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Entertainment Guide

All 3 Wells teams fall in football

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From classroom to community

Bluffton explores experiential learning opportunities

By HOLLY GASKILL

What if every school day was like a field trip?

While it may seem like a dream, Bluffton-Harrison schools are pursuing several opportunities that make this idea seem more of a reality.

The projects at hand are based in experiential learning, where students can learn concepts through doing a task or applicable experiences. In its 'simplest' sense, the preschool and middle school are incorporating themed classrooms to learn fundamentals and career pathways. At the largest scale, the district is endeavoring to build a playground version of downtown Bluffton.

The Preschool Farm Experience

The first of these endeavors is at the preschool, where a classroom has become a kid-sized farm, fit with silo and barn structures, farmers market toys, and wall artwork of sprawling fields.

Students review similar topics as they normally would but through a new realm of play and creativity. For example, students count as they round up toy horses in the barn and practice using money in playing at the cash register.

Elementary Principal Schlaura Linderwell first observed this kind of instruction at East Allen County preschool classrooms, where all nine classrooms had an immersive aspect ranging from a doctor's office to a more abstract creative studio.

An experiential classroom, Linderwell said, also initiates conversations about career pathways. While the conversation matches the young understanding of the audience, she emphasized that it gets "the wheels turning" about their future and connection to the community.

"It really is a foundational piece that's going to help kids," Linderwell shared. "It's a bit of a backward way of thinking. We think we've got to make sure they're writing and reading, and they come to school, and they know all their letters — and we can accomplish that through play, inquiry, and exploration. It's a much more developmentally appropriate way of learning."

Administrators discussed concepts for a local application, and, ultimately, landed on a farm classroom given the agriculture community. Subsequently, they also found local partners who supported some of the costs, and whose names



Pictured above is the Farm Experience preschool classroom at Bluffton-Harrison Elementary School, where students dressed up as farmers for their first day in the classroom. The classroom's barn structure is shown in the back right of the photo, and the farmers market play set in the back center of the photo. (Photo provided)

are now written on signposts on the wall artwork.

The project took over one year from concept to opening day this fall.

In practice, the five preschool classes will rotate into the experiential classroom for two weeks. During their rotation, students work through a curriculum developed by the BHES teachers specially for the classroom experience. This curriculum will be new every time a group rotates back into the classroom again.

"We're extremely fortunate to have teachers and administrators who saw this vision and supported it," Linderwell

The students' excitement for the classroom is in no short supply. On the classroom's opening day, the first rotation teacher and her students dressed as farmers.

As students gathered for instruction on a rug — which is supposed to look like a grass patch — in the opening week, students enthusiastically agreed when asked if they enjoyed the farm room. "I like that we get to make pretend money," one student smiled shyly. "I just like it all so much!" another student chirped.

Long term, Linderwell hopes to incorporate experiential learning opportunities into several preschool classrooms. Discussions have begun regarding their next project, but Linderwell noted the school is a long way from getting started as they will have to restart the fundraising and design process.

(Continued on Page 10)



The Utz manufacturing facility on Dustman Road has been sold to a Canada-based company, Super-Pufft Snacks USA, an announcement from Utz said Friday. (Photo by Dave Schultz)

Bluffton Utz plant sold to Canadian company

By DAVE SCHULTZ

The Utz plant in Bluffton was sold Friday to a Canadian company, Super-Pufft Snacks USA.

Utz acquired the former Inventure Foods facility at 505 W. Dustman Road and formally changed its name to Utz in 2019. The sale of the Bluffton plant is part of a major restructuring for Utz, which is based in Hanover, Pa.

The Bluffton facility will apparently be the first U.S.-based operation for Super-Pufft Snacks USA. According to the company's website, it has a facility at its base in Mississaugua, Ontario, and three other facilities in Canada.

The decision by Utz to sell the Bluffton

operation came from a decision to "maximize the impact of (the company's) resources and footprint," according to a statement by Kevin Brick, a company spokesman.

Brick added that the day-to-day operation of the Dustman Road facility will apparently not change much.

"We are grateful to our Bluffton manufacturing colleagues for their many contributions to Utz and know they will be in very good hands with Super-Pufft," Brick said. 'Notably, all Utz Bluffton associates have been offered positions with Super-Pufft, and Super-Pufft will continue to produce Utz products in the Bluffton facility.'

That continuing production of Utz-(Continued on Page 2)

McCarthy's plan to keep the government open collapses

WASHINGTON (AP) -House Speaker Kevin McCarthy's last-ditch plan to keep the federal government temporarily open collapsed in dramatic fashion Friday as a robust faction of hard-right holdouts rejected the package, making a shutdown almost certain.

McCarthy's right-flank Repub-

licans refused to support the bill despite its steep spending cuts of nearly 30% to many agencies and severe border security provisions, calling it insufficient.

The White House and Democrats rejected the Republican approach as too extreme. The vote was 198-232, with 21 hard-right Republicans voting to sink the package. The Democrats voted against it.

The bill's complete failure a day before Saturday's deadline to fund the government leaves few options to prevent a shutdown that will furlough federal workers, keep the military working without pay and disrupt programs and services for millions of Americans.

A clearly agitated McCarthy left the House chamber. "It's not the end yet; I've got other ideas," he told reporters.

The outcome puts McCarthy's speakership in serious jeopardy with almost no political leverage to lead the House at a critical moment that has pushed the government into crisis. Even the failed plan, an extraordinary concession to immediately slash spending by one-third for many agencies, was not enough to satisfy the hardright flank that has upturned his

(Continued on Page 2)

Higher gas prices lift the Fed's preferred inflation gauge

WASHINGTON (AP) — An inflation gauge closely tracked by the Federal Reserve rose in August, boosted mainly by higher gas prices. But measures of underlying inflation slowed in the latest sign that overall price pressures

are still moderating.

Friday's report from the Commerce Department showed that prices rose 0.4 percent from July to August, up from just 0.2 percent the previous month. A 10 percent monthly spike in prices at the gas

pump drove the increase.

Excluding volatile food and energy prices, though, "core" inflation rose by the smallest amount in nearly three years, evidence that inflation pressures continue to ease. Fed officials pay particular attention

to core prices, which are considered a better gauge of where inflation might be headed. Last month's modest rise in core inflation could raise the likelihood that the Fed will leave interest rates unchanged at its next meeting Oct. 31-Nov. 1.

Core prices edged up 0.1 percent from July to August, down from July's 0.2 percent. It was the smallest monthly increase since November 2020. Compared with a year ago, core prices were up 3.9 (Continued on Page 2)

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Another beautiful fall weekend

Today	Sunday	Monday
High 77	High 79	High 81
Low 54	Low 54	Low 55

More Weather on Page 2

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Vol. 94 No. 281 SATURDAY **September 30, 2023**



Oct. 15th - Dec. 7th **MEDICARE PROGRAMS**

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Utz plant sells

(Continued from Page 1) branded goods in Bluffton, however, may not be a longterm plan.

"Super-Pufft received real estate and manufacturing assets in the transaction, and in return, the company entered a newly established co-manufacturing relationship with Super-Pufft, under which Super-Pufft will manufacture certain TGIF products

under favorable terms," the announcement detailing Utz's overall plan said. "Over time, the company expects to shift production of these products into Utz owned and operated manufacturing facilities."

The sale of the Bluffton plant, the decision to close another production plant in Pennsylvania, as well as other decisions announced Friday, will leave Utz

with 13 active plants, the announcement said.

Brick, in a separate statement, said Super-Pufft and Utz have "a strong historic partnership.

"The purchase of the Bluffton plant greatly increases their capacity and provides them with a strategic location in the mid-west as they continue to expand," Brick said.

Super-Pufft's Canadian

operations produce potato chips, kettle cooked chips, canister crisps, popcorn, extruded and fried pellet snacks, and pop chips, according to the Super-Pufft website. The company calls itself "one of North America's largest manufacturers and copackers of salty snacks for retailers and national brands.'

daves@news-banner.com

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.27 feet at 8:45 p.m. Friday

High: 71; **Low:** 60; **Precipitation:** None

Weather

Saturday, September 30, 2023

(24-hour observations at 8:18 p.m. Friday)

Today: Patchy fog before 10 a.m. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 77. East wind around 5 mph.

Wells County forecast

Tonight: Patchy fog after 2 a.m. Otherwise, mostly clear, with a low around 54. East wind around 5 mph.

Sunday: Patchy fog before 8 a.m. Otherwise, sunny, with a high near 79. East wind around 5 mph. Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 54. East

wind around 5 mph.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 81. **Monday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 55.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 83.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 59.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 82. Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around

Thursday: A 30 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 74.

Thursday Night: A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 52.

Friday: A chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high

Higher gas prices

(Continued from Page 1) percent, below July's reading of 4.2 percent. That was the slowest such increase in two years.

In the meantime, while Americans kept spending in August, they did so at a much more modest pace. Friday's government report showed that consumer spending, adjusted for inflation, ticked up just 0.1 percent after having risen 0.6 percent in July.

"Overall, spending remains positive and inflation is slowing, which will be welcome news to policymakers," Rubeela Farooqi, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics, said in a note to clients.

Compared with a year earlier, overall prices rose 3.5 percent in August, slightly higher than the 3.4 percent increase in July. It was the second straight rise in the year-over-year figure, which has tumbled from its 7 percent peak in June 2022 but still exceeds the Fed's 2 percent inflation target.

The spike in gasoline prices is eating away at Americans' incomes. After some solid gains last spring, inflation-adjusted incomes fell in August for a second straight month.

The burden of rising energy costs is hitting Europe as well, even as new data released Friday showed inflation there declined sharply in September to the lowest level in two years. A recent surge in oil prices, however, has cast a shadow over prospects for quickly beating inflation down in Europe to the central bank's target of 2 percent.

The combination of higher gas prices in the U.S. and sluggish income growth could weaken consumer spending in the months ahead. If so, it would mark a slowdown from last summer's healthy pace of spending, which is believed to have fueled solid economic growth in the July-September quarter.

The inflation gauge that was issued Thursday, called the personal consumption expenditures price index,

is separate from the betterknown consumer price index. Earlier this month, the government reported that the CPI rose 3.7 percent from a year earlier, down from a peak of 9.1 percent in June 2022, though its core

The latest data will likely bolster hopes among Fed officials that they will be able to bring inflation back to their target without driving up unemployment or causing a deep recession as many economists have feared. When the Fed released its quarterly economic forecasts last week, it showed that the central bank's policymakers envision only a small rise in unemployment by the end of 2024: They expect joblessness to rise from its current 3.8 percent to a still-low 4.1 percent, along with a gradual drop in core inflation to just

2.6 percent.

How much a shutdown would weaken the economy would depend on how long it lasts. A short closure probably won't have much impact on the economy. But it would likely have a more far-reaching impact than previous shutdowns did because a larger portion of

In earlier shutdowns, for

Government shutdown

(Continued from Page 1)

speakership. The Senate pushed ahead Friday with its own plan favored by Republicans and Democrats to keep the government open while also bolstering Ukraine aid and U.S. disaster accounts. But that won't matter with the House in

political chaos. The White House has brushed aside McCarthy's overtures to meet with President Joe Biden after the speaker walked away from the debt deal they brokered earlier this year that set budget levels.

"Extreme House Republicans are now tripling down on their demands to eviscerate programs millions of hardworking families count on," White House press secretary Karine Jean-

Jean-Pierre said, "The path forward to fund the government has been laid out by the Senate with bipartisan support — House Republicans just need to

Catering to his hard-right flank, McCarthy had returned to the spending limits the conservatives demanded back in January as part of the dealmaking to help him become the House speaker.

His package would not have cut the Defense, Veterans or Homeland Security departments but would have slashed almost all other agencies by up to 30% — steep hits to a vast array of programs, services and departments Americans routinely depend on.

It also added strict new border security provisions that would kickstart building the wall at the southern border with Mexico, among other measures. Addi-

tionally, the package would have set up a bipartisan debt commission to address the nation's mounting debt load.

Ahead of voting, the Republican speaker all but dared his holdout colleagues to oppose the package a day before Saturday's almost certain shutdown. The House bill would have kept operations open through Oct. 31.

"Every member will have to go on record where they stand," McCarthy

Asked if he had the votes, McCarthy said, "We'll see."

But as soon as the floor debate began, McCarthy's chief Republican critic, Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida, announced he would be voting against the package, urging his colleagues to "not surrender."

The hard right, led by Gaetz, has been threatening McCarthy's ouster, with a looming vote to try to remove him from the speaker's office unless he meets the conservative demands. Still, it's unclear if any other Republican would have support from the House majority to lead the party.

Gaetz said afterward that the speaker's bill "went down in flames as I've told you all week it would."

He and others rejecting the temporary measure want the House to instead keep pushing through the 12 individual spending bills needed to fund the government, typically a weeks-long process, as they pursue their conservative

Some of the Republican holdouts, including Gaetz, are allies of Donald Trump, who is Biden's chief rival in 2024. The former president has been encouraging the Republicans to fight hard for their priorities and even to "shut it down." The margin of defeat shocked even

Republican members.

Rep. Mike Garcia, R-Calif., said: "I think what this does, if anything, I think it's going to rally people around the speaker and go: 'Hey, the dysfunction here is not coming from leadership in this case. The dysfunction is coming from individuals that don't understand the implications of what we're doing

Garcia said, "For the people that claim this isn't good enough, I want to hear what good enough looks like."

Another Republican, Rep. Ralph Norman of South Carolina, a member of the Freedom Caucus who supported the package, suggested the House was losing its leverage with the failed vote: "We control the purse strings. We just ceded them to the Senate."

Republicans convened for a closeddoor meeting later Friday afternoon that grew heated, lawmakers said, but failed to produce a new plan. Leaders announced the House would stay in session next week, rather than return home, to keep working on some of the 12 spending bills.

Rep. Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut, the top Democrat on the Appropriations Committee, criticized the proposed Republican cuts as hurting law enforcement and education and taking food out of the mouths of millions. She said 275,000 children would lose access to Head Start, making it harder for parents to work.

This is a pointless charade with grave consequences for the American people," DeLauro said.

NYC gets one of its wettest days in decades

NEW YORK (AP) — Rain walloped the New York metropolitan area with a startling punch Friday, knocking out several subway and commuter rail lines, stranding drivers on highways, flooding basements and shuttering a terminal at LaGuardia Airport in one of the city's wettest days in decades.

Almost 7 inches of rain had fallen in parts of Brooklyn by midday, with at least one spot seeing 2.5 inches in a single hour, according to weather and city officials. The nearly 8 inches) at John F. Kennedy Airport surpassed its record for any September day, a bar set during Hurricane Donna in 1960, the National Weather Service said.

And more downpours were expected.

The deluge came two years after the remnants of Hurricane Ida dumped record-breaking rain on the Northeast and killed at least 13 people in New York City, mostly in flooded basement apartments. Although no deaths or severe injuries have been reported so far from Friday's storm, it stirred frightening memories.

Ida killed three of Joy Wong's neighbors, including a toddler. And on Friday, water began lapping against the front door of her building in Woodside, Queens.

"I was so worried," she said. It became too dangerous to leave: "Outside was like a lake, like an ocean."

Within minutes, water filled the building's basement nearly to the ceiling. After the family's deaths in 2021, the basement was turned into a recreation room. It is now destroyed.

City officials said they got reports of six flooded basement apartments Friday, but all occupants got out safely.

Gov. Kathy Hochul and Mayor Eric Adams declared states of emergency and urged people to stay put if possible. But schools were open, students went to class and many adults went to work, only to wonder how they would get home.

Virtually every subway line was at least partly suspended, rerouted or running with delays. Metro-North commuter rail service from Manhattan was suspended for much of the day but began resuming by evening. The Long Island Rail Road was snarled, 44 of the city's 3,500 buses got stranded and bus service was disrupted citywide, transit officials

"When it stops the buses, you know it's bad," Brooklyn high school student Malachi Clark said after trying to get home by bus, then subway. School buses were running, but they transport only a fraction of public school students, many of them disabled.

A long line of people snaked from the ticket counter in the afternoon at Grand Central Terminal, where Mike Tags was among those whose trains had been canceled. Railroad employees had suggested possible workarounds, but he wondered whether they would work out.

"So I'm going to sit here, ride it out, until they open up," he said.

Traffic hit a standstill earlier in the day on a stretch of the FDR Drive, a major artery along Manhattan's east side. With water above cars' tires, some drivers abandoned their vehicles.

At around 11 a.m., Priscilla Fontallio said she had spent three hours in her car, which was on a piece of the highway that wasn't flooded but wasn't moving.

"Never seen anything like this in my life," she

On a street in Brooklyn's South Williamsburg neighborhood, workers were up to their knees in water as they tried to unclog a storm drain while cardboard and other debris floated by. Some people arranged milk crates and wooden boards to cross flooded sidewalks.

Flights into LaGuardia were briefly halted in the morning, and then delayed, because of water in the refueling area. Flooding also forced the closure of one of the airport's three terminals.

A Brooklyn school was evacuated because its boiler was smoking, possibly because water got into it, Schools Chancellor David Banks said at a news briefing. Another Brooklyn school was mopping up ground-floor classrooms, City Councilwoman Crystal Hudson said in an email seeking volunteers to help.

The New York Rangers and New York Islanders postponed a preseason game on Long Island. And at the waterlogged Central Park Zoo, a sea lion swam out of her swollen pool. With the zoo closed because of the weather, she looked around for a bit before returning to the pool, zoo officials said in a statement.

measure also slowed.

Many economists now expect core inflation, as measured by the Fed's preferred gauge, to drop by the end of the year to below the central bank's estimate of 3.7 percent. That might show sufficient progress for the Fed to avoid any further rate increases this year.

Still, threats to a so-called "soft landing" — in which inflation would fall back to the Fed's 2 percent target without a deep recession have been growing. Congress is on track to shut down parts of the government by this weekend because a group of hard-right House Republicans have blocked a spending agreement.

the government will close.

example, legislation had been approved to pay members of the military. That hasn't happened this time, which would leave upwards of a million service members without paychecks.

Senator Dianne Feinstein of California dies at age 90

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, a centrist Democrat and champion of liberal causes who was elected to the Senate in 1992 and broke gender barriers throughout her long career in local and national politics, has died. She was 90.

Feinstein died on Thursday night at her home in Washington, D.C., her office said on Friday. Tributes poured in all day. Opening the Senate floor, Majority Leader Chuck Schumer announced that "we lost a giant in

"As the nation mourns this tremendous loss, we know how many lives she impacted and how many glass ceilings she shattered along the way," Schumer said, his voice cracking. President Joe Biden, who served with

Feinstein for years in the Senate, called her "a pioneering American," a "true trailblazer" and a "cherished friend." California Gov. Gavin Newsom will

appoint a temporary replacement, and there

is sure to be a spirited battle to succeed her. Feinstein, the oldest sitting U.S. senator,

was a passionate advocate for liberal priorities important to her state -- including environmental protection, reproductive rights and gun control -- but was also known as a pragmatic lawmaker who reached out to Republicans and sought middle ground.

Her death came after a bout of shingles sidelined her for more than two months earlier this year — an absence that drew frustration from her most liberal critics and launched an unsuccessful attempt by Democrats to temporarily replace her on the Senate Judiciary Committee. When she returned to the Senate in May, she was frail and using a wheelchair, voting only occasionally.

On Friday, her Senate desk was draped in black and topped with a vase of white roses. Senators gave tearful tributes as members of the California House delegation stood in the back of the chamber and former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi sat in the gallery with Feinstein's daughter, Katherine.

CAR & CRAFT FEST

Benefiting Forgotten Children Worldwide!

CRAFT FEST

Friday, October 6 & Saturday, October 7, 2023 SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE! Pumpkins & mums, seasonal decor, handmade craft items, woodworking, floral decor, honey, baked goods, & more!

FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, October 6 & Saturday, October 7 - 10 am - 6 pm Fun for the whole family! Come enjoy food trucks, kettle corn, hay rides,

face painting, bounce houses, pumpkins & mums, handmade crafts, woodworking, flower arrangements, honey, baked goods, & much more!



CAR FEST

Saturday, October 7 Only - 9 am - 6 pm Registration 9 am-12 pm. Awards at 3:30 pm (Top 20, Best of Show, People's Choice Award, Kid's Choice Award, & All American Stores Choice Award). Dash plaques, DJ Scott Teeter, Music, & Raffle!

\$15 entry fee (\$10 if Pre-Registered by September 16, 2023). For preregistration, contact Jeff Patterson at (260)366-7590.

Cars, Trucks, & Bikes all welcome!

UPCOMING SEASON

Check out what's happening at the farm. We are preparing for another fall season by planting and harvesting new pumpkins and gourds for customers to come and pick out their favorite.

OBITUARIES

Thomas D. Mounsey, 85

Thomas D. Mounsey, 85, of Montpelier, died Friday, Sept. 29, 2023, surrounded by his family at his home in Montpelier. He was born Sunday, April 17,1938 in Montpelier. He married Marie M. Gillette Wednesday, May 25, 1958 at the Montpelier Church of the Nazarene.

Tom is survived by his wife, Marie M. (Gillette) Mounsey, Montpelier; daughter, Linda (Monty) McCoin, Hartford City; son, Greg (Tami) Mounsey, Centerville; four grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father, Clayton Thomas Mounsey; mother, Edith (White) Mounsey; and sister, Janet D. DenFamily and friends may gather to share

and remember Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2023 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home located at 109 W. Windsor St. Montpelier, IN.

A service to celebrate Tom's life will be at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 5, 2023, with Pastor Laura High and Pastor Jesse Johnson officiating. Interment will follow in the Brookside Memorial Park in Montpelier.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Glancy Funeral Home in Montpelier.

Online condolences may be made at www.glancyfuneralhomes.com

Frank H. Osborn, 77

Frank H. Osborn, 77, died Friday morning, Sept. 29, 2023, at Brookdale Senior Living Community in Fort Wayne.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton.

Local Roundup

County Drainage Board will meet Monday

The Wells County Drainage Board will meet at 4:30 a.m. Monday, Oct. 2, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St. in Bluffton.

Items on the agenda include: • Discussion regarding the Walter John-

- son Open Drain in Harrison Township.
- Project updates and miscellaneous drainage matters.

County Commissioners will meet Monday evening

The Wells County Commissioners will meet at 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 2, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St. in Bluffton.

Items on the agenda include:

- Department updates from Sheriff Scott Holliday, Highway Supervisor Shawn Bonar, and Wells County Engineer Nate Rumschlag.
- An appointment with Ron Turpin regarding the Northeast Indiana Strategic Plan Commission.
- Discussions regarding 2024 meeting dates, 2024 wellness plan and miscellaneous business.

Poneto will host candidate forum Monday evening

A candidate forum will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 2, at the Town Hall, 105 W Washington St. in Poneto. Candidates for the Town Council are Kelly Potter (I), Ashley O'Reilly (D), Kelly Potter (D), Isaiah Geels (R), Paul Miller (R) and Becky Smith (R), and candidates for clerk-treasurer are Brad Schoeff (D) and Lou Ann Reinhard

Bluffton Board of Works to meet Tuesday afternoon

The Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 3, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Bluffton Common Council will meet Tuesday evening

The Bluffton Common Council will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 3, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Items on the agenda include:

- · Financial matters.
- Adoption of the 2024 budget. Highway garage update from Conor
- Jackson.
- A discussion regarding 2024 meeting

UWRBC board will meet Wednesday morning

The board of the Upper Wabash River Basin Commission will hold its regular bi-monthly meeting at 8 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 4, at the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St. in Bluffton.

Topics on the agenda include: LARE grant updates

- Discussion regarding the UWR Autumn Festival with Randy Lehman.
 - Financial matters

For additional information, contact Stacia Henderson, the UWRBC watershed coordinator by e-mail at shenderson@adamswells. com or by phone at 260/273-0972.

Bluffton parks board will meet Thursday evening

The Bluffton park board will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 5, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Area Plan Commission will meet Thursday evening

The Wells County Area Plan Commission will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 5, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:

Thursday, 2:48 p.m.. West Wiley Avenue and South Oak Street. Report of power line down.

Thursday, 3:39 p.m.. Dollar General. Caller requested a trespass warning for individual.

Thursday, 4:20 p.m., 1000 block of West Central Avenue. Subject requested to speak to officer regarding property retrieval.

Thursday, 6:08 p.m., 300 block of Willowbrook Trail. Report of two subjects fight-

Thursday, 6:33 p.m.. 300 block of West South Street. Caller reported car blocking driveway, requested remov-

Thursday, 9:01 p.m., 1300 block of Sunnyglenn Court. Caller reported residents burning plastic. Officer spoke to homeowner who advised he would put out fire.

Friday, 12:56 a.m., Wings Etc. Driver issued citation for expired plates.

Friday, 4:53 a.m., 200 block of North Union Street. Report involving slight damage to vehicle.

Friday, 12:14 p.m., Kroger. Subject attempting to meet with 14 year old girl, decoy met instead. One detained.

County:

Thursday, 2:37 p.m., North 100 East and East 400 North, Bluffton. Report of students driving recklessly near construction, no signs or flaggers. Construction company moved their equipment and opened up the lane.

3500 block of Church Road, Bluffton. Caller reported scam via phone call.

Thursday, 8:27 p.m., Wells County Sheriff's Department. Jeffery Lockwood was charged with driving while suspended - prior, a Class A misdemeanor, after he drove himself to the Sheriff's department to update his sex offender registry. Lockwood has 9 previous license suspensions.

Ossian:

Thursday, 5:07 p.m., East 1200 North and Ind. 1, Ossian. Report of styrofoam all over the side of the road. **ACCIDENTS**

City:

Friday, 7:04 a.m., Main Street and Willowbrook Trail. Christen Johnson was driving North on Main Street when Jack Pezo pulled into traffic. Johnson's Chevrolet equinox collided with Peso's Dodge Durango. Damages not exceeding \$10,000.

County:

Friday, 7:19 a.m., 300 West and 250 South. Lawrence Hansen was driving Southbound on 300 West when a deer ran into the roadway. Damages not exceeding \$5,000.

ARRESTS

Natasha Stanton, 42, Bluffton, battery - committed with a deadly

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weapon, a Level 5 Felony, two counts of domestic battery with moderate bodily injury, both Level 6 felonies, confinement and strangulation, both misdemeanors. No bond

Quinten P. Byrd, 34, Bluffton, battery, a Level 5 Felony. No bond set.

Nichole Marie Colwell, 36, Bluffton, family offense - invasion of privacy, a Level 6 Felony. Bond set at \$1,500.

Susan Louise Wright, 42, Claypool, operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Level 6 Felony. Bond set at \$5,000.

Christie R Miller, 41, Bluffton, charged with contempt of court. \$150 cash bond.

Village Green **Apartments**

224 E Vine St. Montpelier, IN 47359

Water, Sewer and Weekly Trash Removal included in rent.

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Bluffton Parks Rec News Notes



By Brandy

Destination Recreation

The Bluffton Parks Department was awarded a grant through the Lake and River Enhancement Program to study 2.41 miles of the Wabash River, from the White Bridge to Kehoe Park, to identify areas of bank erosion. The engineering company, Stantec, found 22 areas of concern. The site between S 400 E. and S 450 E. near the White Bridge has been selected to move to a construction phase design, while two other locations will receive conceptual drawings.

Please join the Bluffton Parks Department and Stantec on Oct. 18 at the indoor pavilion at Washington Park starting at 5:30 p.m. All meetings are open to the public, and interested parties are invited to learn about stabilizing the Wabash River streambank and present any concerns, ideas, or suggestions. Light refreshments will be served. For more information about the public meeting, contact the Bluffton Parks Department office at (260) 824-6069.

FREE Farm Wagon — The Community Harvest Farm Wagon visits Bluffton every Tuesday at 9 a.m. to give FREE fresh food to needy families at the Life Community Church South parking lot (428 S Oak St.). Please enter the parking lot at the south entrance off Oak Street and park facing North.

This coming Tuesday, Oct. 3, will feature the annual Community Vaccination Clinic during the Farm Wagon Program from 7-9 a.m. Participants can stay in their vehicle and nurses will come to you at your car. Please bring your insurance card; they will accept and bill all insurance (commercial, Medicare, Medicaid). There is no cost to those without insurance, except for the Shingles vaccine. If you prefer to sign up online, go to www. patients.vaxcare.com/registration. FREE Toddler Time starts Oct. 4. The

Bluffton City Gym will be open every

Tuesday and Thursday from 11-noon for you to bring your tots and burn

Fiechter off some energy. (October - March) This free drop-in program will allow young children to play with others their age in a large open space. Balls will be available in the storage closet at the East end of the gym when we hear the children arrive. Please note that this is not a staff-facilitated event, and parents are responsible for their children. We will offer a special tour or activity on the first Thursday of each month except for December (The special event will be Dec. 14). Please sign in on the wooden door each visit and turn off the gym lights if you are the last to leave. Call the park office at 824-6069 if you

City Gym Membership Sale — The price will drop for a Bluffton City Gym Membership on Oct. 1. Visit the Clerk Treasurer's office in City Hall during business hours to purchase a key. A single member costs only \$20 until the end of the year, and a family membership is discounted to only \$40. Membership includes the weight room, locker room with showers and a sauna, racquetball court, and the gym floor when there isn't a scheduled event.

have any questions. Special visits include

the October 5th Police Station visit, the

November 2nd Fire Station visit, and the

Dec. 14 Story Time with Mrs. Claus!

Pavilion Rentals — It's time to start thinking about your fall and winter parties. Dates are filling up at the Washington Park indoor pavilion. Call 824-6069 to schedule your next event. The facility has seating for 120 guests and would make an excellent location for your company's Christmas Party. To check available dates, visit https://teamup.com/ ksahp6raijmudh7k7m. Print a rental form at the following link: https://tinyurl.com/ fpfcb7hf.

Have a great week!



'Wastewaster' – exploration for seniors

As the Bluffton Park Department's Senior Snippets classes began the first "How's It Made" series. The class tackled the topic of Bluffton's Wastewater with the treatment plant's manager Tony Fey. He explained that the first treatment plant was completed in 1935 with a second added in 1967. He shared photos of the progress being made on the new plant now under construction. Program attendees also learned that after Bluffton's wastewater is treated at the plant it can safely be returned to the Wabash River, meeting strict ecological standards and laws. Next program in the series will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 3 and feature information on Weg. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

Obituary Policy

The News-Banner and Ossian Journal publishes "basic" obituaries free of charge for "local" deaths. "Basic" obituaries will include the deceased's name, age, community of record, date and place of death, basic genealogical information, the date, time and location of calling hours and services and the name of the funeral home handling arrangements.

If additional information and/or a photo is desired to be included, or if the deceased does not meet the definitions of a "local" person, there is a charge Area funeral homes will provide details on the policy and will coordinate obituary publication.



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It's just a coincidence. Or not.

Harry Bosch doesn't believe in coincidences. I Saturday's Sub

am becoming a disciple. My latest casual reading has been several books by Michael Connelley. Bosch and another about an attorney who drives around in old Lincolns.

He has a series about LAPD Detective They both are complicated, almost dark characters. They seem to never get the girl but they always figure out whodunnit. If there's one constant for



Mark Miller

Harry, it is not accepting anything that happens as coincidental.

So was it a coincidence that as I was wrapping up last Saturday's column about a stack of old newspapers that had been left at the office, I went back to double check something and a headline caught my eye: "Mrs. William Borah gets \$207,000 From Safety Box"?

It seems that Mrs. Borah's husband, a U.S. Senator from Idaho, had died unexpectedly. She wasn't sure if she had enough money for a funeral. The couple had lived modestly in a Washington, D.C. apartment and had a home in Idaho; he had always handled the couple's finances. She was aware that they had a jointcustody safe deposit box where she found \$207,000 in \$1,000 bills. This was in 1940. According to Mrs. Google, that equals about \$4.4 million today.

The coincidence? In the news Friday evening was the indictment of U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez (D, New Jersey) on bribery charges. He seems to have assisted getting favorable treatment for some Egyptian businessmen in dealing with the federal government who coincidentally had hired his wife who coincidentally didn't really do anything. The couple also had several gold bars in their home that were coincidentally close in serial numbers to other gold bars owned by one of those businessmen.

If you're following this story at all, you will know that Menendez beat a series of very similar bribery charges in unrelated circumstances just a few years ago due to a hung jury. He had argued that he was only doing what a senator does — assisting his constituents through the maze of government bureaucracy. It is only a coincidence that they make substantial campaign contributions and in this case gave his wife a cushy job and/or bought her a car and/or dropped off a few gold bars from time to time.

Perhaps what bothers me most about this is the prospect that Menendez will walk free again. His claim that he's only getting things done in Washington the way things get done in Washington seems to be coming more generally accepted as the way things get done in Washington.

Witness, coincidentally(?), another story from this past week: Dana Bash interviewed California Gov. Gavin Newsom on CNN. He asked Newsom about the propriety of President Biden who, at a minimum, allowed his son - and now, we read, brothers - to peddle the family name quite profitably. Newsom's response: That's hardly unique.

"I don't know enough about the details of that," he told Bash. "I mean, I've seen a little of that. If that's the new criteria, there are a lot of folks in a lot of industries, not just in politics, where people have family members and relationships and they're trying to parlay and get a little influence and benefit in that respect. That's hardly unique. I don't love that any more than you love it or other people, I imagine, love that."

So we don't have to love how Washington works. The question is: Do we just accept it and live with it?

This reminds me of the tale of Dennis Hastert. First elected to Congress in 1987 when he was a high school teacher and coach, he rose to become Speaker of the House. He retired in 2007. His annual salary never exceeded \$165,000. However, he was able to afford a \$1 million payment in an unsuccessful attempt to keep some unsavory information hidden.

People are elected to Congress and, coincidentally,

Speaking of coincidences, Menendez's new wife, Nadine Arslanian, is a native of the Middle-East. According to a New York Times report, the three co-indicted Egyptian businessmen were — an amazing coincidence — friends of hers before she met the senator in an IHOP in New Jersey in 2019. She wasn't working when she began dating Menendez but, coincidentally, started an international consulting company, Strategic International Business Consultants, shortly after, in June 2019.

By the way, Nadine is about 15 years younger than the senator and has ... or is, shall we say, buxom. Sorry, I just can't help but notice these things, which I don't think are coincidental. Neither would Harry Bosch.

miller@news-banner.com

Today in History

By The Associated Press Today is Saturday, Sept.

30, the 273rd day of 2023. There are 92 days left in the

Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 30, 1955, actor James Dean was killed at age 24 in a two-car collision near Cholame, Calif.

On this date: In 1777, the Continental

Congress — forced to flee in the face of advancing British forces — moved to York, Pennsylvania.

In 1938, after co-signing the Munich Agreement allowing Nazi annexation of Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain said, "I believe it is peace for our

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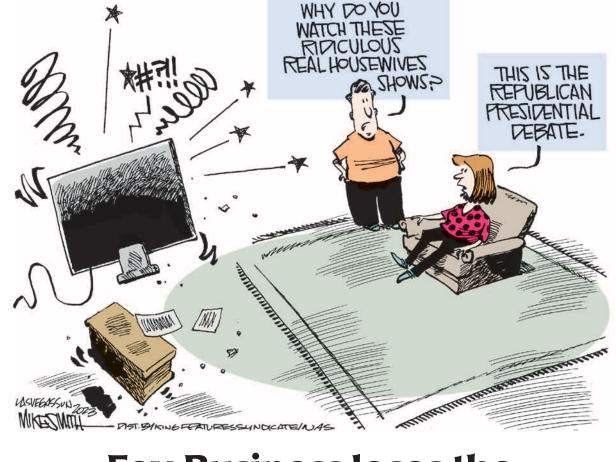
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> Holly Gaskill, Editor Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor

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Fox Business loses the GOP's second debate

From the first dumb question to the abrupt ending that caught everyone by surprise, the GOP presidential primary debate produced by the Fox Business channel was a total disaster.

I know. I was there Wednesday night in Row 5 of the Air Force One pavilion in the Ronald Reagan Library in Simi Valley,

At the beginning of the debate it was a special treat to see and hear the praise that the Fox people bestowed on my father, his historic accomplishments and his strong and personable brand of conservatism.

But from then on it was all downhill. Everything about the debate was dumb, wrong or poorly designed — the seven-candidate format, the trio of incompetent debate moderators, the high-speed stream of questions they asked and the rude behavior of the cross-talking candidates.

Unless something changes, it was a lineup of potential future losers to Donald Trump — Gov. Doug Burgum of North Dakota, ex-New Jersey Gov. Chris

Christie, Ex-South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, businessman/commentator Vivek Ramaswamy, South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott and ex-VP Mike Pence.

They all tried to slip in their canned quips and pitches for their leadership abilities, but no one learned anything in two excruciating hours — except that it's impossible to have a good political debate with seven people.

Other than Pence and professional Trump hitman Christie, the "Not-so Magnificent Seven" spent most of their time interrupting each other and beating up Joe Biden for all the problems his policies have brought America.

If I had to pick the top three "winners," I'd go with the governors — Burgum, Christie and DeSantis. They should be in the next primary debate and the rest should go home.

Nikki Haley was very good at first. But then halfway through the debate she did her impression of a mad housewife.

She picked a fight with Kid Ramaswamy and hit Sen. Scott upside the face with a mean tirade that



Michael Reagan

made no sense to any of us in Row 5. At one point we were all confused because she and Scott were acting like a married couple having an argument over drapes.

The big winners, for sure, were the elephants who weren't in the room — Trump and Biden.

By far the night's biggest loser was Fox Business.

It proved it is no smarter or better than any of the liberal networks who've hosted previous presidential debates.

On paper it should not have been so awful. Stuart Varney is great as the likable anchor of Fox Business' morning show. And Dana Perino is the quiet star of Fox News' deservedly popu-

lar show, "The Five." But neither of them had never moderated a political

debate — and it immediately showed. They had no control over the cross-talking candidates and acted like they had a quota of 100 questions

they had to ask. Half the time they were more concerned with firing off the next question than allowing a real debate to get started on important issues like our support for

Ukraine or parental rights in schools. It almost seemed like the people in charge at Fox had never seen a multi-person political debate before.

They should have made sure that on the important issues each candidate got a turn to answer the question, not just two or three, which would have prevented most of the annoying cross-talk.

And whoever thought that it was a good idea to put Ilia Calderón of Univision in as the third moderator should be fired.

Supposedly intended to appeal to Latino voters who increasingly are attracted to the GOP, her accent was so heavy that those sitting around us often couldn't understand what she was asking.

Some friends who watched the debate on TV told me they turned it off after 20 minutes, but I was trapped there in Row 5.

The good news is that Air Force One that my father used didn't fall on our heads. Thank God the food and wine was great again.

Reagan@caglecartoons.com • Twitter: @reaganworld

Skipping the debates has worked for Trump

Woody Allen said 90% of life is showing up. Donald Trump is proving that he overshot the mark considerably.

The former president has paid no discernible price for skipping the Republican debates. Arguably, he's been winning them by diminishing the rest of the field through his absence, while his polling has held steady or gone up a little.

The latest forum, at the Reagan Library, will not be long remembered, or perhaps remembered at all.

The candidates tended either to overpromise about what they'd do as president in frenzied, rapid-fire fashion, or to talk over one another in squabbles difficult to watch or listen to.

If Trump was hoping that, if he failed to show, his opponents would tear at each other in pursuit of marginal advantage in the race for second, third or fourth place, it hardly could have gone better.

In fact, it went so swimmingly that one of Trump's advisors took the opportunity to announce that he won't show up for the third debate, scheduled for November in Miami, either. Why mess with a successful formula?

It's another instance where Trump has a set of political rules all to himself. Everyone else has been desperate to secure a place, even at the farthest edge, of the debate stage, while Trump has foregone an opportunity to occupy its center.

The difference between Trump and the other candidates is that they seek attention, but Trump himself is attention. His presence makes

something an event, whereas they hope to be at the

This isn't a criticism of the other candidates who almost all are public-spirited people. It's simply a fact of life as they grapple with running against a de facto incumbent president who is also a massive celebrity.

Chris Christie hoped to take down Trump in the debates, but now many of his anti-Trump gibes are meant to goad Trump into showing up or to slam him for not doing so.

The former New Jersey governor spoke directly to



Rich Lowry

Trump at one point in the debate, saying that he knew he was watching, which was likely to be true, assuming Trump himself hadn't grown tired of the unintelligible crosstalk and bootless and petty arguments.

It's not that there's anything wrong with contention, by the way. Arguments can be clarifying and important, although not so much if they are carefully prepared attacks on an opponent based on not terribly significant opposition research. Is it a good thing for the Republican Party

that its frontrunner won't show up at, traditionally, some of the highest profile, most consequential events of the campaign season? No. It is clearly a disservice to the voters and to the

process. Chris Christie and Ron DeSantis, who has also been pressing the point, are both right about this.

It is insulting to Republican voters that Trump feels that he doesn't need to show them the basic consideration of standing on a debate stage for two hours. But what is to be done if Republican voters refuse to be

The Trump camp is upping the ante by asserting the debates are affirmatively

bad things.

"The RNC should immediately put an end to any further primary debates,' Trump advisor Chris LaCivita said, "so we can train our fire on Crooked Joe Biden and quit wasting time and money that could be going to evicting Biden from the White House.'

Sure, and maybe there should be no caucuses or primaries, either. They are such

While Trump doesn't deserve a coronation, a significant portion of Republican voters are ready to outfit him with St. Edward's Crown.

There's no good political answer for this phenomenon, except for the other candidates to keep making their case, hope there's a breakout or the field begins to winnow -- and, yes, continue to show up at the debates, whether the frontrunner, calculating his own self-interest above all, deigns to make an appearance.

Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry



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705 W.-900 N., Uniondale 10 a.m. - Worship.

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

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH - NORTH 630 E. Dustman Rd.

9:45 & 11:45 a.m. - Worship. **ASBURY CHAPEL** UNITED METHODIST

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

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

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS

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

BLUFFTON CHURCH OF GOD 327 W. Cherry St.

10 a.m. - Sunday School. 11 a.m. - Worship. 6 p.m. - Service.

BLUFFTON WESLEYAN CHAPEL

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

BOEHMER UNITED METHODIST

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



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1532 N. Main St. 9 a.m. - Worship.

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

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

p.m. - Praise & worship. **CHURCH OF CHRIST** 735 S. Marion St. 10 a.m. - Bible Study.

10:45 - Worship.

COVENANT CHAPEL 3550 S. SR 1

mycovenantchapel.org 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:15 - Worship. (Children's Church for ages 6-12).

DILLMAN UNITED BRETHREN 8888S-1100W-90,

Warren 9 a.m. - Worship. 10 a.m. - Sunday School.

DOMESTIC CHURCH OF CHRIST

9 a.m. - Sunday school. 10 a.m. - Church service.

> **EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST**

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

FAIRVIEW CHURCH OF GOD

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

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST 210 W. Townley fbc-bluffton.com

10 a.m. - Worship. 11 a.m. - Discipleship.

FIRST BAPTIST 202 W. Cherry St.

fbcbluffton.com 10:15 - Worship. **FIRST BAPTIST**

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

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 1515 Clark Ave.

blufftonnazarene.org 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 9-10 a.m. - Free ESL classes. 10:15 - Worship. 6 p.m. - Service.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN 215 E. Dustman Rd.

firstpcbluffton.org 9:30 a.m. - Children/youth & Adult Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN (EVANGELICAL)

123 S. Jefferson St., Ossian www.OssianChurch.com 8:45 a.m. - Adult Sunday

school. 10 a.m. - Worship.

FIRST REFORMED **CHURCH OF BLUFFTON**

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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST 325 W. Washington St.

9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:45 - Sunday School.

FORGIVEN CHURCH 1409 S. Main St. forgivenonline.org

9 a.m. - Worship. **GRACE BAPTIST**

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

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



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I pity a person I've never met I don't know his —

or her—real name; he or she uses the name DAL. I don't know if

DAL professes faith in Jesus; I don't know if DAL volunteers regularly, married his (or her) high school sweetheart, enjoys Papa John's Pizza, or roots, roots, roots for the home team.

Unfortunately, I only know that DAL hates Donald Trump.

At least, almost anytime the news magazine World publishes an article about the former president, DAL

Actually, DAL doesn't just comment; DAL condemns. DAL unleashes a digital Noah's flood of vitriol, cynicism and malice toward the man DAL refers to as, "an existential threat to our democracy/republic.'

However, I don't write about DAL to necessarily defend Trump. I simply suspect that many other DALS populate this country—and its churches.

And I also too eagerly embrace the power of anger. I too have felt its rumbles threaten to erupt with volcanic fury.

And I too have—and do-occasionally indulged that volcano, only for its ash of bitterness to smother God's love and blessings and choke my ability to rejoice.

And so I mourn for DAL and his (or her) delight in demolishing a fellow image

Jesus pities DAL too, but He also warns: "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment."

Likewise, the Apostle Paul tells the Colossians, "But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth." (Emphasis added). Furthermore, Paul tells the Ephesians, "Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.'

But Paul didn't pen mere hypothetical ideals. Paul arguably knew better than most that through God's grace and Spirit, people can overcome their anger and "love your enemies,

bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who

> spitefully use you and persecute you,' as Jesus commanded in Matthew 5:44. After all, when

> the Bible introduces Paul, he is celebrating the death of an enemy, Stephen. (I sometimes

by Chet Baumgartner wonder how long Stephen hugged Paul when they first saw each other in Heaven).

> But Christians who successfully overcome will first recognize the poison pooling in their souls; like any sin, they will confess to God, seeking forgiveness and cleansing through Jesus' blood, and they will expose it to other Christians to hold themselves accountable.

> And they will learn to discern between their anger and God's anger.

Paul seemingly recognizes that Christians can feel righteous anger, and just as Jesus acted in righteous anger, Christians can and should respond to sin with anger as well.

But I think I can safely conclude that 99 percent of all online anger does not qualify as righteous.

Furthermore, Christians can use righteous anger as an excuse to respond with unrighteous wrath. I've too often noticed that Christians confront sin not because it offends God or hurts those who sin, but because it threatens Christians' political and religious liberties.

And when Christians confront sin, I fear they won't confront its spiritual roots and the spiritual powers behind it. They won't try to patiently teach the sinners truth in hopes that "God perhaps will grant them repentance," as Paul writes. No, I fear Christians will

exercise their wrath primarily, perhaps solely, to ensure that they maintain the political power necessary to keep their political liberties (which they often unequivocally equate with the freedom to worship).

Meanwhile, organizations like Voice of the Martyrs testify of Christians whose enemies have slaughtered their families and burned down their churches, and yet these Christians still ask American Christians to pray that these enemies would repent.

And in that spirit, I pray I will regularly pray for DAL; I will pray that the one who hopes Trump will rot in prison will escape the prison of

I pray that he will one day pray for Trump.

HOPE MISSIONARY 429 E. Dustman Rd.

hope4thefamily.com 8 a.m., 9:30 & 11 a.m. -Service at Main Campus. 9:30 & 11 a.m. - Service, north campus, Ossian.

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

10:30 - Sunday School.

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

LIBERTY CENTER BAP-**TIST**

- Worship.

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

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

LIFE COMMUNITY 428 S. Oak St.

lifecommunity.net 10:30 a.m. - Service (Children's programs available).

LIVING FAITH MISSIONARY

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

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

a.m. - Worship.

MARKLE CHAPEL HILL **SEVENTH DAY ADVEN-**TIST

470 E. Morse St. Saturday: 9:30 a.m. -Worship. 10:45 - Sabbath School (Bible study).

MARKLE CHURCH OF CHRIST 455 E. Morse St.

marklechurch.org 9 a.m. - Adult Bible study groups. 10:30 - Worship. Children's & student programming both hours.

TO REPORT CHURCH NEWS:

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

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

MURRAY MISSIONARY 1117 N. Washington St., Murray

murraymc.org 9:30 a.m. - Worship. 11 a.m. - Sunday School.

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

NEW HOPE LUTHERAN (Missouri Synod) 8824 N. SR 1, Ossian newhopelutheran-ossian.

webs.com 9 a.m. - Sunday School & Adult Bible study. 10 a.m. -

> **NOTTINGHAM** 1100 S. SR 1

9:30 - Sunday School. 10:30 & 6 p.m. - Worship.

OSSIAN CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 302 N. Metts St. ossiannaz.org

9:15 a.m. - Bible study.

10:30 - Service.

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

Adult Sunday School. **PARK COMMUNITY** 617 S. Bennett St. blog.parkub.org 10 a.m. - Connection. 11 a.m. - Worship.

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

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

School. 9 a.m. - Worship.

Sunday School.

day School.

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

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

RIVER OF LIFE

927 N. Main St. 10:30 a.m. - Worship. **SIX MILE**

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

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

Sunday School & Worship. **SOUTHERN WELLS COMMUNITY CHURCH** 9450 S 300 W, Poneto

9 & 10:45 a.m. - Worship. ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC

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

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

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

School. 10 a.m. - Worship. ST. MARK'S **LUTHERAN (NALC)**

5912 N. Sugar St., Uniondale 10 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Children's Sunday School.

THE CHURCH AT MCNATT 9221 W 800 S-90, Montpelier

8:30 a.m. - Coffee fellowship. 9:15 - Worship.

THE MEETING PLACE 115 E. Market St.

6:30 p.m. - Bible study. **TOWER LIFE CENTER**

11811 N. Wayne St.,

Zanesville towerlifecenter.com 9:30 a.m. - TLC Groups. 10:30 - Worship.

TURNPOINTE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN 500 W. Logan, Markle

turnpointechurch.com 9:30 a.m. - Fellowship. 10 a.m. - Adult & Children's Worship.

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

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

VERA CRUZ FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER CCCU 2771 SE Mulberry St.,

Vera Cruz 9-10 a.m. - Sunday School. 10-10:30 - Fellowship. 10:30 - Worship.

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH 205 S. Adams St., Monroe

- Discipleship for adults & children. **ZANESVILLE**

COMMUNITY

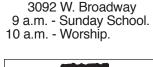
CHURCH OF GOD

11984 N. Marzane Rd.

9 a.m. - Worship. 10:15

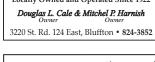
9 a.m. - Bible Class. 10 a.m. - Worship. **ZANESVILLE UNITED**

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Meyer's game-winning drive, late fumble stuns No. 1 Tigers vs. Patriots

By RYAN WALKER MONROEVILLE -

With the ultimate target on its back, the newly No. 1 Bluffton Tigers were stunned at Heritage 27-21.

Senior Patriots' quarterback Kobe Meyer punched in his second rushing touchdown with 1:01 to go late in the fourth quarter to take the

The Tigers had an opportunity from their own 30-yard line to go for the win. However, a miscue on a backward lateral trick play fumbled the ball into the hands of the Patriots, delivering the finishing blow to the Tigers.

The play call happened on the first play of the final Tigers drive with 55 seconds remaining. Bluffton's quarterback completed the pass to AJ Streveler on a hook route near the left sideline for 10 yards. As soon as Streveler caught it, he tossed it backward to Ben Ramseyer, who was trailing right behind.

"We knew (Heritage) would bail," Bluffton head coach Brent Kunkel said after the game. "We knew that AJ (Streveler) was a guy all night getting open. And then, you know, we thought they'd bite up on AJ. And they did.

The toss was slightly offtarget to Ramseyer's right side. He reached for the ball

but only got a fingertip on it. After three Patriots and one Tiger made an attempt at the ball, Heritage's Eli Pilon fell on the ball with possession for a turnover.

If the play had been executed, there was a nearby defender that Ramseyer would have a chance to outrun with a safety playing

The lateral was by design but wasn't a play that the Tigers had worked on much at practice, and Kunkel took the blame.

"And unfortunately, that's not a play that we practice," continued Kunkel. "So that's on the head coach. I should have called a better play there that we had repped, but we thought we had an opportunity there to do something, and it didn't work out. It's hard for kids to execute things we haven't practiced. So that's that's a that's a poor call there. I should have called some better to try to get down the field a bit, but I don't blame my kids for that. That's not something that we've executed in practice, so I shouldn't call it."

Before the fiasco to end the game, Bluffton had some catching up to do after a 14-point deficit at the half.

The Tigers were gutpunched right away when the Patriots took two and a half minutes on the opening drive to go 82 yards. Meyer completed his first pass to D'vontaye Washington on a 23-yard pass, then set up a one-yard keeper following a 47-yard rush.

The Patriots forced a Bluffton punt that was returned to the house by Braden Walter for 75 yards. That got the senior night home crowd on their feet.

"That's coach (Casey) Kolkman, his kids, and staff," Kunkel said of his opponent and former Bluffton head coach, led by 27 seniors. "Well, they were ready to go from the start. We weren't. We were tight. We were tense."

The Tigers responded with Cooper Craig's 14-yard carry and a 36-yard completion from Betancourt to Andrew Hunt. Hunt then took a wildcat snap on first-and-goal at the one for a score.

To start the second half, Bluffton's offense methodically rolled back in the game with Craig's one-yard touchdown.

The Tigers' defense stifled the Patriots, making several stops in a row to set up the tying touchdown drive.

The score came by way of Craig's second touchdown, this time for eight

For most of the game,



Bluffton quarterback Braxton Betancourt (left) looks down field for a receiver as he runs away from Heritage's Brandon Boyle during the first half of Friday night's game at Heritage. The No. 1 Tigers fell to the Patriots for their first loss of the season, 27-21. (Photo by Chad Kline)

Heritage had a distinct advantage on the ground, outcarrying the Tigers 198-145 in 10 fewer attempts (Heritage had 6.1 yards per touch to Bluffton's 3.4).

Meyer, the team's leading passer and rusher on the season, tallied 131 yards on the ground to go with his two touchdowns.

On the ensuing Heritage drive after Bluffton tied the game, Meyer called his own number seven times for 32 yards. He helped the Patriots pound the experienced Tiger defense that averages six points per game.

We score there with four and a half minutes, and we don't get to stop where they kept the ball in (Meyer's)

hand," Kunkel said. "He's a hell of a player, and we were able to get down the field, and we didn't, we didn't stop it. So you know, that's one thing we gotta figure out how to get better at."

Bluffton will have another test next week as they have Senior Night against the visiting Adams Central Flying Jets.

sports@news-banner.com

HERITAGE 27, BLUFFTON 21 At Heritage
Score By Quarters
Bluffton 7 0 7 7 - 21
Heritage 14 7 0 6 - 27 Scoring Summary
First Quarter
H—Kobe Meyer 1-yard run (Meyer

kick), 9:29.

H—Braden Walter 34-yard punt return (Meyer kick), 5:04
B—Andrew Hunt 1-yard run (Brody Lewis kick), 1:48.

Second Quarter

H-Nolan Hoskins 14-yard run (Meyer kick), 5:39.

Third Quarter

-Cooper Craig 1-yard run (Lewis

Fourth Quarter

—Craig 8-yard run (Lewis kick) 6:14. H—Meyer 1-yard run (kick failed),

Team Statistics First Downs Rushes-Yards Yards Passing Passing (C-A-I) Penalties-Yards Fumbles-Lost 1-1 Punts-Average 1-34 Time of Possession 28:59

Individual Statistics Rushing: Bluffton: Cooper Craig 26-90, Andrew Hunt 7-37, Braxton 26-90, Aridrew Hunt 7-37, Braxton Betancourt 7-13, AJ Steveler 2-5. Heritage: Kobe Meyer 19-131, Cjau Barnett 4-50, Nolan Hoskins 3-18, Caleb Abbott 2-3, Eli Tigulis 1-(-1). Passing: Bluffton: Braxton Betan-court 8-19-1 Mever 7-14-1 43.

Receiving: Bluffton: AJ Strev-eler 5-67, Andrew Hunt 2-37, Ben Ramseyer 1-24. Heritage: D'vontaye Washington 1-23, Preston Fields

Mistakes haunt Knights in loss to conference foe Barons

Bv ANDREW FEEBACK Pettis for a 60-yard strike to

WATERLOO — If the box score told the whole story, Friday night's game between the Norwell Knights and DeKalb Barons would have likely gone down to the wire.

But mistakes, tough breaks, and turnovers haunted the visiting Knights throughout, and they came out on the losing end of a 49-27 decision.

"It felt like we had some opportunities, but we couldn't get off the field when we needed to, couldn't convert when we needed to," coach Josh Gerber said. "That penalty near the end was pretty costly because we were down two scores at the time."

Norwell (1-6) could have pointed to a handful of plays that were just indicative of how this game went.

The Knights punted on their first two series without picking up a first down.

The Barons (4-3) scored touchdowns on their first two possessions, with quarterback Aaden Lytle and running back Caiden Hinkle each scoring from one yard out.

Norwell reached the oneyard-line as the first quarter ended, then had a touchdown run called back on a holding penalty. The drive ended with a missed field goal.

Six plays later for the Barons, Lytle threw a dart over the middle to Caden make it 21-0.

Drew Graft's 10-yard scramble got the Knights on the board midway through the second, only to have the PAT hit the upright.

Although Norwell rarely had momentum in this game, the Knights got a huge boost when Trace Moser intercepted a deep pass from Lytle and returned it about 55 yards. Three straight plays resulted in double-digit gains, and suddenly, the Knights had a first and goal with the half winding down.

They got to the one-yardline again before fumbling a snap into the end zone.

"Not everyone was on the same page," Gerber said. "That probably should have been seven more (points) for

Lytle got loose for a 34-yard touchdown run to put the Barons up 28-6 in

Norwell quickly answered with a touchdown run from Timothy Bonjour.

DeKalb widened its lead to 35-13 when Lytle threw deep on third and 11, and Xavier Bell managed to get under it for a 72-yard score.

Bonjour's second touchdown run brought Norwell within 35-19. The Knights faked an extra-point try, but the conversion pass was short of the goal line.

Lytle threw another

touchdown pass to Bell from 17 yards out to push the lead back to three scores.

A third touchdown run from Bonjour and a successful two-point pass ended the scoring for the visitors.

The penalty Gerber referenced earlier came with Norwell trailing 42-27 but with the ball and just under five minutes left. Graft completed a pass to Moser for a gain of about 60 yards that was called back on a holding penalty.

The Knights fumbled it ack to the Barons on the next play.

DeKalb got one more touchdown from Lytle from 27 yards for the game's final

Norwell had three more first downs, a slight edge in time of possession, only nine fewer passing yards, and one less completion. Each team ran the ball 39 times, punted three times, and had one interception.

But despite the box score appearing to be relatively even, it never really felt like the Knights were in the

"We felt like we got better this week. It just wasn't enough tonight," Gerber

Norwell will host Huntington North on Friday

sports@news-banner.com

DEKALB 49. NORWELL 27 Score By Quarters 0 6 7 14 – 27



Norwell's Trace Moser (right) makes a spectacular catch in the third quarter as DeKalb's Brady Culler is unable to tear the ball away. The Knights ended up falling to the Barons 49-27 in NE8 Conference play. (Photo by Glen Werling)

14 7 14 14 - 49 **Scoring Summary** First Quarter

D—Aaden Lytle 1 run (Carter Neumann kick), 7:58. D-Caiden Hinkle 1 run (Neumann

kick), 3:23. Second Quarter D—Caden Pettis 60 pass from Lytle (Neumann kick), 8:48.

N—Drew Graft 1 run (kick failed), 6:28 Third Quarter D—Lytle 34 run (Neumann kick), 10:02. N—Timothy Bonjour 4 run (Austin DeLeon kick), 7:54. D—Xavier Bell 72 pass from Lytle (Neumann kick), 0:05.

Fourth Quarter N—Bonjour 2 run (pass failed), 10:10. D—Bell 17 pass from Lytle (Neumann N—Bonjour 1 run (2-point pass good)

-Lytle 27 run (Neumann kick), 2:14 Team Statistics **NOR DEK** ns 19 16 First Downs

Rushes-Yards 39-133 39-217 Yards Passing 232 243 Passing (Comp-Att-Int) 12-20-1 13-25-1 Penalties-Yards 6-504-45

Time of Possession 24:41

Individual Statistics Rushing: Norwell, Drew Graft 9-17, Cayden Cassel 1-10, Trey Boden-heimer 8-33, Quentauris Jones 4-14, Drew Jolley 3-0, Cohen Bailey 1-16, Timothy Bonjour 13-42. DeKalb, Aaden Lytle 20-153, Caiden Hinkle 17-63, Blayde King 1-0, Xavier Bell 1-1. Passing: Norwell, Graft 12-20-1-232. DeKalb, Lytle 13-25-1-243. Receiving: Norwell, Jones 1-0, Bodenheimer 3-23, Bailey 7-168, Trace Moser 1-41. DeKalb, Bell 7-115, 3-104, King 1-16, Caiden Schmidt 1-9.

No. 2 Jets prove their power, rout Raiders on the road

By RICK SPRUNGER

Yep, they're that good. Adams Central brought the state's No. 2 ranking in Class A to Southern Wells Friday night and proved that it deserves that lofty spot with a 49-7 pummeling of the

hometown Raiders. The Jets piled up a 42-0 halftime lead and then coasted through a running-clock second half with second-stringers and reserves.

Still, Southern Wells coach Jeff Sprunger was optimistic about what he saw out of his team.

'We continued to fight the whole game," said Sprunger immediately upon being asked for some positive takeaways. "We're taking on a big opponent, and we're fighting for respect. We want (Adams Central) to say, 'Those boys play hard' and 'they're better than they were last year.' We want them to know they're going to have to prepare a

little harder next year." Adams Central took care of

business in the first half.

The Jets recovered a Southern Wells fumble at the Raider 28 on the game's third play and needed just three plays to take it in from

They got another short field when Southern Wells came up short on a nothing-to-lose fourthand-1 gamble from its own 30 and, this time needed just one play, getting a 30-yard touchdown pass from Jack Hamilton to Cam Smith.

A third first-quarter drive needed just three plays to go 50 yards, the last 34 coming on another Hamilton touchdown pass, this one to Trevor Currie.

The Jets wrapped things up in the second period with scoring runs of 12 and 47 yards by Aaron Hirschy sandwiched around a 46-yard scamper on a keeper by Hamilton.

Adams Central coach Michael Mosser had plenty of gracious things to say about the direction of the Southern Wells program.

"They've got numbers, they've got size, and they are very disciplined," said Mosser of the Raiders. "The main thing they lack is experience. They are big up front, and that made it hard for our guys. They also ran a few plays that caught us off guard. I just have the utmost respect for coach (Sprunger), and I think he is definitely going to turn this program around."

Southern Wells gave its fans something to cheer about in the third quarter when it put together a 14-play, 63-yard drive and punched the ball into the end zone on a sixyard scoring run by Case Boxell on the final play of the quarter.

Boxell led Southern Wells rushers with 61 yards on 14 carries but sat out most of that scoring drive after tweaking his ankle on the first play of the drive after a 10-yard carry.

"He'll be sore tomorrow," said Sprunger later while assuring his fans that the injury was not serious and that he will likely be back next

In fact, he re-entered the game in time to carry the ball the last three plays in the drive, including a four-yard smash to convert on fourth-and-1 from the 10 and his scoring run on the next play.

Adams Central improved to 7-0 on the season with the win, its 17th straight in regular season play and 26th in 27 games since 2020, excluding tournament games.

The Jets have won all but one of those games by 20 or more points and all but four by 34 or

Southern Wells dropped to 1-6 on the season.

The Raiders will take on another tough customer next week in Heritage, now 6-1 after last night's 27-21 upset of Class 2A No. 1 Bluffton.

sports@news-banner.com

ADAMS CENTRAL 49, SOUTHERN WELLS Adams Central 21 21 0 7 — 49

AC-Aaron Hirschy 12 run (Currie kick), 11:52. AC-Hamilton 46 run (Currie kick), 9:15. AC-Hirschy 47 run (Carter Affolder kick), 3:46 Third Quarter

SW-Case Boxell 6 run (Joshua Aulbach kick), **Fourth Quarter**

Southern Wells 0 0 7 0 — 7

(Currie kick), 7:08

First Quarter

AC-Keegan Bluhm 7 run (Trevor Currie kick) 9:38.
AC-Cam Smith 30 pass from Jack Hamilton

AC-Currie 34 pass from Hamilton (Currie

Second Quarter

AC-Jamison Roach 17 run (Affolder kick), **Team Statistics**

16 First Downs Rushes-Yards 25-278 43-85 Passing (C-A-I) 3-3-0 12-0 Passing Yards 87 Penalties-Yards 2-15 Fumbles-Lost 0-0 4-1 Punts-Average 1-35.0 6-27.8 Time of Possession14.50 33:10

Rushing: Adams Central-Max Hamilton 4-35, Aaron Hirschy 3-66, Keegan Bluhm 3-41, Joey Everett 3-30, Hayden Bluhm 3-24, Matt Heiser 3-13, Vance Miller 3-10, Jack Hamilton 1-46, Jamison Roach 1-12; Southern Wells-Case Boxell 14-61, Jacob Gearheart 9-23, Owen King 7-28, Trey Slusher 6-(-39), William Johnson 4-12, Levon Goodnight 2-1, Jarrett Martin 1-(-2). Passing: Adams Central-Jack Hamilton 3-3-0 87; Southern Wells-Trey Slusher 1-2-0 13. Receiving: Adams Central-Cam Smith 2-53, Trevor Currie 1-34; Southern Wells-Case Boxell

Individual Statistics

Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

High School

Adams Central 49, Southern Wells Alexandria 38, Oak Hill 14 Batesville 49, Greensburg 0 Beech Grove 62, Indpls Ritter 20 Bloomington North 42, Columbus

East 0 Bloomington South 49, Columbus

Boone Grove 55, Whiting 7
Boonville 54, Princeton 7
Bremen 34, Prairie Heights 0 Brownsburg 59, Zionsville 21 Brownstown 56, Madison 6 Carroll (Flora) 64, Clinton Central 6 Carroll (Ft. Wayne) 41, Homestead

Cascade 40. Owen Valley 19 Castle 39, Jasper 32 Caston 49, Culver 14 Center Grove 48, Indpls Pike 17 Centerville 63, Union Co. 14 Central Noble 24, Churubusco 12 Charlestown 33, Corydon 0 Clinton Prairie 48, Taylor 14 Crown Point 42, LaPorte 0 Culver Academy 42, Woodlan 0 Danville 46, Frankfort 6 DeKalb 49, Norwell 27 Decatur Central 63, Greenwood 42 E. Central 64, Connersville 0 E. Noble 35, Columbia City 0 Eastbrook 62, Elwood 0

Eastern (Greentown) 31, Tri-Central 7 Eastern (Pekin) 22, Salem 21 Eastern Hancock 40, Monroe Cen-Eastside 35, Fremont 0
Edinburgh 54, Indpls Irvington 18
Elkhart 34, S. Bend Adams 0
Evansville Bosse 36, Evansville

Mater Dei 20 Evansville Harrison 28, Evansville

Central 21 Evansville North 31, Vincennes 0 Evansville Reitz 34, Evansville Memorial 0

Fishers 29. Franklin Central 23 Floyd Central 28, Bedford N. Law-Ft. Wayne Luers 29, Ft. Wayne Dwenger 28

Ft. Wayne North 20, Ft. Wayne South 6 Ft. Wayne Snider 49, Ft. Wayne Northrop 7 Ft. Wayne Wayne 45, Ft. Wayne

Concordia 6 Garrett 22, Fairfield 19 Gary West 14, Griffith 13 Gibson Southern 45, Washington 6 Goshen 24, Plymouth 21 Greencastle 68, Cloverdale 7

Greenfield 35, Yorktown 30 Greenwood Christian 49, Clarks-

Guerin Catholic 29. Northview 24 Hamilton Hts. 43, Tipton 0 Hamilton Southeastern 43, Nobles-

Hammond Morton 56, Hammond Central 3 Hanover Central 31, Hobart 26 Heritage 27, Bluffton 21 Heritage Hills 49, Mt. Vernon (Posev) 3

Highland 28, Munster 27, OT Indian Creek 35, Speedway 21 Indpls Attucks 28, Indpls Shortridge

Indpls Ben Davis 45, Carmel 16 Indpls Cathedral 39, Cin. La Salle,

Indpls Chatard 41, Andrean 0 Indpls Lutheran 49. Monrovia 14 Jimtown 35, S. Bend Washington 0 Kankakee Valley 38, Lowell 14 Knox 50, Pioneer 8 Kokomo 52, Anderson 14 LaVille 31. Glenn 27 Lafayette Catholic 43, Twin Lakes 0 Lafayette Harrison 38, Indpls Tech 6 Lake Central 20, Chesterton 14 Lapel 29, Heritage Christian 15 Lawrence Central 49, Indpls N

Lawrence North 48, Warren Cen-

Lawrenceburg 48, Rushville 14 Lebanon 35, Crawfordsville 0 Leo 48, Huntington North 0 Linton 40, N. Knox 0 Logansport 50, Richmond 8 Lou. Male, Ky. 43, Indpls Roncalli 0 Maconaquah 43, Cass 26 Madison-Grant 38, Frankton 15 Manchester 21, Whitko 0 Martinsville 37, Indpls Perry Merid-

McCutcheon 34. Lafavette Jeff 22 Michigan City 21, Portage 8 Mishawaka Marian 39, Angola 14 Mississinewa 49, Blackford 6 Mooresville 21, Whiteland 7 Mt. Vernon (Fortville) 51, New

Muncie Central 32, Marion 30 N. Decatur 38, N. Daviess 0 N. Posey 41, Forest Park 7 N. Posey 41, Forest Park 7
N. Putnam 48, W. Vigo 0
N. Vermillion 41, Parke Heritage 0
N. White 58, S. Newton 22
New Albany 29, Jeffersonville 7
New Haven 32, Bellmont 14
New Palestine 49, Shelbyville 7
New Prairie 35, S. Bend Riley 12
NorthWood 43, Mishawaka 42, OT
Northeastern 19, Shenandoah 16
Northridge 21, Concord 14 Northridge 21, Concord 14 Paoli 50, Crawford Co. 7 Pendleton Hts. 28, Delta 23

Penn 28, S. Bend St. Joseph's 0 Perry Central 48, W. Washington 14 Peru 61, Southwood 7 Plainfield 38. Franklin 3 Providence 41, Milan 13 Rensselaer 64, Benton Central 26 River Forest 49, Hammond Noll 0 Riverton Parke 53, Attica 0 Rochester 62, Northfield 0 S. Adams 23, Jay Co. 20

S. Central (Union Mills) 61, Lake

S. Dearborn 38, Franklin Co. 6 S. Decatur 27, Switzerland Co. 7 S. Putnam 66, Brown Co. 0 Vermillion 53, Fountain Central

Scottsburg 56, Mitchell 6 Seeger 14, Covington 13 Seymour 56, Jennings Co. 32 Sheridan 37, Delphi 14 Silver Creek 42, N. Harrison 37 South Vigo 32, Indy Brebeuf 25 Southport 43, North Vigo 7 Southridge 42, S. Spencer 7 Spring Valley 68, Tecumseh 7 Sullivan 28, Edgewood 7 Tell City 42, Pike Central 0 Tippecanoe Valley 35, W. Lafayette

Tri 48, Knightstown 14
Tri-County 38, Frontier 21
Tri-West 38, N. Montgomery 0
Triton 40, N. Judson 7
Triton Central 38, Indpls Scecina 14 Union City 62, Cambridge City Lincoln 26

Valparaiso 26, Merrillville 24
W. Noble 35, Lakeland 34, OT
Wabash 20, N. Miami 18
Warsaw 22, Wawasee 15
Wes-Del 35, Indpls Tindley 14
Western 55, Northwestern 40
Wastern Boone 29, Southmont Western Boone 29, Southmont 6 Westfield 38, Avon 14 Wheeler 38. Calumet 8 Winamac 22, W. Central 14 Winchester 48, Hagerstown 0

BASEBALL

American League

Friday's Games
Cleveland 7, Detroit 5
San Diego 3, Chicago White Sox 2
Kansas City 12, N.Y. Yankees 5
Minnesota 7, Colorado 6 Houston 2, Arizona 1 Texas at Seattle, late

Saturday's Games Cleveland (McKenzie 0-2) at Detroit Tampa Bay (Armstrong 1-0) at

San Diego (Wacha 13-4) at Chicago White Sox (Clevinger 9-8), 7:10 p.m. Boston (Crawford 6-8) at Baltimore (Gibson 15-9), 7:15 p.m.

Texas (TBD) at Seattle (Castillo 14-8), 7:15 p.m. Houston (Verlander 12-8) at Arizona (Kelly 12-7), 8:10 p.m.
Minnesota (TBD) at Colorado (TBD), 8:10 p.m. Oakland (Boyle 1-0) at L.A. Angels (TBD), 9:07 p.m.

Sunday's Games Cleveland at Detroit, 3:10 p.m. Houston at Arizona, 3:10 p.m. Minnesota at Colorado, 3:10 p.m. N.Y. Yankees at Kansas City, 3:10

p.m. San Diego at Chicago White Sox, 3:10 p.m. Texas at Seattle, 3:10 p.m.

National League

Friday's Games Miami 4, Pittsburgh 3 Washington 10, Atlanta 6
San Diego 3, Chicago White Sox 2
Cincinnati 19, St. Louis 2
Minnesota 7, Colorado 6
Milwaukee 4, Chicago Cubs 3, 10 innings Houston 2, Arizona 1

L.A. Dodgers at San Francisco,

10:15 p.m.
Philadelphia at N.Y. Mets, ppd.
Saturday's Games
Philadelphia (TBD) at N.Y. Mets
(Quintana 3-6), 4:10 p.m., 1st game
Miami (Chargois 1-0) at Pittsburgh
(Priester 3-2), 6:35 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Wicks 4-1) at Milwaukee (TBD), 7:10 p.m.
San Diego (Wacha 13-4) at Chicago White Sox (Clevinger 9-8), 7:10

cago White Sox (Clevinger 9-8), 7:10

p.m. Cincinnati (Phillips 1-0) at St. Louis (Rom 1-4), 7:15 p.m. Washington (Adon 2-4) at Atlanta (Strider 19-5), 7:20 p.m. Philadelphia (TBD) at N.Y. Mets

(TBD), 7:40 p.m., 2nd game Houston (Verlander 12-8) at Arizona (Kelly 12-7), 8:10 p.m. Minnesota (TBD) at Colorado (TBD), 8:10 p.m.

L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 13-4) at San Francisco (Beck 3-3), 9:05 p.m. Sunday's Games Miami at Pittsburgh, 3:05 p.m. Chicago Cubs at Milwaukee, 3:10

Houston at Arizona, 3:10 p.m Philadelphia at N.Y. Mets, 3:10

San Diego at Chicago White Sox, 3:10 p.m. Cincinnati at St. Louis, 3:15 p.m.

Toronto (Ryu 3-3), 3:07 p.m. N.Y. Yankees (Schmidt 9-9) at Kansas City (TBD), 7:10 p.m

SATURDAY, SEPT 30

BOYS TENNIS: (sectional at Norwell) championship Norwell vs. Bluff-

CROSS COUNTRY (CO-ED): Norwell at NE8 CC Championship at Columbia City, 10 a.m.; Bluffton at Bluffton Invitational, 10 a.m.

MONDAY, OCT 2 VOLLEYBALL: Bluffton at Norwell, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Lakeland Christian, 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCT 3

BOYS SOCCER: (sectional at Woodlan) Norwell vs. Heritage, 5 p.m.

High School Calendar

GIRLS SOCCER: (sectional) Woodlan at Norwell, 5 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL: Norwell at East Noble, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Anderson

Prep, 7:30 p.m. **WEDNESDAY, OCT 4** VOLLEYBALL: North Side at Bluffton,

THURSDAY, OCT 5

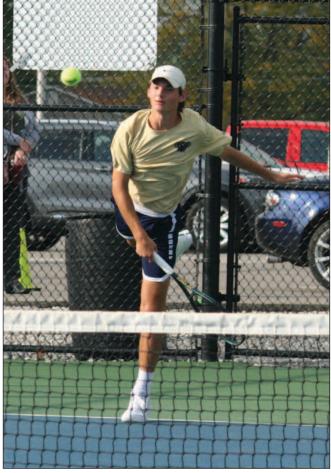
VOLLEYBALL: Norwell at Huntington North, 7:30 p.m

FRIDAY, OCT 6

FOOTBALL: Huntington North at Norwell, 7 p.m.; Adams Central at Bluffton, 7 p.m.; Heritage at Southern Wells, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT 7

CROSS COUNTRY (CO-ED): Norwell at Delta Eagle Invitational at Taylor University, 8:30 a.m.; Bluffton, Southern Wells at ACAC race at South Adams 11 a.m.





Norwell's Grant Mishler (left) hits a hard serve against South Adams during the sectional semi-final match. The Knights won 5-0, including Mishler's two-game sweep. Bluffton's Nolan Lamber (right) slices a backhand during the Tigers' match against Adams Central. The Tigers won in a 3-2 comeback and will face the Knights tomorrow at 11 a.m. (Photos by Ryan Walker)

Knights sweep Starfires, Tigers come back in win over Jets; both will meet in sectional final

By RYAN WALKER

It will be a Wells County battle in the boys' tennis sectional Saturday morning.

After three schedule changes due to weather delays during the week, Norwell and Bluffton advanced to the championship round in their wins Friday afternoon at Norwell High School.

The Knights won handily 5-0 over South Adams, while the Tigers completed a comeback to win 3-2 over Adams Central.

Head coach Noah Tobias was pleased with what he saw from his group, having been over a week since its last match and still coming up with a sweep.

"Today was a good win for our guys, especially because we haven't played the past couple of days due to rain," Tobias said.

The final two matches didn't come easy, though Norwell already had clinched a victory with three team points.

Gavin Reynolds dropped the first set at No. 3 singles but was able to crawl back to win in three sets.

Grant Mishler edged out his opponent at No. 1 singles but had a hardfought effort to do so.

"I was especially proud of Gavin (Reynolds) because of how hard he fought after losing the first set," Tobias said. "It looks like every match. It's just coming together more and more, and it's coming together at a really good time."

'Grant (Mishler) did an excellent job tonight planning against some really good competition," Tobias said. "He did a great job just focusing on winning his serve and knowing that he was going to get a break here and there, but

he wouldn't get every break." For Bluffton head coach Robert Vanderkolk, he didn't sweat being down 2-0 against the Jets.

The Tigers had to win the final three matches at No. 2 singles and both doubles teams, which has answered the bell throughout the season.

"I really wasn't that worried," Vanderkolk said. "We've leaned on Ben (Maggard), Kade (Abbett), and Nolan (Lambert) quite a bit this year, and especially these last couple of weeks. Nolan is a notorious slow starter. I was confident he would settle in and take care of business."

At No. 2 singles, Lambert won his final two sets after dropping the first

At No. 1 doubles, Abbett and Maggard won the first set, then failed to before sweeping the third.

Finally, Coy Lantz and Dane Schlagenhauf took care of business at No. 2

keep a 5-2 lead to win the second

The two teams will square off for the sectional crown at 11 a.m. Satur-

day morning. In the first meeting, the Knights won 4-1. But now, the stakes are higher. This is the sectional final.

Both Tobias and Vanderkolk are alumni of their respective schools and understand there's a bit of a rivalry between the two.

"Playing against Bluffton for the sectional championship is going to be a lot of fun," Tobias said. "I think there's going to be a decent amount of people there, which will also make the atmosphere fun. To play against a county rival for something like this is going to make tomorrow extra fun so that we can show off Wells County tennis."

Regardless of who won between South Adams and Norwell, Vanderkolk and his group were seeking another crack at either. "We didn't care who the opponent is

for tomorrow," Vanderkolk said. "Whoever won that match is someone who we are looking to gain revenge on anyway. ... We'll be ready to go against Norwell tomorrow. It's not going to be easy, but there's no fun in easy. We want to beat the best teams to win a title, and even if we aren't able to pull it off, we're going to make sure Norwell has to earn it. My guys are peaking at the right time, and we're going to embrace the moment, attack it with everything we've got, and hopefully come home with some more hardware.'

sports@news-banner.com

Brother worries about farming sister

Dear Annie: My sister and her husband are both in their mid-80s and live on a farm. He is disabled. They insist on retaining horses and livestock, which my frail 90-pound sister feeds daily.

On a recent visit, I observed her moving amongst the animals without her hearing aids and without her cellphone to use to call for help should she be knocked down and injured. He remains in the house and is usually asleep when she is in the feedlot.

My pleadings that it is time to sell off the animals are met with responses such as, "The market is down" (him), or "I love taking care of them" (her).

So, how can I get them to appreciate the importance of a balance between economics, a joyous life and her safety? — One Concerned Broth-

Dear Concerned Brother: You sound like a very caring brother, and your sister sounds like a very impressive lady. The answer to your question of how to get them to see the importance of living their lives your way is important issue and for letting me that you don't get them to see that.

Instead, you should support their decision to keep their horses and livestock, especially if she loves them and finds daily purpose in taking care of them. I doubt they are not aware of the economics, safety or joy in these circumstances. On the safety issue, continue to encourage her to wear her hearing aids and bring her cell-

Maybe stop by and help her out some mornings. Rather than observing all the things she is doing "wrong," dive right in and lend a hand with caring for her animals. My guess is that it will make you feel a lot better and strengthen the relationship with your sister.

Dear Annie: Dear After reading your Annie recent column on bullying, I knew by Annie Lane I had to let you



"Beat a Bully Without Using Your Fists."

know that a large group of people

from all over the

world are work-

ing hard to help

alleviate this seri-

ous situation. For

instance, check

out an online

video called,

As a kid, I was called "Susan Boozin'." I don't recall it bothering me, however. I guess bullying has always been around, but it does seem to be worse in the last decade or so.

If you have ever wondered why things seem to be getting worse worldwide, you will find answers in various scriptures of the Bible.

Thank you for addressing this refer your readers to the video and the Bible, especially 2nd Timothy 3:1-5. And keep those good answers coming! — Stop Bullying

Dear Stop Bullying: Thank you for your kind words, and I hope everyone will continue to work to eradicate bullying worldwide.

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

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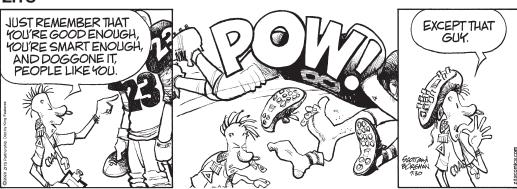
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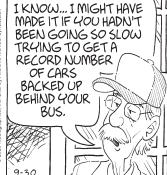


ZITS



CRANKSHAFT







My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham

Q: As a doctor, I'm faced with death daily as I care for dying patients. Many who have strong spiritual faith seem to deal with the end of life differently from others who live their last days in fear. Why is this? -

A: Last statements of dying men and women provide an excellent study for those who are looking for realism in the face of death. Some curse God and die: others who know Him as Savior and Lord say with the great Presbyterian minister John Knox, "Live in Christ, and the flesh need not fear death." How different are the stories of Christians who con-

He promises to take the sting out of death

fessed their sin and received Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord.

The story of Dr. Effie Jane Wheeler, who taught English and literature at Wheaton College, is remarkable. Two weeks before she died, she wrote a letter to the president of the college that was read to the faculty and student body. It said:

you know the truth about Christian's life. He keeps me as I learned it myself only last Friday. My doctor at last has given what has been his real diagnosis of my illness for weeks — an inoperable case of cancer. Now if he had been a Christian he wouldn't have been so dilatory or shaken, for he would have known, as

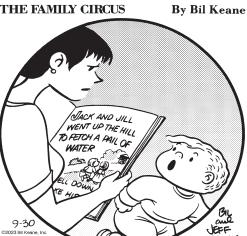
you and I do, that life or death is equally welcome when we live in the will and presence of the Lord. If the Lord has chosen me to go to Him soon, I go gladly. Please do not give a moment's grief for me. I do not say a cold goodbye but rather a warm expression of farewell 'till I see you again' — in the blessed land [of Heaven]."

What an example "I should like to have of God's power in the His promise to take the sting out of death (see 1 Corinthians 15:55).

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

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"I'm gonna fetch a glass of water."

The LOCKHORNS



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Cash4Life — 06-08-25-32-50, Cash Ball: 04

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Quick Draw Midday 01-09-11-14-15-16-21-23-28-29-49-53-55-62-68-71-

74-75-77-78, BE: 71 Daily Three-Midday — 01-07-06, SB: 05

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06-02-04-03, SB: 05 Quick Draw Evening - 03-08-09-18-19-22-25-

26-31-35-38-45-46-52-57-66-68-75-76-79, BE: 09 **Hoosier Lotto** — Estimated jackpot (for Satur-

day): \$35.5 million **MEGA MILLIONS** 18-40-47-55-64, Mega Ball: 11, Megaplier: 4X

POWERBALL Estimated jackpot (for

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Print Distribution + Paid Electronic Copies: 3,565; 3,460. (d) Percent Paid: 100; 100. I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic

and print) are paid above a nominal price.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership for Requestor Publication is required and will be published in the Sept. 30, 2023 issue of this publica-

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager or Owner: (signed) Douglas R Brown, Publisher. Date: 9/29/2023. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I

understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on

Paid/Requested Mail Subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541: 271; 249. (2) In County Paid/Requested Mail Subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541:

Date: 15a. Total Number of Copies: 3,209; 3,107

15e. Total Nonrequested Distribution: 0; 0 15f. Total Distribution: 3,209; 3,107.

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Public Sale Calendar

OCTOBER 1-8 - (Online Only) - Estate of Robert Isch, seller. 1978 White 2-50 diesel tractor, 2015 Ex-Mark Laser-Z zero turn riding lawn mower, 2002 Simplicity lawn mower, 2006 Simplicity Legacy riding lawn mower, single wagon, 3 bottom plow, Winco generator, lawn and garden, tools, antique & modern furniture, antiques, primitives, glassware, household. Preview: Sept. 28, Oct. 5, from 3-6 p.m., 601 E St. Rd. 124, Monroe. Sale manager, Patrick Carter, The Steffen Group Inc., 260-824-3006,

www.steffengrp.com.
BIDDING NOW OPEN AND STARTS CLOS-ING OCTOBER 8 STARTING AT 4 PM EST -Larry Beer, owner. Sports collector's dream! 950+ lots featuring lots of sports memorabilia, signed jerseys, bats & balls, MLB, NFL, MLB cards (some cards Graded), die cast toys, stamp collection, yard & hand tools, Yamaha gas powered golf cart, like new Cub Cadet riding lawn mower, household, furniture, Fenton glass, Roseville & Hull pottery, more! Preview: Oct. 5, 4-6 p.m., 909 Woodridge Ct., Decatur. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, Kjauction.

OCTOBER 15-OCTOBER 22 - (Online Only Auction) - Michael & Jane Michaud, seller. Gravely zero turn riding mower, 2018 Family Farm Home single axle utility trailer, Craftsman portable air compressor, Craftsman & DeWalt power tools, late model appliances, antique furniture, assorted household, Christmas decorations, Berkley fishing boat w/14' trailer, assorted fishing. Preview: Oct. 12 from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. and Oct. 19 from 3 p.m.-6 p.m., 1791 E 1100 S,

Warren. Sale managers, Patrick Carter & Nick Huffman. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.
BIDDING STARTS CLOSING OCTOBER 17

STARTING AT 6 P.M. EST - Ronald L Franke estate, owner. Real estate 6 p.m.: 812 sf, full basement, 2 bed, 2 full bath, 14'x22' detached garage, .29 acre lot, Fort Wayne Community School, Wayne Township, Allen County. Personal property 6:30 p.m.: 2006 Chevy Monte Carlo SS, 105k miles, household, tools, riding lawn mower, furniture, collectibles, more! Preview: Oct. 9, 5-6 p.m., 930 Irene Ave., Fort Wayne. Pick up: Oct. 18, 3-6 p.m. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, Kjauction.com, 260-724-

OCTOBER 22-OCTOBER 27 - (Online Only Auction) - Michael & Jane Michaud, seller. Single story home situated on 4.55 Acres w/ outbuildings. 3 bedroom and 2 full bathrooms with 1,880 square foot and an attached 2 car garage. Open houses: Oct. 12 from 3-6 p.m., Oct. 19 from 3-6 p.m., Oct. 26 from 4-6 p.m., 1791 E 1100 S, Warren. Pat Carter & Nick Huffman, sale managers. The Steffen Group Inc., 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

OCTOBER 22- OCTOBER 29 - (Online Only Auction) - Harvey E. & Wilma D. King, seller. H&D Repair Center & Body Shop retirement auction. Automotive & body shop equipment, pickup truck, tractor, Rotary Lift 9,000-lb. capacity 2-post hydraulic lift, mower. Preview: Oct. 19 from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. and Oct. 26 from 3 p.m.-6 p.m., 300 Standard Oil Blvd., Montpelier. Sale manager, Patrick Carter, The Steffen Group Inc., www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

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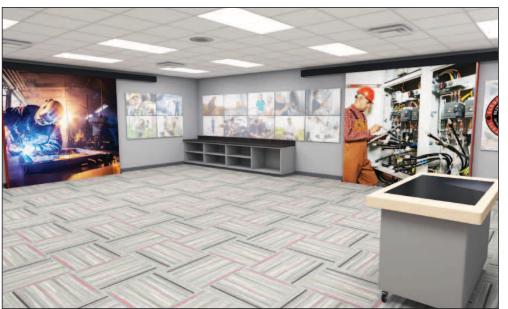
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Pictured is a digital rendering from Exhibit Concepts of one corner of the "EEE Exploration Center." At the right and left of the photo are stations for welding and and electrical activities. The shown artwork panels slide open like barn doors to uncovered respective interactive elements.



Shown is a design concept from Barton Coe Vilamaa Architects and Engineers for the OurTown Safety Village, with scaled buildings and street traffic. Formal plans for the construction have not been finalized. (Photos provided)

Classroom to community

(Continued from Page 1)

Middle School **Career Exploration**

At the same time, the seventh- and eighth-graders will also be exploring their own version of an experiential classroom with the "EEE Exploration Center."

The two grades complete a "college and careers" class, where the students assess their skills and interests, possible career pathways, and general application and interview skills.

However, Assistant Superintendent Julie Meitzler said these lessons are often stymied by a lack of experience and understanding. Where a student is familiar with a classroom or doctor's office, they may have no way to gauge a possible aptitude or interest for careers outside of their experience.

The class alone has proven valuable for students at a younger age. Eighth-grade students can earn high school credit for the course, but feedback to Meitzler concluded the students wanted access to high school pathway information early in middle school. The one-semester course is now also being offered to seventh-grade students.

This new classroom will also provide new interactive opportunities for students to explore several new pathways - food service, electrical work, and welding all of which have coordinating technical classes in the high school. Meizler hopes that, by incorporating these items, more students will be able to identify their interest in high school technical classes before enrolling. The name of the classroom itself shows this relationship — in middle school, "EEE" stands for explore, engage, and experience, and in the high school, it stands for enroll, enlist, and employ.

"I think exposing kids to

so important," Meitzler said. "And I think seventh grade and eighth grade is a perfect spot to do that because they're just starting to make some of those future choic-

The project is currently in the design phase, but the school has acquired one interactive element — a virtual welder. The machine resembles an arcade game, allowing students to practice the fine motor skills and attention to detail used in welding materials.

Similarly to the farm experience classroom, the career exploration classroom will include top-tobottom wall art and decor. "The goal is not to look like a classroom," Meitzler said.

The school is working with Exhibit Concepts, based out of Ohio, for the design and construction. The group predominantly builds exhibits for museums and trade shows, so the classroom's design will integrate instructional and museum space.

Exhibit Concepts will also develop interactive elements simulating food truck design for the culinary element, mock electrical circuits, and additional activities accessible by the students' laptops. Much of this project has been made possible through a \$200,000 grant from the Don Wood Foundation.

Construction will take place over winter break in December.

Our Town Safety Village

The last of current experiential learning endeavors for the district is the "Our Town Safety Village" at the elementary school. The 250foot long by 130-foot wide outdoor area will serve as a scaled-down mock community to practice safety skills, like crossing a road and stranger awareness.

It's a new idea to many but not to BHES. The kindergartners take an annual duce many safety ideas and skills. However, Superintendent Brad Yates believes it would be beneficial to have something to regularly review these ideas across the grade levels.

Having the home-field advantage, Yates explained, would also allow teachers to integrate the area into various lessons about safety and the community or simply provide a unique play opportunity. "This would be a continuous, ongoing opportunity for our elementary, not only from a safety element, but I think other things will blossom out of this," Yates said. An annual trick-or-treating event is even held at a similar Fort Wayne site.

The safety village would also be the first of its kind in Wells County, allowing all three districts a closer opportunity to review safety skills.

Much about the Safety Village is still in its infancy. Ideally, the Safety Village would be able to resemble Bluffton, with buildings that mimic local resources, businesses, and industries. Preliminary designs for the project capture six key environments — a Bluffton residential area, downtown Bluffton, businesses, a rural home and farm, municipal services, and a church.

While the primary goal is to teach safety practices, Yates noted that these local connections again foster conversations about various careers and businesses, how the community works, and how to be an involved community member.

"A component of this area is when they're out there, and they're at a police station, or they're at an automotive shop in the Safety Village, is to have those conversations and say, 'This is where they work. These are the things they do,' Yates explained.

Yates continued to connect this project to those being developed in the preschool and middle school

with experiential classrooms.

"Things like these give what I like to call 'spark moments,' where (students) go, 'I really like this' and 'I don't like that at all' ... where they get the exposure," he said. "At the elementary, we just want them to have a little bit of knowledge and awareness that they're more careers out there than the people they're aware of. When I was little, I wanted to be a teacher or policeman or fireman because those were the jobs that people knew they're in the storybooks and on the TV show. To know what an auto mechanic was, unless your family member was one, you didn't know. Those trade areas are prominent

to kids.' Ideally, Yates hopes work on the Safety Village will begin next spring. The district received only one bid thus far, which was unfortunately outside the district's budget. Yates said the administration is currently evaluating how and when to rebid and the scale of the

it's difficult to get exposure

Certain factors in the design, including electrical features and realism, also drive up the price. At its most elaborate, the area could appear as a one-forone scale of local buildings and landmarks. Depending on funding, however, the district may opt for more with differentiating sig-

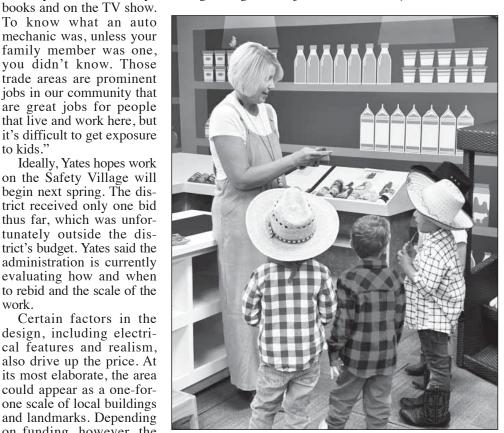
The district has received some state grant funding for the project and is in the process of determining the best course of action with the scope of the project, timing, and funding. The school may also pursue partnerships with local businesses to sponsor an Our Town building or an annual sign for the upkeep of the Safety Village.

Whatever the conclusion is, Yates confirmed, "We will do something." He anticipates the Safety Village being built adjacent to the playground, leaving plenty of room for the sledding hill.

And, all together, the three projects project a vision for Bluffton schools — a connection between classroom and community.

Yates continued, "There is intentionality to try to provide that continuum from a child's experience at the kindergarten level all the way through the senior level to see consistent opportunities, experiences, and education for the best we can provide.'

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Tricia Baker, Pre-K instructional assistant, shows students different features of the classroom market. (Photo provided)



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