

## 2024 Chamber Directory

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# The News - Banner

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MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2024

BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

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## A financial aid disagreement in Jefferson Township

### Board discusses urgent financial aid for residents in need

By SYDNEY KENT

Urgent financial aid for residents in Jefferson Township is once again available through the office of the township trustee. However, that assistance did not come without significant strife among the board.

Jefferson Township Trustee Larry Heckber called an emergency meeting earlier this month to request \$12,900 in funds in order to balance the deficit and fund the account. After several hours of conversation — often with great tension between board members and Heckber — the amount was approved.

The board had an apparent disagreement about Heckber's request.

"I want to borrow 50% of our \$25,800 budget for this year," Heckber explained to the board. "That will carry me over until June when I get the settlement money and I can repay the loan."

Jefferson Township board member Tim Baker took issue with this as he did not believe the settlement from the state would amount to the money Heckber referenced. Board member David Haiflich also opposed the resolution for this reason.

"What are you going to use from June to December then?" Haiflich interrupted as Heckber explained. "You'll be out of money again."

Heckber explained that this would depend on community need, and that he could file an



David Haiflich, left, and Larry Heckber discuss matters during a recent meeting of the Jefferson Township board. (Photo by Sydney Kent)

extension if needed. Board member AJ Springer told the board that they would receive the funds from the state either way, however, the timeline of when the money was received was dependent on taxes.

Ultimately, Springer motioned to fund the account in the amount of \$18,000 — enough to cover the deficit and provide \$10,000 in funds for assistance. Haiflich voted against the motion. Baker

could not vote due to his virtual presence, and Heckber was the tie-breaker.

Concerns with Heckber's management assistance funds were repeatedly raised by Haiflich and

Baker. All members believed Heckber should provide a set of guidelines that outlines what types of assistance are available with a maximum amount of the funds provided. Heckber explained that guidelines had been recommended, however, the board did not agree with all of the terms. He also said that he and Springer have an ongoing discussion to make the guidelines final.

Springer attempted to review them at the meeting, but Heckber declined. He requested to wait until he had more information regarding the federal poverty level. Springer agreed. Haiflich, however, continued to explain that the board had the power to use discretion on funds.

"Stop bringing up what I understand," Springer responded. "I don't need to be re-educated. I get it. I understand it."

"Under basic necessities — transportation for employment," Baker said. "I do not think the taxpayer is responsible for hauling people to their job."

Springer explained that under state law, the township is required to assist residents with this need. However, the board can set a maximum amount. Heckber added that he outlined the maximum amount of assistance in the proposed pending guidelines.

"Yeah right," Haiflich said flatly. "A year later, let's get that clear."

Baker also disapproved of providing assistance to residents with mortgage payments. Springer again explained that this was the law. In contradiction, Haiflich and Baker emphasized the wording of the code, which states that

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## Circus caravan catches fire on I-69 near Marion

MARION, Ind. (AP) — A truck hauling zebras and camels for a series of weekend circus performances caught fire early Saturday on a northeastern Indiana highway, prompting a police rescue of the animals, which roamed along the freeway, some munching on grass.

The tractor-trailer caught fire about 2 a.m. along Interstate 69 in Grant County and a state trooper, a Grant County Sheriff's deputy and a third person rescued the five zebras, four camels and a miniature horse by leading them off the smoked-filled trailer, said Sgt. Steven Glass with Indiana State Police.

Both officers were treated at a hospital for smoke inhalation and later released, but none the animals were injured, he said. The truck driver, a 57-year-old Sarasota, Florida, man, was not injured. All northbound lanes of I-69 were closed until about 6:30 a.m. once the area was cleaned up and the animals were taken away by another truck.

The Grant County Sheriff's Office posted photos and videos on Facebook of camels walking on the highway and later standing along its shoulder and its median with zebras and law enforcement officers. The posting included the message, "No harm to our furry friends."

One video shows some of the zebras munching on grass in a surreal scene several miles east of the city of Marion.

"It's not something we see every day," said Deputy Brent Ressett with the Grant County Sheriff's Office.

The truck was bringing the animals from Florida to Fort Wayne for four weekend circus performances in the northeastern Indiana city benefitting the Mizpah Shrine Circus, said Steve Trump, its circus director.

He said the performances are annual fundraisers for the Mizpah Shrine Circus to help pay for the upkeep of the Shrine Center in Fort Wayne to "allow us to use our other

fundraisers for what we're known best for, taking care of kids."

Trump said the truck's crew stopped the vehicle along the highway to check a problem with the vehicle and discovered a fire that quickly spread, threatening the animals in its trailer until they were rescued.

The fire destroyed the truck and a second truck was sent from Fort Wayne to pick up the animals from the highway and bring them to Fort Wayne's Memorial Coliseum to await their roles in the weekend's family-friendly circus performances, he said.

"I was thrilled that things worked out that way," Trump said.

## Poll: Most Americans feel their return on tax bills isn't worth it

By CORA LEWIS and LINLEY SANDERS  
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A majority of taxpayers feel they pay too much in taxes, with many saying that they receive a poor value in return, according to a new poll from the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Two-thirds of U.S. taxpayers say they spend "too much" on federal income taxes, as tax season begins. About 7 in 10 say the same about local property taxes, while roughly 6 in 10 feel that way about state sales tax. Generally speaking, Republicans are more likely than Democrats to view taxes as unfair, to say they are paying too much in taxes, and to see taxes as a poor value.

The poll found that few U.S. adults have a high level of confidence that the institutions that ultimately use their tax dollars — whether the federal government or local school districts — spend those taxes in the best interest of "people like them." But people tend to trust governing bodies closer to home with their tax dollars slightly more: 16% are extremely or very confident in their local school district, compared to 6% for the federal government.

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## Toro! Bullfighting's back in Mexico City

By FABIOLA SÁNCHEZ  
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — With protesters outside a full arena, bullfights resumed in Mexico City on Sunday after the country's highest court temporarily revoked a local ruling that sided with animal rights defenders and suspended the events for more than a year and a half.

The resumption of bullfights in the Plaza México, the largest bullfighting arena in the world, raised expectations of fans in the face of a lengthy legal battle between enthusiasts and opponents, who argue the

practice violates animal welfare and affects people's rights to a healthy environment.

Bullfighting is still allowed in much of Mexico. In the capital, the legal fight for its future is full of twists and turns.

The first bullfighter to enter the ring was the renowned Mexican matador Joselito Adame, with thousands of people cheering the return of "fiesta brava," as bullfighting is also known in Spanish. "Long live freedom," some shouted as the first bull entered an arena jammed with spectators.

Outside, hours before the formal beginning, about 300 people gathered in front of Plaza México to protest against bullfights. Some activists yelled "Murderers!" and "The plaza is going to fall!" while others played drums or stood with signs reading "Bullfighting is sadism."

Police with shields stood by. The protest was mainly peaceful, although there were some moments of tension when some activists threw plastic bottles and stones.

In May 2022, a local court

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## Biden vows response after 3 American deaths

By ZEKE MILLER and LOLITA C. BALDOR  
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — President Joe Biden said Sunday that the

U.S. "shall respond" after three American troops were killed and dozens more were injured in an overnight drone strike in northeast Jordan near the Syrian border. Biden blamed Iran-

backed militias for the first U.S. fatalities after months of strikes by such groups against American forces across the Middle East since the start of the

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### Outside



It's winter, but it may not necessarily feel like it

Today	Tuesday	Wed.
High 40	High 38	High 41
Low 29	Low 33	Low 32

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# Financial aid

(Continued from Page 1)

the township “may” and not that they “shall” provide assistance.

“To the trustee’s discretion,” Heckber emphasized. “You guys don’t deal with these people. If we feel we can get them out of a hole, we will. We had a guy — I told you, if we didn’t help him out he was going to be evicted. He made over \$1,000 on his first paycheck and we’ll never see him again.”

“Have you seen any of the money you gave him?” Baker said.

“No, we can’t ask him to repay that loan,” Heckber responded. “If he offers, that is up to him, but we cannot ask him to repay that money.”

Baker stated that if the person in need had that much money from his check, he could have found another place. Heckber again explained that the person would have been evicted and lost their home without the help.

“You asked me what I thought and I’m telling you,” Baker said.

The person referenced in the meeting was present at a December County

Commissioner meeting. Due to a lack of cooperation from the township board, Heckber was forced to go to the commissioners to overrule the board’s decision to give him, as well as several others, financial aid. The commissioners granted the request as the individuals qualified for assistance. They also reprimanded the board’s inflexibility.

Both Haiflich and Baker continued to present issues in the guidelines, such as providing help with emergency medical assistance. Springer, the newest member to the board, continued to explain the function of the law.

Ultimately, Springer proposed the motion to provide enough funds to cover the deficit and provide \$10,000 in township assistance.

In a conversation following the meeting, Heckber said that this means he may not have enough funds to help residents in the spring. Springer said that he offered less than what was requested in order to ensure the township has enough money until the final payment in December.

“Most likely, we will get more than half of the tax money in June,” Springer said. “This will allow us to pay the loan back and have money left for the rest of the year.”

Springer elaborated that while Jefferson and Harrison townships do not follow a set of guidelines, most other townships function by them. He understood township guidelines as putting a maximum assistance limit in place in order to have enough money to help.

“There has been no limit on how much assistance one person could receive at a time,” Springer summarized. “From personal experience, the state limits how much unemployment benefits you receive at a time and Jefferson Township should be no different when it comes to assistance.”

Springer also offered that he has no issue with providing further aid outside of the maximum guidelines if it is warranted, and that assistance from the township will likely be higher and more available than other areas.

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# Poll: Most Americans

(Continued from Page 1)

Adults who are 60 and older are more likely than younger adults to perceive taxes, generally, as fair.

Chris Berry, a professor at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy who was involved in the creation of the poll, said that, overall, public opinion about taxes and trust in government has declined. He sees the poll results as partly reflecting increased political polarization but says the public has long typically trusted local government more than the federal government.

“One of the things you’ll hear said is, ‘There’s no Democratic or Republican way to collect the trash or pave the streets,’” he said. “We tend to think of local government as less partisan.”

Among those who pay federal income taxes, half say they would prefer having fewer government services if it meant reducing their bill. One-third would keep their taxes the same in exchange for the same ser-

vices, and 16% would opt to increase taxes for more services.

Danny Velasquez, 39, a business manager and Democrat in Boston who answered the poll, said he trusts local government to spend his tax dollars better than the federal government.

Asked how he would prefer his federal tax dollars be spent, Velasquez said the government “spends too much on war-making” and that he’d prefer “national healthcare and investment in education.”

Only about 1 in 4 taxpayers say they get a good value from paying either federal income tax, state sales tax or local property tax. About 1 in 3 in each case say it’s a poor value, and roughly 4 in 10 say the value is neither good nor bad.

According to the poll, most U.S. adults say they find either federal income tax or local property tax “unfair,” and about half say the same about state income tax, sales tax, and the federal Social Security tax.

Loretta Mwangi, 60, a Democrat who lives in Bal-

timore, sees taxes as fair and said she doesn’t have strong criticisms of how the government allocates tax dollars. Mwangi, who suffers from chronic pain after years of working in warehouses and as a security guard, currently lives on disability benefits.

“They’re going by how much you’re making and taking a percentage based on that,” she said. “There could be more support for education and for the homeless — there are a lot of people under the bridges still.”

Relatively few U.S. adults say they understand how the amount they owe is calculated. Only about 2 in 10 U.S. adults say they understand “extremely” or “very well” how amounts are determined for their local property tax. About one-quarter say they grasp the calculations for federal income tax. About 3 in 10 say they comprehend how state sales tax is calculated.

Yoany Mesa, 40, a computer engineer and Republican in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, said he doesn’t view the tax system as “equitable

or transparent.”

He and his wife, Grettel, 34, an auditor for a dental insurance company, said they perceive the federal tax code as full of loopholes, especially for the wealthy.

“There are a lot of things you hear people with money are able to claim — an inside club. I think if certain people have dependents, they should be able to get credits,” Grettel Mesa said. During the pandemic, the couple had received expanded child tax credits, for example, they said, but that policy ended in 2022.

Mesa said she had also previously trusted her local government more to spend their tax dollars, but that their area has recently been experiencing frequent flooding and sewage overflow, which makes her question that budgeting.

“There’s a lot of infrastructure spending that seems to be going by the wayside,” she said. “The money was supposed to go towards fixing the sewage systems — so where is that money going?”

# Biden vows response

(Continued from Page 1)

Israel-Hamas war.

Biden, who was traveling in South Carolina, asked for a moment of silence during an appearance at a Baptist church’s banquet hall.

“We had a tough day last night in the Middle East. We lost three brave souls in an attack on one of our bases,” he said. After the moment of silence, Biden added, “and we shall respond.”

With an increasing risk of military escalation in the region, U.S. officials were working to conclusively identify the precise group responsible for the attack, but they have assessed that one of several Iranian-backed groups was behind it.

Biden said in a written statement that the United States “will hold all those responsible to account at a time and in a manner (of) our choosing.” Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said “we will take all necessary actions to defend the United States, our troops, and our interests.”

Iran-backed fighters in east Syria began evacuating their posts, fearing U.S. airstrikes, according to Omar Abu Layla, a Europe-based activist who heads the Deir Ezzor 24 media outlet. He told The Associated Press that the areas are the strongholds of Mayadeen and Boukamal.

U.S. Central Command said at least 34 troops were injured by the one-way attack drone, with eight flown out of Jordan for follow-up care. It described the

eight as being in stable condition.

The large drone struck a logistics support base in Jordan known as Tower 22. It is along the Syrian border and is used largely by troops involved in the advise-and-assist mission for Jordanian forces.

Central Command said approximately 350 U.S. Army and Air Force personnel were deployed to the base. The three who were killed and most of the wounded were Army soldiers, according to several U.S. officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to give details not yet made public.

The small installation, which Jordan does not publicly disclose, includes U.S. engineering, aviation, logistics and security troops. Austin said the troops were deployed there “to work for the lasting defeat of ISIS.” Three officials said the drone struck near the troops’ sleeping quarters, which they said explained the high casualty count.

The U.S. military base at al-Tanf in Syria is just 12 miles north of Tower 22. The Jordanian installation provides a critical logistical hub for U.S. forces in Syria, including those at al-Tanf, which is near where the borders of Iraq, Syria and Jordan intersect.

In a statement on Jordan’s state-run Petra news agency, the country “condemned the terrorist attack” that targeted the U.S. troops. That report described the drone strike as targeting “an outpost on the

border with Syria” and said it did not wound any Jordanian troops.

“Jordan will continue to counter terrorism and the smuggling of drugs and weapons across the Syrian border into Jordan, and will confront with firmness and determination anyone who attempts to attack the security of the kingdom,” the statement attributed to Muhammad Mubaidin, a government spokesman, said.

U.S. troops long have used Jordan, a kingdom bordering Iraq, Israel, the Palestinian territory of the West Bank, Saudi Arabia and Syria, as a basing point. Some 3,000 American troops typically are stationed across Jordan.

Since the war in Gaza began Oct. 7, Iranian-backed militias have struck American military installations in Iraq more than 60 times and in Syria more than 90 times, with a mix of drones, rockets, mortars and ballistic missiles. The attack Sunday was the first targeting American troops in Jordan during the Israel-Hamas war and the first to result in the loss of American lives. Scores

of U.S. personnel have been wounded, including some with traumatic brain injuries, during the attacks.

The militias have said that their strikes are in retaliation for Washington’s support for Israel in the war in Gaza and that they aim to push U.S. forces out of the region.

The U.S. in recent months has struck targets in Iraq, Syria and Yemen to respond to attacks on American forces in the region and to deter Iran-backed Houthi rebels from continuing to threaten commercial shipping in the Red Sea.

“I am confident the Biden Administration will respond in a deliberate and proportional manner,” said Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., who heads the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Republicans in Congress said the administration’s approach had failed to deter America’s adversaries in the region.

# Weather

Monday, January 29, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:29 p.m. Sunday)

High: 37; Low: 33; Precipitation: 0.40 inches of rain

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 4.94 feet at 11:45 p.m. Sunday

## Wells County forecast

**Today:** Cloudy, with a high near 40. West wind between 6 and 10 mph.

**Tonight:** Cloudy, with a low near 29. Southwest wind up to 25 mph.

**Tuesday:** Chance of freezing rain or snow, with a high near 38. Less than an inch of precipitation expected. Southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph throughout the day.

**Tuesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 33. West wind around 5 mph throughout the night.

**Wednesday:** Cloudy, with a high around 41. North winds, turning to northwest in the afternoon, around 6 mph.

**Wednesday Night:** Cloudy, with a low around 32. Wind to pick up slightly, shifting southwest at about 10 mph.

**Thursday:** Some sun, with a high around 47. Otherwise, cloudy with southwest wind between 10-15 mph.

**Thursday Night:** Cloudy, with a low near 31. Wind shifts west, around 10 mph.

**Friday:** Cloudy, with a high near 39. North wind around 10 mph.

**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low near 24. Northeast wind around 10 mph.

# Toro!

(Continued from Page 1)

ordered an end to bullfighting activities at Plaza México in response to an injunction presented by the civil organization Justicia Justa, which defends human rights. But the activities were set to resume Sunday because the nation’s Supreme Court of Justice in December revoked the suspension while the merits of the case are discussed and a decision is reached on whether bullfights affect animal welfare.

Another civil organization filed an appeal Friday on animal welfare grounds in a last-ditch effort to prevent the activity from resuming. A ruling was not expected before Sunday.

Animal rights groups

have been gaining ground in Mexico in recent years while bullfighting followers have suffered several setbacks. In some states such as Sinaloa, Guerrero, Coahuila, Quintana Roo and the western city of Guadalajara, judicial measures now limit the activity.

Ranchers, businessmen and fans maintain that the ban on bullfights affects their rights and puts at risk several thousand jobs linked to the activity, which they say generates about \$400 million a year in Mexico. The National Association of Fighting Bull Breeders in Mexico estimates that bullfighting is responsible for 80,000 direct jobs and 146,000 indirect jobs.

# Last known victim of Hawaii wildfire ID’d

HONOLULU (AP) — The last of the 100 known victims of the wildfire that destroyed Maui’s historic town of Lahaina in August was identified Friday as a 70-year-old woman whose husband, sister and several other relatives also died in the fire.

Maui police said they identified the victim as Lydia Coloma based on the context of where the remains were found, rather than through DNA or other positive identification methods.

Her husband, along with a sister, brother-in-law, niece and nephew, also died in the fire, said her sister-in-law, Tina Acosta, in Honolulu. Coloma was from the Ilocos Sur province in the Philippines, Acosta said, adding that she didn’t know why the final identification took so long.

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**OBITUARIES**

**Jerry R. Barker, 76**

Jerry R. Barker, 76, of Ossian, passed away Friday, Jan. 26, 2024.

Jerry was born June 25, 1947, in Fort Wayne, a son of Dwight and Helen Kuhn Barker. He was a 1965 graduate of Elmhurst High School in Fort Wayne. He served in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1968 during the Vietnam War.

For more than 40 years, he was the active owner of Barker Landscaping Inc. He was a member of the Lancaster Chapel United Methodist Church in rural Craigville. In his free time, he enjoyed playing golf, watching the Chicago Bears, and drinking a Pepsi.

Jerry will be fondly remembered as living life to the fullest and touching the lives of the people he had the opportunity of meeting. He was definitely a family man and always made them his priority.

Surviving family members include his wife, Bev Barker; a daughter, Tana (Bob) Rossi; a son, Travis (Kim) Barker; four



grandchildren, Madison (Devin Minier) Rossi, Keaton Rossi, Triston Barker, and River Barker; his mother-in-law, Arnola Emerick; and two sisters, Beverly Dennison and Janet Herbst.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his father-in-law, Bob Emerick.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31, at the Greenlawn Funeral Home, 6750 Covington Road in Fort Wayne, with visitation one hour prior. The funeral service will be streamed live on the funeral home's Facebook page. Visitation will also be from 1 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 30, at the funeral home.

Burial will be in the Greenlawn Memorial Park in Fort Wayne.

Memorials may be made to Lancaster Chapel United Methodist Church or Stillwater Hospice for their Veterans Program. Condolences and memories may be left online at [www.greenlawnmpfh.com](http://www.greenlawnmpfh.com)

**Joanne Miller, 97**

Joanne Miller, 97, formerly of 911 W. Washington St. in Bluffton, passed away Friday, Jan. 26, 2024, at Evergreen Village in Fort Wayne.

Joanne was born Aug. 21, 1926, in Bluffton, to Lloyd and E. Olive French Worman; both parents preceded her in death. She married George W. Miller Aug. 21, 1948, in Bluffton; he preceded her in death May 25, 1988.

Joanne graduated from Bluffton High School in 1944. She worked as a seamstress for Masterson's Men's Wear, as a teacher's aid with Bluffton schools, and was a devoted wife and mother.

Joanne worked at GE during World War II as a draftsman. She was a member of the 1st Reformed Church of Bluffton and Eastern Star, as well as being active in the local PTA.

She enjoyed sewing, pencil and charcoal drawing, reading, gardening and tending to her plants as well as traveling to see family in Seattle, Nebraska, Texas, and Illinois. Joanne and George loved opening their house to their grandchildren that lived locally.



Survivors include her children, Athena (John) McCollum of Manhattan, Ill., Marta (David) Busken of Peru, Ill., Tim (Diane) Miller of Fort Wayne, Stan (Mert) Miller of Pickrell, Neb., and Anthony (Hai) Miller of Columbia City. She is also survived by nine grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by one granddaughter, Tonya Lightner; three brothers, Robert, Paul and Leroy Worman; and one sister, Margaret Gregg.

Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31, at the Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton, followed immediately by a funeral service at 7 p.m. Dr. Bryson Gene Bell will officiate. A private family burial will take place at Fairview Cemetery in Bluffton at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made in Joanne's memory to the 1st Reformed Church in Bluffton.

Online condolences can be made at [www.goodwincaleharnish.com](http://www.goodwincaleharnish.com)

**Harold D. Arnold, 90**

Harold D. Arnold, 90, of Bluffton, died Sunday morning, Jan. 28, 2024, at the Christian Care Retirement Community in Bluffton.

Funeral arrangements are pending with the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

**Kathleen A. Kijak, 67**

Kathleen A. "Kate" Kijak, 67, of rural Ossian, died Friday evening, Jan. 27, 2024, at her residence.

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

**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.

**Wells Court Docket**

Christen Ford, 25, Bluffton, was sentenced to 545 days in the Indiana Department of Corrections with 425 days suspended and two days. The sentence was issued after Ford pled guilty to one count of possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony. Ford was also ordered to serve 423 days on probation and pay court costs and filing fees in the amount of 1,029.

for a bail review hearing last week. The request was denied. In Dec. of 2022, Karbach was charged with theft, a Level 6 felony. Bond remains set at \$50,000. A change of plea hearing is scheduled for 1 p.m. Feb. 6 in the Wells Superior Court.

Jeremy Roland, 45, Warren, was scheduled for hearing for a motion to reinstate his bond on Thursday. Due to the state having just received the motion, it was denied. In June, Roland was charged with domestic

battery, a Class A Misdemeanor. On Jan. 3, the victim named in the no contact order against Voland in the domestic battery case reported that he spray painted vulgar words on her street. He also reportedly sent threatening messages. He was charged with invasion of privacy, a Class A misdemeanor, and criminal mischief, a Class B misdemeanor. Voland is scheduled for an addition bail revocation hearing at 10:30 a.m. Feb. 5 in the Wells Superior Court.

**IDOE chief says schools have enough funds for required literacy programs**

By CASEY SMITH  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Will Hoosier schools have the funds to put in place new literacy mandates proposed by state lawmakers? Indiana Secretary of Education Katie Jenner on Thursday maintained they do — at least for now.

She said the Indiana Department of Education has enough holdover dollars to roll out additional reading tests and expanded summer school options laid out in Senate Bill 1, which is currently under consideration at the Statehouse.

But in the 2025 budget session, more state funds are expected to be requested.

"If you look at our longitudinal data, we can absolutely get back — we will. Literacy is one of the most solvable problems in our society today. We have the science, we have the practice, we can solve this," Jenner told the Senate Appropriations Committee. "For our adults who are illiterate, what we are paying as a society — the impacts on the economy, the impacts on, most importantly, the individual — that far surpasses the cost that we will pay if we will make sure children are reading before leaving third grade, and certainly before they leave high school."

Senators on the committee approved the bill in an 8-3 party line vote, sending it to the full chamber.

Democrats have declined to support the measure mostly due to concerns over a provision that could result in holding thousands more third-graders back a year in school.

"I don't think the bill is strategic," said Sen. Fady Qaddoura, D-Indianapolis. "I think it continues to go down the path of bills that dance around the edges of tackling the problem."

Paramount to the bill, authored by Sen. Linda Rogers, R-Granger, are provisions to require IREAD testing to begin a year earlier, in second grade, and allow those who pass at that stage to be exempt from taking the test again in the future.

Students who do not pass must receive targeted support during third grade to help them improve their reading skills. After a full year of remediation — and three chances to take the IREAD test — lawmakers want schools to retain students who do not pass the test by the end of third grade.

Rogers' bill further requires IDOE to adopt a universal assessment to better identify and intervene with struggling students before third grade.

Lawmakers appropriated roughly \$28 million in the current biennium for remediation testing, allowing schools to administer exams that help identify students who are struggling in certain

subject areas and could use additional support.

Already, 224,000 students in kindergarten, first and second grades take those "reader screening assessments" each year, Jenner said. Under the bill, that number is expected to increase by just 10,000 to 20,000 students.

"Worst case scenario, we'd be looking at \$116,000," Jenner said, adding that IDOE can "absorb" that cost, if need be.

Jenner said the IREAD requirement for all second graders also shouldn't require additional dollars. Around 60% of Hoosier schools are already testing students early.

This academic year, 947 out of 1,052 elementary schools opted to give second graders the standardized reading exam. About 45% of those early testers are passing at second grade, Jenner said.

Scaling IREAD to second graders statewide is estimated to cost about \$92,000. Jenner said IDOE can absorb that expense, too.

The GOP-backed legislation additionally mandates summer school to be offered to students who are not reading proficient in third grade — or are at-risk second graders behind in literacy. Language in the bill does not require students to actually attend or participate in summer school, however.

Existing funding for summer school — equal to about \$18.4 million per year under the current state budget — is mostly going toward students taking physical education and health courses in the summer, Jenner said. A small portion of summer school funds, about 4%, also support high school Algebra.

"Within Senate Bill 1, we want to prioritize that summer school funding, and then we'll be able to make sure our students who are not reading get that," Jenner said. She reiterated that, for now, IDOE can "better leverage" those existing summer school dollars.

An amendment to the literacy overhaul bill — offered by Sen. Aaron Freeman, R-Indianapolis, and subsequently accepted by the committee — ensures that summer school courses related to reading remediation are based on the science of reading.

That aligns with a requirement passed by the

General Assembly in the 2023 session, mandating the reading method in statewide literacy curriculum.

"We did tremendous work last year on getting junk science out of schools, and what doesn't work, and teaching kids how to read, and getting the science of reading in schools so that kids learn how to read," Freeman said. "My intention here is just to make sure that anything we use — any remediation program — is aligned with the science of reading."

Even so, Terry Spradlin, executive director of the Indiana School Boards Association, said his group representing all 290 school corporations across the state supports mandatory summer school attendance for children who are not proficient in reading. He said doing so could help prevent some students from being retained.

Test data show that in 2023, 13,840 third-graders did not pass IREAD. Of those, 5,503 received an exemption and 8,337 did not. Of those without an exemption, 95% moved onto 4th grade while only 412 were retained.

A legislative fiscal analysis estimated that nearly 7,100 more students would repeat third grade in 2026 under Rogers' bill. Eventually, that would increase state spending by up to \$57 million per year.

Qaddoura recommended the retention mandate's effect date should be delayed until the 2025-26 school year, when all Hoosier teachers are supposed to be trained up on science of reading instruction.

He also questioned if "there's a better investment," separate from retention.

The senator suggested, for example, increased funding for student reading programs, as well as literacy interventions that take place outside of regular school hours.

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## Emergency powers debate is short-sighted and repetitive

It was like 2021 all over again in the Senate Tuesday.

Senators made the same arguments about the emergency powers used by the executive branch during COVID-19. Again. And they passed a measure that was rejected by the General Assembly three years ago.

The residual resentment over those months in 2020 is as strong as ever in the Republican Senate, which approved a 30-day limit for future disaster declarations. There is one 30-day renewal to receive federal funding only.

After that, the full General Assembly would have to convene and make decisions.

It's all about the disaster declaration Gov. Eric Holcomb issued in late March 2020. It started with a two-week stay-at-home order. Some businesses shut their doors and never opened them again. Thousands of people statewide were laid off. Schools closed down.

It was not an easy time for anyone.

But if we are going to look back, let's do so with the proper perspective. It's easy now to say it was all an over-reaction. But I remember what it was like then, the fear of this new unknown virus that was killing our Hoosier neighbors.

We didn't know what we didn't know then.

The state gradually reopened starting May 1, allowing more businesses to operate with slowly increasing capacities. As cases rose and more people died, Holcomb issued a mask mandate in July. The restrictions fell away by the end of September.

During that time, lawmakers were not in session. Reporters repeatedly asked Holcomb and GOP legislative leaders if a special session was needed. They said no.

Sen. Chris Garten, R-Charlestown, wants to make sure an extended emergency can never happen again without legislative involvement.

The irony is that lawmakers went back into session in 2021 and 2022 and could have ended the lingering public health emergency provisions. Numerous resolutions that would have ended the emergency with just two votes languished and weren't moved by the Republican supermajority.

Let me repeat that: they were in the building and could act but didn't.

The declaration continued until March 2022 — allowing Indiana access to pandemic-related federal funds and other program flexibilities.

During that 2021 session, lawmakers angry over the mask mandate and closures pushed to curb executive power. In fact, the Senate considered a 60-day cap on such orders in then-Senate Bill 407 — and decided it was not the right path.

Many Hoosiers say Holcomb abused his power, but the fact is that he was using power expressly given to him in statute by legislators. I don't have a problem with them deciding to create some limitations.

I could see, for instance, a 90-day maximum before legislative involvement. But 30 days is simply too short. And here is why.

This law impacts far more than public health emergencies like COVID-19. Here is a list of possible disasters the law covers:

- Fire.
- Flood.
- Earthquake.
- Windstorm.
- Snowstorm.
- Ice storm.
- Tornado.
- Wave action.
- Oil spill.
- Other water contamination requiring emergency action to avert danger or damage.
- Air contamination.
- Drought.
- Explosion.
- Technological emergency.
- Utility failure.
- Critical shortages of essential fuels or energy.
- Major transportation accident.
- Hazardous material or chemical incident.
- Radiological incident.
- Nuclear incident.
- Biological incident.
- Epidemic.
- Public health emergency.
- Animal disease event requiring emergency action.
- Blight.
- Infestation.
- Riot.
- Hostile military or paramilitary action.
- Act of terrorism.

The fact is that there are situations in which getting 150 legislators to the state capitol hours from their homes might not be possible or advisable: terrorist attacks, war, nuclear meltdowns, riots to name a few.

Or, God forbid, a truly horrific bio-threat that doesn't even exist yet.

And even if you can get them there and get a quorum, are they going to be able to coalesce around necessary moves that quickly? During COVID-19 there was clear dissension among Republicans and a special session could have just mired the state in inaction.

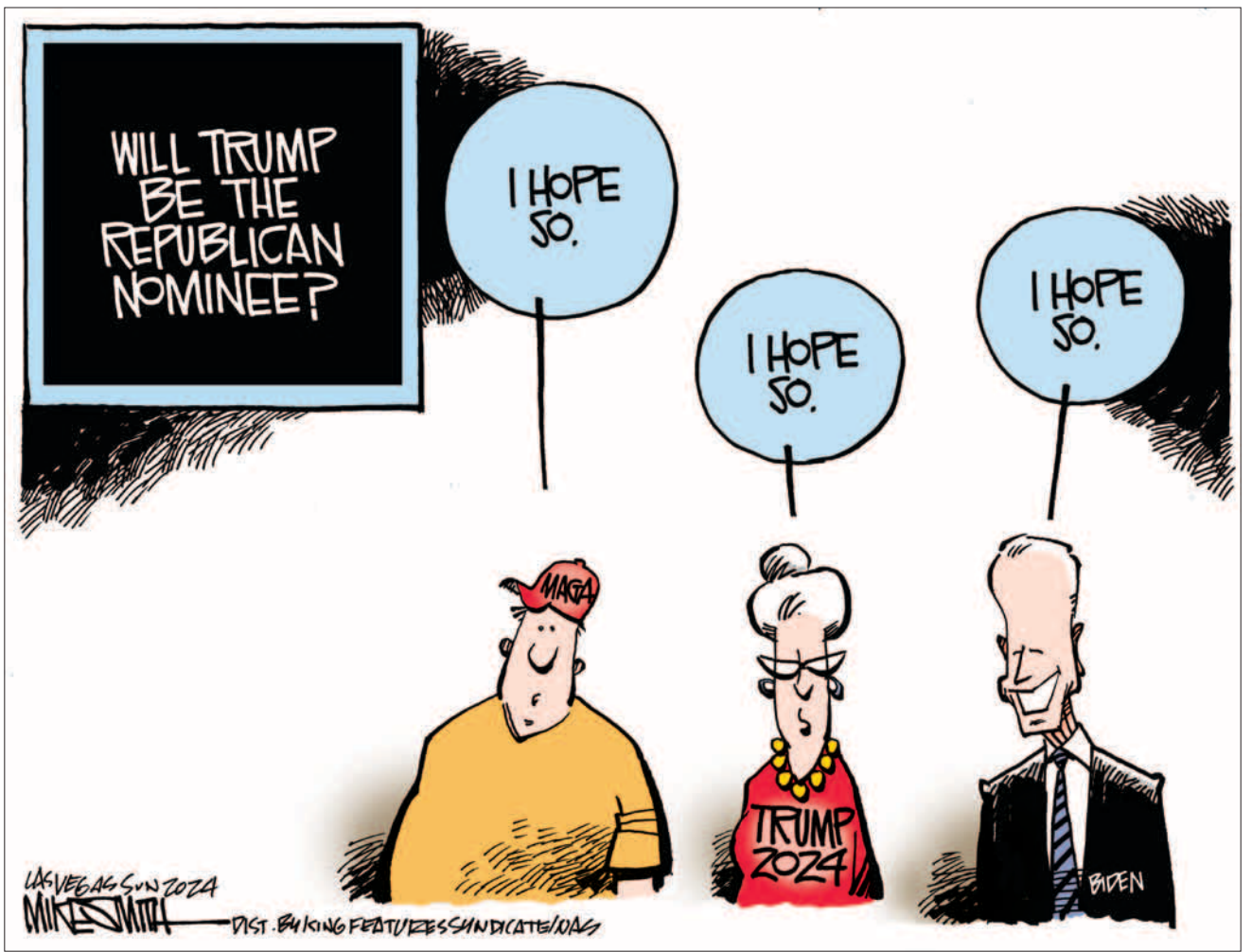
Some reduction in scope is due but let's think through what a 30-day limitation truly means before acting on the fear and anger of the past.

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



Niki Kelly

## Hoosier Opinions



## Biden, Trump and Shawn Fain's UAW

A year after U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly played an advocacy role with President Obama in preventing the collapse of General Motors and Chrysler, he ended up at a plant gate in the final days of his 2010 reelection bid.

Donnelly found that some UAW workers at the Chrysler plant wouldn't look him in the eye. Some would vote Republican on the issue of guns or abortion. "One guy at the gate said, 'I love you, Joe, I'm not voting for ya, but I love ya.'" Donnelly laughed. "And I said, 'This could be a rough Tuesday.'"

Donnelly narrowly won, but the unmistakable trend was the UAW constituency trending Republican.

Ten years later, in the 2020 election, Republican Donald Trump carried Howard County (home to GM and Stellantis plants in Kokomo) with 65% of the vote to President Biden's 33%, up from 63% in 2016. In Allen County (GM at Fort Wayne), in 2020, it was Trump 55%-43% over Biden. In Lawrence County (GM at Bedford), Trump carried it with 74%. In Grant County (GM at Marion), Trump won with 68%.

That political battle continued played out in the 2024 presidential race this past week. UAW President Shawn Fain, who began his career as an electrician at the Chrysler Kokomo Casting Plant, endorsed President Biden for reelection. It was a nod that had been coveted by Trump, the probable Republican nominee after his caucus and primary wins in Iowa and New Hampshire.

"In 2008, 2009, the economic recession, Donald Trump blamed the workers for what was wrong with these companies," Fain said on Wednesday. "In 2015, he talked about doing a rotation of good-paying jobs in the Midwest, somewhere where they pay less and have people begging for their jobs back at lower wages. In '19, when Volkswagen workers voted to organize, he put an LRB (Labor Relations Board) in place that killed the contract for those workers. He told workers at Lordstown Assembly Plant, which was closing, 'Don't sell your houses,' and then he did nothing to support them."

Fain pointed out that last year Biden went to Belvidere, Ill., when the Stellantis plant was scheduled to close. "He stood with those workers," Fain said. "He helped us save a community, and helped bring not one plant but two plants back to life."

U.S. Rep. Jim Banks, the Republican who has done more to shift the GOP away from the Wall Street/county club set to a more blue collar base, tweeted on Wednesday, "More proof big union bosses don't represent their rank and file members well; who will overwhelmingly vote for Donald Trump."

As chair of the U.S. House Republican Study Committee, Banks oversaw the forging of a memo seeking that political realignment. "President Trump gave the Republican Party a political gift: We are now the party supported by most working-class voters. The question is whether Republicans reject that gift or unwrap it and

permanently become the Party of the Working Class."

Banks observed both parties "are undergoing coalitional transformations."

Fain was a UAW insurgent, taking control of the union in March 2021. He then led the UAW on a risky confrontation strategy with Ford, GM and Stellantis last autumn, resulting in a six-week strike. When the dust settled, the agreement brought UAW rank and file an immediate 11% raise, 14% more through 2028, while ending the wage tier system for newer workers.

"I thought it was a grand slam," Art Wheaton, director of labor studies at Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations told CNN Business. "They got massive increases for newer workers. For the existing workforce it was extremely good, better than I would have imagined."

Fain is now targeting non-union auto plants at Honda, Toyota, Subaru, Volkswagen, BMW and Mercedes. "This is a movement from the [nonunion] workers, not the UAW," Fain said in December.

Fain addressed Trump saying, "Donald Trump is a scab. Donald Trump is a billionaire and that is who he represents. If Donald Trump ever worked in an auto plant, he wouldn't be a UAW member, he would be a company man trying to squeeze the American worker."

Last September, with Michigan and Wisconsin hanging in the balance of their coming 2024 rematch, President Biden and Donald Trump made overt plays for UAW support. Biden joined a UAW picket line in Belleville near Detroit. "We saved them; it's about time for them to step up for us. Wall Street didn't build the country. The middle class built the country, and unions built the middle class."

Trump campaigned at Drake Enterprises, a non-union auto parts plant north of Detroit a day later. "Your head man, Shawn, he's a good man," Trump said, apparently not understanding there were only a handful of UAW members in the crowd. "But he's got to endorse Trump. I will not allow, under any circumstances, the American auto industry to die. I want it to thrive. Get your union leaders to endorse me, and I'll take care of the rest."

Trump criticized Biden's advocacy for electric vehicles, saying the Democrat was "waging war on the U.S. auto industry" through crippling green "mandates."

In 1953, General Motors CEO Charles Wilson famously said, "As GM goes, so goes the nation."

In a Biden-Trump rematch, that could be rephrased: "As UAW goes, as Michigan goes ...."

*Brian Howey is senior writer and columnist for Howey Politics IndianaState Affairs. Find Howey on Facebook and X @hwypol.*



Brian Howey

## Politicking

## John Fetterman cracks the code

John Fetterman, as someone put it, is doing a Bulworth in reverse.

Bulworth was a fictional California senator in the 1990s movie of the same name who suddenly abandoned his establishment politics for an outspoken leftism, and all ended happily ever after.

Fetterman is the real Pennsylvania senator who has suddenly modulated his leftist politics, outraging his former supporters and pleasing his former critics.

The senator is demonstrating how -- through theatrical dissent from a few fashionable left-wing causes and strategic rebranding -- it's possible to create a Democratic politics shorn of some of its dumbest, most unnecessary cultural vulnerabilities.

Fetterman has distanced himself from the excesses of the left on a couple of key things and done it with a devil-may-care verve that has drawn added attention and underlined his independence.

He has had, to use the term from the Clinton years, some Sister Souljah moments. One of the advantages of such a moment is that, when done correctly, it generates benefits out of all proportion to the significance of the underlying issue. (The term derives from Bill Clinton criticizing a pro-riot statement by a not-very-important rapper.)

That's not to say that the Israel-Gaza war or the border -- the two substantive issues where Fetterman



Rich Lowry

has gone his own way -- aren't important. But how much is Fetterman really giving away ideologically by robustly favoring Israel in a war with a terrorist group or acknowledging the crisis at the border?

You can still favor Medicare for All while saying Israel should finish the job against Hamas, and you can still support a \$15 minimum wage while saying we should get a better handle on the border.

Similarly, it doesn't cost Fetterman anything to say that Bob Menendez of New Jersey, indicted for corruption, is a disgrace who doesn't belong in the Senate. It's not as though Fetterman is the Senate majority leader.

Fetterman, though, has made his points in pungent, showy ways that gives them more resonance. He says he's going to return a \$5,000 donation from Menendez's PAC in envelopes of cash. He puts up posters of Israeli kidnap victims on his office walls. He irreverently shuts down an anti-Israel heckler.

Fetterman isn't really departing from Democratic orthodoxy per se. Other Democrats are pro-Israel and anti-Menendez, while the party didn't used to be as committed to a de facto open border as Biden has been. What he's doing is declaring his independence from the radicalism of the Left and from the progressive brand. Now, after proudly declaring himself a progressive for years, he says he's never been one.

Fetterman is also triggering the right people. Earning the contempt of angry and childish pro-Hamas protestors helpfully pushes Fetterman's image to the center.

The new Fetterman is a throwback to an earlier version of Bernie Sanders who represented a non-woke socialism. Not too long ago, Sanders was willing to say that unchecked immigration wouldn't serve the interests of the United States.

Another benefit of Fetterman's high-profile acts of heterodoxy is that it puts him on the popular side of these issues. According to a recent Quinnipiac poll, 26% of voters think more favorably of Fetterman for expressing strong support for Israel, whereas 14% say this makes them think less favorably of him. On the border, people favor his position 35-9.

In sum, Fetterman is pointing to a different path for the Democrats, where the party doesn't have to cater to its left and, in fact, can pivot off of it to appear more reasonable.

Make no mistake, Fetterman will use whatever additional credibility he earns with his new tack to try to help President Joe Biden win Pennsylvania in November. He's still a progressive in all but self-description. Yet he's probably going to be more popular and harder to beat, and definitely more interesting.

Democrats should pay attention, although they probably won't -- ensuring that Fetterman has lots of running room to brand himself as a different kind of Democrat.

*Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry*

## The News-Banner

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# What's happening at the Wells County Public Library

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

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

### Sign up for Story Sessions

Online at [wellscollibrary.org](http://wellscollibrary.org) or at the Main Library or Ossian Branch

Signup is going on now for the following Story Sessions. Sessions start in February.

- Wee Read at the Main Library (ages birth to 24 months, with adult) – Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.
- Toddler Time at the Main Library (ages 2 to 3, with adult) – Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., Wednesdays at 9:45 a.m. or Thursdays at 9:45 a.m.
- Story Hour at the Main Library (ages 4 to 6) – Wednesdays or Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.
- Wee Read at the Ossian Branch (ages birth to 30 months, with adult) – Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.
- Storytime at the Ossian Branch (ages 2 ½ to Pre-K) – Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

### Polymer Clay Pendants: Try It Night

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, Jan. 29 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Adults and teens. Try your hand at creating a necklace pendant out of polymer clay. Registration required. Space is limited.

### LEGO Drop-in at Ossian

At the Ossian Branch Library: Tuesday, Jan. 30: 4 to 7 p.m.

Grades K-6. Create LEGO masterpieces using the library's blocks during this drop-in event. No registration needed.

### Teen Advisory Board

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Wednesday, Jan. 31 from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m.

Grades 6-12. Do you wish you had a say in Teen Programming at the Library? Do you

need volunteer credit? Join the Teen Advisory Board! You don't need to sign up—just show up for the TAB meetings on the last Wednesday of each month.

### Reading Through a Winter Wonderland - Winter Reading

During the month of February, sign up at the library, online at [wellscollibrary.org](http://wellscollibrary.org), or via the READSquared app to participate in our Winter Reading challenge. Read just 300 pages for the month and get a coupon for a free Personal Pan Pizza from Pizza Hut and a chance to win a prize basket. Participate in a Wonderland Bonus for extra entries in the gift basket drawings. All pages read will count towards our community goal. The more pages read, the more books we donate to Kate's Kart, which gives books to hospitalized children at Bluffton Regional Medical Center. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library and Pizza Hut.

### Genealogy/Local History Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, Feb. 1 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Ages 12+. Members help each other learn new things and obtain a greater appreciation for local history and genealogy research. Bring your own laptop or share one of ours. Registration appreciated.

### Bingo with Jason

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, Feb. 5 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Adults. Enjoy a lively game of Bingo for a chance to win a candy bar with everyone's favorite librarian named Jason! Registration required.

### Teen Gaming Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, Feb. 5 from 6 to 7 p.m.

Grades 6-12. Enjoy a variety of different games each month, including video games, trading card games, and board games. No registration needed.

### Friends of the Library Book Sale

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Feb. 6-10.

Purchase used books, movies, audio books, DVDs, puzzles, and lots more. A sale

open to the Friends of the Library members only will be Tuesday, Feb. 6 from 5 to 8 p.m. Memberships will be available for purchase at the door. Then the sale is open to the public during regular library hours from Feb. 7 through 10.

### Cooking Basics by the Book at Ossian

At the Ossian Branch Library: Tuesday, Feb. 6 from 6 to 7 p.m.

Adults. Join us as we focus on a different cookbook each month and make an easy recipe to taste. This month will be Valentine Mini Cakes. Registration required.

### Children's Book Clubs

At the Main Library (Bluffton)

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

Grades 3-4 Book Club: Tuesday, Feb. 13 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Grades 5-6 Book Club: Thursday, Feb. 8 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

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

### Teen Fun with Food at Ossian

At the Ossian Branch Library: Thursday, Feb. 8 from 3 to 4 p.m.

Grades 6-12. Get hands-on experience with treats dipped in chocolate. Registration appreciated.

### Book Discussion: "Where the Crawdads Sing"

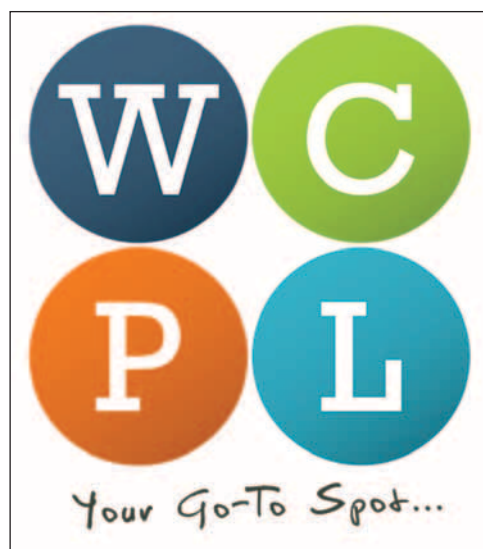
At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, Feb. 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Adults. Pick up a copy of the book-of-the-month at the library before the discussion each month. This month's book for discussion is "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens. Registration appreciated.

### Teen Book Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, Feb. 8 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Grades 6-12. Join us as we discuss the book-of-the-month, which is "Masterminds" by Gordon Korman and then enjoy an activity featuring Minute to Win It games. Pick up



a copy of the book when you register at the library.

### Mini Golf Fundraiser

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Friday, Feb. 23 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 24 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Wells County Public Library is hosting our 2nd annual library Mini Golf Fundraiser. There will be 18 holes of mini golf set up throughout the first floor of the library. Stop by at the times listed above and for a small fee, you'll get to play a fun round of mini golf, while helping the library raise funds for the Friends of the Library, which help support and fund library programs for children, teens, and adults. You can purchase tickets for \$5 each or if you pre-purchase 4 or more tickets that library before the event, they will be \$4 per person. The library is also seeking sponsorships for the event. If your business or organization is interested, please contact Emily Marshall at [emarshall@wellscollibrary.org](mailto:emarshall@wellscollibrary.org) or 260-824-1612.

### Library Hours

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

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

Access the library online at [www.wellscollibrary.org](http://www.wellscollibrary.org) for digital books, magazines, online databases, event info, and more.

# Zanesville News

by Melba Edwards

Upward Basketball is happening at the Tower Life Center Church gymnasium every Saturday. You are welcome to attend and watch future players get their start. There will be cheerleaders also plus breakfast and lunch food.

Our condolences to the

family, friends, and students of Evelyn Archbold Brewer who passed away on Jan. 11 at Kingston in Fort Wayne. Mrs. Brewer, as we knew her, worked in the lab at Wells Community Hospital when our son Doug was having to have lots of care with his

diabetes. She then was a favorite teacher for some of our kids when they were transferred from Union to Rockcreek. She will be long remembered as she was a wonderful woman. She was 94 years old at the time of her death.

### Community Harvest Farm Wagon

The Community Harvest Farm Wagon visits Life Community Church every Tuesday at 9 a.m. to give FREE fresh food to needy families. The church address is 428 S. Oak St. in Bluffton. Enter the parking lot at the south entrance off of Oak Street and park facing North.

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## Young workers and retirement savings

Young adults newly introduced to the professional arena may not immediately be thinking of the future when their careers will come to a close. Retirement may seem like a distant goal when it's 50 years or more away. However, pushing off retirement savings because it is not viewed as a necessity could turn out to be a significant mistake.

According to Mass Mutual, the economic disruption caused by the global pandemic pushed retirement to the bottom of many workers' lists of financial priorities. That was especially so among young professionals. A 2019 survey found roughly half of millennial and Generation Z professionals believe they are not saving enough for retirement. Student loan burdens are another reason why certain people may delay saving for retirement until they are older.

Young workers need to get the facts about retirement. For example, The U.S. Social Security Administration says that people now pay into the Social Security Trust funds that used to pay benefits to current beneficiaries, not

future ones. The Board of Trustees estimates that, in 2041, and based on current law, the Trust Funds will be depleted since people are living longer and the birth rate is low. The taxes being paid now will not be enough to pay the full benefit amounts scheduled for future retirees.

Young people can no longer rely on Social Security benefits to finance their retirements in the United States. Rather, young workers need to be proactive and take control of their own retirement savings.

- Experts advise following the general rule of saving 10 percent to 12 percent of your salary when you are in your 20s, including factoring in any employer match.

- Working for companies that offer defined-contribution plans like a 401(k) or 403(b) can make it easier for young professionals to begin saving for retirement.

- Setting aside a portion of your income early on in retirement savings ensures more years of savings and investments will benefit from decades of compounding.

- Those who contribute to a retirement plan

may receive an immediate tax break because the contributions come out of paychecks before taxes are withheld. Many of these plans also offer the advantage of tax-deferred growth. This translates to not being required to pay taxes each year on capital gains, dividends or other yield distributions if the money is not withdrawn before age 59½. Speak with a financial advisor to learn more about tax-advantaged accounts.

- T. Rowe Price says there are certain benchmarks that can help people save enough money for retirement. By age 30, you should have .5 times the



amount of your salary. At age 35, that amount should increase to 1.5 times your salary. These numbers are based on an assumed retirement age of 65 and with a household income growth of 5 percent until age 45 and 3 percent thereafter.

- According to research from Qualtrics, young workers don't plan on working until they can receive full benefits from Social Security. Twenty-four percent plan to retire early, and 41 percent want to do so by the time they turn 50. That could spark

more ambition among younger generations to save for retirement and to save more aggressively.

Even if retirement is many years in the future, young workers need to start saving for retirement early on to be able to retire comfortably.

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# A 26-point 3rd quarter lifts Raiders to 3rd straight win

**By RYAN WALKER PONETO** — For at least one half, it looked like Southern Wells was going to have to scratch and claw its way for a victory, but a 35-10 second half put that to rest quickly.

In one of their most impressive quarters of the season, the Raiders' (5-10) third quarter explosion lifted them to three-straight wins in a 50-30 final score over Lakeland Christian (1-13).

The first half was the exact opposite for the home team, shooting a less-than-stellar 6-20 from the floor and only 15 points by half-time. Cougars 6'4" big man Micah Martin splashed all three of his triples and produced 16 of his team's 20-15 edge at the half.

The Raiders took the halftime speech and adjustments from their coaching staff to switch from zone to man-to-man and get a body on Martin at all times. They got help in the paint as he struggled to find any space, and got his pocket picked multiple times in the third quarter.

Turnovers turned to transition points, and Chandler Oswald picked up his own trio of threes in the quarter that aided the 26-point quarter. That was the most since its 29-point third quarter in a win over Randolph Southern in the Union City Holiday Tournament in December.

"I think it was a mindset," Southern Wells head coach Joel Roush said of

the second-half adjustments. "We've been playing quite a bit of a zone because we needed to against the teams we've been playing. We switched back to (man-to-man) in the second half and were able to turn them over and get some easy baskets, and the basket gets better when you see some shots go through, and that was really important."

The sudden surge of offense began with CJ Reber's bucket right away out of the locker room. Then Perrin Gates grabbed an offensive board to put back for two that set up Oswald and Evan Pennington's back-to-back threes.

The 10-0 run forced an early timeout by Lakeland Christian head coach Taylor Long not even three minutes into the half to make it 25-22 Raiders, but there was more.

Gates and Oswald traded baskets after the timeout and kept the crowd alive.

After scoring 23 points, Oswald sunk a three near the far corner at half-court as the horn sounded to put the cherry on top. The Raider Dome went bonkers.

"It boosts the energy. The crowd gets excited," Roush said. "The kids get excited, and in the overall scheme of things, it's three points, but for us, three points are important. It doesn't matter where they come from. I'm not going to lie; as soon as he shot it, I said, 'He made that.' It just looked good the whole way."

The defense also showed out in the second half, not allowing Martin any space, and went 1-6 with no free throws in the final two periods. The Cougars scored only 10 points to Southern Wells' 35.

This third win in a row for the Raiders hasn't come easy by any means. The team ground out a win over South Adams the night prior on the road. The first victory of the streak over Muncie Burris was a 5-point game in the second half before pulling away 58-42.

Roush has been pleased during the stretch with his team's ability to find a way to win the game and gut them out.

"I think it's just our grit," Roush said. "We had every chance to fold against South Adams and didn't. We had every chance to fold against Burris and didn't. And we could have held our heads at halftime and say, 'Oh, here we go again,' and we didn't. We gritted our teeth and were able to have some success, and that's really a feather in the cap of our guys."

Oswald led the team with 19 points, three ahead of Marin. Pennington finished with nine, Gates eight and Reber seven.

Southern Wells will play next at Jay County for a 7:30 tipoff on Thursday, Feb. 1.

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**SOUTHERN WELLS 50, LAKELAND CHRISTIAN 30**  
At Southern Wells



Southern Wells guard Andrew Aker (right) swipes Lakeland Christian's Josiah Rice during Saturday night's game at the Raider Dome. The Raiders tightened up their defense in the second half and held the Cougars to just 10 points during that span to win 50-30. (Photos by Ryan Walker)

**LAKELAND CHRISTIAN (1-13):** Micah Martin 5-11 5-6 18, Josiah Rice 5-12 2-6 12, Aaron Gause 0-3 0-0 0, Jaden Moneyheffer 0-1 0-0 0, Zaiden Miller 0-1 0-0 0, Ethan Gaff 0-0 0-0 0, Isaiah Stahl 0-1 0-0 0, Kolton Shepard 0-1 0-0 0. TOTALS: 10-29 8-13 30.

**SOUTHERN WELLS (5-10):** Chandler Oswald 7-17 0-0 19, Evan Pennington 4-6 0-0 9, Perrin Gates

3-4 2-2 8, CJ Reber 3-7 0-0 7, Caleb Johnson 1-3 0-0 3, Joshua Aulbach 1-2 0-0 2, Landon Johnson 1-3 0-0 2, Andrew Aker 0-4 0-0 0, Trey Slusher 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 20-46 2-2 50.

**L. Christian 8 12 5 5 — 30**

**S. Wells 8 7 26 9 — 50**

**Three-Point Field Goals:** Lakeland Christian: 3-6 (Martin 3-5 Gause 0-1), Southern Wells: 8-22 (Oswald 5-12, C. Johnson 1-2, Pennington

1-1, Reber 1-3, Aker 0-3, L. Johnson 0-1). Rebounds: Lakeland Christian: 20 (Rice 7, Martin 5, Gaff 3, Gause 3, Stahl 1, Moneyheffer 1), Southern Wells: 20 (Reber 6, Gates 6, Pennington 3, Aker 2, Oswald 1, L. Johnson 1, C. Johnson 1). Turnovers: Lakeland Christian: 11, Southern Wells: 3. Fouls: Lakeland Christian: 4, Southern Wells: 15. Fouled Out: Southern Wells: Gates, Technical

# Norwell boys' late run gets by East Noble on the road

**By ANDREW FEEBACK KENDALLVILLE** — The Norwell Knights found the three-point shot to be more of a foe than a friend in a matinee matchup Saturday, but strong play in the post and on the boards was enough to offset it as they clipped the host East Noble Knights 49-46.

With 16 points from Cohen Bailey, 15 from Ashton Federspiel and nine from Cade Shelton, Norwell opened up a 10-point lead late in the third quarter, which they needed every bit of to survive a late charge by East Noble.

"I thought we did a really nice job of moving the basketball," Norwell coach Mike McBride said. "They came with some pressure on some traps. Our kids did a great job of handling the initial trap and making the pass out, and then we were able to attack for some easy baskets."

"Cohen Bailey was really big for us today," he continued. "He had a lot of steals in the game, and he was integral in that stretch where we extended the lead."

Norwell improved to 9-7 overall and 4-1 in Northeast 8 games, remaining tied with Columbia City and Belmont for the top spot.

East Noble fell to 8-7 overall and 2-2 within the conference.

The visiting Knights ended the first half on a 10-2 run to grab a 21-16 lead at the break.

Bailey's play that McBride credited helped the Knights push that lead to nine early in the second half.

Then, East Noble began to heat up and slowly crept back thanks to its three-point shooting.

The blue and yellow Knights made eight triples in the second half and finished the game 10 of 24. By contrast, Norwell made one out of eight.

Consecutive threes from Nathan Bowker, Pace

Agee and Landon Swogger brought East Noble within 34-30, with Norwell getting buckets from Federspiel between each triple.

Federspiel then stepped outside the arc and made Norwell's only three-pointer of the game, followed by an old-fashioned three-point play to put the Knights up 10.

Back to back treys from Ryker Quake cut Norwell's lead to 44-41 with still nearly four minutes to play. Then, Quake stole the ball from Shelton, took it in for a layup and was fouled to make it a one-point game.

But his free throw was off the mark, and Norwell maintained its lead.

A free throw from Federspiel, a layup from Bailey and two free throws from Adam McBride had Norwell up 49-43 with under a minute to play as East Noble cooled off.

Quake hit one last three to cut the margin in half. Norwell threw a long pass down the court to Bailey to break the press, but Bailey missed, and East Noble had one more chance.

East Noble took a timeout with 22 seconds to play, then had to take another with eight seconds left when no one could get open.

Bailey knocked away the inbounds pass, Shelton fell on it and the Knights got a timeout.

It was East Noble's only turnover of the second half.

"We told them to be real aggressive on the ball, and Cohen was real aggressive and knocked the ball away. Cade Shelton did a great job diving on the floor and getting it back for us," McBride said. "We had a foul to give, and we went ahead and switched on everything. We were able to take them out of what they wanted to do."

Bailey was fouled and missed both shots, but with only three seconds remaining, Quake had to heave one

from about the three-quarter court mark that was well off the mark.

"We defended really well down the stretch when we needed to," McBride said. "You have to give them credit, they hit a lot of threes, especially in the fourth quarter. Really good job by our guys of staying with the game plan of taking care of the ball and looking to attack inside. We got to the free throw line a lot more than them, but they shot a lot more threes than us, so that was part of that. We wanted to attack inside, get to the free throw line and try to score at the basket, and we were able to do that."

Quake finished with 11 points for East Noble while Mason Treesh had nine.

Norwell will host Columbia City on Saturday in another afternoon matchup, with the varsity game starting around 1:30 p.m.

The Knights took the junior varsity game 46-32. Brady Smith scored 16 points, Nick McBride had 11 and Caiden Petrie added eight.

sports@news-banner.com

**NORWELL 49, EAST NOBLE 46**  
At East Noble

**NORWELL (9-7):** 3-5 3-4 9, Caiden Petrie 0-0 0-0 0, Garry Riley 0-0 0-0 0, Brady Smith 0-0 0-0 0, Kaedyn Quintanilla 0-4 1-2 1, Adam McBride 3-7 2-2 8, Trace Moser 0-0 0-0 0, Owen Wallis 0-1 0-0 0, Cohen Bailey 8-13 0-2 16, Nick McBride 0-0 0-0 0, Ashton Federspiel 6-12 2-3 15, Ryne Thornton 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 20-42 8-13 49.

**EAST NOBLE (8-7):** Nathan Bowker 2-9 0-0 6, Landon Swogger 3-4 0-1 8, Ryker Quake 4-7 0-0 11, Mason Treesh 4-8 0-0 9, Owen VanGessel 2-3 0-0 5, Mason Hankins 1-1 0-0 2, Keegan Derry 0-1 0-0 0, Pace Agee 1-3 0-0 3, Owen Sowles 0-0 0-0 0, Alex Scott 0-0 0-0 0, Alex Phillips 1-2 0-0 2, Braydon Collins 0-0 0-0 0, Kobe Ritchie 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 18-38 0-1 46.

**Norwell 9 12 21 7 — 49**

**East Noble 10 6 16 14 — 46**

**Three-point Field Goals:** Norwell 1-8 (Federspiel 1-3, Adam McBride 0-2, Quintanilla 0-2, Wallis 0-1), East Noble 10-24 (Quake 3-6, Swogger 2-2, Bowker 2-9, Treesh 1-3, Agee 1-2, VanGessel 1-2). Rebounds: Norwell 27 (Shelton 12, Federspiel 4, Bailey 4, Quintanilla 3, Adam McBride 3, Wallis 1), East Noble 13 (VanGessel 5, Quake 3, Agee 2, Bowker 1, Treesh 1, Hankins 1). Turnovers: Norwell 7, East Noble 8. Fouls: Norwell 5, East Noble 16. Fouled out: None. Technicals: None. JV: Norwell 46, East Noble 32.



Above, both Bluffton-Harrison boys' teams pose with their Allen County Athletic Conference trophies on Saturday. The eighth grade team defeated Jay County 29-24, while the seventh grade team won Jay County 30-22. This was both team's second title in a row. (Photos provided)

# Tigers sweep ACAC middle school boys' tournament

Bluffton-Harrison's boys' teams won both the eighth grade and seventh grade ACAC championships on Saturday.

This was the second straight ACAC title for both boys' teams.

The eighth grade team defeated Jay County 29-24.

Gavin Grieser led the Tigers with 10 points, followed by Reid Abbett (8), Gibby Grieser (6) and Cooper Jenkins (5).

The seventh grade team also defeated Jay County 30-22 and finished the season with a perfect 18-0 record. Vince Lambert led the way with 15 points, Chase Kistler (10) and

Maddox White (5).

The girls' teams also competed in the title game, but both fell to Jay County.

The eighth grade team lost to Jay County 38-36 and finished with a 12-6 record. Karyn Ault, Grace Fry and Khloe Dick led the Tigers with nine points, followed by Krista Blair (5) and Bridget Steffen (4).

The seventh grade team lost 46-28 to Jay County, finishing the season with a 14-4 record. Josie Nash led the way with 10 points, following Audrey Mechling (7), Averie Patton (4), Anna Hartman, Khloe Gehrett and Grace Jellison (2) and Luci Jenkins (1).

# Johns, Cruz and Douglas earn sectional titles in wrestling

At the sectional wrestling meet, Norwell finished fifth, Bluffton sixth and Southern Wells ninth Saturday at Jay County.

Despite not having a sectional team champion, there were a few individuals in Wells County.

Bluffton's Levi Johns won at 113 by technical fall over Kale Beer of Adams Central. Johnny Cruz won by fall over Adams Central's Zac Wurm by fall at 285. Norwell's Hunter Douglas won by decision 8-2 over

Bellmont's Henry Faurote.

## Top-four placers

**Norwell:** Jason Prough fourth at 126, Conner Fojtik third at 132, Cody Cox second at 165, Elijah Behning third at 175, Ethan Michael fourth at 215.

**Bluffton:** Brody Lewis third at 157, **Southern Wells:** Jarin Frauhiger third at 138, Peyton Long fourth at 285.

The regional will be at Jay County next week starting at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 3.

# Tigers top Argylls in boys' hoops

Bluffton won its road boys' basketball game 45-38 against Madison-Grant on Saturday night.

The Tigers improved to 7-8 on the season with the win.

Tucker Jenkins and Axton Beste led the team with six points, while Kaleb Green and Cam Williams scored eight. Declan Grieser (6) and Andrew Hunt (3).

Madison-Grant won the junior varsity match 54-42. Nolan Lambert led the way with 14 points, followed by Eli Bertch (8), Marshal Gerber (7), Ben Maggard (6), Jared Moster (4), and Griffin Morgan (3).

Madison Grant won the junior varsity game 45-43.

Bluffton will visit Eastbrook at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 1.

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# Sobriety success story

Dear Annie: My daughter shared your column with me this morning. The letter from the "Anonymous" husband of an alcoholic touched my daughter deeply, and it made me cry pretty hard. My daughter drank near-lethal quantities of alcohol every day for years. Three or four trips to rehab, AA, DUIs, etc. She is now one year sober and lives with me. She says that the following two things have saved her life:

- The love of her family.
- The PHP (Partial Hospitalization Program) that included medication-assisted treatment and daily (virtual) psychiatrist visits.

I want "Anonymous" to know that I am praying for him and his family. Your wife is still there, under the alcohol. The medications work, and with your support, there is hope. — Anonymous Mom

*Dear Anonymous Mom: Congratulations on your daughter's sobriety. I can feel the kindness and love through your letter, and for that I am grateful, as I am sure anyone reading your words knows that they are not alone and there are people struggling with the same things. Thank you for writing.*

Dear Annie: I'm writing about your response to the husband of an alcoholic wife. I have seen you answer others in the past regarding how Alcoholics Anonymous has helped a lot of people. In this case, I would highly recommend Al-Anon. While I've never been to a single Al-Anon meeting in my life, I have been to my share of AA meetings.

After 34 years of drinking and almost destroying my marriage, I went to AA and this time stayed there (it was not my first attempt). My wife went to Al-Anon, where she got to learn about life with an alcoholic. My last drink was on March 3, 2008. Nothing changes if nothing changes. — Sober in Arizona

*Dear Sober: Congratulations on your sobriety. You never gave up and you succeeded and continue to succeed one day at a time.*

Dear Annie: The letter from a husband with an alcoholic wife was of great interest to me personally.

First, he must know that there is help out there for him and for her. He simply must look into Al-Anon. I'm on a Facebook forum of this type, and I've

read countless stories of people who have significantly improved their lot in life due to attending these meetings.

Secondly, for the wife: If she truly wants to quit drinking, she needs to look into Naltrexone. There is a wonderful book describing how this works: "The Cure for Alcoholism." It works for about 80 percent of the people who commit to it. There is a forum under the C Three Foundation that is based on this medication, how and why it works, and stories of people's triumphs and failures. It is a great support tool. (The folks of AA don't support using this, as the user must also drink while doing so, which seems counterintuitive, but one would have to delve into the science to appreciate the reasoning.)

I have prevailed over my own addiction, due solely to the use of this medication and the support of this group (as I wanted to give up — it didn't seem to be working until I had a life-changing event that alcohol use contributed to). I was then forced to give up the sauce and, lo and behold, once I got past the withdrawals, I never looked back. I had no cravings, no more white-knuckling it, as I had during past attempts. It was truly a miracle. I am going on two years sober. I nearly destroyed myself and my marriage.

I am utterly grateful as can be. I thank God every day as I knew alcohol would eventually do me in.

Hugs to you, and keep up the great work! — Been There

*Dear Been There: Thank you for sharing your success story and telling us how you got sober and are staying sober.*

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## Dear Annie

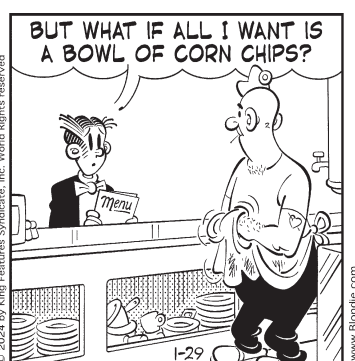
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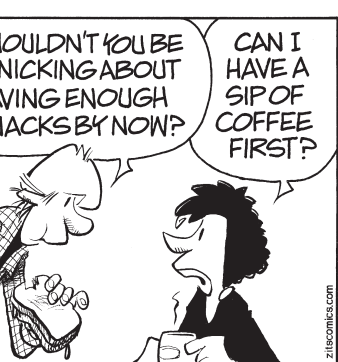
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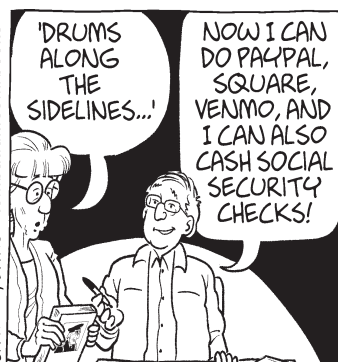
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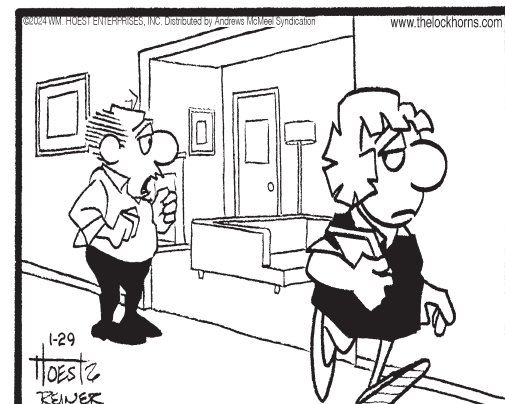
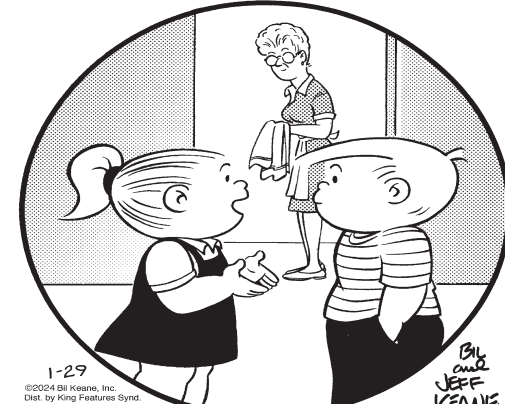
## CRANKSHAFT



## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

## The LOCKHORNS



## My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



## Salvation is an act of God

internet, or on television or radio. We watch people being saved from automobile accidents. We hear about children being saved from drowning. We read of others being pulled out of fiery flames. We sigh with relief when military men and women save innocent lives around the world or when the National Guard rescues families from floods left in the wake of hurricanes or from raging fires. Most people hope that if they find themselves in dangerous situations, there will be someone to rescue them.

Few seldom stop to realize that when we are rescued from something, we are also saved for something. When we are

rescued by someone, we are indebted to the one who has saved us from disaster, impending doom, and perhaps death itself.

No other human being, no matter how selfless or brave, can rescue us from the certainty of death. But that doesn't mean we can't be saved. When it comes to the soul, we must be clear about Who really saves us. Salvation is an act of God. It is initiated by God, wrought by God, and sustained by God.

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

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*Question: My family had the opportunity to join a search-and-rescue team to help find a lost child in the woods. It was a several hour ordeal during the night. Our heads thumped with anxiety as we moved leaf piles, frantically calling the boy's name. We overcame the foreboding when we found him alive. This seems like a fitting illustration of the Bible verse that says that the angels rejoice over one soul saved. — S.R.*

*Answer: "Search and rescue" is a term heard almost every day, whether in the newspaper, over the*

01/29	M	A	D1	D2	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM	12:30	
WINM (12)	11	26	63		Sue Thomas F.B. Eye "The New Mafia"		Unapologetic	Creflo Dollar	Joseph Prince	Morris	TCT Today	Joyce Meyer	Prop. Comm James Robison	Dr. Robert Jeffrey	Jewish Jesus	Andrew Womack	Ask the Pastor			CrossTalk	
CBS WANE (15)	2	2	15	15	News (N)	Inside Edition (N)	News at 6 (N)	CBS News (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Neighbor	Bob Hearts Abishola	Yellowstone "Meander Than Evil" (N)	Yellowstone "The World Is Purple" (SF) (N)	Nightcast (N)	(35) Late Show-Colbert (N)	(35) After Mid. (N)				
Antenna WANE-2 (352)	106	20			Criminal Minds "In the Blood"		Criminal Minds "Gatekeeper"		FBI "Never Trust a Stranger"		FBI "Unreasonable Doubt"		FBI "Liar's Poker"		FBI "Crazy Love"		FBI "Clean Slate"		FBI "Uncovered"		
ABC WPTA (21)	4	3	21	21	ABC21 News at 5 (N)		ABC21 (N)	ABC World News (N)	ABC21 News (N)	Ent. Tonight (N)	Bachelor An eligible bachelor dates multiple women over several weeks in hopes of finding true love.			Bad Romance-20/20 (N)	ABC21 (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel Live! (N)	(35) Nightline (N)				
NBC WPTA-2 (212)	7	8		14	Family Feud	25 Words or Less	News (N)	NBC News (N)	Family Feud (N)	Family Feud (N)	Got Talent The semifinals begin; three acts move on to the finals via golden buzzer & audience vote.			The Irrational "Scorched Earth" (N)	News (N)	(35) Tonight Show (N)	(35) Seth Meyers (N)				
MNT WPTA-3 (213)	10	9	56	34	The King of Queens	The King of Queens	Modern Family	News (N)	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Zebras"			Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Mom	Mom	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs		
FOX WISE (33)	6	4	33	33	The Steve Wilkos Show		TMZ Live (N)		Dish Nation (N)	TMZ (N)	Ride "Rodeo and Juliet"		Wild Cards "Show Me the Murder"	Dish Nation (N)	TMZ (N)	Family Guy	Family Guy	Bob's Burgers	Bob's Burgers		
PBS WFVA (39)	13	5	39	39	Antiques Roadshow "New York City Hour 2"		PBS NewsHour (N)		BBC News America		Antiques Roadshow (N)		Antiques Roadshow "New York City Hour 3"	Independent Lens "Razing Liberty Square" (N)		Amanpour and Company (N)		Antiques Roadshow	Antiques Roadshow		
PBS WFPB (49)	3				Antiques Roadshow "New York City Hour 2"		Context	BBC News America	PBS NewsHour (N)		Antiques Roadshow (N)		Antiques Roadshow "New York City Hour 3"	Independent Lens "Razing Liberty Square" (N)		Amanpour and Company (N)		Antiques Roadshow	Antiques Roadshow		
FOX WFFT (55)	6	5	55	55	WFFT Fox News at 5 (N)		WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)		Big Bang	Big Bang	America's Most Wanted (N)		TMZ Investigates (N)	FOX 55 News First at 10 (N)		Young Sheldon	Young Sheldon	Neighbor	Neighbor		
<b>CABLE CHANNELS</b>																					
LIFE	23	113	108	252	Castle		Castle		Castle		Castle		Castle	(05) To Be Announced	(05) Castle		Castle				
FX	24	132	136	148	(00) X-Men: Last Stand	(00) X-Men: First Class	(11) Michael Fassbender, James McAvoy		(11) Michael Fassbender, James McAvoy		(11) Michael Fassbender, James McAvoy		(11) Michael Fassbender, James McAvoy	(13) Hirokiyu Sanada, Famke Janssen, Hugh Jackman		(13) Hirokiyu Sanada, Famke Janssen, Hugh Jackman		(13) Hirokiyu Sanada, Famke Janssen, Hugh Jackman	(13) Logan		
TVLAND	25		106	304	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	The King of Queens	The King of Queens	
E!	26	142	114	236	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Sex and the City	Sex and the City	
PARMT	30		241	241	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	World War Z (2013, Horror) Mireille Enos, James Badge Dale, Brad Pitt.			World War Z (2013, Horror) Mireille Enos, James Badge Dale, Brad Pitt.				Rampage (2018, Action) Naomie Harris, Malin Akerman, Dwayne Johnson, (P)			
ESPN	31	50	140	206	Around (N)	Pardon (N)					College Basketball Duke at Virginia Tech From Moody College Coliseum in Blacksburg, Va. (L) (N)			College Basketball Houston at Texas From Moody SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (L) (N)				SportsCenter With UFC Van Pelt (L) (N)			
ESPN2	32	54	143	209	NFL Live (N)		ESPN BET Live (L) (N)				Wass. Basketball LSU at Mississippi State (L) (N)			Basketball Alcorn State at Bethune-Cookman (N)				NFL Live			
FSMW	33		418	671	Live on the Line		Spotlight (Angling Edge)				Epic Trails	Pregame (L) (N)	NBA Basketball Sacramento Kings at Memphis Grizzlies From the FedEx Forum in Memphis, Tenn. (L) (N)		Grizzlies Live (L) (N)			Epic Trails	Snow Motion	World Poker WPT Cash Game - Part 1	
USA	34	133	105	242	Chicago Fire "The Strongest Among Us"		Chicago Fire "The Strongest Among Us"		Chicago Fire "The Strongest Among Us"		Chicago Fire "One for the Ages"		WWE Monday Night RAW The superstars of the WWE square off in the ring and behind the scenes. (L) (N)		Wild & Wei Caught!		Caught!	Caught!	Caught!	Contraband: Seized at the Border	
DISC	35	72	182	278	Contraband: Seized "All in the Family"		Contraband: Seized "The Fresh Hot Chili Peppers"		Contraband: Seized "Go Get 'Em, Tiger"		Contraband: Seized "Go Get 'Em, Tiger"		Contraband: Seized "Go Get 'Em, Tiger"		Contraband: Seized "Go Get 'Em, Tiger"		Contraband: Seized "Go Get 'Em, Tiger"		Contraband: Seized "Go Get 'Em, Tiger"		
TLC	36	73	183	280	90 Day Diaries		90 Day: The Single Life		90 Day: The Single Life		90 Day: The Single Life		90 Day: The Single Life		90 Day: The Single Life		90 Day: The Single Life		90 Day: The Single Life		
A&E	38	77	120	269	Mysteries "The Voynich Manuscript"		Mysteries "The Voynich Manuscript"		Mysteries "The Voynich Manuscript"		Mysteries "The Voynich Manuscript"		Mysteries "The Voynich Manuscript"		Mysteries "The Voynich Manuscript"		Mysteries "The Voynich Manuscript"		Mysteries "The Voynich Manuscript"		
HIST	39	134	118	265	The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48 "Bloodline"			Hoarders "Destiny" (N)					Hoarders "Destiny" (N)		
HALL	40	117	185	312	(400) One Summer "All in the Family"		(400) One Summer "All in the Family"		(400) One Summer "All in the Family"		(400) One Summer "All in the Family"		(400) One Summer "All in the Family"		(400) One Summer "All in the Family"		(400) One Summer "All in the Family"		(400) One Summer "All in the Family"		
SYFY	41	135	122	244	(320) X-Men: Snow White and the Huntsman		(320) X-Men: Snow White and the Huntsman		(320) X-Men: Snow White and the Huntsman		(320) X-Men: Snow White and the Huntsman		(320) X-Men: Snow White and the Huntsman		(320) X-Men: Snow White and the Huntsman		(320) X-Men: Snow White and the Huntsman		(320) X-Men: Snow White and the Huntsman		
TBS	43	130	139	247	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Madden Final Four (N)	
TNT	44	131	138	245	(300) X-Men: Godzilla	(300) X-Men: Godzilla	(300) X-Men: Godzilla	(300) X-Men: Godzilla	(300) X-Men: Godzilla	(300) X-Men: Godzilla	(300) X-Men: Godzilla	(300) X-Men: Godzilla	(300) X-Men: Godzilla	(300) X-Men: Godzilla	(300) X-Men: Godzilla	(300) X-Men: Godzilla	(300) X-Men: Godzilla	(300) X-Men: Godzilla	(300) X-Men: Godzilla	(300) X-Men: Godzilla	
AMC	45		131	254	(245) X-Men: Replacem.	(245) X-Men: Replacem.	(245) X-Men: Replacem.	(245) X-Men: Replacem.	(245) X-Men: Replacem.	(245) X-Men: Replacem.	(245) X-Men: Replacem.	(245) X-Men: Replacem.	(245) X-Men: Replacem.	(245) X-Men: Replacem.	(245) X-Men: Replacem.	(245) X-Men: Replacem.	(245) X-Men: Replacem.	(245) X-Men: Replacem.	(245) X-Men: Replacem.	(245) X-Men: Replacem.	
COM	47	107	249	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	South Park	
FS1	48	64	150	219	(430) Speak (L) (N)		NASCAR Race Hub (L) (N)		NASCAR Race Hub: Season Preview		NASCAR Race Hub: Season Preview		NASCAR Race Hub: Season Preview		NASCAR Race Hub: Season Preview		NASCAR Race Hub: Season Preview		NASCAR Race Hub: Season Preview	NASCAR 2005: Daytona 500	
WGN	53		120	207	The Hill (L) (N)		Vargas Report (N)		Bones		Bones		Bones		Bones		Bones		Bones	Dan Abrams Live	
WE	57		128	260	Bones		Bones		Bones		Bones		Bones		Bones		Bones		Bones	Bones	
FOOD	59	153	110	231	Guy's Grocery Games		Guy's Grocery Games		Guy's Grocery Games		Guy's Grocery Games		Guy's Grocery Games		Guy's Grocery Games		Guy's Grocery Games		Guy's Grocery Games	Kids Baking	
BRavo	60	140	129	237	Vanderpump Rules		Vanderpump Rules		Vanderpump Rules		Vanderpump Rules		Vanderpump Rules		Vanderpump Rules		Vanderpump Rules		Vanderpump Rules	Below Deck	
NICK	68		170	299	(430) SpongeBob		House of Horror		Danger		Danger		Danger		Danger		Danger		Danger	Friends	
DISN	69	30	172	299	Hamster & Hamster		Hamster & Hamster		Hamster & Hamster		Hamster & Hamster		Hamster & Hamster		Hamster & Hamster		Hamster & Hamster		Hamster & Hamster	Ladybug	
FREEFORM	70	32	180	311	(310) X-Men: National Treasure	(310) X-Men: National Treasure	(310) X-Men: National Treasure	(310) X-Men: National Treasure	(310) X-Men: National Treasure	(310) X-Men: National Treasure	(310) X-Men: National Treasure	(310) X-Men: National Treasure	(310) X-Men: National Treasure	(310) X-Men: National Treasure	(310) X-Men: National Treasure	(310) X-Men: National Treasure	(310) X-Men: National Treasure	(310) X-Men: National Treasure	(310) X-Men: National Treasure	The Simpsons	
HBO	301		300	501	(355) X-Men: Jurassic World	(355) X-Men: Jurassic World	(355) X-Men: Jurassic World	(355) X-Men: Jurassic World	(355) X-Men: Jurassic World	(355) X-Men: Jurassic World	(355) X-Men: Jurassic World	(355) X-Men: Jurassic World	(355) X-Men: Jurassic World	(355) X-Men: Jurassic World	(355) X-Men: Jurassic World	(355) X-Men: Jurassic World	(355) X-Men: Jurassic World	(355) X-Men: Jurassic World	(355) X-Men: Jurassic World	(355) X-Men: Jurassic World	
MAX	325		310	515	(415) X-Men: Maud (13) Tye Sheridan, Matthew McConaughey	(415) X-Men: Maud (13) Tye Sheridan, Matthew McConaughey	(415) X-Men: Maud (13) Tye Sheridan, Matthew McConaughey	(415) X-Men: Maud (13) Tye Sheridan, Matthew McConaughey	(415) X-Men: Maud (13) Tye Sheridan, Matthew McConaughey	(415) X-Men: Maud (13) Tye Sheridan, Matthew McConaughey	(415) X-Men: Maud (13) Tye Sheridan, Matthew McConaughey	(415) X-Men: Maud (13) Tye Sheridan, Matthew McConaughey	(415) X-Men: Maud (13) Tye Sheridan, Matthew McConaughey	(415) X-Men: Maud (13) Tye Sheridan, Matthew McConaughey	(415) X-Men: Maud (13) Tye Sheridan, Matthew McConaughey	(415) X-Men: Maud (13) Tye Sheridan, Matthew McConaughey	(415) X-Men: Maud (13) Tye Sheridan, Matthew McConaughey	(415) X-Men: Maud (13) Tye Sheridan, Matthew McConaughey	(415) X-Men: Maud (13) Tye Sheridan, Matthew McConaughey	(415) X-Men: Maud (13) Tye Sheridan, Matthew McConaughey	
SHOW	351	851	318	545	(400) X-Men: The Italian Job	(400) X-Men: The Italian Job	(400) X-Men: The Italian Job	(400) X-Men: The Italian Job	(400) X-Men: The Italian Job	(400) X-Men: The Italian Job	(400) X-Men: The Italian Job	(400) X-Men: The Italian Job	(400) X-Men: The Italian Job	(400) X-Men: The Italian Job	(400) X-Men: The Italian Job	(400) X-Men: The Italian Job	(400) X-Men: The Italian Job	(400) X-Men: The Italian Job	(400) X-Men: The Italian Job	(400) X-Men: The Italian Job	
TMC	375	859	327	553	(310) X-Men: The Integrity of Joseph Chambers (22) Clayne Crawford	(310) X-Men: The Integrity of Joseph Chambers (22) Clayne Crawford	(31														

# The Classifieds

## FOR SALE

### Pets

**HELOISE HINT:** When taking your dog on a walk. Pay attention to what your dog sniffs of tries to eat. Don't let them swallow anything! Write to HELOISE@Heloise.com.

## Lottery Numbers

**Saturday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY**  
Cash 5 — 04-10-12-33-37

Cash4Life — 17-19-29-42-47, Cash Ball: 1  
Lotto Plus — 08-09-18-29-34-37

**Quick Draw Midday** — 1-5-7-8-13-26-28-32-39-40-48-61-64-65-66-67-71-72-79-80, BE: 67

**Daily Three-Midday** — 7-2-4, SB: 3

**Daily Three-Evening** — 8-1-4, SB: 1

**Daily Four-Midday** — 3-9-9-8, SB: 3

**Daily Four-Evening** — 9-9-1-8, SB: 1

**Quick Draw Evening** — 4-7-8-9-12-18-23-24-25-31-32-42-43-46-47-48-54-62-67-73, BE: 31

**Hoosier Lotto** — 05-10-20-36-39-40

**POWERBALL**  
07-38-65-66-68, Powerball: 21BΣ

**Sunday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY**  
Cash 5 — 01-07-08-11-24

Cash4Life — 06-15-29-35-36, Cash Ball: 3

**Quick Draw Midday** — 01-05-06-08-12-23-25-32-33-37-41-58-63-64-66-69-72-75-76-77, BE: 64

**Daily Three-Midday** — 8-4-7, SB: 2

**Daily Three-Evening** — 3-4-5, SB: 5

**Daily Four-Midday** — 2-2-7-5, SB: 2

**Daily Four-Evening** — 4-8-6-8, SB: 5

**Quick Draw Evening** — 2-7-9-18-25-30-32-44-47-49-50-58-61-68-71-72-77-78-79-80, BE: 68

**Hoosier Lotto** — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$3.8 million

**MEGA MILLIONS**  
Estimated jackpot (for Tuesday): \$311 million

**POWERBALL**  
Estimated jackpot (for Monday): \$174 million

## Pets



**SIX-MONTH-OLD SHIH-POO TOBY** needs a new home. He is active so needs family/kids to play with. \$150. Call (260) 760-4817, leave a message.

## 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

## EMPLOYMENT

### Help Wanted

**HELOISE HINT:** After every job interview. Send a personal thank-you note to the interviewer. It is an important step that you should always take during your job search. Fax Heloise @ 210-HELOISE (435-6473).

## Help Wanted

**TEMPORARY CLERICAL POSITION** not to exceed September 30, 2024, at the Wells County USDA-FSA Office. Apply at 117 W. Harvest Rd., Bluffton, IN 46714 from January 25th to January 31st. USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer."



**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!

**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.

## 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.

## SERVICES

### Services

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**TIMESHARE CANCELLATION EXPERTS** - Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 877-329-1207 (I)

## SUDOKU

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

### King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★

1/29

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**TRISTATE CONTRACTING.** CALL us, 260-330-5873, for all home improvement needs. Free estimates.

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## Public Sale Calendar

**JANUARY 30 - 10 a.m. EDT - 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. 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, 833-273-9300, www.meritauctions.com, 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 Johnz: 260-827-8181, Neal Wolhuter: 260-336-2219.

**FEBRUARY 2 - 10 a.m. - Secured creditors & various consignors, owners.** 815 Adams St., Decatur. Online only truck & equipment auction. 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 & much more! Accepting consignments! Krueckeburg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com.

**FEBRUARY 4 - 6 p.m. - Reida Zezula, owner.** 2221 Lower Huntington Rd., Fort Wayne. Online only personal property auction. Furniture, vacuum, name brand purses, Sentry safe, bedroom sets, vintage picnic baskets, costume jewelry, kitchen items, wicker swing. Star Wars collectibles, Fiesta ware, Barbies, household

items, etc. Preview: Jan. 31, 5-6 p.m. Krueckeburg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com.  
**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 land, professionally designed and stocked pond, recreational woods, newer tree plantings w/conservation grasses, potential country building sites, Huntington County, Salamonie Township. Inspection 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: Feb. 3, 10 a.m.-noon. Auction manager Al Pfister, 260-760-8922, Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc., 800-451-2709, schraderauction.com.

**FEBRUARY 18-FEBRUARY 25 - (Online Only Auction) - Thomas and Mary Woodward and others, sellers.** Outstanding collection of antique pickle casters and brides baskets, Victorian condiment sets, large glassware collection including Carnival, Fenton, cut and pressed glass, Indiana glass, sterling silver, antique and modern furniture, primitives, vintage toys, outstanding line of shop tools, much more. Open house: Feb. 15 and 22 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 102 S. Jefferson St., Ossian, IN. The Steffen Group Inc., 260-824-

3006, www.steffengrp.com.  
**BIDDING NOW OPEN AND STARTS CLOSING FEBRUARY 21 - 6 p.m. EST - Dean Stoppenhagen, owner.** 3877 E 900 N, Ossian, IN (located just east of Aviation Dr. on 900 N, north side of road). Online only land auction! 69.588 tillable acres! Zoned: agricultural, residential development potential! Jefferson Township, Northern Wells School Corporation. Krueckeburg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com.

**FEBRUARY 25-MARCH 3 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of Alan Johnson.** 2021 Jeep Grand Cherokee with 3,600 miles, 2 completely restored 1967 and 1969 Vintage Triumph motorcycles, 2017 Grasshopper zero turn mower, 2018 Sur-Trac enclosed trailer, tools, modern furniture, household. Open house: Feb. 25 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Feb. 29 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., 3651 E. 1000 N., Ossian, IN. The Steffen Group Inc., www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

**FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 5 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of Alan Johnson.** Three bedroom ranch home on full finished basement located in prime Northern Wells location. This home sits on a half acre lot with mature trees and an asphalt driveway. Open houses: Feb. 25 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Feb. 29 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., 3651 E. 1000 N., Ossian, IN. The Steffen Group Inc., www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

## SUDOKU ANSWER

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

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As a resident of the Wells County community for decades, Attorney, Gerret J. Swearingen, has devoted his legal practice to assisting clients in preserving the family assets from the high cost of Nursing Home and In-Home Healthcare.  
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