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Roasted carrots pop on an Easter table

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The Webster House is a testament to hard work



SPORTS | B1

20 area softball players to watch

The Herald Bulletin

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'IT TAKES ALL OF US'

National Child Abuse Prevention Month kicks off with Noon Exchange Club luncheon, discussion



Photos by Caleb Amick | The Herald Bulletin

Nichole Garrod, a family case manager supervisor for the Madison County Department of Child Services office, stands ready for a group photo following a Anderson Noon Exchange Club luncheon at Edgewood Golf, Dining and Events where local agencies discussed their work to prevent child abuse.

LILY JONES
THE HERALD BULLETIN

EDGEWOOD — Advocates, government officials and volunteers gathered Tuesday to renew their commitment to stemming the scourge of child abuse in Madison County.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and the Anderson Noon Exchange Club's luncheon featured several speakers to discuss efforts to address the issue locally.

"I think it's very important that we create more awareness about the importance of recognizing child abuse and how to report that



VIDEO: See video from the luncheon at heraldbulletin.com.

and what our responsibility is as citizens of the community," said Annette Craycraft, executive director of East Central Indiana's Court Appointment Special Advocates for Children. "We do have a significant problem, a high number, of child abuse and neglect cases, and a lot of individuals don't realize that."

Craycraft said CASA is currently seeing an increase in child abuse cases, as well as an increase in

See ABUSE on A2



Annette Craycraft, executive director of East Central Indiana CASA, Inc., smiles while holding a blue pinwheel.

Report: State caregivers contribute \$16B in unpaid labor

MACKENZI KLEMANN
INDIANA CAPITAL CHRONICLE

An AARP report found that the 1.11 million Hoosiers who act as caregivers to parents, spouses and other adult loved ones contribute \$16.1 billion in unpaid labor each year.

Family caregivers assist disabled or elderly loved ones with daily tasks like toileting, dressing and preparing meals.

But the AARP report found caregivers are increasingly likely to engage in complex tasks like wound care or administering injections, increasing the hours of unpaid labor they perform.

Collectively, Hoosier caregivers perform an estimated 860 million hours of unpaid labor that would otherwise be valued at \$16.1 billion each year if they were compensated at the market rate of \$18.68 per hour, the report found.

"Family caregivers are filling a critical gap in our health care system," Sarah Waddle, AARP Indiana state director, said in a news release. "The care they are providing is often coming at a significant cost to their health, financial security and well-being. This is why AARP is raising awareness of this crucial issue and working to help family caregivers save time and money."

The numbers are up from a similar 2023 report that found an estimated 790,000 Hoosiers provided more than 740 million hours of care to their elders as family caregivers, a value of more than \$10.8 billion.

The report draws on 2024 caregiving data to calculate the economic contributions of unpaid family caregivers.

The estimated value of caregiving varies across states from \$14.12 an hour in Louisiana to \$27.05 an hour in Washington. In Indiana, the market rate is \$18.68 an hour.

Nationally, the AARP found 59 million Americans act as caregivers for adults — the equivalent of 24 million full-time workers or 17% of the entire U.S. full-time workforce.

The average family caregiver spends 27 hours each week assisting a parent, spouse or other adult.

Those contributions are growing, as the AARP found more than half of adult caregivers now assist their loved ones with more complex medical tasks.

The AARP estimates the value of this unpaid labor at \$1 trillion, based on an average market-rate wage of \$20.41 nationally, exceeding total federal, state and local Medicaid spending and almost twice that of all out-of-pocket health care spending in the U.S.

Supreme Court blocks Colorado ban on 'conversion therapy'

8-1 majority sides with counselor who argued First Amendment infringements

LINDSAY WHITEHURST
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled against a law banning "conversion therapy"

for LGBTQ+ kids in Colorado, one of about two dozen states that ban the discredited practice.

An 8-1 high court majority sided with a Christian counselor who argues the law banning talk therapy

violates the First Amendment. The justices agreed that the law raises free speech concerns and sent it back to a lower court to decide if it meets a legal standard that few laws pass.

Justice Neil Gorsuch, writing

for the court, said the law "censors speech based on viewpoint." The First Amendment, he wrote, "stands as a shield against any effort to enforce orthodoxy in thought or speech in this country."

Gorsuch's opinion drew support from liberal Justices Elena Kagan

and Sonia Sotomayor.

A state could similarly not ban talk therapy designed to affirm a minor's sexual orientation or gender identity, Kagan wrote. "Once again, because the State has suppressed one side

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Postal delivery information:

WEATHER



Today: Wet and stormy this morning and much cooler.
Tonight: Overcast but likely to stay dry.

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Full forecast on Page A8.

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