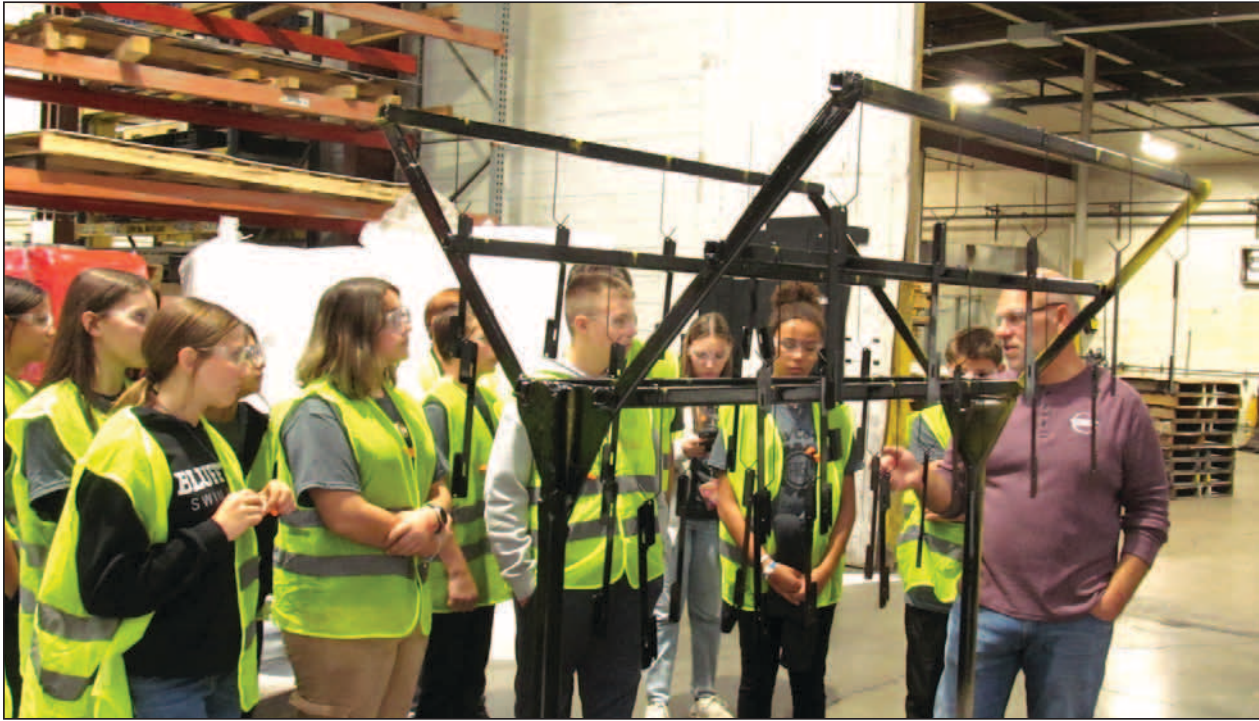


The News - Banner

www.News-Banner.com

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2024 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00



Eric Gerber, far right, talks with a group of Bluffton-Harrison Middle School students about one of the products ready for shipment at Edge Manufacturing. (Photos by Mark Miller)

Students get a glimpse of local career options

• More photos on Page 2
By MARK MILLER

The Adams Wells Manufacturing Alliance held its first Manufacturing Day of the 2024-25 school year, as the eighth-grade class of Bluffton-Harrison Middle School toured four local facilities to get a sampling of careers available in Wells County.

"This matches up with the new 'College and Careers' class that all middle school student now take," Joe Elkins, executive director of the group explained. "We're just trying to expose them to the many career options we have right here at home so as they begin to think about what they might want to do after high school, they have
(Continued on Page 2)



Chris Murphy, buyer at Almco Steel Products, gave the students a slide presentation overview of the company prior to the students touring the plant.

All gubernatorial candidates meet on debate stage

A final exchange is scheduled for Oct. 24

By CASEY SMITH, Indiana Capital Chronicle

In night two of back-to-back debates, Indiana's three candidates for governor shared the same stage for the first time. While some of the topics had previously been discussed at length, questions around private school vouchers and government restructuring drew novel responses from the trio.

This round, Republican Mike Braun and Democrat Jennifer McCormick were joined by Libertarian Donald Rainwater.

Braun and McCormick sparred in the first general election gubernatorial debate Wednesday evening, but Rainwater did not meet the standards set by Fox59 and CBS4 to appear.

Thursday's debate, which aired live from the WISH-TV studios in downtown Indianapolis, lasted one hour. It took place just days before early voting is set to begin in the Hoosier state.

Moderators additionally asked about property taxes, immigration, abortion, marijuana legalization, workforce preparedness and affordable housing.

While the Democrat and Libertarian teamed up to criticize Braun's voting record on immigration in the U.S. Senate, a question about Indiana's private school voucher system also pitted candidates against one another.

McCormick, specifically, was also targeted by her competitors over her tenure as Indiana's superintendent of public instruction — a role she held from 2016 to 2020 when she previously identified as a Republican.

Even so, both McCormick and Braun declared victory at the debate's conclusion. Both candidates made the same claim the night before.

Public vs. private education

Braun, who lists "universal school choice" high among his platform points, emphasized that Indiana "has been on the leading edge of choice and competition ... where we're putting the parent as the main stakeholder in his or her kid's education.

"That's the way it should be. When you have one-size-fits-all, it's called a monopoly," he said, adding that while his family has access to a "great public school district," not all Hoosiers have "that same advantage." At one point,
(Continued on Page 2)

Lawmaker calls on Indiana legislature to boost K-12 tuition spending in 2025

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle

As the 2025 legislative session draws nearer, longtime Democratic lawmaker Rep. Ed DeLaney is flagging funding concerns across all Indiana schools — public and private — and called for the next state budget to increase tuition support.

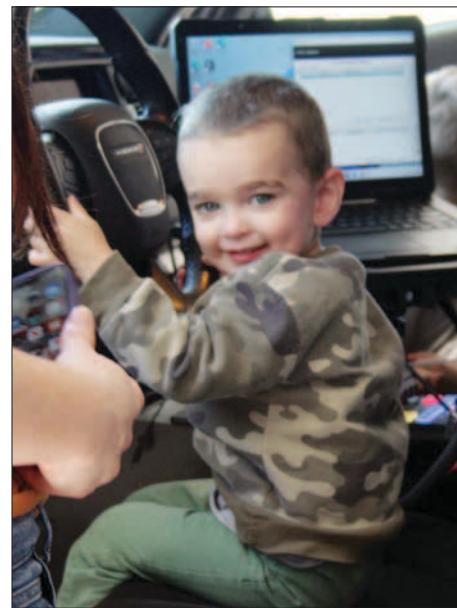
DeLaney, of Indianapolis, made public a new legislative analysis on Wednesday that showed the overall dollar amount spent on K-12 has grown each year but its share of the state budget has dropped.

For instance, tuition support for all

school types has grown from \$6.2 billion to \$8.7 billion from 2011 to 2025.

Dollars sent to Hoosier schools accounted for 44.3% of the Indiana budget in the 2011 fiscal year and rose to 45.3% in 2013. Since then, however, schools' budget share has declined to 39.8% and is expected to "remain flat" in Fiscal Year 2025, according to the fiscal analysis.

"As a legislator, I'm very frustrated," DeLaney said during a Wednesday news briefing. "As an experienced lawyer, when I argue in favor of public education in the
(Continued on Page 2)



Tots and cops

During the Bluffton Parks Department's regular "Tot Time" on Thursday, participants walked over to the police station for a tour with Officer Tyler Lambert. Above, Lambert talks about the parts of his uniform and answers questions about his job. The tour wrapped up with a hands-on tour through Lambert's patrol car, where Connor Dobson (at left) and other children were able to get behind the wheel and check out all the equipment.

The Bluffton city gym is open for toddlers 11 a.m. to noon every Tuesday and Thursday now through March. The first Thursday of every month will offer a special tour or activity. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)

Search for missing hits snags as Helene's death toll tops 200

By JEFF AMY and JOHN SEEWER
Associated Press

PENSACOLA, N.C. (AP) — Rescue crews and volunteers facing obstacles at every turn in North Carolina's remote mountains paddled canoes across swollen rivers and steered horses past mudslides in the rush to reach those stranded or missing by Hurricane Helene's rampage that killed more than 200 throughout the Southeast.

Now a week since the storm first roared onto Florida's Gulf Coast, the search continued for people who have yet to be heard

from in places where phone service and electricity were knocked out. Pleas for help came from people running low on medicine or in need of fuel for their generators.

How many people are missing or unaccounted for isn't clear. The death toll soared to 215 people on Thursday as more victims were found, making Helene the deadliest hurricane to hit the mainland U.S. since Katrina in 2005. Roughly half the victims were in North Carolina, while dozens more were killed in South Carolina and Georgia.
(Continued on Page 2)

Inside

Local/Area

Obituaries 3
Police Notebook . . . 3

Opinion

Marc Thiessen 4

Also...

Sports 6-7
Classifieds 7
Diversions 5

Outside

A good day to walk on sunshine, we have lots of it

Today	Saturday	Sunday
High 76	High 76	High 80
Low 47	Low 59	Low 46

More Weather on Page 2

Online

Follow us on Facebook!
Go to www.facebook.com/newsbanner

Place Your Classified Ads 24/7

Vol. 95 No. 285

FRIDAY
October 4, 2024

Check Out Our Daily Directory of Advertising You Can be Here EVERY DAY!

Call 824-0224 for Special Monthly Pricing!

125 N. Johnson St. • 260-824-0224 • www.news-banner.com

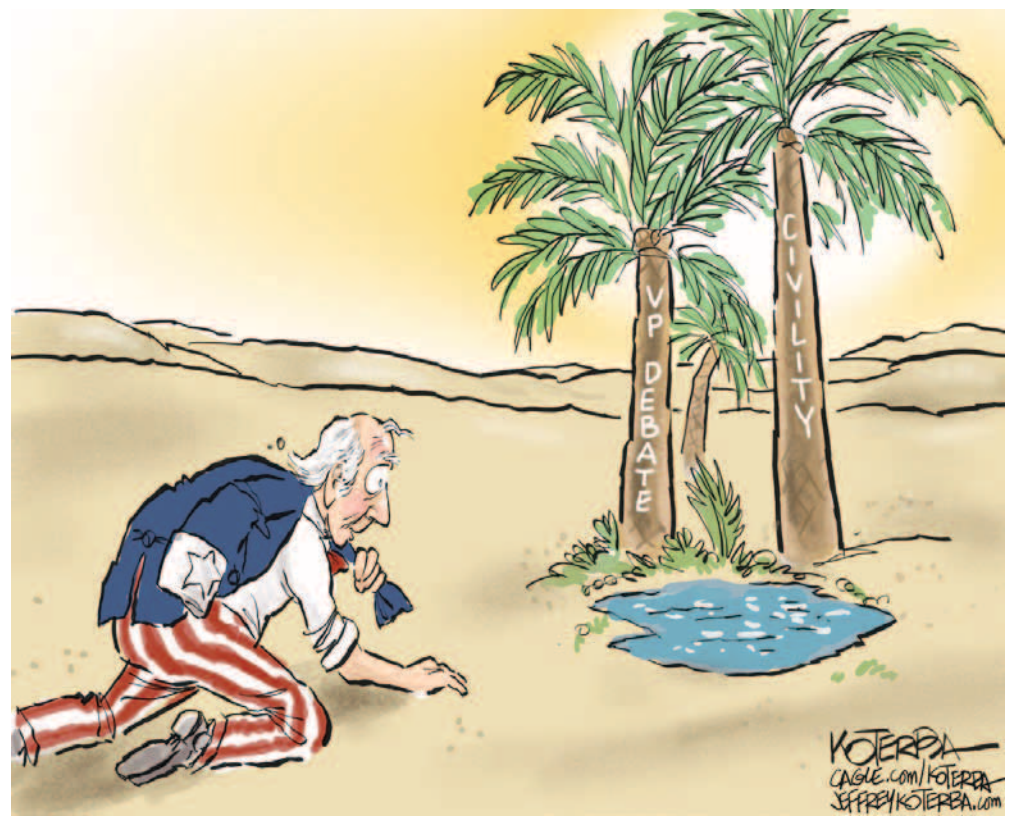
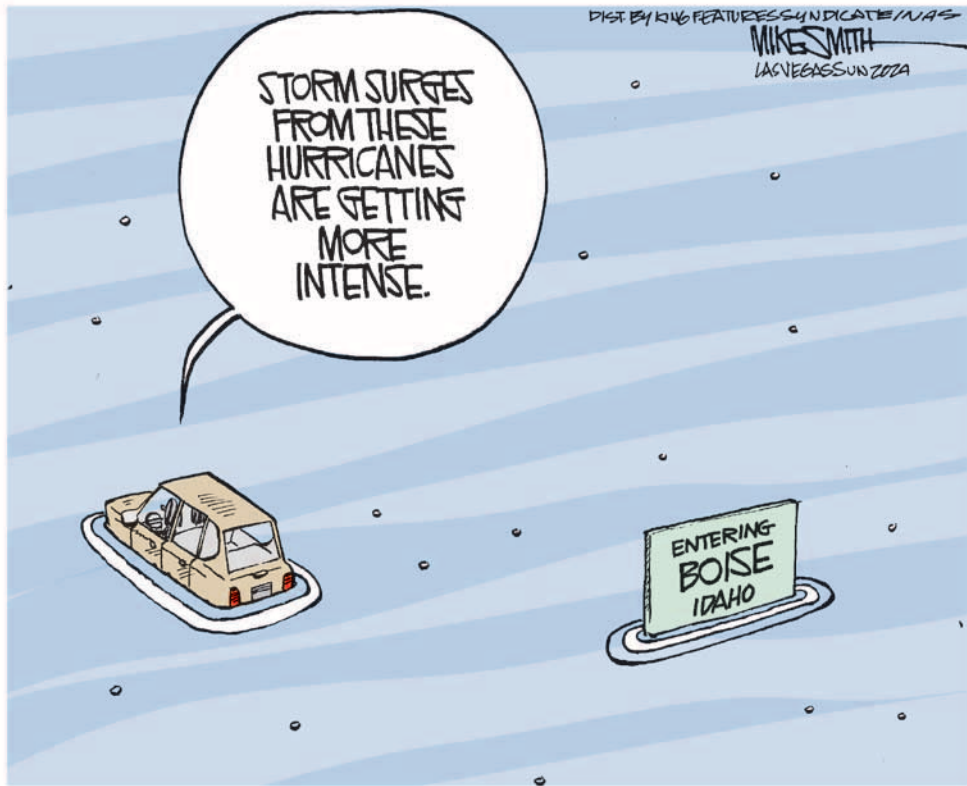
How to contact us:

Call us: 824-0224
or 1-800-579-7476
email@news-banner.com

On the Web:
www.news-banner.com

Follow us at:
twitter.com/newsbanner

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



Other Opinions

Biden, Medicare, and prescription drug premiums

'Tis the season for election handouts. On Sept. 27, the Biden Administration announced lower Medicare prescription drug premiums, which will naturally be paid for by taxpayers. The political irony is that Biden officials are increasing subsidies to insurers they otherwise vilify to mitigate pre-election harm from the Inflation Reduction Act.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) touted in a press release that average Part D premiums will decline by about \$90 next year while benefits will improve "thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act and other new enhancements." P.S.: Seniors can show their gratitude by voting for Democrats.

Recall how Democrats sought to reduce Medicare drug spending by capping patient out-of-pocket costs at \$2,000 annually and shifting more of the entitlement's cost to insurers. CMS also sweetened benefits with regulatory tweaks. But Democrats failed to appreciate that there's no such thing as a free entitlement expansion.

Insurers projected that Part D premiums would balloon next year, when the \$2,000 cap and other freebies kick in. Providing basic Part D benefits next year is estimated to cost \$179.45 a month on average, up from \$64.28 this year and \$34.71 in 2023, according to CMS.

CMS uses a complicated formula to subsidize premiums, but healthcare analysts projected that premiums would rise by hundreds of dollars. Some insurers warned they might exit the market to avoid losing money. Seniors are notified of the premium spikes before open enrollment begins in mid-October. Talk about a surprise bill.

To head off this self-induced political mess, CMS launched this summer a "demonstration project" to "stabilize" the market that involved boosting payments to insurers. Congress in 1967 allowed Medicare to test new payment models to improve the efficiency of healthcare delivery, but such projects are supposed to be implemented on a small scale.

This Biden project 2025 instead rewrites the IRA to spend money that Congress didn't appropriate to fix Democrats' handiwork. CMS says that nearly all insurers signed up for its program, which is expected to cost about \$5 billion. Voila, CMS says Part D monthly premiums will decline next year by \$7.45 to \$46.50. It's good to be President.

Biden officials may have drawn inspiration from their Obama predecessors, which in 2010 stood up a demonstration project that boosted payments to insurers to prevent Medicare Advantage premiums from spiking owing to cuts Democrats made to the program in ObamaCare. Those subsidies were projected to cost \$8 billion over three years.

The Government Accountability Office wrote in 2012 that the project "dwarfs all other Medicare demonstrations—both mandatory and discretionary—conducted since 1995 in its estimated budgetary impact and is larger in size and scope than many of them." The Biden IRA patch dwarfs that 2012 fix in size, scope and budgetary impact.

Democrats in Congress and the press rightly slammed the Trump Administration in autumn 2020 for floating a demonstration project to send seniors \$200 drug discount cards before the election. But no one cares when a Democrat is abusing executive power and taxpayers to win the senior vote.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
Distributed by The Associated Press

Trump wants to make (really) legal immigration great again

PALM BEACH, Fla. — In my last column, I shared my interview with Donald Trump on foreign policy. Today, we discuss immigration, specifically his plans to expand *legal* immigration.

I'm a supporter of Trump's policies to crack down on illegal immigration, but not the language he sometimes employs. The problem at our southern border is not that so many people want to come here. It's that so many are coming here *illegally*. And Trump's rhetoric can obscure the fact that he agrees with me about that. So I asked Trump: Is he a strong supporter of legal immigration? "I am," he said. "We need people."

Indeed, it has been little noticed, but Trump has promised that, if elected, he will offer permanent residency to every foreign student who graduates from a U.S. university. I wanted to talk to him about this idea, which I think deserves more attention than it is getting. The United States hosted more than 1 million foreign students from virtually every country in the 2022-2023 academic year, and it gave green cards to just over 1 million people in 2022. Trump's proposal would dramatically increase the number of foreigners granted lawful permanent residence in America.

"If you spend four years in college, I think you should get a green card as part of your diploma," he said. "I feel that — and some people in the Republican [Party] don't — but ... one of the biggest complaints I had from people heading up companies [is that foreign students] go to the Wharton School of Finance, they go to Harvard, they go to these different places, and Stanford, and [American businesses] can't recruit because ... they're not allowed to stay in the country. And they want to be able to recruit them and they can't do it. And I'm going to have serious discussions with a lot of people about when you go through four years of college or two years of college, if you're in a junior college. And it'll also be good for colleges, frankly."

"There are many cases where these young people go back to India, they go back to wherever they come from, they end up [working for] the same company," he said. "They ended up being the biggest people. ... We could have had [them]. ... These [students] go up and they relocate into Canada and other places where they do that. Canada gets a lot of business because we can't guarantee [permanent residency]."

This is an entrepreneurial view of immigration that Trump rarely shows to Americans, but it is true to his roots. So I pointed to the black-and-white pictures of his mother and father behind his desk and asked him to tell me his family's immigration story. "My father came from Germany — he was 5 years old — through his parents. His father was in Alaska for the gold rush. And he ended up doing little tiny little hotels for the guys that went up. He said, 'I could do better if I do a hotel than look for the gold.' But he died at a fairly young age of pneumonia from Alaska. But very strong guy, very good guy. And [he] moved. His mother lived in Queens — Richmond Hill, which

is sort of [the] German section of Queens.

"My father was a builder. He graduated from high school and did a great job," he continued. "My mother came from Scotland, and she never went back. She came here to work. ... She loved Scotland, had great respect for the queen. Anything with the queen was good. ... And [they were] great parents. ... They were married for many, many decades, and they had a great marriage."

During our interview, Trump handed me a printout of a Truth Social post he had put out that day. It read (in ALL-CAPS of course): "Our borders must be closed, and the terrorists, criminals, and mentally insane, immediately removed from American cities and towns, deported back to their counties of origin. We want people to come into our country, but they must love our nation, and come in legally and through a system of merit."

While there is much focus on his typically all-caps calls for deportation, I was struck by how this one was paired with an all-caps endorsement of legal immigration. It horrifies many on the left, but the truth is that Trump's hard line on illegal immigration reflects the beliefs of a majority of Americans. His mass deportation pledge has widespread public support. A CBS-YouGov poll in June found that 62 percent of voters supported "a new national program to deport all undocumented immigrants currently living in the U.S. illegally" — including 53 percent of Hispanics. An Economist-YouGov poll in February found that 56 percent of Americans supported "using military troops to arrest and deport people who are in the U.S. unlawfully." Just 31 percent were opposed. And an Axios poll from April found that 42 percent of Democrats supported "mass deportations of undocumented immigrants."

One of the tragedies of the Biden-Harris border disaster is that the record-breaking flood of unlawful migrants they have let in has depressed support for *legal* immigration. While a June Gallup poll found 64 percent still say immigration is a good thing, a 55 percent majority now say they want immigration levels reduced — the first time in nearly two decades that a majority have said they want less legal immigration.

That's clearly a reason Trump rarely talks about legal immigration on the stump. He knows it isn't popular with his base, and that many Americans are not open to expanding legal immigration. They won't be as long as the country is in the midst of the worst border crisis since the Mexican-American War.

But just as with the isolationists' misjudgment of Trump, I'm firmly convinced it's wrong to label him a nativist. "Your parents obviously made America a better place," I said to him. "Do you think immigrants make America a better place?"

"Yeah, I think so," he said.

I wish he would say so on the campaign trail.

Follow Marc A. Thiessen @marcthiessen on X



Marc Thiessen

(Trump has) an entrepreneurial view of immigration that (he) rarely shows to Americans.

The News-Banner
(USPS 059-200)

Periodicals Postage Paid at Bluffton, IN 46714.
Published every day except Sundays and principal holidays at 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton IN 46714, Post Office Box 436

Evening News est. 1892 • Evening Banner est. 1899 • Consolidated 1929

News-Banner Publications, Inc.
George B. Witwer, Chairman of the Board
Doug Brown, President, Publisher
Dianne Witwer, Secretary/Treasurer
Holly Gaskill, Editor
Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor

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

The struggle to find in-person therapy

Dear Annie: I read your postings in our local newspaper every day, and I've noticed that you often tell people to seek help from a professional counselor before making big decisions.

I agree this is an important step, but I've found that counselors and psychologists are so busy that they either aren't taking new clients or they only want to do so via a computer. They want to counsel you through Zoom, which is not face-to-face.

During the pandemic, lots of doctors did business this way, but my feeling is you have to get comfortable with a counselor before you start telling them intimate things about yourself. Doing this through a computer isn't my idea of getting anything accomplished. — Retired But Still Have Feelings

Dear Retired: Virtual therapy has indeed boomed since the pandemic, through services such as BetterHelp and Talkspace as well as through private practices.

For some, it can increase convenience and accessibility, but you're right that it doesn't compare to in-person, face-to-face care. Keep at your search for an in-person counselor. You can find resources on the Psychology Today website under "Find a Therapist." Good luck!

Dear Annie: Is it OK to get engaged at 17? For some context, I am currently 16, and so is my boyfriend. I am graduating high school in 2025 at 17, and my boyfriend is graduating in 2026 at 18. I have always been one to want to get engaged young. Though it is unconventional, I still feel it is right for me.

My boyfriend and I have been together since we were 14. We genuinely do love each other, but we are afraid of what our families would think. Our idea is to hide it. We would

have a small engagement, just us, with minimal costs spent on the ring due to the fact that I don't care about diamond size, but I do care about the intention behind it. We would not tell anyone and have it be a secret between us. Then around junior or senior year of college, we would have a second, larger engagement with family and friends involved. He will be my forever no matter what.

What are your thoughts? — Love Wins

Dear Love Wins: Young love is so powerful, intoxicating and exciting. While I can tell you and your boyfriend are eager to get engaged, I would be willing to bet you are seeking approval like this because, deep down, you know it's not the right thing to do. Anything in life you have to start "in secret" or "hide" should be a sign to you that it is not right.

If you two are meant to be together forever, like you say, there's no harm in waiting until you're older and really ready for this ultimate level of commitment.

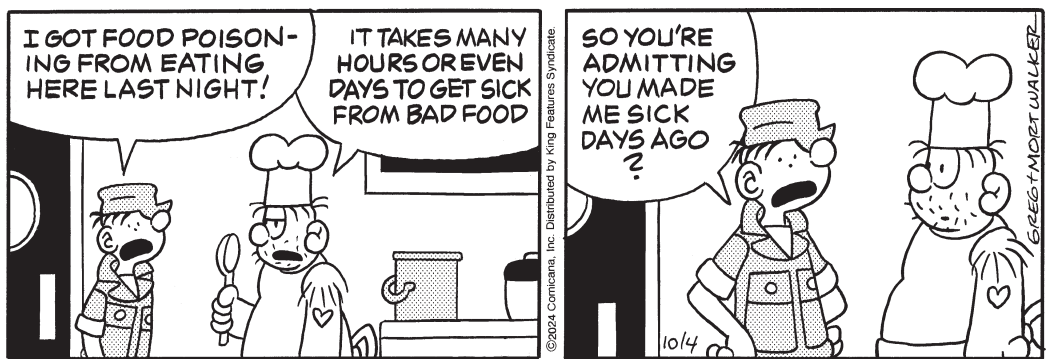
"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit http://www.creatorspublishing.com for more information. Send your questions for Annie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

© 2024 CREATORS.COM

Dear Annie by Annie Lane



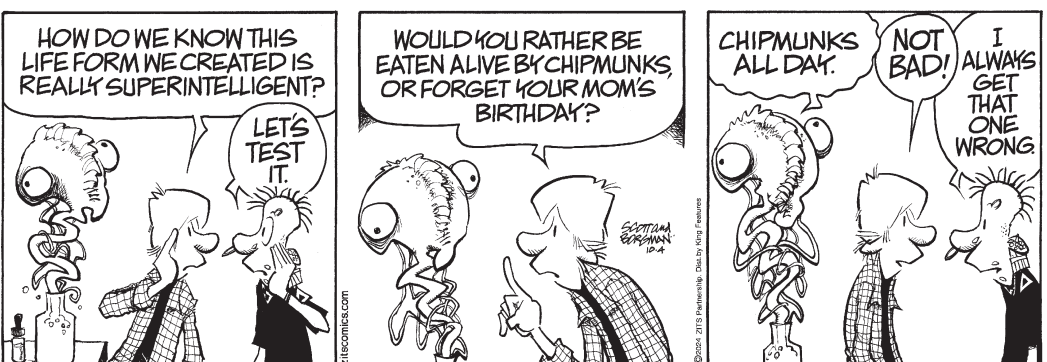
BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



ZITS



CRANKSHAFT



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



Anger is condemned by the sacred Scriptures

Question: Is anger inherited or learned? Didn't God show anger? — A.I.

Answer: Every human being is capable of demonstrating anger. Think of a tiny baby who exhibits fits of temper before they can even talk. A toddler can fly into a fit of anger and upset the entire household. Husbands and wives react out of anger before giving any thought to the issue that triggers such a response.

Anger breeds remorse in the heart, discord in the home, bitterness in the community, and confusion in the state. Homes are often destroyed by the swirling tornadoes of heated domestic anger. Business relations are

often shattered by fits of violent temper when reason gives way to venomous wrath. Friendships are often broken by the keen knife of indignation.

Anger is condemned by the sacred Scriptures. It murders, assaults and attacks — causing physical and mental harm. Anger makes us lash out at others, destroying relationships and revealing our true nature.

Jesus said, "Whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment" (Matthew 5:22, NKJV). "Without a cause" points to Ephesians 4:26: "Be angry, and do not sin" (NKJV). Righteous anger is directed at sinful behavior. The Bible teaches us how to handle anger without doing

harm. When anger leads to murder, gossip, etc., it is sinful indeed. This is why we are instructed to be quick to hear and slow to speak (see James 1:19).

We must not let anger control us, no matter what others do to cause it. We only become guilty of the same sin that afflicts them, and it solves nothing. God alone is perfect. Even His anger is righteous, because it is directed solely against evil. Don't let the acids of bitterness eat away inside. Look to Christ's example in all things.

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

©2024 Billy Graham Literary Trust. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



The LOCKHORNS



BUY IT SELL IT RENT IT FIND IT FILL IT GET IT DO IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS! Place Your Ad 24/7/365! www.news-banner.com

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes solution time: 25 mins. and Yesterday's answer 10-4.

TV schedule table with columns for time slots (10:04, 11 AM, 12:30, etc.) and rows for various channels (WJML, CBS, etc.) listing programs and their durations.

