We're now in the period where you have fatalities that are preventable," DeSantis said. "You have to make the proper decisions and know that there are hazards out there."

About 2.2 million customers

remained without power in the state, according to power outage. us. St. Petersburg's 260,000 residents were told to boil water before drinking, cooking or brushing their teeth, until at least Monday.

Also Friday, the owner of a major phosphate mine disclosed that pollution spilled into Tampa Bay during the hurricane.

The Mosaic Company said in a statement that heavy rains from the storm overwhelmed a collection system at its Riverview site, pushing excess water out of a

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Lifewise Academy approaches 1000 students enrolled

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Since Spring 2023, Lifewise Academy has seen major growth in student numbers.

The spring semester of 2023 saw 43 students join the Lifewise program, which was only available for Ossian and Lancaster Elementary schools, ending with 81 students involved. Now, the academy has 894 students as part of the program, with classes available for Southern Wells, Bluffton and Norwell schools.

Lifewise has hired two new teachers for its programs, along

with acquiring two handicap accessible buses for the program. Both buses came from the Wells County Council on Aging, with one bus being purchased and one being donated. Lifewise is still searching for another bus driver to help shuttle kids to and from the Lancaster program, as that school has multiple locations.

"We used to do one bus at Lancaster last year ... we are doing two this year just because of the time factor and how many kids there are," Norwell District Pro-

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TikTok aware of risks kids, teens face on its platform, legal document alleges

By HALELUYA HADERO

AP Business Writer

TikTok was aware that its design features are detrimental to its young users and that publicly touted tools aimed at limiting kids' time on the site were largely ineffective, according to internal documents and communications exposed in lawsuit filed by the state of Kentucky.

The details are among redacted portions of Kentucky's lawsuit that contains the internal communications and documents unearthed during a more than two year investigation into the company by various states across the country.

Kentucky's lawsuit was filed this week, alongside separate complaints brought forth by attorneys general in a dozen states as well as the District of Columbia. TikTok is also facing another lawsuit from

the Department of Justice and is itself suing the Justice Department over a federal law that could ban it in the U.S. by mid-January.

The redacted information — which was inadvertently revealed by Kentucky's attorney general's office and first reported by Kentucky Public Radio — touches on a range of topics, most importantly the extent to which TikTok knew how much time young users were spending on the platform and how sincere it was when rolling out tools aimed at curbing excessive use.

Beyond TikTok use among minors, the complaint alleges the short-form video sharing app has prioritized "beautiful people" on its platform and has noted internally that some of the content-moderation metrics it has publicized are

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Outside



Small chance of showers this weekend

Today	Sunday	Monday
High 77	High 71	High 57
Low 55	Low 44	Low 34

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SATURDAY
October 12, 2024

PADDLEFISH solar project

Susan Poper - Local Representative
201 E. Market St., Suite No. 3
Bluffton, IN 46714
Office Hours: Tues. 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Thurs. 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
or by appointment

info@paddlefishsolar.com
edf-re.com/project/
paddlefish-solar-project/
(260) 355-5951
Paddlefish Solar Project
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Lifewise Academy

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gram Director Rhonda Maller said. “We have two different locations for classrooms for Lancaster ... and doing that means we need to add another bus driver, and we are still searching.”

Using Lifewise prepared procedures and advice, the academy has expanded its grade levels throughout the three school districts. Both Norwell schools have classes available for Kindergarten through fifth grade students. Bluffton students in grades first through fourth are eligible for Lifewise courses, while Southern Wells has courses available for first through fifth grade students.

Thanks to advice taken from other Lifewise academies around the country, the local chapters have prepared for the influx of students. Typically, a new student will cost about \$30 a month to put them into the program, accord-

ing to Maller, but private donations have helped keep the academy going. Southern Wells Program Director Tara Frauhiger stated that Lifewise has given them roadmaps to handle different pressures and growing pains for the academy.

“Lifewise is really good at planning ahead for us ... so they don’t leave us in a bind,” Frauhiger said. “They have us prep ahead of time, so we haven’t had any significant problems with more students coming.”

“It’s more like just making little tweaks in your system,” Maller said. “It doesn’t create big problems, because Lifewise is really good at saying, ‘OK, this is a potential (issue). This is how you handle it.’”

The growth has also seen the need for new avenues and locations. Bluffton’s campus, at the Foundations of Truth building, is starting to reach

maximum classroom capacity. Bluffton Program Director Sarah Corkwell stated that they are in the process of identifying a suitable location, but no official offer has been made.

Additionally, Lifewise has a middle school curriculum available for the three districts to use. While there has been interest in expanding to middle schools, no discussions have been held with school boards. Maller said the goal for middle school expansion is in the Fall of 2026.

“These kids are starting to get the idea of coming out of themselves and thinking about others,” Maller said. “There’s no words for it. We know of families that have started going to church now that weren’t before, because of Lifewise, and that’s going to help grow our community.”

jonathan@news-banner.com

Hurricane Milton cleanup

(Continued from Page 1)

manhole and into discharges that lead to the bay. The company said the leak was fixed Thursday.

Mosaic said the spill likely exceeded a 17,500-gallon minimum reporting standard, though it did not provide a figure for what the total volume might have been.

Calls and emails to Mosaic seeking additional information about Riverview and the company’s other Florida mines received no response, as did a voicemail left with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

The state has 25 such stacks containing more than 1 billion tons of phosphogypsum, a solid waste byproduct of the phosphate fertilizer mining industry that contains radium, which decays to form radon gas. Both radium and radon are radioactive and can cause cancer. Phosphogypsum may also contain toxic heavy metals and other carcinogens, such as arsenic, cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury and nickel.

Florida’s vital tourism industry has started to return to normal, meanwhile, as Walt Disney World and other theme parks reopened. The state’s busiest airport, in Orlando, resumed full operations Friday.

Arriving just two weeks

after the devastating Hurricane Helene, Milton flooded barrier islands, tore the roof off the Tampa Bay Rays’ baseball stadium and toppled a construction crane.

Crews from the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office on Friday were assisting with rescues of people, including a 92-year-old woman, who were stranded in rising waters along the Alafia River. The river is 25 miles long and runs from eastern Hillsborough County, east of Tampa, into Tampa Bay.

In Pinellas County, deputies used high-water vehicles to shuttle people back and forth to their homes in a flooded Palm Harbor neighborhood where waters continued to rise.

Ashley Cabrera left with her 18- and 11-year-old sons and their three dogs, Eeyore, Poe and Molly. It was the first time since Milton struck that they had been able to leave the neighborhood, and they were now headed to a hotel in Orlando.

“I’m extremely thankful that we could get out now and go for the weekend somewhere we can get a hot meal and some gas,” Cabrera said.

Animals were being saved, too. Cindy Evers helped rescue a large pig stuck in high water at a strip mall in Lithia, east of

Tampa. She had already rescued a donkey and several goats after the storm.

“I’m high and dry where I’m at, and I have a barn and 9 acres,” Evers said, adding that she will soon start to work to find the animals’ owners.

In the Gulf Coast city of Venice, Milton left behind several feet of sand in some beachfront condos, with one unit nearly filled. A swimming pool was packed full of sand, with only its handrails poking out.

Some warnings were heeded and lessons learned. When 8 feet of seawater flooded Punta Gorda during Hurricane Helene last month, 121 people had to be rescued, Mayor Lynne Matthews said. Milton brought at least 5 feet of flooding, but rescuers only had to save three people.

“So people listened to the evacuation order,” Matthews said.

Heaps of fruit were scattered across the ground and trees toppled over after both Milton and Hurricane Helene swept through Polk County and other orange-growing regions, Matt Joyner of trade group Florida Citrus Mutual said Friday.

Milton arrived at the start of the orange growing season, so it is still too early to evaluate the full scope of the

damage.

Florida has already seen orange production diminish over the years, with the industry still recovering from hurricanes of years past while also waging an ongoing battle against a deadly greening disease. Milton could be the knockout punch for some growers, Joyce said.

In the western coastal city of Clearwater, Kelvin Glenn said it took less than an hour early Thursday for water to rise to his waist inside his apartment. He and seven children, ranging in age from 3 to 16, were trapped in the brown, foul floodwaters for about three hours before an upstairs neighbor opened their home to them.

Later that day, first responders arrived in boats to ferry them away from the building.

Short-term survival is now turning into long-term worries. A hotel is \$160 a night. Everything inside Glenn’s apartment is gone. And it can take time to get assistance.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has enough money to deal with the immediate needs of people impacted by Helene and Milton but will need additional funding at some point, FEMA administrator Deanne Criswell said Friday.

Closures listed for Columbus Day Monday

Columbus Day on Monday will close some offices for the day, including Wells County government.

There is no mail delivery and The News-Banner will not publish Monday. The office will be open. Normal publication and office hours will resume Tuesday.

Weather

Saturday, October 12, 2024

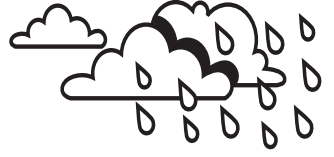
(24-hour observations at 9:44 p.m. Friday)

High: 80; Low: 46; Precipitation: None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.03 feet at 8:45 p.m. Friday

Wells County forecast

Today: A 20% chance of showers after noon. Partly sunny, with a high near 77. South wind around 5 mph becoming east in the morning.



Tonight: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 55. East wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

Sunday: A slight chance of showers before 8 a.m., then a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 71. Northwest wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Sunday Night: A 30% chance of showers, mainly before 2 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 44. West wind around 10 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Columbus Day: A slight chance of showers before 8 a.m., then a slight chance of showers after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 57. Chance of precipitation is 20%.



Monday Night: A 10% chance of showers before 8 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 34.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 54.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 34.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 59.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 35.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 65.

Thursday Night: Clear, with a low around 40.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 70.

Faithful service

(Continued from Page 1)

would make him chief again because it was easier.

Frantz smiled proudly as he recalled working alongside his friends and firefighters cutting wood to sell on the weekends in an effort to buy cement for the floor they poured themselves. Over decades of volunteering, camaraderie, friendship, and family were forged.

Frantz gave tribute to the long list of names that helped create the Liberty Township Fire Department, noting that most people have now passed away.

“It was very much a family,” Gerwig said. “If somebody needed something, everybody helped take care of each other.”

“It still is,” Frantz added firmly.

sydney@news-banner.com

TikTok legal document

(Continued from Page 1)

“largely misleading.”

The unredacted complaint, which was seen by The Associated Press, was sealed by a Kentucky state judge on Wednesday after state officials filed an emergency motion to seal it.

When reached for comment, TikTok spokesperson Alex Haurek said: “It is highly irresponsible of the Associated Press to publish information that is under a court seal. Unfortunately, this complaint cherry-picks misleading quotes and takes outdated documents out of context to misrepresent our commitment to community safety.”

“We have robust safeguards, which include proactively removing suspected underage users, and we have voluntarily launched safety features such as default screentime limits, family pairing, and privacy by default for minors under 16,” Haurek said in a prepared statement. “We stand by these efforts.”

TikTok use among young users

The complaint alleges that TikTok has quantified how long it takes for young users to get hooked on the platform, and shared the findings internally in presentations aimed at increasing user-retention rates. The “habit moment,” as TikTok calls it, occurs when users have watched 260 videos or more during the first week of having a TikTok account. This can happen in under 35 minutes since some TikTok videos run as short as 8 seconds, the complaint says.

Kentucky’s lawsuit also cites a spring 2020 presentation from TikTok that concluded that the platform had already “hit a ceiling” among young users. At that point, the company’s estimates showed at least 95% of smartphone users under 17 used TikTok at least monthly, the complaint notes.

TikTok tracks metrics for young users, including how long young users spend watching videos and how many of them use the platform every day. The company uses the information it gleans from these reviews to feed its algorithm, which tailors content to people’s interests, and drives user engagement, the complaint says.

TikTok does its own internal studies to find out how the platform is impacting users. The lawsuit cites one group within the company, called “TikTank,” which noted in an internal report that compulsive usage was “rampant” on the platform. It also quotes an unnamed executive who said kids watch TikTok because the algorithm is “really good.”

Time management tools

TikTok has a 60-minute daily screen time limit for minors, a feature it rolled out in March 2023 with the stated aim of helping teens manage their time on the platform. But Kentucky’s complaint argues that the time limit — which users can easily bypass or disable — was intended more as a public relations tool than anything else.

The lawsuit says TikTok measured the success of the time limit feature not by whether it reduced the time teens spent on the platform, but by three other metrics — the first of which was “improving public trust in the TikTok platform via media coverage.”

Reducing screen time among teens was not included as a success metric, the lawsuit said. In fact, it alleged the company had planned to “revisit the design” of the feature if the time-limit feature had caused teens to reduce their TikTok usage by more than 10%.

TikTok ran an experiment and found the time-

limit prompts shaved off just a minute and a half from the average time teens spent on the app — from 108.5 to 107 minutes per day, according to the complaint. But despite the lack of movement, TikTok did not try to make the feature more effective, Kentucky officials say. They allege the ineffectiveness of the feature was, in many ways, by design.

The complaint says a TikTok executive named Zhu Wenjia gave approval to the feature only if its impact on TikTok’s “core metrics” were minimal.

TikTok — including its CEO Shou Chew — have talked about the app’s various time management tools, including videos TikTok sends users to encourage them to get off the platform. But a TikTok executive said in an internal meeting those videos are “useful” talking points, but are “not altogether effective.”

TikTok has ‘prioritized beautiful people’ on its platform

In a section that details the negative impacts TikTok’s facial filters can have on users, Kentucky alleges that TikTok’s algorithm has “prioritized beautiful people” despite knowing internally that content on the platform could “perpetuate a narrow beauty norm.”

The complaint alleges TikTok changed its algorithm after an internal report noted the app was showing a high “volume of ... not attractive subjects” in the app’s main “For You” feed.

“By changing the TikTok algorithm to show fewer ‘not attractive subjects’ in the For You feed, Defendants took active steps to promote a narrow beauty norm even though it could negatively impact their young users,” the complaint says.

TikTok’s ‘leakage’ rates

The lawsuit also takes

aim at TikTok’s content-moderation practices.

It cites internal communication where the company notes its moderation metrics are “largely misleading” because “we are good at moderating the content we capture, but these metrics do not account for the content that we miss.”

The complaint notes that TikTok knows it has — but does not disclose — significant “leakage” rates, or content that violates the site’s community guidelines but is not removed or moderated. Other social media companies also face similar issues on their platforms.

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Local Roundup

Friends of the Shelter will meet Monday afternoon

Friends of the Shelter, the organization that provides support for the Bluffton/Wells County Animal Shelter, will meet at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 14, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Bluffton-Harrison school board will meet Monday

The board of the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District will meet at 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 14, in the school district's administration building at 803 E. Harrison St. in Bluffton.

- Items on the agenda include:
- Personnel and financial matters.
 - Regular reports and announcements.
 - Construction and building updates.

Ossian Town Council will meet Monday evening

The Ossian Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 14, at the Ossian Town Hall, 507 N. Jefferson St. in Ossian.

Bluffton-Harrison candidate forum will be Monday

The Parent Teacher Association for the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District will host a forum for school board candidates at 7:15 p.m. Monday, Oct. 14, at the Gibson stage area at Bluffton-Harrison Elementary School, 1100 E Spring St. in Bluffton.

On the ballot for the district, incumbent Trent White is challenged by Chris Koiner for the District 3 seat on the board. Preston Kaehr is unopposed for his At-Large seat.

Bluffton Board of Works to meet Tuesday afternoon

The Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 15, in the meeting room on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Bluffton Common Council will meet Tuesday evening

The Bluffton Common Council will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 15, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Southern Wells school board will meet Tuesday

The board of the Southern Wells Community Schools will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 15, in the high school media center of the SWCS campus.

- Items on the agenda include:
- Financial and personnel matters.
 - 2025-26 school calendar.
 - Superintendent information.

Indiana utilities earn collective 'C' grade on clean energy goals

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle

One Indiana utility company earned top marks and another pair nabbed no points in a national clean energy assessment. The six Hoosier utilities featured averaged a 44% — a "C" grade.

The Sierra Club, a California-based environmental advocacy group, annually examines 50 parent companies owning half the country's fossil fuel generation.

"The Dirty Truth" report is a snapshot in time. It's looking at what is being planned right now over the next 10 years by these utility companies," said Robyn Skuya-Boss, director of the Hoosier Chapter of the Sierra Club. They hope the report will push change among utilities — and specifically for low-scoring Duke Energy Indiana.

The study metrics are based on goals set by President Joe Biden. He wants the

Norwell will host candidate forum Tuesday evening

Norwell Community Schools will host a forum for its school board candidates in the November election at 6:30 p.m. (or following the regular board meeting) Tuesday, Oct. 15, at Norwell High School, 1100E. U.S. 224.

On the ballot for the district, Cathie Peterson and Jeremiah Tomlin are both running for an open Lancaster Township seat on the board. Todd Nash is unopposed for the Jefferson Township seat.

Norwell school board will meet Tuesday evening

The board of the Norwell Community Schools will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 15, at Norwell High School, 1100E. U.S. 224.

Regional Sewer District board will meet Tuesday

The board of the Wells County Regional Sewer District will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 15, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

Wells County BZA will meet Tuesday evening

The Wells County Board of Zoning Appeals will meet at 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 15, in Room 214 on the ground floor of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St. in Bluffton.

Items on the agenda include:

- A variance request from Benjamin and Jacqueline Dailey to reduce setback from 35 to 20 ft. at 1127 Ridgewood Ln., Bluffton. The property is zoned R-1.

Markle Town Council will meet Wednesday evening

The Markle Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 16, in the meeting room of the Markle fire station, 150 W. Sparks St. in Markle.

- Adoption of the 2025 budget.
- Appointment with Holly Miller of DLZ regarding a resolution for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan program and a resolution for a preliminary engineering report for water utility improvements.
 - Regular reports.

County health board will meet Thursday morning

The board of the Wells County Health Department will meet at 6:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 17, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

- Items on the agenda include:
- Department reports and updates.
 - Health First Indiana.
 - 2025 meeting dates.

country to get 80% of its energy from emissions-free sources by 2030 and 100% by 2035.

The organization evaluated utilities' renewable energy transition plans based on their commitments to retire coal-powered generation by 2030, build no new natural gas plants through 2035 and add enough renewable energy to replace their fossil fuel generation by 2035.

The 75 operating subsidiaries have committed to retiring just 30% of their coal generation and plan to build 93 gigawatts of natural gas, according to the report. They're set to build enough renewable sources to replace 52% of their fossil fuel generation.

Two Indiana utilities had no climate goals and scored zero points.

The Sierra Club gave Duke Energy Indiana its worst score since the report launched in 2021. The utility serves much of the state.

Bluffton Parks & Rec News & Notes



By Brandy Fiechter

Destination Recreation

Thank you to everyone who took the Wells Community Pool Survey, all 1,246 of you! Knowing how important the pool is and what features interest you the most has been very helpful. Here are some of the results.

How important do you think it is for the city of Bluffton to provide facilities for swimming lessons, swim meets and family recreational activities? Very Important 91.56%; Somewhat Important 7.4%; Not Important 1.05%

How do you feel about the overall appearance and condition of the pool and pool deck? Satisfied 41.20%; Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied 44.51%; Dissatisfied 14.30%

How do you feel about the current outside view of the pool house? Satisfied 45.53%; Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied 38.29%; Dissatisfied 16.17%

How do you feel about the number of parking spaces available? Satisfied 68.70%; Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied 20.03%; Dissatisfied 11.26%

Do you believe the restrooms need improvements? Yes 83.51%; No 6.60%; Unsure 9.90%

Would a family restroom be a valuable addition to the facility? Yes 84.91%; No 7.30%; Unsure 7.78%

Would you support changing the overall shape and design of the pool? Yes 63.42%; No 16.56%; Unsure 20.02%

Would you support reducing the pool size for cost-saving reasons? Yes 14.71%; No 67.70%; Unsure 17.68%

Would you support reducing the pool size if it allowed space for additional fun features? Yes 49.40%; No 27.56%; Unsure 23.05%

Would rentable, shaded cabanas be appealing to you? Yes 47.35%; No 40.84%; Unsure 11.82%

Do you think the existing playground needs updating? Yes 55.91%; No 22.77%; Unsure 21.32%

How do you feel about the current condition of the pavilion? Satisfied

26.33%; Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied 53.54%; Dissatisfied 20.13%

How do you feel about the size of the pavilion? Satisfied 41.24%; Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied 34.54%; Needs to be larger 23.89%; Needs to be smaller .32%

Do you prefer stair entry or ladder entry into the pool? Stairs 73.75%; Ladder 5.31%; No preference 20.93%

Would you utilize a grassy area designated for relaxation? Yes 49.64%; No 34.67%; Unsure 15.69%

Where do you prefer to sit when visiting the pool? In the Sunshine 44.97%; In the Shade 36.52%; No Preference 18.50%

Which age groups should the swimming pool primarily cater to? Children 93.08%; Teens 79.23%; Adults 62.48%; Seniors 45.01%.

What attendance range do you think the new pool should accommodate? Up to 250 34.25%; 251-350 42.45%; 351-450 16.42%; 451-550 4.31%; 551+ 2.57%.

Have any of the following factors influenced your use of the current pool? Crowding 37.34%; Lack of Shade 20.59%; Limited play features 25%; Condition of pool house 20.35%; Insufficient seating 26.39%; Cost 8.66%; Hours of operation 33.01%; None of the above 25.98%.

If a new pool with additional features was built, how often would you use it? Daily 10.92%; Weekly 56.07%; Monthly 24.75%; Rarely 7.85%; Never 40%

The forecast calls for evening temperatures to drop to the low 30s next week, so we are in the process of winterizing the restrooms to prevent our pipes from bursting. Indoor and outdoor pavilion rentals at Washington Park are still available and can be reserved by calling 824-6069.

Have a great week!

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

County: Friday, 3:34 a.m., 200 block of Countryside Drive, Markle. Report of domestic issue.

Friday, 5:29 a.m., 100 block of Girvin Street, Markle. Caller complained about dog barking.

Friday, 6:39 a.m., 400 block of Linnwood Drive, Bluffton. Report of cat stuck in drain for hours. Cat was rescued.

Friday, 9:57 a.m., 350S and South Hoosier Highway, Bluffton. Driver cited for speeding.

Friday, 10:42 a.m., 700

Countryside Drive, Markle. Report of car vandalized with key or sharp object overnight.

Ossian: Thursday, 1:49 p.m., 800N and North 400E, Ossian. Report of verbal altercation.

ARRESTS

Seth Aaron Markley, 36, Bluffton; driving while intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor, and driving while intoxicated — endangerment, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

Alisha Kay Brown-Campbell, 45, Union Mills; driving while suspended

— prior and operating without financial responsibility, both Class A misdemeanors. Bond set at \$1,500.

Cheryl Gutshall

Calling: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Monday, October 14. Service: 1 p.m. Monday, October 14 at the funeral home.



VISITATION & SERVICES

Alonzo D. Kahn

Calling: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday, October 15. Service: 1 p.m. Tuesday, October 15 at the funeral home.

Thoma/Rich, Lemler

Funeral Home 308 W. Washington St. 824-3850

www.thomarich.com

Obituary Policy

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

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

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

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ACTS 17:16-34

SATURDAY | OCTOBER 12

Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. [ACTS 17:34]

IN HARM'S WAY

On my morning walk, I noticed that a vehicle was stopped in the road headed in the wrong direction. The driver was unaware of the danger to herself and others because she was asleep and appeared to be under the influence of alcohol. The situation was perilous, and I had to act. After getting her alert enough to move her to the passenger side of the car so I could get into the driver's seat, I drove her to a safe place.

Physical danger isn't the only harm we face. When Paul saw worldly-wise, clever people in Athens in spiritual peril because "the city was full of idols," he "was greatly distressed" (ACTS 17:16). The apostle's innate response to those who flirted with ideas that failed to consider Christ was to share about God's purposes in and through Jesus (VV. 18, 30-31). And some who heard believed (V. 34).

Seeking ultimate meaning apart from faith in Christ is dangerous. Those who've found forgiveness and true fulfillment in Jesus have been rescued from dead-end pursuits and have been given the message of reconciliation (SEE 2 CORINTHIANS 5:18-21). Sharing the good news of Jesus with those under the intoxicating influences of this life is still the means God uses to snatch people from harm's way.

ARTHUR JACKSON

If you haven't made your way to Jesus, what are you waiting for? If you have, what's keeping you from telling someone how God has rescued you from spiritual harm's way?

Heavenly Father, thank You for rescuing me from the spiritual harm of my own sin. Please use me to help others who can't see that they're in danger.

Family Ford of Bluffton

970 N. Main St., Bluffton 824-2300

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Some musings about being a messenger

It is weeks such as this that gets the wheels turning in my mind. One phrase kept popping up: “Don’t shoot the messenger.” Which led to contemplations on where exactly that came from.

As I’ve aged, I seem to have developed this interest in etymology — the study of the origins of words and phrases — a word that might come in handy if you ever get on “Jeopardy!”.



Mark Miller

Google is apparently utilizing Artificial Intelligence in its searches these days. My inquiry brought up three or four paragraphs titled “AI Overview.” Wanting some type of source at least a bit more trusted, I scrolled down. The next listing was from Wikipedia. Not sure that was much progress. Further scrolling found links to newspapers, such as a Vicksburg, Mississippi, article. Also discovered such websites as straightdope.com and grammarist.com. Isn’t it amazing — the things you can find by just hitting a few keys?

Amongst all this, we find some consistencies that raise the possibility of some degree of accuracy. Sophocles seems to get the most ancient credit — about 2,500 years ago — in his “Antigone” play: “For no man delights in the bearer of bad news.” Does that pre-date the Bible’s story that upon hearing that Saul and Jonathan were dead, David slew the messenger?

Somewhere in there, Plutarch — in one of his “Lives” series of biographies — wrote: “The first messenger that gave notice of Lucullus’ coming was so far from pleasing Tigranes that he had his head cut off for his pains; and no man dared to bring further information. Without any intelligence at all, Tigranes sat while war was already blazing around him, giving ear only to those who flattered him.”

The moral of that story, as explained by Bruce Sanford in a book about the media in 2001, is that “‘Shooting the messenger’ may be a time-honored emotional response to unwanted news, but it is not a very effective method of remaining well-informed.”

So where am I going with this? Good question. Just musing perhaps.

I started in this business selling ads; it will, amazingly, be 50 years ago next September. But I quickly got some ink my blood as the saying goes — I enjoyed being part of something the community looked to for information, for news, and even perhaps some unsolicited opinions from time to time. About a dozen years later, I became the publisher of the Decatur newspaper at about the same time a major employer announced its closing and soon became embroiled in a controversy involving a policeman who moonlighted as a burglar and then a judge who insisted his afternoon naps not be interrupted by such petty things as search warrants.

There were certain people, including a police chief, who blamed the messenger rather than acknowledge the truth. I would credit our long-time editor there, Bob Shraluka, with the lead “messenger” moniker.

When I came to Bluffton more than 27 years ago, I joined a legacy of messengers that date back a bit. I am familiar with the names of Orin Craven and David Swaim, whose son Roger many still remember. As I understand it, Roger was the business guy, enabling the reporters to report. Such as Gene McCord and of course Jim Barbieri. While Joe Smekens’ legendary career was heavily on the sports side, he has to be mentioned with these giants upon whose shoulders I stood for a couple decades.

I would be remiss not to mention more contemporary messengers who understood their duties — Dave Schultz, Glen Werling, and Jessica Bricker. There were others. We weren’t perfect. We made mistakes. When we did, we owned them.

I guess the point of this might be that having relinquished the reins and my portion of ownership — I am just a happy part-time writer and editor these days — I am so pleased that the tradition of understanding the role of messengers continues under the behind-the-scenes leadership of George and Dianne Witwer, enabling Doug Brown and Holly Gaskill to lead the next generation of messengers. And dodge the potshots that occasionally come their way.

And this, which I am sure sounds self-serving: Look around. There are tragically fewer rural county-seat communities that still have that. Such is their loss.

miller@news-banner.com

Saturday’s Sub



Lies, liars and lying threaten democracy

At a campaign rally last week in Michigan, former president Donald Trump claimed that “Kamala has spent all her FEMA money, billions of dollars, on housing for illegal migrants.”

Could it possibly be true? This is the sort of question Duke University’s Bill Adair and a team of student reporters have been asking themselves for 17 years as they’ve fact-checked politicians and other public figures for the PolitiFact website that Adair created in 2007.

The answer, of course, is no. The truth is that the Federal Emergency Management Agency has two distinct funds. One is to help cities temporarily house migrants. An entirely separate \$20 billion fund was created by Congress for disaster relief. This one is running low because of the number and scope of disasters this year, but the two funds are not interchangeable, nor is either being used for purposes other than those intended.

During and after Hurricanes Milton and Helene, FEMA has been present and working to help victims, largely to the acclaim of state and local leaders. These include not only North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper and hard-hit Asheville, N.C., Mayor Esther Manheimer, both Democrats, but also South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster, a Republican.

At a news conference to address Helene’s damage to parts of the state, McMaster said federal assistance had “been superb.” He mentioned that President Joe Biden, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell had each called to offer support.

This is what one would expect from federal officials during a crisis, of course, and it wouldn’t require highlighting but for Trump’s intentional lies.

As a rule, I’m not one to use the words “lie,” “lying” or “liar.” Their power to destroy someone’s reputation is too great for comfort. But Trump has forced many of us, including Adair, to abandon the soft-pedaling etiquette of euphemism and to say what is factual. Lying, for Trump, is so reflexive that he needn’t bestir his fourth-grade vocabulary to seize headlines and malign those he finds inconvenient to his purposes.

Will things ever change? Not soon, says Adair. Unfortunately, lying pays dividends in today’s universe of partisan television, radio and social media, and for a complicit political base manipulated by sophisticated and sometimes immoral consultants. Fact-checking lies has had to become an industry, but it can’t possibly keep up. What’s needed is more fact-checking, which means more money and more staff, and for Americans to demand that the lying stop.

Over the years, Adair and his revolving teams of students have created a methodology and a “Truth-O-Meter” for assessing the accuracy of a given statement. Rankings from “true” to “false” to “pants on

fire!” are assigned based on findings, which are explained and sourced on the website.

Adair is quick to note that political lying began long before Trump. President Richard M. Nixon lied about the Watergate burglary out of self-preservation. President Bill Clinton lied about “sex with that woman, Monica Lewinsky,” because he was in very hot water with everyone (except his feminist supporters, who remained curiously silent).

In a sense, Trump is the inevitable benefactor of a culture of lies that has become normalized through passive acceptance of lying as simply the nature of politics. Thanks to the fire hose of 24/7 news, there’s hardly time to clean up one mess before a hundred more have been dumped on the living room floor by people paid to create and disseminate falsehoods.

Adair explains in his new book, “Beyond the Big Lie,” that politicians every day try to score points with key constituencies: voters, party leaders, influencers and media figures. “A decision to lie is a simple math equation: I am likely to score enough points with this lie that it will outweigh any consequences it might have from voters/donors/the media.”

Through numerous interviews with political pundits, pollsters, politicians and public figures, Adair has learned that lies are mostly manufactured for a candidate’s base, whose members are willing to accept anything that affirms what they already believe. For the Republican base, which readily embraced Trump’s earlier birther lie that Barack Obama was born in Kenya, it takes little to persuade them that Harris would steal money to support illegal migrants.

In what is certain to ignite passions on the right, Adair states that Republicans lie more than Democrats do, according to a statistical analysis detailed in the book. He spends several pages explaining how “facts” are selected for scrutiny, but it basically comes down to whether something just doesn’t sound right. For example: Does it sound right that Harris “stole” FEMA money to house illegal migrants rather than help hurricane victims?

Actually, no — which is why PolitiFact gave Trump a “pants on fire!” rating for telling this easily disprovable lie.

Voters concerned about truth and the consequences of lying might want to check with PolitiFact at least as often as they check the polls. This week, they’ll learn that Trump, contrary to what he recently told Hugh Hewitt, has never been to Gaza. And that Harris’s claim that unemployment is at a historic low for all groups of people was rated only “half true.” It’s good to know the truth, even if you don’t like it.

Follow Parker @kathleenparker on X



Kathleen Parker

Black clergy speak out for Israel

On Monday, Oct. 7, my organization, CURE, Center for Urban Renewal and Education, co-hosted with Michigan Lighthouse Ministries a press conference with more than 50 pastors from across the State of Michigan, noting the atrocities committed last year by Hamas terrorists against Israeli citizens and expressing solidarity with the State of Israel.

We chose a church in the state of Michigan for this program because Michigan is home to the largest Arab American population in the country.

It is also home to Rep. Rashida Tlaib, the only Palestinian American representative in the House of Representatives and one of the nation’s most strident voices against Israel.

Were these clergy, mostly Black, expressing opposition to Arab Americans? Certainly not. On the contrary, their support of the Jewish state, and the values it embodies and expresses, is an expression of support for the welfare and betterment of all mankind.

Of great concern to these Christian evangelicals is the cloud of darkness spreading and enveloping so much of our world today.

The miraculous return of the Jewish people to their historical homeland after 2,000 years in dispersion, and their transformation of desert and swamp into a thriving modern state, with per capita income higher than most European countries, shines



Star Parker

laser-like light into the thick dark cloud of evil around us.

Hamas terrorists noted Oct. 7 by firing missiles into Israel, saying that, given the opportunity, they would commit the same atrocities again and again.

By atrocities, we’re talking about murder, rape, beheadings, burning of babies, mutilation of corpses.

How is it that there is sympathy for this depravity?

Iran, which provides the billions financing Hamas, Hezbollah, and other terrorist organizations had, per tradingeconomics.com, just \$5,740 per capita GDP in 2023. This is just 13.5% of the \$42,674 per capita GDP of Israel, despite Iran having the fourth largest holdings of oil reserves in the world.

The difference is that Israel is about choosing life and personal responsibility and creativity, and Iran is about a government stealing the wealth of its citizens to finance a hateful, destructive ideology.

Similarly, the Hamas terrorists. The billions infused into Gaza over the years from Iran, but also from European countries and from the USA, was used to fund terror rather than build a country and create wealth.

When I first visited Israel, I saw the similarities of the culture of blame and denial of personal responsibility among the Palestinians that

have caused so much destruction in America’s own inner cities. We see a corrupt political leadership exploiting the worst tendencies in people by attributing their suffering to others, fostering a culture of blame, rather than taking personal responsibility for their own lives.

The Black clergy that gathered in Michigan on Oct. 7 did so to stand for truth and to stand for a better world.

Inscribed on America’s Liberty Bell in Philadelphia are the words from the book of Leviticus in the Hebrew Bible, “Proclaim Liberty throughout all the land unto all the Inhabitants thereof.” The bell was commissioned in the state of Pennsylvania in 1751 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of William Penn’s first constitution of the state in 1701. Penn observed, “If we will not be governed by God, we must be governed by tyrants.”

This is the message our pastors convey to a world swimming in darkness. When our own country was attacked by Muslim terrorists on Sept. 11, 2001, evangelical pastors pleaded that the nation do its own soul-searching for its sins. They were chastised for saying this.

But we see, over the 23 years since then, those sins continue to weaken our nation.

The appeal of our pastors is unwavering support for the one Jewish state, for the Bible we have received from the Jewish nation, and to end, everywhere, the sick and evil culture of blame.

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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.)

Today in History

By The Associated Press
 Today is Saturday, Oct. 12, the 286th day of 2024. There are 80 days left in the year.

Today in history: On Oct. 12, 2002, bombs blamed on al-Qaida-linked militants destroyed two nightclubs on Bali, killing 202 people, many of whom were foreign tourists.

Also on this date:

In 1492, Christopher Columbus’s first expedition made landfall on what is now San Salvador Island in the Bahamas.

In 1870, General Robert E. Lee died in Lexington, Virginia, at age 63.

In 1960, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev protested remarks at the United Nations by pounding his shoe on his desk.

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Call to Worship

This page is dedicated to the building of a more spiritual and greater church-going people and is made possible by the Advertisers on this page who want as their return to see more people go to church.



A CITY ON A HILL CHURCH
705 W.-900 N., Uniondale
9 a.m. & 10:45 - Worship.

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1970 S.-800E., Bluffton
9:45 & 11:45 a.m. - Worship.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH - NORTH
630 E. Dustman Rd.
9:45 & 11:45 a.m. - Worship.

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

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

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

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

BLUFFTON WESLEYAN CHAPEL
(Independent Holiness Church)
1309 W. Washington St.
blufftonwesleyan.net
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 & 6:30 p.m. - Worship.

CALVARY LUTHERAN, ELCA
1532 N. Main St.
9 a.m. - Worship.

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

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BOEHMER UNITED METHODIST
3467 S 600 W, Liberty Center
boehmerumc.org
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:45 - Sunday School.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN (EVANGELICAL)
123 S. Jefferson St., Ossian
www.OssianChurch.com
8:45 a.m. - Sunday school. 10 a.m. - Worship. 11:30 - New members class.

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF BLUFFTON
301 W. Cherry St.
9:15 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

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

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

HARVEST TIME BIBLE
11015S-600E, Keystone
9:10 a.m. - Prayer. 10 a.m. - Worship.

A Joyful Noise ...



WHAT IS TRUTH?
Secure in his palace and fortress, Pilate looked at the prisoner in front of him. The ever-growing mob that had simmered in the early morning dark would soon start boiling as its leaders awaited — actually demanded — this execution.

The leaders also refused to enter — claiming it would defile them — when they first arrived, so Pilate went to them, but when he asked them to identify the charges against their prisoner, the Jewish officials merely responded, "If he were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered him up unto thee" (John 18:29-32).

"Take ye him, and judge him according to your law," Pilate responded (John 18:31).

That, apparently, wasn't the answer they wanted.

"We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King," they said, suddenly remembering the reasons why the man should die (Luke 23:2).

A king?
Pilate returned to the praetorium to ponder — and speak to this prisoner without his accusers.

"Art thou the King of the Jews?"

A simple question that only required a simple answer: Yes or no.

No problem.
"Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me?"

Never mind.
"Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done?"

"My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence" (John 18:33-36).

Finally, he admits it: He rules a kingdom, but what kind of kingdom is not of this world?

"Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth

my voice" (John 18:37).

And then Pilate asked... But how did he ask? The Bible inerrantly records all its details, but it doesn't record all details. For instance...

"What is truth?" he asked with an absent-minded tone, pretending to listen as he sipped his wine and perused the unending list of other appointments that smothered his too-busy schedule.

"What is truth?" Pilate asked despondently, unleashing a frustrated sigh as he collapsed into the judgment seat, weary at asking the same question that no one had ever answered — and no one ever would.

"What is truth?" Pilate asked with a new edge in his voice, as he for some reason glanced at the nearby chest with sacred money he... took... from the Jewish Temple to support a Roman aqueduct. Then his lip curled in a sneer as he dismissed the notion that this simple Jewish prison could teach a Roman governor anything more than the quirks of his small-town religion.

Or...

"What is truth?" Pilate shouted in an excited voice, tears forming in his eyes as he clutched Jesus' robe, daring to hope that finally this king from a kingdom he couldn't explain may give him the answers he couldn't understand, answers that could relieve the longing that all other truths couldn't fill.

"What is truth?" Pilate's question still echoes throughout the past 2,000 years, and perhaps it echoes even more loudly this time of year, as politicians and pundits present their own spin on the facts, while journalists (and people pretending to be journalists) entrench themselves more and more deeply into their biases both on the right and left — while still facetiously claiming neutrality.

Yet truth goes beyond politics and the issues of the day, as the next several columns attempt to explain.

What is truth?
Sadly, too many people don't think they can answer that question.

Christians, though, can.
baumofchet@gmail.com



by Chet Baumgartner

LIVING FAITH MISSIONARY
17718 Bluffton Rd., Yoder
10 a.m. - Worship. 11:30 - Sunday School.

NEW BEGINNING
2187 W. SR 218
10 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

NEW HOPE LUTHERAN
(Missouri Synod)
8824 N. SR 1, Ossian
newhopelutheran-ossian.webs.com
9 a.m. - Sunday School & Adult Bible study. 10 a.m. - Worship.

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

OSSIAN CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
302 N. Metts St.
ossiannaz.org
9:15 a.m. - Bible study. 10:30 - Service.

OSSIAN UNITED METHODIST
201 W. Mill St.
ossianumc.org
9 a.m. - Worship, Worship child care nurse. 10 a.m. - Fellowship. 10:15 - Adult Sunday School.

PARK COMMUNITY
617 S. Bennett St.
parkccbluffton.org
10 a.m. - Connection. 11 a.m. - Worship.

PETROLEUM COMMUNITY CHURCH
3625 E. 2nd St.
9 a.m. - Worship. 10:30 - Sunday School.

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

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

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

RIVER OF LIFE
122 Lamar St.
Suite 108, 110
riveroflifebluffton.com
10:30 a.m. - Worship.

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

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9450 S 300 W, Poneto
9 & 10:45 a.m. - Worship.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC
1300 N. Main St.
Saturday: 7:45 a.m. - Prayer. 8 a.m. - Mass. 8:30 - Rosary. 4 p.m. or by appointment - Confessions. 5 p.m. - Mass. Sunday: 7:30 & 10 a.m. - Mass.

ST. LUKE CHURCH
4960W-100N, Decatur
stlukechurch.in
9 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Sunday School.

ST. MARK EV. LUTHERAN
16933 Thiele Rd.
stmarkfw.org
8:45 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

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

MURRAY MISSIONARY
1117 N. Washington St., Murray
murraymc.org
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 11 a.m. - Sunday School.

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

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

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

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

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5867 N. Main St.
9 a.m. - Worship.

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11419 N-200W, Ossian
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

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2771 SE Mulberry St., Vera Cruz
9-10 a.m. - Sunday School. 10-10:30 - Fellowship. 10:30 - Worship.

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

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

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

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Israeli forces kill 2 Lebanese soldiers, injure 2 UN peacekeepers

By **BASSEM MROUE**
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — An Israeli airstrike killed two Lebanese soldiers and wounded three on Friday, Lebanon's military said, just hours after the Israeli military fired on the headquarters of U.N. peacekeepers in southern Lebanon, injuring two of them for the second day in a row.

The incidents entangling both Lebanon's official army — which has largely stayed on the sidelines of the conflict between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah — and the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Lebanon raised alarm as Israel broadens its campaign against Hezbollah with waves of heavy airstrikes across the country and a ground invasion at the border.

In central Beirut, rescue workers combed Friday through the rubble of a collapsed building, searching for survivors of an Israeli airstrike that killed at least 22 people and wounded dozens in the Lebanese capital the night before.

Hezbollah has been firing rockets into Israel over the past year in solidarity with the Palestinians in Gaza following Hamas' devastating Oct. 7 attacks on southern Israel that killed 1,200 people and resulted in 250 taken hostage.

In return, Israel's military has pounded Hezbollah targets in Lebanon, killing more than 2,237 Lebanese — including Hezbollah fighters, civilians and medical personnel — according to the Lebanese health ministry.

Among them, the ministry reported late Friday, were a two-year-old and 16-year-old killed by airstrikes in the southern village of Baysariéh.

Hezbollah attacks have killed 29 civilians as well as 39 Israeli soldiers, both in northern Israel since October 2023, and in southern

Lebanon since Sept. 30, when Israel launched its ground invasion.

Israel strikes a Lebanese army checkpoint

On Friday, the Lebanese army said an Israeli airstrike hit a building near a military checkpoint in the southern Bint Jbeil province.

The Israeli military said it had been targeting Hezbollah positions in southern Lebanon when reports emerged that it had hit several Lebanese army soldiers. The Israeli army said it investigated the incident but remained "unaware of any Lebanese army facilities found in the area of the strike."

Lebanon's army is not a party to the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah — after Israel launched its ground invasion on Sept. 30, Lebanese soldiers withdrew some 3 miles from their observation posts along the border.

The only direct clash between the two national armies occurred on Oct. 3, when Israeli tank fire hit a Lebanese army post also in the area of Bint Jbeil, killing a soldier and prompting Lebanese soldiers to return fire.

Both Lebanese troops and U.N. peacekeepers are deployed in southern Lebanon to enforce U.N. Security Council Resolution 1701 that ended a bloody monthlong 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah.

But Lebanon's army is no match for Hezbollah, and neither its soldiers nor the peacekeepers have been capable of preventing the Shi'ite militants from entrenching themselves in the border region. Israel accuses Hezbollah of establishing militant infrastructure along the border in violation of the U.N. resolution.

Israel hits U.N. peacekeepers again, wounding two

The Israeli military opened fire near the U.N. headquarters in Lebanon's southern town of Naqoura

on Friday, the army said, hitting the observation post and injuring two peacekeepers for the second time in as many days.

An initial review by the Israeli army found that soldiers in southern Lebanon targeted what they believed to be a threat located some 50 yards from the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Lebanon but ultimately struck the peacekeepers.

One of the injured peacekeepers was hospitalized in the nearby city of Tyre while the other received medical care on site, the United Nations force, known as UNIFIL, said. Both were identified as Sri Lankan.

The army repeated its warning that UNIFIL personnel abandon their positions in areas where Hezbollah militants launch rockets into Israel. Following Thursday's attack, the U.N. peacekeeping chief, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, said 300 peacekeepers in front-line positions on southern Lebanon's border were temporarily moved to larger bases.

In a statement condemning the strike as "a grave violation of international humanitarian law," UNIFIL reported that explosions on Friday hit the same place they did the day before, when Israeli tank fire injured two Indonesian peacekeepers, damaged vehicles and a communication system, and drew sharp international criticism.

"Peacekeepers must be protected by all parties of the conflict, and what has happened is obviously condemnable," said U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

The French foreign ministry accused Israel of deliberately firing at peacekeepers and summoned the Israeli ambassador Friday in an official protest.

In a call with his Israeli counterpart, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin stressed the impor-

Israel's airstrike warnings terrify and confuse Lebanese civilians

BEIRUT (AP) — As the war between Israel and Hezbollah intensifies, Lebanese civilians are increasingly paying the price — and this dangerous reality often becomes clear in the middle of the night: That's when the Israeli military typically warns people to evacuate buildings or neighborhoods to avoid airstrikes.

Israel and Hezbollah have been exchanging strikes nearly every day since the start of the war in Gaza. Hezbollah says it will fire rockets into Israel until there's a cease-fire in Gaza; Israel says its fighting to stop those attacks, which have forced tens of thousands of Israelis from their homes.

But it wasn't until late last month, when Israel dramatically expanded its aerial campaign against Hezbollah, that Lebanese people began receiving regular warnings about upcoming airstrikes. Human rights groups say Israel's warnings — which aren't issued before many airstrikes — are inadequate and sometimes misleading.

On Sept. 23, Israel made 80,000 calls into Lebanon, according to Imad Kreidieh, head of the country's telecommunications company — presumably recorded warnings about upcoming airstrikes.

The calls caused panic. Schools shut down. People rushed home early from work. It ended up being the deadliest day of airstrikes in Lebanon in decades, with over 500 people killed — roughly one quarter of all those killed in Lebanon the past year, according to the country's Health Ministry. Women and children make up one quarter of all the deaths, the ministry says.

Israel has issued warnings on social media nearly every day since then.

So far, evacuation notices in Lebanon have been far more limited than in Gaza, but the messages in both places have a common theme. In Gaza, Israel says it is targeting Hamas militants embedded among Gaza's civilians. In Lebanon, it warns of similar behavior by Hezbollah, a Hamas ally.

Most of the Israeli military's warnings first appear on the social media accounts of its Arabic spokesperson. They are then amplified by the Lebanese media.

The warnings instruct people to vacate homes "immediately," and they are usually followed by a series of overnight strikes that often cause damage in areas beyond those that were warned. Israel says it is targeting Hezbollah fighters, weapons or other assets belonging to the group. Warnings are rarely issued before daytime strikes.

tance of ensuring the safety of UNIFIL forces and urged Israel to "pivot from military operations to a diplomatic pathway as soon as feasible," the Pentagon said.

When President Joe Biden was questioned by reporters whether he was asking Israel to stop striking U.N. peacekeepers, he replied, "Absolutely, positively."

Elevator door 'broken' during Colorado mine tour accident that killed 1

DENVER (AP) — Investigators on Friday were trying to figure out what led to an elevator accident inside a former Colorado gold mine that killed a tour guide, injured four others and left a separate group of 12 people trapped for hours at the bottom of the tourist attraction 1,000 feet (305 meters) beneath the surface.

The elevator was descending into the Mollie Kathleen Gold Mine on Thursday in the mountains near Colorado Springs. At around 500 feet down, the person operating the elevator from the surface "felt something strange" and stopped it, Teller County Sheriff Jason Mikesell said.

The elevator was still operable, and those on board were brought back up within 20 minutes, the sheriff said. A door on the elevator was broken when it was raised.

"We don't know if the door malfunctioned or not or if something else occurred. There's a lot that goes on in these little elevators," he said. "We just know that the door was broken somehow."

The man killed, Patrick Weier, 46, had a young child and was from the nearby town of Victor, Colorado. The exact circumstances of his death were not disclosed, but the sheriff said he died because of the elevator's mechanical issue and not due to a medical issue.

Eleven other people, including two children, who were riding the elevator dur-

ing the mishap were brought up with it following the accident. Four had minor injuries including back pain, neck pain and arm pain, the sheriff said.

Twelve adults from a second group were trapped below ground for about six hours while engineers made sure the elevator could be used. The group had access to water and used radios to communicate with authorities, who told them there was an elevator issue, Mikesell said.

They were hoisted up in groups of four over 30 minutes. Officials had been prepared to bring them up by rope if necessary.

Most people who were in the elevator when it malfunctioned were later taken to a local relief center, where some got showers, new clothes and sandwiches, said Ted Borden, with the Community of Caring Foundation in Cripple Creek.

"It was still very raw, but there was some good camaraderie," Borden said.

Elevator accidents at mines are extremely rare, said Steven Schafrik, a University of Kentucky associate professor of mining engineering. They have been used by the industry to carry people and material since the mid-1800s, he said, and modern elevators are equipped with fail-safe devices that prevent them from falling far if a cable breaks.

"They're just ridiculous-

ly safe," Schafrik said of mining elevators.

He declined to comment directly on the Colorado accident.

Mikesell said the family that owns the mine had run it as a tourist attraction for generations and worked to make it safe.

Mines that operate as tourist attractions in Colorado must designate someone to inspect the mines and the transportation systems daily, according to the state Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety. Mikesell said he didn't know the date of the last inspection at the Mollie Kathleen Mine. Records of the inspections weren't immediately available online.

Changes to the elevator were made in 1988 after the mine came under new ownership, according to the mine's website. A second car that could carry nine people was suspended below the existing elevator, and a new motor was installed to accommodate the increased weight, the website says.

The sheriff said the broken door was on the top-most car. He did not know which one the victim was in.

Weier was a "phenomenal" guide and told visitors that he was an experienced miner, said Jennifer Nolan of Zanesville, Ohio, who toured the mine in August.

The tour began with Nolan's group descending into the shaft with six people in each of the elevator's

two cars.

The cages were "very, very, very tight," she said. People stood shoulder-to-shoulder, but the ride was smooth, she recalled.

A mine inspector was among those on their tour, Nolan said, but she believed he was inspecting the operations underground, not the elevator. The area at the bottom of the shaft was large, with demonstrations of mining technology over the decades.

The accident was under investigation by local and state authorities along with the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

The incident, which was reported to authorities at about noon, happened during the final week of the Mollie Kathleen Gold Mine

season before it shuts down for the winter, Mikesell said.

The mine's owners issued a statement Friday expressing their condolences and thanking emergency responders. The mine will be closed until further notice, they said.

The mine is in Cripple Creek, a town of about 1,100 people southwest of Colorado Springs.

It opened in the 1800s and closed in 1961, but continued as a tourist site. Its website describes a one-hour tour where visitors can see veins of gold in the rock and ride an underground tram.

A woman named Mollie Kathleen Gortner discovered the site of the mine in 1891 when she saw quartz laced with gold, according to the company's website.

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Jets take down Tigers to fly away with ACAC title

By RYAN WALKER
MONROE — Adams Central's 49-24 win over Bluffton notched its fourth consecutive ACAC title Friday night.

The Jets (7-1, 5-0 ACAC) flew high and soared away in the second half, outscoring the upset-minded Tigers (6-2, 4-2 ACAC) 21-8.

Bluffton had its opportunity to make the game quite interesting to the 8,000-plus crowd in attendance.

With 25 seconds left before halftime, Axton Beste completed his second touchdown pass of the night on a 35-yard dot to Eli Bertsch on fourth-and-10. Beste, who was pressured all night, rolled to his right by design and rainbowed a perfect pass to Bertsch for one of his eight catches on the night, putting the score at 28-16.

"I thought Eli Bertsch had a phenomenal night," Bluffton head coach Brent Kunkel said of Bertsch, who put up a career-best 101 yards. "(It was) kind of his coming out party tonight. He made some great catches because teams all know who A.J. Streveler is."

That put the score at 28-16 following the two-point conversion and a real shot in the second half.

Adams Central would

receive the ball next, but Bluffton's defense came out of the halftime speech ready to rock.

The first drive stalled for both teams. On the Jets' second opportunity, it fell short again. On third down on the opening drive, Tavin Frees rushed quarterback Jamison Roach into a short throw to force a third straight incompletion into a punt. A.J. Streveler returned the punt to the Jets' 33-yard line to set up shop.

Bluffton moved the ball 10 yards and inched closer to make this a one-score contest, but Beste's pass was picked off by Hayden Bluhm. That was all the Jets needed to gain momentum back, taking the next drive for six plays and scoring on Aaron Hirschy's 30-yard rush.

"Obviously it deflated us a little bit there," Kunkel said. "Because it was 28-16 and we had the ball. They get a stop. They get the score. (The) air kind of goes out the balloon a little bit."

Adams Central would score twice afterward. Bluffton did get a 13-yard pass from Beste to Cooper Craig late in the fourth, but it was too little, too late.

It also didn't help that Bluffton shot itself in the foot in the first quarter.

The Tigers drew four

penalties in the first quarter, killing their drives. Where it hurt them the most was the emergency punter of Craig, who was in replacing Abram Gehrett (illness) on punting duties.

His first punt went backward for -9 yards. That made life easy for the Jets, who scored three plays later on Matt Heiser's 19-yard run.

The second punt was nearly blocked, but the Tigers didn't think to scoop the ball up. Bluhm picked it up and scored the easiest six points he could have imagined.

It's another week where the Tigers have started the game flat. Similar slow starts have nearly cost them in games against Woodlan, Jay County, and did cost them in losses to Heritage and Adams Central.

The Patriots put up a 21-6 spread on the Tigers last week in the first quarter. The Jets quickly went up 14-0 by the 4:32 mark on Friday.

"You look at the start of the game and that's on me," Kunkel said. "We've got to figure something out about the way we start. Because you come out and our punter is not here, it's something you have to overcome. He's sick. So

(Continued on Page A2)



Bluffton wide receiver A.J. Streveler picks up big yards as he takes his Adams Central defender for a short ride Friday at Monroe. (Photos by Glen Werling)



Clayton Peterson for Southern Wells stiff arms a Heritage defender after a pass play for a first down Friday night at Monroe. (Photo by Glen Werling)

Raiders blanked by Patriots

By ANDREW FEEBACK
MONROEVILLE — After taking on the conference's top team a week ago, the Southern Wells Raiders went north to face the league's second-place team this week.

Just like the previous week, it went very poorly for the Raiders, who were overwhelmed 70-0 by the host Heritage Patriots.

Heritage (7-1) scored on the first play of the game with a 54-yard touchdown run by Lucas Weber. Weber then picked off a deflected pass from Trey Slusher and returned it 32 yards for a score to make it 14-0 less than two minutes in.

Southern Wells put together a drive that lasted more than six minutes, but ended with Weber intercepting another pass from Slusher.

The Patriots picked up first downs on three straight plays before Eli Tigulis threw a 20-yard pass to Zeke Litchfield, and it was 21-0.

Braden Walter's 17-yard touchdown run opened the Patriots' second-quarter onslaught, and Walter fol-

lowed that up with a 55-yard punt return score.

When Litchfield's touchdown run made it 42-0, the teams agreed to a running clock the rest of the way.

Tigulis threw two more touchdown passes before the half was over. The first one was a 22-yard strike to LanTae Cassel, and the other was an 11-yard pass to Greyson Mullins.

Following Weber's third interception of the half, Preston Moore got loose for a 49-yard burst as the half ended to put Heritage up 63-0.

Southern Wells had two possessions reach the red zone in the second half, but both ended with fumbles.

Heritage got its final points on a six-yard touchdown run from C'Jay Barnett.

For the Raiders, Slusher completed 9-13 passes for 99 yards.

Southern Wells will host South Adams on Friday night.

sports@news-banner.com

HERITAGE 70, SOUTHERN WELLS 0
At Heritage
Score By Quarters
So. Wells 0 0 0 0 — 0

Heritage 21 42 0 7 — 70

Scoring Summary

First Quarter
 H—Lucas Weber 54 run (Cam Rauner kick), 11:45
 H—Weber 32 interception return (Rauner kick), 10:23
 H—Zeke Litchfield 20 pass from Eli Tigulis (Rauner kick), 2:57

Second Quarter

H—Braden Walter 17 run (Rauner kick), 11:37
 H—Walter 55 punt return (Rauner kick), 8:36
 H—Litchfield 17 run (Rauner kick), 6:29
 H—LanTae Cassel 22 pass from Tigulis (Rauner kick), 6:11
 H—Greyson Mullins 11 pass from Tigulis (Rauner kick), 3:20
 H—Preston Moore 49 run (Rauner kick), 0:00

Third Quarter

No scoring.

Fourth Quarter

H—C'Jay Barnett 6 run (Rauner kick), 0:30

Team Statistics

	SW	HER
First Downs	8	11
Rushes-Yards	26-41	28-299
Yards Passing	99	64
Passing (C-A-I)	9-13-4	4-6-0
Penalties-Yards	5-25	4-25
Fumbles-Lost	4-3	0-0
Punts-Average	3-30	1-38
Time of Possession	27:01	20:59

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Southern Wells, Trey Slusher 15-31, Leeland Goodnight 1-2, Lyrik Maddox 1-0, Alden Dollar 3-(minus 2), Levi Blake 3-3, Bryson Williams 1-1, Robby Freimuth 1-10. Heritage, Lucas Weber 3-71, Braden Walter 4-75, Preston Moore 1-49, Zeke Litchfield 1-17, Bryson Boyle 9-33, C'Jay Barnett 4-3, Brady Boyle 5-37, Dominic Ferguson 1-16.
 Passing: Southern Wells, Slusher 9-13-4-99. Heritage, Tigulis 4-6-0-64.
 Receiving: Southern Wells, Maddox 4-28, Goodnight 2-50, Blake 1-5, Clayton Peterson 1-13, Dollar 1-3. Heritage, Litchfield 1-20, LanTae Cassel 1-22, Greyson Mullins 1-11, Walter 1-11.

Huntington North's long range shots sink Norwell Knights

By JOHNATHAN SNYDER

HUNTINGTON — In the final game before the sectional draw on Sunday, the Norwell Knights (2-5, 2-3 NE8) were overpowered by the Huntington North Vikings (4-3 overall, 2-3 NE8) in a 49-10 loss.

A promising first drive saw Norwell return to the ground game of the past few years. A mixture of Adam Mahnensmith and Drew Graft runs combined with great pushes from the offensive line drove the Knights on an eight-play, 58-yard touchdown drive. Drew Graft's 32-yard touchdown catch tied the game at seven after the Vikings scored on their first drive.

The game quickly turned as the Vikings' passing game carved up Norwell's secondary.

Vikings quarterback Tony Decker threw for 292 yards and four touchdowns while adding 130 rushing yards and an additional rushing touchdown. Decker's versatility in using his legs to extend plays and pinpoint accuracy for mul-

iple deep throws hurt the Knights. His primary target, Tatum Brooks, caught three of his touchdowns, all of which were over 45 yards, for a total of 142 yards receiving.

Vikings tight end Wyatt Shearer joined in the scoring as well with four catches for 130 yards and a touchdown.

"We saw on film that he (Brooks) was pretty athletic," Norwell head coach Josh Gerber said. "He reminded us a little bit of Eli Riley when we had him and they used him in some of the same ways with the ability to scramble and the ability to run. They just did a real nice job of using him. He's an athlete, they got him in space and we had a hard time bringing him down. Then he made some really good throws when he was on the run. He's a very talented player and it showed tonight."

Throughout the second quarter, it was all Vikings as the Knights' defense had no answers for their versatility. Whether it was carries from Vikings runningback Marcus Linker or from Decker,

the Vikings consistently gashed the Knights. Long passes complemented steady running as the Vikings put up 35 points in the first half alone.

Cayden Cassel returned to the starting quarterback role after an injury set him back for a few weeks. He played mistake-free football with no turnovers and 97 yards through the air. A couple of critical drops and a swarming defense prevented Cassel from getting too comfortable as the offensive line tired throughout the contest.

"The plan was that if he was able to play, we were going to play him," Gerber said. "His reps were limited in practice but he did a good job of knocking the rust off and I thought he played pretty well. (He) made some nice throws, and a couple of good reads."



A 27-yard field goal from Graft at the closing stages of the first half did little to soften the blow as the Knights

went into halftime down 35-10. The Vikings then attacked with a three-play, 69-yard touchdown drive after forcing the Norwell offense to go three-and-out to start the second half. Defensively, the Knights could not hold the Vikings' power, as every drive until the fourth quarter ended in a touchdown.

"Our inability to get off the field defensively, that was the big thing," Gerber said. "We've got to focus up and do what we are coached to do. We felt like we had eight or nine guys doing what we coached them to do and we had a couple guys off on their own doing something they shouldn't

have been doing. We just weren't disciplined in our assignments and that cost us."

A Linker rushing touchdown with 3:26 left in the third quarter, his second and final touchdown of the night, pushed the game to a running clock. After the third, the backups came in and closed out the game with no scoring in the fourth. Adam Mahnensmith ended the game with 29 yards on 14 attempts along with two catches for 12 yards. Graft ended with two catches for 78 yards and a touchdown, mixing in 50 yards on five rushing attempts.

The Knights will be at home against Columbia City next Friday for Senior night. Columbia City holds a 7-1 overall record and currently sits in second place in the Northeast 8 Conference, defeating Leo in their last game, 21-18.

jonathan@news-banner.com

HUNTINGTON NORTH 49, NORWELL 10
At Huntington North
Score By Quarters
Norwell 7 3 0 0 — 10
H. North 14 21 14 0 — 49

Scoring Summary

First Quarter
 HN—Tony Decker 1-yard run (Von Sandersleben kick), 8:26
 N—Cayden Cassel 32-yard pass to Drew Graft (Graft kick), 4:55
 HN—Marcus Linker 2-yard run (Sandersleben kick), 1:36

Second Quarter

HN—Decker 69-yard pass to Wyatt Shearer (Sandersleben kick), 9:03
 HN—Decker 56-yard pass to Tatum Brooks (Sandersleben kick), 6:47
 HN—Decker 48-yard pass (Sandersleben kick), 4:54
 N—Graft 26-yard field goal, 1:23

Third Quarter

HN—Decker 4-yard pass to Brooks (Sandersleben kick), 9:38
 HN—Linker 2-yard run (Sandersleben kick), 3:26

Fourth Quarter

No scoring.

Team Statistics

	HN	NOR
First Downs	20	9
Rushes-Yards	28-205	27-67
Yards Passing	292	104
Passing (C-A-I)	11-16-0	8-16-0
Penalties-Yards	7-83	8-80
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	3-0
Punts-Average	4-32	0-00
Time of Possession	18:52	20:12

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Norwell: Drew Graft 3-81, Brady Smith 1-11, Connor Fojtik 1-7, Drew Jolley 1-5, Adam Mahnensmith 1-1, Garry Riley 1(-1). Huntington North: Tatum Brooks 5-142, Wyatt Shearer 4-130, James Linker 1-11, Marcus Linker 1-9.

Bluffton Tigers

(Continued from Page A1)

we made the switch to Coop (Cooper Craig), and obviously, we've got to execute those first two punts. I think we punted a grand total of maybe two yards, and then we had a brain fart."

It's a loss that stings the Tigers, having a leap of improvement from last week's 51-20 loss at home to Heritage. The Patriots lost to the Jets 33-14, so Bluffton's 49-24 loss with the mistakes proves the Tigers are getting better.

But due to the recent rule change with the IHSAA's success factor, Bluffton might have another crack at this Jets' squad.

With Adams Central's three straight seasons in the

1A state championship (all were losses to Indianapolis Lutheran), the Jets bumped up to 2A. They were added to Bluffton's sectional, and the random draw will be this Sunday at 6 p.m. on the IHSAA's website.

There's a chance both will meet up again at a location to be named later. Bluffton would like to do just that.

"This is the team we've got to beat to get where we want," Kunkel said. "And the good news is hopefully this is not the last time we play them. Hopefully, we can watch this, break some stuff down, look at it man-to-man, and figure out what we can do."

Bluffton's final regular

season game will be against the Franklin County Wildcats (5-3) out of the Eastern Indiana — small football conference. Kickoff will be at 7:30 p.m.

ryan@news-banner.com

ADAMS CENTRAL 49, BLUFFTON 24
At Adams Central High School
Score By Quarters

Bluffton 8 8 0 8 — 24
A. Central 14 14 7 14 — 49

Scoring Summary
First Quarter

AC—Matt Heister 19-yard run (Braylen Cowans kick), 7:20.
AC—Punt blocked, returned by Hayden Bluhm 19 yards (Cowans kick), 4:32.
B—Axton Beste 67-yard pass to Cooper Craig (2-pt completed), 1:29.

Second Quarter
AC—Jamison Roach 6-yard run (Cowans kick), 8:51.
AC—Roach 24-yard pass to Max Kaehr (Cowans kick), 5:18.

—Beste 35-yard pass to Eli Bertsch (2-pt completed), 0:25.
Third Quarter
AC—Aaron Hierschy 30-yard run

(Cowans kick), 0:17.

Fourth Quarter
AC—Roach 22-yard pass to Joey Everett (Cowans kick), 10:12.
B—Beste 13-yard pass to (2-pt completed), 5:01.
AC—Roach 72-yard run (Cowans kick), 4:04.

Team Statistics		
	AC	BLU
First Downs	15	14
Rushes-Yards	30-315	30-53
Yards Passing	78	265
Passing (C-A-I)	4-12-0	20-29-1
Penalties-Yards	2-20	7-50
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Punts-Average	2-35	3-12
Time of Possession	16:20	31:40

Individual Statistics
Rushing: Bluffton: Cooper Craig 14-38, A.J. Strevler 1-8, Axton Beste 14-7, Griffin Morgan 1-0. Adams Central: Matt Heister 14-103, Jamison Roach 5-94, Aaron Hirschy 7-91, Joey Everett 3-28.
Passing: Bluffton: Axton Beste 20-29-1 265, Adams Central: Jamison Roach 4-12-0 78.
Receiving: Bluffton: Cooper Craig 4-105, Eli Bertsch 8-101, A.J. Strevler 4-30, Trey Bustos 3-27, Easton Blair 1-2. Adams Central: Max Kaehr 2-35, Joey Everett 1-22, Braylend Reber 1-2.

High School Calendar

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
TUESDAY, OCT 15
No events scheduled.
WEDNESDAY, OCT 16
No events scheduled.
THURSDAY, OCT 17
VOLLEYBALL: (Sectional) Bluffton vs. Whitko at Woodlan, 6 p.m.; Southern Wells at Daleville, 7:30 p.m.
FRIDAY, OCT 18

FOOTBALL: Franklin County at Bluffton, 7:30 p.m.; Columbia City at Norwell, 7 p.m.; South Adams at Southern Wells, 7 p.m.
SATURDAY, OCT 19
CROSS COUNTRY (co-ed): (Sectional) Bluffton, Norwell, Southern Wells at Taylor, 10 a.m.
VOLLEYBALL: New Haven at Norwell, 10 a.m.

News-Banner Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

High School Friday's Scores
Adams Central 49, Bluffton 24
Andean 3, Hanover Central 0
Avon 21, Zionsville 14
Boone Grove 42, Lake Station 8
Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory Academy 68, Bloomington South 57
Bremen 46, Knox 38
Brownsburg 22, Noblesville 18
Brownstown 44, Silver Creek 6
Carroll (Flora) 42, Clinton Prairie 0
Carroll (Ft. Wayne) 52, Ft. Wayne Northrop 0
Cascade 56, Greencastle 7
Castle 62, Evansville Central 21
Centerville 55, Union City 0
Columbia City 21, Leo 18
Columbus East 52, Jeffersonville 6
Columbus North 35, Bloomington North 34, 2OT
Concord 44, Wawasee 7
Covington 55, Attica 0
Crown Point 41, Chesterton 7
Culver Academy 30, Heritage Christian 20
Danville 28, Western Boone 9
DeKalb 58, Bellmont 7
Decatur Central 38, Indpls Perry Meridian 35
Delphi 44, Clinton Central 21
E. Central 49, Greensburg 0
E. Noble 65, New Haven 0
Eastern (Greentown) 38, Sheridan 23
Eastern Hancock 41, Shenandoah 7
Eastside 48, Central Noble 6
Elkhart 26, Mishawaka Marian 0
Evansville Mater Dei 45, Evansville Harrison 7
Evansville Memorial 35, Vincennes 12
Evansville Reitz 35, Evansville Bosse 0
Fairfield 48, Lakeland (IN) 38
Floyd Central 49, Jennings Co. 0
Forest Park 28, Pike Central 21
Franklin 41, Greenvood 14
Franklin Central 14, Hamilton South-eastern 10
Franklin Co. 31, Batesville 17
Frankton 32, Blackford 7
Frontier 47, W. Central 8
Ft. Wayne North 42, Ft. Wayne Wayne 12
Ft. Wayne Snider 17, Ft. Wayne Dwenger 6
Ft. Wayne South 14, Ft. Wayne Luers 13
Garrett 42, Angola 14
Gary West 34, Hammond Noll 20
Gibson Southern 62, Mt. Vernon (Posey) 26
Greenfield 42, Delta 7
Griffith 56, Calumet 6
Guerin Catholic High School 41, Terre Haute North 18
Hamilton Hts. 14, Tipton 13
Hammond Central 61, East Chicago Central 16
Heritage 70, Southern Wells 0
Heritage Hills 56, Princeton 7
Homestead 42, Ft. Wayne Concor-dia 0
Huntington North 49, Norwell 10
Indian Creek 21, Sullivan 14
Indpls Attucks 52, Indpls Washing-ton 0
Indpls Ben Davis 27, Lawrence Central 7
Indpls Cathedral 35, Indpls Roncalli 6
Indpls Lutheran 49, Speedway 7
Indpls Park Tudor 58, S. Newton 26
Indpls Pike 35, Indpls N. Central 14
Indpls Socina 21, Indpls Ritter 20
Indpls Shortridge 21, Indpls Tech 0
Jasper 28, Evansville North 20
Jimitown 49, LaVille 20
Kankakee Valley 57, Highland 0
Kokomo 28, McCutcheon 20
Lafayette Central Catholic High School 76, Benton Central 0
Lafayette Jeff 45, Lafayette Har-ri-son 21
Lapel 14, Jay Co. 12
Lawrence North 34, Center Grove 21
Lawrenceburg 51, Connerville 0
Lebanon 35, Southmont 0
Linton 67, Eastern (Greene) 9
Logansport 42, Western 0
Lowell 36, Munster 19
Maconaquah 77, Wabash 0
Madison 47, Bedford N. Lawrence 18
Madison-Grant 62, Alexandria 17
Manchester 49, Cass 28
Marion 38, Muncie Central 7
Martinsville 27, Mooresville 18
Merrillville 43, Lake Central 10
Michigan City 39, LaPorte 0
Milan 48, S. Decatur 14
Mishawaka 34, Plymouth 10
Mississinewa 44, Eastbrook 7
Monroe Central 45, Indpls Irvington 0
Monrovia 54, Covenant Christian High School 14
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N. Decatur 82, Elkhartville 0
N. Harrison 44, Clarkburg 6
N. Judson 69, Caston 3
N. Miami 61, Culver 26

N. Montgomery 54, Frankfort 26
N. Putnam 55, Brown Co. 6
N. Vermillion 31, Fountain Central 27
N. White 49, N. Newton 6
New Palestine 44, New Castle 6
Noblesville HomeSchool 46, Faith Christian 38
Northeastern 56, Knightstown 20
Northfield 47, Whitko 6
Northridge 42, Goshen 3
Northview 41, Edgewood 7
Northwestern 29, Peru 16
Oak Hill 35, Elwood 0
Paoli 64, Mitchell 0
Pendleton Hts. 47, Yorktown 20
Penn 24, New Prairie 7
Plainfield 32, Whiteland 7
Prairie Heights 14, Fremont 7
Providence 52, Corydon 21
Rensselaer 42, River Forest 21
Richmond 53, Anderson 38
Riverton Parke 55, Parke Heritage 13
Rochester 29, Southwood 0
Rushville 30, S. Dearborn 10
S. Bend Adams 7, S. Bend Riley 6
S. Bend St. Joseph's 49, S. Bend Washington 0
S. Putnam 58, Owen Valley 7
S. Spencer 42, N. Central (Farmer-sburg) 7
S. Vermillion 44, Seeger 14
Salem 42, Charlestown 22
Scottsburg 51, Eastern (Pekin) 7
Seymour 14, New Albany 7
Southridge 42, N. Posey 0
Springs Valley 42, Perry Central 0
Switzerland Co. 57, Southside Home School 6
Taylor 7, Tri-Central 6
Tell City 45, Tecumseh 14
Terre Haute South 30, Southport 6
Tippecanoe Valley 22, Glenn 21
Tri 43, Hagerstown 12
Tri-County 66, Bowman 22
Tri-West 42, Crawfordsville 0
Triton 28, Pioneer 21
Triton Central 56, Beech Grove 26
Valparaiso 42, Portage 32
W. Lafayette 49, Twin Lakes 21
W. Noble 58, Chubbuck 30
W. Vigo 34, Cloverdale 33
Warren Central 32, Carmel 3
Warsaw 35, NorthWood 21
Wes-Del 54, Union Co. 0
Westfield 46, Fishers 12
Winamac 50, S. Central (Union Mills) 12
Winchester 69, Cambridge City Lincoln 6
Woodlan 35, S. Adams 28

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Indianapolis at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Washington at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
L.A. Chargers at Denver, 4:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Las Vegas, 4:05 p.m.
Atlanta at Carolina, 4:25 p.m.
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College

Harvard 38, Cornell 20
Northwestern 37, Maryland 10

NFL

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East
Buffalo 3 2 0 600 142 106
Miami 2 3 0 400 60 113
N.Y. Jets 2 3 0 400 93 85
New England 1 4 0 200 62 102
South
Houston 4 1 0 800 102 114
Indianapolis 2 3 0 400 119 122
Tennessee 1 3 0 250 79 90
Jacksonville 1 4 0 200 97 143
North
W L T Pct PF PA
Baltimore 3 2 0 600 147 126
Pittsburgh 3 2 0 600 92 73
Cincinnati 1 4 0 200 140 145
Cleveland 1 4 0 200 79 121
West
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Kansas City 5 0 0 1,000 118 85
Denver 3 2 0 600 96 73
L.A. Chargers 2 2 0 500 68 50
Las Vegas 2 3 0 400 96 131

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Washington 4 1 0 800 155 115
Dallas 3 2 0 600 117 121
Philadelphia 2 2 0 500 86 96
N.Y. Giants 2 3 0 400 89 104
South
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Atlanta 3 2 0 600 111 115
Tampa Bay 3 2 0 600 127 114
New Orleans 2 3 0 400 140 96
Carolina 1 4 0 200 83 165
North
W L T Pct PF PA
Minnesota 5 0 0 1,000 139 76
Detroit 3 1 0 750 104 82
Chicago 3 2 0 600 113 85
Green Bay 3 2 0 600 128 108
West
W L T Pct PF PA
Seattle 3 3 0 500 144 150
San Francisco 3 3 0 500 162 130
Arizona 2 3 0 400 120 129
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Dodgers reach NLCS with win over Padres

By BETH HARRIS AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles Dodgers shelled out \$1 billion for Japanese talent in the offseason and it's paying off in the playoffs. Yoshinobu Yamamoto outduelled Yu Darvish in a historic playoff matchup of Japanese-born starters,

and the Dodgers got home runs from Kiké Hernández and Teoscar Hernández to beat the San Diego Padres 2-0 on Friday and advance to the National League Championship Series. "It's pretty sweet," a smiling Freddie Freeman said. Yamamoto allowed two hits over five innings for the Dodgers, getting

Stuck in the past

Dear Annie: I've reconnected with a high school friend, and it's been fun catching up. However, she constantly talks about the past, and I'd rather focus on the present. How can I gently shift our conversations to more current topics without making her feel like I'm dismissing our shared memories? — Ready for the Now

Dear Ready: It's quite special to have a friendship that's made it through so many different seasons of life — how fun for you two to rekindle a relationship all these years later.

The next time this friend brings up something from the past, try responding with something like: "I love reminiscing about the good ol' days. But what about these days? Tell me more about XYZ!" This acknowledges her nostalgic side while showing you're interested in more than just the past you two share.

Dear Annie: I'm dealing with a sudden loss of friendship stemming from a close friend who will not leave her abusive boyfriend. As the abuse has escalated over time, I have offered unwavering support and resources for her to leave, including offering room for her to stay in my home, money, an ear to listen, even friends to help move her stuff out.

Recently, things turned very nasty for this couple while on vacation. My friend was forced to seek medical attention and then fly herself home, where she landed at my house. I have young children, and they saw her devastated and with visible trauma to her face.

And yet, she went back to him. I told her in no uncertain terms that I cannot continue to turn a blind eye or support her in this relationship. I can't stand to hear one more way he manipulates her — emotionally, financially, physically — and she accused me of forcing her to choose between a best friend and a boyfriend. She said he is her "best friend, but he suffers from trauma" and she wants to "help" him. I believe there is no helping him.

After a very tense conversation, she left my house and went back to him. I haven't heard from her since beyond

a thank you to a message I sent telling her I will always care about and want the best for her.

I'm terribly worried and lose sleep over what she goes through with this man. My husband thinks distancing myself is the right thing to do, especially shielding our young children from the visible effects of abuse. But I'm unsure if by removing myself I'm leaving her less inclined to seek help in the future.

What do you think is right? — Worried Sick

Dear Worried: I can only imagine how difficult and heartbreaking it has been to watch someone you care so much about be hurt over and over again by this horrible and abusive man.

You have done everything you can for your friend, short of physically removing her from this situation yourself, to be consistently and fiercely supportive and protective. Now you must balance this desire to stand by your friend with a boundary to protect your family from her boyfriend and their toxic relationship.

Continue to remind her that you are, and will always be, there for her whenever she is ready to take the leap. Remember that leaving an abusive relationship like theirs is scary and dangerous, and your friend is likely doing the best she can, whether you understand it or not. It takes immense courage to do, and I hope someday very soon, she will muster it.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-799-7233) is also a good resource for your friend — and anyone else who is the victim of abuse — to have.

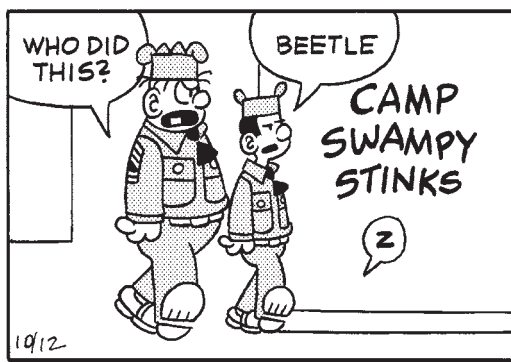
Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. © 2024 CREATORS.COM

Dear Annie

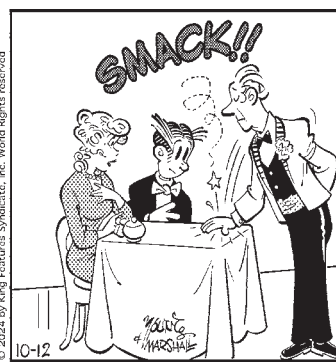
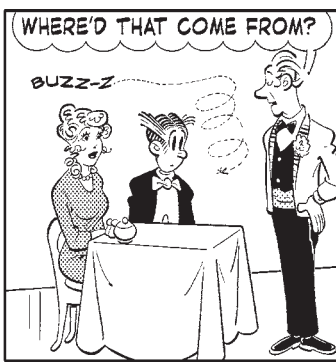
by Annie Lane



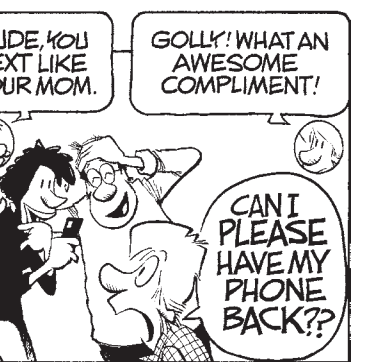
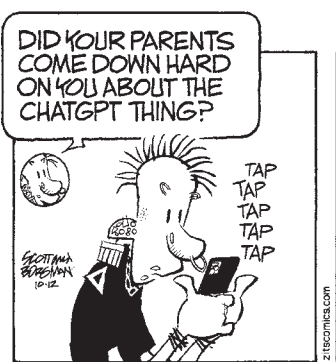
BEETLE BAILEY



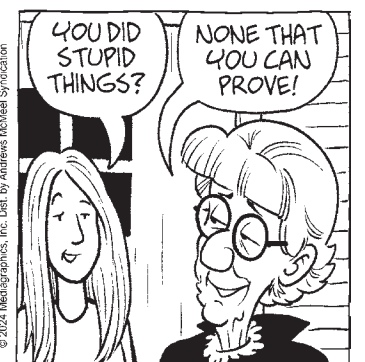
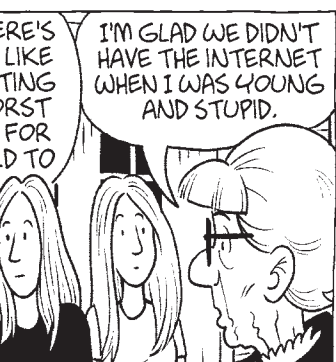
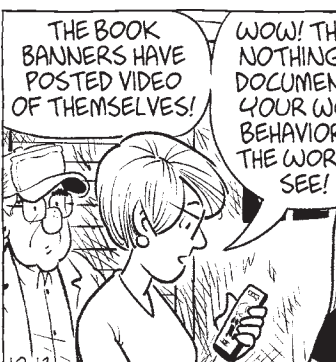
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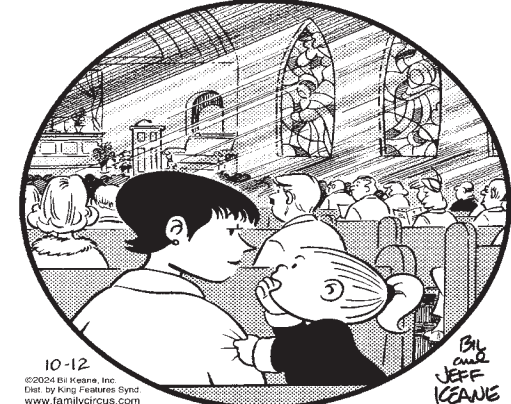


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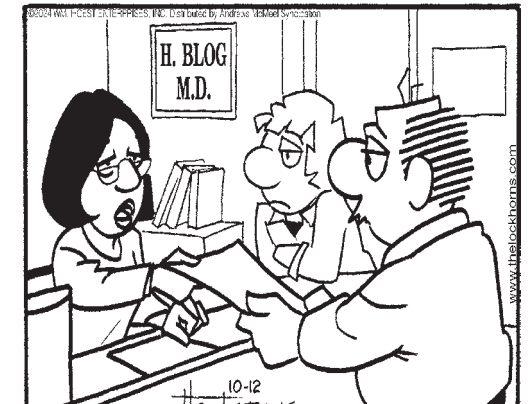
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"When the sun shines through those windows it makes me want to sing 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow.'"

The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



To be filled with the Spirit is to be yielded to Christ

Question: What does it mean to be Spirit-filled, and how can a person seek this out and find its guiding light? — S.F.

Answer: The tides of civilization have risen, the courses of nations have been changed, and the pages of history have been brightened by people who have been filled with the Spirit of God.

This isn't necessarily an emotional experience, nor will it necessarily bring us some type of spiritual experience that is obvious or open. To be filled with the Spirit is to be yielded to Christ with our supreme desire to do His will. When we come to Christ, His Spirit comes to dwell in us — whether we

are aware of His presence or not. But as we grow in Christ, our goal is to be controlled by Him. Why? To glorify Him above all else.

As Christians, our responsibility is to keep sin out of our lives so that the Spirit can produce His fruit in us. We must become grounded in the Bible. We have only one authority, one compass: the Word of God.

In a letter to a friend, Abraham Lincoln said, "I am profitably engaged in reading the Bible. Take all of this Book upon reason that you can and the balance upon faith, and you will live and die a better man."

Another has written that

he believed the Bible to be the Word of God because, as he put it, "It finds me."

Great leaders have made it their chief Book. President Ronald Reagan revered the Bible so much that he proclaimed 1984 the "year of the Bible."

Let it be the staff of life upon which to live and be nourished. Let it be the sword of the Spirit which cuts away the evil of our lives and fashions us in His image and likeness.

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

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Table with columns for time slots (10:12, M, A, D1, D2, 5 PM, 5:30, 6 PM, 6:30, 7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30, 12 AM, 12:30) and rows for various TV channels (WINM, CBS WANE, Antenna WANE-2, ABC WPTA, NBC WPTA-2, MNT WPTA-3, CW WISE, PBS WFWA, PBS WFP, FOX WFTF, etc.) listing programs and their descriptions.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 26 mins and a 'Yesterday's answer' grid.

Grid for 'Yesterday's answer' crossword puzzle, showing numbers 1 through 51 in a crossword pattern.