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State tax proposal could help property owners, but hurt schools

By CASEY SMITH

Indiana Capital Chronicle

Property owners could get temporary tax relief under a top Indiana lawmaker's bill that seeks to stymie the impacts of high assessments last spring.

A new study projects homeowners' bills payable this year could increase as much as 15 percent. That's more than double what previous reports estimated for the upcoming bills.

Rep. Jeff Thompson, R-Lizton, filed legislation that would temporarily provide a supplemental homestead credit and lower the 1 percent cap on residential property taxes. He chairs the House Ways and Means Committee, meaning the bill could get more traction.

Multiple other property tax measures are also floating around the General Assembly.

While it could mean relief for property owners, schools are expected to take on the brunt of the tax burden if Thompson's policy change takes effect.

Between 2024 and 2027 — during which property owners would pay reduced taxes — school corporations are estimated to lose

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These are the sounds of (this) summer



The Bluffton Parks and Recreation Department has announced the lineup for the 2023 Kehoe Summer Concert Series.

The acts that will be performing on Friday nights will be four tribute bands — Simply Queen, pictured at top left, June 9; Eliminator (ZZ Top), above, June 23; The Dave Matthews Tribute Band, at left, July 7; and Crush (Bon Jovi), second from top left, July 14.

The Sunday evening shows will feature Dan Heath with the Paradise Band, below left, June 11; a worship celebration presented by local churches, June 25; and the return of the Cornfield Mafia, below right, July 16.

More details can be found in the Destination Recreation column on Page 3.



Lots of sound and fury on U.S. debt, but not a crisis — yet

By JOSH BOAK

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For all the sound and fury about raising the nation's debt limit, most economists say federal borrowing is not at a crisis point ... at least not yet.

The national debt is at the core of a dispute about how to raise the government's legal borrowing authority, a mostly political argument that could turn into genuine financial trouble this summer if the U.S. runs out of accounting maneuvers to keep paying its bills.

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy insists that the debt, so huge it defies most people's grasp, is already breaking the economy. President Joe Biden counters that the government spending cuts sought by Republicans in return for a debt limit increase would break the middle class.

The political jousting masks

(Continued on Page 2)

Palestinian gunman kills 7 near Jerusalem synagogue

By JOSEF FEDERMAN and ISABEL DEBRE
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — A Palestinian gunman opened fire outside an east Jerusalem synagogue Friday night, killing seven people, including a 70-year-old woman, and wounding three others before he was shot and killed by police, officials said. It was the deadliest attack on Israelis in years and raised the likelihood of more bloodshed.

The attack, which occurred as residents were observing the Jewish sabbath, came a day after an Israeli military raid killed nine

people in the West Bank. The shooting set off celebrations in both the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, where people fired guns into the air, honked horns and distributed sweets.

The burst of violence, which also included a rocket barrage from Gaza and retaliatory Israeli airstrikes, has posed an early challenge for Israel's new government, which is dominated by ultranationalists who have pushed for a hard line against Palestinian violence. It also cast a cloud over a visit by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken to the region Sunday.

Addressing reporters at Israel's national police headquarters, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he had held a security assessment and decided on "immediate actions." He said he would convene his Security Cabinet on Saturday night, after the end of the sabbath, to discuss a further response.

Netanyahu declined to elaborate but said Israel would act with "determination and composure." He called on the public not to take the law into their own hands.

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said the U.S.

strongly condemned the attack and was "shocked and saddened by the loss of life," noting it came on International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

U.S. officials said later Friday that President Joe Biden spoke with Netanyahu to offer U.S. support to the government and people of Israel, calling the shootings "an attack against the civilized world." "The President stressed the iron-clad U.S. commitment to Israel's security," the White House said of the call.

Israeli police said the shootings occurred in Neve Yaakov, a neigh-

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Outside

Mostly cloudy today, chance of rain tonight

Today	Sunday	Monday
High 37	High 38	High 27
Low 34	Low 24	Low 7

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State tax cap proposal

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more than \$364 million in revenue.

That's significantly more than cities, towns, counties and other units that are also expected to see decreased revenues.

"We'll look at all that, because some will shift, and some will decrease," Thompson said about tax burden responsibility. "We've got both options, maybe a marriage of both. I don't know, we'll see."

Taxpayer savings in Thompson's bill
Thompson's legislation would temporarily reduce the homestead tax cap for taxes payable in 2024 and gradually increase the cap back to 1 percent in 2028.

Caps would be set at 0.9 percent for property taxes payable in 2024, 0.925 percent in 2025, 0.95 percent in 2026 and 0.975 percent in 2027.

The bill also creates a supplemental homestead credit to be applied to tax bills after all other credits are applied. The added credit for each homestead would be equal to \$100 in 2024, \$75 in 2025, \$50 in 2026, and \$25 in 2027. The credit is not allowed to exceed what a taxpayer owes, however.

The Indiana Constitution states that property tax liability "may not exceed" the 1-2-3 percent caps, giving lawmakers an ability to establish the lower caps.

The reduced property tax bills for homeowners is estimated to result in \$357 million in tax relief in 2024, according to Indiana's Legislative Services Agency. The tax savings for homesteads is then estimated to drop to \$275 million in 2025, \$183.4 million in 2026, and \$136 million in 2027.

Taxable assessed values shot up 15 percent from 2021 to 2022 — even after tax abatements, deductions and credits — according to data from the Association of Indiana Counties (AIC). That's compared to a 5 percent increase the year before, and increases under 5 percent in each year since at least 2014.

A new study from the nonprofit organization paints a daunting picture for taxpayers, though.

Although the average tax increase for all property owners is expected to go up by 7.4 percent, on average, resi-

dential property owners specifically are estimated to see a 15 percent increase in tax liability, according to an AIC study conducted with Indianapolis-based economic research firm Policy Analytics.

Increases will mostly be dependent on what type of property a taxpayer owns and whether they're already at the circuit breaker cap.

Homeowners are projected to see the largest increases due to 2022's higher assessments, and because net assessed values rise faster than gross assessed values according to the study. The fixed standard homestead deduction is what largely contributes to the inflated bills for residential property, but not to other property types.

AIC Executive Director David Bortoff said the group advocates for new policy that would affect taxes in 2024, but not anything that would be retroactive for 2023 property owner bills due in March.

David Ober, vice president of taxation and public finance for the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, said that while much of the conversation at the Statehouse is currently focused on residential property bills, caps for those taxpayers would have "far reaching implications" for business entities.

"It remains to be seen what may happen, but shifting the cost of local government to (businesses) is something that we're very much concerned about," he said.

Commercial property taxes are estimated to increase by 2.2 percent in 2023, and industrial property tax are expected to go up 5.7 percent, according to the AIC study. Businesses with large amounts of equipment are likely to see the smallest tax liability increases, however.

Where lawmakers stand

A range of other bills filed by lawmakers include those that seek to eliminate or limit annual market-based adjustments, freeze property taxes for certain homeowners and allow local governments to recover lost revenue.

It's not clear where lawmakers stand on particular bills, or whether there's enough support to take any action at all

on property taxes in the current legislative session.

House Speaker Todd Huston, R-Fishers, said there's still "a lot of uncertainty around property taxes right now" and emphasized that "our constituents are very concerned about what their property tax bills are going to look like."

Huston did not comment specifically on the proposal to cap property taxes, and the GOP majority in the Senate isn't so sure about taking any action to address property taxes during this session.

Republican Senate Pro Tem Rodric Bray (R-Martinsville) said if Thompson's bill advances to the Senate "then we'll certainly talk about it," but he didn't know whether the proposal would have enough caucus support.

"The challenge with doing anything right now would be that anything that we do would not be able to impact the property tax bills that people are going to get in March, it would be doing something a bit after the fact, which may not be as effective as we would all want," Bray said Thursday.

He said his chamber is more so focused on a Senate GOP priority bill that seeks to form the State and Local Tax Review Commission to study the feasibility of ending Indiana's income tax and reforming property taxes for Hoosiers.

Still, if a property tax measure can make it through both chambers, Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb suggested he would be willing to give the greenlight.

"I wouldn't be surprised if we do something during the course of this session," Holcomb said Thursday. "We're going to get at the root causes of the increases that are occurring. We're in close conversation with the House and the Senate leadership and members on having the ability to do something that doesn't change, fundamentally, the advancements we've made."

This story was provided to the News-Banner by the Hoosier State Press Association's Information Network.

Weather

Saturday, January 28, 2023

(24-hour observations at 8:36 p.m. Friday)

High: 38; **Low:** 14; **Precipitation:** 0.03 inches of rain
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 2.27 feet at 9:45 p.m. Friday

Wells County forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 37. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southeast in the afternoon.

Tonight: Rain likely, mainly after 1 a.m. Cloudy, with a low around 34. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Sunday: A 30 percent chance of rain before 1 p.m. Cloudy, with a high near 38. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming north in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow after 1 a.m. Cloudy, with a low around 24. North wind 5 to 10 mph.

Monday: Cloudy, with a high near 27.

Monday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 7.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny and cold, with a high near 18.

Tuesday Night: A 30 percent chance of snow, mainly before 1 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 9.

Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 23.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 10.

U.S. debt

(Continued from Page 1)

contrasting realities: Today's \$31.4 trillion national debt does not appear to be a weight on the U.S. economy, but the debt's path in the decades to come might put at risk national security and major programs including Social Security and Medicare.

The national debt is the accumulation over time of the yearly deficit. If the government cuts spending or raises taxes, it can trim the deficit and run a surplus, something that last happened in 2001. Lower levels of borrowing can contain and even reduce the cumulative debt.

However, at a time when high inflation already has the U.S. teetering near a recession, it's a potentially dangerous game to force more deficit reduction, says Megan Greene, global chief economist at the Kroll Institute.

"Spending cuts and tax hikes would kill off growth in a year when we're more likely than not to go into recession," Greene said. "It's not clear that it would put us onto a more sustainable fiscal footing at all."

But the debt challenge will keep unfolding over time, meaning that choices may become more severe

as the costs of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid increasingly outstrip tax revenues.

Publicly held debt is roughly equal now to the U.S. gross domestic product, a measure of yearly economic output. It's on track to be 225 percent of GDP by 2050, according to the Penn Wharton Budget Model.

To stabilize the debt near current levels, the government would need to permanently slash all spending by 30 percent, raise tax revenues by 40 percent or some combination of both, said Kent Smetters, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania and director of the Penn Wharton Budget Model. Those changes could come at the expense of younger generations who might be stuck paying more and receiving far fewer benefits from the government than their parents.

"We're talking about a current fiscal path that's very unbalanced," Smetters said. "That's not a partisan statement. It's an accounting thing."

Given his estimates, Smetters said, he worries that investors lending to the U.S. will pull back "if we don't do something before the 2030s, pretty boldly."

7 killed in Jerusalem

(Continued from Page 1)

borhood with a large ultra-Orthodox population, and that the gunman fled in a car. Police said they chased after him and after an exchange of fire, killed him.

Jerusalem police chief Doron Turjeman confirmed seven deaths, in addition to the shooter, and said three people were wounded.

Police identified the attacker as a 21-year-old east Jerusalem resident who apparently acted alone. Turjeman promised an "aggressive and significant" effort to track down anyone who helped him.

Police also released a photo of the pistol it said was used by the attacker.

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant huddled with Israel's military chief and other top security officials and instructed them to assist police and strengthen defenses near Jerusalem and for Jewish settlements in the

occupied West Bank.

"Israel's defense establishment will operate decisively and forcefully against terror and will reach anyone involved in the attack," Gallant said.

Israel's MADA rescue service said the dead victims were five men and two women, including several who were 60 or older. Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital said a 15-year-old boy was recovering from surgery.

The attack was the deadliest on Israelis since a 2008 shooting killed eight people in a Jewish seminary in Jerusalem, according to the Foreign Ministry. Given the location and timing, it threatened to trigger a tough response from Israel.

Overnight Thursday, Gaza militants fired a barrage of rockets into southern Israel, with all of them either intercepted or landing in open areas. Israel responded with airstrikes on targets in Gaza.

No casualties were reported, and calm had appeared to be taking hold before Friday night's shooting.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. In Gaza, Hazem Qassem, spokesman for the ruling Hamas militant group, said the attack was "a revenge and natural response" to the deadly military raid Thursday.

At several locations across the Gaza Strip, dozens of Palestinians gathered in spontaneous demonstrations to celebrate the Jerusalem attack, with some coming out of dessert shops with large trays of sweets to distribute.

In downtown Gaza City, celebratory gunfire could be heard, as cars honked and calls of "God is great!" wafted from mosque loudspeakers. In various West Bank towns, Palestinians launched fireworks.

The attack escalated tensions that were already

heightened following Thursday's raid in the town of Jenin, where nine people, including at least seven militants and a 61-year-old woman, were killed. It was the deadliest single raid in the West Bank in two decades. A 10th Palestinian was killed in separate fighting near Jerusalem.

Angry Palestinians marched Friday as they buried the last of those killed a day earlier.

Scuffles between Israeli forces and Palestinian protesters erupted after the funeral for a 22-year-old Palestinian north of Jerusalem and elsewhere in the occupied West Bank, but calm prevailed in the contested capital and in the blockaded Gaza Strip for most of the day.

That suddenly dissolved with the east Jerusalem shooting, described as "horrific and heartbreaking" by Yair Lapid, the opposition leader and former prime minister.

U.S., World News Roundup

Tyre Nichols' brutal beating by police shown on video

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Memphis authorities released video footage Friday showing Tyre Nichols being beaten by police officers who held the Black motorist down and repeatedly struck him with their fists, boots and batons as he screamed for his mother.

The video is filled with violent moments showing the officers, who are also Black, chasing and pummeling Nichols and leaving him on the pavement propped against a squad car as they fist-bump and celebrate their actions.

The footage emerged one day after the officers were charged with murder in Nichols' death. The chilling images of another Black man dying at the hands of police renewed tough questions about how fatal encounters with law enforcement continue even after repeated calls for change.

Protesters gathered in multiple cities, including Memphis, where several dozen demonstrators blocked the Interstate 55 bridge that carries traffic over the Mississippi River toward Arkansas. Semi-trucks were backed up for a distance. In Washington, dozens of protestors gathered in Lafayette Park, across the street from the White House and near Black Lives Matter Plaza.

The recording shows police savagely beating the 29-year-old FedEx worker for three minutes while screaming profanities at him throughout the attack. The Nichols family legal team has likened the assault to the infamous 1991 police beating of Los Angeles motorist Rodney King.

Pelosi attack video shows struggle and savage hammer swing

Video released Friday shows the husband of former U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi struggling with his assailant for control of a hammer moments before he was struck in the head during a brutal attack in the couple's San Francisco home last year.

Police body-camera footage shows David DePape wrest the tool from Paul Pelosi, 82, and lunge toward him with the weapon over his head. The blow to Pelosi occurs out of the camera's view and the officers — one of them cursing — rush into the house and one tackles DePape.

Pelosi, apparently unconscious, can be seen lying face down on the floor in his pajama top and underwear. Officials later said he woke up in a pool of his own blood.

The video release comes after a coalition of news agencies, including The Associated Press, sought access to the evidence that prosecutors played in court last month. The San Francisco district attorney had refused to make the exhibits available to journalists and defense lawyers fought their release.

Police charge second teen in Iowa school shooting that killed 2

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Authorities on Friday charged a second teenager with murder in the shooting deaths of two students at a Des Moines educational program.

Bravon Michael Tukes, 19, of Des

Moines, faces two counts of first-degree murder, one count of attempted murder and one count of criminal gang participation.

The charges match those filed earlier in the week against Preston Walls, 18, who is accused of fatally shooting the two teenage students at the Starts Right Here education program Monday and wounding the program's founder.

Police said evidence shows Tukes communicated with Walls before and immediately after the shooting and drove the vehicle in which Walls allegedly fled. Tukes and Walls are members of the same gang and committed the shootings "in connection with that gang membership," police said in a news release.

Police said they recovered four firearms during their investigation.

Pence: 'Mistakes were made' in classified records handling

MIAMI (AP) — Former Vice President Mike Pence said Friday that he takes "full responsibility" after classified documents were found at his Indiana home.

In his first public comments since the discovery, Pence said he hadn't been aware that the documents were in his residence but acknowledged his lack of awareness wasn't an excuse.

"Let me be clear: Those classified documents should not have been in my personal residence," Pence said at Florida International University, where he was talking about the economy and promoting his new book, "So Help Me God." "Mistakes were made, and I take full responsibility."

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OBITUARIES

Larry Gaskill, 88

Described by many as “a man who never met a stranger,” and known for his love of whistling, Larry E. Gaskill, 88, of Berne, Ind., peacefully stepped from this world into the presence of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at 11:14 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2023, and so shall he ever be with the Lord.



His earthly life began on May 20, 1934, in Convoy, Ohio, as the first child of Roland and Edna (Heath) Gaskill. Born in the midst of the Great Depression, the family lived in various communities along the Ohio-Indiana line, including Convoy and Dixon, and eventually settled in Monroeville, Ind. Larry came to personal faith in Jesus Christ through the ministry of some older women at the Monroeville Methodist Church. After graduating from Monroeville High School, he enrolled at Asbury College in Wilmore, Kent., eventually transferring back to Fort Wayne Bible College.

Larry proudly served in the U.S. Army, Fourth Platoon, Demonstration Company, Chemical Corps Support Battalion, in active service from 1955-1959, last stationed at Fort McClellan, Ala. While in active military service, he was united in marriage to Marjorie J. Sprunger, daughter of Noah and Amelia Sprunger of Berne, on Dec. 8, 1957. After active duty, he completed his terms of service in the Army Reserves until his discharge on Jan. 31, 1963.

Larry went on to have a long and active career working for CTS corporation in Berne where he was a tool and die foreman. He was known for his laughter, boundless enthusiasm and melodic whistling of hymns and songs. He finished out his active employment at Berne Furniture from where he eventually retired.

Larry was a member of Grace Bible Church where he sought to serve both within the church and within the community. For many years he served Grace Bible as a junior high Sunday School teacher, later as church Treasurer, as well as various other ministries. He was probably most widely known for his active involvement with the local Gideons camp. His extensive jail, prison and rescue mission ministry spanned more than 50 years. Larry had a deep sensitivity and compassion for “the least of these,” individuals who were often neglected, overlooked or discarded by society. Until he was no longer physically able, he faithfully shared the good news of Christ to incarcerated individuals, seeking to love them to Christ and disciple them in a growing, faithful walk with Jesus. With over a half century of ministering behind bars, sitting in prison cells and passing out Bibles and spiritual literature, thousands of individuals remember “Larry” as the one who visited them in prison.

When not working, visiting jailed individuals or sharing the gospel with someone he just met, Larry enjoyed nature. He loved going for long walks in the woods, mushroom hunting and just watching and observing nature. He loved fishing with a cane pole or a reel, usually with his sons or grandsons by his side.

Larry is survived by his wife, Marjorie Gaskill of Berne; two sons, Randy (Emiley) Gaskill of Monroe, Ind., and Jeff (Becky) Gaskill of Berne; and daughter, Vicki Gaskill of Berne; nine grandchildren, Aaron Gaskill, Brandon (Lindsey) Gaskill, Craig (Tazza) Gaskill, Bryan (Norine) Gaskill, Mandy (Clarence) Franklin, Jesse (Jamie) Gaskill, Joshua (Lori) Gaskill, Holly Gaskill and Amelia Gaskill; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents, younger brother Dean Gaskill, and sister Mona Gaskill, who died in infancy.

A funeral service will be held at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023, at Swiss Village Retirement Community auditorium, 1350 W. Main St. in Berne, with son Rev. Dr. Jeff Gaskill officiating. Burial will follow at M.R.E. Cemetery in Berne.

Family and friends will be received for visitation from 6-8 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 3, 2023, at Swiss Village auditorium in Berne, and one hour prior to the service on Saturday at Swiss Village.

Memorials may be designated given to Berne Gideon’s, Swiss Village Samaritan fund or Grace Bible Church.

Arrangements are by the Zwick and Jahn Funeral Home, Yager-Kirchhofer, Chapel in Berne.

Thomas T. Thompson, 76

Thomas T. “Tom” Thompson, 76, of Bluffton, a former resident of Berne, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2023, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.



He was born Aug. 28, 1946, in Fort Wayne, to Richard H. Thompson and Alice Fletcher Thompson.

Tom was a devout Catholic and a member of the St. Mary’s of the Presentation Church in Geneva. He formerly attended First Missionary Church in Berne.

For the past five years he attended church at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bluffton.

Tom worked at Swiss Village for many years. Prior to his employment there, he worked at the Hobby House in Fort Wayne.

Survivors include his friend Preston (Katie) Brubaker of Bluffton and his loving Bi-County family.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Richard Thompson.

A funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bluffton with Father David Violi officiating. Burial will follow at St. Mary’s of the Presentation Catholic Cemetery in Geneva.

Friends will be received from 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31, at the church prior to the Mass.

Preferred memorials can be given to Swiss Village or Bi-County Services.

The Zwick and Jahn Funeral Home in Decatur is in charge of arrangements.

Cory A. Colwell, 46

Cory A. Colwell, 46 of Bluffton passed away Wednesday evening, January 25, 2023, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Funeral arrangements are pending under the care of the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

James “Jim” E. Phillabaum, 82

Long-time Bluffton City Councilman, James “Jim” E. Phillabaum, 82 of Bluffton passed away on Friday morning, Jan. 27, 2023, at Christian Care Retirement Community.

Funeral arrangements are pending at this time under the care of the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

Timothy Roy Phillips, 28

Timothy Roy Phillips, 28 of Bluffton, passed away early Friday morning, January 27, 2023, at his residence in Bluffton. Funeral arrangements are currently pending under the care of the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:

Thursday, 4:13 p.m., Bluffton High School, 1 Tiger Trail. Car slid off Tiger Trail on the icy street and hit a rock. There was no damage to school property and the parents of the student who had been driving the car did not wish to file an accident report.

Thursday, 4:25 p.m., residence in the 200 block of East Washington Street. Officers requested to make a report about a battery involving a woman and her “baby’s daddy” that occurred a half an hour earlier at the residence.

Thursday, 8:36 p.m., Main Street south of Harri-

son Plaza. Silver Chevrolet car slid off the road.

Thursday, 9:21 p.m., residence in the 600 block of West Spring Street. Caller reported the neighbor couple was fighting. Officers responded. As soon as they arrived, the man and the woman calmed down and denied fighting. Both were warned for disorderly conduct.

Friday, 9:24 a.m., Indiana National Guard Armory, 500 E. Spring St. Car hit a large pile of snow in the parking lot.

Friday, 10:54 a.m., Main Street at Lamar Street. Officer assisted a motorist whose vehicle was experiencing

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Court News

Wells Superior Court Criminal Cases

Carlos Eduardo Sosa, 29, Fort Wayne, pleaded guilty to possession of marijuana, a Class C misdemeanor.

Sentenced to six days in the Wells County Jail, credited as time served, and ordered to pay a \$200 drug interdiction fee and court costs of \$185.50.

As part of a plea agreement, charges of operating a motor vehicle while never having received a driver’s license with a prior conviction for the same offense, a Class A misdemeanor; possession of drug paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor; and speeding, a Class C infraction, were all dismissed.

On Nov. 14, 2022, the Markle Town Marshal was monitoring traffic on Clark Street north of Windridge Drive in Markle when he clocked a 2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee at 55 mph-35 zone and pulled it over.

The driver, identified as Sosa, did not possess, nor had he ever possessed, a valid Indiana driver’s license.

He also had a prior conviction for the offense in Allen County in July of 2020.

The marshal observed that the interior of the vehicle smelled of marijuana and asked Sosa and his passengers to exit the vehicle. Reportedly they climbed out the windows of the Jeep because the doors did not

work.

When Sosa got up, the Marshal reported seeing in plain sight a glass smoking pipe and reached into the Jeep and grabbed it. The bowl of the pipe reportedly contained a green leafy plant material with the odor and appearance of marijuana. Also allegedly visible from the passenger side window was a small plastic bag containing a green leafy plant material with the odor and appearance of marijuana.

Alex Edward Bates, 35, Angola, pleaded guilty to counterfeiting, a Level 6 felony.

Sentenced to 547 days in prison, with all but 20 days suspended, credited as time served, and placed on probation for 527 days.

Ordered to pay \$200 restitution to his victim, court costs and probation fees.

The term of his sentence is to be served consecutively with a term meted in Steuben County on one count of possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony.

As part of a plea agreement, a second count of counterfeiting and one count of theft with a prior conviction for either theft or conversion, both Level 6 felonies, were dismissed.

An Ossian couple had a used Samsung S10 phone for sale on Facebook Marketplace Dec. 14, 2021. They were contacted by Bates, who arranged to meet

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Bluffton Parks & Rec News & Notes

Destination Recreation

It looks like we finally got our share white stuff this week. Mother nature has put off giving us much snow so far, so be sure to take advantage of it and enjoy a trip down the sledding hill at Lancaster Park. If we are lucky, some will stick around for our **Chilly Chili Run** to make the park look beautiful. To register for the race, go to <https://tinyurl.com/yckht8m5>. The event date is Saturday, Feb. 4, with a 10 a.m. start time. Runners can choose between the 5 or 3-mile “just for fun” run. Afterward, enjoy some hot chili, and be sure to grab your long sleeve t-shirt.



By Brandy Fiechter

Now that we have snow, it’s time for a **snowman building contest**. Submit a photo of your best snowman creation between Jan. 25 - Feb. 6 by emailing it to events@blufftonindiana.gov. Voting will then take place on the Bluffton Parks Department Facebook page between Feb. 7-12. The Snowman photo with the most votes (likes) will win a prize. The winner will be announced on Feb. 13. This competition is open to all ages.

If winter seems long and you want something fun to look forward to, I’m happy to announce that the **Kehoe Concert** Committee has selected this season’s performers. We are beyond excited and know that you will be, too, if you look up these bands on the following links to hear their music. Drum roll, please...

- Friday Concerts from 8-10 p.m.
- June 9 – Simply Queen (Queen Tribute) - <https://www.simplyqueen.live/>
- June 23 – Eliminator (ZZ Top Tribute) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uK3Av1X2I80>
- July 7 – The Dave Matthews Tribute Band - <https://thedmtb.com/videos>
- July 14 – Crush (Bon Jovi Tribute) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iq4lWhW8iFI>
- Sunday Concerts 7-8:30 p.m.
- June 11 – Dan Heath and the Paradise Band <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0NHXJws91gM>
- June 25 - Community Worship Celebration (local community churches)
- July 16 – Cornfield Mafia (Country) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=inoVbtvu_Mg

This concert series is in its 32nd year and has established itself as a top-rated attraction drawing visitors from surrounding areas to Bluffton to enjoy an evening show along the banks of the Wabash. This highly anticipated program features quality bands with expert musicianship that draw an attendance of 800+.

Our department is diligently seeking sponsors and donations for the 2023 series to bring talent from across the country. If your business, club, or organization would like to participate in this fantastic event, please get in touch with us at parks@blufftonindiana.gov.

Concert Donors who contribute a gift of any size will be listed on the flyer shared on the City’s Website and social media pages. All donors who reply by March 15 will be listed on the printed flyer distributed throughout town.

Donations of \$1,000 or more will be recognized as a Concert Sponsor at one of the performances. Additionally, Concert Sponsors will be announced during the show, have printed yard signs in the park, listed on the digital sign at the Common’s Parking lot, and shared on the City’s website & social media pages.

Have a great week!

Energy policy bill advances in state House

By ENRIQUE SAENZ Indiana Environmental Reporter

The House Committee on Utilities, Energy and Telecommunications unanimously approved the passage of House Bill 1007, authored by Reps. Ed Soliday (R-Valparaiso), Chris Jeter (R-Fishers) and Sharon Negele (R-Attica), which would make it official state policy for consider five attributes of generation when making decisions concerning the state’s electric generation mix, infrastructure and ratermaking.

Soliday said the bill derived from findings of the Indiana 21st Century Energy Task Force and calls from the governor and state entities, like the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, for the Indiana General Assembly to set an energy policy for the state.

The bill would require state lawmakers and officials to consider the reliability, affordability, resiliency, stability and environmental sustainability of electric utility service when making energy decisions.

Reliability

Indiana has had a reliable electricity supply, with a few exceptions. In 2022, electric utilities in the state were involved in just three events the U.S. Energy Information Administration called “major disturbances and unusual occurrences.”

Failures at power stations in a neighboring grid led the North American Electric Reliability Corp., the organization that oversees electrical grid operations in the U.S., to declare a level two energy emergency requiring all power stations to ramp up energy production and manage where the electricity is sent.

Affordability

Soliday said the state should also consider the affordability of electricity in its decisions.

Electric utilities in Indiana have asked the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission to approve substantial rate increases to keep up higher fuel costs.

Resiliency

Soliday defined resiliency as the ability to prepare for and recover from “off-nominal events,” like extreme weather events.

Soliday said the state’s focus should include resiliency in its conversations about affordability.

Stability

HB1007 defines stability as the ability of an electric

system to maintain a state of equilibrium and deliver electricity at a frequency and voltage within defined parameters.

Soliday said the bill would encourage companies to purchase technology that would help the adoption of renewable energy, like batteries and other technology that compensates for fluctuations when solar arrays are covered.

Environmental Sustainability

Soliday said future state energy decisions should consider environmental sustainability because of the demand for a sustainable approach.

Most of the electricity produced in the state is

made in plants powered by coal or natural gas, resources that release large amounts of greenhouse gases.

This story was provided to the News-Banner by the Hoosier State Press Association’s Information Network.

Thomas Rowe Huffman

Calling: 12 - 2 p.m. Monday, January 30. Memorial Service: 2 p.m. Monday, January 30 at the funeral home.

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Here are three Saturday mysteries to solve

My friend Mike Firenza kept sending me emails in 2021. They average about two or three per month; he shares a variety of information.

Saturday's Sub



Mark Miller

I'm not sure he really exists, nor have I figured out what's in it for him to let me know, for example, that Indiana is the ninth best-paying state for woodworkers, or that young Indiana homebuyers are the fifth least likely to need a co-signer. There were other mundane tidbits — Indiana has the fifth fewest EV (Electric Vehicle) chargers per capita, (an OK thing in my book) and we had the fourth most bankruptcies per capita, probably not something we should brag about.

However, Mike sent a couple others that indeed piqued my interest.

- "I'm writing to let you know (all of his emails begin) ... that an analysis found that Indiana-born players have won a total of five MVP awards in the "Big Four" American sports" which ranks the state in 19th place among U.S. states and territories.

Hmm. Whom might they be? He didn't provide that information, but a link to the analysis' website (which probably achieved his purpose in life) reveals that Indiana's five winners include three in the NBA and two in Major League Baseball. California, New York and Pennsylvania top the list with the fourth-place state not even close. While Indiana's five is not a lot to brag about, we have more than most, with 13 states coming in at zero. Baseball fans will not be surprised to see that Puerto Rico ranks in the top ten with six MVPs in baseball.

So the list says there were three Hoosiers that have been named the Most Valuable Player in the NBA. Two of them are easy: Larry Bird and Oscar Robertson. Bird actually won three in a row: 1984, '85 and '86. Who is the third? The list connected to the analysis did not provide each player's home state, but further research found a story in the Indy Star of "Indiana's best all-time NBA players." That list included several names I recognize — Shawn Kemp, Zach Randolph, Glenn Robinson — and some I do not — Dick Barnett and Junior Bridgeman, for example. But none of the others in the Indy Star story were on that MVP list. That's mystery no. 1.

Who were the two Hoosiers to garner an MVP award in baseball? One of them quickly came to mind: Evansville native Don Mattingly who played for "my" New York Yankees, getting the award in 1985. The second name is mystery no. 2.

The Major Leagues began the annual award in each league in 1931, so Bluffton native Everett Scott could not be the other. His Hall of Fame career included playing with Babe Ruth and setting the record of playing in 1,307 consecutive games that Lou Gehrig and then Cal Ripken, Jr., would later eclipse.

Once again, a 2015 story in the Indy Star listed their picks for Indiana's best but it did not include Scott. (So how accurate could their list be?) Although it included several surprises, no names on this list matched any on the official list of MVPs except for Mattingly. While I was quite aware that Carl Erskine grew up in Anderson, I did not know that Don Larsen, he of the perfect game in the 1956 World Series, was from Michigan City. Other notables: Gil Hodges (Princeton), Bob Friend (Lafayette) and Tommy John (Terre Haute). Kenny Lofton, who was born and raised in East Chicago, was a six-time All Star but not an MVP.

Here's a couple names I bet you've never heard of: Mordecai "Three Finger" Brown from Nyesville, Ind., which is in Parke County and appears to be about the size of Nottingham. Selected to the Hall of Fame in 1949, Brown — nicknamed "Three Finger" due to a mangled hand from a childhood accident — led the league by tossing an incredible 342 2/3 innings in 1909 for the Chicago Cubs. He also appeared in a league-high 50 games that season, completing 32 games and notching seven saves. He finished with a career ERA of 2.06.

• "In total, Indiana-born actors and actresses have garnered a total of three acting awards — one Oscar and two Primetime Emmys," another email from Mr. Firenza revealed. Not much to brag about, but who might they be?

The Oscar was won by Anne Baxter of Michigan City. She received the Best Supporting Actress award for "The Razor's Edge" in 1947. She was also nominated for the Best Actress award in 1951 ("All About Eve"). Two other Hoosiers, I discovered, have won non-acting Oscars: Songwriter Hoagy Carmichael in 1951 and George W. Davis, a Kokomo native who won two in Best Art Direction for two iconic movies: "The Diary of Anne Frank" and "The Robe."

The Emmys? Harder to find. I took a guess at Fort Wayne's Shelley Long. Yes, she won a "Best Actress" Emmy in 1983 for her role on "Cheers." The other is mystery no. 3.

So, I will not "block" Mike Firenza's emails nor label them to be routed to the Junk folder. Unsolicited emails are not always a bad thing. You might learn something, even if there are a few mysteries. If you can fill in the blanks, shoot me a note.

miller@news-banner.com

Today in History

By The Associated Press
Today is Saturday, Jan. 28, the 28th day of 2023. There are 337 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 28, 1973, a cease-fire officially went into effect in the Vietnam War, a day after the signing of the Paris Peace Accords by the United States, North Vietnam and South Vietnam.

On this date:
In 1915, the United States Coast Guard was cre-

ated as President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill merging the Life-Saving Service and Revenue Cutter Service.

In 1945, during World War II, Allied supplies began reaching China over the newly reopened Burma Road.

In 1986, the space shuttle Challenger exploded 73 seconds after liftoff from Cape Canaveral, killing all seven crew members, including schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe.

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McCarthy is right to kick Omar, Schiff and Swalwell off committees

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) is 100-percent right to move to kick Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) from the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and remove Reps. Adam B. Schiff (D-Calif.) and Eric Swalwell (D-Calif.) from the House Intelligence Committee. Omar is an antisemite who has no business serving on a committee that helps set U.S. policy toward Israel. And Schiff and Swalwell are conspiracy theorists who abused their positions on the Intelligence Committee to falsely claim they had seen secret evidence that President Donald Trump conspired with Russia to steal the 2016 election - which was a lie. Neither deserves access to our nation's secrets.

Omar's record of virulent antisemitic remarks is disqualifying. In March 2019, she declared politicians who support Israel "push for allegiance to a foreign country," accusing Israel supporters in Congress of dual loyalty - which then-Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Eliot L. Engel (D-N.Y.) correctly called "a vile antisemitic slur." But then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) allowed her to remain on that committee. A few months later, Omar introduced a resolution in Congress comparing the boycott of Israel to boycotting Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. Again, Democrats did nothing.

In September 2021, Omar and her anti-Israel allies used a potential government shutdown to force Pelosi to remove \$1 billion in funding for Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system from an emergency spending bill. The Iron Dome is a purely defensive system that protects civilians from Hamas rockets - which means Omar wanted to shut down the government to let terrorists indiscriminately kill Jews. Democratic leaders had to arrange a separate vote to approve Iron Dome funding. Again, there were no consequences.

Then in June 2021, Omar compared the U.S. and Israel to Hamas and the Taliban - forcing House Democratic leaders to issue a joint statement declaring: "Drawing false equivalencies between democracies like the U.S. and Israel and groups that engage in terrorism like Hamas and the Taliban foments prejudice." But instead of punishing Omar, Pelosi praised her as a "valued member" of her caucus.

Valued member? Omar has said U.S. support for Israel is "all about the Benjamins" - insinuating that Jews buy American influence. She shared an anti-Israel cartoon on social media that was drawn by the second-place winner of Iran's Holocaust-denial cartoon contest. She supports the antisemitic BDS movement, which seeks the economic destruction of Israel.

While giving Omar a pass, Pelosi made a show of stripping Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) - a disgraceful conspiracy theorist - of her committee assignments. Now, McCarthy is using that precedent to do what Pelosi should have done years ago and strip Omar

of her committee assignments.

He is also right to remove Schiff and Swalwell, who misled Americans into believing they had seen secret evidence Trump conspired with Russia when no such evidence existed. Schiff repeatedly claimed his Intelligence Committee had unearthed "plenty of evidence of collusion or conspiracy." On "Meet the Press" he declared, "I can't go into the particulars, but there is more than circumstantial evidence now," and assured ABC News that Trump's Russia conspiracy is of "a size and scope probably beyond Watergate." A few months later, special counsel Robert S. Mueller III announced the evidence "did not establish that members of the Trump Campaign conspired or coordinated with the Russian government."

That's not all. Schiff actively spread the lie that disclosure of compromising information on Hunter Biden's laptop was part of a Russian information operation. "Clearly," he told CNN, "the origins of this whole smear are from the Kremlin." They weren't.

Swalwell has been even more irresponsible. In an interview with MSNBC, he was asked by host Chris Matthews: "Do you believe the president [Trump], right now, has been an agent of the Russians?" He replied: "Yes, I think there's more evidence that he is." Matthews cut in and asked: "Agent?" Swalwell continued: "Yes, and I think all the arrows point in that direction, and I haven't seen a single piece of evidence that he's not." An incredulous Matthews pressed him yet again: "An agent like in the 1940s where you had people who were 'reds,' to use an old term, like that? In other words, working for a foreign power?" Swalwell replied: "He's working on behalf of the Russians, yes." When CNN questioned this outrageous claim, Swalwell declared, "He certainly acts on Russia's behalf . . . and it's a claim from someone who also worked as a prosecutor for seven years and had the responsibility of looking at evidence and putting it before a jury." Ironically, while Swalwell was pushing the theory that Trump was an agent of a hostile foreign power, he had been informed by the FBI that he, Swalwell, had had a relationship with the suspected agent of a hostile foreign power - alleged Chinese spy Christine Fang.

When Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa) wondered publicly in 2019 why terms such as "white nationalist" and "white supremacist" had suddenly "become offensive," Republicans stripped him of his committee assignments. But Democrats did not police their own ranks in the same way. Now, Republicans will do it for them.

Marc A. Thiessen is on Twitter, @marcthiessen.



Marc Thiessen

DeSantis is right on African American studies

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis stands accused of a long parade of horrors to which has now been added a new count -- allegedly opposing the teaching of African American history.

Florida rejected the College Board's pilot Advanced Placement African American Studies course, and the decision has been treated in progressive quarters like the curricular equivalent of George Wallace standing in the schoolhouse door.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre called the state's decision "incomprehensible." DeSantis wants to "block," according to Jean-Pierre, "the study of Black Americans." She noted, ominously, "These types of actions aren't new, especially from what we're seeing from Florida, sadly."

Florida Sen. Shevrin Jones, a Democrat, said the rejection of the course amounts to a "whitewash" of American history. Jones maintains that "we're back at square one, seeing that we once again have to defend ourselves to be legitimate in America."

Never mind that there's obviously a difference between objecting to the ideological content of a pilot course that hasn't yet been adopted and erasing the history of African Americans as such.

This is the typical game of pretending that the only way to teach the history of African Americans is through the tendentious political lens favored by the left.

When red states push back against



Rich Lowry

critical race theory, its proponents make it sound as if students will, as a consequence, never learn about the Transatlantic slave trade, the 13th Amendment, or Frederick Douglass.

This is preposterous. No reasonable person opposes teaching African history fully and truthfully. (In Florida, the controversial "Stop WOKE Act" itself stipulates that instructors should teach the history of African peoples, the Middle Passage, the experience of slavery, abolition, and the effects of segregation and other forms discrimination.)

The problem is when the curriculum is used as an ideological weapon to inculcate a distorted, one-sided worldview, and here, Florida has the College Board dead to rights.

The College Board hasn't released the pilot curriculum publicly, but, as conservative writer Stanley Kurtz and a publication called The Florida Standard have documented, it really goes off the rails when it addresses contemporary issues. The curriculum presents the Black Lives Matter and reparations movements favorably and recommends the writings of a clutch of writers on the left, from Robin D.G. Kelley to Michelle Alexander, without rejoinder.

Bias aside, with the state of American historical and civic knowledge in near collapse, who thinks high school students need to be brushing up on "Black Queer Studies?" The curriculum explains that this topic "explores the concept of queer color critique, grounded in Black feminism

and intersectionality, as a Black studies lens that shifts sexuality studies towards racial analysis."

Surely, if anyone wants to marinate in this dreck, he or she can wait to do it in college, which specializes in wasting the time of students and spreading ridiculous cant and lies.

This is the more fundamental point. Such "studies" programs -- African American, women's, queer, etc. -- are intellectually corrupt and inherently biased at the university level and should be kept far away from the realm of K-12 public education.

It shouldn't be a surprise that an AP curriculum developed with the input of practitioners of African American studies at the university level would contain all the same perversities and warped ideas.

Florida should be commended for saying "no," and other states that care about sound education should do the same.

African American history is American history. It should be taught -- and has been -- as an inherent part of the American story. Only when we are confident that all students know that story should we be willing to entertain further specialization, and never if it is the poisoned fruit of "identitarian" courses at universities that take it as a given that their students should be encouraged to thoughtlessly adopt progressive attitudes and beliefs.

This fight isn't about blocking history or erasing the country's sins but drawing a line between hifalutin political advocacy and thorough, truthful instruction in the American past.

Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry



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

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. - Worship.
10:30 - Sunday School.

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

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS
6114E-750N, Ossian
bethlehemossian.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.

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

CHESTER CENTER
900S-300W, Poneto
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - 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
mycovenantchapel.org
9:15 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:15 - 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
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
325 W. Washington St.
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

HE DID WHAT?
Social media allows instant, digital connections to family and friends as well as news from around the world. It can also desensitize us to the suffering of others we view only on our smartphone or computer screen, encouraging less-than-accurate perceptions of ourselves and others.

This immediate access to a 24-hour news cycle often brings out the worst in us, resulting in gleefully replaying the errors of others while expecting forgiveness for our own mistakes.

Sensational online news set me to thinking about how Biblical stories might have been reported had they taken place in today's digital world. Just imagine the headlines...

Adam, Eve, & Cain: Local couple admits to breaking laws before eviction from garden paradise home. Oldest son found guilty of murder and barred from family home.

Noah: Once-respected community member ignores requirements for procuring building permits, constructs bizarre edifice to house exotic animals. (Full story following weather report.)

Abram & Lot: Family feud culminates in separation of two dynasties followed by ultimate disaster as adopted city of one is destroyed by fire and brimstone (see obituaries for service times).

Abraham & Isaac: Dis-

tinguished resident charged in outlandish sacrificial ritual, released upon proof no human death occurred.

Isaac, Esau, & Jacob: Contentious family dispute resolved as parents exile swindler son away from local community.

Joseph & his brothers: Household controversy ends with missing youth; Siblings cleared of wrongdoing for lack of evidence. (See related commerce report on Ishmaelite trade routes.)

Joseph & Potiphar's wife: Court documents sealed over accusations related to Lord Potiphar's wife and household slave boy, one taken into custody.

Moses: Youthful murder records of Pharaoh's adopted grandson, now rebel leader of Jewish slave tribe, revealed.

Paul: Previous persecutor of Jesus-followers goes rogue, causes church leaders to question sincerity.

Peter: Former fisherman questioned in local garden sword attack, released without charge. (See related crucifixion notices.)

God's Kingdom has always grown as His very unique, sometimes controversial but ultimately obedient, children follow the mission given to them. May we choose to focus on God's Word and the Holy Spirit's voice as we seek to follow their example — with or without the headlines!

mpaxson99@yahoo.com



by Martha Paxson

Renew your spirit

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

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

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

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

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

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 UNITED METHODIST
145 W. Morse St.
9 a.m. - Sunday Service. 10 a.m. - Worship.

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

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

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

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.

NOTTINGHAM
1100 S. SR 1
9:30 - Sunday School. 10:30 & 6 p.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.
blog.parkub.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 UNITED METHODIST
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
927 N. Main St.
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.

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

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

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 UNITED METHODIST
5867 N. Main St.
www.uniondaleumc.com
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 COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GOD
11984 N. Marzane Rd.
9 a.m. - Bible Class. 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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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, Feb. 2, in the meeting room on the first floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

- Topics on the agenda include:
- Opening of street material and concrete bids.
 - A water adjustment request.
 - A grant request, brought to the board by Fire Chief Don Craig.
 - A personnel matter, also brought to the board by Craig.

Bluffton Parks Board will meet Thursday evening

The board of the Bluffton Parks and Recreation Department will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

- Topics on the agenda include:
- Treasurer's and superintendent's report.
 - Activities report.
 - Grant submissions.
 - Project updates.
 - A request to use Pickett's Run Park, made by Family Centered Services.
 - A personnel matter.
 - Review of pool rental fee.

Area Plan Commission will meet Thursday evening

The Wells County Area Plan Commission will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

- Topics on the agenda include:
- Consideration of a request for a 2.52 acre division of a minor subdivision at 4724E-100N in Lancaster Township. The property is zoned A-1 (agriculture). David J. Smith is presenting the request.
 - Review of four violations.
 - Updates on the comprehensive plan, revitalization, and housing study.



Clean Fuels National fuels school lunches

At the end of 2023, Clean Fuels National paid all remaining school lunch debt for Wells County schools. The donation was around \$2,500 across the three districts, said CFN President Michael Vanover. This is the fourth year the company has donated to cancel student lunch debt at the end of the year.

As a former Southern Wells student, Vanover said food insecurity among students has always been an important issue for him. Consequently, when CFN employee Jerry Reinhard approached Vanover several years ago about helping with year-end debt, the partnership was an easy decision. "Hunger is still a problem in this community, and that might be the only good meal (the students) get in a day," Vanover said. "It really does take a village," said Robin McCorkle, food service director for Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan Schools, in an email to The News-Banner. "Our community is so amazing at helping when people are in need."

Photos provided by Clean Fuels National. First photo from left to right is Jerry Reinhard, Cassandra Crickard, and Mike Vanover from Clean Fuels National, and food service director Chris Mossburg and Superintendent Trent Lehman from Southern Wells Community Schools. Second photo is Mike Vanover and Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan Schools Superintendent Brad Yates.

Police Notebook

(Continued from Page 3)

mechanical failure. Friday, 11:26 a.m., residence in the 600 block of Beth Avenue. Caller reported that a speeding vehicle struck her cat — possibly on purpose.

County: Thursday, 1:33 p.m., Meridian Road between 300S and 400S car slid off the east side of the road.

Thursday, 3:06 p.m., Ind. 124 at 100W. Piece of metal in the roadway east of the intersection in the westbound lane. Deputy removed the metal.

Thursday, 4:04 p.m., U.S. 224 at 800E. Semi slid off the highway and was blocking the intersection. Wrecker service contacted.

Thursday, 5:25 p.m., 100N at 100E. Chevrolet Suburban slid off the road.

Thursday, 7:55 p.m., Ind. 116 northwest of 800E. Chevrolet Traverse sport utility vehicle slid off the road. Sheriff's deputy arrived and noticed that the

vehicle had two passengers — a male and a female — but no driver. He asked who was driving the vehicle and the male passenger reportedly responded that the driver had walked away to get help. When the deputy observed there were no footprints in the snow leading away from the vehicle, he pointed it out to both passengers. He then asked again who was driving the vehicle. The female back seat passenger admitted she was and told the deputy to take her to jail. He observed she smelled of alcohol and appeared to be impaired, but reportedly when he tried to place her into handcuffs she tried to pull away and he thought she was trying to hit him. He was successful in getting her handcuffed without further incident and charged Jade Marie Glover, 37, Bluffton, with resisting law enforcement and driving while intoxicated endangering a person, both Class A misdemeanors. Bond set

at \$3,000.

Friday, 5:59 a.m., 300W at 300N. Vehicle slid off the road.

Friday, 7:05 a.m., Ind. 124 at 300W. Vehicle slid off the road.

Ossian:

Thursday, 1:55 p.m., Jefferson Street at Sandalwood Drive. Caller reported that about 20 minutes earlier a blue Ford vehicle had spun out of control on the icy roadway and slammed into the guardrail near the intersection. An Ossian police officer located the vehicle at the nearby BP station and the driver advised that she had already contacted a tow company out of Fort Wayne to retrieve her car. There was no damage to the guardrail. No further information was available.

Friday, 12:39 a.m., apartment on Westview Drive. Caller reported noticing someone had pulled up a windshield wiper on his vehicle parked outside of his apartment and wrote

"FU" in the fresh snow on the vehicle. The deputy who investigated the call noticed there were fresh footprints in the snow that led to another apartment in the complex and spoke with that apartment dweller. She denied doing anything but the deputy pointed out that the only tracks in the snow led to her apartment and he told her if she has an issue with a neighbor she needed to work it out civilly.

ACCIDENTS
City:

Thursday, 4:41 p.m., Main Street south of Jackson Street. Jonathan A. Stevens, 36, Bluffton, was driving a 2000 Pontiac Bonneville south on Main Street when the front driver's side wheel broke off the car and propelled southeast, crossing the center line and travelling under the trailer of an oncoming semi. The wheel then struck a northbound 2005 Honda CRV driven by Phillip D. Elston, 44, Bluffton, which pinballed the wheel back northward

where it struck a southbound Ford F-150 pickup truck driven by Aaron J. Westfall, 48, Liberty Center. Damage exceeded \$5,000.

Friday, 11:42 a.m., Lamar Street near Hunter Road. Jamin M. Rauch, 18, rural Bluffton, exited the parking lot of Family Ford in a 2018 Jeep Compass and drove into the path of a 2015 Nissan Versa Note driven by Delores M. Malott, 77, rural Bluffton as Malott was heading east on Lamar Street. Damage exceeded

Wells Court Docket

(Continued from Page 3)

with the male half of the couple in the parking lot of the Ossian Subway restaurant, and pay \$300 for the phone.

Bates reportedly gave the man \$300 in the form of two \$100 bills and five \$20 bills. The man accepted the cash, handed Bates the phone and the two parted ways.

It was not until the next day that the couple discovered that the two \$100 bills were counterfeit.

Trey A. Mettler, 28, Bluffton, violated probation by being arrested for failure to register as a sex or violent offender, a Level 6 felony.

Ordered to serve 26 days in the Wells County Jail, credited as time served.

Probation terminated as unsuccessful.

For being arrested for failure to register, Mettler was ordered to spend 548 days in prison, which were all suspended, and placed on a new term of probation of one year.

Ordered to submit a DNA sample, pay court costs and probation fees.

Mettler was charged with changing his address without notifying the sex offender registrar.

Preliminary plea of not guilty entered for Juan Medina-Reyes, 33, Bluffton, charged with operating

a vehicle with an alcohol concentration of .15 percent or more, a Class A misdemeanor; operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a Class A misdemeanor; no headlights between dusk and dawn as required, a Class C infraction; unsafe movement from lane to lane, a Class C infraction; disregarding a lighted signal, a Class C infraction; and improper use of center turn lane, a Class C infraction. Released on his own recognizance. Larry Mock appointed public defender.

At 1:44 a.m. Jan. 25, a Bluffton police officer radioed other police units that there was a black Honda Pilot driving north from Washington Street on Main Street that did not have its headlights on.

A second officer spotted the vehicle, but by now it had its lights on, turned around and started following it, observing it was driving about 10 miles an hour under the speed limit. The vehicle then reportedly drifted into the center turn lane and stayed there. The driver of the vehicle turned the headlights of the Pilot off and then turned them back on and made a left turn onto Charles Deam Court. That's where the officer pulled the Pilot over.

The officer noted that there were four people in the Pilot but the driver did not

speaking any English. The officer attempted to use Google translate to speak with the driver when the vehicle started to drift forward. The officer yelled and used hand motions to try and signal the driver to stop, which he eventually did.

The officer used a language translation application to ask the driver, now identified as Medina-Reyes, how much he had to drink. Medina-Reyes reportedly replied eight or nine in Spanish.

A translator eventually made the scene and the officer was able to communicate with Medina-Reyes through the translator.

The officer observed in his report to the court that in addition to smelling of alcohol, Medina-Reyes appeared intoxicated, failed field sobriety tests and blew a .186 percent alcohol concentration equivalency on a Breathalyzer test. The legal limit for intoxication in Indiana is .08 percent.

Preliminary plea of not guilty entered for Michael L. Jones, 54, Bluffton, charged with invasion of privacy, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond continued at \$5,000 surety only.

Jones is charged with violating a protective order by attempting to contact the protected person through a third person Jan. 10.

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Fuelling reaches 1,000 point mark, helping Norwell top East Noble

By ANDREW FEEBACK
KENDALLVILLE — In a season full of milestones, Norwell junior Kennedy Fuelling added another one to the list Friday night, surpassing 1,000 career points as Norwell defeated East Noble 66-30.

Already holding the single-game scoring record and season record for three-point field goals, Fuelling became the seventh player in program history to top 1,000 points.

"Super proud of Kennedy," coach Eric Thornton said. "She's just having a tremendous season and just a junior. When you look at individual records, it comes down to the strength of our team. Excited about our group, and very proud of her accomplishment."

Fuelling eclipsed the four-digit mark with a left-handed layup on a fast-break with 1:54 remaining in the first half, which gave Norwell a 32-17 lead. It sparked a 9-1 run to end the first half, giving the visiting Knights a 21-point lead at the break.

Norwell had the lead up to 30 very quickly and reached running clock territory before the third quarter even ended.

"I thought East Noble competed very hard tonight," Thornton said. "We missed some shots I think we normally hit, but I loved the way we were able to stretch it there. I thought we did some good things defensively that we want

to see at this time of year. Offensively, I thought we continued to move the ball well and get the shot we wanted. That stretch there at the end of the second quarter was important for us."

Norwell finished just 5 of 27 beyond the arc but had no problems generating offense thanks to forcing East Noble into 24 turnovers.

Fuelling led all scorers with 19 points, while Makenzie Fuess added 13, and Haley Green had 12.

For East Noble (5-17), Bree Walmsley had nine points, and Payton Quaked added eight.

Norwell will take a 19-3 record into sectional play next week.

Unlike recent years, the draw was kind to the Knights this time around. They received a first-round bye and will play either Peru or Maconaquah in the first game Friday evening.

"We're not used to actually having a good draw," Thornton said. "We usually have the toughest path possible, which is what it is. We're just trying to earn the right to get to Saturday night at this point. We want to get our young team into that sectional week early, the Tuesday game, the Wednesday games. We want them to be a part of that atmosphere and not wait until that Friday 6 o'clock game just to get a feel for that environment. Fortunately, we played a couple games down the stretch that are tournament-type games; Belmont and

Blackford have really prepared us well, along with some of the really tough 4A teams we've played.

"I'm also really proud of our team for going 6-1 in this conference," he continued. "We wanted to win it, knew we'd have to go 7-0, but the next best thing is to go 6-1, and that's a heck of an accomplishment with the conference this year. I think it sets us up well to prepare for the sectional."

The Norwell JV team capped off a 21-0 season by beating East Noble 61-22. Jada Dale scored 16 points, Addison Norris had 13 points, and Larkin Smith added 10.

sports@news-banner.com

NORWELL 66, EAST NOBLE 30
At East Noble High School
NORWELL (19-3): Madyson Son-nigsen 0-0 0-0 0, Dekota Hubble 3-5 2-2 8, Kennedy Fuelling 6-16 5-5 19, Ryland Graft 0-3 0-0 0, Haley Green 6-6 0-0 12, Lillian Norris 2-5 0-0 4, Annabelle Johnson 2-5 2-2 6, Addison Norris 0-0 0-0 0, Makenzie Fuess 5-11 0-0 13, Ali Riley 0-1 0-0 0, Vanessa Rosswurm 1-7 2-4 4, Mekynzi Beck 0-0 0-0 0, Ashley Waldman 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 25-59 11-13 66.

EAST NOBLE (5-17): Kya Mosley 2-8 1-2 6, Bailea Bortner 0-3 2-2 2, Ella Edwards 0-0 0-0 0, Megan Seymour 0-0 0-0 0, Kate David 1-4 0-2 2, Payton Quake 4-8 0-0 8, Bree Walmsley 3-8 1-2 9, Rae David 1-2 0-0 3, Macey Colin 0-0 0-0 0, Lexie LaLone 0-1 0-0 0, Addison Deming 0-1 0-0 0. TOTALS: 11-35 4-8 30.

Norwell 21 18 23 4 — 66
East Noble 11 7 8 4 — 30
Three-point Goals: Norwell 5-27 (Fuess 3-6, Fuelling 2-11, Graft 0-3, Rosswurm 0-3, Johnson 0-2, Lillian Norris 0-1, Riley 0-1), East Noble 4-11 (Walmsley 2-5, Mosley 1-2, Rae David 1-2, Bortner 0-2). Rebounds: Norwell 30 (Rosswurm 7, Green 7, Hubble 6, Fuelling 3, Johnson 3, Fuess 3, Graft 1), East Noble 20 (Quake 9, Mosley 7, Rae David 1, Kate David 1, Walmsley 1, LaLone 1). Turnovers: Norwell 6, East Noble 24. Fouls: Norwell 10, East Noble 10. Fouled out: None. Technicals: None. JV: Norwell 61, East Noble 22.



Kennedy Fuelling scoops in points 11 and 12 against East Noble Friday night in the second quarter at The Big Blue Pit. More importantly for Fuelling, it was points 1,000 and 1,001 as she crossed the milestone on the shot past East Noble's Addison Deming. Family friend Anne Bushee holds up a sign marking the occasion. Friday's game was the final game of the season for the Norwell girls, who drew the bye in the sectional and won't play again until next Friday. (Photos by Glen Werling)



Patriots' 1Q shutout leads to ACAC win over Tigers

By RYAN WALKER
Sports Editor
PORTLAND — The Bluffton boys' basketball team had more lows than highs Friday night as the Tigers lost to Jay County 55-28 on the road.

The Tigers (2-12) were shut out of the first quarter 17-0 by the Patriots' (5-7) 3-2 zone defense combined with its size and length.

"We physically got out-toughed. I mean, they man-handled us," head coach of the Tigers Karl Grau said after the game. "We didn't handle the physicality well to start the game, and then I thought what was kind of the difference is that they just came out and set the tone physically, and we never really responded until toward the end of the second quarter."

That end of the second quarter ended up as a one-point win for Bluffton, and they also outscored Jay County in the third quarter. In the other two quarters though, the Tigers were out-scored 35-4.

To start the big first-quarter run, Patriot senior guard Josh Dowlen scored 12 points (he ended up with a career-high 26), but playing defense was not the main issue for the Tigers.

Jay County ran the 3-2 zone to perfection, and three players over six-foot-four inches — Bluffton has none — virtually took away everything the Tigers

wanted to do. Tucker Jenkins, who had back-to-back 25-plus point nights last week, was 0-5, and the rest of the group went 0-9.

"The length bothered us big time," Grau said. "It was just length, of course. The 3-2's a little different, but when you're facing six-seven, six-six, six-five, I mean, it's hard to see around."

Kaden Grau scored the first point off a free throw for Bluffton with 7:34 left on the second quarter clock to make it 17 to 1. The first made field goal for the Tigers, however, didn't come until Andrew Hunt's and-one with 1:31 left.

By then Bluffton had settled in at least defensively, but was still trying to figure out how to maneuver to the bottom of the basket.

Hunt followed up the bucket with a triple at the end of the first half and opened up the third quarter with another. Apparently, that was enough to get the Tigers rolling.

Kaden Grau made a floater shortly after, then nailed a three a minute later, then another.

Bluffton, at the beginning of the second half, ran a full-court press to collect a few turnovers from Jay County — and it worked. The Patriots had to use a timeout because they couldn't pass the ball in at one point.

Jenkins and Hutch Craighead added three-pointers in the last three minutes of

the quarter, and the team cut the lead down to nine in that stretch.

Coach Grau said that his team did a much better job bringing intensity and belief in the second half, and that was part of the reason for the run.

"Andrew Hunt kind of gave us a spark there going into halftime, and then Kaden (Grau) kind of caught fire there for a little bit in the third and fourth quarter," he said. "'Hutch,' Hutch Craighead came in and did a really nice job giving us energy on the defensive end — which I really liked," Coach Grau said.

Twelve of the 13 shots taken in the third quarter were from beyond the arc by Grau's team. Unfortunately, the spark would fuse out by the fourth quarter as the team shot 0-4 — all from deep — and Jay County's defense looked identical to the first half.

The Patriots went on two 9-0 runs in the final period, but even with the final tally favoring them by 27, coach Grau found a positive.

"I told the guys, 'I'm going to try and find a silver lining at what we did today,' and I felt like we responded at halftime to us challenging them to come out and compete, and they competed much better in the second half," he said.

Bluffton will have a quick turnaround, playing

(Continued from Page 7)



Jay County's Josh Dowlen (right) sizes up Bluffton's Hutch Craighead (left) in an ACAC match-up Friday night. Dowlen scored a career-high 26 against the Tigers. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

Southern Wells falls to South Adams in boys' basketball

By RICK SPRUNGER
Southern Wells' shooting eye deserted it when it needed it most.

The Raiders, firing blanks from well out on the floor, dropped a tough game to South Adams Friday night, 45-41.

Southern Wells was just 1-for-22 from the three-point arc on a night when

just one or two more might well have made the difference.

The win was just South Adams' second of the season in 15 tries and enabled the Starfires to snap a 13-game losing skid.

Southern Wells fell to 3-10 on the season.

Even more importantly, the game was an Allen

County Athletic Conference clash and left the Starfires and Raiders tied with Bluffton at one win apiece.

A win would have given Southern Wells sole possession of fifth place and would have kept South Adams in the conference basement.

Southern Wells coach Joel Roush, however, refused to cite shot selection

as the cause of his team's downfall.

"We make a lot of the shots that we didn't tonight," said Roush in his office later.

"I'm not going to fault shot selection.

"I think it had more to do with three or four ill-advised passes in the second half where we were maybe try-

ing to make something happen that just wasn't there."

A couple of those may have come late in the game with Southern Wells trying to draw even from a 40-38 deficit.

Then, after a Brady Beall drive through the lane inched the Starfire lead out to 42-38 with 0:33 left, the Raiders perhaps threw one

pass too many to a cutting teammate on the baseline that went out of bounds, handing the ball right back to South Adams.

Beall obliged Southern Wells by missing two free throws with 0:20 left, and Quinton Mullins powered in for a three-point play at the 0:11 mark to make it 42-41

(Continued on Page 2a)

News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

High School

Friday Girls' Scores

Andreas 57, Chesterton 46
Bellmont 48, Leo 23
Bethesda Christian 44, Covenant Christian 16
Blackford 38, Eastbrook 37
Central Noble 60, Churubusco 12
Columbia City 77, New Haven 32
Covenant Christian (DeMotte) 60, Calumet Christian 42
Crawfordsville 33, Frankfort 29
Daleville 68, Union (Modoc) 48
Fairfield 76, W. Noble 16
Fishers 69, Franklin Central 21
Frankton 66, Elwood 16
Ft. Wayne Canterbury 55, S. Bend Career Academy 34
Ft. Wayne Concordia 63, Ft. Wayne North 29
Ft. Wayne Dwenger 45, Ft. Wayne South 29
Ft. Wayne Northrop 52, Homestead 49
Ft. Wayne Snider 54, Carroll (Ft. Wayne) 39
Ft. Wayne Wayne 60, Ft. Wayne Luers 37
Garrett 61, Lakeland 43
Heritage Christian 53, Indpls Park Tudor 36
Hobart 62, Hammond Central 53
Huntington North 33, DeKalb 22
Indpls Attucks 49, Indpls Herron 26
Indpls Ben Davis 66, Carmel 51
Indpls Brebeuf 59, Indpls Chataud 52
Indpls N. Central 68, Warren Central 47
Indpls Perry Meridian 42, Greenwood 36, OT
Jay Co. 65, Bluffton 26
Lafayette Catholic 55, Guerin Catholic 23

Lake Station 79, River Forest 41
Lakeland Christian 48, Lakewood Park 37
Lanesville 46, Scottsburg 41
Lawrence North 56, Indpls Pike 46
Lebanon 48, Southmont 34
Maconaquah 42, Cass 22
Michigan City 64, Gary West 27
Mooresville 56, Whiteland 41
N. Judson 49, Triton 42
Northeastern 68, Cambridge City 23
Norwell 66, E. Noble 30
Plainfield 55, Decatur Central 49
S. Bend Clay 48, Hamilton 14
S. Bend St. Joseph's 64, Lighthouse CPA 7
S. Bend Trinity 39, Clinton Christian 19
S. Central (Union Mills) 51, Tri-Township 37
Sheridan 67, Taylor 11
Tri-Central 44, Delphi 43
Twin Lakes 65, Winamac 31
Union (Dugger) 56, Medora 38
Union City 42, Hagerstown 25
Union Co. 57, Centerville 25
Wabash 62, Whitko 60
Western Boone 66, N. Montgomery 35
Westville 52, LaPorte 49
Zionsville 50, Brownsburg 41

Friday Boys' Scores

Adams Central 71, Heritage 41
Anderson 78, McCutcheon 34
Austin 71, Salem 44
Avon 59, Westfield 56
Barr-Reeve 54, Shoals 30
Bedford N. Lawrence 55, Jeffersonville 50
Beech Grove 55, Indpls Lutheran 49
Bethany Christian 51, Oregon-Davis 36
Blackford 65, Eastbrook 44
Bloomfield 68, N. Central (Farmersburg) 38
Bloomington South 64, Terre Haute South 59
Blue River 50, Monroe Central 33
Brownsburg 44, Zionsville 40
Brownstown 81, Charlesstown 42
Carroll (Ft. Wayne) 71, Ft. Wayne Snider 56
Central Noble 79, Churubusco 32
Chesterton 49, Lake Central 47
Concord 48, Wawasee 39
Connersville 75, Mt. Vernon (Fortville) 70
Covenant Christian (DeMotte) 60, Calumet Christian 52
Covenant Christian 56, Indpls Roncalli 41
Crawfordsville 58, Frankfort 40
Crown Point 68, LaPorte 51
Culver 65, LaVille 54
Daleville 72, Union (Modoc) 13
Danville 72, Tri-West 57
Decatur Central 69, Plainfield 61
Delphi 64, Tri-Central 57
E. Central 47, Columbus East 45
Eastern (Pekin) 65, Springs Valley 45
Eastern Hancock 52, Lapel 48
Edgewood 51, W. Vigo 50
Edinburgh 71, Morristown 41
Elkhart 54, Jimtown 32
Ev. Day 88, Wood Memorial 55
Evansville Bosse 65, Vincennes (South Knox) — 62
Evansville Christian 60, Gibson South-ern 42
Evansville Harrison 80, Vincennes 65
Evansville Mater Dei 72, Heritage Hills 61
Evansville North 65, New Albany 60
Evansville Reitz 76, Evansville Central 62

Fishers 53, Franklin Central 40
Floyd Central 68, Seymour 56
Fountain Central 62, Faith Christian 36
Franklin 70, Martinsville 52
Frankton 50, Elwood 40
Ft. Wayne Concordia 63, Ft. Wayne North 61
Ft. Wayne South 55, Ft. Wayne Dwenger 53
Ft. Wayne Wayne 60, Ft. Wayne Luers 37
Glenn 57, S. Bend Adams 47
Goshen 47, Mishawaka 44, OT
Greenfield 76, Pendleton Hts. 44
Greensburg 54, Lawrenceburg 47
Greenwood 33, Indpls Perry Meridian 30
Greenwood Christian 66, Eminence 42
Guerin Catholic 60, Lafayette Catholic 54
Hagerstown 51, Union City 47
Hammond Noll 59, Wheeler 37
Henryville 49, S. Central (Elizabeth) 46
Heritage Christian 84, Shenandoah 67
Hobart 63, Hammond Morton 48
Homestead 66, Ft. Wayne Northrop 48
Indiana Math and Science Academy 62, Indpls Riverside 59
Indpls Attucks 66, Christel House Manual 52
Indpls Ben Davis 46, Carmel 45
Indpls Brebeuf 57, Indpls Chataud 52
Indpls Metro 72, Indpls Tindley 59
Indpls N. Central 70, Warren Central 63
Indpls Socciana 50, Triton Central 42
Jac-Cen-Del 40, Oldenburg 34
Jasper 46, Dubois 34
Jay Co. 55, Bluffton 28
Kankakee Valley 63, Highland 54
Knox 56, Washington Twp. 39
Kokomo 49, Lafayette Jeff 43
Kouts 79, Boone Grove 63
Lafayette Harrison 55, Richmond 42
Lakeland 57, Garrett 38
Lakeland Christian 43, Argos 34
Lebanon 48, Southmont 34
Linton 79, Eastern (Greene) 42
Maconaquah 44, Cass 69
Marion 83, Logansport 53
Mishawaka Marian 69, S. Bend Wash-ington 49
Missisnewa 63, Alexandria 57
Mooresville 58, Whiteland 53
Morgan Twp. 45, Hanover Central 32
Mt. Vernon (Posey) 70, Tell City 41
Muncie Burris 48, Seton Catholic 32
Munster 66, Lowell 36
N. Daviess 72, Clay City 43
N. Decatur 52, Batesville 41
N. Knox 78, Washington Catholic 31
N. Putnam 64, Owen Valley 52
N. Vermillion 57, Covington 45
New Palestine 60, Yorktown 53
Noblesville 49, Hamilton Southeast-ern 40
NorthWood 53, Warsaw 36
Northview 64, Cloverdale 43
Oak Hill 60, Madison-Grant 29
Orleans 61, Borden 26
Paoli 68, Corydon 44
Parke Heritage 61, Riverton Parke 38
Penn 76, S. Bend Riley 61
Perry Central 54, Mitchell 53
Peru 63, Whitko 48
Plymouth 51, Northridge 48
Portage 63, Michigan City 56
Prairie Hts. 57, Fremont 45
Princeton 67, Evansville Memorial 52
Providence 51, Christian Academy 36
Randolph Southern 57, Wes-Del 48
Red Hill, Ill. 57, Vincennes Rivet 47
Rensselaer 44, N. Newton 42
Rising Sun 64, Madison Shawe 47
Rock Creek Academy 87, Cannelton 45

Rossville 48, Eastern (Greentown) 47
S. Adams 45, Southern Wells 41
S. Bend Clay 70, Bremen 46
S. Bend St. Joseph's 62, New Prairie 46
S. Bend Trinity 67, Clinton Christian 17
S. Central (Union Mills) 55, Tri-Township 40
S. Dearborn 62, Rushville 27
S. Putnam 58, Pividence Cristo Rey 48
S. Spencer 56, Pike Central 50
Shakamak 70, S. Vermillion 61
Shelbyville 64, Indian Creek 56, OT
Silver Creek 63, Madison 39
Southport 51, Columbus North 44
Southridge 50, Forest Park 48, OT
Southwestern (Hanover) 78, Milan 48
Southwood 93, N. Miami 30
Sullivan 67, Brown Co. 34
Switzerland Can. 55, S. Decatur 51
Taylor 64, Sheridan 53
Tipton 65, Hamilton Hts. 57
Tri 57, Winchester 56
Tri-County 54, S. Newton 40
Trinity Lutheran 64, Crothersville 58, OT
University 72, Anderson Prep Acad-emy 18
Valparaiso 81, Merrillville 77
Victory Christian Academy 40, Illiana Christian 37
W. Noble 50, Fairfield 31
Waldron 53, Southwestern (Shelby) 36
Wapahani 57, Delta 49
Washington 77, Tecumseh 62
Western Boone 40, N. Montgomery 39
Winamac 74, W. Central 61
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCEL-LATIONS
Carroll (Flora) vs. N. White, ppd.

Clinton Central vs. Clinton Prairie, ppd.
Northfield vs. Rochester, ppd.
Seeger vs. Benton Central, ppd.
Twin Lakes vs. Northwestern, ppd.
Westview vs. Eastside, ppd.

College

Friday, Jan. 27

EAST
Niagara 68, Manhattan 62
Rider 68, Marist 52
Robert Morris 85, Detroit 77
Siena 70, Iona 53
SOUTH
Saint Louis 74, Davidson 70
MIDWEST
Augustana (SD) 90, St. Cloud St. 66
Bemidji St. 83, SW Minnesota 76
Cleveland St. 79, Fort Wayne 74
Concordia (SLP) 86, Minot St. 85, OT
John Carroll 73, Capital 65
Kent St. 74, Buffalo 68
Mary 69, Minnesota St. 67
Minn. Duluth 92, Wayne St. (Neb.) 89, OT
N. Dakota St. 91, North Dakota 75
Northern St. 77, Winona St. 74
Sioux Falls 98, Minn.-Crookston 74
Upper Iowa 84, Minn. St. (Moorhead) 78
Youngstown St. 77, Oakland 73
FAR WEST
UC Santa Barbara 65, Hawaii 64

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE			
Atlantic Division			
	W	L	Pct
Boston	35	15	.700
Philadelphia	31	16	.660
Brooklyn	29	19	.604
New York	27	23	.540
Toronto	22	27	.449
Southeast Division			
	W	L	Pct
Miami	28	22	.560
Atlanta	25	24	.510
Washington	22	26	.458
Orlando	19	30	.388
Charlotte	14	36	.280
Central Division			
	W	L	Pct
Milwaukee	32	17	.653
Cleveland	30	21	.588
Indiana	24	27	.471
Chicago	22	26	.458
Detroit	13	37	.260
WESTERN CONFERENCE			
Southwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
Memphis	31	18	.633
New Orleans	26	23	.531
Dallas	26	24	.520
San Antonio	14	35	.286
Houston	11	38	.224
Northwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
Denver	34	15	.694
Minnesota	26	25	.510
Utah	25	26	.490
Oklahoma City	24	25	.490
Portland	23	25	.479
Pacific Division			
	W	L	Pct
Sacramento	27	20	.574
L.A. Clippers	27	24	.529
Phoenix	25	25	.500
Golden State	24	24	.500
L.A. Lakers	23	26	.469

Thursday's Games
Charlotte 111, Chicago 96
Detroit 130, Brooklyn 122
New York 120, Boston 117
Cleveland 113, Houston 95
Dallas 99, Phoenix 95
L.A. Clippers 138, San Antonio 100
Friday's Games
Milwaukee 141, Indiana 131
Minnesota 111, Memphis 100
Oklahoma City 112, Cleveland 100
Miami 110, Orlando 105
Toronto at Golden State, 10 p.m.
Saturday's Games
Denver at Philadelphia, 3 p.m.
New York at Brooklyn, 5:30 p.m.
Chicago at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Houston at Detroit, 7 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at San Antonio, 8 p.m.
Sacramento at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Washington at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Boston, 8:30 p.m.
Dallas at Utah, 9 p.m.
Toronto at Portland, 10 p.m.
Sunday's Games
Miami at Charlotte, 1 p.m.
Indiana at Memphis, 6 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
New Orleans at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Monday's Games
Orlando at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
Golden State at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Sacramento at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Washington at San Antonio, 8 p.m.
Detroit at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Toronto at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Atlanta at Portland, 10 p.m.

BASEBALL
Major League Baseball
AMERICAN LEAGUE
BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Agreed to terms with RHP Austin Voth on a one-year contract. Acquired LHP Cole Irwin and RHP Kyle Vrbitsky from Oakland in exchange for INF Darrell Hernandez. Designated LHP Darwinzon Hernandez for assignment.
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Agreed to terms with Cs Angelo Hernandez, Steven Flores and Elias Riera, INFs Javier Moflora, Eyke Ugueto, Zach Remillard and Adrian Gil. Of Marcelo Alcala and RHPs Oscar Hernandez, Jose Malave, Jordany Chininos and Fabian Ysalla on minor league contracts.
HOUSTON ASTROS — Named Dana Brown general manager.
SEATTLE MARINERS — Named Zach Vinjey manager, Jake Witt pitching coach, Hecmatt Nieves third base/catching coach and Seth Mejias-Brean hitting coach for Modesto (CAL). Sent LHP Justus Sheffield outright to Tacoma (PCL).
National League
MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Released 1B Jon Singleton.
PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Agreed to terms with RHP Jun-Seok Shim on a minor league contract. Sent 3B Miguel Andujar outright to Indianapolis (IL).
FOOTBALL
National Football League
CAROLINA PANTHERS — Agreed to terms with Frank Reich to become head coach.
CHICAGO BEARS — Signed DB Greg Stroman Jr. to a reserve/futures contract.
DALLAS COWBOYS — Signed OT Isaac Alarcon and TE Seth Green to reserve/futures contracts.
HOUSTON TEXANS — Signed CB Ka'dar Hollman to reserve/futures contract.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Named Bill O'Brien offensive coordinator/quarterback coach.
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — Signed WR Kawan Baker, LB Ryan Connelly, TE Miller Forristall and G Alex Quevedo to reserve/futures contracts.
NEW YORK GIANTS — Signed DB Terrell Burgess and WR David Sill to reserve/futures contracts.
NEW YORK JETS — Hired Nathaniel Hackett as offensive coordinator.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
ARIZONA COYOTES — Returned F Miles Kelemen to Tucson (AHL).
CALGARY FLAMES — Recalled D Dennis Gilbert from Calgary (AHL).
COLORADO AVALANCHE — Activated C Denis Malgin from injured reserve.
NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Recalled D Kevin Gravel from Milwaukee (AHL).
NEW YORK RANGERS — Signed D Ben Harpur to a two-year contract extension. Reassigned G Olof Lindbom from Jacksonville (ECHL) to Hartford (AHL).
OTTAWA SENATORS — Recalled G Kevin Mandolese from Belleville (AHL).
ST. LOUIS BLUES — Activated D Robert Bortuzzo from injured reserve.
Waived C Matthew Peca.
VANCOUVER CANUCKS — Signed LW Oudier Kuzmenko to a two-year contract extension.
VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS — Activated LW William Carrier from injured reserve.
AUTO RACING
NASCAR
STEWART-HAAS RACING — Signed driver Chase Briscoe to a multiyear contract extension.

TRANSACTIONS

Thursday's Transactions

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Major League Baseball
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FOOTBALL

NFL

Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 14
San Francisco 41, Seattle 23
Jacksonville 31, L.A. Chargers 30
Sunday, Jan. 15
Buffalo 34, Miami 31
N.Y. Giants 31, Minnesota 24
Cincinnati 24, Baltimore 17
Monday, Jan. 16
Dallas 31, Tampa Bay 14
Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 21
Kansas City 27, Jacksonville 20
Philadelphia 38, N.Y. Giants 7
Sunday, Jan. 22
Cincinnati 27, Buffalo 10
San Francisco 19, Dallas 12
Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 29
AFC
Cincinnati at Kansas City, 6:30 p.m. (CBS)
Elililly 4:52 342-10 -3.97 -1.1 -6.3
ExelaTc rs ... 07 -01 -12.2 -20.7
EmonMbl 3:64 115:61 +2.26 +2.0 +4.8
FardyFuIn ... 88 +26 +43.1 +202.4
FordM 60 13:27 +.87 +7.0 +14.1
FrankElec 90 87:33 +2.24 +2.6 +9.5
FrptMcM 30 44:82 -.59 -1.3 +17.9
GenElec 32 83:23 +5.55 +7.1 +27.9
GeniusGr n ... 3.95 +7.1 +21.9+1097.0
HP Inc 1.05 29:23 +1.32 +4.7 +8.8

WRESTLING

Norwell, Bluffton, Southern Wells at Sectionals (at Jay County), 8:30 a.m.

MONDAY, Jan. 30
SWIM & DIVE (CO-ED): Blackford at Norwell, 6 p.m.

TUESDAY, Jan. 31
GIRLS BASKETBALL: (sectional) Manchester at Bluffton, 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 1

THURSDAY, Feb. 2

FRIDAY, Feb. 3

GIRLS BASKETBALL: (sectional) TBD at Norwell, 6 p.m.; TBD at Southern Wells, 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, Feb 4

BOYS BASKETBALL: Norwell at Columbia City, 1:30 p.m.; Bluffton at Heritage, 2:30 p.m.

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SW basketball

(Continued from Page 6)

and assure the Raiders of at least a chance to tie.

Tytus Lehman hit a pair from the stripe a second later to give Southern Wells that chance.

But Chandler Oswalt missed a hurried three-point attempt, and Gavin Myers swished the second of two free throws with 0:05 to play to clinch it.

Friend-zoned and feeling confused

Dear Annie: I'm a 32-year-old single woman facing a predicament. I've been friends with a guy named "Stan" for a few months, though we haven't actually talked in over a month now.

Overthinker

Dear Overthinker: First things first, respect Stan's boundaries. He's explicitly asked you for space and expressed discomfort by your behavior.

Dear Annie by Annie Lane



He's telling you at face value: that he only sees you as a friend and he's not ready to be in any relationship.

You should also reconsider what you want. You have feelings for Stan, sure, but you can't ignore the signs he's given you.

Sometimes the best gift we can give others and ourselves is the time and distance to gain clarity and cool off. Whether the space he needs is intended to be a full breakup of your friendship or simply an intermission, only Stan can know and time will tell.

"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.

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BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



ZITS



CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



My Answer by Dr. Billy Graham

Nothing encourages more than Scripture

anger, resentment, and panic are some of the faces of grief, none of which is abnormal.

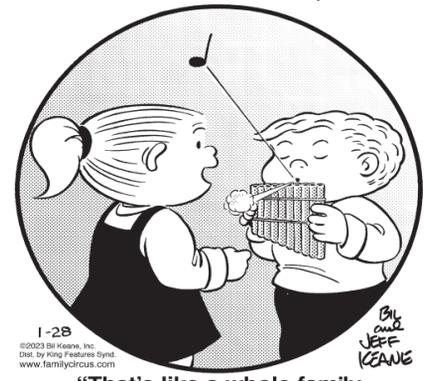
What we need more than anything else during times of grief is a friend who stands with us; someone who will not leave us. Jesus is that friend and when we follow Him, we learn compassion toward others.

row that weighs us down. And we can be a friend to others who don't know the peace that comes from Jesus.

Nothing encourages more than Scripture. Filling our minds with things that are true, honorable, pure, and lovely will bring hope and the knowledge that Jesus cares for those who place their faith and trust in Him.

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

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"That's like a whole family of whistles."

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

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Table with 12 columns (Time slots) and 24 rows (Channels) listing TV programming.

Table with 11 columns and 11 rows showing crossword puzzle grid and answers.

The Classifieds

SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

1-28

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VEHICLES

Auto/Trucks

INDIANA AUTO AUCTION, INC. Huge Repo Sale Feb. 2, 2023. Over 100 repossessed units for sale. Cash only. \$500 deposit per person required. Register 8 am-9:30 am. No public entry after 9:30 am. All vehicles sold AS IS! 4425 W. Washington Center Road, Fort Wayne. (A)

Auto/Trucks

1994 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN, 2500, 184,000 miles, white/blue, 4x2, 6.5 turbo diesel, new paint, loaded, Reese hitch, trailer brakes, original, 260-450-2432.

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Public Sale Calendar

BIDDING ENDS JANUARY 29 - (Online Only Auction) - Schwartz Family, seller. Outstanding artifact and antique auction. Native American Indian arrowheads, tools, pottery, antiques, taxidermy, much more. Open house Jan. 28 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 303 West Market, Bluffton. Isaac Stoller, sale manager, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 5 - (Online Only Auction) - Ormsby Trucking, sellers. Office equipment, M8950 Kubota tractor, power tools, truck parts, Sur Trac 7' enclosed trailer, Cole Z71 popup camper, lawn and garden tools, exercise equipment, much more. Open House: Feb. 2, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., 888 W. Railroad St., Uniondale, IN. Nick Huffman, sale manager, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, http://www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

loader, 3010 gas NF restored, combine, 6 row corn head complete rebuild, hydroflex 20 ft. grain table, planters, rotary mower, field cultivator, Unverferth rolling basket w/harrow, grain wagons, 6 row IH cultivator, 15 ft. M&W rotary hoe, 3 pt Emco 8 ft. blade, 8" PTO grain auger, 21 ft. diameter 6 ring grain bin w/dryer, misc. *Heartland Auction & Realty, Inc.*, heartlandauctionrealty.com, 260-724-3499.

FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 5 - (Online Only Auction) - Richard Martarano, seller. 2008 Gulf Stream SuperNova 6400 RV, 2019 Ford diesel F-250SD Lariat Black Widow Edition, 1994 John Deere 750 diesel compact tractor, 3-PT equipment, Artic Cat 500 ATV, "Harley Davidson" tool chest, name brand power & hand tools, riding lawn mowers, electric go kart, new heavy duty pool pumps and supplies. Preview: Feb. 23 and March 2 from 3 p.m.-6 p.m., 102 S. Jefferson St., Ossian. Pat Carter, sale manager, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006.

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA)
COUNTY OF WELLS)
IN THE WELLS)
CIRCUIT COURT)
2023 TERM)
SOPHIE LEASING, L.L.C.,)
PLAINTIFF)
VS.)
CAUSE NO.)
90C01-2210-PL-00028)
JACOB GARDENHOUR AND)
MARTHA A. GARDENHOUR,)
DECEASED; WASHINGTON)
BAKER AND CATHERINE)
BAKER, DECEASED; SARAH)
BLACK, DECEASED; JOHN W.)
BLACK AND MARGARET)
BLACK, DECEASED; ISAAC)
BLACK AND JAMAH BLACK,)
DECEASED; JAMES L.)
CONKLIN AND MARGARET)
CONKLIN, DECEASED)
GEORGE W. BLACK AND)
LAUREN E. BLACK,)
DECEASED; RICHARD W.)
REDDING AND MARY A.)
REDDING, DECEASED;)
ABRAHAM WOODWORD AND)
MARY WOODWARD,)
DECEASED; AND THE)
UNKNOWN SPOUSE,)
WIDOW OR WIDOWER,)
AND/OR THE UNKNOWN)
CHILDREN, DESCENDANTS,)
HEIRS, REPRESENTATIVES,)
DEVISEES, LEGATEES,)
EXECUTORS OF THE LAST)
WILL AND TESTAMENT,)
ADMINISTRATORS OF THE)
ESTATE, TRUSTEES,)
RECEIVERS, CREDITORS,)
LESSEES, SUCCESSORS IN)
INTEREST AND ASSIGNS OF)
EACH OF THE ABOVE NAMED)
AND OTHERWISE DESCRIBED)
DEFENDANTS, AND ALL)
PERSONS CLAIMING FROM,)
THROUGH OR UNDER THEM)
OR ANYONE OF THEM,)
THE NAMES OF ALL OF WHOM)
ARE UNKNOWN TO THE)
PLAINTIFF, AND THE TOWN)
OF UNIONDALE.)
ALL DEFENDANTS)
ORDER SETTING HEARING)
ON PLAINTIFF'S MOTION)
FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT)
Comes now Sophie Leasing)
LLC, Plaintiff, by counsel,)
Anthony O. Crowell, and)
files its Motion for Summary)
Judgment and Brief in)
Support of Motion for Summary)
Judgment, which the Court)
now sets for hearing on the)
24th day of February, 2023,)
at 10:00 o'clock a.m.)
Dated: 1/10/2023)
Hon. Kenton W. Kiracofe,)
Judge Wells Circuit Court)
Distribution:)
Anthony O. Crowell)
Gordon & Associates, P.C.)
119 East Oak Forest Drive)
Bluffton, IN 46714)

SUDOKU ANSWER

8	4	9	9	8	1	7	4	6
8	1	9	2	6	4	9	4	6
6	7	2	9	8	4	9	1	8
9	8	1	7	2	6	4	8	9
2	6	7	4	9	8	1	8	9
9	8	4	1	9	8	7	6	2
7	2	6	8	4	9	8	9	1
4	9	8	1	9	6	2	7	4
1	9	8	6	7	2	8	9	4

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ADD A PHOTO
for just \$5 more
One item per ad

GUARANTEED SOLD

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20 words \$39
Add'l Lines: 88 cents each
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