

The News - Banner

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2024

BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

\$1.00



Just before 1 a.m. Friday, flames broke through the top of a grain bin located on County Road 300 West near 700S in Poneto. Pictured, firefighters begin to hose the flames. **More photos on Page 6.** (Photos by Holly Gaskill)

Poneto grain bin catches fire

By HOLLY GASKILL

Firefighters responded to a grain bin fire in Poneto in the early hours of Friday morning. They remained on scene for nearly four hours, containing the damage to one bin.

The fire, located on County Road 300 West near 700 South in Poneto, was originally reported by a passerby just before midnight on Thursday. Fire departments from Poneto, Montpelier, and Chester, Liberty Center and Nottingham townships responded to the scene.

Shortly after firefighters opened the structure, a fire broke through the top of the bin. Firefighters attacked the flames with

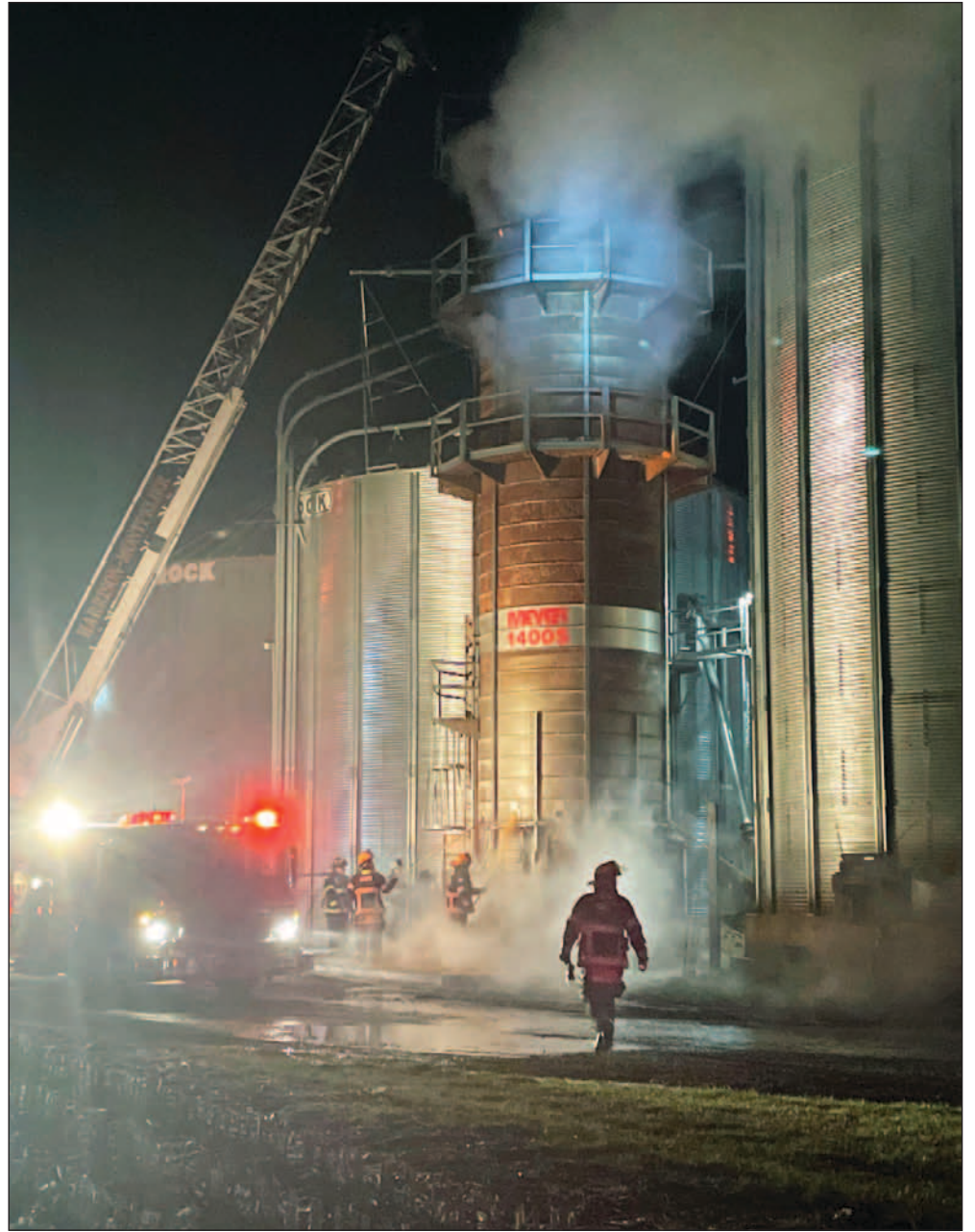
water and later began emptying the grain.

Ethan Reynolds, a Poneto firefighter, said crews worried about the wind and proximity to other larger storage bins, owned by Beavan Farms, but everything ultimately remained contained.

First responders remained on scene for nearly four hours. The fire was contained shortly after 3 a.m., and the upper half of the bin received the bulk of damage, Reynolds reported.

Another firefighter on the scene advised the matter was "not too serious" since it was addressed early.

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As some firefighters work at the top of the grain bin, others began emptying grain from the bottom.

Norwell schools tackle challenges in co-op transition

By SYDNEY KENT

The Norwell Community School district may soon see a host of new positions, particularly in the special education department, as the district continues the withdrawal process from the Adams-Wells Special Education Cooperative.

Some of the difficulties of this transition were broached during the final portion of Tuesday evening's school board meeting.

Superintendent Mike Springer told The News-Banner the decision to withdraw from the co-op stemmed from a focus group with parents of students with special needs within the district in 2022. The participants expressed a perceived lack of support by the co-op, and 95 percent wanted the district to establish its own program, Springer reported.

The district began the removal process last year, and has since hired Mindy Scheumann as Education Services Director. The district also hired speech pathologists and multiple intense intervention teachers for all

levels of the program, which has seen some turnover in recent months.

During Tuesday's meeting, the board accepted resignations for Jennifer Osborn, the former Lancaster Elementary School special education teacher, and Kati Isbell, the former Ossian Elementary School speech-language pathologist.

April Roberts, who is currently at another school district, was also formally hired as the Norwell Middle School Intense Intervention Teacher for the 2024-2025 school year. The board also approved the new position of Special Education District Coach, and Maria Hillscamp was hired for the role.

"This came about after some things that have happened at Lancaster and we felt like we needed to support special education there more," Springer said. "Kylie Heckber is going to step in as a general education teacher and step into that role. We were excited to see that at Ossian with teachers taking on the role. It's an opportunity to grow our special education program from



Norwell Education Services Director Mindy Scheumann (pictured) spoke to the district's board Tuesday. (Photo by Sydney Kent)

within. At the same time, they need support in doing that."

Scheumann announced that, like other teachers, Heckber will go on to receive professional development in special education beginning in the Spring.

In an update regarding the district's transition, Scheumann said multiple new roles are needed by the program, including a

school psychologist, an occupational therapist, and another leading role to provide ongoing training and support.

Scheumann also explained that the district is beginning to work with two autism centers in order to provide RBTs, or registered behavioral technicians. However, this is not available to students without Medic-

(Continued on Page 2)



Bluffton Mayor John Whicker looks over documents on his computer. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

Bluffton Mayor Whicker gives outlook for new year

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Mayor John Whicker encountered a slew of tasks for Bluffton in 2023, many of which will take years to resolve. While progress has been made, such as updates for the wastewater treatment plant, there is still a long way to go for utilities.

But new problems are also developing, and the city is now looking for ways to mitigate the housing crisis in 2024. There are two major housing developments in the works — Parlor Bluffs north of the town and Harvest Acres down south. Phase one of both projects has been completed.

"We need to try to do what we can to make that market a viable market for future

growth," said Whicker. "And we have people who want to move here, who do not want to live in a large city like Fort Wayne, but the small town atmosphere is an attraction for them."

A housing study for Bluffton is nearly complete, which should give some projections for 2024, but Wells County Area Plan Commission Executive Director Mike Lautzenheiser says that people don't need a study to realize that it is very hard for somebody to build a home and sell it for a profit.

"What you could have bought for \$150,000 a decade ago now costs \$250,000," said Lautzenheiser. "But the

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Outside

Chance of snow today, high wind gusts expected

Today	Sunday	Monday
High 26	High 7	High 9
Low 2	Low 0	Low 0

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Norwell schools

(Continued from Page 1)

aide, and Scheumann proposed that additional intense intervention teaching assistants could fill in the gap.

“Knowing we left the co-op for a reason, when I hear ‘Let’s train assistants’, it makes me cringe a little bit,” Board member Corey Krug said. “Not because I think we can’t do it, because I think assistants tend to be in high turnover positions. To me, the most important thing in the special education scope is consistency.”

Board member Angie Topp added that she believes it is more likely for assistants to stay when they have adequate training and resources, to which Krug agreed.

“It’s like giving them a toolbelt, so to speak,” Krug said. “If you said we needed to train all of our assistants to do x, y, z, it wouldn’t work. If we have a person that can initially show them and be there to train them along the way, I like that idea.”

Board member Traci Neuenschwander asked if the district currently had enough teaching assistants, and Scheumann said the program currently needs 1-2 more assistants in intense intervention.

Scheumann also emphasized the need for adequate pay and resources for the incoming positions in the department to avoid the high rate of turnover many special education departments

in the state face. She also suggested more than one school psychologist may be needed.

“No negativity of the co-op,” Scheumann began. “One of the tasks I would have a psychologist do would be to go through re-evaluations, because what I am finding out is that we have students in eighth grade (and) the last time they were evaluated was in kindergarten. (The psychologist’s) first couple of years are going to be extremely busy.”

Scheumann later clarified that the legal requirements for re-evaluations of special needs students are every few years, and the majority of NWCS special education students have had case re-evaluations.

“We would like to exceed that standard,” Springer added. “We want to see special needs students re-evaluated at each transition point, such as when they change a grade level, and of course always at the request of the family. This is not to be disrespectful to the co-op, we appreciate all they have done, but we want to provide a higher quality of care for our students — in our schools.”

“AWSEC has been serving students and staff at Norwell Community Schools as willing partners for 43 years,” wrote Abi West, president of the AWSEC, in an email to The News-Banner. “Estab-

lished policies and procedures are in place that meet state and federal requirements. Re-evaluations for students are initiated at the school level and addressed by the team at AWSEC in collaboration with school-based staff.”

Currently, the district has almost 430 students in special education programming.

“Every time a student comes in there is a certain dollar amount (we receive),” Krug said. “The difference in what we are bringing in and what we would be spending, I think that’s going to be important for the public to see. I agree that we need to make (the program) as robust as possible, but we are going to need to explain it to people.”

Krug later expanded on this comment in a phone call with The News-Banner.

“We need to be able to tell the public and taxpayers what their money is being wisely spent on,” Krug said. “First and foremost, that means taking care of our children, having enough staff, and fairly compensating the staff.”

On Tuesday, Topp asked Scheumann how she felt overall at the end of the discussion.

“I’m feeling much better. If we were to only get a teacher of record and not another coach, well,” Scheumann hesitated. “The probability of a teacher wanting 39 students (at Lancaster) on their caseload? It would not

have happened. What would have happened is I would have had to pick up that case load. My fear was how I was going to manage that case load, how I was going to support Kylie and do all of these other tasks.”

“These are positions that are needed if we are trying to build the special ed program that we want to build,” Springer summarized. “We want it to be not only for our resident kids, but also for families that are looking for high quality special education, that they look to us.”

“When we withdrew, we knew it would be a two-year process,” Krug said. “It’s important to note that none of our students are being underserved.”

“Whether they are high ability or have special needs or whatever it may be,” Board President Gene Donaghy added. “We want (students) to be ready to hit the world.”

Cyndi Betz, the leader of the local autism support group, offered her thoughts after the meeting.

“The idea of hiring and training more intense intervention assistants is a good move,” Betz began. “I hope there is not a lot of turnover. A school psychologist is also a great idea and could save a lot of parents the pain and heartache of trying to get a diagnosis for their child to get the correct services and accommodations.”

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Bluffton mayor

(Continued from Page 1)

affordability factor is still at \$150,000 ... So that’s what the problem is — we’re not at the same pace. Pricing went way up, affordability (did) not.”

“We don’t determine prices of raw materials ... for houses, plywood, floors, and all that we don’t control,” said Whicker. “Some of this stuff is beyond our control, but we can do the best we can to make sure they happen.”

While the city looks for ways to mitigate the housing situation in the long-term, the next couple of years will see a new electrical substation added to Bluffton’s electric grid. Whicker has described this new substation as the “ultimate goal” of 2024, which will give a higher capacity and a powerful backup for the city’s electric grid in case of failure.

“The engineering part of that’s already in the works,” explained Whicker.

Utility Director Jon Oman stated that the new substation will give the city 50 megawatts of capacity, and another 50 megawatts for backup purposes. The city as a whole ranges from about 57 megawatts of max capacity in the winter and summer, to near 30 megawatts in the fall and spring. Even though there is no threat of blackouts

for the city, the added capacity will support new business ventures, while ensuring a lifeline of revenue for the city. The new substation is expected to be completed in December 2025.

“The city of Bluffton started getting inquiries about capacity from developers and those interested in bringing industry to town out on the west side,” said Oman. “The (electric grid) system had grown and we had no spare capacity. So to answer those calls and to ensure the possibility of growth to the community as far as industry, we acted upon those requests.”

Another piece of utilities that needs to be solved in the years to come is the stormwater treatment mandate from the state. Since Bluffton’s population passed the 10,000 threshold, Indiana mandates the city provide a plan and a fee for controlling stormwater. While the implementation specifics are unknown, Whicker has looked toward other cities for inspiration.

“I know the city of Decatur and the town of Berne both have stormwater fees on their utility bills ... they have come up with a standard lot size, and if you have a certain standard lot size, then it’s a small monthly fee for handling water runoff,” said Whicker. “Then you’ve got your big box stores who have huge pieces of impervious

asphalt parking lots and all that water runs off ... so their fees are obviously going to be higher.”

Whicker also noted that the city is still looking to rid themselves of any lead pipes still in the water distribution system. Whicker said the city is required to identify all lead pipes by October 2024, but has more time for replacement.

The packed fire department is also on the city’s mind, as the city is still debating on the next steps to make space for the department’s equipment. An independent study in March 2023 showcased some potential ideas for department upgrades and solutions, including the possibility of a new station being built, but the timetable for those processes is still unknown.

“We’d like to try to get some idea whether we need one or two stations,” said Whicker. “We are really cramped.”

Overall, the city is looking to continue upgrading their utilities and operate them in a way that keeps customer rates down, according to Whicker. The city’s growth has seen some interest from different developers and business. Whicker is hoping that the momentum continues into the years to come.

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Some Americans will get student loans canceled in February as Biden accelerates new plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration will start canceling student loans for some borrowers in February as part of a new repayment plan that’s taking effect nearly six months ahead of schedule.

Loan forgiveness was originally set to begin in July under the new SAVE repayment plan, but it’s being accelerated to provide faster relief to borrowers, President Joe Biden said Friday. It’s part of an effort “to act as quickly as possible to give more borrowers breathing room” and move on from their student debt, the Democratic president said in a statement.

Borrowers will be eligible for cancellation if they are enrolled in the new SAVE plan, if they originally borrowed \$12,000 or less to attend college, and if they have made at least 10 years of payments. The Education Department said it didn’t immediately know how many borrowers will be eligible for cancellation in February.

Biden announced the new repayment plan last year alongside a separate plan to cancel up to \$20,000 in loans for millions of Americans. The Supreme Court struck down his plan for widespread forgiveness, but the repayment plan has so far escaped that level of legal scrutiny. Unlike his

proposal for mass cancellation — which had never been done before — the repayment plan is a twist on existing income-based plans created by Congress more than a decade ago.

Republicans in Congress tried unsuccessfully to block the new repayment plan through legislation and a resolution last year.

The accelerated forgiveness drew fire from Republicans, who called it an attempt to win voters ahead of the 2024 presidential election. North Carolina Republican Rep. Virginia Foxx, chairwoman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, said it will “dump even more kerosene on an

already raging student debt fire.”

The new repayment plan offers far more generous terms than several other income-driven repayment plans that it’s meant to replace. Previous plans offered cancellation after 20 or 25 years of payments, while the new plan offers it in as little as 10. The new plan also lowers monthly payments for millions of borrowers.

Those who took out more than \$12,000 will be eligible for cancellation but on a longer timeline. For each \$1,000 borrowed beyond \$12,000, it adds an additional year of payments on top of 10 years.

The maximum repay-

ment period is capped at 20 years for those with only undergraduate loans and 25 years for those with any graduate school loans.

The Biden administration says next month’s relief will particularly help Americans who attended community colleges, which generally cost less than four-year universities. The plan aims to place community college students “on a faster track to debt forgiveness than ever before,” Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said.

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

Due to Monday being Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the mail will not be delivered and therefore home delivery of The News-Banner will be delayed one day.

This means Monday’s paper will be delivered with Tuesday’s paper. If you are a subscriber who would like Monday’s paper on Monday, stop by The News-Banner office at 125 N. Johnson St. where you can get a copy of the paper at no additional cost in the foyer.

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

Papers will be available for sale on newsstands and at The News-Banner office, which is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Weather

Saturday, January 13, 2024

(24-hour observations at 9:57 p.m. Friday)

High: 38; **Low:** 28; **Precipitation:** 0.2 inches of snow, .5 inches of rain, melted snow

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 3.25 feet at 9:45 p.m. Friday

Wells County forecast

Today: A chance of snow before 1 p.m., then a slight chance of snow after 4 p.m. Cloudy, with a high near 26. Windy, with a west wind 25 to 35 mph, with gusts as high as 50 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of snow before 1 a.m. Patchy blowing snow before 7 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 2. Wind chill values as low as -15. Breezy, with a west wind 20 to 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy and cold, with a high near 7. Wind chill values as low as -20. Breezy, with a west wind 20 to 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 0. West wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

M.L.K. Day: Mostly cloudy and cold, with a high near 9.

Monday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 0.

Tuesday: A 20 percent chance of snow before 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy and cold, with a high near 7.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around -1.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny and cold, with a high near 18. Breezy.

Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 12. Breezy.

Thursday: A 30 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 22.

U.S. military strikes Houthi-controlled site after warning ships

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. military early Saturday struck another Houthi-controlled site in Yemen that it had determined was putting commercial vessels in the Red Sea at risk, two U.S. officials said.

Associated Press journalists in Sanaa, Yemen’s capital, heard one loud explosion.

The first day of strikes Friday hit 28 locations and struck more than 60 targets. However, the U.S. determined the additional location, a radar site, still presented a threat to maritime traffic, one official said.

The officials spoke anonymously to the AP to discuss an operation that hadn’t yet been publicly announced.

President Joe Biden had warned Friday that the Houthis could face further strikes.

The latest strike came after the U.S. Navy on Friday warned American-flagged vessels to steer clear of areas around Yemen in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden for the next 72 hours after the U.S. and Britain launched multiple airstrikes targeting Houthi rebels.

The warning came as Yemen’s Houthis vowed fierce retaliation for the U.S.-led strikes, further raising the prospect of a wider conflict in a region already beset by Israel’s war in Gaza.

U.S. military and White House officials said they expected the Houthis to try to strike back.

The U.S.-led bombardment — launched in response to a recent campaign of drone and missile attacks on commercial ships in the vital Red Sea — killed at least five people and wounded six, the Houthis said. The U.S. said the strikes, in two waves, took aim at targets in 28 different locations across Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen.

“We will make sure that we respond to the Houthis if they continue this outrageous behavior along with our allies,” Biden told reporters during a stop in Emmaus, Pennsylvania.

Asked if he believes the Houthis are a terrorist group, Biden responded, “I think they are.” The president in a later exchange with reporters during a stop in Allentown, Pennsylvania, said whether the Houthis are redesignated as such was “irrelevant.”

Biden also pushed back against some lawmakers, both Democrats and Republicans, who said he should have sought congressional authorization before carrying out the strikes.

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OBITUARIES

Evelyn Brewer, 94

Evelyn Joan Brewer, 94, passed away Thursday afternoon, Jan. 11, 2024, at Kingston Residence of Fort Wayne, following an extended illness.

Evelyn was born in Ossian on Feb. 22, 1929, to John and Edna (Woods) Archbold; both parents preceded her in death. She married Forace Hale Brewer on Aug. 16, 1958, in Bluffton, and he preceded her in death on Aug. 25, 2005.

She graduated from Ossian High School in 1947, earned her bachelor's degree from Marion College in 1951, and master's degree from St. Francis in 1971. Evelyn worked as a Lab X-Ray Technician at Wells Community Hospital for 10 years. She taught first and third grade for 23 years at Rockcreek and Lancaster Schools, retiring in 1990. She was a former member of First Church of Christ in Bluffton. Evelyn enjoyed making crafts, volunteering with Stiches of Hope, selling Sarah Coventry Jewelry, and volunteering for the Red Cross. She also enjoyed traveling the world with her husband



after retirement. Evelyn was gracious hostess and loved spending time with her grandchildren.

Evelyn is survived by three daughters, Kayleen (John) Reusser of Bluffton, Lynette (Eli) Johnson and Camille Havens, both of Fort Wayne, and four grandchildren; Amanda Reusser, Christopher (Erica) Reusser, Lindsay Reusser and Jennifer Havens. In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a brother, Harold Archbold, and a sister, Luella Updike.

Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 15, 2024, at Goodwin - Cale 8 Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton, followed immediately by a funeral service at 1 p.m. Pastor Dennis Wood will officiate. Burial will be held at Fairview Cemetery in Bluffton.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made in Evelyn's memory to Stillwater Hospice.

Online condolences can be made at www.goodwincalehamish.com.

Bluffton Parks & Rec News & Notes



By Brandy Fiechter

Destination Recreation

Gym Keys are selling like hotcakes. Take full advantage of a year's membership by picking up yours this week. There are no hidden signup fees; simply pay the single membership of \$95 for the entire year or select the family membership at \$125 for you, your spouse, and children still living at home. Members ages 14 and older can use the weight room, and all ages can use the basketball and racquet courts when available.

If you are committed to getting fit this year, be sure to check out **Yoga and Cardio Kickboxing** classes at Washington Park. Classes are drop-in, so stop by 710 S Mulberry to begin.

Yoga - Monday, Wednesday 6:00-7:00 p.m. / Wednesday 7:15-8:15 p.m.

Cardio Kickboxing - Thursdays 5:30-6:30 p.m. (starts Jan. 11)

FREE Weekday Walking is on Mondays - Fridays from 8:30-10:30 a.m. in the City Gym until the end of March. Walking is one of the best exercises for all age groups and has many health benefits. If you can spare fifteen minutes daily for walking, it will help you maintain a healthy weight. But in many places, the weather is unfavorable for many months, forcing people to remain indoors. That is why the Parks Department has decided to open the city gym **FREE** of charge to any adult who would like to get some exercise during the cold months. Participants can enter through the glass door on the West side of the building and sign in on the wooden door each day they attend. If you are the last to leave the gym, please turn off the light in the southwest corner. 1 Mile = 20 laps

FREE Farm Wagon - The **Community Harvest Farm Wagon** visits Bluffton every Tuesday at 9 a.m. to give **FREE** fresh food to needy families at the Life Community Church South parking lot (428 S Oak St.) Please enter the parking lot at the south entrance off Oak Street

and park facing North.

FREE Toddler Time - The Bluffton City Gym will be open every Tuesday and Thursday from 11-noon for you to bring your tots and burn off some energy. (October - March) This free drop-in program will allow young children to play with others their age in a large open space. Balls will be available in the storage closet at the East end of the gym when we hear the children arrive. Please note that this is not a staff-facilitated event, and parents are responsible for their children. Our next special activity will be on February 1st with a Tot Block Party. Please sign in on the wooden door each visit and turn off the gym lights if you are the last to leave.

FREE Open Gym - Supervised activities will be held all winter until March 14 in the Bluffton City Gym for school-aged kids K-12 grades. All participants **MUST** fill out a parental permission slip (either the first day they attend or print one off and send it in with them from the city's website at <https://blufftonindiana.net/wpcontent/uploads/2023/08/Open-gym-registration-Waiver-form-2024-1.pdf>). Days and hours vary but are currently scheduled for Sundays, Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, 3:30-6 p.m.

We want to thank Wells County Tourism for the \$1,000 grant we recently received for our upcoming race. If your organization or business has an event and you want help advertising beyond Wells County, make sure you apply while they still have funds left. For more information about this opportunity, be sure to call them at 260-824-0510 extension 5 for details.

To keep up with ALL the latest Bluffton Parks news, follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter (@Bluffton Parks).

Have a great week!

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City: Thursday, 4:06 p.m., North Main Street and North Sutton Circle Drive. Citation issued for expired plates.

Thursday, 5:16 p.m., 900 block of West Wabash Street. Report a cat struck in the road, possibly considered a hazard. Removed.

Thursday, 8:13 p.m., 400 block of West Townley Street. A juvenile reported another juvenile had stolen their vape. Officer noted this is an ongoing argument between the two juveniles and their current relationship, and that it is illegal for them to be in possession of a vape. Parties said they understood and would comply with the law.

Thursday, 12:23 p.m., 7700 East 300 South, Bluffton. Caller reported a new sign in her yard. Business owner of sign advised he had not had his company place them there. House watch extended.

Thursday, 12:25 p.m., Temp Masters. Report of stolen trailer from parking lot.

Thursday, 4:28 p.m., Silo Farms. Welfare check requested for woman.

Thursday, 6:06 p.m., West 1100 South and South 900 West, Montpelier. Car versus deer.

Friday, 6:26 a.m., North Marzane Road and West

1100 North, Markle. Car versus deer.

Friday, 11:43 a.m., North 450 East and Ind. 224, Ossian. Report of a loose cow, cow moooved back to its home.

FIRES

Thursday, 11:35 p.m., 6680S 300W, Poneto. Passerby alerted of a silo smoking, but did not see flames. Poneto, Montpelier, and Nottingham, Liberty Center and Chester township fire departments responded. Situation resolved by 3:11 a.m. on Friday.

ARRESTS

Zachary Tyler Delozier, 27, Edgemont, S.D., kidnapping, a Level 5 felony. No bond set.



Top Tigers

Earlier this week, the Bluffton High School Student Council announced the five recipients of its Top Tiger Award. Top Tiger is awarded to an individual at Bluffton High School every quarter for their extra effort in and out of school. Second term recipients were announced as Conner Grace (9th), Isaac Wheeler (10th), Lexi Grady (11th), Lukas Gehrett (12th) and Michael Vanderkolk (staff). (Photo provided)

Judge orders state to strike Ukrainian provision from humanitarian parole driver's license law

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - A federal judge ordered Indiana to strike a provision in state law that allows people on humanitarian parole to obtain driver's licenses but only if they are from Ukraine.

The judge granted a preliminary injunction Thursday to a group of Haitian immigrants in Indiana who have sued the state over the recently passed law. The Haitian immigrants say the law is discriminatory and unconstitutional and are seeking to permanently ban the provision.

It was unclear Friday if the state will appeal the judge's order.

The lawsuit was filed in August against the Commissioner of the Indiana Bureau

of Motor Vehicles. The plaintiffs are represented by attorneys with the American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana and the National Immigration Law Center.

"I plan to continue advocating for justice alongside the other plaintiffs, because getting a driver's license should be dependent on following the rules of the road, not on the country where you were born," lead plaintiff Jefferson Saint-Hilaire said in a written statement provided by the ACLU of Indiana.

The law in question, Indiana House Enrolled Act 1050, provides an avenue for immigrants on humanitarian parole from Ukraine to obtain driver's licenses and identification cards.

Wells County Briefs

Visitors Commissioner welcomes grant applications

Four marketing grants have been awarded in the first application cycle of the Wells County Convention and Visitors Commission, reported Tourism Coordinator Audrey Dudley.

During the board's Wednesday meeting, Dudley said the grants committee had awarded funds to Horizon Events, Bluffton NOW, the Bluffton Parks and Ossian Parks. More funds are still available for grants, however.

Board member Brandy Fiechter suggested that, while the grants are still new, applications are taken on a rolling basis, rather than a spring and summer cycle. Dudley advised she would continue to take applications until their grant budget is used. The grant application is available at visit-wellscounty.org/contact.

The board also saw a new agreement with the Wells County Chamber of Commerce, where the board's tourism activities

are housed. The agreement increases fund requests from \$70,000 to \$90,000, given what the innkeeper's tax collected in 2023. Chad Kline, executive director of economic development, said the sum is delivered in two parts and could be amended as collections come in.

Jail to hire new custodian

Bob Monce, custodian at the Wells County Jail, has recently given his intent to retire in March. Sheriff Scott Holliday told the Wells County Council Tuesday. The council permitted Holliday to post and hire the position to allow for cross-training in the role.

Holliday also advised that Kurt Powell was recently hired into the full-time courthouse security role approved during the last budget cycle. Powell had previously retired from the Wells Sheriff's Department and had additional experience in courthouse security.

- Compiled by Holly Gaskill

American Legion to host breakfast

The American Legion Post 111 will host its monthly breakfast all-you-can-eat buffet from 8-10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, 111 W. Washington St. in Bluffton. The breakfast will cost \$11 for adults, \$5 for children 12 years-old and younger, and free for children under 5 year-old.

Obituary Policy

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

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

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

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TELL US WHAT YOU THINK! www.news-banner.com or www.facebook.com/news-banner

Making the best of the common cold

I forgot what it was like to experience a good old common cold.

Prior to COVID, you see, the cold-getting experience went like this: I'd wake with a stuffy nose and scratchy throat and my only thought was to curse the gods for visiting a new virus cocktail on me that was going to make me cranky for 9 days.

I remember at first denying that a cold virus was feasting on me, then, as the hacking got bad, I moved on to the anger stage before finally accepting my fate that the miserable common cold is a fact of life.

But post-COVID, few people respond to a common cold this way.

No sooner do our sniffles start than we are searching WebMD, calling doctors and telling family members we're certain we are suffering from another COVID variant that is sure to do us in.

"Headlines warning of new COVID variants; unseasonal surges of flu, RSV and human metapneumovirus; and unusual symptoms stemming from viruses that usually cause cold-like symptoms, including adenovirus and enterovirus, have made many of us hyper aware of the germs that make us sick," reports NBC News.

Experts tell NBC News that our overreaction to the cold is a bit of overkill — that unless it is an unusually strong bug (which means it may be something more serious) or unless you have a weakened immune system, just do what humans with a cold have always done: get some over-the-counter drugs and drink plenty of fluids.

There's not much else we can do.

Look, back in 2018, Scientific American said scientists were getting close to curing the dreaded cold — two years before COVID demonstrated that our scientists aren't much ready for prime time where preventatives for easily spread respiratory viruses are concerned.

According to Scientific American, the search for a cure dates back to the 1950s when scientists discovered that the cause of the sniffles was a group of pathogens known as rhinoviruses.

The trouble is, there are 160 different strains of these bugs and, said one immunologist, it's "incredibly difficult to create a vaccine or drug that will target all of those 160 [strains]."

Another idea is to crack the code on the structure that each of the 160 strains shares. Researchers at the Imperial College London have been working on that, which Scientific American reports would let them design a super vaccine.

But again, these reports date back to 2018 and scientists have still not found a cure for the common cold.

Which is why we might just as well enjoy a cold when it comes.

Being miserably sick, as I was last week, gives us license to shut down our most pressing adult responsibilities and completely let everything go.

A few sips of Irish whiskey in hot tea soothe a raw throat — just as a few more make the presidential election a wee bit less frightening.

Being unable to sleep is not so painful once you latch onto a streaming TV series you can binge watch until you finally nod off.

And when you get back to good health, you will be reminded not to take it for granted.

Hey, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports a lot of us are suffering from various bugs right now.

The least we can do is remember how to make the best of it!

Tom Purcell is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist. tom@TomPurcell.com.

Submit your Letters to the Editor via: • Our website link (Submit your Letter) • E-Mail: email@news-banner.com • Fax: (260) 824-0700 • Mail: PO Box 436, Bluffton IN 46714 • Drop-off: 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton. All letters must be signed and must include a phone number or address in case verification is desired. Letters are edited for brevity and clarity. **Letters must be no more than 500 words.** Please mark your correspondence as a "Letter to the Editor," or if you wish to express an opinion to us but do not want it published, please mark as "Not for Publication."

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, Jan. 13, the 13th day of 2024. There are 353 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 13, 2021, President Donald Trump was impeached by the U.S. House over the violent Jan. 6 siege of the Capitol, becoming the only president to be twice impeached; ten Republicans joined Democrats in voting to impeach Trump on a charge of "incitement of insurrection." (Trump would again be acquitted by the Senate in a vote after his term was over.)

On this date:

In 1733, James Oglethorpe and some 120 English colonists arrived at Charleston, South Carolina, while en route to settle in present-day Georgia.

In 1794, President George Washington approved a measure adding two stars and two stripes to the American flag, following the admission of Vermont and Kentucky to the Union. (The number of stripes was later reduced to the original 13.)

In 1898, Emile Zola's famous defense of French military officer Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, "J'accuse," was published in Paris.

In 1941, a new law went into effect granting Puerto Ricans U.S. birthright citizenship.

In 1964, Roman Catholic Bishop Karol Wojtyla (the future Pope John Paul II) was appointed Archbishop of Krakow, Poland, by Pope Paul VI.



Tom Purcell



Democracy not at risk, but not operating optimally

Is democracy at risk this election year?

Yup, is the answer given by President Joe Biden in his speech last Friday, ahead of the third anniversary of the Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the United States Capitol as both houses of Congress were assembled to receive the electoral votes for the November 2020 election.

He argues that if Donald Trump is elected to a second term next November, democracy will be uniquely imperiled. Casting doubt on that is the fact that the U.S. did not sink into dictatorship during the four years of Trump's presidency. I say that as one who wrote back then that Trump's words "were uttered with a reckless disregard for the possibility that they would provoke violence, which any reasonable person could find impeachable." But the rioters were dispersed, and the electoral votes counted.

Nor does the current president have an impeccable record. As the Wall Street Journal's Allysia Finley points out, he has acted in blatant disregard of constitutional limits on student loan cancellations, banning evictions, mandating COVID-19 vaccines and colluding with social media companies to suppress dissenting speech.

A strong case can be made that the administrations of both the current and former presidents, in important ways, transgressed constitutional limits and violated traditional norms. Which one was worse is subject to debate, but neither has ended democracy.

Trump has cynically denied that he lost the 2020 election and has bullied many Republicans into echoing his claims. Dozens of congressional Democrats voted to reject electoral votes cast for Republicans in the 2004 and 2016 elections, and few, if any, Democrats have confessed error about participating in the Russia collusion hoax, which was intended to delegitimize a legitimately elected president.

Actually, to say that electoral democracy is at risk seems overwrought in a year that, as The Economist notes, will be "the biggest election year in history." India and the United States, the world's two largest democracies, are holding general elections. Among populous nations, Bangladesh has already voted, Indonesia and Pakistan will soon, and Mexico, Russia and Britain will follow.

Altogether, elections will be held in 70-some nations with more than 4 billion people -- a majority of the world's people. And if some of these elections are rigged or perfunctory -- see Vladimir Putin's Russia -- it is still notable that authoritarian rulers consider it worth the trouble

to go through the motions of at least imitating electoral democracy.

Of course all is not well with the operation of electoral democracy, even where it has long been established, in the Anglo-sphere. Both of the two oldest political parties in the world -- America's Democrats and Britain's Conservatives -- are facing defeat.

Current polling shows Biden to be trailing Trump, and Democrats could lose their 51-49 Senate majority and fail to regain the House majority they narrowly lost in 2022. This wouldn't be the first setback the Democratic Party has suffered since it was founded in 1828 -- 196 years ago! -- to elect Andrew Jackson. But it's one it might have avoided if it does not renominate, as it seems certain to do, an 81-year-old incumbent vulnerable for sparking inflation and opening the southern border.

In Britain, the Conservative party, in 14 years with a majority in the House of Commons, has produced no fewer than five prime ministers -- and policy fiascos that leave it far behind in the polls. But despite similar repudiations, it has been Britain's most winning party since it was founded by Benjamin Disraeli in 1846.

One problem these two parties have had recently is in selecting leaders capable of winning general elections and governing effectively once in office. Democratic and Republican national conventions go back to 1832 and 1856, but the parties' current processes of selection in combinations of primary elections and caucuses go back only to 1972.

The constant flux in primary scheduling and the continued prominence of certain states -- I've never been able to find the provision in the Constitution that says Iowa and New Hampshire vote first -- have left the presidential selection process as the weakest part of our political system.

This year, it has seemed to give voters little choice, with two nominees both careless of democratic norms. Biden has no effective competition for the Democratic nomination, and the series of mostly specious indictments of Trump, starting last March, have propelled him far ahead of his serious competitors, Ron DeSantis and Nikki Haley.

That doesn't leave democracy at deadly risk. But modern electoral democracy, in this year of a record number of elections, is not operating optimally in the nation where it started some two centuries ago.

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Michael Barone

Biden's continued cynical use of race

President Joe Biden is "down" with Black voters and I'm not speaking street slang.

A new USA Today/Suffolk University Poll reveals one in five Black voters say they will support a third-party candidate instead of the president. That's down substantially from the 92% of non-Hispanic Blacks who voted for Biden in 2020, according to the Pew Research Center.

The president's strategy for shoring up his and Democrats' most loyal supporters? Telling them their biggest threat is "white supremacy."

Nothing about the failing schools so many poor and minority children feel trapped in; or violence in big cities that kill many young Black men most weekends and increasingly during the week; or the disproportionate abortion rate among Black women that has kept their percentage of the population mostly stagnant; or the necessity of putting more Black fathers in homes to provide loving discipline to their children.

Biden has a long history of using race as a political weapon while doing little to improve the lives of Black Americans.

Speaking at the Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, where in 2015 a white gunman shot and killed nine members of a Bible study, Biden again demonstrated his insincerity about race



Cal Thomas

by making statements that have been proven false.

He claimed to have been a "civil rights activist." He wasn't. He claimed to have "spent more time in the Bethel AME Church in Wilmington, Delaware, than most people I know, Black or white." He hasn't. He also claimed that church was "where I started a civil rights movement." He didn't.

As a New York Post editorial noted, "(Biden has) pushed such baloney time and again." He has claimed to have been arrested during civil rights demonstrations and while on the way to see Nelson Mandela in prison. Neither is true.

Biden claimed to have persuaded segregationist Sen. Strom Thurmond to vote for the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Wrong on two counts. Thurmond did not vote for the act and Biden was not in the Senate in 1964.

There was also his 2006 remark: "You cannot go to a 7-Eleven or a Dunkin' Donuts unless you have a slight Indian accent." In 2020, he said if Blacks didn't vote for him "you ain't Black." In 2010, he warmly eulogized Sen. Robert Byrd, a former Exalted Cyclops in the Ku Klux Klan, saying he was "one of my mentors" and that "the Senate is a lesser place for his going." As early as 1977, Biden said that forced busing to desegregate schools would

cause his children to "grow up in a racial jungle." In 2007, he referred to Barack Obama as "the first mainstream African-American who is articulate and bright and clean."

So many more examples, but not enough space.

Democrats have played the race card for decades, even blaming poor performances (see former Harvard President Claudine Gay) on bigotry, not plagiarism and a failure to denounce antisemitic campus demonstrations. Their talk has been cheap and the results negligible. One wonders why so many still vote for them given their record. White Democrats only show up in Black churches at election time and are not seen for another two or four years. Shouldn't that tell them something?

White supremacy is a minority view. Christians call it a sin. There are no pure-bred people. We are all mixed up in the great gene pool of life, as Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates Jr. has brilliantly demonstrated in several PBS programs on African American lives. To hate another person because of their race is to hate a part of one's self.

Given the declining poll numbers for Biden, among especially young Black voters, it would appear they are starting to figure out how Democrats have duped them for decades. Biden's out-of-touch speech in Charleston is likely to do little to improve his favorability among their party's once solid voting bloc.

tcaeditors@tribpub.com

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Call to Worship

This page is dedicated to the building of a more spiritual and greater church-going people and is made possible by the Advertisers on this page who want as their return to see more people go to church.



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

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

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH - NORTH
630 E. Dustman Rd.
9:45 & 11:45 a.m. - Worship.

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

BETHEL
(Independent Bible)
4500E-300S, Bluffton
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

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

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

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

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260-824-1237

BLUFFTON WESLEYAN CHAPEL
(Independent Holiness Church)
1309 W. Washington St.
blufftonwesleyan.net
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 & 6:30 p.m. - Worship.

BOEHMER UNITED METHODIST
3467 S 600 W, Liberty Center
boehmerumc.org
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:45 - Sunday School.

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

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

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

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

COVENANT CHAPEL
3550 S. SR 1
mycovenantchapel.org
9:15 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:15 - Worship. (Children's Church for ages 6-12).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
215 E. Dustman Rd.
firstpcbbluffton.org
9:30 a.m. - Children/youth & Adult Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN (EVANGELICAL)
123 S. Jefferson St., Ossian
www.OssianChurch.com
8:45 a.m. - Adult Sunday school. 10 a.m. - Worship. 4 p.m. - Installation service.

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF BLUFFTON
301 W. Cherry St.
9:15 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

Time to Take a Devotional Break

INCLUSIVE & EXCLUSIVE

Inclusive and exclusive: two words that seem total opposites. One means that all are welcome while the other implies some restrictions are in place.

You may be familiar with signs posted outside towns or in school hallways touting their inclusivity of people from all walks of life. (After all, no one wants to appear selfish or unwelcoming.)

But most of us realize that other individuals are part of very elite, exclusive organizations, such as country clubs or think tanks, where only members meeting certain criteria are welcomed.

Religions around the globe are always seeking new converts — that's the **inclusive** part. But those same churches are often known for strict behavioral expectations — that's the **exclusivity** in action. To please whatever deity they worship, new disciples must follow certain rules and regulations.

Even within evangelical denominations there are typically church by-laws and doctrines to be followed if someone wishes to become an official member of their local congregation.

Of all world faiths, Christianity — the belief in sal-

vation through Jesus Christ alone — remains both **INCLUSIVE** and **EXCLUSIVE**.

Christianity will always be **INCLUSIVE** — everyone is invited to confess their need of salvation and accept the offer of forgiveness through Jesus (John 7:37-38; 1 John 1:9; Romans 6:23; Romans 10:13-15). God sent His only Son with the express intent of bring redemption to the entire lost world (John 3:16).

Yet the opposite is also true — Christianity is **EXCLUSIVE** in its claims and requirements. Only Jesus Christ ever claimed to be God (Luke 5:20; John 14:6, 8-11) — anyone coming to Jesus for salvation must confess that salvation is only in Him. Christianity's exclusivity is also seen in Peter's explanation that only Jesus provides forgiveness and restoration (Acts 4:12).

If you have never examined the reality and welcome of a God Who loves you beyond measure, investigate the Bible. Ask God to reveal the Truth of Jesus Christ through His Word — the Gospel of John is a great place to begin. You'll soon find a faith that is both inclusive and exclusive, and it's exactly what you need.



by Martha Paxson

mpaxson99@yahoo.com

Count Your Blessings

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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
325 W. Washington St.
blufftonfirstumc.com
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:45 - Sunday School.

FORGIVEN CHURCH
1409 S. Main St.
forgivenonline.org
9 a.m. - Worship.

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

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

HOPE MISSIONARY
429 E. Dustman Rd.
hope4thefamily.com
8 a.m., 9:30 & 11 a.m. - Service at Main Campus. 9:30 & 11 a.m. - Service, north campus, Ossian.

KEYSTONE CHURCH
10556S-200W
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:30 - Sunday School.

LANCASTER CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST
4510 E 400N, Craigville
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 9:40 - Fellowship. 10 a.m. - Worship.

LIBERTY CENTER BAPTIST
3071 W. Cherry St.
8:30 a.m. - Pastor/Deacon's Prayer. 9 - Sunday School. 9:55 - Fellowship. 10:15 - Worship.

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

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

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

LIVING WATER UNITED CHURCH
6486 S 700E, Bluffton
8:45-9 a.m. - Prayer. 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

MARKLE CHAPEL HILL SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
470 E. Morse St.
Saturday: 9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:45 - Sabbath School (Bible study).

MARKLE CHURCH OF CHRIST
455 E. Morse St.
marklechurch.org
9 a.m. - Adult Bible study groups. 10:30 - Worship. Children's & student programming both hours.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RIVER OF LIFE
122 Lamar St.
Suite 108, 110
riveroflifebluffton.com
10:30 a.m. - Worship.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TURNPOINTE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
500 W. Logan, Markle
turnpointechurch.com
9:30 a.m. - Fellowship. 10 a.m. - Adult & Children's Worship.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Local Roundup

Bluffton-Harrison school board will meet Monday

The board of the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District will meet at 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 15, in the school district's administration building at 803 E. Harrison St. in Bluffton.

- Topics on the agenda include:
- Reorganization of the board.
 - Financial matters.
 - Recognition of BHMSD's Educator of the Year.
 - A presentation regarding Bluffton High School's 2023 graduation rate.
 - Reports from Assistant Superintendent Julie Meitzler and Superintendent Brad Yates.
 - Review of the 2024 Organization Chart.
 - Unfinished business, including the high school building envelope project and athletic facility needs.
 - Personnel matters and donations.
 - Recognition of a Early Literacy Achievement Grant.
 - Consideration of a change to the 2023-24 school calendar.

An annual Board of Finance meeting will directly follow the school's board regular agenda. At this time, the board will reorganize for the new year and hear reports on investments and financial conditions.

County Election Board will meet Tuesday afternoon

The Wells County Election Board will meet at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16, in the clerk's office in the Wells County Courthouse, 102 W. Market St.

- Topics on the agenda include:
- Affidavit of Voter List Maintenance (VRG-21)
 - Notice of resignation from the Rockcreek Township Trustee
 - Consideration of a resolution to designate a proxy for "key holder."
 - Consideration of a resolution to allow the travel board to accept the application and ballot.

Solid Waste District board will meet Tuesday

The board of the Wells County Solid Waste District will meet at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

- Topics on the agenda include:
- A report from Recycling Center Manager Kevin Poling.
 - Updates regarding cardboard collection, Rubbermaid container storage, investments and collection dates.

Bluffton Board of Works to meet Tuesday afternoon

The Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

- Topics on the agenda include:
- Financial and personnel matters.
 - Recommendation to accept a Community Crossings Matching Grant bid.
 - Consideration of a water adjustment for 427 W Wabash St.
 - Discussion of a junk violation at 80 Sunset Lot #30.
 - Discussion of demolition bids.

County Drainage Board will meet Tuesday afternoon

The Wells County Drainage Board

Israel defends itself at UN's top court against allegations of genocide in Gaza

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Accused of committing genocide against Palestinians, Israel insisted at the United Nations' highest court Friday that its war in Gaza was a legitimate defense of its people and that it was Hamas militants who were guilty of genocide.

Israel described the allegations leveled by South Africa as hypocritical and said one of the biggest cases ever to come before an international court reflected a world turned upside down. Israeli leaders defend their air and ground offensive in Gaza as a legitimate response to Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, when militants stormed through Israeli communities, killing some 1,200 people and taking around 250 hostages.

Israel legal advisor Tal Becker told a packed auditorium at the ornate Palace of Peace in The Hague that the country is fighting a "war it did not start and did not want." "In these circumstances, there can hardly be a charge more false and more malevolent than the allegation against Israel of genocide," he added, noting that the horrible suffering of civilians in war was not enough to level that charge.

On Friday afternoon, Germany said it wants to intervene in the proceedings on Israel's behalf, saying there was "no basis whatsoever" for an accusation of genocide against Israel.

"Hamas terrorists brutally attacked, tortured, killed and kidnapped innocent people in Israel," German government spokesman Steffen Hebestreit said in a statement. "Since then, Israel has been defending itself against the inhumane attack by Hamas."

Under the court's rules, if Germany files a declaration of intervention in the case, it will be able to make legal arguments on behalf of Israel.

will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

- Topics on the agenda include:
- Consideration of an easement on the Werling Prong Tile Drain in Jefferson Township.
 - Discussion regarding a proposed joint board with Allen County on the Casteel Tile Drain in Jefferson Township.
 - Project updates and miscellaneous matters.

County Commissioners will meet Tuesday evening

The Wells County Commissioners will meet at 5 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

- Topics on the agenda include:
- Department reports from Sheriff Scott Holliday and Highway Supervisor Shawn Bonar.
 - Approval of amendments to ordinances regarding zoning, subdivision control and flood damage.
 - A presentation from Mike Grant and Nick Lund regarding Markle Fish and Game Park.
 - Renewal of workers compensation with Dan Lipp and Danica Dunwiddie.
 - Consideration of a contract for a portable alcohol unit vendor, brought by Community Corrections Director Blake Poindexter.
 - Monthly reports, right-of-way or utility agreements, and miscellaneous business.
 - Approval of an interlocal agreement for an engineer.
 - Discussions regarding the Vera Cruz bridge and Joray Hills sewer.
 - Appointment of an ADA Coordinator.

An annual Board of Finance meeting will directly follow the regular agenda. During this time, the commissioners will hear a report from Treasurer Kathy Peeper and appoint new officers.

Bluffton Common Council will meet Tuesday evening

The Bluffton Common Council will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

- Topics on the agenda include:
- Reorganization of the board and 2024 appointments.
 - Approval of Ordinance 1609 Wells County Flood Damage Prevention.
 - Consideration of Ordinance 1610 for rezoning
 - Recommendation to accept a Community Crossing Matching Grant.
 - Consideration of Ordinance 1611 for an additional appropriation
 - Ordinance 1609 Wells County Flood Damage Prevention

Markle Town Council will meet Wednesday evening

The Markle Town Council will meet at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17, at the Markle Town Hall, 154 E. Morse St. in Markle.

- Topics on the agenda include:
- Appointment of Eric Hoover to Board of Zoning Appeals and additional appointments to the Redevelopment Commission.
 - Reports from the superintendent, town marshal and clerk-treasurer.
 - An HCUED report and Region 3-A report

Germany would be allowed to intervene at the merits phase of the case to address how the genocide convention, drawn up in 1948 following World War II, should be interpreted, according to international lawyer Balkees Jarrah, associate director of the international justice program at Human Rights Watch.

"That would come after the court issues its decision on South Africa's request for urgent measures to protect the Palestinian people in Gaza," Jarrah told The Associated Press from The Hague, where she attended the ICJ hearings.

Germany's support for Israel carries some symbolic significance given its Nazi history. Hebestreit said Germany "sees itself as particularly committed to the Convention against Genocide." He added: "We firmly oppose political instrumentalization."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed the announcement, saying the gesture "touches all of Israel's citizens." South African lawyers asked the court Thursday to order an immediate halt to Israeli military operations in the besieged coastal territory that is home to 2.3 million Palestinians. A decision on that request will probably take weeks, and the full case is likely to last years — and it's unclear if Israel would follow any court orders.

On Friday, Israel focused on the brutality of the Oct. 7 attacks, presenting chilling video and audio to a hushed audience.

South Africa's request for an immediate halt to the Gaza fighting, he said, amounts to an attempt to prevent Israel from defending itself against that assault.

Even when acting in self-defense, countries are required by international law to follow the rules of war, and judges must decide if Israel has.

Grain bin fire



Local fire departments responded to a grain bin fire in Poneto just after midnight Friday. Pictured above, firefighters begin to empty the bin. Below, plumes of smoke are shown coming from the area as firefighters respond. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)



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TRACTORS: CIH 8940 Magnum tractor, MFWD, 4562 hrs; IH 3588 2x2 tractor, 5791 hrs, 1 owner; IH 5088 tractor, 6540 hrs; IH 1086 tractor, 2125 hrs; IH 786 tractor, open station, 4425 hrs; IH 856 tractor, gas, 8484 hrs; 2 Farmall H's; IH 300 utility w/IH loader, 4156 hrs; Farmall A w/Woods belly mower.

PLANTERS: Kinze 3600, 12/24 planter, 400 acres on complete rebuild in Spring '23; Kinze 3200 12x30 planter; UFT 15' NO TILL drill.

HARVEST EQUIPMENT: CIH 6088 combine, 2106 eng. 1382 sep; Geringhoff 6x30 corn head, only 48hrs (LIKE NEW); CIH 25' Terra flex platform w/HT25 head cart; JM 875 grain cart; J&M 425 wagon; (4) KB 385 wagons; J&M 250 wagon; Parker 2200 wagon.

TILLAGE: Salford I 2200 24'VT tool, (LIKE NEW); DMI 2500 inline ripper, 5 shank; IH 720 6x18" plow.

MISCELLANEOUS & FARM RELATED: CAT246B skid steer, 4564 hrs; Pallet forks, skid steer hookup; Loftness Rock Bucket, hyd. drive; Brandt 1070 swing-away 10"x70' auger; Sudenga 10"x71' swing-away auger; Sudenga 8"x36' auger; Bush hog 3210 rotary mower, 10' pull type; 10' Bush hog, 3pt blade, hyd. tilt and angle; Cushion Air 1000 Turbo Air vac; Hardi Ranger 2000 pull-type sprayer, 60' boom; Klongskilde II knife NH3 applicator.

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Tigers fall to Patriots on a buzzer-beater

By ANDREW FEEBACK
MONROEVILLE —

A conference tournament semifinal barnburner between the visiting Bluffton Tigers and Heritage Patriots ended in heartbreak for the Tigers Friday night as they lost on a shot at the buzzer, 37-35.

It snuffed out an impressive rally by the Tigers (6-6), who trailed by nine at the break after a sloppy second quarter put them in a 24-15 hole.

"I felt like we were our own worst enemy in the first half," coach Craig Teagle said. "We gave up layups, slips, things we really worked hard on not doing, because our game plan was to make them beat us from the three. We gave up 14 points in the paint in the first half, and you're not going to win basketball games doing that."

Bluffton turned it over 11 times before the break, and saw Heritage (5-6) go into the locker room with all the momentum after D'Vontaye Washington tipped in a missed shot just before the buzzer to put the home team up nine.

Teagle stressed to his team the importance of not letting its deficit grow any larger.

"If you can stay within single digits, just battle one possession at a time, you'll have a chance in the end," he said. "And we did. We made a nice run, then they made a really good run, but we gave up two critical (offensive boards), one at the end of the half they scored on, one at the end of the game they scored on."

Bluffton controlled the third quarter, shutting out the Patriots 13-0, holding them to 0-9 from the floor

and turning it over just three times. Kaleb Green's bucket tied the game at 24 and drew a Heritage timeout. Back to back hoops from Tucker Jenkins had Bluffton up 28-24 and drew a second Patriot timeout.

A wild sequence unfolded early in the fourth quarter.

With Bluffton leading by that four-point spread, the Tigers narrowly kept possession after getting on the floor for a loose ball. The Heritage coaching staff and players wanted a travel call on Jenkins and didn't get it. The Patriots' Kobe Meyer was then hit with a technical foul when he said something a nearby official didn't like.

That foul was number five on Meyer, sending him to the sideline for the rest of the game.

Cameron Williams made both free throws to put the Tigers up six, along with keeping possession.

But a quick turnover resulted in a breakaway attempt by the Patriots' Taurean Brown, and a flagrant foul essentially gave back any momentum the Tigers had gained from the previous play.

Although Brown made just one of his two shots, Bluffton's next five possessions all ended with a turnover.

"They're not used to this environment, and they're not used to battling and fighting like that," Teagle said. "We haven't been in a lot of nip and tuck games. We didn't panic as much as we didn't play poised enough. We have to be more poised, we have to have someone settle us down on the court. They were having trouble hearing any communication with me. I thought

Tucker Jenkins did a good job trying to hear what I was saying and trying to pass it on, but we were still getting one or two guys not getting the message somehow."

Brown's bucket in the paint got Heritage back within one, two free throws from Washington put them back in front, and Landon Lybarger's layup made it 33-30 with three minutes to play.

Jenkins hit a three-pointer to tie the game, then after Washington made two free throws, he made a nice move in the low post to tie it again with 1:29 to play.

The Patriots held the ball until less than a minute remained, then in the final seconds, Lybarger launched a three from the top of the key that missed. Washington tried to tip it in but missed. The ball wound up in the hands of Braden Walter, whose floater in front of the basket as the buzzer sounded gave Heritage the win.

"So many things going on in that possession, and I feel like we made them shoot a tough shot," Teagle said. "We just didn't control the ball and come down with it."

Twenty turnovers came back to bite the Tigers in a game where the shooting percentages were nearly identical for both teams.

Jenkins led all scorers with 16 points while Green had eight.

Washington's 14 topped the Patriots.

Bluffton will return to action next Friday night with a road trip to Adams Central.

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HERITAGE 37,
BLUFFTON 35
At Heritage
BLUFFTON (6-6): Nolan Lambert



Bluffton's Declan Grieser (right) shoots over Heritage defenders Noah Redmond (left) and Caleb Abbott Friday night in Round 2 of the ACAC Tournament semifinal at Heritage. The Patriots got the best of the Tigers in a buzzer-beater 37-35 and advanced to Saturday's championship game. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

0-0 0-0 0, Andrew Hunt 0-2 0-0 0, Elijah Garrett 1-1 0-0 2, Hunter Wenger 0-1 0-0 0, Cameron Williams 2-4 2-2 7, Tucker Jenkins 7-8 0-0 16, Jude Baumgartner 0-0 0-0 0, Axton Beste 1-3 0-0 2, Declan Grieser 0-3 0-0 0, Kaleb Green 3-6 2-2 8, Benjamin Maggard 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 14-28 4-4 35.

HERITAGE (5-6): Eli Tigulis 0-0 0-0 0, Kobe Meyer 0-1 0-0 0, Cam Rauner 0-0 0-0 0, Landon Lybarger

2-10 0-2 4, Braden Walter 2-4 1-2 5, Lantae Cassel 1-3 0-0 3, D'Vontaye Washington 5-8 4-4 14, Noah Redmond 2-3 0-0 5, Taurean Brown 2-6 1-2 6, Caleb Abbott 0-1 0-0 0, Landri Linder 0-0 0-0 0, Davian Bates 0-0 0-0 0, Lucas Taylor 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 14-36 6-10 37.

Bluffton 10 5 13 7 — 35
Heritage 10 14 0 13 — 37
Three-point FG: Bluffton 3-11 (Jenkins 2-3, Williams 1-3, Hunt 0-2,

Wenger 0-1, Grieser 0-1, Beste 0-1), Heritage 3-18 (Brown 2-4, Cassel 1-3, Lybarger 0-7, Walter 0-2, Redmond 0-1, Abbott 0-1). Rebounds: Bluffton 23 (Jenkins 7, Hunt 6, Williams 4, Beste 2, Grieser 2, Green 2), Heritage 10 (Washington 5, Lybarger 2, Cassel 1, Meyer 1, Redmond 1). Turnovers: Bluffton 20, Heritage 10. Fouls: Bluffton 11, Heritage 14. Fouled out: Meyer. Technicals: Heritage: Meyer.



Bluffton head coach Doug Curtis talks to Tigers team during a timeout Friday night at Heritage during the semifinal round of the ACAC Tournament. Curtis' Tigers fell 47-37 to Woodlan to make it to the championship game Saturday night at South Adams. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

Tigers face shooting woes, fall to Warriors in ACAC Tourney semifinal

By RYAN WALKER
MONROEVILLE — In a game of many twists and turns, high-percentage shots were the key difference in the ACAC Tournament semifinal Friday night.

Bluffton's 47-37 loss to Woodlan (12-7) was one of few games not canceled due to the snowy conditions in the northern part of Indiana. But the Tigers (14-5) were cold from the floor all night.

It started with a 1-15 streak in the first quarter, as free throws aided an 8-8 tie in the period. The vast majority of the shots were in the paint, hitting every inch of the iron but not falling to the bottom of the basket.

The Tigers shot 24 percent from the field on 51 shots taken, while scoring 12 points from the charity stripe. The second half was a more respectable 8-22, but not enough to overcome the first half.

"The game should have been over by halftime. We had so many easy shots," Bluffton head coach Doug Curtis said after the game. "We were 4-28 at halftime and

they were all basically right by the basket. We kept saying on the bench over there that it should be up 20-10 at that point instead you go down and a half you're behind."

Despite the shooting woes, Bluffton maintained a lead throughout the end of the second quarter after Haley Gibson cashed in a layup off of a turnover to make it 13-10. Woodlan's Brooke Kneubuhler hit one of her three triples to respond, but Bluffton's Isabella Stout hit one on the next possession.

As the Tigers held on to the three-point advantage, the Warriors got a bucket inside to Chloe Gaff. Then, they held the clock down to the final shot in which Kneubuhler drilled a three from the left wing with a few ticks remaining on the clock. The score was 18-16 at the half.

As close of a game it was with high stakes, the second half delivered some fireworks.

Woodlan and Bluffton traded punches

(Continued on Page A2)



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At left, Norwell senior Cohen Bailey (right) spins around Belmont's Job Hoffman to go to the hoop for a basket in the first half of Friday night's conference game in Decatur. The Knight's fell to the Braves 45-51. At right, Norwell senior Cade Shelton (top) squares up for a basket while Belmont's Job Hoffman keeps close guard in the first half. (Photos by Chad Kline)

Third quarter struggles lead to Braves' win over Knights in NE8

By RICK SPRUNGER
DECATUR — A bad third quarter spelled defeat for Norwell at Belmont Friday night.

The Knights dropped the big Northeast 8 Conference clash, 51-45, to fall into a first-place tie with the Braves, Leo and Columbia City.

It was a game that might have gone Norwell's way but for a bad third quarter.

Bellmont outscored the Knights 15-5 in the period to turn a 31-27 half-time deficit into a 42-36 lead heading into the fourth quarter, and Norwell was never able to draw closer than two points after that.

The quarter started with Belmont getting back-to-back offensive rebounds for putbacks by Kord Fuelling and Dylan Velez to erase that four-point deficit.

It ended with Norwell turning the ball over on five consecutive possessions, allowing Belmont to outscore the Knights 11-0 over the final 3:45 of the period.

"(Bellmont) went to a 2-3 zone in the whole second half, and we made some bad decisions," pointed out Norwell coach Mike McBride after the game. "They packed it in on Ashton (Federspiel) in the second half. They really sold out on him."

The strategy worked as Federspiel, who scored 10 points in the first half, was limited to just three in the second, all on free throws.

"We finished the third quarter with five straight turnovers, and we also turned it over on our first possession of the fourth quarter," added McBride. "So of our 12 turnovers, six of them came on six straight possessions."

The last two of those Belmont buckets off turnovers were huge.

With Norwell trailing just 38-36, Dylan Velez stepped in front of a Knight pass, then took a feed from Jack Scheumann underneath for an easy one that made it 40-36 with 1:05 remaining.

Then, with Norwell playing for the last shot of the quarter, Scheumann stole the ball and sailed in for a layup and that 42-36 edge with 0:11 to play.

"Four of those turnovers were live-ball turnovers that got Belmont in

transition, and Belmont is a transition team," said McBride later.

Norwell stayed hot on Belmont's heels in the fourth quarter.

The Knights got back to within 48-45 on two Federspiel free throws with 0:37 remaining.

Kaedy Quintanilla then stepped with a defensive play that gave Norwell a chance.

With the Knights in fullcourt press mode, Scheumann got loose on the other end for a long pass and what appeared would be a game-clinching, one-on-nothing layup.

But Quintanilla caught up to him and viciously rejected the shot off the backboard.

Shelton picked up the rebound, and the Knights called time out with 0:24 left.

"Kaedy made a great play, and he deserves a lot of credit," praised his coach. "If he doesn't make that play, we don't have a chance at the end."

"We wanted to get it to Ashton at the rim for a quick two and then call time out," continued McBride about his team's strategy at the end.

But Belmont denied both him and Adam McBride the ball.

Freshmen Nick McBride, inserted into the game as a possible shooter, got a wide-open look for the tie from the left wing but missed, and Belmont closed it out from the line.

Norwell got off to a blazing start in the game and roared out to an early 16-6 lead.

With Belmont hanging on by a thread, Scheumann picked the Braves up and put them on his shoulder in the second quarter, scoring nine of his game-high 17 points in the period.

"Jack Scheumann is an unbelievable player," said his coach, Belmont mentor Payton Selking. "He does a lot for us. He's the kind of player our guys look to when things get hard."

He started the second quarter with a drive through the lane and a little five-footer while being clouted by Cohen Bailey to get Belmont back in the game at 18-13.

Then, with Norwell leading 24-15, he scored underneath, then went outside for a three-pointer to spark a 10-0 Belmont run that gave the Braves their

only lead of the first half, 25-24.

Federspiel responded with back-to-back inside shots of his own, the first off a nice feed from Shelton, the second on a pretty spin move in the lane.

Job Hoffman muscled back a Scheumann miss for Belmont, but Adam McBride got a 12-footer to bounce through at the buzzer for that 31-27 halftime edge.

Then came the disastrous third quarter.

After hitting on 12 of 22 shots with just three turnovers in the first half, Norwell connected on a mere five of 15 from the floor in the second half with nine turnovers.

"A big key in the second half was that Belmont got a majority of what I would call the 50-50 balls," said McBride. "That's really what it came down to, Belmont getting more loose balls in the second half and our bad streak at the end of the third quarter."

Bellmont shot an even .500 from the field while committing just five turnovers for the game.

Fuelling joined Scheumann in double figures with 14 points.

Federspiel scored 13 points, Bailey 12, and Adam McBride 11 for the Knights, who finished 17-for-37 from the floor for .459.

Norwell won the reserve game, 40-21.

Nick McBride scored 13 points, Brady Smith eight, Drew Jolley seven, Will Case six, and Caiden Petrie and Garry Riley three apiece for the Knights.

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BELLMONT 51, NORWELL 45

NORWELL (7-6, 2-1 NE8): Cade Shelton 3-4 0-0 6, Kaedy Quintanilla 1-3 0-0 3, Adam McBride 4-7 0-0 11, Cohen Bailey 6-10 0-0 12, Ashton Federspiel 3-10 7-8 13, Owen Wallis 0-1 0-0 0, Nick McBride 0-2 0-0 0, Brady Smith 0-0 0-0 0. TOTAL: 17-37 7-8 45.

BELLMONT (11-3, 2-1 NE8): Andrew James 2-5 1-2 5, Jack Scheumann 8-14 0-1 17, Kord Fuelling 5-12 2-2 14, Dylan Velez 2-6 0-0 4, Gavin Krull 3-4 2-3 9, Job Hoffman 1-1 0-0 2. TOTAL: 21-42 5-8 51.

Norwell 18 13 5 9 — 45
Bellmont 9 18 15 9 — 41
 Three-point shooting: Norwell 4-11 (Quintanilla 1-3, A. McBride 3-4, Federspiel 0-2, Wallis 0-1, N. McBride 0-1); Belmont 4-13 (James 0-1, Scheumann 1-2, Fuelling 2-7, Velez 0-1, Krull 1-2). Rebounds: Norwell 24 (Federspiel 8, Shelton 6, A. McBride 5); Belmont 19 (Fuelling 6, Velez 5). Turnovers: Norwell 12, Belmont 5. Personal fouls: Norwell: 12, Belmont 10. Fouled out: Shelton: Technical fouls: None.

JV: Norwell 40, Belmont 21.

Tigers fall to Warriors

(Continued from Page A1)

turnovers given up by the Tigers. During the run a technical foul was issued to Curtis for arguing with an official and wasn't pleased with the Warriors' body contact in the paint.

Curtis said "I deserved it" and thought that the technical was a buildup from the first half.

"I should have gotten it at halftime but they didn't give it to me at halftime," Curtis said.

Taylor Kneubuhler hit the two free throws and never looked back.

Both Kneubuhlers finished with 29 total points for Woodlan, while Stout led

the Tigers with 14 (5-5 free throws). Maryn Schreiber, Bluffton's main threat in the post, shot 2-12 but hit 5-6 from the line.

Woodlan will meet with Jay County in the championship game at 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13 at South Adams.

Bluffton's next contest will be at home against Eastbrook at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18. The Panthers are 16-1 and only loss was to No. 14 Norwell earlier in the season.

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WOODLAN 47, BLUFFTON 37
At Heritage
BLUFFTON (14-5): Isabella Stout 4-12 5-5 14, Maryn Schreiber 2-12 5-6

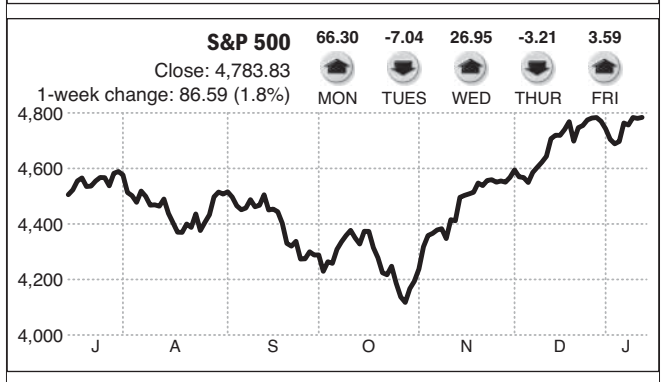
9, Haley Gibson 3-10 0-0 6, Tressa Renner 2-6 0-0 4, Konley Ault 1-8 2-6 4, Marly Drayer 0-2 0-0 0, Madysen Sonnigen 0-1 0-0 0, Sophie Eisenhut 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 12-51 12-17 37.

WOODLAN (12-7): Taylor Kneubuhler 4-9 5-6 15, Brooke Kneubuhler 5-11 1-2 14, Alyssa Anderson 4-8 0-4 8, Reagan Widenhoefer 2-8 1-2 6, Chloe Gaff 2-5 0-0 4, Makenna Smith 0-2 0-0 0, Makenna Goble 0-0 0-0 0, Alix Jacquay 0-2 0-2 0. TOTALS: 17-50 7-16 47.

Bluffton 8 8 10 11 — 37
Woodlan 8 10 13 16 — 47
 Three-point FG: Bluffton: 1-6 (Stout 1-1, Gibson 0-2, Renner 0-2, Sonnigen 0-1). Woodlan: 6-18 (B. Kneubuhler 3-6, T. Kneubuhler 2-5, Widenhoefer 1-4, Smith 0-1, Goble 0-1, Gaff 0-1, Jacquay 0-1). Rebounds: Bluffton: 31 (Stout 8, Schreiber 8, Renner 5, Ault 3, Drayer 2, Sonnigen 2, Eisenhut 2, Gibson 1). Woodlan: 26 (Anderson 7, Widenhoefer 6, Jacquay 5, T. Kneubuhler 3, Goble 3, B. Kneubuhler 1, Smith 1). Turnovers: Bluffton: 19, Woodlan 17. Fouls: Bluffton: 13, Woodlan 15. Fouled Out: None. Technicals: Bluffton: 1, Curtis. Woodlan: None.

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

WEEKLY DOW JONES AND S&P 500



STOCK MARKET INDEXES

52-Week High	Low	Name	Last	Wk Chg	Wk %Chg	YTD %Chg	12-mo %Chg
37,825.27	31,429.82	Dow Jones Industrials	37,592.98	+126.87	+0.34	-26	+9.59
16,717.04	13,400.45	Dow Jones Transportation	15,470.53	-38.14	-0.25	-2.69	+7.70
1,003.67	765.47	Dow Jones Utilities	885.49	-13.18	-1.47	+4.3	-10.43
16,933.62	14,471.08	NYSE Composite	16,799.54	+41.30	+0.25	-3.2	+5.54
15,150.07	10,589.59	Nasdaq Composite	14,972.76	+448.69	+3.09	-2.6	+35.14
4,802.40	3,808.86	S&P 500	4,783.83	+86.59	+1.84	+2.9	+19.62
2,817.96	2,322.38	S&P MidCap	2,728.63	+16.13	+0.59	-1.90	+5.72
48,598.18	37,776.71	Wilshire 5000	48,240.15	+800.53	+1.69	-1.1	+21.10
2,071.78	1,633.67	Russell 2000	1,950.96	-18	-0.91	-3.75	+3.39
16,317.50	12,215.33	Lipper Growth Index	16,197.24	+535.75	+3.42	-1.2	+27.76

STOCK EXCHANGE HIGHLIGHTS

NYSE GAINERS (\$2 OR MORE)				NYSE LOSERS (\$2 OR MORE)				NYSE ACTIVES (\$1 OR MORE)			
Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
OscrHl	11.45	+2.63	+29.8	SoloBrdA	3.06	-2.84	-81.1	BkofAm	2434574	32.80	-1.63
NellOffc	22.71	+5.07	+22.3	CazoGrs	4.31	-3.78	-86.7	FordM	2371273	11.46	-3.9
JprpNwk	37.51	+7.60	+20.4	ChnCrn	2.20	-1.01	-31.5	Pfizer	201232	28.70	-7.7
PgrDuty	26.23	+4.91	+23.0	Lifezone	6.35	-2.47	-38.0	Palatnr	1991625	16.76	+7.4
ZetaGlb	9.65	+1.52	+18.7	PinstHld	4.39	-1.10	-20.0	SwtEnrgy	1990582	7.01	+1.8
Cameco	49.92	+7.67	+18.2	CanHl	3.21	-7.8	-19.5	AT&T	1931996	16.48	-7.1
FlameAwt	2.35	+0.35	+17.5	GenieEn	21.92	-5.09	-18.8	Nu Hdg	1787865	9.26	+6.9
Owlet	6.59	+0.98	+17.5	ArcLith	5.82	-1.29	-18.1	MedProp	1629401	3.43	-1.2
Organon	16.75	+2.34	+16.2	Paragon2	10.75	-2.33	-17.8	UberTch	1295473	63.20	+5.62
Wipro	6.28	+0.86	+15.9	Altice	2.48	-0.53	-17.6	ArcLith	1253624	5.82	-1.29

NASDAQ GAINERS (\$2 OR MORE)				NASDAQ LOSERS (\$2 OR MORE)				NASDAQ ACTIVES (\$1 OR MORE)			
Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
ElevOncl	2.74	+1.87	+68.2	HWH Intl	2.06	-8.24	-40.0	BitBrdLd	rs22710033	4.31	-3.69
HarpoonT	rs22.40	+11.85	+53.3	BitBrdLd	4.31	-3.69	-85.1	MarathDg	6843130	18.98	-5.14
Ambrn	27.97	+14.34	+51.3	OffPrnc	3.70	-3.07	-82.3	Tesla	5012406	218.89	-18.60
NAmstPw	6.18	+2.81	+45.4	PonoCp3	5.66	-4.54	-80.1	AAMD	3114283	146.56	+7.98
Praxrs	43.37	+18.18	+42.1	PonoCp3	5.60	-4.10	-73.2	Nvidia	2891029	547.10	+56.13
SEALSO	2.26	+0.91	+40.3	ArgoBldk	2.04	-1.46	-72.1	AmAirlines	2403208	13.21	-3.9
SagimetB	7.97	+3.18	+39.8	GrioloSA	7.03	-4.04	-57.6	Apple Inc	2379748	185.92	+4.74
SwwHd	4.89	+1.88	+38.4	Doco	3.21	-1.72	-53.9	LucidGrp	2262133	3.01	-7.8
UnivrPh	2.71	+1.04	+38.4	PureCycl	3.00	-1.50	-50.0	Amazon	2242520	154.62	+9.38
Neximm	9.96	+3.78	+38.0	AvaloTh	5.72	-2.80	-48.9	RiotBldk	2190035	11.73	-3.10

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Name	Div	Last	Wk Chg	Wk %Chg	YTD %Chg	Name	Div	Last	Wk Chg	Wk %Chg	YTD %Chg
AFLAC	2.00	82.74	+0.02	...	+0.3	IBM	6.64	165.80	+6.64	+4.2	+1.4
AT&T Inc	1.11	16.48	-0.71	-4.1	-1.8	Inv QQQ	1.16	409.56	+12.81	+3.2	...
AMD	1.60	146.56	+7.98	+5.8	-6	Kroger	1.16	46.03	-0.02	...	+7
Amazon	...	154.62	+9.38	+6.5	-1.8	Lincoln	1.80	27.78	+0.09	+0.3	+3.0
AmAirlines	40	13.21	-3.9	-2.9	-3.9	Loves	4.40	218.91	+6.40	+3.0	-1.6
AEP	3.52	81.49	-2.58	-3.1	+3	LucidGrp	...	3.01	-7.8	-20.5	-28.6
Apple Inc	9.65	185.92	+4.74	+2.6	+3.4	MarathDg	...	18.98	-5.14	-21.3	-19.2
ApidMati	1.28	151.25	+2.25	+1.5	-6.7	McDnlds	6.68	293.47	+4.48	+1.6	+3.0
Atreca	...	36	+24	+206.9	+169.7	Microsoft	3.00	388.47	+20.72	+5.6	+3.3
BP PLC	1.74	34.86	-1.17	-3.2	-1.5	ML Inds	2.8	5.25	-6.4
BkofAm	96	32.80	-1.63	-4.7	-2.6	NISource	1.00	26.74	-0.30	-1.1	+7
BitBrdLd	...	4.31	-3.69	-86.1	-80.8	Nikola	...	7.0	-0.7	-9.3	-20.0
BrMySq	2.40	50.31	-1.92	-3.7	-1.9	Norfolk	5.40	229.53	+5.1	+0.2	-2.9
CampSp	1.48	43.42	-0.19	-0.4	+4	Nu Hdg	...	9.26	+6.9	+8.1	+1.2
Canoo Inc	...	20	-0.04	-14.7	-21.0	Nucor	2.16	168.89	-1.68	-1.0	-3.0
Caterpillar	5.20	290.41	+1.48	+0.5	-1.8	Nvidia	1.16	547.10	+56.13	+11.4	+4.0
ChargEnt	...	23	+13	+144.1	+99.1	OktaHlth	...	98	+0.9	+10.0	-35.2
Chevron	6.04	147.27	-3.13	-2.1	-1.3	Palantir	...	16.76	+7.8	+4.9	-2.4
Cisco	1.56	50.34	+2.5	+0.5	+2.4	PepsiCo	5.06	167.27	-1.67	-1.0	-1.5
Citigroup	2.12	52.62									

Daughter driving drives mom crazy

Dear Annie: My daughter, "Emily," has been dating "Ben" for almost two years. Ben is a great guy, aside from one issue that's been bugging me: He refuses to drive anywhere and instead has my daughter drive him. He says it's because a few years ago he was in a car accident and has been scared to drive since. (He was not hurt in the accident.) He has Emily drive him to and from work every day. Emily never complains about it, but it drives me insane because Emily and her kids were also in a car accident a few years back and suffer PTSD from that accident. Ben is aware of this, but doesn't seem to get it. He thinks it's no big deal for Emily to get over her fear while avoiding getting over his fear. I want to say something to him so badly, but I haven't. And every time I say something to my daughter, she gets upset with me. How can I approach the situation without making it worse? — Miffed Mom

Dear Miffed: Your intentions are good, and your irritation is understandable. But Emily is the one behind the wheel, figuratively and literally. When she's tired of driving him, she can stop. Meanwhile, you can earn interest by keeping your two cents in the bank: If you avoid offering advice when your daughter hasn't asked, she'll be more likely to ask you for advice.

Dear Annie: I agree with "What Did You Say" that mood music in TV shows often makes it hard to hear the dialogue. I would add that background noises meant to create "realism" also frequently drown out what the actors are saying. Isn't the dialogue important enough to make it audible? Because the problem is in the show itself, it doesn't help much to turn up the volume. If I turn it up enough to make out the dialogue, then the music and ambient noise are so loud that it is annoying.

My wife and I always watch shows

with the closed captions on. We find that we even enjoy movies more at home than at the movie theater because we can have the captions on at home. It also helps a lot with BBC shows where the accents and British slang can make it hard to catch what is said. But it would be even better if the shows' directors and editors highlighted the dialogue and turned down the sound effects. — Not Ready for the Ear Horn in Lafayette, Indiana

Dear Not Ready for the Ear Horn: You're not alone. A 2017 survey found that 98 percent of people use closed captioning at least some of the time. While closed captions can certainly be helpful, some have pointed out that they're far from perfect and, during some live broadcasts, the captions lag behind the visuals. The following letter writer offers another tip to try.

Dear Annie: With regard to the letter about TV dialogue: Very often the problem is that people have their TV set for "surround sound" audio as if they have multiple speakers when they only have the TV speakers. This causes the "background" track to be louder because the "voice track" is expected to be broadcast from its own speaker. — Kate H.

Dear Kate: This is another possible contributing factor to the problem. The exact troubleshooting instructions will depend on the TV manufacturer. For anyone unable to easily find these audio options in their TV settings menu, it's worth reaching out to the manufacturer's customer service line.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. © 2024 CREATORS.COM

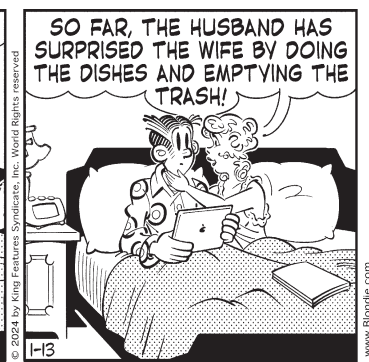
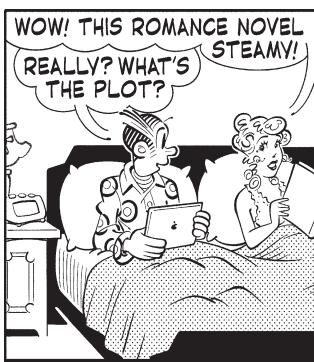
Dear Annie by Annie Lane



BEETLE BAILEY



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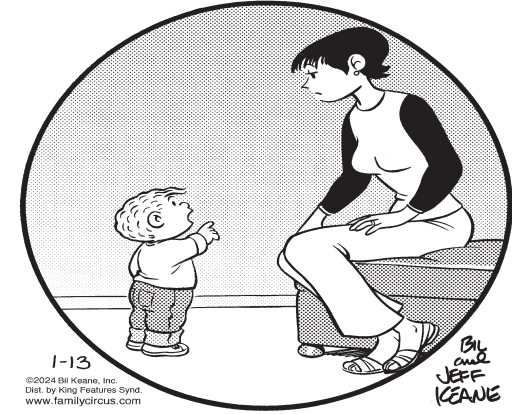


CRANKSHAFT

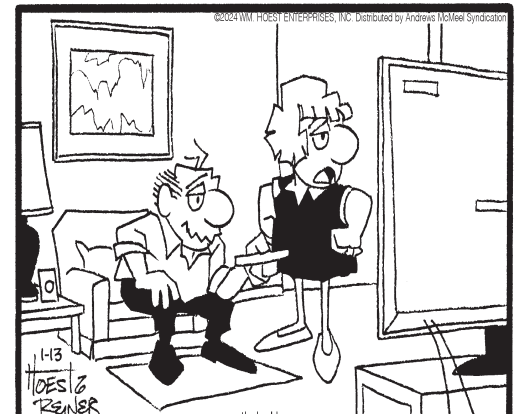


THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



There is no lack of warning from Almighty God

Q: I'm afraid that America is learning a very hard lesson — that pride and self-reliance devastates a nation. What started out as obedience to God has morphed into self-glorification. Our nation's in a hardened condition — in free fall — and it seems we try everything except pay attention to the warnings that God gives to us. — L.L.

A: No matter how advanced its progress, any civilization that neglects its spiritual and moral life is going to disintegrate. This is the history of mankind and it is our problem still today. President Theodore Roosevelt said, "When you educate a man in mind and not in morals, you educate a menace to society." We need moral abso-

lutes, but people refuse to live by them. There's much to be learned in the study of ancient Israel and the peoples of the world, past, present, and future.

The Bible says that the human heart is corrupt. This is why Christ came — to give new hearts to the human race. Scripture reveals the price required for man's sin. The Israelites were taught that sin must be atoned for by the shedding of pure and innocent blood, as recorded in Scripture. These passages are rich in history and are pertinent today because they point to the future. Many passages begin with "And the Lord spoke..."

There is no lack of warning from Almighty God. No one could declare

innocence about God's commands. He laid down the law and declared judgment if the law was not obeyed. The people had said, "Show us the law and we will follow it" — but they couldn't do it, and neither can we. When we turn a deaf ear to Almighty God and shut our eyes to the truths of history, disaster comes. God is saying to individuals and the nations, "Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts" (Hebrews 3:15, NKJV).

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

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"How could a little bird tell you? Little birds can't talk. They chirp."

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes solution time: 26 mins.

Yesterday's answer 1-13 grid with solutions for crossword clues.

TV schedule table with columns for time slots (5 PM to 12:30) and rows for various channels (WIMM, CBS, Antenna, ABC, NBC, etc.) listing programs and their descriptions.

The Classifieds

SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

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

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Difficulty: ★★★★★

1/13

Help Wanted

SOUTHERN WELLS COMMUNITY School is seeking a second shift custodian. \$20.31 per hour with benefits. Please send a resume of contact rking@swraiders.com

THE WELLS COUNTY Prosecutor's Office is looking to hire a person for an Investigator position. The position is a part-time county-paid position making \$21/hour. The investigator would be responsible for conducting criminal investigations and assisting the Prosecutor in preparing cases for trial. The investigator must be an effective communicator, be proficient with a computer, be able to work independently, and have the ability to be on 24-hour call for assistance at crime scenes. Interested persons should go to wellscounty.org/prosecutor/ for a more detailed description of this position. Send any resumes to the Wells County Prosecutor's Office, 102 West Market Street, Suite 405, Bluffton, IN 46714 or submit them by email to prosecutor@wellscounty.org.

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

VEHICLES

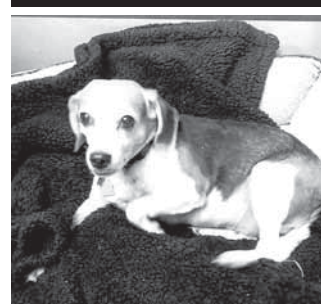
Auto/Trucks

INDIANA AUTO AUCTION, INC. Huge Repo Sale January 18, 2024. Over 100 repossessed units for sale. Money order or cashier's check only. \$500 cashier's check or money order deposit per person required. Register 8 am-9:30 am. No public entry after 9:30 am. All vehicles sold AS IS! 4425 W. Washington Center Road, Fort Wayne. (A)

HELOISE HINT: When driving at dusk. Be extra alert for animals that may be crossing the road. Email HELOISE@Heloise.com.

NOTICE

Lost



BLACK, WHITE, AND brown Beagle named Baby. Last seen at Capri. Small reward. Call 260-273-8413 or 260-273-4742.

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Lottery Numbers

Friday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 01-19-25-38-44
Cash4Life — 29-43-51-56-57, Cash Ball: 03
Quick Draw Midday — 08-09-13-17-21-27-31-32-35-40-45-51-52-57-60-65-66-67-76-79, BE: 67
Daily Three-Midday — 05-05-03, SB: 03
Daily Three-Evening — 07-04-01, SB: 00
Daily Four-Midday — 05-04-06-03, SB: 03
Daily Four-Evening — 07-00-02-00, SB: 00
Quick Draw Evening — 04-15-16-18-24-28-30-33-41-49-50-51-59-63-64-67-69-70-71-79, BE: 33
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$2.8 million
MEGA MILLIONS 19-34-35-45-67, Mega Ball: 07, Megaplier: 3X
POWERBALL Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$77 million

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

WELLS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE is currently seeking applicants for the position of Maintenance/Custodian. Applicants must have general knowledge of heating/cooling, plumbing, electrical with the ability to make minor repairs and/or adjustments. Additional responsibilities include building maintenance and ground keeping. 20-year matrix salary range for the position is \$43,682 - \$52,774. Years of service and experience will be honored for a starting salary up to five years in the pay matrix. Apply at www.wellscountysheriff.com under "Job Opportunities". Deadline for Pre-application submission is no later than February 5, 2024. A full job description is also listed on the website for review.

Help Wanted



JOURNAL GAZETTE NEWSPAPER CARRIER Deliver newspapers Mon-Sat in Bluffton city limits. Delivery hours approx. 2-6 am Mon-Fri and 2-7 am Sat. Independent contractor - Estimated monthly pay \$1,400. Call 260-750-0524 today!

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HELOISE HINT: Buying a bird from a pet store? Make certain that you have checked the store out to be sure it's a good one. Go online and look for reviews or check with friends. Fax Heloise @ 210-HELOISE (435-6473).

Read & recycle this newspaper

January GOODS & SERVICES DIRECTORY

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Public Sale Calendar

JANUARY 12 - 10 a.m. - Secured creditors & various consignors, 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 14-JANUARY 21 - (online only auction) - Various consignors, sellers. 1999 Ford F350 truck with lift bucket, antiques, display cases, advertising memorabilia, jewelry and pocket watches, Fenton and Indiana glass, mid-century modern, industrial quality fans and tools. Preview: Jan. 16th and Thurs. Jan. 18 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 118 East Craig Street, Ossian, IN. **The Steffen Group Inc.**, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

BIDDING NOW OPEN AND STARTS CLOSING JANUARY 16 - 10 a.m. EST - Carmel Wellness and secured creditors, owner. Liquidation of Carmel Wellness featuring decompression table w/tension machine, body and therapy tables, hydraulic tables, washer and dryer, folding tables, chairs, desks, office supplies, and much more! Auction pick up Jan. 17, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC**, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com.

BIDDING NOW OPEN AND STARTS CLOSING JANUARY 17 - 6 p.m. EST. - Gary Meyer, owner. Online only commercial real estate auction! 1,376 sq. feet building, 2 bay service area, 15'x16' office space, paved parking lot, .46 acre triangle lot located on N. Main Street, (Hwy. 27)! Zoned: Commercial. Year built: 1950. Wabash Township, Section 29, Adams County, Indiana, South Adams School Corp. Auction preview by appointment, 617 N. Main St., Geneva. **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.

- Stetzel Farm LLC. Farm machinery retirement auction. Tractors, planters, harvest equipment, tillage, miscellaneous and farm related, trucks and trailers. Timed online. No reserve. Inspection Jan. 20 and Jan. 29 from noon to 4 p.m., 7204 S 200 E, Warren. Contact Mike Stetzel, 260-450-2370, with equipment questions or to set up an inspection appointment. **Merit Auctions**, www.meritauctions.com, 833-273-9300, auction manager: Zach Hiner, 260-437-2771.

JANUARY 30 - 2 p.m.-6 p.m. ET - Online - Farm: Mann Farm. Property Location: Three miles northwest of Craigville, IN; 1/4 mile south of US 224 along 500 E in Lancaster Township, Wells County. 36.75+/- total acres, 34.5+/- tillable, 2.25+/- non-tillable, high quality farmland. Wells Co. Soil Types: Pewamo silty clay loam, Bount Del-Rey silt loam; WAPI: 140.6 bu. corn, 43.8 bu. soybeans. Additional information, drone flight, photos available at halderman.com. **Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management**, 800-424-2324, Rick Johnloz: 260-827-8181, Neal Wolheter: 260-336-2219.

FEBRUARY 12 - 6 p.m. - Daniel E. Schloss, Elizabeth L. Burchfield (f/k/a Elizabeth L. Schloss), Estate of Meshell L. Schloss. Wells County 4-H Community Center, Bluffton. Online bidding available. 164+/-A offered in 8 Tracts or combination. Productive tillable

Public Notices

90C01-2312-EU-000056
 STATE OF INDIANA)
 WELLS COUNTY)
 IN THE WELLS)
 CIRCUIT COURT)
 IN THE MATTER OF THE)
 ESTATE OF)
 CAMILLA L. IRELAN,)
 Deceased)
NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
 Notice is hereby given that **VICKIE L. BUZZARD** was, on the 28th day of December, 2023, appointed personal representative of the estate of **CAMILLA L. IRELAN**, deceased, who died on October 13, 2023, and was authorized to administer said estate without court supervision.

All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the clerk of this court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, this 28 day of December, 2023.
 Beth Davis
 Clerk, Wells Circuit Court
 Kristin L. Steckbeck
 Attorney No. 27029-02
DALE, HUFFMAN & ABCOCK
 30 Premier A venue
 Bluffton, Indiana 46714
 (260) 824-5566
 Attorney for Estate

nb 1/6, 1/13 hspaxlp

land, professionally designed and stocked pond, recreational woods, newer tree plantings w/conservation grasses, potential country building sites, Huntington County, Salamonie Township. Inspections Jan. 13, 10a.m.-1p.m., Feb. 5, 3-5p.m., call for private showing. Auction managers: Jerry Ehle, 260-410-1996, Steven C. Coil, 260-446-2037, **Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc.**, schraderauction.com, 800-451-2709.

FEBRUARY 13 - 6 p.m. - Keith L. Gilbert estate. Markle Volunteer Fire Department, 150 W. Sparks St., Markle. Property: From Town of Markle, travel northeast on Marzane Road 4 miles. 67.5+/-A offered in 4 tracts or any combination, Wells County, Union Township. Tract 1: 18+/-A w/16.44+/-A tillable. Tract 2: 9.5+/-A w/7.26+/-A tillable. Tract 3: 20+/-A, mostly tillable. Tract 4: 20+/-A, mostly tillable. All tracts have road access! Online bidding available. Inspection: Jan. 16, 4-6 p.m., Feb. 3, 10 a.m.-noon. Auction manager Al Pfister, 260-760-8922, **Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc.**, schraderauction.com, 800-451-2709.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY
 On behalf of the Indiana Department of Transportation, Butler, Fairman and Seufert Inc., 8450 Westfield Boulevard #300, Indianapolis, IN 46240 is submitting a Notice of Intent to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. As required by Construction Stormwater General Permit (CSGP), the Indiana Department of Transportation hereby gives notice of future construction activity falling under the NPDES stormwater general permit rule covering construction. This project includes County Home Road and CR 450 E Realignment from 40°42'45" N 85°08'30" W to 40°43'00" N 85°08'15" W. The project is along County Home Road through Harrison Township in Wells County, IN. Estimated construction time is from Spring 2024, until Fall 2025. Receiving Waters: Sixmile Creek. Des. Number: 1802955. Questions or comments regarding this project should be directed to Sam Haffley at shaffley@bfsengr.com or 317-713-4615.

nb 1/13 hspaxlp

SUDOKU ANSWER

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

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