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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2024 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00

Bomb threat closes Bluffton streets, building

By SYDNEY KENT
 Traffic lined the streets as an entire city block closed yesterday afternoon in downtown Bluffton. The Wells County Sheriff's Department announced in a Facebook post Tuesday that security at the courthouse security received notification of a suspicious package. As a precaution, a city block was closed until the package could be inspected by the Fort Wayne Police Department Bomb Squad. Courthouse employees were reportedly moved into other areas and later sent home. Several businesses within the block were also notified and the department's post requested assistance from the public in staying away from the area during their procedures. In a phone call Tuesday evening, Sheriff Scott Holliday advised that no charges would be filed and that the incident was not
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Indiana State, Wells County, and Bluffton Police, as well as Fort Wayne Bomb Squad, responded to a bomb threat at the Wells County Courthouse on Tuesday. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)

Board hears handicapped parking request, opens bids for street materials

By JONATHAN SNYDER
 Bids and closures were the order of the day for the Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety on Tuesday, as two bids for demolition and street material projects were discussed. The board started by approving the demolition bids by Kaerh Excavation opened in the board's meeting on Jan. 23. Kaerh had the low bid for both projects at 418 Hale St., valued at \$11,950, and 228 East Market St., valued at \$15,750. Longenberger Excavation's bids came in at over double the amount proposed by Kaerh for both projects. The board also opened bids for the payment of new street material for the city. Rock Creek Quarry and IMI Concrete made bids for the project, but the amounts were not disclosed at the meeting. Street Commissioner Tim Simpson will look over both bids and advise the board on which one to take. Additionally, the board approved a request for a section of Bennet Street between Poplar and Elm streets to be closed from 9:30 a.m. to noon on May 18. First Reformed Church made the request so they could host a derby cart race. First Reformed's Christian Education Coordinator Isabella Stutzman also mentioned that there will be days in April where families and kids will build and paint wooden carts for the races. Stutzman also mentioned lunch will be provided after the event. "Reminds me of the Pinewood Derby days," said Bluffton Mayor John Whicker. Whicker's fellow board member Scott Mentzer also shared his happiness over the event. Josh Hunt was absent
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Lawmakers call on FSSA to pause Medicaid cuts for parents of disabled children

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle
 Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch and three sitting lawmakers publicly called on the Family and Social Services Administration to pause proposed program cuts for parents of medically complex children during an Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Task Force meeting Monday. FSSA announced the decision to curb its use of Attendant Care pay for Legally Responsible Individuals, usually parents, in response to a \$1 billion shortfall in the Medicaid budget. During the COVID-19 pandemic, FSSA allowed parents to be paid for care normally covered by home health nurses — a field with a shortage of workers then and now. But, following a specially called meeting to review a list of several proposed changes to Medicaid, stakeholders and families seemed dissatisfied with the agency's explanation and urged FSSA to halt its cuts. "What I just heard is we're working on additional clarifications. I've heard we're trying to get information. I've heard we're going to adjust. I've heard no data," Crouch said at the conclusion of the hour-long meeting. "At this point in time, until these questions can be answered, I would call upon FSSA to pause in their timetable for the implementation of this program by July 1 and I would call upon the General Assembly to be supportive and look at how they can make that happen." Crouch is one of six Republicans running for governor. **Growth of attendant care programs** Kelly Mitchell, FSSA's director for the division of disability and rehabilitative services, acknowledged the stream of calls and emails from worried families utilizing the program. She said the agency wasn't responding individually but was actively collecting feedback. Mitchell reviewed FSSA's decision to analyze the key programs behind the \$1 billion Medicaid shortfall announced in December
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Biden says he's decided on response to killing of 3 U.S. troops

By AAMER MADHANI and ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press
 WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden on Tuesday indicated he had decided how to respond after the killing of three American service members Sunday in a drone attack in Jordan that his administration has pinned on Iran-backed militia groups, saying he does not want to expand the war in the Middle East but demurring on specifics. U.S. officials said they are still determining which of several Iran-backed groups was responsible for the first killing of American troops in a wave of attacks against U.S. forces in the region since the Oct. 7 Hamas assault on Israel. Biden plans to attend the dignified transfer to mark the fallen troops' return to American soil on Friday and answered in the affirmative when asked by reporters if he'd decided on a response, as he indicated he was aiming to prevent further escalation. "I don't think we need a wider war in the Middle East," Biden said at the White House before departing for a fundraising trip to Florida. "That's not what I'm looking for." It was not immediately clear whether Biden meant he had decided on a specific retaliatory plan. A U.S. official told The Associated Press that the Pentagon is still assessing options to respond to the attack in Jordan. National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters traveling with Biden aboard Air Force One that he would not preview the U.S. response, but indicated it would come in phases. "It's very possible that what you'll see is a tiered approach here, not just a single action, but potentially multiple actions over a period of time," he said. Meanwhile, the Iranian-backed Iraqi militia Kataib Hezbollah, one of several groups eyed by U.S. officials, announced Tuesday in a statement "the suspension of military and security operations against the occupation forces in order to pre-
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Outside

 The fog returns, cloudy and gusty tonight

Today	Thursday	Friday
High 41	High 49	High 46
Low 32	Low 34	Low 30

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Online

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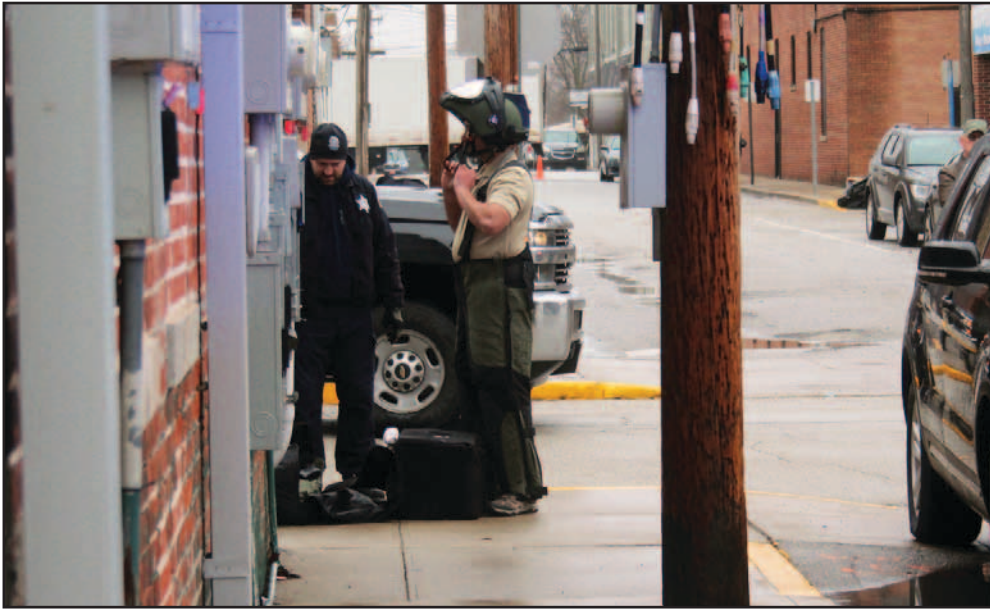
Suspicious package

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malicious in nature. “We’re glad it turned out to be nothing,” Holliday said. “We never know what could happen. We let the people who are specialized in that take care of it. It’s very similar to if there were an unattended and unidentified bag at an airport, we don’t take chances.”

The area began to re-open approximately an hour after the lockdown.

The Fort Wayne Police Department, the Indiana State Police, Fort Wayne Post, Bluffton Police Department, and the Bluffton Fire Territory assisted in the investigation.

sydney@news-banner.com



(Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

Board of Works

(Continued from Page 1)
from the meeting. In addition, the board also heard a request from SMS Property Management for handicapped parking for 319 East Central Ave. Simpson stated that there is no parking on the side of East Central that the house sits on, so the Street Department will need to find a location for handicapped parking if approved. Simpson mentioned that there is potentially parking for the tenants off an alley near the location, but he is unsure if that space is compliant

with the standards set by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The board decided to take the matter under advisement while Simpson investigates the alley and any other locations to ensure ADA compliance. In past cases, they have awarded handicapped parking for rental locations when there are no other options available.

Furthermore, the board also approved Fire Department Captain Ryan Crist’s letter of resignation. He is transitioning into retirement after

being in the department for 12 years. His last day will be Feb. 3. After the resignation letter was read, the board also took time to thank City Engineer Kelly White for her service, as she is resigning from her position in February.

Whicker mentioned that there will be tweaks to the city engineer job description for discussion in next week’s meeting. He also advised that finding a new engineer may take a while since the market is tight.

jonathan@news-banner.com

Medicaid cuts

(Continued from Page 1)
ber, especially the increased demand for services like attendant care under the Aged and Disabled waiver. “... there has been a significant increase in enrollment since July (of 2020). Particularly, if you note the difference between the first month when there were about \$20 million in expenditures And the last month (where) expenditures are about \$120 million,” Mitchell said.

In particular, she said the growth among the pediatric program — as opposed to the state’s aging population — was unanticipated.

According to a chart shared by FSSA, the growth of \$20 million from the summer of 2020 to \$120 million in December 2023 includes attendant care for all ages.

Attendant care for children hits \$2 million around May 2022, when enrollment hovers around 1,250 Hoosiers. It totals less than \$16 million in December 2023, less than 13 percent of all attendant care, with roughly 2,250 Hoosiers enrolled.

But the explosive overall growth isn’t just increased utilization of the attendant care program used by less than 40,000 Hoosiers, both elderly and disabled. Spending surged following the Medicaid rate increase enacted by the General Assembly last year, swelling from just over \$60 million in June 2023 to over \$100 million in August that same year.

That 2 percent rate indexing has been “paused” — another change released alongside the proposed LRI service cuts.

“We want to create a sustainable path for parents and spouses to support the waiver member and, going forward, our plan is that will be via structured family caregiving and not via attendant care,” Mitchell said. “This model of care is ideally suited to supporting LRIs, legally responsible adults, who are being paid to provide care for their loved one.”

Mitchell insisted this would benefit Hoosiers because LRIs cannot be paid to provide skilled nursing care, even though many parents are capable of that complex care. Currently, parents “clock out” of their LRI duties to do things such as care for a tracheostomy, catheter or ventilator.

Too many unknowns for some

But members of the task force, including Crouch, lawmakers and disability advocates, pushed back — noting that the provider reimbursement that ranges from \$77.54 to \$133.44 per day for structured caregiving doesn’t go directly to families, who saw closer to \$30-70 per day.

Payment for LRIs as attendants, meanwhile, can go up to “a livable wage” of \$15 per hour, depending on location.

“We’ve gotten lots and lots of comments from families specifically around the shortage of nurses and skilled nurses. So many of them share that they are getting paid for personal care attendants because they cannot find a nurse to come into the home and provide care,” said Kim Dodson, the CEO of The Arc of Indiana.

When asked about that staffing shortage, Mitchell said FSSA “had an intense focus on improving and increasing our ability to attract and retain a quality direct service workforce,” but didn’t have additional answers for the families who would need care immediately when LRI pay expires in July. Families who apply after Jan. 17 will be redirected to structured family caregiving and given attendant care benefits to cover adults other than parents.

Rep. Ed Clere, R-New Albany, said he’d repeatedly tried to get specifics from FSSA to no avail, including the number of families impacted by the LRI change and the proposed savings. An online release indicates the overall package will save \$300 million but doesn’t break that down by program and doesn’t estimate how many will be affected.

“Regarding the transparency, I’ve been waiting days to get numbers. I would think that before FSSA decided to take these specific steps, there would have been numbers,” Clere said.

Mutual Fire Insurance Co.
of French Township

The Mutual Fire Insurance Company Of French Township will hold its annual meeting at the 4-H Building in Monroe, IN on Saturday February 3, 2024 at 9:00 A.M.

Arlene Stump, Sec’y

“Where is the data?”

Mitchell said FSSA was working to “pull information to share it publicly and be as forthright and transparent as possible.”

Crouch questioned the budgeting process that missed the \$1 billion Medicaid shortfall, saying that “(if) the General Assembly had that information available to them, they might have looked differently in terms of funding \$1 billion for the (Indiana Economic Development Corporation) or \$1 billion for (school) vouchers.”

“I just find it almost unconscionable that we’re in this position where Hoosiers are being affected in a way that is threatening their lives and their family’s lives and their livelihoods,” Crouch continued.

Response from families
Roughly a half dozen families gathered again at the Statehouse on Monday, vowing to return every week

to rally against FSSA’s proposed change. They openly wondered whether getting divorced or stripping one parent’s legal guardianship ties would help them navigate the morass of new care restrictions.

“We were struggling before this came along,” said Christa Dooley with her four-year-old son, Jacob, who has cerebral palsy.

Dooley, whose story was recently shared by WTHR, recently upgraded to a larger van to fit all of the medical equipment Jacob needs. Other parents depend upon the payments to make their mortgage or finance much-needed accessibility upgrades.

Monday’s meeting was virtual and didn’t allow parents the chance to testify. Instead, parents and caregivers flooded the livestream’s chat box with personal stories and anger, urging the agency to reconsider.

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Weather

Wednesday, January 31, 2024
(24-hour observations at 9:37 p.m. Tuesday)
High: 35; Low: 31; Precipitation: 0.9 inches of rain
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 5.50 feet at 9:45 p.m. Tuesday

Wells County forecast

Today: Areas of fog before 9 a.m. Otherwise, cloudy, with a high near 41. Northwest wind around 10 mph.
Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 32. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.
Thursday: Partly sunny, with a high near 49. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 34. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming northeast after midnight.
Friday: Partly sunny, with a high near 46.
Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 30.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 50.
Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 31.
Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 49.
Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 31.
Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 45.
Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 28.
Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 45.

U.S. troops

(Continued from Page 1)
gent embarrassment to the Iraqi government.”

The attacks on U.S. forces by Iraqi militias over the past four months have placed the government of Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani in an awkward position. Sudani was brought to power by Iranian-allied factions but has also attempted to stay in Washington’s good graces and has condemned the attacks on U.S. forces serving in Iraq as part of an international commission to fight the Islamic State. Iraqi and U.S. officials on Saturday opened talks aimed at winding down the commission’s presence.

Kirby said that Biden spoke with the soldiers’ families Tuesday morning and extended his condolences, pledging full assistance to the families as they grieve.

In separate calls with the families, Biden also gauged their feelings about his attendance at Friday’s dignified transfer of the fallen service members’ remains at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware on Friday, and “all of them supported his presence there,” Kirby said.

“He was grateful for their time. He expressed to them how proud we all are of their service,” Kirby said of Biden’s calls with the families. “How we mourn and feel sorrow over their loss.”

Kirby added: “The presi-

dent will be going to the dignified transfer on Friday.”

The solemn ceremony marks the return of fallen service members to American soil as they journey to their final resting place, with silent honor guards carrying flag-draped transfer cases holding the remains from transport aircraft to military vehicles.

The Pentagon identified those killed in the attack as Sgt. William Jerome Rivers, 46, of Carrollton, Georgia; Spc. Kennedy Ladon Sanders, 24, of Waycross, Georgia; and Spc. Breonna Alexandria Moffett, 23, of Savannah, Georgia. The Army Reserve announced on Tuesday that it had posthumously promoted Sanders and Moffett to the rank of sergeant.

There have been a total of 166 attacks on U.S. military installations since Oct. 18, including 67 in Iraq, 98 in Syria and now one in Jordan, a U.S. military official said. On Tuesday, Al-Asad Air Base in Western Iraq was targeted again by a single rocket, but there was no damage and no injuries in that attack, a U.S. military official said. The three soldiers killed in the Jordan strike were the first U.S. military fatalities in the Middle East since the war between Israel and Hamas broke out. One contractor has also died as the result of a heart attack after a strike on Al-Asad in December.

Public Sale Calendar

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! Krueckeberg 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. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com.

BIDDING NOW OPEN AND STARTS CLOSING FEBRUARY 6 - 10 a.m. EST - Mac Sheet Metal LLC, Mark McClanahan, owner. Offering over 300+ lots! Caterpillar V40C 4,000 lb. forklift, Clark C301 5,500 lb. forklift, 2013 Chevrolet Silverado 3500 stake bed, 6.0L V8, automatic, 104, 072 miles, 12’ stake bed, sheet metal equipment, tools, more. Preview Feb. 5, 10 a.m.-noon EST, 295 Industrial Blvd., Franklin, IN. Pick up Feb. 8, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Feb. 9, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Krueckeberg 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.

BIDDING NOW OPEN AND STARTS CLOSING FEBRUARY 13 - 10 a.m. EST - Creative Industries, Inc., Mark Clark, president. Toyota 424FGC25 forklift, band, chop & table saws, SSC sheet board saw, multiple Delta drill press, 4 Delta dust collectors, hand & power tools, work benches & shop carts, large amount of aluminum channeling & much more! Preview Feb. 5, 1:30-3 p.m. EST, 1024 Western Dr., Indianapolis, IN. Pick up Feb. 15, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. EST. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com.

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 - 2 p.m. - Multiple consignors, owners. Online only consignment auction. Furniture, freezers, Pokemon items, sports cards, G.I. Joe figurines, china, 4 wheeler, riding mower, fishing lures, upholstery fabric, household items, vintage toys, light fixtures, etc. Preview Feb. 15, 3-5 p.m., 812 Elm Street, Decatur. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.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.

FEBRUARY 20 - 9 a.m. EST - Online Only - JW Jones, Co, owner. Quarry equipment, rock crushers, stackers, heavy trucks, trailers, light duty trucks, forklifts, excavators, wheel loaders, dozers, haul trucks, shop equipment, power units, & much, much more! Preview Feb. 16, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Pick up Feb. 22-23, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. EST, Feb. 27, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Feb. 28, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Items located mostly in Parago, IN, and Gosport, IN, with some in Martinsville, IN. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.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. Krueckeberg 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., 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

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.

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OBITUARIES

G. Allan Penrod, 85

G. Allan Penrod, 85, a longtime Bluffton resident, passed away Monday afternoon, Jan. 29, 2024, at Heritage Pointe of Warren.

Allan was born July 22, 1938, in Wells County to George W. and Florence L. (Bennett) Penrod.

On October 26, 1956, in Keystone, Allan and Marilyn Jane (Barner) were married. Shortly after they married, the newlyweds lived in Ayer, Mass. and then Bad Aibling, Germany, as Allen served our country in the United States Army, working in Army Security Agency. After returning to Wells County, he worked as a traffic supervisor at Dana Corp. in Marion for 38 years and retired in 1998.

Allan was a member of the Bluffton Masonic Lodge 145, Fort Wayne Scottish Rite, and the American Legion Post 111 of Bluffton, and Bluffton Lions Club. The local Lions Club was instrumental in helping Allan receive his service dog, Saddle, who quickly became part of the family. Allan enjoyed making stained glass, including windows which can be found hanging in churches and homes over Wells County.

Survivors include his wife of 67 years, Jane Penrod along with Saddle, both of Warren; three grandchildren, Sarah (Dustin) Conner of Warren, Trudy (Richard) Wolfe of Hartford City and Carrie Penrod of Montpelier; he was a loving "Grampy" to three great-grandchildren; Rozlynn Wolfe, Camden and Whitley Conner; and a daughter-in-law, Becky Penrod of Fort Wayne.

Allan is preceded in death by two sons, John M. Penrod and Mark A. Penrod; a sister, Rebecca Prentiss; a brother, Paul E. Penrod; and his parents.

A Masonic Memorial Service will take place at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024, at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Funeral services will directly follow at the funeral home with Pastor Gerald Moreland officiating. Inurnment will follow at the Northridge Community Mausoleum at Fairview Cemetery in Bluffton, with full military honors by the United State Army Honor Guard and American Legion Post 111 Honor Guard.

Visitation will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, prior to the service.

Memorials may be made to the Boys & Girls Club of Warren and can be directed to the funeral home.

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



Singing Knights

Norwell's show choirs started their 2024 competition season at the Ball State Mid-America Show Choir Championship on Saturday. Knight Stars placed 2nd Runner Up in the Small School Univoice Division and Knight Moves placed 4th Runner Up in the Small School Mixed division. Senior Emily Edmiston, pictured at left, was named Outstanding Performer for both groups. Both groups continue their season next Saturday at Edgewood High School in Ellettsville. (Photos provided)

Ossian Rotary to host Parkview Health advance care planning team

At its regular weekly meeting on Thursday, Feb. 1, Ossian Rotary will host Erica Downing, Parkview Health advance care planning specialist and Michael Kinsey, Parkview chaplain.

The meeting will focus on helping attendees think about who would make medical decisions if you were unable to make them for yourself. The Advance Care Planning team from Parkview Health will be here to discuss the process of thinking and talking about what type of medical care you would want, should you not be able to speak for yourself, also known as advance care planning. We invite you to attend this session to start the conversation surrounding your wishes. We encourage you to bring the person you think you would like to make decisions for you if needed; however, this is not required to attend the meeting.

Downing is a masters-trained social worker, who has a great passion for health care. Downing has worked as a medical social worker for the past seven years with experience as an emergency room social worker, advance care planning facilitator, and most recently as an advance care planning specialist. Downing walks alongside patients and community members as they reflect on their goals, values, and preferences to make well-informed decisions for their future health care in advance of a medical emergency.

Joining Downing will be Michael Kinsey, a Parkview chaplain who holds a master's degree in organizational leadership. He has an extensive background in leadership and has served in the healthcare community for over a decade. As an advance care planning specialist, Kinsey follows his passion for helping individuals and their loved ones become better prepared for some of the most difficult moments in life. He is an integral part of the ACP team at Parkview Health and focuses on increasing the awareness and effectiveness of ACP within Parkview and the surrounding communities.

Both Downing and Kinsey are certified facilitators and instructors of Respecting Choices® First Steps®, Next Steps®, and Advanced Steps® conversations and curriculum.

Anyone is welcome to attend Ossian Rotary this Thursday morning, at 7:30 at First Baptist Church of Ossian, 1001 Dehner Drive for this program.

For more information, please contact Jeremy Penrod, Ossian Rotary President, at jeremy.penrod@edwardjones.com.

Please note that Ossian Rotary will cancel when Norwell Community Schools has a delay or cancellation due to weather.

Next Thursday, Feb. 8, Ossian Rotary will meet at and tour the Caylor-Nickel Foundation Family YMCA, 550 W. Dustman Road in Bluffton at 7:30 a.m.

Ossian Rotary is a small part of a larger organization, Rotary International, which was founded almost 120 years ago in Chicago. Ossian Rotary is a group of people with a desire to meet new people, network, get involved and make a difference in Ossian and the surrounding community. Each week we have a different speaker, usually business experts, political and civic leaders, and entrepreneurs, who help us stay informed on topics that are relevant to our community.



Erica Downing



Michael Kinsey

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:
Monday, 4:05 p.m., 1000 block of North Washington Street, Bluffton. Report of an animal bite.

Monday, 4:27 p.m., Park Community Church. Welfare check requested for teenage male holding stomach. Subject was fine.

Monday, 9:17 p.m., Bluffton Police Department. Subject requested to speak to officer regarding domestic issue.

Monday, 10:00 p.m., Pine Grove Apartments. Report of domestic issue.

Monday, 10:45 p.m., 200 block of North Oak Street. Caller reported vehicle possibly broken into.

Monday, 11:23 p.m., Bluffton Police Department. Subject requested welfare check for children in Terra Haute. Advised to contact agency in that location, subject became angry and threatened to sue department.

Monday, 11:35 p.m., 500 block of West Miller Street. Report of someone possibly in caller's house, caller was not home at the time. Everything was OK.

Tuesday, 1:48 a.m., 500 block of West Miller Street. Report of domestic issue.

County:
Monday, 12:49 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served to Adam Baker.

Monday, 2:09 p.m., 7000 East Market Street, Craigville. Officer assistance requested for property retrieval.

Monday, 2:59 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served to Margaret S. Musser.

Monday, 4:02 p.m., East 200 South and Ind. 1. Caller reported they struck a deer earlier in the day and requested a report.

Monday, 5:01 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served on Brittney Clark.

Monday, 7:37 p.m., Meridian Road and East Main Street, Poneto. Caller requested assistance finding Kroger Warehouse.

Monday, 7:46 p.m., Ind. 116 and East 150 North, Bluffton. Report of a raccoon struck by a vehicle, still alive in roadway.

Monday, 8:57 p.m., 200 West and West 300 South, Bluffton. Report of stop sign completely flat on roadway.

Monday, 9:27 p.m., Ind.

1 and East 400 North, Bluffton. Welfare check requested for woman and baby walking outside. Unable to locate.

Monday, 11:13 p.m., South Adams Street and East 100 South, Bluffton. Officer checked on vehicle on side of road, subject was lost.

Tuesday, 12:08 a.m., Ind. 1 and 400 North, Bluffton. Driver cited for driving while suspended. Officer picked up driver's husband to bring him to vehicle.

Tuesday, 8:04 a.m., 3464 East Ind. 124. Report of a deer hit by vehicle, not dead.

Tuesday, 10:25 a.m., West 1000 South and Jeff Road, Warren. Report of a loose gold/white dog.

ARRESTS

Melvin Cody Griffith, 32, Markle; possession of marijuana, a Class B mis-

demeanor, operating with a controlled substance in body and operating while intoxicated, both Class C misdemeanors. Bond set at \$1,500.

Deon Oneal Morris, 41, Bluffton; theft — pocket picking, a Level 6 felony.

Dylan Ryan Thrash, 24, Muncie; probation violation, a Class A misdemeanor.

Chandler James Farante, 22, Hartford City; criminal trespassing, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

Margaret Sarah Musser, 23, Bluffton; possession of a controlled substance, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,000.

Brittney Michelle Clark, 28, Bryan, Ohio; driving while suspended — prior suspension, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

Joanne Miller
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Funeral: 7 p.m.
Wednesday, January 31
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Thursday, February 1 and 30
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Service: 10:30 a.m.
Friday, February 2 at the
funeral home.

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Bill protecting children's lemonade stands advances

By WHITNEY DOWNARD, Indiana Capital Chronicle

The House commerce committee approved a bill Tuesday that would prohibit counties regulating lemonade stands, which are technically illegal under current Indiana code.

"In Indiana and across the country, one of the first way kids are introduced to business is through the truly American lemonade stand. It's an incubator for entrepreneurship," said author Rep. Blake Johnson, an Indianapolis Democrat.

Under House Bill 1019, counties, cities and even homeowner associations may not ban or regulate lemonade stands by requiring permits or fees for the sale of non-alcoholic beverages from a booth on private property helmed by a minor.

"There are some stipulations here. The goal is not for your seven-year-old neighbor to have a brick and mortar at the end of their driveway and operate 30 days out of the month — it's only two consecutive days and only eight days a month," Johnson said. "(It's) giving these kids the opportunity to test their chops on entrepreneurship, to be creative and learn the skills that would make them future Indiana business owners."

Heather Harris, testifying on behalf of the Marion County Public Health Department, said the city of Indianapolis doesn't currently regulate lemonade stands but urged the committee to limit beverage sales that might include milk or other products that need temperature controls.

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Farmland property taxes may keep increasing

The memo was posted at the end of December, on the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance website. It announced the base rate for farmland at \$2,280 per acre for property taxes in 2025. That's up 20 percent from this year's \$1,900. It will be the third straight year of big increases. The base rate rose 16 percent from \$1,290 in 2022 to \$1,500 for 2023, and 27 percent to \$1,900 for 2024.



Larry DeBoer

Hoosier Opinions

What's the base rate, and why is it going up so much? The base rate is a dollar value per farm acre calculated each year by the DLGF, the agency that oversees the property tax in Indiana. It's the starting point for the assessment of farmland for property taxes. The base rate is calculated from a formula with farm income per acre in the numerator and a capitalization rate in the denominator.

Farm income is measured with data on rents, commodity prices, yields and costs. The capitalization rate is set by rule, and for the past 10 years it's been 8 percent. The DLGF does this calculation using numbers from the most recent six years. They drop the highest year's result, and average the rest to get the base rate. For each farm acre the base rate is adjusted for soil productivity and sometimes for influence factors, such as frequent flooding. Then the resulting assessed value is multiplied by the local property tax rate to set the tax bill.

Each year the DLGF adds the most recent year's data to the base rate's six-year calculation and drops the numbers from the oldest year. For taxes in 2025, the data for 2023 were added and the data for 2017 were dropped. The entry for 2017 was \$1,281; the entry for 2023 was \$3,263. So the base rate average went up by \$380.

In 2017 the calculation used an average price of corn of about \$3.70 per bushel. In 2023 the price was \$5.60. The 2017 soybean price was \$9.50; the 2023 price was \$13.50. The main reason for the rise in the base rate is that commodity prices were higher last year than they were seven years ago.

For taxes in 2023, farmland tax bills did not rise by the full 16 percent increase in the base rate. Rural property tax rates went down a little, which cut the average tax bill hike to 13 percent. Small favors, perhaps, but better than the typical 2 percent tax rate increase.

Tax rates fell because assessed values rose across the board. Property values spiked after the pandemic recession. Home assessments rose 21 percent for 2023 taxes, rental housing assessments rose 15 percent, and business building assessments rose 11 percent.

Property tax rates are recalculated each year by dividing levies by assessed values. Indiana imposes a maximum on most levies, and that maximum rose 5 percent in 2023. Since assessed values rose by more than 5 percent, tax rates fell in many communities.

Looking ahead, tax rates may fall again this year. The General Assembly cut the increase in the maximum levy to 4 percent, so levies will increase less. But the legislature also provided tax relief to homeowners by increasing the size of a homestead deduction. This will reduce the average increase in home assessments from about 12 percent to 4 percent. Overall assessed value will rise less, so tax rates won't fall as much.

Effectively, the tax relief for homeowners means farmland owners will pay a bigger share of 2024's levy increase.

The base rate will keep increasing for as long as current commodity prices are higher than they were seven years before. For taxes in 2026, the base rate formula will drop 2018's prices. Corn was about \$3.60 per bushel that year. If the corn price is higher than that in 2024, the base rate is likely to go up again in 2026. The formula won't start dropping high commodity prices until 2029, when the prices from 2021 are eliminated. The base rate is likely to rise until then, probably topping \$3,000 per acre.

The last time the base rate increased so much, the General Assembly changed the base rate formula. Will it do that again?

Larry DeBoer is a Purdue University economist. He wrote this for Indiana newspapers.



Economic illiteracy and unseemly xenophobia hit the U.S. Steel deal

The crisis du jour, according to some febrile senators, is a Japanese corporation's intention to buy America's 573rd largest U.S. corporation (as this is written, its market capitalization is smaller than that of Casey's General Stores). The U.S. corporation for sale has fewer employees (22,470) than Dave & Buster's (a chain of restaurants with games).

Three excitable Republican senators, all self-described conservatives, have temporarily suspended their vigilance against socialism to exhort the Biden administration to prevent this market-directed efficiency in capital allocation. The senators - Ohio's J.D. Vance, Missouri's Josh Hawley and Florida's Marco Rubio - say that if Nippon Steel, the world's fourth-largest steelmaker, purchases U.S. Steel, the 27th-largest, U.S. national security will be imperiled.

Vance says U.S. Steel is a "critical piece" of the U.S. "defense industrial base." But this corporation, which is just the fourth-largest U.S. steel producer, will still produce steel, but more efficiently. And Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said in 2017 that just 3 percent of domestic steel production is required for defense purposes. And Japan, one of the most important U.S. allies, will become more so as a collaborative producer of an important commodity. And, by the way, Nippon vows to keep U.S. Steel's headquarters in Pittsburgh.

Rubio, whose campaign donors include domestic sugar producers, and who says sugar import quotas protect America's "food security," says the sale of U.S. Steel is a "poignant metaphor" for America's "deindustrialization." Nippon, however, intends to modernize, not liquidate. U.S. Steel.

A Vance-Rubio-Hawley letter to the Biden administration derides U.S. Steel for acting to maximize shareholder value, and says Nippon's "allegiances clearly lie with a foreign state." No, Nippon's allegiances are to its shareholders, who it thinks will prosper if U.S. Steel also does in alliance with Nippon. Bruce Craig expects this. In a letter to the Wall Street Journal he said:

"I am a steel metallurgical engineer with more than 50 years consulting on large industrial projects around the world, some of which require very high quality steels. I have also been through many of the Nippon Steel mills and U.S. Steel mills. Without exception Nippon has some of the highest-quality steel-making technology of any steel producer in the world. U.S. Steel on the other hand ranks far below many of the other high-quality mills around the world. America would benefit by having Nippon Steel upgrade the quality of our steel-making."

Pennsylvania Sen. John Fetterman, a Democrat, calls

it "outrageous" that U.S. Steel is selling itself to a "foreign nation." But Nippon is not a nation. Like U.S. Steel, it is a publicly traded private corporation, some of whose shares probably are owned by U.S. individuals and pension funds. As Reason's Eric Boehm notes, Nippon, which has been operating in America for 40 years, already owns two U.S.-based steelmakers, Standard Steel and Wheeling-Nippon Steel.

Time was, U.S. Steel symbolized American bountifulness. (As did A&P grocery stores. Remember them? Didn't think so.) But U.S. Steel peaked early. Brian Potter, who writes the Constructive Physics newsletter, says that when U.S. Steel was formed in 1901, it was the world's largest corporation, and the nation's first billion dollar corporation - its \$1.4 billion valuation was more than twice the size of the federal budget. By 1971, however, U.S. Steel was no longer world's largest steelmaker. It chose to become a ward of government. It sought protection from foreign competition through government "industrial policy" - protective tariffs, import quotas, subsidies, "Buy American" mandates, etc. - rather than through modernization.

Predictably, its industrial muscles atrophied. Potter says: "As far as I can tell, no major steelmaking technology over the last century came out of U.S. Steel."

Vance, Rubio and Hawley pose as protectors of workers (steelworkers are 0.05 percent of the non-farm labor force), but Nippon says it will keep U.S. Steel's union commitments. The senators seem somehow threatened by foreign corporations' investments in the U.S. economy. This, even though, as National Review reports, these investments are, cumulatively, larger than the German economy. And these investments come here to finance Americans making things here. Matthew J. Slaughter, dean of Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business, recently noted in the Wall Street Journal that Japanese companies employ more than 963,000 Americans.

Economic illiteracy, mixed with foggy nostalgia and unseemly xenophobia, is a familiar populist cocktail served by demagogues to the gullible. Do you remember the 1989 angst when Mitsubishi's purchase of Rockefeller Center supposedly somehow signaled Japan's ascendancy over a declining America?

In 2000, a U.S. company bought Rockefeller Center. So, politicians manning the nation's ramparts to fend off foreign investors can breathe a bit easier.

georgewill@washpost.com.



George Will

Will Margot Robbie survive?

Sometimes the universe has a sense of humor.

Could there be a more amusing coda to the "Barbie" phenomenon than the Ken doll, played by Ryan Gosling, getting a best supporting actor nomination, while Barbie herself, played by Margot Robbie, got snubbed?

The director, Greta Gerwig, too, missed out on the big prize, failing to get a best director nomination.

The patriarchy strikes again. "Barbie," of course, is the annoying, occasionally entertaining \$1.4 billion feminist parable that was made into an unstoppable cultural juggernaut last year. In certain circles, if you didn't like it, you had to make yourself like it.

According to the movie's devotees, Ken getting all the glory is something straight out of the film's male-dominated dystopia that the Barbie dolls must muster the courage to resist.

Hillary Clinton expressed her sympathy on social media for the plight of Robbie and Gerwig, extremely successful people in one of the highest-profile, most lucrative industries on the planet.

Ryan Gosling struck a decidedly apologetic note. "There is no Ken without Barbie," he said, "and there is no Barbie movie without Greta Gerwig and Margot Robbie, the two people most responsible for this history-making, globally-celebrated film."

If Gosling wins the Oscar, he will have to give it back, or promise to melt down the statue.



Rich Lowry

It's not as though the Academy neglected "Barbie." The movie got eight Oscar nominations, including for best picture. That it didn't get two more doesn't exactly constitute a cosmic injustice.

As cinephile Giancarlo Sopo points out, it's not that unusual for a film to get nominated for best picture, yet not get a best director or best actress or actor nomination. It happened, for instance, to "Jaws," "Towering Inferno" and "Field of Dreams."

It's become an even more common occurrence since the Academy moved to 10 best picture nominations, up from the five in the other categories. That means five people necessarily direct a best-picture-nominated film and don't get a best-director nomination every year -- it's a matter of math.

This fate befell Greta Gerwig, but we shouldn't feel too sorry for her. First, she was nominated for best adapted screenplay for "Barbie." Her first two forays as a solo filmmaker were "Lady Bird" and "Little Women," and she got nominated for best director and best original screenplays for the former and best adapted screenplay for the latter.

Suffice it to say that the Academy likes Greta Gerwig.

As for Margot Robbie, she is without a doubt a very talented actress and already has a couple of prior Oscar nominations of her own. It's true that it's hard to see how they could have found anyone better suited to

play Barbie. But for the impossibly gorgeous Robbie to play a perfect-looking plastic doll was not the most challenging role.

Why did Gosling get nominated instead? Well, he's competing in an entirely different category. And the academy might have thought he managed to make more of a limited -- indeed, supporting -- role. Still, no one is going to mistake his performance as a supporting actor for, say, Robert De Niro in "Godfather II" or Christopher Walken in "Deer Hunter."

If "Barbie" and its makers and performers are supposed to be privileged over other possible nominees and winners, it'd lead to perverse results even by politically correct standards.

It's important to remember that all the other nominees who beat out Robbie in the best actress category ... are women. Robbie was probably bumped for a nomination by Annette Bening, a 65-year-old actress who plays the marathon swimmer Diana Nyad, a lesbian, in the movie "Nyad." Who's more deserving on feminist grounds?

Meanwhile, if the academy feels grieved into giving Gerwig the best adapted screenplay Oscar, it will have to skip over Cord Jefferson, an African-American, nominated for "American Fiction."

The Oscar nominations -- inadvertently, to be sure -- show that life doesn't have to be as simplistic and monochromatic as depicted in "Barbie."

For that, thank you to the academy.

Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 31, the 31st day of 2024. There are 335 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 31, 1958, the United States entered the Space Age with its first successful launch of a satellite, Explorer 1, from Cape Canaveral.

On this date:

In 1797, composer Franz Schubert was born in Vienna.

In 1863, during the Civil War, the First South Carolina Volunteers, an all-Black Union regiment composed of many escaped slaves, was

mustered into federal service at Beaufort, South Carolina.

In 1865, the U.S. House of Representatives joined the Senate in passing the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution abolishing slavery, sending it to states for ratification. (The amendment was adopted in December 1865.)

In 1919, baseball Hall-of-Famer Jackie Robinson was born in Cairo, Georgia.

In 1961, NASA launched Ham the Chimp aboard a Mercury-Redstone rocket from Cape Canaveral; Ham was recovered safely from the Atlantic Ocean following his 16 1/2-minute suborbital flight.

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A Lesson Learned

It is amazing what effect three simple words can cause. People's eyes become wide. The animal instinct of fight or flight arises in even the most grounded, and the call for action is heard throughout the land. At the mere utterance of WINTER STORM WARNING, residents of Indiana turn into a bunch of frenzied critters, as if someone has spread feeding pellets on the surface of a catfish pond.

I was raised in northern Michigan where 150 inches of snow was considered a mild winter and grew up loving that white stuff falling from the sky. That signaled a season of endless fun found on ski slopes, toboggan runs, snowmobile trails, and frozen lakes. I learned to drive on snow-covered pavement and used the tall snowbanks along the road as a bumper cushion in case I slid off the roadway. Drift busting was something I did on a lazy afternoon.

My first introduction to this Hoosier reaction to snow occurred the night of my wedding. I was married in northern Michigan in November. It had begun to snow beautiful peaceful flakes as we exited the church. I was thrilled for I felt it was a good omen to have the first snow on my wedding day. We had been at the reception for a short time, when I noticed the visitors that had traveled north from Indiana were leaving "en masse." Had I said something to offend them? My new husband saw the puzzled look on my face and said, "It's snowing!" I thought he was joking but soon realized there was a hint of panic in his voice.

"But it's only going to snow two or three inches?" I explained.

Then my husband looked at me and said, "I will take you away from this." Somehow moving to Indiana would save me from this horrible fate.

It took fourteen months for Mother Nature to prove him wrong.

Flash forward to January 25, 1978. It was working at Caylor Nickel Clinic and living east of Bluffton. I had stayed at work as people bailed to go home or the grocery store. I wasn't worried for I had driven twelve years without ever not arriving at my destination, even in the wild winters of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. I scoffed at the panic that the thought of snow seemed to conjure up. Mother Nature had a lesson for me to learn.

As I turned onto 124 headed east, I noticed the westerly wind was not giving the new fallen snow any peace, causing visibility to lessen by the minute. I turned on my radio to hear of multiple closings and warnings. I smiled to think how silly.

As I turned south on 500 W in Adams County, the white-out conditions caused the road to disappear. My father's words came to mind. "If you are driving in a white-out, slow down and follow the tracks in front of you." I spotted a trail in front of me. I followed. Unfortunately, the tracks were caused by a car that had been recently pulled out of the ditch. I found myself at a 45-degree angle in the east side ditch. I could not open the driver's side door, so I climbed out the other side.

I realized in my haste to get to work that morning, I had forgotten my hat and gloves. I wore a light fabric uniform but luckily, I had snow boots on. I searched and found a pair of socks to use as gloves, and I tied an extra pair of pants around my head to cover my ears and mouth. This was the days before cell phones, or I would have called my husband to come and get me. But after all, it was only a half of mile to get to my home.

As I trudged through the snowdrifts, I noticed the cold take hold of my limbs. It took every effort to make them move forward. I just wanted to lie down and rest,



Kathy Schwartz



Here's the Thing

invitation was met with fear as I was taught that a person brought something to share with the hosts. I opened the refrigerator and a head of cabbage stared at me. That's it. I searched the cabinets and found a can of pineapple chunks and a half bag of miniature marshmallows. I combined the shredded cabbage, pineapple, and mayo in a casserole dish. Topped it with marshmallows and toasted the sweet topping in the oven. I named it Blizzard Salad. My neighbors either loved it or just took pity on this newly wed but asked me for the recipe. From time to time, I still prepare it.

Here's the Thing: Today when a Winter Storm Warning is issued, I take notice and remember that lesson Mother Nature taught me so many years ago. When in a new environment look to the natives for information on how to deal with your surroundings. Never assume you know better. And yes, I head for the grocery when the warnings are issued, making sure I get that head of cabbage.

Editor's Note: This is one of a series of articles written by a group of retired and current teachers — LaNae Abnet, Ken Ballinger, Billy Kreigh, Kathy Schwartz, and Anna Spalding. Their intent is to spur discussions at the dinner table and elsewhere. You may also voice your thoughts and reactions via The News-Banner's letters to editor.

Lets get particular about air pollution

Also: Reduce risks for heart disease

Question: I know there are risks from exposure to particulate matter in the air. I live in the heart of Chicago. What can I do to protect myself? — Rory T., Chicago

Answer: Particulate air pollution does endanger your health. A large study revealed that living in areas with high levels of particulate air pollution from motor vehicle exhaust, fossil fuel combustion, wood smoke/vegetation burning, and industrial emissions was associated with an 8 percent increased risk of breast cancer. Another study found that very small particulate pollution may reduce some newborns' ability to clear damaged cells from the body. And then there's coal.

A new study finds that the particulate matter released by burning coal is associated with double the risk of death compared to other sources of pollution. This caught Dr. Mike's attention since he lives in Ohio where there's a good amount of coal-generated electricity. He shared this information in a newsletter (they're free) from LongevityPlaybook.com, along with the results of a second study in Neurology that found that ultra-small micron-sized bits of pollution, such as those released from burning coal, are a risk factor for stroke-related deaths.

Efforts are being made to clean up small-particle air pollution from energy-related sources — since 1980, air pollution upgrades have increased healthy life expectancy in America by over 2.2 years. But if air quality improved significantly, that could prevent 53,200 deaths annually according to a study in GeoHealth. Fortunately, you can reduce your risks associated with air pollution indoors and outside.

• Installing hedges and green spaces along residential streets, between schools and playgrounds and the street, and in yards can reduce harmful ultrafine particulate pollution by as



Mehmet Oz, M.D. and Mike Roizen, M.D.

much as 78 percent.

• Using HEPA air filters at home (in heating/cooling systems or stand-alone air filters) and in the car is effective.

• Check AirNow.gov daily for your area's air quality reading. When there are alerts, avoid strenuous outdoor exercise. Also wear an N95 or KN95 face mask outside on highly polluted days, especially if you have asthma or COPD.

Question: My parents and several of their siblings died from heart disease in their 50s and 60s. I'm scared I will fall into that pattern. What can you suggest I do to help reduce my risks? — Rachel D., Springfield, Massachusetts

Answer: You may have an increased genetic risk

for heart disease -- around 40 percent of risk for heart disease is genetic — but that genetic risk is only a predisposition that you control with your choices about stress management, physical activity, nutrition, portion size and timing of your meals. And even without a genetically increased risk, a family plagued by unhealthy lifestyle factors such as obesity, smoking, lack of physical exercise, chronic stress responses, poor sleeping habits and lousy nutrition has an increased risk.

One study looked at more than 6,200 two-parent, one-child groups to compare the parents' history of cardiovascular disease (CVD) and their adult child's subsequent risk for it. Parental obesity and smoking were the two modifiable risk factors that were associated with the greatest risk for an adult child also having CVD.

Another study found that individuals with a family history of heart disease increased their risk of heart disease by 40 percent if they had low levels of omega-3s. But that risk was reduced by 15 percent just by eating more fatty fish like salmon,

to get reprieve from unending wind and cold. Again, I heard my Dad say, "Never lie down. You won't get up!"

When I reached my backdoor, I pounded with my clenched hand. I could not straighten my fingers. As my husband opened the door to what probably looked a lot like a yeti, I muttered. "Get me warm!"

My fingertips, nose, and ears had small patches of white on them, so I knew not to soak in hot water but room temperature water to gradually warm my skin. As I slowly began to warm, I realized just how close I had come to being a statistic of the Blizzard of 78.

The next day found our landlord shoveling out our doors as the snow had packed both openings totally shut. I was thrilled to go to the basement and get out my cross-country skis that my husband said I'd never need. I marveled at the large drifts on the road I had traveled the night before. I strapped on my skis and took off to see our neighbors. I remember the look on my neighbor's face as I slid down the hill in front of her kitchen window. Only after I had done so, did I realize it wasn't a hill, but their garage covered with snow.

It took a week before travel was somewhat normal. I learned that Indiana did not have the equipment to deal with snowfalls over a few inches and drivers had very little experience with driving in snow. No drift busters among them.

I also experienced what Hoosier hospitality was all about. Our refrigerator was nearly empty, and our neighbors extended an invitation to share meals with them for several days until we could get to the grocery store. The first

anchovies and sea trout.

Activity also can reduce any risk for heart disease. According to a study of more than 15,000 people, replacing sitting with moderate to vigorous activity that raises your heart rate and makes you breathe faster for 30 minutes daily reduces BMI, waist circumference and blood glucose levels, all risk factors for heart disease.

The Global Cardiovascular Risk Consortium collected data on 1.5 million individuals and found that more than 50 percent of heart attacks and strokes are preventable if you don't smoke and keep control of your blood pressure, LDL cholesterol, weight, and glucose levels. Clearly, your choices matter: So, take advantage and avoid your relatives' heart woes!

Senior's lunch at Ossian Lutheran Church
A Senior Citizen's Lunch is being planned by the New Hope Lutheran Church for Thursday, Feb. 8, at 11:30 a.m. at the church at 8824 N St. Rd. 1 in Ossian.
Bob Walters from Soarin' Hawk will be speaking on the rescue of raptors and will bring live birds, including an eagle, to the program.
To reserve a spot call or text 260-415-1462 or 260-223-4830. A free will offering will defray the cost.
All seniors 50 and older are invited to attend.

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Friday, February 2nd 9pm
Saturday, February 3rd 6:15pm & 8:45pm
Sunday, February 4th 4:45pm

The Boys in the Boat
Friday, February 2nd 6:15pm
Saturday, February 3rd 3:15pm
Sunday, February 4th 2pm

www.abcinmainc.com

Online Directory
Check out these websites of local & area companies and businesses.

WELLS COUNTY 4-H GROWS HERE extension.purdue.edu/wells	JC'S GARAGE DOOR SALES & SERVICE jcsgaragedoor.com	Daniel's JEWELERS daniels-jewelers.net	ABOVE & BEYOND Vehicle Reconditioning abovebeyondrecon.com
Goodwin-Cole & Harnish MEMORIAL CHAPEL A Tradition of Caring thegmfamily.com	3 RIVERS 3riversfcu.org	Myers FUNERAL HOMES myersfuneralhomes.com	KELLY'S COLLISION CENTER, INC. 820 W. Washington Street, Bluffton kellysautocollision.com
FISHER'S GARAGE DOORS fishersgaragedoors.com	Riverstone DENTAL riverstonedental.net	Bluffton Tire blufftontire.com	MOSER & SON Heating & Air 824-0228 219 E. Perry St. Bluffton moserandsonbluffton.com
INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS AUDIO VIDEO SECURITY NETWORKING icav.us	HIDAY AUTOMOTIVE GROUP hidaymotors.com	Edward Jones EdwardJones.com	State Farm Erin Daugherty 260.827.0527 www.MyBlufftonSFAgent.com myblufftonsfagent.com
Lengerich MEATS lengerichmeats.com	Jerry Flack & Associates jerryflackinsuranceandinvestments.com	LaFontaine Center A RHF Community lafontainecenter.org	HOME COURT HOME CARE homecourthomecare.com
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Tigers hold off Squires, head to sectional semi-final

By RYAN WALKER

BERNE — Bluffton pushed away Manchester 57-47 in Round 1 of the girls' basketball sectional Tuesday night.

With the win, the Tigers (17-6) advance to play Bishop Luers (14-6) in the sectional semi-final match at 6 p.m. on Friday at South Adams High School.

The only deficit the Tigers faced was in the first half when the Squires' (14-9) Hadley West drilled a pair of three-pointers. At the 3:16 mark, Emma Walker's bucket got the lead to 10-7, but in came Konley Ault.

The sophomore guard forced a turnover and went coast-to-coast for an easy layup, one of many on her 20-point night. That helped energize Bluffton head coach Doug Curtis' trademarked defense into a fastbreak offense, scoring the next four times and gaining a 17-10 edge.

Momentum translated right away in the second quarter, as Isabella Stout and Maryn Schreiber scored in the first two and a half minutes in between a Madyson Sonnigsen triple.

The lead stretched to 24-12, and Manchester head coach Allison Kauffman had to burn her second timeout with 5:33 left in the half.

Whatever was said in the huddle must have worked for the Squires, as they nonchalantly started coming back while the Tigers got cold.

Leading scorer Brooklyn Buzzard hit her first three of the game to respond. Then, a free throw and a basket by Peyton Ream and another Buzzard three inched them closer. The 11-3 run got them within four points at a 27-23 Tigers' lead at the break.

"I thought it was huge," Curtis said of his team's transition points. "Konley dominated the first half and I pulled her out to give her a little rest right there and we kind of lost her momentum a little bit. And then second half, we picked it right back up again."

Bluffton would fight right back in the

second half.

Led by Tressa Renner's three and Sonnigsen's four-point play, the Tigers began to play its game again. By the end of the quarter, it was a 45-36 spread, and in the fourth quarter, a 9-0 jolt carried Bluffton to victory.

Curtis thought that the team's performance was key from its bread and butter, defense and fastbreak points. The two players he highlighted were Schreiber, who scored 11 points in her double-double with 12 rebounds, and Ault, 20 points, nine rebounds and led the attack with five steals.

"Two things in particular — one is Konley Ault," Curtis said. "She was able to score when we're struggling to score plus she ended up with nine rebounds. I thought she was a big factor in some of those dead spots we had and getting some momentum going with some baskets."

"I thought Maryn battled the entire game," he continued. "And she was battling the whole time (in the post) against people bigger than she was, but it isn't always about points, you know, and she did a really good job."

sports@news-banner.com



Bluffton junior Isabella Stout (middle) works to keep the ball away from several Manchester defenders.



Bluffton sophomore Konley Ault (right) pushes the ball up the court as she is closely guarded by Manchester's Brookelyn Buzzard in the second half of Tuesday night's opening round of sectionals at South Adams. The Tigers advanced to Friday night's semi final round against Bishop Luers with a 57-47 win. (Photos by Chad Kline)

BLUFFTON 57, MANCHESTER 47

At South Adams

MANCHESTER (14-9): Emma Walker 6-11 6-7 18, Brooklyn Buzzard 5-19 1-2 13, Hadley West 2-4 0-0 6, Kimberly Schroll 2-3 0-0 4, Peyton Ream 1-8 1-2 3, Molly Schanep 1-5 0-0 2, Hanna Stout 0-0 1-2 1, Gracie Lauer 0-2 0-2 0, Ava Sautter 0-0 0-0 0, MCKelvey Espeset 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 17-50 9-15 47.
BLUFFTON (17-6): Konley Ault 8-16 4-6 20, Maryn Schreiber 4-10 3-4 11, Madyson Sonnigsen 3-8 2-3 11, Isabella Stout 4-12 2-4 10, Tressa Renner 1-4 0-0 3, Haley Gibson 1-10 0-0 2, Marly Drayer 0-3 0-0 0, Cayah King 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 21-63 11-17 57.
Manchester 10 13 13 11 — 47
Bluffton 17 10 18 12 — 57
Three-point FG: Manchester: 4-16 (Buzzard 2-10, West 2-2, Ream 0-2, Schanep 0-2); Bluffton: 4-17 (Sonnigsen 3-8, Renner 1-2, Stout 0-2, Gibson 0-4, Drayer 0-1). Rebounds: Manchester: 31 (Buzzard 7, West 7, Ream 5, Walker 4, Schroll 4, Lauer 3, Schanep 1, Espeset 1); Bluffton: 37 (Schreiber 12, Ault 9, Stout 6, Sonnigsen 3, Drayer 3, Gibson 2, Trenner 2). Turnovers: Manchester: 17; Bluffton: 13. Fouls: Manchester: 16; Bluffton: 15. Fouled Out: Manchester: Lauer. Technicals: None.

High School Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JAN 30

No events scheduled.

THURSDAY, FEB 1

BOYS BASKETBALL: Bluffton at Eastbrook, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Jay County, 7:30 p.m.

SWIMMING & DIVING (CO-ED): (sectional prelims, girls only) Norwell, Bluffton at Jay County, 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB 2

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Southern Wells vs. Lakeland Christian at Northfield High School,

6 p.m.; Norwell vs. TBD at Maconaquah High School; Bluffton vs. Bishop Luers at South Adams High School, 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB 3

BOYS BASKETBALL: Columbia City at Norwell, 1:30 p.m.; Heritage at Bluffton, 2:30 p.m.

WRESTLING (regional): Norwell at Jay County, 8:30 a.m.

SWIMMING & DIVING (CO-ED): (sectional finals, girls only) Norwell, Bluffton at Jay County, 9 a.m.

News-Banner Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

NFL

Conference Championships

Sunday, Jan. 28

Conference Championships

Sunday, Jan. 28

Kansas City 17, Baltimore 10

San Francisco 34, Detroit 31

Super Bowl

Sunday, Feb. 11

At Las Vegas

Kansas City vs. San Francisco, 6:30 p.m. (CBS)

BASKETBALL

High School

Tuesday boys' Scores

Carroll (Flora) 71, Tri-Central 60

Clinton Prairie 46, Covington 37

E. Central 51, Hamilton Ross, Ohio 38

Fort Wayne 78, Ft. Wayne Canterbury 62

Ft. Wayne Snider 53, Ft. Wayne Dwenger 47

GEO 43, MTI 33

Greenwood Christian 63, Indpls International 50

Jimtown 57, Elkhart Christian 56, OT

University 57, Indpls Chatard 49

Tuesday Girls' Scores

IHSAA Sectionals

First Round

Class 4A

1. Lake Central

Lake Central 59, Munster 53

2. Valparaiso

Valparaiso 55, Chesterton 49

3. S. Bend Washington

S. Bend Adams 61, LaPorte 25

4. Northridge

Northridge 57, Warsaw 55

Penn 51, Concord 19

5. Carroll (Ft. Wayne)

Carroll (Ft. Wayne) 45, E. Noble 43

Ft. Wayne Snider 64, Ft. Wayne Northrop 60

6. Columbia City

Columbia City 68, Ft. Wayne Wayne 38

Homestead 82, Ft. Wayne South 24

7. Kokomo

Kokomo 55, Logansport 22

Lafayette Harrison 71, Marion 29

8. Hamilton Southeastern

Fishers 52, Carmel 38

Hamilton Southeastern 52, Westfield 21

9. Pendleton Heights

Mt. Vernon (Fortville) 48, Anderson 42

10. Indpls Cathedral

Warren Central 77, Indpls N. Cen-

tral 58

11. Indpls Pike

Indpls Pike 72, Indpls Perry Meridian 19

12. Avon

Brownsburg 74, Avon 42

13. Mooresville

Bloomington North 57, Martinsville 32

Center Grove 47, Bloomington South 20

14. Whiteland

Franklin 37, Shelbyville 32

15. Floyd Central

Whiteland 52, E. Central 23

16. Evansville Harrison

Jennings Co. 59, Seymour 38

17. Evansville Harrison

Evansville Central 51, Jasper 38

Evansville North 58, Evansville Harrison 29

Class 3A

17. Highland

Highland 52, Calumet 10

18. Rochester

Bremen 53, Glenn 35

Rochester 48, Knox 35

19. New Prairie

S. Bend Clay 55, Mishawaka Marian 28

20. W. Noble

Wawasee 42, Lakeland 15

21. Garrett

Angola 50, Leo 43

22. Twin Lakes

W. Lafayette 69, Frankfort 18

23. Maconaquah

Maconaquah 50, Mississinewa 49, OT

24. Yorktown

Jay Co. 56, Yorktown 48

25. Cascade

Cascade 61, Monrovia 52

26. Owen Valley

Edgewood 63, W. Vigo 43

27. Indpls Chatard

Heritage Christian 67, Indpls Herion 18

Indpls Chatard 55, Indy Brebeuf 40

28. Beech Grove

Speedway 56, Indpls Ritter 28

29. Lawrenceburg

Batesville 49, S. Dearborn 25

30. Charlestown

Charlestown 49, Corydon 43

Madison 64, N. Harrison 55

31. Southridge

Vincennes 48, Heritage Hills 39

Washington 52, Southridge 37

32. Gibson Southern

Mt. Vernon (Posey) 42, Evansville Bosse 29

Class 2A

33. Lake Station

Lake Station 50, N. Newton 8

34. N. Judson

N. Judson 39, S. Central (Union Mills) 36

35. Eastside

Central Noble 47, Eastside 42

Westview 51, Churubusco 39

36. N. Miami

Winamac 52, Wabash 46

37. S. Adams

Bluffton 57, Manchester 47

S. Adams 51, Adams Central 39

38. Delphi

Clinton Prairie 46, Covington 37

Lafayette Catholic 71, Seeger 35

39. Elwood

Eastbrook 65, Elwood 16

40. Lapel

Winchester 64, Muncie Burris 29

41. Northeastern

Union Co. 63, Hagerstown 30

42. Indpls Secocina

Indpls Secocina 52, Indpls Riverside 11

44. S. Putnam

Greencastle 39, N. Putnam 33

45. N. Decatur

Switzerland Co. 47, Hauser 36

46. Providence

Brownstown 63, Southwestern (Hanover) 32

47. N. Knox

Linton 62, N. Daviess 27

48. S. Spencer

Paoli 48, Mitchell 29

48. S. Spencer

Crawford Co. 43, N. Posey 36

S. Spencer 41, Forest Park 35

Class 1A

49. Morgan Twp.

Morgan Twp. 36, Tri-Township 34

50. Culver

Michigan City Marquette 59, Culver 19

51. Lakewood Park

Lakewood Park 49, Elkhart Christian 23

52. S. Newton

Caston 62, W. Central 37

Tri-County 62, Frontier 13

54. Attica

Fountain Central 49, Faith Christian 46

55. Rossville

Rossville 51, N. Vermillion 30

56. Union City

Blue River Valley 47, Cambridge City Lincoln 22

57. Bloomfield

Tri 43, Randolph Southern 26

58. N. Central

N. Central (Farmersburg) 51, White River Valley 46, OT

59. Eminence

Eminence 49, Indpls Lutheran 46

60. Southwestern (Shelby)

S. Decatur 50, Edinburg 21

61. W. Washington

Lanesville 56, Christian Academy 26

W. Washington 61, S. Central (Elizabeth) 53

62. New Washington

Madison Shawe 55, Crothersville 27

Trinity Lutheran 73, Medora 21

63. Barr-Reeve

Vincennes Rivet 43, Washington Catholic 15

64. Wood Memorial

Wood Memorial 61, Tecumseh 39

Lions OC Ben Johnson turns down head coaching jobs, will return with Detroit

By LARRY LAGE and STEPHEN WHYNO

AP Sports Writers

DETROIT (AP) — Detroit Lions offensive coordinator Ben Johnson has decided to stay with the team and turn down potential opportunities to be an NFL head coach next season, leading the Washington Commanders and Seattle Seahawks to turn to other candidates.

Two people familiar with the situation told The Associated Press on Tuesday that Johnson informed teams he would not be leaving the Lions. They spoke on condition of anonymity because Johnson's plans had not been announced.

Johnson was considered one of the front-runners for the Commanders in their widespread coaching search and he also interviewed twice with the Seahawks, most recently in person Monday. He was scheduled to talk to the Commanders on Tuesday.

One of the people familiar with the situation said the Washington brass is still

meeting with Lions defensive coordinator Aaron Glenn.

Johnson, 37, and Glenn helped coach Dan Campbell and the Lions win twice in the same playoffs for the first time since winning the NFL title in 1957 and reach the NFC championship game for the second time in team history and first time in 32 years. Their 34-31 loss to San Francisco on Sunday paved the way for teams to hire Johnson or Glenn.

This was Johnson's second season running Detroit's offense after serving in various coaching roles the three previous seasons.

Johnson, whom Campbell has called "a rock star," broke into the NFL with Miami in 2012 after spending three years as an assistant at Boston College. He worked his way up with the Dolphins to receivers coach in 2018 before getting hired by Detroit and playing a major role in Jared Goff's growth as a QB.

Last year, Johnson interviewed for the Houston Texans vacancy before they hired DeMeco Ryans.

Johnson staying in Detroit means the Commanders are left with a handful of candidates they've interviewed: Glenn, Dallas defensive coordinator Dan Quinn, Houston offensive coordinator Bobby Slowik and Baltimore assistants Mike Macdonald and Anthony Weaver. It's unclear if they'll pivot to former Tennessee coach Mike Vrabel, their own offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy or someone else after missing out on the opportunity to hire Johnson.

Seattle was also interested in Johnson after Pete Carroll was let go following 14 seasons in charge. Johnson had a first interview with Seattle virtually and a follow up in-person interview on Monday after the Lions' loss in the NFC title game.

Seattle made it clear that Johnson was one of its top candidates when it didn't move forward on a hire prior to the conference championship games. Quinn seemed a clear front-runner because of his past connections to Seattle.

Ware, backup Leal help Indiana hold off Iowa in men's hoops

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP) — Kel'e Ware scored 23 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, reserve Anthony Leal scored a career-high 13 points, and Indiana withstood Iowa's second-half rally and held on to beat the Hawkeyes 74-68 on Tuesday night to end a three-game losing streak.

Indiana entered having lost three of four. Indiana hadn't beaten Iowa since Feb. 7, 2021, in a 67-65 contest. It was Indiana coach Mike Woodson's first victory over Iowa. Northwestern remains the lone Big Ten team a Woodson-led squad hasn't beaten.

Ware finished shooting 8 for 10 and 6 for 11 from the foul line. A former Mr. Basketball in high school from Bloomington, Indiana, Leal entered averaging 1.8 points per game and had only scored 14 points this season and just 16 points over the last two seasons. MacKenzie Mgbako added 11 points for Indiana.

Payton Sandfort had 26 points, Tony Perkins scored 22 and Josh Dix 10 for Iowa.

Gabe Cupps' 3-pointer with 1:26 left

gave Indiana (13-8, 5-5) the lead for good at 69-68 with 1:26 left.</

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SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★

1/31

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Help Wanted

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.

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.

HELOISE HINT: When you look for work, you might be able to negotiate a higher pay rate for that job. Many companies are increasing their pay rates to hire more workers, so do your research on the salary ranges that are typical for your position. Email HELOISE@Heloise.com.

FOR SALE

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

Pets

HELOISE HINT: Dogs and cats can become obese, which is very unhealthy for them. Make sure that you're monitoring the right amount of food for your pets. Ensure that they're getting enough exercise to keep them healthy. Ask the vet about any other measures you can take to help them lose weight. Fax Heloise @ 210-HELOISE (435-6473).

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Services

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Lottery Numbers

Tuesday's Drawings
HOOSIER LOTTERY
 Cash 5 — 16-20-27-29
 Cash4Life — 04-28-35-47-57, Cash Ball: 04
Quick Draw Midday — 02-05-08-12-13-16-19-22-25-31-32-35-36-42-54-56-62-66-69-72, BE: 16
Daily Three-Midday — 00-06-02, SB: 02
Daily Three-Evening — 01-09-04, SB: 04
Daily Four-Midday — 09-06-08-06, SB: 02
Daily Four-Evening — 00-02-07-04, SB: 04
Quick Draw Evening — 09-20-22-32-37-39-44-50-55-59-60-63-64-65-66-71-73-76-77-80, BE: 71
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$3.8 million
MEGA MILLIONS — 03-05-16-58-59; Mega Ball: 11; Megaplier: 4X.
POWERBALL — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$188 million

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Public Notice

The Harrison Township Trustees Office will be holding a Harrison Township Advisory Board meeting on Monday, February 12, at 6:30 pm in the Harrison Township Trustees Office in the Annex Building located at 223 West Washington Street. The agenda includes Fire Territory Report, Township Assistance and a vote on moving forward with interlocal agreement with City of Bluffton for Parks Funding.

Kyle Hunt, Harrison Twp. Trustee
 nb 1/31
 hspaxlp

NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

IN THE WELLS CIRCUIT COURT OF WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA
 DOCKET NO.
 90C01-2401-EU-000003

Notice is hereby given that ELISE R. DUNN was on the 18th day of January, 2024, appointed personal representative of the estate of CONSTANCE S. VIDRINE, deceased, who died on the 4th day of January, 2024, and was authorized to administer her estate without Court supervision.

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

Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, this 18th day of January, 2024.
 Beth Davis
 Clerk, Wells Circuit Court

Michelle L. Adler
 Attorney for Personal Representative
 Attorney No. 31367-53
 GORDON & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
 119 East Oak Forest Drive
 Bluffton, IN 46714
 (260) 824-9377

nb 1/24, 1/31
 hspaxlp

SUDOKU ANSWER

1	5	3	9	8	4	6	2	7
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8	6	9	1	9	7	4	3	2
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10	6	7	8	9	2	4	1	9
11	3	9	4	7	1	8	6	2
12	4	8	7	1	8	6	2	9

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted



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

Now Seeking: Baylor LPN/RN

The Baylor LPN/RN at Swiss Village, Inc. will be a weekend-only LPN/RN position working from 6am-6pm on Fridays and Saturdays OR Saturdays and Sundays. This position will work 24 hours/week and be paid for 36 hours/week. Candidates must be willing to work 48/52 weekends per year. Baylor LPNs/RNs will be considered Full-Time status and are eligible for benefits including health, dental, vision, and life insurance, Paid Time Off (PTO), and 403(b) retirement plan participation.

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 EOE

Public Notices

STATE OF INDIANA)
)SS:
 COUNTY OF WELLS)
 IN THE WELLS)
 SUPERIOR COURT)
 CAUSE NO.)
 90D01-2401-MI-000006)
 IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:)
 MADELINE GRACE QUEENER)
 Petitioner)

VERIFIED PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
 Petitioner, by counsel, submits this petition in order to change their name. In support of this motion, Petitioner states:

1. My current name is Madeline Grace Queener
2. My date of birth is March 3, 1999.
3. My Indiana Driver's License number is ****-**-****
4. I am a student at Arizona State University and reside at 420 E. Garfield St., Tempe, AZ 85228 during the school year.
5. My permanent address and mailing address is 417 Ridge Court, Ossian, IN 46777.
6. I have no previous names.
7. I am a United States citizen as evidenced by my Consular Report of Birth Abroad, attached as Exhibit A.
8. I do not have any felony convictions.
9. I am not seeking to defraud creditors by changing the name on my birth certificate.
10. I have a current, valid passport.
11. I am not a sex or violent offender who is required to register under I.C. 11-8-8.
12. I will publish notice of my request for a name change in a local publication as required by law and will bring proof of publication to the hearing.
13. Pursuant to I.C. 34-28-2-1, and Indiana Common Law, I wish to change my name to Maxwell Gregor Queener.
14. The United States State Department will amend my Consular Report of Birth Abroad to reflect my new name upon receipt of this Court's order changing my name.

WHEREFORE, I respectfully request that this Court grant my Petition to Change Name and all other just and proper relief.

I affirm under the penalties of perjury that the foregoing is true and accurate.

/s/Madeline Grace Queener
 Madeline Grace Queener
 Respectfully Submitted,
 /s/David G. Crell
 David G. Crell (28512-02)

Andrews & Crell, P.C.
 116 S. Main St.
 Bluffton, Indiana 46714
 (260) 824-4049
 Attorney for Petitioner

STATE OF INDIANA)
)SS:
 COUNTY OF WELLS)
 IN THE WELLS)
 SUPERIOR COURT)
 CAUSE NO.)
 90D01-2401-MI-000006)
 IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:)
 MADELINE GRACE QUEENER)
 Petitioner)

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
 To: Any person who may be interested in the cause of action filed herein

You are hereby notified that Madeline Grace Queener has filed a petition to change the name on her birth certificate from Madeline Grace Queener to Maxwell Gregor Queener. Her current legal name will remain unchanged.

A written answer or response to this Petition must be made in writing by you or your attorney on or before thirty (30) days after the date of the final publication of this Notice. If you fail to do so, a judgment may be entered for the relief demanded by the Petitioner in the Petition.

Respectfully submitted,
 /s/David G. Crell
 David G. Crell, #28512-02
 Andrews & Crell, PC
 116 S. Main St.
 Bluffton, Indiana 46714
 (260) 824-4049
 Attorney for Petitioner

STATE OF INDIANA)
)SS:
 COUNTY OF WELLS)
 IN THE WELLS)
 SUPERIOR COURT)
 CAUSE NO.)
 90D01-2401-MI-000006)
 IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:)
 MADELINE GRACE QUEENER)
 Petitioner)

NOTICE OF HEARING/ORDER TO APPEAR
 Comes now the Petitioner, by counsel, David G. Crell, and having filed a Verified Petition to Change Name, and the Court being duly advised in the premises now sets the same for hearing on March 27, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. in the Wells Superior Court, Courthouse, Bluffton, Indiana.

Dated this January 29, 2024.
 Judge, Wells Superior Court
 Distribution:
 All Parties

nb 1/31, 2/7, 2/14
 hspaxlp

January

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