

**Funeral homes:**  
Funeral directors do more than sell caskets. ▶ **09**

**Wes-Del's young archers:**  
The archery club offers a different extracurricular opportunity for students. ▶ **08**

# 'In a Vulnerable Place'

Gov. Eric Holcomb signed a ban on gender-affirming care for minors, making it become law.

▶ **06**



Attendees of the American Civil Liberties Union "Rally to Protect Trans Youth" gather to chant at the Indiana Statehouse April 1 in Indianapolis. The rally was held in relation to SB 480. OLIVIA GROUND, DN



Did you miss it? Catch up on the news from April 3-4...

# BallStateDailyNews.com



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MADelyn GUINN, DN PHOTO

## Cardinals earn WCGA coaching awards

► **April 3:** After a historic season for Ball State, the Women's Collegiate Gymnastics Association (WCGA) named head coach Joanna Saleem as the Regional Coach of the Year for the Central Region, the first coach in program history to do so. In addition, assistant coaches Scott Wilson and Cassandra Ringer were named Regional Co-Assistant Coaches of the Year.

## Former president Trump indicted

► **April 4:** During his arraignment, Donald Trump pleaded not guilty to 34 counts from New York prosecutors alleging he illegally conspired to influence the 2016 United States presidential election by issuing hush money payments in an attempt to prevent harm to his campaign. March 30, Trump became the first former president to be charged with a crime.



JOHANNA GERON, TNS PHOTO COURTESY

## Finland joins NATO as a result of war in Ukraine

► **April 4:** Since being defeated by the Soviet Union in World War II, Finland has remained a neutral nation; however, Moscow's invasion of Ukraine over a year ago prompted Finland's membership. The nation borders Russia, whose president, Vladimir Putin, has recently expressed displeasure with NATO expanding toward Russia. Finland's membership doubles Russia's NATO border.

### 4-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

BENNY WEATHER GROUP

Ian Nikolai Kowalski, Weather forecaster, Benny Weather Group

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<b>PARTLY CLOUDY</b>	<b>MOSTLY SUNNY</b>	<b>SUNNY</b>	<b>SUNNY</b>
Hi: 54° Lo: 37°	Hi: 57° Lo: 36°	Hi: 63° Lo: 41°	Hi: 64° Lo: 40°

**THIS WEEK:** We will return to warm weather in the next seven days, with temperatures in the low 60s by the week-end and up to 70 F by Thursday next week. Scattered cloud cover should be common. Evenings should stay around 50 F throughout the start of the next work week.

START CHECKING FROM DAY ONE.

## Cardinal WX

Waking Up with Cardinal Weather is Ball State University's first and only morning mobile show focused on getting you ready for the day through local news, weather and lifestyle trends. Waking Up with Cardinal Weather airs every Friday morning at 8 a.m. at @cardinalwx live on Facebook.



The Ball State Daily News (USPS-144-360), the Ball State student newspaper, publishes Thursdays during the academic year, except during semester and summer breaks. The Daily News is supported in part by an allocation from the General Fund of the university and is available free to students at various campus locations.

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### VOL. 102 ISSUE: 28

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## CORRECTION

In the March 30 edition of the Ball State Daily News, Danielle Jernigan's relationship status was incorrectly reported. She is not married.

To submit a correction, email [editor@bsdailynews.com](mailto:editor@bsdailynews.com).



# Forming the Future



Students walk near Noyer Complex Sept. 21, 2020, at Ball State University.  
SAMANTHA BLANKENSHIP, BALL STATE MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS, PHOTO PROVIDED

## Changes are occurring in Housing and Residence Life with RAs in the University Apartments and the closure of Howick/Williams Hall.

**Savannah Jordan**  
Reporter

Close to 60 years after the completion of the Noyer and LaFollette Complexes and Schuemann Stadium, the new North Residential Neighborhood has opened, the demolition of LaFollette Complex has been completed and Ball State is preparing to close the doors of Noyer Complex's Howick/Williams Hall.

Graduate assistant for marketing strategy Makenna McLeod said via email that Ball State has just wrapped up a long-term master plan which included multiple residence hall renovations and new construction.

### The Plan

"This plan was developed and implemented with an understanding of student residency and enrollment needs," McLeod said via email. "The demolition of LaFollette was a part of that master plan, and appropriate room space allocated in the

“

I know people that are living in Noyer, and they are like, 'I have lived in Noyer my entire school career. Where am I going to go now?' because they have kept their room for all this time."

- **LAUREN DOCTER,**  
Former Howick/Williams  
resident assistant

renovations, and new construction plans were made to ensure that the department could adequately meet student needs."

This long-term plan, she said, is focused on large-scale building renovations or constructions over the next 20 years. This new strategic plan is coined by Ball State as "Destination 2040: Our Flight Path." While that long-term plan recently ended with the completion of the North Neighborhood, Ball State will soon begin the development of a new long-term plan that will take the university into the next several decades.

"The 10-year plan allows us to have a robust plan to maintain the beautiful buildings we have on campus," McLeod said via email. "This type of plan makes sure that we prepare for regular placement of mechanical or electrical systems and, generally, to make sure that our buildings maintain a warm and welcoming environment for our students."

► See **HOUSING**, 04

### Indiana

## Three dead after tornadoes in Sullivan and Johnson counties

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb declared disaster emergencies for Sullivan and Johnson counties after visiting Sullivan the morning of April 1. The evening of March 31, at least one tornado hit the counties as a part of severe storms across the state. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) worked to provide those affected with food, water and shelter.

### National

## NASA sending astronauts for first moon mission in 50 years

The four person crew includes a Black man and a woman, which are firsts for a lunar mission. Another of the four is Canadian, the first from outside the United States to be involved in such a mission. Those involved in the 2024 mission will not step foot on the moon, instead flying around it before heading back to Earth prior to a 2025 moon landing.

### National

## Two major elections in Midwest states decided

April 4, Brandon Johnson (Democrat) was elected as Chicago's mayor over Paul Vallas (Republican). Johnson, a former teacher, is a Cook County commissioner backed by the Chicago Teachers Union. The same day, Milwaukee County circuit judge Janet Protasiewicz (Democrat) won the Wisconsin Supreme Court race over former Justice Dan Kelly (Republican).





Students walk from Noyer Complex Oct. 17, 2022, at Ball State University.  
SAMANTHA BLANKENSHIP, BALL STATE MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS, PHOTO PROVIDED

## HOUSING

Continued from Page 03

### New dorms and renovations

Marci Mullaney, assistant director for marketing strategy, said via email that the completion of the new North Residential Neighborhood, including the revitalization of the Botsford/Swinford and Schmidt/Wilson Halls and creation of two new residence halls — Jack Beyerl and North West — have created more bedspaces and brand new modern spaces for students to live in. There are a total of 11 residence halls outside of Howick/Williams.

“The last time the Howick/Williams wing underwent a complete renovation was 1996, and it is also one of Ball State’s residential halls without air conditioning, which affects the demand of students wanting to live in that space,” Mullaney said via email. “Further, the wing was not a living-learning community, which wouldn’t disrupt an already-existing academic structure.”

Early in the spring 2023 semester, residents of the hall were notified of the building’s closure for fall 2023 as Ball State prepared for the returning student residence hall signup process, Mullaney said via email.

“On behalf of the Office of Housing and Residence Life at Ball State, we stand behind this decision as we do see it will benefit our on-campus

population in the long-run,” Mullaney said via email. “With the new space available for students to live in, we are able to meet student housing needs in our other facilities, allowing us to consider future uses for Howick/Williams.”

To combat any rumors, Mullaney noted via email that Howick/Williams is not being torn down or demolished.

### Leaving a legacy

According to Ball State Housing and Residence Life’s website, both of Noyer Complex’s halls, Howick/Williams and Baker/Klipple, are each full of Ball State history and tradition and are loved by their residents. Both halls also adopted mascots — Baker/Klipple took the bee “under its wing,” and Howick/Williams acquired the armadillo.

“Since many students have lived in Howick/Williams, its legacy lies with the former Cardinals who lived there and their experiences of the community, fellowship and camaraderie while residing in the building,” Mullaney said via email. “The armadillo mascot has since been retired, but it was something that became of significance to our hall staff and became a personality of its own.”

Having lived in LaFollette herself as a first-year undergraduate, Mullaney said via email that living in a residence hall helps students transition to college and provides them a supportive environment where they can make friends, branch out and develop independence while providing important and necessary amenities, resources and academics.



Current Housing and Residence Life student staff have shown great interest and enthusiasm for the creation of this role. There is a competitive field of applicants for the job, and we look forward to working with our student staff leaders to enhance the community and service experience for our residents living in the University Apartments.”

- **MAKENNA MCLEOD,**  
Graduate assistant for marketing strategy



Our pay is not enough as it is. It is not even enough to pay for groceries, let alone to make financial aid payments — it is not enough to make a sustainable living. We do not get supported or paid enough by the university for everything we do.”

- **ALICIA VILLALOBOS,**  
Former Resident Assistant

Alan Ihms, assistant residential coordinator for Howick/Williams, said via email that when he lived in a residence hall during his undergraduate career, it was his first time living away from home. He had no means of transportation, he simply relied on walking and bartering with friends who had their own ways of transit.

“I’m kind of glad that I had limited access to home because it allowed me to touch down roots and work to cultivate a network of friends and people I could go to for help,” Ihms said via email. “I think that getting comfortable with my campus allowed me to appreciate it more and want to persist to the end and get my degree. It also offered me the chance to get outside of my comfort zone.”

### RAs in University Apartments

Ball State representatives also announced the placement of resident assistants (RA) in the University Apartments to enhance the sense of community and inclusiveness they hope resident halls have.

Mullaney said via email while the decision to place RAs in the apartments is totally separate from the Howick/Williams decision, current RAs in Howick/Williams might wish to be considered for placement in the apartments, but that would be solely their decision.

McLeod also added via email that RAs serving in the apartments will have job responsibilities very similar to those of the RAs in the residence halls — to help students make the most of their Ball State experience.

“Current Housing and Residence Life student staff have shown great interest and enthusiasm for the creation of this role,” McLeod said via email. “There is a competitive field of applicants for the job, and we look forward to working with our student staff leaders to enhance the community and service experience for our residents living in the University Apartments.”

Similar to the university’s traditional residence halls, these team members will plan community events, work at the apartment office desk, report facility concerns to maintenance and custodial staff and assist in addressing resident concerns.

Apartment RAs will also be trained to meet the specific needs of an upper-class community, so the types of initiatives and community events they plan may look a little different than that of the traditional residence hall experience.

### Student feedback

Former RA Alicia Villalobos, however, believes the role expectations between the residence halls and the apartments won’t be any different and the costs of this decision will outweigh any benefits.

Since the apartments house upperclassmen students and families, Villalobos said residents aren’t going to be as reliant on the RAs as they would be living in the residence halls. She also disagrees with this decision because she thinks the university is trying to place too much control on students.

► See **HOUSING**, 14



A car sits parked at University Apartments May 1, 2008, at Ball State University.  
BALL STATE MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS, PHOTO PROVIDED



# Showcasing Culture

Ball State's African Student Association hosts Afro Gala March 31.



Wede Oweh performs at the first Afro Gala March 31 in the L.A. Pittenger Student Center. JACY BRADLEY, DN



Graduate student Akin Akinola speaks with guests March 31 at the first Afro Gala in the L.A. Pittenger Student Center. JACY BRADLEY, DN



Bright Afriyie, who was an emcee for the first Afro Gala, speaks March 31 in the L.A. Pittenger Student Center. JACY BRADLEY, DN



Ball State alumna Hannah Causey paints a self-portrait March 31 at the first Afro Gala in the L.A. Pittenger Student Center. JACY BRADLEY, DN



Fourth-year Feona Dabson (left) and fourth-year Miah Chayse (right) perform at the first Afro Gala March 31 in the L.A. Pittenger Student Center. JACY BRADLEY, DN





American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) director of advocacy and public policy Katie Blair gives a speech at the "Rally to Protect Trans Youth" in the Indiana Statehouse April 1. OLIVIA GROUND, DN

## SB 480 passes, leaving families confused on how to continue gender-affirming care.

**Hannah Amos, Olivia Ground**  
Associate News Editor, Social Media Editor

Seven days.

Starting March 29, Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb had seven days to either sign or veto Senate Bill 480 before it went into effect.

On the final day, April 5, he signed the bill.

SB 480 prevents healthcare providers from performing gender-affirming care to people under the age of 18. This includes surgeries and hormone therapy.

The bill defines gender as "the psychological, behavioral, social and cultural aspects of being male or female." It defines gender reassignment surgery as "any medical or surgical service" that aims to surgically alter or remove any "healthy" characteristics that relate to an "individual's sex," genital and/or nongenital.

The American Society of Plastic Surgeons defines gender affirmation surgery, also known as gender confirmation surgeries, as surgeries "performed by a multispecialty team that typically includes board-certified plastic surgeons." The goal is to give transgender individuals the physical appearance and functional abilities of the gender they know themselves to be.

The bill defines gender transition as "the process in which an individual shifts from identifying with and living as a gender that corresponds to his or

her sex to identifying with and living as a gender different from his or her sex, and [it] may involve social, legal or physical changes."

The National Center for Transgender Equality defines gender transition as "the time period during which a person begins to live according to their gender identity rather than the gender they were thought to be at birth."

Indiana Sen. Tyler Johnson (R-Leo) who is also an emergency room physician, authored the bill Jan. 19. Johnson is currently being sued for malpractice.

According to the complaint of damages for the case, Jennifer Becerra is suing Johnson over the death

of her 20-year-old daughter, Esperanza Umana, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Umana suffered a cardiac arrest and died under Johnson's care Jan. 12, 2018, according to the lawsuit.

A hearing is set for April 24, according to the Associated Press.

Indiana Sen. Ed Charbonneau (R-Valparaiso) and Indiana Sen. Gary Byrne (R-Byrneville) authors of SB 480, directed The Daily News to Johnson.

The Daily News reached out to Johnson, but he declined to comment.

Indiana Sen. Scott Alexander, R-Muncie, a coauthor of the bill, Ball State University alumnus and Delaware County's representative, responded to The Daily News with a statement via email.

"This bill is common-sense public policy to protect Hoosier children from irreversible unproven life-altering procedures," he said via email. "We have the utmost compassion for these kids, and there is a pressing need to protect children from irreversible unproven life-altering procedures."

“

As a member of the LGBTQ+ community myself, I think it's important for me as a legislator to stand up for folks. The transgender community is small. They make up under one percent of the population, and especially trans youth are in a vulnerable place both because of these bills and the stress and anxiety that they feel."

**- J.D. FORD,**  
Indiana senator (D-Indianapolis)

Alexander said via email SB 480 is not an attack on the transgender community.

According to a FAQ sheet Alexander provided, SB 480 will not prohibit counseling for people under the age of 18 who are experiencing gender dysphoria, nor will it prohibit treatment of "physical sex disorders."

The FAQ sheet states "the mental and emotional

effects of undergoing these procedures are still being studied, and there is a lot scientists still don't understand."

The bill has medical exemptions, but it doesn't clarify what those are.

Katie Blair, advocacy and public policy director of the Indiana American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), organized "Rally to Protect Trans Youth" April 1 to voice opposition to the bill.

The event was held to "let the governor and lawmakers know that we're here, and we're not going to stop fighting and [to] urge them to stop the hateful bills that they're considering," Blair said.

Many at the rally shared concerns about the bill being grounded in what they believe to be false rhetoric and biased facts.

"This is a well-orchestrated campaign to push trans kids out of public life," Blair said via email. "Much of the furor about trans healthcare isn't grounded in reality. Rather, it's propped up by cherry-picked studies, fringe 'experts,' a handful of political operatives from outside of Indiana and fear mongering."

Indiana Sen. J.D. Ford (D-Indianapolis) also opposed the bill. Ford spoke at the rally April 1.

"As a member of the LGBTQ+ community myself, I think it's important for me as a legislator to stand up for folks," Ford said over email. "The transgender community is small. They make up under one percent of the population, and especially trans youth are in a vulnerable place both because of these bills and the stress and anxiety that they feel."

Members of Muncie OUTreach held their own rally outside of Muncie Courthouse March 31.

Tiffany Erk is a part of the Muncie community, and she has a 16-year-old transgender son who is currently taking testosterone. SB 480 will directly affect her family's day-to-day life.

"We don't exactly know yet what the future looks like, but the care we are currently receiving will not be available in Indiana," Erk said over email.

Erk views this bill as another hateful and harmful attack on the LGBTQ+ community.

"This is a carefully structured decision made with multiple medical professionals over several years time," Erk said, "and to then have that right taken away feels like my son is getting beat up by the government, and everybody can see it, and nobody cares."

► See **SB480**, 14

“

This is a carefully structured decision made with multiple medical professionals over several years time, and to then have that right taken away feels like my son is getting beat up by the government, and everybody can see it, and nobody cares."

**- TIFFANY ERK,**  
Muncie community member and parent of a transgender teenager



# Aiming the Arrow



Through the archery club and team, Wes-Del students find passion in alternative ways. ▶ 08

Wes-Del Elementary School fifth-grader Ava Johnson draws back her arrow for practice March 29 at Wes-Del Elementary School. JACY BRADLEY, DN

## Swim and Dive

### 30 swimmers to Academic All-MAC

Ball State Men's Swim and Dive had 13 student-athletes on the Academic All-Mid-American Conference (MAC) while women's swim and dive had 17. Second-year Eliza Bader, second-year Emma Horton and second-year Lilia Newkirk maintained 4.0 GPAs on the women's side while fourth-year Jack Wolfred maintained a team-high 3.944. Students must maintain a GPA of 3.2 or higher to be named.

## Men's Golf

### Smith named MAC Golfer of the Week

First-year Carter Smith was awarded the Mid-American Conference (MAC) Golfer of the Week after his first-place finish at the Don Benbow Butler Invitational. Smith broke the 54-hole program record, shooting 199. He broke his own career-low in the first round (66) before breaking it again in the second round.

## Men's Tennis

### Webster and Kovacevic win MAC Doubles honor

Second-year Nathaniel Webster and fifth-year Danilo Kovacevic were selected as the Mid-American Conference (MAC) Doubles Team of the Week. The pair opened Ball State's MAC contest against Binghamton with a 6-4 win over the Bearcats' Michael Pawkiwicz and Andrew Fan while also securing a 6-2 victory against Buffalo's Simon Wibler and Finn Macnamara.





Wes-Del Elementary fifth-grader Ava Johnson (left) and fifth-grader Carter Carmin (right) put their bows back March 29 at Wes-Del Elementary School. JACY BRADLEY, DN

## Wes-Del is one of two Delaware County schools that offers an archery club for students.

**Kyle Smedley**  
News Editor

Carter Carmin and Ava Johnson draw back their bow, one eye closed with the other focused on the target ahead of them.

They have five more arrows in their quivers, and although it's just practice, they're as focused as ever.

The two fifth graders each release their outstretched arrows. Bullseye.

"It's pretty cool to see what you can do," Ava said. "A lot of times, people doubt themselves and say, 'Oh, I didn't shoot that well.' But then you see your score and say, 'Oh, I actually didn't do that bad.'"

Ava has been involved with Wes-Del Elementary School's archery program since fourth grade; this past season was Carter's first. Ava said other than watching family members use a bow and arrow, she didn't have any experience.

"I saw my dad and uncle go hunting and thought,

'Oh, that looks cool,'" she said.

At a statewide competition involving 11 schools during the 2022-23 season, Ava finished second for elementary school girls, and Carter placed second for elementary school boys at the same event. Although Carter said he had a small amount of experience before joining the program through having his own bow at home, the difficulty of archery surprised him most.

"It's a lot harder than it looks because some people think you don't have to focus, [they think] you just shoot straight and hit the thing," he said. "You've got to actually look at aiming points, and it depends on your bow power."

Wes-Del runs its program through the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP), in which the Warriors compete in statewide events during the season. Only two out of eight schools in Delaware County have an archery program, the other being Burris Laboratory School.

David Lamb is the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) teacher at Wes-Del. He and Wes-Del Elementary School's physical education (P.E.) teacher, Elizabeth Puckett, each shoot a bow and arrow in their free time, which inspired them to start the Warriors' archery club and team over half a decade ago.

They thought no one on Wes-Del's administrative staff at the time would go for it, but Wes-Del Elementary's former principal's granddaughter was part of Monroe Central's archery program and gave the pair the green light, advancing talks with

the superintendent who later approved it. When the two began the program, Wes-Del received a grant from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources that covered all but \$500, which came out of Puckett's and Lamb's pockets, for funding.

Lamb and Puckett feel that having archery programs in schools across the state may open doors for other similar activities to grow into a full-fledged program. Lamb said after combining both teams and clubs across the elementary, middle and high school, over 50 students at Wes-Del are involved in the archery program.

"This is a program that you may not have your quarterback or your point guard," Lamb said. "These are kids that don't do a lot else a lot of times, and so it's just kind of a neat opportunity."

"Small school, big opportunities." It's the motto Wes-Del faculty and students pride themselves on.

Both students said they made new friends through the archery program, including middle schoolers, who they look up to both figuratively and literally. The coaches enjoy seeing members of the program not only form relationships with fellow members but strengthen bonds between family members too.

"I love to see a dad and their daughter because that's traditionally a relationship you don't see grounded in archery, but some of our best shooters are girls," Lamb said. "I mean, they are good, and I love to see that girl power come out."

Carter and Ava formed a relationship with the coaches too. Ava said having Lamb and Puckett as

“

This is a lifetime sport. Once they get started, they can do this for a really, really long time until they can't pull a bow back,"

- ELIZABETH PUCKETT,  
Wes-Del Elementary School physical  
education teacher

leaders makes things like practice even more enjoyable.

"They come up with challenges, and they're also funny, which helps because you don't want a mean coach," she said.

In Puckett's P.E. classes, she has students practice archery starting in third grade as part of the class curriculum. Some students are scared, some are eager, but all are willing to try it.

Through this, Puckett said she is able to see who may be interested in the program.

"When we're playing a traditional sport like basketball, you just have that handful of kids [that aren't] into it. But with this, everybody is kind of starting on the same level because not a lot of kids come in here [as] studs at archery," she said. "They all kind of grow from the same level."

Those allowed to compete within the program have to be in fourth grade or older, though Lamb and Puckett said there have been kindergarteners who expressed interest. Since students are exposed to an activity that involves sharp arrows and the potential for harmful mishaps at an early age, Puckett and Lamb ensure proper protocols enforced by NASP are followed.

"The kids know that when we come in," Puckett said, "I give them a little scary talk about real life things, and then afterward, I'm like, 'Okay, take a deep breath, we're gonna do this.' I just want them to know how scary it could be."

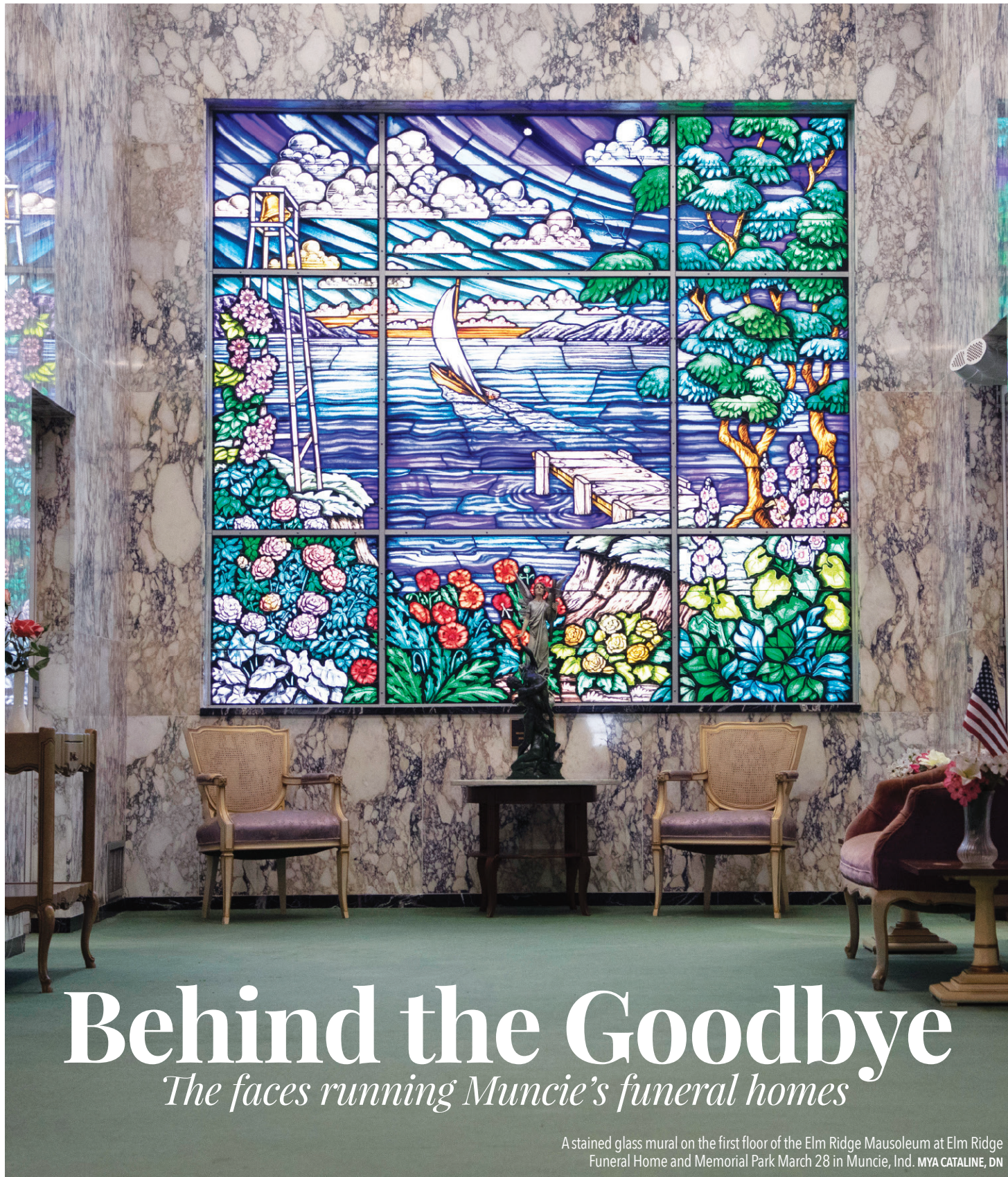
For example, when Ava and Carter finished taking their practice shots, Puckett told them to hang up their bows before going to take the arrows out of the targets. When they take arrows out of the target, they have to drop each individual arrow on the floor before picking them all up at once.

With this, an added advantage to getting involved with a non-traditional sport comes down to longevity. While it's possible to remain involved with sports like football or basketball after playing competitively, it's far more physically demanding than Lamb said archery is.

"This is a lifetime sport," Puckett said. "Once they get started, they can do this for a really, really long time until they can't pull a bow back."

Contact Kyle Smedley with comments via email at [kyle.smedley@bsu.edu](mailto:kyle.smedley@bsu.edu) or on Twitter @ [KyleSmedley](https://twitter.com/KyleSmedley).





# Behind the Goodbye

*The faces running Muncie's funeral homes*

A stained glass mural on the first floor of the Elm Ridge Mausoleum at Elm Ridge Funeral Home and Memorial Park March 28 in Muncie, Ind. MYA CATALINE, DN

**Local**

## Create your own Muncie puzzle

Take your own Muncie memories from photos and make them into a 48-piece jigsaw puzzle April 8 from 4-6 p.m. at Madjax. This event gives people a chance to make a digital collage of photos and turn it into a jigsaw puzzle with a custom-made storage box. This event is taught by Lena Reid and is for people ages 16 and older.

**Local**

## Traveling exhibit washes into Muncie

Indiana Waterways: The Art of Conservation is a traveling art exhibit showcasing paintings from five Hoosier artists. The gallery features paintings of Indiana's rivers, streams and tributaries. The exhibit opens at Minnetrista April 7 and will go until Sept. 10. It will also include a book of essays highlighting the need for conservation and restoration.

**Campus**

## Ball State hosts Student Symposium

Ball State University undergraduates and graduates can come and present their scholarly work to a public audience April 11 from 1-4 p.m. in the Worthen Arena concourse. Students will be able to compete for cash prizes along with getting valuable insight from the judging staff of the university.



A marked grave in a columbarium, an outdoor mausoleum, is pictured March 28 at Elm Ridge Funeral Home and Memorial Park in Muncie, Ind. MYA CATALINE, DN



## The effects of working at a funeral home

**Lila Fierek**  
Lifestyles Editor

Jerry Shaner walked up and down the Family Dollar aisles in search of the perfect gift.

Reaching out to his daughter, who teaches preschool, for recommendations, a small, plush pink and white unicorn and a matching baby blanket caught his eye.

It was only \$10.

But when Shaner went to check the 5-year-old, he realized the cost of providing a toy for a girl in the morgue costs much more.

Shaner, who is the business manager, crematory director and funeral director in training at Parson Mortuary and Cremation Center, said funerals for children are always the hardest.

After the young girl was accidentally shot in her home, Shaner's job was to make her beautiful again, allowing her family to remember what their little girl used to look like one last time.

"Had it not been for them having a service, the last memory would've been in the bedroom on the floor," he said.

These are the cases that keep Shaner up at night.

Funeral home employees do more than work with the deceased and help people pick out caskets; they're responsible for helping families with their grief and making sure each goodbye is perfect.

And while the job is fulfilling, it's not for the faint of heart.

### The nature of the job

Parson Mortuary and Cremation Center opened in 1934, and they have been owned and operated by the same family since. Craig Malone, the general manager, funeral director and embalmer, has been there for the last 13 years.

An embalmer, according to Funeral Partners, is the "process of preserving a body by delaying the natural effects of death." Funeral directors plan the funerals, and in Indiana, funeral directors are required to be licensed in embalming.

Malone knew he wanted to be a funeral director at the age of 9. He had a big family, so he attended funerals often. He always had a desire to help people when they were hurting, and he couldn't think of a time when people needed support more than when they lost someone close to them.

"I grew up with the idea that if you could accept your own morality, then that's when you could start to live," Malone said.

Unlike Malone, it took 53 years for Shaner to figure out what he wanted to do when he grew up.

Shaner, a Ball State alum, started at Parson Mortuary three years ago after being in law enforcement, saying there was a bit of a pipeline. He was scared to deal with death at first but ultimately gave it a chance.

"When I look at it from the frame of mind of helping grieving people, that helps a lot," he said.

Shaner has been training with Malone to become a funeral director while he attends mortuary school online at Mid-America College of Funeral Service.

"Our future can change in five minutes with a phone call," Malone said. "Currently, we're not as busy [as during COVID-19], but neither are the other funeral homes."

When death rates decrease, the number of services go down. According to World Population Review, as of 2023, the average number of deaths per day in the U.S. is 7,974. According to the CDC, the death rate in the U.S. increased by 15 percent.

Shaner said from beginning to end, a funeral director will spend about 60 hours on one family, so they get to know them fairly well.

"Every person handles grief completely different than someone else. We have situations where families come in, and they're very angry," Shaner said. "We have situations where families come in, and if the husband dies, the wife may be so



Craig Malone, general manager and funeral director, and Jerry Shaner, business manager and crematory director, pose by a grandfather clock at Parson Mortuary and Cremation Center March 14 in Muncie, Ind.. It is the oldest funeral home in Muncie still owned by the original family. LILA FIEREK, DN

“

If you're the one providing the care, and oftentimes you're working yourself to exhaustion, the main thing is that families look at us and say they're no longer in pain."

**- JERRY SHANER,**  
Business manager, crematory director and funeral director in training at Parson Mortuary and Cremation Center

distraught, she can't talk, so the children have to."

While some instances are full of pain, others can cause a bit of relief. Shaner hated when his parents died of cancer, but he was glad they weren't in pain anymore.

"If you're the one providing the care, and oftentimes you're working yourself to exhaustion, the main thing is that families look at us and say they're no longer in pain," he said.

Still, he said there are some cases you can't prepare for.

As embalmers, they use similar practices to botox and liposuction to restore the body to a lifelike experience, so the deceased look like they did before they died.

"You can't put a price tag on that, especially when grandma was ravaged by disease, and you've not only put her back together, but you've made her look like grandma," Malone said. "And really [we're] the only place in society, a funeral home, that can do that."

But when it's a tragic accident, funeral directors sometimes have to tell families it's better for them not to see their loved one again.

Shaner said the employees often take on some

of the grief for families. It weighs him down, but he is okay with it because he is able to help absorb it for someone else.

PTSD is very real in funeral homes, Shaner said, because the employees are constantly around death and are with the families for the whole process.

Malone and Shaner are both men of faith, so they use that to help them get through constantly working around death and sadness.

"I've got two minister friends of mine that have been like mental restoration to me," Malone said. "They'll see me walking down the hall and just hold their arms open and just let me cry."

Malone is an avid Civil War reenactor, so he uses that as his escape. Ironically enough, he is the regimental embalming surgeon in reenactments. He said he wants a Civil War funeral where he is taken to the cemetery in a horse-drawn hearse and a 21-gun salute is performed, among other things.

Malone said it's important to get away in a healthy way because when people try to medicate their pain, ultimately, when they sober up, that pain will still be there.

Two services Malone had to step away from were for his parents.

"When my parents died, I made sure that everybody on staff knew I wanted to be the son," he said. "I didn't want to do this professional stuff. I felt like I needed to grieve."

Shaner was the opposite.

Though it was difficult, when his brother died, Shaner promised his brother he'd be the one to cremate him.

"It meant more to my niece than I could have imagined," he said.

When one of his friends died, he was sure to be the one to pick him up and give him an escort to the church service and back. Afterward, his friend's wife told her how much it meant to her for him to do that, and it made Shaner "feel incredible inside."

Still, the constant work and stress of planning out these funerals can delay their own grieving process.



## FUNERAL FACTS

### EMBALMER:

Preserves the body to delay the physical effects of death

### FUNERAL DIRECTOR:

Plans funerals, and in Indiana, are required to be licensed in embalming

### CREMATION:

The disposal of the body through incineration in an industrial furnace

### TRADITIONAL FUNERAL:

A more formal ceremony, usually associated with a religion, with the body present

### MEMORIAL:

The body is not present, and guests are allowed to participate in the service.

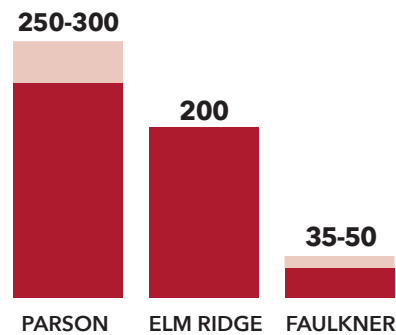
### CELEBRATION OF LIFE:

Parties that commemorate their loved one's life

Source: Funeral Partners, Indiana State Code, National Cremation, Honan Funeral Home

## MUNCIE FUNERAL HOMES

Number of funerals/year



Note: Numbers are approximations provided by each respective funeral home

## ACROSS THE NATION

24,636

Funeral homes in the U.S.

117,780

Funeral home employees in the U.S.

113

Average number of funerals per year at each funeral home

Source: IBISWorld, National Funeral Directors Association

## FIRST STEPS

1. Call or pre-arrangement
2. Find next-of-kin, get confirmation of relative
3. Get body
4. Get death certificate, make plans for body and service
5. Embalm or cremate
6. Prepare body (if traditional funeral)
7. Have service

Source: Craig Malone

ALEX BRACKEN, DN DESIGN

“

These are people that were very loved. ... Grief is love turned inside out.”

- MOLLY HAAFF,  
Funeral director and embalmer at Elm Ridge Funeral Home and Memorial Park



Funeral director and embalmer Molly Haaff poses for a photo in the Elm Ridge Funeral Home and Memorial Park cemetery on March 28 in Muncie, Ind. Haaff has been working with Elm Ridge for three years. MYA CATALINE, DN

Shaner said a mix of dark humor, dad jokes and his guitar help him get through these hard times and “wash his hands” after each day. He tries to spend time with his family and watch movies to relax. Still, it can be difficult when they are on call one to three nights a week.

“What we try not to do to stay positive is take our work home with us in the sense that if when we clock out,” Shaner said, “we can put what we’ve seen in our mailbox and pick it up the next day, that’s great, but it’s not always possible.”

He said having people thank him, especially in the community, makes all the long hours worth it.

Both Malone and Shaner said the best funeral directors are ones where you don’t know they’re there.

“I want it to go smoothly, ... but if the only time they see me is when they come in, and I walk them in and talk to them and help them get over the initial shock ...” Shaner said, “and if they don’t see me until at the end when we’re dismissing, to me, that’s good because it’s not about me.”

## A family's goodbye

Edgar Faulkner Jr., owner of Faulkner’s Mortuary, said he’s been a funeral director for so long, the only services that make him feel emotional are children’s. They make him uncomfortable because they make him think of his own kids and grandchildren.

“At this point, I’ve gotten so in the business, I’ve become immune to the emotions of family, unless it was my family,” he said. “I’m more interested in serving them and getting them pleased than I am about any particular other elements.”

Faulkner took over the family business when his father died in 1972.

Faulkner said his father and mother’s services were the ones that disturbed him the most.

“I did it because you want your parents to have the best service possible, and you know you’re good,” he said.

The mortuary has been in business for 71 years, originally opening to serve the Black community at a time when funeral homes were segregated. According to History.com, Jim Crow laws

legalizing racial segregation remained until the Civil Rights Act of 1964, though even afterward, it didn’t guarantee integration.

Though Faulkner’s is primarily a minority firm, he does work for everyone, and he said he did a service for a white family a week prior. Faulkner Jr. decided to serve the minority community because there was no other place established to help them.

Faulkner said he enjoys being able to help families out in any way they need, including financially by helping them with social security, Medicaid, etc.

COVID-19 had a large effect on the funeral home business: creating attendance caps, causing the cancellation of funerals and cutting out of the body of some services, according to the National Library of Medicine.

Faulkner said before COVID-19, he’d allow families to see the deceased before cremation, but once the pandemic hit, he couldn’t allow people to see their loved ones unless the body was disinfected and embalmed.

The pandemic caused a great amount of backup for funeral homes, according to the National Library of Medicine. Since doctors couldn’t keep up with death certificates, funeral homes quickly got backed up, and loved ones couldn’t be laid to rest until a death certificate was presented.

## A special moment for families

Molly Haaff started at Elm Ridge Funeral Home and Memorial Park three years ago during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“There were times where you couldn’t walk through our care center, it was so full,” Haaff said. “Our funeral home was built to serve 80 to 100 families, not 200 plus.”

She said early on, she’d have to serve 10 families at once, so there were thousands of details for her to remember. She was working 10 plus hours of overtime every week. She said it was tough to have to give service maximums, where the services were restricted to only 50 people or so.

But being so busy at the beginning of her career makes things feel easier now.

At age 23, Haaff has already found her dream job. She is a full-time funeral director and embalmer.

The southern Indiana native graduated from Vincennes University in 2019 and started at Elm Ridge shortly after.

Haaff found mortuary science after looking for jobs where she could help people every day, but nursing and teaching didn’t resonate with her.

Someone suggested working in a funeral home, so she job shadowed in her hometown, and that was it.

“It was just fate,” she said.

▶ See **FUNERAL**, 14

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STUDENT SYMPOSIUM  
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**The Student Symposium is a FREE opportunity for all Ball State students to present their scholarly work to a public audience!**

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IN WORTHEN ARENA CONCOURSE





is for

# *Academic Validation*

The harmful truth of seeking academic validation

JOSIE SANTIAGO, DN ILLUSTRATION





## Elaine Ulsh

Columnist,  
“The Occasional Observer”



### Elaine Ulsh Columnist

*Elaine Ulsh is a first-year computer science and physics major and writes “The Occasional Observer” for the Daily News. Her views do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.*

I have heard the saying “C’s get degrees” long before I stepped into my college experience.

I remember thinking, “Yeah right. Nobody actually does that.” But people really do!

There are two sides of academia — those who try just enough to get credit for the course, and those who try their very hardest. I tend to fall into the second category.

I just don’t understand how you could be so relaxed with your education considering that it amounts to everything that your future can and possibly will be.

Academic validation, while not outwardly apparent, is something that affects many students from elementary all the way to doctorate school.

In a sense, academic validation is truly its namesake: getting self-satisfaction, or validation, from performing well in academics.

Because I never really had trouble in school. Good grades were not really a question for me. The question was am I applying myself? I wasn’t for a long time. That is, until I realized how much I wanted to succeed in college.

I have been college bound since preschool. It wasn’t if I was going to college, but where?

To be completely honest, when I was in my first two years of middle school, I did not try at all. I cruised by with mostly A’s for the easier classes, B’s in the others.

However, eighth grade really turned it around for me.

I was an advanced student and, therefore, placed in the higher level classes. I skipped sixth grade math and took a high school course my eighth-grade year. It was in this class that I realized all that I could be if I just applied myself.

So, I tried. And I had straight A’s.

Freshman year of high school had harder classes, so I tried a little harder. Straight A’s again.

It continued like this every one of my high school years, even tucking 10 AP classes and a dual-credit course under my belt. I still had straight A’s.

I felt unbeatable.

But there’s a downside to that.

Those tests that I didn’t do well on, and those essays that needed more work crushed my soul. I felt like a failure and believed it with every part of my being.

This was a big problem in my first AP class: AP World History. I don’t particularly like history or social studies in general, so I’m not sure why I wanted to take this class so badly. I failed many tests in that class.

My teacher understood that, as sophomores, we weren’t necessarily ready for the weight of an AP class, so he tried to help us as much as he could. But with every F that I received, I cried my eyes out.

I stayed after class many times when he tried to convince me that an F was not the end of the world, and it didn’t mean that I wasn’t smart, but it sure felt like that was the case.

That year was the first time when I was introduced to the idea of grades not being linked to my identity. However, the task was not easy.

I craved academic validation. I still do, just not as much. I enjoyed being the girl who got straight A’s and was never behind in her assignments.

There was even a point that I tutored lowerclassmen or made plans for other students, so they could catch up on their missing assignments with reward systems and everything.



No one should have to feel like they aren’t worthy for not getting 100 percent on a test.”

While romanticizing school to be my whole life seemed fun in theory, it’s actually not fun at all.

In fact, it’s the opposite of fun. It’s stressful.

I got all A’s last semester. I credit this to the fact that first semester is usually easier than second semester in college, as well as to the classes I took, which were repeats of those I had taken in high school.

However, my classes now are much harder than last semester, and I have professors who grade, in my opinion, unfairly. But there’s nothing that I can do about either of those things.

Honestly, I’m struggling with not currently having straight A’s.

Yes, MATH 267 is difficult, and Advanced Programming has a notoriously rigid professor who has a ridiculously hard grading scale and hyper focuses on philosophy. But in my mind, I should be able to overcome both of those things.

I am trying so hard — sometimes that is all you can do.

But I am having a hard time dealing with that fact due to my need for academic validation.

And it affects so many young minds.

A study from Springer Research in Higher Education indicates many students who have a feeling of academic validation generally receive a higher GPA — which just feeds into the fixation of academic validation as a whole.

I have witnessed firsthand how academic validation can cause students anxiety and unneeded stress. Many of my closest friends in high school felt the need for academic validation that I do. Those same friends often were so focused on getting the perfect grades that they didn’t have a life outside of the classroom.

I witnessed their panic attacks for simply getting a B on a test rather than an A. I have felt that same pain.

No one should have to feel like they aren’t worthy for not getting 100 percent on a test.

Before coming to college, I felt the anxiousness surrounding school would disappear once I got here. But did it? No. Academic pressure is not just a K-12 thing.

In fact, I would argue that some of the stakes are higher. Now I pay to get a B on an exam, and it almost hurts more.

Standing back and looking at the situation from a bystander standpoint as I have often done for my friends, it seems ridiculous to fixate on getting above a 90 percent.

After all, it’s such a small portion of your life. Why should we stress so much about the outcome? But with how competitive the job industry is, it’s difficult not to.

I believe dealing with the feeling of academic validation is an important part of the academic experience. What you do with that feeling can shape your future in many ways.

According to Pacific Teen Treatment, the effects of academic pressure can drastically hinder a person’s growth and development. It is important that the way we use academic validation is to better us in academia, not let it affect our personal lives and how we view ourselves.

I have struggled and seen others struggle with needing academic validation for too long. I’m tired of it. There needs to be a way for students to put up boundaries with academia.

It seems so alluring to feed your whole life into getting the perfect grades — to being “that girl.” But in reality, grades are just a number on a paper or a screen and don’t say anything about who we are as people.

It is important that we don’t get sucked into the vortex of validating ourselves through our grades or what others say — because we matter regardless.

I will be honest in saying that I am still going to try to get that perfect grade, to have that above 90 percent lifestyle. But I am not going to let the harsh comments from a professor or an 89 percent crush my spirit as it once would have.

I am more than a grade. We all are.

Contact Elaine Ulsh with comments at [elaine.ulsh@bsu.edu](mailto:elaine.ulsh@bsu.edu).



## HOUSING

Continued from Page 04

According to Ball State's Housing and Residence Life website, RAs receive a stipend of \$1,300 per year paid in installments — \$50 every two weeks. They also receive full room and board and a fee waiver for the installation of air conditioning.

"Our pay is not enough as it is," Villalobos said. "It is not even enough to pay for groceries, let alone to make financial aid payments — it is not enough to make a sustainable living. We do not get supported or paid enough by the university for everything we do."

While she is sad the hall is closing, former Howick/Williams RA Lauren Docter said she supports the decision to close the hall as the conditions of the building are pretty brutal.

"The building is old; the bathrooms are old; something needs to be done," she said. "Closing it down is definitely better than a renovation though, just for the fact that it is even more unsafe for people to be living in a building that is under construction."

Docter also did not know RAs are being put in the University Apartments but agrees with Villalobos in that she believes it is not a good idea.

"If you are in the apartments, it is kind of like you are meant to be off-campus, but it is still convenient because they are still connected to the

bus routes," she said. "I personally don't think they need RAs there, especially since people over the age of 21 live there, and they are looking for that freedom they can't get in the dorms."

Since the opening of the Noyer Market in place of Noyer Dining that closed in 2022, Docter said many people are now upset because Ball State is closing the entire area due to the Howick/Williams closure.

Docter and Villalobos also disagree with the closure of the Howick/Williams Hall due to the fact Ball State is breaking up a community between the RAs and the residents, and RAs will be displaced and have to find a new place to live next school year.

"I know people that are living in Noyer, and they are like, 'I have lived in Noyer my entire school

career. Where am I going to go now?' because they have kept their room for all this time," Docter said. "I have heard positives and negatives about it, kind of a mix of everything."

Docter said students have some of the same views of the Woodworth Complex as they do with Noyer as a whole because it is also old and not air-conditioned.

According to Ball State's Campus Master Plan, there is an aim to develop a strategic renovation plan for Woodworth as well as the Studebaker West building.

Contact Savannah Jordan with comments at [sjordan4@bsu.edu](mailto:sjordan4@bsu.edu) or on Twitter @savmjordann.



CEO of Indiana Youth Group Chris Paulsen speaks at American Civil Liberties Union "Rally to Protect Trans Youth" at the Indiana Statehouse on April 1 in Indianapolis. Indiana Youth Group is an organization that works with LGBTQ+ youth. **OLIVIA GROUND, DN**



Attendee of the American Civil Liberties Union "Rally to Protect Trans Youth" sits in a chair with a pride flag on their shoulders. The rally took place April 1 at the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis. **OLIVIA GROUND, DN**

## SB480

Continued from Page 06

Though Erk did not attend the Indiana ACLU's rally, she's been to the Indiana Statehouse three times the past month to protest bills against the LGBTQ+ community.

Ford said he is concerned about the mental health impact SB 480 will have on young Hoosiers. According to the Trevor Project's 2022 National Survey, 54 percent of transgender and nonbinary youth in Indiana seriously considered suicide in the past year.

"Just filing these sort of anti-LGBTQ+ bills, according to the Trevor Project, sends the wrong message to our most vulnerable that they are not welcomed," Sen. Ford shared over email. "I am doing my best to show them, by my fierce opposition to these bills, that we need their brilliance in this world, and although these are difficult times now, ... I am hoping that this too shall pass and brighter days are ahead."

The ACLU issued a statement April 5 following Gov. Holcomb signing SB 480.

"It's a devastating day for our trans community in Indiana," the social media statement read. "Governor Holcomb today signed a ban on gender-affirming health care for trans youth — ignoring the warning of parents, medical providers and transgender youth themselves. We intend to challenge this law in court."

The ACLU filed a lawsuit against SB 480, stating it violates the Constitution including the Fourteenth Amendment Equal Protection clause. The organization also alleges the bill violates federal requirements for the Medicaid Act and the Affordable Care Act through prohibiting "essential medical services that would otherwise be authorized and reimbursed by Medicaid."

SB 480 will go into effect July 1, 2023.

Contact Hannah Amos with comments at [hannah.amos@bsu.edu](mailto:hannah.amos@bsu.edu) or on Twitter @Hannah\_Amos\_394. Contact Olivia Ground with comments at [olivia.ground@bsu.edu](mailto:olivia.ground@bsu.edu) or on Twitter @liv\_ground\_25.

## FUNERAL

Continued from Page 11

Elm Ridge began as a cemetery in 1927, followed by a mausoleum with 888 crypts three years later. The funeral home didn't open until 1998. Haaff said Elm Ridge serves around 200 families a year.

Haaff said Elm Ridge has a motto that they "don't say no to families."

Haaff said she enjoys Elm Ridge because they serve families for generations and give back to the families. Elm Ridge offers free burials for babies, and they have special services for holidays like Mother's Day, Father's Day and Veteran's Day.

Elm Ridge offers a wide variety of options. They do traditional services, celebrations of life and cremations, but they also offer more unique services.

They can launch ashes through space or even put their ashes in the Neptune Memorial Reef, an underwater reef and mausoleum in Florida dedicated to bringing wildlife to the area.

Though not all types of body disposal are legal in Indiana, other alternatives include aquamation and mushroom suits. According to Death With Dignity, aquamation is when chemicals and heat are used to dissolve the body. Mushroom suits place a special shroud of mushroom spores on the body that accelerate decomposition. You can also be buried at sea or donate your body to science.

As a plant lover, Haaff said the service she leans toward is human composting. This is when your body is composted and turned into soil. Haaff said it produces enough to fill the bed of a truck.

"Just turn me into soil, and keep all of my plants alive," she said.

Haaff is grateful for her job because she gets to help people and hear the most beautiful stories.

"With it being so sad and mundane all the time, you have to think these are happy memories," she said. "These are people that were very loved ... Grief is love turned inside out."

She tries to be there undeniably, 24/7. She constantly talks to families and helps them to be aware that no matter what, they can call, even if it's a "silly question." No matter what, she wants to be there to make their wishes happen.

Haaff said it can be exhausting and overwhelming. She naturally carries it home with her because she spends so much time with each family. She has even dreamt of the families before.

"When the family sobs and hugs you and tells



The 9/11 memorial is pictured at Elm Ridge Funeral Home and Memorial Park on March 28 in Muncie, Ind. Elm Ridge has two towers that light up at night to remember 9/11.

**MYA CATALINE, DN**

you that everything's perfect, that makes it all worthwhile," she said.

Haaff tries to put herself in each family's shoes to understand them better. Constantly working around death reminds her that life is short, no matter how prepared a family is.

She said she had a woman who was burying her 94-year-old mother, and the woman said she thought she'd have more time.

"Many people just are blind to the elephant in the room that it could be over for you when you leave this room," Haaff said. "You never know."

Haaff said she has a wonderful memory she believes helps her be a good funeral director and better connect to families. Because of this though, she can remember awful situations and traumatic cases.

"You carry everything with you," she said.

Haaff still remembers her first funeral for her grandma Ann. She always had her nails painted, and they were never chipped. Seeing her sick was heartbreaking, so when she was able to see her grandma looking like herself at her funeral, it was very important for her closure.

This is what she wants to provide for her families.

"At the end of the day, that's all that matters to me," she said, "that my families are happy, and I made a special moment for them."

Contact Lila Fierek with comments at [lkfierek@bsu.edu](mailto:lkfierek@bsu.edu).



# Crossword & Sudoku

CROSSWORD EDITED BY KURT KRAUSS; SUDOKU BY MICHAEL MEPHAM

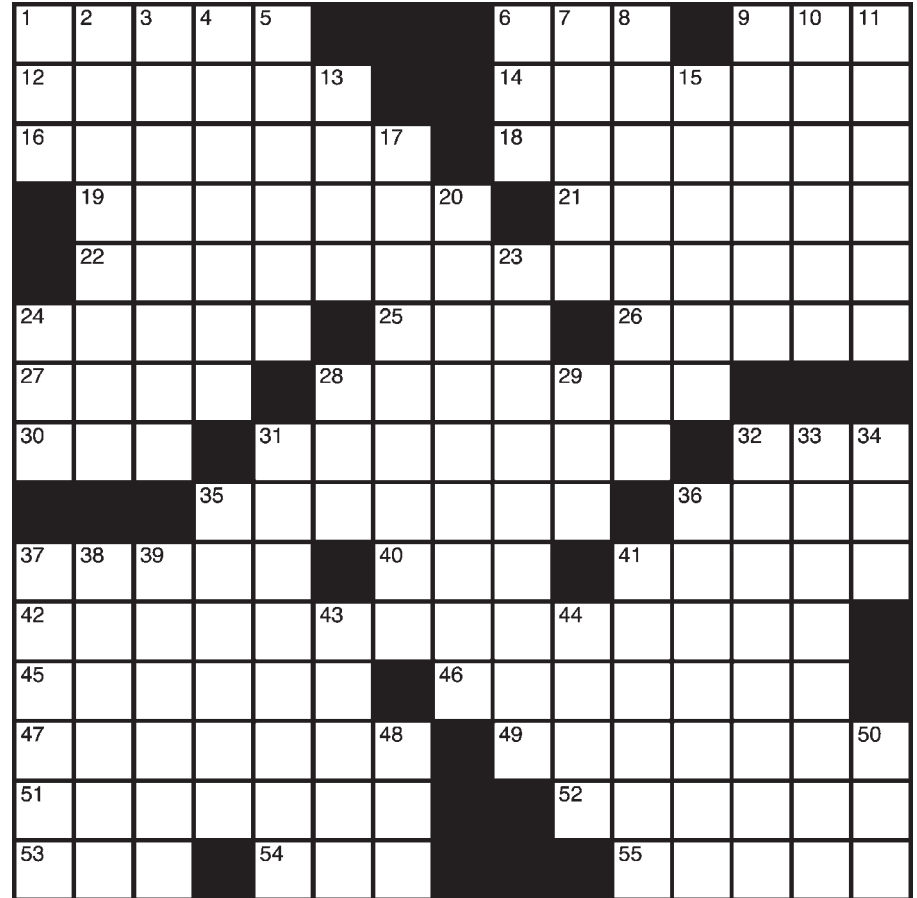
**ACROSS**

- 1 Accessory that may be paired with a smoking jacket
- 6 "Euphoria" network
- 9 Okra or orca unit
- 12 Like pins and needles
- 14 "I cleaned my plate!"
- 16 Largest moon of Uranus
- 18 Many of the "GoodFellas" main characters
- 19 Behavioral psychologist's concern
- 21 Squash
- 22 Account statement?
- 24 Maureen presented with an Honorary Academy Award in 2014
- 25 Buff
- 26 Kermit sipping tea and Keanu playing with puppies
- 27 Clothing store department
- 28 Turn in
- 30 Psyche segments
- 31 Border dispute
- 32 Corp. execs
- 35 Puzzle that uses every letter
- 36 Athlete who wrote the memoir "My Life and the Beautiful Game"
- 37 Drained of color
- 40 Poetic dusk

- 41 "Being the Ricardos" role
- 42 Robin DiAngelo book about race relations
- 45 "Very funny"
- 46 Shut up
- 47 "Did not expect to survive that"
- 49 Like some passes
- 51 "Hm ..."
- 52 Have the gumption
- 53 Mag wheels?
- 54 Archipelago part: Abbr.
- 55 Portends

**DOWN**

- 1 Apropos
- 2 Careless
- 3 Film flashbacks, essentially
- 4 Figures of speech
- 5 Mystical text in Sanskrit
- 6 Scenery chewer
- 7 Heck of a party
- 8 Honoree who might wear a vintage uniform
- 9 Santa hat feature
- 10 Impossible NFL score
- 11 Chain with "all day diner deals"
- 13 Property claim for outstanding debt
- 15 Held
- 17 Master of disguise?
- 20 One whose priorities are in order?
- 23 Winter figure
- 24 Sash tied with a butterfly knot
- 28 Staple \_\_\_
- 29 "Just like that!"
- 31 "Between the World and Me" writer Coates
- 32 Hazarded, as a guess
- 33 Schoolyard friend
- 34 "\_\_\_ who?"
- 35 Potpourri pieces
- 36 First, in Spanish
- 37 For a spell
- 38 Brought low
- 39 Kit parts with pedals
- 41 Window-switching shortcut
- 43 Top picks, slangily
- 44 Apple TV+ device
- 48 Unadon fish
- 50 "\_\_\_ Espookys": 6-Across comedy series



**SOLUTIONS FOR MARCH 30**

F	I	R	S	T		D	O	C	S		D	V	D	
I	D	A	H	O		A	S	A	P		R	O	O	T
B	A	Y	O	U		M	A	R	A		E	D	N	A
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	H	O	T		A	R	I	A		A	D	D	U	P

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

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



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