

# The News - Banner

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023

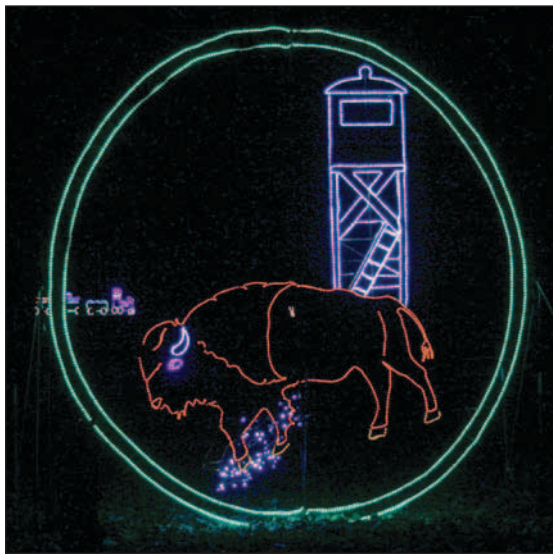
BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

\$1.00



### Lights Away

Beauty was on display at the 10th annual Wonderland of Lights at Oua-bache State Park. The lights will be on display from 6-9 p.m. through Dec. 31. Cost is \$5 per car. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)



## A vision forward for Bluffton's council and community

By JONATHAN SNYDER

A new marketing plan for the city seeks to advertise quality of life improvements, different attractions and upgrades to systems around the city while putting up new signs welcoming people to Bluffton for 2024 and beyond.

Each member of the Bluffton Common Council had ideas for city-wide improvements. First on their docket — “Welcome to Bluffton” signs.

The city previously had wooden welcome signs, but they fell into disrepair and were removed. After a conversation between the council earlier this year, council member Chandler Gerber took it upon himself to seek out possible options for new signs.

“We had a couple of council members that chimed in that they would like to see some options for the signs,” said Bluffton Mayor John Whicker. “That kicked off the rebranding, and the thought of, ‘Let’s take a holistic viewpoint of

people coming into town and making them feel welcome.” Whicker and the council are looking to make Bluffton a community that is future focused and beneficial to everyone.

“The heart behind it is making Bluffton attractive to families and attractive to people across the board, whether you are 18 fresh out of high school or 60 and looking to retire,” said Gerber.

As described by Whicker, the plans opened a larger conversation — how can the city attract people?

A marketing plan is in the works, with hopes to advertise the city’s schools, housing and technology upgrades. Gerber wants to market the upgrades in hopes of attracting developers and bringing jobs and housing for families. However, the project is still in its infancy.

Additionally, the city has recognized a need to upgrade its services to accommodate the digital

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## Man pleads guilty to burglary of Wells County business

By SYDNEY KENT

A man from Richmond pled guilty to the burglary of Baker Farms in January of 2022 in the Wells Circuit Court last month.

David Shane Sullivan, 46, was charged with burglary, a Level 5 felony, auto theft, a Level 6 felony, and two counts of auto theft with a prior conviction, both Level 5 felonies. The charges were filed after DNA evidence, found in a glove on the property, placed Sullivan at the scene of a burglary.

According to a probable cause affidavit, Zach Krinn, a representative from Baker Farms, reported that a theft had occurred overnight on New Year’s Eve in 2021. A laptop, various tools, and a Polaris Ranger UTV was stolen, along with additional items. The total cost of stolen items was estimated at \$80,540. The following morning, a subject near the business reported that his moped had been stolen overnight.

Several days after the burglary, Krinn advised detectives on the case that some of the stolen items were found in a field behind the business. One of the items was reportedly a computer system torn out of the UTV.

On March 5, officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle parked in the bushes on a property approximately 14 miles from the business. The vehicle was identified as the stolen UTV. The stolen moped was recovered in Florida approximately five months later.

During his interview with detectives, Sullivan advised he had previously dismissed charges in Florida. Sullivan was arrested with his girlfriend, Tessa Rettinger, after a high speed pursuit in a vehicle reported to be stolen out of Richmond. The charges were ultimately dismissed in the state.

Sullivan, who initially denied ever visiting Wells County, admitted that he was homeless and using drugs at the time of the burglary. When officers asked Sullivan how he found the barn, he reportedly said that he “had to get out of Richmond” and rode a train to the business. The officer noted a train track that runs from Richmond to an area near the farm.

Sullivan has multiple past convictions for theft of an automobile, as well as a past conviction for possession of methamphetamine and one count of theft.

Sullivan is scheduled for a sentencing hearing in this matter at 1 p.m. on Dec. 13 in the Wells Circuit Court.

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David Sullivan

## Wheeler receives Lilly scholarship

Elizabeth Wheeler, a Bluffton High School senior, has been named the Wells County Foundation 2024 Lilly Endowment Community Scholar.

Wheeler will receive not only full tuition to any eligible Indiana public or private nonprofit college or university, but also up to a \$900 per year stipend for required books and equipment. Lilly Endowment Community Scholars may also participate in the Lilly Scholars Network, which connects scholars with resources and opportunities to be active leaders on their campuses and in their communities.

Wheeler is the daughter of James and Abbey Wheeler. She is a two-year member of National Honor Society and has achieved high honor roll status throughout high school. Wheeler stays busy in and out of school, extensively involved in a variety of extra curricular and service opportunities. Wheeler has also been involved in dance since she was three-years-old, and that’s where she found out about this major award.

In a press release from Bluffton-Harrison schools, Wheeler said, “I was actually at my dance recital and my dad gave (the letter) to me after my first performance. I opened up the letter and I was shocked. I actually started crying. It was really cool. It was really special.”

Wheeler has been active in varsity tennis and served as junior varsity and varsity manager for the Bluffton boys’ basketball teams. She has received



Elizabeth (Ella) Wheeler is this year’s recipient of the Lilly Endowment Scholarship. (Photo provided)

numerous honors in the Tri Kappa Art Show and has been an active member of Youth As Resources, Campus Life, Students for Christ, The Creative Arts

(Continued on Page 2)

## Indiana secretary of state appeals ruling for Senate candidate

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indiana secretary of state is appealing a ruling that a law stipulating voting requirements for a candidate’s party affiliation is unconstitutional in a decision that lifted the hopes of a U.S. Sen-

ate hopeful who wants to run as a Republican.

The Indiana attorney general’s office filed the notice of appeal Friday with the Indiana Supreme Court on behalf of Secretary of State Diego Morales.

The filing came a day after a Marion County judge granted an injunction sought by John Rust, the former chair of the egg supplier Rose Acre Farms who is running to replace Sen. Mike Braun. Rust filed a lawsuit in September

against Morales, the Indiana Election Commission and Jackson County Republican Party Chair Amanda Lowery to challenge the law and ensure the possibility of his place on the ballot.

The law in question says a can-

didate’s past two primary elections must be cast with the party the candidate is affiliated with or a county party chair must approve the candidacy. In court documents, Rust argued that this statute “should be

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**Outside**

Warmer today, but full of rain and wind

Today	Sunday	Monday
High 60	High 38	High 38
Low 32	Low 25	Low 26

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## Vision forward

(Continued from Page 1)

age. Council member Scott Mentzer has contacted developers about a city app that could help residents navigate the city calendar, as well as modernize utility and e-billing processes.

With so many benefits being advertised, the need to consolidate these ideas into one vision for the city was presented by Gerber, which was supported by all members of Bluffton's City Council.

"As I've worked with other council members and the mayor ... we've all got things that we are working on," said Gerber. "All these things are in motion, but we are trying to bring them all together under a coordinated campaign that we can launch at the same time to the public and say 'Here's all the features,'" said Gerber.

Gerber hopes that the new marketing focus will give Bluffton a vision for the future, which in turn will attract new residents and businesses who buy into that vision.

"From elementary school to nursing home care and everything in between, we've got great features. But we just want people to know," said Gerber.

Gerber sees immense growth potential for Bluffton and he's hoping that new procedures and technological improvements can attract the right people to develop the city.

"If we can streamline procedures and development standards, that's going to incentivize developers to come do business in Bluffton. When they

do that ... that attracts people to move here, as the people move here that attracts large name attractions to move here," said Gerber. "I'm not saying we will become the next Fort Wayne, but I also don't think that 30 years from now we should be at 10,000 people."

Another goal of this plan is to make the city more transparent with its residents, and ask for their cooperation in the marketing process. All board meetings will soon be required to be streaming online, and Gerber has expressed a desire to make this happen sooner rather than later.

Gerber advised there are plans to hold focus groups and anonymously survey people for their opinion about these efforts and what should be involved. The desire for community feedback is a sentiment which Whicker reflects.

"We want the community to be involved in the decision on what the final product is," said Whicker. "I would imagine that there would be some way that people would be able to interact electronically and by written methods while talking to chamber members."

"I wish we could have 100 people at every city council meeting," said Gerber. "But people are busy, so the next best thing is to bring it to them and they can watch from the comfort of their bedroom."

Gerber believes the city should be able to implement some of these improvements at a relatively low

cost. While sign design, website overhaul and marketing will require some spending, Gerber assured that the city can handle it.

"We're not living off of reserves," said Gerber. "The city has significant reserves on deposit that we are making significant interest off of monthly. There are options to do this in a way that is fiscally responsible, and is advantageous to all the constituents around Bluffton," said Gerber.

Gerber also expressed thanks for the people who paved the way for this new project and to honor the city's past, he wants to see Bluffton become more competitive compared to other cities and townships. Gerber believes growth is something that the city should be constantly striving for.

"People vote with their feet, if people aren't happy they're going to leave," said Gerber. "Let's make it (the city) such a positive experience, that they don't want to leave. I want people to move here after they graduate college and make it so they can land somewhere, they can plug their kids into activities, they can get involved in a faith community and they can get a high paying job after college."

All the common council members emails are available on the city's website for suggestions about what the public would like to see from the marketing plan. There will also be a survey in the future about what the community wants as well.

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## Lilly scholarship

(Continued from Page 1)

Council School of Ballet and the Beekeepers Association of Indiana.

Wheeler has an extensive involvement in 4-H, where she has received awards in archery, dairy goats, entomology, fine arts, sewing wearables, group photography and beekeeping to name a few.

She is employed at Wheeler's Bees and has provided volunteer hours for the 4-H Junior Leaders, the Boys & Girls Club and the Creative Arts Council. Wheeler is a member of Sonlight Wesleyan Church.

Both BHS Principal Steve Baker and Superintendent Brad Yates extended their congratulations to Wheeler.

"Ella may be the most well-rounded student at Bluffton High School," Baker said. "It is truly amazing all that she has accomplished and all that she is involved in. I believe that is why she has been named the Lilly winner. It is more than just grades. It is more than just community service. Our communities need students who excel in more than one area of their high school experience and Ella is the model for the high-achieving, well-rounded student."

"This tremendous achievement is a testament to her exceptional academic accomplishments, leadership qualities, and commitment to community service," Yates said. "Her dedication to her studies and involvement in various community initiatives have not only set her apart but also reflect the values that the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship seeks to honor. It is truly inspiring to witness a student like Ella, who not only excels academically but also actively contributes to the betterment of our community."

The Wells County high schools were asked to submit the names of students meeting the following criteria: a) minimum GPA of 3.8 on a 4.0 scale; b) planning to attend an accredited four-year Indiana college or university; and c) a full-time resident of Wells County and a current high school senior who will graduate by June 30, 2024.

A total of 46 candidates were determined to have met the initial eligibility requirements. The candidates were judged on academic achievement, school and community activities, work experience, letters of recommendation, and a 500

to 750-word essay conveying what makes him/her special and deserving of the scholarship. These essays were reviewed, scored and ranked by an outside scholarship management professional, and the Foundation sent the recommendations to Independent Colleges of Indiana for the final determination. ICI is a nonprofit corporation that represents 31 regionally accredited degree granting, nonprofit, private colleges and universities in the state.

Lilly Endowment created the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program for the 1998-1999 school year and has supported the program every year since with tuition grants totaling in excess of \$486 million. More than 5,000 Indiana students have received the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship since the program's inception.

The primary purposes of the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program are: 1) to help raise the level of educational attainment in Indiana; 2) to increase awareness of the beneficial roles Indiana community foundations can play in their communities; and 3) to encourage and support the efforts of current and past

Lilly Endowment Community Scholars to engage with each other and with Indiana business, governmental, educational, nonprofit and civic leaders to improve the quality of life in Indiana generally and in local communities throughout the state. The Wells County Foundation, Inc. administers the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship program locally.

"Year after year, the competition for this coveted scholarship award is immense," stated Foundation CEO Tammy Slater. "The wide range of accomplishments these young adults have achieved in their lives are exemplary and Wells County would be extraordinarily well-represented by any one of the them. Elizabeth is a noteworthy nominee. She maintains outstanding scholastic standing while at the same time being actively engaged in numerous extra-curricular and community activities. She has chosen to pursue leadership positions within many of the activities she has immersed herself in. She has earned the respect of her peers and those who lead her. These characteristics will serve her well as she pursues her education in college. We have great con-

## Indiana secretary of state

(Continued from Page 1)

struck down as being unconstitutionally vague and overly broad."

A phone message seeking comment from Rust was left Friday evening by The Associated Press.

Rust voted as a Republican in the 2016 primary but as a Democrat in 2012. He did not vote in the 2020 Republican primary because of the pandemic and the lack of competitive Republican races in Jackson County, the lawsuit said. Rust said his Democratic votes were for people he personally knew.

Lowery, the county's Republican Party chair, said in a July meeting with Rust that she would not certify him, the lawsuit said. Rust has said Lowery

later cited his primary voting record.

In a November hearing, Rust said the law keeps legitimate candidates who have recently moved to Indiana or have switched political identifications from running for office.

In his ruling, Marion County Superior Court Judge Patrick J. Dietrick said the law "unduly burdens Hoosiers' long recognized right to freely associate with the political party of one's choosing and to cast one's vote effectively."

Should Rust prevail, he still faces an uphill challenge for the GOP nomination. U.S. Rep. Jim Banks has received the endorsement of the Indiana Republican Party and former President Donald Trump. Rust must also fulfill a sig-

nature quota for the nomination.

Casting himself as a conservative gay man with an "outsider's voice" to Washington, D.C., Rust is the former chair of his family business Rose Acre Farms in southern Indiana. Rose Acre Farms identifies itself as the second-largest egg producer in the U.S.

The company was one of four major egg producers in the country accused of fixing the price of eggs in the 2000s. A jury in an Illinois federal court recently ruled the producers conspired to limit the domestic supply of eggs to increase prices between 2004-2008 and ordered the companies to pay \$17.7 million in damages. Rose Acre Farms has denied any wrongdoing.

## Israeli troops round up Palestinian men in Gaza

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israel said Friday that the military was rounding up Palestinian men in northern Gaza for interrogation, searching for Hamas militants, while desperate Palestinians in the south crowded into an ever-shrinking area, and the U.N. warned that its aid operation is "in tatters."

The detentions pointed to Israeli efforts to secure the military's hold on northern Gaza as the war entered its third month. Furious urban fighting has continued in the north, underscoring Hamas' heavy resistance, and tens of thousands of residents are believed to remain in the area six weeks after troops and tanks rolled in.

The first images of mass detentions emerged Thursday from the northern town

of Beit Lahiya, showing dozens of men kneeling or sitting in the streets, stripped down to their underwear, their hands bound behind their backs. Some had their heads bowed. U.N. monitors said Israeli troops reportedly detained men and boys from the age of 15 in a school-turned-shelter.

In other developments, the United States vetoed a United Nations resolution backed by the vast majority of Security Council members and many other nations demanding an immediate humanitarian cease-fire in Gaza. The vote in the 15-member council was 13-1 with the United Kingdom abstaining.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told the council that Gaza is at "a breaking point" and "there is a high risk of the total collapse of

the humanitarian support system."

Israel has vowed to crush Hamas, which rules Gaza, following the group's Oct. 7 attack that sparked the war.

Israel's air and ground campaign initially focused on the northern third of Gaza, leading hundreds of thousands of residents to flee south.

## Weather

Saturday, December 9, 2023

(24-hour observations at 9:37 p.m. Friday)

High: 53; Low: 40; Precipitation: None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.22 feet at 9:45 p.m. Friday

## Wells County forecast

**Today:** A 40 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 60. South wind 15 to 20 mph becoming west in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 35 mph.

**Tonight:** A 30 percent chance of rain, mainly before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 32. Northwest wind around 10 mph.

**Sunday:** A 20 percent chance of rain before 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 38. West wind around 15 mph.

**Sunday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 25. West wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**Monday:** Sunny, with a high near 38.

**Monday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 26.

**Tuesday:** Sunny, with a high near 43.

**Tuesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 23.

**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 41.

**Wednesday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 25.

**Thursday:** Sunny, with a high near 44.

**Thursday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 27.

**Friday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 48.

## Solid U.S. hiring lowers unemployment rate in sign of sturdy job market

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. employers added a healthy 199,000 jobs last month and the unemployment rate fell, fresh signs that the economy could achieve an elusive "soft landing," in which inflation would return to the Federal Reserve's 2 percent target without causing a steep recession.

Friday's report from the Labor Department showed that the unemployment rate dropped from 3.9 percent to 3.7 percent, not far above a five-decade low of 3.4 percent in April. The jobless rate has now remained below 4 percent for nearly two years, the longest such streak since the late 1960s.

Last month's job gain was inflated by the return of about 40,000 formerly striking auto workers and actors, who were not at work in October but were back on the job in November.

The latest jobs report and other recent data portray an economy and a labor market that, while still sturdy, are downshifting back to pre-pandemic norms. Businesses are hiring but are less desperate to fill huge numbers of jobs. More Americans have come off the sidelines to look for work, and immigration has jumped this year.

As a result, employers are finding it easier to hire, with fewer complaints of worker shortages and less pressure to aggressively raise pay, which can fuel inflation.

"What we wanted was a strong but moderating labor market, and that's what we saw in the November report," said Robert Frick, an economist at the Navy Federal Credit Union.

A cooling job market is also just what the Fed was hoping to achieve as it sought to slow the economy and inflation with its rapid interest rate hikes in the past year and a half. Hiring has averaged just over 200,000 a month in the past three months, down from an average of about 320,000 in the same period last year.

And most of last month's job gains were concentrated in just a few sectors. The health care industry — doctors' offices and hospitals — added 93,000 jobs in November. Hotels and restaurants added 40,000, and governments 49,000, accounting for nearly all the job growth. By contrast, retailers, shipping and warehousing companies, and temporary help agencies all cut jobs.

Still, last month's hiring gain raised the proportion of Americans who are employed to 60.5 percent, the highest level since the pandemic struck, though it remains below the pre-COVID level of 61.1 percent.

In the meantime, wages are growing at a slower but still-healthy pace. In November, average hourly pay rose 4 percent from a year earlier, matching the previous month's figure, which was the smallest since June 2021. Still, average pay is now growing faster than inflation, which should support consumer spending.

And layoffs remain low, according to government data, despite job cuts at such companies as Panera Bread, a restaurant chain, and Spotify, the music streaming platform, which cited higher interest rates as a reason it had to cut about 1,500 jobs globally.

Becky Frankiewicz, president of the staffing giant Manpower Group North America, said more employers are moving workers they may not need in one part of the company to another division rather than laying them off. Many companies still recall the difficulty they had finding workers during the pandemic and want to hold onto staff.

"Everything we see continues to point to a slow glide into a cooler labor market," she said.

Aaron Seyedian, owner of a small cleaning company based in Takoma Park, Maryland, says his business is still growing and hiring. He has enough demand to add five workers to his 30-person staff.

Seyedian's company, "Well-Paid Maids," has just raised its starting pay from \$23 to \$24 an hour. He said he hasn't had any trouble finding people to hire.

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**OBITUARIES**

**Marilyn Hiday, 93**

Marilyn J. Hiday, 93, of Portland, passed away at 9:04 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023, at her home.

She was born on Thursday, April 10, 1930, in Bluffton, to Albert John Keller Jr. and Evelyn May (Captain) Keller. Marilyn was a 1948 graduate of Bluffton High School. Shortly after graduating high school, she married Harold R. "Dutch" Hiday on June 6, 1948, in Bluffton. Dutch passed away on Nov. 26, 2007.

Marilyn worked for Corning Glass for 17 years, however, she spent most of her life filling the proud role of wife and mother. She spent many years at home, raising her family on the farm and helping Dutch with anything he needed related to the farm. She enjoyed transporting midwives and hauling many Amish families and children to school over the years. Marilyn was a long-time member of Six Mile Church in Wells County.

Loving survivors include her children, Teresa Kelly of Alvin, Texas, Ted (Judy) Hiday of Celina, Tim (Vickie) Hiday of Salamonia, Ind., and Toneta (Alan) Bailey of Portland; 17 grandchildren; 55 great-



grandchildren; 47 great-great grandchildren; sisters, Joyce Harris of Bluffton, Jill Brown of Greensburg, Ind.; and brothers, Roger Keller of Hickory, N.C., and Jerome Keller of Elkhart.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; daughters, Tamara Gordon and Tonya Hiday; and siblings, Alberta Dubach, Sharon Battershell, Ralph Keller and Larry Keller.

Family and friends may gather to share and remember at from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023, at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, located at 100 N. Washington St. in Geneva.

A service to celebrate Marilyn's life will follow at 2 p.m. with Pastor Steve Rogers officiating. Burial will follow in Elm Grove Cemetery in Bluffton.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in honor of Marilyn to: CHP Home Care & Hospice, 816 Pro Drive, Celina, OH 45822.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Downing & Glancy Funeral Home in Geneva.

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

**Bluffton Parks & Rec News & Notes**



By Brandy Fiechter

**Destination Recreation**

Next week, Mrs. Claus will be stopping by the Bluffton City Gym for **Tot Time**. Kids will enjoy jumping in a bouncy house, hearing Christmas stories, and making crafts from 11 a.m. to noon on Thursday, Dec. 14. Don't forget that Santa and Mrs. Claus will be coming to **Winter Wonderland** on Thursday night from 5:30-7 p.m. to visit with the children. Kids will enjoy playing games, jumping in the bounce house, and letting Santa know what is on their wish list.

**Bend, Breath, Brunch** will be on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 9 a.m. We are partnering with Jenni Millholland to offer a festive yoga flow and restore class at the Washington Park pavilion (710 S Mulberry). Bring your mat and enjoy a holiday-themed Yoga with 30 minutes of flow / 30 minutes of restorative, followed by a light brunch and ornament decorating. The cost is only \$20, and space is limited, so sign up now at <https://tinyurl.com/33t52t64>.

City Gym Keys for next year are on sale now in the Parks Department's office on the second floor of City Hall. The locks on the gym will be changed on Tuesday, Jan. 2 by 10 a.m., so make sure you purchase one ahead of time. A single membership for 2024 is only \$95, and a family membership is \$125 for the entire year. Membership includes the basketball court, racquetball court, weight room, and restrooms.

Dog Park Keys are also on sale for the 2024 season in the Parks Department's office on the second floor of City Hall. The \$25 fee covers all the dogs in your household for the 2024 year starting on Jan. 2. Your pet's vaccination record and proof of parasite prevention will need to be submitted at the time of registration. Forms can be printed from the city's website at <https://tinyurl.com/4h2jnjn8>.

The last **Theater Thursday** of the

year will be shown at the Wells County Public Library on Thursday, Dec. 21. Bluffton Parks and Recreation Department and Wells County Public Library have partnered to offer adults a FREE monthly movie. The film "Last Christmas", Rated PG13, will be shown at 10 a.m. This year-round event is on the third Thursday of every month.

Registration is open for the **Chilly Chili Trail Run!** You can sign up now at <https://raceroster.com/events/2024/82820/chilly-chili-trail-run> for our annual Chilly Chili Trail Run on Feb. 3 at Ouabache State Park. Choose from 5- or 3-mile events. Stay for hot chili after the race! Runners and walkers are welcome. Overall and age group awards.

Make sure to visit downtown Bluffton today for the annual **Parlor City Christmas**. There are all kinds of exciting events you don't want to miss. For example, the owl demonstration, trolley rides, kids' games, Santa visits, entertainment, and a goodie walk with lots of businesses handing out treats. Don't forget to vote for your favorite downtown window display.

The **Giant Stocking Coloring Contest** ends Wednesday, Dec. 15. Be sure to have the kids turn in their coloring page to the park office on the second floor of City Hall by 4 p.m.

Help us decorate the **Community Positivi-Tree!** Bring an ornament with a positive message on it to hang on the tree at Pickett's Run Park (along the story walk trail on East Washington St). If you are thankful for the birth of a new baby, a recent engagement, time with loved ones, or have words of inspiration write your message on one of your plastic ornaments from home and hang it on the tree to brighten the day of anyone who stops to read the messages.

**Have a great week!**

**Local Roundup**

**Friends of the Shelter will meet Monday**

Friends of the Shelter, the organization that provides support for the Bluffton/Wells County Animal Shelter, will meet at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 11, in the meeting room on the first floor of Bluffton City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

The meeting is open to the public. For more information, call 273-1742.

**Regional Sewer District board will meet Monday**

The board of the Wells County Regional Sewer District will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 11, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

Topics on the agenda include:  
 • Superintendent report and update.  
 • Project updates regarding Liberty Center/Murray, Craigville and Kingsland from the engineer.  
 • General project updates from they lawyer.

**Ossian Town Council will meet Monday evening**

The Ossian Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 11, at the Ossian Town Hall, 507 N. Jefferson St. in Ossian.

**Bluffton Board of Works to meet Tuesday afternoon**

The Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Topics on the agenda include:  
 • Financial matters and claims.  
 • Opening of Community Crossing bids.  
 • Review of quotes for maintenance shop insulation with parks Superintendent Brandy Fiechter.  
 • Consideration of a vehicle replacement request from Dick Green, superintendent of the Electric Department.  
 • Discussion of job descriptions and personnel with Mike Miller, director of the dispatch center.  
 • Discussion of change directives with City Engineer Kelly White.

**Norwell school board to hold an executive session**

The board of the Norwell Community Schools will hold an executive session, closed to the public, at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, at the school district's central office, 312 N. Jefferson St. in Ossian.

The reasons cited for the executive session were:  
 • For the discussion of the assessment, design, and implementation of school safety measures, plans and systems.  
 • With respect to any individual over whom the governing body has jurisdiction:  
 A.) To receive information regarding the individual's alleged misconduct; and  
 B.) To discuss, before a determination, the individual's status as an employee, a student, or a physician or school bus driver.

**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.

**Norwell school board will meet Tuesday evening**

The board of the Norwell Community Schools will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, at the school district's central office, 312 N. Jefferson St. in Ossian.

Topics on the agenda include:  
 • Personnel matters  
 • Recognition of donations  
 • Superintendent's report, with recognition to the district's Teacher of the Year.  
 • Discussion regarding the Norwell Education Foundation Fund.  
 • Appointment to the Ossian Redevelopment Commission.

**Wells County Public Library board will meet Tuesday**

The board of the Wells County Public Library will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, in the meeting room of the main library, 200 W. Washington St.

Topics on the agenda include:  
 • Monthly librarian's and treasurer's reports, as well as director updates.  
 • Claims and financial matters.  
 • Committee reports regarding the building, budget, policy and by-laws, public awareness and outreach, nominating, and director evaluation.  
 • A personnel hire.  
 • New business, namely discussion regarding a Cafeteria 125 Approval Plan, CD investments and Kanopy.

A board of finance meeting will directly follow the regular board meeting.

**Visitors Commission will meet Wednesday morning**

The Wells County Convention and Visitors Commission will meet 8 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, in the conference room of the Wells County Commerce and Visitors Centre. The meeting was originally scheduled to take place at the Comfort Inn, but has been moved to take a group photos.

Topics on the agenda include:  
 • A financial update.  
 • New business, including strategic planning metrics and marketing grant applicants.  
 • Discussion regarding the monthly overview, 2024 meeting dates and times, and the Visitors Guide.

**UWRBC board will meet Wednesday morning**

The board of the Upper Wabash River Basin Commission will hold its regular bi-monthly meeting at 8 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, at the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

Agenda items include:  
 • Minutes, financial reports and claims.  
 • A grant update regarding the Bluffton Parks Department Rivergreenway/Wabash River functional assessment  
 • Lake and River Enhancement grant applications for 2024  
 • Personnel matters

For additional information, contact Stacia Henderson, the UWRBC watershed coordinator by e-mail at [shenderson@adamswells.com](mailto:shenderson@adamswells.com) or by phone at 260-273-0972.

**Police Notebook**

<p><b>INCIDENTS</b></p> <p><b>County:</b> Thursday, 3:20 p.m., 7200 South 300 West, Poneto. Car versus deer.</p> <p><b>Ossian:</b> Thursday, 2:30 p.m., Ind. 1 and 700 North, Ossian. Deputies requested to assist</p>	<p>Indiana State Police with accident. Thursday, 4:51 p.m., 8200 North 750 East, Ossian. Subject requested to speak to officer regarding a 23-year-old man showing inappropriate material to a 15-year-old girl via Snapchat.</p>	<p><b>ARRESTS</b></p> <p>Brent Alan Wells, 36, Markle, criminal trespassing, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.</p> <p>Michael T. Bryant, 27, Fort Wayne, driving while suspended — prior suspension, a Class A misdemeanor.</p>
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**Corrections and Clarifications**

Friday's edition of The News-Banner mistated that Larry Heckber was a Lancaster Township trustee. He is a Jefferson Township trustee.

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## The Lilly experience

Today's front page offers the Wells County Foundation announcement of Ella Wheeler being awarded the Lilly Endowment Scholarship. It is similar to stories we run each year, highlighting the current recipient. I don't know most of the kids, although I've introduced myself to many of them. They are rock stars to me. The Lilly Scholarship is a lifetime achievement award in many ways for these amazing teens.

Today's announcement, however, is special to me.

Months ago, I met Ella while she was preparing for the Miss Indiana Teen competition. She impressed me so much that I featured her and my cousin Brad in a column. Brad happened to be the emcee of that competition. Brad and I were talking at a family member's funeral quite a while later. He clearly remembered Ella and spoke about how extraordinary she was.

Ella's mom, Abbey, stopped by the office earlier this week to share the news with me. I was honored to have been included and was so excited that I was still shaking hours later.

It brought back a flood of memories and emotions. Let me explain.

Flashing back to 2013, my oldest son Chandler had applied for the Lilly scholarship just like so many seniors do all over Indiana.

Chandler, Larisa and I had high hopes, but worked to keep our expectations in check.

For reference, the Lilly Endowment Scholarship covers four years of tuition costs plus a book/technology stipend each year at any accredited Indiana university.

Considering the high cost of college, this scholarship is the equivalent of a teenage lottery.

Being struck by lightning seemed more likely than Chandler winning this scholarship.

He wanted to be a chemical engineer. Only four schools in Indiana offered that degree – Notre Dame, Trine, Purdue and Rose-Hulman. He was only interested in touring two of them, Purdue and Rose.

Tuition costs for three of those four colleges were simply outrageous. The cost of any higher education is generally ridiculous, but Notre Dame, Rose-Hulman and Trine were out of reach for us. Purdue was the only relatively reasonable option.

We toured Purdue first. We all thought it was wonderful, which is quite a compliment coming from parents with Indiana University degrees. After leaving, he was pretty sure that was where he wanted to go.

He grew up in a small town and attended a small high school. He wanted something different. He wanted big.

Rose-Hulman had a different vibe altogether. It was small. It was friendly. It felt like home. His college decision was finalized that day.

Getting accepted and paying for it were problems to worry about later.

A few days after the Rose-Hulman tour we received incredible news. Chandler was one of three Lilly finalists.

That lightning strike was now a one-in-three chance.

We had precious little time to prepare but were blessed by a few community members who helped Chandler get ready for his one big shot. Everything was riding on a 15 minute interview with a panel of strangers. The pressure was immense.

He felt good about his interview, but you never know. His high school, Churubusco, was the smallest school in Whitley County. His competition, two Columbia City students, had so many more advantages. We were optimistic but tried to remain realistic.

Time moved slowly. Larisa and I talked privately about the sacrifices we could make to get Chandler to Rose-Hulman. Retirement could be cashed in. Maybe we'd sell a kidney.

The day the letter came, we were out as a family, driving home in separate cars. I opened the mailbox. My youngest son was in the car with me. We both felt sick. We were either being struck by lightning or there was bad news in that letter. There was a 66.7% chance of the letter.

I hid the evidence and tried to act like nothing had happened. I told my wife about the letter. She raced to the bedroom to open it. We had decided that if it was crushing news, we wanted help soften the blow.

Larisa came out of the bedroom crying with no indication if the news was good or bad. I had to go look for myself to find out.

The words on that piece of paper were the most glorious I had ever read.

Lightning had struck.

We kept the news from Chandler that day. Winning the teenage lottery deserved a massive reveal.

His principal was in our small group at church. He devised a plan. Monday morning, Larisa got up at 3 a.m. to drive to Terre Haute to buy Rose-Hulman apparel for the event. We had cake, balloons, close friends, family and one life-changing surprise.

I will never forget the moment he walked into that room. I'm tearing up as I write this.

This photo, which hangs on my office wall, tells the story.



A lifetime of dreams and hard work had just come true. For the past 10 years, every time we drive by the Lilly building in Indianapolis, Larisa quietly says "Thank you Mr. Lilly." Chandler lives down there now and, coincidentally, works at Lilly.

Back to this week. After hearing the news, I called my wife. Larisa called Chandler. Chandler called me. We were all excited for Ella despite the fact that Chandler and Larisa haven't met her.

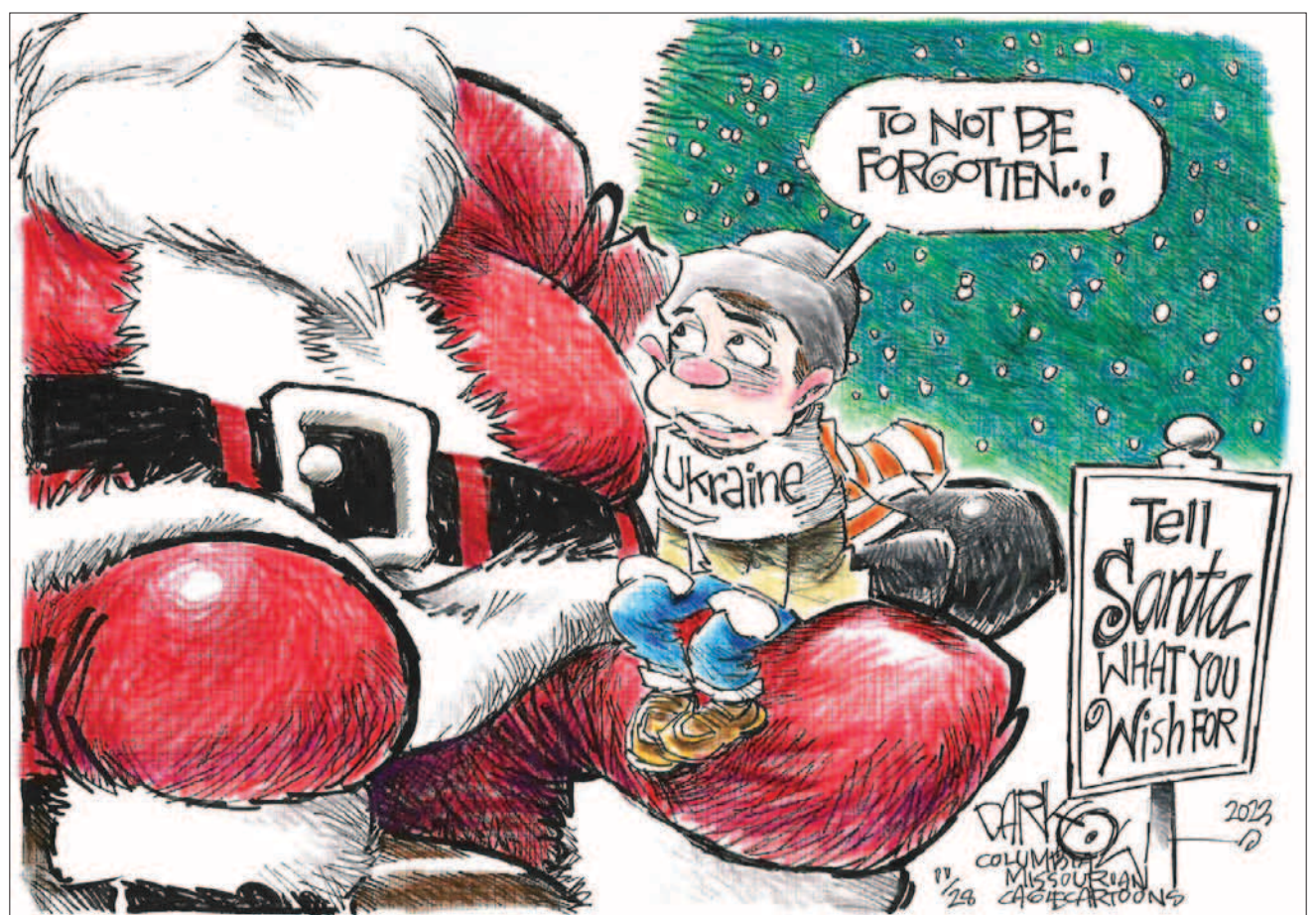
Congratulations Ella, you are a rock star.

Finally, from the Brown family to the Wheelers, congratulations and welcome to the Lilly family.

[dougb@news-banner.com](mailto:dougb@news-banner.com)



Doug Brown



## Ukraine's counteroffensive ran into a new reality of war

As winter comes to Kyiv, Ukrainian and U.S. commanders are making cold and unsentimental assessments of the lessons of the summer's failed counteroffensive against Russian forces.

The stalled counteroffensive was a signal that the war in Ukraine is deadlocked. Drones and other high-tech weapons have made Ukrainian and Russian tanks largely obsolete. In this conflict, it's now clear that defense beats offense: A Ukrainian armored assault meant to last four days stretched to an exhausting 12 weeks. The result is a deadly standoff.

"Just like in the first world war we have reached the level of technology that puts us into a stalemate," Ukraine's commander, Gen. Valery Zaluzhny, said bluntly in an interview last month with the Economist. "There will most likely be no deep and beautiful breakthrough," he said, in an epitaph for the counteroffensive.

"The simple fact is that we see everything the enemy is doing, and they see everything we are doing," Zaluzhny explained. "The level of our technological development today has put both us and our enemies in a stupor."

Zaluzhny said Ukraine needs tech breakthroughs, which he likened to China's invention of gunpowder, to overcome this impasse. Otherwise, he said, "sooner or later we are going to find that we simply don't have enough people to fight." A deadlocked war of attrition could "drag on for years and wear down the Ukrainian state," he said.

The basic dilemma for Kyiv is whether to keep fighting for a decisive victory. With more and better high-tech weapons from the United States and its allies, Ukraine could take another shot at cutting Russia's supply lines to Crimea, as it attempted over the summer. That might force Moscow to bargain an end to the war on terms that would be favorable to Kyiv.

The bitter alternative is to play for a draw. If the U.S. weapons pipeline is blocked - making a big new assault impossible - a fatigued, and increasingly fractious Ukraine might have little choice but to explore a settlement. Like the separation of North and South Korea, such a deal would leave Russia in control of territory it has seized since 2014 - but it could offer Kyiv the security of future membership in the European Union and NATO.

William B. Taylor, a former U.S. ambassador to Kyiv, sees a fork ahead: Either NATO nations increase support for Ukraine to regain its territory or "Ukraine fights on with inadequate force" and might have to eventually accept a Korea-like partition.

The story of how and why Ukraine's counteroffensive failed was explained this week in a superb two-part series by The Post. The articles described weeks of tabletop war games by U.S. and Ukrainian commanders that didn't begin to capture the bloody reality ahead. Kyiv's new mobile forces, staffed largely by untested recruits, were stopped cold by dense Russian minefields and savage drone attacks. "It was hellfire," one Ukrainian platoon commander told The Post.

The most painful part of the Post series was its description of how top U.S. officials anticipated that Ukraine probably would fail, but still encouraged the

campaign go forward. The CIA reckoned Ukraine had a 50-50 chance of success and an intelligence assessment predicted the Ukrainians would fall "well short" of their goals, The Post wrote.

CIA Director William J. Burns told The Post: "We could see [the Russians] building really quite formidable fixed defenses, hard to penetrate, really costly, really bloody for the Ukrainians." But despite these obstacles, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said: "My take is that they didn't have a choice."

Zaluzhny gave the Economist a shopping list of what he thinks he needs to win. First, more drones, so that Ukraine can "conduct massive strikes using decoy and attack drones to overload Russia's air-defense systems." To counter Russian drone attacks, he wants hunter drones with nets and other more advanced systems.

The Ukrainian commander stressed that Ukraine also needs better electronic warfare tools to jam Russian communication and navigation. "EW is the key to victory in the drone war," he said. He wants new counter-artillery systems that can hit Russian batteries despite their improved EW protection. He needs better high-tech tools to breach the massive minefields Russia has laid along the southern front. And he needs more reserves to counter Russia's decided advantage in manpower.

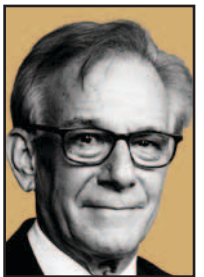
As always after military setbacks, the failed counteroffensive has brought some recriminations. The Post series included a compendium of second-guessing by Ukrainian and U.S. commanders, speaking anonymously, criticizing each other's mistakes in planning and equipping the summer attack. U.S. generals wished the Ukrainians had concentrated their forces better for a breakthrough toward Melitopol, on the Sea of Azov. Ukrainians bemoaned the United States' reluctance to supply fighter jets and long-range rockets.

Criticism and self-criticism are essential for military success. And the bracing comments by Zaluzhny to the Economist and by Burns, Austin and others to The Post are healthy. They demonstrate an effort to learn from mistakes and avoid repeating them.

The political divisions that have begun to surface inside Ukraine are more worrying. I heard an early version of them when I was in Kyiv in October. The internal sniping seems to be increasing, with rumors of growing friction between President Volodymyr Zelensky and his political rivals, and even with his much-admired commander, Zaluzhny. As Ukraine heads into a cold winter, this backbiting will probably get worse.

Here's the holiday present that Ukraine needs from the United States: Quick passage by the Senate and House of a generous military assistance package that can carry Kyiv through 2024. Ukraine suffered a severe setback this year, but its people are still in the fight. The least America can do is give them the weapons that would give them another chance at victory.

Follow David Ignatius @IgnatiusPost on X



David Ignatius

## Let them eat chicken



Cal Thomas

The worthies attending the United Nations COP28 climate summit in Dubai are mostly not eating meat. That's because they believe and have been told that meat leads to flatulence and flatulence leads to "global warming." Instead, they're getting mostly plant-based food. In another fitting irony, some attendees came from European countries where there is heavy snow and cold temperatures. Their private jets emit far more CO2 than many steaks.

In a press release, The United Arab Emirates environment minister, Mariam Almheiri, said: "We know that our food systems are intrinsically linked to the fate of our natural world, and so we have made the progressive decision to ensure that we explore how the catering provided across the event can be responsible and climate conscious."

Where have we heard versions of this apocalyptic nonsense before? From just about everywhere elites gather and attempt to regulate, increasingly tax us, and limit our freedoms. Global warming is the secular holy of holies and those who don't embrace their "faith" are to be cast into the outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

King Charles III ratcheted up his already high hyperbole about climate change when he said at the gathering: "The Earth does not belong to us, we belong to the Earth." Was he referring to the Genesis account of creation? Probably not.

In 2009, then-Prince Charles said we had only 96 months to avert "irretrievable climate and ecosystem collapse." Two thousand seventeen came and went and we have yet to see a collapse.

Neither have any of the other numerous predictions from various climate change apostles come true. It doesn't matter. Just as we have now learned from the British Medical Journals that masking children during the Covid-19 pandemic had no "real-world effectiveness," we should take the alarmist claims coming from Dubai with a grain of salt substitute.

U.S. climate envoy John Kerry, who flew in on his private jet, said he thinks coal plants should not be "permitted anywhere in the world." Kerry, who is not a climate scientist and basically repeats and adds to what he has been told by people who reinforce what he already thinks, has made repeated end-of-the-world predic-

tions. Like Nostradamus and modern religious and secular false prophets, none have come true. But we should believe Kerry now because he said he is becoming "more and more" militant about climate policy. That's because, he says, people are avoiding responsibility. Facts from real experts, not more militancy, is what we need. Avoid believing a "scientific consensus" on climate change. Remember Dr. Anthony "I am science" Fauci's claims that subsequently proved untrue?

How much more of this should we take? Government leaders and bureaucrats are constantly looking for new "crises" to impose their will on us while largely not obeying the laws and regulations they pass. When their forecasts of disaster fail to come true, they quickly move on to the next one.

The fast food chain Chick-fil-A has a billboard ad depicting a cow that says "eat more chicken." Maybe the climate alarmists should adopt that slogan as they continue to promote a false doctrine that if adopted will cost trillions of dollars and not achieve the ends they claim. Doesn't this represent something akin to the old central planning systems of Soviet Russia? We know how that turned out, including a forced famine under Joseph Stalin.

[tcaditors@tribpub.com](mailto:tcaditors@tribpub.com)



# Call to Worship

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630 E. Dustman Rd.  
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**ASBURY CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST**  
8013 W.-1100S.-90, Montpelier  
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

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

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

**BLUFFTON CHURCH OF GOD**  
327 W. Cherry St.  
10 a.m. - Sunday School. 11 a.m. - Worship. 6 p.m. - Service.

**BLUFFTON WESLEYAN CHAPEL**  
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1309 W. Washington St.  
blufftonwesleyan.net  
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 & 6:30 p.m. - Worship.

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

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

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

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

**DILLMAN UNITED BRETHERN**  
8888S-1100W-90, Warren  
9 a.m. - Worship. 10 a.m. - Sunday School.

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

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

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

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

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

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OSSIAN**  
1001 Dehner Dr.  
fbcbluffton.com  
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. - Worship. 6:30 - Service.

**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
909 W. Spring St.  
FCCfamily.com  
9:30 & 11 a.m. - Worship.

**FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
1515 Clark Ave.  
blufftonnazarene.org  
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 9-10 a.m. - Free ESL classes. 10:15 - Worship. 6 p.m. - Service.

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

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

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST**  
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blufftonfirstumc.com  
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:45 - Sunday School.

**FORGIVEN CHURCH**  
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9 a.m. - Worship.

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

## A Joyful Noise ...



### MORE THAN MERRY CHRISTMAS

I wish I could remember the day I learned that not everyone celebrated a merry Christmas.

I remember Dad and I were relaxing in a toasty, comfortable vehicle outside a store, where Mom was purchasing some last-minute items for a yuletide party.

And I remember that I anticipated a merry celebration of gifts, jokes and food.

But the woman on the radio was not.

According to the song she sang, she was pleading for her boyfriend or husband to return for Christmas.

Surprised — and perhaps even slightly annoyed — at this sour intrusion, I immediately and carelessly mocked the singer for marring my festivities with melancholy.

Dad, however, simply responded that not everyone will or can celebrate a merry Christmas — and his words now echo in my heart.

(Years later, I heard “Wonderful Christmastime,” another song that inspires mourning, only because I learned that the song actually exists — and that people actually like it.)

Today, I still wish people a merry Christmas. However, considering the struggles and trials this world endures, perhaps Christians can more fully share the blessings of the incarnation if they also wish people a “Mary” Christmas.

“Now when (the shepherds) had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart,” Luke records in his gospel (emphasis added).

Mary might not have celebrated a “merry” Christmas after traveling more than 90 miles while pregnant and under the shadow of a murderous monarch, but it seems she still treasured the eternal, life-changing promises of Jesus’ birth.

And people today can too when they sacrifice some seasonal pursuits to stop, study the Word, and meditate on not just the account of Jesus’ birth, but His life, His death, His resurrection, His reign and His return.

And they can when they, like Mary, invite these promises to penetrate their

hearts with the hope of not just a Savior, but a Sovereign as well.

“For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord,” Luke quotes the angel (emphasis added).

This angel wasn’t christening Jesus with a last name when He called Him the Christ. He used the Greek word for the Hebrew word “Messiah,” or the anointed one.

He announced the birth of a king, the Son of David, and the beginning of a kingdom far more glorious than the Kingdom of Israel or any earthly kingdom before or since.

And this King still reigns to make every night holy through resurrection, Holy Spirit-flowing power and truth.

“But now the righteousness of God apart from the Law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe,” the Apostle Paul writes in Romans.

But Paul didn’t necessarily just refer to some abstract “status” for believers in which God sees them as righteous. Paul referred to vibrant faithfulness that springs from forgiveness and that discerns and works out God’s will each day. He referred to a born-again life that can overcome and redeem the less-than-merry circumstances.

And even when God does not wield this power to change those circumstances, He’ll use them to one day reap eternal blessings, and because of this, Paul could triumphantly write, “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”

Because of this power, Peter could write, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,” and, “In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials.”

Because of this power, Peter, Paul and Mary could with the world a “Mary” Christmas.

And I too wish the lost, the least and the lonely a Mary Christmas to all, and to all a new life.

baumofchet@gmail.com



by Chet Baumgartner

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

**MURRAY MISSIONARY**  
1117 N. Washington St., Murray  
murraymc.org  
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 11 a.m. - Sunday School.

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

**NEW HOPE LUTHERAN**  
(Missouri Synod)  
8824 N. SR 1, Ossian  
newhopelutheran-ossian.webs.com  
9 a.m. - Sunday School & Adult Bible study. 10 a.m. - Worship.

**NOTTINGHAM**  
1100 S. SR 1  
9:30 - Sunday School. 10:30 & 6 p.m. - Worship.

**OSSIAN CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
302 N. Metts St.  
ossiannaz.org  
9:15 a.m. - Bible study. 10:30 - Service.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**ST. MARK’S LUTHERAN (NALC)**  
5912 N. Sugar St., Uniondale  
10 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Children’s Sunday School.

**THE CHURCH AT MCNATT**  
9221 W 800 S-90, Montpelier  
8:30 a.m. - Coffee fellowship. 9:15 - Worship.



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10:30 a.m. - Worship.

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

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

**TURNPOINTE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN**  
500 W. Logan, Markle  
turnpointchurch.com  
9:30 a.m. - Fellowship. 10 a.m. - Adult & Children’s Worship.

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

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

**VERA CRUZ FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER CCCU**  
2771 SE Mulberry St., Vera Cruz  
9-10 a.m. - Sunday School. 10-10:30 - Fellowship. 10:30 - Worship.

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
205 S. Adams St., Monroe  
9 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Discipleship for adults & children.

**ZANESVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GOD**  
11984 N. Marzane Rd.  
9 a.m. - Bible Class. 10 a.m. - Worship.

**ZANESVILLE UNITED BRETHERN IN CHRIST**  
3092 W. Broadway  
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

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At left, Mr. Cook works with senior Elijah Spencer on a class project. At right, Students have the opportunity to collaborate in Mr. Cook's classes. (Photos submitted)

# BHS students pursue computer science as career pathway

A recent report named Indiana one of the top states in the country this year for providing access to computer science education in public high schools, and at Bluffton High School students are seeing computer science as a future career opportunity.

Students say the success of the program at BHS may have something to do with Andrew Cook, who is in his fourth year of teaching computer science at the high school.

"All of my computer science classes are project-based, which results in abundant amounts of student creativity," Mr. Cook says. "When looking at what the students create, there are a lot of 'That's really cool,' and 'Woah, how did you do that?' moments. I enjoy seeing students bounce ideas off of their classmates and learn from each other."

Principal Steve Baker said BHS is pleased to offer this graduation pathway to high school students. Students find the classes engaging as they learn how technology impacts various areas of their lives.

"Mr. Cook has completed the necessary training and has done a tremendous job in creating and implementing this very important

pathway for our students," Mr. Baker says. "Our students have the opportunity to participate in three separate courses during their high school career that will offer our students the opportunity to explore how computers can be used in a wide variety of settings."

New this school year is the Topics in Computer Science class and Mr. Cook says he could not be happier with how the course is going so far. The curriculum covers four crucial areas: Cybersecurity, data science, artificial intelligence and game development. In recent weeks, students have been using Unreal Engine to learn how to create video games.

"Unreal Engine requires serious computational power, and I am beyond grateful to our district leadership and tech department for purchasing new laptops capable of running this software," Mr. Cook says. "In my opinion, this class is one of the most cutting-edge classes we offer at the high school. Of course, it helps that I have a truly terrific group of students in my class right now who make me think, smile, and laugh every day."

Two of his Topics students this semester are seniors Ashton Arnett and Elijah Spencer. Ashton has

taken all three of the computer science classes BHS has offered and plans to study computer science in college. He says he enjoys learning how each piece is programmed and can work in the real world.

"It just gives me a basic understanding of what I'm going to go into," he says. "I feel like without this class, I probably wouldn't have picked computer science. It kind of opened my eyes to this."

Ashton said the way Mr. Cook teaches helps make the classes so successful. He shows them how it works and how it applies to the real world. "(He) shows us how fun it can be," Ashton says.

Elijah likes the exploratory setting of the computer science courses. Mr. Cook teaches all the aspects of programming and coding while providing students the space to explore and learn on their own, all under his guidance.

Mr. Cook has also arranged for a variety of speakers to engage with his students, from universities to the Space Force. Elijah said that has exposed students to the tech world beyond high school.

While he is considering pursuing music after high school, Elijah says he could potentially incorporate his technology knowledge in

the future. But in the meantime, he says computer science is a "passionate hobby" of his and having an understanding of artificial intelligence and cybersecurity is helpful.

Elijah believes Bluffton High School is at the forefront of providing an education pathway for students interested in pursuing computer science.

"The students have accomplished some incredible things so far in class," Mr. Cook says, "from learning how social engineering leads to cyber attacks like the recent MGM data breach, to creating code that analyzes and visualizes real data sets, to exploring new generative AI models like ChatGPT and creating their own neural network."

Mr. Cook's favorite part of teaching computer science is watching students persist through whatever problem they may be struggling with.

"I love that moment when students overcome obstacles they are facing in their code," he says. "In programming, mistakes are bound to happen. When students persevere and have that moment where their code finally works, it's a treat to see their smile and sense

of self-accomplishment. On the other hand, it's tough to see students who give up early and think that they can't do something after repeated failures. Success is so close, they just can't see it yet."

Ashton isn't the only student of Mr. Cook's who is pursuing computer science after high school. One of his former students discovered computer science by happenstance and is developing his future around it.

"Two years ago, I had a student sign up for my class several days after school started because he couldn't find another class to fit into his schedule. He's now in college studying computer science," Mr. Cook says. "It was so neat to watch that student become totally engrossed in programming. He's actually coming back to chat with my Topics in CS class in December."

Mr. Cook believes anyone can learn computer science, and he would encourage BHS students to sign up for one of his classes — or at least stop by and ask him questions about the courses.

"It is my goal to grow the BHS computer science program into one of the best in the state," Mr. Cook says.

# Free toy store gives families the dignity of choice shopping for gifts

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — When country music star Brad Paisley and his wife, actress Kimberly Williams-Paisley, helped create a free grocery store in Nashville, Tennessee, their goal was to give families in need the ability to choose their own food in a place that felt like a normal store.

This year, The Store is offering that same dignity of choice to parents looking for gifts for the holiday season. During a two-day event starting Friday, 400 families will shop at a free toy store, stocked with brand new toys, video games, stuffed animals, scooters, clothes, makeup and musical instruments.

"The emotional aspect of being able to give your child something your child wanted versus just something to sort of get you through the holidays, that's such a load off the minds of somebody who maybe didn't think they were going to be able to do that," Paisley said.

Nashville resident Stephanie Brodie got enrolled at The Store when she was a caregiver to her mother and they both enjoyed getting to shop for the foods that they needed for their diets. Her mom has since passed and now she's taking care of five

grandchildren, including four under the age of 15.

On Friday, Brodie and her granddaughter La'Delegant Hartsfield picked out armloads of toys, musical instruments, beauty products and clothes for the family on Friday, a much-needed blessing when she's trying to save money to replace a broken stove this year.

"It's a very much dignified process and it gives you the freedom of choice," said Brodie, who wore a paisley print dress in honor of the Paisley family. "So we have choice in what we present to our children. And we have choice in what we feed and put on the table, which of course empowers you."

The Paisleys got a sneak peak on Thursday before the free toy store opened, marveling over the stacks of gifts, wrapping station, Christmas trees and holiday decorations. Volunteers and staff from Belmont University and The Store spent hours unpacking and organizing all the donated toys into sections and decorating while listening to Christmas music.

The celebrity couple brought the idea of a free grocery store to Nashville after seeing the concept years ago at the Unity

Shopee in Santa Barbara, California. When The Store launched in early 2020, it was just weeks after a tornado hit the city and before the global pandemic made food access an immediate problem.

The Store and its staff adapted, turning into a food delivery service for older people and delivering a million meals in the first year of operation. The Store has an enrollment process each year, and to qualify, a household's total annual income has to be at 200% or below the federal poverty line. In addition to the free groceries, Belmont University, where Paisley graduated, now offers additional services to low-income families, including financial literacy events, music therapy and medicine management.

"People come on hard times and we want this to be a safe, welcoming place for everybody, whether you're volunteering or whether you're needing the services," Williams-Paisley said. "It's just a community and we're all in it together."

Brodie said The Store and Belmont gave her a bridge to resources she needed, whether it was a cooking class or homework help, especially when taxes,

inflation and real estate prices have made it harder to live in Nashville.

The Store received about 2,000 donated items, about

half of which came from the Nashville area and the other half from First Responder's Children's Foundation, and raised \$20,000. Parents will

be able to drop off their kids at a church next door, where they can play and drink hot chocolate while the adults shop and get gifts wrapped.



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# No. 16 Knights knock down No. 1 Eagles

By RICK SPRUNGER

COLUMBIA CITY — Norwell's Lady Knights were the best team in the state of Indiana Friday night.

For one night, anyway.

They must have been; they knocked off the consensus No. 1 team in the state, previously unbeaten Columbia City, 45-44.

They even did it on Columbia City's own floor.

Two free throws by Dekota Hubble with 0:09 left lifted Norwell over the top, and Addison Baxter missed a shot from the lane under heavy pressure to secure it.

The win was a huge step toward a Northeast 8 Conference championship for Norwell, now 9-2 on the season.

But it was hardly a conference clincher.

It was only the second game in the league for both clubs, and Bellmont still has dates with both.

The sequence that set up the winning points started when Kennedy Fuelling knifed through the lane for a layup that got the Knights to within 44-43.

A vicious defensive stand for Norwell ended with a Columbia City pass on the baseline going through the legs of its intended receiver and out of bounds with 0:30 remaining.

Norwell used its final timeout with 0:23 left and started working the ball around the perimeter until Makenzie Fuess found a wide-open Hubble under the basket with a bullet pass.

Columbia City's Addiston Baxter hammered Hubble from behind to make sure she earned the points at the stripe.

She did, scoring her only two points of the game but perhaps two of Norwell's biggest of the season.



Norwell senior Dekota Hubble (left) hugs teammate Kennedy Fuelling following the Knights' conference victory over Columbia City Friday night. Hubble's two free-throws in the closing seconds gave the Knight's a 45-44 win.

But the Knights still had to make one defensive play.

Columbia City raced to midcourt and burned its final timeout with 0:06 left.

But the Eagles had a huge problem. Norwell still had two fouls to give.

"And we wanted to use both of them," said Norwell coach Eric Thornton about what went on in that final huddle. "We knew they would go to Baxter, and we didn't want her to turn the corner (at the elbow). We wanted to foul her on her second dribble. Vanessa (Rosswurm) got her the first time (with 0:03.8 to play) but missed her the second time. Baxter slipped by her, and all you can do is hold your breath."

Columbia City's all-state candidate, and Butler commit got off a 10-footer from the right side of the lane in heavy traffic but missed it, and there was no time for a follow.

"Wide left," smiled Thornton later. "All our players had their arms up, and she didn't have much time to work with."

Baxter, a 5-9 junior, and Molly Baker, a 5-10 senior, were a load inside for Norwell all night. Baker totaled 15 points and Baxter 13 points and 11 rebounds for the Eagles, and the two of them keyed a 15-2 second-half run that flipped a 26-20 Norwell advantage with 4:32 left in the third quarter to a 35-28 Columbia City edge at the 7:09 mark of the fourth.

It was still 40-34 after Columbia City's Laney Ziliak spotted up from the right corner and hit her only shot of the game, a three-pointer with 4:01 left that got the Columbia



The Norwell girls basketball team celebrates after clinching a one point win over Columbia City Friday night at Columbia City. The Knights knocked off the top ranked Eagles with a 45-44 conference win. (Photos by Chad Kline)

City crowd smelling it.

"I was so proud of our team for how we fought back in the fourth quarter," said Thornton "It would have been really easy to let it go at that point, and we didn't do that."

A Fuess drive down the lane and a pair of Rosswurm free throws wrapped around a Columbia City turnover got Norwell back in it at 40-38.

Kyndra Sheets answered for Columbia City from in front of the basket, but Fuelling drilled a three-pointer to inch the Knights within 42-41 at 1:41.

Baker got a bucket underneath 15 seconds later, and that set up the final minute of play that has already been described.

Norwell controlled the game for much of the first three

(Continued on Page A2)

## Tigers edge out Warriors in road ACAC challenge

By ANDREW FEEBACK

WOODBURN — The Bluffton Tigers haven't found themselves in too many games that have gone down to the final play this season.

They were in one Friday night at Woodlan, and a strong stretch in the middle of the game was enough to overcome a poor start and a worse finish as they withstood a late rally by the host Warriors to win 47-44.

Much like the other night against Wabash, the Tigers (9-1) were a bit slow out of the gate in this one, trailing 5-0 nearly three minutes into the contest.

"We came out in a different defense, and I didn't think we did a very good job being aggressive in that defense," Bluffton head coach Doug Curtis said. "The key was, if we're going to play that defense, we have to be super aggressive at the start, and I didn't think we were very aggressive."

Bluffton closed the first quarter on a 13-2 run. As it turned out, the Tigers never trailed in the game again, but never quite got comfortably in front, either.

Isabella Stout, who led all scorers with 24 points, did most of the damage for the Tigers in the first half, scoring 16 straight for the team during one stretch and all but two of the team's second-quarter points.

The inside play of Maryn Schreiber, who tallied 13, also helped the Tigers maintain a lead that got as high as 10 at various times in the second half.

They were also the only Tigers to get to the free throw line, combining to go 14 of 17 from the stripe. The rest of the team was 4 of 21 from the floor for just 10 points.

Woodlan also hung around in large part due to its offensive rebounding.

"They jam the rebounder every time, and we knew that," Curtis said. "We watched in the JV game and we let them take it away from us twice. We've got to be tough with the ball every time we rebound it, get it to a guard and we'll be fine."

Schreiber's bucket with 6:15 left in the game put the Tigers up 44-34, and it looked as though Bluffton was starting to pull away. With only one turnover in the second half, the Tigers looked much better than they had in the game's opening minutes.

Then, it was like the opening minutes all over again.

Bluffton gave it up five times in the final quarter and failed to make a field goal the rest of the way.

"There were two big things there," Curtis said. "No. 1, we've been in one of these games. We beat East Noble in a close game where we had the lead, had to hold the ball a bit and make smart decisions. We just haven't been in those games, so we need to get in more of those games and we'll get better at that. The other thing is, when we're attacking, we're always a lot better. You're not attacking as much when you're doing

(Continued on Page A2)



Maryn Schreiber squeezes around Woodlan's Taylor Kneubuhler in the fourth quarter Friday. Behind Schreiber is Isabella Stout. Schreiber and Stout accounted for most of the Lady Tigers' points as Bluffton led for most of the game, surviving a last minute run by the Lady Warriors to escape with a 47-44 victory at Woodlan. (Photo by Glen Werling)

## Tiger boys shoot lights out again in win over Cougars

By RYAN WALKER

The Tigers replicated its stellar 68 percent shooting rate from the last game with another 68 percent night against Lakeland Christian.

In a 68-40 home blowout for the Tigers (2-1), the Craig Teagle-led group has now matched their win total from last season just three games into the season.

"Proud of the kids," Teagle said after the game. "That puts them at 2-1. Being above .500 is big at this point, and we've got to try to use some of that momentum going into next weekend."

The only difference in the South Adams game last week to Friday night was that they never let Lakeland (0-5) have a chance.

A slow start and just five points for the team to begin the first quarter turned into an 8-0 run in the last three minutes of the period. Declan Grieser scored three of them, benefiting from Cougar turnovers in transition.

That quick run expanded to the second quarter with another burst at 9-2, this time led by Kaleb Green's seven points. Tucker Jenkins also got involved in both of the stretches with a bucket each time.

The team closed the half leading 29-11 after scoring five points in the first five minutes. Since that 2:53 mark in the first quar-

ter, Bluffton outscored Lakeland 24-8.

The Tiger offense was almost solely based on their forwards. Jenkins, Grieser and Green contributed all but six points at the break. Cameron Williams and Axton Beste's three-pointers were the only times their guards lit up the scoreboard in the first half.

"It's huge," Teagle said when asked about getting the forwards involved early in the game. "That's what we're trying to get done — get it to the bigs. And when you get it to bigs, (the) defense collapses. That means you're going to get inside out wide-open threes or a ball reversal and you'll go to an x-post where the defense is running and scrambling. That's our game plan every night to get it to our bigs. Get it in there and establish it and play off of them."

Lakeland made a few adjustments at halftime to try and stop buckets in the post, but as Teagle said, it opened up the floor for open looks.

Eli Garrett hit a triple to open the second half and hit another later in the quarter. Williams hit his second of the night, all while the post was still feeding Jenkins and Griser, adding eight more points together in the third.

(Continued on Page A2)



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Partner's parents' drinking keeps them from their granddaughter

Dear Annie: My partner and I were surprised to find ourselves expecting with my very loved rainbow baby. We had known each other less than two years and had just moved in together. So far, my relationship with his parents had been rocky at best. Both parents drank to the point of blacking out daily, which often made them unpleasant.

When I first got pregnant, I had been hopeful everyone could be part of my daughter's life. It became increasingly doubtful as my delivery date approached. Then, my partner's mom missed our baby shower because she was sick and vomiting. She was admitted to the hospital for alcohol-induced pancreatitis a week later.

My daughter was born, and we invited his parents to the hospital. They also came to visit the baby several times over the next few months. My partner's father always showed up incoherently drunk and would yell and swear, at times getting nasty.

His mother tried to hide it, but she had never really stopped drinking after the hospital. She acted nasty toward me, too. My partner got text messages from his siblings trying to see if anyone was free to drive their mom home from the bar so she wouldn't drink and drive. Their drinking was a problem.

It was already hard to visit with people because we were busy taking care of the baby, but we started to visit with the parents less because their behavior made me uncomfortable, and I didn't want to expose my child to it. I also didn't want to rely on them for help because I refused to let them be alone with the baby.

People's feelings were hurt, but no one's behavior changed. After becoming increasingly erratic and forgetful, my partner's mother missed my daughter's first birthday party because she was incoherent. She ended up in the hospital shortly after, this time for alcohol-induced ammonia poisoning.

My dad, who raised me and two of my three brothers on his own, hasn't had a drink in decades. He joined AA

early on in our childhood, and we've never seen him stray. In fact, events on his side of the family were almost always dry. In my teens, all three of my brothers were addicted to heroin at some point. My youngest brother is still in the throes of addiction, but two of my brothers got clean and just recently bought a house. Watching my family's journey has made me incredibly sensitive to substance abuse.

I'm afraid I'm unfairly withholding my daughter from her grandparents on my partner's side because I'm letting my sensitivity to addiction cloud my judgment. Am I unfairly punishing my partner's parents? — Affected by Substance Abuse

Dear Affected: You're not withholding your daughter from her paternal grandparents — you're protecting her from them. On their best, sober days, I believe your partner's parents probably have nothing but good intentions. But it's clear that when they are drunk, which seems constant, they cannot control themselves or be trusted around your children. I'm sure your partner would agree.

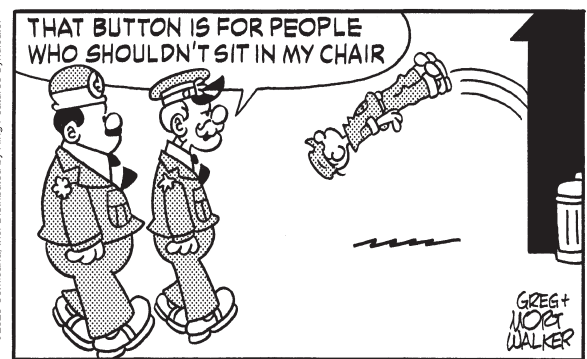
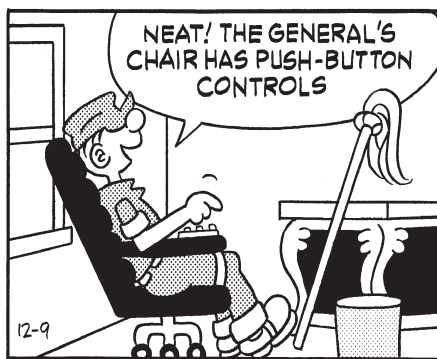
Being part of your daughter's life is a privilege, not a right. If her grandparents want to be active in her life, they must do so soberly and play by your rules.

"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. © 2023 CREATORS.COM

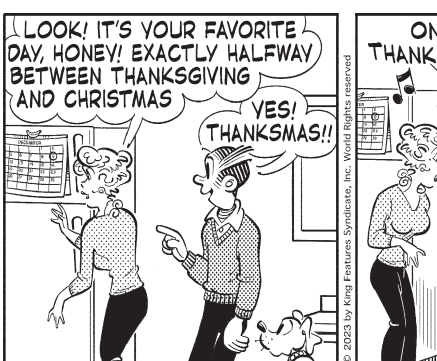
Dear Annie by Annie Lane



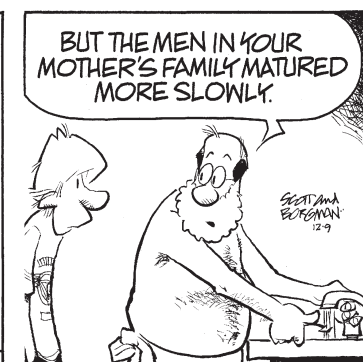
BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



ZITS



CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



God never gives up on us

From compromise to deceit is a small step.

The Bible says, "Do not let anyone lead you astray. ...

The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God" (1 John 3:7-9, NIV).

God has a plan and the devil has a plan. We all have to decide which plan we are going to fit into. The same Book that tells us over and over again of God's love warns us constantly of the devil who

would come between us and God, the devil who is ever wanting to ensnare our souls.

When we are filled with the Spirit of God, when we quote the very Word of God, obey Him and do His will, Satan will be defeated. Quoting God's holy Word is something the devil can't stand! Those who don't take a stand for Christ will be on the wrong side. And someday when it's too late, they'll find themselves in the devil's trap. In yourself, you cannot lick the devil.

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

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Q: I don't mind saying that at times I live like the devil. Other times, I do good things — things I learned to do growing up in church. I remember hearing that God never gives up on us, so whatever I do is covered by His love and forgiveness. Though I sow some wild oats, the Lord doesn't hold me accountable, right? — W.O.

A: The devil is a liar and he tells people to ignore their sin. We are to renounce the evil influence of the world, the flesh, and the devil. There can be no parleying, bargaining, or compromise.

Table with 24 columns (Time slots) and 24 rows (Channels). Lists TV programs and their descriptions.

"It'll look a lot happier once it's wearin' all its lights and stuff."

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

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Yesterday's answer 12-9 crossword puzzle grid with filled-in words.

Table with 11 columns and 11 rows, likely a calendar or grid.

# The Classifieds

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

WE ACCEPT



## SUDOKU

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

### King Classic Sudoku

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

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Difficulty: ★★★★★

12/9

### Pets

**TWO OLDER YORKIES**, both female, two Yorkie pups, one male, one female, potty trained to go on potty papers. Call 260-849-3138 for prices.

### REAL ESTATE Home For Sale



**COMPLETELY REMODELED**, 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home at 711 W. Cherry St. All new appliances, paint, interior trim, water lines and drains, siding and windows. Call (260) 820-2765 or (260) 273-1580. Sale price \$172,000.

### RENTALS

#### Office Space Rental GREAT LOCATION

**MAKE YOUR AD STAND OUT!** Add a graphic or photo for an additional \$5. Contact the Bluffton News-Banner office, 125 N. Johnson St., 824-0224, or submit online at [www.news-banner.com](http://www.news-banner.com) and click on classifieds.

### VEHICLES

#### Auto/Trucks

**INDIANA AUTO AUCTION, INC.** Huge Repo Sale December 14, 2023. Over 100 repossessed units for sale. Money order or cashier's check only. \$500 cashier's check or money order deposit per person required. Register 8 am-9:30 am. No public entry after 9:30 am. All vehicles sold AS IS! 4425 W. Washington Center Road, Fort Wayne. (A)

### Auto/Trucks

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** - General Services Administration (GSA) Sale Thurs., December 14, 12pm. View vehicles in person on December 13, 2pm until 5pm and December 14, 8am-12pm. View up to date listing at [www.indianaautoauction.net](http://www.indianaautoauction.net) or [www.autoauctions.gsa.gov](http://www.autoauctions.gsa.gov). (A)

**HELOISE HINT:** Stop any bad driving habits. Distracted driving because of texting or chatting on a cellphone can have disastrous results. Thousands of people are killed every year from distracted driving. Keep your focus on the road when driving. Fax Heloise @ 210-HELOISE (435-6473).

Read & recycle this newspaper

## SELL YOUR STUFF!

All Classified Line Ads automatically appear on the News-Banner website at NO ADDITIONAL CHARGE!

### HOT DEAL!

20 Words, 10 Days

just \$25  
ADD A PHOTO  
for just \$5 more  
One item per ad

## GUARANTEED SOLD

Your ad runs 'til your item is sold! (6-month maximum) Private party only, one-item in ad. Limited to "For Sale" and "Automotive" categories (Real Estate excluded)

20 words \$39

Add'l Lines: 88 cents each

### ADD A PHOTO!

Your "Guaranteed Sold" ad (up to 20 words) with a Photo: \$44  
Add'l Lines, 88 cents each

## GARAGE SALES

Put your Garage Sale in Wells County's Easy-to-Use Garage Sale Guide!

Get a FREE

### GARAGE SALE KIT

when you place your Garage Sale ad in The News-Banner for 3 days or more.

## SELL YOUR WHEELS!

### HOT DEAL!

20 Words, 10 Days

just \$25  
ADD A PHOTO  
for just \$5 more  
One item per ad

## GUARANTEED SOLD

Your ad runs 'til your item is sold! (6-month maximum). Limited to one-item, private party only.

20 words \$39

Add'l Lines: 88 cents each

### ADD A PHOTO!

Your "Guaranteed Sold" ad (up to 20 words) with a Photo: \$44  
Add'l Lines, 88 cents each

## SERVICES SPECIAL!

Advertise Your Services EVERY DAY in Wells County's Most Popular Daily Marketplace!

20 Words,  
2-Month Special: \$97

### ATTENTION GRABBERS!

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!

### EMPLOYMENT

#### Help Wanted

**CNC MACHINIST** Hi, tired of working in a dead end job? Running the same machine, making the same part? Feel like you're not getting any better? Not learning any new machining skills? Take this opportunity to become a master machinist. Learn to operate multiple machines, make precision component parts, in our AS100 Certified Job Shop. Perhaps you retired too early and are looking for a part time position we are offering this too.  
Email: [jturnbull@dedricktool.com](mailto:jturnbull@dedricktool.com)  
260 824-3334

**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](http://www.blufftonindiana.net). For more information contact Chief of Police Kyle Randall at 824-3320 or [kyle.randall@blufftonindiana.gov](mailto:kyle.randall@blufftonindiana.gov). Applications are due back December 22, 2023 by 4:30 p.m.

### FOR SALE

#### Miscellaneous

**THIS OUT!**  
**MICHIGAN CHRISTMAS TREES!** Tim Murray's Fresh Cut Christmas Trees, Wreaths, Garland, Grave Blankets and Boughs! Also Michigan Maple Syrup. Located at Bummys Root Beer Stand, 1263 S. Main Street., Bluffton. Open Daily at 10am beginning Saturday, Nov. 25. Phone: 231-920-6194.

### Home Furnishings



**ESTATE WASHER AND** Roper dryer, excellent condition, \$75 each, 260-224-2685.

### Pets

**HELOISE HINT:** When you bring home a new pet. It's a good idea to spay or neuter it. Your pet will live longer and be healthier. Fax Heloise @ 210-HELOISE (435-6473).

### Lottery Numbers

**Friday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY**  
Cash 5 — 04-10-14-38-43  
Cash4Life — 22-37-40-52-59, Cash Ball: 03  
Quick Draw Midday — 03-06-09-10-11-15-21-27-35-38-41-44-45-46-52-56-58-60-63-64, BE: 15  
Daily Three-Midday — 03-03-01, SB: 06  
Daily Three-Evening — 06-02-03, SB: 03  
Daily Four-Midday — 01-01-07-06, SB: 06  
Daily Four-Evening — 04-05-02-05, SB: 03  
Quick Draw Evening — 01-04-05-06-10-11-12-13-28-29-30-35-36-37-44-47-59-64-66-76, BE: 04  
**Hoosier Lotto** — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$1 million  
**MEGA MILLIONS** 21-26-53-66-70, Mega Ball: 13, Megaplier: 3X  
**POWERBALL** Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$468 million

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AN MUCH MORE! COMPETITIVE RATES!

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www.seamlessgutter.net

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geoff@genesispestservices.com

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1233 W. Cherry St., Bluffton  
FREE Estimates

### SUDOKU ANSWER

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