2 Tigers qualify for XC state meet

Page 8

Trial begins today for suspect of Markle Murder

By SYDNEY KENT

The trial of murder suspect Anthony Castleman is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. today in the Huntington Circuit Court. It is anticipated to take five

Castleman, 38, is facing one count for first degree murder, as well as a habitual offender enhancement that could extend his sentence by up to 20

The charges were filed after police located the body of Castleman's grand-

mother, Bernice "Dianna" Eubank, 72, on a rural property in Markle where Castleman is alleged to have also lived.

According to a probable cause affidavit, Tiffanee Cole, Eubank's daughter and Castleman's mother, told police that she had last seen her mother on Friday, Nov. 10, 2023. When Cole visited the property to check on Eubank, she found the home in disarray. A cutup piece of an area rug was reportedly found in the driveway alongside Eubank's purse. A broken picture

frame and a family member's urn were located nearby.

Eubank's body was partially clothed, and hidden under pieces of lattice from the home's front entrance, as well as several scraps of carpet. The report details numerous stab wounds and an injury to Eubank's head.

Castleman's cousin, David Watson, told police Castleman visited him at his residence the day before Eubank's body was located. Watson advised that Castleman was driving his grandmother's vehicle, using her cell phone, and had requested bleach and Watson's assistance in "cleaning up a mess. An hour after arriving at Watson's house, Castleman reportedly made a call on Eubank's phone. He was then picked up by an unknown subject and disconnected the phone.

One week after a warrant was issued for his arrest, the HCSD offered a \$1,000 reward for information leading to his arrest. Billboards with a

(Continued on Page 2)



Anthony Castleman



4-H Spooktacular

4-H's Spooktacular event was held on Saturday. Various carnival games, hay rides, candy stations and a scary walk through the 4-H forest were available for kids to enjoy. Above, Kennedi, left, and Journey Russell both sit down at one of the candy stops. At right, Maylee Walker attempts to throw a foam football into plastic bins. Below, Shane, left, and Dewayne Little, ensure Lakelynn Little is ready for their hay ride. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)





State death row inmate Jospeh Corcoran files to reopen appeal window

Corcoran's legal team argued that his ongoing mental illness prevented him from signing the petition by the previous deadline

By CASEY SMITH **Indiana Capital Chronicle**

Legal counsel for an Indiana man on death row have petitioned for the Allen County Superior Court to throw out a two-decadeold ruling that struck the option for post-conviction relief.

Joseph Corcoran was convicted of murdering four people in Fort Wayne in 1997 and was sentenced to death in 1999.

It wasn't until earlier this summer, in June, that Indiana Attornev General Todd Rokita filed to schedule an execution date — after the state obtained pentobarbital, a lethal drug increasingly being used around the country to carry out death warrants. Corcoran's execution — scheduled for Dec. 18 would be the first in Indiana since

In the Thursday filing, Corcoran's Indiana public defender, Amy Karozos, maintained that her client "was and continues to be severely mentally ill."

In the early 2000s, when the time was still ripe for Corcoran to initiate post-conviction review, he refused to sign the post-conviction petition, Karozos said.

Given recent, favorable exceptions made by state supreme court iustices to allow tardy petitions along with an increasing tendency nationwide to exempt those with mental illness from the death penalty — the lawyer argued for her client's appeal window to be reopened.

'Corcoran has repeatedly refused to act in a competent manner which resulted in lost opportunities to save his life throughout this case and permit the State to assist in his suicide," Karozos wrote in the motion, adding later that the state should have had to litigate a post-conviction case years ago "had Corcoran's mental illness not severely interfered with his ability to sign his post-conviction petition in a timely manner."

"Any prejudice the State of Indiana may suffer is outweighed by the 'injustice' suffered by Corcoran," she continued.

Corcoran's attorneys seek second chance at petition

State attorneys originally offered Corcoran a life sentence if he would accept a plea or waive jury. He refused, prompting the state to file a request for the death penalty two days later, according to court records.

At sentencing, Corcoran stated that he wanted to waive all his appeals.

Indiana's Supreme Court originally set a Sept. 9, 2003, deadline for Corcoran to sign and file his post-conviction petition, which could have removed him from death row.

Generally, post-conviction relief allows a criminal defendant to directly challenge the legality of a portion of their criminal trial, the judgment of their conviction, or the sentence they have received. When that deadline day arrived,

however, lawyers instead filed a motion asking the court to assess Corcoran's competency based on his mental health history, a recent mental health exam, his department of correction records and observations made by his legal counsel.

Lawvers simultaneously submitted a post-conviction relief petition that lacked Corcoran's signature.

Shortly after, the trial court struck the petition because it was not signed or verified by Corcoran by the Indiana Supreme Court's deadline.

A post-conviction court held hearing in October 2003 to determine whether Corcoran was incompetent to waive his appeals. Corcoran's counsel presented three experts, including a board-certified (Continued on Page 2)

Satellite shows damage from Israeli attack at Iranian military bases

By JON GAMBRELL **Associated Press**

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — An Israeli attack on Iran damaged facilities at a secretive military base southeast of the Iranian capital that experts in the past have linked to Tehran's onetime nuclear weapons program and at

another base tied to its ballistic missile program, satellite photos analyzed Sunday by The Associated Press show.

Some of the buildings damaged sat in Iran's Parchin military base, where the International Atomic Energy Agency suspects Iran in the past conducted tests of high explosives that could trigger a nuclear weapon. Iran long has insisted its nuclear program is peaceful, though the IAEA, Western intelligence agencies and others say Tehran had an active weapons program up until 2003.

The other damage could be seen at the nearby Khojir military base, which analysts believe hides an underground tunnel system and missile production sites.

Iran's military has not acknowledged damage at either Khojir or Parchin from Israel's attack early Saturday, though it has said the assault killed four Iranian soldiers working in the country's air

defense systems. Iran announced Sunday a civilian also had been killed, but provided no details.

Iran's mission to the United Nations did not respond to a request for comment. The Israeli military declined to comment.

However, Iranian Supreme (Continued on Page 2)

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Sunny and cool today, warm weather tomorrow

Today	Tuesday	Wed.
High 67	High 81	High 80
Low 54	Low 61	Low 63
L0W 34	LOW 01	LOW 0

More Weather on Page 2

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Markle murder trial

photo of Castleman's face and charge were placed throughout the state.

He was located over one month later on Christmas day in Rochelle, Georgia. Castleman allegedly insisted that he was a different person altogether even after his arrest.

After several months of paper-

work between the Crisp County Jail, the Attorney General's Office and the Huntington County Sheriff's Department — Castleman returned to Indiana. During his initial hearing in February, he requested a fast trial. However, he later changed his mind following a meeting with his attorney and set his first trial date for April.

The trial was moved to late August before it was rescheduled for a third time. Huntington County Circuit and Superior Court judges recused themselves from the case due to unspecified conflicts of interest and Special Judge Samuel Conrad from Adams County was appointed.

sydney@news-banner.com

Death row inmate

(Continued from Page 1)

forensic psychiatrist, a clinical psychologist, and a neuropsychologist all testified that Corcoran was incompetent to waive his appeals, Karozos said. The judge also questioned Corcoran during those proceedings.

The post-conviction court ultimately found Corcoran was competent to waive post-conviction based on his testimony. Even so, Karozos noted that the post-conviction court still acknowledged that Corcoran "is mentally ill."

Another appeal followed in 2004, but a year later, the Supreme Court upheld the prior ruling that Corcoran was competent, and therefore, his incomplete petition for relief would not

But in February 2005, Corcoran submitted to the Indiana Supreme Court a post-conviction petition with his signature. The high court justices dismissed the petition as untimely,

Corcoran's lawyers are now leaning on an Indiana trial rule — Rule 60(B) - that would allow him to reinstate a petition for post-conviction relief following the dismissals.

That rule permits a trial court to relieve a defendant from a judgment for "any reason justifying relief from the operation of the judgment" that is not otherwise specifically mentioned in the rule.

To prevail, Corcoran and his legal team must demonstrate that:

- He brought his claim within a reasonable time in light of the circum-
- stances of the case • Extraordinary or exceptional cir-

cumstances justify that relief; and

• He has alleged a meritorious claim or defense.

Looking to other cases

Karozos argued in the newest filing that Corcoran is bringing his claim to the court within a reasonable time "in light of the circumstances."

The legal landscape in Indiana has changed since 2003 when Corcoran's unsigned petition was struck, and his signed petition was dismissed," the lawyer said.

She referenced, for example, a 2021 ruling by the Indiana Supreme Court that permitted a defendant facing execution to proceed with a post-conviction filing even though he refused to verify his petition by the deadline.

In that case, Isom v. State, public defenders submitted a petition for post-conviction relief on behalf of the defendant, Kevin Isom, without his signature. Isom, of Gary, was previously convicted and sentenced to death for the murders of his wife and her two

The post-conviction court, acknowledging the omission, issued an order giving Isom additional time to file the missing verification page. Isom still refused to sign the petition, concluding that his attorneys "were not up to the task of representing him," according to court documents.

Isom's refusal to sign meant he would forfeit his post-conviction challenge.

Still, after hearing oral argument, Indiana's Supreme Court justices ordered the trial court to accept Isom's petition anyway. The court eventu-

ally upheld Isom's sentence, and he remains one of eight men on death row in Indiana.

"Corcoran should be treated the same as Isom given the change in how the Indiana Supreme Court has dealt with capital defendants who do not comply with the post-conviction rules in the time prescribed by the Court's Order," Karozos said, emphasizing that Corcoran has brought his motion "within a reasonable amount of time, given the 2021 opinion in Isom which changed the legal landscape."

Corcoran's lawyers additionally pointed to a move by the Marion County prosecutor in January 2024 to withdraw a death penalty request for a defendant, Elliahs Dorsey, who killed Indianapolis police officer Breann

"Equally as important is the fact that a regional consensus has emerged against executing the severely mentally ill has occurred in the past few years, Karozos continued. "Every other contiguous death penalty state in this area of the Midwest has banned the death penalty for the seriously mentally ill."

Corcoran's lawyers repeatedly insisted he is "gravely mentally ill" and has been diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia, which they argued should further disqualify the inmate from capital punishment.

Larry Komp, lead federal attorney for Corcoran's legal team, previously told the Indiana Capital Chronicle that a similar argument would be made in a separate clemency petition. A decision regarding the last-ditch plea will be left to Indiana's governor.

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 67. South

feet at 8:45 p.m. Sunday

wind 5 to 10 mph.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 54. South wind 5 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 81. Southwest wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Weather

Monday, October 28, 2024

(24-hour observations at 9:54 p.m. Sunday from Fort

Wayne International Airport)

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.02

Wells County forecast

High: 59; **Low:** 35; **Precipitation:** None

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 61. South wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 80. Breezy.

Wednesday Night: A 50% chance of showers after 2 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a

low around 63. Thursday: Showers, mainly between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. High near 66. Chance of

precipitation is 90%. Thursday Night: A 30% chance of showers, mainly

with a low around 42. Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 58.

before 8 p.m. Partly cloudy,

Friday Night: A 20%

chance of showers. Mostly clear, with a low around 38.

Saturday: A 30% chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 65.

Saturday Night: A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 49.

Sunday: Showers likely. Mostly cloudy, with a high near

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Israeli attack on Iranian bases

(Continued from Page 1)

Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Sunday told an audience that the Israeli attack "should not be exaggerated nor downplayed," while stopping short of calling for an immediate retaliatory strike. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu separately said Sunday that Israel's strikes "severely harmed" Iran and that the barrage "achieved all its goals."

Damage spread across three Iranian provinces

It remains unclear how many sites in total were targeted in the Israeli attack. There have been no images of damage so far released by

Iran's military. Iranian officials have identified affected areas as being in Ilam, Khuzestan and Tehran provinces. Burned fields could be seen in satellite images from Planet Labs PBC around

Iran's Tange Bijar natural gas production site in Ilam province on Saturday, though it wasn't immediately clear if it was related to the attack. Ilam province sits on the Iran-Iraq border in western Iran.

The most telling damage could be seen in Planet Labs images of Parchin, some 25 miles southeast of downtown Tehran near the Mamalu Dam. There, one structure appeared to be totally destroyed while others looked damaged in the attack.

At Khojir, some 12 miles away from downtown Tehran, damage could be seen on at least two structures in satellite images.

Analysts including Decker Eveleth at the Virginiabased think tank CNA, Joe Truzman at the Washington-based Foundation for Defense of Democracies

and former United Nations weapon inspector David Albright, as well as other open-source experts, first identified the damage to the bases. The locations of the two bases correspond to videos obtained by the AP showing Iranian air defense systems firing in the vicinity early Saturday.

Base linked to Iran's onetime nuclear weapons program

At Parchin, Albright's Institute for Science and International Security identified the destroyed building against a mountainside as "Taleghan 2." It said an archive of Iranian nuclear data earlier seized by Israel identified the building as housing "a smaller, elongated high explosive chamber and a flash X-ray system to examine small-scale high explosive tests."

'Such tests may have

included high explosives compressing a core of natural uranium, simulating the initiation of a nuclear explosive," a 2018 report by the institute says.

In a message posted to the social platform X early Sunday, the institute added: "It is not certain whether Iran used uranium at 'Taleghan 2,' but it is possible it studied the compression of natural uranium hemispheres, which would explain its hasty and secrelowing the IAEA's request to access Parchin in 2011."

It's unclear what, if any, equipment would have been inside of the "Taleghan 2" building early Saturday. There were no Israeli strikes on Iran's oil industry, nor its nuclear enrichment sites or its nuclear power plant at Bushehr during the assault.

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Daylight saving time ends this weekend; This is how to prepare for potential health effects

By The Associated Press

The good news: You will get a glorious extra hour of sleep. The bad: It'll be dark as a pocket by late afternoon for the next few months in the U.S.

Daylight saving time ends at 2 a.m. local time next Sunday, Nov. 3, which means you should set your clock back an hour before you go to bed. Standard time will last until March 9 when we will again "spring forward" with the return of daylight saving time.

That spring time change can be tougher on your body. Darker mornings and lighter evenings can knock your internal body clock out of whack, making it harder to fall asleep on time for weeks or longer. Studies have even found an uptick in heart attacks and strokes right after the March time

"Fall back" should be easier. But it still may take a while to adjust your sleep habits, not to mention the downsides of leaving work in the dark or trying exercise while there's still enough light. Some people with seasonal affective disorder, a type of

depression usually linked to the shorter days and less sunlight of fall and winter, may struggle, too.

Some health groups, including the American Medical Association and American Academy of Sleep Medicine, have said it's time to do away with time switches and that sticking with standard time aligns better with the sun — and human biology.

Here's what to know about the twice yearly ritual.

How the body reacts to light

The brain has a master clock that is set by exposure to sunlight and darkness. This circadian rhythm is a roughly 24-hour cycle that determines when we become sleepy and when we're more alert. The patterns change with age, one reason that early-to-rise youngsters evolve into hard-to-wake teens.

Morning light resets the rhythm. By evening, levels of a hormone called melatonin begin to surge, triggering drowsiness. Too much light in the evening — that extra hour from daylight saving time - delays that surge and the cycle gets out of sync.

And that circadian clock affects more than sleep, also influencing things like heart rate, blood pressure, stress hormones and metabolism.

How do time changes affect sleep?

Even an hour change on the clock can throw off sleep schedules because even though the clocks change, work and school start times stay the same.

That's a problem because so many people are already sleep deprived. About 1 in 3 U.S. adults sleep less than the recommended seven-plus hours nightly, and more than half of U.S. teens don't get the recommended eight-plus hours on weeknights.

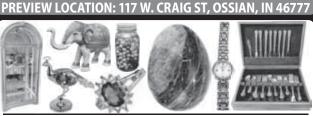
Sleep deprivation is linked to heart disease, cognitive decline, obesity and numerous other problems.

How to prepare for the time change

Some people try to prepare for a time change jolt by changing their bed times little by little in the days before the change. There are ways to ease the adjustment, including getting more sunshine to help reset your circadian rhythm for healthful sleep.



SUN, NOV 3RD - SUN, NOV 10TH



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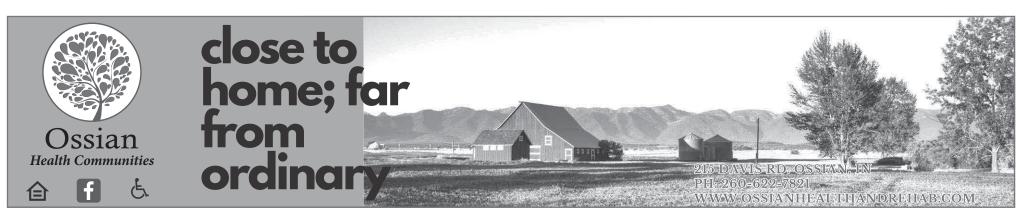
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OBITUARIES

Richard L. Bumgarner, 94

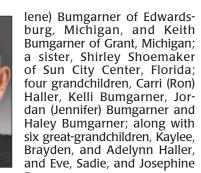
Richard "Dick" L. Bumgarner, 94, of Bluffton, passed away Friday morning, Oct. 25, 2024, at Parkview Randallia Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Richard was born in Huntington on Nov. 25, 1929, to Joseph and Marie (Dunn) Bumgarner. He married Marylou Johnson in Bluffton on Aug. 12, 1951. She preceded him in death on March 23, 2018.

A 1947 graduate of Union High School in Wells County, Richard retired from Franklin Electric in Bluffton after over 34 years of service. He was also a lifelong farmer in Wells County and also operated Bumgarner Greenhouse in Bluffton, alongside his wife, from 1968 until 2017.

Richard was a past member of the International Order of Oddfellows and served as a local Boy Scouts leader for a few years. He was an avid bowler and was a member of the Bluffton Bowling Association Hall of Fame, where he also served as secretary for many leagues. He and Marylou loved to travel together, especially to Minnesota on fishing trips. They both also enjoyed taking care of the downtown Bluffton flowerpots for many

Survivors include three sons, Steve (Jill) Bumgarner of Fort Wayne, Michael (Shar-



Bumgarner. In addition to his parents and wife, Richard was preceded in death by a brother, Leo Bumgarner; a daughter-inlaw, Karen Bumgarner; a granddaughter, Kate Bumgarner; and his stepfather, Paul

Visitation will be Friday, Nov. 1, 2024, from 2:00 until 7:00 p.m., at Goodwin Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton. A funeral service will be held on Saturday, Nov., 2, at 10:30 a.m., at the funeral home, with one hour of visitation prior to the service. Chaplain Gerald Moreland will officiate. Burial will follow at Mossburg Cemetery of rural

Memorial contributions may be made to Friends Who Care Cancer Relief Foundation or the Wells County Friends of the

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

Eileen Helen Cook, 84

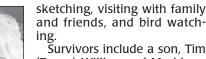
Eileen Helen Cook, 84, of Bluffton, passed away Sunday morning, Oct. 27, 2024, at Markle Health & Rehabilitation

Eileen was born in Adams County on Oct. 20, 1940, to Joseph and Anna (Isch) Steffen. She married Kenneth L. Cook in Warren on Jan. 3, 1994. He preceded her in death on Jan.

Eileen graduated from Bluffton High School in 1958 and

for 17 years she was employed at The Dutch Mill restaurant; her pies and rolls were divine. She later worked at Peyton's Northern in Bluffton for another 10 years. Eileen attended the Bluffton North Apostolic Christian Church.

Eileen was also a very talented artist and drew her inspiration from nature. She particularly enjoyed painting barns that dot the Indiana landscape. She also enjoyed reading, singing hymns,



Survivors include a son. Tim (Dawn) Williams of Markle; a daughter, Sheri (Don) Smith of Columbia City; a sister, Ellen Geisel of Bluffton; a grandson, Ryan (Miranda) Smith; along with three great-grandchil-

In addition to her parents and husband, Eileen was preceded in death by a sister, Dorothy

Terhune; and a granddaughter, Caitlin Wil-

Private burial will be held at the Apostolic Christian Cemetery in Adams County. Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the organization of donor's choice.

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

Fern Elizabeth Leman, 80

Fern Elizabeth Leman, 80, of Bluffton, passed away Friday afternoon, Oct. 25, 2024, at Christian Care Retirement Community.

Fern was born in Roanoke, Illinois, on Sept. 5, 1944, to Joseph D. and Dena V. (Fehr) Leman. Both parents preceded her in death.

Fern was a 1962 graduate of Roanoke-Benson High School in Roanoke, Illinois, and later

moved to Bluffton in her twenties, where tion from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m., prior to the secretary for 23 years. She was a member of the Apostolic Christian Church and loved praising the Lord by playing the piano and singing hymns.

Survivors include a brother, Marvin (Jane) Leman of Princeville, Illinois; a sister, Karen Leman of Fairbury, Illinois;

along with 12 nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, Fern was

Konnie S. Hyde, 60

Konnie S. Hyde, 60, of Bluffton, passed away Saturday evening, Oct. 26, 2024, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

preceded in death by a brother, . Wallace Leman; a sister-in-law, Marilyn Leman; and nephew, Matthew Leman. Visitation will be on Thurs-

day, Oct. 31, 2024, from 2:00 until 7:00 p.m., at Goodwin – Cale & Ĥarnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton. A funeral service will be held on Friday, Nov. 1, at 9:30 a.m., at the Bluffton North Apostolic Christian Church, with visita-

she worked for S.S. Kresge Company as a service. Jeff Leman and Ryan Bertsch will officiate. A graveside service will follow on Friday, Nov. 1, at 3:00 p.m. CST, at the Apostolic Christian Cemetery in Roanoke, Illinois, officiated by Tom Hoff-

> Memorial contributions may be made to Christian Care Retirement Community. Online condolences may be shared at www.goodwincaleharnish.com.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton.

Pulled Pork with or

without BBQ sauce Sloppy Joe

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.



A down-ballot candidate from the right throws a wrench into the Indiana governor's race

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Republican U.S. Sen. Mike Braun's bid to become governor of Indiana seemed fairly straightforward until he got the running mate he didn't want: a pastor and selfproclaimed Christian nationalist who finessed his way onto next month's ballot.

Micah Beckwith, a podcaster from the Indianapolis suburb of Noblesville, where he leads Life Church, secured enough delegate support to upend the lieutenant governor nomination process at this year's state GOP convention and become Braun's running mate. His brand of conservatism has complicated the race by forcing Braun to discuss Beckwith's views.

Friction between the running mates and a series of negative ads have given an unexpected boost to Democratic nominees Jennifer McCormick and Terry Goodin, the overwhelming underdogs in a state that hasn't elected a Democrat to statewide office since 2012. The dynamics on the Republican ticket plus strong campaigns from the Democrats have caused forecasters to hedge on their certainty that both seats will stay Republican.

"The race is more competitive relative to expectations," said Greg Shufeldt, a University of Indianapolis political science professor.

Usually, gubernatorial candidates select who they want as running mates and count on party delegates to usher their choices in during party conventions. But Beckwith started courting delegates over a year in advance and pulled a major upset at the GOP convention in June. Delegates blessed his nomination and rejected Julie McGuire, a freshman state representative chosen by Braun, even after Braun helped her secure Donald Trump's endorsement.

Beckwith, who did not respond to multiple requests for comment, has used his social media platform to air views that have stirred up trouble. In addition to declaring that God sent the people who rioted at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, he was criticized last month for saying his Democratic opponents have a "Jezebel spirit."

Braun has spent recent weeks fielding the fallout.

At a debate earlier this month between McCormick and Braun, she pressed Braun to apologize for the "Jezebel spirit" comment from his running mate.

"I don't like that," Braun replied. "You don't see that out of me, and he's been pretty good at avoiding that."

Earlier this month, Beckwith was seen on video at a local Republican Party meeting saying he would fire any employee in his office or the agencies he oversees who lists their pronouns in emails. The story was first reported by the Advocate, an LGBTQ+ publication, and the video was uploaded by The Bloomingtonian.

"If you think that men can be women and women can be men and there's pronouns needed when we're talking to one another, you don't understand the basics of even reality," Beckwith said.

Braun denounced the statement, saying he would hire and fire employees based "solely on their merit and commitment to delivering efficient, effective state government to make life better and more affordable for Hoosiers, period."

The lieutenant governor is first in the line of succession under Indiana law. Lieutenant governors oversee four state agencies but have no real legislative power. Those limits haven't stopped Beckwith from wading into topics he likely wouldn't encounter on the job.

Mike Murphy, a former Republican state lawmaker and political commentator, said Beckwith represents the socially conservative side of the party.

"I'd say that Micah Beckwith is a product and a symbol of a lot of unrest in the Indiana Republican Party," Murphy said. Braun, who led an auto

parts distribution company and has run campaigns aligned with Trump, may be able to unite business-oriented Republicans and the social conservatives, Murphy said.

In an interview, Braun said all campaigns have their ups and downs. He believes voter turnout for Trump will have a positive impact down the ballot.

'When I ran for Senate six years ago - we're in better shape now than we were then," he said.

Braun, a one-term senator, has represented Indiana in Congress since 2018. His campaign has focused on high healthcare costs and property taxes, as well as criticizing the federal government on southern border policy.

Braun handily won a five-way gubernatorial primary in May with nearly 40% of the votes.

But that means 60% of the state's primary voters didn't back him. McCormick and Libertarian Donald Rainwater are looking to peel away some of those Republican voters.

McCormick has cited Beckwith's views in labeling the GOP ticket as extremist. She's built her appeal to moderate voters around the restoration of abortion rights in a state that enacted a near total ban in 2022.

The candidates themselves reflect some recent shifts in Indiana politics. Braun voted as a Democrat until 2012; McCormick switched parties in 2021 after breaking with Republicans over education policy when she was state school superintendent. A new ad released Monday depicts a Republican man vowing to support her.

"We've got great momentum, and that momentum is really Republicans and Democrats and independents," McCormick said in an interview.

Indiana does not allow for citizen-led ballot initiatives like those in other red-leaning states that have abortion on the ballot this year. Even if McCormick defies the odds, Republicans hold a supermajority in both chambers of the legislature, and reversing the state's ban would be difficult if not impossible.

But the response from the Braun campaign shows he isn't assuming he'll win. Earlier this month, Braun aired an ad attacking McCormick as a liberal, tying her to Hillary Clinton and President Joe Biden. The ad drew attention both for its negativity in a race that was supposed to be easy for Braun and for its use of a doctored image.

The ad claims McCormick supported banning gas stoves, an idea that became a culture war flashpoint in 2023. It featured an image that had been manipulated to depict people standing behind McCormick holding signs that said "no gas stoves." It was a digitally altered version of a photograph taken by a South Bend Tribune journalist in

Indiana lawmakers passed a law this year banning the use of artificial intelligence in election materials without a disclaimer. Braun's campaign said the ad was mistakenly given to TV stations.

Rainwater, the Libertarian candidate who is running again, has concerned the state Republican Party enough that they sent a mailer out criticizing him, according to the Indiana Capitol Chronicle. He won 11.4% of votes when he ran for governor in 2020 after pandemic lockdowns riled up Indiana voters. A similar turnout for him could siphon votes away from Braun.

"I think people are very dissatisfied with the status quo from both federal and state and really local government as well," Rainwater said in an interview.

Braun has trumped McCormick in advertising overall, spending more than \$13 million this year on ads, which includes the time period of the GOP primary, according to data from AdImpact, which tracks campaign spending. He's spent more than three times what McCormick has on advertising.

According to campaign finance reports, Braun raised almost \$4.87 million from July through September. McCormick lagged but has made gains since earlier in the year, raising over \$2 million in the same period.

McCormick received \$1.65 million from the Democratic Governor's Association in October, according to campaign finance reports. That's the first significant investment in an Indiana governor's race since 2016, when Mike Pence stepped down to run for vice president.





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Old civics textbook yields timely reflections

Much to my husband's chagrin, while seated in a cozy Ohio restaurant during our adult version of fall break last week, I perused a textbook -Elementary Community Civics — that was on a shelf next to our table.

I was fascinated by the book. It was originally published in the 1920s, but the edition I was looking at was from the early 1930s.

The different chapters and themes felt especially relevant with our current and very volatile election season.

The book starts with this preface (and yes, I took photos while at the table): "It is generally agreed today that the



Kelly

Hoosier **Opinions**

main reason for the existence of schools is to help our pupils to become good citizens. Our schools teach the three R's because everybody needs those tools in order to act intelligently in his relations with his fellow man. It is no less important for the pupil to learn that his life must be lived in close association with his fellow men, and to profit by the experience of human beings in regard to these relations."

That alone shows a stark difference. The world today seems to be more about the individual than the collective, and schools have taken on the role of preparing students to enter the workforce.

Some of the chapters include the elements of welfare, trade, travel, wealth, caring for the unfortunate, promot-

ing right living and supporting the government. In the latter, it discusses what a good tax is as well as traitors and loyalty.

From much of today's rhetoric, it would seem no tax is a good tax.

One chapter focused on providing recreation. In today's lingo it would likely be phrased as how to have a work-life bal-

"To have a good time

means, in the long run, work and pleasure combined. We may not think that work is a pleasure, but we should become very tired of a life that is one long vacation, with nothing to do but amuse ourselves. When we have work to do, we appreciate our pleasure more. And when we do amuse ourselves, it will be well if some of the time we try to have amusement that has benefit in it as well as mere pleasure."

Time has changed the views on other kinds of recreation, such as gambling.

"There are some amusements which are distinctly harmful. Gambling in any form is certainly detrimental. Besides risking money, it puts all kinds of games and sports, and even political affairs, in a bad light. All sorts of bribery and evil influences have resulted from gambling and betting," the book said.

That puts in perspective a recent scandal in which a lawmaker took a bribe and helped a casino move.

Other timely chapters spoke highly about government's role in health and the importance of the cooperation of every citizen.

"Good citizens must work with their government to establish such conditions that all will have the highest possible measure of health," it said. "A person who keeps his own property clean may be unable to breathe pure air because his neighbor's back yard is filthy." This section begs comparison to the pandemic and general resistance to vaccinations.

My husband and I chatted over dinner about whether kids are even learning these important lessons today. And the answer is ... hopefully!

Lawmakers in 2021 mandated one semester of civics education for students. The Indiana Department of Education created new academic standards for a class that students will take during the second semester of sixth grade. The new standards focus on instructing students on the foundations of government, functions of government and the role of citizens.

Those standards were crafted with the assistance of the Indiana Civic Education Commission and public input. To learn more about the effort, the Indiana Bar Foundation has put together civics resources here: <www.inbarfoundation.org/sixth-grade-civics>

Regardless, whether it's 1934 or 2024, I think the takeaway is clear: We can all do better as citizens and we can all do better by one another.

Niki Kelly is the editor of the Indiana Capital Chronicle, a nonprofit newsroom. nkelly@indianacapitalchronicle.com

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Oct. 28, the 302nd day of 2024. There are 64 days left in the

Today in history: On Oct. 28, 1886, the Statue of Liberty, a gift from the people of France, was dedicated in New York Harbor by President Grover Cleveland.

Also on this date: In 1636, the General Court of Massachusetts

passed a legislative act establishing Harvard College. In 1858, Rowland Hussey Macy opened his first New York store at Sixth Avenue and 14th Street in Manhattan.

In 1919, Congress enacted the Volstead Act, which provided for enforcement of Prohibition, over President Woodrow Wilson's veto.

In 1922, fascism came to Italy as Benito Mussolini took control of the govern-

In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt rededicated the Statue of Liberty on its 50th anniversary.

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







The Indiana governor's race appears to be a barn-burner

INDIANAPOLIS — In this era of gerrymandered congressional and Indiana General Assembly districts that have resulted in supermajority Republican rule, it's easy to forget how competitive our races for governor

Hoosiers have voted four times in open seat races for governor in the past 28 years. After Democratic Lt. Gov. Frank O'Bannon upset Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith in 1996, come-from-behind campaigns by Mitch Daniels in 2004 and Lt. Gov. Eric Holcomb in 2016 helped forge a 20-year GOP **Politicking** dynasty.

All were close races and in three of them, the eventual winner came from behind. In that

fourth race in 2012, U.S. Rep. Mike Pence barely held on to defeat a surging Democrat John Gregg after comments on rape and abortion in the adjacent U.S. Senate

On Nov. 5, Hoosier voters will choose our next governor between Republican U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, Democrat Jennifer McCormick, and Libertarian Donald Rainwater. This open seat race was long thought to be in Braun's bag, but there are tell-tale signs that it has significantly tightened.

Both the Democratic Governors Association and its Republican counterpart have been pumping money into this race. The DGA contributed \$450,000 earlier this month, followed by \$750,000 from the RGA to Braun by Oct. 10, and another \$500,000 to the Republican this past week. The DGA responded with \$450,000 last week and is spending \$22,000 for a new poll.

While Braun has out-raised McCormick \$12 million to \$2 million for the cycle, he had to spend the lion's share of that money to win the six-way GOP primary in May with 40% of the vote. In TV and digital media purchases, Braun outspent McCormick \$985,813 to \$747,689 during the third quarter, giving him just a \$238,000 advantage there.

Many observers believed Braun would have had a much bigger edge in media spending. One of his ads, accusing McCormick of being a "liberal" who voted for Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden in recent cycles, had to be remade twice due to the AI altered placards it showed McCormick supporters holding.

Braun told me on Oct. 10 that the switch at the top of the Democratic ticket with vice President Kamaia Harris replacing President Joe Biden changed the race. "That's been the biggest structural issue," Sen. Braun said. "It has levitated Democrats into their fuller poten-

Sen. Braun called Harris a "chameleon" who will be "easy to flesh out" and suggested McCormick is of the same cloth. "This one looked like it could have been easier until that shifted for them," he said of the Harrisfor-Biden switch.

Then last week, the Indiana GOP put out a mailer attacking Rainwater as a "deadbeat dad" based on a 30-year-old divorce filing. It's the first time that a Republican nominee has attacked a Libertarian.

Facing a potential surge of female voters, Braun appears to be searching for Libertarian votes. "I find it very hypocritical that the Indiana Republican State Committee would attack me on my personal history when they complain about how their candidates are treated by the media," Rainwater said, adding that the GOP is running "a failing campaign." Brian

What scenario could produce a McCormick upset? Howey

1. She needs a distinct increase in younger, suburban female voters. Asked last May if her nomination would essentially become a referendum on abortion rights, McCormick told me, "That's exactly what this race will be. There's a

clear difference.'

2. The Kamala Harris "movement" has ginned up Democratic voter enthusiasm in key battleground states. If that dynamic continues and spreads to Indiana, McCormick will need to tap into that national move-

3. McCormick needs to attract the "Glenda Ritz coalition" that was used to upset Superintendent Tony Bennett in 2012. Outspent more than 10 to 1, Democrat Ritz used a social media strategy to ignite voters who were teachers (along with their spouses and extended families), teacher retirees, and the extended education establishment. Ritz upset Bennett 52% to 48%, or by about 142,000 votes.

4. There were 128,000 Hoosier Republican primary voters (21.7%) who voted for Nikki Haley over Donald Trump in Indiana's May presidential primary. If the McCormick campaign can reach out to them and gain their support, that could build upon the "Ritz coalition."

5. And there is the nomination of self-described "Christian nationalist" Micah Beckwith to the Braun ticket that McCormick will attempt to exploit. Beckwith referred to McCormick as a "Jezebel spirit" and has threatened to fire state employees who use pronouns, something that Braun has rejected.

In a Zoom interview on Oct. 15, McCormick told me, "You look at the holistic picture of things, and I think you pretty much laid it out. I would just add you've got the whole Republican dynamic that isn't thrilled with the option of Mike Braun."

As for Beckwith, McCormick said, "We do hear a lot of Republicans who think he's dangerous, who think he's just ridiculous and too extreme. Statements about firing every state employee who uses a pronoun and his comments about white Christian nationalists and Nazis and book banning. The list goes on."

Indiana Republican Chairman Randy Head told the Pike Township Republicans this past week that 20 years of dynastic rule can breed "complacency."

With a lack of independent polling, we're reading tea leaves here, watching the national money pour in while the GOP attacks the Libertarian. That suggests we have a barn-burner at hand.

Howey is a senior reporter and columnist for State Affairs/Howey Politics Indiana. Find him on X @hwypol.

How Iran steals its citizens' wealth to finance terror

The Fraser Institute in Vancouver, Canada, just published, for 2024, its annual Economic Freedom of the World Report.

There are many ideas about what freedom means. Economic freedom, which the Fraser Institute focuses on, is of key and central importance. It is about the extent to which individuals have control of their economic life.

It's about law that protects private property, having an honest court system that adjudicates disputes, that government power to interfere with and regulate enterprise is prudent and limited, that individuals and enterprises have freedom to do business not just at home but internationally, and that governments do not debase their national currency.

The Fraser Institute gathers data from various international institutions and measures these various factors that define economic freedom and compiles an index of economic freedom in 165 countries around the

The correlation between economic freedom in a country, and the economic success and prosperity of that country, is powerful.

The average per capita income in the top 25% of countries in economic freedom is almost eight times higher than in the lowest 25%.

Singapore, until recently the most economically free country in the



world, has average per capita income, per the International Monetary Fund, of \$88,450.

The United States, the fifth most economically free country in the world, has average per capita income of \$85,370.

This data also sheds important and revealing light on the current hostilities taking place in the world, par-**Parker** ticularly in the Middle East. Israel ranks number 41

out of the 165 countries in the Fraser economic freedom ranking, which puts it in the top quartile. Israel, per the IMF, has average per capita income of \$53,370.

Iran has the third largest holding of oil reserves in the world, exceeded only by Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. Iran has oil reserves 2.6 times greater than those of Russia and 4.5 times greater than those of the United States.

Yet Iran's per capita income is \$5,310, only 10% that of Israel.

Why? Out of the 165 countries that the Fraser Institute ranks in economic freedom, Iran stands at 158. There is virtually no economic freedom in Iran.

Look at some of the components of the lack of economic freedom in Iran: Its legal system is ranked 143 out of 165 in the world; its management of its national currency ranks 135 out of 165; and government regulation ranks 157 out of 165.

The bottom line is that Iran's per

capita income is 10% that of Israel's because the Iranian regime simply steals the wealth of its citizens both the natural wealth of its bountiful oil reserves and the wealth that comes from the creativity of a free people — to finance its treacherous ideology of murder and terror.

Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, recently killed in Gaza, had reported wealth of \$3 billion. Did this come from some creative high-tech startup? Of course not. This is stolen wealth, much of it coming from Iran, financed on the backs of Iranian citi-

In the video released by Israel showing Sinwar moving with his family into a tunnel in Gaza prior to the Oct. 7 attack on Israel, his wife is seen carrying a \$32,000 Hermes Birkin handbag.

Compared to the vast natural wealth of Iran, Israel's wealth and prosperity comes almost entirely from the creativity and entrepreneurship from a population given vastly more economic freedom than Iranian citizens are granted.

If the average Iranian citizen was asked if they are happy losing tens of thousands of dollars in annual income so their government can finance death and terror, what do you think they would say?

How can it be that so much of the allegedly civilized world is so deeply confused, that good and evil are so profoundly obfuscated, that so many refuse to see what is going on?

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50th Wedding Anniversary



Gale and Sheila Lahr

Gale Lahr and Sheila (Wagner) Lahr, of Bluffton, celebrated their 50th anniversary on October 20, 2024. The two were married in the United Methodist Church in North Manchester in 1974.

The occasion was marked by friends and family, including their children (Angela Lahr and Mark Wintz of Pennsylvania; Erin Lahr of Terre Haute; Anthony Lahr and Nicole Gaier Lahr of Poneto; and Andrew and Rion Benner Lahr of Zionsville) and their grandchildren (Cierra Kay Evans of Indianapolis; Katelyn, Ella, and Drew Lahr of Poneto; and Abriella, Reid, Eliza, and Gwendolyn



Lions gift restroom locks to Lions Park

Members of the Bluffton Lions Club recently donated funds to the Bluffton Parks Department to replace restroom locks at Lions Park. Presenting the check for the locks, beside a restroom door at Lions Park to Park Superintendent Brandy Fiechter, at left, was PCC/PDG Lion Jerry Zeigler. (Photo provided)

Locks at park restrooms now secured

A call by Bluffton Park Department's Superintendent Brandy Fiechter to Lion Lin Harrold of Lin's Lock & Key in Bluffton to install locks on the restroom doors at Lancaster Park has led to the Lions Club donating new locks to the restroom doors at Lions Park.

The old locks were con-

stantly in need of attention as they locked people out and often Fiechter would have to make weekend trips to unlock the doors. The new locks also will indicate if the restroom is in use.

The local Lions Club picked up the bill for the new locks and installation at

Senior dinner to salute veterans

A Senior Citizen's Dinner will be hosted by the New Hope Lutheran Church in Ossian on Thursday, Nov. 7, at 11:30 a.m.

Theme for the day will be a "Salute to Our Veterans" with the program to be presented by Arlene Stoller.

Attendance prizes will be

A free will offering will defray the costs. For reservations please call or text 260-415-1462 or 250-223-4830.

The church is located at 8824 N State Road 1,

Auditions for 'Joseph' by CAC Theater

Auditions will be held for the Creative Arts Theater production of "Joseph and the Tecnicolor Dreamcoat: on Friday, Nov. 15, 6-9 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 16, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Creative Art site at 428 S. Oak St. in Bluffton.

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Director Ralph Tuttle will be needing a large cast for the musical, which not speaking parts. Those auditioning should be prepared to sing a short selection. For more information call 260-824-

Events at the Creative Arts Council of Wells County

428 S. Oak Street in Bluffton 260-824-5222

www.wellscocreativearts.com creativeartscouncil@gmail.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/ wellscocreativearts

Creative Arts office hours — Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday (by appointment only).

Instagram: @creativeartscouncil

Creative Arts Dance Academy -*New 6 week class

• "Foundations in Dance" beginning Nov. 2

Ages: Students 5-8 years old Day/Time: Saturdays from 10:00-

Dates: 11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/23, 12/7, 12/14 (no class 11/30 due to Thanksgiving)

Tuition: \$40 for the 6 week session To register: https://www.wellscocreativearts.com/foundations-indance or call the office at (260) 824-

• Excerpts from "The Nutcracker" Creative Arts Youth Dance Company proudly present excerpts from The Nutcracker"

Performances (2): Dec. 6 at 7:00 p.m. Dec. 7 at 3:00 p.m.

Creative Arts Theater

Creative Arts 24/25 Theater season has been announced:

• "The BEST Christmas Pageant Ever" – Dec. 12-14

• "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" - March 6-8,

• Disney Newsies JR – June 13-14, 2025

• Disney Artistocats Kids – June 27-28, 2025

Admission: \$15.00 per person sold through ArtsTix – (260) 422-4226 Auditorium: 428 S Oak Street in Bluffton

Auditions for "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" Friday, Nov. 15 from 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16 from 9 a.m.-12

Callbacks, if needed, will be Tues- ArtsTix at https://tickets.artstix.

• Where: Lounge and Cafeteria at Creative Arts Council at 428 S Oak St. in Bluffton.

Please enter through entrance 10 (the Creative Arts entrance) and follow the signs to the audition area.

• Who: There will be an adult chorus as well as a children's choir as part of the production. Anyone age 8 years old and up can audition for the

• What to prepare: As there is no actual dialog in this musical, there will be no reading done during the audition. Please prepare a short song for the audition that highlights your vocal range and personality. A CD/ MP3 player will be provided. However, no accompanist will be provided. Please plan on providing your own accompaniment (CD/MP3, etc.) or even an unaccompanied solo. Also, if interested, please be prepared to learn a short group choreography segment to give an idea of your abilities in that area which will also be reviewed. The brothers and wives (along with some of the leads) will be performing choreography during the show.

• Registration: Please register prior to attending auditions on our website at: https://www.wellscocreativearts. com/other-yearly-productions

"The BEST Christmas Pageant **Ever"** presented by Creative Arts **Theater**

In this hilarious Christmas classic, a couple struggling to put on a church Christmas pageant is faced with casting the Herdman kids- probably the most inventively awful kids in history. You won't believe the mayhemand the fun- when the Herdmans collide head-on with the story of Christmas! A great show for all ages! Run time – 1 hour 15 minutes Performances: (4)

Thursday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 14 at 3 p.m. and 7 Tickets (\$15) on sale through org/TheatreManager/1/tmEvent/ tmEvent4203.html or by calling (260) 422-4226, Monday - Friday from 12-6 p.m. or

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Creative Arts School of Music

 Voice Lessons with Lynne Niermeyer, Tuesday afternoon/evenings, \$30/half hour lesson

• Guitar Lessons with Mike Needler, Tuesday afternoon/evenings, \$35/half hour lessons

For more information regarding the music lessons above, please call the office at (260) 824-5222 for lesson times/availability.

Ongoing Activities

Creative Crew: Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All forms of creativity welcome: painting, drawing, needlework and more.... spend the morning working on your craft and socialize with other artists. Enter Door 1 or Door 10 at Life Community Church, the creative crew meets in the cafe.

Readers' Brown Bag Luncheon: Meeting the last Tuesday of the month at noon at Life Community Church, enter door 10. All readers are welcome. Feel free to call the office for more information.

***Important Scheduling Note: Changes can occur after the Creative Happenings column has been published. Please confirm dates and times before planning to participate in programs and activities*

Creative Arts Council activities are supported by memberships, sponsors and grants from funders including Arts United, a regional agency; the Indiana Arts Commission, a state agency; and the National Endowment for the Arts, a national agency.

by Melba Edwards

Zanesville News This week, as you read

this column, everyone will be celebrating Halloween with parties, costumes, and lots of candy treats.

Trick-or Treat hours are listed for Halloween night as: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. for Zanesville, Fort Wayne, Bluffton and Markle, 5 to 8 p.m. for Andrews and Roanoke, 5:30 to 8 p.m. for Huntington, and 6 p.m. for Ossian. Please leave your porch light on and look out for costumers on the streets.

Don't forget to get out and vote. If you are an Allen County resident of Zanesville you can vote at Indiana Wesleyan ahead of time on Monday, Oct. 28, through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Robin and I spent a great fall party evening with Sis and her family and friends recently at her home in the country where she and her husband Jeremiah live. We again spent a night with them as we opted to attend a Gospel Sing at the New Beginning Church near Poneto. The singing was great and the finger food delicious. Sis owned the restaurant in Zanesville. The lack of customers and the rise in rent and utilities

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caused her to close. I wish Pub has a new owner who she was still here! The good news is that

the County Line Pizza and

is planning to expand and have more hours.

Our Zanesville Lions

Free Library has closed. The opening was a dream of mine so that books could be free to all area residents.



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Overwhelmed by ice cream

Dear Annie: I read your column every myself spending day, and I read with great interest the letter from the wife whose husband had an minutes trying to affair 20 years earlier. She was bitter that none of her friends told her about it.

I found myself in a similar situation, nomical and tastes only I was the friend, and I DID tell her that her husband was cheating on her. This was 35 years ago.

Remember the old expression about killing the messenger? That's what happened to me. I had struggled with what to do with this information for several days. I knew she'd be devastated, but I believed she deserved the truth. She was my best friend, and I felt I'd be lying to her face every time I saw her if I didn't tell her.

I practiced for days trying to come up with the most supportive way of talking to her. I went and saw her, and we talked for about an hour, and it was very, very difficult. I left knowing that she had a lot to process and sort out, and I gave her some space. After a few days, I called but could not reach her. I left messages, but I never heard back from her.

Fifteen years later, I got a rather incoherent and angry letter from her, blaming me — for what, specifically, wasn't clear.

The wife who wrote to you complaining that no one told her might have reacted differently 20 years ago if someone had let her know. If I had had a crystal ball and known our friendship would be over if I told her, would I still have told my friend at the time? I think so. I still believe hiding it from her would have been worse, a betrayal. — Killed Messenger in Pennsyl-

Dear Killed Messenger: Thank you for your letter. I suppose it was easier to get mad at you than her husband who had betrayed her. Just know that her meanness came out of pain and that hurt people hurt people.

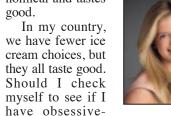
Dear Annie: Why do Americans have so many ice cream products?

This week, I went to the supermarket, and there were 10 new ice creams to choose from, and I was just about to finish off trying them all from the prior week. I'm not fat - yet.

Yes, even with the problems of supply, they somehow still manage to pack the refrigerators with new choices. I find

at least five to 10 choose an ice cream that is healthy, eco-

good.



Annie

by Annie Lane

myself to see if I have obsessivecompulsive disorder, or should I be concerned that we indeed have too many choices in Ameri-

Another crazy complaint, if I may: I recently found out that a famous ice cream brand with a European label is not actually European. The first time I found this product, I happily told the clerk, who often sees me hanging around the ice cream aisle, that I had found a European

He didn't seem surprised but actually looked concerned. I felt like an idiot after I found out it's made by an American corporation. No wonder he looked concerned.

So, this has been my problem, and I need a solution. Maybe you can help? — Too Many Choices

Dear Choices: Isn't America great? The complaint in many countries is that there aren't enough choices, while your concern about this country is that we have too many choices of ice cream. That's a sweet thought.

In all seriousness, you bring up a good point that too many choices can actually be detrimental to your well-being. Psychology professor Barry Schwartz argues that having an infinite number of choices can be exhausting. We can set unrealistic expectations and then think we might have *made the wrong choice.*

Next time you go to the supermarket, make up your mind on the flavor you want before you enter, and don't let all the choices seduce you into swaying.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

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BEETLE BAILEY





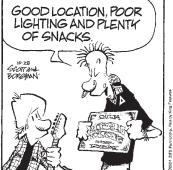
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CRANKSHAFT





THE FAMILY CIRCUS

10-28

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



"I'll bet clowns are ready for Halloween before anybody.'



"LORETTA COOKED QUITE A MEAL LAST NIGHT... IT SET OFF THE SMOKE ALARM AND THE SPRINKLER SYSTEM."

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My Answer By Dr. Billy Graham

We need to have a reverence and respect for God

Question: It seems that the Bible contradicts itself when it says we are to fear the Lord but not be afraid. What am I missing? – F.R.

Answer: The Bible certainly does not contradict itself. There can be many different meanings to one word. In the case of the word fear, it can mean, "to be afraid, have a feeling of terror," etc. But there is also a wonderful definition to this word and that is, "to have reverence or respect," for something or someone. There are, of course, different kinds of fear. Not all fear is wrong. It is right to fear a hot stove or a sharp knife, for they can bring harm. It is right for us also to fear

sin and Satan, for they bring devastation. The Bible indeed does

tell us to fear God. That doesn't mean that we're to be in terror of Him, shrinking from Him, and even fleeing from Him. While we should fear His judgment, we are to have a reverence and respect for Him. knowing that He is holy and allpowerful, and will draw us near to Him.

This can be a wonderful word study using Scripture. When we hear preachers or others talk about things of God, it pleases the Lord when it drives us to His Word. He Himself will teach

us the truth about all things. Jesus declared, "These things I have spoken to vou, that in Me vou may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33, NKJV).

Christ has come to take away the source of our fears. Fears are real. "Peace Heave with you My peace I give to you; not as the world gives ... Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27, NKJV).

(This column is based on the words and writings of

the late Rev. Billy Graham.) ©2024 Billy Graham Literary Trust. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency,

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Lottery Numbers

Saturday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY

Cash 5 - 03-23-28-31-33

Cash4Life — 31-36-45-52-54, Cash Ball: 02 **Lotto Plus** — 01-03-04-18-22-25

Quick Draw Midday — 02-03-06-09-13-15-22-23-26-

28-34-38-42-50-51-54-55-60-73-78, BE: 78 **Daily Three-Midday** — 07-08-05, SB: 06 **Daily Three-Evening** — 06-05-04, SB: 04

Daily Four-Midday — 00-09-05-05, SB: 06 **Daily Four-Evening** — 04-08-04-07, SB: 04

Quick Draw Evening — 05-07-11-17-23-24-25-28-31-

39-43-45-51-56-57-64-68-71-74-76, BE: 64 **Hoosier Lotto** — 03-04-06-13-14-27

POWERBALL 08-12-40-45-51; Powerball: 15; Power Play: 2X

Sunday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY

Cash 5 — 04-05-13-26-44 **Cash4Life** — 01-04-15-29-56, Cash Ball: 03

Quick Draw Midday — 01-06-13-25-27-33-34-36-37-

38-39-40-41-46-47-48-58-66-71-79, BE: 47 **Daily Three-Midday** — 02-06-07, SB: 03 **Daily Three-Evening** — 00-01-03, SB: 09

Daily Four-Midday — 05-04-07-03, SB: 03 **Daily Four-Evening** — 08-05-02-07, SB: 09 **Quick Draw Evening** — 07-14-20-21-27-30-32-39-46-52-53-54-59-60-62-65-67-71-74-77, BE: 60

Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$27.2 million

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NOVEMBER 1 - 9 a.m. -Secured creditors & various consignors, owners. 815 Adams St., Decatur. Online only truck & equipment auction. Offering 500+ lots! 2012-2014 Freightliner M2106 box trucks, dump trucks, day cabs, sleepers, utility trucks, bucket trucks, utility & semi trailers, SUV's, pickup trucks, 250+ various skid steer attachments, various truck parts, fencing, work benches, tool boxes & much more! Accepting consignments. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com.

NOVEMBER 3-10 - (Online Only) - Estate of Elizabeth (Carter) Aeschliman & othèrs, seller. Ladies diamond wedding ring, ladies diamond cluster fashion ring, ladies diamond earrings, Sapphire necklace w/matching earrings, costume jewelry, Howard Miller china cabinet, quality cherry finish china cabinet, 2019 GÉ window style air conditioner, collectibles, glassware, vintage silverplate flatware sets, numerous collections of mar-bles, Anri Italy wood carved figurines, home decor, holiday decorations, household. Open houses Oct. 29, Nov. 7, 3-6 p.m., 117 W. Craig St., Ossian. Sale managers Bobby Perry, 260-273-7260, Patrick Carter, 260-273-8294, The Steffen Group, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

BIDDING CLOSES NOVEM-BER 12 - 6 p.m. Al Grogg's Custom Exhaust Shop, seller. Harley Davidson fully custom Roadster, dirt track race car, paved track race car, Lingenfelter 9:1 racing engine, race car parts, tool cabinets, racing suspension parts, engines, quick change rear end, fuel cells, Snap-On collector clocks, frame straightener, Simplicity 7117 tractor w/ snow blower and weights, Simplicity 4211 hydrostatic, valve grinder, 3 wheel electric convalescent trike (nearly new), tools, vintage auto scanners, oscilloscope, radio and TV signal generators, engine hoists, box grader, race car frame,

clocks, torch sets, more. Full list at Town-countryauctions. com, click Fliers. Preview 1441 W. Lancaster St., Bluffton, daily until auction closes, Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday 9 a.m.-noon, or by appoint-ment, 260-824-4835. Pick up noon-7 p.m. Nov. 14. Town and Country Auctioneers/Real-tors, 260-223-7352, Shaw Real Estate & Auction, Inc., 260-

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

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

com, 260-724-3499. SOFT CLOSE STARTS NOVEMBER 17 - 6 p.m. -Herman Family farm & Elite Tooling, owner. Online real estate auction. 47+/- acres, log home, machine shop, dog kennel, 2 ponds, CNC lathes, mill, machinist tools, Ferris mower, mowers, skid loader, 1960 Harley Davidson topper. Open house Nov. 9, 10 a.m.-noon, Nov. 12, 4-6 p.m. Green Auction, Soldon Green.com, 260-589-8474.

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Baumgartner, Ramseyer qualify for state in XC

By RYAN WALKER

Bluffton's cross country prestige went sky-high on Saturday.

Senior Jude Baumgartner and freshman Abigail Ramseyer qualified for the state meet with their performances at the regional at Huntington University.

With a time of 16:35.0 and a 25th-place finish, Baumgartner becomes the second Tiger in back-to-back seasons to reach the state level following Tyler Godwin's appearance in 2023. He joins five other members in school history for the boys to make it to the state competition.

Ramseyer finished 29th with a new school record time of 19:29.0. The state qualification puts her in company with Susan Barth and Tamara Caston as the only members to reach the state meet in school history for the girls.

Both runners shared identical stories that put the feat in doubt at the end of the race.

"First off, I want to give all thanks and praise to God, because he gave me the ability to run and I wouldn't be here without him," Baumgartner said. "It was a mix of emotions after the race not knowing if I made it or not. When hearing my name, it was all excitement for me.'

Ramseyer said that she knew she had beaten the school record when she glanced at her final time crossing the finish line but was unsure of placement for state. Her teammate, Addison Sonnigsen, told her to keep her head up and provided positivity. Then, Ramseyer's name was called to the podium and it was also all excitement for

Both gave credit to their coaches: Michael Vanderkolk, Bob Dahl and Laurie Baumgartner for their training programs and peaking at the right times.

"I felt that the workouts given to us this season really prepared us for this race," Ramseyer said. "Even if I didn't like every single workout, I pushed through because I wanted to become the best version of

"She puts in the work, she puts in the effort, and it's going be great to just get that opportunity and hope that she can kind of build off of it," Vanderkolk said of Ramsey-

"It's going to be exciting to be able to see (Baumgartner) go into state and just kind of loose, relax and have a good race," he commented on Baumgartner.

Their training has been critical to their success. Baumgartner finished in 110th in his junior season with a time of 17:42.8. He's chased that down by over a minute and eclipsed the mountain top of the state's final meet in his senior season.

For Ramseyer, it was a different type of hill to climb. At the start of the year, she finished the Norwell's Bob Dahl Invitational with a time of 22:10.0. A lower-body injury forced her into a walking boot for a few weeks. But not long after, she picked herself right back up and ended the season breaking the school record.

'I would have never believed you if you told me I went from a boot to now qualifying for the state meet," Ramseyer said.

The only unfortunate news for Bluffton on Saturday was its top runner all season, Levi Johns, collapsed toward the end of the race. He was unable to finish, but was able to get up and leave the course safely. His pace was set for him to qualify for state

'My heart just absolutely breaks for Levi," Vanderkolk said. "He's just one of the hardest working athletes in the entire school - probably in school history, and to see his cross country career, and the way it

did today, again, my heart just breaks." As a result, the Tigers finished 15th at the regional. The team thought it had an outside shot at making state as a unit, but Vanderkolk also said that it wasn't all due to the injury, but it would have needed an allout team effort outside of Johns to make it.

Three other teams and Kelton Barr for Southern Wells also participated in the race. Norwell's girls won the sectional last

week and finished the regional at 14th. The boys for the Knights placed 22nd.

The Tiger girls placed 20th.

Barr finished with a time of 21:26.2. The state meet will take place at the LaVern Gibson Championship Cross Country Course. The girls' race starts at 12 p.m. and the boys begin at 2:30 p.m.

ryan@news-banner.com

Individual results

Boys

Bluffton: Jude Baumgartner finished 25th with a time 16:35.0, Jackson Rockwell 81st (17:42.6), Aidan Graves 113th (18:04.5), Griffin Linderwell 140th (18:23.4), Ryan Schlagenhauf 159th (18:33.17) and Owen Lesh 165th (18:40.2).

Norwell: Caiden Petrie finished 69th with a time of 17:30.3, Gavin Threewits 103rd (17:55.2), Kayden Robbins 148th (18:26.5), John Baxter 177th (18:51.6), Elijah Jacob 224th (20:06.2), James Sprginer 225th (20:06.9) and Parker McCartney 228th (20:19.6).

Southern Wells: Kelto Barr finished 241st with a time of 21:26.2.

Bluffton: Abigail Ramseyer finished 29th with a time of 19:20.0, Cora Kunkel (20:41.2), Reagan Harris 185th (23:12.8), Briana Ortiz 202nd (23:49.8), Amarah Robles 223rd (25:01.1), Kierstynn Reed 232nd (26:03.2) and Addison Sonnigsen

Norwell: Ashley Tucker finished 64th with a time of 20:46.7, Mia Kurtz 74th (21:04.9), Macy Oatess 108th (21:40.1), Brooklyn Meyer 120th (21:51.9), Ashley Waldman 141st (22:09.3), Mya Oatess 147th (22:17.7) and Mariah Kline 179th (22:58.2).

Team results

Boys: 1. Homestead (65 team scores, qualifies for state), 2. Warsaw (122, qualifies for state), 3. Wabash (144, qualifies for state), 4. Concordia (149, qualifies for state), 5. Carroll (158, qualifies for state), 6. Yorktown (189), 7. Columbia City (201), 8. Angola (273), 9. Manchester (318), 10. West Noble (326), 11. Bishop Dwenger (357), 12. Wapahani (367), 13. New Haven (385), 14. Marion (392), 15. Bluffton (395), 16. Lakewood Park Christian (431), 17. Oak Hill (449), 18. Bellmont (454), 19. Northrop (477), 20. Central Noble (477), 21. Culver Academies (525), 22. Norwell (528), 23. South Adams (532), 24. Muncie Central (583) and 25. Wes-Del (617).

Girls: 1. Concordia (39 team points, qualifies for state), 2. Homestead (70, qualifies for state), 3. Columbia City (123, qualifies for state), 4. Warsaw (190, qualifies for state), 5. Carroll (200, qualifies for state), 6. East Noble (218), 7. Northrop (245), 8. Bishop Dwenger (261), 9. Prairie Heights (320), 10. Huntington North (335), 11. West Noble (337), 12. Plymouth (366), 13. Jay County (370), 14. Norwell (399), 15. Manchester (406), 16. Leo (442), 17. Yorktown (446), 18. Wapahani (461), 19. Adams Central (487), 20. Bluffton (490), 21. Snider (503), 22. Marion (547), 23. Frankton (618) amd 24. Mississinewa (704).



Above left, Southern Wells' runner Kelton Barr keeps up the pace during the boys' regional race. Above right, Norwell's Caiden Petrie pushes forward during a long stretch in the middle of the

Bluffton's Abigail Ramseyer (left) and Jude Baumgartner finished their regional races with a

state qualification at Huntington University on Saturday. The two hold a sign made for them

for earning their next road trip to the state finals at LaVern Gibson next week. (Photos by Ryan

News-Banner Scoreboard **FOOTBALL**

NFL

Thursday's Games L.A. Rams 30, Minnesota 20 Sunday's Games Arizona 28, Miami 27 Atlanta 31, Tampa Bay 26 Cleveland 29, Baltimore 24 Detroit 52. Tennessee 14 Green Bay 30, Jacksonville 27 Houston 23, Indianapolis 20 New England 25, N.Y. Jets 22 Philadelphia 37, Cincinnati 17 Buffalo 31, Seattle 10 L.A. Chargers 26, New Orleans 8 Denver 28. Carolina 14 Kansas City 27, Las Vegas 20 Washington 18, Chicago 15 Dallas at San Francisco, 8:20 p.m. Monday's Games N.Y. Giants at Pittsburgh, 8:15 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 31

Houston at N.Y. Jets, 8:15 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 3
Dallas at Atlanta, 1 p.m. Denver at Baltimore, 1 p.m. L.A. Chargers at Cleveland, 1 p.m. Las Vegas at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.

Miami at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
New England at Tennessee, 1 p.m. New Orleans at Carolina, 1 p.m. Washington at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m. Chicago at Arizona, 4:05 p.m. Jacksonville at Philadelphia, 4:05

Detroit at Green Bay, 4:25 p.m. L.A. Rams at Seattle, 4:25 p.m. Indianapolis at Minnesota, 8:20 p.m. Open: Pittsburgh, San Francisco Monday, Nov. 4

Tampa Bay at Kansas City, 8:15 p.m.

College

EAST Notre Dame 51, Navy 14 SOUTH Alabama 34, Missouri 0 Arkansas 58, Mississippi St. 25 Auburn 24, Kentucky 10 Butler 48, Davidson 38 Memphis 33, Charlotte 28 Miami 36, Florida St. 14 Mississippi 26, Oklahoma 14 North Carolina 41, Virginia 14 SMU 28, Duke 27, OT Texas 27, Vanderbilt 24 Virginia Tech 21, Georgia Tech 6
MIDWEST

Akron 25, E. Michigan 21 Ball St. 25, N. Illinois 23 Bowling Green 41, Toledo 26 Indiana 31, Washington 17 Indiana St. 20, S. Illinois 17 Iowa 40, Northwestern 14 Kansas St. 29, Kansas 27 Miami (Ohio) 46, Cent. Michigan 7 Michigan 24, Michigan St. 17 Minnesota 48, Maryland 23 Ohio 47, Buffalo 16 Ohio St. 21, Nebraska 17 Penn St. 28, Wisconsin 13 W. Michigan 52, Kent St. 21 Youngstown St. 41, North Dakota

SOUTHWEST Baylor 38, Oklahoma St. 28 Houston 17, Utah 14 TCU 35, Texas Tech 34 Texas A&M 38, LSU 23 **FAR WEST**

California 44, Oregon St. 7 Colorado 34, Cincinnati 23 Colorado St. 17, New Mexico 6 Oregon 38, Illinois 9 Wake Forest 27, Stanford 24 Washington St. 29, San Diego St.

West Virginia 31, Arizona 26

BASEBALL

(Best-of-7)

MLB **WORLD SERIES**

Los Angeles Dodgers 2, New York

Friday, Oct. 25 Los Angeles Dodgers 6, New York Yankees 3 (10 innings) Saturday, Oct. 26: Los Angeles Dodg-ers 4, New York Yankees 2

Monday, Oct. 28: Los Angeles Dodgers at New York Yankees (Schmidt 5-5), 8:08 p.m., (Fox)
Tuesday, Oct. 29: Los Angeles Dodgers at New York Yankees (Gil 15-7),

x-Wednesday, Oct. 30: Los Angeles Dodgers at New York Yankees, 8:08

x-Friday, Nov. 1: New York Yankees at Los Angeles Dodgers, 8:08 p.m., (Fox) x-Saturday, Nov. 2: New York Yan-

THURSDAY, OCT 31 No events scheduled. FRIDAY, NOV 1 FOOTBALL: (Regional) Southern Wells at

kees at Los Angeles Dodgers, 8:08

BASKETBALL

MONDAY, OCT 28

No events scheduled.

No events scheduled.

No events scheduled.

WEDNESDAY, OCT 30

TUESDAY, OCT 29

NBA

Saturday's Games L.A. Clippers 109, Denver 104 Cleveland 135, Washington 116 Miami 114, Charlotte 106 Oklahoma City 114, Chicago 95 Minnesota 112, Toronto 101 Memphis 124. Orlando 111 San Antonio 109, Houston 106

High School Calendar

Triton, 7 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL: Southern Wells at Anderson Prep, 6 p.m.
SATURDAY, NOV 2

CROSS COUNTRY (co-ed): (state finals) TBD at LaVern Gibson Championship Cross Country Course, 12 p.m. for girls, 2:30 p.m. for

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Norwell at Heritage,

12 p.m.

Philadelphia 118, Indiana 114, OT Portland 125, New Orleans 103 Brooklyn 115, Milwaukee 102 Oklahoma City 128, Atlanta 104

HOCKEY

NHL

Saturday's Games Philadelphia 7, Minnesota 5

L.A. Lakers 131, Sacramento 127 Boston 124, Detroit 118

Phoenix 114, Dallas 102 Sunday's Games

Buffalo 5, Detroit 3 Los Angeles 3, Utah 2 Montreal 5, St. Louis 2 N.Y. Rangers 2. Anaheim 1 Tampa Bay 3, Washington 0 Winnipeg 5, Calgary 3 Boston 4, Toronto 3, OT Florida 6, N.Y. Islanders 3 Dallas 4, Chicago 2 Nashville 4, Columbus 3, OT Vegas 7, San Jose 3 Carolina 4, Seattle 1 Vancouver 4. Pittsburgh 3 Sunday's Games Edmonton 3, Detroit 2, OT Montreal 4. Philadelphia 3

New Jersey 6, Anaheim 2



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