

# The News - Banner

www.News-Banner.com

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2023 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00

## The gift of giving

United Way of Wells County opens applications for Christmas gift help

By SYDNEY KENT

As seasonal snacks, decorations, and neatly-packaged gifts begin to line the shelves, some families are filled with dread at the impending financial stress. Christmas can often be more of a burden than a blessing for those who struggle to make ends meet between paychecks.

For many years, United Way of Wells County has worked to help bring Christmas gifts to the thousands of children and their families facing financial hardship during the holiday season. The nonprofit does this through their annual Santa's Workshop toy drive.

The United Way is taking applications until Wednesday, Dec. 1. Applications can be filled out at the Wells County Food Bank and at 122 Lamar St, Suite 118 in Bluffton.

Each participating family receives toys for children up to age 12, at no cost to them. Executive Director Ben Renkenberger said the program would not be possible without community involvement. Donations of new, unwrapped toys are currently needed.

The Faith Fund's Lisa Eubank, along with Renkenberger, explained the process behind the annual tradition Wednesday afternoon.

"After we receive the gifts, volunteers come together to organize and sort them," Renkenberger said, pointing to a storage room that currently has a few stacks of new toys. "They form a sort of workshop as they put together the packages for families in need."

"Each family has a dedicated amount of gifts," Eubank added. "Children receive at least two 'main' gifts along with some smaller ones. I then send out a postcard to the families to pick up their presents on a specific date and time frame"

(Continued on Page 2)



Ben Renkenberger (left) and Lisa Eubank stand with a few of the early donations to the toy drive for United Way for Wells County. (Photo by Sydney Kent)

## Vogel to be honored as Volunteer of the Year

The Wells County Foundation has announced Ginny Vogel as the recipient of the 2023 Bette A. Erxleben Volunteer of the Year award. Individuals selected to receive this award have made outstanding, sustained and unselfish broad-based contributions to community service in Wells County.



Ginny Vogel

Vogel worked in the field of elementary education for 36 years, the majority of which was with the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District.

Upon retirement, Vogel was the force behind the creation and success of the Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children program within Wells County. CASA is a national association in the U.S. that supports and promotes court-appointed advocates for abused or neglected children. Vogel leads a dedicated team of volunteers to serve the best interests of children in Wells County.

Additionally, Vogel serves through her church. Vogel has served on the First Presbyterian Church of Bluffton's Christian Education committee, as an usher, worship liturgist, planning large gatherings and more.

Ginny will be honored at the annual Volunteer of the Year luncheon hosted by The Wells County Foundation at noon Thursday, Nov. 9, at Lighted Gardens. The luncheon is open to the community and reservations are required. Luncheon is \$17. Reservation deadline is Nov. 3. Reservations can be made by calling the Foundation (260-824-8620) or through the Foundation's website: www.wellscountyfound.org.

## Food insecurity rose last year with inflation

17M households reported problems in 2022 after pandemic-era aid ended

By ASHRAF KHALIL

WASHINGTON (AP) — An estimated 17 million households reported problems finding enough food in 2022 — a sharp jump from 2021 when boosted government aid helped ease the pandemic-induced economic shutdown.

A new Department of Agriculture report, released Wednesday, paints a sobering picture of post-pandemic hardship with "statistically significant" increases in food insecurity across multiple categories. Using a representative survey sample of roughly 32,000

American households the report said 12.8 percent (17 million households) reported occasional problems affording enough food in 2022 — up from 10.2 percent (13.5 million households) in 2021 and 10.5 percent (13.8 million households) in 2020.

Analysts and food security professionals point to the dual impact last year of high inflation and the gradual expiration of multiple pandemic-era government assistance measures.

"This underscores how the unwinding of the pandemic interventions and the rising costs of

food has taken hold," said Geri Henchy, director of nutrition policy for the Food Research and Action Center. "It's like a horrible storm for families."

The number of households reporting more serious forms of economic hardship also increased. Wednesday's report by the USDA's Economic Research Service also tracks families with "very low food security" — a condition it defines as families having to ration food consumption and where "normal eating patterns were disrupted at times during the year because of limited resources."

Households experiencing this level of hardship in 2022 rose to 5.1 percent (6.8 million households), up from 3.8 percent (5.1

million households) in 2021 and 3.9 percent (5.1 million households) in 2020.

Increased benefits and more relaxed enrollment rules for SNAP — the foundational government assistance program commonly known as food stamps — didn't end until early this year. But a host of other federal and state-level pandemic aid initiatives wound down last year. One key national change that Henchy highlighted was the end of universal free school lunches for all students, a policy that ended over the summer of 2022.

"These were healthy, nutritious meals because the schools had good standards," she said. "It"

(Continued on Page 2)

## At least 16 dead in Maine shooting and dozens injured

By DAVID SHARP

LEWISTON, Maine (AP) — A man opened fire at a bowling alley and a bar in Lewiston, Maine, on Wednesday night, killing at least 16 people and engulfing the state's second-largest city in chaos. The suspect remained at large as authorities ordered residents and business owners to stay inside and off the streets.

Two law enforcement officials told The Associated Press dozens of people also had been wounded. The officials were not authorized

to publicly discuss details of the ongoing investigation and spoke to AP on condition of anonymity.

Lewiston Police said in an earlier Facebook post that they were dealing with an active shooter incident at Schemengees Bar and Grille and Sparetime Recreation, a bowling alley about 4 miles away. The Androscoggin County Sheriff's Office released two photos of the suspect on its Facebook page that showed a gunman walking into an establishment with a weapon raised to his shoulder.

"Please stay off the roads to

allow emergency responders access to the hospitals," police said.

On its website, Central Maine Medical Center said staff were "reacting to a mass casualty, mass shooter event" and were coordinating with area hospitals to take in patients. A woman who answered the phone in the emergency department said no further information could be released and that the hospital itself was on lockdown.

Melinda Small, the owner of Legends Sports Bar and Grill, said

her staff immediately locked their doors and moved all 25 customers and employees away from the doors after a customer reported hearing about the shooting at the bowling alley less than a quarter-mile away around 7 p.m. Soon, the police flooded the roadway and a police officer eventually escorted everyone out of the building four at a time. Everyone in the bar is safe.

"I am honestly in a state of shock. I am blessed that my team responded quickly and everyone is safe," Small told The Associ-

ated Press. "But the same time, my heart is broken for this area and for what everyone is dealing with. I just feel numb."

The alert for Lewiston was made shortly after 8 p.m. as the sheriff's office reported that law enforcement agencies were investigating "two active shooter events." Officials issued an update around 10 p.m. for what they described as a manhunt.

"Avoid the area until authorities give the all-clear," the statement said. "Seek alternative routes to"

(Continued on Page 2)

## Autoworkers reach deal with Ford, a move toward ending strikes

By TOM KRISHER

DETROIT (AP) — The United Auto Workers union said Wednesday it has reached a tentative contract agreement with Ford that could be a breakthrough toward ending the nearly 6-week-old strikes against Detroit automakers.

The four-year deal, which still has to be approved by 57,000 union members at the company, could bring a close to the union's series of strikes at targeted facto-

ries run by Ford, General Motors and Jeep maker Stellantis.

The Ford deal could set the pattern for agreements with the other two automakers, where workers will remain on strike. The UAW called on all workers at Ford to return to their jobs and said that will put pressure on GM and Stellantis to bargain. Announcements on how to do that will come later.

"We told Ford to pony up, and they did," President Shawn Fain said in a video address to mem-

bers. "We won things no one thought possible." He added that Ford put 50 percent more money on the table than it did before the strike started on Sept. 15.

UAW Vice President Chuck Browning, the chief negotiator with Ford, said workers will get a 25 percent general wage increase, plus cost of living raises that will put the pay increase over 30 percent, to above \$40 per hour for top-scale assembly plant workers by the end of the contract.

Previously Ford, Stellantis and General Motors had all offered 23 percent pay increases. When the talks started Ford offered 9 percent.

Assembly workers will get 11 percent upon ratification, almost equal to all of the wage increases workers have seen since 2007, Browning said.

Typically, during past auto strikes, a UAW deal with one automaker has led to the other companies matching it with their own

settlements.

GM said in a statement it is "working constructively" with the union to reach an agreement as soon as possible. Stellantis also said it's committed to reaching a deal "that gets everyone back to work as soon as possible."

Browning said temporary workers will get more in wage increases than they have over the past 22 years combined. Temporary workers will get raises over

(Continued on Page 2)

**Inside**

Local/Area

- Obituaries . . . . . 3
- Police Notebook . . . 3

Opinion

- Angelkeep . . . . . 4

Also...

- Sports . . . . . 1a-2a
- Classifieds . . . . . 4a
- Diversions . . . . . 3a

**Outside**

Cloudy and windy today, rain tonight

| Today   | Friday  | Saturday |
|---------|---------|----------|
| High 75 | High 77 | High 59  |
| Low 62  | Low 50  | Low 47   |

More Weather on Page 2

**Online**

Follow us on Facebook!  
Go to [www.facebook.com/newsbanner](http://www.facebook.com/newsbanner)

Place Your Classified Ads 24/7

Vol. 94 No. 303

THURSDAY  
October 26, 2023

**ANNUAL OPEN ENROLLMENT IS HERE!**

*Jerry Flack & Associates*

Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> - Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> MARKETPLACE  
**MEDICARE PROGRAMS** Annual Enrollment  
Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> - Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>

TAKING APPOINTMENTS • 101 North Main Street, Bluffton, IN

CALL 260-824-1618 OR 820-0896

**How to contact us:**

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

On the Web:  
[www.news-banner.com](http://www.news-banner.com)

Follow us at:  
[twitter.com/newsbanner](https://twitter.com/newsbanner)



# United Way

(Continued from Page 1)

for them to give to their kids on Christmas.”

“This tradition truly embodies what we do,” Renkenberger said. “We’re all about helping kids and families in our community in their time of need.”

Renkenberger said anyone who would like to donate a toy should bring the items to the United Way office

in Bluffton between 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please call the United Way office at (260) 824-5589 if an appointment is needed. Donations should be dropped off before Monday, Dec. 1.

“Throughout the years, our community has consistently demonstrated their commitment to helping those in need through this program,” Renkenberger finished. “As we

begin on our annual toy drive, we’re confident that generosity will be at the forefront of our hearts, and Wells County will once again step up and make this holiday season brighter for all. Your continued support and compassion are the true gifts that bless our neighbors during this special time of year.”

*sydney@news-banner.com*

# Food insecurity

(Continued from Page 1)

was great for the kids. It was stigma-free, and it was huge for people’s budgets.”

These findings broadly mirror real-time anecdotes from late last year, when multiple food banks and charitable groups reported being surprised by the higher-than-expected levels of need entering the 2022 holiday season. In several cases last year, food banks and charities made educated estimates of how much food they would need to distribute, only to find that those predictions were far too low.

Agriculture Secretary Tom

Vilsack called the survey results “unacceptable” and said the rising level of need “should be a wake-up call to those wanting to further roll back our anti-poverty and anti-hunger programs.”

Vilsack highlighted the increased fruit and vegetable benefits for recipients of WIC — an aid program that specifically targets mothers and young children. The increased WIC benefits package is one of the few pandemic policies that’s continuing, although there have been proposals in Congress to bring those benefits down to pre-pandemic levels.

“The experience of the pandemic showed us that when government invests in meaningful support for families, we can make a positive impact on food security, even during challenging economic times,” Vilsack said in a statement Wednesday. “No child should go hungry in America. The report is a stark reminder of the consequences of shrinking our proven safety net.”

President Joe Biden’s White House echoed Vilsack’s call to maintain WIC funding at its current levels and strengthen the country’s social safety net in multiple

ways.

White House spokesperson Jeremy Edwards said: “17 million households experiencing food insecurity in the richest nation in the world is unacceptable, and exactly why President Biden has continued to call on Congress to fund programs like WIC, as well as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the National School Lunch Program, and restore the enhanced Child Tax Credit that helped cut child poverty in half and helped millions of families afford the basics.”

# Maine shooting

(Continued from Page 1)

circumvent the area and any disruptions. If already operating in the affected region, adhere to all instructions issued by local officials, including the shelter-in-place order.”

“We are encouraging all businesses to lock down and or close while we investigate,” the sheriff’s office reported.

A spokesperson for Maine Department of Public Safety urged residents to stay in their homes with their doors locked.

“Law enforcement is currently investigating at two locations right now,” Shannon Moss said. “Again

please stay off the streets and allow law enforcement to diffuse the situation.”

Gov. Janet Mills released a statement echoing those instructions. She said she has been briefed on the situation and will remain in close contact with public safety officials. The White House said President Joe Biden also had been briefed.

Lewiston, about 35 miles (56 kilometers) north of Portland, emerged as a major center for African immigration into Maine. The Somali population, which numbers in the thousands, has changed the demographics of the once overwhelmingly white mill city into one of the most diverse in northern

New England.

Ange Amores, a spokesperson for the city of Lewiston, said city officials are not commenting on the shooting. Amores said Maine State Police were planning to hold a news conference, likely at city hall, to update the public on Wednesday night.

Maine Sen. Angus King, an independent, said he was “deeply sad for the city of Lewiston and all those worried about their family, friends and neighbors” and was monitoring the situation. King’s office said the senator would be headed directly home to Maine once the Senate’s final vote is held Thursday afternoon.

# Mike Johnson is elected House speaker

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans unanimously elected Rep. Mike Johnson as House speaker on Wednesday, eagerly elevating a deeply conservative but lesser-known leader to the major seat of U.S. power and ending for now the weeks of political chaos in their majority.

Johnson, 51, of Louisiana, swept through on the first ballot with support from all Republicans anxious to put the past weeks of tumult behind and get on with the business of governing. He was quickly sworn into office, second in line to the presidency.

“The people’s House is back in business,” Johnson declared after taking the gavel.

A lower-ranked member of the House GOP leadership team, Johnson emerged as the fourth Republican nominee in what had become an almost absurd cycle of political infighting since Kevin McCarthy’s ouster as GOP factions jockeyed for power. While not the party’s top choice for the gavel, the deeply religious and even-keeled Johnson has few foes and an important GOP backer: Donald Trump.

“I think he’s gonna be a fantastic speaker,” Trump said Wednesday at the New York courthouse where the former president, who is now the Republican front-runner for president in 2024, is on trial over a lawsuit alleging business fraud.

Three weeks on without a House speaker, the Republicans have been wasting their majority status — a maddening embarrassment to some, democracy in action to others, but not at all how the House is expected to function.

President Joe Biden called to congratulate the new speaker and said it’s “time for all of us to act responsibly” with challenges ahead to fund the gov-

ernment and provide aid for Ukraine and Israel.

“We need to move swiftly,” the president said in a statement.

In the House, far-right members had refused to accept a more traditional speaker, and moderate conservatives didn’t want a hard-liner. While Johnson had no opponents during a private party roll call late Tuesday, some two dozen Republicans did not vote, more than enough to sink his nomination.

But when GOP Conference Chair Rep. Elise Stefanik rose to introduce Johnson’s name Wednesday as their nominee, Republicans jumped to their feet for a standing ovation.

“House Republicans and Speaker Mike Johnson will never give up,” she said.

Democrats again nominated their leader Rep. Hakeem Jeffries of New York, criticizing Johnson as an architect of Trump’s legal effort to overturn the 2020 presidential election he lost to Democrat Biden.

With Republicans controlling the House only 221-212 over Democrats, Johnson could afford just a few detractors to win the gavel. He won 220-209, with a few absences.

Jeffries said House Democrats will find “common ground” work with Republicans whenever possible for the “good of the country.”

Lawmakers quickly reconvened to get back to work, approving a resolution saying the House “stands with Israel” and “condemns Hamas’ brutal war.” Next, they turned to a stalled government funding bill.

Overnight the endorsements for Johnson started pouring in, including from the failed speaker hopefuls. Rep. Jim Jordan, the hard-charging Judiciary Committee chairman backed by Trump, gave his support, as did Majority Leader Steve

Scalise, the fellow Louisiana congressman rejected by Jordan’s wing, who stood behind Johnson after he won the nomination.

“Mike! Mike! Mike!” lawmakers chanted at a press conference after the late-night internal vote, surrounding Johnson and posing for selfies in a show of support.

Anxious and exhausted, Republican lawmakers are desperately trying to move on.

Johnson’s rise comes after a tumultuous month, capped by a head-spinning Tuesday that within a span of a few hours saw one candidate, Rep. Tom Emmer, the GOP Whip, nominated and then quickly withdraw when it became clear he would be the third candidate unable to secure enough support from GOP colleagues after Trump bashed his nomination.

“He wasn’t MAGA,” said Trump, referring to his Make America Great Again campaign slogan.

Attention quickly turned to Johnson. A lawyer specializing in constitutional issues, Johnson had rallied Republicans around Trump’s legal effort to overturn the 2020 election results.

Elevating Johnson to speaker gives Louisianians two high-ranking GOP leaders, putting him above Scalise.

Affable and well liked, colleagues swiftly started giving Johnson their support. In no time, his name replaced McCarthy’s on the

## MARIACHI LOCO

**Mexican Grill & Bar**  
1595 Harrison Plaza • Bluffton, IN

**\$3.00 off**

A Purchase of \$30<sup>00</sup> or More  
Limit 1 coupon per party per visit. Not valid with other discounts or coupons.  
Expires 10/31/2023

**\$5.00 off**

A Purchase of \$40<sup>00</sup> or More  
Limit 1 coupon per party per visit. Not valid with other discounts or coupons.  
Expires 10/31/2023

Call for Carry-Out 260-827-0616

## Finest Wine In Wells County!

**HOURS**  
Thursday - Friday 3:00 - 8:00pm  
Saturday 12:00 - 8:00pm  
**(765) 727-1027**  
www.dash90wines.com  
zane@dash90wines.com

6750 W 900 S-90 Warren, IN 46792

### Upcoming Events

November - Saturday 4th

Drop it like its Tot 4 - 8 p.m.

Rylie Lynn Band Saturday Oct. 28 Free Concert 5 p.m.  
D&D Fish & Tendloin Truck

# Weather

Thursday, October 26, 2023

**(24-hour observations at 8:02 p.m. Wednesday)**  
**High:** 73; **Low:** 61; **Precipitation:** Trace of rain  
**Wabash River Level** (at the Main Street bridge): 1.27 feet at 7:45 p.m. Wednesday

## Wells County forecast

**Today:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 75. Southwest wind 10 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

**Tonight:** A 30 percent chance of showers, mainly after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 62. Southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Friday:** A 30 percent chance of showers, mainly after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 77. Southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Friday Night:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms before 8 p.m., then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm between 8 p.m. and 2 a.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 50. Southwest wind around 15 mph becoming west after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

**Saturday:** A chance of showers before 8 a.m., then a slight chance of showers after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 59. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

**Saturday Night:** Showers likely, then showers and possibly a thunderstorm after 2 a.m. Low around 47. Chance of precipitation is 90 percent.

**Sunday:** Showers and possibly a thunderstorm. High near 55. Chance of precipitation is 90 percent.

**Sunday Night:** Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before 2 a.m., then a chance of showers. Cloudy, with a low around 36. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent.

**Monday:** A chance of rain and snow showers, mainly before 8 a.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 43. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

**Monday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 25.

**Tuesday:** A 20 percent chance of snow showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 41.

**Tuesday Night:** A slight chance of snow showers. Mostly clear, with a low around 24.

**Wednesday:** Sunny, with a high near 41.

# UAW reaches deal

(Continued from Page 1)

150 percent and retirees will get annual bonuses, he said.

“Thanks to the power of our members on the picket line and the threat of more strikes to come, we have won the most lucrative agreement per member since Walter Reuther was president,” Browning said. Reuther led the union from 1946 until his death in 1970.

Fain said that the union’s national leadership council of local union presidents and bargaining chairs will travel Sunday to Detroit, where they’ll get a presentation on the agreement and vote on whether to recommend it to members. Sunday evening the union will host a Facebook Live video appearance and later will hold regional meetings to explain the deal to members.

While on the picket line at Ford’s Michigan Assembly Plant west of Detroit Wednesday night, local union leaders invited workers across the road to the union hall for a briefing on the deal. As they trickled out of the building, many were smiling and most were relieved.

“It’s an emotional time for me. I’m emotional,” worker Keith Jurgelewicz said as his eyes welled up with tears. “But just super excited that this is over with. I just can’t wait to get back to work and just get on with my life.”

Jurgelewicz said he is happy that the end of the strike came during his shift on the picket lines, where he has faithfully appeared for all of his shifts.

“Hopefully, GM and Stellantis can get their deals done. ... Historic day for

us,” he said.

In a statement, President Joe Biden, who had visited GM picketers near Detroit early in the strikes and has billed himself the most union-friendly president in American history, praised the settlement. “I’ve always believed the middle class built America and unions built the middle class,” Biden said. “This tentative agreement is a testament to the power of employers and employees coming together to work out their differences at the bargaining table in a manner that helps businesses succeed while helping workers secure pay and benefits they can raise a family on.”

Workers with pensions also will see increases for when they retire, and those hired after 2007 with 401(k) plans will get large increases, Browning said. For the first time, the union will have the right to go on strike over company plans to close factories, he said.

“That means they can’t keep devastating our communities and closing plants with no consequences,” Browning said. “Together we have made history.”

Ford said it is pleased to have reached the deal, and said it would focus on restarting the huge Kentucky Truck Plant in Louisville, as well as the Chicago Assembly Plant. The Louisville plant alone employs 8,700 workers and makes high profit heavy duty F-Series pickup trucks and big truck-based SUVs.

In all, 20,000 workers will be coming back on the job and shipping the company’s full lineup of vehicles to customers, Ford said.

## GET IT DONE!

**Tuneup  
Cooling System  
Service &  
Maintenance  
And OhYeah  
TIRES**

## BLUFFTON TIRE INC.

260-824-0418 • 1308 S. MAIN ST., BLUFFTON  
WWW.BLUFFTONTIRE.COM • Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7:30-5:00



OBITUARIES

Todd Bryant, 56

Todd Bryant, 56, of Danville, Ill., died at 10:20 a.m. Friday, Oct. 20, 2023 at his sister's home in Poneto. He was born Thursday, Nov. 17, 1966, in Danville, Ill., and resided in Danville his entire life.

Todd is survived by his son, James White, Plant City, Fla.; sisters, Anna (Michael) Hutson, Avon, Barbara Boswell, Cushing, Texas, Tammy (Rick) Velasquez, Keystone; brother, David (Kippy) Bryant, Wesley Chapel, Fla.; and three grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles Walker Frye Bryant, Sr. and Mary Helen (Billings) Bryant; and brother, Charles W.F. Bryant, Jr.

There will be no viewing or services. Arrangements are being handled by Walker & Glancy Funeral Home in Montpelier.

Online condolences may be made at [www.glancyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.glancyfuneralhomes.com)

# Panel recommends guaranteed 13th check-COLA split

Who gets what will depend on a yet-to-be-determined cutoff date

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

But who gets what — and how much the proposal will cost the state — will depend on a yet-to-be-determined cutoff date and a myriad of other decisions, according to the Indiana Public Retirement System.

"I'm going to view this as the vision (or) the roadmap going forward," Sen. Brian Buchanan, a Republican from Lebanon, told reporters. He chaired the Pension Management Oversight Interim Study Committee.

"There's a lot of discussions, a lot of details, that will need to be attended, (and) a lot of data. We're going to have to analyze and determine the specifics," Buchanan added.

Lawmakers have traditionally offered former employees either a 13th check or COLA during two-year budget cycles — but didn't last year, angering many.

**The plan**

Pensions offer flat amounts over the course of one's retirement but, due to inflation, rarely keep up with the costs of living. Other types of government payouts for the elderly are annually adjusted, including Social Security, which saw a 8.7 percent adjustment last year following a record-breaking 9.1 percent inflation peak in June.

Pensions to roughly 97,000 Indiana retirees are determined by years of service spent working for state government, from teachers and law enforcement to gaming agents and conservation officers.

While both the COLA and 13th check seek to augment retiree pensions, they do so in different ways. The 13th check is an additional, one-time check on top of the year's other monthly payments while the COLA is a percentage increase for all payments moving forward.

INPRS Chief Actuary Andy Blough noted that there are multiple ways to design an approach split between 13th checks and COLA's.

He outlined an example proposal — based on 2021 data — giving those who retired before July 1, 2021 annual 13th checks indexed to a 2 percent inflation rate. In that scenario, "future" retirees would get a 1 percent COLA.

Such post-retirement benefit increases must come out of segregated supplemental allowance reserve accounts. Indiana law limits payroll surcharges to finance those increases to 1 percent.

In Blough's example, to pre-fund the new benefits, the surcharge rate would need to rise to a maximum of 2 percent. If the proposal were implemented, the rates would initially be higher but would fall afterward, according to Blough.

Despite the boosted benefits, the funded status for the funds involved would improve more than if lawmakers maintained the ad hoc approach because INPRS would have a long-term funding strategy for the increases.

Contribution rates would remain the same for the funds in the short term, but could go up in the long term. That's except for the Pre-1996 Teachers Retirement Fund, which has exhausted its financial cushion and would see impacts immediately. In Blough's example, rates for that fund would rise from 6.4 percent to 8.2 percent.

He noted that the model required further research, however: it didn't show risk or variability.

**Public retiree groups weigh in**

Many retirees depend on benefit increases to keep up with rising costs of living, said Jessica Love, leader of the Retired Indiana Public Employees Association. Her organization represents about 40,000 Public Employee Retirement Fund members.

For about 65 percent of members, that pension is their only retirement plan. About 90 percent of their income is from PERF and Social Security, according to a recent study by the organization.

"They have come to depend on the 13th check," she said. Most longtime employees prefer the check because the amount rises based on years of service.

Laura Penman, who leads the Indiana Retired Teachers Association, said her organization was "disappointed" in the rocky transition.

"When nothing was given for retired educators, unfortunately, my members took that to mean that you didn't care. You didn't care about them, and you didn't care about the time they spent in the classroom," Penman said.

Since meeting with a variety of lawmakers, Penman said she knew they did care.

"We know that you want something for our retired educators, but it goes back to: what can the state of Indiana afford, and what is sustainable?" she added. Penman suggested giving the COLA a minimum and maximum, and somehow incorporating years of service.

She said that while there's room for improvement, retirees can rely on the money they do receive.

**Uncertainties remain**

Some committee members were openly skeptical of the proposal, though they approved it 15-0.

Sen. Eric Bassler, a Republican from Washington, said he only voted in support because the committee report isn't binding. It recommends that lawmakers "consider" such legislation.

"I'm concerned that we haven't yet met our current pension obligations — our pension liabilities — and we're talking about taking on more pension liabilities for the taxpayers of Indiana," Bassler said. He added that he was "very hesitant," despite his "aye" vote.

Committee Vice-Chair Rep. Jeff Thompson — who leads the powerful Ways and Means Committee during session — said picking a cutoff date would be key in ensuring the transition is financially feasible.

And the proposal comes with a long transition even it finds its way into law during the 2025 session: INPRS expects a 12- to 18-month implementation period, Buchanan said.

It's unclear if pensioners will receive any stop-gap benefits.

INCIDENTS

**City:**  
Tuesday, 6:15 p.m., Bluffton Police Department. Caller reported being threatened by another subject via text message.  
Tuesday, 6:32 p.m., Save On Liquor South. Caller reported driving complaint from subject who slammed on brakes and drove on sidewalk. Subject was arrested for operating while intoxicated.  
Wednesday, 2:16 a.m., Gerber Furniture. Report of a woman laying on the ground.  
Wednesday, 5:51 a.m., Hiday Motors. Driver cited for speeding in a workzone.  
Wednesday, 8:14 a.m., Fresenius Dialysis Center. Caller requested walk-through of the building.  
Wednesday, 9:50 a.m., Kroger. Subject called to report she ran over a curb earlier in the day and left for

# Police Notebook

work. No damage was done to the curb.  
Wednesday, 12:58 p.m., Walmart. Driver cited for speeding.  
Wednesday, 1:11 p.m., North Johnson and West Perry streets. Caller reported she felt she was discriminated against and is upset she did not receive information regarding an apartment.  
Wednesday, 1:40 p.m., 200 East Central Avenue. A mailman reported several aggressive dogs, one of which punched its paw through the glass like Bolt. Owner advised he was on the way.  
**County:**  
Tuesday, 12:59 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served without issue.  
Tuesday, 1:38 p.m., 2700 Northwest Ind. 116, Markle. Report of a wallet found belonging to resident in Huntington County.  
Tuesday, 4:51 p.m., 8700

North 100 West, Uniondale. Report of lost medication, caller found before officer arrived.  
Wednesday, 6:04 a.m., South 300 West and West 200 South, Liberty Center. Subject pulled over for speeding 46 MPH in a 30 MPH zone. The driver admitted to using marijuana and was arrested for multiple counts of operating while intoxicated.  
**Ossian:**  
Wednesday, 12:22 a.m., Ind. 1 and 1200 North, Ossian. Subject pulled over for driving with expired plates. Officers smelled the odor of burnt marijuana. The officer also noted that the drivers vehicle was disgusting. The driver advised that the last time he smoked marijuana was around 3:30 p.m., right before he began work at WEG. He then admitted to having his THC pen in his vehicle. His wal-

let, located in the car, ironically contained \$420 in cash. Driver was detained and vehicle towed.  
Wednesday, 7:28 a.m., North 100 East and East 800 North, Ossian. Driver cited for speeding.  
**ACCIDENTS**  
**County:**  
Monday, 5:58 p.m., Ind 1 and Ind. 224. Nathaniel Clem was traveling Northbound on Ind. 1 when Alexander Baker turned in his Chevrolet Equinox. Clem swerved his Ford Edge to avoid colliding with Baker and exited the roadway, causing the front drivers side tire to blow and possible suspension damage. Damages not exceeding \$2,500.  
**FIRES**  
**County:**  
Tuesday, 2:46 p.m., 120 block of West Green Street, Montpelier. Report of a house fire.

# Hoosiers gave 'Zoom court' high marks

Remote options helped disadvantaged Hoosiers but needs ongoing support to continue

By WHITNEY DOWNARD  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

For thousands of Hoosiers undergoing civil proceedings during the COVID-19 pandemic, remote hearings or 'Zoom court' allowed them to attend safely and conveniently. Many Hoosiers used a smartphone to access their local justice system after the Indiana Supreme Court authorized remote technology for civil proceedings in early 2020.

As the pandemic wanes, judges and justices alike wonder if it was worth it and whether such proceedings should continue.

An analysis from researchers at Indiana University could serve as a "missing piece of the puzzle" as courts navigate a post-COVID world, according to Victor Quintanilla, who led the collaborative effort.

"Right now, courts are deciding what to do post-pandemic and what the new normal should look like. And a lot of courts are thinking about whether to allow the choice of remote hearings to continue," Quintanilla said.

It might be tempting for judges and attorneys, with decades of practice in person and little time virtually, to go back without considering the potential benefits of remote courts, said Quintanilla, who teaches at the university's law school and in its psychology department.

"I hope ... we really think about the way in which these remote options can be meaningful forms of providing access and meeting people where they are," Quintanilla said.

**Study background**

Quintanilla noted that the majority of people interacting with the legal system each year don't have representation as their case winds through civil proceedings, such as evictions or small claims. In Indiana, plaintiffs with representation vary from 40 percent to 78 percent, depending on the case type, while defendants vary from 1 percent to 17 percent. The greatest disparity is in eviction proceedings, where only 1 percent of defendants have representation but 70 percent of plaintiffs do.

"We know that there (are) so many people in our civil justice systems who don't have legal experience and they're either representing themselves or they're kind of finding their way," Quintanilla said.

During the pandemic, court observers noticed that these same defendants were appearing in Zoom court using their smartphones — a stark contrast to the attorneys with laptop or desktop setups in staged backgrounds.

"We were really concerned about the potential asymmetries that might happen with some people having better technology than others," Quintanilla said. "... That really motivated this study of wanting to understand the experiences and outcomes of ordinary, self-represented or unrepresented people."

But contrary to the

researchers' hypothesis, these Hoosiers preferred the virtual meeting method and reported higher levels of satisfaction with their judicial outcomes — as outlined in 'Assessing Justice with Zoom: Experiences and Outcomes in Online Civil Courts.'

"It was very unambiguous: the convenience gains for ordinary people being able to kind of 'remote in' (to court) — as opposed to traveling to the court, getting child care set up, arranging their life — was very real," Quintanilla said.

**Zoom court opportunities**

With support from the Indiana Supreme Court, the study analyzed 58 judges with high-volume dockets across 40 courts in 12 counties. Using their contact information, surveyors texted and emailed questions to thousands of Hoosiers in English and Spanish, netting roughly 2,000 responses.

The majority of Hoosiers in the sample, whose court proceedings were in 2022, attended in person but roughly 30 percent had Zoom court (though a small number of courts used Webex).

Quintanilla said the remote option gave flexibility to those who needed it most — Hoosiers working multiple jobs, balancing child care, arranging for transportation and more. Rather than coordinating those factors and potentially waiting hours at a courthouse before their hearing began, defendants could join the courtroom virtually.

Those juggling multiple responsibilities might not prioritize a court appearance and skip because they have too much going on, Quintanilla said.

"Remote technology allows them to kind of show up in a way that they can and it does take away some of that stress for them (while allowing) them to meet all of the demands that they have in life," Quintanilla said.

The Hoosiers included in the study reported virtually the same outcomes in terms of winning or losing their

cases but differed significantly when it came to their reported experiences. Those in Zoom court were much more satisfied than their peers, even though they started the experience anticipating a less favorable ending.

Remote court users reported higher levels of satisfaction for virtually the same outcomes, according to the study.

Unrepresented defendants, in particular, were more likely to report being satisfied with their outcome, which Quintanilla credited to "not having to go through the same kind of challenges and barriers" as in-person court proceedings.

But not all outcomes were equal. For evictions, in particular, virtual court

proceedings were more likely to end in a settlement between parties.

Due to their virtual nature, Quintanilla said that legal advocates and housing mediators were freer to join a "break out session," or private video call, during the longer Zoom court hearing. This legal advice was more timely and relevant to the parties while allowing advocates to help more people by visiting multiple courts across the state in a shorter time frame.

In an in-person court proceeding, the advocate — who might be based outside of the county — might miss the window of opportunity or might have to share advice too far ahead of hearing, which is then forgotten in the moment.

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

Still Waters  
FAMILY DENTISTRY  
YOUR SMILE.  
OUR PASSION.  
EVERY TIME.  
Accepting many new insurance plans including Humana and United Healthcare. Always accepting new patients. Please call today to schedule an appointment.  
10045 North State Road 1 Ossian, IN 46777  
(260)-622-4138  
[www.stillwatersfamilydentistry.com](http://www.stillwatersfamilydentistry.com)

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

**Jerry Flack & Associates**  
WE REPRESENT MANY - MANY - MANY INSURANCE COMPANIES  
WE HAVE ALL THE MEDICARE AND MEDICAID OPTIONS AVAILABLE

**MARKETPLACE ANNUAL ENROLLMENT IS NOV 1<sup>ST</sup> - DEC 15<sup>TH</sup>**  
**The Price Tag is the Same Everywhere Consider Local for Better Service**  
**ANNUAL ENROLLMENT OCT 15 TO DEC 7 CALL US**  
**WHEN YOU HAVE PROBLEMS AND YOU WILL HAVE PROBLEMS YOU WILL HAVE US TO COUNT ON**  
**MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTS - MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS - PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLANS.**  
**Life Insurance - Long Term Care Insurance - Investments - Individual and Small Group Health - Dental - Vision - Hearing - Cancer Insurance**  
Folks on Medicare A and B and Diabetic can get FREE Nice Looking Diabetic Shoes Every Year from Us | We Do FREE Information/ Education Seminars In Your Business (Again Former Teachers)  
**WE CAN MEET: IN OUR OFFICE - IN YOUR HOME - IN A FAVORED LOCATION**  
In the 1882 Building at Main & Market with the mural on the outside wall • 260-824-1618



## Midwest hydrogen hub will help give Indiana an edge

Indiana government and business leaders were wise to join forces with their counterparts in Illinois and Michigan to seek the creation of a federally funded clean-hydrogen energy hub in the Midwest.

Part of the proof came last week when the Biden administration announced that the coalition, known as the Midwest Alliance for Clean Energy (or MachH2 for short), was one of seven initiatives across the country chosen to share \$7 billion in federal funding for hydrogen energy endeavors.

The Midwest coalition, which includes 70 public and private organizations, will receive up to \$1 billion in grant funding.

Further evidence of the coalition's wisdom and Gov. Eric Holcomb's leadership in the effort will come as the initiative keeps several Indiana partners at the forefront of hydrogen development.

As Alex Brown of Inside INdiana Business reports, the proposed regional hydrogen hub would include the production of so-called blue hydrogen by London-based BP at or near its refinery in the northwest Indiana city of Whiting.

Blue hydrogen is produced by converting natural gas into carbon dioxide and hydrogen, with the CO2 being stored underground. The low-carbon hydrogen fuel can be used in a variety of areas, including steelmaking, power generation and agriculture.

Other Indiana partners in the coalition include the Indiana Economic Development Corp., Energy Systems Network, Purdue University and Columbus-based Cummins Inc.

Environmental groups have criticized the focus on hydrogen power, arguing that when it's made from electricity generated via coal or natural gas, it has a bigger carbon footprint than simply burning the source fuel.

We remain hopeful that such concerns can be allayed with advancements in technology and believe that it makes sense to keep Indiana companies in the lead on such developments.

Cummins started investing in hydrogen power four years ago. While those investments were more speculative in the beginning, the company is now confident that hydrogen is a huge growth market, IBJ's Susan Orr reported last week. That in itself shows how quickly things can advance in a short time.

Cummins focuses on both hydrogen-powered and battery-electric products through its zero-emissions business unit, which does business as Accelera by Cummins. But it's hydrogen that is emerging as the breakout star for the company.

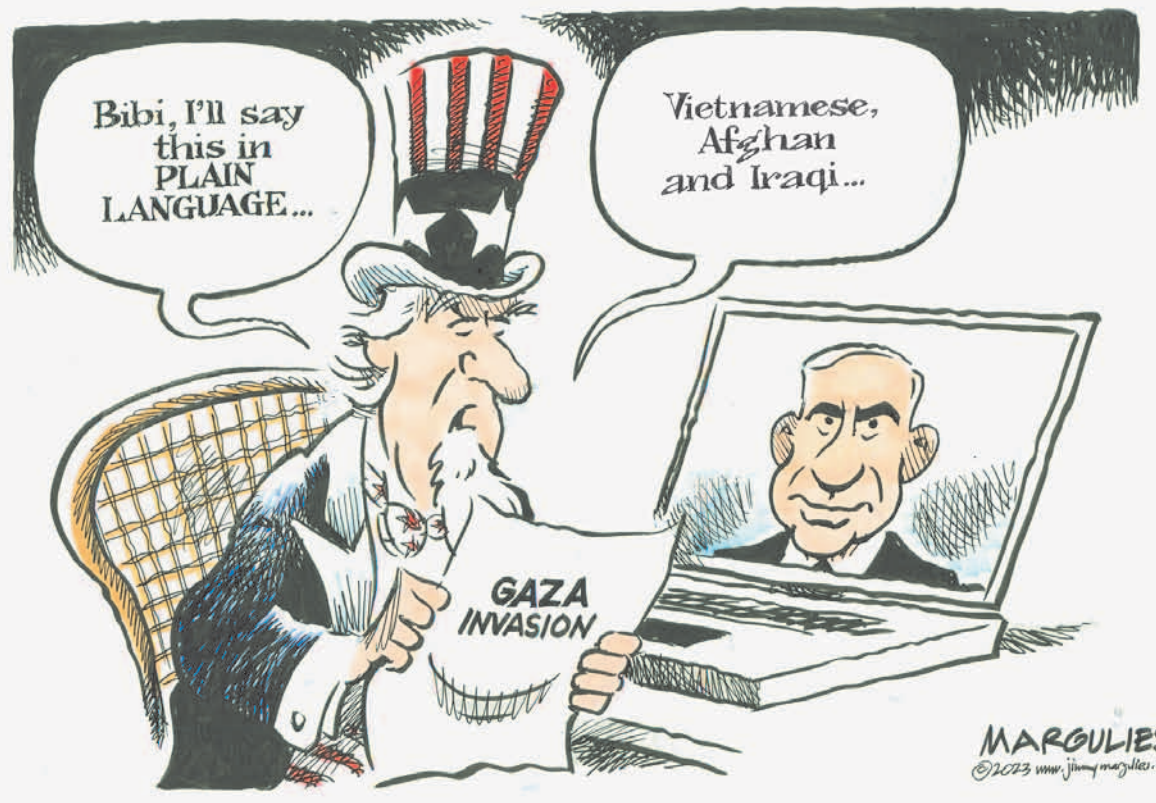
Just this month, Accelera held a media event in Quebec to show off the first hydrogen-powered train in North America.

It is also projecting huge revenue growth over the next decade. Accelera represented just \$198 million, or less than 1%, of Cummins' \$28.1 billion in revenue in 2022. By 2030, Accelera is expected to generate \$6 billion to \$13 billion annually.

Such projected growth gives us optimism about the future of clean-hydrogen power and Indiana's role in it.

*Indianapolis Business Journal.*

## Hoosier Opinions



## Israel's difficult choices

When Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower was struggling over when to order the D-Day invasion of Europe in 1944, he wrestled with uncooperative weather, but also worried that any more delays beyond the one-day delay he had already ordered could possibly lower morale and reduce troop readiness.

For Israel, more delays in invading Gaza and destroying Hamas' ability to commit new acts of terror against the Jewish state is only one of several considerations faced by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his military leaders.

Israel is at a moral disadvantage because it cares about preserving human life, while its enemies celebrate death in the pursuit of eliminating the Jewish state and ultimately the best-case scenario for them, which is martyrdom.

Here are just some of the difficult choices Israel must make, none of them good.

— Invade now and risk the deaths of more than an estimated 200 hostages, along with considerable Israeli troop casualties.

— Invade now and risk opening a new front on Israel's northern border with Lebanon, potentially facing a barrage of missiles from that terrorist group's large stockpile.

— Invade at a future date, possibly losing troop readiness and lowered morale, but also losing support from nations that initially condemned the terrorist attack.

— Pay a ransom for the release of hostages in money or in a terrorist prisoner exchange (or both), which in the past has done nothing to quench the thirst for more blood by its enemies.

Israel faces continued threats from its many enemies, which include much of the world's media that almost always faults Israel for anything bad that



Cal Thomas

occurs in the region. The New York Times' reporting on the supposed Israeli attack on a Gaza hospital that allegedly killed hundreds of people was taken directly from the Palestinians and not fact-checked. When Israel proved the report a lie, the Times felt it necessary to print an "editor's note" which said its false report "left readers with an incorrect impression about what was known and how credible the account was." Who would have thought that a false report might leave an incorrect impression? The Times' bogus report and screaming headline also added fuel to the fire, causing worldwide demonstrations against Israel before the truth was revealed that a misfired Islamic Jihad rocket was to blame.

Hamas and its terrorist allies appear to have studied at the Josef Goebbels school of propaganda. His most famous line has been appropriated, not only by Hamas, but also by many in the media: "If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it. The lie can be maintained only for such time as the State can shield the people from the political, economic and/or military consequences of the lie. It thus becomes vitally important for the State to use all its powers to repress dissent, for the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension, the truth is the greatest enemy of the State."

And not just the State, but even terrorist organizations that manipulate the media and many of our once-great universities that suppress the truth about many things.

Whatever Israel decides to do - or not do - it will almost certainly be condemned. If it goes into Gaza, it will be blamed for killing civilians. No matter that Hamas uses them as human shields and has prevented many from leaving Gaza for that purpose. If Israel fails to go in, it risks repeated attacks in the future, as it has in the past. It is almost a no-win situation.

*caeditors@tribpub.com*

## Letters to the Editor

### Another perspective on the Regional Sewer District

It is time we had a very open, factual discussion of the Wells County Regional Sewer District. Over the past few years, the district and its board has spent or obligated several millions of taxpayer dollars with what appears to be little to no regard for residents of the county. This was shown when they told a retired veteran that when the line was run by his place he would shut up and let them connect his home to the system.

Briefly, I retired as a Master Sergeant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. My last assignment in my 21-plus year career was in the environmental labs at Fort Polk, La., where we constructed sewer and septic systems on three continents and in several states.

First, as far as I can find out no one was ever asked if they wanted to be included in the project. Secondly, they, nor the state, have released to the public the documentation showing the need for such an extensive project. The board has made reference to some areas of concern but have not produced documentation to show where they have investigated the cause which might have led to a less expensive solution. Also, they admitted that they did not include the cost of easements and electricity to the grinders in the project cost when they went to the state for financing.

The state nor the county has addressed the life of the typical septic system. The numbers range from 25 to 100 years depending on the type and the maintenance. Taking the average cost of maintenance, the typical sys-

tem costs the homeowner approximately \$35 per year. The district wants to charge almost \$100 per month plus having the land owner give them an easement for their grinders and homeowners also pay for the power for the grinders.

The requirement of grinder stations for each property is, in my opinion, an overkill. A much simpler and less costly option was available but since the board had already paid an engineering firm to develop this one, they had no interest in doing a full and proper exam to determine if this is the best use of the money.

Homeowners also have to start paying for the service as soon as the financing comes through and have to continue paying until the loan that they have no say in is paid off.

This means that a homeowner could be paying for the service for many months prior to it being available to them. This is not counting the cost to the homeowner in decommissioning their current system and connecting to the grinder.

So, we have a board that no one voted for binding debt on the homeowners of the county with threats of legal actions to take land and to place liens against their properties if they do not comply with the district's demands. All the while taking our property, forcing people to hook up to their system and demanding that the property owner then pay for the electricity to run the district's equipment.

And this is America?  
ROGER D CASH  
rural Ossian

## A big to-do about a little bit of nothing

As recalled, it all started as an after-rain-shower photo session with the intent being images captured inside raindrops.

Angelkeep often slipped into the macro-mode to stalk the perfect picture from the world of all things miniature. It may have all begun as a turn of the century fascination with miniature paintings being sold on eBay. It certainly had much to do with being gifted a first-ever digital camera from a pair of sons over two decades ago. The number of attempted photos no longer had a financial consideration connected to a session. Shoot 100, keep one. Worked for digital, but terribly expensive with film and prints.

Images flipped upside-down in a raindrop hanging by its watery thread soon became abandoned when a sparkingly tiny insect appeared on a garden bloom. Deep in the throat of an orange daylily hid what looked like the tiniest cricket ever observed. Antenna tip to hind-leg toes, if those were actually called toes, measured half the length of one of the anthers protruding from the center of the daylily. Rounded off, about one inch. However, the antenna (more about that later) had a longer length than the body. Each of two of the hind leg segments also measured more than the insect's body. Do the math. The body was less than a quarter of an inch, a fifth at best, 4-5 mm, for anyone who mastered metric.

The black antennae (see, I told you I'd get back to an antenna) had white banding. Angelkeep's research revealed the banded antennae were a dead give-away to an entomologist. Angelkeep confessed as a bug enthusiast but certainly no entomologist. Angelkeep continued in the learning stage. Also enlightened upon was the plural of antenna. Plural spelling antennae referred to bugs, antennas

### Angelkeep Journals

denoted a multiple of an electrical device antenna. Plenty can yet be learned, even at age 75.

Angelkeep will no longer keep you guessing, that's cruel (not to be confused with the word crewel which refers to beautiful embroidery rather than meanness).

Scudder's bush katydid nymph.

Angelkeep knew a katydid when spotted. This bug looked more cricket-like than katydid-flavored. Research confirmed this nymph did not look like the adult stage it would evolve to. Katydid's lived up until a severe frost. Was Angelkeep's daylily-eating nymph yet alive and kicking three months after its discovery? A macro photo caught it eating a pollen-laden anther. Had it grown to an adult and laid eggs in a row on a leaf edge for overwintering to conclude with a spring hatched new generation?

No doubt this Scudder's bush katydid nymph had grown up and lost its beautiful attraction. It needed to dull-down, turn fully to misty-green as camouflage among leaves, its survival means. Gone would be the color brilliance of youth. Its marking had to fade, much like a fawn's spots. What glorious features had the macro photo



Alan Daugherty



captured (I thought you'd never ask)?

Primarily the bug, sans antennae, came in bright neon greens of various shades. Some copper highlights appeared on the eyes, thorax shoulders, copper banding on leg joints, and down the spine of the abdomen. The varieties of neon greens (who knew Hooker's green could exist in neon) appeared on every part of this insect among defined shapes. Segments created the look of a quilter's masterpiece. Black sometimes outlined the quilt-like pieces, or dotted their centers.

Without the macro photo none of this would have been appreciated. To Angelkeep's old man naked eye it looked more like an oval emerald gemstone that had been lost from a ring.

It certainly would have been elegant enough for Emerald City's Great Oz. Emerald received mention in Biblical Revelations as one wall's foundation for the Holy City. Native American mythology, using their earlier word later corrupted to emerald, had a meaning of "the green of growing things." That certainly described Scudder's bush katydid nymph to a T.

The thigh of its hind legs grew thicker and bulbous. Each appeared to bear a tattoo. The lime green color, neon of course, held a feather-shaped area with a black background. Inside the black a row of fourteen green shapes looked like dog bones. Angelkeep personally sided a bit anti-tattoo, but nymph thighs looked great. Skeleton-like for Halloween.

To conclude, I was a good bit said for such a tiny bug being a little bit of nothing.

*Mr. Daugherty is a Wells County resident who, along with his wife Gwen, enjoy their backyard and have named it "Angelkeep."*

## The News-Banner

(USPS 059-200)

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

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

### News-Banner Publications, Inc.

George B. Witwer, Chairman of the Board  
Doug Brown, President, Publisher  
Dianne Witwer, Secretary/Treasurer  
Holly Gaskill, Editor  
Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor

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

Submit your Letters to the Editor via: • Our website link (Submit your Letter) • E-Mail: email@news-banner.com • Fax: (260) 824-0700 • Mail: PO Box 436, Bluffton IN 46714 • Drop-off: 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton. All letters must be signed and must include a phone number or address in case verification is desired. Letters are edited for brevity and clarity. **Letters must be no more than 500 words.** Please mark your correspondence as a "Letter to the Editor," or if you wish to express an opinion to us but do not want it published, please mark as "Not for Publication."



# Gloria is under the weather; still finds closeness with God

These last days have been a pull and by last night, a fever set in.

"Mom, will you be okay?" the children asked, climbing onto the recliner with me.

Thanks to my Mom, who came and stayed until everyone was sound asleep, and to my baby sister Keturah for staying for the night. Keturah is the best of nurses; things aren't exactly how they were when I'd rock her endlessly and sing to her. It wasn't her that I was caring for anymore. Now that she has grown seven inches taller than me, I look up to her in more than one way.

With my body racked by chills, I thought of the things that would be left undone until another day and wondered how the night ahead would be. There was one hope I had to cling to. It was Jesus; I didn't even move my lips; I knew he heard the unspoken cry in my heart, so I gave my feelings and fever to Him.

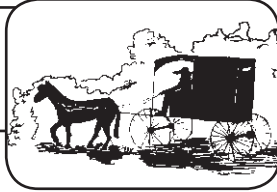
Silently, he was near. "Having him so close is even better than to be healthy," I mused.

After a while, we were all sound out. This morning dawned with the promise of a beautiful Sunday. There was no choice but to stay home from church to recover fully and not pass the bug to any other.

Grandpa Yoders picked up the four oldest children and took

## The Amish Cook

by Gloria Yoder



them to Sunday school. Elijah and Joshua stayed with me and colored pictures and went outside to play while I rested, communed with God, and soaked in the reality of not having to work even one bit.

Elijah was pleased to help by warming up pancakes for lunch, which Julia had made the day before. Joshua helped by fetching the syrup and plates. The older children joined Grandpa and Grandma at Uncle John's house for lunch.

My mind drifted to all my friends and how I told my editor, Kevin, that I couldn't write this week with not feeling up to par. It was like not getting to chat with you for another whole week. It was enough; God would surely give strength for it. I grabbed my sweater from Ms. Harbarger, a reader from Logan, Ohio, which she gifted last year. "It's supposed to feel like a hug," she had explained. It really does! The soft navy blue fabric is perfect for occasions as such. Also, when the younger children see me with it, they come running, "Mom, can you wrap me up in there with you?"

Undoubtedly, you're also not asking to be sick this winter; if it

happens not to be that way, hang on, it'll get better. We'll keep praying for you all. It's not easy to be sick, yet many times it's one of God's more useful tools to get us to relax long enough to draw us to Himself, and if we ask him to, he'll speak to our hearts.

I scratched my head on what would be the best recipe for you to try if you have the opportunity to care for others who are under the weather. When Grandma Raber was a little girl, they would ladle warm milk over saltine crackers when they were sick. Grandma Mast tells the story of what occurred when she was a little girl and wanted their family's specialty of toasted bread cubes with butter and seasoning which they ate when they were sick. She gave in to the temptation of lying to her mother, telling her she was ill. Years have passed, but the lesson remains for her 33 grandchildren and 51 great-grandchildren.

Our children like sipping on chicken broth with crackers or eating toast with honey until they get better. Or for Jesse, who just turned



six, he's the proactive one, if he feels like he may be getting sick to his stomach, he'll summon tissues, a can of healthy ginger ale, and a pail, just in case.

My mom is known for her garlic herb bread. She has made it countless times for guests and gatherings and it never fails to be a hit. Not only that, it is a soothing option on days such as this one.

### BAKED GARLIC TOAST

- 1 loaf Italian bread\*
- 1/2 cup butter, softened

- 1 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1 teaspoon of either basil, parsley, or oregano (take your pick which one)

- Mix softened butter with garlic salt and the seasoning of your choice.
  - Spread on one side of each slice of bread.
  - Stack slices together as a loaf.
  - Wrap with tinfoil.
  - Bake at 350 for 20 minutes.
- \*Regular bread will also work.

## 1,000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

Several children recently completed the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program at the Wells County Public Library by reading and listening to 1,000 books with the help of family members.



At right, Lila VandeLaar, holding her prize book "Color Zoo," is pictured with her mother Meagan.

At left, Camryn McGrew, holding her prize book "Down By the Banks," is pictured with her mother Cassie.



The 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program is sponsored by the United Way of Wells County, the Wells County Foundation, and the Friends of the Library. The program not only helps prepare children for school, but instills the value of reading and life-long learning. For more information visit the Wells County Public Library's website at [www.wellscountylibrary.org](http://www.wellscountylibrary.org) and click on the "Children" section.

## This Weekend

### Weekend events at Ouabache

Among the events at Ouabache State Park this weekend will be the following:

Friday: Check out what the interpretive naturalists Bret Dausch and Rose Nevil are doing.

Saturday: 10 a.m.: Bison feeding; 1 p.m.: Bat Chat at the Trails End Shelter and see how they are fed; 3 p.m.: Halloween Trivia at the Trails End Shelter with three top teams winning prizes.

Sunday: 10 a.m.: Batty Bingo at the Campview Shelter for prizes.

Adventure Backpacks available all weekend from the park office. Note kids under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

A Fall Photo Booth is set up at the Lake-side Shelter. Take a photo and tag Ouabache State Park on Facebook.

Information about all events at 260-824-0926.

### Woodcarver's Show at Sauder Village

October events at Sauder Village in Ohio include the Woodcarver's Show & Sale, Friday and Saturday, Oct. 27-28, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Live demonstrations with vendors selling tools and supplies.

More information at 1-800-590-9755 or at [saudervillage.org](http://saudervillage.org).

### Monthly Legion breakfast on Saturday

The American Legion Post 111 will host their monthly all-you-can-eat breakfast from 8-10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28.

The menu will include eggs, potatoes, bacon, sausage biscuits and gravy, coffee and orange juice.

The cost is \$11 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5 to 12. Children under five years of age eat for free. The post home is at 111 W. Washington St. in Bluffton.

### Charcuterie Bites and Flights

The Bluffton Parks Department is hosting Charcuterie Bites and Flights from 7-9

p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28 at the Washington Park pavilion in Bluffton. Enjoy a beer or wine flight while perfecting your charcuterie board-building skills.

Registration includes all the materials you will need to create your personalized board for two; beer or wine flights featuring six choices of local drinks. The cost is \$60 per couple. Register online at <https://tinyurl.com/35meact4>.

### FW's Wild Zoo Halloween

Wild Zoo Halloween will be observed on the October weekends at the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo with activities from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both Saturdays and Sundays.

Oct. 28-29: Witch & Wizard Day. On every Saturday there will be a Magic Show at 11 a.m. at the Australian Outback Adventure Plaza.

Guests may wear costumes, however those 13 and older will not be allowed to wear masks or hoods. Regular admission applies.

### Visit the pumpkin patch at the Botanical Conservatory

A fall Exploration Garden will be open for visiting through Sunday, Oct. 29th at the Fort Wayne Botanical Conservatory.

Trick or Treat in the garden will be held on Saturday, Oct. 28, from noon to 3 p.m. Regular admission applies.

### Activities/exhibits at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art

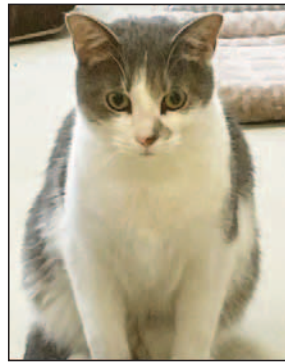
Current exhibits at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art include the following:

Landfall Press: Five Decades of Print making, through Nov. 12, a celebration of 50 years. (free with museum admission).

Indiana Artists Club 2023 Annual Members Exhibition, through Nov. 26. Featuring over 50 diverse works by Indiana artists. Nick Antonakis was juror for this exhibit. This club was founded in 1917 by 46 artists.

Dia Delos Muertos, through Nov. 6, celebrating the Day of the Dead. Featuring memorial altars and symbolic objects. A Family Celebration on Sunday, Nov. 5, from 2 to 6 p.m., a free event. Mexican food truck on hand.

## A Talk with Tego



Aeros is a 1½-year-old, domestic short hair, neutered male.



Maple is a two-year-old, Tortieshell, spayed and front declawed female.



Loki is a 1½-year-old, domestic short hair, neutered male.



Tego

**Tego's Tips:** Aeros and Loki are bonded brothers and would like to adopt as a pair.

These are just a few pets available for adoption at the Wells County Animal Shelter, 1613 W. Cherry St., Bluffton. For more information call 824-6063.

If your business depends on the traffic of the fastest growing customer group in our nation—our Senior Citizens—you won't want to miss out on our upcoming ...

**50-YEARS RUNNING AT SWISS DAYS** | Page 3  
**PLUS: Getting 'lost' in Brown County • The DNA Sleuth • More!**  
 SERVING THE WELLS AND ADAMS COUNTY COMMUNITIES

# Senior Living

Workin' on

All new Winter 2023 edition  
 Advertising Deadline – Nov. 3  
 Publication Date – Fri., Dec. 1

A Quarterly Publication of News-Banner Publications



The News-Banner

Call 824-0224 or 800-579-7476 • Ask for Display Advertising



# 1st major storm of season drops up to a foot of snow in Montana

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — The first major snowstorm of the season dropped up to a foot of snow in the Helena, Montana, area by Wednesday, sending an army of snowplows and sand trucks out onto the roads.

Residents woke up to swirling snow and the sound of shovels on sidewalks just days after temperatures rose into the lower 80s. Trees decked out in fall colors and some Halloween decorations were weighed down with snow. Helena Public Schools canceled six school bus routes Wednesday morning, but no schools were closed.

The National Weather Service warned of hazardous travel on snowy mountain passes and ice on some highways when snow initially melts and then freezes as road temperatures drop.

Plows scraped snow off the highways, streets and parking lots and sand

was scattered on roads to increase traction as the Montana Highway Patrol responded to dozens of crashes and slide-offs, including jackknifed semi-tractor trailers, according to the patrol's incident website.

The first snowfall of the season "is always the most dangerous because people just aren't used to it yet" after driving for months on mostly dry pavement, said Matt Ludwig, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Great Falls. Drivers aren't used to dealing with less traction, slower speeds and longer stopping distances, he said.

Cold air moving down from northwestern Canada has combined with a moist Pacific weather system, leading to freezing temperatures and expected snowfall amounts up to 14 inches in Washington's northern Cascade Mountains and 18 inches in the mountains

of Montana, the National Weather Service forecasts. Some higher elevations in the northern Rockies could see snow totals of 2 feet or more.

After the first wave of snow, it was Helena that saw the most accumulation, with a couple spots reporting 13 inches of snow. However, the official site at the airport had half that amount, said Cody Molvan, chief meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Great Falls said Wednesday.

Some towns in central Montana reported 10 inches of snow, while other areas along the Rocky Mountain Front had 6 to 8 inches of snow as the storm moved east. There was black ice on roads as the storm moved into the Billings area in southeastern Montana, the state's Department of Transportation said.

The first wave of snow in western Montana ended at midday Wednesday and a

second round — less widespread and with much less accumulation — was forecast from Wednesday night into Thursday morning, the weather service said.

The storm brought a sharp change in weather.

Helena tied record temperatures in the lower 80s late last week, which is about 25 degrees above average for this time of year, Ludwig said. Great Falls also had a day in the low 80s late last week, before being covered in snow on Wednesday.

Temperatures could fall into the low single digits with wind chill values below zero Wednesday night into Thursday morning in Great Falls, the forecast says.

"If that's not a shock to your system, I don't know what is," Ludwig said.

Helena's Walmart store still had a display of kayaks outside on Wednesday,

their prices nearly covered in snow.

The snow had also moved across northwestern and north-central North Dakota by early Wednesday, prompting the North Dakota Department of Transportation to advise residents not to travel in five counties, including the Williston area, because of icy roads and areas of near zero visibility. Oversized loads are not allowed to travel through the area.

State law restricts travel for oversized loads when inclement weather causes the vehicle or attachment to swerve, whip, sway or fail to follow the path of towing vehicle, the agency said.

North Dakota state Rep. Jeremy Olson was headed home from the Legislature's adjourned special session in Bismarck to his farm near Arnegard, in the area where the heaviest snowfall amounts are expected. He said he bought 400 pounds

of rock salt to put over his pickup truck's back axle for extra weight and greater traction on snow and ice.

In the days before the storm, his wife and daughters went shopping for the next week, got shovels ready and prepared a generator in case their power goes out.

"Things we've learned over the past years, a few lessons learned over past experiences gave us a good chance to get prepared for this thing," Olson told The Associated Press.

The area of Williston, Watford City and Minot, in North Dakota's oil field, could receive the heaviest snowfall, potentially 8 inches to a foot, said Nathan Heinert, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Bismarck. Bismarck could see 4 to 6 inches of snow late Thursday after rain on Wednesday, he said.

# Leader of Hezbollah holds talks with Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad figures

BEIRUT (AP) — The leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah group held talks on Wednesday in Beirut with senior Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad figures in a key meeting of three top anti-Israel militant groups amid the war raging in Gaza.

In neighboring Syria, meanwhile, state media said an Israeli airstrike hit the international airport in the northern city of Aleppo on Wednesday, damaging its runway and putting it out of service.

There was no immediate comment from Israel on the reported strike.

Following the meeting in Lebanon, a brief statement said Hezbollah's leader Hassan Nasrallah agreed with Hamas' Saleh al-Arouri and Islamic Jihad's leader Ziad al-Nakhleh on the next steps that the three — along with other Iran-backed militants — should take at this "sensitive stage" in the Middle East.

Their goal, according to the statement carried on Hezbollah-run and Lebanese state media, was to achieve "a real victory for the resistance in Gaza and Palestine" and halt Israel's "treacherous and brutal aggression against our oppressed and steadfast people in Gaza and the West Bank".

No other details were provided. The meeting came as the war between Israel and Hamas, the Palestinian militant group that rules the Gaza Strip, is now in its third week. The fighting, triggered by Hamas' deadly incursion into Israel on Oct. 7 that killed more than 1,400 people in Israel, has killed more than 5,700 Palestinians in Gaza.

As the Gaza death toll spirals, tensions have also been rising along the tense Lebanon-Israel border, where Hezbollah members

have been exchanging fire with Israeli troops since the day after Hamas' rampage into Israel.

For now, those exchanges remain limited to a handful of border towns and Hezbollah and Israeli military positions on both sides. Lebanese army soldiers and United Nations peacekeeping forces have deployed in large numbers.

Dozens of Hezbollah fighters have been killed in the clashes so far, the group says, while the Israeli military has also announced some deaths among its ranks.

Nasrallah has yet to publicly speak about the war in Gaza and clashes along the Lebanon-Israel border. However, other Hezbollah top officials have warned Israel against its planned ground invasion into the besieged territory.

Israeli officials have said they would retaliate aggressively in case of a cross-border attack by Hezbollah from Lebanon.

"We will cripple it with a force it cannot even imagine, and the consequences for it and the Lebanese state (will be) devastating," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said while visiting Israeli troops along the border with Lebanon on Sunday.

Lebanon's cash-strapped caretaker government, along regional and international figures, has been scrambling to keep the country out of the war.

Hezbollah and Israel fought a monthlong war in 2006 that ended in a tense stalemate. Israel sees Iran-backed Hezbollah as its most serious threat, estimating it has some 150,000 rockets and missiles aimed at Israel.

In its report on the airstrike on Syria's Aleppo, the state-run SANA news agency cited an unnamed military official as saying

the strike came from the west, over the Mediterranean Sea near the coastal city of Lattakia. The report did not mention any casualties.

If confirmed, the attack would be the fourth time Israel has targeted the airport in Aleppo, Syria's largest city and financial hub, since the onset of the latest Israel-Hamas war.

The first attack took place on Oct. 12, when Israeli missiles struck international airports in both Aleppo and Syria's capital of Damascus, putting them both out of commission. The Aleppo airport was later repaired.

Israel targets airports and sea ports in government-held parts of Syria in an apparent attempt to prevent arms shipments from Iran to militants backed by Tehran, including Hezbollah. Thousands of Iran-backed fighters from around the region joined Syria's 12-year civil war, helping tip the balance in favor of President Bashar Assad's forces.

Israel has carried out hundreds of such strikes in recent years, including on the Damascus and Aleppo airports, but rarely acknowledges or discusses the operations.

# UN warns Gaza blockade could force it to sharply cut relief missions as Israeli bombings rise

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — The U.N. warned Wednesday that it is on the verge of running out of fuel in the Gaza Strip, forcing it to sharply curtail relief efforts in the territory blockaded and devastated by Israeli airstrikes since Hamas militants launched an attack on Israel more than two weeks ago.

The warning came as hospitals in Gaza struggled to treat masses of wounded with dwindling resources. Meanwhile, the U.N.'s top official faced backlash from Israel after saying the Hamas massacre that sparked the fighting did not "take place in a vacuum."

Health officials said the death toll was soaring as Israeli jets pounded Gaza. Workers pulled dead and wounded civilians, including many children, out of landscapes of rubble in cities across the territory.

Gaza's Health Ministry, which is controlled by Hamas, said more than 750 people were killed over the past 24 hours. The Associated Press could not independently verify the death toll, and it was not known if the count included any militants.

The Israeli military, which accuses Hamas of operating among civilians, said its strikes killed militants and destroyed military targets. Gaza militants have fired

unrelenting rocket barrages into Israel since the conflict started.

The rising death toll in Gaza — following a reported 704 killed the day before — was unprecedented in the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Even greater loss of life could come if Israel launches an expected ground offensive aimed at crushing Hamas, an Islamic militant group sworn to Israel's destruction.

The Gaza Health Ministry says more than 6,500 Palestinians have been killed in the war. The figure includes the disputed toll from an explosion at a hospital last week.

The fighting has killed more than 1,400 people in Israel — mostly civilians slain during the initial Hamas attack, according to the Israeli government. Hamas also holds some 222 hostages in Gaza.

The warning by the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, over depleting fuel supplies raised alarm that the humanitarian crisis could quickly worsen.

Gaza's population has been running out of food, water and medicine, too, under Israel's seal. About 1.4 million of Gaza's 2.3 million residents have fled their homes, with nearly half of them crowded into U.N. shelters.

## Public Sale Calendar

**OCTOBER 27 - 8 a.m. - Secured creditors & various consignors, owners.** 815 Adams St., Decatur. Truck & equipment auction. Live and online bidding. 700+ lots! 100+/- municipal units! 2012-2014 Freightliner M2106 box trucks, dump trucks, day cabs, sleepers, utility trucks, bucket trucks, utility & semi trailers, SUV's, 1/2 ton & 3/4 ton pickups, 100+ various skid steer attachments & more! Cargo & passenger vans, large group of Chevy Impalas, Tahoes, Dodge Chargers, more! Selling absolute! Accepting consignments! *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, Kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.

**BIDDING ENDS 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 house: Oct. 26 from 4-6 p.m., 1791 W 1000 S, Warren. Pat Carter & Nick Huffman, sale managers. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

**BIDDING ENDS 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, car, Rotary Lift 9,000-lb. capacity 2-post hydraulic lift, mower. Preview: 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.

**BIDDING NOW OPEN AND STARTS CLOSING NOVEMBER 5 STARTING AT 4 PM EST - Randy Rossman, owner and multiple consignors.** Online only consignment auction. 1,000+ lots! Featuring furniture, household items, collectibles, antiques, tools, guns, & much more! Auction preview: Nov. 6, 1-6 p.m. & Nov. 7, 9 a.m.-noon, 3 pick up locations in Decatur. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, Kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.

**NOVEMBER 5-NOVEMBER 12 - (Online Only) - Kipfer Family, seller.** New Holland TL90 diesel tractor, International 706 gas tractor, 1984 Case Model 444 garden tractor, 2008 Miller 250 Bobcat welder generator, Pilot 24-volt fork lift charger, Marathon, Shell, other gasoline plastic signs, Fenton, Lladro, Carnival, Vaseline, Royal Dalton, RS Prussia glassware, antique & modern furniture. Preview: Nov. 2 from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. and Nov. 9 from 3 p.m.-6 p.m., 6345 W 200 S-1, Bluffton. Sale manager, Patrick Carter, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

HERE TO HELP YOU  
**BOOST BUSINESS**  
AT HALLOWEEN  
AND ALL YEAR!

*Jerry Flack & Associates*  
101 N. Main St. • Bluffton, IN  
Corner of Main & Market  
EDUCATION  
**ATTENTION!**  
We are NOW certified to Sell  
Market Place Health Insurance  
Products for People Under 65!  
NEVER ANY OBLIGATION  
260.824.1618  
ONE-ON-ONE PRIVATE CONSULTATION  
Life Insurance, Annuities and Long-term Care  
Call to Set an Appointment  
You Can Buy an Annuity at Age 90 to 99!  
**ASK US HOW!**

**Decatur - Geneva Bluffton - Berne Warren**  
Decatur Dental Services, Inc.  
TRICK OR TREAT!  
BRUSH YOUR TEETH!!!  
www.decaturdentalin.com

**SUPERIOR PRODUCTS SERVICE SOLUTIONS**  
99.98% CLEANER AIR  
Clean air starts with better airflow.  
Ask us about installing AccuClean™,  
Humidifiers, Dehumidifiers, or UV Lights.  
*American Standard*  
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING  
**MOSER & SON**  
Heating & Air Conditioning  
824-0228  
219 E. Perry St. Bluffton  
260\*824\*0228 • www.moserandsonheatingandair.com



# Sports

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2023 • The News-Banner • Page 1a

## Browns' Deshaun Watson out this week against Seahawks, will miss 4th game with shoulder injury

By TOM WITHERS  
AP Sports Writer

BEREA, Ohio (AP) — Deshaun Watson won't practice this week or play this Sunday in Seattle.

Those are the only absolutes at this point as Cleveland's quarterback continues to struggle with a right shoulder injury that started out as seemingly minor and become somewhat mysterious over the past month.

Learning from another tough lesson last week, Browns coach Kevin Stefanski ended speculation about Watson's game status on Wednesday by ruling him out against the Seahawks (4-2) and saying P.J. Walker will start.

Rookie Dorian Thompson-Robinson will back up Walker.

Watson remains slowed by a strained rotator cuff in his throwing shoulder, an injury he initially sustained on Sept. 24 and has already kept him out of three games. A three-time Pro Bowler in Houston, Watson has made only nine of 23 possible starts since signing a \$230 million fully guaranteed contract with the Browns last year.

He was suspended 11 games in 2022. This season, the shoulder has shelved him.

Stefanski said an MRI taken on Monday did not reveal Watson sustained any new damage to his shoulder after taking a hit during a start Sunday at Indianapolis that lasted only 12 plays.

Stefanski added that Watson is dealing with "residual swelling" that's affecting his ability to throw.

"I feel like this is the best decision for this week," Stefanski said. "He's trying like crazy. This is not for lack of effort. He's making every effort he can to be out there. But with the hit he took, with the swelling, it makes the most sense to focus on rehab this week and then he'll be out there as soon as he's ready."

Stefanski said surgery has not been discussed because there is nothing to repair. It's simply a matter of Watson being able to throw pain-free and with velocity.

Watson, who practiced last week for the first time in nearly three weeks, did not speak to reporters during the open locker room period.

With Watson out, the Browns (4-2) can give all the practice reps to Walker, who started an Oct. 15 upset of San Francisco and came off the bench Sunday. Helped by two questionable penalties called against the Colts defense, Walker led the Browns on a game-winning TD drive in the final minutes of a 39-38 victory.

Watson looked ready to play last week

after practicing twice. He wasn't.

The Browns listed him as questionable going in and were confident he could perform. But it became clear quickly against the Colts that Watson's wasn't right. He threw an interception on Cleveland's second possession and was nearly picked again while being shoved down and banging his head and shoulder hard on the turf.

Although cleared for a possible concussion, Watson didn't return as Stefanski decided to stay with Walker, a former QB in the NFL, who in a blink has risen from the practice squad to Cleveland's active roster.

Watson said last week he has "microtears" in his rotator cuff, an injury that normally takes up to six weeks to heal.

The Browns now seem intent on giving Watson all the time he needs.

Although the team anticipated Watson playing on Oct. 1 against Baltimore, he didn't. Stefanski pushed back on the idea the injury was misdiagnosed.

"Every injury, you take in information every single day," he said. "So, in that way, you're day to day. He's going to focus on rehab this week. But throughout his rehab, you're going to continually find out every single day how he's feeling, how he's progressing through it."

Browns linebacker Anthony Walker Jr. has spoken to Watson and said he's disappointed by the situation.

However, as one of the team's captains, he's still trying to lead despite not being on the field.

"It's tough. He understands that," said Walker. "But he's a tough-minded person. I talked to him the last couple of days just about his role and he understands that and we want him healthy. So, he's fine. Trust me, he's a tough-minded guy. He's going to do everything to battle and get back as soon as possible and when that is we'll need him."

"Obviously, he's our franchise quarterback. We all believe in him in his locker room, defensively, offensively, special teams. We all believe in him, and he understands that."

NOTES: The Browns earned a win Sunday and two honors. Defensive end Myles Garrett and kicker Dustin Hopkins were selected as the AFC Defensive and Special Teams Players of the Week, respectively. Garrett had nine tackles, two strip-sacks and blocked a field goal when he jumped over the line from a three-point stance. Hopkins won for the second week in a row after making four kicks at Indy, including a career-best 58-yarder. He's the first kicker in NFL history to make a field goal of at least 50 yards in five straight games.

## MSU hearing officer rules Tucker sexually harassed Brenda Tracy

By LARRY LAGE  
AP Sports Writer

A Michigan State University hearing officer has determined that former Michigan State football coach Mel Tucker sexually harassed rape survivor and activist Brenda Tracy, a person familiar with the ruling told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The hearing officer ruled Tucker was in violation of several terms of his contract, according to the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to comment publicly on the investigation.

Tucker, who was fired nearly a month ago after initially being suspended, has 10 days to file an appeal.

"My first reaction was tears of relief," Tracy told USA Today, which first reported details of the decision. Messages seeking comment were left by AP with Tucker, his attorney and agent as well as with Tracy and her attorney.

Tucker was suspended and later fired for acknowledging he had consensual phone sex with Tracy, who was a vendor once paid to speak with the Spartans football team about how to prevent sexual abuse and misbehavior. The school said it terminated Tucker after he subjected the institution to ridicule, breaching his contract and moral turpitude.

Tucker signed a \$95 million, 10-year contract nearly two years ago. If the school gets its way, he will lose about \$80 million he was due to make through Jan. 15, 2032.

Tracy filed a complaint with the school last year, saying Tucker sexually harassed

her during a phone call in April 2022. Several months later, Tracy filed a complaint with the school's Office for Civil Rights and Title IX Education.

Shortly after Tucker was fired in September, attorney Jennifer Belveal asked university officials and representatives to preserve all documents related to the investigation "in anticipation of litigation" against the university for what she said was an illegal termination.

Tracy's allegations were made public by USA Today on Sept. 10. On the same day that the report was published, Tucker was suspended. She is known for her work with college teams educating athletes about sexual violence and Michigan State paid her \$10,000 to share her story with the football team.

The 51-year-old Tucker asked for a medical leave for "a serious health condition" while he was suspended and the school denied the request, saying it was "unnecessary," according to his attorney. He and his attorneys did not attend a hearing earlier this month.

Tucker began his coaching career with Nick Saban as a graduate assistant for the Spartans in 1997. He returned to the school with one of the biggest contracts in college sports after leading Colorado for one season and serving as an assistant coach at Georgia, Alabama and Ohio State.

Tucker also worked in the NFL, leading the Jacksonville Jaguars as interim coach during the 2011 season and also was an assistant with his hometown Cleveland Browns and Chicago Bears.

He was 20-14 in three-plus seasons at Michigan State, which he led to 11 wins in 2021, and his career record as a college football head coach is 25-21, including one season at Colorado.

The Spartans, who have lost five straight games since Tucker was suspended, play at Minnesota on Saturday.

## Bluffton's annual hoop shoot to begin on Nov. 18

The Bluffton Hoop Shoot free throw contest is set to begin on Nov. 18 at the Bluffton-Harrison Elementary School Gymnasium. The event will start at 9:30 a.m. and go until 11 a.m.

Hoop Shoot is a national contest for boys and girls ages 8-13 years. The competition is run through Elks Hoop Shoot, an organization that has been teaching kids about "unleashing grit" for over 50

years. Many contestants have advanced to the National Hoop Shoot in Bluffton's 30-year history.

Players advancing to the championship round will participate in the finals at Wintrust Arena in Chicago, home to the WNBA champion Chicago Sky and DePaul University Blue Demons.

For more information, contact director Rowdy Yates at 260-273-6910.

## ACAC releases volleyball conference award winners

The Allen County Athletic Conference released its all-ACAC list on Wednesday.

Two Bluffton Tigers were listed: Maryn Schreiber was listed on the first team, and Haley Gibson on the second team.

Schreiber was fourth in the conference in kills with 278 and first in total

blocks with 92. Gibson was third in assists with 574.

Woodlan won the ACAC with a perfect 6-0 record, and Adams Central was the conference tournament champion.

Bluffton placed sixth overall with a record of 1-5, and Southern Wells seventh at 0-7.

## Diamondbacks vs Rangers is a Fall Classic few saw coming

By RONALD BLUM  
AP Baseball Writer

Tell the truth: How many people picked Arizona and Texas to meet in the World Series?

A Rangers-Diamondbacks matchup had 1,750 to 1 odds when wagering opened last fall.

But in an era when 12 teams make the playoffs, sustained excellence over the six-month regular season has become a boarding pass, not the journey, leading to a long shot Series that opens Friday night at Globe Life Field.

"Once you get into the big dance, anything can happen," Diamondbacks manager Torey Lovullo said before Tuesday night's 4-2 win at Philadelphia advanced Arizona to its first World Series since 2001. "Throw it all out the window. The teams that get in deserve to be in."

All the glamour teams are watching at home: the Los Angeles Dodgers and Atlanta Braves stumbled in the Division Series, defending champion Houston was ousted by Texas, and the



ishes and 100-loss seasons. Arizona is a No. 6 seed and Texas a No. 5.

"Sometimes, one of the last hurdles to get over is that winning feeling, attitude, when you've been losing for a few seasons," Bochy said.

Bochy, 68 and in his 26th year as a big league manager, joined the Rangers last October. He is going for his fourth title, which would tie Walter Alston and Joe Torre for fourth-most behind Joe McCarthy and Casey Stengel (seven each) and Connie Mack (five). All prior managers with three or more are in the Hall of Fame.

"I don't think about me. I'm riding their backs, trust me," Bochy said. "It's unreal that I'm here, to be honest. Sitting at the house for three years, and think here I am going to a World Series. Yeah, that's special. But it's more about them and trying to find a way to get a ring for those guys."

Texas started play as the expansion Washington Senators from 1961-71 and

(Continued on Page A2)

## High School Calendar

THURSDAY, OCT 26

No events scheduled

FRIDAY, OCT 27

FOOTBALL: (sectional semi-final) Eastbrook at Bluffton, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT 28

CROSS COUNTRY (CO-ED): Bluffton at State final meet host by Indiana State University (LaVern Gibson), 12 p.m.

## Bruce Brown boosts the Pacers offense as Pacers rout Wizards

By MICHAEL MAROT  
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indiana Pacers signed Bruce Brown for his defense.

His scoring punch Wednesday night was an added bonus.

Brown scored 24 points, making a career-high six 3-pointers in his Pacers debut, and Tyrese Haliburton and Andrew Nembhard each finished with double-doubles in a 143-120 rout over Washington, the highest-scoring season-opener in franchise history. The previous mark, 140, came in

2017 against Brooklyn.

And Brown thinks more big scoring nights could be on the way.

"We play fast, everybody's running," Brown said. "One time I got open for a 3 because Myles sealed his guy at the rim. Our offense is so random anybody can score the ball and tonight it was me."

Despite spending the offseason talking about defense, the Pacers started this season by treating NBA commissioner Adam Silver to an incredible offensive display.

Haliburton finished with

20 points and 11 assists, Nembhard had 12 points and 10 assists, and the Pacers were 20 of 43 from 3-point range. Eight players scored in double figures as they fell three 3s short of tying the franchise's single-game record and two points short of tying the franchise record for most points in a home game.

Brown, a free agent who left the world champion Denver Nuggets and watched them collect their championship rings Tuesday, needed only one half to match his career high for

(Continued on Page A2)

Buy-Sell-Estate and Collection Appraisal  
Strong Buyers of Old Coins, Silver Coins & Scrap Gold Jewelry

**Solly's Coins**  
(260) 747-0500  
NOW in Broadview Plaza Across the Street From Our Old Location!  
6110 Bluffton Rd., Waynedale, Fort Wayne, IN  
Jim Sollberger, Owner  
sollycoins@comcast.net  
www.sollycoins.com  
Hours: T-F - 10-5 | SAT - 10-2 | or by Appointment

- US Coins
- Gold Coins
- Silver Bullion
- Proof & Mint Sets
- Coin Supplies (Albums & Folders)

Julie Myers  
Jerry Flack & Associates  
101 N. Main St. Bluffton, IN Corner of Main & Market  
"We are Senior Citizens working with Senior Citizens" 260.824.1618  
MARKET PLACE (UNDER 65) PLANS  
TIME FOR ANY PLAN CHANGES?

Parlor City OIL SHOP  
1309 S MAIN ST  
BLUFFTON, IN 46714  
260.353.1610

Enjoy \$5 Off Your Next Oil Change With This Coupon  
\*No Appointment Necessary

Mobil



# News-Banner Scoreboard

## BASEBALL

### MLB

**Postseason Baseball Glance**  
**LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES**  
 (Best-of-7)  
**National League**  
 (All Games on TBS)  
 Arizona wins series 4-3 over Philadelphia  
 Monday, Oct. 16: Philadelphia 5, Arizona 3  
 Tuesday, Oct. 17: Philadelphia 10, Arizona 0  
 Thursday, Oct. 19: Arizona 2, Philadelphia 1  
 Friday, Oct. 20: Arizona 6, Philadelphia 5  
 Saturday, Oct. 21: Philadelphia 6, Arizona 1  
 Monday, Oct. 23: Arizona 5, Philadelphia 1  
 Tuesday, Oct. 24: Arizona 4, Philadelphia 2  
**World Series**  
 (Best-of-7)  
 (All Games on Fox)  
 Friday, Oct. 27: Arizona at Texas, 8:03 p.m.  
 Saturday, Oct. 28: Arizona at Texas, 8:03 p.m.  
 Monday, Oct. 30: Texas at Arizona, 8:03 p.m.  
 Tuesday, Oct. 31: Texas at Arizona, 8:03 p.m.  
 x-Wednesday, Nov. 1: Texas at Arizona, 8:03 p.m.  
 x-Friday, Nov. 3: Arizona at Texas, 8:03 p.m.  
 x-Saturday, Nov. 4: Arizona at Texas, 8:03 p.m.

San Jose 6 0 5 1 1 8 23  
 NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.  
**Tuesday's Games**  
 Toronto 4, Washington 1  
 Buffalo 6, Ottawa 4  
 Tampa Bay 3, Carolina 0  
 New Jersey 5, Montreal 2  
 Dallas 4, Pittsburgh 1  
 Florida 3, San Jose 1  
 Colorado 7, N.Y. Islanders 4  
 Seattle 5, Detroit 4, OT  
 Anaheim 3, Columbus 2, OT  
 Winnipeg 4, St. Louis 2  
 Boston 3, Chicago 0  
 Minnesota 7, Edmonton 4  
 Vancouver 3, Nashville 2  
 N.Y. Rangers 3, Calgary 1  
 Los Angeles 6, Arizona 3  
 Vegas 3, Philadelphia 2  
**Wednesday's Games**  
 Washington 6, New Jersey 4  
**Thursday's Games**  
 Anaheim at Boston, 7 p.m.  
 Colorado at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.  
 Columbus at Montreal, 7 p.m.  
 San Jose at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.  
 Seattle at Carolina, 7 p.m.  
 Winnipeg at Detroit, 7 p.m.  
 Minnesota at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.  
 Ottawa at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30 p.m.  
 Toronto at Dallas, 8 p.m.  
 N.Y. Rangers at Edmonton, 9 p.m.  
 St. Louis at Calgary, 9 p.m.  
**Friday's Games**  
 Chicago at Vegas, 6 p.m.  
 Buffalo at New Jersey, 7 p.m.  
 Minnesota at Washington, 7 p.m.  
 San Jose at Carolina, 7 p.m.  
 Los Angeles at Arizona, 10 p.m.  
 St. Louis at Vancouver, 10 p.m.  
**Saturday's Games**  
 Anaheim at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.  
 Seattle at Florida, 6 p.m.  
 Detroit at Boston, 7 p.m.  
 N.Y. Islanders at Columbus, 7 p.m.  
 Ottawa at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.  
 Toronto at Nashville, 7 p.m.  
 Winnipeg at Montreal, 7 p.m.  
 N.Y. Rangers at Vancouver, 10 p.m.  
 Vegas at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

Houston 0 1 .000 1  
 Northwest Division  
 W L Pct GB  
 Denver 1 0 1.000 —  
 Oklahoma City 1 0 1.000 —  
 Portland 0 0 .000 ½  
 Utah 0 0 .000 ½  
 Minnesota 0 1 .000 1  
**Pacific Division**  
 W L Pct GB  
 Phoenix 1 0 1.000 —  
 L.A. Clippers 0 0 .000 ½  
 Sacramento 0 0 .000 ½  
 Golden State 0 1 .000 1  
 L.A. Lakers 0 1 .000 1  
**Tuesday's Games**  
 Denver 119, L.A. Lakers 107  
 Phoenix 108, Golden State 104  
**Wednesday's Games**  
 Indiana 143, Washington 120  
 Orlando 116, Houston 86  
 Charlotte 116, Atlanta 110  
 Boston 108, New York 104  
 Toronto 97, Minnesota 94  
 Miami 103, Detroit 102  
 Cleveland 114, Brooklyn 113  
 Oklahoma City 124, Chicago 104  
 New Orleans 111, Memphis 104  
 Sacramento at Utah, late  
 Dallas at San Antonio, late  
 Portland at L.A. Clippers, late  
**Thursday's Games**  
 Philadelphia at Milwaukee, 7:30 p.m.  
 Phoenix at L.A. Lakers, 10 p.m.  
**Friday's Games**  
 Denver at Memphis, 7 p.m.  
 Detroit at Charlotte, 7 p.m.  
 Miami at Boston, 7:30 p.m.  
 New York at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.  
 Oklahoma City at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.  
 Houston at San Antonio, 8 p.m.  
 Toronto at Chicago, 8 p.m.  
 Brooklyn at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.  
 L.A. Clippers at Utah, 9:30 p.m.  
 Golden State at Sacramento, 10 p.m.  
 Orlando at Portland, 10 p.m.  
**Saturday's Games**  
 Chicago at Detroit, 7 p.m.  
 Memphis at Washington, 7 p.m.  
 New York at New Orleans, 7 p.m.  
 Indiana at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.  
 Philadelphia at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.  
 Miami at Minnesota, 8 p.m.  
 Utah at Phoenix, 10 p.m.

**National Basketball Association**  
 NBA — imposed a penalty on Phoenix and rescinded the 2024 second-round draft pick acquired from Orlando for violating league rules governing the timing of free agency discussions.  
**PHILADELPHIA 76ERS** — Signed G Ricky Council IV to a two-way contract. Waived F Azuolas Tubelis.  
**FOOTBALL**  
**National Football League**  
 ARIZONA CARDINALS — Re-signed WR Davion Davis and DL Jacob Slade

to the practice squad.  
**BUFFALO BILLS** — Signed DT Eli Ankou to the practice squad.  
**CAROLINA PANTHERS** — Signed QB Jake Luton and TE Jordan Matthews to the practice squad.  
**CHICAGO BEARS** — Designated OT Braxton Jones and DL Khliad Kareem to return from injured reserve to practice.  
**CLEVELAND BROWNS** — Promoted QB P.J. Walker from the practice squad to the active roster. Signed RB Nate McCrary and RB Jordan Wilkins to the practice squad.  
**DENVER BRONCOS** — Promoted WR Lil'Jordan Humphrey from the practice squad to the active roster.  
 Re-signed WR Michael Bandy to the practice squad.  
**HOCKEY**  
**National Hockey League**  
**COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS** — Loaned F Yegor Chinnakhov to Cleveland (AHL). Reassigned D Ole Julian Bjorgvik-Holm to Cincinnati (ECHL).

## Unlikely World Series

(Continued from Page A1)  
 played 10,028 games without a title (9,964 regular-season games, according to the Elias Sports Bureau, plus 64 in the postseason). That's the second-longest drought behind Cleveland, which last won in 1948.  
 After losing in the World Series in 2010 and '11, the Rangers are among six teams without a title, joined by Colorado, Milwaukee, San Diego, Seattle and Tampa Bay.  
 Arizona's only title came on Luis Gonzalez's ninth-inning single off Yankees closer Mariano Rivera in Game 7 in 2001.  
 Texas headed into the playoffs with the sixth-highest payroll at \$228 million. Arizona was 20th at \$127 million.  
 Both teams rallied and earned their World Series berths on the road. It was the first time road teams won Games 6 and 7 in

both leagues since the LCS expanded to a best-of-seven format in 1985.  
 Without Jacob deGrom following a season-ending elbow injury, the Rangers acquired Max Scherzer and Jordan Montgomery to join a rotation that included Nathan Eovaldi and Andrew Heaney. Adolis Garcia has seven homers and 20 RBIs in the playoffs, leading an offense also powered by 2020 World Series MVP Corey Seager, Marcus Semien, Mitch Garver and Josh Jung.  
 Arizona's rotation is led by Zac Gallen, Merrill Kelly and Brandon Pfaadt, and its offense sparked by Carroll, Christian Walker, Ketel Marte, Lourdes Gurriel Jr. and Gabriel Moreno. Lovullo, 58, is in his seventh season as Diamondbacks manager and in the playoffs for the first time since his 2017 team was swept by the Dodgers in the Division

Series.  
 Texas is 8-0 on the road in the postseason but has home-field advantage because it won 90 games to Arizona's 84 — which could be the second-fewest for a World Series champion in a non-shortened season behind the St. Louis Cardinals' 83 in 2006. The Diamondbacks split two games at Texas in May and swept a pair at home in August, including an 11-inning win on consecutive doubles by Gerald Perdomo and Tommy Pham off Will Smith. The Rangers hold a 28-25 edge in regular-season matchups.  
 There are some common ties. Lovullo's staff includes bench coach Jeff Banister, the Rangers' manager from 2015-18.  
 Scherzer was drafted by the Diamondbacks and spent his first two seasons with Arizona in 2008-09 before he was dealt to Detroit.

## HOCKEY

### NHL

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

| GP        | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|-----------|---|---|----|-----|----|----|
| Boston    | 6 | 6 | 0  | 0   | 12 | 19 |
| Detroit   | 7 | 5 | 1  | 1   | 11 | 34 |
| Toronto   | 6 | 4 | 2  | 0   | 8  | 23 |
| Tampa Bay | 7 | 3 | 2  | 2   | 8  | 23 |
| Montreal  | 6 | 3 | 2  | 1   | 7  | 18 |
| Ottawa    | 6 | 3 | 3  | 0   | 6  | 25 |
| Florida   | 6 | 3 | 3  | 0   | 6  | 17 |
| Buffalo   | 7 | 3 | 4  | 0   | 6  | 19 |

**Metropolitan Division**

| GP             | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|----------------|---|---|----|-----|----|----|
| N.Y. Rangers   | 6 | 4 | 2  | 0   | 8  | 18 |
| Philadelphia   | 6 | 3 | 2  | 1   | 7  | 18 |
| New Jersey     | 6 | 3 | 2  | 1   | 7  | 24 |
| Columbus       | 6 | 3 | 2  | 1   | 7  | 17 |
| Carolina       | 7 | 3 | 4  | 0   | 6  | 28 |
| N.Y. Islanders | 5 | 2 | 2  | 1   | 5  | 13 |
| Washington     | 6 | 2 | 3  | 1   | 5  | 13 |
| Pittsburgh     | 6 | 2 | 4  | 0   | 4  | 17 |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Central Division**

| GP        | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|-----------|---|---|----|-----|----|----|
| Colorado  | 6 | 6 | 0  | 0   | 12 | 28 |
| Dallas    | 5 | 4 | 0  | 1   | 9  | 16 |
| Minnesota | 6 | 3 | 2  | 1   | 7  | 25 |
| Winnipeg  | 6 | 3 | 3  | 0   | 6  | 20 |
| Arizona   | 6 | 3 | 3  | 0   | 6  | 15 |
| Nashville | 7 | 3 | 4  | 0   | 6  | 20 |
| St. Louis | 5 | 2 | 2  | 1   | 5  | 11 |
| Chicago   | 7 | 2 | 5  | 0   | 4  | 14 |

**Pacific Division**

| GP          | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|-------------|---|---|----|-----|----|----|
| Vegas       | 7 | 7 | 0  | 0   | 14 | 23 |
| Vancouver   | 6 | 4 | 2  | 0   | 8  | 23 |
| Los Angeles | 6 | 3 | 2  | 1   | 7  | 22 |
| Calgary     | 7 | 2 | 4  | 1   | 5  | 17 |
| Seattle     | 7 | 2 | 4  | 1   | 5  | 16 |
| Anaheim     | 6 | 2 | 4  | 0   | 4  | 15 |
| Edmonton    | 6 | 1 | 4  | 1   | 3  | 17 |

## BASKETBALL

**NBA**

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

| W            | L | Pct | GB    |   |
|--------------|---|-----|-------|---|
| Boston       | 1 | 0   | 1.000 | — |
| Toronto      | 1 | 0   | 1.000 | — |
| Philadelphia | 0 | 0   | .000  | ½ |
| Brooklyn     | 0 | 1   | .000  | 1 |
| New York     | 0 | 1   | .000  | 1 |

**Southeast Division**

| W          | L | Pct | GB    |   |
|------------|---|-----|-------|---|
| Charlotte  | 1 | 0   | 1.000 | — |
| Miami      | 1 | 0   | 1.000 | — |
| Orlando    | 1 | 0   | 1.000 | — |
| Atlanta    | 0 | 1   | .000  | 1 |
| Washington | 0 | 1   | .000  | 1 |

**Central Division**

| W         | L | Pct | GB    |   |
|-----------|---|-----|-------|---|
| Indiana   | 1 | 0   | 1.000 | — |
| Cleveland | 1 | 0   | 1.000 | — |
| Milwaukee | 0 | 0   | .000  | ½ |
| Detroit   | 0 | 1   | .000  | 1 |
| Chicago   | 0 | 1   | .000  | 1 |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Southwest Division**

| W           | L | Pct | GB    |   |
|-------------|---|-----|-------|---|
| New Orleans | 1 | 0   | 1.000 | — |
| Dallas      | 0 | 0   | .000  | ½ |
| San Antonio | 0 | 0   | .000  | ½ |
| Memphis     | 0 | 1   | .000  | 1 |

## TRANSACTIONS

**Tuesday's Transactions**

**BASEBALL**  
**Major League Baseball**  
**American League**  
 BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Claimed LHP Tucker Davidson off waivers from Kansas City.  
 BOSTON RED SOX — Named Craig Breslow chief baseball officer.  
 HOUSTON ASTROS — Claimed RHP Oliver Ortega off waivers from Minnesota.  
**National League**  
 ATLANTA BRAVES — Agreed to terms with RHP Pierce Johnson on a two-year contract.  
 ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Claimed INF Buddy Kennedy off waivers from Oakland. Placed RHP Adam Wainwright on the voluntarily retired list.  
 WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Named Danny Haas vice president, amateur scouting, Brad Ciolek senior director, amateur scouting and Reed Dunn assistant director and national crosschecker, amateur scouting.  
**BASKETBALL**

## Pacers opening night win

(Continued from Page A1)  
 by going 9 of 24 on 3s.  
 "There was a little hesitancy, we talked about that," Wizards coach Wes Unseld Jr. said. "Watching and waiting, this team specifically is going to make you pay. It's a strength of theirs. The minute there's a change of possession, they're gone so if there's any hesitation, they make you pay."  
 Indiana needed just two quick bursts to swing this game.  
 The first, an 11-4 run midway through the second quarter, finally pulled the Pacers out of the early deficit and gave them the lead. Then early in the third quarter, they scored nine straight 3-pointers (four).  
 "It was great, nice seeing them happy and getting the rings. A lot of hard work went into that," Brown said. "I mean, yeah, I wanted to be there, but I'm happy I'm here."  
 For Washington, it was an ugly start to the post-Bradley Beal era.  
 While the Wizards led 39-34 after one quarter, they fell apart offensively over the final three and couldn't match Indiana's speed or tempo over the final three. Kyle Kuzma scored 25 points and Jordan Poole added 18 as Washington started a rebuilding season

to turn what had been a close game into an 89-72 lead.  
 Washington spent the rest of the futilely trying to catch up.  
 Silver stuck around for the game after announcing this season's All-Star Game would revert to its more traditional 48-minute, East-West format while eliminating target scores. Indianapolis hosts this season's game Feb. 18. It's the first time Indy has hosted the game since 1985.  
**UP NEXT**  
 Wizards: Face Memphis in their home opener Saturday.  
 Pacers: Visit Cleveland on Saturday.

## Browns' Garrett buys minority ownership stake in the Cavaliers

By TOM WITHERS  
 AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — Myles Garrett hurdled a Colts lineman last week. On Wednesday, the Browns' star defensive end jumped into the NBA.  
 Garrett finalized a deal to purchase a minority ownership stake in the Cleveland Cavaliers, the team announced. Garrett's share of the team is not immediately known, but the Cavaliers said he also will serve as an official "brand ambassador."  
 A four-time Pro Bowler, Garrett has attended numerous Cavs games in recent years.  
 "As a leader on and off the field, Myles has become a Cleveland icon and shares in our organization's commitment to being a transformative force for good across the region," Cavaliers owner Dan Gilbert. "We

are honored to welcome this longtime friend of the team as our new partner and investor."  
 Garrett loves to talk and play basketball. He participated in the NBA's All-Star Celebrity Game when the Cavs hosted the event in 2022.  
 Garrett said joining the franchise "is truly a dream come true."  
 The 27-year-old had perhaps the best game of his NFL career on Sunday at Indianapolis. Garrett had nine tackles and two sacks, forced two fumbles, knocked down a pass and hurled the interior of the Colts' line to block a field goal in the Browns' 39-38 win.  
 Garrett was selected at the AFC Defensive Player of the Week for his efforts. The Browns selected Garrett with the No. 1 overall pick in 2017 after he starred at Texas A&M.

## Outside firm gave NCAA evidence of Michigan's sign-stealing scheme

By RALPH D. RUSSO  
 AP College Football Writer

The NCAA's inquiry into a sign-stealing scheme by Michigan's football program was triggered by an outside firm's investigation, which turned up videos of and documented plans and budgets for impermissible scouting of the Wolverines' opponents.  
 The Washington Post, citing two people familiar with the matter who were not identified, reported Wednesday the firm obtained computer drives maintained and accessed by multiple Michigan coaches.  
 The firm presented evidence to the NCAA last week that suggests Connor Stalions, the low-level staffer suspended by Michigan on Friday, was not the only person on staff aware of the scheme, according to the report.  
 A person with knowledge of the situation confirmed to The Associated Press that an outside firm provided the NCAA with evidence, including photographs, videos and documents, that initiated the association's investigation.  
 The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because no one was authorized to speak publicly about the ongoing investigation.  
 It was unclear who hired the firm to investigate Michigan.  
 The NCAA informed the Big Ten Conference, which then notified Michigan's future opponents. Both Michigan and the Big Ten acknowledged the investigation last week.  
 Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh, who served a three-game, university-imposed suspension earlier this season for an unrelated and still unresolved NCAA violations case tied to recruiting, has denied any knowledge or involvement in impermissible scouting of opponents.  
 Michigan has declined to comment further, citing an ongoing investigation.  
 No. 2 Michigan (8-0) has won the Big

Ten title and appeared in the College Football Playoff each of the last two seasons. The Wolverines are off this week.  
 NCAA rules do not directly ban the stealing of signs, but there are rules against using electronic equipment to record an opponent's signals and in-person, advanced scouting of future opponents in season.  
 There are also rules against unsportsmanlike or unethical activities by coaches, and head coaches are generally considered to be responsible for violations that occur under their watch.  
 Stalions appeared to be purchasing tickets to the games of Michigan's opponents and sending people to obtain video of the sideline signals used for calling in plays. There are images and video from Michigan games over the past two seasons with Stalions on the sideline, standing near Wolverines coaches.  
 Stalions was hired in 2022 as part of the recruiting staff.  
 Multiple Big Ten schools have found records of tickets being purchased to their games in Stalions' name over the past three seasons, and records show tickets purchased in Stalions' name to the last two SEC championship games.  
 The Washington Post reported the outside firm presented to NCAA officials photographs of people investigators believed to be people acting as scouts for Michigan, including current students interning with the football team. The photos showed these people seated at games of Michigan opponents this season, aiming their cellphones at the sidelines.  
 The Post reported the firm told the NCAA that cellphone videos from the games were uploaded to a computer drive accessed by Stalions and other Michigan assistants and coaches, though there was no evidence presented to the NCAA directly linking Harbaugh to the impermissible scouting and sign-stealing scheme.



**NASCAR CUP SERIES**  
**Xfinity 500**  
 Site: Martinsville, Virginia.  
 Schedule: Saturday, practice, 12:35 p.m., and qualifying, 1:20 p.m.; Sunday, race, 2 p.m. (NBC).  
 Last race: Bell took the lead with 15 laps to go and held off Ryan Blaney at Homestead-Miami Speedway to clinch a spot in next month's championship finale.  
 Next race: Nov. 5, Avondale, Arizona.  
**NASCAR XFINITY SERIES**  
**Dead On Tools 250**  
 Schedule: Friday, practice, 5 p.m., and qualifying, 5:35 p.m.; Saturday, race, 3:30 p.m. (USA).  
 Last race: Sam Mayer held off Riley Herbst and became the first driver to claim a spot in the championship finale with a victory at Homestead-Miami Speedway.  
 Next race: Nov. 4, Avondale, Arizona.  
**NASCAR TRUCK SERIES**  
 Last race: Carson Hocevar earned his fourth career victory — all this season — and first NASCAR Truck Series Championship appearance with a victory at Homestead-Miami Speedway. He joins regular-season champion Corey Heim, Grant Enfinger and 2021 series champion Ben Rhodes in the Championship 4.  
 Next race: Nov. 3, Avondale, Arizona.  
**FORMULA ONE**  
**Mexican Grand Prix**  
 Schedule: Friday, practice, 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.; Saturday, practice, 1:30 p.m., and qualifying, 5 p.m.; Sunday, race, 4 p.m. (ESPN).  
 Last race: Verstappen, already the season champion for the third consecutive year, rallied after starting sixth and held off Lewis Hamilton to earn his record-tying 15th victory of the year and the 50th of his career.  
 Next race: Oct. 29, Mexico City.  
**INDYCAR**  
 Last race: Scott Dixon won at Laguna Seca, his third win of the season, all in the last four races. The six-time champion gave Chip Ganassi Racing a 1-2 finish in the standings. A week earlier, teammate Alex Palou became the first driver in 18 years to clinch the title before the final race of the season.  
 Next race: 2024 season opener at St. Petersburg, Florida.  
**NHRA DRAG RACING**  
 Last event: Leah Pruett won in Top Fuel and Matt Hagan won in Funny car in Texas.  
 Next event: Oct. 26-29, Las Vegas.  
**WORLD OF OUTLAWS**  
 Next events: Nov. 1-4, Concord, North Carolina.

**INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS**  
 AUDIO VIDEO SECURITY NETWORKING  
**WAC**  
 LANDSCAPE LIGHTING  
**LANDSCAPE**  
 SPOTLIGHTS & FLOOD LIGHTS  
**WALKWAY**  
 AREA LIGHTING  
**INDICATOR LIGHTS**  
 IN-GROUND LIGHTING  
 (260) 724-2276  
 1421 Manchester St., Decatur  
 ½ block west of U.S. 27 North  
 www.icav.us

**PRECISION SERVICE**  
 Family, Farm and Fleet Vehicle Repair  
**FLEET ACCOUNTS AVAILABLE**  
 0520 S. Decker Dr.  
 Bluffton  
 "The Quality Service You Deserve!"  
 ASE  
 260-824-9149  
 FREE estimates

**Bluffton Tire Inc.**  
 1308 S. Main St.  
 Bluffton

**10% OFF**  
 Discontinued Closeout Tires  
**1-260-824-0418**

**HIDAY CHRYSLER**  
**BUY 3 TIRES AND GET THE 4TH FOR \$1**  
 CHRYSLER DODGE Jeep  
 1791 North Main • Bluffton • 260.824.1931  
 www.hidaychryslerdodgejeep.com

**Service with a Smile!**  
 Barry Scott Service Manager  
 Mark Foreman Service Consultant  
 Marion Wells Service Consultant  
**Hiday Motors**  
 1743 N. Main St., Bluffton • 824-0900



Hectic holidays approach

Dear Annie: As the holiday season approaches, I am facing a dilemma and I wonder if you have any ideas. My husband and I each have adult children from previous relationships, none together. My parents will not host any holiday gatherings at their home. If we want to have a gathering, we must invite them to our house. My husband's parents prefer to host at their own home. So in the past, we have done two separate dinners for each holiday.

holidays are one of the most stressful times of year for many Americans.

First, have a conversation with your husband. Make sure you are on the same page regarding your intentions for the holiday season: your budget, your family dynamics, your concerns, etc. As long as you two are on the same team and communicating well, the holiday chaos will be manageable.

From your letter, it sounds like you two enjoy hosting and it was your mother-in-law who threw a wrench in the plan last-minute. In that case, call her up and tell her that you sincerely hope she attends Thanksgiving at your house, but that you have already made arrangements to host, so you will not be traveling elsewhere that day.

With such a big family, it's lovely that you have adopted a "the more, the merrier" attitude; this way, you can open your home to all of your relatives, and if they opt out, or decide to house-hop and attend two different dinners, then that's THEIR choice.

"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.

Now that the children are adding spouses with another set of families, it's getting a bit much. This year, we asked to have Thanksgiving at our home, where we could host both sets of families comfortably. It was agreed upon, and I let family members know that we would be hosting. Fast forward a few weeks, and my mother-in-law informs us that she has changed her mind. She says it would be too much for her.

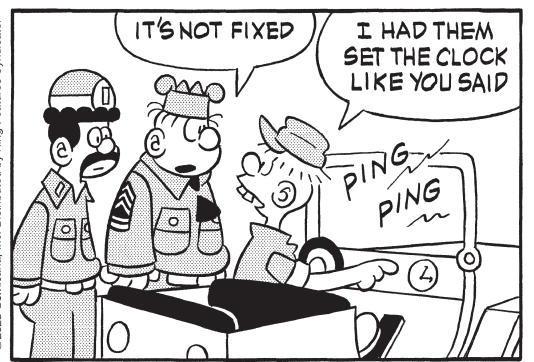
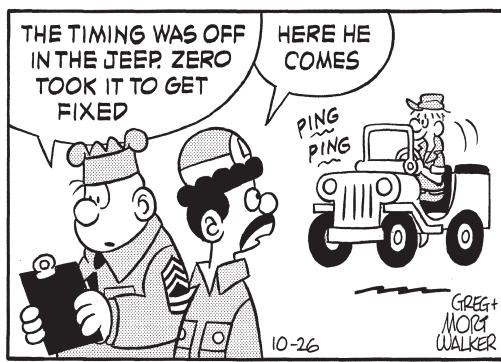
Annie, we didn't ask her to bring anything at all, and we already always cook the turkey at our house and cut it before coming to dinner. So I know that isn't the reason. But I have already invited my family. My husband suggested that we go to his parents' house earlier in the day and then host ours. That's way too much. My parents are upset that they won't be eating with their step-grandchildren. I don't know what else to do. Am I doomed forever to choose between having to have multiple holidays or celebrating separately? I would like to have the family together, but I would settle for getting to at least be with my husband on holidays. Any advice would be greatly appreciated! — Not a Family Holiday in PA

Not a Family Holiday: You're definitely not alone in your anxiety; the

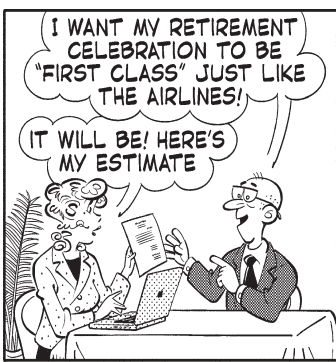
Dear Annie by Annie Lane



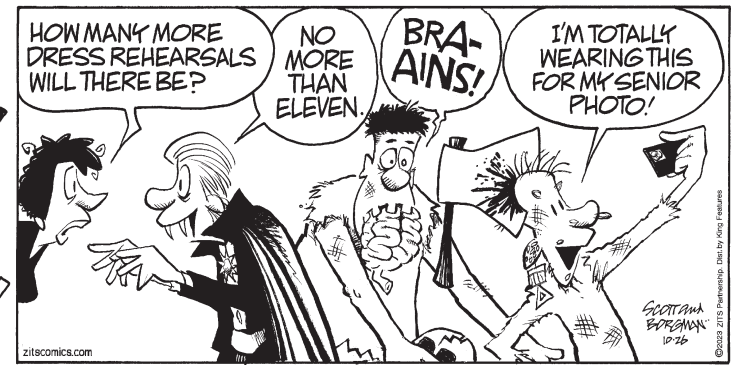
BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



ZITS



CRANKSHAFT



My Answer By Dr. Billy Graham

A Christian funeral reaffirms the blessed hope of eternal life

Q: My close friend is dying and her Christian family doesn't want her to have a funeral service because of the expense, and the fact that funerals have become outdated. My friend is reluctant to share her wishes but believes there's an opportunity to leave a testimony for Christ. Isn't this a good enough reason? What can I share with my friend's family to bring them around? — D.F.

A: A person who cares enough to plan their own funeral is a gift to loved ones still living. Others may extol a person's virtues, but only the individual can express ahead of time their thoughts pertaining to what Christ meant to them in life and their hope of Heaven.

All of the major changes in life — birth, graduation, marriage, and death — have been dignified by ceremonies. A funeral should be a testimony to the Lord that leaves hope in the hearts of the survivors and a witness for the Lord.

A newspaper columnist wrote, "Funerals are for the living, not the dead." Funeral or memorial services have served as a turning point for many people when they hear the witness that lives on after someone's death, or the statements made by family members, or a Gospel message from a minister that brings both comfort and conviction. People who may have never heard a Biblical message may be touched

by the words of Jesus and drawn by God's Spirit to consider where they will spend eternity.

For believers in Jesus Christ, a Christian funeral reaffirms the blessed hope of eternal life and the resurrection. Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you. I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:3). A Christian funeral should be a coronation ceremony, a statement to the world about eternal life.

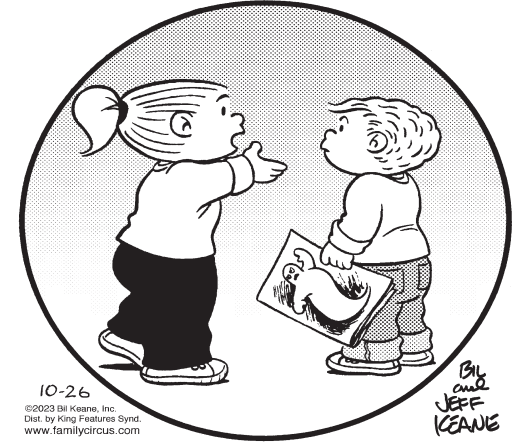
(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Graham.)

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

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



"Ghosts aren't real, Jeffy. They're unbelievable."

"I'M SERIOUS, MR. LOCKHORN... YOU NEED TO PAY ME FOR THE TWELVE BOXES OF PEANUT BUTTER PATTIES."

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

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across, Down, and Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 10-26 crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-56.

TV schedule table with columns for time slots (10:26, 11, 11:30, etc.) and program titles.



# The Classifieds

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

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

WE ACCEPT



SEE your ad published every day in Wells County homes ...

All ads are searchable at [classifieds.news-banner.com](http://classifieds.news-banner.com)...

## SUDOKU

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

### King Classic Sudoku

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

©2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Difficulty: ★★★

10/26

## 5 for \$5 SPECIAL!

Earn Extra Cash by selling your "Unwants"! A 20-word line classified ad is \$5 for 5 Days! For Sale Items Only. Come to the Bluffton News-Banner office at 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton, call 260-824-0224, or place ads online at [classifieds.news-banner.com](http://classifieds.news-banner.com)

**JOHN DEERE X475**, 23 hp Kawasaki, 54 Inch hydraulic blade, 54 inch mower, never used, only 60 hrs., \$8,500. 260-824-1936.

### Services

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

**CHOOSE EARTHLINK FIBER** Internet for speeds up to 5 Gigs, no data caps, no throttling. Prices starting at \$54.95. Plus, a \$100 gift card when you make the switch. Call 1-833-754-0929 (I)

**PORTABLE OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR** May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 877-930-3271 (I)

90C01-2310-EU-000047  
STATE OF INDIANA }  
WELLS COUNTY }  
IN THE MATTER OF THE }  
ESTATE OF }  
DELORES M. SCHEUMANN, }  
Deceased }  
**NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED }  
ADMINISTRATION }**

Notice is hereby given that **BRIAN P. SCHEUMANN** and **PAMELA SUE BLAKEY** were, on the 19th day of October, 2023, appointed personal representatives of the estate of **DELORES M. SCHEUMANN**, deceased, who died on July 16, 2023, and were authorized to administer said estate without court supervision.

All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the clerk of this court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, this 19th day of October, 2023.  
Beth Davis  
Clerk, Wells Circuit Court  
Kristin L. Steckbeck  
Attorney No. 27029-02  
DALE, HUFFMAN & BABCOCK  
30 Premier Avenue  
Bluffton, Indiana 46714  
(260) 824-5566  
Attorney for Estate

nb 10/26, 11/2 hspaxlp

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

You are notified that **Mark W. Shaffer** and **Karen S. Shaffer**, have filed with the Wells County Commissioners, Wells County, Indiana, their petition to vacate an alley in the town of Petroleum, in Nottingham Township, Wells County, Indiana, more particularly described as follows:

To vacate the 12 foot wide alley between lots numbered Nine (9) and Ten (10) as known and designated on the recorded plat of Hoppes 2nd Addition to the Town of Petroleum.

Beginning at the Northwest corner of said lot number 9; thence South to the Southwest corner of said lot number 9; thence West 12 feet to the Southeast corner of lot number 10; thence North 150 feet to the Northeast corner of said lot number 10; thence East 12 feet to the place of beginning.

All as shown by Stoodly Associates, Professional Land Surveyors, on file number W-10426.

All as shown by Stoodly Associates, Professional Land Surveyors, on file number W-10426.

You are further notified that the Wells County Commissioners will hold a public hearing on that petition beginning at 5:00 o'clock p.m. on the 6th day of November, 2023, in the Commissioners' Room of the Wells County Carnegie Annex, 223 West Washington Street, Bluffton, Indiana. Petitioners are the only owners of land abutting the property proposed to be vacated. Persons interested in being heard either in favor of or in opposition to such petition are urged to attend. After the public hearing, the Wells County Commissioners may, by ordinance, grant the petition and the proposed vacation.

Timothy K. Babcock  
Dale, Huffman & Babcock  
Attorney for Petitioners  
30 Premier Avenue  
Bluffton, Indiana 46714  
(260) 824-5566

oj, nb 10/26 hspaxlp

## Lottery Numbers

**Wednesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY**  
Cash 5 — 05-09-12-32-33  
Lotto Plus — 04-14-17-24-27-32  
Cash4Life — 11-16-21-25-45, Cash Ball: 02  
Quick Draw Midday — 06-16-19-22-24-28-35-39-40-41-42-44-62-63-64-65-

70-74-79-80, BE: 22  
Daily Three-Midday — 04-03-02, SB: 09  
Daily Three-Evening — 03-02-07, SB: 05  
Daily Four-Midday — 09-05-04-06, SB: 09  
Daily Four-Evening — 02-08-07-02, SB: 05  
Quick Draw Evening — 01-07-08-11-18-19-30-

32-33-37-38-46-48-55-56-65-67-75-76-77, BE: 19  
Hoosier Lotto — 07-08-25-27-35-40  
MEGA MILLIONS  
Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$137 million  
POWERBALL  
25-27-41-53-68 Powerball: 02; Power Play: 2X

## October

# GOODS & SERVICES DIRECTORY

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

**LJ Mechanical LLC**  
Commercial and Residential  
All Plumbing Service  
Water Softeners and Water Heaters and Water Hookups  
Stools and Sinks Tubs  
Showers - Fix Leaks  
Licensed and Insured  
Joseph (260) 402-2676 PLC 12300145

**Sure-Flo Seamless Gutters**  
5" & 6" Continuous Gutters  
Leaf Protection Systems  
Large Color Selection - FREE Estimates  
**260-888-5062**  
[www.seamlessgutter.net](http://www.seamlessgutter.net)

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

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

-OSSIAN-  
1645 Hillcrest Dr., Suite 2A  
Ossian, IN 46777

Attorney  
Gerret J. Swearingen

**SWEARINGEN ELDER LAW**

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

(260) 888-9256  
FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION!

**YOUR LOCAL AGENTS, HERE FOR YOU.**

**INDIANA FARM BUREAU INSURANCE**  
BLUFFTON OFFICE: (260) 824-2234  
1307 Baker Place • Bluffton, IN  
Mike Lampton | Michael Towne | Jacob Duncan

**Wickey Construction**  
Free Estimate on Metal Roofing & More  
**260-273-9776**

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

**Home Remodel and Repair**  
Locally Owned  
Repair Bowed Basement Walls  
Foundations repaired  
Floor joist repair or replaced  
Concrete • Doors  
Windows • Painting  
Tile • Small Jobs Welcome  
Text me at 260-301-1269  
Jim Baker

**HIDEAWAY BEER & BOURBON**  
THURSDAY - Dollar Off Drinks (Excludes Pop)  
WEDNESDAY - KARAOKE  
FRI. & SAT. - Live Music  
Follow us on for our Events.  
123 S JOHNSON ST. • 824-0455

**Genesis Pest Services**  
Locally Owned by Geoffrey Horner  
260-227-0742  
[geoff@genesispestservices.com](mailto:geoff@genesispestservices.com)

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

**J&F Wood Working**  
Custom Cabinet New Construction Remodel  
Custom Wood Working of Any Kind.  
**260-223-4243**

**LANCASTER Senior Apartments**  
1800 S. Wayne St. | Bluffton  
• 1 & 2 Bedrooms  
• Maintenance Free  
• All Ground-level  
• Private Entrances  
• Water Included  
**260 824-5280**  
TDD: 7-1-1 For those 62+ or disabled, regardless of age.

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

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

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

**We Carry Prevagen and CBD Oil!**  
**Rx Warren Pharmacy**  
(260)375-2135  
Nature's Sunshine Distributor  
222 N. Wayne St., Warren • 1-800-895-7035  
Terry Daniels, Pharmacist • Melinda Daniels, RN

**Zap Electric, Inc.**  
**260-824-2927**  
Commercial-Industrial-Residential  
24 Hr. Emergency Service  
Charles Miller-Electrician  
1233 W. Cherry St., Bluffton FREE Estimates

**YOUR BUSINESS IN THE NEWS-BANNER Every Day!**  
For as little as ... **\$123** PER ISSUE  
Plus The Ossian Journal Every Week!  
... you can keep your name in the public eye!  
Increase your business with regular advertising!  
Call 824-0224 or 622-4108  
Nov. deadline is Tues., Oct. 24!

## EMPLOYMENT

### Help Wanted

**WELLS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** is currently seeking applicants for the position of Full Time Court Security Supervisor. This position oversees the coordination of the day-to-day operations for the protection and security of the Wells County Courthouse. Must have college level courses or work experience in supervision or management, and at least five (5) years of experience in law enforcement or corrections, including experience with security measures and devices. Must have at least two (2) years of direct supervisory experience. Must pass background investigation which may include but is not limited to employment history and criminal history check. 20-year matrix salary range for a Court Security Supervisor is \$43,682 - \$52,774. Years of service and experience will be honored for a starting salary up to five years in the pay matrix. Deadline for Pre-application submission is no later than November 10, 2023. Apply at [www.wellscountysheriff.com](http://www.wellscountysheriff.com) under "Job Opportunities". A full job description will also be listed on the website for review.

**ATTENTION!**  
JAMES S. JACKSON COMPANY  
**JACKSON**  
GENERAL CONTRACTOR

**JOIN THE BEST- HIRING SKILLED CARPENTERS**  
With our continued growth, we're looking for highly skilled carpenters with at least 4-5 years experience in commercial or residential construction. Experience with rough & finish carpentry, framing or concrete forming required. James S. Jackson has a great team of professionals, is well established, provides benefits and is looking for career-minded team members right now. Highly competitive pay, paid time off, health insurance and matching 401k are all part of the package. Please send resume or request an application at [hireme@jjacksonco.com](mailto:hireme@jjacksonco.com) or [www.jjacksonco.com](http://www.jjacksonco.com)

**This Week's Garage Sales**  
Clip & Save  
**SKIP'S GARAGE SALE**  
1316 W. Central Ave., Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to ? \$1 to \$3 items, \$1 boxes (NO SORTING).  
Place a three day garage sale line classified ad and receive a free garage sale kit!

## SERVICES

### Services

**MILLER'S U-STOR** We have clean, secure storage units available. Various sizes. 260-824-4141. Miller U-Stor, 1118 W. Silver, Bluffton, IN.

**DENIED SOCIAL SECURITY Disability?** Appeal! If you're 50+, filed for SSD and denied, our attorneys can help get you approved! No money out of pockets! Call 1-855-995-4758 (I)

**4G LTE HOME** Internet Now Available! Get GotW3 with lightning fast speeds plus take your service with you when you travel! As low as \$109.99/mo! 1-877-327-0930 (I)

**SERIOUSLY INJURED IN AN AUTO ACCIDENT?** Let us fight for you! Our network has recovered millions for clients! Call today for a FREE consultation! 844-517-6414 (I)

## Public Notices

**NOTICE**  
The Wells County Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals (PTABOA) will hold a meeting on Monday November 27, 2023. It will be in the Commissioner's room in the Courthouse Annex at 223 W Washington St. Bluffton, Indiana beginning at 9am. The Board will consider appeals that have been filed and scheduled for this date.  
Upon completion of the business at hand, the Board will recess sine die until the next scheduled meeting.  
This is an open meeting unless private financial information of the appellant is being presented.  
nb 10/23, 10/26 hspaxlp

STATE OF INDIANA }  
COUNTY OF WELLS }  
IN THE MATTER OF THE }  
ESTATE OF }  
CHARLES B. BERTSCH, }  
Deceased }  
**NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED }  
ADMINISTRATION }**

Notice is hereby given that Jack L. Bertsch was, on the 19th day of October, 2023, appointed personal representative of the estate of Charles B. Bertsch, deceased, who died on September 19, 2023, and was authorized to administer said estate without court supervision.

All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the clerk of this court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, this 19th day of October, 2023.  
Beth Davis  
Clerk of the Wells Circuit Court  
Julie-Marie Brown  
Attorney No. 20038-02  
Miller, Burry & Brown, P.C.  
113 North Second Street  
P.O. Box 470  
Decatur, Indiana 46733  
Telephone: (260) 724-2154  
Attorney for Estate

nb 10/26, 11/2 hspaxlp

## SUDOKU ANSWER

|       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 92/01 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 9 |   |
|       | 7 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 4 |
|       | 4 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 5 |
|       | 5 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 6 |   |
|       | 9 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 2 |
|       | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 9 | 7 | 8 |
|       | 8 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 2 |
|       | 6 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 9 |
|       | 7 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 9 | 4 |