

The News - Banner

www.News-Banner.com

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2023

BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

\$1.00



Going to regional

The crowd explodes at The Castle Saturday night as the last-gasp effort of Northwestern to win the girls 3A Sectional 23 championship falls short and the Knights survive 55-54. At left, teammates Dekota Hubble and Ryland Graft are ecstatic as they rush off the floor while below, the Norwell cheer section rushes the floor. At right, Haley Green cuts down the net while below, Norwell celebrates with a team photo. **Story and more photos on Page 8.** (Photos by Glen Werling)



Wells County Jail renovation nearly complete

By HOLLY GASKILL

Finishing touches are being completed on the \$8.275 million renovation of the Wells County Jail.

This renovation was the first major update to the building, which was built in 1986. The project, beginning in the fall of 2021, included expansion for a new intake center and vehicle bay, in addition to improvements to the jail's HVAC, fire safety systems, roof, visitation rooms, and entrance area.

Sheriff Scott Holliday said he already recognizes how vastly the renovations have benefited the jail's operation.

The new video courtrooms have saved time and increased safety with trips to the Wells County Superior and Circuit courts, the expanded intake area has allowed staff to operate fluidly, and water efficiency measures have prevented issues with cell flooding — among numerous other items.

Holliday said, due to the facility's age and the county's changing needs, the jail staff had been aware of particular issues for quite a while. However, a year into Holliday's first term as sheriff, COVID-19 created a greater sense of urgency.

"COVID receded the water and exposed all the rocks," Holliday said.

At the time, intakes were required to quarantine from the jail's population for 14 days. With only three isolation cells in the intake center — all of which were being used regu-

(Continued on Page 2)

Officials urge evacuation near train derailment

EAST PALESTINE, Ohio (AP) — Officials monitoring the smoldering, tangled wreckage of a train derailment in northeastern Ohio urgently warned hundreds of nearby residents who had declined to evacuate to do so Sunday night, saying a rail car was at risk of a potential explosion that could launch deadly shrapnel as far as a mile.

They warned of "the potential of a catastrophic tanker failure" after a "drastic temperature change" was observed in that rail car, according to a statement from Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine's office that said teams were working to prevent an explosion at the scene in East Palestine. It did not specify what was in that car

or whether it was among those that had been carrying hazardous materials.

Authorities urged anyone within a 1-mile radius of the site to leave immediately. Many had, but local officials indicated more than 500 residents had declined to evacuate, the statement said.

Federal investigators had announced earlier Sunday that a mechanical issue with a rail car axle caused the fiery derailment near the Pennsylvania state line Friday night.

Michael Graham, a board member of the National Transportation Safety Board, said at a news conference that the three-member train crew received an alert about the mechanical

(Continued on Page 2)

Chinese spy balloon shot down, creating spectacle

By JAMES POLLARD and JOHN RABY

Associated Press/Report for America
MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (AP) — The downing of a suspected Chinese spy balloon just off South Carolina's coast created a spectacle over one of the state's tourism hubs and drew crowds reacting with a mixture of bewildered gazing, distress and cheers.

The balloon was struck by a missile from an F-22 fighter just off Myrtle Beach on Saturday, fascinating sky-watchers across a populous area known as the Grand Strand for its miles of beaches that draw retirees and vacationers. Crowds gathered in neighborhoods, hotel parking lots and beaches to watch the balloon hover, with some cheering just after it went down.

The festive mood belied the seriousness of the situation, with law enforcement around the county of 366,000 warning people not to touch any debris and to instead

call dispatchers.

"Members of the US Military are coordinating to collect debris; however, fragments may make it to the coastline," the Horry County Police Department said in a statement.

Ashlyn Preaux, 33, went out to get her mail in Forestbrook, South Carolina, just inland of Myrtle Beach when she saw her neighbors gathered outside. Curious, she went to see what they were looking at. It was easy to spot the balloon in the cloudless blue sky, and what appeared to be fighter jets circling overhead. After the strike, she could see the balloon start to come apart and fall from the sky.

"I did not anticipate waking up to be in a 'Top Gun' movie today," she said.

The balloon hovered directly above the Hardy family as they checked into their oceanfront hotel in Myrtle Beach. The family from Anderson joined several employees

(Continued on Page 2)



Chilly Chili Run

Tod Kirkwood (127) draws a smile from his wife Ashley (125) as they complete the Bluffton Parks and Recreation Department's Chilly Chili Run Saturday morning at the Oua-bache State Park. The Kirkwoods, from Montpelier, were two of the 120-plus runners in Saturday's event. After the runners crossed the finish line, they were treated to a bowl of chili. (Photo courtesy of the Bluffton Parks and Recreation Department.)

Inside

Local/Area

Indiana News 3
Court Docket 3

Opinion

Niki Kelly 4

Also...

Sports 8-10
Classifieds 7
Diversions 6

Outside



Spring visits early will depart later this week

Today	Tuesday	Wed.
High 40	High 51	High 50
Low 34	Low 32	Low 41

More Weather on Page 2

Online

Follow us on Facebook!
Go to www.facebook.com/newsbanner

Place Your Classified Ads 24/7

Vol. 94 No. 81

MONDAY
February 6, 2023

The Forever Valentine

Daniel's
JEWELERS

Open Monday
February 13th 9:30-5:30

2155 N. Main St., Bluffton • Tue.-Fri. 9:30-5:30; Sat. 9:30-3
(260)824-9643 • www.daniels-jewelers.net

How to contact us:

Call us: 824-0224
or 1-800-579-7476
Fax us: 824-0700
email@news-banner.com

On the Web:
www.news-banner.com

Follow us at:
twitter.com/newsbanner



Wells County Jail

(Continued from Page 1)
larly by inmates with mental or physical needs — this was nearly impossible, especially without bathrooms in the cell. In an already cramped workspace, jail staff had to let inmates out whenever needed for the bathroom.

This process was already seen as a safety concern before COVID-19. However, it became a concern for exposure, both for inmates and employees. Holliday stated that where the jail may have been able to make things work with 120 inmates, it was clear they could not safely keep up.

Holliday and Jail Commander Karen Thompson began discussing possible renovations with an architect from Elevatus, trying to make the most of their space and budget. By the end of their planning, at least a dozen items had joined their list — from basic needs of having the parking lot accessible for fire trucks to general aesthetic hopes for a fresh coat of paint.

These plans became a reality when additional funding was made available through the CARES Act and American Recovery Plan Act. The county later partnered with Ameresco



Pictured is the virtual courtroom added to the Wells County Jail. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

for most of the work, which would emphasize energy and water efficiency.

Throughout construction, the jail staff made day-to-day changes in routine — including locking down the building regularly, completing background checks on construction workers, ensuring which personnel had access to the building and verifying no tools or materials were left in secure areas. Notably, the jail staff operated out of a temporary intake center in their garage

for most of the construction. In short, it's been a year and a half marked by high alert and flexibility.

Looking toward the finish line, both Holliday and Thompson are looking forward to a "normal" pace with returned programming and small, routine improvements.

"We've been pretty excited this last month or two as we're getting toward the end," Holliday said. "We're walking around and noting the little finishing touches or what we might like to look

into for training or the future ... and it's nice to be at this point after a year and a half."

In the coming weeks, construction crews and county officials will go through the building, noting anything that needs touching up. However, the jail will still have to wait to install a new door in the kitchen for shipments. Holliday expects the jail will receive the proper locks sometime in March.

holly@news-banner.com

Chinese spy balloon

(Continued from Page 1)

in the parking lot taking videos of the scene unfolding above before going up to their room ahead of the missile strike.

Logan Hardy, 12, said the moment of impact generated a "boom" that shook the building. His room's balcony gave the middle-schooler a clear view of the debris dropping.

"It looked like stars falling down," he said, adding: "I will never forget this day."

Some watchers rushed to nearby beaches as the balloon approached the ocean. Travis Huffstetler, who captured photos of the balloon, said the packed Garden City Beach almost looked like summertime on the chilly winter day.

When the balloon began crossing the water, Mark Doss, 54, drove a golf cart three blocks down from his home to Garden City Beach. There, Doss said he and his two teenage children spent 90 minutes watching the strike and waiting in vain for debris to wash ashore.

The sheer size of the white orb awed Doss, who said the approaching fighter jet looked like a model airplane. Doss

recalled a "white puff of smoke" after the missile struck the balloon.

"That one jet made a beeline straight to it — wham!" Doss said.

Life continued uninterrupted for many others into the evening. Doss described the spectacle from a biker bar. There, Saturday night thrill seekers gathered like normal as if international tensions had not played out hours earlier 60,000 feet above them. A cover band performed while people shot pool and huddled around patio heaters. Along the Myrtle Beach Boardwalk, nightlife staff went unbothered by the day's events. Others waiting in line outside a club had completely missed the news.

But the severity of the growing diplomatic turmoil was not lost on Doss. He lamented the stress the events placed on his two teenage children, whose exposure to such sights had previously only come through the big screen.

State Sen. Greg Hembree of Horry, who represents the area in the South Carolina General Assembly, watched the strike from his neighbor's backyard.

The sight was both impressive and

"a little bit scary" for Hembree, who said Americans typically expect such images to come from other countries.

"It was stunning," Hembree said. "You don't ever think you're going to see a live engagement with an adversary in sort of a military context."

The ensuing debris spread across roughly seven miles and landed in 47 feet of water, shallower than officials had expected.

The next day, Brady Deal set out to go fishing, but ended up capturing video of what might have been a portion of the shot-down balloon being brought to shore in South Carolina. A Pentagon spokesperson asked about the footage declined to comment Sunday.

Deal said he saw Navy personnel arriving at the Johnny Causey Boat Landing in North Myrtle Beach with what appeared to be a white, deflated balloon across the bows of two different boats. A third boat appeared to have a crane and boxes on it.

"I was just in the right place at the right time and I thought it was pretty cool," said Deal, a North Myrtle Beach construction worker.

U.S., World News Roundup

Beyoncé breaks Grammys record, is most-decorated artist

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Beyoncé stands alone on her Grammy throne: With her fourth win Sunday night, she has become the most decorated artist in the show's history surpassing the 26-year-old record once held by the late Hungarian-British conductor Georg Solti.

"I'm trying not to be too emotional," the superstar said as her husband Jay-Z stood and applauded her. The singer thanked her late uncle, her parents, Jay-Z and her children for supporting her. "I'm just trying to receive this night. I want to thank God for protecting me. Thank you, God."

Beyoncé has now collected 32 awards after she won for best R&B song for "Cuff It," dance-electric music recording for "Break My Soul," traditional R&B performance for "Plastic Off the Sofa" and dance-electric music for her seventh studio album "Renaissance," which is also nominated for album of the year.

Powerful 7.8 quake knocks down buildings in Turkey and Syria

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — A powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit southeast Turkey and Syria early Monday, toppling buildings and sending panicked residents pouring outside in a cold winter night. At least 31 were killed, and the toll was expected to

rise. Rescue workers and residents using flashlights were searching through piles of tangled metal and concrete rubble in one of the stricken cities. People on the street shouted up to others inside a partially toppled apartment building, leaning dangerously.

The quake, felt as far away as Cairo, was centered north of the city of Gaziantep in an about 60 miles from the Syrian border. Along with several cities, the area is home to millions of Syrian refugees who fled their country's long-running civil war. Turkey, which borders Syria to the north, hosts the largest number of Syrian refugees in the world.

On the Syrian side of the border, the quake smashed opposition-held regions that are packed with several million displaced Syrians with a decrepit health care system after years of war. At least 11 were killed in one town, Atmed, and many more were buried in the rubble, a doctor in the town, Muheeb Qaddour, told The Associated Press by telephone.

Biden's State of the Union to tout policy wins on economy

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden will use his second State of the Union address on Tuesday to remind Americans of how their lives have been improved over his first two years in office, as he tries to confront pessimism in the country and navigate the tricky politics of a newly divided Washington.

Rather than laying out major new policy proposals, Biden was expected to devote much of his speech to highlighting his efforts over the past two years to create jobs, fight inflation and improve the nation's infrastructure. The speech comes as Biden is honing his pitch to voters ahead of his expected announcement in the next few months that he will seek another term in office despite voter frustrations about the direction of the nation.

"Next week, I'll be reporting on the state of the Union," Biden said Friday after a stronger-than-expected jobs report that saw the unemployment rate drop to the lowest level in more than 53 years. "But today, I'm happy to report that the state of the Union and the state of our economy is strong."

Biden's remarks from the House rostrum will take place in a sharply different context from a year ago. Republicans now control the chamber, rendering it unlikely that any significant legislation reaches Biden's desk. The newly empowered GOP is itching to undo many of Biden's achievements and raising the specter of persistent investigations — including into the recent discoveries of classified documents from his time as vice president at his home and former office.

"Jobs are up, wages are up, inflation is down, and COVID no longer controls our lives," Biden told the Democratic National Committee on Friday. "But now, the extreme MAGA Republicans in the House of Representatives have made it clear they intend to put it all at risk. They intend to destroy it."

Weather

Monday, February 6, 2023
(24-hour observations at 9:28 p.m. Sunday)
High: 46; Low: 36; Precipitation: None
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.83 feet at 9:45 p.m. Sunday

Wells County forecast

Today: Partly sunny, with a high near 40. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southeast in the afternoon.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 34. Southeast wind 10 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Tuesday: A 40 percent chance of showers. Cloudy, with a high near 51. Breezy, with a south wind 15 to 25 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph.

Tuesday Night: A slight chance of showers before 1 a.m., then a slight chance of rain after 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 32. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming north after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Wednesday: A 50 percent chance of showers, mainly after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 50.

Wednesday Night: Showers. Low around 41. Breezy. Chance of precipitation is 80 percent.

Thursday: A 40 percent chance of showers, mainly before 1 p.m. Cloudy, with a high near 51. Windy.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 33. Breezy.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 40.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 27.

Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 36.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 26.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 44.

Ohio train

(Continued from Page 1)

defect "shortly before the derailment" but said the board was still working to determine which rail car experienced the issue.

About 50 cars derailed in East Palestine as a train was carrying a variety of products from Madison, Illinois, to Conway, Pennsylvania, rail operator Norfolk Southern said. No injuries to crew, residents or first responders were reported.

Graham said investigators identified the exact "point of derailment" but did not disclose the location Sunday. He said information will be included in a preliminary investigative report expected in the next month or so.

East Palestine officials said emergency responders were monitoring but keeping their distance from the fire, and that remediation efforts could not begin while the cars smoldered.

Mayor Trent Conaway, who declared a state of emergency in the village, said one person was arrested for going around barricades right up to the crash during the night. He warned that more arrests would follow if people did not stay away.

"I don't know why anybody would want to be up there; you're breathing toxic fumes if you're that close," he said, stressing that monitors of air quality away from the fire showed no levels of concern and the town's water is safe because it is fed by groundwater unaffected by some material that went into streams. Environmental protection agency crews were working to remove contaminants from streams and monitor water quality.

Sheriffs went door-to-door Sunday to count residents remaining and urge people within the evacuation area to leave. Schools and village offices will be closed at least through Monday, and businesses within the evacuation zone are not allowed to open Monday, officials said.

Norfolk Southern said 20

of the more than 100 cars on the train were classified as carrying hazardous materials — including flammables, combustibles, or environmental risks."

The NTSB said only 10 cars carrying hazardous materials derailed, and five of them were carrying vinyl chloride, not 14 as was said earlier. Officials stressed late Saturday that they had not confirmed the release of vinyl chloride other than from pressure release devices operating as designed.

Vinyl chloride, used to make the polyvinyl chloride hard plastic resin in a variety of plastic products, is associated with increased risk of liver cancer and other cancers, according to the federal government's National Cancer Institute.

"Short-term exposure to low levels of substances associated with the derailment does not present a long-term health risk to residents," according to a "Frequently Asked Questions" post on the village Facebook page. "Vinyl chloride and benzene may cause cancer in people exposed in the workplace to high concentrations for many years; however, there is no indication that any potential exposure that occurred after the derailment increases the risk of cancer or any other long-term health effects in community members."

Officials said Sunday afternoon that cars involved also carried combustible liquids, butyl acrylate and residue of benzene from previous shipments, as well as nonhazardous materials such as wheat, plastic pellets, malt liquors and lube oil.

The evacuation order covered homes of 1,500 to 2,000 of the town's 4,800 to 4,900 residents, but officials said it was unknown exactly how many were actually affected. Most of those who had gone to an emergency shelter were no longer there by Sunday.

TROUBLED?
TRY PRAYER!
deweeseappliance.com
DeWeese
SOFTWATER & APPLIANCES
We Service All Appliances
1-800-356-4440 • 231 N. Wayne St., Warren

MARIACHI LOCO
Mexican Grill & Bar
1595 Harrison Plaza • Bluffton, IN
\$300 off A Purchase of \$300 or More
\$500 off A Purchase of \$400 or More
Call for Carry-Out 260-827-0616

Arnold Lumber Co.
425 S. Winchester St., Decatur, IN
Hours: Mon-Thurs 7AM-5PM
Fri 7AM-4:30PM • Sat 7AM-11:30AM
260-724-3108 • Fax 260-724-4505
FABRAL
METAL WALL AND ROOF SYSTEMS
1-800-903-4206 | Check Us Out on Facebook

Committed to Serving You Better!
Expert
Transmission & Automotive
1979 - 2023
2883 E State Road 124, Bluffton, IN 46714
(260) 824-4929
More Than Just Transmissions
Heating/AC - Tune-Ups - Brakes
Computer Diagnostics and More!
In Bluffton since 1979 www.experttrans.com

Wells Court Docket

Wells Superior Court Criminal Cases

Preliminary plea of not guilty entered for Dennis A. Bower, 42, rural Poneto, charged with operating a vehicle with an alcohol concentration equivalency of .15 percent or more, a Class A misdemeanor.

Deputies were attempting to find Bower to perform a welfare check on him Oct.

4, 2022, when they located him driving on a county road and pulled over the pickup truck he was driving.

A blood test, the results of which were received on Jan. 25 by the investigating sheriff's deputy, reportedly revealed a blood alcohol concentration for Bower of .152 percent.

Preliminary plea of not

guilty entered for Angela M. Smith, 42, Ossian, charged with two counts of battery, one count of criminal mischief and one count of disorderly conduct — all Class B misdemeanors. Larry Mock appointed public defender.

Smith is charged with throwing a cup of coffee and a cigarette at a man in a pickup truck in the parking area of the Bluffton Citgo

gas station on North Main Street Jan. 20. Apparently she was angered that he had parked his vehicle near the drive-through window and they argued briefly about it before she allegedly threw the cup and the cigarette at his vehicle.

Civil Cases

Judgment of \$996 plus \$115 in costs and writ of possession entered for Silo

Farms mobile home park against tenants Chance Simmons and Whitney Dishman.

Declare Candidacy

Declarations of candidacy for municipal primary nomination have been filed with the Wells County Clerk's Office by:

• Sarah Jane Reed, Bluffton, Republican for Bluffton Common Council District 5.

• Blake Andrew Fiechter, Bluffton, Republican for Bluffton Common Council At-Large.

Marriage Licenses

Jessica Ann Elwell, 29, Bluffton, and Joshua Michael Shoemaker, 38, Bluffton.

Shadow Anthony DeWayne Fravel, 31, Decatur, and Brittany Lee Guiterrez, 35, Ossian.



Saturday crash at Ind. 1/300N

A first responder walks away from a heavily-damaged vehicle shortly before 3 p.m. Saturday after a two-car crash at the intersection of Ind. 1 and Wells County Road 300N. The vehicle pictured is across 300N just west of Ind. 1. It was apparently northbound on Ind. 1 when it was struck from behind by another vehicle, which spun off the east side of the highway. No police report was available by press time Sunday evening. (Photo by Dave Schultz)

Parkview Health and Taylor University plan to introduce nursing program in 2024

Chronicle-Tribune

A new agreement between Taylor University and Parkview Health plans to introduce a new program at the university — one that's been in high demand for potential students.

"Nursing has been high on the strategic agenda multiple times at Taylor for probably about the last 10 or 15 years," Provost Jewel Maxwell said. "Taylor had just never made the commitment, and a lot of it was because of financial reasons. It is significantly expensive to launch a nursing program."

Through this partnership, Maxwell said, Parkview will provide clinical sites for nursing students and is providing classroom space, equipment and funding the dean of nursing and clinical nursing instructor positions. The program will also offer clinicals in the summer, which will give athletes more ways to participate.

Tami Brigle, Parkview's public relations manager, said the partnership began at the Global Leadership Summit last fall, and after both organizations explained their goals, it became clear

that they both could benefit from a partnership.

"Taylor University has a history in educating health professionals," Brigle said. "As the region's largest employer, Parkview is interested in supporting the growth of our region's workforce. Through this partnership, we believe students who are attracted to this region as a Taylor student can be retained as a Parkview nurse."

Maxwell said that the university hopes to launch the new program in 2024, but it has to reach accreditation requirements through the Indiana State Board of Nursing.

He said the state board is "very engaged in the process," looking at the curriculum that will be provided, the personnel and their credentials, and they also do at least one campus and facilities visit to ensure an institution has enough clinical sites for students.

"Parkview has guaranteed that for our first three cohorts, they can meet the demands of all clinical sites," Maxwell said. "In nursing, there are a variety of different specialties, and

you have to do clinical rotations in each of those specialties. Parkview has guaranteed all of the specialties, so that was one of the big hurdles for programs that are starting."

Maxwell believes there's been a lot of excitement around the new program, and he thinks there is a high level of interest from prospective students. He also said the university is anticipating a significant increase in enrollment, especially around 2025 to 2026.

"Even internally, there are current students who are saying that they wish they could be part of this, but they can't because of the timing," Maxwell said. "Our athletic department has been really supportive because they see this as an opportunity to recruit athletes who have been interested in nursing and playing sports at Taylor, but choose not to come here because we don't have the major they're interested in."

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

New mental health resource launches for Jay County emergency responders

By BAILEY CLINE Commercial Review

Local emergency responders have another resource available to keep up with their mental health.

Mindbase, an agency wellness program, launches for county employees and their families Friday. The app offers a confidential way for emergency personnel to seek mental health support.

Contessa Stilts, assistant 911 director at Jay County Sheriff's Office, explained she discovered the app during a conference in California last year. It was the confidentiality feature that first attracted her, she said.

"Nobody gets to know," she added. "They don't have to go and ask their boss and say, 'Hey, this call affected me in a certain way. I need some help.' They can seek it on their own."

It also ties into the Jay County Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team, a group formed to help responders left emotionally or physically affected by traumatic events.

County employees may download the app for free on their phones. It opens to a home screen with three options - peer support, personalized care and check in with yourself (health resources) - and the logo for the CISM team.

The peer support selection allows users to see a list of CISM team members, their occupation and their contact information.

Personalized care provides additional support, offering contact information for resources such as counselors, chaplains and the IU Health outpatient behavioral unit.

"It's for if you need a little more than just talking to somebody individually," explained Stilts.

The last tab, check in with yourself, displays other local health resources.

At the bottom of the home screen there are three symbols - a house, a brain and a phone. Selecting the house takes users to the home screen.

The brain icon opens to short videos, tips and tricks for more support. Videos are regularly cycled through,

meaning regular users should have access to different videos over time.

The phone icon gives users direct numbers to emergency hotlines.

There's also a section to take self-assessments for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, depression, alcohol abuse, insomnia and anxiety.

Mindbase will eventually link to the county's computer-aided dispatch reporting system, allowing administrative staff to notice when an employee has taken a heavy load of difficult calls.

"Any time the call is created and then a unit is assigned to it, the backside of the program will calculate that and turn it into points," explained Stilts.

Whenever an employee accrues a large amount of points in a seven-day period, they would be considered at a high-stress level. That triggers a Mindbase notification to check in with the employee and informs administrative staff about their point value.

Jay County Commissioners approved an agreement with Mindbase in September. It's one of several recent efforts in the community to address mental health.

Jay County CISM formed in the fall. Portland also accepted an agreement Jan. 6 with LifeWorks Counseling and Wellness, which offers therapy for trauma as well as other counseling.

"People are leaving this industry, and it's usually one call," said John McFarland, Jay EMS director. He advocated for helping folks address their mental health.

Mike Weitzel, chief of Portland Fire Department, noted since he and McFarland launched the CISM team that they've received several calls for help.

"I feel like it's becoming more of a forefront issue," he said.

Mindbase will be available to all emergency personnel in Jay County, including police, firefighters, Emergency Medical Service responders and dispatch, as well as their families.

Stilts repeated her main

hope for Mindbase is to offer privacy to emergency personnel.

"I want it to be in their hands and not have to seek it out," she said. "I don't want them to have to go to their own boss and say, hey, I need help. Because people won't do it. And then their mental health will just continue to decline."

"That's the thought behind it, is that 'Maybe someone's going to make fun of me or I'm going to be embarrassed or they're going to take me off my shifts, I'm not gonna be able to work,'" said Stilts. "That's just added stress. And we don't want that."

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

Financial Focus

Could you cope with long-term care costs?

You may never need any type of long-term care, such as an extended nursing home stay, but it's a good idea to be prepared — because this care is expensive.

Consider this: The median cost for a private room in a nursing home is over \$100,000 per year, according to the insurance company Genworth.

How can you protect yourself against these types of expenses? You could decide that you'll pay out of pocket, but to do so, you would likely need to significantly adjust your investment strategies.

As an alternative, you could consider some type of long-term care insurance. A traditional long-term care policy pays for expenses in your home or at a nursing facility, while a hybrid policy covers long-term care but also offers a death benefit.

A third possibility is life insurance with a long-term care rider, or add-on. With this type of policy, you can use some of the death benefit to pay for your long-term care needs.

A financial professional can help you evaluate all your long-term care options within the context of your investment and protection strategies. And the earlier you start planning, the better your choices may be.

JEREMY M. TODD
CFP® AAMS®
Financial Advisor
1169 N. Main St.
Suite 2
Bluffton, IN 46714
260-824-0686



www.edwardjones.com Member SIPC
Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors are not estate planners and cannot provide tax or legal advice. Please consult your estate-planning attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Follow us at...
twitter.com/newsbanner

WE HELP YOU GET SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE AND MEDICAID READY!

Jerry Flack & Associates

WE REPRESENT MANY - MANY - MANY INSURANCE COMPANIES

WE HAVE ALL THE MEDICARE AND MEDICAID OPTIONS AVAILABLE

WE HAVE THE MARKETPLACE UNDER 65 PRODUCTS

The Price Tag is the Same Everywhere Consider Local for Better Service

FREE INFORMATION - FREE EDUCATION ON ALL OUR PRODUCTS WE ARE FORMER TEACHERS

WHEN YOU HAVE PROBLEMS AND YOU WILL HAVE PROBLEMS YOU WILL HAVE US TO COUNT ON

MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTS - MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS - PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLANS.

Life Insurance - Long Term Care Insurance - Investments - Individual and Small Group Health - Dental - Vision - Hearing - Cancer Insurance

Folks on Medicare A and B and Diabetic can get FREE Nice Looking Diabetic Shoes Every Year from Us | We Do FREE Information/ Education Seminars In Your Business (Again Former Teachers)

WE CAN MEET: IN OUR OFFICE - IN YOUR HOME - IN A FAVORED LOCATION

In the 1882 Building at Main & Market with the mural on the outside wall • 260-824-1618

FRESH • VARIETY • LOCAL • QUALITY

3095 VAN HORN ST., ZANESVILLE

LOCALLY SUPPLIED • LOCALLY OWNED

260.638.4123

Mon. - Wed. 9-5 • Thur. - Fri. 9-6 • Sat. 8-1
(Subject to change)

Lengerich

MEATS • SPECIALS

BBQ Pork Burgers \$3.29/lb.
Frozen Tenderized Chicken Breast (While Supplies last) ... \$2.69/lb.
Kidney Bean Salad \$4.09/lb.
Tapioca Pudding \$5.19/lb.

Sides of Beef Available at Market Prices

Whole or Half Hog dressed weight \$2.99/lb.

www.lengerichmeats.com PRICES GOOD February 6 - February 11, 2022

GAME ON! BIG GAME SPECIALS!

Homemade Summer Sausages • Smoked Sausages
Shaved Ham • Smoked Pork Chops • Pulled Pork
Deli Salads - Call in advance for all special orders

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

www.news-banner.com or
www.facebook.com/news-banner

Banks has seemingly cleared the GOP field for Senate run

Indiana appears poised for the unfathomable: an unopposed Republican primary for an open U.S. Senate seat. With current Sen. Mike Braun deciding to run for governor in 2024, a competitive Senate primary was expected to include a host of big-name Hoosier politicians.



Niki Kelly

Instead, Third District Congressman Jim Banks appears to have cleared the field in only a few weeks — reeling in key endorsements including former President Donald Trump and getting crucial donors on board.

Guest Column

The (possible) last domino fell on Tuesday when former Gov. Mitch Daniels announced he would not run. Moments later, the powerful National Republican Senatorial Committee — and its formidable coffers — backed Banks.

And moderate Republicans around the state — call them Lugar or Daniels Republicans — sighed in frustration.

You can't run to the right of Banks. So, the only hope is a candidate more in the middle of the party. But that doesn't seem to be in the cards.

To put this in perspective, since 1976 — when direct primaries were implemented — there has never been an uncontested GOP primary for an open Senate seat.

In 1998, Paul Helmke defeated John Price; in 2010 Dan Coats bested four GOP opponents; and in 2016 Todd Young beat then-Congressman Marlin Stutzman.



U.S. Rep. Jim Banks of Indiana's 3rd congressional district has no opposition for the state's open U.S. Senate seat.

Sometimes incumbents are even challenged in the primaries.

One keen political observer said lightning could still strike, but no one else is coming to the forefront at this point.

A Bellwether Research poll conducted in December had Banks trailing Attorney General Todd Rokita, 16 percent to 14 percent.

But Rokita lately has seemed content with his statewide office, with fewer rumors swirling about a possible run. Congresswoman Victoria Spartz polled at 12 percent in that survey but is now reevaluating. Former Congressman Trey Hollingsworth was also at 11 percent in that poll. He left Congress and was considering a run for governor but appears to have missed that moment.

Would he like the Senate better? He is a conservative, but not as loud about it as Banks.

The open governor's seat — Gov. Eric Holcomb is term-limited — is attracting more attention than the Senate. For instance, businessman and Secretary of Commerce Brad Chambers could occupy a lane that Banks doesn't in a Senate race but has shown interest only in a governor's bid.

Holcomb is an interesting possibility. He has been mum on his future. On one hand, we know he had an interest in the Senate because he was originally running for it in 2016 before dropping out and becoming Lt. Governor shortly after. But his COVID-19 measures and veto of the transgender sports bill have cost him Republican support.

Another longtime politico said that for a moderate to enter the GOP Senate primary race, they would have to have a built-in pedigree similar to Daniels. Otherwise, they will get destroyed in this new Republican Party era.

"If you show one ounce of moderation, you are doomed," the insider said.

Niki Kelly is the editor in chief of the Indiana Capital Chronicle, an independent, nonprofit news organization dedicated to giving Hoosiers a comprehensive look inside state government, policy and elections.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Feb. 6, the 37th day of 2023. There are 334 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 6, 1952, Britain's King George VI, 56, died at Sandringham House in Norfolk, England; he was succeeded as monarch by his 25-year-old elder daughter, who became Queen Elizabeth II.

On this date:

In 1778, during the American Revolutionary War, the United States won official recognition and military support from France with the signing of a Treaty of Alliance in Paris.

In 1788, Massachusetts became the sixth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1815, the state of New Jersey issued the first American railroad charter to John Stevens, who proposed a rail link between Trenton and New Brunswick. (The line, however, was never built.)

In 1862, during the Civil War, Fort Henry in Tennessee fell to Union forces.

In 1899, a peace treaty between the United States and Spain was ratified by the U.S. Senate.

In 1911, Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th president of the United States, was born in Tampico, Ill.

The News-Banner

(USPS 059-200)

Evening News est. 1892 • Evening Banner est. 1899 • Consolidated 1929

News-Banner Publications, Inc.

George B. Witwer, Chairman of the Board
Doug Brown, President, Publisher
Dianne Witwer, Secretary/Treasurer

Periodicals Postage Paid at Bluffton, IN 46714. Published every day except Sundays and principal holidays at 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton IN 46714, Post Office Box 436

David Schultz, Editor
Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor

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



The Mitch Daniels political era passes

INDIANAPOLIS — Perhaps it was poll after poll showing congressional approval hovering around 18%. Or that he never had that horde mentality; Mitch Daniels has been for the past three decades the leader of the pack. Or, perhaps, it was the Cooperstown busts of two native Hoosiers — Major League Baseball commissioners Kenesaw Mountain Landis and Ford Frick — and the fact that the job could come open next summer, that might have held sway.

When it came to a decision, Mitch Daniels determined that spending the next eight years campaigning and serving in dysfunctional Washington, D.C., with Donald Trump-inspired loony bin senators in stasis congressional gridlock was the ultimate deal breaker.

Thus on Tuesday, the former two-term Indiana governor and Purdue University president and, arguably, the most cunning and influential Hoosier Republican of the 21st Century, slammed the door on a political comeback. "I've decided not to become a candidate for the U.S. Senate. With full credit and respect for the institution and those serving in it, I conclude that it's just not the job for me, not the town for me," Daniels said.

The decision capped off a two-month exercise of whether Daniels would seek a Senate seat that he had once turned down, when Gov. Robert Orr offered him Vice President-elect Dan Quayle's seat in 1988.

After spending a day in DC last week, he seemed uncertain, telling Politico, "I'm not the least bit worried, honestly, about losing an election. I'm worried about winning it and regretting it for six years. I say this with great respect for those who do it. But you know, that doesn't mean it fits me or fits me at this time of my life. So that's what this field trip's about."

"My one tour of duty in elected office involved, like those in business before and academe after it, an action job, with at least the chance to do useful things every day," Daniels said. "I have never imagined that I would be well-suited to legislative office, particularly where seniority remains a significant factor in one's effectiveness, and I saw nothing in my recent explorations that altered that view."

At this writing, U.S. Rep. Jim Banks, R-Columbia City, is the sole candidate to announce for the Senate seat being vacated by Mike Braun, who is running for governor. "As I've said before, I respect Gov. Daniels and I learned a lot from him when I served in the Statehouse," Banks said in a statement Tuesday morning before meeting with former British prime minister Boris Johnson. "I'm excited about the early momentum and support for our campaign but we've got a long way to go. Over the next two years, I'm going to work hard every day to make my case to Hoosier voters that I'm best prepared to be their conservative Senator in Washington."

U.S. Rep. Victoria Spartz, R-Noblesville, had expressed

interest before Daniels explored a bid, and might do so again. Informed and reliable sources close to Attorney General Todd Rokita tell Howey Politics Indiana/State Affairs that he likes his current job and will likely seek reelection in 2024.

In addition to Spartz, the other potential factor in the race is Gov. Eric Holcomb, who said in December that he has not ruled out a Senate bid, but such a determination would not come until the Indiana General Assembly sine die expected in late April.

Holcomb was a Senate candidate in 2016, facing then-U.S. Reps. Todd Young and Marlin Stutzman, when Gov. Mike Pence selected him to finish the term of Lt. Gov. Sue Ellspermann, who resigned to become president of Ivy Tech. Holcomb went on to win a gubernatorial caucus by the Indiana Republican Central Committee when Donald Trump chose Pence to be his vice president nominee.

Asked about a potential Senate candidacy in mid-December, Holcomb responded, saying, "We'll see." "I've been involved in some campaigns that have been 16 months, and I thought that was early. And then I've been involved in some that took about 106 days, and I thought that was rushed," Holcomb said. "I'm going to do the job I've got. That's somewhat liberating. I'm very comfortable with that."

On the day that Daniels announced his decision, Donald Trump endorsed Rep. Banks. "Jim Banks is running for the United States Senate from the Great State of Indiana. I know Jim well, have seen him tested at the highest and most difficult levels, and WIN!" Trump wrote on Truth Social. "Jim Banks is respected by all, will never let you down, and has my Complete & Total Endorsement!"

This is the same Donald Trump who had dinner last December with an anti-semitic neo-Nazi, suggested the U.S. Constitution be "terminated" to let him back into the office he lost by seven million votes in 2020, and called Russian President Putin's invasion of Ukraine a fit of "savvy genius."

In his statement, Daniels said, "I've likewise tried to keep in mind President Reagan's observation that some people seek public office to be something, others to do something."

Rep. Banks will run in the Trump lane, but there are a number of Daniels type Republicans in Indiana who will be searching for a non-Trump alternative.

The columnist is managing editor of Howey Politics Indiana/State Affairs at StateAffairs.com/pro/Indiana. Find Howey on Facebook and Twitter @hwypol.



Brian Howey

Politicking

How the GOP can pivot on the debt limit

WASHINGTON — Republicans might not realize it yet, but they're going to need an off-ramp in the debt limit fight they have picked with President Biden. Democrats are not going to allow the GOP to repeal all the massive spending increases they passed in the first two years of Biden's presidency, and Republicans are not going to drive the nation's economy off a fiscal cliff.

Republicans are not stupid. They saw the Fox News poll released Wednesday that found 80 percent of Americans think the economy is in poor shape, 74 percent believe we will go into recession this year and 61 percent blame Biden. Republicans are not going to cause a debt crisis that allows Biden to shift ownership of the weak economy to them.

But House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) can't be seen as capitulating to Biden, or he will lose his speakership.

So Republicans are going to need a face-saving way out, something other than the deep spending cuts they are seeking in exchange for increasing the debt limit. They need a demand that will unite Republicans and divide Democrats — and one that Biden will have a hard time refusing.

There's a simple solution: Instead of spending cuts, they should insist that the White House hand over all the classified documents found at his Wilmington, Del., home and his former office at the Penn Biden Center in Washington.

Senior Democrats have already publicly joined Republicans in demanding Biden release these documents. Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Mark R. Warner (D-Va.) declared after a briefing by Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines that "every member

of the committee — Democrats and Republicans — was "unanimous" that the Biden administration's refusal to share the documents with the committee "is not going to stand."

"It is our job to make sure that the security of our country is protected and that the intelligence that our country depends upon is not compromised," Warner said. "We don't want to get into a question of threats at this point," he added, but "all things will be on the table to make sure that doesn't happen."

There is no reason "all things" can't include linking a debt limit increase to the administration's compliance with bipartisan demands for access to those documents.

Such a linkage would turn the tables on Biden. If he refuses, he would be risking a fiscal crisis to protect himself from congressional oversight of his mishandling of classified information. That would be hard to sell to the American people.

Right now, the debt limit fight has Democrats united and Republicans divided. The GOP is split between fiscal hawks who want to cut the Pentagon budget and defense hawks who won't allow it. But if Republicans pivot and demand the documents, it would be the GOP that is united and Democrats who are divided. Warner would be hard-pressed not to urge Biden to take the deal.

Biden won't be able to argue that he cannot hand over the documents while a Justice Department investigation is underway. The administration had no problem cooperating with document requests from the House select committee on Jan. 6 while a Justice Department investigation was simultaneously underway. As Warner has said, "The notion that we have to wait until a special prosecutor

blesses the intelligence committee's oversight will not stand."

In the end, Biden will have no choice but to give in and produce the documents — which would be a major victory for McCarthy and the new Republican House majority.

But if Republicans stick to their demands for spending cuts, they will lose. Any time the markets tumble, inflation spikes or a bad jobs report is released, Democrats will lay the blame at McCarthy's feet and warn that far worse is to come if Republicans don't stop threatening default. And history shows that voters punish the party that plays chicken with the economy.

Biden is all but certain to begin laying the groundwork for this line of attack in his State of the Union address next week — using his direct channel to a national audience of millions to explain the many fiascos that could ensue if Republicans force us to risk default on our debt.

In the end, Republicans will have no choice but to give up their current demands. Wouldn't it be better to do it sooner rather than later, and pivot to a winning strategy, so they can claim an early victory in their first standoff with Biden?

McCarthy has a choice. One path leads to victory, the other to defeat — and to him potentially following in the footsteps of Rep. Theodore M. Pomeroy (R-N.Y.), who holds the record as the shortest-serving speaker of the House.



Marc Thiessen

Marc A. Thiessen is on Twitter, @marc-

Events at the Creative Arts Council of Wells County

www.wellscocreativearts.com
 creativeartscouncil@gmail.com
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/wellscocreativearts
 Instagram: @creativeartscouncil
 Address: 428 S. Oak St.
 Phone: 260-824-5222

Creative Arts office hours — Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to noon.

Encouraging, presenting and promoting the arts for the benefit of the entire community.

CREATIVE ARTS SUMMER CAMPS

Registration opens March 1 for four summer arts camps sponsored by the Creative Arts Council of Wells County.

- The camps are:
- Theater Intensive “The Wizard of Oz” for youth ages 12-18.
 - Theater Intensive: “Disney’s Winnie the Pooh” for youth ages 8-11.
 - Dance Camp, for ages 4-18.
 - Art Academy, for elementary-school students.

More information can be found at <https://www.wellscocreativearts.com>

‘LEADING LADIES’

In this comedy, two English Shakespearean actors, Leo and Jack, find themselves so down on their luck that they’re performing “Scenes from Shakespeare” on the Moose

Lodge circuit in Pennsylvania Amish country.

But then, what luck! They hear that dear old Florence of nearby York, PA is about to die and leave her fortune to her two long lost English nephews whom she has never seen. For Jack and Leo it is the work of an instant to turn themselves into nephews Max and Steve and grab the cash. And that’s when the complications set in...

Romantic entanglements abound, as “Some Like It Hot” meets “Twelfth Night” in this screwball comedy filled with bad behavior, high heels and a world of comedy.

Come join the cast of Ken Ludwig’s “Leading Ladies” for a dinner theater at Life Community Church Auditorium.

Friday, Feb. 17, 6 p.m., dinner/show \$50, show only \$10

Saturday, Feb. 18, 3 p.m., show only, \$10 Saturday, Feb. 18, 6 p.m., dinner/show \$50, show only \$10

Tickets went on sale today, Jan. 9.

AUDITIONS FOR CREATIVE ARTS THEATER SINGS

Auditions for the April show, a revue of songs from favorite musicals, are scheduled for the evening of Friday, Feb. 10, and the morning of Saturday, Feb. 11.

Audition times are 6 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. Saturday at Life Community Church. Callbacks will be at 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 13.

Performers of all vocal styles, emotional ranges, comedic abilities, and dancing “chops” of all age ranges and ability levels are invited to participate in this musical theatre-type show. Singers are being cast for solos, featured and ensemble roles, and actors are needed for narrator roles.

Show dates will be 7 p.m. Friday, April 21; 7 p.m. Saturday, April 22; and 3 p.m. Sunday, April 23.

For more specific information on auditions and rehearsals, visit <https://www.wellscocreativearts.com/auditions-1>

CAC2 – Creative Arts Children’s Choir

Our second semester of CAC2 begins Tuesday, Jan. 24. It’s a perfect time to hop in and learn spring music. Come join us on Tuesdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The choir is open to students in Grades 3 through 8. To register go to <https://www.wellscocreativearts.com/202223-childrens-choir-registration-form> or give the office a call at (260) 824-5222.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

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



Readers’ Brown Bag Luncheon: Meeting the last Tuesday of the month at noon at Life Community Church; enter Door 10. All readers are welcome. Call the CAC office for more information.

Important Scheduling Note: Changes can occur after Creative Happenings have been published. Confirm dates and times before planning to participate in programs and activities.

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



Library staff members Nicole Zurcher, at left, and Teresa Dustman, at right, are ready for folks to sign up for the “Cozy Up With a Good Book” winter reading program to be held during the month of February. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

February is the time to ‘cozy up’ with a good book

By BARBARA BARBIERI
 “Cozy Up With a Good Book” is the title of the winter reading program at the Wells County Public Library now through Feb. 28.

Those who sign up to participate will be rewarded with coupon for a mini-Blizzard at Dairy Queen or candy bar as well as chances for other prizes, after reading 300 pages.

Participants will be asked to keep track of the number of pages being read throughout the month, which in turn will determine how many books will be donated to Kate’s Kart at Bluffton Regional Hospital. (When 50,000 pages have been read the number of books will be 25.) The more books read, the more books will be donated.

Books may be ones checked out from the library or books that have been bought or borrowed including eBooks and eAudiobooks (checked out from the Indiana Digital Library/Libby or Hoopla. Adult readers also may play Bonus Bingo for entry into a drawing for a prize basket. (Complete rules are presented when signing up to participate.)

Winter Reading Events

Family Bingo Night—Monday, Feb. 6, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Ossian, and Monday, Feb. 13, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Bluffton. Registration is needed for this event for all ages with kids needed to be accompanied by an adult.

“Cozy up” Game Time — A different game will be on display each

week for playing by all ages at both Ossian and Bluffton.

Cozy Cocoa Story Time — For entire families at Bluffton on Wednesday, Feb. 15, 6:30-7:30 p.m. and at Ossian on Thursday, Feb. 23, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Stories to be followed by hot cocoa. Registration appreciated.

Mini Golf Fund-raiser — Enjoy 18 holes of mini-golf on the first floor of the main library on Friday, Feb. 24, noon to 6 p.m. and again on Saturday, Feb. 25, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For a small fee you will have a fun round of golf while helping to support the Friends of the Library, which supports library programs for children, teens and adults.

barb@news-banner.com

Special Feature

Your MONEY \$ Your TAXES

How to set retirement goals

Having clear retirement objectives can help you save for the future. Here’s how to set achievable goals for this chapter in your life.

Budget for retirement

Do you know how you want to spend your retirement? While certain expenses will disappear, others will increase. Having an idea of what you want your lifestyle to look like will help you determine how much money you’ll need to live on each year when you’re retired.

Estimate the length of your retirement

Once you know how much you plan to spend annually, you’ll need to estimate the number of years you’ll spend in retirement. This will help you determine when you can retire. The current life expectancy in the United States is approximately 78 years for men and 80 years for women. If you retire at age 65, you can expect to live approximately another 15 years.

Determine how much you need to save

It’s recommended that you set aside at least 10 percent of your net annual income for retirement. This amount will vary depending on your age when you start saving, the rate of return on your investments and your retirement budget.

If you’re struggling to achieve your goals, don’t hesitate to consult a financial adviser. A profession-

al can help you come up with a winning strategy to achieve your objectives.



Foudy CPA Group, P.C.

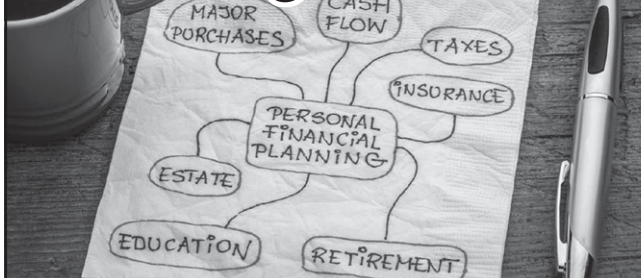
Certified Public Accountant

2401 N Main Street, Bluffton 260-824-1040 5730 Falls Drive, Fort Wayne 260-432-4565

Full-Service Firm: Tax Preparation
 Bookkeeping & Payroll • Financial Planning
 College Planning • Financial Statement Audits
 Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Call for evening appointments.

Email: info@foudycpa.com • www.foudycpa.com

Planning for Life



RAYMOND JAMES
 Raymond James Financial Services, Inc.
 Member FINRA/SIPC

Kim Gentis
 Financial Advisor
 Wealth Management Specialist

260-824-8070
 1245 N. Main St.
 Bluffton, IN

Investment Advisory Services are offered through Raymond James Financial Services Advisors, Inc.

TOPP CPA FIRM

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

Dean (Chip) Topp, CPA
chip@toppcpa.com

- Individual Taxes
- Corporation Taxes
- Partnership Taxes
- Bookkeeping & Payroll
- Property Taxes
- Quickbooks ProAdvisor

Mon-Friday 8-5; Sat 8-12
 Call for evening appointments
 159 N. Jefferson St., Berne, IN 46711
 260-589-8778



Discover the Feeling of Financial Confidence.

Customized tax-deferred products can provide lifetime income and protect your beneficiaries.

TIM STEFFEN

Financial Consultant
Tim@Steffinancial.com
 (260) 824-8175

Securities offered through LPL Financial Member FINRA/SIPC



Edward Jones

> edwardjones.com Member SIPC

Finding solutions for your financial need.

BLUFFTON
DOUG FEAR, AAMS
 Financial Advisor
 2035 Commerce Dr., Suite 209
 260-565-4134

JEREMY TODD, AAMS /CFP
 Financial Advisor
 1169 N. Main St. Suite 2
 260-824-0686

JEREMY PENROD, AAMS
 Financial Advisor
 201 E. Market St., Suite 1
 260-824-2354

OSSIAN
LARRY A. SMITH, AAMS
 Financial Advisor
 102 S. Jefferson
 260-622-7952

Sexist comments are becoming a dealbreaker

Dear Annie: I have been living with my boyfriend, 34, and his brother, 35, for a few months now while I am searching for an apartment. So far, it has not been going well. It seems as if my boyfriend and I get into an argument every day about small stuff. He will raise his voice and then tell me he isn't raising his voice at me.

My biggest issue right now is the way he and his brother talk about women. They literally wake up and talk about how much they hate the "modern" woman. They cite a laundry list of the things women need to do to better themselves. After I told them that I disliked those comments, I was scolded and told that I could leave if I don't like the way they speak.

My boyfriend's behavior and views have made me rethink our relationship. I am in a weird place because I am technically homeless. What should I do? — Feeling Offended

Dear Feeling Offended: His sexist views of women are off-putting and outdated, to say the least. It is understandable that you are offended by these comments; in fact, it would be surprising if you weren't. Keep asserting yourself and expressing your dislike for his comments. Stand up for what you know is right. If he continues to scold you, it might be wise to put more urgency into your search for a new apartment.

I am sorry that you are homeless. It does put you in an uncomfortable and vulnerable situation, but that doesn't mean that you have to put up

with his abuse.

Dear Annie: This in response to the writer who said she was only invited to the shower but not the wedding. This happened to me once. I figured that the invitation had gotten lost in the mail. I did not want to ask directly if this was the case, so instead I asked about the upcoming wedding, including where it was to be held and whether they had chosen a time for the event. It worked. My friend was startled. She said that she didn't know — hadn't I received the invitation? When I said no, she immediately mailed another one to me! — A Happy Guest

Dear Happy Guest: I love your letter because it shows the importance of communication. We as humans make so many assumptions about what is going on in the other person's mind, and if we were just to ask them, a great deal would be cleared up.

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

© 2023 CREATORS.COM

My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



The moment we receive Christ, we receive the Holy Spirit

Q: I became a Christian a couple years ago but am troubled that I'm still drawn by the things I used to love doing. I know now that these things are bad because they lead me to act sinfully. Isn't Christ supposed to change people like me? — O.L.

A: The moment we receive Christ, we receive the Holy Spirit and are given a new nature that contends with our old nature. By the old birth we are children of the flesh; by the new birth we are children of God.

This is why Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be "born again" (John 3:3). After we receive

Christ as Savior, we may be confused sometimes because many old temptations have not disappeared. We still sin. Sometimes we lose our tempers. Pride and jealousy may still crop up from time to time. This is not only confusing, it is discouraging and sometimes leads to spiritual depression. We may even have some particular "besetting sin" that plagues us that we do not seem to be able to conquer. Whenever the old nature asserts itself, we may begin to doubt whether or not we are really saved.

Satan wants us to doubt our salvation to make us ineffective. We must grow in Christ by studying the Word of God. The more we

commune with God by reading His Word and spending time in prayer, the less we want of our old ways. The new nature begins to take over by the power of God's Word that speaks into our hearts and puts our minds on Him and sets our feet on the right path. We must let the Bible become central to life and set our minds on the things of God (see Galatians 6:8); for we cannot grow spiritually strong without His truth.

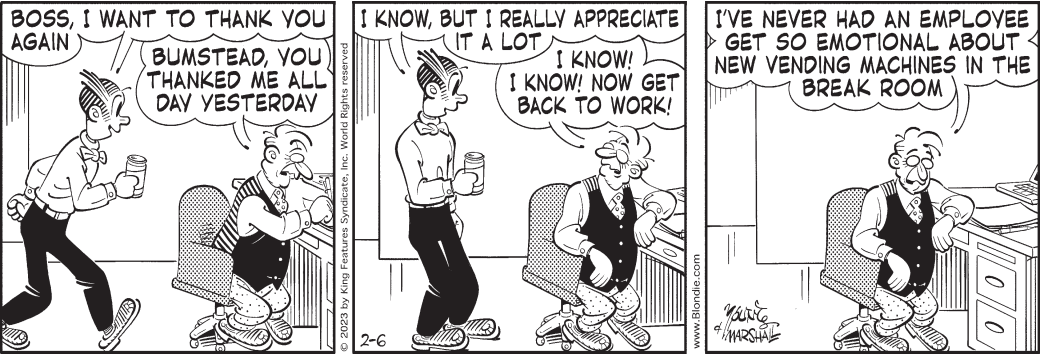
(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Graham.)

©2023 Billy Graham Literary Trust. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



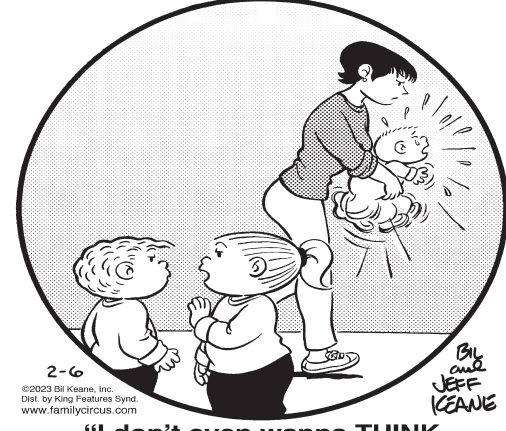
ZITS



CRANKSHAFT

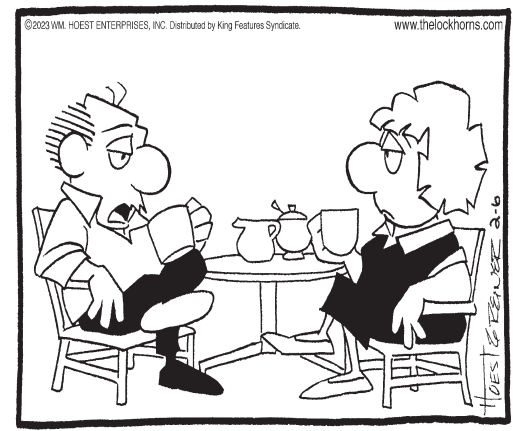


THE FAMILY CIRCUS



By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



02/06	M	A	D1	D2	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM	12:30	
WINM (12)	11	26	63		3D Woman	Julie & Friends	Unapologetic-J	Movie			TCT Today	News-wat	Prop. Com James		Dr. Robert	Creflo	Andrew	Ask the Pastor		Rabbi	
CBS WANE (15)	2	15	15		News (N)	Inside Edition (N)	News at 6 (N)	CBS News (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Neighbor	Bob Heart (N)	NCIS "Evil Eye" (N)		NCIS: Hawai'i	Nightcast (N)	(35) The Late Show	(35) Stephen Colbert	(35) James	(35) Cord	
Antenna WANE-2 (152)	106	20			Criminal Minds "Luke"	Criminal Minds "Twenty Seven"	FBI "Scorched Earth"	FBI "Invisible"	FBI "Apex"								FBI "Conflict of Interest"	FBI "What Lies Beneath"			
ABC WPTA (21)	4	3	21		ABC21 News at 5 (N)	ABC21 (N)	ABC World News (N)	ABC21 (N)	Ent. Tonight (N)	Bachelor	An eligible bachelor dates multiple women over several weeks in hopes of finding true love.		The Good Doctor "365 Degrees" (N)	ABC21 (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel Live!	(35) Nightline					
NBC WPTA-2 (212)	7	8	14		Pictionary	25 Words or Less	News (N)	NBC News (N)	Family Feud (N)	America's Talent Auditions continue as winners, finalists, favorites and viral sensations audition. (N)			Quantum Leap "Let the King of Queens" (N)	News (N)	(35) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon	(35) Seth Meyers					
MNT WPTA-3 (213)	10	9	56	34	King "No Orleans"	King "Willcox"	Modern Family	21Alive News at 6	Last Man Standing	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Parasites"	Law & Order: SVU "Manhunt"		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Mom	Mom	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs			
CV WISE (33)	8	4	33	33	The Steve Wilkos Show	Judge Lake	Judge Lake	Divorce Court	Divorce Court	All American "O.P.P."	All American "Dance With My Father"		The Liquidator	Chicago P.D. "Allegiance"	Family Guy	Family Guy	Bob's Burgers				
PBS WFWA (39)	13	5	39	39	Antiques Roadshow "Indianapolis Hour 2"	PBS NewsHour (N)		World News	Matters of Mind	Antiques "Santa Fe's Museum Hill, Hour 3" (N)	Antiques "Celebrating Black Americana"		Independent Lens "Outta the Muck" (N)	Amanpour and Company (N)	Amanpour and Company (N)	Antiques Roadshow					
PBS WIPB (45)	3				Antiques Roadshow "Indianapolis Hour 2"	BBC News	World News	PBS NewsHour (N)		Antiques "Santa Fe's Museum Hill, Hour 3" (N)	Antiques "Celebrating Black Americana"		Independent Lens "Outta the Muck" (N)	Amanpour and Company (N)	Amanpour and Company (N)	Antiques Roadshow					
FOX WFFT (55)	6	6	55	55	Neighbor	Neighbor	Young Sheldon	Young Sheldon	Big Bang	Big Bang	Fantasy Island (N)		Alert: Missing Persons Unit (N)	FOX 55 News First at 10 (N)	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	TMZ (N)	Extra (N)			
CABLE CHANNELS																					
LIFE	23	113	108	252	Castle "After the Storm"	Castle "Cloudy With a Chance of Murder"	Castle "Secret's Safe With Me"	Castle "Murder, He Wrote"	Castle "Probable Cause"	(105) Castle "The Final Frontier"	(105) Castle "Swan Song"	Castle "Murder, He Wrote"									
FX	24	132	136	148	(3:30) The Personal Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	
TVLAND	25	106	304		Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	
PARMT	30	241	241		Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	
ESPN	31	50	140	206	Around (N)	Pardon (N)	SportsCenter (L) (N)	College Basketball Duke at Miami From Watson Center in Coral Gables, Fla. (N)	College Basketball Duke at Miami From Watson Center in Coral Gables, Fla. (N)	College Basketball Duke at Miami From Watson Center in Coral Gables, Fla. (N)	College Basketball Duke at Miami From Watson Center in Coral Gables, Fla. (N)	College Basketball Duke at Miami From Watson Center in Coral Gables, Fla. (N)	College Basketball Duke at Miami From Watson Center in Coral Gables, Fla. (N)	College Basketball Duke at Miami From Watson Center in Coral Gables, Fla. (N)	College Basketball Duke at Miami From Watson Center in Coral Gables, Fla. (N)	College Basketball Duke at Miami From Watson Center in Coral Gables, Fla. (N)	College Basketball Duke at Miami From Watson Center in Coral Gables, Fla. (N)	College Basketball Duke at Miami From Watson Center in Coral Gables, Fla. (N)	College Basketball Duke at Miami From Watson Center in Coral Gables, Fla. (N)	College Basketball Duke at Miami From Watson Center in Coral Gables, Fla. (N)	
ESPN2	32	54	143	209	NFL Live	Wm. Basketball Virginia Tech at NC State (L) (N)	Tennis Classics 2022: Coco Gauff vs. Sloane Stephens	WWE Monday Night RAW The Superstars of the WWE square off in the ring (N)	WWE Monday Night RAW The Superstars of the WWE square off in the ring (N)	WWE Monday Night RAW The Superstars of the WWE square off in the ring (N)	WWE Monday Night RAW The Superstars of the WWE square off in the ring (N)	WWE Monday Night RAW The Superstars of the WWE square off in the ring (N)	WWE Monday Night RAW The Superstars of the WWE square off in the ring (N)	WWE Monday Night RAW The Superstars of the WWE square off in the ring (N)	WWE Monday Night RAW The Superstars of the WWE square off in the ring (N)	WWE Monday Night RAW The Superstars of the WWE square off in the ring (N)	WWE Monday Night RAW The Superstars of the WWE square off in the ring (N)	WWE Monday Night RAW The Superstars of the WWE square off in the ring (N)	WWE Monday Night RAW The Superstars of the WWE square off in the ring (N)	WWE Monday Night RAW The Superstars of the WWE square off in the ring (N)	
FSMW	33		418	671	Chicago Fire "An Officer With Grift"	Chicago Fire "The Missing Piece" (N)	Chicago Fire "The Missing Piece" (N)	Chicago Fire "The Missing Piece" (N)	Chicago Fire "The Missing Piece" (N)	Chicago Fire "The Missing Piece" (N)	Chicago Fire "The Missing Piece" (N)	Chicago Fire "The Missing Piece" (N)	Chicago Fire "The Missing Piece" (N)	Chicago Fire "The Missing Piece" (N)	Chicago Fire "The Missing Piece" (N)	Chicago Fire "The Missing Piece" (N)	Chicago Fire "The Missing Piece" (N)	Chicago Fire "The Missing Piece" (N)	Chicago Fire "The Missing Piece" (N)	Chicago Fire "The Missing Piece" (N)	
USA	34	133	105	242	Street Outlaws: Red Line "405 vs. Big Marc"	Street Outlaws: Red Line "405 vs. Big Marc"	Street Outlaws: Red Line "405 vs. Big Marc"	Street Outlaws: Red Line "405 vs. Big Marc"	Street Outlaws: Red Line "405 vs. Big Marc"	Street Outlaws: Red Line "405 vs. Big Marc"	Street Outlaws: Red Line "405 vs. Big Marc"	Street Outlaws: Red Line "405 vs. Big Marc"	Street Outlaws: Red Line "405 vs. Big Marc"	Street Outlaws: Red Line "405 vs. Big Marc"	Street Outlaws: Red Line "405 vs. Big Marc"	Street Outlaws: Red Line "405 vs. Big Marc"	Street Outlaws: Red Line "405 vs. Big Marc"	Street Outlaws: Red Line "405 vs. Big Marc"	Street Outlaws: Red Line "405 vs. Big Marc"	Street Outlaws: Red Line "405 vs. Big Marc"	
DISC	35	72	182	278	90 Days "90 Days"	90 Days "90 Days"	90 Days "90 Days"	90 Days "90 Days"	90 Days "90 Days"	90 Days "90 Days"	90 Days "90 Days"	90 Days "90 Days"	90 Days "90 Days"	90 Days "90 Days"	90 Days "90 Days"	90 Days "90 Days"	90 Days "90 Days"	90 Days "90 Days"	90 Days "90 Days"	90 Days "90 Days"	
HIST	36	77	120	269	Mysteries "The Death of Bruce Lee"	Mysteries "The Death of Bruce Lee"	Mysteries "The Death of Bruce Lee"	Mysteries "The Death of Bruce Lee"	Mysteries "The Death of Bruce Lee"	Mysteries "The Death of Bruce Lee"	Mysteries "The Death of Bruce Lee"	Mysteries "The Death of Bruce Lee"	Mysteries "The Death of Bruce Lee"	Mysteries "The Death of Bruce Lee"	Mysteries "The Death of Bruce Lee"	Mysteries "The Death of Bruce Lee"	Mysteries "The Death of Bruce Lee"	Mysteries "The Death of Bruce Lee"	Mysteries "The Death of Bruce Lee"	Mysteries "The Death of Bruce Lee"	
A&E	39	134	118	265	The First 48	"First 48" "Money Move"	"First 48" "Money Move"	"First 48" "Money Move"	"First 48" "Money Move"	"First 48" "Money Move"	"First 48" "Money Move"	"First 48" "Money Move"	"First 48" "Money Move"	"First 48" "Money Move"	"First 48" "Money Move"	"First 48" "Money Move"	"First 48" "Money Move"	"First 48" "Money Move"	"First 48" "Money Move"	"First 48" "Money Move"	
HALL	40	117	185	312	Mary Me in Yosemite (2022, Romance) Tyler Harlow, Wally Pfister, Cindy Busby.	Mary Me in Yosemite (2022, Romance) Tyler Harlow, Wally Pfister, Cindy Busby.	Mary Me in Yosemite (2022, Romance) Tyler Harlow, Wally Pfister, Cindy Busby.	Mary Me in Yosemite (2022, Romance) Tyler Harlow, Wally Pfister, Cindy Busby.	Mary Me in Yosemite (2022, Romance) Tyler Harlow, Wally Pfister, Cindy Busby.	Mary Me in Yosemite (2022, Romance) Tyler Harlow, Wally Pfister, Cindy Busby.	Mary Me in Yosemite (2022, Romance) Tyler Harlow, Wally Pfister, Cindy Busby.	Mary Me in Yosemite (2022, Romance) Tyler Harlow, Wally Pfister, Cindy Busby.	Mary Me in Yosemite (2022, Romance) Tyler Harlow, Wally Pfister, Cindy Busby.	Mary Me in Yosemite (2022, Romance) Tyler Harlow, Wally Pfister, Cindy Busby.	Mary Me in Yosemite (2022, Romance) Tyler Harlow, Wally Pfister, Cindy Busby.	Mary Me in Yosemite (2022, Romance) Tyler Harlow, Wally Pfister, Cindy Busby.	Mary Me in Yosemite (2022, Romance) Tyler Harlow, Wally Pfister, Cindy Busby.	Mary Me in Yosemite (2022, Romance) Tyler Harlow, Wally Pfister, Cindy Busby.	Mary Me in Yosemite (2022, Romance) Tyler Harlow, Wally Pfister, Cindy Busby.	Mary Me in Yosemite (2022, Romance) Tyler Harlow, Wally Pfister, Cindy Busby.	
SVFY	41	135	122	244	Transformers: The Last Knight (17, Act) Mark Wahlberg.	Transformers: The Last Knight (17, Act) Mark Wahlberg.	Transformers: The Last Knight (17, Act) Mark Wahlberg.	Transformers: The Last Knight (17, Act) Mark Wahlberg.	Transformers: The Last Knight (17, Act) Mark Wahlberg.	Transformers: The Last Knight (17, Act) Mark Wahlberg.	Transformers: The Last Knight (17, Act) Mark Wahlberg.	Transformers: The Last Knight (17, Act) Mark Wahlberg.	Transformers: The Last Knight (17, Act) Mark Wahlberg.	Transformers: The Last Knight (17, Act) Mark Wahlberg.	Transformers: The Last Knight (17, Act) Mark Wahlberg.	Transformers: The Last Knight (17, Act) Mark Wahlberg.	Transformers: The Last Knight (17, Act) Mark Wahlberg.	Transformers: The Last Knight (17, Act) Mark Wahlberg.	Transformers: The Last Knight (17, Act) Mark Wahlberg.	Transformers: The Last Knight (17, Act) Mark Wahlberg.	
TBS	43	130	139	247	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	
TNT	44	131	138	245	Justice League (2017, Action) Henry Cavill, Gal Gadot.	Justice League (2017, Action) Henry Cavill, Gal Gadot.	Justice League (2017, Action) Henry Cavill, Gal Gadot.	Justice League (2017, Action) Henry Cavill, Gal Gadot.	Justice League (2017, Action) Henry Cavill, Gal Gadot.	Justice League (2017, Action) Henry Cavill, Gal Gadot.	Justice League (2017, Action) Henry Cavill, Gal Gadot.	Justice League (2017, Action) Henry Cavill, Gal Gadot.	Justice League (2017, Action) Henry Cavill, Gal Gadot.	Justice League (2017, Action) Henry Cavill, Gal Gadot.	Justice League (2017, Action) Henry Cavill, Gal Gadot.	Justice League (2017, Action) Henry Cavill, Gal Gadot.	Justice League (2017, Action) Henry Cavill, Gal Gadot.	Justice League (2017, Action) Henry Cavill, Gal Gadot.	Justice League (2017, Action) Henry Cavill, Gal Gadot.	Justice League (2017, Action) Henry Cavill, Gal Gadot.	
AMC	45		131	254	Sixteen Candles Molly Ringwald.	Sixteen Candles Molly Ringwald.	Sixteen Candles Molly Ringwald.	Sixteen Candles Molly Ringwald.	Sixteen Candles Molly Ringwald.	Sixteen Candles Molly Ringwald.	Sixteen Candles Molly Ringwald.	Sixteen Candles Molly Ringwald.	Sixteen Candles Molly Ringwald.	Sixteen Candles Molly Ringwald.	Sixteen Candles Molly Ringwald.	Sixteen Candles Molly Ringwald.	Sixteen Candles Molly Ringwald.	Sixteen Candles Molly Ringwald.	Sixteen Candles Molly Ringwald.	Sixteen Candles Molly Ringwald.	
COM	47		107	249	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	
WGN	48	64	150	219	Rush Hour (L) (N)	Rush Hour (L) (N)	Rush Hour (L) (N)	Rush Hour (L) (N)	Rush Hour (L) (N)	Rush Hour (L) (N)	Rush Hour (L) (N)	Rush Hour (L) (N)	Rush Hour (L) (N)	Rush Hour (L) (N)	Rush Hour (L) (N)	Rush Hour (L) (N)	Rush Hour (L) (N)	Rush Hour (L) (N)	Rush Hour (L) (N)	Rush Hour (L) (N)	
FS1	53		307	219	On Balance (N)	On Balance (N)	On Balance (N)	On Balance (N)	On Balance (N)	On Balance (N)	On Balance (N)	On Balance (N)	On Balance (N)	On Balance (N)	On Balance (N)	On Balance (N)	On Balance (N)	On Balance (N)	On Balance (N)	On Balance (N)	
FOOD	57		128	260	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	
WEE	59	153	110	231	Kids Baking	Kids Baking	Kids Baking	Kids Baking	Kids Baking	Kids Baking	Kids Baking	Kids Baking	Kids Baking	Kids Baking	Kids Baking	Kids Baking	Kids Baking	Kids Baking	Kids Baking	Kids Baking	
BRAVO	60	140	129	237	Below Deck	Below Deck	Below Deck	Below Deck	Below Deck	Below Deck	Below Deck	Below Deck	Below Deck	Below Deck	Below Deck	Below Deck	Below Deck	Below Deck	Below Deck	Below Deck	
NICK	68	170	299	140	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	
DISH	69	30	172	290	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	
FREEFORM	70	32	180	311	Sweet Home Alabama (2002, Romance) Josh Lucas.	Sweet Home Alabama (2002, Romance) Josh Lucas.	Sweet Home Alabama (2002, Romance) Josh Lucas.	Sweet Home Alabama (2002, Romance) Josh Lucas.	Sweet Home Alabama (2002, Romance) Josh Lucas.	Sweet Home Alabama (2002, Romance) Josh Lucas.	Sweet Home Alabama (2002, Romance) Josh Lucas.	Sweet Home Alabama (2002, Romance) Josh Lucas.	Sweet Home Alabama (2002, Romance) Josh Lucas.	Sweet Home Alabama (2002, Romance) Josh Lucas.	Sweet Home Alabama (2002, Romance) Josh Lucas.	Sweet Home Alabama (2002, Romance) Josh Lucas.	Sweet Home Alabama (2002, Romance) Josh Lucas.	Sweet Home Alabama (2002, Romance) Josh Lucas.	Sweet Home Alabama (2002, Romance) Josh Lucas.	Sweet Home Alabama (2002, Romance) Josh Lucas.	
HBO	301		300	501	The Last of Us	The Last of Us	The Last of Us	The Last of Us	The Last of Us	The Last of Us	The Last of Us	The Last of Us	The Last of Us	The Last of Us	The Last of Us	The Last of Us	The Last of Us	The Last of Us	The Last of Us	The Last of Us	
MAX	325		310	515	The Break-Up (2006, Romance) Jennifer Aniston, Joey Lauren Adams, Vince Vaughn.	The Break-Up (2006, Romance) Jennifer Aniston, Joey Lauren Adams, Vince Vaughn.	The Break-Up (2006, Romance) Jennifer Aniston, Joey Lauren Adams, Vince Vaughn.	The Break-Up (2006, Romance) Jennifer Aniston, Joey Lauren Adams, Vince Vaughn.	The Break-Up (2006, Romance) Jennifer Aniston, Joey Lauren Adams, Vince Vaughn.	The Break-Up (2006, Romance) Jennifer Aniston, Joey Lauren Adams, Vince Vaughn.	The Break-Up (2006, Romance) Jennifer Aniston, Joey Lauren Adams, Vince Vaughn.	The Break-Up (2006, Romance) Jennifer Aniston, Joey Lauren Adams, Vince Vaughn.	The Break-Up (2006, Romance) Jennifer Aniston, Joey Lauren Adams, Vince Vaughn.	The Break-Up (2006, Romance) Jennifer Aniston, Joey Lauren Adams, Vince Vaughn.	The Break-Up (2006, Romance) Jennifer Aniston, Joey Lauren Adams, Vince Vaughn.	The Break-Up (2006, Romance) Jennifer Aniston, Joey Lauren Adams, Vince Vaughn.	The Break-Up (2006, Romance) Jennifer Aniston, Joey Lauren Adams, Vince Vaughn.	The Break-Up (2006, Romance) Jennifer Aniston, Joey Lauren Adams, Vince Vaughn.	The Break-Up (2006, Romance) Jennifer Aniston, Joey Lauren Adams, Vince Vaughn.	The Break-Up (2006, Romance) Jennifer Aniston, Joey Lauren Adams, Vince Vaughn.	
SHOW	351	851	318	545	The Italian Job (2003, Thriller) Charlize Theron, Edward Norton, Mark Wahlberg.	The Italian Job (2003, Thriller) Charlize Theron, Edward Norton, Mark Wahlberg.	The Italian Job (2003, Thriller) Charlize Theron, Edward														

The Classifieds

Place Your Ad 24/7: GO TO www.news-banner.com AND CLICK ON "Classifieds"

OR CALL 824-0224 MON-FRI 8-5 • TOLLFREE 800-579-7476 • FAX 824-0700 WE ACCEPT



SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★ 2-6

© 2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Help Wanted

BLUFFTON PARKS DEPARTMENT is taking applications for Pool Personnel and Lifeguards, Park Maintenance and Summer Recreation. Applicant must be 15 by May 1st, 2023. Applications can be picked up at the Clerk-Treasurer's Office or online at: www.blufftonindiana.net. Applications are due by 4:30 P.M. on February 22.

THE CITY OF Bluffton has an opening for 911 Emergency Services Dispatcher. Applicants must show proof of a high school diploma/GED and may be asked to work flexible shifts. Applications and a job description may be obtained in the Clerk Treasurer's Office, 128 E. Market St. between 8 am and 4:30 pm Mon-Fri or at www.blufftonindiana.net. The written skill test will be every other Wednesday at 6:00 pm at the Bluffton Police Department, 204 E. Market St. Bluffton, IN.

Help Wanted

PHYSICIAN'S OFFICE IS looking for a Full-time or Part-time RN or LPN in the Adams, Wells, and Jay county areas to join our family oriented workplace. If you like the one on one care of patients in a relaxed atmosphere this is the place for you. This position is flexible, Monday - Friday, no weekends or Holidays. We love what we do and are looking for someone who shares our passion. Send resume to: Resume, P.O. Box 44, Berne, IN 46711

SOUTHERN WELLS COMMUNITY Schools are seeking a full time second shift custodian. Contract Ryan King at rking@swraiders.com or 765-728-5537

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!
twitter.com/newsbanner

VEHICLES

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.

SERVICES

Services

MARV'S CONSTRUCTION Room additions, fix old saggy floors, all types remodeling. Redo bathrooms, old foundation repairs. Marv Schwartz: 260-525-8877.

THINKING ABOUT INSTALLING a new shower? American Standard makes it easy. FREE design consultation. Enjoy your shower again! Call 1-855-475-0534 today to see how you can save \$1,000 on installation, or visit www.newshowerdeal.com/hoosier (I)

FOR SALE

Wanted to Buy

WANTED TO BUY silver and also wanted to buy guns. Call M. Schwartz, 260-525-8877.

SELL YOUR STUFF!

All Classified Line Ads automatically appear on the News-Banner website at NO ADDITIONAL CHARGE!

HOT DEAL!

20 Words, 10 Days
just **\$25**
ADD A PHOTO
for just \$5 more
One item per ad

GUARANTEED SOLD

Your ad runs 'til your item is sold! (6-month maximum) Private party only, one-item in ad. Limited to "For Sale" and "Automotive" categories (Real Estate excluded)

20 words **\$39**
Add'l Lines: 88 cents each
ADD A PHOTO!

Your "Guaranteed Sold" ad (up to 20 words) with a Photo: \$44
Add'l Lines, 88 cents each

GARAGE SALES

Put your Garage Sale in Wells County's Easy-to-Use Garage Sale Guide!

Get a **FREE GARAGE SALE KIT** when you place your Garage Sale ad in The News-Banner for 3 days or more.

SELL YOUR WHEELS!

HOT DEAL!

20 Words, 10 Days
just **\$25**
ADD A PHOTO
for just \$5 more
One item per ad

GUARANTEED SOLD

Your ad runs 'til your item is sold! (6-month maximum). Limited to one-item, private party only.

20 words **\$39**
Add'l Lines: 88 cents each
ADD A PHOTO!

Your "Guaranteed Sold" ad (up to 20 words) with a Photo: \$44
Add'l Lines, 88 cents each

SERVICES SPECIAL!

Advertise Your Services EVERY DAY in Wells County's Most Popular Daily Marketplace!
20 Words,
2-Month Special: **\$97**

ATTENTION GRABBERS!

Add a photo or artwork to any ad! You can also add a headline or other attention-getters for less than you'd expect! Place your ad ON-LINE and explore the possibilities!

RENTALS

Office Space Rental

GREAT LOCATION
MAKE YOUR AD STAND OUT! Add a graphic or photo for an extra \$5 and draw extra attention to your line classified ad. Contact the Bluffton News-Banner office at 824-0224, 125 N. Johnson St., or online at www.news-banner.com and click on classifieds.

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

CLASS A CDL truck driver. Full & part time positions available. Home every night. Hauling ag products; grain, feed ingredients, and fertilizer. Saturday work in fall. Call or text Derek at (260) 820-0121. If no answer, please leave message.

Lottery Numbers

Saturday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY

Cash 5 — 07-11-29-30-43
Cash4Life — 15-37-44-49-54, Cash Ball: 03
Lotto Plus — 05-09-14-17-32-37
Quick Draw Midday — 08-09-15-17-23-28-36-40-42-44-47-54-55-58-60-61-63-71-73, BE: 63
Daily Three-Midday — 07-03-02, SB: 03
Daily Three-Evening — 06-03-08, SB: 01
Daily Four-Midday — 04-04-07-05, SB: 03
Daily Four-Evening — 00-03-08-07, SB: 1
Quick Draw Evening — 03-09-15-20-23-36-42-45-51-52-54-58-59-62-66-74-76-77-79-80, BE: 23
Hoosier Lotto — 02-10-16-24-35-38
POWERBALL
02-08-15-19-58; Powerball:10; Power Play: 2X

Sunday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY

Cash 5 — 04-16-25-38-43
Cash4Life — 18-20-34-36-44, Cash Ball: 02
Quick Draw Midday — 14-15-18-19-21-24-31-40-43-46-53-54-58-59-61-66-73-74-78-79, BE: 46
Daily Three-Midday — 02-09-00, SB: 03
Daily Three-Evening — 03-05-01, SB: 06
Daily Four-Midday — 01-08-07-02, SB: 03
Daily Four-Evening — 05-08-08-09, SB: 06
Quick Draw Evening — 03-04-07-08-14-21-31-33-39-40-47-49-54-57-59-68-70-71-72-73, BE: 33
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$9.5 million

MEGA MILLIONS

Estimated jackpot (for Tuesday): \$31 million
POWERBALL

Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$747 million

Public Sale Calendar

FEBRUARY 13 - 10 a.m. - Jim & Rosie Hill, sellers. 3282 N 300 W, Decatur. Machine & farm equipment. JD tractors, loader, 3010 gas FN 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.

BIDDING OPENS SOON AND CLOSES FEBRUARY 19 STARTING AT 2 P.M. EST - Michael Kolter, estate-owner. Large collection of Currier & Ives, and framed prints, 100+ pieces of ornate antique/vintage furniture, mantels, marble floor lamps, oak flying cabinets, dressers, secretary cabinets, buffets, wash stands, marble top tables, 100's of pieces of large wood planes & more! Preview Feb. 16, 3-5 p.m. or by appointment, 815 Adams Street, Decatur. Pick up Feb. 20, 1-5 p.m., Feb. 21, 9 a.m.-noon. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.

BIDDING NOW OPEN AND STARTS CLOSING FEBRUARY 26 STARTING AT 2 P.M. EST - Michael Kolter, estate-owner. Lifetime collector online only auction! 1,000+ lots antique/vintage items including 500+/- bottle collection, cast iron banks, post card collec-

tion, Decatur, IN memorabilia, tools & 100's of wood planes, various sizes, & much, much more! Preview Feb. 16, 3-5 p.m. or by appointment, 815 Adams Street, Decatur. Pickup Feb. 27, 1-5 p.m. & Feb. 28, 9 a.m.-noon. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.

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.

SUDOKU ANSWER

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

February GOODS & SERVICES DIRECTORY

Come See Us for Your CBD Oil Needs
R Warren Pharmacy
(260)375-2135
Nature's Sunshine Distributor
222 N. Wayne St., Warren • 1-800-895-7035
Terry Daniels, Pharmacist • Melinda Daniels, RN

STOR-N-GO STORAGE UNITS
2740 E. 200 N. • Bluffton, IN • 260.273.8345
with Security Cameras

Jerry Flack & Associates
Jerry Flack & Julie Myers
Retirement Advisors
A Senior Citizen Answers Our Phone!
OFFICE 260-824-1618 • Corner of Main & Market • Bluffton, IN

ASSISTING IN:
• FREE Medicare Supplement Comparison
• Life Planning
• Safe Money Ideas
• Dental - Vision - Hearing

Need Cash?
We Buy Cars & Trucks
Any Condition
CALL: 260-403-4646

A-1 U-Stor
Safe & Secure Self Storage
824-1846
• Safety Lighting • Clean Units
• 24 Hr. Access
• Video Cameras
www.a1-ustor.com
After hours & Saturdays
Call 273-9678 or 824-4782
In Monroe at corner of U.S. 27 and S.R. 124
Office at 1180 N. Main, Bluffton

As a resident of the Wells County community for decades, Attorney, Gerret J. Swearingen, has devoted his legal practice to assisting clients in preserving the family assets from the high cost of Nursing Home and In-Home Healthcare.

As your guide through the "Medicaid Planning" process, Swearingen Elder Law will provide the right path to both protect your life savings and receive the quality of care we all deserve.

SWEARINGEN ELDER LAW
• Medicaid Planning
• Durable Power of Attorney
• Estate Planning & Deeds
• Special Needs Trusts
• Long Term Care Planning
• In-Home Healthcare Planning
• Wills, Living Wills, & Advance Healthcare Directives

(260) 888-9256
FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION!

Sure-Flo Seamless Gutters
5" & 6" Continuous Gutters
Leaf Protection Systems
Large Color Selection - FREE Estimates
260-888-5062
www.seamlessgutter.net

INDIANA FARM BUREAU INSURANCE
YOUR LOCAL AGENTS
Bluffton Office: (260) 824-2234
1307 Baker Place • Bluffton, IN
Mike Lampton • Matt Schweikhardt • Michael Towne

AMISH CREW
will do roofing, siding, remodeling, pole barns. Specializing in redoing old barns. Free estimates. Call 260-438-2508

JC'S GARAGE DOOR SALES & SERVICE
All makes & models • broken springs & cables
Owner: James Fisher • Sales: Carl Fisher
"50 Years of Combined Experience"
Call us at **824-3262**

Ag Panel and Standing Seam SWISS METALS LLC
Complete Line of Sliding Door/Accessories
Roofing Accessories • Roof Boot
Outside Closures • Flovent • EM Seal
Clear Skylight • Clear Ridge
MANUFACTURER OF METAL ROOFING, SIDING & TRIM
260-251-4366
7877 S. US HW 27, Berne IN 46711

HIDEAWAY BEER BOURBON
THURSDAY - Dollar Off Drinks (Excludes Pop)
WEDNESDAY - KARAOKE
FRI. & SAT. - Live Music
Follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/hideawaybeerbourbon) for our Events.
123 S JOHNSON ST. • 824-0455

Minnich's LAWN CARE
Tree Removal
Lawn Care
& More
Fully Insured
Call for an Estimate
260-827-7524

COUNTRY PLACE Apartments
408 Countryside Drive, Ossian
• 1 & 2 Bedrooms
• Laundry Facilities On-Site
• All Ground-level
• Private Entrances
• Equipped Kitchen
260 622-6429
Virtual Tours Offered
TDD: 7-1-1
OssianApartments.com

AMISH CONSTRUCTION
We specialize in your Home Remodel or New Homes
• Kitchen Cabinets
• Bathroom
• Vanities
• Metal Roofs
• Shingle Roofs
• Siding
Free Estimate
1-260-307-6355
Call or Text

Primary Contracting, LLC 260-223-4276 Free Estimates
Decks • Garages • Pole Barns • Siding • Remodeling
Metal and Shingle Roofing • Storm Damage • Trim Wood Working and more!
Owner - Edwin Wickey **COMPETITIVE RATES!**

Zap Electric, Inc.
260-824-2927
Commercial-Industrial-Residential
24 Hr. Emergency Service
Charles Miller-Electician
12333 W. Cherry St., Bluffton **FREE Estimates**

For as little as ... **\$123** PER ISSUE
YOUR BUSINESS IN THE NEWS-BANNER Every Day!
Call 824-0224 or 622-4108
Mar. deadline is Tues., Feb. 21!

Rosswurm's late three lifts Knights win sectional title

By RICK SPRUNGER

They'll be talking about this one for years.

Norwell slipped past Northwestern, 55-54, in the championship game of the Class 3A Sectional 23 girls' basketball tournament Saturday night at The Castle.

Northwestern had five — count 'em five — wide-open shots at the basket from eight feet or closer in the final 0:21, at least two of them virtually uncontested, and missed all five of them.

Norwell (21-3) will move on to the regional and a date with Hamilton Heights, now 17-5, after its equally pulse-pounding 42-41 win over Yorktown.

Northwestern, which had played in Class 4A for the last three years and reached the state championship game in that division in 2020, bowed out at 17-5.

This game was not for the faint of heart.

A red-eyed Northwestern coach Kathie Layden, grieving not only for her team but also for her own daughter, 6-2 senior All-State candidate and Purdue recruit McKenna Layden, who scored 21 points but missed three of those shots at the end, nonetheless composed herself to meet the media and was gracious in defeat.

Although choosing to speak mostly in generalities, she went out of her way to tip her hat to the Norwell defense.

"We like to play out of sets," she explained, "but Norwell plays a trapping defense that got us out of our offense."

It was a game that saw four ties and 10 lead changes, including five of the

latter in the fourth quarter alone.

But all anyone is going to remember about this game is those final 21 seconds.

At the 0:27 mark when Northwestern's, Anna Bishir, missed two free throws with her team trailing by that 55-54 score.

Haley Green grabbed the rebound and was immediately triple-teamed by Layden, Lexi Hale, and Bishir.

Layden ripped the ball out of her arms, turned around, and deposited it into the basket.

But an official came flying in from center court frantically blowing his whistle and waving it off. He gave Norwell a timeout.

No basket. Norwell ball with 0:24 remaining.

Northwestern fans went ballistic.

"The timeout was definitely called before," recounted Norwell coach Eric Thornton in the center of the floor while his girls happily cut down the nets. "He (the official) was standing right in front of me (during the free throws) and told me that if I needed a timeout, he would be listening for me in all that noise and that I should just holler."

But it was his last timeout, a situation that came into play later.

A halfcourt inbounds pass to Kennedy Fuelling found the junior guard in immediate jeopardy.

She was tied up with 21 ticks left, and the ball went back to Northwestern.

The Tigers wasted no time in getting the ball to Bailey Henry in the post.

Layden beat her defender

on a baseline move to the basket, took the pass, went up for an easy bunny on the right side — and missed.

Vanessa Rosswurm cleared the rebound and was immediately tied up.

This time the arrow favored Norwell with 0:15 to play.

But the Knights couldn't get it inbounds and didn't have a timeout to spend.

"I don't regret when we called our timeouts, but we sure needed one there," commented Thornton later.

The five-second call gave the ball right back to the Tigers under their basket.

The pass came into Hale, who put up an open eight-footer in the lane — and missed.

She grabbed her own rebound but had it knocked out of her hands by Green.

Players dove on the floor and fought for that ball.

Finally, another held ball was called — favoring Northwestern — with 0:10 remaining.

This time, Hale sprung around a pick and took the inbounds pass for an easy wide-open bunny on the left side — and missed.

Another held ball on the rebound went Norwell's way at 0:04.9.

This time Norwell got the ball into Fuelling in the corner.

Fuelling went down in a heap and was whistled for traveling.

There was unrestrained joy from the purple people while Thornton was searching for an explanation.

"We had a set play, but we had two players (mistakenly) cut in the same direction," said a relieved Thorn-



Vanessa Rosswurm spots up and knocks down a three-point shot in the first quarter against Northwestern Saturday night at The Castle. (Photo by Glen Werling)

ton later. "We thought she got pushed, but the official told us that our two players ran into each other, and that's a travel."

Unbelievably, Northwestern had yet another chance with 0:03.2 left.

Layden took the inbounds pass eight feet out in the lane.

But she had to reach over a perfectly positioned Makenzie Fuess, and her shot was off-balance.

She followed her shot and got a controlled tip-up

on the rim.

But it fell off, the buzzer sounded, and pandemonium broke loose.

Heroes were aplenty for Norwell.

Start with Vanessa Rosswurm.

A freshman non-starter, Rosswurm scored nine points, grabbed a game-high eight rebounds, and handed out a couple of assists.

But she saved the best for last, canning not only the two biggest shots of her young career but arguably

the biggest two of Norwell's season until now.

With the Knights trailing 52-50 and seemingly hanging on by a fingernail, Rosswurm delivered a 15-footer from the right elbow that gave the Knights a tie with 2:16 left.

Then, trailing 54-52, the 5-9 freshman — keyword freshman — stepped up and drilled the three-pointer that provided her team with the winning points with 0:40 remaining.

(Continued on Page 9)

6 Wells County wrestlers advance to semi-state

By PAUL BEITLER

PORTLAND — A total of 14 Wells County high school wrestlers entered the IHSA Wrestling Regional at Jay County High School on Saturday, but only three wrestlers each from Bluffton and Norwell punched a ticket into the semi-state next Saturday at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne.

However, it was a big day for Bluffton sophomore Levi Johns, who defeated Jay County senior Daniel Moore 9-0 in the championship finals. Johns jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the first period and scored five more points in the second period with a takedown and three near fall points.

Johns, now 36-2, will try to repeat as a state meet qualifier after making it to Indianapolis in 2022. His father, Brady, a Bluffton graduate, was a state qualifier in 1996.

"It was a big win for him because the weekend before he lost to (Moore)," said Bluffton head coach Ben Sprunger. "Just going into semi-state with some confidence again is a big deal. He did what he was supposed to do. He rallied and did everything we asked him to do. He worked on a couple things this week and corrected some mistakes and did exactly what we planned to do. It was a big deal that he came back and got some revenge."

Bluffton junior Juan "Johnny" Cruz (36-2), who lost in the heavyweight championship finals by a fall in overtime to Muncie Central's undefeated senior Titus Waters (43-0), also has a shot now of returning to the state finals by placing in the top four at semi-state. Cruz and Waters wrestled to a 1-1 draw in the final match, but Waters scored a takedown in the first one-minute overtime session to win 3-1.

"Johnny did everything we worked on in the practice room," noted Sprunger. "We stopped shots. We minimized damage. He wrestled great. He just got caught at



Levi Johns for Bluffton reacts after winning the 113-pound weight class over Jay County's Daniel Moore at Saturday's wrestling regional at Jay County. (Photo by Glen Werling)



Norwell's Hunter Douglas defeated Quinton Keen of Winchester for a third place finish at Saturday's wrestling regional at Jay County. Douglas advances to the Fort Wayne Semi State at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum Saturday. (Photo by Glen Werling)

the end in overtime, but it was a really good match and I'm really proud of him.

"The nice thing is that we know what we need to work on, and I think we catch (Waters) at semi-state," added Sprunger. "I think (Johnny's) the semi-state champ. He's the guy to beat. I think Waters escaped with a win, but I don't think he will get lucky next week."

Senior teammate Levi Kahn (32-7) placed fourth in the 170-pound weight class.

"It was good for Levi Kahn. He's a senior, and he gets another week," said Sprunger. "I would have loved

to see him get third, but he's moving on, and I've seen a lot of people win out as a fourth-place and come back and go to state. That's our goal for him. He's come out and wrestled really hard as a senior, since last year he didn't make it out of sectional."

For the Norwell Knights, freshman Hunter Douglas (30-3) placed third in the 106-pound class. Senior Stuart McCabe (16-10) finished fourth at 182, while senior Tyler Luther (29-12) was fourth at 195.

"You always want to do better than what you do," said Norwell head coach

John Johnson about the fact that three senior wrestlers did not make it out of regional. "We had some shortfalls, but I've been with these boys (heavyweight Hudson Kahn, Connor Dreiband (132) and 160-pounder Max Walker) since sixth grade, and I'm proud of their careers and how they ended it. It just comes down to some grind matches, and we were on the short end of the stick. We got three through, and I wanted five, but at the end of the day it is what it is."

Although the trio of Knights, who advanced,



In the final match of the day Saturday at Jay County, Bluffton's Juan "Johnny" Cruz took Muncie Central's undefeated Titus Waters into overtime in the 285-pound category before finishing second. (Photo by Glen Werling)

did not place high Saturday, Johnson hopes that his boys will get a good draw for semi-state.

In the semi-state, Johns will face a fourth-place regional finalist in his first match at 8 a.m. Johns must win his first two matches to assure a trip to state at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

At semi-state, wrestlers must win their first two matches to reach the semifinals and one of the top-four places in each weight class, punching their ticket to Indy.

In the first round at regional, Johns eliminated Winchester's Isaiah Spurlin by a 16-1 technical fall. In the semifinals, Johns defeated Delta's Kaid Jackson 8-4 to reach the championship match.

Cruz opened his morning workout with a fall over Yorktown's Isaiah Hopkins in 1:20. In the semifinals, he pinned Delta's Isaac Moss in 1:03.

Kahn started out his day with a first-round fall in 4:34 over Monroe Central's Jeremiah Ullom.

Douglas began his morning with a 10-1 victory over Daigan Barbosa of Cowan. In the semifinals, he suffered a hard-fought 2-0 loss

to Yorktown senior Joey Cline, who was the regional runner-up.

McCabe was a 9-7 winner against Daleville's Chris Walters in the first round, while Luther pinned Monroe Central's Kolten Tinsman in 1:24 to reach the semifinals and advance to semi-state.

In the team scoring, Jay County was regional team champion with 141 points, advancing eight wrestlers, including three champions.

Delta was second with 116, Belmont third with 91.5, Adams Central fourth with 81, Yorktown fifth with 72, Cowan sixth with 66.

Bluffton was seventh with 46.5, followed by Muncie Central with 35 and South Adams with 33. Norwell was 10th with 24.

Daleville was 11th with 23, Blackford 12th with 13 and Winchester 13th with 12. Union City and Wes-Del each had eight.

Bellmont advanced five wrestlers, including four champs. Adams Central got six out and South Adams two.

Southern Wells' Peyton Long, a heavyweight contender, lost in the first round and therefore did not advance.

sports@news-banner.com

News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

High School

Saturday Girls' Scores

Sectional Semifinal Class 4A

32. Mt. Vernon (Posey)
 Evansville Memorial 62, Evansville
 Bosse 27
 Gibson Southern 59, Evansville Mater
 Dei 54

Sectional Championship Class 4A

1. Lake Central
 Lake Central 58, Hammond Central 21
 2. Lowell
 Valparaiso 47, Portage 33
 3. Plymouth
 S. Bend Washington 65, Plymouth 30
 4. Concord
 Northridge 56, Elkhart 53
 5. DeKalb
 Ft. Wayne Snider 58, Carroll (Ft. Wayne) 52
 6. Huntington North
 Homestead 59, Huntington North 44
 7. Lafayette Jeff
 Lafayette Harrison 46, Logansport 29
 8. Noblesville
 Fishers 58, Hamilton Southeastern 43
 9. Mt. Vernon (Fortville)
 Mt. Vernon (Fortville) 50, New Palestine 36
 10. Lawrence Central
 Lawrence North 70, Warren Central 57
 11. Southport
 Indpls Ben Davis 44, Franklin Central 32
 12. Terre Haute South
 Brownsburg 55, Avon 47
 13. Bloomington South
 Center Grove 42, Mooresville 25
 14. Shelbyville
 Franklin 48, Shelbyville 29
 15. Bedford N. Lawrence
 Bedford N. Lawrence 62, Silver Creek 25

Class 3A

17. Griffith
 Highland 43, Hanover Central 34
 18. Bremen
 Tippecanoe Valley 44, Glenn 38
 19. Mishawaka Marian
 Mishawaka Marian 71, S. Bend St. Joseph's 31
 20. Fairfield
 Fairfield 71, Lakeland 31
 21. Ft. Wayne Concordia
 Garrett 50, Woodlan 49
 22. Benton Central
 Twin Lakes 56, Benton Central 32
 23. Norwell
 Norwell 55, Northwestern 54
 24. Hamilton Heights
 Hamilton Hts. 41, Yorktown 40
 25. Lebanon
 Cascade 54, Danville 39
 26. Owen Valley
 Indian Creek 61, Northview 39
 27. Indpls Brebeuf
 Indpls Chatared 61, Heritage Christian 57, 20T
 28. Speedway
 Purdue Polytechnic Englewood 72, Indpls Ritter 40
 29. Rushville
 Rushville 57, Lawrenceburg 48
 30. Corydon
 Corydon 63, Scottsburg 54
 31. Princeton
 Princeton 50, Southridge 45

Class 2A

33. Andean
 Andean 77, N. Newton 21
 34. N. Judson
 S. Central (Union Mills) 52, LaVille 40
 35. Central Noble
 Central Noble 44, Westview 28
 36. Cass
 N. Miami 46, Pioneer 44
 37. Bluffton
 Ft. Wayne Luers 68, Adams Central 33

38. Lafayette Catholic
 Lafayette Catholic 52, Carroll (Flora) 44
 39. Blackford
 Eastbrook 36, Tipton 30
 40. Wapahani
 Lapel 52, Winchester 47
 41. Hagerstown
 Union Co. 39, Shenandoah 24
 42. Triton Central
 Eastern Hancock 68, Indpls Scecina 32
 43. University
 University 68, Indpls Park Tudor 29
 44. Greencastle
 Greencastle 54, Parke Heritage 32
 45. Switzerland Co.
 S. Ripley 42, Hauser 31
 46. Austin
 Brownstown 42, Austin 32
 47. Eastern (Greene)
 N. Knox 29, Paoli 24
 48. Forest Park
 Forest Park 47, S. Spencer 23
Class 1A
 49. Kouts
 Washington Twp. 51, Kouts 49
 50. Culver
 Argos 53, Triton 49, OT
 51. Ft. Wayne Blackhawk
 Lakewood Park 56, Bethany Christian 37
 52. Tri-County
 Tri-County 42, N. White 31
 53. Southern Wells
 Southwood 59, Lakeland Christian 39
 54. Attica
 Rossville 42, Faith Christian 40
 55. Tri-Central
 Tri-Central 55, Cowan 20
 56. Randolph Southern
 Tri 42, Blue River 20
 57. Bloomfield
 Bloomfield 53, N. Central (Farmersburg) 46
 58. Bethesda Christian
 Bethesda Christian 61, Indiana Math and Science Academy 20
 59. Eminence
 Eminence 48, Greenwood Christian 39
 60. Southwestern (Shelby)
 Jac-Cen-Del 43, S. Decatur 34
 61. Borden
 Lanesville 58, Borden 27
 62. Rising Sun
 Trinity Lutheran 65, Rising Sun 46
 63. Springs Valley
 Springs Valley 41, Barr-Reeve 40
 64. Tecumseh
 Wood Memorial 44, Tecumseh 42
Saturday Boys' Scores
 Adams Central 54, Leo 44
 Austin 70, Trinity Lutheran 45
 Batesville 72, Madison 47
 Bedford N. Lawrence 79, Evansville Memorial 60
 Bloomington Lighthouse 71, Phalen 38
 Bloomington South 53, Mitchell 34
 Borden 67, Springs Valley 51
 Bremen 42, Oregon-Davies 32
 Cambridge City 43, Muncie Burris 42
 Center Grove 58, Floyd Central 48
 Centerville 60, Morrisown 21
 Chesterton 71, Warsaw 56
 Christian Academy 64, Evansville Christian 59
 Clinton Central 70, Western Boone 59
 Columbus North 55, E. Central 29
 Connerville 54, N. Daviess 36
 Covenant Christian 50, Putnam 35
 Crawfordsville 61, Riverton Parke 45
 Crothersville 80, Columbus Christian 65
 Daleville 67, Seton Catholic 51
 Daviess Co., Ky. 65, Ev. Day 60
 Decatur Central 67, Southport 60
 Delta 57, Mississinewa 34
 Dubois 64, N. Knox 26
 E. Chicago Central 69, Highland 36
 Eastern Hancock 64, Cowan 38
 Edinburg 69, Franklin Co. 59
 Evansville Harrison 75, Evansville Central 60
 Evansville Mater Dei 62, Crawford

Co. 26
 Evansville Reitz 58, Vincennes (South Knox)—50
 Fountain Central 74, S. Newton 35
 Fremont 47, Ft. Wayne Canterbury 45
 Ft. Wayne Snider 93, E. Noble 76
 Greenfield 55, Greenwood 39
 Greensburg 54, Jac-Cen-Del 40
 Greenwood Christian 63, Indian Creek 28
 Griffith 46, Covenant Christian (DeMotte) 38
 Hebron 51, N. White 18
 Heritage 77, Bluffton 52
 Heritage Hills 64, Jasper 61
 Indiana Math and Science Academy 85, Eminence 65
 Indpls Brebeuf 57, Indpls Park Tudor 50
 Indpls N. Central 62, Guerin Catholic 54
 Indpls Roncalli 54, Indpls Ritter 44
 Indpls Scecina 46, Cascade 44
 Indpls Tech 83, Thrival Indy 76
 Jay Co. 55, Northeastern 48
 Knightstown 63, Indpls Herron 36
 Knox 57, Twin Lakes 45
 LaPorte 86, Kankakee Valley 58
 Lafayette Catholic 59, Lafayette Harrison 53
 Lake Central 59, Elkhart 36
 Lake Station 72, Washington Twp. 37
 Lakeland Christian 41, Ft. Wayne Smith Academy 27
 Lakewood Park 60, Elkhart Christian 54
 Lawrence Central 56, Ft. Wayne Dwenger 45
 Lawrence North 83, Ft. Wayne North 61
 Lawrenceburg 57, Cin. Mariemont, Ohio 41
 Lebanon 78, Speedway 42
 Linton 70, White River Valley 37
 Madison Shawe 49, Foundation Christian, Ky. 40
 Madison-Grant 63, Taylor 59
 Muncie Central 61, Ft. Wayne South 47
 N. Judson 68, Boone Grove 24
 N. Newton 52, River Forest 38
 New Albany 64, Columbus East 53
 New Haven 55, Huntington North 54
 New Prairie 53, Wheeler 30
 New Washington 58, Switzerland Co. 50
 Northridge 69, Jintown 40
 Norwell 73, Columbia City 43
 Pioneer 56, Indiana Deaf 36
 Providence 67, Corydon 48
 Red Hill, Ill. 55, Union (Dugger) 54
 Rensselaer 72, Delphi 42
 Rising Sun 62, Southwestern (Shelby) 54
 Rochester 57, Northfield 41
 Rockford Parkway, Ohio 38, S. Adams 31
 S. Bend Trinity 66, Hamilton 22
 S. Dearborn 65, S. Decatur 55
 S. Spencer 61, Perry Central 43
 Seeger 75, Frontier 41
 Seymour 61, Salem 23
 Silver Creek 69, Milan 40
 Southwood 69, Northwestern 53
 Tecumseh 56, Lanesville 50
 Terre Haute North 58, Martinsville 51
 Terre Haute South 69, Plainfield 63
 Tippecanoe Valley 83, Maconaquah 70
 Tipton 65, Eastern (Greentown) 44
 Traders Point Christian 58, Christel House Manual 51
 Triton 43, Caston 34
 Triton Central 77, Oldenburg 41
 University 38, Heritage Christian 36
 Valparaiso 75, Gary West 54
 Victory Christian Academy 90, Hammond Noll 61
 Vincennes 64, Shoals 54
 W. Lafayette 70, Lafayette Jeff 63
 W. Noble 54, LaVille 42
 W. Vigo 57, Parke Heritage 53
 Waldron 72, Tri 69, OT
 Wapahani 100, Union (Modoc) 22

Warren Central 70, Franklin 49
 Westview 47, Plymouth 34
 Whitko 53, Garrett 44
 Winamac 57, Westville 53
 Winchester 67, Hamilton Hts. 58

College

Saturday, Feb. 4

EAST
 American 61, Colgate 60
 Boston U. 68, Loyola (Md.) 67
 Brown 68, Harvard 65
 Navy 86, Holy Cross 68
 Norfolk St. 83, Hampton 71
 Penn 92, Cornell 86
 Princeton 88, Columbia 66
 Rutgers 61, Michigan St. 55
 Stonehill 65, St. Francis (NY) 59
 Syracuse 77, Boston College 68
 YConn 68, Georgetown 62
 West Virginia 93, Oklahoma 61
 Yale 72, Dartmouth 53

SOUTH
 Alabama 79, LSU 69
 Arkansas 65, South Carolina 63
 Duke 63, North Carolina 57
 East Carolina 77, SMU 72
 Florida St. 81, Louisiana 78
 Furman 80, Wofford 67
 Kentucky 72, Florida 67
 Lipscomb 69, Liberty 64
 Longwood 74, Campbell 50
 Louisiana-Lafayette 77, Marshall 67
 MVSU 82, Jackson St. 78
 Mercer 80, VMI 54
 Miami 78, Clemson 74
 Middle Tennessee 84, UTSA 60
 Mississippi St. 63, Missouri 52
 NC State 72, Georgia Tech 64
 North Alabama 87, Florida Gulf Coast 85, OT
 North Florida 65, Jacksonville 58
 Old Dominion 64, Georgia Southern 58
 Queens (NC) 70, Austin Peay 69
 Radford 69, Winthrop 66
 SC-Upstate 76, UNC-Asheville 70
 Samford 73, ETSU 62
 South Alabama 72, Louisiana-Monroe 64

Southern Miss. 79, Georgia St. 71
 Stetson 99, Cent. Arkansas 80
 Tennessee 46, Auburn 43
 Tennessee Tech 82, SE Missouri 80
 Texas A&M-CC 83, SE Louisiana 72
 Troy 68, Texas St. 64
 Tulane 90, Memphis 89, OT
 UAB 76, FIU 72
 UNC-Greensboro 79, The Citadel 59
 UNC-Wilmington 70, William & Mary 63

SOUTH
 Vanderbilt 74, Mississippi 71
 Virginia Tech 74, Virginia 68
 W. Carolina 83, Chattanooga 68
 W. Kentucky 74, UTEP 69

MIDWEST
 Bellarmine 71, Jacksonville St. 64
 Bradley 77, N. Iowa 69
 Buffalo 85, W. Michigan 76
 Cincinnati 73, UCF 64
 Creighton 66, Villanova 61
 Detroit 85, Fort Wayne 52
 Drake 88, Valparaiso 82, 20T
 IUPUI 68, Green Bay 53
 Ill.-Chicago 70, Evansville 61
 Indiana 79, Purdue 74
 Indiana St. 99, Murray St. 56
 Iowa 81, Illinois 79
 Iowa St. 68, Kansas 53
 Lindenwood (Mo.) 80, UT Martin 75
 Loyola Chicago 69, George Mason 61
 Marquette 60, Butler 52
 Maryland 61, Minnesota 46
 Morehead St. 71, S. Indiana 66, OT
 N. Illinois 86, Bowling Green 78
 North Dakota 86, South Dakota 72
 Oakland 92, Cleveland St. 89, OT
 Ohio 78, Miami (Ohio) 68
 S. Dakota St. 90, N. Dakota St. 85

Tennessee St. 65, E. Illinois 61
 Texas 69, Kansas 66
 Toledo 84, Cent. Michigan 59
 W. Illinois 75, Omaha 72
 Wake Forest 81, Notre Dame 64
 Xavier 96, St. John's 71
 Youngstown St. 74, N. Kentucky 56

SOUTHWEST
 Arkansas St. 73, Coastal Carolina 57
 Baylor 89, Texas Tech 62
 Bethune-Cookman 60, Prairie View 58
 Florida A&M 76, Texas Southern 69
 Nicholls 92, Houston Christian 91
 North Texas 74, Rice 64
 Northwestern St. 72, Lamar 68
 Oklahoma St. 79, TCU 73
 SIU-Edwardsville 84, UALR 81
 Texas A&M 82, Georgia 57
 Texas A&M Commerce 60, McNeese St. 58
 Texas Rio Grande Valley 68, Tarleton St. 65
 Texas-Arlington 70, Sam Houston St. 58

FAR WEST
 Abilene Christian 87, Cal Baptist 71
 Arizona 84, Oregon St. 52
 BYU 81, Pacific 66
 CS Bakersfield 75, UC San Diego 69, OT
 CS Northridge 72, UC Santa Barbara 67
 Cal St.-Fullerton 64, UC Riverside 58
 E. Washington 98, Portland St. 88
 Grand Canyon 86, Stephen F. Austin 83

Hawaii 69, Cal Poly 56
 Idaho 82, Sacramento St. 76, OT
 Long Beach St. 93, UC Irvine 88, OT
 Montana 67, N. Arizona 66
 Montana St. 75, N. Colorado 62
 New Mexico St. 82, Seattle 75
 Oral Roberts 85, UMKC 57
 Oregon 75, Arizona St. 70
 Pepperdine 94, Portland 93, 20T
 Saint Mary's (Cal.) 78, Gonzaga 70, OT
 San Diego 87, Loyola Marymount 79
 San Jose St. 84, Wyoming 64
 Santa Clara 83, San Francisco 70
 Southern Cal 80, Washington 74
 St. Thomas (MN) 68, Denver 57
 UCLA 76, Washington St. 52
 Utah St. 88, Colorado St. 79
 Utah Tech 86, S. Utah 79
 Weber St. 72, Idaho St. 71, 20T

Sunday, Feb. 5
EAST
 Houston 81, Temple 65
 Iona 70, Fairfield 61
 La Salle 73, Saint Joseph's 65
 Marist 75, Canisius 67
 Mount St. Mary's 79, Quinnipiac 75
 Niagara 56, Siena 54
 Rider 67, Manhattan 56
 Seton Hall 69, DePaul 64

SOUTH
 Richmond 68, Fordham 58
MIDWEST
 Michigan 77, Ohio St. 69
 Nebraska 72, Penn St. 63
 Northwestern 54, Wisconsin 52
 S. Illinois 73, Missouri St. 53

SOUTHWEST
 Wichita St. 86, Tulsa 75
FAR WEST
 Colorado 84, Stanford 62
 Utah 61, California 46

NBA

Saturday's Games

New Orleans 131, L.A. Lakers 126
 Brooklyn 125, Washington 123
 Phoenix 116, Detroit 100
 L.A. Clippers 134, New York 128, OT
 Chicago 129, Portland 121
 Oklahoma City 153, Houston 121
 Milwaukee 123, Miami 115
 Golden State 119, Dallas 113

Denver 128, Atlanta 108
Sunday's Games
 Orlando 119, Charlotte 113
 Cleveland 122, Indiana 103
 Toronto 106, Memphis 103
 New York 108, Philadelphia 97
 Minnesota 128, Denver 98
 New Orleans 136, Sacramento 104
Monday's Games
 Boston at Detroit, 7 p.m.
 Cleveland at Washington, 7 p.m.
 L.A. Clippers at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
 Sacramento at Houston, 8 p.m.
 San Antonio at Chicago, 8 p.m.
 Dallas at Utah, 9 p.m.
 Milwaukee at Portland, 10 p.m.
 Oklahoma City at Golden State, 10 p.m.

Tuesday's Games
 New York at Orlando, 7 p.m.
 Atlanta at New Orleans, 7:30 p.m.
 Phoenix at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
 Chicago at Memphis, 8 p.m.
 Minnesota at Denver, 9 p.m.
 Oklahoma City at L.A. Lakers, 10 p.m.

FOOTBALL

NFL

Conference Championships Sunday, Jan. 29
 AFC
 Kansas City 23, Cincinnati 20
 NFC
 Philadelphia 31, San Francisco 7
 Super Bowl
 Sunday, Feb. 12
 At Glendale, Ariz.
 Philadelphia vs. Kansas City, 6:30 p.m. (FOX)

TRANSACTIONS

Sunday's Transactions
BASKETBALL
Women's National Basketball Association
 INDIANA FEVER — Re-signed G Victoria Vivians.
 WASHINGTON MYSTICS — Acquired the negotiating rights to C Amanda Zahui B from Las Vegas in exchange for second-round picks in the 2024 and 2025 WNBA draft.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
 CAROLINA PANTHERS — Agreed to terms with Ejiro Evero to become offensive coordinator.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
 ARIZONA COYOTES — Assigned F Dylan Guenther to Seattle (WHL).
 Recalled F Jean-Sebastien Dea from Tucson (AHL).
 CALGARY FLAMES — Recalled LW Jakob Pelletier and D Dennis Gilbert from Calgary (AHL).
 CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Recalled G Jaxson Stauber from Rockford (AHL).
 DETROIT RED WINGS — Recalled LW Jonatan Berggren and RW Filip Zadina from Grand Rapids (AHL).
 Sent LW Adam Erne to Grand Rapids.
 NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Recalled F Tommy Novak and D Kevin Gravel from Milwaukee (AHL).
 NEW YORK ISLANDERS — Recalled RW Simon Holmstrom and D Samuel Bolduc from Bridgeport (AHL). Agreed to terms with F Bo Horvat on an eight-year contract.
 SAN JOSE SHARKS — Reinstated D Nikolai Knyzhov from injured reserve.

High School Calendar

MONDAY, Feb. 6

SWIM & DIVE (boys only): Adams Central & Snider at Norwell, 6 p.m.

TUESDAY, Feb. 7

BOYS BASKETBALL: Norwell at Heritage, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Elwood, 7:30 p.m.
 SWIM & DIVE (boys only): Huntington North at Bluffton, 5:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, Feb. 8
 No events scheduled.
THURSDAY, Feb. 9
 No events scheduled.

Knights win sectional

(Continued from Page 8)

“She was ready for that moment,” praised her coach. “She has practiced and practiced and practiced her shooting in the off-season. She has shot thousands of times, and she was ready.”

Then there’s Fuelling whose 21 points matched those of her more celebrated rival on the other side.

It was her fourth three-pointer of the game with 3:59 left that rescued the Knights from a 51-47 deficit, got them back in it at 51-50, and set up the final sequence.

Then there’s Fuess. She joined Fuelling in double figures with 11 points to help the offense but came up especially big on defense.

It was Fuess, face-guarding Layden with both arms straight up in the air, forcing the future to alter her win-or-lose shot at the end, and she did so without fouling her.

And don’t forget about Annabelle Johnson.

Johnson only scored two points but dished out a whopping nine assists, including three in a row during a 12-0 Norwell run in the second quarter that gave the Knights their biggest

lead of the game at 27-19.

And then there were the two big ones: Johnson was the one who got the ball to Rosswurm for both of her two game-ending shots.

Layden didn’t disappoint, adding seven rebounds and seven assists to her 21 points for the Tigers.

Hale added 13 points, seven rebounds, and four assists herself as the two of them repeatedly found open teammates for wide-open layups, particularly in the first half.

“We were playing too high on the back side of our zone,” said Thornton, going into X-and-O mode. “Our big halftime talk was about that. Of their 22 points in the first half, 11 came off back-side layups.”

Tears flowed freely outside the Northwestern locker room after the game as the players prepared for a long, quiet, and miserable bus ride back to Kokomo.

But those tears could just as easily have been Norwell’s had any of those last five shots gone down.

“You know,” said the elder Layden outside that locker room, “we dropped back into Class 3A this year, and we got sent to a

sectional an hour and a half away to play teams we are not at all familiar with. We were supposed to be only the third best team here. But I think we showed that we came here to win.”

The Tigers had rallied from a 16-point third-quarter deficit to sideline Bellmont one night earlier and then very nearly won this one.

“It wasn’t for a lack of effort,” she continued. “We just came up a little short at the end.”

sports@news-banner.com

NORWELL 55, NORTHWESTERN 54
At Norwell High School
NORWELL (21-3): Dekota Hubble 4-5 1-2 9, Kennedy Fuelling 7-16 3-4 21, Lillian Norris 1-5 0-0 3, Annabelle Johnson 1-4 0-3 2, Makenzie Fuess 5-12 0-0 11, Vanessa Rosswurm 3-7 2-4 9, Haley Green 0-0 0-0 0. TOTAL: 21-49 6-13 55.
NORTHWESTERN (17-5): Ashley Newell 1-9 2-2 4, McKenna Layden 8-15 4-5 21, Anna Bishir 3-4 2-5 9, Lexi Hale 5-8 3-6 13, Bailey Henry 3-3 1-1 7, Berkley Wray 0-0 0-0 0, Halie Koetter 0-2 0-0 0. TOTAL: 20-41 12-19 54.
Norwell 13 14 14 14 — 55
Northwestern 8 14 20 12 — 54
 Three-point shooting: Norwell 7-19 (Fuelling 4-9, Norris 1-2, Johnson 0-1, Fuess 1-5, Rosswurm 1-2), Northwestern 2-9 (Newell 0-6, Layden 1-2, Bishir 1-1). Rebounds: Norwell 28 (Rosswurm 8), Northwestern 25 (Layden 7, Hale 7, Henry 6). Turnovers: Norwell 16, Northwestern 20. Personal fouls: Norwell 16, Northwestern 13. Fouled Out: Hubble.

Bluffton falls to Heritage in ACAC boys basketball

The Bluffton boys’ basketball team fell in conference play to Heritage on the road Saturday night 77-52. The Tigers fell to 1-5 in ACAC play with the loss.

Kaden Grau and Tucker Jenkins had team-highs for the Tigers with 13 points each, while AJ Strevler scored 12.

Heritage won the junior varsity game as well by a score of 59-35. Nolan Lambert led the way for Bluffton with nine points, and Ben Maggard added seven.

Bluffton will hit the road to Northfield starting at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10.

Knights thump Eagles, inch closer to NE8 crown

By RICK SPRUNGER
 COLUMBIA CITY — What a second half!

You almost had to see Norwell’s 73-43 romp over Columbia City Saturday afternoon was almost unbelievable.

Leading just 29-24 with less than a minute remaining in the second quarter, Norwell suddenly turned on the jets.

Luke McBride hit a three-pointer to end the half, and the Knights bombed Columbia City with a 41-19 second-half blitz to turn this key battle between Northeast 8 Conference unbeaten into a laughter.

Right in the middle of everything was a 25-4 Norwell run over about a seven-minute stretch bridging the final two periods to make it look easy.

Norwell, now 16-2 on the season and 7-0 in the conference, needs only a home win over Huntington North Friday night to wrap up an undisputed league championship.

A good Columbia City team fell to 11-8 overall and 6-1 in the loop.

“I think we knew we were 16 minutes away from clinching a share of the conference championship,” smiled an understated but visibly proud Norwell coach Mike McBride when asked what exactly it was that he put in his team’s water bottles in the locker room at halftime. “We really picked up our intensity, especially on the defensive side of the ball. We held (Andrew) Hedrick to just five points in the entire second half. We played like a group of seniors.”

Hedrick, who will join Norwell’s Luke McBride at Bethel next fall, scored 14 first-half points to keep Columbia City in it for that long.

But the Knights limited him to a single free throw in the third quarter when the game was decided, and Columbia City had no answer for Norwell’s full-on blitz.

The game-deciding run started with a rebound basket by Luke Graft that pushed Norwell ahead,

46-33.

McBride followed with a three-pointer. Jake Parker drove in for a layup, and Graft scored from underneath – all in the last two minutes of the third quarter.

Columbia City, meanwhile, was getting only one shot at the basket and was firing blanks.

“They extended their lead to over 12 points, and we needed to speed up,” said Columbia City coach Matt Schauss later. “That’s not our game, and we just got going too fast. They dictated the tempo.”

The quarter ended with McBride grabbing a rebound, threading his way from coast to coast, getting into the lane, and, knowing exactly how much time he had to work with, sinking a soft 10-footer at the buzzer for a 55-33 lead heading into the final eight minutes.

To add insult to injury, the Knights started the fourth period with the ball, and Cohen Bailey immediately drove the lane for two points.

Brody Bolyn scored from underneath and then went to the free throw lane for two shots after an intentional foul by a frustrated Rhet Wilson.

He hit one of two to make it 60-39.

Stratton Fuller finally broke Columbia City’s drought with an inside move.

But a three-pointer by Cohen Bailey, free throws by Graft and Adam Federspiel, and a baseline drive by Lleyton Bailey against a Hedrick layup for his first points in 10 minutes, blew it out to

Norwell places second, Bluffton ninth at swim & diving sectional

By RYAN WALKER

Bluffton and Norwell's girls' swim and diving teams competed at the sectional meet at Jay County High School Saturday afternoon.

Norwell, who had a team score of 383, fell just short of back-to-back championships, falling to Delta, who scored 398. Bluffton took ninth with a 93 score.

Even though the Knights were disappointed in the result, they gave the Eagles their best shot as most of the swimmers beat their personal best times.

"I'm extremely happy with the way they performed today," Norwell head coach Stephanie Scott said after the meet. "We had a lot more personal bests, even coming out of Thursday having a lot of personal best times. They came out this morning all excited and full of energy — I think they did really well."

Last season, Norwell edged out Delta by just over 100 points in the sectional. Since then, a combination of a few Knight graduates and a building of an up-and-coming Eagles group has significantly closed and overcome the gap.

When the preliminary heat sheets came out, Norwell saw that Delta was projected to win the sectional based on the times on the sheet. After an all-out effort, though, in the preliminary races, Norwell found new hope and even believed it could make a comeback.

Despite falling a mere 15 points short, Scott's group is already using the feeling of the loss to motivate for next season.

"They are. They're bummed," she said when asked if there was any disappointment from the team. "We knew coming in that we were going to be down. After Thursday, they got pretty hyped up because they pulled even closer than what we originally were planning on being down. So, they're disappointed, but I will have almost all of them back next year, so they've already started taking what they saw today that they need to work on, and we talked about next year — we're going to start from where we left off."

Next year's Norwell squad could be a dangerous one as it graduates just two seniors.

The good news for Nor-

well is that the season isn't over for five swimmers in two events. The 200-yard medley relay team of juniors Jillian Melcher, Haleigh Reinhard, Ella Krug, and sophomore Emerson Meredith, and also 200-yard freestyle senior Emma Page, placed first at the sectional. They will be moving on to the state finals at IUPUI at the Indiana University Natatorium in Indianapolis next week.

To make it to the state finals, the team or individual must place first at the sectional or make the pre-set cut time. Both groups, in this case, won first in the sectional to advance.

The state final preliminary races will start at 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10, and the finals and consolation races will start at 1 p.m. the following day.

On the other hand, Bluffton's ninth-place team finish was one higher than last year as the Tigers edged out Blackford, Union City, and Muncie Burriss. According to head coach Hunter Cunningham, most of the team also had personal best times break on Saturday.

"Very excited for us to end it this way," she said after the meet. "Most of the girls dropped time from Thursday, so that was exciting. My seniors swam so well, so they're going out with a good finish. In my eyes, that's important to them just because it's their final race of the year."

Three seniors, Lydia Athan, Annika Linderwell, and Olivia Priester, wrapped up their high school careers. Priester and Linderwell led the highest-place event for the Tigersharks placing seventh in the 200-yard freestyle relay, along with Emma Frauhiger and Lucia Corkwell.

Bluffton has come a long way since Christmas break, where Cunningham says the team peaked a little bit too early. Most of the group was swimming at their best at that time, and that might have been the reason some of them did not end up on Saturday's finals race sheet. She said that next year, she wants to see more of those names on there, especially with the experience.

"I think the biggest thing is having more in the top-16 — I think any team, that's all of our girls, is to get all of our girls here. I'll say this, we had less than we were

predicted to this year, so I think next year, just coming back, we'll have a very young team, so they don't really know what prelims is like and what sectionals is like. So now, they kind of know that it's all on the line Thursday night to make it to Saturday. I hope that next year we can have that competitiveness coming in and hopefully having more girls in that top-eight spot."

Top finishers for Norwell were:

- Ella Krug, Haleigh Reinhard, Jillian Melcher, and Emerson Meredith were first in the 200-yard medley relay.

- Ella Krug second in the 200-yard IM.

- Melcher second, Renee Frazee seventh in the 50-yard freestyle.

- Emma Page first in the 200-yard freestyle.

- Cassie Coyne fourth in the 200-yard freestyle.

- Krug fourth in the 100-yard butterfly.

- Meredith third, Frazee seventh in the 100-yard freestyle.

- Page second, Coyne third in the 500-yard freestyle.

- Reinhard fifth in the 100-yard breaststroke.

- Meredith fifth, Kayleigh Hartup eighth in the diving events.

- Melcher second, Rilynn Ervin sixth in the 100-yard backstroke.

- Sawyer Peterson, Page, Coyne, and Frazee fourth in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

- Page, Meredith, Melcher, and Krug second in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

Top finishers for Bluffton were:

- Lydia Athan, Libby Arnett, Kiara Sammons, and Claire Craighead placed ninth in the 200-yard medley relay.

- Annika Linderwell placed 13th in the 200-yard freestyle.

- Olivia Priester placed 16th in the 200-yard IM and 12th in the 100-yard butterfly.

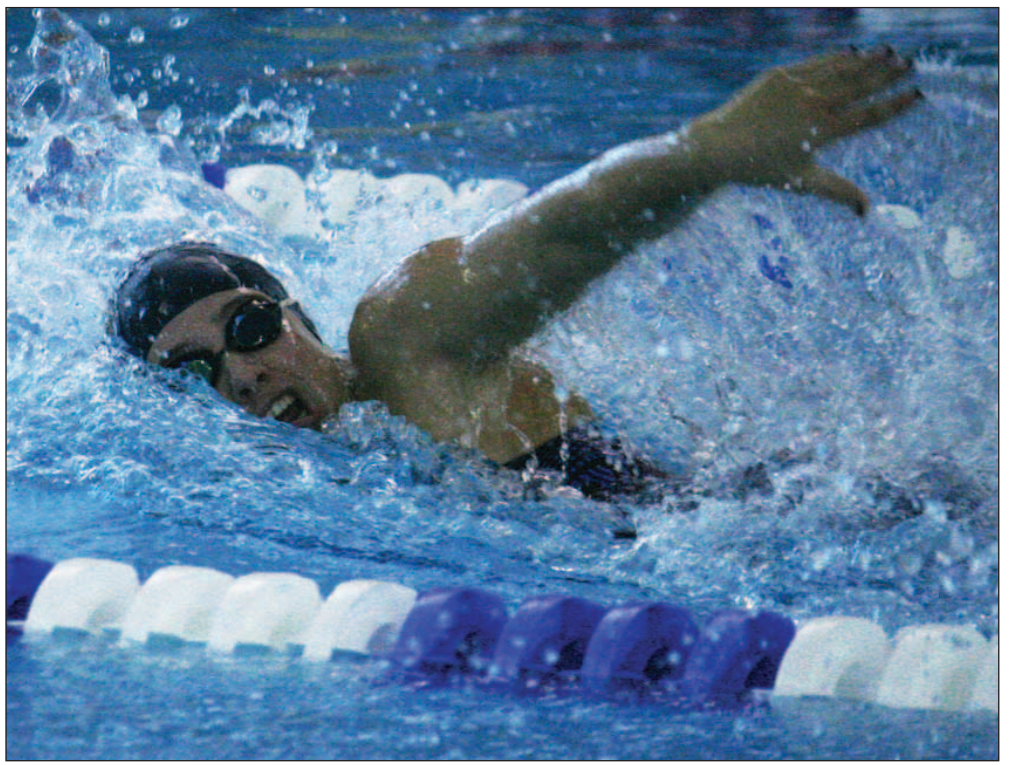
- Zoey Schmidt placed eighth, Linderwell 10th in the 500-yard freestyle.

- Priester, Linderwell, Corkwell, and Fraigher seventh in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

- Libby Arnett 12th in the 100-yard breaststroke.

- Priester, Linderwell, Schmidt, and Fraigher ninth in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

sports@news-banner.com



Norwell's Ella Krug competes in the 400-yard freestyle event in which she helped the team place second. She is also a part of the 200-yard medley relay team that will be heading to the state finals on Friday for the preliminary round hosted by IUPUI, Indiana University Natatorium in Indianapolis (Photo by Ryan Walker)



Bluffton's Emma Fraigher swims in the 200-yard freestyle relay at the sectional finals at Jay County High School Saturday. The team finished seventh in the event, the best out of them all. (Photo by Ryan Walker)



EJ Tackett celebrating after winning the U.S. bowling championship as seen on Fox Sports. (Photo provided)

Bluffton's EJ Tackett wins PBA U.S. bowling title

Bluffton's EJ Tackett won the 2023 U.S. bowling championship Sunday afternoon, becoming the ninth triple crown winner in Pro Bowling Association Tour history.

Tackett defeated Kyle Troup in the finals 221-208 to win the green jacket and a \$100,000 cash prize.

"This is just absolutely incredible," Tackett said to PBA reporter Nolan Hughes. "I have so many people here supporting me. What this tournament means is a whole mountain of things. The Triple Crown. The

U.S. Open. Winning here at Woodland, Indiana, in the state of Indiana. Getting my flag down there in the Beer Thirty bar along with everyone else. Another major. The list just compiles what this tournament means."

Tackett earned the No. 1 seed on Saturday out of five finalists competing and won the event after 48 games.

The event was held in his hometown state of Indiana at Indianapolis' Royal Pin Woodland.

Jackson-Davis, No. 21 Hoosiers beat Edey, No. 1 Boilermakers

By MICHAEL MAROT
AP Sports Writer

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP) — Trayce Jackson-Davis returned to Indiana so he could celebrate a banner season.

On Saturday, the fourth-year forward added another big piece to his legacy.

He scored 25 points and then watched Jalen Hood-Schifino break free for the clinching dunk with 2 seconds left to give No. 21 Indiana a 79-74 victory over No. 1 Purdue — and a quick storming of the court.

It's the fourth time the Hoosiers have beaten the nation's top-ranked team at Assembly Hall, and the first since upsetting Michigan almost exactly 10 years earlier.

"I just think it's a toughness factor," Jackson-Davis said, explaining why this team is different. "I feel like teams in the past that I've been on just weren't that tough, honestly. We've kind of played with a chip on our shoulders since we got punked by Rutgers and we've kind of found our niche and that's what we're doing."

The only guy that's been even close to Jackson-Davis' productivity over the past month has been Purdue's Zach Edey, who had 33 points and 18 rebounds.

But it was Jackson-Davis who walked away with his sixth win in seven

games by moving within 16 points of becoming the first Indiana player to ever score 2,000 and grab 1,000 rebounds. He finished with seven rebounds and five blocks, becoming the first player to have 25 points and five blocks against a No. 1-ranked team since Marcus Camby in November 1995 against Kentucky.

Fittingly, Jackson-Davis and the Hoosiers (16-7, 7-5 Big Ten) celebrated with their fellow students, who rekindled memories of Christian Watford's buzzer-beating 3-pointer to beat No. 1 Kentucky in December 2010. And this time, the fans lingered on the court long after the final buzzer as they pumped fists and danced to the sweet sounds emanating from the pep band.

It marked the first time in the 216-game series Purdue (22-2, 11-2) was ranked No. 1.

"They were our sixth man honestly and we fed off of it," Jackson-Davis said. "That was the most electric crowd since I've been here. They really helped us."

But Indiana also played pretty well, forcing 16 turnovers and shooting 52.6% from the field against a defense that had held 24 consecutive opponents to 70 or fewer points. It won despite getting outrebounded 38-22 and nearly blowing

a 16-point lead.

The 7-foot-4 Edey positioned Purdue for the charge by scoring eight of Purdue's first 10 second-half points to cut a 15-point deficit to nine. He then added the final six points in a 12-4 spurt that made it 67-65 with 5:40 to play. And when Braden Smith's layup made it 71-70 with 2:03 left, even Boilermakers coach Matt Painter sensed the fans' angst.

"If you can flip that or tie it or take the lead there, it's just a different feeling," he said. "It's really hard to overcome that, the air kind of goes out of it, things get quiet in your own arena."

Instead, the Hoosiers forced three turnovers and eventually closed it out with four free throws, a layup from Hood-Schifino and the dunk off a perfectly designed inbound pass from second-year coach Mike Woodson, who has won both home meetings against Indiana's archrival.

"I didn't know the play was going to go that way, obviously," said Hood-Schifino, who had 16 points. "But in the last timeout, I told coach I'm going to get this last bucket, so I was happy."

UP NEXT

Purdue: Returns home Thursday against Iowa.

Indiana: Hosts Rutgers on Tuesday.

Parrish, No. 4 Indiana women turn back Purdue, record crowd

By MARK AMBROGI
Associated Press

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (AP) — Indiana junior Sydney Parrish felt she had an obligation in her first game against Purdue.

"I'm was excited to be part of the rivalry after not being a part my first two years," said Parrish, a 2020 Indiana Miss Basketball who transferred to join the Hoosiers after two seasons at Oregon. "It was a little more personal as I am the only player from Indiana on the team. I had to step up and be that person on our team to show who the best team in Indiana is."

Parrish and Mackenzie Holmes each scored 15 points and No. 4 Indiana won its 10th straight game,

pulling away from Purdue 69-46 Sunday in front of a record Boilermakers crowd.

The announced attendance of 14,876 was the largest for a Purdue women's home game. It marked the first sellout for a women's matchup at Mackey Arena since 2000 and third in program history.

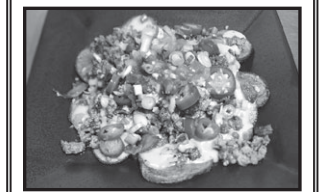
Hoosiers coach Teri Moren said her team did a good job keeping its cool in a raucous environment.

"I don't think it affected us from an emotional standpoint," Moren said. "That's what happens when you have a veteran team."

Sara Scalia had 14 points and Chloe Moore-McNeil had 13 points and nine rebounds for the Hoosiers (22-1, 12-1 Big Ten).

"Sara gave us great minutes off the bench, that was a shot in the arm for us," Moren said.

STAG BAR & GRILL
SPECIALS



LUMBERJACK NACHOS
Tues., Feb. 7 - Wed., Feb. 8

GARLIC PARM FRIED CHICKEN
Fri., Feb. 10 & Sat., Feb. 11

205 W. MARKET ST. BLUFFTON, IN
MON-SAT 7AM - 3AM
CLOSED SUNDAY

FCC (ADAMS), LLC
Berne, IN
TEXT TO APPLY! 1-866-902-0138