Page 1a

Getting back home from a war zone

Glenn Ryan part of YMCA group stranded amidst Mid-East conflict

By MARK MILLER

Glenn Ryan had a chance to tour the Holy Land a couple years ago when his wife Rhonda's church organized a trip. He didn't go because he didn't think it was safe.

Undeterred, Rhonda made the trip. She described it as "unforgettable."

Earlier this year, when the Greater Fort Wayne YMCA promoted a cultural trip to Israel for Oct. 6-15, Glenn decided to go based on his wife's experience.

It was also unforgettable, but obviously for different reasons. The group landed in the early morning hours of Saturday, Oct. 7, just as Hamas was launching their attacks along the Gaza bor-

"We were watching live TV on the plane," he recalled. "We saw rockets coming in as we were landing."

The Bluffton resident was one of five people in the small group, all associated with the regional YMCA, of which Bluffton's facility and program is a part of. He had retired in 2017 as director of properties and facilities. The leader of the group was Tim Hallman, director of Christian Emphasis and a full-time minister with the

The Tel Aviv airport "was a hot mess," Hallman said. Ryan describes it as being "a zoo. People were already trying to get out."

To make matters worse,



On Tuesday, Oct. 10, it felt safe enough to get a walking tour in of part of the Old City of Jerusalem. This photo was taken on the roof of a hotel close to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. From left, YMCA staffers JuWan Turner and Tim Hallman, YMCA volunteer Debbie Hesterman, YMCA staffer Sabrina Aossi, and YMCA retiree and Bluffton resident Glenn Ryan. (Photo submitted)

the group soon realized their luggage had not arrived in Israel. They had flown on a Turkish Air flight from Chicago to Istanbul and then on to Tel Aviv.

"It took us an hour to realize that, and then another hour to fill out forms," Hallman continued. "We were told our luggage was in Istanbul and then assured it would be delivered to us (in Jerusalem) but I didn't really believe them.'

Their itinerary had them going to Bethlehem after arrival, but Hallman, a Fort Wayne resident, arranged for a driver to take them to the Jerusalem International YMCA which has hotel

He immediately reached out to the travel agency that had arranged their tour. "But it turns out they don't have a 24/7 help line," he said. It being a Saturday, his calls went unanswered.

While the travelers settled into their rooms, Hallman began to work on his cell phone. It was immediately assumed that they would not be able to complete their tour and they needed to get out of the country as soon as possible. Getting advice from friends back home, he was advised to contact the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem and his Congressman's office.

Ryan knew that the director of the Columbia City YMCA (also a part of the Greater Fort Wayne group) is a personal friend of Congressman Jim Banks, a Columbia City resident. So Hallman contacted Banks, who promised to make a (Continued on Page 6)



Bluffton resident Glenn Ryan, left, with his traveling companions in Jerusalem. Behind them is the Jerusalem International YMCA and hotel with it's distinctive bell tower. With Ryan, from left, are JuWan Turner, a staff member in Fort Wayne; Tim Hallman, Director of Christian Emphasis in Fort Wayne; Sabrina Aossi, a YMCA staff member, and YMCA volunteer Debbie Hesterman. (Photo provided)

Maine mass shooting suspect has been found dead

A teen bowler, shipbuilder, and sign language interpreter are among shooting victims

By HOLLY RAMER, LISA RATHKE and KATHY McCORMACK **Associated Press**

The 18 people killed in two mass shootings in Lewiston, Maine, included a 14-year-old bowler, a shipbuilder who loved playing the game of cornhole and a sign language interpreter.

According to Maine State Police, seven people died Wednesday night at Just-In-Time Recreation bowling alley. Six were male and one was female. Eight more people, all male, died at Schemengees Bar and Grille. Three others died after being taken to hospitals.

Bill and Aaron Young

Bill Young, 44, of Winthrop, had taken his 14-year-old son, Aaron, to play in a youth bowling league at Just-in-Time Recreation. Both died.

"Bill was a man dedicated to his family," his cousin, Kim McConville, told The Associated Press via social media. "He was a master auto mechanic. Always trying to be a funny guy."

Aaron was an avid bowler who had received recognition from the youth

In a statement, the superintendent of Winthrop Public Schools confirmed that a high school freshman and his dad were among those killed. Jim Hodgkin's statement said an uncle of another high school student was also killed.

Peyton Brewer-Ross (Continued on Page 2)

By DAVID SHARP, PATRICK WHITTLE, HOLLY RAMER and MICHELLE R. SMITH

Associated Press

LEWISTON, Maine (AP) — The Army reservist who opened fire in a bowling alley and then at a bar in Lewiston, Maine, killing 18 people, was found dead Friday from a self-inflicted gunshot, ending an intensive two-day search that had the state on edge.

Robert Card, a firearms instructor who grew up in the area, was found dead in nearby Lisbon Falls, Gov. Janet Mills said at a Friday night news conference.

"Like many people I'm breathing a sigh of relief tonight knowing that Robrert Card is no longer a threat to anyone," Mills said.

Commissioner of Maine Department of Public Safety Mike Sauschuck said Card was found at 7:45 p.m. near the Androscoggin River, about 8 miles southeast of where the second shooting occurred Wednesday evening. He declined to divulge the location but an official told The Associated Press the body was at a recycling center from which Card recently was fired.

The official was not authorized to discuss details of the investigation publicly and spoke to on condition of anonymity.

Leo Madden, who said he ran Maine

Recycling Corp. for decades, said Card had worked there for a couple of years but said he couldn't recall the dates and didn't know if Card was "fired or didn't show up."

"He was a good employee," Madden told the AP, adding that nothing about the man stood out to him while he was an employee.

Mills said she had called President Joe Biden to alert him that Card was dead.

"Tonight we're grateful that Lewiston and surrounding communities are safe after spending excruciating days hiding in their homes," Biden said in a statement. He added that "Americans should not have to live like this" and called on Congress to take action on gun violence.

Card, 40, of Bowdoin, Maine, was a U.S. Army reservist who underwent a mental health evaluation in mid-July after he began acting erratically during training, a U.S. official told The Associated Press.

Card had been sought since the Wednesday night shootings, and murder warrants were issued against him.

A bulletin sent to police across the country shortly after the attack said Card had been committed to a mental health facility for two weeks this past summer after "hearing voices and threats to shoot up" a military base.

(Continued on Page 2)

U.S. jets strike Iran-linked sites in Syria for attacks on U.S. troops

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. administration's determination to fighter jets launched airstrikes early Friday on two locations in eastern Syria linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, the Pentagon said, in retaliation for a slew of drone and missile attacks against U.S. bases and personnel in the region that began early last week. The strikes reflect the Biden

maintain a delicate balance. The U.S. wants to hit Iranian-backed groups suspected of targeting the U.S. as strongly as possible to deter future aggression, possibly fueled by Israel's war against Hamas, while also working to avoid inflaming the region and provoking a wider conflict.

Air Force Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder said Friday that the strikes near Boukamal by F-16 and F-15 fighter aircraft targeted a weapons storage facility and ammunition storage facility used by the IRGC and affiliated groups. "Both facilities were destroyed," he said. "We currently assess there were no casualties in the strikes."

A senior U.S. military official said there had been Iranian-aligned militia and IRGC personnel on the base and no civilians. The official would not say how many munitions were launched by the jets.

A senior defense official said the sites were chosen because the IRGC stores the types of munitions there that were used in the strikes

against U.S. bases and troops. The two officials briefed reporters after the strikes on condition of anonymity to provide details on the mission that had not yet been made public.

Syrian opposition activists confirmed the U.S. strikes in Syria's eastern province of Deir el-Zour. (Continued on Page 2)

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Opinion Saturday Sub 4

Police Notebook . . .3

Also...

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



Small chance of showers in the morning, then sunny

Today	Sunday	Monday
High 56	High 50	High 60
Low 46	Low 39	Low 24

More Weather on Page 2

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Vol. 94 No. 305 SATURDAY

October 28, 2023

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Mass shooting

(Continued from Page 1)

A U.S. official said Card was training with the Army Reserve's 3rd Battalion, 304th Infantry Regiment in West Point, New York, when commanders became concerned about him.

State police took Card to the Keller Army Community Hospital at West Point for evaluation, according to the official, who was not authorized to publicly discuss the information and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity

Authorities had scoured the woods and hundreds of acres of family-owned property, sent dive teams with sonar to the bottom of a river and scrutinized a possible suicide note Friday in the second day of their intensive search.

Authorities lifted their shelter in place order Friday evening, nearly 48 hours after the shootings.

The names and pictures of the 16 males and 2 females who died were released at an earlier news conference Friday where Sauschuck asked for a moment of silence. Their ages ranged from 14 to 76.

Law enforcement officials had said

they hadn't seen Card since his vehicle was left at a boat ramp Wednesday shortly after the shootings.

The city held an online vigil Friday night with local clergy members, prayer and music. Residents expressed their shock and pain in chat postings, describing themselves as angry, grieving, tired and heartbroken. Those watching at home were urged to light candles.

One poster, Victoria, wrote: "I lost 2 people that I cared truly about and a close family friend that is currently fighting for his life in ICU. My heart's shattered."

Police and other law enforcement officers were spotted in several areas around the region on Friday. Divers searched the water near a boat launch in Lisbon, and a farming business in the same town. At points throughout the day, police vehicles were seen speeding through several towns, lights flashing and sirens blaring.

A gun was found in Card's car, which was discovered at a boat ramp, and federal agents were testing it to determine if it was used in the shooting, two law enforcement officials told the AP. The officials were not authorized to publicly discuss details of the investigation and spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity. Authorities have said publicly that the shooter used at least one rifle. They have not released any other details, including how the suspect obtained the firearm.

Authorities found a suicide note at a home associated with Card on Thursday that was addressed to his son, the law enforcement officials said. They said it didn't provide any specific motive for the shooting. Authorities also recovered Card's cellphone in the home, making a search more complicated because authorities routinely use phones to track suspects, the officials said.

Federal agents conducted several searches of properties associated with Card on Thursday, collecting a number of items, including electronics, the officials said. Investigators are also analyzing Card's financial information and reviewing his social media posts, writings and his mental health history, they said.

Weather

Saturday, October 28, 2023 (24-hour observations at 7:43 p.m. Friday) **High:** 77; **Low:** 63; **Precipitation:** None Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.26

feet at 7:45 p.m. Friday Wells County forecast

Today: A 10 percent chance of showers before 7 a.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 56. North wind around 10 mph.

Tonight: Showers, mainly after 11 p.m. Low around 46.

Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90 percent. New precipitation amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible. Sunday: Showers. High near 50. Northeast wind around

10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80 percent. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch pos-Sunday Night: Showers. Low around 39. North wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80 percent. New

Monday: Showers likely, mainly before 8 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 44. Chance of precipitation is 60

precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 24. Tuesday: A 20 percent chance of snow showers after 2

Jet strikes

p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 40.

(Continued from Page 1) Omar Abu Layla, a Europebased activist who heads the Deir Ezzor 24 media outlet, said the main target was an area known as "the farms" outside the town of Mayadeen. He said it is an important transit site where weapons from Iran are stored before being shipped

to Lebanon. He said the second strike hit an area known as the "green belt" in the Boukamal area that borders Iraq. According to Abu Layla, some people were evacuated before the strikes because the retaliation was expected. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, said ambulances were seen rushing to the area but it wasn't clear if there were casualties.

Meanwhile Friday, an Iranian semiofficial news agency, Tasnim, said gunmen in east Syria fired 10 rockets on a base housing American troops in retaliation for the U.S. airstrikes. A U.S. official confirmed the rocket attack and said there were no reported casualties. And the Islamic Resis-

tance in Iraq, an umbrella group for several Iranbacked groups, said fighters attacked al-Assad airbase in western Iraq with a suicide drone. U.S. officials said it was shot down a few kilometers away and did not hit the base.

According to the Pentagon, as of Friday there had been at least 20 attacks on U.S. bases and personnel in Iraq and Syria since Oct. 17. Ryder said 21 U.S. personnel were injured in two of those assaults when drones targeted al-Assad airbase in Iraq and al-Tanf garrison in Syria.

In a statement, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said the "precision self-defense strikes are a response to a series of ongoing and mostly unsuccessful attacks against U.S. personnel in Iraq and Syria by Iranianbacked militia groups that began on October 17.

Shooting victims

(Continued from Page 1)

Peyton Brewer-Ross was a dedicated pipefitter at Bath Iron Works who left behind a partner, young daughter and friends, members of his union said.

Brewer-Ross, of Bath, was doing something he loved - playing cornhole and enjoying friends when he was shot to death, his brother said.

"He was a character. He didn't meet anvone he didn't like," Wellman Brewer said of his younger brother.

Brewer-Ross loved the game of cornhole so much that he brought out the angled boards and beanbags at family gatherings, his brother said.

He said his fun-loving brother, a shipbuilder at Bath Iron Works, was the life of the party.

Brewer-Ross and his fiancé, Rachael, had just celebrated the second birthday of their daughter, Elle, two weeks earlier.

Joshua Seal

Joshua Seal, a sign language interpreter, was shot and killed while playing in

a cornhole tournament at Schemengees Bar with other members of the deaf community.

His wife, Elizabeth Seal, said in a Facebook post that he was "a wonderful husband, my best friend, and my soulmate. He was also a wonderful boss, an incredible interpreter, a great friend, a loving son, brother, uncle, and grandson."

Robert and Luceille Violette

Retiree Bob Violette, 76, and his wife Luceille, 73, died in the shootings. Bob devoted himself to his volunteer job coaching the youth bowling league that was practicing that night, said Patrick Poulin, whose teenage son has been a member for three years.

"He's taught so many people over the years how to bowl, and he wasn't getting paid," he said. "We've really been focused on trying to keep the sport alive, and Bob was really an integral part of that.'

Poulin described him as unfailingly approachable and caring.

Two weeks ago, Poulin was at the bowling center with his son and offered him some tips. His son resisted, but eventually took the advice and bowled a great game.

Michael Deslauriers

Michael Deslauriers' father told CBS News that his son was one of those killed at Just-In-Time Recreation. His father, who shares the same name, said his son and a friend both were killed as they charged at the shooter after making sure their wives and several children were safe.

Joe Walker

Joe Walker was the bar manager at Schemengees Bar and Grille. His father, Auburn City Councilor Leroy Walker, told NBC News on Thursday that his son was shot twice in the stomach as he went after the shooter with a butcher knife. "He died as a hero," he

Waiting for confirmation of his worst fears Wednesday night, Walker told the network he felt like his guts and neck were being 'squashed."

said.

Tricia Asselin

Tricia Asselin worked part time at the Just-in-Time Recreation bowling alley. She had Wednesday night off, but went bowling with her sister.

When she realized shots were being fired inside the bowling alley, Asselin, 53, went to call 911, but was shot and killed, relatives

Asselin "had a great passion for life," and was a loving mother, "the most caring person there was," her mother, Alicia Lachance, told NBC News.

Arthur Strout

Arthur Strout was playing pool with his father at the bar. His son wanted to stay and play a couple more games, but his father, Arthur Barnard, left shortly before the shooting.

"I said, 'OK,' and he said 'I love you,' because all my kids tell me that every time we see each other," Barnard told CBS News. "Ten minutes later, I get a phone call."

Strout, 42, and his wife, Kristy, had a blended family of five children.



OBITUARIES

Alan "Kirk" Arnold, 70

Alan "Kirk" Arnold, 70, of Angola, Ind., died on Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2023, at Cameron Memorial Community Hospital in Angola.

He was born on June 28, 1953, in Marshalltown, Iowa, to Clifford and Elna (Hall) Arnold. Kirk graduated from Beaman-Conrad High School in Conrad, Iowa, and received a Bachelor of Agriculture from Iowa State University.

Kirk was the owner of Alliance Production which was an agriculture business based out of Bluffton. He had also owned the Creamery in Angola and Concept Audio of Angola and Fort Wayne,.

Kirk married Teresa Sumwalt on Oct. 14,

He was a member of the Angola American Legion Post 31 and the VFW George Anspaugh Post 7205 of Angola.

Surviving are his wife, Teresa Arnold of Angola; children, Jeff Arnold of Greenwood, Ind., Jennifer (Justin) Caylor of Bluffton, Tony Bennett of Uniondale, and Chris Bennett of Angola. Also surviving are his four grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Bruce Arnold.

A celebration of life will be held from noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023, at the Angola American Legion Post

Ira Robert "Bob" Poulson, 92

Ira Robert "Bob" Poulson, 92 of Liberty Center, passed away on Thursday, October 26, 2023, at Markle Health and Rehabilitation in Markle, IN.

Bob was born in Huntington County, Indiana, on March 8, 1931, to Grover and Edna (Rennaker) Poulson. Bob served in the United States Air Force as a Crew Chief for C-47 and C-97 aircraft during the time of the Korean War. He was recent-

ly able to go on an Honor Flight trip to Washington D.C. He retired from Hower Tool in Ossian in 1996. Bob was a member of the American Legion Post 111 in Bluffton, Indiana, and was a past Master of the Masonic Lodge in Warren, Indiana. Bob enjoyed fishing, deer hunting, woodworking, golf and then fishing some more. He especially cherished the fishing trips to Michigan with the Poulson boys and his

Bob was preceded in death by his par-



ents and brothers, Everett, Ralph, Harold, Jim and Bill Poulson, and sisters, Lois Eltzroth, Margaret Knight, Freda Finley and Mildred Gilbert.

Loving survivors include his sons, Steve (Angela) Poulson of Bluffton, IN, and Andrew (Brooke Brown) Poulson of Liberty Center, IN, grandchildren, Cody Brown, Cory Weikel, Megan (Josh) Schlechty, and Ryan Weikel, as well as his sib-

lings, Dan Poulson and Ruth Brooks, of Warren.

Friends and family may gather to share and remember at Glancy-H. Brown & Son Funeral Home located at 203 N Matilda St. Warren, IN 46792, on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. A funeral service will be held on Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 11 a.m. with one hour of visitation prior to the service. Burial will follow at the Masonic Cemetery in Warren, Indiana.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:

Thursday, 2:10 p.m., 200 block of West South Street. Welfare check requested for multiple cats.

Thursday, 4:37 p.m., North Main and Lamar streets. Report of swerving by another driver. Driver apologized and advised he wasn't paying attention. His wife advised she already yelled at him for the matter.

Thursday, 5:18 p.m., 600 block of West Market Street. Report of a raccoon under a tree, multiple children in area. Raccoon taken to animal shelter.

Thursday, 5:\$7 p.m., Ind. 1 and East 150 North. Caller reported a blanket on the side of the road, possibly with a deceased animal. Blanket found without animal, disposed of. Watch

Friday, 12:13 a.m., 24 block of Hi Lo Drive. Caller reported hearing someone on the roof. Unable to locate

Friday, 12:33 a.m., 1200 block of Echo Lane. Report of a domestic altercation.

Friday, 7:06 a.m., National Oil. Driver cited for running a red stoplight.

Friday, 7:26 a.m., South Dougherty Street and West Wiley Avenue, Bluffton. Officer checked on semi truck driving with hazard lights on. Driver was looking for Snyder Tire. So close.

Friday, 8:20 a.m., Bluffton Wastewater. Report of trash bag of belongings

Friday, 11:21 a.m., 80 block of Sunrise way.

out for zombie dogs just in Report of a man threatening woman with a knife.

County:

Thursday, 12:43 p.m., Ind. 124 and South 400 West, Poneto. Drive issued citation for speeding and warned for expired license

Thursday, 5:39 p.m., 200 West Ind. 224, Uniondale. Welfare check requested for woman walking along the road. Woman was locked out of home, reentry gained.

County:

Thursday, 2:12 p.m., 7500 North 450 East, Ossian. Caller reported a white, two-door Challenger and a grey, four-door Charger attempting to drag race at 80 mph. No winners named, no innocent bystanders reported injured by the aspiring NASCAR drivers.

Bluffton Parks Rec News Notes



Destination Recreation

I can't believe we are already at the end of October. Boo in Bluffton is Tuesday, Oct. 31, so bring the kids dressed in their favorite costumes to visit us in the Bluffton City Gym from 5-6 p.m. This free event will be held rain or shine.

In the City Gym, 5-6 p.m.: Scooter's, Bi-County Services, WEG, Peyton's Northern, Pharaohs Car Club, Best Day Travel, Optimist Club, SCAN Wells CO. Prevent Child Abuse Council, Hershey Salty Snacks, Sonlight Kids Ministry, 20/20 Custom Molded Plastics, Matalco Bluffton, Masonic Lodge, and Valero.

Outside along the west side of City Hall: Park Community Church, Wells County EMS, Friends of the Shelter, and American Axle. Also, First Reformed Church will be in the parking lot across from City Hall with their trunk or treat event.

Downtown Businesses 5-6 p.m.: City Hall (Mayor's Office), Body Magic Massage, The Meeting Place, Jerry Flack and Associates, Sprunger & Sprunger Law Office, Hardee's, Archbold & Lewis Insurance, Bluffton Moose, LifeWise Academy, Dollar General, American Salvage, The Broken Vessel Sign Co., Indiana Department of Child Services, Hugh's Bakery & Coffeehouse, Parlor Studios, Market Street Flooring, Balance Massage Therapy, Wells County Land Title, Wells County Democrats, Wells County Republicans, 1st Source Bank, Elks Lodge 796, Welches All Vehicle Repair, and Flagstar Bank.

Outlying Businesses 6-7 p.m.: Christian Care, Subway, The Mattress & Furniture Store, Lowe's, and Kroger

Door-to-door trick or treat for the City of Bluffton will be from 5-7:30 p.m.

Virtual Costume Contest — You have until Oct. 31 to send in a photo of your child dressed up for the Virtual Costume contest. Send a current photo of your child to events@blufftonindiana.gov along with your name, your child's name, age, and phone number. We will post photos of

By Brandy **Fiechter**

your child on Facebook starting Nov. 1, and whichever picture has the most "likes" will receive a prize. Online voting will take place between Nov. 1 and Nov. 6. This contest is open to any Wells County resident, and you must be willing to pick up your prize at City

November is right around the corner, so be sure to sign up next week for the W.O.O.F. Trail Run.

(Wells' Outrageous Ouabache Fifteen). The race will be Saturday, Nov. 4, at 9:00 a.m. at Ouabache State Park. Participants can choose between a 5 Mile, 10 Mile, 15 Mile, or 15-mile 3-person Relay. A finisher medal, long sleeve T-shirt, and a hot meal after the race are included. Please note there is a 3.5-hour time limit for the 15-mile race. To request an early start time, email sports@blufftonindiana. gov. Special thanks to the Wells County Convention and Visitors Commission for supporting this event.

The maintenance crew has started hearing the familiar sound of gobbling in the distance, so we have a feeling that Walter the Wandering Turkey is on his way to Bluffton. Walter likes to travel from park to park and watch the leaves turn colors. This wandering Turkey often gets lost and will need your help finding his way back to the Bluffton Parks office. This "hide and seek" game has a paper cut out of Walter the Wandering Turkey and will be hidden in November until Thanksgiving. If you find the paper cut out, call 824-6069 before you stop by to pick up the prize. We will then re-hide Walter in a different location after he is found. Winners are limited to claiming the prize once during November.

Congratulations to Remington Dick, the 8-year-old daughter of Tristan and Josh Dick, for being drawn as the winner of the fall coloring contest out of 118 participants!

Have a great week!

Local Roundup

Bluffton park board reschedules meeting

The Bluffton parks board has rescheduled their Thursday, Nov. 2, meeting for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 9, at in the CounHall, 128 E. Market St.

scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 31, has been cancelled.

Bluffton hosts Triple E Day Thursday

Bluffton High School students were introduced to opportunities to Enroll, Enlist or Employ during the annual Triple E Day event on Thursday. Students rotated stations featuring guest speakers for two hours to start the school day.

For Enroll, students learned about career and technical education pathways, heard financial aid options through INvestEd, took an aptitude test by Ivy Tech and learned where to find local scholarship opportunities through the Wells County Foundation.

In Employ, students heard about career opportunities through the Adams Wells Manufacturing Alliance, employment options in the region from Bryce Isch from STAR Engineering and Machining, discovered internships and work-based learning options from BHS teachers Adam

Atkins and Steve Linderwell, and learned interview skills from a panel of professionals hosted by Wells County Economic Development.

For Enlist, military speakers included the Army National Guard, U.S. Army, U.S. Marines and the Air National Guard.

One of the speakers from the Marines

was 2023 Bluffton High School graduate Kaitlyn Tungate, who returned to her alma mater to share her experiences so far after leaving BHS. Just last fall she was in the students' seats, learning about posthigh school opportunities. Now she has the opportunity to reflect on her experiences in the Marines.

"It's good to be back, seeing all the kids I went to school with, just talking about my experience, especially about the females (serving)," Tungate says.

Tungate says exposure to options through the Triple E approach at BHS "100 percent" impacted her decision to enlist in the military. Exposure while at school to military recruiters started her down the path to join the Marines.

This is the fourth year that BHS has hosted community members to speak during Triple E Day. Principal Steve Baker says the approach provides all students with a plan for post-graduation.

The diploma's great, but we want to offer more," Mr. Baker says. "So for our students, we ask them to be intentional about what they want to do after school."

cil Chambers on the second floor of City

The Bluffton Board of Works meeting

Drainage task force fumbles on final report By WHITNEY DOWNARD

Indiana Capital Chronicle

Over three-plus hours Wednesday, members painstakingly debated and approved 20 of the 30 recommendations submitted to an interim committee on drainage along with three preliminary drafts of legislation. Then the committee defeated the final report.

Instead, the committee will only provide an informational document to fellow legislators rather than proposals.

"I was extremely frustrated," Sen. Jean Leising told the Indiana Capital Chronicle. "I want to apologize to farmers and property owners — we tried, but we didn't accomplish anything even though we had five meetings."

She co-chaired the meeting and called concluding without a committee recommendation report "embarrassing" considering the amount of hours spent listening to expert testimony and constituent problems.

The committee's attorney Craig Mortell, part of the Legislative Services Agency, ended the meeting by saying that the committee would be finalized as an informational report with no recommendations or findings included.

The confusion of PDs

Leising, with decades of experience under her belt, said that preliminary bill drafts have been around in legislative committees for years but many others have simply reduced their findings to a summary report. Others, still, don't produce anything.

"Very few actual proposals come out of interim committees and task forces. Many of them do a ... summary or report that's put on the internet and nobody reads it," Leising said. "We didn't want this to be like that."

The three preliminary drafts of legislation approved by the committee:

3256: Requiring the Department of Agriculture to oversee and prepare an updated version of the Indiana Drainage Handbook, which was published in 1996 with a revised 1999 edition.

3257: Logs removed from a river or stream don't need to be cut if the individual doing so thinks it would create an unreasonable risk of bodily harm or if they are dried and burned so completely it eliminates the risk of reentry.

3274: Creates a general license from the Department of Natural Resources for working in floodways without first obtaining an individual permit.

It was not immediately clear how these three documents would, or would not, appear in the informational committee report.

Following the receipt of the proposed recommendations, Leising said she and a handful of other legislators drew up the preliminary drafts of legislation to ensure the task force's efforts didn't get swamped and die in the legislative session.



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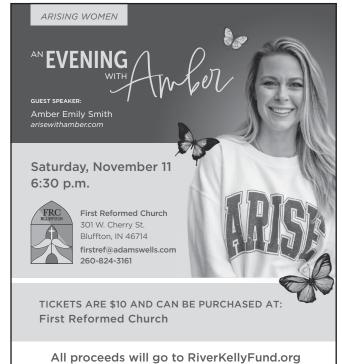
Ave, Berne, IN 46711 **PROPERTY LOCATION:** From Berne, IN travel 2 miles north on US 27 to CR 400S, then west 5.25 miles to property.

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What's going on with the Wells County Health Saturday's Sub

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Department?
That seems to be a

That seems to be a question a number of people are asking. It is clear from Holly Gaskill's account of last Thursday's meeting that the board is struggling with trying to fill key open positions and pressure from some elected officials. Meanwhile, who is impacted? Who suffers? Clearly those remaining employees and the public.



Mark Miller

Reluctant but willing interim administrator Marlene Hoag, the essential definition of "public servant," has had trouble filling open positions. There is disagreement with the elected officials as to whether the administrator and vital records clerk is one opening or two. It is unclear whether Hoag's difficulties in filling those positions is the result of insufficient pay or the department's state of turmoil. Meanwhile, the environmental specialist position also remains open.

Although short-staffed, as reported in the Oct. 20 edition, the department has continued to field public health complaints. However, the commissioners' request to be notified before the department takes any action has further delayed the department's ability to respond.

Dr. Kay Johnson, health officer, indicated that the employees are understandably a bit gun-shy after elected officials — at least one commissioner and a county council member — got involved when a local restaurant encountered possible issues. Employees recognize, Johnson said, they have to "increase communications so we don't get criticized or, you know, our heads taken off."

Lewis Brown, superintendent of the Regional Sewer District who has been attending meetings in an effort to help, compared the current situation to issues he had experienced in the past when he was in the septic tank business and had some disagreements with former commissioners. "(This) strips the health department of any enforcement," he said.

And perhaps that is exactly the elected officials' goal. One has to wonder if they would have stepped in if the inspections and possible violations had been in regard to any other restaurant in Wells County. Yergy's BBQ's run-ins with the department during the pandemic and the subsequent political issues have placed several elected officials at odds with the health department's role. And now they seem to be handcuffing them.

There is also the matter of the enhanced public health funding offered by the state but turned down by three of Indiana's 92 counties, including Wells. Gov. Holcomb describes the program as an option, not a state takeover, intended to help communities "address quality of place."

Hoag told the Indiana Chronicle back in August — as it was also reported to the News-Banner — that the commissioners declined the funding because the timing wasn't right due to the staffing issues. The Chronicle noted, referring to Wells County, that "not every county forgoing the funding did so due to political reasons." I'm not so sure.

The situation reminds me of the current mess in the U.S. House of Representatives. Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Fl.) essentially succeeded in a palace coup but then walked away with no plan for moving forward. He seemed to be relishing in the subsequent chaos. At least the House has finally chosen a Speaker and have the structure to move on

Public health is an important part of what government does. Those elected officials involved in blowing up the Wells County Health Department need to be there to help them move forward. Their absence at last week's board meeting does not indicate a desire to fix things and to allow the department to perform their

The resignations that sparked the department's issues and the elected officials' interventions happened in July. Nearly four months later, where are we at?

Taxpayers can rightfully ask: "What's going on at the health department?"

miller@news-banner.com

Who's Who

A continuing series on how to contact government officials

The three **Wells County Commissioners** are: President Michael Vanover (R), District 1, which is the southern third of the county, from Ind. 218 to the south county line. Home address: 4620E-900S, Keystone, phone 260-273-4950. michael.vanover@wellscounty.org

Vice President Blake Gerber (R), District 2, which is the central third of the county from Ind. 218 to County Road 300N and includes Rockcreek Township. Home address: 0707S-Ind. 201, Bluffton; 260-824-1964. blake.gerber@wellscounty.org

Jeff Stringer (R), District 3, which is the northern third of the county, from CR 300N to the north county line. Home address: 4906N-100W, Uniondale; 270-577-1338. jeff. stringer@wellscounty.org

The seven **Wells County Council members** include four who are elected from and by council districts and three who are elected county-wide and serve at-large.

District 1 (includes Rock Creek, Liberty, Jackson, Chester and Nottingham townships, as well as Harrison Township excluding the city of Bluffton): Brian Lambert (R), 3831N-100W, Bluffton; phone 223-3817. blamber24@gmail.com

District 2 (includes Lancaster Township and Jefferson Township east of the Ossian town limits): Steve Huggins (R), 1723E-350N; phone 437-8872. stevehuggins 1723@gmail.com

District 3 (Union Township and Jefferson Township, including Ossian): Todd Mahnensmith (R), P.O. Box 342, Ossian, phone 433-3838. kmasphalt@frontier.com

District 4 (the city of Bluffton south of the Lancaster Township line): Brandon Harnish (R), 225 Harrison St., Bluffton, phone 273-1384. brandonkharnish@gmail.com **At-Large:** Vicki Andrews (R), vice president,

8708S-600W, Warren-90, phone 375-3131. vsandrews42@ gmail.com
At-Large: Scott Elzey (R), 1824 NW Ind. 116-90, Mar-

kle, phone 750-1800.

At-Large: Seth Whicker (R), council president, 1191 W. Hancock St., Uniondale, phone 403-6928. swhicker@sym.



Trump's lead and GOP decision-making

Former President Donald Trump's support now stands at 59% among Republican voters nationwide in the 2024 presidential nomination race. His lead over Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, still the second-place candidate in the race, is 46.3 points. Both Trump's support and the size of his lead are the biggest they have ever been.

After four indictments from federal and local prosecutors, plus an ongoing and widely reported trial in a lawsuit by the New York attorney general -- after all of that, Trump's lead is still inching higher. And that is affecting the thinking and decision-making going on in campaign offices all around the country, as well as on Capitol Hill.

The Republican majority in the House, of course, is still trying to elect a speaker. You don't have to be reminded that it is not going well. There were at least nine candidates for the job when Republicans began casting votes again Tuesday. Many critics pointed out that seven of the nine voted to decertify the results of the 2020 election from Arizona and Pennsylvania on Jan. 6, 2021. That's not likely to have a big effect on the speaker contest; on that day, 58% of House Republicans voted against certifying the Arizona results, and 66% voted against certifying the Pennsylvania tally.

What will have more influence on GOP thinking is what Trump says about the contest. For example, when Republicans returned to Washington on Monday, the candidate seen as leading the speaker's race was House Whip Tom Emmer. But there were many news reports that Trump had privately told allies he did not support Emmer. Then, when Emmer won a vote among House Republicans to advance in the speaker contest, Trump went public, calling Emmer a "RINO" and saying voting for him would be a "tragic mistake." That was it for Emmer. His speaker bid collapsed within an hour of Trump's statement.

Why did it happen, and happen so quickly? In part, it was Trump's popularity. If Trump were in fifth place in the Republican presidential race, if he were not dominating every poll, he would have almost no say in the speaker's race. But Trump is just under 60% in the race, according to the RealClearPolitics average of national polls. And those national polls are made up of voters in specific states and congressional districts. Republican lawmakers know that.

Then there is the presidential race. Trump's opponents inside the GOP desperately want some of the candidates to quit to allow non-Trump Republicans to unite behind a single challenger to Trump. They used to want that challenger to be DeSantis. Now, many want the challenger to be Nikki Haley, who now stands 51.2 points behind Trump in the national polls.

Yes, the early state polls are closer. Haley is 40.8 points behind Trump in Iowa, 30.8 points behind Trump in New Hampshire, and 32.5 points behind Trump in her home state of South Carolina. But still, those are big numbers.

Trump's unprecedented lead is having two effects on GOP thinking. The first effect is: It's over. There's no way anybody can beat him. The second effect is: It's still early. There's no way this can last. If you are a candidate, the temptation is to dismiss the first and embrace the second.

That's why we're not seeing the candi-

date withdrawals that some anti-Republi-

appealing: This can't last, and what I need to do is stay in the game long enough for things to change. Then, maybe, I'll have a chance.

And that's what those candidates are doing. So far, no Republican candidate who would reasonably be described as major has quit the race. The only withdrawals we have seen have been Xavier Suarez, Will

cans have sought. If you're in the race, and you're not

Trump, the second way of thinking is so much more

Byron

York

you couldn't get to 1% support nationally.

Meanwhile, Doug Burgum is still in the race. Asa
Hutchinson is still in. Tim Scott. Chris Christie. Mike
Pence. A bunch of candidates who are more than 50
points behind the frontrunner are staying in the race.

Hurd and Perry Johnson. Put them all together and

By this time in the 2016 Republican campaign
-- the last time there was a wide-open primary season
-- two major candidates, Rick Perry and Scott Walker, had already quit. On the day he dropped out, Perry was about 27 points behind front-running Donald Trump, who stood at 29.8%. When Walker quit, he was about 25 points behind Trump, who was then at 28.5%

Now, every candidate besides DeSantis is more than 50 points behind Trump -- and DeSantis isn't doing much better. But they stay in because of one belief, or hope: There's no way this can last.

One thing that shows is that Trump's ratings are influencing, if not outright controlling, many big decisions that are being made in the Republican Party today, whether by lawmakers in Washington or candidates out in the states. And the most important thing to remember is that Trump's poll ratings are not abstract things. They represent real Republican voters. In the end, it is Republican voters who are driving things. They are in control, and so far, they are still with Trump.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner

What's needed is renovation

Some popular shows on PBS and cable TV are about renovating old houses — taking dilapidated, out-of-fashion and dreary houses and turning them into modern, functioning, and attractive places in which to live.

Renovation is precisely what is needed in our country whose national debt, open

borders and as we've seen in recent weeks our university and public education system are in dire need of repair, even renovation. Failing to renovate an old house puts the owner at risk of broken electrical wires and water pipes, even collapsing roofs and walls. Failing to renovate a government in need of more than a paint job to cover up its many flaws can lead to dysfunction (what we have now) and ultimate collapse, which will be our future if we don't

act soon.

Democrats are incapable of renovation because they have helped contribute to the problems. Republicans, who can't function as a party as shown by their deplorable behavior in failing to name a Speaker of the House, also lack the will to make necessary repairs.

The unsustainable\$33 trillion debt continues to grow. As noted by Maya MacGuineas, president of the Com-



Cal Thomas

mittee for a Responsible Federal Budget: "We are a nation addicted to debt. The deficit totaled \$1.7 trillion in Fiscal Year 2023, but we actually borrowed \$2 trillion when you fix the accounting around President Biden's reversed student debt cancellation plan. That means borrowing doubled from last year. With the economy growing and unemployment near record lows, this was the time to instill fiscal responsibility and reduce our deficits."

We will borrow even more and pay more interest if money to Ukraine and Israel gets through Congress.

The Biden administration refuses to admit the southern border needs repair. Is there a connection between the massive number of migrants entering the country and what we've witnessed in recent weeks in the streets of major cities and on university campuses with demonstrators calling for the eradication of Israel and even some extremists who take the side of Hamas and favor killing Jews? Clearly our education — no, indoctrination — system needs a complete overhaul. How do these young people come to believe such things unless they are taught?

It would appear there is only one way to fix this and that is the movement called The Convention of States (COS), a constitutional convention established by "we the people" to put

government back inside the boundaries established by our Founders. As stated on the COS website: "Under Article V of the United States Constitution," a COS would be "restricted to proposing amendments that will impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit its power and jurisdiction, and impose term limits on its officials and members of Congress."

What once seemed like a pipe dream is getting ever closer to the possible. For such a convention to take place (and the Founders foresaw it might be necessary should the government get out of control), 34 states must approve a resolution after which a convention would be called. So far, 19 states have passed a resolution with seven others having passed it in one of their legislative chambers and 26 other states set to consider a resolution by the end of the year.

Politicians won't renovate anything. It is the people who grant power to the government, but government has misused those powers in ways that benefit the politicians, not those they are supposed to represent. It's time to renovate the government, public schools and universities. If that means starting over, so be it. We can't go on like this. If we do, disaster awaits because the history of nations that ignore the house equivalent of a cracked foundation or leaky roof are doomed to self-destruction.

tcaeditors@tribpub.com

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by the Advertisers on this page who want as their return to see more people go to church.

PRAISE FOR

THE PASTOR

wrote to his protégé,

Timothy, he told him

to count those who

"labor in word and

doctrine" worthy of

verse in mind, the

faith-based organi-

zation Focus on the

Family designated

October as "Clergy

Appreciation Month'

Appreciation Day."

in 1994. Eventually, people

designated the second Sun-

day of the month as "Pastor

8 this year — came and

went, and though the month

will soon slip away as well,

Christians can still appreci-

ate their pastors any day and

month of the year, and to

help, I've accumulated ideas

from both pastors in Wells

County, pastors in other

preachers and pulpit pound-

ers (though I know you

Thanks again, pastors,

For those of us who

sit in the pews support-

ing our ministers there are

some things that we can do

throughout the week and

while we worship that would

support the ministry. The

use of the acronym PEW is

an easy way to remember

ters and their families; pray

God's truth will be expound-

ed from our pulpits in truth

work; Esteem our brothers

and sisters even if we think

only our words and song but

ated....a handwritten card or

note of encouragement....a

text with a specific prayer

for the family....maybe a

short note with a specific

way a sermon or counseling

Love God and love peo-

ple. Some use people to gain

things. Christians should use

things to gain people (make

a dinner or banquet, make

sure that it works well in his

If you are going to have

The website parsonage.

org — part of Focus on the

Family's ministry to pastors

and families - also sug-

tion service during normal

worship times, particularly

on the second Sunday of the

during worship service.

Provide a testimony time

Write a letter to the

newspaper (see page four

in today's Banner to learn

Plan a special apprecia-

gests the following:

our hearts and lives.

blessed that person.

disciples).

schedule.

E - Engage in Kingdom

W - Worship with not

Small things are appreci-

P - Pray for the minis-

states and online.

pound in love).

these tips.

and sincerity.

differently.

Though that day - Oct.

Perhaps with that

"double honor."

This page is dedicated to the building of a more spiritual and greater church-going people and is made possible

When the Apostle Paul dents to create appreciation

by Chet

Baumgartner

blessings.

Urge Sunday school stu-

Plant a tree or

Invite the extend-

shrub to honor a pas-

ed family of the pas-

tor to visit (and pay

or help pay for any

prayer sessions.

personal-service coupons

entitling him to free lawn

service, child care or similar

to church members and ask

each of them to personalize

a square for the pastor.

Distribute quilt squares

Prepare a "Sunshine Jar"

for the pastor and his family

and fill it with notes con-

taining his favorite verses

Christianity.com provides

the following prayer. No

doubt pastors don't want

their congregation to simply

recite someone else's words

without investing their heart

into those words, but per-

haps this prayer will help

Christians who might other-

wise struggle to remember

our pastors to be encour-

aged. We ask that you

would minister to them and

give them a deeper sense

of hope. Send laborers into

their lives to extend needed

help, support, and friend-

ship. We pray that they and

their families would be pro-

tected and covered by the

precious blood of Jesus.

May our pastors be restored

and refreshed during this

pastors would not be dis-

couraged, or afraid, or grow

weary. But instead that you

would uplift their spirits,

encourage them in their

trials, and recharge them

when they are feeling over-

whelmed. We ask that you

would help them to put their

hope in you and that you

would in return renew their

strength (Isaiah 40:31). We

thank you for our pastors,

Lord, and all the work they

tors to have motivation

and vision, that ministries

would continue to launch

and thrive, and that pastors

would not lose one oppor-

tunity to serve and minister.

We ask that you would help

our pastors have a greater

reach and that our churches

would be a beacon of light

and hope throughout the

world. We pray that pastors

would have perseverance

and come through this sea-

son with new insights and

baumofchet@gmail.com

more inspiration.

"We pray for our pas-

do for your kingdom.

"We pray, Lord, that our

"Dear God, We pray for

to pray.

time.

Finally, the web site

and encouraging thoughts.

Schedule special

Present the pas-

tor with a packet of

messages.

costs).

A Joyful Noise ...



A CITY ON A HILL **CHURCH**

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

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

ASBURY CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST 8013 W.-1100S.-90, Montpelier

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

BETHEL

(Independent Bible)

4500E-300S, Bluffton 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS

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

BLUFFTON CHURCH OF GOD 327 W. Cherry St.

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

> **BLUFFTON WESLEYAN CHAPEL** (Independent Holiness

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

> **BOEHMER UNITED METHODIST** 3467 S 600 W, Liberty Center

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

CALVARY LUTHERAN, ELCA 1532 N. Main St. 9 a.m. - Worship.



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APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH - NORTH 630 E. Dustman Rd.

9:45 & 11:45 a.m. - Wor-

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

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST 735 S. Marion St. 10 a.m. - Bible Study. 10:45 - Worship.

COVENANT CHAPEL 3550 S. SR 1

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

> **DILLMAN UNITED BRETHREN** 8888S-1100W-90,

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

DOMESTIC CHURCH

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

EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST 1204 W. Cherry St.

9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:40 a.m. - Sunday School. **FAIRVIEW CHURCH**

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

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST 210 W. Townley fbc-bluffton.com 10 a.m. - Worship. 11 a.m.

FIRST BAPTIST 202 W. Cherry St. fbcbluffton.com 10:15 - Worship.

- Discipleship.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OSSIAN 1001 Dehner Dr.

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. - Worship. 6:30 -Service.

> FIRST CHURCH **OF CHRIST** 909 W. Spring St.

FCCfamily.com 9:30 & 11 a.m. - Worship. **FIRST CHURCH**

1515 Clark Ave. blufftonnazarene.org 9 a.m. - Sunday School 9-10 a.m. - Free ESL classes. 10:15 - Worship. 6 p.m.

- Service. **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN** 215 E. Dustman Rd.

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN (EVANGELICAL) 123 S. Jefferson St., Ossian

www.OssianChurch.com 8:45 a.m. - Adult Sunday school. 10 a.m. - Worship.

> FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF **BLUFFTON**

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

FIRST UNITED

METHODIST

325 W. Washington St.

blufftonfirstumc.com

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

FORGIVEN CHURCH

1409 S. Main St.

forgivenonline.org

GRACE BAPTIST

1621 S. 350 E.

Stogdill Rd. Ext.

gbcbluffton.com

a.m. & 6 p.m. - Worship.

9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10

LANCASTER CHAPEL

UNITED METHODIST

4510 E 400N, Craigville

9 a.m. - Sunday School.

9:40 - Fellowship. 10 a.m. -

Worship.

D

126 W. Townley

Bluffton • 824-3330

Sunday School.

9 a.m. - Worship.

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

HOPE MISSIONARY

429 E. Dustman Rd.

hope4thefamily.com

KEYSTONE CHURCH

10556S-200W

LIBERTY CENTER **BAPTIST**

3071 W. Cherry St.

8:30 a.m. - Pastor/Dea-

School. 9:55 - Fellowship.

MARKLE CHAPEL

HILL SEVENTH DAY

ADVENTIST

470 E. Morse St.

con's Prayer. 9 - Sunday

9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:30

8 a.m., 9:30 & 11 a.m. -

Service at Main Campus.

9:30 & 11 a.m. - Service,

north campus, Ossian.

- Sunday School.

10:15 - Worship.

HARVEST TIME BIBLE

LIBERTY CENTER **COMMUNITY CHURCH**

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

LIFE COMMUNITY 428 S. Oak St. lifecommunity.net 10:30 a.m. - Service (Children's programs available).

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

LIVING WATER **UNITED CHURCH** 6486 S 700E, Bluffton

Sunday School.

8:45-9 a.m. - Prayer. 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

PARK COMMUNITY 617 S. Bennett St. blog.parkub.org

TO REPORT CHURCH NEWS:

MARKLE CHURCH **OF CHRIST** 455 E. Morse St.

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

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

MURRAY MISSIONARY 1117 N. Washington St., Murray

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

10 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship. **NEW HOPE LUTHERAN**

2187 W. SR 218

(Missouri Synod) 8824 N. SR 1, Ossian newhopelutheran-ossian. webs.com

9 a.m. - Sunday School &

Adult Bible study. 10 a.m. -**NOTTINGHAM** 1100 S. SR 1

9:30 - Sunday School. 10:30 & 6 p.m. - Worship. **OSSIAN CHURCH** OF THE NAZARENE

302 N. Metts St. ossiannaz.org 9:15 a.m. - Bible study. 10:30 - Service.

201 W. Mill St. ossianumc.org 9 a.m. - Worship, Worship child care nurse. 10 a.m. Fellowship. 10:15 - Adult Sunday School.

OSSIAN UNITED

METHODIST

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

Grape Street 8:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 9 a.m. - Worship. **PONETO FAITH**

COMMUNITY CHURCH

36 E. Walnut St.

PONETO BAPTIST

9 a.m. - Worship. 10 a.m. -Fellowship. 10:15 - Sunday **RIVER OF HOPE**

1224 W. Central 11 a.m. - Worship & the Word. SIX MILE

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

SONLIGHT WESLEYAN 2350 S. SR 1

sonlightwesleyan.org 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship. Núrsery & Children's classes available during Sunday School & Worship.

SOUTHERN WELLS COMMUNITY CHURCH 9450 S 300 W, Poneto 9 & 10:45 a.m. - Worship.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC 1300 N. Main St. Saturday: 7:45 a.m. -Prayer. 8 a.m. - Mass.

8:30 - Rosary. 4 p.m. or by appointment - Confessions. 5 p.m. - Mass. Sunday: 7:30 & 10 a.m. -Mass

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

LUTHERAN 16933 Thiele Rd. stmarkfw.org 8:45 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

ST. MARK EV.

ST. MARK'S **LUTHERAN (NALC)** 5912 N. Sugar St.,

Uniondale 10 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Children's Sunday School.

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

8:30 a.m. - Coffee fellow-ship. 9:15 - Worship.

RIVER OF LIFE 927 N. Main St. 10:30 a.m. - Worship.

THE MEETING PLACE 115 E. Market St. 6:30 p.m. - Bible study.

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

TURNPOINTE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN 500 W. Logan, Markle turnpointechurch.com 9:30 a.m. - Fellowship. 10

a.m. - Adult & Children's

Worship.

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

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

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

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

WESTSIDE **COMMUNITY CHURCH** 205 S. Adams St., Monroe

9 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Discipleship for adults & children. ZANESVILLE

COMMUNITY

CHURCH OF GOD

11984 N. Marzane Rd.

9 a.m. - Bible Class. 10

a.m. - Worship. **ZANESVILLE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST**

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Getting back home

phone call.

"Very soon, I got a callback from one of Banks' staffers," Hallman related. "She was very reassuring and helpful with advice."

The U.S. Embassy staff also advised them to try to find a way home on their own, but if they could not, the State Department would make arrangements to get them out of the country to Cyprus. "From there, we'd be on our own," Hallman says.

He was aware that the national home office of the YMCA utilized a travel agency for their executives. A friend there passed along a phone number: "Could you help us get home?" he asked. "Of course," he heard the response.

He continued, "It took them several days. We would get a flight scheduled and then it would get canceled." All U.S. airlines along with several others including Turkish Air had canceled all flights into and out of the region.

After hearing nothing about their luggage by Sunday afternoon, Hallman and Ryan hired a driver to take them to the Tel Aviv airport, about an hour's drive from Jerusalem. They were able to claim the group's luggage and return to Jerusalem without incident.

The group was initially confined to the hotel and YMCA, which they described as a fine hotel and a beautiful building. The facility's director, Fadi, assured them they were safe there but was not comfortable letting them leave.

'We were in a country that had just declared war, Ryan says. "Not so exciting to be a part of history."

The group spent their time getting to know the roughly 30 or so other travelers who had found themselves stranded in the hotel, a "remarkable building," Ryan said, which is



Traveling companions and now friends Tim Hallman. Fort Wayne, left, and Bluffton resident Glenn Ryan are happy to be back home after their ill-timed Holy Land tour. Hallman is looking forward to returning as soon as he can to further his efforts to assist the Christian-based YMCA units there. (Photo by Mark Miller)

bell tower.

"So every Sunday at noon, they ring the bells 12 times," Hallman shared. "Fadi (a friend from previous trips and the facility's CEO) was giving us a tour of the building."

Five stories up the tower is a carillon, a musical instrument that operates the bells. It is often operated by professionals, Hallman said, but their host allowed them to hit the appropriate key to ring the noon bells.

"It produces a beautiful sound that echoes across the city," Hallman said.

"No sooner had we hit the last note than air raid sirens went off," he continued. Fadi told them they had 90 seconds to race down the circular stairs to the bomb shelter in the basement. When they got there, they gathered together in a circle

'While I was praying, I felt someone join us and take my hand," Hallman said. It was an English lady who was also stranded. "She was so appreciative of us being there and for the prayer," he added.

There were a few times

anchored with a very tall they felt in danger. They recalled three air raid warnings, "but it was mostly calm" in Jerusalem, they said.

> "But we could hear the bombs, especially at night," Ryan said. The Gaza border is only about 50 miles to the southwest of Jerusalem. "And we could see the bombs light up the night sky," Hallman added.

> By Monday afternoon, their host felt it was safe for the group to venture out to a nearby shopping mall. However, it was "mostly empty," the two agree. The government had shut down all schools and most businesses only a few stores were open but they were able to enjoy a supper of pizza.

On Tuesday, another of Hallman's friends he had made from previous trips to Israel visited the group. He refers to him simply as "Tewfic," a Palestinian Christian who emigrated to the U.S. and was in the midst of a successful banking career in New York City when he felt called to go back to his homeland to assist his fellow Christians.

"It is a very difficult place for (Palestinian Chris-

tians) to live," Hallman said.

Tewfic and his wife operate a tour company. When he realized the group had not, and likely would not, see any of Jerusalem's sites, he took them on a walking tour of the close-by area.

"So we got to at least see the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and much of the Old City," Hallman said.

While Hallman continued to seek arrangements to get the group home, they were also becoming friends with others stranded in the hotel. And they began to feel like they had been sent there for a purpose.

Three young people from Denmark had been traveling in the area for a couple weeks and were in Bethlehem, a part of the West Bank, when hostilities erupted. They were forced to escape to Jerusalem without their luggage.

"They were totally lost as to what to do," Hallman shared. It soon became clear that while their group enjoyed the support from the U.S. Embassy and from their travel agency, these people had no resources.

Our travel agency agreed to help them get home as well. They were so appreciative and just couldn't believe that some strangers from America would help them get home."

Another elderly couple from Canada - Egyptian natives who had emigrated but had returned for a tour was also stranded at the

"They just had no idea what to do next," Hallman

JuWan Turner, a staff member at the Fort Wayne YMCA, created a Facebook page for them and took a video of them explaining their dilemma. He then posted the video, tagging the Canadian government and the Canadian media.

"It worked," Hallman

said. They were soon interviewed by a radio station and a TV station, and the government made arrangements for them to fly back

"We think we were meant to be there," Hallman said.

The trip had always been meant to be more than just a tourist thing, Hallman explained. He had made previous trips to the region's YMCAs and was working to build friendships and collaboration. The group was slated to visit several YMCA units in Jericho, Bethlehem and Jerusalem, adding events and activities that were "educational," "service," and "immersion" into the area's culture.

Hallman is slated to go back in December to further those efforts, but chances of a cease-fire in time for that trip to happen are, he knows, slim. But he is also concerned for his many friends, like Fadi and Tewfic. Tourism is an important part of the Israeli economy.

A flight to take the five travelers home seemed to be set for Wednesday evening, Oct. 11, on Emirates Airlines, "but we kept our fingers crossed," Ryan said. They were successful in flying from Tel Aviv to Dubai and then a "long, very long"

15-hour flight to Chicago, where a Fort Wayne staff member greeted them and drove them home Oct. 12.

But Ryan's journey had one more twist. It was during the layover in Dubai that he got word that his 96-yearold mother had passed away at her home in Toledo. It was not unexpected, "she had not been well and had suffered a couple falls," he said, but nonetheless difficult. Hence, as soon as he arrived in Bluffton, he was off to Toledo to join his siblings in comforting their 97-yearold father. The funeral was Thursday, Oct. 19.

"Exhausting," is how he described his past few weeks. "And disappointing. I had thought it would be a fun trip." But he is also appreciative.

"I certainly gained some new perspectives," he added. "We are so lucky to live where we do."

And he has been amazed this past week as he's been approached by "several people I don't even know," he shared. "Glad you're back," they tell me."

You know, Hallman quickly added, "that's something we found out when we got home: How many people had been praying for us. That really meant a lot."

miller@news-banner.com

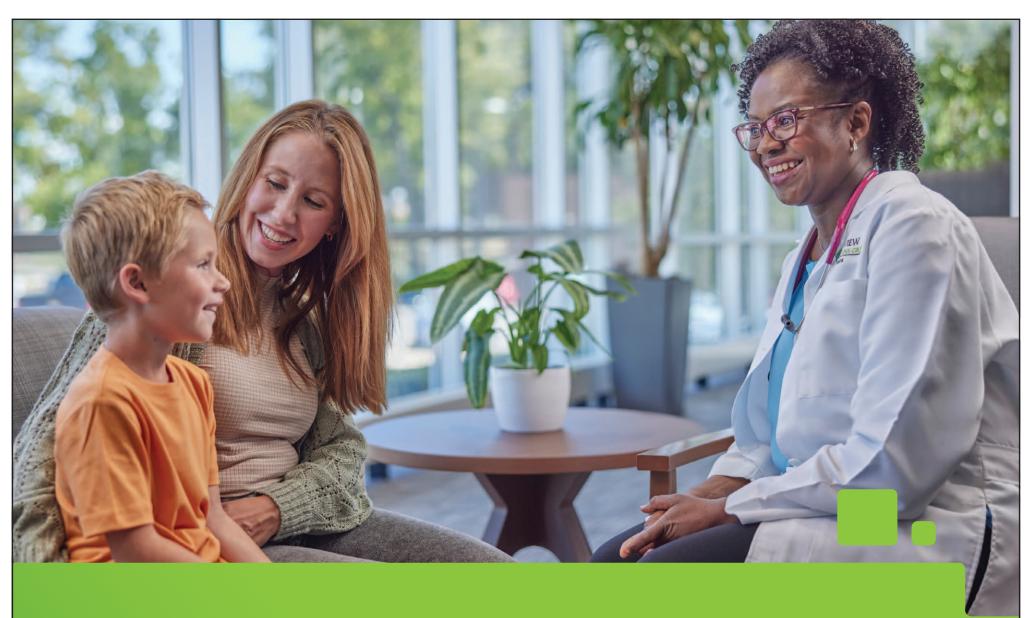
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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2023 · The News-Banner · Page 1a

Tigers overpower the Panthers to advance to sectional championship

Bluffton's unstoppable rushing attack lifted the Tigers to a 35-21 win over Eastbrook in the sectional semifinal Friday night.

The efforts marched Bluffton to its secondstraight sectional championship appearance after a 34-year drought without a

The Tigers (9-2) gave the Panthers (7-4) a taste of their own medicine with over 300 yards rushing on the night by three main ball carriers. Moore led the charge with 238 yards on the ground, finding the endzone three times. Tucker Jenkins was next at 67 yards, and Cooper Craig piled up 59 yards.

The three bullied a normally beefed-up Eastbrook defensive line, averaging 8.6 yards per rushing attempt. Of the five touchdowns, four of them were bursts of 38 yards or more.

"I felt really good running behind one of the best lines in the state," Moore said.

The Tigers have the ability to throw the ball with their senior leader and quarterback Braxton Betancourt, but head coach Brent Kunkel believed more in his offensive line more than the Panthers' defensive line.

'We watched film, and we thought we had an advantage up front just because of who we are and kind of the style of defense that (Eastbrook) had played all year," Kunkel said. "And so the plan all along was to use Khamel, to use Tucker, to use Cooper. That's kind of our identity."

Bluffton got off to a hot start, giving a typically elite Eastbrook team fits up front.

Moore broke out two touchdowns on gains of 38 and 57 yards, while Craig jolted one for 42 yards.

In the meantime, the Tiger defense held the opposition to 55 yards in the first quarter on just 12 plays. Eight of those plays went for three yards or less.

Fletcher Wenger led the unit with nine total solo tackles, with Jenkins and Alex West helping with seven. Johnny Cruz had five.

To start the second quarter, the Panthers began to find a rhythm, taking an 11-play drive to the oneyard line as the bulky 200-

pound Gage Engle powered through for six points.

But Moore would help lead the offense yet again for some more points. He slashed through two levels of the Panther defense for 29 yards making it to the four-yard line before punching it in for a one-yard score a few plays later.

At the half, it was all Bluffton 28-7.

"Our guys made some plays up front, especially in that first quarter," Kunkel said. "I thought we really kind of came out and established the line of scrimmage in that first quarter."

But what would be a Jeff Adamson run Eastbrook squad without a fight?

A combined 15-8 record over the past two years would be a good stretch for just about any other school, but the Panthers have made two state championship runs in the past six seasons. With Adamson at the helm, they've been to four state title matches (although going 0-4), and you can't count them out.

Eastbrook completed a 10-play drive aided by a roughing the passer call with just under six minutes remaining in the third quar-

The score had Bluffton on its heels in a methodical, yet no-huddle, run game that started to catch some traction spanning the second into the third quarter.

The Panthers had gained momentum and looked as if they would give Bluffton a game with plenty of time in the fourth quarter.

"A lot of that is Coach Adamson at Eastbrook,' Kunkel said of his counterpart. "He's a hall of famer in every sense of the word. I mean, he's been there for 35 years (with) over 300 wins, and he's just a class act. His program is a first-class program, so they're extremely well-coached. We knew that they did some things to give us some fits there.'

With a third-and-short opportunity for the Panthers, lineman Cruz stuffed their leading rusher Engle for a one-yard stop. On fourthand-3, West and Griffin Morgan plowed through the offensive line to stop Eastbrook for negative yards and give the ball back to the Tigers.

Jenkins would strike a dagger into the heart of the Panthers on a 38-yard carry, trucking an Eastbrook defender to make the score

Eastbrook would score once more with 2:35 to go, but the Tigers recovered the onside kick to seal the deal.

With the win, Bluffton will host another sectional championship. Next Friday the Eastern Comets come to town, all the way from the east side of Kokomo, bringing a 9-2 record with them.

Eastern hasn't been a common opponent for Bluffton, at least in Kunkel's tenure, but he does know they'll be chomping at the bit to get their first sectional title.

"I know they have never won a sectional," Kunkel said of Eastern. "So they're going to come in with nothing to lose kind of a situation. Somewhat what we were in last year where it had been a long time. It's been better for them, and they might play loose and free. I'm sure they'll be the 'underdog' in the game, so yeah, it'll be an exciting atmosphere for sure.'

sports@news-banner.com

BLUFFTON 35, EASTBROOK 21 At Bluffton

Score By Quarters
Eastbrook 0 0 0 0 - 21
Bluffton 0 0 0 0 - 35 **Scoring Summary** First Quarter B—Khamel Moore 38-yard run (

Yaroslav Serdiuk kick), 8:56. B—Moore 57-yard run (Serdiuk kick),

B—Cooper Craig 42-yard run (Serdiuk kick), 1:47.

Second Quarter
E—Gage Engle 1-yard run (Keegan Hallis kick), 10:49.
B—Moore 1-yard run (Serdiuk kick), 6:28. **Third Quarter**

E-Engle 5-yard run (Hallis kick),

Fourth Quarter B—Tucker Jenkins 38-yard run (Serdiuk kick), 6:34. E—Engle 6-yard run (Hallis kick), 2:35.

2.55.		
Team	Statistics	
	BLU	EAS
First Downs	17	18
Rushes-Yards	45-369	56-260
Yards Passing	59	15
Passing (C-A-I)	8-5-0	5-1-0
Penalties-Yards	7-70	9-76
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	1-1
Punts-Average	1-34	3-44

Time of Possession 28:49 19:11

Ime of Possession 28:49 19:11 Individual Statistics Rushing: Eastbrook: Gage Engle 25-94, Bodie Howell 17-87, Carson McDaniel 8-47, Cooper Craw 3-21, Colin Reyes 3-11. Bluffton: Khamel Moore 30-238, Tucker Jenkins 8-67, Cooper Craig 4-59, Braxton Betan court 3-5.

Passing: Eastbrook: Bodie Howell 1-5-0 15. Bluffton: Braxton Betancourt 5-8-0 59.

Receiving: Eastbrook: Carson McDaniel 1-15. Bluffton: AJ Streveler 3-41, Andrew Hunt 2-18.



Bluffton tight end Tucker Jenkins stiff arms Eastbrook's Bodie Howell (15) for a big gain in the first quarter Friday night at Fred F. Park Field. Cooper Craw closes in to slow Jenkins down. (Photos by Glen Werling)



Bluffton's Khamel Moore is off to the races, easily outrunning Eastbrook's Kaden Bowser (60) and Kyle Shell in the second quarter.

CyberTigers to host 2nd annual Super Smash Bros tournament

Bluffton's e-Sports team is set to host its second Super Smash Brothers Ultimate game tournament this Saturday, Nov. 4.

The event is serving as a fundraiser for the program at the high school, home of the CyberTigers. The team is in its third season and has already had three state title appearances, winning it all in Overwatch and Tetris.

The doors officially open at noon,

and the tournament to start at 1 p.m. Competition will be at Bluffton High School's cafetorium.

Anyone interested in the event should register at ssbu.bhmsd.org for \$10 per person or can sign up on the day of for \$15.

Concessions will be available along with other fun ways to interact with participants during the day.

Browns Ford back at practice

BEREA, Ohio (AP) -Cleveland Browns starting running back Jerome Ford made a surprise return to practice Friday after missing time earlier this week with a sprained right ankle suffered in last week's win at Indianapolis.

Ford, who has had to

pick up the slack with star Nick Chubb out with a season-ending knee injury. is listed as questionable for Sunday's game at Seattle. Ford had been expected to miss at least one game.

That's still possible, but his presence on the field was a positive sign for the Browns (4-2).

Ford is another weapon for backup quarterback P.J. Walker, who will start against the Seahawks (4-2). Deshaun Watson continues to be sidelined with a strained right shoulder.

High School Calendar

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.

MONDAY, OCT 30 No events scheduled **TUESDAY, OCT 31**

No events scheduled WEDNESDAY, NOV 1 No events scheduled **THURSDAY, NOV 2** No events scheduled FRIDAY, NOV 3 FOOTBALL: (sectional championship)

Eastern at Bluffton, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOV 4



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News-Banner Scoreboard

FOOTBALL High School Friday's Scores

Sectionals

Class 6A Sectional 1

Crown Point 42, Lafayette Jeff 10 Lake Central 23, Portage 0 Sectional 2 Penn 35. Elkhart 0 Warsaw 31, Carroll (Ft. Wayne) 17 Sectional 3 Fishers 42, Homestead 14 Hamilton Southeastern 56, Ft. Wayne

Northrop 7 Sectional 4 Noblesville 31 Zionsville 24 Westfield 37, Carmel 7 Sectional 5 Indpls Ben Davis 28, Brownsburg 25 Indpls Pike 42, Avon 41, OT

Sectional 6 Indpls Cathedral 42, Indpls N. Cen-

Lawrence North 38, Lawrence Central

Sectional 7 Southport 41, Indpls Tech 12

Warren Central 49, Indpls Perry Merid-Sectional 8 Center Grove 40, Franklin Central 14 Columbus North 58, Jeffersonville 0

Class 5A Sectional 9 Hammond Morton 52, Hammond Central 6

Merrillville 49. Munster 7 Sectional 10 Michigan City 6, LaPorte 5 Valparaiso 31, Chesterton 14 Sectional 11

Concord 49, S. Bend Adams 10 Mishawaka 48, Goshen 14 Sectional 12 Ft. Wayne Snider 44, Anderson 14 Sectional 13 Decatur Central 33, McCutcheon 0 Lafayette Harrison 39, Plainfield 13 Sectional 14 South Vigo 14, Franklin 10

Whiteland 63, North Vigo 14 Sectional 15 Bloomington South 44, Bloomington

Seymour 39 Columbus Fast 20 Sectional 16
Castle 35, New Albany 17
Evansville North 28, Floyd Central 20
Class 4A
Sectional 17

Culver Academy 46, Highland 13 New Prairie 28 Kankakee Valley 21, OT

Sectional 18 NorthWood 56, S. Bend Washington

Northridge 49, Wawasee 20 Sectional 19 Ft. Wayne Dwenger 42, DeKalb 28 Leo 45, E. Noble 42 Sectional 20 Sectional 20 Kokomo 35, Marion 0 Mississinewa 31, Columbia City 15 Sectional 21 Indy Brebeuf 70, Lebanon 49

Mooresville 17, Indpls Roncalli 9 Sectional 22 Mt. Vernon (Fortville) 42, Beech New Palestine 35, Greenfield 0

Sectional 23 E. Central 56, Martinsville 20 Greenwood 43, Jennings Co. 12 Evansville Memorial 17, Jasper 14 Evansville Reitz 42, Bedford N. Lawrence 6

Class 3A

Sectional 25 Hanover Central 41, Boone Grove 20 W. Lafayette 42, Rensselaer 7 Sectional 26 Glenn 25, Fairfield 8 Knox 15, W. Noble 13 Sectional 27 Delta 24, Yorktown 21 Garrett 20, Heritage 6 Sectional 28 Hamilton Hts. 28, Maconaquah 21

Sectional 29 Monrovia 20, Speedway 3 Tri-West 42, N. Montgomery 6 Sectional 30 Gibson Southern 48, Washington 14 Batesville 20, Lawrenceburg 14 Indian Creek 37, Franklin Co. 0 Sectional 32 Heritage Hills 23, Southridge 20 Scottsburg 38, Salem 31, OT Class 2A

Sectional 33 Bremen 21, Wheeler 18 LaVille 50, Whiting 0 Sectional 34 Lafayette Catholic 28, Rochester 22 Seeger 20, Cass 16 Sectional 35 Ft. Wavne Luers 14. Eastside 10 Manchester 28, Central Noble 21 Sectional 36 Bluffton 35. Eastbrook 21 Eastern (Greentown) 42, Tipton 0 Sectional 37

Linton 26, Greencastle 21 Southmont 22, Cascade 21, OT Sectional 38 Eastern Hancock 44, Indpls Ritter 21 Winchester 20, Heritage Christian 14 Sectional 39 Eastern (Pekin) 44, Switzerland Co. 0

Triton Central 28, Brownstown 17 Sectional 40 N. Posey 35, Evansville Mater Dei

Paoli 50, Forest Park 14 Class 1A

Sectional 41 N. Judson 42, S. Newton 0 Triton 56, Culver 0 Sectional 42 Indpls Park Tudor 48, Clinton Central 6 ectional 43 Carroll (Flora) 49, Caston 6 Tri-Central 17, W. Central 8 Sectional 44 Adams Central 48. Southwood 0 Madison-Grant 43, N. Miami 14

Sectional 45 Monroe Central 43, Wes-Del 34 Sheridan 54, Indpls Tindley 6 Sectional 46 Milan 14, Tri 8 N. Decatur 63, Edinburgh 0 Sectional 47 Covenant Christian 37, Riverton

Indpls Lutheran 21, S. Putnam 14 Sectional 48 Providence 50, N. Daviess 13 Spring Valley 24, W. Washington 0

BASKETBALL NBA

FASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

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	W	L Pct	GB
Boston	2	0 1.000	_
New York	1	1 .500	1
Toronto	1	1 .500	1
Philadelphia	0	1 .000	11/2
Brooklyn	0	2 .000	2
	east	Division	
	W	L Pct	GB
Orlando	1	0 1.000	_
Charlotte	1	1 .500	1/2
Miami	1	1 .500	1/2
Atlanta	0	2 .000	11/2
Washington	0	1 .000	1
Cent	ral D	ivision	
	W	L Pct	GB
Indiana	1	0 1.000	_
Milwaukee	1	0 1.000	_
Cleveland	1	1 .500	1/2
Chicago	1	1 .500	1/2
Detroit	1	1 .500	1/2
WESTERN	I CO	NFERENCE	
South	west	Division	
	W	L Pct	GB
Dallas	2	0 1.000	_
New Orleans		0 1.000	1/2
San Antonio	1	1 500	- 1

GB 1/2 San Antonio 0 000 .000 0 Northwest Division L Pct 0 1.000 GB Denver Oklahoma City 1½ 1½ Minnesota .000 Portland 0 000 .000 1½ Utah **Pacific Division** L Pct 0 1.000 GB Sacramento L.A. Clippers L.A. Lakers .500 Golden State .000 0

Thursday's Games Milwaukee 118, Philadelphia 117

Friday's Games Denver 108, Memphis 104 Detroit 111, Charlotte 99 New York 126, Atlanta 120 Roston 119 Miami 111 Oklahoma City 108, Cleveland 105 San Antonio 126. Houston 122. OT Chicago 104, Toronto 103, OT Dallas 125, Brooklyn 120 L.A. Clippers at Utah, late Golden State at Sacramento, late

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. Sunday's Games

Orlando at Portland, late

Denver at Oklahoma City, 3:30 p.m Atlanta at Milwaukee, 7 p.m. Golden State at Houston, 7 p.m. Portland at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m. L.A. Lakers at Sacramento, 9 p.m. San Antonio at L.A. Clippers, 9 p.m.

Monday's Games Boston at Washington, 7 p.m. Brooklyn at Charlotte, 7 p.m. Chicago at Indiana, 7 p.m. Minnesota at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m. Portland at Toronto, 7:30 p.m. Dallas at Memphis, 8 p.m. Detroit at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m. Golden State at New Orleans, 8 p.m. Miami at Milwaukee, 8 p.m. Orlando at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

BASEBALL

Postseason Baseball Glance LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

National League 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, Philadel-Saturday, Oct. 21: Philadelphia 6, Arizona 1

Monday, Oct. 23: Arizona 5, Phila-Tuesday, Oct. 24: Arizona 4, Phila-

delphia 2

WORLD SERIES (Best-of-7) (All Games on Fox) Friday, Oct. 27: Texas 6, Arizona 5

(extra innings) Saturday, Oct. 28: Arizona at Texas, Monday, Oct. 30: Texas at Arizona, 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, k-Śaturday, Nov. 4: Arizona at Texas,

HOCKEY NHL

Buffalo

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division L OT Pts GF 1 13 22 1 11 35 0 10 27 Boston 6 02222345 5 5 4 4 Detroit Toronto 2 10 29 1 9 22 0 6 17 0 6 27 24 24 18 Tampa Bay Montreal 6 3 7 3 8 3 Florida 6 27 6 26 0

lo 8 3 5 0 6 26

Metropolitar Division
GP W L OT Pts GF
Rangers 7 5 2 0 10 21
ina 9 5 4 0 10 36
delphia 7 4 2 1 9 24
upsey 7 4 2 1 9 32
upsey 7 4 2 1 9 32
upsey 7 3 2 2 8 20
slanders 6 3 2 1 7 16
ington 7 3 3 1 7 18 N.Y. Rangers 7 5 Carolina 9 5 Philadelphia 7 18 30 New Jersey 7 Columbus 7 23 19

Pittsburgh 7 3 4 0 6 21 20 WESTERN CONFERENCE **Central Division**

Gentral Division

GP W L OT Pts GF
7 6 1 0 12 28
6 4 1 1 9 17
7 4 3 0 8 24
8 3 3 2 8 30
6 3 2 1 7 14
6 3 3 0 6 16
7 3 4 0 6 20
8 3 5 0 6 18

Pacific Division 16 15 24 36 15 15 Dallas Minnesota St. Louis Arizona 6 20 19 6 18 24 Nashville Chicago **Pacific Division**

Vegas 17 Vancouver vancouver 6 4 Los Angeles 6 3 Anaheim 7 3 Seattle 8 2 Calgary 8 2 Edmonton 7 1 San Jose 8 0 20 28 29 3 17 30 1 8 34 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.

Thursday's Games
Tampa Bay 6, San Jose 0
Winnipeg 4, Detroit 1
Pittsburgh 4, Colorado 0
Montreal 4, Columbus 3, OT Carolina 3, Seattle 2, OT Anaheim 4, Boston 3, OT Philadelphia 6. Minnesota 2 N.Y. Islanders 3, Ottawa 2 Toronto 4, Dallas 1 St. Louis 3, Calgary 0

N.Y. Rangers 3, Edmonton 0
Friday's Games
Chicago 4, Vegas 3, OT
New Jersey 5, Buffalo 4
Carolina 3, San Jose 0 Washington 3, Minnesota 2, SO Los Angeles at Arizona, late St. Louis at Vancouver, late

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. Sunday's Games

Colorado at Buffalo, 1 p.m. Minnesota at New Jersey, 5 p.m. San Jose at Washington, 5 p.m. Calgary vs. Edmonton at Common-wealth Stadium, 7 p.m.

Monday's Games
Anaheim at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Carolina at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Florida at Boston, 7 p.m. Seattle at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Detroit at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Winnipeg, 7:30 p.m.
Columbus at Dallas, 8 p.m. Chicago at Arizona, 10 p.m. Montreal at Vegas, 10 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

Friday's Transactions BASEBALL Major League Baseball American League
OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Sent
LHP Kirby Snead outright to Las Vegas **FOOTBALL**

National Football League BALTIMORE RAVENS — Released WR Tarik Black from the practice squad. CLEVELAND BROWNS — Signed RB John Kelly Jr. to the practice squad. HOUSTON TEXANS — Signed CB Kris Boyd to the practice squad. Released CB Cobi Francis from the practice squad. **HOCKEY**

Name

National Hockey League ARIZONA COYOTES — Recalled RW Jan Jenik from Tucson (AHL).
BOSTON BRUINS — Recalled Ds
Mason Lohrei and Jakub Zboril from
Providence (AHL). Reassigned C Patrick Brown and LW Jesper Boqvist to Providence. CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Acti-

vated C Colton Dach from non-roster injured reserve and assigned him to Rockford (AHL). TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS —

Recalled D William Lagesson from Toronto (AHL). Reassigned C Fraser Minten to Kamloops (WHL).

NASCAR's playoff push down to madness of Martinsville with Hamlin and Truex title hopes

2

By JENNA FRYER **APAuto Racing Writer**

Denny Hamlin elevated his game this year with the aid of a microphone and a popular new podcast that unveils the insights of the driver considered

win a Cup Series title. He has held nothing back in his weekly "Actions Detrimental" podcast produced by Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s media company, and along the way has sounded like a guy about to make his

the best in NASCAR history to never

18th season the one that ends the hex. A mechanical failure last week at Homestead-Miami Speedway has put Hamlin's season on the line as he heads into the last qualifying race for NASCAR's title-deciding finale. Kyle Larson and Christopher Bell have claimed the first of four spots in the championship race, and Hamlin finds himself tied with Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Martin Truex Jr. at 17 points below the cutline headed into Sunday's showdown at Martinsville Speedway in Virginia.

Martinsville is Hamlin's favorite track. The Virginia-raised driver has five career wins at the paperclipshaped short track, and even though a victory is his only guaranteed path into the finale, he said it is not a must-win race. Hamlin and regular-season champion Truex can both advance without a win but must somehow overcome their points deficit.

"I'm not," Hamlin said on his podcast of being in a must-win situation, "but I guarantee you I will be on kill right from the get-go and treat it as a must win."

Six drivers are vying for the final two slots in the finale. William Byron is a safe bet to advance based on the bonus points he's accumulated, and Ryan Blaney is Ford's best hope at getting a car into the championship.

Hamlin, Truex, fellow Toyota driver Tyler Reddick — he drives for Hamlin and MIchael Jordan's 23XI Racing sit below the cutoff with Chris Buescher of RFK Racing.

Chevrolet and Hendrick Motorsports have one driver through with Larson, the 2021 Cup champion. Toyota and Gibbs are already represented in the finale by Bell, Larson's longtime dirt rival

PLAYOFF FIELD

KYLE LARSON, clinched a spot with win at Las Vegas.

What's Ahead: Larson is already locked into the finale for the second time in three years, and it's given him breathing room to prepare for Phoenix. At Homestead last week, he ran into the sand barrels entering pit road.

Martinsville History: Larson won at Martinsville in the spring in one of four victories this season. He was second in last year's race but had already been eliminated from the playoffs.

CHRISTOPHER BELL, clinched with win at Homestead.

What's Ahead: Bell is racing in the championship finale for the second consecutive year. Bell also finished second to Larson at Las Vegas and has had the strongest round of eight of all playoff drivers.

Martinsville History: Bell needed to win Martinsville last year to make the championship race, and pulled it off with his second "walk-off" win of the

PLAYOFF HOPEFULS WILLIAM BYRON, 30 points above the cutline.

What's Ahead: Byron is in strong position to make the finale based on his points cushion, but a bad day Sunday could ruin his shot at joining Hendrick teammate Larson with a pair of Chevys racing for the Cup.

Martinsville History: Byron won at Martinsville in 2022 and has six top-10 finishes in 11 career starts. His worst finish was 39th in a crash in his 2018 rookie season.

RYAN BLANEY, 10 points above the cutline.

What's Ahead: Blaney is the last Ford driver with a chance from heavyweights Team Penske and Stewart-Haas Racing, and is coming off a second-place finish at Homestead. He's been surprisingly strong on intermediate tracks, where Ford has struggled as an organization, and now puts his season on the line at a short track. He should be competitive.

Martinsville History: Blaney is winless in 15 career starts at Martinsville, but his ninth-place average finish is strong. Should none of the drivers below him in the standings win, Blaney is in good shape to make the

final four.

PLAYOFF LONGSHOTS TYLER REDDICK, 10 points below the cutline.

What's Ahead: Reddick has been really good for 23XI in the round of eight with a finish of eighth at Las Vegas and third at Homestead. It's not been enough to put his name in the championship conversation.

Martinsville History: His best finish is 18th in seven previous starts. Reddick is also in trouble because his competition is generally considered among the best at Martinsville.

MARTIN TRUEX Jr., 17 points below the cutline.

What's Ahead: Truex has had a horrible playoffs. After a ninth-place finish at Las Vegas came a blown engine at Homestead as the misery continued for the regular-season champion. He probably needs to win Martinsville to make the finale.

Martinsville History: Truex has three wins at Martinsville, second among active drivers only to Gibbs teammate Hamlin. But the No. 19 team has done next to nothing right through eight races, putting Truex's season on

DENNY HAMLIN, 17 points below the cutline.

What's Ahead: Hamlin had one bad race — 30th last week at Homestead - and he is in big trouble. It's time for him to put up or shut up in this season in which he's done a lot of talking.

Martinsville History: This is the track for Hamlin to pull off a miracle. He leads all active drivers in wins, topfive finishes, top 10s and laps led at Martinsville. He should be in the mix Sunday.

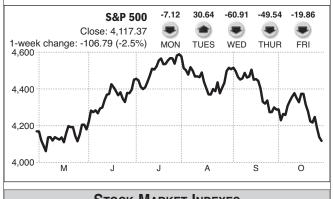
CHRIS BUESCHER, 43 points below the cutline.

What's Ahead: Buescher has overperformed in making it to the round of eight for rebuilt RFK Racing. The organization has made considerable leaps with Brad Keselowski among the ownership group, but this is about as far as an RFK entry is likely to get right now.

Martinsville History: Buescher is 0 for 16 at Martinsville, with an average finish of 19th. He's probably the only driver truly in a must-win situation Sunday.

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

WEEKLY DOW JONES AND S&P 500 -190.87 204.97 -105.45 -251.63 -366.71 **Dow Jones industrials** Close: 32,417.59 1-week change: -709.69 (-2.1%) MON TUES WED THUR FRI 35,000 34,000 33.000 32.000 M S 0 Α



		STOCK WARK	ET IND	EXES			
52- High	Week Low	Name	Last	Wk Chg	Wk %Chg	YTD %Chg	12-mo %Chg
35,679.13	31,161.41	Dow Jones Industrials	32,417.59	-709.69	-2.14	-2.20	-1.35
16,717.04	12,728.12	Dow Jones Transportation	13,556.07	-894.34	-6.19	+1.23	14
1,013.30	765.47	Dow Jones Utilities	812.89	+5.74	+.71	-15.97	-11.75
16,458.89	14,085.42	NYSE Composite	14,675.78	-357.53	-2.38	-3.35	81
14,446.55	10,207.47	Nasdaq Composite	12,643.01	-340.80	-2.62	+20.80	+13.88
4,607.07	3,698.15	S&P 500	4,117.37	-106.79	-2.53	+7.24	+5.54
2,743.01	2,303.01	S&P MidCap	2,326.82	-66.46	-2.78	-4.26	-4.44
46,570.30	36,938.66	Wilshire 5000	41,300.79	-1105.80	-2.61	+8.48	+6.03
2,007.31	1,633.67	Russell 2000	1,636.94	-43.85	-2.61	-7.06	-11.37
15,531.26	11,731.63	Lipper Growth Index	13,534.93	-348.68	-2.51	+12.82	

STOCK EXCHANGE HIGHLIGHTS

NYSE GA	INERS	(\$2 or	MORE)	NYSE L	.OSERS	(\$2 or	MORE)	NYSE A	CTIVES (\$1 OR I	MORE)
Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Textainer	49.17	+15.02	+44.0	Barnes	20.14	-12.45	-38.2	FordM	4461965	9.96	-1.68
EndeaGp	22.85	+4.88	+27.2	GrtAjax	4.14	-2.23	-35.0	BkofAm	2927851	25.17	-1.14
ArdaghMt	3.25	+.63	+24.0	TransUn	43.60	-21.52	-33.0	SnapInc A	2703615	9.30	14
CustomBcp	39.76	+7.65	+23.8	ChartInds	110.12	-40.19	-26.7	AT&T Inc	2428902	14.82	56
NxtEraLP	27.45	+5.05	+22.5	Calix	32.71	-10.55	-24.4	Palantir	2308847	15.07	-1.04
Stride	54.44	+9.84	+22.1	Aarons	7.22	-2.06	-22.2	VerizonCm	1847421	33.44	+1.87
WeWork rs	2.44	+.39	+19.0	TrueBlue	10.82	-3.09	-22.2	Kenvue n	1698031	18.21	-1.53
GolLinhs	3.13	+.48	+18.1	ExproGp	15.90	-4.49	-22.0	Pfizer	1615355	30.11	54
FTI Cnslt 2			+16.0	Whrlpl	102.10	-26.90	-20.9	Carnival	1520879	11.13	+.10
DeckrsOut 5	76.37	+78.78	+15.8	LifeTime	11.46	-2.99	-20.7	Vale SA	1494558	13.49	+1.08
Nasdaq G	AINER	S (\$2 o	R MORE)	NASDAQ	Losers	(\$2 OF	MORE)	NASDAQ	ACTIVES	(\$1 OR	MORE)
Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
LianBio	3.90	+2.48	+174.6	LibTrip B h	10.50	-13.24	-55.8	Tesla	5843195	207.30	-4.69
ForbEur un	28.00	+16.91	+152.5	Spectaire	2.34	-2.63	-52.9	Amazon	3919742	127.74	+2.57
AbrSpacl ur	128.99	+17.26	+147.1	Cibus A	10.27	-8.52	-45.3	Intel	3009512	35.54	+.62
GlMofyMet	n10.58	+5.08	+92.4	ShiftPixy r	s 5.07	-4.09	-44.6	Apple Inc s	2856105	168.22	-4.66
ImmunBio	2.48	+1.18	+90.8	Hanryu n	2.07	-1.58	-43.3	MarathDig	2702049	8.86	+1.10
IntegMed rs	2.47	+1.13	+84.3	JowellGl rs	2.63	-1.80	-40.7	AMD	2623790	96.43	-5.38
WEBUY n	4.94	+1.79	+56.8	PopCult rs		-1.33	-37.7	Alphabt A	2557396	122.17	13.43
The9 rs	5.17		+44.4	HarpoonT	rs 4.40	-2.48	-36.0	Nikola	2485189	1.03	+.01
DigitBrnd w			+43.8	Bionomic	2.48	-1.33	-34.9	Nvidia	2228996	405.00	-8.87
PodcastOne	3.14	+.94	+42.7	Genelux n	13.24	-6.90	-34.3	Microsoft	2070245	329.81	+3.14

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST Div Last Chg %Chg %Chg Div Last Chg %Chg %Chg Name -1.4 +6.3 .50 35.54

AFLAC 1.68 76.49 -1.09 +.62 +1.8 +34.5 AT&T Inc 1.11 14.82 -.56 -3.6 -19.5 **IBM** 6.64 142.52 +5.36 +3.9 +1.2 AMD 1.60 96.43 -5.38 -5.3 Inv QQQ 1.16 345.31 -9.29 -2.6 +29.7 Kroger LincNat +.30 Alphabt C 123.40 -13.34 -9.8 +39.1 1.16 44.43 +0.7 122.17 -13.43 -9.9 1.80 21.32 -3.0 +38.5 Alphabt A . Amazon 127.74 +2.57 +2.1 +52.1 Lowes 4.40 183.62 -5.78 -3 1 -7.8 .40 10.92 LumiraDx -86.7 AmAirlines -.16 -14.2 .12 +.03 +34.8 -1.4 3.52 74.93 +1.58 AEP +2.2 -21.1 MarathDig 8.86 +1.10 +14.2 +159.1 Apple Inc s 6.68 255.76 .96 168.22 -4.66 -2.7 +29.5 McDnlds -2.35 -0.9 -2.9 1.28 131.30 -2.82 -2.1 . 296.73 -11.92 Meta Plt AultAlinc rs .14 +.00 +2.1 micromobl rs -.00 -2.6 -100.0 1.74 38.64 -.97 -2.4 +10.6 3.00 329.81 +3.14 Microsoft MulinAuto rs .28 4.72 +.04 +14.3 -.03 -0.6 BkofAm .96 25.17 -1 14 -4.3 -24.0 2.28 51.02 -9.6 -29.1 BrMySq -5.44 NL Inds 1.48 40.44 +.72 5.20 238.56 -10.64 1.00 25.15 ... 1.03 CampSp +1.8 -28.7 NiSource -.07 -0.3 -8.3 -52.3 -4.3 Nikola +.01 +1.0 Caterpillar 5.40 184.53 -17.17 Chevron 6.04 144.35 -22.48 -13.5 -19.6 NorflkSo -8.5 2 04 148 11 +6 75 +4 8 +12 4 Cisco 1.56 51.56 -1.37 -2.6 +8.2 Nucor Citigroup 2.12 38.24 -1.44 -3.6 -15.5 .16 405.00 -8.87 -2.1 +177.1 CocaCola 1.84 55.24 +.67 +1.2 -13.2 Nxu Inc A .04 -.01 -20.5 -98.9 DxSOXB 13.37 +1.00 +8.1 -66.2 15.07 -1.04 -6.5 +134.7 Palantir 2.48 15.10 -.35 -1.54 5.06 159.62 1.60 30.11 -.38 -.54 -11.6 -41.2 DxBiotBII -12.4 -64.9 PepsiCo -0.2 4.08 +.14 -46.5 -8.7 PrUltPQ ProShtQQQ 31.30 11.35 31.30 -2.79 -8.2 +80.9 11.35 +.31 +2.8 -22.9 22.75 +1.67 +7.9 -57.9 Dir30TrBul +3.6 -4.0 Disney Eaton 2.92 195.31 +1.32 +0.7 +24.4 PShtQQQ 3.98 324.19 -7.00 4 52 560 23 -24 41 EliLilly SpdrDJIA -4.2 +53.1 ExxonMbl 3.64 105.55 S&P500ETF 4.13 410.68 -10.51 .60 9.96 -1.68 -14.4 .90 84.00 -1.17 -1.4 9.30 6.87 FordM -14.4 SnapInc A SoFiTech rankElec +5.3 .46 31.45 -.75 1.70 104.11 +5.16 .30 33.67 .32 106.35 -.21 +.27 -0.6 +0.3 rptMcM -11.4 SPDR Fncl +63.4 StlDynam GenElec -0.7 -3.5 ... 207.30 -4.69 2.66 33.44 +1.87 1.05 25.84 -.17 -3.8 Tesla 8.36 276.46 -9.95 -12.5 lomeDp VerizonCm ShChinaLC .87 25.67 +.64 +2.6 -9.3 WalMart 2.28 161.17 +2.41 1.92 21.14 -.12 2.80 161.38 +4.80 -0.6 -43.4 iSh20 vrT 3.05 84.37 +1.13 +1.4 -15.3 WalgBoots 5.09 72.36 +.43 +0.6 1.77 162.21 -4.23 -2.5 -1.7 -7.0 ShiBxHYB 5.09 72.36 WellsFargo 1.20 38.76 -1.51

Money	RATES	3
	Last	Pvs Day
Prime Rate	8.50	8.50
Discount Rate	6.00	6.00
Federal Funds Rate	5.33	5.33
Treasuries		
1-year	5.40	5.39
2-year	5.01	5.04
5-year	4.76	4.79
10-year	4.84	4.84
30-year	5.01	4.99

	CURRENCIES											
		Last	Pvs Day									
	Australia	1.5784	1.5801									
_	Britain	1.2115	1.2135									
_	Canada	1.3878	1.3815									
_	Euro	.9463	.9469									
-	Japan	149.52	150.38									
-	Mexico	18.1023	18.1296									
-	SwitzerInd	.9015	.8990									
-	British pound	expressed in U.S.	dollars. All									

others show dollar in foreign currency MUTUAL FUNDS

	1110	IOAL	I OND				
		otal Asse		To	tal Returr	/Rank	Pct
Name	Obj	(\$MIns)	NAV	4-wk	12-mo	5-year	Load
American Funds AmrcnBalA m	MA	91,306	28.83	-2.1	+4.7/C	+6.0/B	5.75
American Funds EuroPacGrA m	FG	18,801	49.20	-3.3	+8.9/C	+4.2/C	5.75
American Funds FdmtlInvsA m	LB	58,884	63.47	-3.0	+11.2/A	+9.0/D	5.75
American Funds GrfAmrcA m	LG	110,638	56.60	-4.1	+12.8/D	+9.8/D	5.75
American Funds IncAmrcA m	AL	71,110	21.25	-2.8	+1.0/E	+5.3/D	5.75
American Funds InvCAmrcA m	LB	70,682	44.65	-3.1	+14.2/A	+9.4/D	5.75
American Funds NwPrspctvA m	WG	51,223	50.58	-3.9	+11.6/B	+9.5/A	5.75
American Funds WAMtInvsA m	LB	71,636	51.29	-2.7	+6.5/D	+9.6/C	5.75
Davis NYVentureA m	LB	4,127	23.67	-3.6	+17.3/A	+6.6/E	4.75
Dodge & Cox Stkl	LV	59,978	213.63	-5.4	+4.4/A	+9.3/A	NL
Fidelity 500ldxlnsPrm	LB	414,299	143.00	-3.6	+10.0/B	+11.0/A	NL
Fidelity Contrafund	LG	97,416	14.53	-2.3	+22.0/A	+12.1/B	NL
Fidelity TtlMktldxInsPrm	LB	74,006	113.64	-4.1	+8.2/C	+10.2/C	NL
Fidelity Advisor EquityGrowthA m	1 LG	1,666	14.57	-2.9	+14.5/C	+14.1/A	5.75
Fidelity Advisor GrowthOppsA m	LG	3,117	106.06	-3.7	+15.0/C	+14.4/A	5.75
George Putnam BalA m	MA	1,175	20.34	-2.4	+7.7/A	+7.2/A	5.75
INVESCO MnStrA m	LB	7,636	45.99	-4.2	+8.4/C	+8.8/D	5.50
PIMCO Inclnstl	MU	75,756	10.03	-1.3	+5.2	+2.1	NL
Putnam DiversIncA m	NT	545	5.21	-0.6	+0.1/D	-0.9/E	4.00
Putnam SustLeadersA m	LG	4,668	94.77	-2.8	+7.5/E	+11.3/B	5.75
Putnam TEIncA m	ML	519	7.14	-2.2	+2.9/B	+0.3/C	4.00
Schwab SP500ldx	LB	71,356	63.83	-3.1	+9.8	+11.1	NL
Thornburg IntermMnA m	MI	261	12.61	-0.7	+2.3/D	+0.8/C	2.00
Thornburg LtdTrmUSGvtA m	GS	43	11.40	-0.3	+0.2/E	-0.5/E	2.25
Vanguard 500ldxAdmrl	LB	410,264	380.14	-3.6	+9.9/B	+11.0/A	NL
Vanguard GrldxAdmrl	LG	58,840	135.10	-2.8	+20.5/A	+13.7/A	NL
Vanguard InTrTEAdmrl	MI	65,806	12.87	-1.1	+3.0/B	+1.3/A	NL
Vanguard PrmCpAdmrl	LB	60,496	144.70	-4.7	+14.1/A	+10.4/B	NL
Vanguard TrgtRtr2025Fd	TG	72,179	17.07	-2.4	+5.6	+4.8	NL
Vanguard TrgtRtr2030Fd	TH	81,553	32.20	-2.7	+6.2	+5.3	NL
Vanguard TrgtRtr2035Fd	ΤI	82,364	19.94	-2.9	+6.8	+5.9	NL
Vanguard TrgtRtr2040Fd	TJ	72,165	35.18	-3.1	+7.5	+6.4	NL
Vanguard TrgtRtr2045Fd	TK	68,781	23.70	-3.3	+8.1	+7.0	NL
Vanguard TtBMldxAdmrl	CI	93,873	9.04	-1.0	+0.1/B	-0.1/B	NL
Vanguard TtlnSldxAdmrl	FB	67,020	27.44	-4.1	+10.8/D	+3.9/C	NL
Vanguard TtlnSldxInv		168,365	16.41	-4.1	+10.8/D	+3.9/C	NL
Vanguard TtlSMIdxAdmrl		305,081	98.85	-4.0	+8.2/C	+10.2/C	NL
Vanguard WIngtnAdmrl	MA	88,290	66.66	-1.8	+5.8/B	+6.8/A	NL

CA -Conservative Allocation, CI -Intermediate-Term Bond, FB -Foreign Large Blend, GS -Short Government, IB -World Bond, IH -World Allocation, LB -Large Blend, LG -Large Growth, LV -Large Value, MA -Moderate Allocation, MI -Muni National Intermediate, ML -Muni National Long, NT -Nontraditional Bond, WS -World Stock, Total Return: Chng in NAV with dividends reinvested. Rank: How fund performed vs. others with same objective: A is in top 20%, E in bottom 20%. Source: Morningstar.

Stock Footnotes: g = Dividends and earnings in Canadian dollars. h = Does not meet continued-listing standards. If = Late filing with SEC. n = New in past 52 weeks. pf = Preferred. rs = Stock has undergone a reverse stock split of at least 50 percent within the past year. rf 1 = Right to buy security at a specified price. s = Stock has split by at least 20 percent within the last year. un = Units. vj = In bankruptcy or receivership. wd = When distributed. wi = When issued. wt = Warrants. Mutual Fund Footnotes: b = Fee covering market costs is paid from fund assets. d = Deferred sales charge, or redemption fee, f = front load (sales charges), m = Multiple fees are charged. Market a not available, p = previous day's net asset value, s = fund split shares during the week x = fund paid a distribution during the week. Source: The Associated Press. Sales figures are unofficial.

Marriage suffers due to wife's spending

Dear Annie: I am in my mid-30s and she uses. Her only have never married or been engaged. I'm feeling frustrated, hopeless and depressed most of the time because of this. Is there really hope? — Depressed Help-Seeker

Dear Help-Seeker: Of course there's hope. I imagine it can be difficult to see your friends and loved ones hit life milestones you feel quite far away from achieving yourself. Remember, there is no exact timeline for when you should be in a serious romantic relationship.

If you're really committed to finding a partner, try browsing online dating sites. Are there new hobbies or activities you could pursue where you could meet people with similar values and interests? Perhaps one of your close friends could see you hitting things off with someone they know and can initiate a meeting.

It is easier said than done, but don't be discouraged. Romantic partnership is a big part of life, but it's not everything. There are so many other ways to feel fulfilled, happy and successful aside from having a boyfriend or husband. Oftentimes, when we stop focusing on the negative or forcing something to happen, things fall into place perfectly on their

Dear Annie: I've been married for 33 years. My wife has children and grandchildren from a different marriage. She has a wonderful job and makes great money. I am now retired. I have a nice little nest egg from my pension.

About 15 years ago, while we had a joint checking account that I trusted her to be in charge of, I found out she was giving away all our extra money to her children and keeping just enough to pay the bills. I decided we would have to have our own bank accounts. She got a loan in 2017 for \$21,000 to pay off her credit cards, which she paid off in 2019. When I retired in 2020, I paid off her credit cards once more and a new car hoping to encourage her to stop spending and start saving.

Since January of 2020, she has made \$69,000 in bonus money. She says she has \$15,000 left in her other bank that

credit card that I have seen, and she has more than one, is back up to \$10,000. Added up since last January, she has given away \$54,000, mostly to her



Dear

Annie

by Annie Lane

None of her bonus money buys anything for

daughter.

our household or marriage. She has no retirement savings, 401Ks or anything. She had a 401K through her work but took that money out and doesn't recall what it was used for. She is 67 years old. I recently told her that she needs to get help with her spending and that I would support her and stand by her through this. She has decided not to seek help and says she can stop spending on her

I have seen this movie over and over for too many years. I live with a woman who has two lives, but her life with her "sponge family" seems more important to her. I'll take any advice. — Hopeless

Dear Hopeless: Your wife's financial decisions seem to be motivated differently; on one hand, she blows money in a way you've defined as a serious spending problem. On the other hand, quite a bit of money is going to her daughter. I can't help but wonder if her daughter is has something drastic happened in her life where she needs access to a large chunk of money quickly?

Ultimately, you and your wife need to have an open, honest conversation about your finances. Whether you decide to sit down with a financial adviser to figure out a plan for your joint finances or you keep things entirely individually instead. you must lay everything out on the table for money's sake and your marriage's sake – before you can move toward a resolution.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

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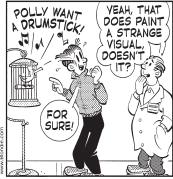




BLONDIE







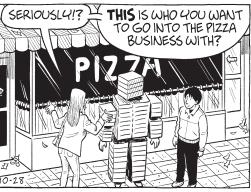
ZITS







CRANKSHAFT





My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham

Q: There are many of my friends who identify as Christians, but nothing about how they live portrays how Scripture defines those who follow Christ. Is it fair to say that they are cultural Christians? -C.C.

A: Christian living presupposes Christian conviction. But unfortunately, it is possible to have beliefs that do not find expression in conduct. This belief of the head is often confused with real faith. The simple truth is, one really believes only that which one acts upon.

There are people who claim to believe God's Word and identify as Christians, but their lives do not reflect the transfor-

We need a revival of Christian example

mative work of God. The words of Jesus answer this question: 'By their fruits you

will know them" (Matthew 7:20). After being born again — receiving Christ as Lord and Savior — we are to demonstrate our faith by our works [conduct].

Effective Christians down through history have been people of great personal discipline. The connection between the words disciple and discipline is obvious. To be a true, effective disciple of Christ we must seek to discipline our lives and endeavor to walk even as He walked.

The thing that has hindered the progress of the church is not so much our talk and our creeds; but it has been our walk, our conduct, our daily living. We need a revival

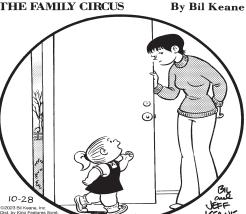
of Christian example, and that can only come when professed followers of Christ begin to practice Christian discipline. Where do we begin? Having found the life that is in Christ, strict personal discipline leads to a full-bodied, rich, and complete life.

We must have a desire to follow Christ with a disciplined mind and tongue. We mustn't give Satan a foothold (see Ephesians 4:27), but walk in the footsteps of Jesus. He does not discipline us to subdue us but to condition us for a life of usefulness and blessedness.

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

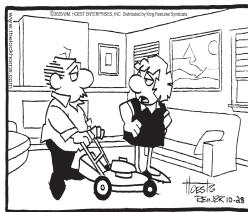
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"If you're lookin' for Daddy, he's over helping Mr. Rice watch the game."

The LOCKHORNS



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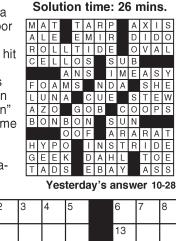
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King Classic Sudoku

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Difficulty: ★★★★

10/28

DRIVER: LOCAL

Help Wanted

pickup or delivery and transport in Ft. Wayne area of both

legal and oversized loads. Per-

sonalized dispatch, great pay

with weekly direct deposit, ex-

cellent health, disability, life

ins., 401K, and well-main-

tained equipment. Must have a

good Class A CDL record and 3 years in a like

Sycamore Specialized Carri-

ers, Inc., 3400 Engle Road, Ft.

Wayne, IN 46809, Phone: 260-478-6377 ext 340 or

recruiting@sycamoretrkg.com

Public Notices

Alcohol & Tobacco Commission

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

of Wells County, Indiana will hold a public hearing at 9:00 am on November 08, 2023 at the Wells Carnegie Govt Annex Multi Pur-

pose Room 105, 223 W Washington St in the city of Bluffton in said

county, to investigate the propriety of holding an alcoholic beverage

permit by the applicants listed

DL9033029 Beer & Wine Deal-er - Grocery Store RENEWAL BLUFFTON OIL INC. 1730 N Main St Bluffton IN

D/B/A BLUFFTON OIL INC

Sukhjinder Dhillon 2244 Hampton Drive Franklin, Secretary
GURPREET SINGH 116 E

ROCHESTER ST Akron, President

90C01-2310-FU-000049

JIANA

CIRCUIT COURT IN THE MATTER OF THE)

Deceased)
NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that MARGO MELCHING was, on the 20th day of October, 2023, appointed personal representative

of the estate of WILLIAM J. SUL-LIVAN, deceased, who died on July 25, 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 with-

in 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

Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, this 20th day of October, 2023.

Timothy K. Babcock Attorney No. 21526-90 DALE, HUFFMAN & BABCOCK

90C01-2310-EU-000048 STATE OF INDIANA)

CIRCUIT COURT IN THE MATTER OF THE)

Deceased
NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that LAURA K. BOLLINGER was, on

the 19th day of October, 2023, appointed personal representative

of the, estate of JOAN MENDEN-

HALL, deceased, who died on December 5, 2022, and was authorized to administer said estate

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 with-

in 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

Dated at Fort Wayne, Indiana, this 19th day of October, 2023.

Kristin L. Steckbeck Attorney No. 27029-02 DALE, HUFFMAN & BABCOCK

30 Premier Avenue

Attorney for Estate

(260) 824-5566

Bluffton, Indiana 46714

Beth Davis Clerk, Wells Circuit Court

nb 10/28, 11/4

without court supervision.

30 Premier Avenue

Attorney for Estate

WELLS COUNTY

ESTATE OF JOAN MENDENHALL,

Bluffton, Indiana 46714 (260) 824-5566

Beth Davis Clerk, Wells Circuit Court

nb 10/28, 11/4

IN THE WELLS

WELLS COUNTY

ESTATE OF WILLIAM J. SULLIVAN,

nb 10/28

IN THE WELLS

herein to wit:

The Alcohol Beverage Board

years in a like profession.

LOCAL

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. 20year 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 under "Job Opportunities". A full job description will also be listed on the website for re-

OTR DRIVERS: TRANSPORT Oversize loads inc. windmill components. Opportunity for contracted lane to California to Texas and return. Personalized dispatch, great pay with weekly direct deposit, excellent health, disability, life ins., 401K, and well-maintained Must have a good Class A CDL record and 3 years in a like profession. Sycamore Specialized Carriers, 3400 Engle Road, Ft. Wayne, IN 46809, Phone: 260-478-6377 ext 340 or recruiting@sycamoretrkg.com



JOIN THE BEST- HIRING **CARPENTERS** SKILLED With our continued growth we're looking for highly carpenters with at skilled 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 look ing 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 appli-

hireme@jjacksonco.com www.jjacksonco.com



Earn Extra Cash by selling your "Unwanteds"! A 20-word, line classified ad is \$5 for 5 Days! For Sale Items Only. Contact the Bluffton News-Banner office at 125 N. Johnson St., 260-824-0224, or 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.

Help Wanted

OWNER/OPERATORS:

TRANSPORT Oversize loads inc. windmill components. Opportunity for contracted lane to California to Texas and return if you have a 4-axle unit that is California legal. Personalized dispatch, great pay with week-ly direct deposit, FSC, bobtail and OCC/ACC insurance available. Must have a good Class A CDL record, 3 years in a like profession, and DOT certified equipment. Sycamore Specialized Carriers, Inc., 3400 Engle Road, Ft. Wayne, 46809, IN 46809, Phone: 260-478-6377 ext 340 or recruiting@sycamoretrkg.com

VEHICLES

Auto/Trucks

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

SERVICES

Services

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

Public Sale Calendar

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. Sale manager, Patrick Carter, The Steffen Group Inc., www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-

BIDDING NOW OPEN AND STARTS CLOSING NOVEM-BER 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. 2, 3-5 p.m., 812 Elm St., Decatur. Pick up times: 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 trac-tor, 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., www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

NOVEMBER 27 - 6 p.m. Pamela & Rick Myers, owners. Auction conducted at Wells County 4-H Community Center, 1240 4-H Park Road, Bluffton, IN. Land located at County Rd. 100 N & State Rd. 116, NW corner of Bluffton. 118.91 acres, Sec. 28 & 33, Lancaster Twp., Wells County. These farms will be offered in the following tracts, and/ or combined. Tract 1: 26.18 acres. Tract 2: 92.73 acres. Auctioneer: Jody Holloway, 260-273-0999, Holloway Auction Company, Inc., 260-824-5060, www.HollowayAuction. **DECEMBER 5 - 2 p.m.-6 p.m.** ET. (Online) - Farm: Good-win Trust. Property location: 2 miles north of Markle, IN at the intersection of N Marzane Road and W 800 N. 157.3+/-total acres, 136.9+/- tillable, 12.2+/- CRP, 8.2+/- non-tillable. Prime farmland, tillable, CRP, Wells County, Union Township. Soil types: Pewamo silty clay loam, Glynwood clay & silt loam, Del Rey-Blount silt loams, Glynwood-Mississinewa clay loam. WAPI: 133.5 corn bu, 40.2 soybeans bu. Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management, 800-424-2324, halderman.com, Rick Johnloz, 260-827-8181.

SUDOKU ANSWER

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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.

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).

Lottery Numbers

Friday's Drawings **HOOSIER LOTTERY**

Cash 5 — 02-05-07-32-41 Cash4Life — 10-12-25-38-51, Cash Ball: 01 **Quick Draw Midday** — 02-03-05-06-07-08-09-11-20-

21-23-25-36-40-46-49-59-61-71-74, BE: 09 Daily Three-Midday — 06-07-09, SB: 08 Daily Three-Evening — 02-01-00, SB: 06 Daily Four-Midday — 08-03-01-00, SB: 08 Daily Four-Evening — 02-07-09-02, SB: 06

Quick Draw Evening — 03-05-16-26-29-34-37-38-41-43-46-47-50-52-63-64-69-76-77-78, BE: 41

Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$41.8 million

MEGA MILLIONS 11-32-43-57-70, Mega Ball: 06, Megaplier: 4X

POWERBALL

Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$125 million

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