

The News - Banner

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2023 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00



Current members of the Alpha Eta chapter of Psi Iota Xi are shown as they gathered for their 100th anniversary celebration at the Hunt Club in Bluffton. Left to right are Jenny Peterson, Julie Holte, Rhonda Ryan, Dawn Allison, Liz Moser, Melinda Gilgen, Jenny Bultemeier, Nancy Wagner and Psi Iota Xi National President Rhonda Crisenbery. (Photo provided)

Bluffton's Psi Iota Xi chapter holds 100th anniversary celebration

By BARBARA BARBIERI

A 100th anniversary celebration for the Bluffton Alpha Eta chapter of Psi Iota Xi was held Sunday at the Hunt Club with the group's National President Rhonda Crisenbery of Fort Wayne as their special guest.

Member Jenny Bultemeier welcomed the guests and former member Billy Kreigh gave a brief look at what women in general and the Alpha Eta members had accomplished over the 100 years. Currently, the group has 11 members. Last year their fundraising, including the sale of the Cheese Balls, allowed them to donate \$9,750 back

to community projects. The groups included: Bridge of Hope Gala, YMCA, Family Centered Services, Wells County Public Library and Wells County Historical Society.

Among the information shared was the following: On Oct. 29, 1923, Alpha Eta, the Bluffton chapter of Psi Iota Xi, was organized as the 19th chapter in the Indiana.

Co-presidents were Ella Caylor and Zoe Malcolm. Other charter members included: Irene Huyette Wiley, recording secretary; Mary Siford, treasurer; Alta Jan Woodruff Carson, corresponding secretary; Mary

(Continued on Page 2)

Over 20 veterans receive handmade quilts

By JONATHAN SNYDER

A tight-knit community was on display as the Bee Happy Quilters club hosted their annual Veteran's Day quilt presentation on Thursday, Nov. 9.

Over 20 veterans, representing four of the five military branches, arrived with their families to receive quilts made by the ladies of the Bee Happy Quilters club. Each quilt showcased a plethora of patriotism, from depictions of the American flag to beautiful images of paratroopers in a sunset background.

The tradition started after 9/11, but the official presentation event has happened for five years.

The quilting clubs in Decatur and Bluffton each make quilts and give them out in both communities. Carol Riley, one of the quilters and the head speaker at the event, estimated they have given out over 300 quilts since the tradition began.

The women get in contact with the veterans through word of mouth, contacting veterans groups and connecting with other quilting clubs. Two clubs in Berne and Decatur assisted in contacting veterans and ensuring they got quilts.

"If I'm in a parking lot and I see a veteran's hat, I come to them and ask them if they've had a quilt," Sue Harris, one of the quilters said. "We are not bashful," she quipped.

According to Riley, each quilt takes around 20-30 hours to make. Each block of fabric used takes as long as a half hour, with multiple blocks making a whole quilt. The cost of materials could range from \$100-200 per quilt.

Along with the quilts, the club also honored Vietnam veterans with a lapel pin and a book by the American Legion describing the Vietnam War.

(Continued on Page 2)



Veteran Bob Johnson accepts his quilt from Julie Phend and Carol Riley. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)



Creating a winter wonderland

Volunteers worked Saturday at Ouabache State Park to ready the state park for its annual "Wonderland of Lights". Above, the gatehouse was being outlined with lights by Lee and Phyllis Dettmer. At right, Jeannette Johnson and Jenni Klaus hung lights on one of the smaller trees. This is the site where visitors will be able to watch a light show on the tower synchronized to music each evening from Dec. 1-31. **More photos on Page 3.** (Photos by Barabara Barbieri)



Sentencing denied at bail revocation hearing for Poneto man

By SYDNEY KENT

A man, whose plea deal was revoked in September, attempted to be sentenced according to the now-nullified agreement in the Wells Circuit Court last week.

Ryan Manley Stinson, 37, rural Poneto, was scheduled for a bail revocation hearing on Wednesday for two counts of child molesting, both Level 4 felonies, and battery on a person less than 14 years old, a Level 6 felony. The case was opened in July of 2022, after a child in Stinson's care reported that he molested her in his home.

The morning that Stinson was to be sentenced for this case, he turned himself into the Wells County Jail, while intoxicated, on new charges for three counts of sexual misconduct with a minor, all Level 4 felonies. The charges were filed Sept. 5, after a family member reported a previous history of ongoing sexual abuse she endured from Stinson when she was a minor.

Stinson was denied sentencing in the initial case due to still being under the influence of alcohol in court. His plea agreement was revoked due to the additional charges. The matter was reset to a status hearing, however, Stinson then acquired a third set of charges only two weeks ago for domestic battery in the presence of a child less than 16 years old, a Class A misdemeanor, and domestic battery on a person less than 14 years old, committed by a person who is at least 18, a Level 5 felony. The charges were filed after Stinson's wife reported a history of ongoing domestic abuse against her and their children.

After the third set of charges were filed, the state of Indiana filed a motion to revoke Stinson's bond.

Stinson's attorney, Benjamin Nordmann, attempted to avoid the bail revocation by requesting sentencing in the initial case that was filed last July.

"The state of Indiana indicated they intended to pull the plea agree-

(Continued on Page 2)



Ryan Manley Stinson

Inside

Local/Area
Indiana News 3
Court Docket 3

Opinion
Niki Kelly 4

Also...
Sports 6-7
Classifieds 9
Diversions 8

Outside

Sunny and breezy, cold and clear tonight

Today	Tuesday	Wed.
High 59	High 57	High 63
Low 29	Low 32	Low 38

More Weather on Page 2

Online

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Psi Iota Xi

(Continued from Page 1)

Stine Shaffer, Edna Farling, Florence Fishbaugh Davenport, Mary Templin, Dolly Hamilton, Dorothy Rippe, Madge Spray Siford and Elizabeth Stodgill.

In 1924-25 the co-presidents were Mary Shaffer and Irene Wiley and in 1925 Dolly Hamilton was the president.

In 1932, the members were concerned about the need for a place for supervised swimming. In June of 1933, a committee headed by Malcolm reported she had found a place three-quarters of a mile from Bluffton that included a quarry. They arranged to purchase the 7.3 acres of land and the Psi Ote Pool came into being.

Admission was 10 cents and a season pass was priced at \$3. Members volunteered their time to run the concession stand. Early life guards at the pool included Paul Koenig, Ernie Prough and Earl Captain.

The pool area was upgraded for the 1959 opening date. Members of the pool committee in 1970, when the pool was leased to the Bluffton Park Board for \$100 for the year, were Mary Gullivan, Janet Wolfcale, Martha Smekens, Mary Alice Jackson and Nancy Heister. Bluffton High School teacher Raymond Roberson was hired as the manager.

Fundraisers over the years have included the selling of cookbooks, presenting style shows, playing bingo, rummage sales, book reviews, concerts, sponsored movies, Christmas House Tours and, of course, the famous Cheese Balls.

In addition the group has awarded scholarships to graduating high school student furthering their studies in language, arts, music or Speech and Hearing.

In 1946, the group jointly sponsored the Hoosier Art Salon Exhibit in Bluffton with the Beta Phi chapter of Tri Kappa. The exhibit was

held in the former Thoma Furniture Store on Main St. and attracted over 1500 visitors.

In 1983, the group celebrated their 60th anniversary with a tea held at the First United Methodist Church. Nancy Wagner was their president and two past national presidents, Mary Gallman (1953) and Mary Ann Reed (1950) were honored.

Members attending that event included: Maro Bender, Naomi Ulmer, Mary Alice Jackson, Vera Hedges, Ethel Bunker, Martha Smekens, Martha Mugg, Karen Nash, Laura Sawyer, Margaret Grove, Barb Dickson, Janet Heller, Claudia Smith, Jane Smekens, Irene Park, Virgil Renolett, Alyce Ann Baler, Naomi Larmore, Sue McDonald, Helen Troyer, Margaret Grove, Mary Alice Fritz and Joan Garrett.

From 1923 to 1975, the following women have been president of the group beginning with co-presidents Ella Caylor and Zoe Malcolm: Mary Shaffer and Irene Wiley, Dolly Hamilton, Billie Knoff, Goldie Goodin, Pearl Snyder, Hazel Hartman, Mabelle Stodgill, Ruth Squire, Helen Roff, Dorothy Edwards, Bernice Houser, Mildred Weilemann, Mary McBride, Ruth Young, Helen Sutton, Grace Buckner Knapp, Claudia Smith, Justine Tanegeman, Mary Tyndall Gallman, Virgil Renollet, Dorothea Flaningham, Mary Gullivan, Dorothy Huffman, Barbara Fritz, Vera Hedges, Naomi Ulmer, Irene Park, Helen Decker, Esther Roe, Mary Alice Fritz, Maro Bender, Ruth Sellers, Helen Troyer, Martha Mugg, Jane McKenzie, Marie Yoder, Janet Wolfcale, Phyllis Biberstine, Jeanne McCord, Ann Biddle Osborn, Martha Smekens, Karen Smekens, Helen Vice, Laura Sawyer and Henrietta Caylor.

From 1976 to the present, the presidents have included: Margaret Leonard, Juanita Parker, Jane Smekens Waters, Karen Nash, Vivan Hans, Anna Slater, Nancy Wagner, Diana Smith, Peg Oman, Marjorie Haines, Laura Sawyer, Fritzie Nodine, Nancy Morrissey Leitz, Sue Schwyn, Connie Connett, Dawn Allison, Paula Marquart, Julie Holte, Debbie Elkins, Donna Emshwiller, Jane Geimer, Sue Cale, Rhonda Ryan, Jenny Peterson, Layne Fisher, Liz Moser, Jennifer Bultemeier, and Melinda Gilgen (2020-2023).

In addition to Kreigh's history lesson the group's National President Crisenbery explained what an asset the group is to the area as over the past year they have gifted \$9,750 to community programs.

The afternoon also included refreshments and concluded with Bingo.

Psi Iota Xi—Nationally
Psi Iota Xi was founded on September 18, 1897 by a group of five high school girls and their three teachers in Central High School in Muncie, Indiana and was the first Greek letter organization of its kinds in Indiana.

Alpha chapter's purpose



Crisenbery gives a speech at Saturday's celebration. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri.)

was for its member to find self-direction and personal growth while seeking to enrich the lives of others by furthering philanthropic enterprises. One of the teachers composed the ritual that endures today and one of the girls designed the diamond shaped pin, chose old gold and turquoise blue for the colors with the white carnation as the flower (later changed to a yellow rose). The Helicon became the official publication.

Beta chapter was formed in Evansville in 1900 and by 1910 there were 10 chapters. For three quarters of a century the group has given money to Riley Hospital and since 1938 have supported a variety of Speech Pathology and Audiology projects. Since 1940 they have been Hoosier Salon patrons and have awarded a Jury Prize of Distinction.

Psi Iota Xi has chapters in the states of Ohio, Michigan, Illinois and Kentucky and are divided into six districts.

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Quilts for veterans

(Continued from Page 1)

As Riley and Harris handed out each quilt, every veteran stood tall and accepted both the quilts and affirmation from the women, "You are a true American hero."

Some veterans relayed stories of combat duty and the draft as a quilt was draped over their shoulders. Many stayed long after the ceremony was over to continue the camaraderie.

John Senac, who served as a scout dog handler in Vietnam in 1970, told stories about his dog, Diablo. He revealed in the heroism shown by Diablo, as the dog would detect enemy forces and traps to warn the troops behind them of an ambush.

"I think what these ladies do to honor veterans is worth its weight in gold," said Senac. "I love seeing people care. Events like this matter to us."

Senac attended the event after a discussion with his neighbor, who made Senac's quilt.



Sue Harris, Carol Riley don veteran Dale Best with his quilt. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

"These ladies love to quilt, and they love to give them away," Sue Harris, one of the quilters, said. "We just want to appreciate our veterans, so we want to give them one."

As the camarade-

rie continued long after the ceremony ended, the health of the community toward its veterans was on full display. Even through their struggles in war, the veterans present appreciated the outpouring from

everyone.

Ron Graft, who served in the Army, gave insight into the mindset of the veterans there. "Life is about what you make of it, not what you take from it."

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Sentencing denied

(Continued from Page 1)

ment, citing they had the authority to do that," Nordmann said. "However, the subsequent offense allegedly occurred years before the circumstances. We heard testimony from the alleged victim's mother that the child would not be produced. Mr. Crell was on record saying this child's mother was the most uncooperative witness he has ever dealt with. Our request is to move forward with sentencing."

Prosecutor Colin Andrews explained, as he did during the hearing last month, that the state

of Indiana already utilized the right to revoke Stinson's plea agreement should he be charged with a new offense prior to sentencing, regardless of when the crime occurred.

"I made an official record that we were doing this," Andrews stated firmly. "The court acknowledged this. I don't know what Mr. Nordmann is asking. In regard to the other statements he made, I was not there, and I don't see what the relevance is other than to stir the pot."

Nordmann continued to explain his primary goal was to use the bail revo-

lution hearing as a sentencing hearing. "I don't know why we are arguing," Prosecutor Colin Andrews finished. "Once again — the state is exercising their right. The plea agreement, as far as the state is concerned, is off of the table."

Judge Kenton Kiracofe confirmed the state's position. All three cases are scheduled for pretrial conferences at 3:30 on Nov. 29 in the Wells Circuit Court. Stinson is currently incarcerated at the Wells County Jail with a bond set at \$15,000.

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Weather

Monday, November 13, 2023

(24-hour observations at 7:39 p.m. Sunday)

High: 57; Low: 29; Precipitation: None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.15 feet at 9:45 p.m. Sunday

Wells County forecast

Today: Sunny, with a high near 59. West wind around 10 mph.

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

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 57. South wind around 5 mph.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 32. South wind 5 to 10 mph.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 63.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 38.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 65.

Thursday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers, mainly after 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 48.

Friday: A 40 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 57.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 34.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 53.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 33.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 53.

There's another wildfire burning in a Hawaii rainforest

By AUDREY McAVOY

Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — A wildfire burning in a remote Hawaii rainforest is underscoring a new reality for the normally lush island state just a few months after a devastating blaze on a neighboring island leveled an entire town and killed at least 99 people.

No one was injured and no homes burned in the latest fire, which scorched mountain ridges on Oahu, but the flames wiped out irreplaceable native forestland that's home to nearly two dozen fragile species. And overall, the ingredients are the same as they were in Maui's historic town of Lahaina: severe drought fueled by climate change is creating fire in Hawaii where it has almost never been before.

"It was really beautiful native forest," said JC Watson, the manager of the Koolau Mountains Watershed Partnership, which helps take care of the land. He recalled it had uluhe fern, which often dominate Hawaii rainforests, and koa trees whose wood has traditionally been used to make canoes, surfboards and ukuleles.

"It's not a full-on clean burn, but it is pretty moonscape-looking out there," Watson said.

The fact that this fire was on Oahu's wetter, windward side is a "red flag to all of us that there is change afoot," said Sam 'Olu Gon III, senior scientist and cultural adviser at The Nature Conservancy in Hawaii.

The fire mostly burned inside the Oahu Forest National Wildlife Refuge, which is home to 22 species listed as endangered or threatened by the U.S. government. They include iiwi and elepaio birds, a tree snail called pupu kani oe and the Hawaiian hoary bat, also known as opeapea. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages the refuge, does not know yet what plants or wildlife may have been damaged or harmed by the fire, spokesperson Kristen Oleyte-Velasco said.

The fire incinerated 2.5 square miles since first being spotted on Oct. 30 and was 90 percent contained as of Friday. Officials were investigating the cause of the blaze roughly 20 miles north of Honolulu.

The flames left gaping, dark bald spots amid a blanket of thick green where the fire did not burn. The skeletons of blackened trees poked from the charred landscape.

The burn area may seem relatively small compared to wildfires on the U.S. continent, which can raze hundreds of square miles. But Hawaii's intact native ecosystems aren't large to begin with, especially on smaller islands like Oahu, so even limited fires have far-reaching consequences.

One major concern is what plants will grow in place of the native forest.

Hawaii's native plants evolved without encountering regular fires and fire is not part of their natural life cycle. Faster-growing non-native plants with more seeds tend to sprout in place of native species afterward.

Watson said an Oahu forest near the latest fire had uluhe ferns, koa trees and ohia trees before a blaze burned less than a square mile of it 2015. Now the land features invasive grasses that are more fire-prone, and some slow-growing koa.

A much larger 2016 fire in the Waianae mountains on the other side of Oahu took out one of the last remaining populations of a rare tree gardenia, said Gon.

There are cultural losses when native forest burns. Gon recalled an old Central Oahu story about a warrior who was thrown off a cliff while battling an enemy chief. His fall was stopped by an ohia tree, another plant common in the incinerated area. Feathers from Hawaii's forest birds were once used to make cloaks and helmets worn by chiefs.

Watson's organization is coordinating with the Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct initial surveys of the damage. They'll devise a restoration plan that will include invasive species control and planting native species. But there are limits to what can be done.

"It'll never be able to be returned to its previous state within our lifetimes," Watson said. "It's forever changed, unfortunately."

The Mililani Mauka fire — named after the area near where the fire began — burned in the Koolau mountains. These mountains are on Oahu's wetter, windward side because they trap moisture and rain that move across the island from the northeast.

But repeated and more prolonged episodes of drought are making even the Koolaus dry. Gon expects more frequent Koolau fires in the future.

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Wells Court Docket

Wells Superior Court Criminal Cases

Raymond Castillo III, 19, Portland, was ordered to complete 180 days of his recently suspended sentence in the Wells County Jail.

In August, Castillo was sentenced to 365 days in jail with 275 days suspended and 20 days of jail credit. He was also ordered to complete 275 days of probation and 180 days of home detention. The sentence was issued after Castillo pled guilty to one count of failure to report human remains and one count of theft, both Class A misdemeanors.

According to a probable cause affidavit, Castillo, his juvenile girlfriend, additional juveniles, and the victim were spending time together at the victim's grandparents' home. The group reportedly took pills, smoked marijuana, and drank alcohol. Several witness statements say Castillo failed to report the overdose due to fear of being charged for using drugs and alcohol. Castillo and his girlfriend called her father to pick them up, rather than seek help from authorities or alerting the victim's grandparents, who were asleep upstairs at the time.

Castillo is also ordered to pay court costs and filing fees in the amount of \$489.

Jadon Kelly Kent, 26, Angola, was scheduled to appear in the Wells Superior Court on Monday for a status hearing on his case. In May, Kent was charged

with driving while suspended with a prior conviction, a Class A misdemeanor, possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor, possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor, and several infractions for improper headlights and operating with an expired license plate.

The morning of the hearing, Kent left a voicemail on the court's answering machine and advised that his arranged ride was no longer able to transport him to his hearing. Kent requested a new court date and that a warrant for his arrest not be issued. A warrant for his arrest was issued and is currently active.

Wells Circuit Court Criminal Cases

Dakota Patrick Thompson, 29, Sweetser, was sentenced to three years in the Indiana Department of Correction with two years, 180 days suspended and 26 days of jail credit. In lieu of incarceration, Thompson is permitted to serve the remainder of the executed portion of his sentence on home detention.

The sentence was issued after Thompson pled guilty to one charge of corrupt business influence, a Level 5 felony, in the Wells Circuit Court in September. Four counts of theft, all Level 6 felonies, were dismissed as part of the plea agreement.

According to a probable cause affidavit, the Wells County Sheriff's Department received a report of embezzlement in February, made by an employee of Clean Fuel National.

The employee reported that Thompson accumulated unauthorized charges in the amount of \$16,936.85 on a company credit card. When confronted with the charges, Thompson blamed his girlfriend and agreed to pay them back according to a payment plan. The case was opened after Thompson ceased making payments.

The owner of Clean Fuel National, Michael Vanover, is also a Wells County commissioner. Due to potential conflicts of interest, the case was referred to the Indiana State Police and handled by Huntington prosecutor Jeremy Nix.

Thompson is ordered to pay back the remaining \$15,336.85 he owes the company as part of his sentence. He is also ordered to complete a period of probation and pay court costs and filing fees in the amount of \$1,150.

Michael Stephen Clayton, 40, Ossian, was sentenced to two years, 180 days with two years suspended and 58 days of jail credit. The sentence was issued on Wednesday immediately after Clayton pled guilty to one count of domestic battery with a prior conviction, a Level 6 felony. One charge for strangulation — prior conviction for strangulation, was dismissed pursuant to the plea agreement.

Clayton is ordered to complete a period of probation following his incarceration as well as pay court costs and filing fees in the amount of \$489.



Pictured in the photo from left are Chandler Gerber of the City of Bluffton, Ben Renkenberger of United Way of Wells County, Katherine Frauhiger and Patricia Cousins of Premier Clock and Vacuum Service, Doug Brown of News-Banner, Heather Morgan of National Oil & Gas, Robert Vanover of Premier Clock and Vacuum Service, Mike Lautzenheiser of Bluffton NOW, Taylor Vanover and Conor Stephens of Premier Clock and Vacuum Service, Jayde Ketring of First Bank of Berne, Danielle Thompson of Flagstar Bank, Kevin Sills of Farm Bureau Insurance, Rachel Reinhard of Grace & Mercy Transitional Housing and Wells County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Erin Prible. (Photo submitted)

Wells County welcomes Premier Clock and Vacuum Service to Bluffton

The Wells County Chamber of Commerce staff and Ambassadors are delighted to welcome a new business to our community, Premier Clock and Vacuum Service, located at 130 West Market Street in Bluffton. Owned and operated by Robert Vanover, this establishment specializes in antique, vintage, and contemporary clock and vacuum cleaner repair and restoration.

Robert's passion for the intricate workings of vintage vacuum cleaners began at the tender age of eight. He would disassemble and attempt to repair various appliances, starting with a mixer when he was just nine years old. His early fascination with mechanical devices grew into a lifelong commitment to understanding their inner mechanisms, from dishwashers to dryers and, most notably, vacuum cleaners.

Over the years, Robert expanded his collection of vacuum cleaners and honed his repair skills. He now repairs and sells a wide range of vacuum cleaner models, including those dating back to 1929. His personal collection even includes a functioning vacuum cleaner from 1908, a testament to his repair expertise.

Robert's love for antique clocks developed about 12 years ago, and he began collecting and repairing them. One of his proudest achievements was successfully repairing his very first clock

with two broken springs. His skills were further refined during his tenure at the Clock Shoppe in Waynedale, under the guidance of owner Jim and Laurel Hansen. Robert's dedication and expertise eventually led him to establish his own business, focusing on clocks and vacuum cleaners.

At Premier Clock and Vacuum Service, Robert specializes in the repair and restoration of antique clocks, some of which are over a century old. The clockmaking profession involves not just repairing but also preserving these timeless pieces of history. Whether it's a family heirloom or a hidden gem discovered at a secondhand store, Robert can clean, oil, and bring new life to these special treasures.

Robert's choice to establish his business in Bluffton goes beyond convenience or marketing strategies; it's a reflection of his deep family roots in the community. His grandparents settled in Bluffton in 1964, and his brother, Michael, currently serves as a county commissioner. With a genuine commitment to the community, Robert aspires to be a valuable asset to Bluffton and its residents.

Premier Clock and Vacuum Service operates from Monday through Friday, with Tuesdays being their designated day off. Their business hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. You can find more information about

Premier Clock and Vacuum Service on Facebook, their website at premier-vac.com, and on Yelp and Google.

Financial Focus

What should you know about RMDs?

Over the decades, you might contribute to a traditional IRA and 401(k). But when should you start taking money out of these retirement accounts?

You can withdraw funds when you retire, or even before. However, you must start taking withdrawals — called required minimum distributions, or RMDs — once you turn 73.

When you take your RMDs, you need to be aware of taxes. RMDs are taxed as ordinary income, so they could potentially bump you into a higher tax bracket, which may increase your Medicare premiums.

To address this issue, you could convert some, or all, of your tax-deferred IRA and 401(k) to a Roth IRA, which doesn't require RMDs. However, this move creates taxable income in the year of conversion, so you'd need to have the money to pay the taxes.

Another possibility is donating up to \$100,000 of your RMDs from a traditional IRA to a qualified charity, which would allow you to avoid the taxes that would result if you took the RMDs directly.

Before making either of these moves, consult with your tax advisor. And learn as much as you can about RMDs — they could play a big part in your retirement income strategy.

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
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Ouabache's 'Wonderland of Lights'



A crew of volunteers were stringing lights along the edge of the roof at the Boathouse by Kunkel Lake at Ouabache State Park on Saturday morning in preparation for the coming Wonderland of Lights. The workers included member of the Three Oaks group and a couple of campers at the park who decided to get in on the action. (Photos by Barbara Barbieri)



Lights at Ouabache State Park's entrance will be lit, thanks to the work of Kevin Todd and daughters Willow, at left, and Rylee, at right. After learning about the work day at a school outing, Rylee enlisted her dad and sister to a part of the work crew. At right is Ouabache's property manager Jon Winne checking out a light strand.

Obituary Policy

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

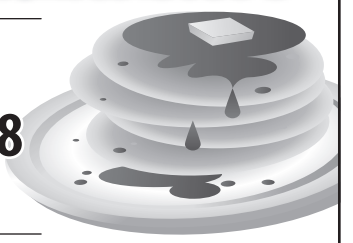
If additional information and/or a photo is desired to be included, or if the deceased does not meet the definitions of a "local" person, there is a charge.

Area funeral homes will provide details on the policy and will coordinate obituary publication.

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Ballot initiatives coming to Indiana? No chance.

The biggest news from Tuesday night's elections was Ohio's passage of two ballot initiatives: one legalizing recreational cannabis and another enshrining a right to abortion access into the constitution.

The moves makes Indiana an outlier among surrounding states on both topics.

But even more interestingly, it appears to be prompting Indiana Democrats to grab onto ballot initiatives as a 2024 campaign plank.

"Every citizen deserves the right to initiate and vote on ballot measures, and I'll continue fighting for Hoosiers to have that freedom in 2024," Senate Democrat Leader Greg Taylor said. "Our jobs are not to push for policies that serve our personal agendas but for what Hoosiers have told us they want."

Many people point out that voters nationally are choosing a different path than their gerrymandered legislative representatives. It happened in Ohio, where Republicans banned abortion after six weeks. Kansas had a similar vote last year.

"Hoosier voters should have the same choices as our neighbors," Indiana Democratic Party Chairman Mike Schmuhl told reporters Wednesday. "We are becoming an island of restriction, and not truly the crossroads of America."

He added that the party will likely highlight the topic next year on statewide tours.

Ohio is one of 19 states that has a direct initiative process in which citizens can propose ballot measures without involvement from the state legislature if they meet certain qualifications — usually related to signature gathering and subject matter, as well as various deadlines.

But Republicans have pushed back against such initiatives.

Former U.S. Senator Rick Santorum, a Republican from Pennsylvania, spoke against referendum measures Tuesday night on NewsMax.

"You put very sexy things like abortion and marijuana on the ballot and a lot of young people come out and vote. It was a secret sauce for disaster in Ohio," he said. "Thank goodness that most of the states in this country don't allow you to put everything on the ballot because pure democracies are not the way to run a country."

I was a bit surprised at the sentiment of young people coming out to vote being a negative, but Indiana Right to Life followed up with a similar defense.

"Indiana voters made their voices heard when they elected pro-life candidates predominately, and those voters election choices are protected from referendums powered by special interests," President and CEO Mike Fichter said in a statement after the Ohio votes.

A spokesman for The Indiana Republican Party said it's up to the General Assembly and executive branch to make policy.

"Our job is to get Republicans elected. Voters do have a say in supporting or rejecting policy decisions when they go to ballot box every election cycle," said Joe Elsener, executive director of the Indiana GOP.

I support a direct ballot initiative with proper safeguards to ensure a high bar to get on the ballot.

It's a worthy fight for Democrats but it would require Republican supermajorities in the House and Senate to willingly give up some power to regular residents. That's just not going to happen. And to be fair, I don't think it would happen if the roles were reversed either.

Too bad, because I never think voters casting ballots is a bad thing.

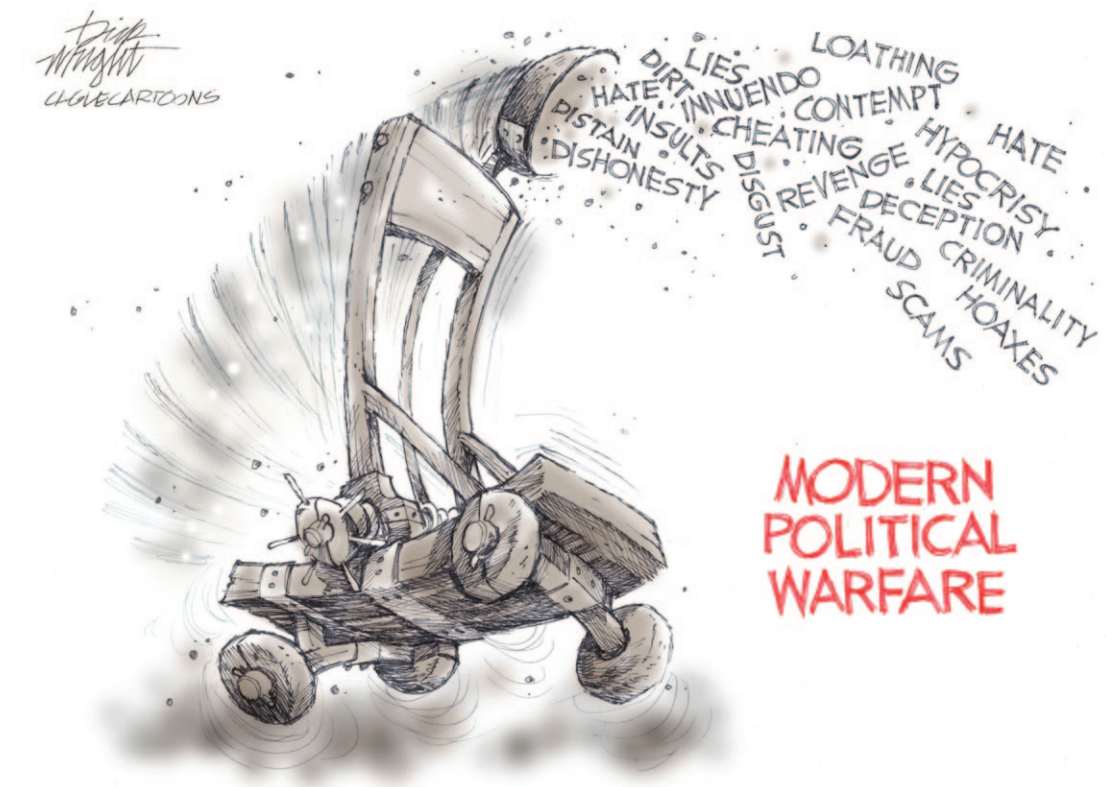
Ballot initiatives coming to Indiana? No chance.

Niki Kelly is the editor of the Indiana Capital Chronicle, a non-profit newsroom. nkelly@indianacapitalchronicle.com



Niki Kelly

Hoosier Opinions



The beauty of democracy: Concessions of the vanquished

Across the Hoosier prairies, hills and hollers, as the cornfields morphed into city limits and neighborhoods, something beautiful occurred Tuesday night.

There were elections in more than 100 cities and towns. There were some 250 or so candidates for mayor from the Republican, Democrat, Libertarian parties, as well as some independents and write-ins. More than half of them lost.

And in nearly all the races that I've monitored, those candidates who came up short at the ballot box ... conceded.

There were no charges of "rigged" or "stolen" elections. That's because America's election process worked. It did Tuesday with only a few hitches. Like it did in 2020 and 2016.

There is no sugar-coating an election loss. It stings. Or as Adlai Stevenson acknowledged after one of his two losses to Dwight Eisenhower, he quoted Abraham Lincoln who said, "He was too old to cry, but it hurt too much to laugh."

In Carmel, Democrat Councilman Miles Nelson lost to Republican Sue Finkam 57-42%. When he conceded two hours after the polls closed, Nelson said, "Because of you, we have moved the needle in this community. We showed this community that a choice is good. This community is going to continue to be a phenomenal place to live."

There was a much closer race in Fort Wayne, where Democrat Mayor Tom Henry narrowly defeated Councilman Tom Didier by just 1,700 votes. It was a rematch from a city council race 20 years ago where the Republican won, launching Henry on a path that would bring him a record five consecutive mayoral wins in Indiana's second largest city.

About three hours after the polls closed, Didier called Henry to congratulate him on the win. Henry said that in turn he thanked Didier for a "spirited and professional" campaign. The two agreed to meet to discuss Didier's ideas for the city in a future meeting.

"I worked tirelessly 16 hours every day working on this campaign for over two years," Didier said. "I gave it my all. I have to accept it and move on."

And then Didier turned up at Mayor Henry's victory party, with WANE-TV capturing the moment where the vanquished Republican could be seen talking to the mayor's wife Cindy, offering his congratulations and shaking her hand.

Here in Evansville, a century after Ku Klux Klan Grand Dragon D.C. Stephenson rose up from this city to lead a racist takeover of the state of Indiana, voters on Tuesday elected Stephanie Terry the first Black woman as mayor.

"Honestly, it's surreal. I never believed an African



Brian Howey

Politicking

American could really be in this position," Terry told WFIE-TV after she declared victory on a 49%-40% win over Republican Natalie Rascher, while Libertarian Michael Daugherty received 11% of the vote. "The fact is our city is ready to move forward; that this city really is for everyone and that we can be inclusive."

Rascher told supporters, "It's OK. It doesn't matter what position you hold, to be a leader. And I know I will continue to be a leader in our community. I know all of these candidates over here will continue to be leaders in our community."

Rascher told her supporters how important it is to lose gracefully. "My kids were sitting there," she said. "I

didn't want them crying and upset, you know, you win some, you lose some."

The late Kansas Republican U.S. Sen. Bob Dole said after he lost to President Bill Clinton, "Sure, losing an election hurts, but I've experienced worse. And at an age when every day is precious, brooding over what might have been is self-defeating. In conceding the 1996 election, I remarked that 'tomorrow will be the first time in my life I don't have anything to do.' I was wrong. Seventy-two hours after conceding the election, I was swapping wisecracks with David Letterman on his late-night show."

Across Indiana, the notion "rigged" elections and the cruelty of social media has sent a shiver through the process. There were almost 40 uncontested mayoral races this year, including cities like Kokomo, Jeffersonville, Hammond and Elkhart. Many of these cities had had competitive mayoral races in recent cycles.

I've been covering politics for 40 years, and I cannot recall this many uncontested mayoral races in a cycle.

Mayor-elect Finkam noted in a social media after her October debate with Nelson in which she was asked to denounce the Moms for Liberty group, "This is why people don't run for public office. I've been called a nazi, racist and money hungry whore, and followed by a person with a camera, since I would not bend to my opponent's theatrics."

Theatrics aside, Founding Father Thomas Jefferson once said, "We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate."

President Abraham Lincoln once observed, "Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters." The Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, C.S.C., the late president of the University of Notre Dame, observed, "Voting is a civic sacrament."

The columnist is publisher of Howey Politics Indiana at www.howeypolitics.com. Find him on Facebook and Twitter @hwypol.

Who's Who

A continuing series on how to contact government officials

Uniondale

The Uniondale Town Council members are:
Erin Kreigh, President. phone 610-3942.
Geoffery Lantz. Phone 227-0022.
Corey Elzey. Phone 433-2954.

The Uniondale Clerk-Treasurer is Sharice Bowen, 543-2542. The Town of Uniondale's mailing address is Post Office Box 111, Uniondale, IN 46791.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Nov. 13, the 317th day of 2023. There are 48 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Nov. 13, 2015, Islamic State militants carried out a set of coordinated attacks in Paris at the national stadium, in a crowded concert hall, in restaurants and on streets, killing 130 people in the worst attack on French soil since World War II.

On this date:
In 1775, during the

American Revolution, the Continental Army captured Montreal.

In 1789, Benjamin Franklin wrote, in a letter to a friend, Jean-Baptiste Leroy: "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."

In 1909, 259 men and boys were killed when fire erupted inside a coal mine in Cherry, Illinois.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a measure lowering the minimum draft age from 21 to 18.

Why the left hates Israel and America

This past week, my organization, Center for Urban Renewal and Education, held an event in Michigan's 12th congressional district, the district of Rep. Rashida Tlaib.

Forty Christian pastors — white, Black, Hispanic — attended to speak out in support of Israel. We brought these Christian spokespersons into the backyard of one of the most aggressive voices in the U.S. Congress speaking out against Israel and supporting the terrorism and aggression against the Jewish state.

But a crucial element in our message is that the policy turf being staked out in this debate has implications far beyond providing moral and material support to Israel. We're talking about values that are as central and crucial to the future of our own country as they are for Israel.

Regarding Tlaib, per Census Reporter, her district is 43% Black; the poverty rate is 21% (150% the national average); and 61% of adults are unmarried — a rate 25% higher than the national average.

Tlaib's voting record is hardcore left. She gets a 100% rating from NARAL and Planned Parenthood, reflecting her support of abortion. She gets a 100% rating from teachers unions, reflecting support of failing government schools and opposition to parental choice in education. And she gets a 0% rating from organizations supporting lower taxes and spending, such as Americans for Prosper-



Star Parker

ity, Campaign for Working Families, and National Federation of Independent Business.

Tlaib consistently supports, along with her colleagues of "the squad" — Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, and Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts — the left-wing agenda expanding the welfare state, tilting at climate change windmills and supporting values like abortion that contribute to the breakdown of the traditional family.

In other words, Tlaib aggressively supports the very policies that keep her district poor. These are also the values that are bankrupting our country, as government spending now sucks up 25% of our GDP and we drown in debt.

In 2020, when the country was torn apart with riots after the death of George Floyd, my organization did a campaign posting billboards in low-income neighborhoods promoting the "success sequence."

The "success sequence," based on policy research in Washington, points to the personal behavior that leads to the best chances of avoiding poverty and moving from low-income status to middle class. That is, finish high school, get married, and take any job.

When we posted billboards with this message that this is the way to avoid poverty, Black Lives Matter went to the billboard company and demanded they take them down.

What about our message so offended Black Lives Matter? They reject, along with all those on the left, values that rest on personal responsibility. They embrace only a culture of victimhood and blame.

In this worldview, the only explanation for achievement is exploitation. This is their explanation for the success of Israelis, who built, from nothing, a modern country with per capita GDP higher than most European countries. And this is their explanation for those who have achieved success and wealth in our own country.

This year, for the first time ever, in the Gallup annual survey asking about sympathy for Israelis compared to sympathy for Palestinians, those identifying as Democrats expressed sympathy for Palestinians 11 points higher than Israelis. Our youth, those born between 1980 and 2000, expressed sympathy for Palestinians 2 points higher than for Israelis.

The culture of blame and victimhood has captured the left and our youth. These values are incompatible with the values of a free country, which can only exist when individuals take personal responsibility.

It should be clear that those expressing opposition to Israel are also voices antipathetic to America's future as a free country.

Our shared values with Israel go beyond democracy. They are about the most basic ingredient of a free society. Personal responsibility. This is the value that the left so deeply hates.

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Norwell Internship Spotlight award Addyson Heyerly

Senior Addyson Heyerly has been selected to receive the Norwell High School Internship Spotlight award. She has been doing her experience with Ossian Elementary School Speech Language Pathologist Karissa Allen. Addyson is the daughter of Jared and Angel Heyerly of Ossian.

Addyson spends a great deal of her time observing Mrs. Allen and how she manages her classroom, deals with any

behavioral issues, and how she constructs her lesson plans. She has been very helpful to Mrs. Allen by laminating materials, creating visuals, making copies, and organizing binders. Addyson also gets to work one on one with some students and helps lead small groups.

After graduation, Addyson will possibly attend Trine University to study elementary education with a focus on special education.



Addyson Heyerly

'Famous' tomatoes subject of Master Gardeners meeting

Rural Bluffton gardener Anna Lee Ault will be the featured speaker at the November meeting of the Wells County Master Gardeners organization.

Ault, 96, had a variety of tomato seeds named after her in late 2021. She will share the story about how that came to be and how she continues to care for a 40-by-60-foot garden.

The meeting will be held Thursday, Nov. 16 at the 4-H Community Center building, beginning at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend.



Anna Lee Ault (News-Banner file photo)

Theater Thursdays at the library

Every third Thursday of the month the Wells County Public Library hosts free Theater Thursday for adults at the Bluffton library.

Scheduled for 2023 are these PG-13 films:

Nov. 16: "Fatherhood"
Dec. 21: "Last Christmas"

Sponsors are the Friends of the Library and the Bluffton Parks & Recreation. Registration appreciated to (260) 824-1612 or online at wellsco-library.org.

Events at the Creative Arts Council of Wells County

428 S. Oak St. in Bluffton
260-824-5222
www.wellscocreativearts.com
creativeartscouncil@gmail.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/wellscocreativearts

Instagram: @creativeartscouncil
Creative Arts office hours — Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The office is closed on Fridays.

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

new class

Children's Choir Winter Camp

Creative Arts is excited to introduce the Children's Choir Winter Camp, where kids can explore their love for music and singing in a joyful and supportive environment. The Children's Choir Winter Camp is a 2-week program designed for 3-8 grade students passionate about singing. Led by experienced and enthusiastic director Alyssa Plisco, this camp aims to foster a love of music, develop vocal skills, and build confidence in young singers.

The Children's Choir Winter Camp will occur from Monday, Jan. 8, 2024 through Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024, at Creative Arts, 428 S. Oak St, Bluffton. We encourage you to register your child soon.

To register or for more information, please visit our website <https://www.wellscocreativearts.com/childrens-choir> or contact us at 260-824-5222. Tuition: \$85 Give your child a memorable and enriching winter experience by joining our Children's Choir Winter Camp.

Auditions for Noir Suspicions

Creative Arts Theater is holding auditions for a spring production to be performed Feb. 16 and 17

Auditions will be held Friday, Dec. 1 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 2 from 9 a.m. to noon

For more information on the play and roles available, please visit: <https://www.wellscocreativearts.com/other-yearly-productions>

Excerpts from "The Nutcracker"

Performed by Creative Arts Youth Dance Company on Saturday, Dec. 2 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Admission is \$5 at the door.

Creative Arts Theater

Irving Berlin's "White Christmas"
Thursday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 9 at 3 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Tickets are \$15 for Adults and \$10 for



12 and under.

Reserved Seating purchased online at: tickets.artstix.org or Call 260-422-4226, Monday-Friday from 12 p.m.- 6 p.m.

White Christmas is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals. www.concordtheatricals.com

The Joyful Sounds of Christmas

Saturday, Dec. 16 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Music beginning at 2:30 and again at 5:30.

Come get in the Christmas spirit with local vocalists performing your favorite Christmas songs. Grab a picture with Santa and his elves, participate in kid's activities, and enjoy some light refreshments

Ongoing Activities

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

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

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

Chamber seeks nominations for citizen and business of the year

The Wells County Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for Citizen of the Year and Business of the Year to be awarded at the Annual Dinner & Awards Ceremony on February 26, 2024.

Citizen of the Year

When choosing a citizen of the year nominee, think about how the individual

- has given ongoing support to the community
- clearly demonstrates leadership and hard work
- makes Wells County a better place to live

To submit a nomination, please provide the following information:

Your contact information (name, phone number and email address), the name of the Wells County citizen you would like to nominate and why they are worthy of this honor.

Business of the Year

When choosing a business of the year nominee, think about how the business

- has made an impact on you and many others in the community
- positively contributes to the quality of life in Wells County
- goes above and beyond for their customers

To submit a nomination for either award, please provide the following information: Your contact information (name, phone number and email address), the name of the Wells County citizen or business you would like to nominate and why they are worthy of this honor.

Support letters and other documents are also encouraged.

Nomination are due by Nov. 27 by mail or email.

Mail: Attn: Erin Prible
Wells County Chamber of Commerce
211 Water Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
Email: eprible@wellscoc.com

Zanesville News

by Melba Edwards

This first week of November has been blessed with great weather and it just may stay a few days until we begin to see the winter weather begin.

The Coffee Cafe is open at the Zanesville Community Church of God on Marzane Road every weekday morning from 7:30 to 10 a.m. All ages are welcome to come and join in on the fellowship.

The Zanesville Town Council meets on Tuesday, Nov. 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall on Wayne Street. Everyone is welcome to attend these monthly meetings.

The Zanesville Lions want to remind you that we have apple dumplings ready for Thanksgiving, birthdays and other special occasions. They are cooked and frozen and come with a helping of caramel sauce. You can heat them in the oven or microwave or you can save them in your freezer for later use. All proceeds go to keeping the Lions Community Park open. They are \$3 each and you can order them from Melba at 638-4327 or from Robin on Facebook.

The Lions also have Christmas wreaths on white crosses for \$5 each. They can also be ordered at the above numbers.

Coming up is our annual Christmas Lighting Contest here in town. If you are in the town limits you are automatically registered to win cash prizes. The judging will take place on Mon-

day, evening, Dec. 18, and we will be around taking pictures a few days before that to help keep the judging straight.

Now here as promised is the report on the Halloween Party.

0-2 year olds — First place, Vivian Graf as Princess Peach; Second place, Ayla Cutshall as an orange fairy; Third place, Josie as a Yellow Bow Meeka; Fourth place, Ella Krouse as a unicorn.

3-4 year olds — First place, Jase Zent as a dragon; Second place, Asher Cutshall as Paw Patrol; Third place, Myles Krouse as Blippi.

5-6 year olds — First place, Adalyn Phillips as a police officer; Second place, Grant Zent as a vampire; Third place, Levi Reid as Mortal Kombat; Fourth place, Eli Heise as Black Panther; Fifth place, Cole Graf as a toadstool.

7-8 year olds — First place, Brent Franklin as a scarecrow/spirit of Halloween; Second place, Brayton Franklin as the Black Panther; Third place, Lucas Greaves as a Colts player.

9-11 year olds — First place, Eva Greaves as Dorothy; Second place, Alex Bodenheimer as the Grim Reaper; Third place, Keagan Reid as The Joker; Fourth place, Hunter Reid as XFactor.

12 and over — First place, Jacob Macey as the runny nose; Second place, Mason Zent as a skeleton;

Third place, Ivan Bales as the Grim Reaper; Fourth place, Paula Tucker as a Whoopie Cushion; Fifth place, Brysen Reid as a sloth.

Groups — First place, Trevan Bodenheimer/Colin and Myra Rabb as fruit salad; Second place, The Graf Family as Mario; Third place, Myles and Josie Krouse as carton characters; Fourth place, Mason and Grant Zent/Hunter and Keagan Reid.

Most original — First place, Braiden Stevens as Mr. America; Second place, Tabbe Brock as a dinosaur; Third place, Brenton Franklin as a scarecrow; Fourth place, Jacob Macey as a runny nose; Fifth place, Alex Stephans as a Colts player.

The evening was quite cold so we did all the activities in the clubhouse. I reminded those present that the Halloween Party has been going on for over 70 years and was held at first downtown. There were about 50 guests present and most stayed to play free bingo.

Helping with the evening were Lions members Steve Keesler, Helen Toreno, Robin Phillips, Melba Edwards, Larry Herron, and friends John and Eileen Schumacher.

The hole in the playground fence has been fixed thanks to Larry Herron and John Schumacher. Now the kids are safer.

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5th & 6th

7th & 8th

EARLY REGISTRATION

Pre-K & K:

Members \$40, Y Participants \$80

1st & 2nd, 3rd & 4th, 5th & 6th, 7th & 8th:

Members \$50, Y Participants \$90

REGULAR REGISTRATION

Pre-K & K:

Members \$45, Participants \$85

1st & 2nd, 3rd & 4th, 5th & 6th, 7th & 8th:

Members \$55, Y Participants \$95

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Contact Ashley at Ashley_VandenBoom@fwymca.org
or (260) 565-9627 with any questions!

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Bluffton, Indiana

Knights open girls' swim season with invitational win

Norwell opened up the season on top with a first-place finish at its own girls-only invitational Saturday afternoon.

The Knights posted a team score of 238.5 to win the trophy. Following Norwell was Columbia City with 207 points, Huntington North third (196), Angola fourth (179), Oak Hill fifth (141), Bishop Dwenger sixth (132), South Adams seventh (101), Adams Central eighth (54), and Belmont ninth (53.5).

Top-3 finishers for Norwell were:

• Emerson Meredith second, Cassie

Coyne third in the 200-yard freestyle.

• Ella Krug third in the 200-yard IM and third in the 100-yard butterfly.

• Coyne second in the 500-yard freestyle. • Sawyer Peterson, Renee Frazee, Ryleigh Huffman, and Meredith third in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

• Haleigh Reinhard third in the 100-yard breaststroke.

• Peterson, Krug, Coyne, and Meredith third in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

Norwell will travel to Adams Central starting at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 14.

No. 19 Norwell comes up short against RV Northridges in hoops

By RICK SPRUNGER

Norwell's Lady Knights came up just a little short in their high-profile inter-sectional matchup with a strong Northridge team Saturday afternoon.

Two free throws by all-state candidate Morgan Cross with 0:05.5 remaining lifted the Raiders to a 54-53 victory over the Knights and enabled them to make the nearly two-hour bus ride back to Middlebury with smiles on their faces.

Norwell managed to get off a hurried shot from way behind the arc that was on line but well short in the remaining time.

Unranked, but underrated, Northridge will likely be noticed by the pollsters now after a 3-0 start that includes wins over both Class 4A No. 8 Homestead and the Class 3A No. 3 Knights in its last two outings.

Norwell fell to 2-1 with that same Homestead team coming up next on Tuesday night.

If there was a silver lining, however, it was in the spirited second-half comeback that brought Norwell all the way back from a 30-13 deficit with 1:29 left in the second quarter to take a 47-46 lead on a three-pointer by Makenzie Fuess with 3:57 to play in the contest.

"We played with much more resolve in the second half," said Norwell coach Eric Thornton after the tough loss. "Our effort was really, really good in the second half."

It started with Norwell scoring the last four points of the first half to trim the margin to 30-17, then exploding out of the third-quarter gate with a 10-0 run and a 30-27 score.

Vanessa Rosswurm started the second half with a drive through the lane, while Annabelle Johnson nailed a three-pointer that got the crowd back into it. Fuess picked up a steal and layup, and Kennedy Fuelling swished a three-pointer after a key offensive rebound by Dekota Hubble that kept the possession alive.

Cross stemmed the bleeding with a shot from underneath.

But Fuelling, just getting

started with the previous three, drilled another and followed that with a drive through the lane to tie the game at 32-32 with 3:57 left in the third quarter.

"You don't just draw something up on the board and say, 'If you just do this one thing,'" commented Thornton in response to a question about what he said in the locker room that lit a fire under his team.

Instead, his team simply came out and played with intensity and determination.

Northridge steadied after that Norwell flurry and took a 43-37 lead into the fourth quarter when Cross wrapped a pair of buckets around a Norwell miss in the final 0:24 of the period.

But Norwell was far from finished.

The Knights kept right on coming until Fuess' three-pointer from the right corner vaulted Norwell on top.

They took the lead again at 50-48 on a pair of Fuelling free tosses with 1:33 left and at 52-50 on two more by Rosswurm at 0:29.

In between, however, the Knights caught a tough break when Fuess was whistled for an offensive foul, her fifth.

"We didn't think her fourth foul was actually on her," said Thornton of an earlier call. "We thought it should have been called on someone else, and we talked about that with the officials. Maybe they were right; we're just going to have to look at the game film and see."

Fuess took a seat with 0:42 left, and Rielyn Goodwin tied the game for Northridge with 0:18 to play.

Johnson then hit the first of two free throws with 0:11 remaining to set up the furious finish, unfortunately with Fuess — an outside shooter — on the bench.

But just as Thornton was quick to point out the silver lining, he wouldn't be a coach if he didn't also notice the cloud in the middle of it.

"This game could have been won if we had played in the first half like we did in the second," he said in a direct manner.

Thornton was talking about a rough start that saw his team hit on just seven of

29 first-half shots for an ice-cold .241.

Northridge, meanwhile, was hitting on 12 of 22 (.545) and racing out to that 30-13 lead that ended up 30-17 at the break.

"We were going to the rim soft, just sort of flipping it up and hoping it went in," Thornton said of his club's uncharacteristically chilly .315 overall shooting percentage (17-for-54). "When you play a team like Northridge, you have to play hard for four quarters. This will have been a good loss if we learn something from it. If we don't, then it won't be a good loss; it will just be a loss."

Cross was as good as advertised for Northridge, scoring 18 points on 7-for-11 shooting, picking up five rebounds, and adding four steals.

Goodwin, a junior and another major holdover from last year's 22-6 Class 4A sectional championship squad, added 16 points and seven rebounds.

Fuelling led all scorers with 19 points for Norwell, 11 of them coming in the third quarter. Rosswurm added 13 points and Fuess 12 for the Knights.

Norwell won the junior varsity game, 37-35.

Jada Dale led the reserves with 11 points, Ashley Waldman checked in with eight, Macie Saalfrank and Larkin Smith scored seven apiece, and Alivia Green added four.

sports@news-banner.com

NORTHBRIDGE 54, NORWELL 53

NORTHBRIDGE (3-0): Morgan Cross 7-11 4-5 18, Sabrina Miller 3-5 0-0 8, Rielyn Goodwin 7-13 2-2 16, Gaby Gates 3-7 3-4 9, Ella Mohamed 1-6 0-0 3, Taylor Baugh 0-0 0-0 0, Cam Conley 0-2 0-0 0, Lily Scholl. TOTAL: 21-44 9-11 54.

NORWELL (2-1): Annabelle Johnson 1-3 1-2 4, Kennedy Fuelling 6-16 4-4 19, Makenzie Fuess 5-13 0-0 12, Vanessa Rosswurm 4-18 5-6 13, Dekota Hubble 0-1 1-2 1, Haley Green 1-2 0-0 2, Addison Norris 0-1 0-0 0, Lilian Norris 0-0 2-2 2. TOTAL: 17-54 13-16 53.

Northridge 18 12 13 11 — 54

Norwell 8 9 20 16 — 53

Three-point shooting: Northridge 3-11 (Cross 0-1, Miller 2-4, A. Goodwin 0-2, Mohamed 1-2, Conley 0-2), Norwell 6-18 (Johnson 1-1, Fuelling 3-8, Fuess 2-7, Rosswurm 0-2). Rebounds: Northridge 32 (Gates 10, Goodwin 7, Cross 5), Norwell 31 (Green 7, Rosswurm 6, Johnson 5). Turnovers: Northridge 19, Norwell 10. Personal fouls: Northridge 16, Norwell 11. Fouled Out: Fuess. Technical fouls: None.

Junior Varsity: Norwell 37, Northridge 35.

No. 2 Michigan grinds past No. 9 Penn State without Harbaugh

By RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — Before the game, Blake Corum warmed up wearing a ski hat that summed up Michigan's attitude right now: "Michigan vs. Everybody."

After the second-ranked Wolverines were done pummeling No. 9 Penn State, Corum wore a bloodied bridge of his nose and the satisfaction of knowing that everybody is still winless against Michigan this season.

With coach Jim Harbaugh banned by the Big Ten Conference, Corum, J.J. McCarthy and the Wolverines played unfazed by a scandal that has hounded the program for

weeks — and their toughest opponent yet — grinding past the Nittany Lions 24-15 on Saturday.

"We're one. It made us stronger," said Corum, who carried 26 times. "Obviously,

we wanted Coach Harbaugh to be here, but we did it for him today. We've been going through a lot lately, but it's only brought us closer together."

Corum ran for 145 yards and two touchdowns, McCarthy made a few key plays with his arm and legs and the Wolverines (10-0, 7-0, No. 3 CFP) improved to

3-0 since it was revealed the program was under NCAA investigation for a sign-steal-

(Continued on Page 7)



Norwell's Molly Threewits competes in the 500-yard freestyle relay during the girls invitational at Norwell High School Saturday morning. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

Bluffton improves to 2-0 with close victory over East Noble

The Bluffton girls' basketball team defeated East Noble Saturday on its way to a 2-0 record to begin the season.

The Tigers topped the Knights 46-43, with Konley Ault leading the way with 11 points. Isabella Stout followed with 10, Haley Gibson and Marn Schreiber (8), Marly Drayer (5), Madyson Sonnigsen (3),

and Sophie Eisenhut (1).

The junior varsity Tigers lost to the Knights with a score of 37-33.

Shak Eskridge led the way with 12 points, followed by Madelyn Funk (9) and Isla Gibson (6).

Bluffton will host Mississinewa (3-1) on Tuesday starting at 7:30 p.m.

High School Calendar

MONDAY, NOV 13
GIRLS BASKETBALL: Lakeland Christian at Southern Wells, 6 p.m.
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
THURSDAY, NOV 16
BOYS BASKETBALL: Mississinewa at

Southern Wells, 6 p.m.
FRIDAY, NOV 17
GIRLS BASKETBALL: Norwell at Blackhawk Christian, 7:30 p.m.
SATURDAY, NOV 18
GIRLS BASKETBALL: Norwell at Oak Hill, 7:30 p.m.; Bluffton at Madison-Grant, 7:30 p.m.; Whitko at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m.
WRESTLING: Bluffton Super Duals, 9 a.m.; Southern Wells at Bronco Super Duals (Wapahani high school), 9 a.m.
MONDAY, NOV 20
No events scheduled

Taylor runs for early TD, Colts hold off Patriots in Germany

By JAMES ELLINGWORTH

AP Sports Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — Jonathan Taylor ran for a first-quarter touchdown and Mac Jones threw a crucial interception in the fourth quarter and the Indianapolis Colts held on for a 10-6 win over New England Patriots in Germany on Sunday.

Indianapolis had not scored fewer than 20 points in any of its first nine games this season. Half of that total was still enough to beat the Patriots' misfiring offense.

The NFL's 50th regular-season game outside the United States, and last of this season, was dominated by defense and Taylor's first-quarter touchdown was the only one of the game. It was the lowest-scoring game in the league this season.

Colts coach Shane Steichen praised his team's "phenomenal" defense to limit the Patriots to two field goals.

"Our defense stepped up. We moved the ball offensively, but we didn't finish our drives like we normally do, but it was good to get the win," he said.

Jones was sacked five times in the first half and was replaced with backup Bailey Zappe late in the fourth quarter.

Trailing 10-6 late in the fourth quarter, Jones drove the Patriots inside the red zone but was intercepted by Julian Blackmon on a pass intended for tight end Mike Gesicki at the 1-yard line.

Colts quarterback Gardner Minshew threw a 28-yard pass to Josh Downs for a first down that forced the Patriots to start using their timeouts. Minshew was 18 for 28 for 194 yards and Taylor had 69 yards on 23 carries. Michael Pittman had eight receptions for 84 yards. Dayo Odeyingbo had three of the sacks for the Colts.

After eventually forcing the Colts to punt, Zappe replaced Jones with 1:52 remaining in the game. After converting on a fourth down, Zappe attempted a fake spike, but threw into triple coverage and was picked off by Rodney Thomas to seal the game.

Jones was 15 for 20 for 170 yards and his league-leading 10th interception. Zappe, who replaced Jones for the third time this season, was 3 for 7 for 25 yards on the final drive. Rhamondre Stevenson had 20 carries for 88 yards and Ezekiel Elliott added 13 carries for 54 yards.

The Patriots dropped to 2-8 on the sea-

son, matching the worst since Bill Belichick's first year as coach in 2000 and the Colts improved to 5-5. The Patriots have not won a game outside of the AFC East this season.

The Patriots have failed to score a touchdown in at least three games in their first 10 games of a season for the first time since 1995.

"Obviously it was a disappointing game. Similar theme that we've had to other games this year," Belichick said.

"Just too many missed opportunities in all three phases of the game. Just got to play better situational football and do a better job taking advantage of the opportunities that we have. We just didn't do a good enough job today."

Chad Ryland's 37-yard field goal gave the Patriots an early lead, Taylor rushed for a 1-yard touchdown on fourth down after twice gaining first downs on third-and-1 earlier in the drive.

Matt Gay missed a 57-yard field-goal attempt for the Colts at the end of the second quarter to leave the score 7-3 at the half.

Ryland, who missed a 35-yard attempt early in the third quarter, had a 24-yarder early in the fourth quarter to reduce the Colts' lead to 7-6.

Gay then added 51-yard field goal restored the Colts' four-point lead on a drive that was aided by Isaiah McKenzie's 42-yard kickoff return.

The Patriots are rivaling Kansas City for the title of the most popular team in Germany, which is widely viewed as the NFL's most promising international market.

Patriots support in Germany grew in the 2010s during the team's Super Bowl titles and the appeal of German offensive lineman Sebastian Vollmer, but the defending Super Bowl champion Chiefs have caught up fast.

The Colts won an international game for the first time, moving to 1-1, and the Patriots lost a regular-season game outside the U.S. for the first time after winning their previous three.

It was the second regular-season NFL game at Deutsche Bank Park in Frankfurt after the Chiefs beat the Dolphins 21-14 last week.


UP NEXT

Colts: Bye week and then host the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Nov. 26.

Southern Wells falls to Eastbrook


Southern Wells fell in girls' basketball to Eastbrook at home 75-31 on Saturday.

The Raiders (0-3) will host Lakeland Christian (1-0) at 6 p.m. on Monday.



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News-Banner Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE					
East					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	6	3	0	.667	285 225
Buffalo	5	4	0	.556	240 160
N.Y. Jets	4	5	0	.500	144 172
New England	2	8	0	.200	141 238
South					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Jacksonville	6	3	0	.667	196 190
Houston	5	4	0	.556	217 192
Indianapolis	5	5	0	.500	242 248
Tennessee	3	6	0	.333	154 180
North					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	7	3	0	.700	270 157
Cleveland	6	3	0	.667	214 170
Pittsburgh	6	3	0	.667	156 182
Cincinnati	5	4	0	.556	182 192
West					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	7	2	0	.778	208 143
L.A. Chargers	4	5	0	.444	239 215
Las Vegas	5	5	0	.500	172 201
Denver	3	5	0	.375	172 226

NATIONAL CONFERENCE					
East					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	8	1	0	.889	252 195
Dallas	6	3	0	.667	269 165
Washington	4	6	0	.400	217 274
N.Y. Giants	2	8	0	.200	118 266
South					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	5	5	0	.500	214 198
Tampa Bay	4	5	0	.444	178 173
Atlanta	4	6	0	.400	189 217
Carolina	1	8	0	.111	153 242
North					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Detroit	7	2	0	.778	241 203
Minnesota	6	4	0	.600	233 209
Green Bay	3	6	0	.333	179 182
Chicago	3	7	0	.300	204 255

Thursday's Games					
Chicago 16, Carolina 13					
Sunday's Games					
Indianapolis 10, New England 6, Frankfurt, DEU					
Cleveland 33, Baltimore 31					
Houston 30, Cincinnati 27					
Minnesota 27, New Orleans 19					
Pittsburgh 23, Green Bay 19					
San Francisco 34, Jacksonville 3					
Tampa Bay 20, Tennessee 6					
Arizona 25, Atlanta 23					
Detroit 41, L.A. Chargers 38					
Dallas 49, N.Y. Giants 17					
Seattle 29, Washington 26					
Las Vegas 16, N.Y. Jets 12					

West					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	6	3	0	.667	252 143
Seattle	6	3	0	.667	200 201
L.A. Rams	3	6	0	.333	178 204
Arizona	2	8	0	.200	176 263

Monday's Games					
Denver at Buffalo, 8:15 p.m.					
Thursday, Nov. 16					
Cincinnati at Baltimore, 8:15 p.m.					
Sunday, Nov. 19					
Arizona at Houston, 1 p.m.					
Chicago at Detroit, 1 p.m.					
Dallas at Carolina, 1 p.m.					
L.A. Chargers at Green Bay, 1 p.m.					
Las Vegas at Miami, 1 p.m.					
N.Y. Giants at Washington, 1 p.m.					
Pittsburgh at Cleveland, 1 p.m.					
Tennessee at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.					
Tampa Bay at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.					
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo, 4:25 p.m.					
Seattle at L.A. Rams, 4:25 p.m.					
Minnesota at Denver, 8:20 p.m.					

Open: Indianapolis, New England, Atlanta, New Orleans
Monday, Nov. 20
 Philadelphia at Kansas City, 8:15 p.m.

College

EAST			
Michigan	24	Penn St.	15
Syracuse	28	Pittsburgh	13
SOUTH			
Alabama	49	Kentucky	21
Clemson	42	Georgia Tech	21
Florida St.	27	Miami	20
Georgia	52	Mississippi	17
James Madison	44	Uconn	6
LSU	52	Florida	35
North Carolina	47	Duke	45
Tulane	24	Tulsa	22
UCF	45	Oklahoma St.	3
MIDWEST			
Alma	50	Albion	14
Bluffton	42	Defiance	35
Ferris St.	63	Wayne St. (Mich.)	19
Grand Valley St.	38	Davenport	0
Hillsdale	35	Ohio Dominican	17
Illinois	48	Indiana	45
Indiana	52	Indiana	45
Indiana St.	27	W. Illinois	6
Indianapolis	41	SW Baptist	3
Iowa	22	Rutgers	0
Kansas St.	59	Baylor	25
Manchester	37	Anderson (Ind.)	7
Maryland	13	Nebraska	10
Missouri	36	Tennessee	7
Mount Union	41	Baldwin Wallace	17

Northwestern			
Northwestern	24	Wisconsin	10
Ohio Northern	38	Wilmington (Ohio)	14
Ohio St.	38	Michigan St.	3
Olivet	32	Adrian	10
Purdue	49	Minnesota	30
Rockford	61	Concordia (Ill.)	41
S. Dakota St.	34	Youngstown St.	0
Saginaw Valley St.	38	Michigan Tech	21
St. John's (Minn.)	48	Concordia (Mo.)	21
Texas Tech	16	Kansas	13
Tiffin	26	Findlay	7
Trine	42	Kalamazoo	29
Valparaiso	23	Stetson	20

SOUTHWEST			
Auburn	48	Arkansas	10
Cincinnati	24	Houston	14
Oklahoma	59	West Virginia	20
Texas	29	TCU	26
Texas A&M	51	Mississippi St.	10

FAR WEST			
Arizona	34	Colorado	31
Arizona St.	17	UCLA	7
Boise St.	42	New Mexico	14
California	42	Washington St.	39
Colorado St.	22	San Diego St.	19
Iowa St.	45	BYU	13
Oregon	36	Southern Cal	27
Oregon St.	62	Stanford	17
Washington	35	Utah	28

Monday's Games			
Cincinnati 24, Penn St. 15			
Philadelphia at Kansas City, 8:15 p.m.			

Caston			
Caston	47	Winamac	33
Central Noble	61	Prairie Heights	40
Connersville	54	Shenandoah	43
Crown Point	58	Hammond Central	45

Culver			
Culver Academy	31	Peru	30
Eastbrook	73	Southern Wells	31
Eastern (Greene)	57	Shoals	15
Eastern Hancock	50	Triton Central	41

Evansville			
Evansville Harrison	53	Boonville	44
Evansville Mater Dei	56	Vincennes	48
Lincoln	48		
Fairfield	40	Goshen	24
Frankton	81	Muncie Central	25
Fremont	59	Adams Central	42
Ft. Wayne Blackhawk	52	Leo	49
Ft. Wayne Northrop	57	Ft. Wayne Concordia	33
Ft. Wayne Snider	52	Ft. Wayne Dwenger	32
Ft. Wayne South	50	New Haven	37
Gibson Southern	69	Indpls Chatter	58

Greenfield			
Greenfield	48	Guerin Catholic	36
Hamilton Hts.	53	Jay Co.	41
Henryville	41	Switzerland Co.	22
Heritage Hills	43	Jasper	41
Homestead	73	Ft. Wayne Wayne	40

Indian Creek			
Indian Creek	86	Monrovia	42
Indpls Park Tudor	55	Tipton	13
Indpls Pike	57	Indpls Perry Meridian	31
Indy Brebeuf	48	Purdue Polytechnic	43

Jac-Cen-De			
Jac-Cen-De	41	S. Ripley	22
Jeffersonville	52	Anderson	44
Jennings	45	Silver Creek	33
Lafayette Harrison	57	Highland	23
Lake Central	50	Penn	33
Lapel	57	Indpls N. Central	48
Lawrence Central	59	Westfield	34
Lawrence North	56	Noblesville	53
Linton	50	Edgewood	23
Lowell	57	East Chicago Central	21
Madison-Grant	46	Cowan	35
Manchester	60	Maconaquah	53
Martinsville	42	North Vigo	31
Merrillville	61	Concord	36
Mishawaka	46	S. Bend	57

Monroe			
Monroe Central	68	Muncie Burris	9
Mooresville	51	Franklin Central	42
Mt. Vernon (Fortville)	53	Richmond	21

New Prairie			
New Prairie	74	S. Central (Union Mills)	53
New Washington	52	Christian Academy	28
Northwood	52	Rochester	28
Northridge	54	Norwell	53
Oldenburg	53	Southwestern (Shelby)	27

Plymouth			
Plymouth	58	Michigan City	39
Rensselaer	69	Knox	18
Rising Sun	59	Clarksville	48
River Forest	44	N. Newton	29
Rossville	36	Fountain Central	27
Seymour	62	Greenwood	24
Shakamak	56	Cloverdale	24
Shelbyville	66	Morristown	31
Southport	37	South Vigo	13
Southwestern (Hanover)	77	Crothersville	20

Sullivan			
Sullivan	66	Owen Valley	44
Tecumseh	49	Evansville Christian	46

Tippecanoe			
Tippecanoe Valley	67	Northwestern	29
Tri-Township	35	Tri-County	25
Twin Lakes	67	Delphi	37
Union City	50	New Castle	23
Valparaiso	54	Hammond	12
W. Lafayette	42	Kokomo	31
W. Washington	41	White River Valley	35

Wabash			
Wabash	50	Marion	17
Wapahani	59	Union (Modoc)	20
Whitko	53	Churubusco	46
Woodlan	51	Garrett	31

Zionsville									
Zionsville	63	Indpls Roncalli	48						
Corydon Central	Tournament	Championship	Borden	54	Washington	49			
3th Place	Evansville Central	57	Corydon	33	5th Place	Crawford Co.	63	New Albany	54
7th Place	Vincennes Rivet	57	Rock Creek Academy	51	Semifinal	Borden	62	Corydon	49
Washington	57	Evansville Central	48						

Consolation					
Consolation	Crawford Co.	65	Rock Creek Academy	54	
New Albany	56	Vincennes Rivet	45		
DeMotte Christian Tournament	Championship	DeMotte Christian	37	Calumet Christian	34
First Round	Calumet Christian	43	Heritage Christian	30	
DeMotte Christian	49	Portage Christian	5		

Fishers-HSE				
Fishers-HSE Classic	Fishers	41	Elkhart	25
Fishers	66	Columbus East	29	
Hamilton Southeastern	65	Columbus East	28	
Hamilton Southeastern	68	Elkhart	37	

Southridge						
Southridge	Tournament	Championship	Lanesville	30	Southridge	21
3rd Place	N. Central (Farmersburg)	52	Madison Shawe	27		
First Round	Lanesville	51	N. Central (Farmersburg)	50		
Southridge	45	Madison Shawe	29			

Saturday's Games			
Cleveland 118, Golden State 110			
Sunday's Games			
Philadelphia	137	Indiana	126
Chicago	119	Detroit	108
Memphis	105	L.A. Clippers	101
New York	129	Charlotte	107

Saturday, Nov. 11			
MIDWEST			
Ball St.	73	Old Dominion	68
Bowling Green	81	Arkansas St.	75
Bradley	72	Utah St.	66
Cleveland St.	82	Ohio	78
Creighton	89	N. Dakota St.	60
E. Michigan	70	Georgia Southern	60

Georgia St.			
Georgia St.	77	W. Michigan	70
Kent St.	79	Fresno	69
Long Beach	57	DePaul	73
Louisiana-Monroe	74	Cent. Michigan	64
Loyola Chicago	89	E. Illinois	65
N. Illinois	91	Appalachian St.	78
Saint Louis	80	Illinois St.	71
Texas St.	75	Miami (Ohio)	65
Toledo	87	Louisiana-Lafayette	78
W. Carolina	71	Notre Dame	61

Houston			
Houston	82	Texas A&M-CC	50
Texas-Arlington	95	Texas-Tyler	64

Far West			
Arizona St.			
Arizona St.	63	Texas Southern	52

Houston			
Houston	107	Denver	104
Dallas	136	New Orleans	124
Oklahoma City	111	Phoenix	99
Miami	118	San Antonio	113

College			
Men's College Basketball Scores			
Sunday, Nov. 12			
EAST			
Rutgers	66	Bryant	57
SOUTH			
Clemson	68	Davidson	65
Georgia	64	NC Central	54
North Carolina	90	Lehigh	68
UAB	66	Maryland	63
MIDWEST			
Chicago St.	78	S. Indiana	67
Cincinnati	85	E. Washington	73
Fort Wayne	86	Texas A&M Commerce	64
Indiana	72	Army	64
Iowa St.	86	Idaho St.	55
SOUTHWEST			
Baylor	77	Gardner-Webb	62
Oklahoma St.	85	Sam Houston	87
Texas Tech	56	San Jose St.	42

Saturday, Nov. 11			
MIDWEST			
Ball St.	73	Old Dominion	68
Bowling Green	81	Arkansas St.	75
Bradley	72	Utah St.	66
Cleveland St.	82	Ohio	78
Creighton	89	N. Dakota St.	60
E. Michigan	70	Georgia Southern	

Estranged Father in the ICU

Dear Annie: For years, my natural birth father and I had a difficult time getting along or seeing eye to eye. He had remarried a wealthy woman who had a daughter, and from the time I can remember, they have been first in his life. My sister and I came second.

His wife and her child became his main priority, including when my stepdaughter, "Chrissy," gave birth to her children. I had three sons of my own, and he was present for their births, but shortly after the third was born, the father of my kids and I split up because he was always in trouble with the law and went to serve prison time.

I moved on with my life and tried not to ask for help, and be as independent as I could, though I did along the way have to call my father in need of rent help when I couldn't find a job. He reluctantly helped, but the sad part is that he hardly sees or knows his grandsons. He did little to stay in touch, and that was only when I begged him.

Later, I met a wonderful man and got remarried, but my father wouldn't come to my wedding, claiming I wasn't at his second wedding, which was true because I had to work to support my sons as a single parent. The list goes on. I basically went on with my life and didn't beg my father anymore to visit with us or his grandchildren.

Recently, my father was hospitalized in the intensive care unit for heart issues, and we were called upon to help with his grocery and care needs. And we were only invited to do so at times "he'd requested" because my stepdaughter Chrissy had birthday parties going on for her kids and I guess we just weren't good enough to be present more than what he wanted.

As the holidays approach, I want to let things go and just temporarily be there for him, because he is my father and elderly now. But I'm feeling upset

and resentful more and more. I know no one owes their grown children anything, but the lack of communication from my dad, or any kind of visits when we asked, have led me to just feel like closing the door. I can only handle so much rejection and hurt, and I'm not sure of the proper way to handle this. Any feedback, thoughts or suggestions would be greatly appreciated. — Hurt in Ohio

Dear Hurt: If you can, suspend your resentment of him while he is in poor health, and focus on whatever good he did — such as being there when each of your sons was born. But keep in mind that no one can make you feel inferior without your consent. Stop giving your father consent to make you feel rejected and hurt. Yes, his actions have been hurtful. Acknowledge his limitations for love with you, and move on to finding people who fill your cup and will gladly help you. The front windshield is much bigger than the small rearview mirror. Stop looking in the rearview mirror and forge forward to a better life filled with people who support and love you.

"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.

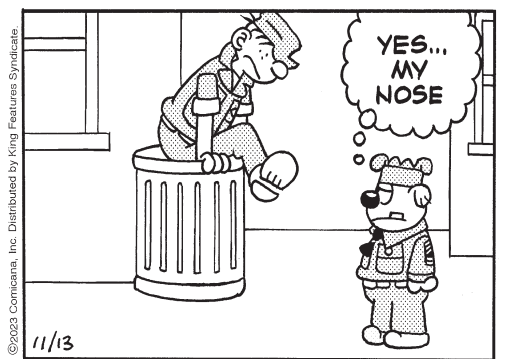
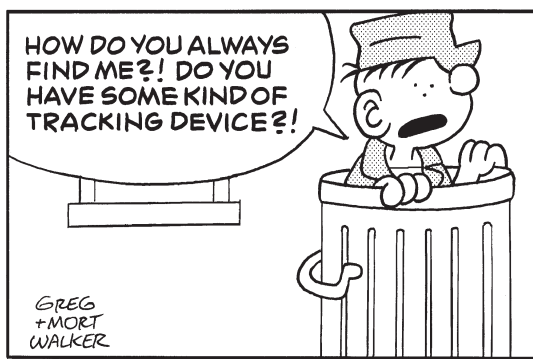
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Dear Annie

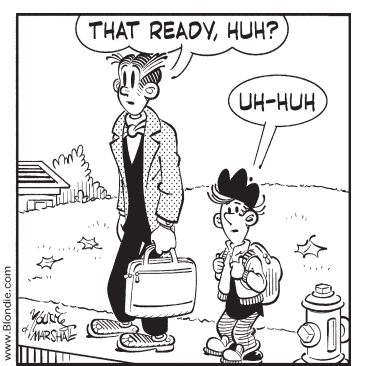
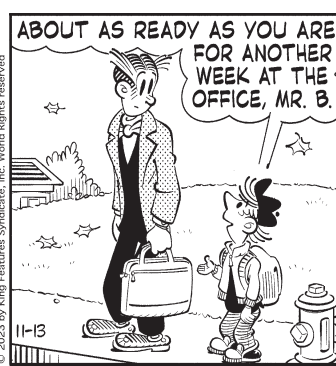
by Annie Lane



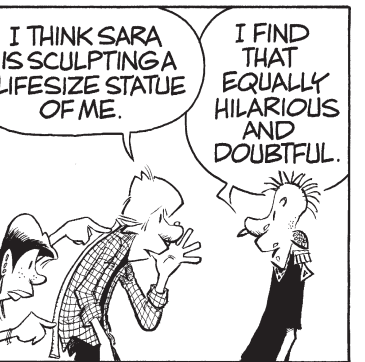
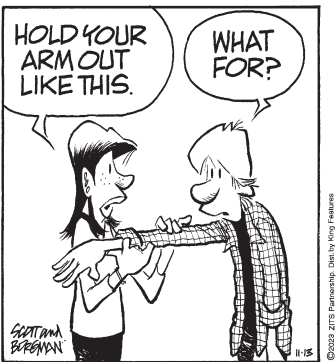
BEETLE BAILEY



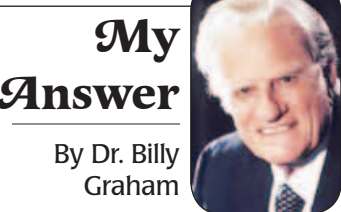
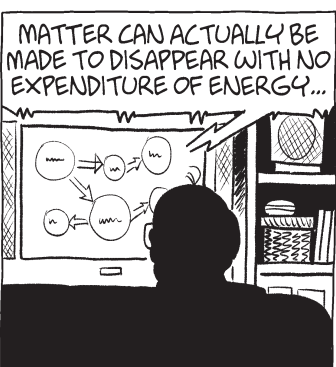
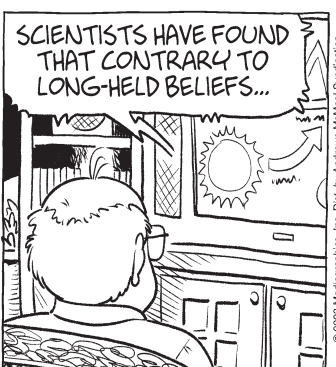
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ZITS



CRANKSHAFT



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham

God says our thinking must be shaped by His truth

Q: With all the distractions in life it is hard to think as Christ would think, yet Christians are to "have the mind of Christ." Most of my friends, though Christians, have their minds on themselves and what they can get from life, not what Christ has done for them. Is my concern too judgmental? Am I wrong to be concerned? — M.C.

A: There are many things that confront us in life that shape our thinking and our desires. When someone has been accustomed to going to church and doing things that please God and suddenly their lifestyle changes, there is reason for concern. We all should be on the alert because for

many people it doesn't take much to divert attention from the more important things in life.

Just think about the incredible number of messages that rain down on us every day: television ads, emails, social media, phone calls, magazines, junk mail, videos, billboards, conversations — the list is almost endless. How many of them subtly convince us that the road is paved with possessions, or beauty, or money, or fame, or any of a hundred other things? How many of them persuade us that the most important thing in life is financial success or the esteem of others? It is hard to resist the cumulative impact of so many

messages. But God says our thinking must be shaped by His truth. What this world calls valuable, God calls worthless. What this world scorns, God exalts. The Bible says, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways" (Isaiah 55:8, NKJV). Pray for those who have drifted from God and gone the way of the world, and be consistent in your life as a testimony to the Lord.

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

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By Bil Keane

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ACROSS

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9 Bliss
12 Docs' org.
13 Rolling Stones hit song
14 Common verb
15 Brit's approval
17 Verily
18 Yale grad
19 Maine city
21 Sign up anew
24 New Age singer
25 Outer (Pref.) bill
28 Brawl
31 Unoriginal one
33 Salty expanse
35 Russian ruler
36 Access the Web
38 Den sets
40 Iota
41 Bar

DOWN

1 Mahal
2 "As I see it," to a
3 Chum
4 Naturally
5 Web search tools
6 Past
7 Weeper of myth
8 Family cars
9 Protagonist in a novel
10 Nabisco cookie
11 Once around
16 Zodiac cat
20 Russian denial
21 Genuine
22 Big fair, for short
23 Football's "mean"
27 Profit
29 Follow
30 Scraps
32 Reddish horse
34 Got back at
37 Japanese warriors
39 Phonograph needle
42 Summa cum —
44 Haw preceder
45 Smoke an e-cig
46 Mid-month date
50 French diarist
51 Rover's warning
52 Thee
53 Chess pieces

Solution time: 21 mins.

Saturday's answer 11-13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15			16					17		
21	22	23				24				
25			26			27		28		29
31			32			33		34		35
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48						49		50		
54						55				56
57						58				59

11/13	M	A	D1	D2	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM	12:30
WINM (12)	11	26	63		3D Woman Julie & Friends	Unapologetic Life Reborn	Believers Among Us: A Life Reborn	Our Jewish Roots	TCT Today	News-watch	Prop. Comm James Robison	Dr. Robert Jeffrey	Jewish Jesus	Andrew Womack	Ask the Pastor	Rabbi Lapin				
CBS WANE (15)	2	2	15	15	News (N)	Inside Edition (N)	News at 6 (N)	CBS News (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	NCIS "Fight or Flight" (N)	Loteria Loca "Battle of the Ages" (N)	NCIS "First Steps" (N)	Nightcast (N)	(35) Late Show-Colbert (N)	(35) Comics Unleashed				
Antenna WANE-2 (352)	106	20			Criminal Minds "Neon Terror"	Criminal Minds "False Flag"	FBI "Ghost From the Past"	FBI "Flopped Cop"	FBI "Double Bind"	FBI "Ready or Not"	FBI "Into the Fire"	FBI "Kayla"								
ABC WPTA (21)	4	3	21	21	ABC21 News at 5 (N)	ABC21 (N)	ABC World News (N)	ABC21 News (N)	Ent. Tonight (N)	NFL Football Denver Broncos at Buffalo Bills Von Miller and the Bills host the Broncos. Miller played his first nine-plus seasons with Denver. (L) (N)	(15) ABC21 (N)	(50) Jimmy Kimmel Live! (N)	(50) Nightline							
NBC WPTA-2 (212)	7	8	14	14	Family Feud 25 Words or Less	News (N)	NBC News (N)	Family Feud (N)	Family Feud (N)	Voice, The Wynonna Judd serves as mega mentor at the knockouts continue; each coach has one save & one ste... (N)	The Irrational "Scorched Earth" (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	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Mom	Mom	The Goldbergs				
CW WISE (38)	8	4	33	33	The Steve Wilkos Show	TMZ Live (N)	Dish Nation (N)	TMZ (N)	Penn & Teller: Fool Us "Magic Is Sexy"	FBI Island "F. Marry, Ghost"	Dish Nation (N)	TMZ (N)	Family Guy	Family Guy	Bob's Burgers	Bob's Burgers				
PBS WFVA (39)	13	5	39	39	Antiques Roadshow "Vintage Honolulu"	PBS Newshour (N)	BBC News America	Matters of Mind	Dallas Hour 1 (N)	Antiques "Vintage Dallas Hour 1" (N)	Town The South Texas town of Victoria faces difficult questions after a mosque is burned to the ground. (N)	Amanpour and Company (N)	Antiques Roadshow "Vintage Dallas Hour 1"							
PBS WFWA (40)	3				Antiques Roadshow "Vintage Honolulu"	Context	BBC News America	PBS Newshour (N)	Antiques "Vintage Dallas Hour 1" (N)	Town The South Texas town of Victoria faces difficult questions after a mosque is burned to the ground. (N)	Amanpour and Company (N)	Antiques Roadshow "Vintage Dallas Hour 1"								
FOX WFFT (55)	6	5	55	55	WFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	Big Bang	Big Bang	Kitchen Nightmares (N)	Special Forces: World's Toughest Test (N)	FOX 55 News First at 10 (N)	Young Sheldon	Young Sheldon	Neighbor	Neighbor					

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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

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

Difficulty: ★

11/13

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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.

HELOISE HINT: Going to take a driving trip to visit relatives over the holidays? Review the route and traffic patterns well in advance, whether you plan to use the navigation system in your vehicle or the maps application in your cellphone. Fax Heloise @ 210-HELOISE (435-6473).

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Help Wanted

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 equipment. 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 (A)

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.

Help Wanted

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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

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 weekly 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, IN 46809, Phone: 260-478-6377 ext 340 or recruiting@sycamoretrkg.com (A)

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.

HELOISE HINT: The landscape of the workplace is changing. Be prepared to do interviews over video call platforms like Zoom or Teams. Practice using these types of platforms so that you are comfortable communicating in front of a camera. Email HELOISE@Heloise.com.

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Public Sale Calendar

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

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! Including 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.

Help Wanted

LOCAL DRIVER: LOCAL pickup or delivery and transport in Ft. Wayne area of both legal and oversized loads. Personalized dispatch, great pay with weekly direct deposit, excellent health, disability, life ins., 401K, and well-maintained equipment. Must have a good Class A CDL record and 3 years in a like profession. Sycamore Specialized Carriers, Inc., 3400 Engle Road, Ft. Wayne, IN 46809, Phone: 260-478-6377 ext 340 or recruiting@sycamoretrkg.com (A)

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Public Notices

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE Sheriff Sale File number: 90-23-0026-SS Date & Time of Sale: Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

Sale Location: Wells County Courthouse First Floor, 102 W Market St, Bluffton, IN Judgment to be Satisfied: \$60,077.58

Cause No. 90D01-2008-MF-000014 Plaintiff: US Bank Trust National Association, Not In Its Individual Capacity But Solely As Owner Trustee For VRMTG Asset Trust

Defendant: Unknown heirs, devisees, legatees, personal representatives, and creditors of John R. Bauer (deceased) and First Merchants Bank

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me, directed from the Clerk of Wells Superior Court of Wells County, Indiana, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree, with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, at the hour of 1:00 PM of said day as listed above, at 102 W Market St, Bluffton, IN 46714, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Wells County, Indiana:

10 FEET OF EVEN WIDTH OFF THE EAST SIDE OF LOT NUMBER 197 AS KNOWN ASN DESIGNATED ON THE RECORDED PLAT OF THE TOWN, (NOW CITY) OF BLUFFTON; ALSO 30 FEET OF EVEN WIDTH OFF THE WEST SIDE OF LOT NUMBER 198 AS KNOWN AND DESIGNATED ON THE RECORDED PLAT OF THE TOWN, (NOW CITY) OF BLUFFTON

Commonly Known as: 122 W SOUTH ST, BLUFFTON, IN 46714-2533

Parcel No. 90-08-04-539-306.000-004 Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisement laws. This Notice shall also represent service of Notice of Sale of the above-described real estate upon the owners, pursuant to requirements of IC 32-29-7-3.

Scott Holliday, Sheriff of Wells County By: Krista Markley, Phone: 260/824.3426

Township of property location: Jefferson Common street address of property: 122 W South St, Bluffton, IN 46714-2533

Property Tax ID: 90-08-04-539-306.000-004 Attorney: BRYAN K. REDMOND Attorney Number: 22108-29 Law Firm: Feiwell & Hanny, P.C.

Contact Number: (317) 237-2727 F&H Reference #: 103923F02

The sheriff's office does not warrant the accuracy of the commonly known street address. It is the buyer's responsibility to research the legal description and associated legal filings. nb 10/30, 11/6, 11/13 hspaxlp

SUDOKU ANSWER

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

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Add'l Lines, 88 cents each

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SELL YOUR WHEELS!

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ADD A PHOTO

for just \$5 more

One item per ad

GUARANTEED SOLD

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20 words \$39

Add'l Lines: 88 cents each

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Add'l Lines, 88 cents each

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

Lottery Numbers

Saturday's Drawings

HOOSIER LOTTERY

Cash 5 — 03-10-11-24-37

Cash4Life — 04-11-15-27-52, Cash Ball: 02

Lotto Plus — 17-19-21-31-34-35

Quick Draw Midday — 03-14-16-18-21-22-24-27-31-36-41-43-48-50-56-57-76-77-78-79, BE: 77

Daily Three-Midday — 06-06-08, SB: 01

Daily Three-Evening — 02-07-03, SB: 01

Daily Four-Midday — 02-02-08-02, SB: 01

Daily Four-Evening — 04-09-04-03, SB: 01

Quick Draw Evening — 03-17-18-19-28-30-31-43-44-45-48-49-50-51-59-60-64-66-77-78, BE: 60

Hoosier Lotto — 15-18-21-31-34-35

POWERBALL

01-12-14-24-57; Powerball: 07; Power Play: 4X

Sunday's Drawings

HOOSIER LOTTERY

Cash 5 — 05-09-26-36-38

Cash4Life — 01-21-41-56-57, Cash Ball: 02

Quick Draw Midday — 07-10-12-15-24-30-31-38-44-46-47-48-49-51-59-61-68-75-76-78, BE: 46

Daily Three-Midday — 03-08-08, SB: 06

Daily Three-Evening — 05-09-02, SB: 04

Daily Four-Midday — 07-03-05-01, SB: 06

Daily Four-Evening — 01-03-07-01, SB: 04

Quick Draw Evening — 04-05-07-12-13-14-21-22-24-32-33-35-37-39-44-51-53-54-62-74, BE: 54

Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$42.8 million

MEGA MILLIONS

Estimated jackpot (for Tuesday): \$245 million

POWERBALL

Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$235 million

Fighting rages near Gaza hospital, people trapped say they cannot flee

By WAFSA SHURAFU
and SAMY MAGDY
Associated Press

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP) — Health officials and people trapped inside Gaza's largest hospital rejected Israel's claims that it was helping babies and others evacuate Sunday, saying fighting continued just outside the facility where incubators lay idle with no electricity and critical supplies were running out.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has dismissed urgent calls for a cease-fire unless it includes the release of all the nearly 240 hostages captured by Hamas in the Oct. 7 rampage that triggered the war.

A day after Netanyahu said Israel was bringing its "full force" with the aim of ending Hamas' 16-year rule in Gaza, residents reported heavy airstrikes and shelling, including around Shifa Hospital. Israel, without providing evidence, has accused Hamas of concealing a command post inside and under the compound, allegations denied by Hamas and hospital staff.

"They are outside, not far from the gates," said Ahmed al-Boursh, a resident sheltering there.

The hospital's last generator ran out of fuel Saturday, leading to the deaths of three premature babies and four other patients, according to the Health Ministry. It said another 36 babies are at risk of dying.

Israel's military asserted it placed 79 gallons of fuel near Shifa overnight for an emergency generator powering incubators for premature babies and coordinated the delivery with hospital officials. But the military said Hamas prevented the hospital from receiving the fuel.

A Health Ministry spokesperson, Ashraf al-Qidra, disputed the account and also told Al Jazeera the fuel would not be enough to

operate the generator an hour. "This is a mockery towards the patients and children," Al-Qidra said.

Speaking to CNN, Netanyahu asserted that "100 or so" people had been evacuated from Shifa and that Israel had created safe corridors.

But Health Ministry Undersecretary Munir al-Boursh said Israeli snipers have deployed around Shifa, firing at any movement.

"There are wounded in the house, and we can't reach them," he told Al Jazeera. "We can't stick our heads out of the window."

The military said troops would assist in moving babies on Sunday. But Medical Aid for Palestinians, a U.K.-based charity that has supported Shifa's neonatal intensive care unit, said transferring critically ill infants is complex. "With ambulances unable to reach the hospital ... and no hospital with capacity to receive them, there is no indication of how this can be done safely," CEO Melanie Ward said.

The only option is for Israel to stop its assault and allow fuel into the hospital, Ward said.

The Health Ministry said there are 1,500 patients at Shifa, along with 1,500 medical personnel and between 15,000 and 20,000 people seeking shelter.

The president of Doctors Without Borders International, Christos Christou, told CBS' "Face the Nation" it would take weeks to evacuate the patients.

World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on the X social media platform that Shifa has been without water three days and "is not functioning as a hospital anymore." Several humanitarian groups told The Associated Press they weren't able to reach the hospital Sunday.

The Palestinian Red Crescent

rescue service said another Gaza City hospital, Al-Quds, is "no longer operational" because it was out of fuel with 6,000 people trapped there. Gaza's sole power plant shut down a month ago, and Israel has barred fuel imports to prevent Hamas from using them.

One woman fleeing northern Gaza, Fedaa Shangan, said she'd had a cesarean section at Al-Quds: "The wound is still fresh." She said the Israeli army near the hospital "did not care about the presence of patients, children, women and the elderly. They did not care about anyone."

Alarm was growing. "We do not want to see a firefight in a hospital where innocent people, helpless people, people seeking medical care are caught in the crossfire," President Joe Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, told ABC's "This Week."

"Decisive international action is needed now to secure an immediate humanitarian cease-fire" amid attacks on health care, the U.N. regional directors of the World Health Organization and others said in a statement, adding that more than half of Gaza's hospitals are closed.

Muhammed Zaout, director of hospitals in Gaza, said the Health Ministry has been unable to update the death toll since Friday as medics are unable to reach areas hit by Israeli bombardment.

About 2.3 million Palestinians remain in the besieged territory.

Netanyahu has said the responsibility for any harm to civilians lies with Hamas. Israel has long accused the group, which operates in dense residential neighborhoods, of using civilians as human shields.

EVACUATION WINDOWS, BUT NO PAUSES

The U.S. has pushed for temporary pauses that would allow for

Attacks by Lebanon's Hezbollah group wound 7 Israeli troops, 10 others along Israel border

JERUSALEM (AP) — Attacks by Lebanon's Hezbollah group Sunday wounded seven Israeli troops and 10 other people, Israel's military and rescue services said.

The clashes came as skirmishes between the Iran-backed group and Israeli military continue to intensify along the Lebanon-Israel border, threatening to escalate into another front in the Mideast's latest war.

The assault was the most serious incident involving civilians along the Lebanon-Israel border since an Israeli airstrike in south Lebanon on Nov. 5 killed a woman and three children.

The Israeli army's chief spokesman, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, said the Hezbollah attack on Israeli civilians was "very serious."

He said Israel is focused on its war in Gaza but it also remains at a "very high level of preparedness in the north" and ready to take further action.

The Israeli military "has operational plans to change the security status in the north," he told reporters. "The security status will not remain such that the civilians of the north do not feel safe returning to their homes."

The Israeli military said in a statement that "seven IDF soldiers were lightly injured as a result of the mortar shell launches in the area of Manara in northern Israel earlier today." Israeli rescue services did not identify the location or provide information about the 10 others wounded by rocket blasts and shrapnel, but said two of them were in critical condition.

The Israeli military said they identified 15 launches from Lebanon over the past hour and their defense systems intercepted four of them. The rest fell into open areas.

Hamas' military wing, meanwhile, claimed responsibility for shelling the northern Haifa and the Israeli border towns of Na'ura and Shlomi from southern Lebanon without giving any further details.

wider distribution of badly needed aid to civilians in the territory, where conditions are increasingly dire.

But Israel has only agreed to brief daily periods during which civilians can flee ground combat in northern Gaza and head south on foot along two main roads. Israel continues to strike what it says are militant targets across southern Gaza, often killing women and children.

Hospital officials said at least 13 were killed after an Israeli airstrike in the southern town of Khan Younis.

The war has displaced over two-thirds of Gaza's population.

Wael Abu Omar, spokesperson for Gaza's border crossings, said 846 people left Gaza to Egypt through the Rafah crossing Sunday. Nearly all were foreigners while a few were patients from Gaza's hospitals and their caretakers.

Trump's presidential plans include deportation raids, tariffs, mass firings

By JILL COLVIN
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A mass deportation operation. A new Muslim ban. Tariffs on all imported goods and "freedom cities" built on federal land.

Much of the 2024 presidential campaign has been dominated by the myriad investigations into former President Donald Trump and the subsequent charges against him. But with less than a year until Election Day, Trump is dominating the race for the Republican nomination and has already laid out a sweeping set of policy goals should he win a second term.

His ideas, and even the issues he focuses on most, are wildly different from President Joe Biden's proposals. If implemented, Trump's plans would represent a dramatic government overhaul arguably more consequential than that of his first term. His presidency, especially the early days, was marked by chaos, infighting and a wave of hastily written executive orders that were quickly overturned by the courts.

Some of his current ideas would probably end up in court or impeded by Congress. But Trump's campaign and allied groups are assembling policy books with detailed plans.

DISMANTLING THE 'DEEP STATE'

Trump would try to strip tens of thousands of career employees of their civil service protections. That way, they could be fired as he seeks to "totally obliterate the deep state."

He would try to accomplish that by reissuing a 2020 executive order known as "Schedule F." That would allow him to reclassify masses of employees, with a particular focus, he has said, on "corrupt bureaucrats who have weaponized our justice system" and "corrupt actors in our national security and intelligence apparatus." Given his anger at the FBI and federal prosecutors pursuing criminal cases against

him, Trump probably would target people linked to those prosecutions for retribution.

Beyond the firings, he wants to crack down on government officials who leak to reporters. He also wants to require that federal employees pass a new civil service test.

THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER

Trump has pledged to "immediately stop the invasion of our southern border" and end illegal immigration.

As part of that plan, he says he would immediately direct U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to undertake the largest domestic deportation operation in American history. He would target people who are legally living in the United States but harbor "jihadi sympathies" and revoke the student visas of those who espouse anti-American and antisemitic views.

In a bid to secure the U.S.-Mexico border, Trump says he will move thousands of troops currently stationed overseas and shift federal agents, including those at the Drug Enforcement Administration and FBI, to immigration enforcement. He also wants to build more of the border wall.

Trump wants to reimpose his travel ban that originally targeted seven Muslim-majority countries and expand it to "keep radical Islamic terrorists out of the country." In the wake of the Hamas attack on Israel, he has pledged to put in place "ideological screening" for immigrants. His aim: bar "dangerous lunatics, haters, bigots, and maniacs," as well as those who "empathize with radical Islamic terrorists and extremists."

To deter migrants, he has said he would end birthright citizenship, using an executive order that would introduce a legally untested interpretation of the 14th Amendment. The order would prevent federal agencies from granting automatic citizenship to the children of people who are in the U.S. illegally. It would require that at least one parent be a

U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident for their children to be eligible for passports, Social Security numbers and other benefits.

TRADE

Trump says he will institute a system of tariffs of perhaps 10% on most foreign goods. Penalties would increase if trade partners manipulate their currencies or engage in other unfair trading practices.

He will urge that Congress pass a "Trump Reciprocal Trade Act," giving the president authority to impose a reciprocal tariff on any country that imposes one on the U.S.

Much of the agenda focuses on China. Trump has proposed a four-year plan to phase out Chinese imports of essential goods, including electronics, steel and pharmaceuticals. He wants to ban Chinese companies from owning vital U.S. infrastructure in sectors such as energy, technology and agriculture, and says he will force Chinese owners to sell any holdings "that jeopardize America's national security."



Saturday trash collectors

Renelle Stauffer and her children were taking advantage of the sunny Saturday morning to collect trash along the Rivergreenway. Left to right are Issac, Renelle, Hannah and Christian. She explained that they already had disposed of several bags of trash and were finished as they headed west on Market St. toward home. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

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