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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2024

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Barn, condo mixes catching attention

By JONATHAN SNYDER
A barndominium home under construction in Markle has caught attention online.

Lauren Kinsey, along with contracted help, is building her own barndominium on County Road 150 in Markle and plans to use that as her permanent home. Kinsey knew she wanted to be out in the countryside, but original quotes for ideal 2000-square-foot homes were out of her budget.

"We had thought about building a single story ... with a basement," Kinsey said. "We got a quote and it was close to like \$500,000, and that was not in our budget. We got quotes for a normal house with multiple roof lines ... and they were more than we were able to afford."

After some creative thinking, the barndominium plan was put into action. Kinsey, with her experience as a real estate agent, wanted to ensure that her home would stand through time and age. Kinsey said that the main bedroom is on the first floor, so they can avoid

going up and down the stairs when they get older.

"We built it with a mindset of it being our (Kinsey and her husband's) forever home," Kinsey said. "He wanted a shop with ... materials and equipment and an office. My (ideal list) was a large playroom for the kids and land and things like that. Being in the real estate industry, I just knew that both of us getting our wish list (was impossible). We can't buy it but maybe we can build it."

Barn Builders by LS Construction's Leander Schwartz stated that barndominiums are more cost effective than traditional homes, which is a key factor in the trend. Barndominiums are also extremely flexible with floor planning according to both Schwartz and Kinsey, allowing for a garage, workshop and living area to occupy the same space in the same building.

"There's just so much more that you can do," Schwartz says. "It's all combined into one building versus having several different buildings. You get way more bang



The Kinsey family, from left to right, Wesley, Lauren, Dillon and Callie, all stand in front of their home. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

for your buck if you go with a barn home versus a traditional home ... you can build them way quicker than you can vinyl siding and all the pump outs."

Barndominiums have become a significant trend over the last few years. The term comes from

a mix of barn and condominium and combines aspects of both. Schwartz reported that the first barndominium he built was in 2017. Since then, he has built over 30 barndominiums in the area over the past few years.

Schwartz noted that standard

houses have five and a half inch walls, packed tight with insulation which can lead to splits and tears. Standard barndominiums have seven inch walls, which gives more room for insulation and lessens the risk of splits.

(Continued on Page 2)

Israeli airstrikes hit Yemen airport as jet with hundreds onboard was landing

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Israeli airstrikes hit Yemen's main airport as a civilian Airbus 320 with hundreds of passengers on board was landing and a U.N. delegation was waiting to leave, the U.N.'s top humanitarian official in Yemen said Friday.

Julien Harneis told U.N. reporters that the most frightening thing about the two airstrikes on Thursday wasn't their effect on him and about 15 others in the VIP lounge at the international airport in Yemen's capital, Sanaa, including the head of the U.N. World Health Organization.

Rather, it was the destruction of the airport control tower as a Yemenia Airways plane was taxiing in after touching down.

"Fortunately, that plane was able to land safely and the passengers were able to disembark, but it could have been far, far worse," said Harneis, who was with WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in the lounge.

He said one airstrike landed approximately 300 meters (330 yards) south of the VIP lounge and another about 300 meters to the north around 4:45 p.m., while about five members of the U.N. team were outside the building.

"Not only obviously did we have zero indication of any potential airstrikes, but we cannot remember the last time there were airstrikes in Sanaa during daylight hours," Harneis said in a video news conference from Sanaa.

The U.N. said at least three people were killed and dozens injured in the strike. Among the injured was a crew member from the U.N. Humanitarian Air Service, which was about to fly the U.N. delegation of some 20 people out of Sanaa.

He suffered a serious leg injury from shrapnel and lost a lot of blood, Harneis said.

Immediately after the airstrikes, Harneis said, U.N. security officials moved the delegation out of the VIP building and into five armored cars where they waited for approximately 40 minutes to ascertain what happened and help the injured crew member.

He was taken to a hospital in Sanaa and underwent four hours of surgery while the rest of the delegation spent the night in a U.N. compound, Harneis said. The U.N. plane with Tedros and the U.N. team, including the injured crew member, was able to depart for Jordan on Friday afternoon — without an operating control tower.

The United Nations said the injured crew member was taken to a hospital in Jordan, and Tedros was heading back to Geneva, where WHO is based.

Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels, who control Sanaa and much of the country's north, have gone after Israel since it started attacking Gaza follow-

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Wall Street slips as the 'Magnificent 7' weighs down the stock market

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks fell broadly on Friday as Wall Street closed out a holiday-shortened week on a down note.

The losses were made worse by sharp declines for the Big Tech stocks known as the "Magnificent 7", which can heavily influence the direction of the market because of their large size.

The S&P 500 fell 66.75 points, or 1.1%, to 5,970.84. Roughly 90% of stocks in the benchmark index lost ground, but it managed to hold onto a modest gain of 0.7% for the week.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 333.59 points, or 0.8%, to 42,992.21. The tech-heavy Nasdaq composite fell 298.33 points, or 1.5%, to 19,722.03.

Semiconductor giant Nvidia slumped 2.1%. Microsoft declined 1.7%. Each has a market value above \$3 trillion, giving the companies oversized sway on the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq.

A wide range of retailers also fell. Amazon fell 1.5% and Best Buy slipped 1.5%. The sector is being closely watched for clues on how it performed during the holiday shop-

ping season.

Energy stocks held up better than the rest of the market, with a loss of less than 0.1% as crude oil prices rose.

"There's just some uncertainty over this relief rally we've witnessed since last week," said Adam Turnquist, chief technical strategist for LPL Financial.

The S&P 500 gained nearly 3% over a 3-day stretch before breaking for the Christmas holiday. On Thursday, the index posted a small decline.

Despite Friday's drop, the market is moving closer to another stand-out annual finish. The S&P 500 is on track for a gain of around 25% in 2024. That would mark a second consecutive yearly gain of more than 20%, the first time that has happened since 1997-1998.

The gains have been driven partly by upbeat economic data showing that consumers continued spending and the labor market remained strong. Inflation, while still high, has also been steadily easing.

A report on Friday showed that sales and inventory estimates for the wholesales trade industry fell 0.2% in

November, following a slight gain in October. That weaker-than-expected report follows an update on the labor market Thursday that showed unemployment benefits held steady last week.

The stream of upbeat economic data and easing inflation helped prompt a reversal in the Federal Reserve's interest rate policy this year. Expectations for interest rate cuts also helped drive market gains. The central bank recently delivered its third cut to interest rates in 2024.

Even though inflation has come closer to the central bank's target of 2%, it remains stubbornly above that mark and worries about it heating up again have tempered the forecast for more interest rate cuts.

Inflation concerns have added to uncertainties heading into 2025, which include the labor market's path ahead and shifting economic policies under incoming President Donald Trump. Worries have risen that Trump's preference for tariffs and other policies could lead to higher inflation, a bigger U.S. government

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US homelessness up 18% as affordable housing remains out of reach for many

By MICHAEL CASEY
Associated Press

The United States saw an 18.1% increase in homelessness this year, a dramatic rise driven mostly by a lack of affordable housing as well as devastating natural disasters and a surge of migrants in several parts of the country, federal officials said Friday.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development said federally required tallies taken across the country in January found that more than 770,000 people were counted as homeless — a number that misses some people and does not include those staying with friends or family because they do not have a place of their own.

That increase comes on top of a 12% increase in 2023, which HUD

blamed on soaring rents and the end of pandemic assistance. The 2023 increase also was driven by people experiencing homelessness for the first time. The numbers overall represent 23 of every 10,000 people in the U.S., with Black people being overrepresented among the homeless population.

"No American should face homelessness, and the Biden-Harris Administration is committed to ensuring every family has access to the affordable, safe, and quality housing they deserve," HUD Agency Head Adrienne Todman said in a statement, adding that the focus should remain on "evidence-based efforts to prevent and end homelessness."

Among the most concerning trends was a nearly 40% rise in family home-

lessness — one of the areas that was most affected by the arrival of migrants in big cities. Family homelessness more than doubled in 13 communities impacted by migrants including Denver, Chicago and New York City, according to HUD, while it rose less than 8% in the remaining 373 communities. Nearly 150,000 children experienced homelessness on a single night in 2024, reflecting a 33% jump from last year.

Disasters also played a part in the rise in the count, especially last year's catastrophic Maui wildfire, the deadliest U.S. wildfire in more than a century. More than 5,200 people were staying in emergency shelters in Hawaii on the night of the count.

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Outside



Enjoy these temperatures while they last

Today	Sunday	Monday
High 49	High 57	High 50
Low 40	Low 45	Low 37

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Barn

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Kinsey also noted that the community has taken a lot of interest in her home. Kinsey created a Facebook page

due to interest from their neighbors and has answered their questions throughout.

"I just felt like there were a lot of people just naturally

stopping by, which we've enjoyed," Kinsey said. "It's also just ... given us energy because it's been every night and weekend for the last six

months. Having the community support and cheering us on has given us a new boost."

jonathan@news-banner.com

Wall Street

(Continued from Page 1)

"Increased homelessness is the tragic, yet predictable, consequence of underinvesting in the resources and protections that help people find and maintain safe, affordable housing," Renee Willis, incoming interim CEO of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, in a statement. "As advocates, researchers, and people with lived experience have warned, the number of people experiencing homelessness continues to increase as more people struggle to afford sky-high housing costs."

Robert Marbut Jr., the former executive director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness from 2019 to 2021, called the nearly 33% increase in homelessness over the past four years "disgraceful" and said the federal government needs to abandon efforts to prioritize permanent hous-

ing.

"We need to focus on treatment of substance use and mental illness, and bring back program requirements, like job training," Marbut said in an email.

The numbers also come as increasing numbers of communities are taking a hard line against homelessness.

Communities — especially in Western states — have been enforcing bans on camping as public pressure grows to address what some residents say are dangerous and unsanitary living conditions. That follows a 6-3 ruling earlier this year by the Supreme Court that found that outdoor sleeping bans don't violate the Eighth Amendment. Homeless advocates argued that punishing people who need a place to sleep would criminalize homelessness.

There was some positive news in the count, as

homelessness among veterans continued to trend downwards. Homelessness among veterans dropped 8% to 32,882 in 2024. It was an even larger decrease for unsheltered veterans, declining 11% to 13,851 in 2024.

"The reduction in veteran homelessness offers us a clear roadmap for addressing homelessness on a larger scale," Ann Oliva, CEO of the National Alliance to End Homelessness, said in a statement. "With bipartisan support, adequate funding, and smart policy solutions, we can replicate this success and reduce homelessness nationwide. Federal investments are critical in tackling the country's housing affordability crisis and ensuring that every American has access to safe, stable housing."

Several large cities had success bringing down their homeless numbers. Dallas, which worked to overhaul its

homeless system, saw a 16% drop in its numbers between 2022 to 2024. Los Angeles, which increased housing for the homeless, saw a drop of 5% in unsheltered homelessness since 2023. California, the most populous state in the U.S., continued to have the nation's largest homeless population, followed by New York, Washington, Florida and Massachusetts.

The sharp increase in the homeless population over the past two years contrasts with success the U.S. had been having for more than a decade.

Going back to the first 2007 survey, the U.S. made steady progress for about a decade in reducing the homeless population as the government focused particularly on increasing investments to get veterans into housing. The number of homeless people dropped from about 637,000 in 2010 to about 554,000 in 2017.

Homelessness

(Continued from Page 1)

debt and difficulties for global trade.

Amedisys rose 4.7% after the home health care and hospice services pro-

vider agreed to extend the deadline for its sale to UnitedHealth Group. The Justice Department had sued to block the \$3.3 billion deal, citing concerns the combi-

nation would hinder access to home health and hospice services in the U.S.

The move to extend the deadline comes ahead of an expected shift in regulatory

policy under Trump. The incoming administration is expected to have a more permissive approach to deal-making and is less likely to raise antitrust concerns.

U.S., World News Roundup

Debate over foreign workers in tech shows tensions in Trump's coalition

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — An online spat between factions of Donald Trump's supporters over immigration and the tech industry has thrown internal divisions in the president-elect's political movement into public display. The argument previews fissures and contradictory views his coalition could bring to the White House. The rift laid bare tensions between the newest flank of Trump's movement — that is, wealthy members of the tech world who want more highly skilled workers in their industry — and people in Trump's Make America Great Again base who championed his hardline immigration policies.

Court rules Georgia lawmakers can subpoena Fani Willis for information related to her Trump case

ATLANTA (AP) — A judge has ruled that the Georgia state Senate can subpoena Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis. It's part of an inquiry into whether Willis has engaged in misconduct during her prosecution of President-elect Donald Trump. But Fulton County Superior Court Judge Shukura Ingram is giving Willis the chance to contest whether lawmakers' demands are overly broad before Willis responds. A Republican-led committee was formed earlier this year and sent subpoenas to Willis in August seeking to compel her to testify during its September meeting and to produce scores of documents. Willis argued that the committee didn't have the power to subpoena her.

Most Americans blame insurance profits and denials alongside the killer in UHC CEO death, poll finds

WASHINGTON (AP) — Most Americans believe health insurance profits and coverage denials share responsibility for the killing of UnitedHealthcare's CEO — although not as much as the person who pulled the trigger. So says a new poll from NORC at the University of Chicago. It finds that about 8 in 10 Americans say that the person who committed the killing has "a great deal" or "a moderate amount" of responsibility for the Dec. 4 shooting of Brian Thompson. Still, some see suspect Luigi Mangione as a heroic figure. About 7 in 10 adults say coverage denials or health insurance profits also bear at least "a moderate amount" of responsibility for Thompson's death.

Missing dog returns home, rings doorbell

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — After a nearly weeklong search, Athena found her way home to her Florida family in time for Christmas Eve and even rang the doorbell.

Athena, a 4-year-old German Shepherd and Husky mix, escaped her home in Green Cove Springs, Florida, on Dec. 15, prompting a search among the community and nearby towns for her. Her owner, Brooke Comer, said her family left for church that day and got a message from her neighbor with a picture of Athena outside the house.

Comer panicked. Her family rushed home to find her collar in the crate and no visible opening Athena could have gotten out from. How she escaped remains a mystery.

The next week's events continued to be an "unbelievable" story for Comer, where neighbors and com-

munity members from nearby towns would contact her from her missing dog ads and send any footage or photos where they may have spotted Athena. Based on all the alerts Comer got, it looked like Athena made a nearly 20-mile (32-kilometer) roundtrip while she was missing.

At every alert, Comer and her family would go to the spot within minutes and search for Athena — to no avail.

"She was the hide-and-seek all time grand champion," Comer said. "With every sighting my heart jumped, and it honestly was excitement and then your heart's crushed because we were always one step behind."

The entire search was a terrifying and scary experience for Comer, who was worried about where her already skittish dog could have gone or could have encountered. That was

White House claims 9th telecoms firm has been hit by Chinese espionage

WASHINGTON (AP) — A top White House official says a ninth U.S. telecoms firm has been confirmed to have been hacked as part of a sprawling Chinese espionage campaign that gave officials in Beijing access to private texts and phone conversations of an unknown number of Americans. Administration officials said this month that at least eight telecommunications companies, as well as dozens of nations, had been affected by the Chinese hacking blitz known as Salt Typhoon. But Anne Neuberger, a deputy national security adviser, said Friday that a ninth victim had been identified after the administration released guidance to companies about how to hunt for Chinese culprits in their networks.

Trump asks Supreme Court to delay TikTok ban until after he takes office

President-elect Donald Trump has asked the Supreme Court to pause the potential TikTok ban from going into effect until his administration can pursue a "political resolution" to the issue. Trump's request Friday came as TikTok and the Biden administration filed opposing briefs to the court. Oral arguments are scheduled for Jan. 10 on whether the law, which requires TikTok to divest from its China-based parent company or face a ban, unlawfully restricts speech in violation of the First Amendment. The brief said Trump opposes banning TikTok at this juncture and "seeks the ability to resolve the issues at hand through political means once he takes office."

US to send \$1.25 billion in weapons to Ukraine, pushing to get aid out

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. officials say the United States is expected to announce it will send another \$1.25 billion in military assistance to Ukraine. It's part of a push by the Biden administration to get as much aid to Kyiv as possible before leaving office on Jan. 20. Officials say the large package of aid includes a significant amount of munitions, including for the National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile Systems and the HAWK air defense system. It also will provide Stinger missiles and 155 mm- and 105 mm artillery rounds. The officials say they expect the announcement will be made on Monday. They spoke on condition of anonymity to provide details not yet made public.

Weather

Saturday, Dec. 28, 2024

(24-hour observations at 11:25 p.m. Friday)

High: 54; Low: 43; Precipitation: 0.19 inches

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.21 feet at 9:45 p.m. Friday

Wells County forecast

Saturday: A 20% chance of rain before 10 a.m. Cloudy, with a high near 57. Southwest wind 5 to 15 mph.

Saturday Night: Rain, mainly after 1 a.m. Low around 45. Light and variable wind becoming northeast 5 to 10 mph after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New precipitation amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

Sunday: Rain. High near 50. Northeast wind around 15 mph becoming northwest in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New precipitation amounts between a half and three quarters of an inch possible.

Sunday Night: A 50% chance of rain, mainly before 1 a.m. Cloudy, with a low around 37. West wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Monday: Partly sunny, with a high near 48.

Monday Night: Rain likely, mainly after 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 39. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Tuesday: Rain. High near 44. Chance of precipitation is 80%.

Tuesday Night: A chance of rain and snow, mainly before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 31. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

Wednesday: A 20% chance of snow showers before 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 35.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 23.

Thursday: Partly sunny, with a high near 28.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 18.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 26.

Local Roundup

Bluffton Board of Works to meet Tuesday afternoon

The Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Oldest living survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor dies at 105

HONOLULU (AP) — The oldest living survivor of the 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the last remaining survivor of the USS Utah has died. He was 105. Warren Upton died Wednesday at a hospital in Los Gatos, California. Kathleen Farley, the California state chair of the Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors, says he suffered a bout of pneumonia. The Utah was moored at Pearl Harbor when Japanese planes began bombing the Hawaii naval base in the early hours of Dec. 7, 1941. The attack propelled the U.S. into World War II.



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OBITUARIES

Joslyn Ann Burk, 73

Joslyn Ann Burk, 73, twin sister of Jerry L. Burk, passed away at 2:10 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 26, 2024, at her home at Markle Health & Rehab in Markle.

She was born on Wednesday, Dec. 12, 1951, in Portland. She lived most of her life in Wabash Township, Adams County. Joslyn attended school in Vera Cruz. She worked at Bi-County Services in Bluffton. Joslyn enjoyed bowling, swinging, riding her bike and listening to music. She loved animals and playing with her dog Brownie.

She will be sadly missed by her twin brother, Jerry L. (Judy) Burk of Geneva; nephew, Jeff Burk of Cincinnati; niece, Julie (Eric) Beer of Decatur; great-nieces, Alexis Beer of Berne, Lacie Burk of Cincinnati, Viola Burk of Cincinnati, and Sylvia Burk of Cincinnati.



She was preceded in death by her father, Warren L. Burk, and mother, Velma Maxine (Rittenhouse) Harsha.

Family and friends may gather to share and remember from 10 a.m. to noon on Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025, at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 N. Washington St. in Geneva.

A service to celebrate her life will follow at noon on Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025, at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home. Interment will follow in the Gravel Hill Cemetery in Portland.

Preferred memorials: Bi-County Services
Arrangements are being handled by Downing & Glancy Funeral Home in Geneva.

Online condolences may be made at www.glancyfuneralhomes.com

Carolyn Ormsby, 91

Carolyn M. Ormsby, 91, of Powder Springs, Georgia, and formerly of Markle, passed away on Sunday morning Dec. 15, 2024, at Tranquility at Kennewick in Marietta, Georgia.

She was a 1951 graduate of Markle High School. Carolyn had worked at Triad Ultrad / Magnatek in Huntington for several years, retiring in 1991. She was a former member of Markle United Methodist Church. Carolyn was an avid I.U. basketball fan and a huge fan of all college basketball. She also loved the Atlanta Braves. She loved her family; they were her priority, and she always enjoyed helping others and putting them first.

Carolyn was born on Nov. 18, 1933, in Rockcreek Township, Wells County, a daughter of the late Carl B. and Mary G. (Ormsby) Williams.

She was united in marriage to Marlowe Ormsby on June 13, 1954, in Markle. He preceded her in death on Dec. 7, 1991. Survivors include three children, Bruce



(Tammy) Ormsby of Browns-ville, and Marla (Stanley) Weller and Gina (Robert Shea) of Marietta, Georgia; seven grandchildren, one step-grandchild, seven great-grandchildren, three great-great-grandchildren and two deceased great-great grandchildren.

Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, January 4, 2025, at the Myers Funeral Home, Markle Chapel, 415 N. Lee St. in Markle.

Funeral service will follow visitation at noon at the funeral home in Markle.

Interment will be at the Markle Cemetery in Markle.

Memorial donations can be made out to Shriners Hospital for Children or American Cancer Society both sent in care of Myers Funeral Home, P.O. Box 403, Markle, IN 46770.

To sign Carolyn's online register book visit www.myersfuneralhomes.com and scroll down to obituaries.

Scott Townsend, 59

Scott D. Townsend, 59, of Montpelier, passed away due to injuries sustained from an accident that happened on S.R. 18 east of Montpelier on Thurs-

day, Dec. 26, 2024.

Arrangements are pending at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, Montpelier, IN.

Bluffton Parks & Rec News & Notes



By Brandy Fiechter

Destination Recreation

Happy New Year! It's crazy how fast time seems to fly by. As we review how this past year has gone, we are delighted with how much was accomplished. Over \$1,158,783 worth of improvements were made in 2024, such as building the Interurban Trail, finishing Lancaster Park, and maintaining our other facilities. Large projects require lots of financial resources, and we are thankful to have been blessed with \$332,590.26 in local donations and from our new partnership with Harrison Township. Our department also secured \$494,023 in grants this year, helping us prepare for our 2025 projects.

Next year looks to be just as busy as this year was, with multiple projects on the books. After the baseball season ends in early July, Roush Park will be closed for major parking lot upgrades, including installing drainage, adding ADA sidewalks, and repaving the basketball court. The Wabash River Stabilization project to repair 1,100 feet of the riverbank from Wayne Street to the Howard Rich Pavilion will also commence in the summer while the river is in a low position. If all goes well with funding, there is a good possibility that as soon as the pool closes for the season, construction on the new one can begin. We are so grateful for the continued community support; we truly could not do it without all of you!

Have you always wanted to learn how to Crochet? Now is your chance to sign up for January's **Hooked on Crochet** class! Learning to crochet will give you a lifetime of pleasure and relaxation. You can learn to create handmade items for yourself and those you love. Classes will be taught by Kathy Gehrett at City Hall (128 E Market) from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Thursdays, Jan. 9, 16 & 23. The cost for 3 one-hour group lessons is \$20, due the first day. Yarn and instructions will be

provided, and you will need to bring your own size H hook. Call the park office to pre-register at 824-6069 or email events@blufftonindiana.gov. The class is open to beginners and advanced students.

The first **Theater Thursday** of 2025 is scheduled for January 16th at 10 am at the Wells County Public Library. The film will be 007 No Time to Die, rated PG-13. James Bond is enjoying a tranquil life in Jamaica after leaving active service. However, his peace is short-lived as his old CIA friend, Felix Leiter, shows up and asks for help. The mission to rescue a kidnapped scientist turns out to be far more treacherous than expected, leading Bond on the trail of a mysterious villain armed with a dangerous new technology.

There is still time to make a New Year's resolution to become more active! Over 200 people commit to the **Wells Winter Challenge** each year, and we have expanded the options for 2025!

Wells Winter 100 Mile Challenge: Walk or run 100 miles by March 21! That's just 10 miles a week — are you ready to go the distance?

Wells Winter Fitness Minutes Challenge: Stay active with 1,800 minutes of any activity this winter (indoor/outdoor biking, walking, yoga, pickleball, etc.). Aim for 150 minutes a week (30 minutes five times a week), and you'll be on track.

Kids 50 Mile Challenge: For kids 12 and under—run or walk 50 miles and join in the fun.

We also want to congratulate this year's **Gingerbread Contest winners:** Lane McClure, Jada Gehrett, and Paige Watter. Each winner was awarded Chamber Bucks for all their creative work.

Have a great week!

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:
Thursday, 3:26 p.m., 300 block of West Horton Street. Report of missing juveniles. Juveniles located.

Thursday, 10:12 p.m., Main Street and Sutton Circle Drive. Driver cited for no valid license.

Friday, 10:13 a.m., Premier Flats. Report of theft.

Friday, 12:40 p.m., 3112 E S.R. 124. Semi broken down in the road, moved off the roadway.

County:

Thursday, 5:33 a.m., Inteva Products. Semi stopped in the roadway, assisted with directions.

Thursday, 8:59 a.m., C.R. 600 W and 900 N, Markle. Citation issued for speeding.

Thursday, 1:15 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served.

Thursday, 1:16 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served.

Thursday, 1:17 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served.

Thursday, 1:19 p.m., Wabash and Union streets, Bluffton. Traffic stop, one detain. Vehicle towed.

Thursday, 3:14 p.m., Pak A Sak North. Driver

cited for no seat belt.

Thursday, 3:43 p.m., Wabash and Marion streets, Bluffton. Driver cited for no seat belt.

Thursday, 7:16 p.m., 1226 W South St., Bluffton. Warrant served.

Friday, 2:33 a.m., O'Reilly Auto Parts. Driver cited for no license plate light and no financial responsibility.

Friday, 3:10 a.m., Clark Avenue and Spring Street, Bluffton. Semi attempted to turn southbound on Clark Avenue from Spring Street and then started backing up, officer assisted semi to Peyton's Northern Distribution Center.

Friday, 6:04 a.m., C.R. 300 W and S.R. 218, Bluffton. Vehicle observed at 73 mph in 55 mph zone, traffic stop initiated. Driver smelled of raw marijuana and texted positive at the scene. Released pending blood draw results.

Friday, 8:51 a.m., Jeff Road and C.R. 600 W, Montpelier. Crash, report to follow.

ACCIDENTS

City:
Tuesday, 6:42 a.m., 128 E Arnold St. Paula Winters, 57, Bluffton, was backing a 2013 Chrysler 200

and struck a 2015 Chevrolet Silverado truck parked behind her vehicle. Damage exceeded \$1,000.

Friday, 8:42 a.m., S.R. 1 at Cherry Street. Easton Heckber, 17, Ossian, was driving a 2007 Subaru Impreza southbound on S.R. 1 and rear ended a 2010 Ford Taurus driven by Caleb Johnson, 19, Bluffton. Damage exceeded \$2,500.

County:

Thursday, 11:37 a.m., S.R. 1 at C.R. 200 S, Bluffton. Richard L. Elliott, 51, Dunkirk, was stopped facing east driving a 2006 International MA025. Elliott backed the vehicle to make room for a semi turning west from S.R. 1, and Elliott backed into a 2014 Chevrolet Equinox driven by Floneta J. Welsh, 78, Liberty Center. The Equinox was towed from the scene. Damage exceeded \$2,500.

FIRES

Thursday, 2:50 p.m., 1421 W Lancaster St., Bluffton. Wires down.

ARRESTS

Kerry Marie Girvin, 46, Bluffton; possession of meth, a Level 6 felony, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor.

or. Bond set at \$5,500.

Fletcher Stephen Wenger, 19, Bluffton; minor in possession of an alcoholic beverage, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond not set.

Christian Carmona Castaneda, 18, Bluffton; minor in possession of an alcoholic beverage, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond not set.

Juan Ezequiel Delgado-Sanchez, 38, McCordsville, Indiana; deception – identity, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$5,000.

Diego Ernesto Villalobos-Rodriguez, 23, Fort Wayne; domestic battery against a person or household member of a person with a protective order, a Class A misdemeanor, and operating a vehicle without ever receiving a license, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$25,000.

Rose Marie Bay, 48, Bluffton; assisting a criminal and pocket-picking, both Level 6 felonies. Bond set at \$5,000.

Another jackpot surpasses \$1 billion. Is this the new normal?

Remember this moment because it probably won't last: A U.S. lottery jackpot is projected to soar above \$1 billion, and that's still a big deal. Friday's Mega Millions drawing is worth an estimated \$1.15 billion. The prize has evoked headlines across the country, despite the nation's top 10 jackpots already having boasted billion-dollar payouts. Jonathan Cohen is the author of the book "For a Dollar and a Dream: State Lotteries in Modern America." He says he expects jackpots to continue to grow in size. Larger payouts attract more media attention, increase ticket sales and bring in new players.
See Friday's lottery results on page 9.

'Morrison Hotel' made famous by The Doors goes up in flames in Los Angeles

The former Morrison Hotel, which was famously on the cover of a 1970 album by The Doors, has been significantly damaged by a fire in downtown Los Angeles. The Los Angeles Fire Department says the four-story building burned for nearly two hours Thursday. More than 100 firefighters helped bring the fire under control. The building had been vacant for more than a decade but several people who were inside at the time escaped without injuries. The Morrison Hotel was featured on the album's cover that showed legendary frontman Jim Morrison in the middle. That album was viewed as a comeback for The Doors.

Stanley "Stan" Gilbert
Calling: 1-7 p.m.
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Service: 11 a.m.
Monday, Dec. 30 at the First Reformed Church.
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EXODUS 2:1-10
By faith Moses' parents hid him... and they were not afraid. [HEBREWS 11:23]

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 28

STEP IN FAITH

John was devastated when he lost his job. Closer to the end of his career than the beginning, he knew it would be hard to start over somewhere new. He started praying for the right job. Then John updated his resume, read interview tips, and made a lot of phone calls. After weeks of applying, he accepted a new position with a great schedule and an easy commute. His faithful obedience and God's provision had met at the perfect intersection.

A more dramatic instance of this occurred with Jochebed (EXODUS 6:20) and her family during the time of Israel's enslavement in Egypt. When Pharaoh decreed that all newborn Hebrew sons must be cast into the Nile (1:22), Jochebed must have been terrified. She couldn't change the law, but there were some steps she could take to obey God and try to save her son. In faith, she hid him from the Egyptians. She made a little, watertight papyrus basket and "put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile" (2:3). God stepped in to miraculously preserve his life (vv. 5-10) and later used him to deliver all of Israel from slavery (3:10).

John and Jochebed took very different steps, but both stories are marked by faith-filled action. Fear can paralyze us. Even if the result isn't what we expected or hoped for, faith empowers us to keep trusting in God's goodness regardless of the outcome.

KAREN PIMPO

When do you find yourself frozen in fear or worry?
How can you faithfully take the next God-honoring step?
Dear God, please help me faithfully take each step on the path You have for me.

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

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New Year's resolutions for the nation

“... if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” — St. Paul



Mark Franke

January 1 means most of us will spend too much time developing a list of resolutions for improving our lives in the new year. And most of us, myself included, will spend more time creating the list than actually executing it.

Exercising more and losing weight are the old standbys but I won't be adding them to my list this year. I have become quite faithful in getting 10,000 steps every day and that's enough exercise for me. I don't know why 10,000 is the magic number but it is easier to remember than a daily goal of 9,826 steps.

Throughout most of my adult life, my doctor exhorted me to lose weight but now that I am a senior citizen, he told me to stop losing weight. I don't know where the cutoff point was for this change in medical advice, but I am thankful for it. Ain't geezerdom wonderful!

New Year resolutions may or may not work for any specific person but could they be useful when a whole group of people adopted a list with overarching goals for all?

What would happen if, instead of everybody making their own personal list of resolutions, we came together as a nation and developed a single, common list? This list must be at the highest level of purpose on which we could all agree to make America a better place.

While I was pondering this theoretically, I came across a new book by Yuval Levin, a scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. “American Covenant: How the Constitution Unified Our Nation – And Could Again” expands on that very idea of American unity, with the Constitution as the vehicle for accomplishing it.

What would happen if we came together as a nation and developed a single, common list?

The key is to understand the Constitution's intent to establish a format for achieving agreement on the important issues of the day. Too many times we use the Constitution as a club to hammer

our opponents rather than a structure to find a solution. Levin reminds us that the Constitution was built to “forge a space, not occupy it.” In other words the Constitution was not meant to provide all the answers but the structure to arrive at these answers. Interesting perspective, that.

Unity is the goal but that does not mean unanimity. Levin's dialectic is to take healthy competition in the marketplace of ideas and to subject this productive tension to negotiated discourse. It is thinking together, not thinking alike. The aspirational outcome is not to disagree less but to disagree better. Or, as that great twentieth century philosopher Yogi Berra said, “We just agree different.”

Levin used nearly 300 pages of carefully constructed text to describe where we have gone wrong and how we can aright our polity. The book was not a quick read but a thoughtful one. It is ambitious and probably overly optimistic in proposing that we can affect a substantive change in our manner of public interaction.

Levin reminds us that both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution speak in the plural. “We hold these truths to be self-evident” and “We, the People, in Order to form a more perfect Union” are the leads in each document. Our nation was conceived with the premise that we could and would act as one united people.

The Founding Fathers understood this ideal to be aspirational but possible. James Madison in the Federalist Papers cautioned against the insidious influence of factions on public discourse but had faith enough to believe that recognition of the common good would prevail. They were idealists, the Founders, but having experienced the give and take necessary at the constitutional convention to arrive at the best possible governing document to unify the new nation.

The key to disagreeing better is to begin with the common ground on any issue. Surely we can find this, if only in agreeing on the problem statement prior to jumping to solutions. Maybe it is nothing more than an appeal to our better nature, that which genuinely wants things to improve for everyone. It is not just during the Christmas season that a spirit of goodwill can be mined in our national psyche.

St. Paul had some good advice for us today. “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” (Philippians 4:8 ESV)

If I do that in 2025, my life will be even more joy-filled than it is now. If we all do that, America will be a much more pleasant place in which to live and to raise families.

Although it would probably put several cable news channels out of business. And that would not be a Bad Thing.

Mark Franke, an adjunct scholar of the Indiana Policy Review, is formerly an associate vice chancellor at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.

Hoosier Opinions



Joe Biden's commutations racket

President Joe Biden, or whoever is running the White House, grotesquely abused the pardon power, yet again.

Biden commuted the sentences of 37 out of 40 of the prisoners on federal death row in response to the lobbying of opponents of the death penalty, keeping intact his nearly unbroke record of bending to left-wing pressure groups while in office.

Biden, or whoever is running the White House, put out a statement averring that the president has long been committed to “ensuring a fair and effective justice system.” Even if true, this is a non-sequitur, since there's nothing to suggest the handling of all these cases was unfair.

Biden decided a few years ago that he opposed the death penalty after long being an unsparing supporter (when he said in the 1990s that crime legislation he favored did “everything but hang people for jaywalking,” he meant it as a compliment). That's fine. Anyone with such a long — and undistinguished — career is going to shift on issues over time.

Still, that shouldn't give Biden, or whoever is running the White House, the prerogative to impose his will over and above that of the American people as expressed through Congress. Nonetheless, he did just that, and in behalf of people guilty of truly unspeakable crimes.

You might be tempted to say that Biden has hit bottom, but there are, surely, more acts of clemency to come. Anyone involved in the Biden family's influence-peddling business must be hoping to get the Hunter Biden treatment in this president's final hours.

Biden's commutations weren't discriminating; they were meant to be sweeping, applying to almost everyone in a broad category of criminals. The goal wasn't to apply case-by-case mercy, but to thwart a form of punishment sanctioned by the Constitution, specifically authorized by Congress, and recommend and imposed by juries and judges.

In fact, as the White House statement notes, the commutations were intended to prevent the incoming Trump administration from imposing the law in these



Rich Lowry

cases.

Obviously, people of good faith can disagree about the morality and utility of the death penalty. The right way to go about ending it, though, is to campaign for Congress to reverse field. Biden didn't even try. Although the death penalty has been losing support, it's still popular. Why try to change public opinion and to bring Congress along when the pardon power can be twisted into a weapon to effectively vacate federal statutes?

Even as an act of high principle Biden's move fails. Either the federal death penalty is a moral abomination that should never be applied, or it's not. Commuting the sentences

of 37 people who committed terrible crimes and leaving on death row another three people who committed infamous acts makes no sense. Yes, the Boston marathon bomber, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, who was one of the three left out, is a monster. So is everyone else on Biden's list.

On top of this inconsistency, the Biden Justice department just filed a death-penalty charge against the UnitedHealthcare CEO assassin, Luigi Mangione. Does Biden's DOJ want to put him on death row so some future progressive president, inspired by Biden's example, can commute his sentence?

If Biden's Catholic faith moved him — Pope Francis wanted the sentences commuted — it hasn't had the slightest effect on the president's strong support for abortion-on-demand, which, not incidentally, is one of the Left's foremost ideological imperatives.

There is a legitimate question about why we have the federal death penalty if we are going to use it so rarely (there had been a 17-year hiatus when Donald Trump's DOJ re-started executions in his first term). But that, too, is a matter to be taken up by the Congress, not a doddering soon-to-be former president hunting among the scraps of progressive priorities for something that he believes will enhance his legacy in the sad final days of his presidency.

Biden, or whoever is running the White House, should be ashamed.

Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry

Trump tweets the merry out of Christmas

Will somebody please tell Donald Trump he won't? I'm sure he's seen the official results by now.

I'm sure he knows he'll be moving back into the White House on January 20.

But he's still acting like he's on the campaign trail.

He's firing off tweets, trolling his opponents and talking about the United States buying Greenland, retaking control of the Panama Canal and making jokes that he wants Canada to become the 51st state.

It's weird, what Trump's doing. It's the Christmas holidays. It's a time for families, not politics.

It's a time for shopping, watching football and building back relationships with our loved ones and friends that were ripped apart by four years of ugly partisan politics.

I don't know what topics your family was talking about during your Christmas dinner, but at mine no one even mentioned Greenland, Panama or Canada — thank the Lord.

I'm the son of a politician. But I know there are many other more important things in life besides politics — especially over the holidays.

I really care about the Christmas season and I always try to keep it from being spoiled by politics. I think every American would be much happier at this time of the year if they focused solely on the holiday.

That goes especially for Trump.



Michael Reagan

I haven't been paying attention to what he has been doing or what he's been saying his policies will be. That's because he's not president yet. I don't care who his appointees are, either. They haven't even been approved.

The best thing Trump could have said to his followers and the entire country was, “Enjoy the holidays. Enjoy your family and friends. Forget politics.”

“We won. We'll hit the ground running after the first of the year. See you then. I'm going on vacation.”

Trump should know that this is



supposed to be the time to relax and look forward to the new year. I'm hoping he's going to make the sun come back out not only where I live, but to come back out over America.

I want to see people being happy again, talking to each other again, having dinner with friends, going to movies. I want to see people getting to know their families and neighbors better and rebuilding their old rela-

tionships.

I think everybody in the U.S. is ready to get back to the way their daily lives were before the pandemic and the lockdowns came along and wrecked them in so many ways.

But that's not going to happen unless everyone is willing to break out of their partisan bubbles and silos.

As for the shrunken army of MSNBC fans who are vowing to continue their failed war against Trump, we know you hate Trump. Get over it. He's president.

Instead of spending the next four years whining about the dumb things he's going to tweet or detecting the coming of a dictatorship in every executive order he issues, the Trump haters should get a grip.

Try to look on the bright side of things. Try to be fair. Try to be open-minded. Try to be less deranged.

Trump is bound to do some good things you can agree with. Concentrate on the big and important things he might do right.

For instance, what if he brings a quick end to two wars, tames the inflation rate and closes the border?

Those would be three major accomplishments. If he pulls them off — if he fires half a million bureaucrats and cuts a couple trillion dollars in spending out of the budget — not buying Greenland will not prevent him from making America great again for everyone.

And don't forget, President Trump. You won. Take a break. Play golf — while you still can.

Reagan@caglecartoons.com • X: @reaganworld

The News-Banner

(USPS 059-200)

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

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

Holly Gaskill, Editor
Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor

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

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, Dec. 28, the 363rd day of 2024. There are three days left in the year.

Today in history: On Dec. 28, 2014, the U.S. war in Afghanistan came to a formal end after 13 years with a quiet flag-lowering ceremony in Kabul that marked the transition of the fighting from U.S.-led combat troops to the country's own security forces.

Also on this date:

In 1908, a major earthquake followed by a tsunami devastated the Italian cities of Messina and Reggio Calabria, killing at least 70,000.

In 1912, San Francisco's Municipal Railway began operations with Mayor James Rolph Jr. at the controls of Streetcar No. 1 as 50,000 spectators looked on.

In 1945, Congress officially recog-

nized the Pledge of Allegiance.

In 1972, Kim Il Sung, the premier of North Korea, was named the country's president under a new constitution.

In 1973, the Endangered Species Act was signed into law by President Richard Nixon.

In 1981, Elizabeth Jordan Carr, the first American “test-tube” baby, was born in Norfolk, Virginia.



Call to Worship

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHESTER CENTER
900S-300W, Poneto
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

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9 a.m. - First Service. 10:45 - Second Service.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Time to Take a Devotional Break

CONSISTENT FRUIT

Holidays are interesting. We see them coming and often give hours of energy, time, eagerness, or frustration in planning for them. Financial budgets can be strained as we prepare for that once-a-year event. Emotions may be stretched to the limit by unrealistic expectations.

Unfortunately, the ones we claim to love the most usually bear the brunt of these idealistic mental gymnastics, hopes, and visions. Whether learned from Hollywood or the ever-changing marketing strategies of our day, each of us seems to place inordinate hope in various special events that make up only short periods of our lives.

The same can be said of many other ambitions around which we center our lives: work-related expectations, healthy living habits, relationships, spiritual growth, and more. All of these require energy, effort, and, above all, consistency, as any physical trainer, gardener, or pastor will verify.

There are no "quick fixes" in changing your life for the better.

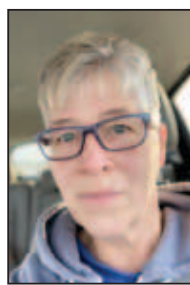
Matthew 3 introduces us to Jesus' fiery cousin, John the Baptist, who called the Pharisees and Sadducees a "brood of vipers (vs. 7)." He reminded these religious

leaders that true faith is revealed when our lives produce fruit "consistent with repentance (Matthew 3:8)." As Jewish spiritual leaders who monitored the observance of all the Mosaic laws, these "men of faith" were often petty and vindictive in their interpretation of what God demanded, pleased with their own outward show of piety while many of their hearts were called "white-washed tombs" by the very Messiah they rejected (Matthew 23:27, 28).

It's easy to accuse Biblical characters of foolish expectations while we anticipate immediate yet lasting changes from temporary "commitments" to bettering ourselves. Scripture reminds us that Christ alone makes us spiritually and practically "new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17, 18)." The power of the Holy Spirit recreates our lives into the image of Jesus, bringing about lasting change that results in evidence of His character (Galatians 5:16-26).

Maybe this New Year demands a different resolution — one that finds us consistently studying God's Word, relying daily on His guidance, and persistently seeking to imitate Jesus. This results in consistent fruit.

mpaxson99@yahoo.com



by Martha Paxson

CELEBRATING OUR FATHER'S LOVE

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

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

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

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

HOPE MISSIONARY
429 E. Dustman Rd.
hope4thefamily.com
8 a.m., 9:30 & 11 a.m. - Service at Main Campus. 9:30 & 11 a.m. - Service, north campus, Ossian.

KEYSTONE CHURCH
10556S-200W
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:30 - Sunday School.

KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
2803 N. Main St.
jw.org
10 a.m. - Worship.

LANCASTER CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST
4510 E 400N, Craigville
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 9:40 - Fellowship. 10 a.m. - Worship.

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

LIBERTY CENTER BAPTIST
3071 W. Cherry St.
8:30 a.m. - Pastor/Deacon's Prayer. 9 - Sunday School. 9:55 - Fellowship. 10:15 - Worship.

LIBERTY CENTER COMMUNITY CHURCH
8:45 a.m. - Choir practice. 9 a.m. - Coffee, donuts, conversation. 9:30 - Worship w/infant nursery & children's church. 10:45 - Sunday School.

LIFE COMMUNITY
428 S. Oak St.
lifecommunity.net
10:30 a.m. - Service (Children's programs available).

LIVING WATER UNITED CHURCH
6486 S 700E, Bluffton
8:45-9 a.m. - Prayer. 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

MARKLE CHAPEL HILL SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
470 E. Morse St.
Saturday: 9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:45 - Sabbath School (Bible study).

MARKLE CHURCH OF CHRIST
455 E. Morse St.
marklechurch.org
9 a.m. - Adult Bible study groups. 10:30 - Worship. Children's & student programming both hours.

MARKLE RIVERSIDE 316
145 W. Morse St.
10 a.m. - Worship.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ZANESVILLE CHURCH OF GOD
11984 N. Marzane Rd.
10 a.m. - Worship.

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

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• E-mail to churchnews@news-banner.com
• Drop information at 125 N. Johnson St. in Bluffton



Norwell's Josh McBride (right) is chased by two Adams Central defenders closing out on a three pointer Friday night at The Castle. The Knights hit 10 triples in the game to defeat the Jets 67-54. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

Knights break Jets' zone defense with 67 points in nonconference win

By RYAN WALKER

Some teams will live and die from three. For Norwell, it lived by it Friday night at The Castle.

Count 'em eight three-point field goals in the first eight minutes of the cross-county contest with Adams Central (4-2), and that would lead the Knights (5-2) to a 67-54 victory.

The three-ball was certainly what got the Knights ahead early on, leading by 15 at halftime. But the rest of the game was just simply passing around and cutting backdoor to the basket for easy layups — much different than the 30 points Norwell mustered in last year's game.

This year, head coach Mike McBride studied the film and learned how to attack coach Aaron McClure's 2-3 zone defense differently. It helps that the Jets lost a handful of seniors from their ACAC championship team, but Norwell ran laps around them regard.

"We moved the ball really well," McBride said. "I thought our attack and our

game plan against the zone was really good."

Norwell split four of the eight threes in the first quarter. Adam McBride hit two of them in the final two minutes to get the score up to six. In the second, it was raining threes. Nick McBride and Josh McBride splashed their first attempts of the quarter. Adam and Josh followed with the next two to go on a 12-2 run at the 5:17 mark.

The swishes seemed nonstop, but only two more threes followed for the rest of the game — that was due to Norwell's ability to cut to the basket for easy buckets. "Once we got going from the outside, then (the Jets') zone just had to extend and spread out so much," McBride said. "And then we were able to get a lot of layups. I mean, usually against Adam Central in the zone, you don't get that many layups."

McClure's group didn't play too shabby either from beyond the arc. In fact, they made 10 threes in total just like Norwell did on just two more attempts. But where

Norwell got them was the over-commitment to the three-point defense.

From two-point range, Norwell shot 15-23 — mostly pass-and-catch layups. Owen Wallis scored 11 points, going 5-6 from the floor, and using his speed to go baseline. Of their 25 total made shots, 88% of them were by assists. McBride credited his guard play, led by Nick and Josh, feeding the ball down in the paint, and for Garry Riley, Ryne Thornton and Wallis for making the right decisions fast when they got the ball.

Conversely, Adams Central made nine shots all game from under the basket.

From the middle of the second quarter and beyond, Norwell was set on cruise control.

At one point in the fourth, the Jets managed to cut into the lead 49-41, but the Knights played patient basketball and found the right player getting to the cup. By the end of the game, Norwell had had four players into double figures. Adam McBride led the Knights with 19, Josh

McBride (17), Wallis (13) and Nick McBride (11).

Norwell will be right back at The Castle when it faces county rival Bluffton at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 28.

Norwell won the junior varsity contest 45-36. Trey Privett led the Knights with 20 points, Adam Mahnensmith eight and Cade Thornton seven.

ryan@news-banner.com

NORWELL 67, ADAMS CENTRAL 54
At Norwell
ADAMS CENTRAL (4-2): Trace Maller 9-16 3-4 27, Braylend Reber 6-12 3-7 16, Lawson Deathe 3-6 0-2 8, Marcus Bollenbacher 1-2 0-0 3, Cade Van De Weg 0-5 0-0 0, Braden Dalrymple 0-2 0-0 0, Drew Johnson 0-1 0-0 0. TOTALS: 19-44 6-13 54.
NORWELL (5-2): Adam McBride 8-13 0-0 19, Josh McBride 6-14 1-2 11, Owen Wallis 5-6 3-4 13, Nick McBride 3-12 2-2 11, Garry Riley 2-2 1-2 5, Ryne Thornton 1-1 0-1 2, Trey Privett 0-0 0-0 0, Cade Thornton 0-0 0-0 0, Noah Comer 0-1 0-0 0, Vinny Freiburger 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 25-49 7-11 67.
A. Central 13 11 14 16 — 54
Norwell 19 20 10 18 — 67
Three-point Shooting: Adams Central 10-28 (Maller 6-11, Deathe 2-3, Reber 1-4, Bollenbacher 1-2, Van De Weg 0-5, Johnson 0-1, Dalrymple 0-2), Norwell 10-26 (J. McBride 4-10, A. McBride 3-6, N. McBride 3-10). Rebounds: Adams Central 25, Norwell 29. Turnovers: Adams Central 12, Norwell 11. Fouls: Adams Central 11, Norwell 12. Fouled Out: None. Technicals: None.
JV: 45-36 Norwell.

Depleted Notre Dame defense hopes to make an impact against Georgia in quarterfinals

By CURT RALLO

Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) — Notre Dame's defense set a dominating tone early in its College Football Playoff opener against Indiana. The Fighting Irish stuffed the highest-scoring team in the CFP field for a 14-3 halftime lead, but then Notre Dame suffered a gut punch.

Defensive lineman Rylie Mills sacked Indiana quarterback Kurtis Rourke on the first play of the second half, and had to be helped off the field with a knee injury.

Heading into its CFP quarterfinal game against second-seeded Georgia, the Fighting Irish are determined to make sure the setback doesn't turn into a letdown.

The Fighting Irish (12-1) finished with a 27-17 victory against Indiana, giving up two touchdowns in the final two minutes after building a 27-3 lead. Now Notre Dame has to replace Mills, its sack leader this season, for the game against Georgia (11-2). Kickoff for the Sugar Bowl is scheduled for Wednesday at the Superdome in New Orleans.

"So we feel badly for (Mills), but at the same time ... we just don't flinch," Notre Dame defensive coordinator Al Golden said. "We move forward. It's time for somebody else to have an opportunity, and I know

they'll be ready."

After a shocking 16-14 loss to Northern Illinois in the second game of the season, Notre

D a m e ' s defense led the charge for an 11-game winning streak that lifted the Fighting Irish when the offense struggled to find its footing. And the defense has done it while being forced to replace a series of key players.

Mills was a force on Notre Dame's defense, which is ranked first in the nation in team passing efficiency defense (96.94), first in turnovers gained (29), first in defensive touchdowns (6) and third in scoring defense (13.8).

Notre Dame's defense punished opponents this season despite losing four starters to season-ending injuries — linemen Mills, Jordan Botelho and Boubacar Traore (all knee injuries), and cornerback Benjamin Morrison (hip). Freshman linebacker Kyngstonn Viliamu-Asa (knee injury) hasn't played since he was hurt in the Army game. Jason Onye, a defensive tackle, hasn't played since the fifth game because of a personal issue.

Seventh-seeded Notre

Dame needs the defense to come up big once more against powerful Georgia and a quarterback it knows

little about.

Notre Dame head coach Marcus Freeman is counting on Gabe Rubio and Donovan Hinish to

step up and take turns filling in for Mills.

"You don't prepare them in a week," Freeman said of players stepping up to replace starters. "They've been preparing every single day all season long."

"That's why every rep you do in a practice matters and is evaluated," Freeman said. "You don't know when that rep is going to be thrust against Georgia. You have to prepare in a way in practice that you're improving, but you're ready if your number is called."

Howard Cross III, a defensive lineman who has teamed up with Mills to be the leaders of an imposing defensive front, had just returned to the Fighting Irish lineup for the playoffs after missing three games with an ankle injury.

"It was heartbreaking," Cross said of seeing Mills go down.

Cross said it's been an

unusual season with the injuries, but facing a 14th game, everybody is dealing with pain.

"The whole thing is no one's healthy, no matter what position you are, no matter what you're doing," Cross said. "Your hamstring could be sore, like somebody's hurt in some way, shape or form. Some worse than others."

"It is kind of a testament to the mental toughness of this team," Cross said of the defense always being ready. "The whole thing for us is like, God forbid you go down, the next guy up has to know exactly what they're doing. We are expecting the next guy up to have the same or better production than the guy that's starting right now."

Notre Dame's defense faces the challenge of replacing Mills and getting ready for a Georgia offense led by Gunner Stockton, who replaces injured starter Carson Beck.

"You evaluate, obviously, schematically, what they've done all season," Freeman said of preparing a different look from the Bulldogs. "Then you have a separate tape of what Stockton, the new quarterback, has done. I think we have 80-something plays of him playing quarterback. He can run their offense. He does some things a little bit differently. He can extend plays with his legs. He's a good athlete.

High School Calendar

SATURDAY, DEC 28

BOYS BASKETBALL: Bluffton at Norwell, 7:30 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL: Norwell at Noblesville Holiday Tournament, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. or 7:45 p.m.; Eastern at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m.

WRESTLING: Southern Wells at Spartan Classic at Connersville, 9 a.m.

MONDAY, DEC 30

No events scheduled.

TUESDAY, DEC 31

No events scheduled.

WEDNESDAY, JAN 1

No events scheduled.

THURSDAY, JAN 2

BOYS BASKETBALL: Norwell at Wawasee Holiday Tournament, 10 a.m.; Union City at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN 3

BOYS BASKETBALL: Lakewood Park Christian at Bluffton, 7:30 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL: Bluffton at Belmont, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Randolph Southern 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN 4

No events scheduled.

Sportscaster Greg Gumbel dies from cancer at age 78

By HALLIE GOLDEN

Associated Press

Greg Gumbel, a longtime CBS sportscaster who broke barriers during his career calling some of the biggest sporting events, has died from cancer, according to a statement from family released by the network on Friday. He was 78.

"He leaves behind a legacy of love, inspiration and dedication to over 50 extraordinary years in the sports broadcast industry; and his iconic voice will never be forgotten," his wife Marcy Gumbel and daughter Michelle Gumbel said in a statement.

In March, Gumbel missed his first NCAA Tournament since 1997 due to what he said at the time were family health issues.

Gumbel was the studio host for CBS since returning to the network from NBC in 1998. Gumbel signed an extension with CBS last year that allowed him to continue hosting college basketball while stepping back from NFL announcing duties.

In 2001, he announced Super Bowl 35 for CBS, becoming the first Black announcer in the U.S. to call play-by-play of a major sports championship.

David Berson, president and CEO of CBS Sports, described Gumbel as someone who broke barriers and set standards for others during his years as a voice for fans in sports, including in the NFL and March Madness.

"A tremendous broadcaster and gifted storyteller, Greg led one of the most remarkable and groundbreaking sports broadcasting careers of all time," said Berson.

Gumbel had two stints at CBS, leaving the network for NBC when it lost football in 1994 and returning when it regained the contract in 1998.

He hosted CBS' coverage of the 1992 and 1994 Winter Olympics and called Major League Baseball games during its four-year run broadcasting the national pastime. In 1995, he hosted the World Figure Skating Championships and the following year hosted NBC's daytime coverage of the Olympic Summer Games in Atlanta.

But it was football and basketball where he was best known and made his biggest impact. Gumbel hosted CBS' NFL studio show, "The NFL Today" from 1990 to 1993 and again in 2004-05.

Earlier this year, Gumbel recalled replacing Brent Musburger as host of "The NFL Today" in 1990, describing it as intimidating and daunting.

"The fact that I got to sit in the same chair and do the same thing or try to do the same thing that he did was an incredible honor," he said.

Gumbel also called NFL games as the network's lead play-by-play announcer from 1998 to 2003, including Super Bowl 35 and 38. He returned to the NFL booth in 2005, leaving that role after the 2022 season.

With Bears skid at 10 games, finale can't come soon enough

By ANDREW SELIGMAN

AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — When the Chicago Bears threatened to score in the closing minutes of a 6-3 loss to the Seattle Seahawks on Thursday, fans expressed their feelings loud and clear.

They weren't cheering for a touchdown or field goal. They had something else in mind.

"Sell the team!" they chanted. With their skid at 10 games, a season that started with playoff hopes can't end soon enough for the Bears (4-12). They will wrap it up when they visit the rival Green Bay Packers on Jan. 5.

"My job is to go out there and win games," quarterback Caleb Williams said. "And we don't focus on the outside noise. The fans are going to cheer and maybe boo sometimes. And you can't react to that. It's not something that we react to."

Chicago is 14-36 in three seasons under general manager Ryan Poles and has two double-digit losing streaks.

The Bears dropped their final 10 in 2022 when they were tanking as part of a franchise-record 14-game skid that stretched into last year. They've never lost more than 10 in a row in a single season.

The slide was at six games when they fired former coach Matt Eberflus the day after a loss at Detroit on Thanksgiving, following a series of poor late-game decisions. They're 0-4 under interim coach Thomas Brown, and they've been dominated by Green Bay in recent decades.

Next steps

The Bears have lost 11 straight against the Packers — the longest streak by either team in the storied rivalry — and 26 of 29 counting the playoffs. They've dropped eight in a row at Lambeau Field since a win in 2015.



News-Banner Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE				
East				
y-Buffalo	12	3	0	800 469 331
Miami	7	8	0	467 305 329
e-N.Y. Jets	4	11	0	267 292 344
e-N. England	3	12	0	200 259 361
South				
y-Houston	9	7	0	563 349 358
Indianapolis	7	8	0	467 318 359
e-Jacksonville	3	12	0	200 277 396
e-Tennessee	3	12	0	200 284 417
West				
x-Baltimore	11	5	0	688 483 351
x-Pittsburgh	10	6	0	625 363 328
Cincinnati	7	8	0	467 423 394
e-Cleveland	3	12	0	200 245 380

NATIONAL CONFERENCE				
East				
*-Kansas City	15	1	0	938 385 288
Denver	9	6	0	600 363 281
L.A. Chargers	9	6	0	600 328 274
e-Las Vegas	3	12	0	200 264 390
West				
x-Philadelphia	12	3	0	800 402 283
Washington	10	5	0	667 432 348
e-Dallas	7	8	0	467 324 404
e-N.Y. Giants	2	13	0	133 215 362

National Conference				
East				
x-Philadelphia	12	3	0	800 402 283
Washington	10	5	0	667 432 348
e-Dallas	7	8	0	467 324 404
e-N.Y. Giants	2	13	0	133 215 362
South				
Atlanta	8	7	0	533 327 349
Tampa Bay	8	7	0	533 427 352
e-N. Orleans	5	10	0	333 309 346
e-Carolina	4	11	0	267 283 448
West				
x-Detroit	13	2	0	867 493 299
x-Minnesota	13	2	0	867 396 276
x-Green Bay	11	4	0	733 413 287
e-Chicago	4	12	0	250 286 348

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x-Philadelphia	12	3	0	800 402 283
Washington	10	5	0	667 432 348
e-Dallas	7	8	0	467 324 404
e-N.Y. Giants	2	13	0	133 215 362
South				
Atlanta	8	7	0	533 327 349
Tampa Bay	8	7	0	533 427 352
e-N. Orleans	5	10	0	333 309 346
e-Carolina	4	11	0	267 283 448
West				
x-Detroit	13	2	0	867 493 299
x-Minnesota	13	2	0	867 396 276
x-Green Bay	11	4	0	733 413 287
e-Chicago	4	12	0	250 286 348

National Conference				
East				
x-Philadelphia	12	3	0	800 402 283
Washington	10	5	0	667 432 348
e-Dallas	7	8	0	467 324 404
e-N.Y. Giants	2	13	0	133 215 362
South				
Atlanta	8	7	0	533 327 349
Tampa Bay	8	7	0	533 427 352
e-N. Orleans	5	10	0	333 309 346
e-Carolina	4	11	0	267 283 448
West				
x-Detroit	13	2	0	867 493 299
x-Minnesota	13	2	0	867 396 276
x-Green Bay	11	4	0	733 413 287
e-Chicago	4	12	0	250 286 348

National Conference				
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How to end a friendship

Dear Annie: I have known “Gabe” for 13 to 14 years now. We met through the website Meepup and have attended social events. He’s awkward in social settings and wasn’t included in groups. I felt bad for him, so I included him. At that time, I was planning on leaving town, so I thought the right thing to do was to continue to invite him every now and then to different social functions, to be nice. Since then, I have sent him holiday cards, and we usually see each other four to five times a year, normally for a meal and shopping trip at Costco.

Gabe always talks about the same things almost every time we meet. I indulge him because I know he’s lonely and doesn’t have a lot of friends. He’s not married and doesn’t engage much with his family except for family gatherings at the holidays. He’s a nice guy overall and harmless. It’s just that the friendship doesn’t add value to my life. It hasn’t since the beginning, and I have tried, but for a while now, my spending time with him has felt like a charity case (I don’t really want to or have to, and I do it with almost professionalism so it seems I’ve been with him because I wanted to be). I feel it’s disingenuous and inauthentic. I would like to end the friendship because I instead of ghosting him.

I know doing this and therefore ending contact will hurt him (another reason why this Band-Aid should have been ripped off a very long time ago). I could have a conversation to renegotiate the boundaries of the friendship, but I don’t have the desire to. I know that to be true because I am using this past election as an excuse to shun him as well as making a case against him using an incident that occurred the last time we met. He told me how funny he thinks it is that

he made “witty” nicknames to make fun of other people’s names, whether or not those people wanted those nicknames he came up with or not. I chided him for that then as I think it’s bully behavior.

How do I break up with this friend? — Ready to Let Go

Dear Ready: Break-ups of any kind are bound to be awkward — but if how you’ve been behaving toward Gabe is a front for how you really feel, then you’re making the right call. Pretending to be his friend doesn’t serve either of you.

The fact that you and Gabe only see each other a handful of times a year lends itself to your friendship fading naturally on its own. But if you’re adamant about not ghosting him, then you need to tell him gently and directly that you think it’s best you two to go your separate ways. He will feel hurt — as you said, he doesn’t have many other friends in his support system — but ending the friendship is better for both of you than continuing an inauthentic one.

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

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Dear Annie

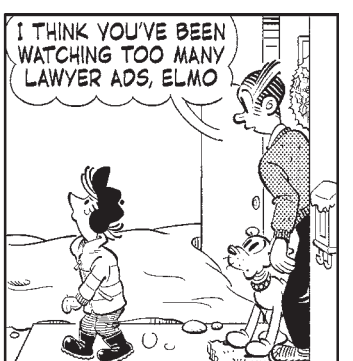
by Annie Lane



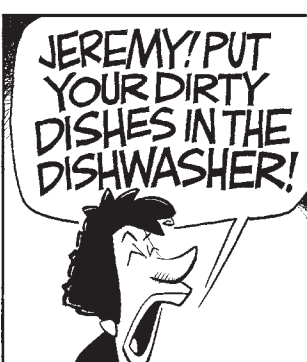
BEETLE BAILEY



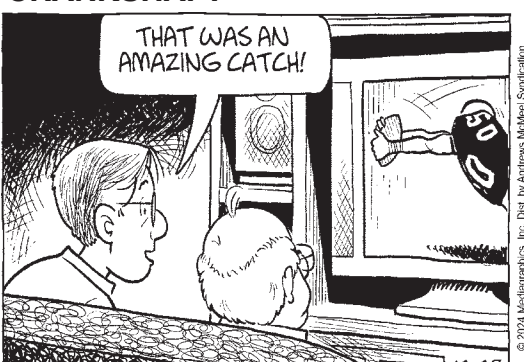
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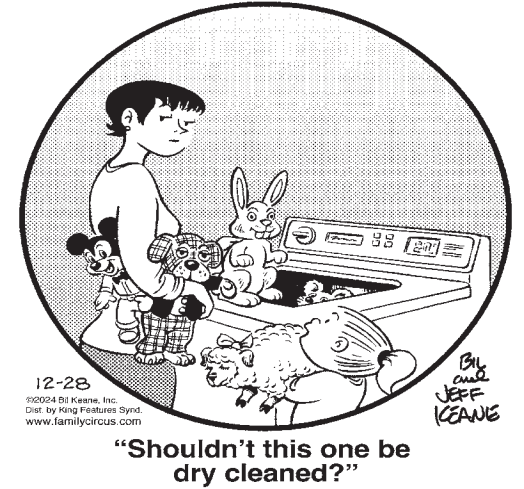


CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



God wants us to learn from the past

Question: Is there any value in reflecting on the past or should we simply start over when a new year approaches? Looking back seems to bring more sorrow than happiness. — B.P.

Answer: Looking back is difficult for many people. When a year brings heartache and loss, tragedy and sorrow, we do hope that we can turn the page to greater days ahead. For those who have experienced life that brings blessings — a marriage, a new baby, a new home or job, or just generally good health — we find ourselves rejoicing.

If we close the year with regret, we should

pause and prayerfully ask two important questions. First, how does God look on the past, and did it bring us any closer to Him? Did it expose any weaknesses in our life? Could we have disappointed the Lord in how we responded to the challenges life brought us? What lessons can we take from one year to the next?

God wants us to learn from the past and He also wants us to thank Him for being with us through hard times and good times, to remember that He never leaves us nor forsakes us. This is the great hope for those who follow Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. We should not be bound by the past and its fail-

ures. This is what the Apostle Paul’s goal was: “One thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:13–14, NKJV).

May the new year bring new opportunities to trust the Lord more and to grow in the knowledge of Him.

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

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Nitwit
5 Urban fleet
9 Efron of “Neighbors”
12 Mideast gulf
13 Cruising
14 “Evil Woman” band
15 Monthly payment
16 Endure
17 Bldg. divisions
18 “Candy is dandy” poet
19 Likely
20 Capricorn
21 Brit. record label
23 Sound of surprise
25 Curtain fabric
28 Dudes
32 “War and Peace” director
33 Skilled
34 Summary

DOWN

36 Omitted
55 Await
22 Madame Curie
24 Gets better
25 Super Bowl
1 Mend a sock
2 Classic theaters
3 Lairs
4 Bar order
5 Chunnel city
6 Now, in memos
7 Compila-tion album type
8 Perched
9 Nada
10 — mater
11 Price
20 Fairy tale girl
41 Essence
43 Algerian port
45 “The Lion King” lion
46 Fed. agents
47 Pundit’s piece
49 Nile reptile

Solution time: 26 mins.

Yesterday’s answer 12-28

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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18				19				20		
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54					55				56	

12/28	M	A	D1	D2	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM	12:30		
WINM (12)	11	26	63		Music Moments	Let's Take It Outside	A Fishing Story	Life's Highway	Twin Factor	Off the Co	Divine	Sue Thomas F.B. Eye	48 Hours (N)	Foundation	Huckabee		Life	Game Changer	The News on Merit Street			
CBS WANE (15)	2	2	15	15	(4:00) Basketball Howard at Hampton (L) (N)	TBA	CBS-News (N)	To Be Announced	S.W.A.T. "SNAFU"	48 Hours (N)	48 Hours (N)	48 Hours (N)	Nightcast (N)	(35) IN Focus (N)	(05) The Equalizer "One Percenters"							
Antenna WANE-2 (152)	106	20			Law & Order: SVU "Spousal Privilege"	Law & Order: SVU "Pattern Seventeen"	Law & Order: SVU "Forgiving Rollins"	Law & Order: SVU "Agent Privilege"	Law & Order: SVU "Padre Sandunguro"	Law & Order: SVU "Murder in F Major"	Law & Order: SVU "Intimidation Game"	Law & Order: SVU "Undercover Mother"	Law & Order: SVU "Investigate+"	Seinfeld	Modern Family							
ABC WPTA (21)	4	3	21	21	(3:30) Football The No. 13 Hurricanes & No. 18 Cyclones match up for the first time in the 2024 Pop-Tarts Bowl.	TBA	College Football Valero Alamo Bowl: BYU vs. Colorado No. 17 BYU plays No. 23 Colorado in the Alamo Bowl, in a once-possible Big 12 title-game matchup. (L) (N)	Dateline NBC	Dateline NBC	Saturday Night Live	TBA	Saturday Night Live										
NBC WPTA-2 (212)	7	8	14		(4:00) Swimming World Championships	News (N)	NBC News (N)	To Be Announced	Chicago Fire "It Wasn't About Hockey"	Chicago Fire "What I Saw"	9-1-1 "Red Flag"	The Rookie "Take Back"	Suits	Murdoch Mysteries "Murder in F Major"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Locum"							
MNT WPTA-3 (213)	10	9	56	34	World Chase Tag	Chicago Fire "It Wasn't About Hockey"	Chicago Fire "What I Saw"	9-1-1 "Red Flag"	WWE NXT WWE Superstars compete to prove they've got what it takes.	Friends	Friends	TMZ (N)	* The Swan Princess Christmas									
CW WISE (33)	8	4	33	33	College Football Brett Gabbert and the RedHawks (8-5) brace for the Rams (8-4) in the Arizona Bowl.	Lawrence Welk "Roses (Raina English)"	Doc Martin "To the Lighthouse"	Keep-Appar	As Time Goes By	Recorded "Jeff 'Skunk' Baxter and Friends"	Austin City Limits "Sylvan Esso, Lucius"	* Cats of Malta (2023, Documentary)										
PBS WFWA (39)	13	5	39	39	Weekend Plan	Antiques Roadshow "Junk in the Trunk 12"	Folk Americana	Arcostrata Delta: The Legacy of D.C. Telemasters	College Basketball UCLA vs. Gonzaga From Intuit Dome in Inglewood, Calif. (L) (N)	To Be Announced	The Floor	News at 10 (N)										
PBS WFP (49)	3				Volunteer Woodshop "Tool Tote"	Weekend "Painting Johnston and Wildlife"	Hoops Tip-Off (L) (N)															
FOX WFTT (55)	6	5	55	55	To Be Announced	Programming to be announced.																
CABLE CHANNELS																						
LIFE	23	113	108	252	(4:00) Murdaugh Mur "Part 2"	* Husband, Father, Killer: The Alyssa Pladd Story (24) Matthew MacCaull, Jackie Cruz.	* The Last Thing She Said (2024, Thriller) Jill Teed, Sarah Christine Smith, Kylee Bush. (P)	(05) * Mormon Mom Gone Wrong: The Ruby Franke Story (24) Heather Locklear.	(05) * The Last Thing She Said (24) Kylee Bush.													
FX	24	132	136	148	Movie	*** Guardians of the Galaxy (14) Chris Pratt.	*** Captain America: Civil War (16) Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans.	*** Captain America: Civil War	*** Captain America: Civil War													
TVLAND	25		106	304	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	
E!	26	142	114	236	*** MARRY ME (22) Owen Wilson, Jennifer Lopez.	*** Pitch Perfect (2012, Romance) Skylar Astin, Rebel Wilson, Anna Kendrick.	*** Pitch Perfect (2012, Romance) Skylar Astin, Rebel Wilson, Anna Kendrick.	*** Pitch Perfect (2012, Romance) Skylar Astin, Rebel Wilson, Anna Kendrick.	*** Pitch Perfect (2012, Romance) Skylar Astin, Rebel Wilson, Anna Kendrick.	*** Pitch Perfect (2012, Romance) Skylar Astin, Rebel Wilson, Anna Kendrick.	*** Pitch Perfect (2012, Romance) Skylar Astin, Rebel Wilson, Anna Kendrick.	*** Pitch Perfect (2012, Romance) Skylar Astin, Rebel Wilson, Anna Kendrick.	*** Pitch Perfect (2012, Romance) Skylar Astin, Rebel Wilson, Anna Kendrick.	*** Pitch Perfect (2012, Romance) Skylar Astin, Rebel Wilson, Anna Kendrick.	*** Pitch Perfect (2012, Romance) Skylar Astin, Rebel Wilson, Anna Kendrick.	*** Pitch Perfect (2012, Romance) Skylar Astin, Rebel Wilson, Anna Kendrick.	*** Pitch Perfect (2012, Romance) Skylar Astin, Rebel Wilson, Anna Kendrick.	*** Pitch Perfect (2012, Romance) Skylar Astin, Rebel Wilson, Anna Kendrick.	*** Pitch Perfect (2012, Romance) Skylar Astin, Rebel Wilson, Anna Kendrick.	*** Pitch Perfect (2012, Romance) Skylar Astin, Rebel Wilson, Anna Kendrick.	*** Pitch Perfect (2012, Romance) Skylar Astin, Rebel Wilson, Anna Kendrick.	
PARMT	30	241	241	241	*** RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK (1981, Adventure) Karen Allen, John Wood, Harrison Ford.	*** Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984) Kate Capshaw, Harrison Ford.	*** Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984) Kate Capshaw, Harrison Ford.	*** Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984) Kate Capshaw, Harrison Ford.	*** Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984) Kate Capshaw, Harrison Ford.	*** Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984) Kate Capshaw, Harrison Ford.	*** Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984) Kate Capshaw, Harrison Ford.	*** Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984) Kate Capshaw, Harrison Ford.	*** Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984) Kate Capshaw, Harrison Ford.	*** Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984) Kate Capshaw, Harrison Ford.	*** Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984) Kate Capshaw, Harrison Ford.	*** Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984) Kate Capshaw, Harrison Ford.	*** Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984) Kate Capshaw, Harrison Ford.	*** Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984) Kate Capshaw, Harrison Ford.	*** Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984) Kate Capshaw, Harrison Ford.	*** Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984) Kate Capshaw, Harrison Ford.	*** Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984) Kate Capshaw, Harrison Ford.	
ESPN	31	50	140	206	Football	(4:00) College Football: East Carolina vs. NC State The Victory Barrel is brought out for the Military Bowl between East Carolina and NC State. (L) (N)	(15) Football Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl: Marshall vs. Army Marshall brings a seven-game win streak into the Independence Bowl against No. 22 Army. (L) (N)	(15) Football Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl: Marshall vs. Army Marshall brings a seven-game win streak into the Independence Bowl against No. 22 Army. (L) (N)	(15) Football Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl: Marshall vs. Army Marshall brings a seven-game win streak into the Independence Bowl against No. 22 Army. (L) (N)	(15) Football Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl: Marshall vs. Army Marshall brings a seven-game win streak into the Independence Bowl against No. 22 Army. (L) (N)	(15) Football Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl: Marshall vs. Army Marshall brings a seven-game win streak into the Independence Bowl against No. 22 Army. (L) (N)	(15) Football Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl: Marshall vs. Army Marshall brings a seven-game win streak into the Independence Bowl against No. 22 Army. (L) (N)	(15) Football Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl: Marshall vs. Army Marshall brings a seven-game win streak into the Independence Bowl against No. 22 Army. (L) (N)	(15) Football Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl: Marshall vs. Army Marshall brings a seven-game win streak into the Independence Bowl against No. 22 Army. (L) (N)	(15) Football Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl: Marshall vs. Army Marshall brings a seven-game win streak into the Independence Bowl against No. 22 Army. (L) (N)	(15) Football Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl: Marshall vs. Army Marshall brings a seven-game win streak into the Independence Bowl against No. 22 Army. (L) (N)	(15) Football Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl: Marshall vs. Army Marshall brings a seven-game win streak into the Independence Bowl against No. 22 Army. (L) (N)	(15) Football Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl: Marshall vs. Army Marshall brings a seven-game win streak into the Independence Bowl against No. 22 Army. (L) (N)	(15) Football Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl: Marshall vs. Army Marshall brings a seven-game win streak into the Independence Bowl against No. 22 Army. (L) (N)	(15) Football Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl: Marshall vs. Army Marshall brings a seven-game win streak into the Independence Bowl against No. 22 Army. (L) (N)	(15) Football Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl: Marshall vs. Army Marshall brings a seven-game win streak into the Independence Bowl against No. 22 Army. (L) (N)	
ESPN2	32	54	183	209	Wm. Barrakel	TBA	NLL Lacrosse Rochester Knighthawks at Buffalo Bandits (L) (N)	*** Captain America: Civil War	*** Captain America: Civil War	*** Captain America: Civil War	*** Captain America: Civil War	*** Captain America: Civil War	*** Captain America: Civil War	*** Captain America: Civil War	*** Captain America: Civil War	*** Captain America: Civil War	*** Captain America: Civil War	*** Captain America: Civil War	*** Captain America: Civil War	*** Captain America: Civil War	*** Captain America: Civil War	*** Captain America: Civil War
FDWMW	33		418	671	(3:00) King Court Doha	P1 Racing	Epic Trails	Snow Motion	The Card	All Blacks	FIBA Basketball	United Fight Alliance	United Fight Alliance	United Fight Alliance	United Fight Alliance	United Fight Alliance	United Fight Alliance	United Fight Alliance	United Fight Alliance	United Fight Alliance	United Fight Alliance	United Fight Alliance
USA	34	133	105	242	(4:30) Law-SVU "Cold"	(025) Law & Order: SVU "Baggage"	(020) Law & Order: SVU "Expedition X "The Dogman Conspiracy"	(015) Law & Order: SVU "Bedtime"	(015) Law & Order: SVU "Flight"	(015) Law & Order: SVU "Dear Ben"	(055) Law & Order: SVU "Secrets Exhumed"	(055) Law & Order: SVU "Law-SVU "The Only Way Out Is Through"	(055) Law-SVU "The Only Way Out Is Through"	(055) Law-SVU "The Only Way Out Is Through"	(055) Law-SVU "The Only Way Out Is Through"	(055) Law-SVU "The Only Way Out Is Through"	(055) Law-SVU "The Only Way Out Is Through"	(055) Law-SVU "The Only Way Out Is Through"	(055) Law-SVU "The Only Way Out Is Through"	(055) Law-SVU "The Only Way Out Is Through"	(055) Law-SVU "The Only Way Out Is Through"	(055) Law-SVU "The Only Way Out Is Through"
DISC	35	72	182	278	Expedition Unknown "Lost Civilizations"	Expedition X "The Dogman Conspiracy"	Dr. Pimple Popper	Dr. Pimple Popper	Dr. Pimple Popper	Dr. Pimple Popper	Dr. Pimple Popper	Dr. Pimple Popper	Dr. Pimple Popper	Dr. Pimple Popper	Dr. Pimple Popper	Dr. Pimple Popper	Dr. Pimple Popper	Dr. Pimple Popper	Dr. Pimple Popper	Dr. Pimple Popper	Dr. Pimple Popper	Dr. Pimple Popper
HLC	36	77	120	269	The Unexplained "The Lost"	The Unexplained	The Unexplained	The Unexplained	The Unexplained	The Unexplained	The Unexplained	The Unexplained	The Unexplained	The Unexplained	The Unexplained	The Unexplained	The Unexplained	The Unexplained	The Unexplained	The Unexplained	The Unexplained	The Unexplained
A&E	39	134	118	265	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage	Storage
HALL	40	117	185	312	Happy Holidays (24, Drama)	The Sweetest Christmas (2017, Romance) Lea Coco, Jonathan Adams, Lacey Chabert.	Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (2002, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.
SYFY	41	135	122	244	Harry Potter	Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (2002, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	
TBS	43	130	139	247	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang
TNT	44	131	138	245	Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest	*** Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Geoffrey Rush, Orlando Bloom, Johnny Depp.	*** My Cousin Vinny (1992, Comedy) Marisa Tomei															

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2011, ALL WHEEL drive, Dodge Journey, third seat, new tranny, 155K miles, runs exc., \$5,500, firearm trade, 260-273-5516.

Lottery Numbers

Friday's Drawings
HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 4-5-17-24-26
Cash4Life — 10-11-21-28-51, Cash Ball: 4
Quick Draw Midday — 9-12-16-17-20-24-25-28-33-36-47-48-50-59-61-69-73-77-78-80 BE: 78
Daily Three-Midday — 5-7-9, SB: 5
Daily Three-Evening — 7-4-4, SB: 7
Daily Four-Midday — 9-9-9-8, SB: 5
Daily Four-Evening — 1-3-4-6, SB: 7
Quick Draw Evening — 1-5-8-10-12-15-16-17-18-25-28-31-36-38-49-51-58-61-72-73, BE: 51
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$34.6 million
MEGA MILLIONS 3-7-37-49-55, Mega Ball: 6, Megaplier: X3
POWERBALL Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$145 million

SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

12/28

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Public Sale Calendar

DECEMBER 29-JANUARY 5 - Bidding starts closing at 2 p.m. - Estate of Eldrid Tinkel, seller. Large antique and collectible auction. Country primitives, early metal toys including vintage tractors, farm implements, trucks, boats, more, antique furniture, cast iron collection, antique brass cash register, antique stoves, large and rare collection of vintage graniteware, Fenton, Marion advertising memorabilia, vintage beer signs, crocks, long guns, coins, more. Open house Dec. 29, 2-4 p.m., Jan. 4, 10 a.m.-noon, 1910 N Meridian St., Marion. Sale manager Brandon Steffen, 260-710-5684, TheSteffenGroup.com, Steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.
BIDDING ENDS DECEMBER 31 - Bidding starts closing at 2 p.m. - Estate of Richard Gerken and others, sellers. "Outstanding year end auction." Very high quality art deco, Lladro collection art, mid century modern and Art Nouveau home furnishings, International Harvester collection, 2011 Platinum Ford F150 in pristine condition, high quality antiques, 3,500 record albums, vintage Schwinn bicycles, lawn mower, tools, advertising memorabilia, Coca Cola collection, antique gas pump, country primitives, military patches & pins, and more. Open house Dec. 30 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 102 S. Jefferson St., Ossiian, IN. Sale manager Rod Fetters, 260-557-8451, TheSteffenGroup.com, 260-824-3006, Steffengrp.com.
BIDDING OPEN AND STARTS CLOSING JANUARY 2 at 10 a.m. - (Online Only) - MD Landscaping LLC,

owner. Over 170+ Lots. John Deere 5525 W/ Belly Blade, Bobcat Dozer 96" Blade, 2016 International 4300 Box Truck, 2003 Wells Cargo Enclosed/ Office Trailer, 84" 3-Point Cultivator, 2008 Ford F-350 W/ Boss Snow Plow, 2007 Jeep Wrangler w/J Truck Bed, Volvo ECR88 Excavator Kawasaki 65TMMV Wheel Loader, Kubota SCL 1000 Mini Skid Steer, Skid Loader Attachments, Hardscape Stone, Walnut Slabs, Assorted Lawn Tools, Power Tools and much more. 3883 US HWY 33 Decatur IN, 46733. [Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC](http://KrueckebergAuction.com), 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.
BIDDING ENDS JANUARY 7 at 10 a.m. - (Online Only) - Wayne Metals LLC Machining Division, owner. Offering over 200+ Lots. Roskelley 1440 Lathe, 2007 Haas SL-40T CNC Turning Lathe, Hardinge CHNCI Precision CNC Machine, Delta Floor Drill Press, Omni Turn GT-75 CNC Lathe, Targa Surface Grinder, Acer Milling Machine W/ Phase-2 3 Jaw Chuck, Abex Denison Stamp Machine, Ooya RE-1225H Drilling & Tapping Radial Arm Drill, Cincinnati Milacron Hawk 150 A2100 CNC Lathe, Welders, Tooling Cabinets, Large Selection of pallet racking, Power & Hand Tools and much more. 9312 Avionics Drive, Fort Wayne IN 46809. [Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC](http://KrueckebergAuction.com), 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION ESTATE NO. 90C01-2412-EU-000050
 In the Wells Circuit Court of Wells County, Indiana:

Notice is hereby given that JOHN J. EMSHWILLER was on December 16, 2024, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of RALPH W. SCHUMM, deceased, who died on November 14, 2024.

All persons having claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, on December 16, 2024.

Beth Davis, Clerk
 WELLS CIRCUIT COURT
 David N. Baumgartner
 Attorney for Estate
 No. 4288-01
 Baumgartner Attorneys PC
 360 W. Main St.
 Berne, IN 46711
 Telephone: (260) 589-3139
 nb 12/21, 12/28
 hspaxlp

Public Notices

Alcohol & Tobacco Commission LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Alcohol Beverage Board of Wells County, Indiana will hold a public hearing at 9:00 am on January 07, 2025 at the Wells Carnegie Govt Annex Multi Purpose Room 105, 223 W Washington St in the city of Bluffton in said county, to investigate the propriety of holding an alcoholic beverage permit by the applicants listed herein to wit:

RR9005122 Beer & Wine & Liquor - Restaurant (210) RENEWAL

JETTINGHOFF RESTAURANT GROUP INC 113 NORTH MAIN STREET Bluffton IN

D/B/A BILLY ANN'S SOUTHWEST SUPPER PUB

MICHAEL JETTINGHOFF 8121 DEER BROOK PLACE Fort Wayne, President

MICHAEL JETTINGHOFF 8121 DEER BROOK PLACE Fort Wayne, Secretary

DL9032710 Beer & Wine Dealer - Grocery Store RENEWAL

Taylor C Store LLC 2956 S Main St. Liberty Center IN

D/B/A Liberty Center Gas and Deli

RR9040621 Beer & Wine Retailer - Restaurant RENEWAL

MT FUJI L INC 121 N MAIN STREET BLUFFTON IN

D/B/A MT FUJI
 Jiazhang Lin 709 S Briant St. Huntington, President
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 Jim Baker

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Aviation experts say Russia's air defense fire likely caused Azerbaijan plane crash as nation mourns

(AP) — Aviation experts said Thursday that Russian air defense fire was likely responsible for the Azerbaijani plane crash the day before that killed 38 people and left all 29 survivors injured.

Azerbaijan Airlines' Embraer 190 was en route from Azerbaijan's capital of Baku to the Russian city of Grozny in the North Caucasus on Wednesday when it was diverted for reasons still unclear and crashed while making an attempt to land in Aktau in Kazakhstan after flying east across the Caspian Sea.

The plane went down about 3 kilometers (2 miles) from Aktau. Cellphone footage circulating online appeared to show the aircraft making a steep descent before crashing into the ground and exploding in a fireball.

Other footage showed a part of its fuselage ripped away from the wings and the rest of the aircraft lying upside down on the grass.

Azerbaijan mourned the crash victims with national flags at half-staff across on Thursday. Traffic stopped at noon, and sirens sounded from ships and trains as it observed a nationwide moment of silence.

Speaking at a news conference Wednesday, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said that it was too soon to speculate on the reasons behind the crash, but said that the weather had forced the plane to change from its planned course.

"The information provided to me is that the plane changed its course between Baku and Grozny due to worsening weather conditions and headed to Aktau airport, where it crashed upon landing," he said.

Russia's civil aviation authority, Rosaviatsia, said that preliminary information indicated the pilots diverted to Aktau after a bird strike led to an emergency on board.

Authorities in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Russia were tight-lipped about a possible cause of the crash but a lawmaker in Azerbaijan blamed Moscow. Rasim Musabekov told the Azerbaijani news agency Turan that the plane was fired on while in the skies over Grozny and urged Russia to offer an official apology.

"Those who did this must face criminal charges," Musabekov was quoted by Turan as saying, adding that compensations to the victims should also be paid. "If it doesn't happen, relations will be affected."

As the official crash investigation started, some experts pointed out that holes seen in the plane's tail section could indicate that it could have come under fire from Russian air defense systems fending off a Ukrainian drone attack.

Ukrainian drones had previously attacked Grozny, the capital of the Russian republic of Chechnya, and other regions in the country's North Caucasus. An official in Chechnya said another drone attack on the region was fended off on Wednesday, although federal authorities didn't report it.

Mark Zee of OPSGroup, which monitors the world's airspace and airports for risks, said that the analysis of the images of fragments of the crashed plane indicate that it was almost certainly hit by a surface-to-air missile, or SAM.

"Much more to investigate, but at high level we'd put the probability of being a SAM attack on the aircraft at being well into the 90-99% bracket," he said.

Osprey Flight Solutions, an aviation security firm based in the United Kingdom, warned its clients that the "Azerbaijan Airlines flight was likely shot down by a Russian military air-defense system." Osprey provides analysis for carriers still flying into Russia after Western airlines halted their flights during the war.

Osprey CEO Andrew Nicholson said that the company had issued more than 200 alerts regarding drone attacks and air defense systems in Russia during the war.

"This incident is a stark reminder of why we do what we do," Nicholson posted online. "It is painful to know that despite our efforts, lives were lost in a way that could have been avoided."

Yan Matveyev, an independent Russian military expert, noted that images of the crashed plane's tail reveal the damage compatible with

shrapnel from a small surface-to-air missiles, such as the Pantsyr-S1 air defense system.

"It looks like the tail section of the plane was damaged by some missile fragments," he said.

Matveyev added that it remains unclear why the pilots decided to fly hundreds of miles east across the Caspian Sea instead of trying to land at a closer airport in Russia after the plane was hit.

"Perhaps some of the plane's systems kept working for some time and the crew believed that they could make it and land normally," Matveyev said, adding that the crew could also have faced restrictions on landing at another venue in Russia.

Caliber, an Azerbaijani news website with good government connections, also claimed that the airliner was fired upon by a Russian Pantsyr-S air defense system as it was approaching Grozny. It questioned why Russian authorities failed to close the airport despite the apparent drone raid in the area. Khamzat Kadyrov, head of Chechnya's Security Council, said that air defenses downed drones attacking the region on Wednesday.

Caliber also wondered why Russian authorities didn't allow the plane to make an emergency landing in Grozny or other Russian airports nearby after it was hit.

Asked about the claims that the plane had been fired upon by air defense assets, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that "it would be wrong to make hypotheses before investigators make their verdict."

Kazakhstan's parliamentary speaker, Maulen Ashimbayev, also warned against rushing to conclusions based on pictures of the plane's fragments, describing the allegations of air defense fire as unfounded and unethical.

According to Kazakh officials, those aboard the plane included 42 Azerbaijani citizens, 16 Russian nationals, six Kazakhs and three Kyrgyzstan nationals. Russia's Emergencies Ministry on Thursday flew nine Russian survivors to Moscow for treatment.

Airstrikes

(Continued from Page 1)

ing the Oct. 7, 2023 attacks by Gaza's Hamas militants on southern Israel. The Houthis have attacked ships in the Red Sea, disrupting one of the world's main maritime routes, and recently stepped up missile and drone attacks on Israel. Early Saturday, the Israeli Air Force reported intercepting yet another missile from Yemen, as sirens woke Israelis around Jerusalem and the Dead Sea.

Israel has escalated its response. The Israeli army said it wasn't aware that the WHO chief or U.N. delegation were at the Sanaa airport on Thursday. Israel said it bombed the airport because it is used by the Houthis and Iran.

Harnois responded, stressing that the airport is civilian, not military, and is used for transporting U.N. and other humanitarian workers, and for one civilian flight — Yemenia to and from Amman, Jordan. The flight operates as a result of an international agreement, and thousands of Yemenis have used the flight to get advanced medical treatment abroad, he said.

Yemen is the Arab world's poorest nation and has been engulfed in a 10-year civil war between the Houthi rebels, who control Sanaa and much of the country's north, and the internationally recognized government forces in the south.

Tedros was in the country to discuss its worsening humanitarian crisis and to seek the release of about 50 people detained by the Houthis since June from the U.N., nongovernmental organizations and civil society.

Harnois said 18 million Yemenis — about half the country's population — need humanitarian assistance this year, and the U.N. expects the number to increase to 19 million next year because of the worsening economy.

In addition to airstrikes on the Sanaa airport, Israel has been attacking the country's key port of Hodeida, in western Yemen.

Harnois said Yemen relies on imports through Hodeida for 80% of its food and more than 90% of its medical supplies to the north.

A recent Israeli airstrike destroyed two tugboats and is estimated to have reduced the harbor's capacity by 50%, the U.N. official said, while damage from Thursday's airstrikes hasn't been assessed yet.

As for the detainees, Harnois said he joined the WHO chief at meetings with the Houthi prime minister, foreign minister and a member of the group's Supreme Political Council. He said they received commitments on the detainees' possible release and a pathway to it, and on conditions under which they are being held.

NASA's Parker Solar Probe survives close brush with the sun's scorching surface

NEW YORK (AP) — NASA's Parker Solar Probe has successfully made the closest approach to the sun, the space agency confirmed Friday.

Earlier this week, the spacecraft passed within a record-breaking 3.8 million miles (6 million kilometers) of the scorching star. NASA

received an all-clear message from Parker on Thursday night confirming it survived the journey.

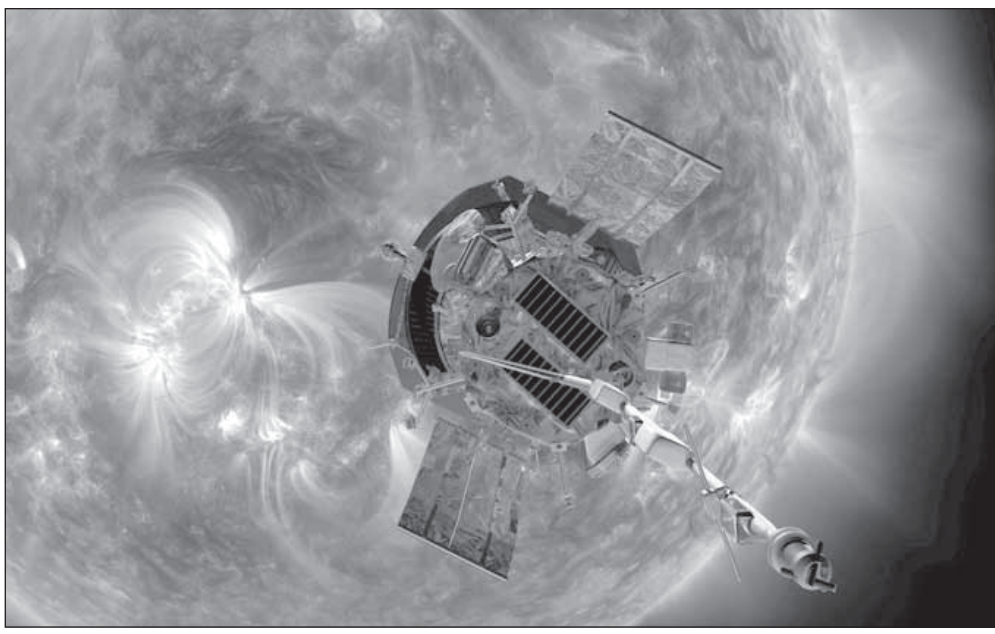
Launched in 2018 to get a close-up look at the sun, Parker has since flown straight through its crown-like outer atmosphere, or corona. With its close brush complete, the craft is

expected to circle the sun at this distance through at least September.

It's the fastest spacecraft built by humans, and hit 430,000 mph (690,000 kph) at closest approach. It is outfitted with a heat shield that can withstand scorching temperatures up to 2,500 degrees Fahrenheit (1,370

degrees Celsius).

Scientists hope the data from Parker will help them better understand why the sun's outer atmosphere is hundreds of times hotter than its surface and what drives the solar wind, the supersonic stream of charged particles constantly blasting away from the sun.



This image made available by NASA shows an artist's rendering of the Parker Solar Probe approaching the Sun. It's designed to take solar punishment like never before, thanks to its revolutionary heat shield that's capable of withstanding 2,500 degrees Fahrenheit. (Photo by Steve Gribben/Johns Hopkins APL/NASA via AP)

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