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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2023 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00



Ginny Vogel named Volunteer of the Year by Wells Foundation

By BARBARA BARBIERI
With her husband, Andy, and friends in attendance, Ginny Vogel was honored as the Bette A. Erxleben Volunteer of the Year 2023 at a luncheon at Lighted Gardens Thursday.
Those attending the 12th annual event were welcomed by Wells County Foundation President Jessica Bricker with past hon-

oree Tony Garton offering the pre-luncheon invocation.
Following the luncheon, Vogel spoke about her teaching career, her family and her current involvement with Court Appointed Special Advocates. Presenting the award to Vogel, on behalf of the Wells County Foundation, was Stephen Pastore.
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Above, Ginny Vogel, the Wells County 2023 Volunteer of the Year, accepted the award with a speech. Left, Ginny Vogel stands alongside several Wells CASA volunteers, as well as Circuit Court Judge Kenton Kiracofe. (Photos by Sydney Kent)

Bids OK'd for trail and park projects

By HOLLY GASKILL
In a long-awaited conclusion Thursday night, the Bluffton Park Board has unanimously approved bids for the extension of the Interurban Trail and additions to Lancaster Park.
Brooks Construction of Fort Wayne was the apparent low bid to extend the trail to Lancaster Park, coming in at \$670,504. During the board's meeting Thursday, Superintendent Brandy Fiechter said the work was expected to finish by next October.
Meanwhile, Lancaster Park will soon feature three lighted pickleball courts and a new parking lot. Wayne Asphalt of Fort Wayne sub-
(Continued on Page 2)

Petroleum's brigadier general

Charles Barnes reflects on his 34-year 'very fortunate' career

By MARK MILLER
When the 12 members of the Petroleum High School Class of 1953 received their diplomas, it is not likely that any of them imagined one of their classmates would become a brigadier general. Certainly not Charlie Barnes.
"I wanted to be an electrical engineer," says Barnes, now living in southwest Fort Wayne. Ironically, he never earned a college degree of any kind, but nonetheless rose through the ranks to command the Indiana Air National Guard.
The road between Petroleum, Indiana, and being the pilot for Indiana Gov. Otis Bowen — among other

responsibilities — took a few twists and turns. He's never regretted not getting that college diploma and knows he has led "a very fortunate life," as he puts it.
After a year at Purdue University, Barnes transferred his college studies to what was then known as Indiana Technical College in Fort Wayne in order to be closer to a job he had landed in Bluffton.
"I had to work," he recalls now, "it was the only way I could get through school."
What is now the Indiana Institute of Technology on Eash Washington Street was then located in downtown Fort Wayne; Barnes was working at the Hoosier Condensery. "I was either in school or working, seven days a week," he recalls.
Then, fate stepped in.
"There was a friend of the family who was on the county draft board," he shares. "They called and warned me that my name was coming up."
The hostilities in Korea had come to an end, but nonetheless, "I didn't want to be in the Army," he continues, "so I joined the Air National Guard." He remembers the exact date — Dec. 14, 1954.
As he was processing into the service, he was told that if he wanted to and if he could pass a test, he could go to pilot school. "So I thought I'd give that a try," he says. Hence, between Christmas and New Year's, he traveled to Chanute Air Force Base in Rangoon, Illinois, where he went through a battery of tests over three-days' time.
"I remember them as pretty extensive — written, physical and psychological," he recalls. Two months later, he got the word that he had passed the tests and his first "class assignment" would start in March at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. It was a combination of basic military training and officer candidate school.
"Pretty intense," he recalls. "I was starting to second-guess my decision



Charlie Barnes has a number of mementoes of his career in the Indiana Air National Guard in his home office. They include scale models of the fighter jets he flew during that 34-year career. (Photo by Mark Miller)



Then and now...
Above, Gen. Charles R. Barnes at the time of his retirement in 1989 (Photo provided). At left, today in his home in southwest Fort Wayne holding a picture of him greeting then-Vice-President George W. Bush and his wife, Barbara, upon their arrival in Fort Wayne. It was Bush's first campaign stop after the 1988 Republican National Convention had named him the party's presidential nominee. (Photo by Mark Miller)

but I was also determined to not quit" as a number of his classmates did. "I'm glad I stuck it out."
Next stop was six months in Missouri for some basic flight training in a Piper Cub and a T-6 trainer, both propeller-driven planes; then another six months at Laughlin AFB back in Texas in a two-seater T-33 jet trainer. "Graduation Day was June 28, 1956," he continues. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant and "got my wings."
There would be more training in the F-84 jet fighter class that he would be flying before returning to the Fort Wayne-based 122nd Fighter Wing and his new part-time position in the Indiana Air National Guard.
"So I had to find a job," he says. That would be at what was then Farnsworth Electric, founded by Philo T. Farnsworth, inventor of the television tube.
"I actually got to meet him," Barnes says. "He still had an office there."
That business was soon bought out by ITT — International Telephone and Telegraph — and then Barnes got an offer, and a raise, to move over to the Magnavox Corpo-

ration, working as an electronic technician. All the while he was putting in his required minimum of 100 hours per year in the 122nd's F-84F fighters.
In October 1961, Barnes experienced his first deployment. The assignment required a complicated five-stop trans-Atlantic flight — in-flight refueling had not yet become routine — to a NATO airbase in France, from which the unit flew sorties to protect the air corridor during the Berlin Air Lift crisis.
"There were also Russian planes in the area," he recalls, "but we never had any encounters."
By now, Barnes was a first lieutenant and by late 1962, was back in Fort Wayne splitting his time between the air base and Magnavox. It was in July 1964, that he got a call from the Air National Guard that they wanted him to start full time.
His roles in the ANG were a mixture of technically being both a civilian and a military employee. He continued flying in an F-84F, serving as a flight training instructor. He would eventually also qualify in the
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Volunteer of the Year

(Continued from Page 1)

Pastore noted that, under Vogel's guidance and leadership, the county CASA program has flourished. She has built a dedicated team of volunteers, coordinated with local agencies, and developed effective strategies to guide the volunteers to serve the best interest of children in Wells County.

In addition, he continued, she has devoted many hours to activities at the First Presbyterian Church, as she serves on the Christian Education committee. She has taught Bible school, planned fall festivals and currently teaches a Sunday School class for middle and high school students.

After accepting the award, Vogel gave a short speech. Foundation Director Tammy Slater announced that the \$1,000 award to Vogel was being presented by her to Community Care with Kristen Walker accepting the check.

Vogel was in the teaching field for 36 years and



Teachers and fellow administration from the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District were in attendance at the luncheon to help honor Ginny Vogel. (Photo by Sydney Kent)

retired from the Bluffton-Harrison school system as a guidance counselor in 2019. Following her retirement, she became the organizer of CASA in Wells county with the aid of Circuit Court Judge Kenton Kiracofe. She has trained 19 volunteers in the county to represent children in

court cases.

The Vogels are parents to three adult children (two daughters and one son) and five grandchildren.

The Bette A. Erxleben Volunteer of the Year award is presented annually by the Wells County Foundation, with the award being named after the foundation's

first director.

Past recipients of the award since 2011 have been: Carol Baker, Joan Furey, Beth Lampton, Howard Rich, Barbara Barbieri, Lynn Elliott, Jim Schwartzkopf, Wanda Smith, Becky Goshorn, Tony Garton and Michael Carter.

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Petroleum's general

(Continued from Page 1)

F-100 and the F-4 fighters.

In 1980, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel and transferred to the Terre Haute ANG base as both group commander and air commander. In 1984, he was promoted to full colonel and assigned as the wing commander in Fort Wayne but he and his family would not move back to Fort Wayne until a year later.

He received his general's star in early 1985, still flying on a regular basis, which was unusual. "Just lots more paperwork," he relates with a chuckle. "I signed my name lots and lots of times. It got so you couldn't read it."

There were a number of deployments during those years, to a NATO base in Norway and another in Turkey. Many other deployments for training within the U.S., including Hawaii, which is the closest he came to Vietnam.

"They were using F-100s in Vietnam and we were strictly flying the F-84s at the time," he explains, "which is why we never got that call. So, I've never flown a combat mission which frankly, I am very grateful for that."

Barnes retired on June 28, 1989, having served 34 years and six months.

Barnes' recollections of specific dates includes one more: June 19, 1968.

It was a routine training flight. The then-33-year-old Major Barnes was flying an F-84, doing a flight check of another Wells County pilot. Lt. Henry Gallmeyer was flying another plane at about 15,000 feet right along the southern border of their home county, with Barnes observing.

"My engine just stopped," Barnes recalls. He tried three times to restart it as the plane was losing altitude and velocity. His training was kicking in.

"Things were happening pretty fast," he recalls, "but I still had time to think."

His plane was headed toward Montpelier. "That won't work," he said to himself.

He was able to manipulate the controls to aim the plane towards an open field and then prepared to eject, knowing that the previous four ejections from an F-84 had resulted in fatalities.

"It was called 'seat and chute entanglement,'" he explains. "So I rolled up on the wing." That's pilot-speak to say that he ejected horizontally which did not allow his seat to get higher than himself. He was, obviously, glad to see the seat descending below him and his parachute.

He takes the narrative

from that point, 50-some years later:

"So, I knew I was sort of over Fiat, and the wind was pushing me kind of away from there. I had to kind of fight my chute to try to stay close to a road. After I landed, I saw Virgil Lines running toward me. He had the general store there in Fiat and I'd known him for years."

"So he runs up to me and is panting and asking 'Are you OK? Are you OK?' And I say 'Yeah, I'm all right. How are you doing, Virgil?' And he then recognized me and says 'Charlie, what are you doing here?' and I say, 'Well, I just thought I'd drop in for a visit.'"

"No, really, I didn't say that, but it makes for a good story."

As reported in the next day's News-Banner, Lines had heard what he thought was a sonic boom "but thought nothing of it until a neighbor pointed to the distant figure of a parachute," the story reported. He then jumped into his pickup truck to help whoever that might be. Lines subsequently took Barnes to his store where they contacted the Indiana State Police. Meanwhile, Gallmeyer circled the area to ensure the plane landed in an open area and that Barnes had landed safely before heading back to the base.

The crash, of course, was quite newsworthy in Bluffton and Fort Wayne, "but I never talked to the media," he says now. "I let our PR people take care of that."

Indeed, he is not quoted in either of the News-Banner accounts. The many details about the event came from "family members," the reports stated.

"And later on I was shown a front-page story in the New York Times about it," Barnes added.

"So, I joined a new club that day," he continues. "The 'Caterpillar Club' — people whose lives have been saved by a parachute. I understand the name comes from the chutes being made out of silk."

Charlie Barnes has been retired now for almost as long as his career had been. For many years, he and his wife Carol split their time between a home on Big Otter Lake and another in Venice, Florida.

Their blended family also kept them busy. Barnes and his first wife, the former Beverly Weaver of Bluffton, had three children — a son and two daughters. Carol also had a son and two daughters from her first marriage. He now counts 10 grandchildren and 13 "greats."

The couple traveled "as



Charlie Barnes was able to go on one of the Northeast Indiana Honor Flights in October 2017, escorted by his oldest daughter, Trudy Hughes, left. (Photo provided)



Pictured above is two News-Banner clippings from June 1968 after then-Major Charles Barnes had to bail out of his disabled jet over his home county. The story also made the front page of the New York Times.

much as we could, but I could never get her to go on a cruise," he says. The most memorable trip was an extended tour of Europe.

When maintaining two homes and the travel between them became too much, they bought a villa in a newer development off Covington Road in 2013. Carol's declining health had also become a factor in that decision. She passed away eight years ago. They'd been married for 41 years.

Now 88, he is determined to live independently as long as he can. He keeps busy with activities in his community, including serving on the association board. He had always enjoyed annual reunions with fellow Petroleum High School gradu-

ates, but the pandemic has apparently put an end to those. Barnes particularly enjoys his membership in the Quiet Birdmen Club, an international group of retired military pilots.

"One more thing," he shares, "I once drove a stock car in a race up in Angola."

It seems that several radio stations put together a promotion in which 10 military pilots got the opportunity to race after some training runs that included time trials. Being the highest ranking pilot there, a general, he got the fastest car.

"And I won," he says, chuckling. "I have a perfect record. Undeclared."

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No mail delivery Saturday, so N-B delivery will be delayed for a day

Due to Saturday being a federal holiday, Veterans Day, the mail will not be delivered and therefore home delivery of The News-Banner will be delayed one day.

This means Saturday's paper will be delivered with Monday's paper.

Our website will be updated with Saturday's content and e-edition as usual that day as well.

Papers will be available for sale on newsstands.

Weather

Friday, November 10, 2023

(24-hour observations at 8:43 p.m. Thursday)

High: 57; Low: 45; Precipitation: None
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.16 feet at 8:45 p.m. Thursday

Wells County forecast

Today: Sunny, with a high near 55. West wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 29. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Veterans Day: Sunny, with a high near 49. Northwest wind around 5 mph becoming northeast in the afternoon.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 29. East wind around 5 mph.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 51.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 32.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 56.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 30.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 55.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 35.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 59.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 39.



Park bids

(Continued from Page 1)

mitted the apparent low bid of \$284,321 for the project. Fiechter said these additions should be completed by July.

Both bid packages were approved 3-0; board members Rick McEvoy, Susan Campbell and Christine Zadyak approved, and John Gerber was absent.

Additionally, the board agreed to meet on the second Thursday of the month in 2024. Fiechter advised this would allow her the time to get finalized month-end totals for board meetings.

Other updates were:

- The board permitted several year-end financial transfers to repair the bed of a department pickup truck and purchase a new lawnmower for Lancaster Park.
- Fiechter noted a strong turnout for "Boo in Bluffton," with 3,691 recorded

passing through the event.

- Recognized the following donations: \$300 from Robert and Ann Meyer, \$200 from Jeffrey and Linda McAfee, \$50 from Blair and Deborah Brown, \$50 from Danny and Rose Ann Debut, \$1,000 from Mark and Barbara Gerber, and \$450 from Rick King, a tulip tree from the Lion's Club, \$500 from Paddlefish Solar and \$100 from American Legion Auxiliary Post 11 for Boo in Bluffton, and \$220 in memorial donations and \$250 from TTG for Rock Steady Boxing. Additionally, Three River Federal Credit Union volunteered 33 hours of community service to paint the Lion's Park garage.
- The department received a \$750 marketing grant from the Wells County Convention and Visitors Commission.

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OBITUARIES

Terry S. Hampton, 56

Terry S. Hampton, 56, of Bluffton, passed away early Wednesday morning, Nov. 8, 2023, at his home in the loving care of his family.

He was born July 31, 1967, in New York to Larry and Brenda H. (Collins) Hampton.

Terry attended Belmont High School and drove for First Fleet for over 27 years. He enjoyed driving race cars at Montpelier Speedway and playing the guitar.

He was a very handy person and always had a project going at his home. He attended First Church of Christ and Christian New Light Church in Bluffton.

On March 25, 1988, in Darrtown, Ohio, Terry and Jodi (Berry) Hampton were married.

Survivors include his wife Jodi Hampton of Bluffton; and two daughters, Teri (Tim) Morgan of Huntington and Emily (Trevor McCullough) Hampton of Decatur. Terry was a loving PaPoo to his two grandchildren, Braxton and Cayden McCullough of Decatur. He is also survived by his father, Larry Hampton of Berne; and siblings, Anita Hampton of Decatur and Eddie Hampton of Convoy, Ohio.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Brenda H. Hampton.

Visitation will take place from noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023, at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home with Pastor Nate Marrow officiating. Entombment will follow at the Northridge Community Mausoleum at Fairview Cemetery.

Memorials may be made in Terry's memory to the Glioblastoma Foundation.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the family at www.thomarich.com.



Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:
Wednesday, 2:08 p.m., Inteva. Caller reported child in vehicle while parent was in work.

Wednesday, 2:39 p.m., 400 block of West Wabash Street. Welfare check requested, subject was arguing about who was living in residence.

Wednesday, 5:57 p.m., Walmart. Man warned for trespassing at Walmart.

Wednesday, 6:38 p.m., Redimed. Report of a man in roadway. Man given ride to Lowes.

Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., West Silver Street and Clark Avenue. Officer assisted with placing manhole cover back correctly.

Wednesday, 10:29 p.m., South Main and East Spring

streets. Driver cited for speeding.

Thursday, 2:18 a.m., Bluffton Regional Medical Center. Subject issued trespass warning after refusing treatment and refusing to leave.

Thursday, 6:36 a.m., North Main Street and Hillcrest Road. Car versus deer.

Thursday, 6:46 a.m., North Main Street and Oak Forest Drive. Woman needed assistance after vehicle broke down near construction lane causing traffic hazard. Cars need gas to drive. Officer followed woman to gas station.

Thursday, 11:46 a.m., North Main Street and Oak Forest Drive. Officer gave woman ride to appointment after her vehicle broke down.

County:
Wednesday, 3:04 p.m.,

Wells County Jail. Power company reported damage to pole. Officer located combined with damage to right side and contacted driver. Driver said he didn't know who to contact and gave insurance information.

Wednesday, 3:15 p.m., 1400 block of West 100 South, Bluffton. Driver cited for speeding 80 in a 55 mph zone.

Wednesday, 7:02 p.m., Ind. 124 and North 600 East, Bluffton. Report of a deer in middle of roadway, caller advised they didn't know if the deer was dead or not. Officer did not locate the deer.

Wednesday, 9:47 p.m., 11600 South 300 West, Montpelier. Report of possible poaching. Officer located raccoon hunters in

the woods, located nothing suspicious in vehicle.

Wednesday, 1:12 a.m., 11000 North Ind. 1, Ossian. Caller reported they believed someone was upstairs, was not home at the time. House was cleared.

Thursday, 7:19 a.m., Silo Farms. Welfare check requested for subject. Subject was fine.

Thursday, 11:11 a.m., 200 block of East Lavever Street, Ossian. Officer checked on student who was not at school. Student was fine and dad advised he would call the school.

FIRES

County:

Thursday, 12:31 p.m., 1200 block of West 400 South. Report of a field fire approximately 30 feet burning.

Ten agencies spent over \$5M on spot bonuses

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation doesn't have the largest headcount, but the relatively small state agency spent an outsized amount of taxpayer dollars on spot bonuses totaling \$1.2 million over two years for a department with 114 employees.

For comparison, the state's largest agency — the Indiana Department of Correction — has 5,149 employees and spent a total of \$1.7 million over the two years analyzed. Combined, 10 of the state's largest agencies spent over \$5 million in bonuses, with average payouts ranging from an IEDC high of \$2,973 to a low of \$231 at the Department of Environmental Management.

Out of the 10 agencies analyzed by the Indiana Capital Chronicle, the IEDC stood out for its hefty, repeated bonuses, including a total of \$52,700 over two years to David Rosenberg, formerly the chief operating officer and chief of staff and now the head of the agency.

Gov. Eric Holcomb defended agency spot bonuses overall, which were revamped as part of his 2022 approach to address low state employee retention, and praised the quasi-public IEDC for superseding its goals.

"The IEDC, being a quasi, has a somewhat different mission in the sense that they're out trying to bring in jobs and capital investment and they have certain goals that we go over in the beginning of every single year and track every single day," Holcomb said during a media scrum on Wednesday. "... Specifically with the IEDC, we set a goal to break records every single year in terms of wages, in terms of new jobs, in terms of capital investment.

"We set a record (in 2021) at \$8.7 billion," Holcomb continued. "Last year, they did \$22.2 billion in capital investment. So not only did they surpass ... they far exceeded it."

The IEDC is a quasi-governmental agency, which means it has greater autonomy and less public transparency.

More on IEDC bonuses

Through a spokesperson, the IEDC shared its 12-page compensation plan and detailed how spot bonus data obtained from the Comptroller's Office actually included three different categories of bonuses: traditional spot bonuses recognizing job performance, incentive compensation bonuses tied to biannual performance reviews and sign-on bonuses used to "recruit top talent."

According to Erin Sweitzer, the agency's vice president of external communications, spot bonuses for 2022 totaled \$10,175 and \$131,850 for 2023. Sign-on bonuses totaled \$6,000 and \$11,500, respectively, while the bulk of the bonuses fall under incentive compensation — \$619,250 for 2022 and \$422,177 for 2023 so far.

Bonuses are tied to the agency's performance, Sweitzer said.

"In conjunction with the IEDC board, our executive team sets aggressive annual goals for our agency to achieve. In 2022 and so far in 2023, our team has greatly exceeded these goals, which have generally been related to committed capital investment, average committed wages, as well as targets related to community investment, entrepreneurship and external engagement," Sweitzer said.

Data showed bonuses from the agency generally went out in waves, including \$292,250 in June 2022, \$327,250 in early November 2022 and \$418,177 in July 2023. Sweitzer said the second biannual bonus for 2022 went out in November, instead of December, because the agency hit its goals early.

The shared compensation guide included the agency's calculation for determining bonuses, which considered a hiring date, whether that goal was exceeded and weighed the goal based on its strategic importance.

"Based on the unprecedented success of the IEDC — record levels of new committed capital investment; growing new future-focused industries like energy, semiconductors and electric vehicles; investing \$1 billion in quality of place initiatives across the state through READI; and creating countless new job opportunities for Hoosiers with record-high average wages that are above the national average wage — these agency goals have been exceeded, and employees have received standard performance-based bonuses as set by the agency guidelines," Sweitzer continued.

She noted that spot bonuses alone "generally adhere" to guidelines from the State Personnel Department, which caps such awards at \$1,000 and doesn't include multiple perks per year.

Sweitzer said such bonuses were at the discretion of the department's executive team and employees received multiple awards at times when they had "earned a promotion and/or pay increase" but salaries couldn't be adjusted at the same time due to "financial and administrative constraints."

"We occasionally use spot bonuses (sometimes multiple in a year) as a tool to make those employees' compensation 'whole' until their pay increase can take effect," Sweitzer concluded.

Big bucks at state agencies

The ICC's analysis of 10 key state agencies' spot bonus-

State revenue under projections for first time this fiscal year

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle

The state of Indiana took nearly \$1.5 billion into its General Fund in October, but the amount was under projections for the first time this fiscal year. The year began in July.

The state budget plan predicted revenues of about \$1.6 billion but collections were short \$139 million: almost 9 percent below expectations, according to a monthly revenue report. In comparison, the revenue was down \$186.8 million year-over-year.

Although revenue in the three months prior to October was slightly higher than anticipated — ranging from 0.1 percent to 3 percent above projections — October's lower revenues put the state below its year-to-date projection by 1 percent.

Collections on individual gross income came in 17 percent below expectations, while sales and use taxes were nearly 6 percent below.

"This month's lower-than-expected performance is mostly driven by individual income tax and should be interpreted within the context of the fiscal year-to-date perspective and the full fiscal year outlook," a fiscal commentary said. "Notably, October individual income tax revenues were \$104.1 million below monthly estimate while September and August individual income tax revenues were \$81.0 million and \$53.1 million above their respective monthly estimates."

Rep. Greg Porter, D-Indianapolis, called the October performance "sobering." He said a move last year to help Indiana small business owners calculate their taxes in a manner that helped them save money on their federal taxes is now resulting in a loss of state revenue.

And he noted sales taxes have been down for months. "Hopefully, we can collectively use the bad news of last month's revenue collections as a moment to pause and reflect on the fact that even though we had a couple of exceptional years when it came to revenue collections and record surplus amounts, there is a still a business cycle that inevitably has as many downturns as upturns when it comes to tax collections and sound budgetary and policies must flow from accepting that real world fact," Porter said.

Riverboat wagering taxes were about 14 percent under, with racino wagering 7 percent under.

But corporate taxes slightly outperformed expectations by nearly 4 percent and a collection of other smaller taxes did nearly 39 percent better than projected.

The monthly collections fund Indiana's biannual budget. The last time the state missed revenue projections was April 2023, and by just \$3 million.

Outgoing Gov. Eric Holcomb, a Republican, signed his final budget bill — worth \$44 billion — in May.

Election results show state voters mostly supporting school referendums

By ALEKSANDRA APPLETON
Chalkbeat Indiana

Indiana voters across the state showed support for giving their school districts the green light to use millions of dollars in property tax revenue to hire and retain teachers and fund programs and transportation.

Unofficial election results late Tuesday showed voters largely in support of property tax referendums in seven of the 11 districts that placed one on the ballot. Fort Wayne schools, along with three school districts in Hamilton County, all saw strong support throughout the evening for their referendums.

Meanwhile, three districts in Lake County, including the School City of Hammond, saw the opposite from their voters in early returns. But late Tuesday, Lake Station schools' referendum was down by only 14 votes.

Property tax referendums have long been a cornerstone of school funding in the state, but local revenue is especially important now as the federal emergency funding that has supported schools throughout COVID begins to sunset. Due to a change in state law this year, certain districts like the School City of Hammond will also need to share any property tax revenue with charter schools.

Indiana allows districts to ask local residents for three kinds of referendums: construction referendums for renovation and building projects; operating referendums for staff, programs, and services; and safety referendums, the newest type of ballot measure that allows schools to make security improvements and hire school resource officers.

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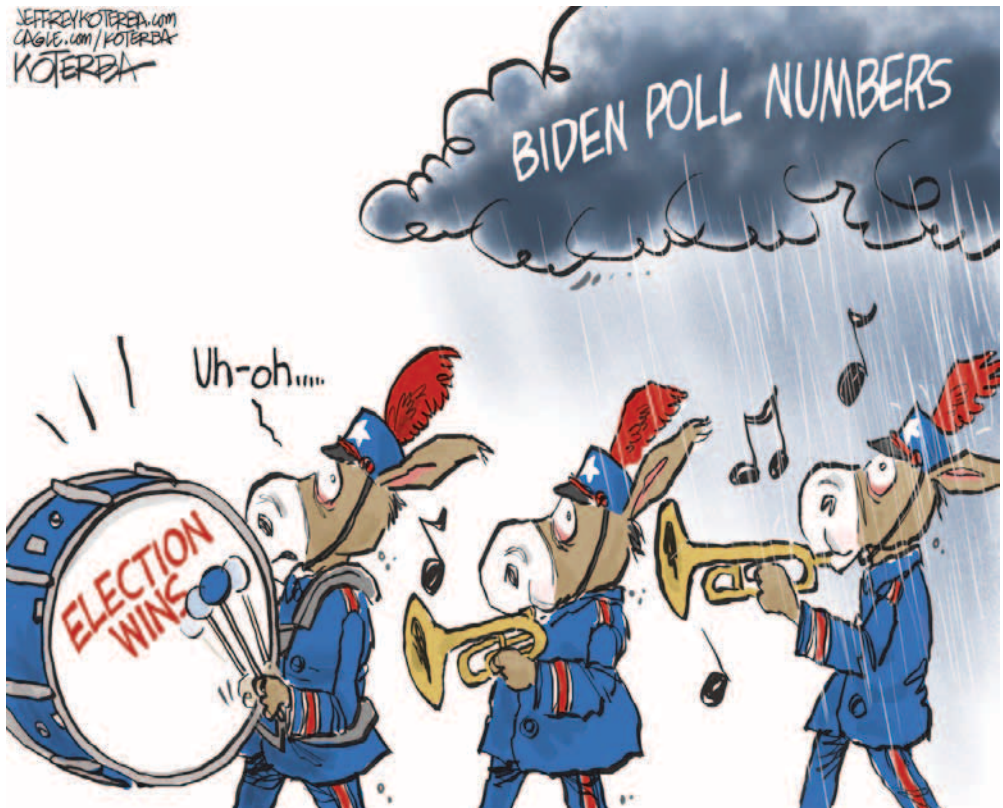
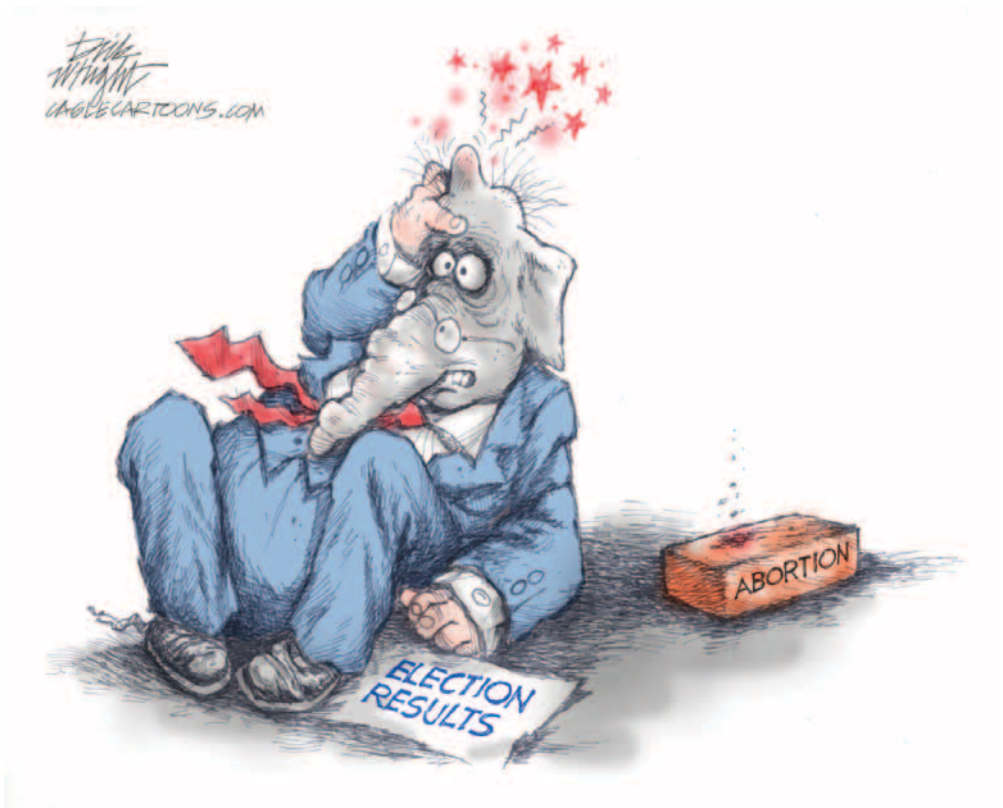
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The Week That Was - a look back through cartoonists' eyes...



Other Opinions

The five-alarm fire for Biden, Democrats

Public-opinion polls are a snapshot in time, and results can change quickly in politics as events intrude. But the polls have been sending Democrats and President Biden the same election warning for months, so perhaps they'll eventually start listening.

The latest Siena College-New York Times poll of six battleground states, released on the weekend, is a five-alarm fire for Democrats a year before the election. It shows Mr. Biden losing to Donald Trump in five of six states on which the 2024 election is likely to hang.

Mr. Biden trails Mr. Trump by 10 points in Nevada, six in Georgia, five in Arizona and Michigan, and four in Pennsylvania. He leads only in Wisconsin in the survey, and there by two points. Those are awful numbers for an incumbent and would add up to more than 300 votes in the Electoral College. Numbers like that could help the GOP pick up Senate seats in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Arizona.

Especially striking is that Mr. Biden does worse than even Vice President Kamala Harris against Mr. Trump. A generic, unnamed Democrat leads Mr. Trump by eight points. This suggests voters have soured on Mr. Biden in particular, and the survey shows 71% of voters think he is too old to run again, including 51% of Democrats.

The usual caveats apply. The election is still a year away, and Mr. Trump has benefited from his relative lack of exposure while being out of office. As voters focus on the election next year, Mr. Trump's manifest liabilities will reassert themselves. And that's before his three criminal trials play out, two of which are scheduled for the first half of next year.

But the results in survey after survey show that Mr. Biden is in perilous re-election shape. His Bidenomics pitch hasn't worked as voters remain sore about rising prices and a fall in real wages during his Presidency. His age and carriage are huge weaknesses even against the 77-year-old Mr. Trump.

The war in the Middle East is now dividing Mr. Biden's coalition, as anti-Israel progressives turn on the President. We think Mr. Biden deserves credit for supporting Israel, and so do most Democrats. But in a closely divided country, even a small defection by a core group of voters can turn a swing state.

All of this should be cause for soul-searching in the Oval Office and with Jill Biden in the private White House residence. There's a compelling case that Mr. Biden can best help his party, and the country, by announcing he won't run again. He can say he wants to focus on helping Ukraine and Israel defend themselves against Russia and terrorist militias, and let younger Democrats take on Mr. Trump.

In 2020 Mr. Biden won as the Democrat most likely to beat Mr. Trump, and he did. But he now risks squandering that legacy by losing to Mr. Trump in a rematch. Mr. Biden surely doesn't want to go down in history as the Democrat who overstayed his welcome and restored Donald Trump to power.

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Veterans understand the threat of isolationism



Nate LaMar

Hoosier Opinions

On each Veterans Day, it is important to pause and see where we are as a country, with respect to our veterans' representation. In 1970, 75% of US House members were veterans. In 1974, 81% of US Senators were veterans. These were the peaks for each body. Now only 17 US Senators (17%) and 82 members of the House (18.9%) are veterans (Pew Research Center). Among the US civilian population today, only 6.2% are veterans (US Census), while fewer than 1% are combat veterans. These days, too many non-veterans in our government are calling the shots, especially on foreign policy.

February will mark the second anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. We just had the one-month anniversary of Hamas' attack on Israel. While the world is distracted by these two wars, China may take advantage and finally invade Taiwan. From the words of some 2024 Presidential candidates, to the votes of a few members of Indiana's Congressional delegation, to pro-Russian and anti-Israeli Facebook posts of a former Muncie School Board member, I am concerned that too many in positions of influence want us to turn our backs on the rest of the world. This is also turning back the clock in a major way.

In 1916, Woodrow Wilson (a non-

veteran) was re-elected President on the theme, "He kept us out of war." Shortly after his second inauguration, President Wilson ate his words and asked Congress to enter the war. Had the USA entered World War I in 1914, instead of 1917, perhaps many more lives could have been saved on both sides.

A generation later, the America First Committee was led by isolationists, including aviator Charles Lindbergh, wanting to prevent entry into World War II (The Economist, October 28, 2023). Many of its members

referred to FDR as "Franklin Delano Rosenberg." Had the USA entered the

campaign of isolationist Ohio Senator Robert Taft (a non-veteran) in Henry County. Thankfully, Taft was barely beaten by Eisenhower at the Republican National Convention. Had Taft been elected President, the USA may have withdrawn from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which would have led to further Communist gains.

Here in Indiana, we have been blessed by leadership from several veterans who understand the threat of isolationism. The late Senator Richard Lugar was a Navy veteran, who chaired the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and helped make the world a safer place through the Nunn-Lugar Soviet Nuclear Threat Reduction Act. Former Senator Dan Coats is an Army veteran, who also served as Ambassador to Germany and most recently as Director of National Intelligence. Senator Todd Young is a Marine Corps veteran, who serves on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and is currently Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on the Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism.

General Douglas MacArthur once said, "The soldier, above all other people, prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war." Yet soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines do not cut and run. On this Veterans Day, let's remember to not turn our backs on our friends and allies. After all, every time history repeats itself, the price goes up.

Nate LaMar, an international manager by profession and a West Point graduate, also served as Henry County Council President from 2009-2019.



Today in History

By The Associated Press
Today is Friday, Nov. 10, the 314th day of 2023. There are 51 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Nov. 10, 1775, the U.S. Marines were organized under authority of the Continental Congress.

On this date:
In 1871, journalist-explorer Henry M. Stanley found Scottish missionary David Livingstone, who had not been heard from for years, near Lake Tanganyika in central Africa.

In 1919, the American Legion opened its first national convention in Minneapolis.

In 1928, Hirohito was enthroned as Emperor of Japan.

In 1944, during World War II, the ammunition ship USS Mount Hood exploded while moored at the Manus

Naval Base in the Admiralty Islands in the South Pacific, leaving 45 confirmed dead and 327 missing and presumed dead.

In 1951, customer-dialed long-distance telephone service began as Mayor M. Leslie Denning of Englewood, New Jersey, called Alameda, California, Mayor Frank Osborne without operator assistance.

In 1954, the U.S. Marine Corps Memorial, depicting the raising of the American flag on Iwo Jima in 1945, was dedicated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in Arlington, Virginia.

In 1969, the children's educational program "Sesame Street" made its debut on National Educational Television (later PBS).

In 1975, the U.N. General Assembly approved a resolution equating Zionism with racism (the world body

repealed the resolution in Dec. 1991).

In 1982, the newly finished Vietnam Veterans Memorial was opened to its first visitors in Washington, D.C., three days before its dedication.

In 2005, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, a former finance minister of Liberia, claimed victory in the country's presidential election.

Today's Birthdays: Blues singer Bobby Rush is 89. Actor Albert Hall is 86. Country singer Donna Fargo is 82. Former Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., is 80. Lyricist Tim Rice is 79. Actor Jack Scalia is 73. Movie director Roland Emmerich is 68. Actor Matt Craven is 67. Actor-comedian Sinbad is 67. Actor Mackenzie Phillips is 64. Author Neil Gaiman is 63. Actor Vanessa Angel is 60. Actor Hugh Bonneville is 60. Actor-comedian Tommy Davidson is 60.

Exhausted by family's lack of effort

Dear Annie: My husband's side of the family has been really close his whole life, and it's a large family. When the pandemic hit, we lost touch with a lot of people. Then we lost a few members of the family in the last couple of years. Included in that loss was my husband's grandfather, who always threw the summer barbecues. It was a great time and the ONLY time my kids ever got to see their cousins and great aunts.

Now my husband and I are currently the only ones on his side of the family who own a house with a small yard and pool. We have been here 13 years and have had many get-togethers where we invited everyone, yet very few people would come. We always give lots of notice. But most are unwilling to drive the 50 minutes to our house after YEARS of us doing that same drive to see everyone.

I'm starting to get annoyed when I see them at a funeral or they send me a message saying how they "miss us all and we should get together real soon!" Because we will then reach out and be blown off. Most of them refuse to even RSVP, which I find incredibly rude when I'm trying to plan food.

The last incident was this summer. I gave everyone five weeks' notice for a big family barbecue. My children were so excited to meet cousins they haven't met before and to see the ones that they haven't seen in years. Most people did not RSVP even after I reached out for one after weeks of silence. But a few families told me they were definite. So I planned for all the definites and for some that might show up.

Only two people showed. Two people! After spending hundreds of dollars on food and making sure the yard looked beautiful and the pool was clean, I had to listen to my children ask me all day long when their cousins would be here. They never came! It broke my kids' hearts, and I'm not

willing to see them like that again, and I'm not willing to waste my time and money anymore.

Also, we are rarely invited to anything unless it's a 48-hour notice for a kid's birthday party.

Am I wrong if I stop inviting everyone to get-togethers other than his siblings?

I'm so annoyed, and I'm afraid I will snap the next time a family member whines that we should see each other more often. — Tired of Trying

Dear Tired of Trying: Of course you are frustrated with your family. Not responding to an invitation is bad enough, but to RSVP yes and then not show up is a new level of rude.

As frustrating as that all is, it's important to at least try to see the situation from their perspectives. The most likely explanation is that they DO want to see you, but they are busy with hectic lives of their own and let your invite fall through the cracks. That's not an excuse, but hopefully this mindset shift can help you let go of some of your resentment.

Moving forward, I would focus on smaller get-togethers with only those family members who are willing to make the effort.

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

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Dear Annie

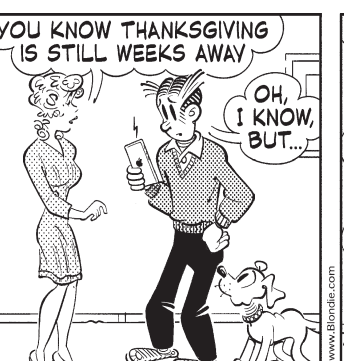
by Annie Lane



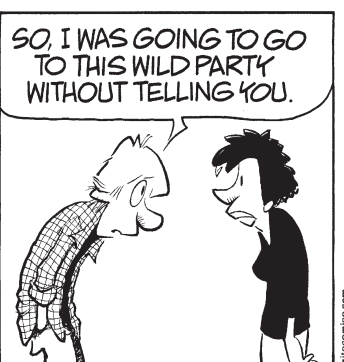
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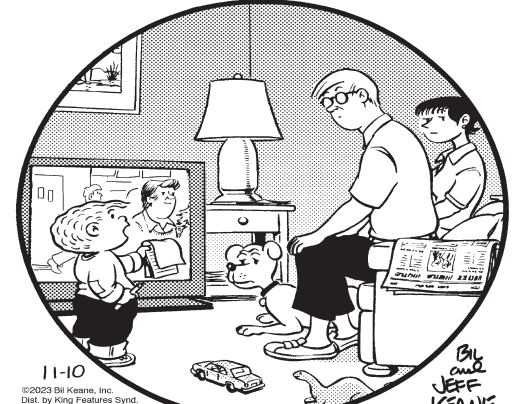
CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



It is God's will for His followers to become more like Christ

Q: It is a struggle to know the will of God, yet as Christians we are instructed to do the will of God. If God expects us to do His will, shouldn't He tell us what it is? — G.W.

A: It is God's will for His followers to become more like Christ. He came to show us the way, but it can only happen as we submit every area of our lives to His authority. The key word is "submit." It is an unpopular word, particularly in today's self-indulgent culture. The idea of handing control over to someone else — even God — goes against the grain of our natures. This is usually the first spiritual battle a new believer encounters —

surrendering self-will for God's will.

Many people argue that it is difficult to discern the will of God, but the problem isn't discernment; it is unwillingness to submit. If people will read His Word and listen for His instruction with an obedient heart, He will lead. If we reject His authority revealed in Scripture, we will never become more like Him. Satan will be the winner and we will be the losers. We will never experience the joy of knowing God's plan for us.

Do others see something of Christ in our life? Do they see a "family resemblance" to the Lord by the way we live? If the answer is no, we must

not let another day go by without committing our life to Him. We must be honest about whatever it is that keeps us from that commitment — and then repent of it and commit to live under His authority. Those who are ignorant of God's Word will always be ignorant of God's will. Further, we must pray as the psalmist: "I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart" (Psalm 40:8, NKJV).

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

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Asian holiday

4 Music booster

7 Gold-loving king

12 — Baba

13 Stephen of "Still Crazy"

14 Keen

15 "Top Gun" target

16 Domino product

18 Summer in Arles

19 Furtive type

20 Belgrade resident

22 Golf's Ernie

23 "Hulk" actor

27 Not 'neath

29 Swapped

31 Cameo shapes

34 Sulk

35 Luggage carrier

37 Tom Collins liquor

DOWN

1 Domesticates

2 Select group

3 Striped cat

4 Curved lines

5 Not as nice

6 Talk show group

7 Pandemic cover-up

8 Hosp. area

9 Burrowed

10 — premium

11 Sun. talk direction

21 Fabric bundles

23 Rural buildings

24 Commotion

25 Ultra-modernist

26 Do sums

28 Compass pt.

30 Hitter's stat

31 Select, with "for"

32 Pledge

33 Celestial altar

36 Campus mil. group

37 Jackson of "A Touch of Class"

40 One in a pod

42 Diminish

43 Monastery figure

44 Chair designer

45 Historic times

46 Take five

48 "Cheers" bartender

49 Actress

Thurman

50 Leg, in slang

51 Santa — winds

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 11-10

11/10	M	A	D1	D2	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM	12:30	
WINM (12)	11	26	63		3D Woman	Julie & Friends	Movie				TCT Today	News-w	Jewish Jesus	James Robison	Dr. Robert Jeffrey	Living in the Light	Andrew Womack	Ask the Pastor		Prop. Com	
CBS WANE (15)	2	2	15	15	News (N)	Inside Edition (N)	News at 6	CBS News (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! Primetime (N)	Let's Make a Deal	Set, Hut! (N)	Raid the Cage	Down, Set, Hut! (N)	Blue Bloods	"My Aim is True" Live! (N)	Nightcast (N)	(35) Late Show-Colbert	(35) Comics Unleashed		
Antenna WANE-2 (152)	106	20			Hawaii Five-0 "Kai e" Malama	Hawaii Five-0 "E	Hawaii Five-0 "Powa	Hawaii Five-0 "Loa	Hawaii Five-0 "Na Me e	Hawaii Five-0 "Ma Kahakai"	Hawaii Five-0 "Ma Kahakai"	Hawaii Five-0 "Ma Kahakai"	Hawaii Five-0 "Ma Kahakai"	Hawaii Five-0 "Ma Kahakai"	Hawaii Five-0 "Ma Kahakai"	Hawaii Five-0 "Ma Kahakai"	Hawaii Five-0 "Ma Kahakai"	Hawaii Five-0 "Ma Kahakai"	Hawaii Five-0 "Ma Kahakai"	Hawaii Five-0 "Ma Kahakai"	Hawaii Five-0 "Ma Kahakai"
ABC WPTA (21)	4	3	21	21	ABC21 News at 5 (N)	ABC21 (N)	ABC World News (N)	ABC21 (N)	Ent. Tonight (N)	ABC News Special	TBA	20/20 Unforgettable true crime mysteries, exclusive newsmaker interviews and investigative reports. (N)	ABC21 (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel Live! (N)	(35) Nightline						
ABC WPTA-2 (212)	7	8	14	14	Family Feud	25 Words or Less	News (N)	NBC News (N)	Family Feud (N)	Family Feud (N)	The Wall (N)	Dateline NBC	Compelling mysteries, powerful documentaries, in-depth investigations. (N)	News (N)	(35) The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon	(35) Seth Meyers					
MNT WPTA-3 (213)	10	9	56	34	The King of Queens	The King of Queens	Modern Family	News (N)	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Chicago P.D.	Chicago P.D.	Chicago P.D.	Chicago P.D.	Chicago P.D.	Chicago P.D.	Chicago P.D.	Chicago P.D.	Chicago P.D.	Chicago P.D.	Chicago P.D.
CW WISE (33)	8	4	33	33	The Steve Wilkos Show	TMZ Live (N)	Dish Nation (N)	TMZ (N)	Penn & Teller: Fool Us "Magic Is Sexy" (N)	Masters of Deceit (N)	Animals (N)	Salute to Service (N)	Salute to Service (N)	Salute to Service (N)	Salute to Service (N)	Salute to Service (N)	Salute to Service (N)	Salute to Service (N)	Salute to Service (N)	Salute to Service (N)	Salute to Service (N)
PBS WFWA (38)	13	5	39	39	Secrets "Decoding Hieroglyphics"	PBS NewsHour (N)	BBC News America	PrimeTime Live (N)	Washington Week (N)	Firing Hoover (N)	Salute to Service (N)	Salute to Service (N)	Salute to Service (N)	Salute to Service (N)	Salute to Service (N)	Salute to Service (N)	Salute to Service (N)	Salute to Service (N)	Salute to Service (N)	Salute to Service (N)	Salute to Service (N)
PBS WFPB (48)	3	6			Secrets "Decoding Hieroglyphics"	Context	BBC News America	PBS NewsHour (N)	Washington Week (N)	Firing Hoover (N)	Salute to Service (N)	Salute to Service (N)	Salute to Service (N)	Salute to Service (N)	Salute to Service (N)	Salute to Service (N)	Salute to Service (N)	Salute to Service (N)	Salute to Service (N)	Salute to Service (N)	Salute to Service (N)
FOX WFFT (55)	6	5	55	55	WFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	Big Bang	Big Bang	SmackDown! The Superstars of World Wrestling Entertainment do battle in elaborate, long-running rival.	SmackDown! The Superstars of World Wrestling Entertainment do battle in elaborate, long-running rival.	SmackDown! The Superstars of World Wrestling Entertainment do battle in elaborate, long-running rival.	SmackDown! The Superstars of World Wrestling Entertainment do battle in elaborate, long-running rival.	SmackDown! The Superstars of World Wrestling Entertainment do battle in elaborate, long-running rival.	SmackDown! The Superstars of World Wrestling Entertainment do battle in elaborate, long-running rival.	SmackDown! The Superstars of World Wrestling Entertainment do battle in elaborate, long-running rival.	SmackDown! The Superstars of World Wrestling Entertainment do battle in elaborate, long-running rival.	SmackDown! The Superstars of World Wrestling Entertainment do battle in elaborate, long-running rival.	SmackDown! The Superstars of World Wrestling Entertainment do battle in elaborate, long-running rival.	SmackDown! The Superstars of World Wrestling Entertainment do battle in elaborate, long-running rival.	SmackDown! The Superstars of World Wrestling Entertainment do battle in elaborate, long-running rival.	

Bluffton seeking its revenge on Bishop Luers Friday night



Ryan Walker

It's hard to believe, but Friday just about marks the one-year anniversary of Bluffton's regional championship game against Bishop Luers.

I think most can agree that there wasn't much of an expectation in that game, as the Knights were just that good in a 35-6 victory.

Even coach Brent Kunkel admitted last Friday that they went into the game playing with house money and that they were happy to be there.

Fast-forward to now, and the team is salivating at another shot — a chance at revenge. The players need this game.

"We had them up there last year and got embarrassed," senior Hunter Wenger said after the sectional championship last week. "Everything in the summer we've been working for has been towards them. I think we have what it takes, and I'm ready for them."

"That's what our kids want," Kunkel said a few minutes later. "Our kids want to be up there. They want to play against this team or play against that program, because I feel like they feel like they got something to prove."

I'll never forget the moment walking down to the field after that loss. In the middle of Kunkel's speech, Luers received the regional trophy and celebrated at midfield with Bluffton kneeling on the left endzone. Kunkel stopped dead in his tracks and told his team to watch it happen and to remember that feeling.

My article on the game is apparently famous in the Bluffton locker room, where players tapped it to their lockers with the headline "Bishop Luers ends the Tigers' historic season in the regional final." I would guess that the guys took the message to heart and used it as motivation. You're welcome.

The inspiring moment has brought the Tigers to the same game, at the same place, on the same field. The only difference is the matchup is a heck of a lot tighter than last year.

The AP poll has Bluffton directly behind Luers, but the Sagarin computer rankings have the Tigers five spots ahead.

This Luers group has had some ups and

downs this season and is perhaps more vulnerable.

Some key games include a one-point win over a good Dwenger squad, a win over Wayne, and a three-point loss to Homestead.

In some other key results, the Knights won by four against Eastside, and got blown out by the NE8's top schools in New Haven and East Noble.

But the vulnerability came in the first round of the sectional when 2-8 Churubusco held a 24-20 lead at halftime but fell by 11.

Leading this year's team has been senior quarterback Kohen McKenzie. He's got a pretty good arm, tossing for over 1,500 yards with 18 touchdowns and seven interceptions (against good competition).

This is his first year as the starter, as he sat behind Trine University signee Charlie Stanski.

For the rest of the offense, the Knights brought back all but one of their main ball-carriers.

In the game last year, Giovanni Jimenez exploded for nine carries for 100 total yards. He's the leading rusher on the team with 676 yards.

Believe it or not, I think Bluffton's best shot to get them this year will be on the ground defensively.

The Knights aren't particularly great in the run game, with no rusher over five yards per attempt. Combine that with the Tigers' front and second unit, and they might force some more plays through the air.

McKenzie is slightly over 50 percent on completions, and the seven picks look intriguing.

And of course on the offensive side, Khmel Moore, Tucker Jenkins, and Cooper Craig have been fantastic. For a win Friday night, the three and that experienced O-line will need big games.

For the game overall, it's clear Bluffton has a much better chance to belong on the same field. I even think it might have the slightest of edge if you factor in all the returning starters that have been waiting for this moment for an entire year.

I'm not going to make any sort of prediction other than it won't be a 29-point difference this time around.

This should be the biggest test to see how far the Tigers have come, and I hope to see a packed visiting stands Friday night!

sports@news-banner.com



Bluffton senior Ben Ramseyer (bottom) pulls down Eastern's Braylen Word following a reception in the second half of Friday night's sectional final game in Bluffton. The Tigers claimed their second consecutive championship with a 41-6 victory. (Photo by Chad Kline)

Giannis Antetokounmpo scores 54 points, but Haliburton, Pacers rally for victory over the Bucks

By CHRIS GOFF
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo scored an NBA season-high 54 points, but committed two turnovers after Tyrese Haliburton's go-ahead 3-pointer with 1:29 left and the Indiana Pacers beat the Milwaukee Bucks 126-124 on Thursday night.

Haliburton had 29 points and 10 assists and Benedict Mathurin added 26 points and 11 rebounds for the Pacers, who blew an 18-point lead and then had to rally from 10 down in the fourth quarter.

"We had to deal with a player who was extraordinarily hot and on a roll," Indiana coach Rick Carlisle said. "We executed as well as we could and created some chaos defensively. You've got to take some risks or else he's going to end up with 60. Very fortunate to get the win."

Antetokounmpo finished one point shy of his career high, but threw away a pass with 1:03 left, then was stripped by Mathurin with 30 seconds to go, both with the Bucks trailing 122-121. He was 19 for 25 from the

field, 16 of 18 on free throws and grabbed 12 rebounds, but also had eight turnovers.

"Just trying to get stops," Mathurin said. "The game's about defense."

Myles Turner added 21 points for the Pacers, who shot 48% from the field, including a 20-of-48 performance from 3-point range.

Playing without All-Star Damian Lillard, sidelined by calf soreness, Milwaukee received a breathtaking performance from Antetokounmpo, who was three points shy of Michael Redd's franchise record. Khris Middleton, who had 19 points and made a 3 at the final buzzer, missed a 3 that would have tied the game with 7 seconds left.

With 8.4 seconds to go and Indiana clinging to a one-point lead, Mathurin connected on two free throws to make it 124-121. Bruce Brown, who had 11 points, nine rebounds and seven assists, sealed the win with two foul shots of his own in the final seconds.

Indiana visits the Philadelphia 76ers on Sunday night.

Connor Bedard's 2 goals, 2 assists help Blackhawks snap losing skid

By JOHN KREISER
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Top draft pick Connor Bedard had his first multi-point game with two goals and two assists as the Chicago Blackhawks beat Tampa Bay 5-3 on Thursday night to snap an eight-game losing streak against the Lightning.

The 18-year-old Bedard powered Chicago to its first win over the Lightning since a 4-3 shootout victory on March 5, 2021.

"I think it's just kind of sticking with it," Bedard said of the biggest night in his young NHL career. "I felt like there were games when I could have created more than this and I had zero points. That's how things go sometimes. It feels good to get on the scoresheet."

Rookie defenseman Kevin Korchiński and ex-Lightning forwards Tyler Johnson and Corey Perry also scored for Chicago. Nick Foligno had three assists and Petr Mrazek made 30 saves.

Anthony Cirelli, Nikita Kucherov and Steven Stamkos scored for the Lightning, who lost in regulation for the first time in seven home games this season (4-1-2). Jonas Johansson made 24 saves.

"Listen, we had the momentum in this game clearly for the first 10-12 minutes, whatever it was," Lightning coach Jon Cooper said. "We gave the momentum back with our self-inflicted errors, plain and simple. Turnovers, lack of execution and we just gave them freebies. It's tough to win if you're going to continue to do that."

The Lightning controlled play for most

of the first period, yet the Blackhawks led 4-2 at the break.

Cirelli's one-timer from the slot on the power play at 3:20 put Tampa Bay ahead 1-0. Bedard tied it at 4:42, converting a pass from Philip Kurashev.

"He created the whole first goal," Chicago coach Luke Richardson said. "He was on the defenseman hard, and he has a good stick, good stick skills. He's not in there slashing; he's lifting sticks and disrupting things. Good things happen when you play hard in the right way."

Bedard, the top pick in the 2023 draft, has seven goals and 11 points in his first 12 NHL games.

"He's new to the league; he's been here for a dozen games," Richardson said. "He's starting to really figure it out, use his skills to the best of his ability. It paid off for him, and for us, tonight."

Kucherov, who entered the game with an NHL-leading 22 points, put the Lightning back in front at 12:31. But the Blackhawks closed the period with three goals in 3:07. Korchiński tied it at 16:43 with his first NHL goal, Bedard stole the puck from Kucherov and set up Johnson's score at 17:38, then got credit for his second goal of the night and seventh of the season at 19:52 when a rebound of his shot hit Cirelli and slid past Johansson.

Perry tipped in Bedard's shot on a power play 2:12 into the second period for a 5-2 lead. He had a couple of wide-open chances for a hat trick, but couldn't get another puck past Johansson.



GM tells the AP it is only interested in F1 with Andretti Global

By JENNA FRYER
AP Auto Racing Writer

General Motors will not break its partnership with Andretti Global to enter Formula One and is not interested in considering other teams to gain entry to the global motorsports series, an executive with the U.S. auto giant told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

"GM is committed to partnering with Andretti to race in F1," GM President Mark Reuss told AP. "The collaboration between Andretti-Cadillac brings together two unique entities built for racing, both with long pedigrees of success in motorsport globally."

General Motors plans to send a small group of executives to next week's Las Vegas Grand Prix in hopes of jump-starting conversations with F1 and series owner Liberty Media about the Andretti application. Andretti told AP at last month's U.S. Grand Prix that F1 President Stefano Domenicali was not returning his calls or texts.

A month ago, F1 governing body FIA said Michael Andretti's application was the only one of seven applicants to meet all required criteria to expand F1's current grid from 10 teams to 11. The Andretti application is in partnership with General Motors and its Cadillac brand.

Approval from the FIA has been met by near silence from both F1 and Liberty Media. The AP reported last month that F1 had asked General Motors to consider finding a partner other than Andretti. Reuss closed the door on that possibility Wednesday.

Andretti has a car already built to the 2023 F1 regulations that it tested at a wind tunnel in Germany, and Andretti Global is continuing to move forward with its plans to join the series. There is a tight timeline to be ready for the 2025 season and frustration is clearly building at Andretti and GM.

The only public comment made by F1 and Liberty was a terse statement that promised nothing: "We note the FIA's conclusions in relation to the first and second phases of their process and will now conduct our own assessment of the merits of the remaining application," F1 said last month.

High School Calendar

FRIDAY, NOV 10
FOOTBALL: (regional final) Bluffton at Bishop Luers, 7 p.m.
SATURDAY, NOV 11
GIRLS BASKETBALL: Northridge at Norwell, 2:30 p.m.; Eastbrook at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m.; East Noble at Bluffton, 2:30 p.m.
SWIMMING & DIVING: Norwell girls Invitational, 9 a.m.
MONDAY, NOV 13

No events scheduled
TUESDAY, NOV 14
GIRLS BASKETBALL: Homestead at Norwell, 7:45 p.m.; Mississinewa at Bluffton, 7:30 p.m.
SWIMMING & DIVING: (girls only) Norwell at Adams Central, 5:30 p.m.; Bluffton at Huntington North, 5:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, NOV 15
No events scheduled

News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

High School

Thursday's Scores

Alexandria 73, Ft. Wayne South 35
Batesville 48, Union Co. 32
Bethesda Christian 58, Greenwood Christian 26
Bloomington Lighthouse 48, Union (Dugger) 21
Carroll (Flora) 48, Sheridan 44
Center Grove 59, Warren Central 48
Charlestown 46, Floyd Central 32
Clinton Central 65, Elwood 27
DeMotte Christian 61, Gary 21st Century 3
Decatur Central 65, Indpls Perry Meridian 51
Delta 49, Cowan 20
E. Noble 44, Central Noble 38
Eastern (Greene) 39, Owen Valley 25
Elkhart 42, Jimtown 36
Franklin Central 58, Whiteland 21
Ft. Wayne Snider 52, Warsaw 49
Gibson Southern 61, N. Posey 25
Greenfield 47, Tri 22
Hammond Central 78, Washington Twp. 61
Highland 44, Kouts 33

Indpls Lutheran 70, Edinburgh 37
Indpls Roncalli 64, Covenant Christian 38
Indpls Tech 65, Phalen 4
Kokomo 51, Peru 31
Lakeland Christian 48, South Bend Career Academy 10
Lakewood Park 53, Lakeland 27
Michigan City Marquette 49, Andean 25
Mishawaka 61, LaPorte 51
Mississinewa 61, Wabash 51
Monrovia 80, Western Boone 37
Mooreville 43, Indpls Cathedral 24
Morgan Twp. 46, Knox 22
N. Knox 38, Linton 33
N. Montgomery 56, Frontier 39
N. Putnam 68, Covington 47
Northview 41, Bloomington South 35
Penn 64, S. Bend Riley 4
Prairie Heights 55, Westview 37
Rensselaer 72, Tri-County 30
S. Decatur 55, Morristown 41
Shoals 46, Bloomfield 43
Springs Valley 55, Forest Park 37
Tell City 53, Mt. Vernon (Posey) 29
Tri-Central 55, Tipton 18
Tri-Township 59, Michigan City 35
Triton Central 69, Cascade 50

W. Washington 63, S. Central (Elizabeth) 62
White River Valley 60, W. Vigo 29
Banks of Wabash Tournament= First Round=
N. Vermillion 53, S. Vermillion 8
Parke Heritage 53, Riverton Parke 21
NBA
Thursday's Games
Indiana 126, Milwaukee 124
Atlanta at Orlando, 9:30 p.m.
Friday's Games
Philadelphia at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Saturday's Games
Cleveland at Golden State, 8:30 p.m.
College
Men's College Basketball Scores
Fort Wayne 130, Andrews Cardinals 34
Manchester 76, Alma 61
Michigan St. 74, S. Indiana 51
Women's College Basketball Scores
Iowa 80, Virginia Tech 76
LSU 112, Queens (NC) 55
Indiana 96, E. Illinois 43

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The Classifieds

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

King Classic Sudoku

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

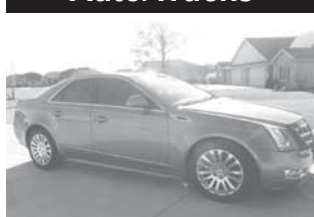
Difficulty: ★★★★★

11/10

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VEHICLES

Auto/Trucks



2011 CADILLAC CTS 4 door coupe, V-6, 307 H.P., local, 1 owner, 51,100 miles, Tuscan bronze, clear Carfax Report, \$13,500, 812-699-1341.

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

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



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Help Wanted

THE BLUFFTON POLICE Department is seeking applications to fill the position of Ordinance Compliance Officer. This full-time civilian position is responsible for ensuring compliance with all city ordinances and is based in the police department working M-F 8a-4p. Duties include downtown parking enforcement and resolution of weed and junk complaints. The successful applicant must be at least 18 years old with a high school diploma or GED equivalent, possess a responsible driving history and clean criminal background. Knowledge of law procedures preferred. Application is available on the city's website www.blufftonindiana.net. For more information contact Chief of Police Kyle Randall at 824-3320 or kyle.randall@blufftonindiana.gov. Applications are due back December 22, 2023 by 4:30 p.m.

LOOKING FOR EMPLOYEES?

Place a 20 word line classified ad for a month for \$52. Add a graphic or photo for an additional \$5. Contact the Bluffton News-Banner, 260-824-0224, 125 N. Johnson St., or online at www.news-banner.com and click on classifieds.

Help Wanted

COUNTRY CABINETS LLC, a local custom cabinet shop, is looking for a full time employee. Duties include building and installation of cabinets. Experience a plus, but willing to train the right person. Health benefits, paid vacation and holiday pay included. Call (260) 341-7273.

HELOISE HINT: When you get a new job. If you don't receive a full description of the job, you should ask your manager for it so you know everything that the job entails. Any questions should be directed to your supervisor. Email HELOISE@He-loise.com.

Mark your Calendar for this event

FREE EVENT - Surviving the Holidays After Loss Sunday, Nov. 12, 2-4 p.m., Hope Missionary Church. No registration needed. Griefshare.org for more information.

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Taylor Lehman, VP of Human Resources
 Swiss Village | 1350 W. Main St. | Berne, IN 46711
 or email: careers@swissvillage.org
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Lottery Numbers

Thursday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
 Cash 5 — 07-32-33-35-37
 Cash4Life — 05-09-18-50-54, Cash Ball: 03
Quick Draw Midday — 01-02-08-13-14-17-26-34-37-38-50-52-53-56-57-58-60-66-73-78, BE: 34
Daily Three-Midday — 00-03-01, SB: 02
Daily Three-Evening — 08-09-00, SB: 01
Daily Four-Midday — 05-07-07-04, SB: 02
Daily Four-Evening — 04-02-09-05, SB: 01
Quick Draw Evening — 04-07-08-10-14-21-23-28-34-43-44-45-49-50-53-62-69-70-71-77, BE: 62
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$42.6 million
MEGA MILLIONS
 Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$223 million
POWERBALL
 Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$220 million

STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
 COUNTY OF WELLS)
 IN THE WELLS)
 CIRCUIT COURT)
 CAUSE NUMBER:)
 90C01-2310-JC-000046)
 IN THE MATTER OF:)
 JRE - DOB 6/4/2016)
 A CHILD ALLEGED TO BE)
 A CHILD IN NEED OF SERVICES)
 AND)
 CHELSA EVICK (BIOLOGICAL)
 MOTHER))
 MICHAEL HERNANDEZ)
 (ALLEGED FATHER) AND)
 ANY UNKNOWN ALLEGED)
 FATHERS)

SUMMONS FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION & NOTICE OF CHILD IN NEED OF SERVICES HEARING

TO: Michael Hernandez and Any Unknown Alleged Father Whereabouts unknown
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the above noted parent whose whereabouts are unknown, as well as Any Unknown Alleged Fathers, whose whereabouts are also unknown, that the Indiana Department of Child Services has filed its Verified Petition Alleging the child to be in Need of Services, in accordance with I.C. 31-34-9-3, and that an adjudication hearing has been scheduled with the Court.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the Judge of the Wells Circuit Court, 102 Market Street, Bluffton, IN 46714 - 260-824-6485 for a(n) Fact Finding Hearing on 1/8/2024 at 2:00 PM.

At said hearing, the Court will consider the Petition and evidence thereon and will render its decision as to whether the above named minor child is child in need of services and shall enter adjudication accordingly. Your failure to appear after lawful notice will be deemed as your default and waiver to be present at said hearing.

UPON ENTRY OF SAID ADJUDICATION, A DISPOSITIONAL HEARING will be held in which the Court will consider (1) Alternatives for the care, treatment, or rehabilitation for the child; (2) The necessity, nature, and extent of your participation in the program of care, treatment, or rehabilitation for the child; and (3) Your financial responsibility for any services provided for the parent, guardian or custodian of the child including child support.

YOU MUST RESPOND by appearing in person or by an attorney within thirty (30) days after the last publication of this notice, and in the event you fail to do so, an adjudication on said petition, judgment by default may be entered against you, or the court may proceed in your absence, without further notice.

Beth Davis
 Clerk

Holly N Daniels, 31840-49 Attorney, Indiana Department of Child Services
 c/o Wells Co DCS
 221 W Market St
 Bluffton, IN 46714
 Office: 260-824-3530
 nb 11/10, 11/17, 11/24 hspaxlp

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EARLY MORNING DRIVER needed to deliver papers to post offices and stores in southern part of county. Must have reliable transportation. Call Natasha or Doug, (260) 824-0224, for more information.

Public Notices

Board Appointments for 2024
 The Wells County Board of Commissioners and/or the Wells County Council are accepting applications for Board Appointments to:
 Local Alcoholic Beverage Board
 Area Plan Commission Board
 Board of Zoning Appeals
 Cemetery Board
 Community Corrections Advisory Board
 Community & Family Services
 Health Department Board
 Property Tax Board of Appeals
 Regional Sewer District
 Rockcreek Conservancy District
 Tourism Commission
 Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

The appointments to these boards vary from annual appointments to 5-year appointments. All appointments are effective on January 1, 2024. Some qualifications may apply for certain boards. If you are interested in serving on any of these boards, please contact the Wells County Auditor's Office at 260-824-6470 for an application. Applications can also be downloaded by going to the Commissioner or County Council page of the County Website at www.wellscounty.org. Send completed applications to Wells County Auditor, 102 W Market St., Suite 205, Bluffton, IN 46714 or email to auditor@wellscounty.org. Applications will be accepted through November 29, 2023.

Wells County, Indiana prohibits discrimination and/or the exclusion of individuals from its governmental facilities, programs, activities, and services based on the individual person's race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, low-income status, sexual orientation or limited English proficiency. Wells County, Indiana affirms its commitment to providing meaningful opportunities and access to government facilities, programs, activities and services in an effort to comply with all laws including; Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended.
 nb 11/10, 11/17, 11/24 hspaxlp

SUDOKU ANSWER

01/11	****	30999131						
8	1	9	7	2	9	6	8	5
9	2	8	6	1	4	7	9	3
9	6	7	8	9	4	2	1	8
1	8	2	7	9	6	8	4	9
8	4	6	1	2	9	8	9	7
7	9	9	4	8	8	6	2	1
4	7	9	6	1	8	9	8	2
6	9	8	2	8	7	1	9	4
2	8	1	9	4	9	7	8	6

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Read & recycle

Election offices sent envelopes with fentanyl or other substances. Authorities investigating

WASHINGTON (AP) — Authorities were hunting Thursday for whoever sent suspicious letters — including some containing fentanyl — to election offices in at least five states this week, delaying the counting of ballots in some local races in the latest instance of threats faced by election workers around the country.

The letters were sent to election offices in the presidential battlegrounds of Georgia and Nevada, as well as California, Oregon and Washington, with some being intercepted before they arrived. Four of the letters contained fentanyl, the FBI and U.S. Postal Inspection Service reported in a statement to election officials Thursday.

“Law enforcement is working diligently to intercept any additional letters before they are delivered,” the statement said.

The Pierce County auditor's office in Tacoma, Washington, released images of the letter it received, showing it had been postmarked in Portland, Oregon, and read in part, “End elections now.”

In Seattle, King County Elections Director Julie Wise said that letter appeared to be the same one her office got — and that it was “very similar” to one King County received during the August primary, which also contained

fentanyl. Among the offices that appeared to be targeted was Fulton County in Georgia, which includes Atlanta and is the largest voting jurisdiction in one of the nation's most important presidential swing states. Authorities were working to intercept the letter. In the meantime, Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger said officials were sending the overdose-reversal drug naloxone to the office as a precaution.

“This is domestic terrorism, and it needs to be condemned by anyone that holds elected office and anyone that wants to hold elective office anywhere in America,” said Raffensperger, a Republican.

In California, the United States Postal Service intercepted two suspicious envelopes that were headed to election facilities in Los Angeles and Sacramento.

Authorities in Lane County, Oregon, which includes the University of Oregon, were investigating a piece of mail that arrived at the local election office Wednesday. No one who came in contact with it had experienced any negative health effects, said Devon Ashbridge, spokeswoman for the Lane County Elections Office in Eugene.

The incident prompted officials to close the office and delayed an afternoon pickup of ballots. Ashbridge

declined to provide further details. “Someone attempted to terrorize our elections staff, and that's not OK,” Ashbridge said.

On Wednesday, authorities in Washington state said four county election offices had to be evacuated as election workers were processing ballots cast in Tuesday's election, delaying vote-counting.

Election offices in King, Skagit, Spokane and Pierce counties received envelopes containing powders. Local law enforcement officials said the substances in King and Spokane counties field-tested positive for fentanyl. In at least one other case, the substance was baking soda.

Pierce County Auditor Linda Farmer released images of the envelope and letter her office received. The letter contained a warning about the vulnerability of “ballot drops” and read: “End elections now. Stop giving power to the right that they don't have. We are in charge now and there is no more need for them.”

The letter featured an antifascist symbol, a progress pride flag and a pentagram. While the symbols have sometimes been associated with leftist politics, they also have been used by conservative figures to label and stereotype the left, and the sender's political leanings were unclear.

Public Sale Calendar

BIDDING ENDS NOVEMBER 12 - (Online Only) - Kipfer Family, seller. New Holland TL90 diesel tractor, International 706 gas tractor, 1984 Case Model 444 garden tractor, 2008 Miller 250 Bobcat welder generator, Pilot 24-volt fork lift charger, Marathon, Shell, other gasoline plastic signs, Fenton, Lladro, Carnival, Vaseline, Royal Dalton, RS Prussia glassware, antique & modern furniture. Sale manager, Patrick Carter, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

NOVEMBER 17-NOVEMBER 24 - (Online Only Auction) - Fiechter, seller. 2357 N. Main St., Bluffton. Glock, Smith & Wesson, Sig Sauer, Ruger, Beretta, Remington, Century Arms, Kel-Tec, Kahr, Savage Arms, Winchester, Bushmaster, Saltwater Arms, handguns, pistols, rifles, shotguns. Preview: Nov. 21 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Nov. 22 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Bluffton Gun & Pawn. Sale manager, Isaac Stoller, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

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.*, www.HollowayAuction.com, 260-824-5060.

DECEMBER 1 - 8 a.m. - Secured creditors & various consignors, owners. 815 Adams St., Decatur. Truck & equipment auction. Live and online bidding. Offering 700+ lots! 2012-2014 Freightliner M2106 box trucks, dump trucks, day cabs, sleepers, utility trucks, bucket, trucks, utility & semi trailers. SUV's, pickup trucks, 100+ various skid steer attachments & much more! Cars, SUV, 1/2 ton & 3/4 ton pickup trucks, cargo & passenger vans! Accepting consignments! *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, Kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.

DECEMBER 5 - 2 p.m.-6 p.m. ET. (Online) - Farm: Goodwin 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.

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