

Highway building to strengthen services

BV HOLLY GASKILL

When it comes to the county's new highway department building, it's a "night and day" difference, says Supervisor Shawn Bonar.

Crews broke ground on the site last fall and, barring a few hiccups, the project continues toward its original projected completion date. Conor Jackson, project manager from James S. Jackson Construction, said they plan to release the building to the county on Feb. 5. From there, he hopes the remaining work will be small punch list items.

Bonar estimates roughly 90 percent of the construction items are already complete. The remaining parts, like electrical work, are much less visually noticeable but remain a significant part of the project nonetheless. As the building's lights flickered on for the first time on Dec. 1, Bonar exclaimed, "Is that real?"

Wells County's current building was

built in 1906 as a train maintenance station. The county had since constructed two additions to adapt the building for highway department use, but it had long been a temporary fix, facing numerous building problems.

County officials and department employees had discussed the need for a new building for decades - project plans were finally inked in September 2022 for \$10.9 million.

"This was much needed," Bonar said. 'We're going to be so much more efficient."

The current building's garage requires trucks boxed into two parallel rows, limiting access. Additionally, due to the relatively narrow passageway and grate between the large machinery, the area poses a danger to employees - two of whom were injured in the area in recent years.

With this and other areas of need in mind, Bonar worked with project engineers to consider the day-to-day needs and (Continued on Page 2)



The site for the new highway building is located at 0828 E 200 S in Bluffton. The project will be completed in February. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

New treatment coming to the wastewater plant

By JONATHAN SNYDER

The wastewater treatment plant is getting new upgrades for 2025.

The wastewater treatment plant's renovation project looks to put all the labs and processes for treating wastewater into one big plant, instead of the traditional two plant system.

The construction crew is currently tearing down the original plant built in the 1960s and the facility built in the '90s will go offline once the new structure is built. A new pump station for sewage flow is in the works, alongside new circular clarifiers for further polishing of the wastewater. Construction is expected to be finished on July 24, 2025

While the new system keeps a similar process for removing the solids and cleaning of wastewater overall, the new updates will make treatment less reliant on chemicals and make it a more biological one according to Tony Fey, plant supervisor.

The oxidation ditch is one of the bigger additions to the plant. The ditch is meant to be a more biological and ecofriendly treatment than the current aeration basins used now. The oxidation ditch will better manage the rainwater flow so the bugs that eat the waste chemicals have the food they need to survive. Water stays in the oxidation ditch for a longer period of time than aeration basins, giving the



Progress is being made on the new plant, shown above and below, and the oxidation ditch, shown in the bottom photo. (Photos provided by Tony Fey)



Car plows into vehicle in Biden's motorcade

By COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) - A car plowed into a parked SUV that was guarding President Joe Biden's motorcade Sunday night while the president was leaving a visit to his campaign headquarters. The president and first lady Jill Biden were unharmed.

While Biden was walking from the campaign office to his waiting armored SUV, a sedan hit a U.S. Secret Service vehicle that was being used to close off intersections near the headquarters for the president's departure. The sedan then tried to continue into a closed-off intersection, before Secret Service personnel surrounded the vehicle with weapons drawn and instructed the driver to put his hands up.

Biden was ushered into his waiting vehicle, where his wife was

bugs more opportunity to feed on the waste products in the water.

"That's what's cleaning our water is those bugs," said Kelly White, engineer for the city of Bluffton. "They're good bugs. So you've got to make sure that the environ-(Continued on Page 2)

already seated, before being driven swiftly back to their home. His schedule was otherwise unaffected by the incident.

The Secret Service did not immediately comment on the incident.

Pope's 87th birthday ends church reform efforts

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

ROME (AP) - Pope Francis turned 87 on Sunday, closing out a year that saw big milestones in his efforts to reform the Catholic Church as well as health scares that raise questions about his future as pope.

Francis celebrated his birthday with cake during a festive audience with children Sunday morning, and there were "Happy Birth-day" banners in St. Peter's Square during his weekly noon blessing.

One early present came Saturday, when a Vatican tribunal handed down a mix of guilty verdicts and acquittals in a complicated trial that Francis had supported as evidence of his financial reforms. The biggest-name defendant, Cardinal Angelo Becciu, was convicted of embezzlement and sentenced to $5\frac{1}{2}$ years in prison.

"It was quite a year for a

pope who's obviously thinking about legacy and finishing up," said Christopher Bellitto, professor of history at Kean University in New Jersey.

Only seven popes are known to have been older than Francis at the time of their deaths, according to the online resource Catholic Hierarchy. Francis is fast closing in on one of them, Pope Gregory XII, perhaps best known for having been the most recent pope to resign until Pope Benedict XVI stepped down in 2013.

Gregory was 88 and a half when he voluntarily stepped down in 1415 in a bid to end the Western Schism, in which there were three rival claimants to the papacy. Francis has said he, too, would consider resigning if his health made him unable to carry on, but more recently he said the job of pope is for life.

(Continued on Page 2)



Norwell choir takes the stage

Soloists Tailor Grant, top left, and Eli Ingle, top right, sing alongside their choir-mates for the Norwell Choir Spectacular on Saturday. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)





Highway

(Continued from Page 1) employee safety.

The new site, located at 0828 E 200 S in Bluffton, contains a main garage building with warmed vehicle storage, an indoor vehicle wash bay, a cold storage building, and a salt and aggregate storage structure.

"There's probably more square footage in this room alone than the other build-ings put together," Bonar said, referring to the warm storage building.

The increase in space and new technology allows for a much more intentional use of resources, says Bonar. Where Wells has previously given waste oil to Adams County, there is now room for equipment that will use the oil to offset the cost of heating the building.

With a larger parts room, Bonar plans to have an electronic check-out system where employees scan a part and mark how it's being used. Bonar hopes this not

only increases accountability but also allows him to monitor which vehicles are routinely garnering repairs and why.

Alongside this, the department will be able to house some new equipment, allowing more in-house work and repairs. Referring to new equipment for changing tractor tires, Bonar said, "I think it's huge, especially for people who have been here for 35 years and need proper equipment to complete repairs like this."

Additionally, new safety measures will be put in place. Multiple spaces in the building have ventilation fans that automatically turn on with detection of harmful gas or chemicals.

Employees will also directly access the gate and multiple building entryways through a key fob system, offering better security and employee access than the current system. Bonar stated there is currently an unnec-

essary delay in accessing the building or supplies should emergency signs be needed for a road issue, for example, employees have access through one door and maneuver the large signs through the entire garage building.

Another large area of improvement is the expansion of office spaces. Walking into the current building, visitors are immediately met with the bookkeeper's desk and filing cabinets. Just a few steps behind is Bonar's desk.

The new building has a small welcome area, with a reception window into the bookkeeper's office, which already nearly matches the size of the current offices. Down a hallway lies a separate conference room, offices for the supervisor, engineer, and a possible contractor, as well as separate storage for highway documents and engineering records. The foreman will also gain

an office in the garage.

Past the offices, employees will enjoy an expanded break room with an adjacent separate locker room and bathroom. While seemingly straightforward, it's vastly different from the prone-toflooding break room and lockers scattered throughout the garage.

Although Bonar's priority is efficiency and safety, he also hopes these changes bring a renewed spirit among his crew.

"I hoping this helps morality," Bonar added. "I like being able to collectively grab the whole group in one area in a nice, decent place ... right now training over there is so difficult. We have no good place unless we pull trucks out and do it in the middle of the truck parking bay."

Altogether, it'll be a starkly new chapter for the Wells County Highway Department.

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Weather

Monday, December 18, 2023 (24-hour observations at 10:45 p.m. Sunday) High: 47; Low: 43; Precipitation: 0.18 in. Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.21 feet at 10:45 p.m. Sunday

Wells County forecast

Tonight: Patchy drizzle before midnight. Cloudy, with a low around 32. West wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Monday: A slight chance of rain and snow showers before 8 a.m., then snow showers. Patchy blowing snow after 1 p.m.. High near 34. Northwest wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New snow accumulation of around an inch possible.

Monday Night: Snow showers, mainly before 8p.m. Patchy blowing snow before 2 a.m. Low around 23. Northwest wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New snow accumulation of less than one inch possible.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 34. Northwest wind around 10 mph.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 23. South wind 5 to 10 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 43.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 30. Thursday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 45.

Thursday Night: A 20 percent chance of rain after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 35.

Wastewater

(Continued from Page 1) ment is good for the bugs."

The project comes at a great time for the city, as many of their systems are nearing the end of life tag. Asset management plans help the city see the life cvcle of different structures and parts, which allows them to know when things need replacing.

"The equipment itself ... some can have 50 years, some can have 20 years (of life)," said White.

Overall, the project is meant to be a proactive move to prevent any major issues and damage, according to White. Even though the sewage system is an afterthought for most citizens, the last thing White wants to see is something failing, which would prevent citizens from flushing toilets and negatively affect the environment.

"You don't want something to fail when you could

have prevented it five years ago," said White. "We do asset management plans ... so we tag the different pieces of equipment so we understand specifically when the end of life is for a certain piece of equipment."

At the moment, construction is progressing smoothly. The James S. Jackson Construction company and DLZ, the head of construction and the design engineering groups respectively, have found cost savings to put back into the project. Over \$610,000 worth of value was discovered in a recent Board of Public Works and Safety meeting.

We're ahead of schedule and we are on budget," said White. "Everybody is willing to brainstorm and come up with really good solutions (by) making sure we're providing the best product for the city of Bluffton.'

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crack down on his rightwing opponents.

For starters, Francis presided over the first stage of his legacy-making meeting on the future of the Catholic Church. The synod aims to make the church more inclusive and reflective of and responsive to the needs of rank-and-file Catholics. The first session ended with "urgent" calls to include women in decision-making roles in the church. The next phase is scheduled for October 2024. "The effort to change the rigidly top-down nature of governance in Catholicism is the main reform project of the Francis papacy and its success or failure will likely be his chief legacy,' said Fordham's Gibson. He said the jury was still out on whether it would succeed, since the transition period is "messy and absolutely exhausting." Will the sense of exhaustion overcome the inspiration that invigorates so many?" he asked.

Francis this year appointed an unusually progressive theologian as the Vatican's chief doctrine watchdog, and he has already begun setting a very new tone for the church's teachings that could have big effects on the church going forward. Cardinal Victor Fernandez has issued decrees on everything from how to care for cremated ashes (in a defined and sacred place) to membership in Masonic lodges (forbidden) and whether transgender people can be godparents (they can).

Texas, Bishop Joseph Strickland, whose social media posts were highly critical of the pope. And most recently, he cut off the former Vatican high court judge, Cardinal Raymond Burke, after he as its high point the synod, the conclusion of which will drive Francis at least for another year.

"I think the Pope is thinking about his legacy in a way he hasn't done before.

Music in the lobby Above, Arlene Stoller offered holiday piano music in the lobby of the Auditorium stage as the free "Joyful Sounds of Christmas" program got underway Saturday afternoon. Visitors also could have a chat with Santa or a dance with Frosty as they enjoyed refreshments before singing got underway on stage. At right, before and after the concert members, of the audience could mingle with the entertainers and Frosty (Ashley Wood) and April Smith were encouraging some of the youngsters to dance! (Photos by Barbara Barbieri)

Pope Francis

(Continued from Page 1) Twice this year, however, Francis' less-than-robust respiratory health forced him to cancel big events: In spring, a bout of acute bronchitis landed him in the hos-

the person of the pope, said David Gibson, director of the Center on Religion and Culture at Fordham Univer-

sity. "It's a great improvement from the time when the pope was just a king in his throne surrounded by a royal court," he said. "But with such expectations can any pope govern into his 80s and even 90s and be effective?" While Francis' health scares punctuated his 87th year, perhaps the biggest milestone of all, and one that is likely to shape the remainder of Francis' pon-tificate, was Benedict's Dec. 31 death. Benedict largely stuck to his promise to live "hidden to the world" and allow Francis to govern unimpeded. But his death after 10 years of retirement removed the shadow of a more conservative pope looking over Francis' shoulder from the other side of the Vatican gardens. His death has seemingly freed up Francis to accelerate his reform agenda and

pital for three days and made him miss the Good Friday procession at the Colosseum.

More recently, a new case of bronchitis forced him to cancel a planned trip to Dubai to participate in the U.N. climate conference. Francis had part of one lung removed as a young man and seems to be increasingly prone to respiratory problems that make breathing difficult and speaking even more so.

In between those events, he was hospitalized again in June for nine days for surgeons to repair an abdominal hernia and remove scar tissue from previous intestinal surgeries.

The hospitalizations have raised questions about Francis' ability to continue the globetrotting rigors of the modern-day papacy, which is increasingly dependent on

At the same time, Francis has begun hitting back at his conservative critics, for whom Benedict was a point of reference for the past 10 years.

Francis exiled Benedict's longtime secretary, Archbishop Georg Gaenswein, to his native Germany after a series of infractions culminating with a tell-all memoir published in the days after Benedict's death that was highly critical of Francis.

Then, he forcibly Alongside the synod, removed the bishop of Tyler, warned that Francis' reformminded synod risked dividing the faithful.

Natalia Imperatori-Lee, professor of religious studies at Manhattan College, said the pushback against Burke was less of a "smackdown" and would have little tangible effect, since he has plenty of wealthy backers in the U.S.

But she said it was part of an important year that had

Perhaps that has to do with Benedict's death, maybe it's more a matter of his own mortality becoming more real given his recent illnesses," she said. "The synod is a huge part of that legacy, obviously, and you can see his investment in having it succeed. I'm willing to bet that seeing part 2 of the synod to fruition is a huge motivator for him right now."





LOCAL/AREA

OBITUARIES

Geoffrey E. Frank, 68

Geoffrey E. Frank, 68, of Bluffton passed away Friday evening, Dec. 15, 2023, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He was born Oct. 23, 1955, in Fort Wayne to John L. and Patricia A. Frank. His marriage on Feb. 25, 1984, in Bluffton was to the former Mary Lynn Johnson, who survives.

Geoff was a 1974 graduate of P.A. Allen High School in Bluffton. He earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and a master's degree in political science, both from Ball State University.

He worked in communications and

administrative roles for most of his 40-plus-year career, including positions at Lincoln National Corporation, IBM Global Services, Job Works, and the Catholic Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, all in Fort Wayne.

He was a former reporter, sportswriter, government news editor and city editor for The Bluffton News-Banner. He also served as the elected county auditor for Wells County during the early 1980s.

Active at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bluffton, Geoff served as a lector for many years. He also was a former member of the parish council.

An avid follower of current events, Geoff enjoyed collecting presidential campaign buttons, taking photos, and spending time with family and friends.

Survivors include his wife of nearly 40 years, Mary Lynn Frank of Bluffton; two sons, John E. (Willemijn J.) Frank of St. Charles, III., and Paul D. (Megan E.) Frank



of Warrenville, Ill.; and four grandchildren, Alexandra Frank, Amelia Frank and Jackson Frank, all of St. Charles, Ill., and Hayden Frank of Warrenville, Ill.

Additional survivors include his brother, Charles R. (Marilyn Wiley) Frank of Suffolk, Va.; his sister, Catherine A. Schroer of Florence, Ky.; two sisters-in-law and their husbands, Marjorie E. (Larry) Bennett of Muncie and Judith L. (James) Colegrove of Hartford City; and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother-in-law, August F. "Butch"

Schroer. Visitation will be 4-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2023, from at Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton, with a rosary service at 4 p.m., prior to visitation

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 21, 2023, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bluffton with Father David Violi officiating and a short visitation beforehand at 10 a.m. Burial will be in the St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, Bluffton, with a reception at the church after the burial.

In lieu of flowers, Geoff and his family would prefer memorials to an organization of the donor's choice or for masses to be given in his honor.

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

Wayne E. Penrod, 92

Wayne E. Penrod, 92, of Poneto passed away on Thursday morning, Dec. 14, 2023, at Stillwater Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

Wayne was born on Nov. 8, 1931 in Jackson Township, Wells County to Ray E. and Helen M. (Bird) Penrod. He graduated from Jackson Center High School. Following graduation, Wayne served his country in the Korean War.

He worked for International Harvester for 30 years, retiring in 1980. Wayne was a member of Masonic Lodge #242 in Warren, American Legion Post #111 in Bluffton,

Eastern Star #48 in Bluffton and Poneto Faith Community Church.

On Sept. 7, 1953, Wayne and Patricia Ann (Safewright) were married in Clinton, South Carolina. Together they shared 58 years of marriage before her passing on January 5, 2012.

Survivors include his granddaughters, Casey (Mike) Householder of North Judson, Jessica and Érika of Florida and a grandson Logan (Anne) Gerber of Fort

dren; Emiley, Michael and Alyssa House-



He is also survived by a brother Lester (Pat) Penrod of Carrollton, Ky., a son-in-law Kevin Ivins and a daughter-in-law Stacy

Wayne, along with three great-grandchil-

Penrod, both of Bluffton. He is preceded in death by his parents, his wife Patti, his daughter Lavon Ivins and his son Richard R. Penrod.

A memorial service will be held at a future date with Pastor Roy Nevil officiating. Service details will be updated here as

soon as they are available.

Burial will take place at Grove Cemetery in rural Poneto, Indiana.

Memorials may be given to Poneto Faith Community Church.

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

Kimberli Dene Kunkel, 54

Kimberli Dene Kunkel, 54, of Tampa, FL passed away on Dec. 13, 2023, at Melech Hospice House in Tampa. She was born on Jan. 8, 1969, to Sandra Bevington and Randy Kunkel in Bluffton.

Kim had a huge personality. When she entered the room, the atmosphere shifted to accommodate her. As she used to say, "people like me", and she wasn't wrong! She was so funny – every topic was an opportunity to poke a little fun. Honestly, almost nothing was off limits, and then she'd laugh so big that she drew people in like a moth to a flame.

She also fancied herself as a loud, off-key singer of improvised songs. She would make them up on the spot and sing them at the top of her lungs, just to hear you laugh.



After working behind the chair, she moved into salon consulting. Using her uncanny people-sense in conjunction with systems and guidelines she led many salon companies and service providers to prosperity.

The most life altering and educational occupation she ever had was as a cancer patient. In her words, "it was the biggest performance of my life."

She said that the diagnosis of B-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Ph+ on Dec. 14, 2019, made her a better person because it

changed the way she loved and magnified the value of her days and her relationships. Kim never asked, "Why me?" during her illness, she only stated "Why not me?" Her tenacious fight to live lasted four years during which her faith never wavered.

Wells Court Docket

Wells Superior Court

Trevor Lee Pitzer, 24, Bluffton, was sentenced to one year at the Indiana Department of Correction with 184 days of jail credit towards his time. The sentence was issued after Pitzer pled guilty to one count of domestic battery, a Level 6 Felony. One charge for intimidation, a Class A misdemeanor, was dismissed pursuant to the plea agreement. Pitzer is not required to complete probation, however, he is ordered to pay court costs and filing fees in the amount of \$189.

Thomas E. Roach, 40, Fort Wayne, was sentenced to 730 days at the Indiana Department of Correction with six days to serve. The remaining 724 days were suspended. The sentence was issued after Roach pled guilty to one count of domestic battery resulting in bodily injury, a Level 6 felony. Roach received six days of jail credit towards his sentence and is required to complete 724 days of probation. Roach is also ordered to pay court costs and filing fees in the amount of \$239.

Jared Williams, 33, Bluffton, was scheduled to be sentenced in the Wells Superior Court last week, however, he failed to appear. A warrant has been issued for his arrest. In October, Williams pled guilty to possession of methamphetamine and possession of a narcotic drug, both Level 6 felonies, resisting law enforcement, a Class A misdemeanor, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor.

Wells Circuit Court

Robby Lee Bullard, 37, Hartford City, pled guilty to battery with bodily injury to a public safety officer, a Level 5 Felony, and criminal trespassing, a Class A misdemeanor. Three counts of resisting law enforcement, all Level 6 felonies, were dismissed pursuant to the plea agreement. Bullard is scheduled for sentencing in this matter at 9 a.m. on Feb. 21 in the Wells Circuit Court.

Cassie Abercrombie, 34, Bluffton, pled not guilty to dealing methamphetamine and one count of dealing a narcotic drug between one and five grams, both Level 4 felonies. Abercrombie was arrested last week and her bond was set at \$10,000. She is scheduled for a pretrial conference on the matter at 9 a.m. on Jan. 31 in the Wells Circuit Court.

Natasha Stanton, 42, Bluffton, appeared in the Wells Circuit Court for a bail review hearing on Wednesday. Stanton requested her bond be lowered so that she could pay \$1,000. Prosecutor Colin Andrews advised the court that Stanton presented a credible threat to others and that the details of the case were "disturbing to say the least."

In August, Stanton was charged with three counts of domestic battery by means of a deadly weapon, all Level 5 felonies, two counts of domestic battery resulting in bodily injury, strangulation, and confinement, all Level 6 felonies. Judge Kenton Kiracofe denied the request. Stanton's bond remains set at \$25,000.

Howard Michael Bryant, 35, Bluffton, appeared in the Wells Circuit Court for a bail review hearing on Wednesday. In October, Bryant was charged with dealing methamphetamine, a Level 2 felony, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 4 felony, intimidation, a Level 5 felony, theft and possession of paraphernalia, both misdemeanors.

Bryant, who was not ready to accept a plea agreement at the time, requested to be released without paying bond. Bryant advised he paid his rent through maintenance to the property that he provided for himself and his fiancé, who did not work. Bryant also advised the court of his fiancé's name. Judge Kenton Kiracofe advised that the court saw the fiancé, Cassie Abercrombie, earlier that morning for an initial hearing for charges related to drugs. Bryant was denied a reduction. His bond remains set at \$22,000.

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



What she had the most of though, was love. Usually unconditional love, even though she admitted there were a few times she should have had some conditions in place.

She loved family and spent her life creating familylike environments with everyone she knew. Losing her only child, Tyler Noble, in 2012, reinforced the need for strong bonds in her life. She made a conscious decision to live her life in joy after he passed away.

Kim had the realization that she could decide her emotions and feelings, so her choice was to live in joy with the absolute faith that she'd one day be reunited with Tyler.

Kim started her professional life as a cosmetologist at her dad's salon. The stories they would share about that time in their lives are hilarious. Imagine water fights across the stations, attempting to catch a flying bat upstairs or selling through yet another over ambitious order of liters.

Marcella B. Egly, 97

Marcella B. Egly, 97 of Warren and a longtime Bluffton resident, passed away on Sunday morning, Dec. 17, 2023, at Heritage Pointe of Warren.

Kim is survived by her parents, Sandra Bevington and Randy Kunkel, and her bonus mother Sharon Kunkel. Also, her brother Kevin Kunkel of Tampa, Fla., sister, Missy Huss of Bluffton, and granddaughter Nataley Noble of Port Richey, Fla., along with many other family members and friends.

Visitation will be held from 4-8 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 21, 2023, at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton, and for one hour prior to the service. Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. at the funeral home with Tony Garton officiating. Burial will follow at Elm Grove Cemetery.

Memorials may be made in Kim's memory to Friends Who Care Cancer Relief Foundation and can be directed to the funeral home.

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

Funeral arrangements are currently pending at this time with the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

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.



Have A Very Merry Christmas!



ΟΡΙΝΙΟΝ

Worker shortage plaguing every industry. Here's why

I can't be the only person wondering where all the workers went.

Immediately following the pandemic, it made sense that the economy would take time to stabilize and settle again. But it's almost 2024, and everywhere I look there are shortages in virtually every industry.

Here are just a few:

Indiana has a lawyer shortage that is hurting some Hoosiers.

Parents can attest to a shortage of bus drivers, with routes combined and often can-Hoosier celed.

And Indiana's teacher shortage continues.

Nurses, doctors and

virtually all other medical professionals are at a premium.

School counselors are sorely in need.

Child care is virtually impossible to find, especially in rural areas. And it is set to worsen.

There is an overall labor shortage in Indiana and the United States.

So, how is it possible to have so many shortages with an ever-growing population?

I am not an economist, so I reached out to the experts to try to break it down. Both Matt Will at the University of Indianapolis and Michael Hicks at Ball State University cautioned, though, that there isn't one answer.

Partisans want to latch onto one reason that fits their narrative. But it's a more complicated picture than that.

Will said the direct answer is a smaller share of people are participating in the workforce. Before the pandemic, 63.4% of people in the U.S. were participating. That is now down to 62.7%, which equates to about 2.4 million people who are no longer working.

So why aren't they working? Will said one factor is child care. A lack of access, whether that's not finding any open seats or not being able to afford them, has kept some parents at home - preventing them from working.

Another issue is that many people have simply decided to accept a lower standard of living. Perhaps during COVID-19, they lost their job and spent more time at home with their children and families. They realized they could live on less, and are now choosing a lower standard of living with a higher quality of life, Will said.

Hicks focused more on wages driving workforce availability and said Indiana's average weekly wages for all employees is substantially lower than the national average by about a quarter. And that isn't made up in the cost-of-living differential.

He said in the private sector businesses have had to increase wages to meet or exceed inflation. This is causing a recent national rebound, as evidenced by a decline in help wanted ads.

But Indiana's wages have remained low: "Most businesses are not psychologically prepared for the wages they need to pay," Hicks said.

Similarly, in the public sector, wages are the primary reason for a shortage. He said teachers are making less than they were in 2000 in inflation-adjusted terms. This is despite lawmakers putting more and more money into the system.

"Plenty of people want to teach but it pays so poorly it's one of the least viable occupations today," Hicks said.



Niki Kelly

Opinions

We DID NOT sexually assault on October 7th... That would be Un-Islamic! KIDNAP

Spartz and the 'clear path' in Ukraine

INDIANAPOLIS — Two years after the American Continental Congress had declared independence, George Washington's army settled in for its third bitterly cold winter encampment at Valley Forge. Things looked bleak in 1778.

In 1863, two years after the Civil War began, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee disheartened the Union army with a spectacular victory at Chancellorsville, Virginia. A few days later more than 100 people were killed during anti-war riots in New York City.

And in World War II, it wouldn't be until May 1943 that the allies turned the tide against Nazi Germany in

North Africa. The Soviets defeated the Nazis at Stalingrad as winter began. It would be another six months before American, British and Canadian soldiers stormed

the beaches at Normandy, breaching Hitler's Fortress Europe.

It would take U.S. victories in previously obscure places such as Monmouth, N.J., Gettysburg, Vicksburg, and Normandy that the tides of great wars shifted; that ultimate victory could even be fathomed.

It's been a little less than two years since Russian tyrant Vladimir Putin made the unilateral decision to invade Ukraine, unleashing his genocidal armies to bomb civilian targets, power plants during the long winters, and commit wave after wave of atrocities using rape, drones and missiles against apartment buildings, schools, churches and hospitals. In doing so, U.S. intelligence estimates are that Russia has lost 87% of its invasion force and two thirds of its tanks.

Now further U.S. funding for Ukraine is being held up in Congress, with Republicans insisting that \$111 billion the Biden administration has requested for Ukraine and Israel also including funding to "fix" the porous southern border.

"We stand at a real inflection point in history," President Biden said with Zelenskyy at his side at the White House on Tuesday. Failing to approve more aid would give Putin, "the greatest Christmas gift they could possibly give him."

Dec. 3, 2023, among 5,203 members of the Center's nationally representative American Trends Panel), finds that: 48% of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents say the U.S. is giving too much aid to Ukraine, while about half say that the U.S. is providing the right amount of support (29%) or not providing enough (18%).

In December 2022, Zelenskyy described the states at a joint session of Congress as a hero. "It will define whether it will be a democracy of Ukrainians and for Ameri-

cans - for all," he said. "This battle cannot be froBrian

Howey

zen or postponed. It cannot be ignored. There is a lot to unpack here.

First, there is a crying – no, screaming – need to address the U.S.-Mexican border. There hasn't been comprehensive immigration reform since President Reagan was in office. It needs to be bipartisan. It needs to be comprehensive. To suggest that this can be done on the fly and within days while Ukraine and Israel writhe in crisis, is not good governance.

Second, it is nearly impossible to articulate a "clear path to victory" at the two-year mark. Gen. Washington couldn't do it in 1778, President Lincoln and Gen. U.S. Grant couldn't in July 1863, and President Roosevelt and Gen. Eisenhower were unable to fathom how long it would take Berlin and Tokyo to fall in early 1943.

Third, Ukraine cannot defeat Russia without air power, just as the U.S. wouldn't have won D-Day or the Battle of the Bulge without it. "Who controls the skies controls the war's duration," Zelenskyy said at a press conference. Johnson said in a letter to President Biden last week, "President Biden must satisfy congressional oversight inquiries about the administration's failure thus far to present clearly defined objectives and its failure to provide essential weapons on a timely basis." Providing "essential weapons" on a "timely basis" is the path toward "clearly defined objectives." Everyone involved from Kyiv to Wash-

Politicking

So, with the 2024 legislature coming in January, is there anything that state officials can do?

Hicks said they could reduce some impediments in the area of child care by subsidizing it but that's not a long-term solution.

Will argues that anything they would do would make it worse.

"Government spending doesn't help. I think they should be hands off. That is my philosophic belief," he said.

Honestly, after doing research and interviews I feel like I understand more what is happening and why. But it doesn't make it any easier for Hoosiers who are waiting three months for doctor appointments, who are unable to afford day care or who consistently experience poor retail service.

And it doesn't help the workers who are showing up in dealing with the immense pressure and long hours.

Maybe one day we will see this as a growing pain, but right now it's just painful.

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



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Dec. 18, the 352nd day of 2023. There are 13 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 18, 2019, the U.S. House impeached President Donald Trump on two charges, sending his case to the Senate for trial; the articles of impeachment accused him of abusing the power of the presidency to investigate rival Joe Biden ahead of the 2020 election and then obstructing Congress' investigation. (It was the first of two Trump impeachment trials that would end in acquittal by the Senate.)

On this date:

In 1865, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery, was declared in effect by Secretary of State William H. Seward.

In 1892, Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky's ballet "The Nutcracker" publicly premiered in St. Petersburg, Russia.

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> Holly Gaskill, Editor Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor

While the new Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson said, "We stand with him against Putin's brutal invasion," he accused the White House of failing to articulate a "clear path" to Ukraine's victory.

Zelenskyy reportedly spoke to U.S. senators entirely in English, with one GOP senator telling PBS reporter Lisa Desjardins the gesture was "poignant." Designations writes that there were a few times Zelenskyy had to look up definitions of words used by senators. "One word he didn't know: Stalemate."

But that is where Zelenskyy and Ukraine find themselves after two years of war. "The U.S. assesses that Russia believes it is helped by a military stalemate with Ukraine that saps Western support for Kyiv, making its war easier to win," Politico reported of a U.S. intelligence assessment.

A new Pew Research Center survey (Nov. 27 to

ington to Brussels must up their game.

Fourth, if we abandon Zelenskyy and Ukraine to Putin, it will be just a matter of years until NATO and the U.S. will be spending blood and treasure to fend off Putin's expansion. These are lessons to be learned after his repeated incursions into Georgia. Chechnya, Crimea and now Ukraine over the past two decades.

Finally, U.S. Rep. Victoria Spartz has faded as an advocate for her homeland. She was hyper-involved for the first few months after the invasion, before tangling with Zelenskyy's chief of staff. She subsequently announced she wouldn't seek reelection in 2024, essentially becoming a lame duck at the very time House Republican support for Ukraine began to evaporate.

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

Where's the big immigration debate?

Do you remember the big national debate on whether the United States would adopt a policy to make the foreign share of the population the highest it's ever been?

Neither do I. For the simple reason, of course, that there wasn't one.

That doesn't mean that the policy wasn't adopted, through inertia and the Biden administration's imposition of a de facto open border for a large swath of asylum-seekers.

An analysis of Census data by Steve Camarota and his colleagues at the Center for Immigration Studies has found that a 4.5 million net increase in immigrants since Joe Biden took office has boosted the share of the foreign born to 15 percent, the highest ever recorded.

You know all the black-and-white photos of immigrants coming to Ellis Island, the lore about names being changed upon arrival, "your huddled masses yearning to be free"

We are currently higher than that. We're eclipsing the Great Wave of Immigration with an even greater wave. We hit 14.8 in 1890 and 14.7 in 1910, in what were, until now, the most historic decades for immigration.

Just last month, the Census Bureau was projecting the foreign-born share of the population wouldn't hit 15 percent until in 2033. Now, we could keep going up from here. "If the immigrant population continues



to grow," Camarota writes, "it will set new numerical and percentage records every year going forward."

A straight-line projection shows the share of foreignborn increasing to 15.5 by the end of Biden's term, and to an astonishing 17.3 percent by the end of a potential second term.

This is not the normal Lowry course of business. According to Camarota, the foreign-

born population has grown on average by 137,000 a month since the beginning of Biden's term, higher than Donald Trump's pre-covid 42,000 and Barack Obama's 68,000.

What accounts for this? Some of it is a covid bounce-back in legal immigration. But that's not responsible for the lion's share of the story. The Biden administration has boosted the foreign-born share of the population well above the pre-covid trend line.

It has done it by ignoring the law and greasing the skids for new arrivals even if they have no right to be here. Of the total net 4.5 million increase of immigrants on Biden's watch, 2.5 million of that is illegal immigrants. Most of that illegal number is solely a function of discretion and the administration's opposition to excluding bogus asylum-seekers.

The Biden administration's border policy has obviously been the subject of debate, including criticism from his own party. The overall number of immigrants, though, is rarely mentioned, and even treated as an almost

illegitimate topic for public consideration.

This makes no sense. The foreignborn share of the population has consequences for schooling, welfare, wages, politics and the broader culture. It is at least as important, if not more so, than trade policy, Ukraine aid, the deficit, infrastructure or a whole host of other issues that are routine fodder for congressional debate and the Sunday shows.

It also should be subject to the approval of the American people and its representatives just like those other issues. We should affirmatively decide whether we want the foreign share of the population to be 15 percent and growing, or less than 15 percent and shrinking, and the mix of people who are coming - largely unskilled, or overwhelmingly higher skilled?

Instead, we treat immigration as something that happens to us, like the weather. (Although progressives now seek to influence the weather, so maybe this is a dated analogy.) It isn't. We are making the choices that have gotten us to this point.

The fact is that immigration has operated largely under its own power, and under false pretenses, since the immigration reform of 1965. One reason there's so little discussion of the underlying issue is that many people simply don't know the historic numbers involved.

In short, there's been no debate on 15 percent, and one, shamefully, doesn't seem in the offing.

Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry



Rich

LIFESTYLES

What's happening at the Wells County Public Library

The Wells County Public Library takes its mission to "provide the community with access, knowledge and growth" very seriously and offers a variety of events each week for kids, teens, and adults.

Registration is preferred at most events. To sign up, go to www.wellscolibrary. org, click on the Library Event Calendar, navigate to the date of the event, and view more to get to the registration screen. Alternatively, call 260-824-1612 (Bluffton) or 260-622-4691 (Ossian) to register.

Lotion Bars: Try It Night

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, Dec. 18 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Adults and teens. Try your hand at making lotion bars. Registration required. Space is limited.

Craft Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, Dec. 19 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Adults. Bring a current travel-sized project and your materials with you to work on your craft projects while chatting with others and learning from each other. Open to those that knit, crochet, embroider, quilt, paper craft, and more. See what materials the library has to assist you as well. Registration appreciated, but not required.

Golden Gamers

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, Dec. 19 from 3 to 5 p.m.

Adults. Are you bored? Do you need some social interaction? Come and enjoy two hours of socializing, games, and snacks. Registration appreciated.

Kids' Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, Dec. 19 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

A club for kids in K-3rd grade who enjoy fun stories, activities, and crafts! The meeting will be held in the Story Hour room every third Tuesday of the month. The program lasts about an hour. Registration appreciated.

Theater Thursday

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, Dec. 21 at 10 a.m.

Adults. Join us for a movie, popcorn, and snacks. Sponsored by the Bluffton Parks & Recreation and the Friends of the Library. No registration needed.

Library Closed for the Holidays

The Main Library (Bluffton) and Ossian Branch will closed Dec. 23-26 for Christmas. Online services and digital books will still be available while closed.

Teen Advisory Board

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Wednesday, Dec. 27 from 6 to 6:45 p.m.

Grades 6-12. Do you wish you had a say in Teen Programming at the Library? Do you need volunteer credit? Join the Teen Advisory Board! You don't need to sign up--just show up for the TAB meetings on the last Wednesday of each month.

DIY Play-Doh: Club 456

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, Dec. 28 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Grades 4-6. Connect with your senses by making cinnamon play-doh. All supplies provided. Registration requested.

Children's Book Clubs

At the Main Library (Bluffton)

Grade 1-2 Book Club: Tuesday, Jan. 2 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

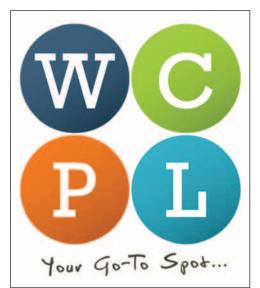
Grades 3-4 Book Club: Tuesday, Jan. 9 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Grades 5-6 Book Club: Thursday, Jan. 11 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Pick up a copy of the book-of-themonth when you sign up at the library. Talk about the book and enjoy an activity or craft based on the book.

Outdoor Lockers

The library now has outdoor lockers at the Main Library (Bluffton), the Ossian Branch, and near door 10 at Southern Wells Community Schools that can be used to pick up your holds at any time of day. This is perfect for those who cannot get materials during our regularly scheduled hours. To use, just place a hold online at wellscolibrary.org or call 260-824-1612. Select which outdoor lockers you would



like to use to pick up the items, and you will be notified when they are ready for pickup, along with instructions of how to access.

Library Hours

At the main library in Bluffton - Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

At the Ossian branch library – Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon.

Access the library online at www. wellscolibrary.org for digital books, magazines, online databases, event info, and more.



Well it is almost Christmas, as I write this column, and I a.m. not ready for the end of the year coming up soon!

Enjoy the many wonderful Christmas lights and

don't forget to drive down and watch the "Living Lights" at the Tower Life Center on Wayne Street. The Zanesville lighting contest began 30 years ago in 1993.

The Zanesville Lions still have wreaths to sell for \$5 each and apple dumplings for \$3 each. Just call 1-260-638-4327.

by Melba Edwards

I wish you a Merry Christmas!



Welcome to the visitor's centre

At the entrance to the Wells County Commerce & Visitor's Centre building, located at 211 West Water St., a Moose has taken up residence for the holiday season sporting a lit wreath hung around his neck. The Moose first made his appearance a few years ago at the Parlor City Plaza and was created by Jeff Lemler. The Wells County Chamber of Commerce has made arrangements with Lemler for the Moose's yearly visit to them. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)



Locker pickup

A new service offered by the Wells County Public Library is the Locker Pickup option offered at the Main Library in Bluffton and at the Ossian Branch. (Lockers will be coming soon to Southern Wells to where the book return currently sits. Complete directions on how to use the option is located at the site or call 260-824-1612. The lockers in Bluffton are located at the corner



of West Washington and South Johnson Streets. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

5 questions that can help determine your holiday tipping plans

By ELIZABETH AYOOLA for workers who provide of NerdWallet

As you plan your holiday giving, you may be thinking about adding service workers to your list of recipients. But holiday tips raise lots of questions: Whom should you tip extra during the holidays? How big of a tip should you give? Does the tip need to be in cash? What if you can't afford to make room for tipping in your packed holiday budget? Etiquette experts explain the ins and outs of holiday tipping, and why sometimes a thoughtful act is worth just as much as a cash tip.

Service workers help make our lives easier throughout the year whether it's by keeping our lawns immaculate or babysitting during date nights. The holidays are an ideal time to show gratitude for the work they do throughout the year.

But how much do you tip service workers during the holidays, and whom should you prioritize? Etiquette experts have answers to these questions and more. **1. WHOM SHOULD** YOU TIP DURING THE **HOLIDAYS?**

Holiday tips are usually

consistent help throughout the year. If you need a hierarchy of some sort, consider starting with anyone who assists you within your home, says Thomas P. Farley, an etiquette expert in Manhattan who goes by Mister Manners. That could include a housekeeper, livein aide or au pair, he says. Then, you can prioritize people who offer services outside your home.

Here are a few people you may consider giving a holiday tip:

- Babysitter.
- House cleaners.
- Dog walker.
- Personal chef.
- Handyman.
- Landscaper.
- Hairdresser.
- Mechanic.
- Physical trainer.
- Dry cleaner.

To help remember whom to tip come next holiday season, consider making a note of the workers you engage with throughout the year, Farley says.

"Keep a spreadsheet, keep some sort of a document that allows you to make sure you don't neglect anyone who really provided you good service through-

out the year," he says. 2. HOW MUCH SHOULD YOU TIP?

It can be difficult to decide on the right amount to tip someone who has been helpful on an ongoing basis. Diane Gottsman, a modern manners and etiquette expert, suggests tipping the cost of one service be it a hairstyle or cleaning service. For example, for a nanny it would be one week's pay.

If that's not possible because of budget constraints, Gottsman, who owns The Protocol School of Texas in San Antonio, says to use other variables to determine how much to

"You base (it) on your budget, your comfort level, the relationship that you have with that person and the service they provide," she says.

If you find you have a tight budget this year, you may end up giving a smaller tip than you did last holiday season. Farley says in this scenario, you can consider tipping half of what you tipped the year before. **3. HOW DO YOU GIVE SERVICE WORKERS HOLIDAY TIPS?**

Ideally, a holiday tip should be in the form of cash or a check with a sentimental touch, Gottsman says.

"Not only are you giving them the money, you're also inserting it in a card and with a heartfelt message,' she says.

If cash isn't an option, consider other payment methods like Cash App, Venmo, PayPal and Zelle. When in doubt, ask them if they have a preference, in case they don't have access to money transfer and payment apps.

4. HOW DO YOU TIP ON **A TIGHT BUDGET?**

Tipping may feel stressful when your finances are spread thin. Before giving out holiday tips, reassess how much disposable income you have. To figure out your disposable income, use a budgeting app or spreadsheet. After subtracting your committed expenses from your take-home income, you'll have your disposable income. Decide how much of that leftover cash you want to put toward holiday tips.

Keeping track of your tipping can help you avoid overspending, so consider

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creating a holiday tip budget. You may put your designated tipping money in a specific account or in envelopes. By getting organized, you can be kind to the people who do work for you and be kind to your finances, too. As Gottsman says, "I

think that's important to be respectful of your own bud-get."

5. WHAT ARE ALTERNATIVES TO CASH TIPS?

If you can't afford a cash tip, consider alternatives like an inexpensive gift or a thoughtful gesture that doesn't cost anything. Gottsman says you could get the workers in your life something thoughtful such as a gift card for something they like, herbs from your garden or a bottle of homeinfused olive oil.

You can also regift an item you haven't used if you think the person would appreciate it. However, be honest and let them know you're regifting the item, Gottsman says.

No matter what you give, tipping can be a thoughtful thing to do, especially during the holidays.

"So it's at the end of the year where we provide that additional thank you for not just what they did for us around Christmas or Hanukkah, or the month of December, but rather how they facilitated our lives throughout the year and made our lives that much more meaningful, enjoyable, and allowed us to focus on other things while they did what they do best," Farley says.



today to schedule an appointment.

10045 North State Road 1 Ossian, IN 46777





Tiger girls remain unbeaten in ACAC game against Jets

By RICK SPRUNGER

Bluffton's girls won as expected Saturday afternoon, defeating Adams Central, 67-54, at the Tiger Den.

The manner of victory, however, was not expected.

Bluffton needed a big second-half rally to overcome an eight-point deficit to secure the win.

Bluffton improved to 11-1 overall and to 4-0 in Allen County Athletic Conference play with the win.

Adams Central, losing for the fourth straight time, fell to 1-3 in the conference and 3-9 overall.

Trailing 37-29, Bluffton launched a 24-1 scoring run between the 4:45 mark of the third quarter and the 6:23 mark of the fourth that completely turned the game around.

Bluffton coach Doug Curtis attributed his team's second-half charge to its defense.

"Madyson Sonnigsen played very well for us," said Curtis. "She had a lot of tips and knockaways that created good runout opportunities for us.'

During that nearly seven-minute surge, Bluffton forced nine Adams Central turnovers while allowing just five Jet shots at the basket, all of them misses.

Bluffton was on top, 53-38 before Adams Central finally ended its scoring drought from the field. But the Tigers continued to turn up the defensive pressure and built their lead up to 62-43 with 2:39 left.

Meanwhile, Isabella Stout scored 15 of her game-high 18 points during the second

half to spearhead the Bluffton offensive attack. Sonnigsen herself connected on four three-pointers, three of them in the second half, and finished with 13 points.

It all started with the first of Sonnigsen's second-half three-pointers.

The Tigers forced a turnover on the baseline, and Stout canned a pair of free throws. Then, after an Ava Stafford miss, Marly Drayer connected from deep to tie the game at 37-37.

Adams Central followed with four straight turnovers, two of them steals by Sonnigsen, and the Tigers made them pay with a Sonnigsen three, a breakaway layup and one of two free throws by Stout that made it 43-37.

Ashlyn Doster hit one of two free throws for the Jets, but Sonnigsen countered with a three-pointer and Stout two free throws around a Drayer steal for a 47-38 score at the break.

Three more Adams Central turnovers and another six Bluffton points to start the fourth period kicked the margin out to 53-38.

But for two and a half quarters, Adams Central made Bluffton sweat, and the Jets did it without not one but two starters on the floor

Alexa Brotherton missed the game with a bad Achilles tendon, and Grace Fisher exited four minutes into the contest with a back problem.

Fisher did not re-enter the contest until midway through the fourth period and only stayed for two minutes before coming out for good.

Of course, Bluffton was also playing without a starter, Konley Ault.

Kate Fisher picked up the slack for Adams Central, knocking down five straight three-point shots to lead the visitors to that 37-29 advantage.

"They shot the three about as well as possible," said Curtis of an Adams Central team that finished the game 10-for-16 from the arc. "We were giving them too many open looks."

We did some good things in the first half," said Adams Central coach Kyle Roe. "We were physical, but we got into some foul trouble. Kate (Fisher) has the ability to hit the three-pointer, and they recognized that and took it away from her defensively."

Fisher hit three of her threes in the first quarter and another in the second.

Then Athena Schwartz knocked down another one with 0:16 left in the first half to give her team a 30-29 advantage at the intermission.

Fisher's fifth three, a shot by Audrey Eisberg underneath, and a steal and layup by Schwartz carried the Jets to that eight-point advantage.

But that was when Bluffton began its big run to take control of the game.

Maryn Schreiber joined Stout and Sonnigsen in double figures with 15 points, 12 of them in the first half.

Drayer finished with 12 points for Bluffton, which was 22-for-46 from the field for a .478 shooting percentage.

Bluffton also won the battle of the boards

by a convincing 33-23 margin without Adams Central's two bigs.

Adams Central was led by Schwartz's 17 points and Fisher's 15. The Jets were 19-for-45 from the floor for .422.

Bluffton won the junior varsity contest by a 51-30 score. The Tigers got eight points from Isla Gibson, seven each from Addison Yates and Shakyriana Eskridge, and six apiece from Piper Morgan and Addison Kauffman.

Also breaking into the scoring column for Bluffton were Savanna Hughett and Rylynn Penick with four points apiece, Eve Corkwell with three, and Madelynn Funk, Reagan Harris, and Alexandria Koby with two each.

Bluffton will play at Churubusco at 7:30 pm. Tuesday, Dec. 19

sports@news-banner.com

SPORTS

BLUFFTON 67, ADAMS CENTRAL 54

At Bluffton ADAMS CENTRAL (3-9): Kate Fisher 5-7 0-0 15, Athena Schwartz 6-14 2-2 17, Ava Stafford 2-10 2-2 8, Grace Fisher 1-2 1-4 3, Audrey Eisberg 2-5 0-0 4, Ashlyn Doster 1-4 1-2 3, Lillee Dull 2-3 0-2 4, Ellie Ogg 0-0 0-0 0, Izzy Isch 0-1 0-0 0. TOTAL: 19-45 6-12 54. BLUFFTON (11-1): Isabella Stout 6-15 6-9 18, Marly

Drayer 4-8 2-2 12, Maryn Schreiber 5-7 5-8 15, Haley Gibson 3-7 0-0 8, Sophie Eisenhut 0-0 0-2 0, Madyson Sonnigsen 4-9 1-2 13, Tressa Renner 0-0 1-2 1, TOTAL: 22-46 15-25 67.

Adams Central 16 14. 8 16 — 54 Bluffton 14 15 18 20 — 67 Three-point shooting: Adams Central 10-16 (K. Fisher 5-6, Schwartz 3-4, Stafford 2-6), Bluffton 8-13 (Stout 0-1, Drayer 2-3, Gibson 2-4, Sonnigsen 4-5). Rebounds: Adams Central 23, Bluffton 33 (Darayer 6, Schreiber 6, Sonnigsen 5). Turnovers: Adams Central 21, Bluffton 19. Personal fouls: Adams Central 19, Bluffton 11. Fouled Out: Doster. Technical fouls: None. Junior Varsity: Bluffton 51, Adams Central 20.

Tigers can't keep up with **Railroaders in boys' hoops**

By ANDREW FEEBACK

GARRETT - A bad second quarter put the Bluffton Tigers in a hole, and too many empty possessions kept them there as they fell to the host Garrett Railroaders 52-39 Saturday night.

Bluffton (3-2) looked crisp early on, hitting four of its first five shots and taking an early 12-8 lead.

Garrett (4-4) eased ahead, and once it had the lead, the Tigers never got it back.

"They're more skilled than we are," coach Craig Teagle said. "You can tell they've really worked on their ball-handling and shooting. It's something where we're not going to be there this year.'

A three-pointer from Cameron Williams was all the Tigers managed in the second frame, but they found themselves still within a couple of possessions at the half.

Bluffton got an easy layup from Tucker Jenkins to begin the second half, but it was all downhill after that.

"I didn't like our sense of urgency in the second half," Teagle said. "We came out and had a great first offensive possession and got a really good look, but then we came down and took a bad shot, turned it over twice, took a bad shot. So, then we end up with four empty possessions after we started with a great possession, and you just can't do that when you're behind."

Axton Beste scored and got fouled which brought the Tigers within 27-21. At that point, the Tigers were in the bonus for the rest of the quarter even with four minutes to play.

the free-throw line six times didn't help either. Jenkins and Kaleb Green both had 10 for the Tigers, while Williams added nine and Beste had eight.

Garrett placed four in double figures: Myers with 15, Carter Coffman and Parker Reed with 11 each and Jaxon Robinson with 10.

For Teagle, this game was a pretty good demonstration of how much work the Tigers have to do.

"I feel like we're not where we need to be as far as understanding our offensive concepts," Teagle said. "Defensively, I thought we could be a pretty good defensive team, but we gave up 24 points in the paint tonight, and with how we play defense, you're not going to be very good doing that. We're trying to make people have to shoot outside shots. Way too many points going to the rim; some of that is not getting the ball stopped early, some of it may be a lack of communication, some of it may be just not enough repetition yet. We've just got to continue to work on it."

Bluffton will host Norwell 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22.

The Tigers' junior varsity team lost to Garrett 25-23. Ben Maggard and Nolan Lambert both scored six points.

Bluffton took the freshman game 31-20, with Jonah Geisel scoring 10 points and



A back-breaking sequence followed, in which Beste missed his free throw attempt. the Tigers rebounded the miss but turned it over. Garrett's Drayton Myers scored and was fouled by Williams in transition, and then Williams was given a technical.

It led to a four-point possession for the Railroaders, and it could have been worse. "We just couldn't cut into that," Teagle

said. "We'd have a couple good possessions, but then a couple bad ones.

Bluffton never got any closer than seven the rest of the way.

Strangely, the Tigers actually shot above 50 percent from the floor, hitting 16 of 30 overall. But their 14 turnovers were twice as many as the home team, and only getting to Matt Tierney adding seven. sports@news-banner.com

GARRETT 52, BLUFFTON 39 At Garrett

BLUFFTON (3-2): Nolan Lambert 0-0 0-0 0, Andrew Hunt 0-0 0-0 0, Elijah Garrett 0-1 0-0 0, Hunter Wenger 0-2 0-0 0, Cameron Williams 3-5 0-0 9, Tucker Jenkins 4-6 2-2 10, Jude Baumgartner 0-0 0-0 0, Axton Beste 4-5 0-1 8, Declan Grieser 1-4 0-0 2, Kaleb Green 4-7 2-3 10, Benjamin Mag-gard 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 16-30 4-6 39.

GARRETT (4-4): Jakob Hoover 0-1 1-2 1, Parker Reed 4-6 2-5 11, Royce Fuentes 0-0 4-4 4, Luke Coffman 0-3 0-0 4-0 2-5 11, Royce Fuences 0-0 4-4 4, Luke Colimital 0-5 0-0 0, Drayton Myers 6-11 2-3 15, Jaxon Robinson 4-6 0-0 10, Carter Coffman 4-7 2-3 11, Kohen Smith 0-0 0-0 0, Jacob Gonya 0-0 0-0 0, David Westropp 0-1 0-0 0. TOTALS: 18-35 11-17 52.

11-17 52. Bluffton 14 3 8 14 – 39 Garrett 14 9 14 15 – 52 Three-point Goals: Bluffton 3-8 (Williams 3-5, Wenger 0-1, Grieser 0-2), Garrett 5-11 (Robinson 2-3, Reed 1-2, Myers 1-4, Carter Coffman 0-1, Westropp 0-1). Rebounds: Bluffton 15 (Jenkins 8, Hunt 2, Williams 2, Beste 1, Grieser 1, Green 1), Garrett 11 (Carter Coffman 2, Reed 2, Hoover 3. Bobiners 2 Wootersen 1. Under Coffman 1. Aver 1) 2, Robinson 2, Westropp 1, Luke Coffman 1, Myers 1). Turnovers: Bluffton 14, Garrett 7. Fouls: Bluffton 18, Garrett

Fouled out: None. Technicals: Williams. JV: Garrett 25, Bluffton 23. Freshman: Bluffton 31, Garrett 20.

Sports Roundup

Knights keep NE8 record perfect in win over Barons

Norwell improved to 11-12, 3-0 NE8 after a 74-44 win over DeKalb on the road Saturday night.

The Knights dominated from downtown, splashing 14 triples at 40 percent from the night.

Kennedy Fuelling led the team with 23 points on 9-22 shooting with seven rebounds and four steals. Makenzie Fuess was a 20-point scorer for the night, hitting 7-17 from the field with five rebounds and four steals.

Norwell's next game will be at home against Lawrence North starting at 3:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 23.

Tigers get fifth at New Haven Super 10

Photo on Page 7

Bluffton's wrestling team finished fifth out of 10 teams at the New Haven Super Duals on Saturday.

The Tigers finished the day with a 2-3 record in their five matches.

In its wins, Bluffton defeated Whitko 60-23 and Lakeland 60-18.

In losses, Bluffton fell to Prairie Heights 42-39, New Haven 66-12, and Yorktown 48-33.

Team Results

1. Avon (5-0) T2. New Haven (4-1), T2. Adams Central (4-1), 4. Yorktown (3-2), 5. Bluffton (2-3), T6. Lakeland (0-3), T6. Maconaquah (0-3), T6. South Bend Washington (0-3), T6. Whitko (0-3).

Bluffton's next meet will be at home against Wayne starting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19.

Norwell places third at Wawasee Super Duals

Norwell's wrestling team finished tied for third with a 3-2 record at the Wawasee Super Duals on Saturday.

The Knights defeated Bishop Luers 66-12 and Wawasee 47-28.

Northridge won over Norwell 40-28, Angola won 43-34 and Plymouth won 40-29.

Team Results

1.Plymouth (5-0), 2. Northridge (4-1) T3. Angola (2-3), T3. Norwell (2-3) 5. Bishop Luers (0-5).

Norwell will be at Adams Central at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20,

Knights move up one spot in IBCA girls' rankings

Norwell went up one spot from No. 14 to No. 13 in the latest IBCA girls' basketball rankings released on Sunday night.

This past week, the Knights (11-2) defeated Woodlan in the non-conference schedule and beat DeKalb in Northeast 8 play. Those two victories are now up to nine in a row after losing to No. 8 Homestead in November.

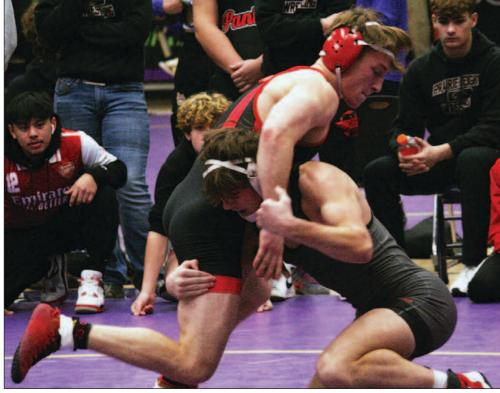
Lawrence Central tops the rankings, followed by 2. Hamilton Southeastern, 3. Columbia City, 4. Snider and 5. Center Grove. (Continued on Page 7)



Axton Beste drives into the lane, facing a tall order in Garrett's Jaxon Robinson Saturday at Garrett. (Photo by Glen Werling)



Kennedy Fuelling launches a mid-range jumper over her counterpart for DeKalb, Sienna Abbott, in the first quarter Saturday night at Waterloo. (Photo by Glen Werling)



Bluffton's Brody Lewis (right) picks up his New Prairie opponent during his match Saturday morning at the New Haven Super 10. Lewis won his match but the Tigers fell to the Panthers 42-39. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

News-Banner Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

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AMERIC				ERE	NCE	
Miami Buffalo e-N.Y. Jets e-New Eng	W 10 8 5 3	Eas 4 6 9 11	T 0 0 0 0	.571 .357	441 379	254 287
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	w	lor L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore Cleveland Cincinnati Pittsburgh	11 9 8 7	3 5 6 7	0 0 0 0	.769 .643 .571	384 309	225 289 311
	w	Ne: L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas Cit Denver Las Vegas L.A. Charge NATION	y 9 7 6 ers5	5 7 8 9	0 0 0 0	.643 .500 .429 .357	319 304 265 303	245 351 280
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x-Philadelp x-Dallas N.Y. Giants e-Washing	10 55 ton4	4 9	T 0 0 0 0		342	
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y-San Fran L.A. Rams Seattle e-Arizona e-Eliminate x-clinched y-clinched	6 3 ed fr play divis	off sior	spc spc	.500 .462 .231 yoffs	280 259	234 310 318 376
Thu	rsda 63	ay'∶	SG	ames	i re 21	

Las Vegas 63, L.A. Chargers 21 Saturday's Games Cincinnati 27, Minnesota 24, OT Indianapolis 30, Pittsburgh 13 Detroit 42, Denver 17 Sunday's Games Carolina 9, Atlanta 7 Cleveland 20, Chicago 17 Houston 19, Tennessee 16, OT Kansas City 27, New England 17 Miami 30, N.Y. Jets 0 New Orleans 24, N.Y. Giants 6 Tampa Bay 34, Green Bay 20 L.A. Rams 28, Washington 20 San Francisco 45, Arizona 29 Buffalo 31, Dallas 10 Baltimore 23 Jacksonville 7 Monday's Games Philadelphia at Seattle, 8:15 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21 New Orleans at L.A. Rams, 8:15 Saturday, Dec. 23 Sunday, Dec. 24 Cleveland at Houston, 1 p.m. Detroit at Minnesota, 1 p.m. Green Bay at Carolina, 1 p.m. Indianapolis at Atlanta, 1 p.m. Seattle at Tennessee, 1 p.m. Washington at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m. Jacksonville at Tampa Bay, 4:05 p.m. Monday, Dec. 25 Las Vegas at Kansas City, 1 p.m. N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia, 4:30 p.m. Baltimore at San Francisco, 8:15 p.m. College 2023-24 Bowl Glance Saturday, Dec. 16 Myrtle Beach Bowl Conway, S.C. Ohio 41, Georgia Southern 21 **Celebration Bowl** Atlanta Florida A&M 30, Howard 26 New Orleans Bowl New Orleans Jacksonville St. 34, Louisiana 31, 01 Cure Bowl Orlando, Fla LA Bowl Hosted Inglewood, Calif UČLA 35, Boise St. 22 Independence Bowl Shreveport, La. Texas Tech 34, California 14 Monday, Dec. 18 Famous Toastery Bowl Charlotte, N.C W. Kentucky vs. Old Dominion, 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec 19 Frisco Bowl Frisco, Texas UTSA vs. Marshall, 9:00 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21 Boca Raton Bowl Boca Raton, Fla. USF vs. Syracuse, 8:00 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22 Gasparilla Bowl Tampa, Fla. Geogia Tech vs. UCF, 6:30 p.m.

Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 4:30 p.m. Buffalo at L.A. Chargers, 8 p.m. Arizona at Chicago, 4:25 p.m. Dallas at Miami, 4:25 p.m. New England at Denver, 8:15 p.m. Appalachian St. 13, Miami (Ohio) 9 New Mexico Bowl Albuquerque, N.M. Fresno St. 37, New Mexico St. 10

Austin 72, Madison 61 BHRA, III. 55, Bethesda Christian 38 Batesville 54, E. Central 43 Bedford N. Lawrence 72, Silver Creek 60 Bethany Christian 71, Lakeland Christian 37 n 37 Blackford 52, Eastern Hancock 44 Bloomfield 49, White River Valley 42 Brown Co. 54, W. Vigo 47 Brownstown 75, Mitchell 36 Cambridge City Lincoln 64, Randolph Southern 44 Castle 59, Danville, III. 48 Centerville 51, Rushville 24 Central Hardin, Ky. 74, Evansville Bosse 53 Christel House Manual 74, Providence Cristo Rey 30 Cloverdale 44, Riverton Parke 35 Community Christian 49, GEO 34 Concord 54, E. Noble 41 Culver 46, S. Bend Trinity 26 Daleville 60, Wes-Del 51 Delta 33, Muncie Central 25 Eastern (Greentown) 70, Cowan 63 Edgewood 39, Sullivan 38 Edinburgh 53, Trinity Lutheran 39 Elkhart Christian 49, Lakewood Park 34 Evansville Central 65. Vincennes 42 Evansville Christian 54, Princeton 51 Evansville Mater Dei 40, N. Daviess 34 Evansville Memorial 77, Raleigh Egypt, Tenn. 61 Evansville North 74, Butler Co., Ky. 67 Fairfield 66, Jimtown 51 Floyd Central 64, Bloomington South 58 Forest Park 57, Dubois 44 Fountain Central 74, Western Boone 57 Frankfort 65, Sheridan 49 Franklin 66, Bloomington North 53 Frontier 68, S. Newton 34 Ft. Wayne Blackhawk 72, Manchester 42 Ft. Wayne North 56, Bowman 50 Ft. Wayne Wayne 69, Columbia City 49 Garrett 52, Bluffton 39 Gary West 55, Mishawaka Marian 50 Glenn 56. LaVille 44 Greenfield 62, Lawrenceburg 47 Greensburg 46, Franklin Co. 38 Greenwood Christian 54, Shenandoah 40 Hamilton Hts. 75, W. Lafayette 72 Hammond Noll 83, Lake Station 45 Hammond Science and Tech 55, Granger Christian 35 Hauser 53 Switzerland Co 42 Henderson Co., Ky. 53, Pike Central 46 Heritage Christian 63, Indpls Scecina Illiana Christian 66, Chicago Christian, Indian Creek 61, N. Putnam 43 Indiana Deaf 67, Tennessee Deaf, Indiana Deaf 75, Michigan Deaf, Mich. Indpls Ben Davis 49, Brownsburg 46 Indpls Cathedral 62, Indpls Tech 49 Indpls Lutheran 74, Indpls Tech 49 Indpls Roncalli 61, Beech Grove 24 Jasper 62, Corydon 54 Jeffersonville 49. Evansville Harrison 46 Kokomo 59, Carmel 51 LaPorte 62, Knox 28 Lafayette Catholic 52, Rossville 31 Lake Central 49, Hammond Morton 46 Lanel 61 Mississinewa 44 Lawrence North 75, Ft. Wayne Marion 77, Huntington North 40 Marshall, Ill. 69, N. Central (Farmers Jrg) 53 Martinsville 67, Monrovia 63 Michigan City 67, S. Bend Adams 46 Monroe Central 63, Hagerstown 62 Mooresville 56, University 50 N. Montgomery 51, Covington 48 N. Posey 52, Crawford Co. 31 New Palestine 75, Franklin Central 56 New Washington 53, Crothersville 44 Northeride 60, Cochers 60 Northridge 68. Goshen 62 Oldenburg 81, Rising Sun 55 Pendleton Hts. 54, Liberty Christian 38 Peru 63, Cass 43 Pioneer 49, Argos 46 Richmond 65, Connersville 35 S. Bend St. Joseph's 58, Ft. Wayne S. Central (Union Mills) 48, DeMotte hristian 44 S. Ripley 75, S. Decatur 61 S. Vermillion 54, Clay City 52 Scottsburg 74, Columbus East 51 Seegner 48, Crawfordsville 24 Seymour 54, Jennings Co. 46 Shakamak 63, N. Vermillion 55 Southern Wells 61, Ft. Wayne Smith rademy 30 Southridge 43, Perry Central 40 Southwestern (Hanover) 63, Clarks-Tecumseh 58, Union (Dugger) 24 Terre Haute South 64, South Knox 55 Tippecanoe Valley 80, Wheeler 29 Tipton 79, Covenant Christian 57 Tri 57, Union City 44 Tri-Central 72, Madison-Grant 64 Tri-County 71, Traders Point Christian Tri-Township 47, Oregon-Davis 46 Tri-West 65. Benton Central 62 Triton Central 52, N. Decatur 45 Twin Lakes 79, N. White 40 Valparaiso 70, Elkhart 52 Waldron 57, Southwestern (Shelby) 40 Wapahani 64, Alexandria 34 Warsaw 86, S. Bend Washington 45 Washington 63, Tell City 28 Woodlan 54, Churubusco 28 Yorktown 49, Shelbyville 37 Zionsville 71, Lafayette Harrison 59 Washington County Tournament= W. Washington 52, Salem 46 Championship Borden 59, Eastern (Pekin) 44 Saturday Girls' Scores Andrean 49, Hobart 22 Batesville 41, E. Central 31 Bedford N. Lawrence 52, Ft. Wayne Bellmont 68. New Haven 9 Benton Central 56, Kankakee Valley 42 Bethany Christian 50, Lakeland Chris-Borden 52, Madison 43 Brown Co. 50, W. Vigo 35

54 III. 46 Tenn. 14 25 Leo 59, Ft. Wayne Snider 52 Linton 71, North Clay, III. 41 Loogootee 70, Springs Valley 39 Maconaguah 81, Logansport 75 bura) 53 Concordia 55 Christian 44 Academy 30 ville 43 36 Northrop 47 tian 15 Bluffton 67, Adams Central 54

Cass 49, Whitko 48 Center Grove 65, Lawrence North 48 Cloverdale 51, S. Vermillion 11 Columbia City 71, E. Noble 29 Concord 40, Mishawaka 32 Crawford Co. 50, N. Posey 47 Eastbrook 61, Blue River Valley 24 Eastside 63, Lakeland 28 Evansville Central 78, Tecumseh 61 Evansville Christian 47, N. Daviess 27 Evansville Memorial 59, Indpls N. Central 40

Evansville North 60, Terre Haute North 38 Faith Christian 58, Culver Academy 55

Floyd Central 57, Salem 17 Franklin 60, Shelbyville 32 Frankton 39 Oak Hill 27 Georgetown-Ridge Farm, III. 46, N. Vermillion 38

Gibson Southern 62, Indpls Roncalli 59 Greenfield 54, Delta 36 Hamilton Southeastern 70, Fishers 67 Highland 42, Michigan City 30 Hudson WRA, Ohio 71, S. Bend Wash-

ington 61 Huntington North 47, Leo 23 Indian Creek 84, N. Putnam 46 Indpls Cathedral 67, Heritage 58 Indpls Park Tudor 41, Greenwood Christian 28

Indpls Pike 56, Ft. Wayne South 23 Indpls Scecina 42, Bethesda Christian 38

Jasper 38, Southridge 25 Jay Co. 67, S. Adams 39 Jennings Co. 71, Oldham County, Ky. 20

Kouts 49, S. Bend Trinity 27 Lafayette Catholic 46, Tri-West 38 Lanesville 67, New Washington 26 Lawrence Central 66, Pendleton Hts. 57

Lawrenceburg 40, Rushville 27 Linton 55. Mitchell 21 Maconaquah 55, Logansport 38 Martinsville 65, Monrovia 56 Mississinewa 62, Madison-Grant 29 Morgan Twp. 49, N. White 25 N. Knox 48, Jeffersonville 42 Noblesville 41, Westfield 30 NorthWood 58, Plymouth 44 Northeastern 69, New Castle 34 Northfield 55 Wabash 47 Norwell 74, DeKalb 44 Paoli 37. Barr-Reeve 32 Penn 38, Goshen 26 Plainfield 53, Lafayette Harrison 38 Portage 40, Lafayette Jeff 28 Providence 45, Southwestern (Hanover) 38 Rock Creek Academy 42, Eastern

(Pekin) 25 S. Bend Adams 63, LaPorte 43

Sports Roundup

In the boys' rankings, Lawrence North is at the top, followed by 2. Fishers, 3. Westfield, 4. Cathedral and 5. Noblesville.

Raider boys earn 1st win in basketball

Southern Wells won its first boys' basketball game of the season in a 60-39 rout against Smith Academy at home Saturday afternoon.

The Raiders are now 1-4 on the season. Stats were not uploaded or sent in at the time of print.

High School Calendar

MONDAY, DEC 18 No events scheduled **TUESDAY, DEC 19** BOYS BASKETBALL: Southwood at Southern

Wells, 7:30 p.m. GIRLS BASKETBALL: Bluffton at Churubusco, 7:30 p.m.

SWIMMING & DIVING (CO-ED): Norwell at Bluffton,

5:30 p.m.

WRESTLING: Waye at

Bluffton, 6:30 p.m. WEDNESDAY, DEC 20 GIRLS BASKETBALL: Northfield at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m.

WRESTLING: Norwell at Adams Central, 6:30 p.m. **THURSDAY, DEC 21**

GIRLS BASKETBALL:

Bluffton at Fairfield, 7:30 p.m. SWIMMING & DIVING (CO-ED): Norwell at Angola,

6 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC 22

BOYS BASKETBALL: Norwell at Bluffton, 7:45 p.m. GIRLS BASKETBALL: Garrett at Southern Wells,

7:30 p.m. WRESTLING: Bluffton at ECIC Tournament (Jay Coun-

ty High School), 9 a.m. SATURDAY, DEC 23

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Lawrence North at Norwell, 3:30 p.m.

Minshew, Colts bolster playoff chances, beat fading Steelers

By MICHAEL MAROT

AP Sports Writer INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Gardner Minshew got the most out of his depleted supporting cast.

The Colts' quarterback, himself a backup, made big plays with backup receivers. He got Indianapolis' reserve running backs into play calls that would succeed. It was some of Minshew's finest work of the season - perhaps of his entire career.

Minshew matched his career high with three touchdown passes, Indianapolis rushed for 170 yards and the Colts improved their playoff prospects with a 30-13 win over the sagging Pittsburgh Steelers on Saturday.

"We've needed to win these games and we've done a great job down the stretch," Minshew said. "I think everybody was locked in, the urgency was there, the attention to details. At this point it's all about winning games, however, you've got to get it done.'

Minshew and the Colts (8-6) have won five of six to move from the bottom of the AFC South into playoff contention. They currently hold the No. 7 position in the AFC, and they will remain there when this weekend's games conclude because of tiebreakers.

They wouldn't be in that spot without Minshew, who replaced injured rook215 yards despite losing top receiver Michael Pittman Jr. to a concussion and top rusher Zack Moss to an injured right arm. Jonathan Taylor (right thumb), the 2021 NFL rushing champ, didn't play, either.

The Steelers (7-7) dropped their third straight and fell into last place in the rugged AFC North, putting coach Mike Tomlin's run of 16 straight seasons at .500 or better in jeopardy.

Pittsburgh took an early 13-0 lead behind backup quarterback Mitch Trubisky, who made his second start in place of the injured Kenny Pickett. But by late in the fourth quarter, the Colts had scored 30 consecutive points and thirdstringer Mason Rudolph was slinging passes for the Steelers.

"Let's be honest, we're a fundamentally poor football team right now," Tomlin said. "We're playing losing football and I own that. I don't necessarily have the answers today. If I did, we'd have played differently today. But I will acknowledge things will not continue the way that they are."

Trubisky was 16 of 23 for 169 yards with one TD pass and two interceptions. Pittsburgh rushed for 74 yards and finished with 216 total yards.

The Steelers got off to a promising start when a Boswell missed the extrapoint attempt. Six plays later, Pittsburgh capitalized on a blocked punt when Trubisky threw a 4-yard TD pass to Diontae Johnson early in the second quarter.

But Indy's defense stiffened from there, and the Colts took control when Minshew and Moss hooked up on a 16-yard TD pass and D.J. Montgomery caught a 14-yard TD pass with 22 seconds left in the first half for a 14-13 lead. Montgomery was promoted from the practice squad this week.

"He's just worked his tail off on the scout team all year, he's just made play after play," Colts coach Shane Steichen said. "It's like, we've got to get this guy up on the active roster."

Pittsburgh's downward spiral continued when Najee Harris fumbled on the first Steelers play of the second half. On the next snap, Minshew threw an 18-yard scoring pass to Mo Alie-Cox to make it 21-13. The Colts sealed the win with three field goals by Matt Gay.

Trey Sermon ran 17 times for 88 yards to lead the Colts after logging only 11 runs this season.

"I think any time you lose really good players like that, nobody's going to just step in and replace them," Minshew said. "I think everybody has to kind of pick up their level of play and I think we got that from a lot of different areas today."

<u>BASKETBALL</u> High School

Saturday Boys' Scores Adams Central 57, Rockford Parkway, Ohio 45 Anderson 61, Indpls Pike 43 Angola 48, Fremont 47 Attica 48, DeLand-Weldon, III. 20

S. Dearborn 42, Milan 34 Silver Creek 63, Brownstown 42 South Knox 59. Castle 36 Speedway 50, Southport 30 Springs Valley 39, Loogootee 35 Tri 70, Union City 41 Tri-Township 64, Oregon-Davis 35 Triton 41, Pioneer 20 Valparaiso 62, Bowman 44 W. Central 59, Washington Twp. 57 Waldron 60, Knightstown 40 Warsaw 56, Wawasee 39 Washington 60, Mt. Vernon (Posey) 16 Westview 70, Sturgis, Mich. 47 Woodlan 58, Heritage 35 Zionsville 50, Franklin Central 36 Perry-Spencer Tournament= Championship= Heritage Hills 41, Tell City 38 First Round= Heritage Hills 55, S. Spencer 49 Tell City 37, Perry Central 32

College

Men's Basketball Scores Sunday, Dec. 17 EAST Navy 91, Washington College (Md.) 33 Syracuse 83, Oregon 63 SOUTH Aubum 91, Southern Cal 75 Louisville 85, Pepperdine 63 Mississippi St. 72, North Texas 54 MIDWEST Akron 88, Miami Hamilton Harriers 45 Augustana (III.) 84, Lake Forest 83, ΟŤ DePauw 103, Illinois Tech 79 E. Illinois 87, Blackburn 66 Ferris St. 98. Ashland 83 III.-Springfield 85, Purdue-Northwest 76 Illinois 74, Colgate 57 Illinois College 72, Milwaukee Engineering 68 Illinois St. 75, N. Dakota St. 65 Iowa St. 96, Florida A&M 58 Kentucky Wesleyan 69, Michigan Tech 53 McKendree 73, Grand Valley St. 65 N. Iowa 100, Alcorn St. 82 Nebraska 62, Kansas St. 46 Quincy 66, Wayne St. (Mich.) 55 Seton Hall 93, Missouri 87 SOUTHWEST Oklahoma St. 81, Oral Roberts 60 FAR WEST Boise St. 88, Cal St.-Fullerton 65 Colorado St. 86, CSU-Pueblo 54 Oregon St. 66, UTSA 65 Stanford 82, Idaho 64

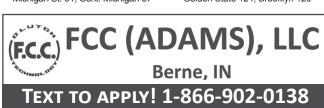
Saturday, Dec. 16 EAST

FAU 64, St. Bonaventure 54 Georgia Tech 82, Penn St. 81, OT Marshall 72, UNC-Greensboro 65 Pittsburgh 86, SC State 50 Pittsburgh 86, SC State 50 Providence 78, Sacred Heart 64 Rutgers 83, LIU 61 St. John's 77, Fordham 55 UMass 87, West Virginia 79 SOUTH Davidson 98, Lynchburg 63 Georgia 66, High Point 58 James Madison 88, Hampton 71 James Madison 88, Hampton 71 Kentucky 87, North Carolina 83 Liberty 99, St. Andrews 26 Memphis 79, Clemson 77 Miami 84, La Salle 77 Mississippi 88, California 78 SMU 68. Florida St. 57 South Carolina 73, Charleston Southern 69 South Florida 77, Loyola Chicago 64 Tennessee 79, NC State 70 Virginia 56, Northeastern 54 Virginia Tech 73, Vermont 51 W. Carolina 70, SC-Upstate 53 W. Kentucky 65, Austin Peay 64

ie Anthony Richardson in replay review changed a Week 5. On Saturday, Minshew went 18 of 28 with

MIDWEST

Alma 84, Defiance 75 Anderson (Ind.) 90, Olivet 69 Bowling Green 79, UMKC 69 Calvin 88, St. Norbert 66 Central College 87, Northwestern (Minn.) 73 Chicago 59, Wheaton College (IL) 52 Chicago St. 63, Valparaiso 62 Coe 72, North Central 70 Creighton 85, Alabama 82 Crown (Minn.) 82, Webster 70 Dayton 82, Cincinnati 68 DePauw 78, Franklin 71 Denison 90, Bluffton 63 Edgewood 83, Dominican 80 Evansville 70, Bellarmine 61 Fort Wayne 86. Bethune-Cookman 63 Georgetown 72, Notre Dame 68, OT Heidelberg 84, Muskingum 70 Hope 67, Wittenberg 57 Ill.-Chicago 89, W. Michigan 68 Indiana St. 83, Ball St. 72 Iowa 88, Florida A&M 52 John Carroll 92, Wilmington (Ohio) 54 Kansas 75, Indiana 71 Lincoln (Mo.) 76, Missouri Southern 65 Lindenwood (Mo.) 73, IUPUI 67 Luther 55, Cornell (Iowa) 46 Malone 61, Hillsdale 55 Manchester 102, Berea 78 Marietta 103, Ohio Northern 102, 20T Michigan 83, E. Michigan 66 Michigan St. 88, Baylor 64 Minnesota St. 88, Concordia (St.P.) 80 Mount Union 79. Capital 68 Northwestern 56, DePaul 46 Purdue 92, Arizona 84 Saint Louis 75, Louisiana Tech 74 Sioux Falls 70, Wayne St. (Neb.) 62 Wayne St. (Mich.) 76, William Jewell 72 Wichita St. 69, S. Illinois 68 Xavier 75, Winthrop 59 FAR WEST BYU 86, Georgia St. 54 Ohio St. 67, UCLA 60 Saint Mary's (Cal.) 69, UNLV 67, 2OT Santa Clara 69, Washington St. 61 Utah 76, Utah Valley St. 62 Utah St. 54, San Francisco 53 Women's Basketball Scores Sunday, Dec. 17 EAST Florida St. 76, Drexel 56 Georgetown 60, Wake Forest 44 Penn St. 119, St. Francis (Pa.) 43 Temple 85. La Salle 61 Virginia Tech 84, Rutgers 59 SOUTH Alabama 70, Louisiana-Monroe 54 Florida 115, Gardner-Webb 37 Kentucky 75, Furman 45 LSU 81, Northwestern St. 36 Marshall 84, Elon 77 Mississippi St. 81, Memphis 63 Vanderbilt 72, Lipscomb 50 MIDWEST Cincinnati 58, S. Indiana 56 DePaul 98, Alabama St. 69 Iowa St. 105, Troy 68 Marquette 99, Appalachian St. 91 Michigan St. 91, Cent. Michigan 67



fumble by Trubisky into a 1-yard TD run. Chris

Missouri 69, Illinois 66 Nebraska 76, Southern U. 51 Northwestern 86, Bradley 66 Notre Dame 76, Purdue 39 Ohio 65, Indiana St. 62 Toledo 78, Oakland 65 W. Michigan 78, Fort Wayne 76 SOUTHWEST Oklahoma St. 76, S. Illinois 58 TCU 68, Lamar 51 FAR WEST Arizona 91, Arizona St. 52 Gonzaga 83, S. Dakota St. 58 Oregon 61, UTSA 48 Washington St. 95, Houston 48

Saturday, Dec. 16 EAST UConn 86, Louisville 62

MIDWEST Michigan 75, Miami (Ohio) 49

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division W L Pct L 5 7 11 GB Boston 20 .800 Philadelphia 18 .720 2 .560 6 7 New York 14 12 15 .520 .400 13 10 Brooklyn 10 Toronto Southeast Division W L Pc GB **L** 9 Pct 16 15 10 Orlando .640 .577 1½ Miami 11 15 .400 6 Atlanta .292 8½ 12 17 Charlotte 21 Washington Central Division W L Pct GB L 7 Milwaukee 19 .731 .542 5 5 13 11 Indiana 12 17 Cleveland 14 10 .538 .370 9½ Chicago Detroit 24 .077 17 WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division w Pct GB **L** 9 Dallas 16 .640 1 2 9½ New Orleans 16 Houston 13 Memphis 6 11 .593 10 18 .565 .250 San Antonio 4 21 .160 Northwest Division 12 160 **W** 19 Pct .792 GB L 5 Minnesota 3 3½ Oklahoma City16 Denver 17 8 10 .667 .630 17 18 Utah 9 .346 11 13 Portland 6 .250 Pacific Division W 15 **L** 9 Pct GB Sacramento .625 1⁄2 1 L.A. Clippers 15 L.A. Lakers 15 .600 .577 10 11 Phoenix 14 Golden State 11 12 14 .538 2 .440 $4\frac{1}{2}$ Saturday's Games Milwaukee 146, Detroit 114 Philadelphia 135, Charlotte 82 Cleveland 127, Atlanta 119 Miami 118, Chicago 116 Minnesota 127, Indiana 109 Golden State 124, Brooklyn 120

Dallas 131, Portland 120 Oklahoma City 118, Denver 117 Sacramento 125, Utah 104 L.A. Clippers 144, New York 122 Sunday's Games Boston 114, Orlando 97 New Orleans 146, San Antonio 110 Milwaukee 128, Houston 119 Phoenix 112, Washington 108 Golden State at Portland, late Monday's Games Chicago at Philadelphia, 7 p.m. Houston at Cleveland, 7 p.m. L.A. Clippers at Indiana, 7 p.m. Charlotte at Toronto, 7:30 p.m. Detroit at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m. Minnesota at Miami, 7:30 p.m. Memphis at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m. Brooklyn at Utah, 9 p.m. Dallas at Denver, 9 p.m. Washington at Sacramento, 10 p.m. New York at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m

HOCKEY

NHL Saturday's Games Minnesota 2, Vancouver 1, SO New Jersey 6, Columbus 3 Philadelphia 1, Detroit 0 Philadeiphia 1, Detroit 0 Montreal 5, N.Y. Islanders 3 Winnipeg 6, Colorado 2 Toronto 7, Pittsburgh 0 N.Y. Rangers 2, Boston 1, OT Nashville 3, Washington 1 St. Louis 4, Dallas 3, OT Arizona 2, Buffalo 0 Colorad 4 Tompo Bou 2 Calgary 4, Tampa Bay 2 Florida 5, Edmonton 1 Los Angeles 3, Seattle 2, SO Sunday's Games Vancouver 4, Chicago 3 Washington 2, Carolina 1, SO



Managing my mother-in-law during the holidays

Dear Annie: My significant other best way to set and I have been together for nearly 14 years. His mother is a huge issue have a converin our relationship, and this past Thanksgiving was the worst. He has been divorced from his first wife and mother of his 21-year-old daughter since before his daughter was 2 years old. His ex cheated on him prior to their marriage and during the marriage. This devastated him for years, especially after she left him and took his daughter.

His mother, who presents herself as a good Christian, has always blamed him for the marriage ending, even though his ex cheated and left him. On Thanksgiving, in front of the entire family, including his daughter, she said that she didn't blame the ex because he had "made a comment about an attractive actress on television when they first were married."

How on earth does she find that comparable to someone cheating with your spouse's co-workers and your spouse's childhood best friends? Needless to say, it didn't end well, with my significant other slamming the door and leaving.

We are not looking forward to family Christmas with this woman! Help! How do you set boundaries with his mother and let her know that she isn't as perfect as she thinks she is? There's so much going on here that I don't even know where to start. - Significant Other

Dear Significant Other: The

boundaries is to sation with your mother-in-law before you are

together in a big group. Even though you were upset by her very insensitive comments, she is still your husband's mother. You refer to her in your letter as "this woman."

Dear

Annie

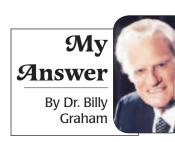
by Annie Lane

So it might be best if your husband were to sit down with his mother and calmly tell her how hurtful she was in blaming her own son, which does not do anyone any good. His ex-wife's infidelity likely caused their divorce, not his casual comment 20 years ago. His mother's opinion is not only wrong, but it hurts everyone across the board. Her comments hurt her son, her granddaughter and you, her daughter-in-law. Perhaps she is not aware of how hurtful her comments are and needs to hear it from her son. If she gets defensive, then all you can do is understand that hurt people hurt people and she is not a happy person.

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

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Q: Are angels considered part of the spirit world and have they always existed? Are they present today, and can we see them like some claim? – S.A.

A: The spirit world and its activities are big news today. The idea of the supernatural is not only seriously regarded, but is accepted as a fact. Many books on the subject border on the sensational; some are purely speculative or have been dreamed up in somebody's imagination. Those who take the Bible at full value cannot discount the subject of angels as speculation or hollow conjecture, but we shouldn't believe everything we hear about them. Some would have us believe that they are

Angels, like people, were created by God

only celestial beings with beautiful wings and bowed heads. But what does the Bible say about angels?

Scripture says that angels, like people, were created by God. At one time, no angels existed; indeed, there was nothing but the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Angels indeed, though, are among the invisible things made by God, for all things were created through Him and for Him (see Colossians 1:17).

While angels may

The deer of the forest far surpass our human capacity in their keenness of smell. Bats possess a phenomenally sensitive built-in radar system. Some animals can see things in the dark that escape our attention. Swallows and geese possess sophisticated guidance systems that appear to border on the supernatural.

The angels are near to those who belong to Christ and the Bible declares, "For [God] shall give His angels charge over you their hands they shall bear you up" (Psalm 91:11–12, NKJV). (This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Graham.) ©2023 Billy Graham Literary Trust. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.



"You can't sleep there unless you're gift-wrapped.'





"HOW MUCH OF A RAISE DID THEY GIVE YOU FOR TAKING ON AN ADDED ROLE IN THE COMPANY?"

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 43 Homer's DOWN ACROSS 1 Köln c

become visible by [God's] choice, our eyes are not constructed to see them ordinarily any more than we can see the dimensions of a nuclear field, the structure of atoms, or the electricity that flows through copper wiring. Our ability to sense reality is limited:

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Lottery Numbers

Saturday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY **Cash 5** – 13-14-17-29-

36 **Cash4Life** — 14-18-38-50-54-02 Cash Ball: 03 **Lotto Plus** — 21-22-30-31-

39-42**Ouick Draw Midday** — 5-12-17-24-31-37-43-45-49-50-58-61-62-63-66-67-68-71-75-78, BE: 67

Daily Three-Midda

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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 ma-chining 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 260 824-3334

THE TOWN OF Warren is now accepting applications for a general labor position serving all departments of the Town -Water, Electric, Sewer, Street, and Park as well as any other duties which could/would be assigned under Town operations. Prior Municipal work experience, background in electric work, and/or licensing preferred but not necessary to be considered. Applications can be found online at warrenindiana.us or picked up at Town Hall, 132 N. Wayne Street and will be accepted until January 15, 2024. Call 260-375-2656 for further information. Town of Warren, Indiana, is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

12/18

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THE TOWN OF Warren is now

accepting applications for Operations Manager to oversee

all departments of the Town -

Water, Sewer, Electric, Street,

Park as well as any other du-

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signed through the Town

Church (Huntington

myfaithcommunity.org,

WORSHIP/

Email:

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EXPERIENCED

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Miscellaneous

EVEREST VX3 ICE & WATER VENDING MACHINE This Everest VX3 water/ice vending machine is the perfect addition to any business looking to boost their profits. With the ability to dispense both water and ice, this unit is sure to be a hit with customers. The machine is in great working condition and has been slightly used, making it a cost-effective option for those looking to invest in a vending machine. This unit is made in the United States and comes with a unit quantity of 1. Included is an all season insulation package, ice shield ozone disinfection, and cold fusion energy recovery. It is perfect for placement in other beverage and snack vending locations, as well as in restaurant and food service settings. Don't miss out on the opportunity to make extra money with this Everest VX3 vending machine. \$45,000.00 260-273-7020 glacierpure@outlook.com

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NEW, 10 INCH, folding, mini trampoline with carrying case and bar, \$55, OBO, 565-4556.

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COMPLETELY **REMOD-**ELED, 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-Ž765 or (260) 273-1580. Sale price \$172,000.

Real Estate

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4-8-3, SB: 8 Daily Three-Evening -

6-3-6, SB: 6

Daily Four-Midday -5-4-0-1, SB: 8

Daily Four-Evening — 7-9-3-7, SB: 6

Quick Draw Evening 2-7-9-10-30-33-34-35-39-41-46-47-55-56-58-61-70-72-75-79, BE: 72

Hoosier Lotto – 1-9-12-14-31-43

POWERBALL 3-9-10-20-62; Powerball: 25; Power Play: 3x

Sunday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY **Cash 5** — 04-07-11-28-

32

Cash4Life — 08-31-41-42-58, Cash Ball: 03

Quick Draw Midday -07-09-11-15-21-24-29-42-44-48-49-50-51-53-54-63-64-71-78, BE: 42

Daily Three-Midday -01-03-01, SB: 02

Daily Three-Evening — 03-01-07-08, SB: X

Daily Four-Midday — 04-06-01-06, SB: 02

Daily Four-Evening 06-03-07-02, SB: 08

Ouick Draw Evening 05-06-13-18-20-29--36-38-40-47-49-50-54-56-57-58-62-70-75-80, BE: 18

Hoosier Lotto – Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$1.4 million

MEGA MILLIONS Estimated jackpot (for Tuesday): \$41 million PÓWERBALL

Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$543 million

SUDOKU ANSWER

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Council related to Public Works operations. Prior Municipal Work Experience, Managerial Experience, and at least one License preferred but all three not required. Wage based on experience level. Applications can be found online at warrenindiana.us or picked up at Town Hall, 132 N. Wayne Street. Applications and resumes will be accepted until January 15. 2024. Call 260-375-2656 for further information. Town of Warren, Indiana, is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Pets

HELOISE HINT: Owning a pet can have a profound effect on you. It can make you and your family members feel better, studies say. Petting and exer-cising with them can be calming. Pets make you feel happy, so why not welcome one into your family? Email HELOISE@ Heloise.com.



DECEMBER 23-JANUARY 1 - Online only auction - Various consignors, seller. Modeline MCM floor & table lamps and Art Nuevo, Presidential collection, advertising, toys, early Moxie thermometer, 25+ Nativity scenes, antiques, vintage primitives, artifacts, trains, Fenton, Haviland & Franciscan china, antique furniture, military items, salesman samples and miniatures, coins & currency. Preview: Dec. 26 from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. and Dec. 28 from 3 p.m.-6 p.m., 102 South Jefferson, Ossian. Sale manager, Rod Fetters. The Steffen Group Inc., www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006

BIDDING NOW OPEN AND STARTS CLOSING DECEMBER 27 - 10 a.m. EST - Whites Meat Market, owner. Complete liquidation. Meat saws, scales, display coolers, retail shelving, stainless sinks and tables, Herring Hall Marvin safe and much more! Auction pick up Dec. 29, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. EST, 46 W 400 S #1, Kokomo, IN. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, Kiauction.com.

DECEMBER 31-JANUARY 7 - Estate of Mary Lynn Lautzenheiser, seller. Personal property online only auction. John Deere mower, lawn & garden, furniture, Christmas, books, household. Open houses: Jan. 4 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Jan. 6 from 10 a.m. to noon, 4917 E 100 N., Bluffton, IN. Isaac Stoller, sale manager, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, http://www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

JANUARY 11 - 6 p.m. - Estate of Mary Lynn Lautzenheiser, seller. 4917 E. 100 N., Bluffton, IN. One-of-a-kind property w/ quick access to Bluffton, Decatur, Fort Wayne. Main home was once township school building, and has covered porch walk through to previous dance studio that has potential to be fourth living unit. Property also offers detached two car garage and twounit apartment building. Open houses: Jan. 4 from 4-6 p.m., Jan. 6 from 10 a.m.-noon. Isaac Stoller, sale manager, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, http://www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

JANUARY 12 - 10 a.m. - Secured creditors & various con-signors, owners. 815 Adams St., Decatur. Online only truck and equipment auction. Online bidding only. Offering 500+ lots! 2012-2014 Freightliner M2106 box trucks, dump trucks, day cabs, sleepers, utility trucks, bucket trucks, utility & semi trailers, SUV's, pickup trucks, 250+ various skid steer attachments, various truck parts, fencing, work benches, tool boxes and much more! Accepting consignments! Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com.

JANUARY 23 - 2-6 p.m. ET - Online - Farm: Susan Dunn Estate. Property Location: Three miles southeast of Markle, IN and Wells Co., Rockcreek Twp. 207.3+/- total acres, high quality farmland, mostly tillable. Tracts 1 & 2: Located on both sides of 200 N between 200 W and 300 W. Tract 3: Located at intersection of 300 N and 500 W. Tract 1: 19.83+/- acres. Tract 2: 110+/acres. Tract 3: 77.47+/- acres. Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management, 800-424-2324, halderman.com, Rick Johnloz, 260-827-8181



Leading the charge

Ossian Elementary collected 2,374 canned and dry goods during their annual holiday drive. The collected items will be donated to the Northern Wells Food Pantry this week. Pictured, student council representatives show part of the items they collected. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

Storm drenches Florida and causes floods in South Carolina

GEORGETOWN, S.C. (AP) - An intense late-year storm barreled up the East Coast on Sunday with heavy rains and strong winds that shattered rainfall records, forced water rescues from flooded streets and washed out holiday celebrations.

Authorities rescued dozens of motorists stranded by floodwaters in South Carolina's waterfront community of Georgetown, Georgetown County spokesperson Jackie Broach said. More than 9 inches (22.9 centimeters) of rain fell in the area situated between Charleston and Myrtle Beach since late Saturday.

"It's not just the areas that we normally see flooding, that are flood-prone," Broach said. "It's areas that we're not really expecting to have flooding issues...It's like a tropical storm, it just happens to be in December.'

The tide in Charleston Harbor hit its fourth highest level on record and was "well above the highest tide for a non-tropical system," according to the National Weather Service.

Rising sea levels driven by human-caused climate change mean even relatively weak weather systems can now produce storm surges previously associated with hurricanes, said Meteorologist Jeff Masters, co-founder of the Weather Underground. In South Carolina that's worsened by natural subsidence along the coast.

By 2050, Charleston is expected to see another 14 inches (35.6 centimeters) of sea level rise, Masters said.

"In Charleston, this is the sixth time this year already that they've had a major coastal flood. Most of those would not have been major flooding 100 years ago, because the sea level has risen that much," he said

The storm was forecast to gain strength as it tracked along the Georgia and Carolina coasts, producing heavy rain and gusty winds before sweeping into New England by Monday morning, the weather service said. Wind gusts of 35 mph to 45 mph (56 kph to 72 kph) could bring down trees, especially on saturated ground.

There were numerous road closures in Charleston and across South Carolina's Lowcountry, while stranded cars littered streets.

There were no reports of injuries or deaths in Georgetown County, Broach said. Gusty winds were strong enough to topple some signs and trees. Outdoor holiday decorations were tossed about, she said.

Water rescues also took place on Kiawah and Seabrook islands, according to media outlets.

Charleston International Airport had more than 3 inches (8 centimeters) of rain in 24 hours – almost five times the prior record set in 1975, according to the National Weather Service.

Farther up the coast, minor to moderate coastal flooding was expected Sunday, according to the National Weather Service office in Wilmington, North Carolina.

There were more than 31,000 power outages in South Carolina, according to PowerOutage.us, along with over 14,000 in North Carolina and more than 11,000 in Florida.

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul warned of a possible 2 to 4 inches (5.1 to 10.2 centimeters) of rain, powerful winds and potential flooding in parts of the state. Flood watches were in effect in many locations in New York City, and high wind warnings were activated around the city and Long Island.

"We will get through this storm, but preparation is the key," New York Mayor Eric Adams said. City officials told residents to expect several hours of rain and possible delays during Monday morning's commute.

Colder air behind the storm will trigger lake-effect snow across the Great Lakes toward the Appalachians and upstate New York into Tuesday, the weather service said.

The storm dumped up to 5 inches (12.7 centimeters) of rain across Florida, inundating streets and forcing the cancellation of boat parades and other holiday celebrations.

The National Weather Service issued flood warnings and minor flooding advisories for a wide swath of the state, from the southwest Gulf Coast to Jacksonville. Major airports remained open, however, at the start of the busy holiday travel season.

"Today is not the day to go swimming or boating!" Sheriff Carmine Marceno of Lee County, on Florida's southwestern coast, said on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Coastal advisories were issued for much of Florida as strong winds churned waters in the Gulf and along the north Atlantic coast.

The storm could be good news for residents in southwest Florida who have been facing water restrictions and drought conditions heading into what normally is the region's dry season.

The weather service also warned of 2 to 4 inches (5.1 to 10.2 centimeters) of rain in parts of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, with the heaviest expected late Sunday night, and possible urban and small stream flooding and at least minor flooding to some rivers through Monday.

Forecasters also warned of strong winds in coastal areas, gale-force winds offshore, and moderate coastal flooding along Delaware Bay and widespread minor coastal flooding elsewhere.

The weather service said there is a slight risk of excessive rainfall over parts of New England through Monday morning, with the potential for flash flooding. Northern New England is expected to get the heaviest rain Monday through Tuesday morning.

U.S., World Roundup

Israel faces new calls for truce after killing of hostages raises alarm about its conduct in Gaza

Trump won Nevada in 2020. Trump's sympathy for the fake tatorship-era charter, a little over a year after turning down rhetoric as he looks to return to the White House. Nevada is the fourth state to choose delegates for the Republican presidential nomination, the first in the West and the first with a sizeable Latino population. But it's gotten little attention from the GOP contenders.

electors comes amid growing alarm about his authoritarian a proposed leftist charter. With 96% of votes counted late Sunday, about 55.8% had voted "no" to the new charter, with about 44.2% in favor. In September 2022 voters resoundingly rejected a proposed constitution that had been written by a left-leaning convention. The new document up for approval Sunday was largely written by conservative councilors, and some warned it went to the other extreme. One of the most controversial articles in the proposed new document said that "the law protects the life of the unborn," which some warn could make abortion fully illegal in the South American country.

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) - Israel's government is facing calls for a cease-fire from some of its closest European allies. Protesters at home also want a cease-fire to free more hostages. The deadly shooting of three hostages who waved a white flag added to concerns about Israel's wartime conduct. Israel could come under more pressure to scale back major combat operations when the U.S. defense secretary visits Monday. Gaza's communications blackout is easing after four days. It's the longest such outage of the war. Aid to Gaza remains far below what's needed. Dozens of people there are chasing down humanitarian trucks and pulling boxes off them.

Black American solidarity with Palestinians is rising and testing longstanding ties to Jewish allies

A growing number of Black Americans see the struggle of Palestinians reflected in their own struggles for racial equality and civil rights. In recent years, the rise of protest movements against police brutality in the U.S., where structural racism plagues nearly every facet of life, has connected Black and Palestinian activists under a common cause. But that kinship sometimes strains the more than century-long alliance between Black and Jewish activists. Some Jewish Americans are concerned that Black support for the Palestinians could escalate the threat of antisemitism and weaken Jewish-Black ties fortified during the Civil Rights Movement.

Senate border security talks grind on as Trump invokes Nazi-era 'blood' rhetoric

WASHINGTON (AP) - Time slipping, White House and Senate negotiators are struggling to reach a U.S. border security deal that would unlock President Joe Biden's request for billions of dollars worth in military aid for Ukraine and national security. But ahead of the holiday recess, it's becoming apparent any deal may have to wait for the new year. The talks come as Donald Trump, the Republican presidential front-runner in 2024, delivered alarming anti-immigrant remarks about "blood" purity over the weekend, echoing the Nazi slogans of the World War II. Speaking in the early-voting state of New Hampshire, Trump drew on words from Adolf Hitler's "Mein Kempf" as the former U.S. president berated Biden's team over record numbers of migrants.

Trump says Nevada fake electors treated 'unfairly' during rally

RENO, Nev. (AP) - Donald Trump called out three of Nevada's fake electors during a rally in Reno. The former president said Sunday the fake electors are being treated unfairly. He spoke less than 24 hours before they are scheduled to be arraigned for signing certificates falsely stating

North Korea fires suspected long-range ballistic missile into sea in resumption of launches

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - South Korea says North Korea has fired a suspected long-range ballistic missile into the sea in a resumption of its weapons testing activities. Monday's launch, the North's second weapons firing in less than a day, comes as North Korea vows retaliatory steps against the U.S. and South Korea's moves to boost their nuclear deterrence plans. South Korea's military says in a statement that North Korea launched what appeared to be a long-range ballistic missile from its capital region Monday morning. South Korea also reported North Korea conducting a short-range ballistic missile test into the sea Sunday night.

As 2023 holidays dawn, face masks have settled in as an occasional feature of the landscape

NEW YORK (AP) — As the year comes to an end with holiday parties and crowds, mask-wearing is much more off than on around the country even as COVID's long tail lingers. There's the odd one here and there, but nothing like it was three years ago at the dawn of the COVID pandemic's first winter holidays. Look at it a different way, though: These days, mask-wearing has become just another thing that simply happens in America. In a country where the mention of a mask prior to the pandemic usually meant Halloween or a costume party, it's a new way of being that hasn't gone away.

Chilean voters reject conservative constitution, after defeating leftist charter last year

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) - Chilean voters have rejected a conservative constitution to replace the country's dic-

Serbia's populists claim a sweeping victory in the country's parliamentary election

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) - Serbia's governing populists have claimed a sweeping victory in the country's parliamentary election, which have been marred by reports of major irregularities both during a tense campaign and on voting day. Prime Minister Ana Brnabic said that with half of the ballots counted, the governing Serbian Progressive Party's projections show that President Aleksandar Vucic's populists won 47% of the vote Sunday and expects to hold around 130 seats in the 250-member assembly. Brnabic says the main opposition Serbia Against Violence group won around 23%. The opposition group is disputing the election projections from the governing party. It charges there was vote-rigging and says its will dispute the vote count "by all democratic means."

Convent-made delicacies, a Christmas favorite, help monks and nuns win fans and pay the bills

MEXICO CITY (AP) - As Christmas approaches, Catholic nuns and monks are busy preparing the traditional delicacies they sell to a loyal fan base even in rapidly secularizing countries. For many monastic communities, producing cookies, fruitcakes, even beer for sale is the only means to keep the lights on. But it's also an enticing way to strengthen their ties with lay people. The religious sisters and brothers say they have to keep the balance between their vocation to prayer and earning their daily bread. So they pray as they roll dough and mix sugar, cinnamon, or even bourbon - trusting in God's hands the lay people to whom they hope the treats will bring joy.

WE WELCOME

Friday & Saturday Bands

Weekly Drink Specials and Events!

Sundays Biscuits & Gravy

9am -until GONE!

