

The News - Banner

www.News-Banner.com

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2024

BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

\$1.00



It's a celebration

Above, Norwell girls basketball team celebrated Saturday afternoon after knocking off 3A No. 7 Benton Central 58-44 to advance to the two-game semi-state next Saturday at Huntington North. The No. 2 Lady Knights will face No. 1 Hamilton Heights in the opening game at 10 a.m. At right, Kennedy Fuelling shares an emotional moment with her mom, Lindey, after Fuelling broke the all-time girls basketball scoring record for Norwell. She broke the record on the final shot of the game with 9.8 seconds to play. Below, the team poses with the regional trophy and game ball. Story and game photo on Page 6. (Photos by Glen Werling)



Man found guilty on multiple felony drug charges

By SYDNEY KENT

A man from Bluffton was found guilty by jury in a three-day trial this week.

Bruce Murray, 56, was found guilty of one charge of intent to deliver methamphetamine, a Level 2 felony, possession of methamphetamine between 10 and 28 grams, a Level 4 felony, and resisting law enforcement, a Class A misdemeanor.



Bruce Murray

The charges stem from October of 2021 when local law enforcement went to Murray's address to assist probation with a search of the residence. The search was on behalf of Brenda Murray, Murray's wife.

According to a probable cause affidavit, Murray called for his wife and then sat down on a couch in the home. Officers entered the residence and repeatedly informed Murray he was required to leave due to the search involving a K-9. Murray refused to leave the couch until officers physically removed him. He resisted but was ultimately removed.

Officers located a bag of a crystal like material that later tested positive for methamphetamine under the cushion where Murray sat. The bag weighed approximately 11.86 grams. A round white mirror with methamphetamine, various pill bottles, hollowed out pen casings and cut straws with drug residue were also located.

When questioned, Brenda Murray claimed to not know what officers found in the residence or to have used the drugs. Text messages revealed various exchanges of what appeared to be Brenda Murray relating infor-

(Continued on Page 2)

Fuelling tops Norwell scoring list, passing Rupright at 1,593

By RYAN WALKER

Norwell High School came home to Ossian with a regional championship trophy Saturday night in its 58-44 victory over Benton Central — and senior guard Kennedy Fuelling returned as the all-time leading scorer in school's history.

Fuelling needed 13 points to tie and 14 to surpass Jessica Rupright's record, and it didn't look like it would happen at first.

Fuelling had only five points entering the fourth quarter, though she had nine steals. The Knights, who led nearly the entire game, looked like they would ice the game without Fuelling getting the record. But she got rolling quickly in the fourth, hitting a two-point shot within the first two minutes of the quarter.

Then the sharpshooter hit her first three of the contest at the 3:50 mark to wind the record down to three points. She was 0-8 before making the first three.

A minute later, Fuelling sunk her second three in a row to tie it at 1,591.

With the lead in a high-stakes game, Norwell slowed for the next 2:10. Benton Central scraped the next six points, but then began to empty the bench to honor its seniors as the game was already won.

Head coach Eric Thornton wasn't aware that Fuelling had tied the record on the last three until an assistant told him. That's when he decided to run the final play for her.

"When we got to the end of the game and when (Benton Central's) honoring their seniors, I told our kids that we were basically going to dribble to ball out or get to the foul line, whatever they do," Thornton said. "But I didn't know until we went out onto the floor and our assistant said 'Hey,

(Continued on Page 2)

Banks, credit unions stinging from court losses turn to legislature

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle

The revival of a bill that would allow banks to change contract terms without explicit consent from their users rang alarm bells for consumer advocates but faced little opposition in the House. Additionally, the proposal would override two recent opinions from the Indiana Supreme Court.

The move coincides with another bill, this time in the Sen-

ate, that would shorten the statute of limitations for consumers to take legal action against their banks while simultaneously capping award amounts.

For Erin Macey, the director of the Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute, both pieces of legislation further erode already weak protections for Hoosier consumers and haven't received enough attention.

"At their heart, I think they're

about the same issue. On a very basic level, banks and credit unions are being sued over their overdraft fees," Macey said. "Rather than let that play out in the courts, they are going to the legislature to permanently take away consumer protections. Every person who has a checking or a savings account should hear about this."

Both continue through the legislative process, now at its halfway

mark, despite bipartisan qualms. Neither have yet been scheduled for committee hearings in their opposite chamber.

A second attempt

House Bill 1284 draws some of its contents from a bill that passed the House last year and died when amended into a bill from the Senate. Author Rep. Kyle Pierce, a Republican from Anderson, characterized it as a bill that "restores the long-held legal principle that

continued use or silence are forms of acceptance" and reverses two Indiana Supreme Court decisions.

Those decisions, Decker v. Star and Land v. IU Credit Union, were both 2023 cases in which justices sided with Hoosier consumers over financial institutions. In Land, the banks slipped arbitration clauses into lengthy monthly statements after customers had opened accounts and instructed users that

(Continued on Page 2)

Inside

Local/Area

Obituaries 3
Court Docket 3

Opinion

Niki Kelly 4

Also...

Sports 6-7
Classifieds 9
Diversions 8

Outside



Mostly sunny and breezy, cool and cloudy tonight

Today	Tuesday	Wed.
High 43	High 39	High 43
Low 27	Low 26	Low 32

More Weather on Page 2

Online

Follow us on Facebook!
Go to www.facebook.com/newsbanner

Place Your Classified Ads 24/7

Vol. 95 No. 86
MONDAY
February 12, 2024

Check Out Our Daily Directory of Advertising You Can be Here **EVERY DAY!**

Call 824-0224 for Special Monthly Pricing!




125 N. Johnson St. • 260-824-0224 • www.news-banner.com

How to contact us:

Call us: 824-0224
or 1-800-579-7476
email@news-banner.com
On the Web:
www.news-banner.com
Follow us at:
twitter.com/newsbanner



Fuelling tops scoring

(Continued from Page 1)
she could get it right now.' And that was the first I had heard of it. So, we called a set for Kennedy. So, we got the ball in her hands."

Initially, Fuelling didn't take the first look, but she drove the lane and took the final attempt with just over nine seconds left. The ball dribbled

around the iron, but it went in.

"She passed up the three, so I was worried a little bit about that, but she knew exactly what she was doing, and she was going to do her thing," Thornton said. "She got one to fall. Finally, she got a good bounce. I'm just really happy for her. You want the win first, but to get the

record at this level on the last play of the game, that was awesome."

"It means so much," Fuelling said. "I couldn't have done it without my teammates at all. They're always finding me in those types of situations and how they get me open. A lot of it goes to them."

ryan@news-banner.com

Banks, credit unions

(Continued from Page 1)
continued use constituted agreement to the new terms.

Justices determined that "silence and inaction did not amount to assent," when it came to inserting new contract language. Land was part of a class action lawsuit concerning overdraft fees similar to the Decker case.

"Rather than suggesting that Land's silence would amount to acceptance, the parties' previous dealings point in the opposite direction: the need for affirmative assent," read the ruling, which included the bolded words.

Notably, Justice Mark Massa disagreed with the majority, saying that Land had received notice and continued using the account, a consent option that "was neither burdensome nor unreasonable, but the consequences of our decision today may turn out to be both."

In committee, Pierce detailed the cases and said justices were "hawkish on (the) issue of notice," saying his proposal would require written notice of changes — which the court agreed was adequate but still didn't resolve consent.

This question of consent was exactly what sank the language last year, bringing together an unlikely coalition of senators who typically disagree with one another: Sen. Greg Taylor — a Democrat — and Republican Sens. Mike Young and Aaron Freeman.

Young, an Indianapolis Republican, disagreed with the idea that banks should add new language into contracts, such as arbitration, "that never had anything to do with the language to start with."

Indiana already has weak consumer protections, according to a December 2023 report from the National Consumer Law Center. The organization gave Indiana a 'D' grade when it came to its nationwide evaluation, which included creditor limitations on garnishing wages and letting families maintain small amounts of funds.

"This is a dangerous precedent that we're allowing ... if someone says, 'well, if it's good enough for financial institutions to add something to a contract, why can't I do it? Why can't a hospital do it? Why can't an attorney do it?'" Young said. "Only the bank can add the language but not the other party. And that's even more unfair — to allow one party to completely change the contract without the parties' ability to do anything about it."

Opponents last year also noted that when other companies increase fees or change terms mid-contract — such as Netflix — the process of cancelling is quick and easy, unlike when someone wants to close a bank account.

Additionally, Young observed that arbitration would "more than likely" favor banks.

In a roll call on April 19, 2023, the bill failed on a 19-22 vote, sending it to a conference committee where the language on implicit consent was stripped.

But the 2024 bill faces little opposition, garnering just four 'no' votes in a Jan. 30 vote in the House — three Democrats and one Republican.

Less time to sue

At the same time, the Senate is moving forward with a bill that would short-

en the amount of time that Hoosiers have to sue their financial institutions from six years down to two, and caps the amount of damages that can be awarded.

A committee amendment from Freeman would also limit the window for banks to sue users to two years.

Senate Bill 188, authored by Sen. Scott Baldwin, would curb "predatory practices by big law firms" that bring class action lawsuits against banks. He said account agreements would go up for all Hoosiers to protect the few who made bad money choices.

The bill would "try to dissuade those actions" by trimming the statute of limitations, which the General Assembly cut from ten years down to six in the last few years.

In committee, Macey said that shortening the length of time people had to sue would not only discourage class action lawsuits but also make it harder for individuals to sue their banks for excessive overdraft fees. This disproportionately harms impoverished Hoosiers, she said.

"But finding legal help to challenge harms like these — that may be repeated across many people — it's important but it's very challenging. This is where class actions and contingency fee cases come in," Macey testified.

She said that some financial institutions had reorganized transactions in a way that would charge multiple overdraft fees, dinging customers repeatedly, even as the national conversation shifted away from overdraft fees.

Macey pointed to the National Credit Union Administration, which had

recently urged credit unions in Indiana to reconsider their overdraft protection programs to better align with the overall mission to empower impoverished communities.

"... the reality is that punitive overdraft fees can harm consumers, and households hit by frequent fees often have their checking accounts closed," NCUA Chair Todd Harper told the Indiana Credit Union League in May. "In addition, Black and Hispanic consumers are more likely to be charged these fees and have their accounts closed, creating an inequitable environment of financial exclusion for people of color, instead of a better system of financial inclusion."

Harper noted that other financial institutions had stopped charging such fees altogether and credit unions would be pressured to follow suit.

The bill passed out of committee 7-2 with no Democratic support. But two of the Republican members who voted 'yes' expressed their concerns about the legislation. Freeman said the issue didn't appear to be six years versus two years, but rather overdraft fees in general.

"I think we're taking a swing and we're hitting something (but) missing the problem," Freeman said. "All I know is, if I'm an individual in Indiana and I find out my bank has done something wrong ... and I'm limited to two years of damages as opposed to six years of damages, I think all of us would be very angry about that."

"I think we should think long and hard about what we're doing," Freeman continued.

Woman firing long gun in Joel Osteen's church killed by 2 off-duty officers; young boy with her hurt

HOUSTON (AP) — A woman in a trenchcoat opened fire with a long gun inside celebrity pastor Joel Osteen's megachurch in Texas before being gunned down by two off-duty officers who confronted her, sending worshippers rushing from the building between busy Sunday services, authorities said.

The woman entered the Houston church with a 5-year-old boy shortly before 2 p.m. and the child was shot and critically injured. Houston Police Chief Troy Finner said it was not clear whether the child was struck by the off-duty officers who returned fire. He said a 57-year-old man also was shot and wounded.

The child was in critical condition at a children's hospital, while the man was stable at a different hospital with a hip wound.

Finner said that after the woman began shooting, both officers "engaged" her and the woman was killed. He said that unfortunately "a 5-year-old kid was hit" although he released no immediate details on how the confrontation unfolded.

He praised the officers for quickly confronting the woman, adding, "She had a long gun, and it could have been a lot worse."

The slain woman was not immediately identified, and her motive wasn't clear.

The shooting happened between services at the

megachurch that is regularly attended by 45,000 people every week, making it the third largest megachurch in the U.S., according to the Hartford Institute for Religion Research. Osteen's televised sermons reach about 100 countries.

It was not clear where Osteen was at the time. But he joined police at a news conference afterward and said the church is "devastated." He added that the shooting could have been much worse if it had happened during the larger 11 a.m. service. He added he would pray for the victims and for the woman who did the shooting and their families.

"We're going to stay strong and we're going to continue to, to move forward," Osteen said after authorities spoke. "There are forces of evil, but the forces that are for us -- the forces of God -- are stronger than that. So we're going to keep going strong and just, you know, doing what God's called us to do: lift people up and give hope to the world."

Witnesses told reporters that they heard multiple gunshots shortly before the church's 2 p.m. Spanish language service was set to begin.

Christina Rodriguez, who was inside the church, told Houston television station KTRK that she "started screaming, 'There's a shooter, there's a shooter,'" and then she and others ran

to the backside of a library inside the building, then stood in a stairway before they were told it was safe to leave.

Longtime church member Alan Guity, whose family is from Honduras, said he was resting inside the church's sanctuary before the 2 p.m. service as his mother was working as an usher when he heard gunshots.

"Boom, boom, boom, boom and I yelled, 'Mom,'" he said.

The 35-year-old ran to his mother and they both laid flat on the floor and prayed as the gunfire continued. They remained there for about five minutes until someone told them it was safe to evacuate. Outside, Guity said, he and his mother tried to calm people down by worshipping and singing in Spanish, "Move in me, move in me. Touch my mind and my heart. Move within me Holy Spirit."

Guity was among the many congregation members who waited Sunday evening to be allowed to return to their vehicles as police continued to search the building. The church is located in what used to be an arena where the NBA's Houston Rockets used to play years ago.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott issued a separate statement saying "our hearts are with

those impacted by today's tragic shooting and the entire Lakewood Church community in Houston. Places of worship are sacred."

At least 20 police and fire trucks were near one of the church's entrances Sunday afternoon, including the fire department's hazardous materials truck. Finner said it was reported that the woman had a bomb, but no explosives were found when her vehicle and backpack were searched.

Worshippers could be seen leaving the building as authorities evacuated the church before the news conference. Officials announced a reunification center had been set up at a nearby gym for people to find their loved ones.

The church has grown tremendously over the past 25 years since Joel Osteen took over after his father's death in 1999 and introduced an upbeat style of Christian televangelism that has captured a following of millions. The elder Osteen founded the church in a converted feed store in 1959.

At times, Lakewood Church has served as a shelter during flooding in Houston. After the pandemic, it reopened for a time at one-quarter of its capacity with only 4,000 worshippers allowed.

Weather

Monday, February 12, 2024
(24-hour observations at 10:39 p.m. Sunday)
High: 44; Low: 25; Precipitation: None
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.61 feet at 9:45 p.m. Sunday

Wells County forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 43. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 27. North wind 10 to 15 mph.

Tuesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 39. Northwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 26. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 43.

Wednesday Night: A 30% chance of showers after 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 32.

Thursday: Showers likely, mainly before 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 44. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Thursday Night: A slight chance of rain and snow showers before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 28. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Friday: Partly sunny, with a high near 37.

Friday Night: A 40% chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 25.

Saturday: A 20% chance of snow showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 33.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 20.
Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 37.



Drug charges

(Continued from Page 1)
mation in regard to drug deals on behalf of her husband.

Brenda Murray was charged with dealing in methamphetamine, a Level 2 felony, aiding in dealing in methamphetamine, a Level 4 felony, possession of methamphetamine between 10 and 28 grams, a Level 4 felony, and four counts of unlawful possession of a legend drug, all Level 6 felonies.

In September of 2022, Murray pled guilty to one count of aiding in dealing in methamphetamine, a Level 4 felony. All other charges were dismissed and she was ordered to serve six years in prison as a result.

Disposition in this case has been delayed by a

myriad of factors. During a pretrial conference in the Wells Circuit Court in July, Murray's defense, Harry Foster, asked the court to postpone his scheduled August trial until October. Foster explained that Murray had potential lung cancer and had an appointment with an oncologist later that day.

Murray was later issued an additional Level 6 felony for failure to appear after he again did not attend a scheduled hearing in this case, which further delayed trial. Murray faces over 40 years in prison upon sentencing. A sentencing hearing is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on March 5 in the Wells Circuit Court.

sydney@news-banner.com

THINKING OF SELLING?

LET MY
35 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
WORK FOR YOU!

- ESTATE LIQUIDATION AUCTIONS
- REAL ESTATE
- PERSONAL PROPERTY
- ANTIQUES
- FARM MACHINERY
- FARM GROUND

PAT CARTER
REAL ESTATE BROKER & AUCTIONEER

STEFFEN GROUP
260.273.8294 • STEFFENGRP.COM

AU19500212 • AC3050053

ONLINE ONLY PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION

GLASSWARE, COLLECTIBLES, FURNITURE, TOOLS, PRIMITIVES & MORE!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH

PREVIEW LOCATION: 102 S JEFFERSON ST, OSSIAN, IN 46777

Outstanding Collection of Vintage Pickle Casters & Brides Baskets - Condiment Sets Cut and Pressed Glassware - Fenton - Carnival - Cranberry - Vaseline - Opalescent Cobalt - Indiana - Uranium - Toothpick Holders - Towle Sterling Silver & Assorted Serving Pieces - Antique & Modern Furniture - Vintage Toys - Primitives - Musical Instruments - Cuckoo Clocks - Pocket Watches - Costume Jewelry - Pottery - Shop Tools Professional Dust Collector - Generator - Drill Press - Double Shaft Grinder - Haviland China - Royal Doulton Figures - Presidential Collectibles - Farm Advertising & More!

VIEW COMPLETE CATALOG AT STEFFENGRP.COM

SELLER: THOMAS & MARY WOODWARD AND OTHER CONSIGNORS - SALE MANAGER: PAT CARTER (260.273.8294)

AUCTION PREVIEW & ONLINE BIDDING ASSISTANCE:

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH (3:00 - 6:00 PM) & THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND (3:00 - 6:00 PM)

STEFFEN GROUP
REAL ESTATE & AUCTIONS

260.426.0633
STEFFENGRP.COM
AU19500212 • AC3050053

IAR NAA
INDIANA AUCTIONEERS ASSOCIATION

FCC (ADAMS), LLC
Berne, IN
TEXT TO APPLY! 1-866-902-0138

TROUBLED?
TRY PRAYER!

deweeseappliance.com

DeWeese

SOFTWATER & APPLIANCES
We Service All Appliances

1-800-356-4440 • 231 N. Wayne St., Warren

Follow us on Twitter at...twitter.com/newsbanner

OBITUARIES

Herbert S. Gerber, 86

Herbert "Herb" S. Gerber, 86, of Bluffton, passed away Saturday morning, Feb. 10, 2024, at Christian Care Retirement Community.

Herb was born in Bluffton on Dec. 18, 1937, to Ervin and Sylvia (Kaehr) Gerber. Both parents preceded him in death. He married Betty A. Huffman at the Chester Center Church in Poneto on April 24, 1960; She survives.

A 1957 graduate of Lancaster High School, Herb later worked for A.T. Ferrell where he retired in 2006 after 25 years. He was an avid Philadelphia Phillies and Philadelphia Eagles fan. He also enjoyed following and attending Norwell sporting events as well as attending his grandchildren's sporting events. Herb enjoyed being on his mower and taking care of his lawn.

In addition to his wife, Herb is survived by two sons, Greg (Lana) Gerber of Berne, and Kerry J. Gerber of Bluffton; a daughter, Cheryl (Dan) Hudson of Warren, Ohio; a brother, Glen Gerber of Indianapolis; a sister, Maxine Fiechter of Bluffton; two sisters-in-law, Sharon Gerber of Bluffton, and Susie Gerber of Bluffton; 11 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

Aside from his parents, Herb was preceded in death by three brothers, Russell, Luther, and Galen Gerber; and one sister, Marilyn Pritchard.

Visitation will be Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., at Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton. Services will be held on Thursday, Feb. 15, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. with visitation one hour prior at the Funeral Home. Chad Gerber will officiate. Burial will follow at the Apostolic Christian Cemetery in Adams County.

Memorial Contributions in memory of Herb may be made to Loving Shepherd Ministries.

Online condolences may be made at www.goodwin-cale.com



Filing deadline passes: Six gubernatorial hopefuls to appear on GOP ballots

By **LESLIE BONILLA MUÑOZ**
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Dozens of candidates for Indiana's top elected offices will hit Hoosier primary ballots this spring — including a whopping eight gubernatorial hopefuls, more than 150 state-level job-seekers and more than five-dozen congressional contenders.

Candidates aiming for the Democrat or Republican primary ballot had until Friday at noon to file their candidacy. The Libertarian Party holds nominating conventions in Indiana.

The so-called "major party" candidates on a list from the Secretary of State's office are still subject to challenge, however.

In successful challenges, the Indiana Election Commission can remove candidates who don't meet certain requirements.

Underdogs now expected to make the ballot

To get on the ballot for Indiana's crowded race for governor, candidates must collect signatures from at least 500 registered voters in each of the state's nine congressional districts: 4,500 signatures at minimum. Campaigns aim for more, however, because signatures can be challenged and thrown out.

Eight have made the cut, including six Republicans: U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, businessman Brad Chambers, Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, businessman Eric Doden and former Attorney General Curtis Hill and faith-focused mother of five Jamie Reitenour.

While campaigns for Braun, Chambers, Crouch and Doden have raised millions of dollars and easily secured their spots on the ballot, others worked with more limited means. Reitenour, for example, has raised just \$17,000 but managed the task.

"Our campaign is turning heads for meeting the lofty Indiana ballot requirements on a tight budget," Reitenour noted on Facebook Wednesday. "We never set out to spend our way into office, but to work our way into office."

Republican-turned-Democrat Jennifer McCormick, formerly the state's top education official, also submitted the thousands of signatures required to make the ballot.

She'll take on Democrat Tamie Dixon-Tatum, who describes herself as a human relations and civil rights professional.

Most state lawmakers file for reelection

State-level legislators offered up no surprises in their filings, with more than 95% of 150 representatives and 96% of the 25 senators up for reelection throwing their hats back in the ring.

The six departing Republican representatives include Reps. Bob Cherry, Chuck Goodrich, Randy Lyness, Donna Schaibley, Jerry Torr and Denny Zent. While Goodrich is running for higher office — the competitive 5th Congressional District seat — his other colleagues have previously announced legislative retirements.

The lone Democrat leaving is Rep. Ryan Hatfield, who is running for Vanderburgh County Circuit Court judge.

While representatives serve two-year terms, senators get the gig for four at a time. That means half the chamber is up for reelection every two years.

Just one of those senators won't be back on the ballot: Sen. John Crane, who previously said he did not want to be a "career politician."

The filings don't reflect those caucused in by party insiders after multiple lawmakers left mid-term.

But incumbents will face more than two-dozen same-party challengers during the primary, according to the SOS list.

With four incumbents leaving Congress, dozens vie to succeed them

Two Republicans are locked in fierce competition to replace Indiana's junior U.S. Senator, Braun, who is forgoing reelection for a shot at the governor's office.

U.S. Rep. Jim Banks and egg farmer John Rust have gone to verbal blows over Rust's eligibility for the primary ballot.

But — for now — it seems as though Hoosier voters pulling Republican ballots will have two candidates to choose from. Senate hopefuls must meet the same 4,500 statewide signature requirement.

Democrat Valerie McCray, a clinical psychologist, also appears to have filed her stack of sig-

natures, according to the SOS list. Fellow Democrat Marc Carmichael, a longtime politico, also qualified.

In Indiana's First Congressional District, Democrat incumbent Frank Mrvan faces no primary challengers. The Democrat-leaning district is located in northwestern Indiana.

But three Republicans — Mark Levya, Randy Niemeyer and Ben Ruiz — will duke it out in May to face Mrvan in the November general election.

In the Second, incumbent Rudy Yakym runs unopposed by fellow Republicans. Yakym won the northern Indiana seat, which is heavily GOP, following the shock death of Rep. Jackie Walorski.

Democrat Lori Camp also runs unopposed in the primary.

In the Third, a full 11 candidates seek to replace Banks, who's left his safe Republican seat in northeastern Indiana to pursue the U.S. Senate.

That includes eight Republicans: Grant Bucher, Wendy Davis, Mike Felker, Jon Kenworthy, Tim Smith, former U.S. Rep. Marlin Stutzman, Eric Whalen and state Sen. Andy Zay.

Democrats Kiley Adolph, Phil Goss and Thomas Schrader will face each other in May.

In the Fourth, longtime Republican incumbent Jim Baird will take on four GOP challengers: Charles Bookwalter, Trent Lester, Christopher Lucas and John Piper. The heavily red district is located in western Indiana.

Hoosiers pulling Democrat ballots will choose between Rimpi Girn and Derrick Holder.

In the Fifth, incumbent GOP Rep. Victoria Spartz said a year ago she'd leave her red central Indiana seat — only to reverse course days before the filing deadline.

The decision throws a wrench into the plans of other Republicans running in her absence, but several have said they're staying in the race.

And 11 Hoosiers — Jonathan Brown, Raju Chinthala, Max Engling, state Rep. Chuck Goodrich, Mark Hurt, Scott King, Patrick Malayter, Matthew Peiffer, L.D. Powell, Larry Savage and Spartz —

appear to have qualified for the ballot.

Two Democrats, Ryan Pfenninger and Deborah Pickett, will run against each other in the primary.

In the Sixth, retiring incumbent Rep. Greg Pence leaves a packed crowd of fellow Republicans to compete for his seat. It includes Jamison Carrier, Darin Childress, Bill Frazier, former state Rep. John Jacob, Sid Mahant, state Sen. Jeff Raatz, recent Indianapolis mayoral candidate Jefferson Shreve and state Rep. Mike Speedy.

Democrat Cinde Wirth is unopposed.

The safe Republican district includes parts of central and eastern Indiana.

In the Seventh, incumbent Congressman André Carson will face Democrats Curtis Godfrey and Pierre Pullins. Republicans Philip Davis, Jenn Pace, Cat Ping and Gabe Whitley will compete to counter him in November.

The safe Democrat district is located entirely within Marion County.

In the Eighth, another retiring incumbent's exit has created a crowded primary. The safe Republican district falls in southwestern Indiana.

Nine Republicans will compete to replace Rep. Larry Bucshon: Jim Case, Jeremy Heath, former U.S. Rep. John Hostettler, Dominick Kavanaugh, state Sen. Mark Messmer, Richard Moss, Kristi Risk and Jon Schrock.

Democrats Erik Hurt, Peter Priest III, Edward Upton Sein and Michael Talarzyk will appear on the opposite ballot.

And in the Ninth, incumbent Erin Houchin will attempt to fend off Republican Hugh Doty. On the Democrat ballot, D. Liam Dorris and Tim Peck will face off.

This red district is located in south-central and southeastern Indiana.

Fern E. Gould, 93

Fern E. Gould, 93, died Sunday morning, Feb. 11, 2024 at her residence in Murray, Ind.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel 3220 East SR 124 Bluffton.

Maurice L. Moser, 84

Maurice L. Moser, 84, died Sunday afternoon, Feb. 11, 2024 at his residence in Berne.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel 3220 East SR 124 Bluffton.

Court News

Wells Superior Court
Criminal Cases

Tessa Lynne Karbach, 38, Fort Wayne, appeared in court for a sentencing hearing on Feb. 6. Karbach was sentenced to one year in the Indiana Department of Correction with all but 60 days suspended and 48 days of jail credit. Karbach was also ordered to serve 305 days on probation. The sentence was issued after Karbach pled guilty to one count of theft, a Level 6 felony. Karbach is ordered to pay court costs and filing fees in the amount of \$189.

Alexis Rachele Lewis, 24, Elizabethtown, North Carolina, was sentenced to 60 days in the Wells County Jail with all but two days suspended. Lewis was also ordered to serve 363 days on probation. The sentence was issued immediately after Lewis pled guilty to operating a vehicle with an ACE of .08 or more, a Class C misdemeanor. One count for operating a vehicle while intoxicated — first offense and no endangerment, was dismissed pursuant to the plea agreement. Lewis is also ordered to pay court costs and filing fees in the amount of \$389.50.

Luis Alejandro Vasquez Martinez, 22, Fort Wayne, was sentenced to one year in the Wells County Jail with all but eight days suspended and eight days of jail credit. Martinez is also required to serve 357 days on probation. The sentence was issued after Martinez pled guilty to one count of operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more, a Class A misdemeanor. Three additional counts for operating a vehicle while intoxicated, operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more, and knowingly operating a vehicle without ever receiving a license, all misdemeanors, were dismissed pursuant to the plea agreement. Martinez is ordered to pay court costs and filing fees in the amount of \$389.50.

Danielle Nicole Dietzer, 36, Decatur, was sentenced to two days in the Wells County Jail with two days of jail credit. Dietzer was sentenced after she pled guilty to one count of assisting a criminal, a Class A misdemeanor. Dietzer is also ordered to pay court costs and filing fees in the amount of \$204.

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.

VISITATION & SERVICES
Hannah Mari Davis
Calling: 3 - 8 p.m.
Monday, February 12 and one hour prior to the service.
Service: 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday, February 13 at the funeral home.
Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 W. Washington St.
824-3850
www.thomarich.com

Daily Lunch Special

American Legion Post III

Open to Public

Tuesday
Tenderloin Basket

Wednesday
Chicken Wings

Thursday
Taco's, Nacho's, Taco Salad

Friday
Cheese Burger Basket

Ask About Our Homemade Soup
Chilli served daily!

FRESH • VARIETY • LOCAL • QUALITY
3095 VAN HORN ST., ZANESVILLE
LOCALLY SUPPLIED • LOCALLY OWNED

Lengerich

MEATS • SPECIALS

Beef Chuck Roast \$8.89/lb.
Frozen Cajun Pork Sausage Bulk. . . . \$3.09/lb.
Taco Pasta \$4.19/lb.
Homemade Ham Salad \$5.09/lb.

Sides of Beef Available at Market Prices
Whole or Half Hog. *dressed weight* \$2.99/lb.

www.lengerichmeats.com **PRICES GOOD Feb. 12 - Feb. 17, 2024**

HAPPY Valentine's Day

Pulled Pork with or without BBQ Sauce • Homemade Chicken Salad • Homemade Ham Salad • Smoked Pork Chops • Sloppy Joe • Summer Sausage • Cheeseballs • Canned Beef • Canned Chicken • Smoked Turkeys
CALL IN ADVANCE FOR ALL SPECIAL ORDERS

WE HELP YOU GET SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE AND MEDICAID READY!

Jerry Flack & Associates

WE REPRESENT MANY - MANY - MANY INSURANCE COMPANIES
WE HAVE ALL THE MEDICARE AND MEDICAID OPTIONS AVAILABLE

The Price Tag is the Same Everywhere Consider Local for Better Service

WE HAVE THE MARKETPLACE UNDER 65 PRODUCTS.

WHEN YOU HAVE PROBLEMS AND YOU WILL HAVE PROBLEMS YOU WILL HAVE US TO COUNT ON
MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTS - MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS - PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLANS

Life Insurance - Long Term Care Insurance - Investments - Individual and Small Group Health - Dental - Vision - Hearing - Cancer Insurance

Folks on Medicare A and B and Diabetic can get **FREE** Nice Looking Diabetic Shoes Every Year from Us | We Do **FREE** Information/ Education Seminars In Your Business (Again Former Teachers)

WE CAN MEET: IN OUR OFFICE - IN YOUR HOME - IN A FAVORED LOCATION

In the 1882 Building at Main & Market with the mural on the outside wall • 260-824-1618

Hoosiers want property tax relief, but that is the hardest for lawmakers to give

Indiana legislators have been toying with a significant state tax overhaul for more than a year, even assigning a task force to review the options and present ideas for the 2025 session.

GOP leaders have an eye specifically on possibly eliminating the individual income tax. But Hoosiers want them to focus on property taxes, and property taxes are the most complicated of the tax structures to adjust.

Senate Republicans have begun releasing the results from their constituent surveys and property taxes are the clear favorite to cut. Twenty-seven surveys have been posted. Of those, 19 asked this question:

“Lawmakers are working on a long-term plan to improve Indiana’s tax system in the coming years. Which one of these taxes would you most like to see Indiana reduce/eliminate in the future?”

The choices were gas, income, property and sales taxes.

In 18 of those 19 surveys, property taxes were the clear leader. The last was a tie between property and income taxes.

For instance, 48% of Sen. Sue Glick’s constituents said property taxes need to be addressed. Similarly, for Sen. Jeff Raatz at 41%. And again, and again.

Complicating factors

The problem is that property taxes are not an easy, clean cut.

Indiana has been running ahead of tax revenue projections for a few years now, amassing billions in reserves and even sending rebate checks to taxpayers for collecting too much.

Those collections are largely made up by individual income taxes, sales taxes and corporate taxes. And they would be the easiest to cut in terms of logistics. (That doesn’t include the discussion of how to replace at least some of the revenue to ensure state priorities are properly funded.)

But property taxes go to local units of government. They bring the firefighters to your house when there is a fire. They fix potholes. They transport your child to school. They pay for 4th of July parades and community events. They provide a library for your kids to read or those without Internet to apply for jobs. They plow the snow.

Cutting property taxes means either reducing local services or finding another way to fund them.

Years ago, the state paid property tax replacement credits to local governments to artificially reduce property tax bills. Those were eliminated when the state took over some large local levies and adopted property tax caps. Your property tax bill generally can’t go above 1% of your assessed value for homesteads, 2% for other residential properties and farmland, and 3% for commercial properties. I say “generally” because some referendums are on top of the caps.

I highly doubt legislators want to use state revenue to get back in the property tax replacement credit game. In 2007, before property tax reform, the state was shelling out \$2 billion annually in these credits to local units of government. And it grew every year.

At a September meeting of the Interim State and Local Tax Review Task Force, former Sen. Luke Kenley told lawmakers they should pivot to focusing on property tax affordability, noting the 2008 reform he helped lead is starting to leak.

He reminded the group that property taxes, in contrast to income taxes, consider value but not necessarily owners’ ability to pay.

Limited options

Property tax expert Larry DeBoer, a Purdue University professor, said “It’s hard to do much without funding the lost revenue or radically reducing the size of local government.”

But lawmakers are at least thinking about how to help homeowners. Sen. Ryan Mishler – who chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee – heard an interesting bill this year that would exempt homesteads from paying property taxes, aside from those approved via a referendum. It was just an informational hearing but could be part of the 2025 discussion.

Senate Bill 285 would use \$1 billion in state revenue that would be freed up after Indiana’s pensions are fully funded in 2032. The proposal, though, would leave local governments and schools in a lurch — with no replacement for the remaining \$4.1 billion.

That would, of course, decimate services. But there could be a middle ground somewhere in the idea — maybe covering 30% of the homestead costs.

Homeowners especially are struggling with several straight years of increased assessed value and increased property tax bills. The biggest lift is reforming property taxes — but unfortunately for lawmakers, that’s what their constituents want.

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

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Feb. 12, the 43rd day of 2024. There are 323 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History: On Feb. 12, 1983, composer and pianist Eubie Blake, who wrote such songs as “I’m Just Wild About Harry” and “Memories of You,” died in Brooklyn, New York, at 96.

On this date:

In 1554, Lady Jane Grey, who had claimed the throne of England for nine days, and her husband, Guildford

Dudley, were beheaded after being condemned for high treason.

In 1809, Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States, was born in a log cabin in Hardin (now LaRue) County, Kentucky.

In 1909, the National Association of Colored People, the NAACP, was founded.

In 1912, Pu Yi, the last emperor of China, abdicated, marking the end of the Qing Dynasty.



Niki Kelly

Hoosier Opinions



Lt. Gov. Crouch levels rare criticism at her boss

When a politician makes the decision to accept a vice presidential or lieutenant governor invitation, it generally means taking on a subservient posture. All the time.

So what happened this past week when Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch leveled criticism at her boss, Gov. Eric Holcomb, over the issue of Attendant Care of severely disabled children, was rare. That program administered by the Family Social Services Administration had a nearly \$1 billion cost overrun as it transitioned away from the pandemic.

“If they could make a billion dollar mistake that we know about, what else do we not know about ... yet? People just don’t know about it,” Crouch told Howey Politics/State Affairs on Monday as she called for an independent audit.

“He’s the governor and he’s performing his duties and I’m performing my duties as chair of the IDD [Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities] task force,” she said. “It is my duty to speak out on behalf of the people who don’t have voices. And they don’t have high paid lobbyists. They have only people like me and the other members of the task force to speak out and draw attention to this issue.”

Asked who should be held responsible for the shortfall, Crouch responded, “I think that’s up to the governor to decide.”

The Attendant Care program is complex. It is designed to pay parents of severely disabled children to help with their care. There is a shortage of trained professionals to help these families cope with often daunting disabilities. We’re talking about kids with feeding tubes and tracheostomies, and suffering from epileptic episodes.

The new guidelines will be determined later this month and put into practice on July 1. Crouch said that she, the task force and affected families are seeking a “pause” in the new program rollout so questions can be answered.

“We’re talking about thousands,” she said. “That’s what we asked at the Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Task Force meeting and we never got an answer. I’ve heard numbers of 11,000, but I didn’t hear that from FSSA.”

Crouch also lobbed a biting comment at Republican House Speaker Todd Huston and Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray after legislation that might have addressed the issue died last week. “It appears that the leadership just refused to call down the bill to avoid a discussion of these issues pertaining to these parents being compensated for taking care of their children,” Crouch said. “They just didn’t want a discussion. It’s like they are trying to put a lid on things. They just don’t want attention.”

In November, Crouch said Holcomb didn’t go far enough by changing which state agency will oversee the contentious study of water availability for a proposed 35-mile pipeline to the LEAP Lebanon District. She said in a statement to State Affairs that Holcomb’s move “is a step in the right direction, but more needs to be

done.”

“Hoosiers continue to have questions and putting one government agency in charge of another is hardly reassuring,” Crouch said. “Hoosiers deserve better. We cannot continue to operate in the shadows.”

Such discord at the top of the executive pyramid is exceedingly rare. The only public historic parallels that come to mind were when Lt. Gov. Frank O’Bannon broke a Senate tie on an alcohol-related bill that temporarily unsettled Gov. Evan Bayh; and a simmering breach between Gov. O’Bannon and Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan involving the selection of a state

Democratic Party chair in 2002. Kernan was so disgruntled he opted to fold his 2004 gubernatorial campaign in late-2002. Kernan would re-enter the race following Gov. O’Bannon’s death in 2003.

In 2016, there was behind-the-scenes tension between Gov. Mike Pence and Lt. Gov. Sue Ellspermann, who shocked the political establishment by resigning that February to take the helm of Ivy Tech. This created the rocket-fast ascension of third-place U.S. Senate candidate Eric Holcomb to be Pence’s new lieutenant governor, and then the gubernatorial nomination by a single Republican Central Committee vote after Pence bolted for the Donald Trump presidential ticket that July.

Suzanne Crouch has been an activist lieutenant governor since Holcomb selected her for his 100-day campaign in August 2016 and their subsequent victory that November. Crouch contributed \$2.5 million of her campaign funds to the Holcomb effort. She has been active on both the political and policy front, with her portfolio as state agriculture commissioner and her policy tentacles ranging from her chairing of the Intellectual Developmental Disabled Task Force, to rural affairs, to broadband expansion, to housing issues. She has traveled extensively to all 92 counties over the past eight years.

She is now in a rare and intense six-way Republican primary race to succeed Holcomb, who is term-limited. She is running against U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, former attorney general Curtis Hill, and former Indiana Economic Development Corporation officials Brad Chambers and Eric Doden, and businesswoman Jamie Reitenour.

Crouch, who is seeking to become the first female governor in Indiana history, has veered to the right, with her campaign prominently featuring her tie-breaking vote on a special session abortion amendment in July 2022, as well as endorsing Donald Trump for a third presidential nomination last month.

And she’s now decided to call out her boss on an issue she is passionate about.

The columnist publishes at www.howeypolitics.com. Find him on Twitter @hwypol.



Brian Howey

Politicking

Freedom is not free

One picture worth a thousand words is a graph on the U.S. Department of Defense website showing U.S. annual Defense spending as a percentage of GDP, going back to 1953.

Two things jump out. First, the lowest over the 70-year period was in 1999, at the end of the Clinton administration, when it stood at 2.7%. This is a little more than half the previous low, which stood at 4.5% 20 years earlier, in 1979.

A little over a year after this historic low point in defense spending, our nation experienced the worst attack on its homeland in its history on Sept. 11, 2001.

The second thing I notice is that the forecast for 2024 shows that Defense spending as a percentage of GDP will be 2.7%, matching the 1999 low point.

However, the 2.7% in 2024 implies a far lower national priority for Defense spending than the 2.7% in 1999, because in 1999, overall federal spending as a percent of GDP stood at 17.7% compared to 23.4% in 2024, according to the CBO forecast.

So as a percent of the federal budget, in 1999 Defense spending stood at 15.3% compared to 11.5% in 2024.

The 2024 Index of Military Strength published by the Heritage Foundation rates the state of military power by branches of service from “very weak” to “very strong.”



Star Parker

The results: Army, “marginal”; Navy, “weak”; Air Force, “very weak”; Marine Corps, “strong.”

The report summarizes saying “In the aggregate, the United States’ military posture must be rated as ‘weak.’ ... As currently postured, the U.S. military is at significant risk of not being able to defend America’s vital national interests with assurance.”

We look to the Middle East now and see increased aggression from proxies of Iran.

Three U.S. Army reserve soldiers were killed in Jordan by a drone attributed to an Iran-backed militia in Iraq. As the daughter of an Air Force retiree, I find this particularly emotionally painful.

Ships are being attacked in the Gulf of Aden area by Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen.

And there was the horrible, savage attack on Israeli civilians on Oct. 7 by Iran-supported Hamas.

A backdrop to all of this is the conflict raging in Ukraine, the result of aggression by Russia.

The headline is that we have enemies, and these enemies are energized when they perceive the United States as weak and confused.

There is a lot of rhetoric now about so-called “globalization” and “endless wars.”

Some call for a retreat inward by our nation and want to label interna-

tional engagement as not “conservative.”

But it is just the opposite. A conservative worldview recognizes there is truth and that for every right we claim there is a corresponding responsibility. The universal rights the founders of our nation claimed in our Declaration of Independence have corresponding universal responsibilities.

We must remember the quote attributed to Alexis de Tocqueville, “America is great because America is good. If America ever stops being good, it will stop being great.”

This does not mean that our nation should take on the impossible task of being the world’s policeman.

But as we saw, and too soon have forgotten, on the horrible day on Sept. 11, 2001, there are evil people in this world hostile to us who celebrate death to advance their own power.

Israelis saw it in the vicious Hamas attack last Oct. 7.

When those who love to kill to advance their own power see Americans retreat, when they see demonstrations at America’s leading universities celebrating terrorism, who condemn those in our country and abroad who live free and responsible lives, so we encourage and empower evil.

As good retreats, evil advances. It is a natural truth.

Let’s not forget what is written in the memorial to the Korean War in Washington, D.C.

“Freedom is not free.”

© 2024 CREATORS.COM

THE NEWS-BANNER
 (USPS 059-200)
 Evening News est. 1892 • Evening Banner est. 1899 • Consolidated 1929
 Telephone Number 260-824-0224
 George B. Wilwer, Chairman of the Board
 Doug Brown, President
 Dianne Wilwer, Secretary/Treasurer
 Holly Gaskill, Editor
 Fax Number 260-824-0700
 Periodicals Postage Paid at Bluffton, IN. Published every day except Sundays and Principal Holidays at 125 N. Johnson Street, Bluffton, IN. 46714. Post Office Box 436.

Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.

What's happening at the Wells County Public Library

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

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

Story Sessions

Now going on at the library. Sign up at the Main Library or Ossian Branch.

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

Reading Through a Winter Wonderland - Winter Reading

During the month of February, sign up at the library, online at wellscolibrary.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.

Brown Bag Book Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, Feb. 12 at 1:30 p.m.

Adults. Read a book of your choice and then come share about your book with others. Registration required.

Crafty Kids At Ossian

At the Ossian Branch Library: Monday, Feb. 12 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Grades K-6. Drop-in for a craft and snack.

Theater Thursday

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, Feb. 15 at 10 a.m.

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

Board Game Night

At the Ossian Branch Library: Thursday, Feb. 15 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Adults (18+). Join us for a night of tabletop games at the Ossian Branch. Registration appreciated.

Pizza and Trivia: Club 456

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, Feb. 15 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Grades 4-6. Connect together in teams for a fun trivia night. Sign up individually or with a friend. Registration requested.

Saturday Movies

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Saturday, Feb. 17 at 11 a.m.

All ages. Drop-in for a family-friendly movie under the stars in the Story Hour

Room.

Library Closed for President's Day

The Main Library (Bluffton) and Ossian Branch will be closed on Monday, Feb. 19 for President's Day.

Computer and iPad Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, Feb. 20 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Adults. Start with Computer Club and then go or stay for iPad Club. Each month has a different tech focus and there is plenty of time for questions. Normally held on the second Tuesday of the month, but we will be meeting a week late in February. All skill levels are welcome. Registration appreciated your first visit.

Craft Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, Feb. 20 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

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

Kids' Club

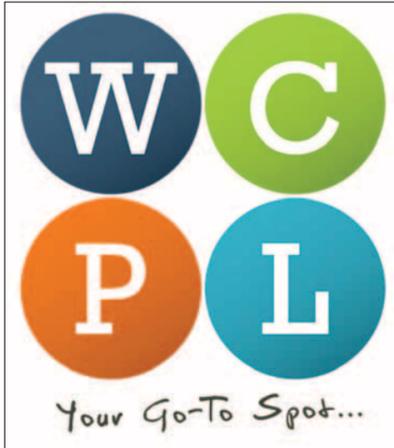
At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, Feb. 20 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

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

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 host-



ing 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 at the 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 emarsshall@wellscolibrary.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.wellscolibrary.org for digital books, magazines, online databases, event info, and more.



Gift from Allstar Communications

Employees and the company of Allstar Communications of Fort Wayne selected the Wells Community Boys & Girls Club to present their holiday gift to this year. Accepting the check were Gene Bell and Vicki Bell, at left, from left to right Mac Pratt, Liam Fazio and Nate Schwartz, Allstar representatives. (Photo provided)

Norwell Internship Spotlight award Anna Dodane

Senior Anna Dodane has been selected to receive the Norwell High School ICE Program Student Spotlight award. Anna has been working at Orchard Ridge Country Club in Fort Wayne and also Christian Care Retirement Community in Bluffton. Her mentors are Bailey Stech at Orchard Ridge and Deb Dove at Christian Care. Anna is the daughter of Andy and Nicole Dodane of Ossian.

At the Country Club, Anna assists with serving

food and drink to the club members in the restaurant area. She also helps with special events in the banquet hall. At Christian Care, Anna works with hospitality in the kitchen and cafeteria. She serves the residents their meals and helps to keep a clean environment.

After graduation, Anna wants to get her CNA certificate in February thru IVY Tech. She will then attend Huntington University this coming fall to study nursing.



Anna Dodane

Packing brings back childhood memories

Scenes of girlhood days marched before me this week in a new way as Cousin Judith and I emptied the kitchen cabinets of what used to be her home in her girlhood days.

As a little girl I loved going to Judith's house (her parents are my Uncle Paul and Aunt Leah). Aunt Leah's cheery 'come in!' would ring down the short flight of steps leading down to the entry door. Inside there were traces of a family in full motion, their children were a blessing, not a burden.

When it was me who stepped in their home I too, felt loved and welcomed.

When I was seven years old I was enthralled with their endeavors of starting up a little store on the little gravel road they lived on. Over the years they expanded from bulk food items and a deli to salvage groceries. At age 13, my parents granted my dream of allowing me to go help them at the store a few days a week. For the next seven years I worked there off and on until Daniel and I got married.

Though I never met their oldest daughter, I missed her a lot. She was stillborn the same year I was born. Judith, who was a couple years younger than myself helped fill that empty spot.

There was always something to do at her house, we knew which dresser drawer contained all the board games, on some occasions, when more of the cousins were there, we'd play school or go fishing in their backyard pond. If it was Sunday afternoon the hand crank popcorn popper was taken from the cupboard and fresh popcorn could soon be smelled all over the house. Uncle Paul was a chef at heart and an imagination to go with it. Grilling was his specialty.

Thinking back, I can only imagine the mess us children made as we carried our bowls

of popcorn all over the house and took our games down stairs. Still we felt like an important part of each event.

When it was time to go home my mother would always say, "Children time to pick up the toys then go home!"

We groaned, "How could it possibly be that time already?"

Seemingly years slipped by, more quietly than I knew. It's 25 years later. Judith and I both have a family our own. Now I understand why the toys needed to be put back and why we had to go home before we were ready to do so. I am no longer a child, still those memories go with me. I think of the thousands who have not had that opportunity of growing up in a community where love and friends abounded. Then I think of my teen years where fears and insecurity marred much of my freedom. Where, why? Today I still don't understand all those reasons; perhaps to get a glimpse of what many others have waded. Or maybe God simply wanted to show that he can take those mangled situations and heal.

Now as Judith and I emptied the last drawers and packed the contents into boxes, we reminisced over those days. It felt like I could just take a step back and be right there again with her family, but then reality is, things change, and you know, that's okay.

Her parents had moved from their house a couple years ago, but it still felt like home. This time we were packing up Cousin Eli's belongings in preparation of our new neighbors and friends who plan to move from Michigan next week. I'll be adding a recipe for



you to try with dinner rolls or bread. Both dinner rolls and bread were a specialty at Paul's country store where they made hundreds of batches over the years.

Raspberry Butter
1 (8 oz) cream cheese
1 stick softened butter
1/2 cup powdered sugar
1 tablespoon instant clear

jelly
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 can raspberry jam or jelly*

Beat together cream cheese and butter.
Mix powdered sugar with instant clear jel.

Combine cream cheese mixture with powdered sugar mixture.

Last add vanilla and jam or jelly.

Spread on your favorite dinner rolls or bread and enjoy every lick!



SPECIALS

Calamari

Tues., Feb. 13 & Wed., Feb. 14

Fried Smothered Pork Chops

Fri., Feb. 16 & Sat., Feb. 17

205 W. Market St. Bluffton, IN
Mon-Sat 10am - 3am - Closed Sunday

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

LEARN SKILLS,
& HAVE FUN

Indoor Soccer
League

CAYLOR-NICKEL FDN. FAMILY YMCA

REGISTER
NOW!

WHEN: March 9 - April 20, 2024

DAY: Saturdays

TIME: TBD

AGES: U06 / U08 / U11 / U15

**COST: \$40 Members,
\$80 Program Participants**

Registration Deadline: Thursday, February 22nd, 2024

Late Registration Begins: Saturday, February 24th, 2024

Questions? Contact Ashley for more information
at (260) 565-9627 or
Ashley_VandenBoom@fwymca.org

This special feature made possible by these community minded businesses:

**Local Company - Local People
- Local Service**

AdamsWells
INTERNET TELECOM TV
A Division of The Craigville Telephone Company

260-565-3131
www.adamswells.com

CLAIM YOUR SPOT!

\$41/mo. for one runs.
\$73/mo. for **BOTH** runs.

www.news-banner.com ♦ 824-0224

Norwell defeats Benton Central for 5th Regional title

By RYAN WALKER

FULTON — In a hard fought battle, Norwell held off Benton Central to capture the Class 3A 13 girls' basketball championship Saturday at Caston High School.

Saturday afternoon's 58-44 victory over the Bison (25-4) captured the Knights' (21-4) growth as a unit in their depth, toughness and strength of playing together.

The next trip will be to Huntington North High School, which is hosting the 3A North Regional side of the Semi-State tournament. Norwell drew Hamilton Heights, the top two teams remaining in the field according to the Indiana Coaches of Girls Sports Association (ICGSA) and Sagarin Ratings. The game is set to tipoff at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 17. Sagarin has Norwell as the best team in 3A, the ICGSA has Hamilton Heights as the top 3A team.

The Knights played without the usual firepower of Kennedy Fuelling and Makenzie Fuess, who averaged 38 points per game put together for the season. On Saturday, the two had 26 points between them, but entered the fourth quarter with only 11 points total, including a nearly scoreless drought in the second and third periods.

Unlike last year's regional against Hamilton Heights, the Knights faced adversity through those shooting woes. In fact, the 39 percent shooting from the floor in last year's game was actually 9 percent better than what the Knights did Saturday against Benton Central. But head coach Eric Thornton challenged this group, with all players returning from last year, to find ways to close out post-season matches like the one Saturday.

"I'm really proud of how resilient our

kids were," Thornton said in a swarm of Norwell fans near center court. "Throughout that whole game, we played through some mistakes and some fatigue, but with Benton Central being as good as they are, our kids just kept responding. That's what I'm most proud about. We knew we needed to be a tougher team, and I thought today we showed that for four quarters. We just kept responding."

His Knights only lost the lead once at 5-4 in the first quarter. The rest of the game, however, did not come easy.

Fuess scored her six points on back-to-back threes in the middle of the quarter, which produced a 10-0 swing — though that was met by Rachel Tolen knocking down 10 of the next 15 points in the game. That left the Bison trailing the Knights by just a single point.

Then the pendulum swung back to Norwell with another 10-0 run, highlighted by baskets from Dekota Hubble and Vanessa Rosswurm. The sudden six-point burst by the Knights from the 5:55 mark to the 5:03 mark in the second quarter gave Bison head coach David Baxter another reason to call timeout. That again sparked the Bison to crawl back and create some offense.

At halftime, the Knights held a tight grip on a 27-23 lead.

In the second half, it was the Hubble and Rosswurm show on the scoresheet.

The pair put up the next eight points: Hubble got a putback for two, and Rosswurm splashed two threes to stretch the Knights' lead to 10 points.

Rosswurm's fourth triple came three minutes later to halt the Bison from their third scoring run in the game. Hubble added one of two free throws.

Hubble and Rosswurm were the only Knight players to score in the third quarter. That left Fuelling and Fuess to pick up the slack in the fourth.

Fuess hit nothing but nylon on the Knights' first shot in the final stanza for a 13-point spread. From that point on the Knights' lead never dropped below 12.

Fuelling hit her first and second shots from long-range in the final quarter. The first put out the last fire Benton Central had.

Fuelling's second shot at the 2:55 mark gave her a share of the all-time scoring list, tying her with Jessica Rupright at 1,591. Fuelling's final shot — and the last shot taken by either team in the game — came with 9.8 seconds left, giving her the girls' all-time scoring record at Norwell at 1,593 points.

"It means so much," Fuelling said about the record. "I couldn't have done it without my teammates. They're always finding me in those types of situations and how they get me open. A lot of (the credit) goes to them."

Fuelling and Fuess' 13 points in the fourth quarter certainly sealed the deal, but the rest of the five players that checked in did a lot of the heavy lifting.

When Hubble was in the game, she gave the Knights the extra opportunities to score. On top of 13 points, Hubble grabbed eight offensive rebounds and in turn, cashed in for points the majority of the time. Her teammate, Haley Green, was productive when Hubble needed a break, Green pulled down five rebounds.

The two also shut down who Thornton believes is the Bison's best player, Sarah Gick, a forward who was kept quiet with



Vanessa Rosswurm hooks a shot over Benton Central's Sarah Gick (25) and Keara Lipscomb-Allen (12) in the first quarter of Saturday's Class 3A Regional 13 at Caston High School. (Photo by Glen Werling)

only six points.

The leading scorer for Norwell, and the only non-senior to play, was Rosswurm, who added 17 points to the mix on four for six shooting from deep. She also snagged five rebounds.

"Vanessa out at the top, her length, her rebounds — we get so many second chances, and we limited (Benton Central's) second chances," Thornton said. "Dekota's walling up on Gick, she got six (points) maybe tonight, their best player. We thought their guards might panic a little bit if we could take Gick away, and I thought we had an effect on it, and those two players are a huge part of it. But again, that's the type of team we have, where we have that depth with kids like Dekota and Vanessa."

Thornton also mentioned a play where the Bison ran a triangle set, but Annabelle Johnson knifed through the lane for her only make of the game. That switched them out of their set and forced them to honor her and the rest of the team. She also finished with seven assists.

The Knights will get their chance at revenge right away in the Semi-State first

round. The Hamilton Heights Huskies (24-2) defeated Norwell last year in the regional championship 44-40 at Bellmont. The Knights play in the first game at 10 a.m. on Bob Straight Court.

"I'm just so glad I got to do it with this group of girls," Fuelling said. "I feel like we play so well together. We can go just as far as we want to go."

ryan@news-banner.com

NORWELL 58, BENTON CENTRAL 44

At Caston High School
BENTON CENTRAL (25-4): Rachel Tolen 8-15 2-5 21, Sarah Gick 2-6 2-4 6, Keara Lipscomb-Allen 2-4 1-4 5, Mariyah Rich 2-4 1-2 5, Sienna Foster 2-3 0-0 5, Avery Hardebeck 1-5 0-0 2, Ellie Wetli 0-1 0-0 0, Chauncey Keller 0-1 0-2 0, Madison Minniear 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 17-39 6-17 44.

NORWELL (21-4): Vanessa Rosswurm 6-16 1-4 17, Kennedy Fuelling 6-25 1-2 15, Dekota Hubble 5-8 3-7 13, Makenzie Fuess 3-13 2-2 11, Annabelle Johnson 1-4 0-0 2, Haley Green 0-1 0-0 0, Lily Norris 0-1 0-0 0. TOTALS: 21-68 7-15 58.

Benton Central 16 7 10 11 — 44
Norwell 17 10 16 15 — 58
Three-Point Field Goals: Benton Central 4-9 (Tolen 3-5, Foster 1-1, Wetli 0-1, Rich 0-1 Hardebeck 0-1), Norwell 9-26 (Rosswurm 4-6, Fuess 3-7, Fuelling 2-10, Johnson 0-1).
Rebounds: Benton Central 28 (Gick 7, Hardebeck 7, Tolen 3, Lipscomb-Allen 2, Rich 1), Norwell 31 (Hubble 9, Green 5, Johnson 5, Rosswurm 5, Fuess 4).
Turnovers: Benton Central 30, Norwell 19. **Fouls:** Benton Central 15, Norwell 13. **Fouled Out:** None. **Technical:** None.



Dekota Hubble races in for a layup off a steal against Benton Central. The senior forward grabbed eight offensive rebounds and nine total to go with her 13 points. (Photo by Glen Werling)

High School Calendar

MONDAY, FEB. 12

No events scheduled.

TUESDAY, FEB. 13

BOYS BASKETBALL: Southern Wells at North Miami, 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14

No events scheduled.

THURSDAY, FEB. 15

SWIMMING & DIVING: (Sectional, boys only) preliminary rounds, Norwell and Bluffton at Jay County, 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 16

BOYS BASKETBALL: Jay County at Norwell, 7:45 p.m.; Bluffton at Bellmont, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 17

BOYS BASKETBALL: Mississinewa at Bluffton, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Norwell vs. Hamilton Heights at Huntington North High School, 10 a.m.

SWIMMING & DIVING: (Sectional, boys only) Norwell and Bluffton at Jay County, 1 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 19

BOYS BASKETBALL: Norwell at Concordia, 7:30 p.m.

Knights draw Huntington North Semi-State to face Huskies

The IHSAA's Semi-State random draw was completed Sunday afternoon, and the rest of the tournament was filled out across all four divisions.

Norwell's 3A quest for a state title will be in familiar territory at Huntington North High School, where the North Region will be at.

The Knights drew Hamilton Heights (24-2), the No. 1 team in the ICGSA and No. 2

on the Sagarin Ratings. The two teams will rematch after the Huskies' 44-40 win over them in the regional final last season.

In the other semi-final matchup, Bremen (15-11) will battle NorthWood (20-6).

In the South Region at Jasper High School, Indianapolis Bishop Chatard (19-8) will face Danville (23-3), while Scottsburg (22-4) takes on Gibson Southern (23-4).

Chiefs win Super Bowl title in overtime over 49ers

By ROB MAADDI

AP Pro Football Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Patrick Mahomes, Travis Kelce and Andy Reid have made the Kansas City Chiefs a dynasty.

They're already thinking threepeat.

First, they had to become the first back-to-back Super Bowl champions in 19 years.

Mahomes made sure of it, leading another super comeback on the NFL's biggest stage in America's showcase capital.

Mahomes threw a 3-yard touchdown pass to Mecole Hardman in overtime, and the Chiefs rallied to beat the San Francisco 49ers 25-22 on Sunday, becoming the NFL's ninth repeat Super Bowl champs.

With pop star Taylor Swift watching boyfriend Kelce from a suite, the Chiefs captured their third title in five years, a run that puts them among the league's greatest franchises.

"Well, you know the goal has always been to get three," Kelce screamed on stage after sharing a kiss with Swift. "But we couldn't get here without getting that two, and having that target on our back all year. ... How about that. We get a chance to do it three times in a row."

The NFL's first Super Bowl in Las Vegas was a sloppy, mistake-filled affair that was mostly boring until the back-and-forth fourth quarter and OT. It was the second

of 58 Super Bowls to be tied after regulation, and the first played under new overtime rules that ensured both teams got the ball.

The Chiefs (15-6) trailed 22-19 after Jake Moody kicked a 27-yard field goal on the first possession of overtime, but Mahomes rallied the Chiefs, completing another impressive comeback in a rematch of the Super Bowl four years ago.

Mahomes ran 8 yards on fourth-and-1 to keep the Chiefs' chances alive and then scrambled 19 yards to set up the winning score, which came 14:57 into the extra period — just before what would have been the second OT.

"With all the adversity we've been through this season to come through tonight. ... I'm proud of the guys," said Mahomes, who earned his third Super Bowl MVP award. "This is awesome. Legendary."

After he connected with a wide-open Hardman, the Chiefs ran on the field as red-and-yellow confetti fell onto the turf.

Mahomes and Reid are now halfway to Tom Brady and Bill Belichick, who won six championships in 20 years together with the New England Patriots and were the most recent team to go back-to-back following the 2003-04 seasons.

The 28-year-old Mahomes becomes the fourth starting QB to win three Super Bowls — joining Brady, Joe Montana, Terry Brad-

shaw and Troy Aikman — and second-youngest.

"I am going to celebrate tonight, celebrate at the parade and then work my way to get back in this game next year," Mahomes said. "I am going to do whatever I can to be back in this game next year. Three-peat."

The most excitement in the first half came when a frustrated Kelce bumped Reid on the sideline, knocking the Chiefs' 65-year-old coach a few steps back after teammate Isiah Pacheco fumbled inside the red zone during the second quarter.

"You guys saw that?" Kelce said. "I'm going to keep it between us unless my 'mic'd up' tells the world. I was just telling him how much I loved him."

The action picked up after a crucial blunder by San Francisco's special teams set up Mahomes' 16-yard TD pass to Marquez Valdes-Scantling for a 13-10 lead.

Brock Purdy and the 49ers (14-6) answered but they couldn't make enough plays, denying Mr. Irrelevant an opportunity to go from last pick in the 2022 NFL draft to Super Bowl champion.

"We have the offense to score touchdowns and I failed to put the team in position to do that," Purdy said.

Niners wide receiver Jauan Jennings threw a TD pass and caught one, joining Eagles quarterback Nick Foles six years ago as the

only players to do both in the Super Bowl.

After Moody's 53-yard field goal gave the Niners a 19-16 lead with 1:53 remaining, Mahomes and Kelce went to work. Mahomes connected with Kelce for a 22-yard gain to set up Harrison Butker's tying kick, a 29-yarder with 3 seconds left.

A holding call on Kansas City's Trent McDuffie extended San Francisco's opening drive of overtime and Purdy made key throws to drive the 49ers to the Chiefs 9. But San Francisco settled for a field goal.

Purdy, Christian McCaffrey and the Niners jumped ahead 10-0, but that's no big deal for Mahomes and the Chiefs in the Super Bowl. They've trailed by 10 points in all three of their victories, including last year's 38-35 win over Philadelphia.

Mahomes wasn't at his best early and threw an interception. But with the game on the line, he was a magician once again. He finished 34 of 46 for 333 yards and two TDs.

The Chiefs were hardly dominant during the regular season and entered the playoffs as the AFC's No. 3 seed. They won at Buffalo and at Baltimore in the postseason — the first road playoff games of Mahomes' career — and entered the Super Bowl as 2 1/2-point underdogs, according to FanDuel Sportsbook.

"The Kansas City Chiefs are never underdogs. Just know that," Mahomes said.

They became the first team to win consecutive Super Bowls as underdogs; the Philadelphia Eagles were slight favorites a year ago.

The game turned when San Francisco's Ray-Ray McCloud couldn't scoop a punt that hit teammate Darrell Luter Jr.'s leg and the Chiefs recovered at the 49ers 16, leading to Mahomes' go-ahead TD pass to Valdes-Scantling.

The Niners answered on the next possession with Purdy tossing a 10-yard TD pass to Jennings for a 16-13 lead. Moody's extra point was blocked.

Niners coach Kyle Shanahan gambled on fourth-and-3 from the Chiefs 15, passing up a chance for a tying field goal. Purdy hit George Kittle for a 4-yard gain and then found Jennings for the score.

Shanahan resorted to trickery for the only touchdown of the first half.

Jennings, a wide receiver who had never thrown a pass in an NFL game, tossed a 21-yard TD to McCaffrey. He was hit as he threw a wobbly pass across the field, but McCaffrey snagged it and sprinted to the end zone.

Shanahan fell to 0-2 as a head coach in Super Bowls and 0-3 (Continued on Page 7)



Cruz, Douglas head to state finals

Top, Bluffton's Johnny Cruz (top) attempts to turn Garrett's Jacob Reynolds in the first match of the semi-state finals at the Fort Wayne Coliseum Saturday. Cruz went on to win the match and all subsequent matches to take the top spot in the 285-pound weight class and advance to the State Finals. Bottom, Norwell's Hunter Douglas reacts after his win over New Haven's Timmy Rocha that punched his ticket to the State Finals during Saturday's semi-state wrestling match at the Fort Wayne Coliseum. (Photos by Chad Kline)

Tigers' Johnny Cruz, Knights' Hunter Douglas advance to the wrestling state finals

Wells County will be sending two wrestlers to the state championships in Evansville next Saturday.

Bluffton's Johnny Cruz, now 32-0, defeated Snider's Ethan Dodson by fall (4:42) to win the Semi-State 285 weight class.

Norwell's Hunter Douglas finished fourth at 120.

Other wrestlers that competed were Bluffton's Levi Johns, Norwell's Elijah Behning, Jason Prough, Cody Cox, and Ethan Michael, and Southern Wells Jarin Frauhiger.

The state finals at the Ford Center will open doors at 12:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16, with the parade of champions at 1:30 p.m. The first matches will begin at 2 p.m.

Chiefs win Super Bowl

(Continued from Page 6)

overall, including a loss when he was offensive coordinator for Atlanta. That was the game in which Brady and the Patriots rallied from a 28-3 deficit to win in OT.

"When you go against guys like Tom Brady and Pat Mahomes, you never feel comfortable with a lead. Those guys are two of the best to ever play the game," Shanahan said.

There were plenty of stars in the building as the NFL brought its biggest game to this gambling mecca — once a taboo idea. Jay-Z, LeBron James and Paul McCartney were among the celebrities in the crowd.

Post Malone sang "America the Beautiful," Reba McEntire performed the national anthem and Usher electrified the crowd at halftime. He brought out a number of guests, including Alicia Keys, H.E.R., Jermaine Dupri, Lil Jon and Ludacris.

Attendance was announced at 61,629 at the relatively compact Allegiant Stadium, the smallest crowd in Super Bowl history except for the pandemic game in Tampa, Florida, three years ago.

It didn't start out well, but thanks to Mahomes, those fans ended up seeing one of the best Super Bowl finishes.

Zach Edey's double-double, Braden Smith's 19 points lead No. 2 Purdue past Indiana

By MICHAEL MAROT
AP Sports Writer

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (AP) — Purdue center Zach Edey wanted to leave Indiana with a lingering impression Saturday. Naturally, he delivered.

The reigning national player of the year had 26 points, 13 rebounds, four assists, two blocks and the first 3-pointer of his career while leading No. 2 Purdue to a 79-59 victory over archrival Indiana.

"I'm the best shooter in the country," he joked when asked about the 3. "It was big. We owed them after last year. Me and the seniors all really felt that this was our last time to come out with that fire and that's what we did."

The 7-foot-4 Edey dominated the middle again and he had plenty of help as the Boilermakers (22-2, 11-2 Big Ten) won their eighth straight. Braden Smith had 19 points and nine rebounds, and Mason Gillis made three 3s to finish with nine points.

It marked the first time since 1993-94 that Purdue beat Indiana twice in the same season by 20 or more points.

CJ Gunn had a career-best 13 points for the Hoosiers (14-10, 6-7). Kel'El Ware added 11 points and eight rebounds, and Trey Galloway finished with 10 points and seven assists.

It was a familiar script for Purdue — and Indiana coach Mike Woodson.

Indiana led for the first 6 1/2 minutes and still was within 20-18 a little more than midway through the first half. But the Hoosiers missed 10 of their next 11 shots and Purdue again closed the first half with a strong finishing kick. That 15-1 spurt helped the Boilermakers take a 37-25 halftime lead.

"This was a tough game because you're on the road, playing the No. 2 team in the country in a hostile environment," Woodson said. "I thought we played well early but from the 10-minute mark going into halftime, we couldn't score and just threw the ball away a couple times."

Unlike last month's game, though, Indiana never charged back. Instead, the Boilermakers opened the second half with 10 straight points. Indiana never challenged again. And Edey sealed it with his 3-point bank shot.

"Do I have the ball, like the game ball?" Edey said when asked again about the long-range shot. "I'm going to go look for it."

BIG PICTURE

Purdue: The Boilermakers have been one of America's top teams each of the past two seasons. Not surprisingly, wins at Wisconsin, in overtime against Northwestern and now a sweep of Indiana has Purdue well-positioned for a second straight Big Ten title run.

Indiana: Woodson's team has struggled with consistency, especially on the road. It happened again Saturday. Woodson appeared to bring the competitiveness back to this series with three straight wins over the previous two seasons. But both games this season were blowouts, and time is running short for Indiana to build its resume.

UP NEXT

Indiana: Hosts Northwestern on Feb. 18.

Purdue: Hosts Minnesota on Thursday.

Turner, Haliburton power the Pacers to a win over the Knicks

By JEFFREY BERNSTEIN AP

NEW YORK (AP) — Myles Turner scored 23 points and Tyrese Haliburton added 22 to lead the Indiana Pacers to a 125-111 victory over the New York Knicks on Saturday night.

Pascal Siakam added 19 points and T.J. McConnell finished with 16 for Indiana, which shot 61% (50 for 82) in the game, including 48.3% (14 for 29) from 3-point distance.

Aaron Nesmith finished with 13 points and Isaiah Jackson had 12.

"I contribute, I do what I can, but we have a lot of different guys who can contribute and tonight was a total team effort," Haliburton said. "We just want to keep building on that."

Jalen Brunson returned to the Knicks' lineup after missing Thursday's loss to Dallas due to a sprained right ankle and scored 39 points.

"It was a game-time decision," Brunson said. "When I feel that I can do the things I do, making sure I can go out there and be who I am for as long as I am out there, when I feel that type of confidence, that is when I know I'm ready to play."

Alec Burks returned to New York as part of a deal with Bojan Bogdanovic from the Detroit Pistons before Thursday's trade deadline. Burks, who was with the Knicks from 2020-22, scored 22 points and Bogdanovic scored all 11 of his points in the first half of his New York debut.

Precious Achiuwa scored 15 points and Donte DiVincenzo 14 for the Knicks, who have lost three of four following a season-high nine-game winning streak.

New York is playing without starters Julius Randle and OG Anunoby, and the center tandem of Mitchell Robinson and Isaiah Hartenstein.

"We're short-handed and we're going to have to play a lot harder and a lot tougher," Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau said. "I'm disappointed in the result, but I'm not disappointed in our team."

Neither team was able to extend a lead beyond five points in a tight first half. The Knicks led by a point at

51-50 when the Pacers went on a six-point run to take a lead they never relinquished.

Indiana led 61-58 at the break and extended its lead to nine points at 79-70 on a 3-pointer by Obi Toppin with 4:36 left in the third quarter.

The Knicks closed within six before Haliburton hit a long 3-pointer just before the buzzer that gave the Pacers a 91-82 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

Toppin opened the final quarter with a 3-pointer and the Knicks were never able to get within single digits the rest of the way.

"We played with a little more of an edge. Tyrese was being special and I had my imprints on the game," Turner said. "It was an all-around team win and we asserted ourselves more when it needed to be done."

Jackson's three-point play extended Indiana's lead to a game-high 22 points, 114-92, with 5:40 remaining.

UP NEXT

Pacers: At Charlotte on Monday.

News-Banner Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

NFL

Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 11 At Las Vegas
Kansas City 25, San Francisco 22

BASKETBALL

High School

Saturday boys' Scores
Adams Central 65, Eastside 44
Anderson 64, Muncie Central 30
Argos 54, Clinton Christian 34
Attica 52, Indiana Deaf 42
Batesville 64, E. Central 62
Bloomfield 49, Bloomington South 42
Bloomington North 70, Evansville

Reitz 39
Cambridge City Lincoln 75, MTL 41
Carroll (Ft. Wayne) 54, New Haven 51
Cascade 61, Northview 56
Chesteron 61, Hammond Central 49
Chicago (Lane), Ill. 77, LaPorte

LaLumiere 76
Clinton Prairie 46, Covington 36
Columbia City 47, W. Noble 42
Columbus Christian 59, Crothersville

52
Daleville 78, Eastern (Greentown) 66
DeMotte Christian 64, Whiting 39
Evansville Christian 60, Mt. Carmel, Ill. 49
Evansville Harrison 84, Owensboro, Ky. 45

Fairfield 66, Elkhart Christian 39
Faith Christian 60, Tri-Central 57
Forest Park 60, Jasper 51
Ft. Wayne Canterbury 54, Ft. Wayne

Smith Academy 20
Gary 21st Century 72, Indpls Tindley

45
Greenfield 54, Avon 50
Hamilton Southeastern 75, Southport

69
Hanover Central 64, Boone Grove 46
Hauser 60, Oldenburg 58
Hebron 74, W. Central 37
Henryville 59, New Washington 57
Heritage Christian 63, Ft. Wayne

Blackhawk 53
Indpls Cathedral 70, Franklin Central

61
Indpls N. Central 77, Floyd Central 70
Indpls Tech 58, Indpls Metro 54
Jeffersonville 77, Jennings Co. 61
Kankakee Trinity Academy, Ill. 58,
Heritage 56

Knightstown 59, N. Decatur 53
Knox 52, Oregon-Davis 33
Kokomo 72, Lebanon 39
LaPorte 60, Goshen 46
Lawrence North 84, Ft. Wayne Snider

46
Lawrenceburg 63, Rising Sun 41
Linton 69, Purdue Polytechnic 55
McCUTCHEON 52, Frankfort 43

Merrillville 36, Culver Academy 35
Monrovia 71, Indpls Scocina 41
Morgan Twp. 52, Washington Twp. 45
N. Posey 71, Perry Central 45
New Palestine 86, Connerville 39
Pendleton Hts. 59, Mississinewa 48
Peru 72, Western 59
Twin Lakes 45, Crawfordsville 32
Union (Modoc) 52, GEO 47
Union City 66, Union City Mississinawa Valley, Ohio 44
Vincennes Rivet 56, Bloomington

Lighthouse 54
W. Lafayette 65, Tri-County 44
Warren Central 57, Ft. Wayne

Northrop 39
Warsaw 54, Westville 39
White River Valley 79, Washington

Catholic 29
Whitko 50, LaVile 48
Winchester 64, Hagerstown 48
Yorktown 69, Jay Co. 31
Pioneer Conference Playoffs
Seventh Place
Muncie Burris 53, Indpls International

52
Saturday boys' Scores
ISHAA Regionals
Class 4A
Bedford N. Lawrence
Center Grove 48, Bedford N. Lawrence

27
Franklin 69, Evansville North 30
Decatur Central
Lawrence Central 58, Mt. Vernon (Fortville) 30
Plainfield 48, Indpls Pike 43
LaPorte
Lake Central 54, S. Bend Washington

39
Valparaiso 47, Northridge 46
Marion
Homestead 51, McCutcheon 34
Noblesville 43, Ft. Wayne Snider 40
Class 3A
Caston
Norwell 58, Benton Central 44
Charlestown
Scottsburg 62, Greensburg 51
Crawford County
Gibson Southern 57, Washington 40
Greencastle
Indpls Chatard 64, Indian Creek 60
Jimm town

Bremen 41, Hanover Central 37
NorthWood 54, New Prairie 41
Lapel
Hamilton Hts. 55, Woodlan 31
Southmont
Darville 57, Speedway 23
Class 2A
Bellmont
Cass 37, Fremont 25
Charlestown
Brownstown 55, S. Spencer 50, 2OT

Lapel
Lapel 59, Eastbrook 45
Southmont
Eastern Hancock 55, Parke Heritage

40
Southwestern (Shelby)
Sheridan 46, Northeastern 31
W. Washington
Linton 37, N. Decatur 30
Wes-Del
Ft. Wayne Luers 57, Lafayette Catho-

lic 46
Winamac
Andrean 31, LaVile 26
Class 1A
Bellmont
Clinton Central 58, Northfield 16
Caston
Caston 44, Bethany Christian 29
Crawford County
Lanesville 48, Barr-Reeve 31
Greencastle
N. Central (Farmersburg) 55, Bethesda Christian 50

Southwestern (Shelby)
Jac-Cen-Del 34, Eminence 25
W. Washington
Wood Memorial 62, Trinity Lutheran 49
Wes-Del
Union City 51, Daleville 32
Winamac
Michigan City Marquette 54, Morgan

Twp. 43

BUSINESS OR PERSONAL

401(k)s | Asset Management | Bonds
College Planning | UITS | Financial Planning | Insurance & Annuities
IRAs | Stocks | Personalized Goal Planning | Mutual Funds
Pension & Profit Sharing Plans | Research | Retirement Planning

RAYMOND JAMES

Raymond James Financial Services, Inc.
Member FINRA/SIPC

INVEST FOR THE FUTURE

Kim Gentis
Financial Advisor
Financial Advisor Wealth
Management Professional

(260)824-8070
kim.gentis@raymondjames.com
1245 N. Main St., Bluffton, IN 46714

Investment Advisory Services are offered through
Raymond James Financial Services Advisors, Inc.



GET IT DONE

Tuneup
with your
TAX REFUND!

TIRES

Continental
YOKOHAMA
COOPERTIRES

BFGoodrich
BRIDGESTONE
MICHELIN

BLUFFTON TIRE INC.
260-824-0418 • 1308 S. MAIN ST., BLUFFTON
WWW.BLUFFTONTIRE.COM • Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7:30-5:00

The Classifieds

Place Your Ad 24/7: GO TO www.news-banner.com AND CLICK ON "Classifieds"

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

WE ACCEPT



SEE your ad published every day in Wells County homes ...

All ads are searchable at classifieds.news-banner.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

5 for \$5

GREAT BUY!

EARN EXTRA CASH by selling your "unwanted" items during the month of February. A 20-word, line classified ad for 5 days is only \$5! For Sale Items Only. Excludes Garage Sales. Contact the Bluffton News-Banner office at 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton, (260) 824-0224, or place online at news-banner.com and click on classifieds.

Pets

HELOISE HINT: If you are taking your pet on vacation. Always keep them restrained. The best way to carry them is in a travel cage geared for the size of your pet. Write to HELOISE@Heloise.com.

SERVICES

Services

SERIOUSLY INJURED in an AUTO ACCIDENT? Let us fight for you! Our network has recovered millions for clients! Call today for a FREE consultation! 844-517-6414 (I)

Lottery Numbers

Saturday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 11-14-36-37-42
Cash4Life — 08-23-34-39-55, Cash Ball: 03
Lotto Plus — 11-16-19-30-35-39
Quick Draw Midday — 01-02-04-07-17-24-26-29-30-32-35-50-52-56-57-65-70-72-77-80, BE: 50
Daily Three-Midday — 02-01-04, SB: 06
Daily Three-Evening — 00-06-07, SB: 02
Daily Four-Midday — 03-07-04-04, SB: 06
Daily Four-Evening — 05-05-09-08, SB: 02
Quick Draw Evening — 04-08-14-16-19-25-27-34-36-44-46-47-53-54-58-64-66-71-72-76, BE: 76
Hoosier Lotto — 10-19-26-29-39-46
POWERBALL — 27-28-34-37-44; Powerball: 08; Power Play: 2X

Sunday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 02-10-27-41-45
Cash4Life — 01-21-38-39-59, Cash Ball: 04
Quick Draw Midday — 02-07-10-11-18-22-25-28-32-36-37-38-41-51-55-65-69-71-78-79, BE: 18
Daily Three-Midday — 04-06-01, SB: 06
Daily Three-Evening — 09-04-00, SB: 05
Daily Four-Midday — 02-08-08-07, SB: 06
Daily Four-Evening — 04-03-00-03, SB: 05
Quick Draw Evening — 05-08-16-20-23-24-25-30-36-44-47-53-64-67-70-71-73-75-79-80, BE: 47
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$4.6 million
MEGA MILLIONS — Estimated jackpot (for Tuesday): \$425 million
POWERBALL — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$270 million

Services

MARV'S CONSTRUCTION Room additions, fix old saggy floors, all types remodeling. Redo bathrooms, old foundation repairs. Marv Schwartz: 260-525-8877.

SWITCH TO DISH and get up to a \$300 gift card! Plus get the Multisport pack included for a limited time! Hurry, call for details: 1-855-551-9764 (I)

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!

SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★

2/12

©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Read & recycle this newspaper

Public Sale Calendar

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: Call for private showing. Auction managers: Jerry Ehle, 260-410-1996, Steven C. Coil, 260-446-2037, *Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc.*, 800-451-2709, schraderauction.com.

Public Notice

SECTION 00 11 16 - NOTICE TO BIDDERS & BID PACKAGE INDEX

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT TO INDIANA CODE 5-32, AS AMENDED, that the Norwell Community Schools (the "Owner") and Weigand Construction Co., Inc. ("Construction Manager" or the "CMC"), 7808 Honeywell Drive, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46825, have entered into a contract pursuant to which Weigand Construction will be providing all of the Construction Manager as Constructor services in connection with the Ossian Elementary Interior Finishes Refresh - Masonry. Accordingly, Weigand Construction will be receiving sealed bids from pre-qualified contractors, as determined by Weigand Construction in its sole and complete discretion, for the work and supply of materials for the Ossian Elementary Interior Finishes Refresh (the "Project").

Trade contractor bids will be accepted at Norwell Community Schools, Administration Building - Board Room, 312 Jefferson St. OSSIAN, IN 46777, until 3:00 PM (local time), on February 20, 2024. Bids received prior to 3:00 PM on February 20, 2024, must be mailed and/or delivered to Norwell Community Schools for and on behalf of Weigand Construction Co., Inc., Norwell Community Schools, Administration Building - Board Room, 312 Jefferson St. OSSIAN IN, 46777. Bids will be opened and read aloud by Architect / Engineer at 3:00 PM (local time) at the Norwell Community Schools Administration Building Board Room. A listing of the trade contractor bid packages is provided below.

All bidding and construction shall be in accordance with construction documents prepared by Schmidt Associates. All of the terms and conditions of which are incorporated herein by reference. Bidders desiring digital access to construction and bidding documents shall email Derek Biro of Weigand Construction at dbiro@weigandconstruction.com to receive digital access to the bidding documents at no cost. Bidders may be required by Weigand Construction, if set forth in the construction and bidding documents, to confirm or submit for pre-qualification status prior to receiving digital access to construction and bidding documents. Bidders desiring printed documents shall pay for their own cost of printing, shipping, and handling.

Each bid shall include with such bid, a certified check or bid bond made payable to Weigand Construction Co., Inc. for an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the maximum bid. Should a successful bidder withdraw its bid or fail to execute a satisfactory sub-contract with the CMC, Weigand Construction may then declare the bid deposit or bid bond to be forfeited as liquidated damages.

Each successful bidder shall enter into a sub-contract and/or purchase order with Weigand Construction. (See section 00 52 00 of the Project Manual.)

Each successful bidder may be required to furnish Performance & Payment Bonds (if Alternate Bid regarding Bonds is accepted) which cover faithful performance of the contract and the payment of all obligations arising thereunder (if Alternate Bid regarding Performance Bond is accepted, it will be made out to Weigand Construction Co., Inc.). Said bonds shall remain in full force and effect for one year from the substantial completion of the work. A bidder's ability to provide said bonds is a condition precedent to bidding the Project, and any bid submitted without an alternate cost for providing said bonds may be determined as non-responsive by Weigand Construction, in its sole and complete discretion, and rejected by Weigand Construction.

The contract will be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder complying with the conditions for bidding, provided the bid is reasonable and it is to the best interest of Weigand Construction and the Owner.

Bids may be hand delivered and/or delivered by delivery service at the locations listed above. Bids not reaching said location by 3:00 PM (local time), on February 20, 2024 will be returned unopened to the original bidder.

nb 2/5, 2/12 hspaxlp

February GOODS & SERVICES DIRECTORY

Primary Contracting, LLC
Specializing in Building & Remodeling
OWNER: Edwin Wickey
Call for Spring Scheduling Today!
Free Estimates - 260-233-4276

- Pole Barns
- Garages
- Vinyl Siding
- Metal Roofing
- Poly Decks
- Storm Damage

The HIDEAWAY BEER BOURBON
THURSDAY - Dollar Off Drinks (Excludes Pop)
WEDNESDAY - KARAOKE
FRI. & SAT. - Live Music
Follow us on Facebook for our Events.
123 S JOHNSON ST. • 824-0455

JC'S GARAGE DOOR SALES & SERVICE
All makes & models • broken springs & cables
Owner: James Fisher • Sales: Carl Fisher
"50 Years of Combined Experience"
Call us at 824-3262

Zap Electric, Inc.
260-824-2927
Commercial-Industrial-Residential
24 Hr. Emergency Service
Charles Miller-Electrician
1233 W. Cherry St., Bluffton FREE Estimates

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.

As your guide through the "Medicaid Planning" process, Swearingen Elder Law will provide the right path to both protect your life savings and receive the quality of care we all deserve.

-OSSIAN-
1645 Hillcrest Dr., Suite 2A
Ossian, IN 46777

SWEARINGEN ELDER LAW
• Medicaid Planning • In-Home Healthcare Planning
• Durable Power of Attorney • Wills, Living Wills, & Advance Healthcare Directives
• Estate Planning & Deeds
• Special Needs Trusts
• Long Term Care Planning
(260) 888-9256
FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION!

STOR-N-GO STORAGE UNITS
2740 E. 200 N. • Bluffton, IN • 260.273.8345
with Security Cameras

COUNTRY PLACE Apartments
408 Countryside Drive, Ossian
• 1 & 2 Bedrooms
• Laundry Facilities On-Site
• All Ground-level
• Private Entrances
• Equipped Kitchen
260 622-6429
Virtual Tours Offered
TDD: 7-1-1
OssianApartments.com

Camelot Auto LLC
Get Cash NOW
260-307-1302
We Buy Junk Cars

A-1 U-Stor
Safe & Secure Self Storage
824-1846
• Safety Lighting • Clean Units
• 24 Hr. Access
• Video Cameras
www.a1-ustor.com
After Hours & Saturdays
Call 273-9678 or 824-4782
In Monroe at corner of U.S. 27 and S.R. 124
Office at 1180 N. Main, Bluffton

Sure-Flo Seamless Gutters
5" & 6" Continuous Gutters
Leaf Protection Systems
Large Color Selection - FREE Estimates
260-888-5062
www.seamlessgutter.net

We Carry Praven and CBD Oil!
R Warren Pharmacy
(260)375-2135
Nature's Sunshine Distributor
222 N. Wayne St., Warren • 1-800-895-7035
Terry Daniels, Pharmacist • Melinda Daniels, R.N.

Jerry Flack & Associates
Jerry Flack & Julie Myers
Retirement Advisors
A Senior Citizen Answers Our Phone!
OFFICE 260-824-1618 • Corner of Main & Market • Bluffton, IN

INDIANA FARM BUREAU INSURANCE
BLUFFTON OFFICE: (260) 824-2234
1307 Baker Place • Bluffton, IN
Mike Lampton | Michael Towne | Jacob Duncan

Home Remodel and Repair
Locally Owned
• Repair Bowed Basement Walls
• Foundations repaired
• Floor joist repair or replaced
• Concrete • Doors
• Windows • Painting
• Tile • Small Jobs Welcome
Text me at 260-301-1269
Jim Baker

YOUR LOCAL AGENTS, HERE FOR YOU.

AMISH CREW
will do roofing, siding, remodeling, pole barns. Specializing in redoing old barns. Free estimates. Call 260-438-2508

For as little as ... **\$187** PER ISSUE
Call 824-0224 or 622-4108
Feb. deadline is Tues, Jan. 23!

SUDOKU ANSWER

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

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. 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 other consignors, seller. Outstanding collection of vintage pickle casters & brides baskets, condiment sets, cut & pressed glassware, toothpick holders, sterling silver, antique & modern furniture, vintage toys, primitives, shop tools, generator. Preview: Feb. 15 from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. and Feb. 22 from 3 p.m.-6 p.m., 102 South Jefferson, Ossian. Sale manager, Patrick Carter, *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. EST, 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, seller. 2021 Jeep Grand Cherokee Limited w/3,600 miles. (2) Vintage Triumph motorcycles, modern furniture, antiques, beer signs, model ships, quality tools, Schwinn Airbyte exercise bike, household, 2017 Grasshopper zero turn mower, 2018 Sure-Trac enclosed trailer. Preview: Feb. 25 from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. and Feb. 29 from 4 p.m.-6 p.m., 3651 E. 1000 N., Ossian. Sale manager, Brandon Steffen, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 5 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of Alan Johnson, seller. Northern Wells, 3 bedroom ranch home on 1/2 acre with 2,384 square feet and 1 full bathroom. Preview: Feb. 25 from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. and Feb. 29 from 4 p.m.-6 p.m., 3651 E. 1000 N., Ossian. Sale manager, Brandon Steffen, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

Dexter Scott King remembered as keeper of father's dream

By MARK THIESSEN
Associated Press

Dexter Scott King, the late son of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King, was remembered Saturday as the protector of his family's legacy and the keeper of his father's dream during a memorial service in Atlanta.

"You, my love, were born a King, beautifully sculpted with the physical traits and intellect of the most revered and impactful man of our time, your beloved father. In addition to that, you held the grace, talent and steadfastness of your beautiful mother," Dexter's wife, Leah Weber King, said in her speech, speaking directly to him.

"You were, indeed, what most would consider and what I considered a man who had it all,"

she said. "But instead of devoting your life to how these riches could advance your personal aspirations and fill your ego, you devoted your life to how all of these riches could advance the cause and legacy of your father, your mother and your family."

Dexter Scott King died Jan. 22, 2024, at the age of 62 at his home in Malibu, California, after battling prostate cancer.

The memorial service for Dexter King was held at Ebenezer Baptist Church, where his father once was pastor. Among others paying homage were his two living siblings and musician Stevie Wonder, who sang "They Won't Go When I Go."

Dexter's older brother, Martin Luther King III, said Dexter has

been welcomed home by their mother, father and sister Yolanda Denise King, who died in 2007, a year after their mother.

"He's run his race, now it's up to us," King III said, promising he and Kings' last surviving daughter, the Rev. Bernice A. King, would continue the family's legacy.

"We will one day achieve what Mom and Dad talked about, the beloved community," he said. "We aren't even in the vicinity today, but we will get there."

Dexter King was named for the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, where his father was pastor during the bus boycott that vaulted him to national prominence following the 1955 arrest of Rosa Parks.

King was 7 years old when his

father was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968.

He bore such a striking resemblance to his father that he was cast to play him in a 2002 television movie about Rosa Parks, starring Angela Bassett.

He spent much of his life protecting the legacy of his parents.

Dexter King served as chairman of The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change and was president of the King Estate, working to protect the family's intellectual property.

"Dexter was ahead of his time," Bernice King said of her brother's vision in protecting the family's intellectual rights. "That's Dexter Scott King's legacy."

In an old speech played at the memorial, around the time when

he began a leadership role with the King Center, Dexter Scott King said, "When people ask, 'What does Dexter want?' Dexter wants to serve, Dexter has to serve because the triple evils of poverty, racism and violence are still among us."

He met James Earl Ray, who had pleaded guilty to murdering his father in 1969, during a visit in 1997 at a Nashville prison. King believed Ray was innocent, and the family sought to have Ray stand trial, hoping it would reveal evidence of a broader conspiracy.

Ray told King in the prison meeting that he wasn't the killer, and King replied, "I believe you and my family believes you."

Ray never stood trial and died from liver failure in 1998.

Israeli strikes hit Rafah after Biden warns to have plan to protect civilians

By NAJIB JOBAIN
and SAMY MAGDY
Associated Press

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — A series of Israeli strikes early Monday hit Rafah, the city on the southern edge of the Gaza Strip where 1.4 million Palestinians have fled to escape fighting elsewhere in the four-month Israel-Hamas war.

Israel has been signaling its ground offensive in Gaza may soon target the densely populated city on the Egyptian border. On Sunday, the White House said President Joe Biden had warned Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that Israel should not conduct a military operation against Hamas in Rafah without a "credible and executable" plan to protect civilians.

The strikes hit around Kuwait Hospital early Monday morning, an Associated Press journalist in Rafah said. Some of those wounded in the strikes had been brought to the hospital.

The Israeli military said it struck "terror targets in the area of Shaboura" — which is a district in

Rafah. The military statement said the series of strikes had concluded, without elaborating on the targets or assessing the potential damage or casualties.

Palestinian health officials did not immediately offer any casualty information.

Biden's remarks were his most forceful language yet on the possible operation. Biden, who last week called Israel's military response in Gaza "over the top," also sought "urgent and specific" steps to strengthen humanitarian aid. Israel's Channel 13 television said the conversation lasted 45 minutes.

Discussion of the potential for a cease-fire agreement took up much of the call, a senior U.S. administration official said, and after weeks of diplomacy, a "framework" is now "pretty much" in place for a deal that could see the release of remaining hostages held by Hamas in exchange for a halt to fighting.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss negotiations, acknowledged that "gaps remain," but declined

to give details. The official said military pressure on Hamas in the southern city of Khan Younis in recent weeks helped bring the group closer to accepting a deal.

Netanyahu's office declined to comment on the call. Hamas' Al-Qsa television station earlier quoted an unnamed Hamas official as saying any invasion of Rafah would "blow up" the talks mediated by the United States, Egypt and Qatar.

Biden and Netanyahu spoke after two Egyptian officials and a Western diplomat said Egypt threatened to suspend its peace treaty with Israel if troops are sent into Rafah, where Egypt fears fighting could push Palestinians into the Sinai Peninsula and force the closure of Gaza's main aid supply route.

The threat to suspend the Camp David Accords, a cornerstone of regional stability for nearly a half-century, came after Netanyahu said sending troops into Rafah was necessary to win the four-month war against Hamas. He asserted that Hamas has four battalions

there.

Over half of Gaza's population of 2.3 million have fled to Rafah to escape fighting in other areas, and they are packed into tent camps and U.N.-run shelters. Egypt fears a mass influx of Palestinian refugees who may never be allowed to return.

Netanyahu told "Fox News Sunday" that there's "plenty of room north of Rafah for them to go to" after Israel's offensive elsewhere in Gaza, and said Israel would direct evacuees with "flyers, with cellphones and with safe corridors and other things." But the offensive has caused widespread destruction, with little capacity to take in people.

The standoff between Israel and Egypt, two close U.S. allies, took shape as aid groups warned that an offensive in Rafah would worsen the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza. Around 80% of residents have fled their homes, and the U.N. says a quarter of the population faces starvation.

A ground operation in Rafah could cut off one of the only ave-

nues for delivering food and medical supplies. Forty-four trucks of aid entered Gaza on Sunday, said Wael Abu Omar, a spokesman for the Palestinian Crossings Authority. About 500 entered daily before the war.

WHERE WOULD CIVILIANS GO?

Officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters on the sensitive negotiations. Qatar, Saudi Arabia and other countries have also warned of severe repercussions if Israel goes into Rafah.

"An Israeli offensive on Rafah would lead to an unspeakable humanitarian catastrophe and grave tensions with Egypt," European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell wrote on X. Human Rights Watch said forced displacement is a war crime.

Egyptian officials fear that if the border is breached, the military would be unable to stop a tide of people fleeing into the Sinai Peninsula.

The United Nations says Rafah, normally home to fewer

Mardi Gras beads are creating a plastic disaster in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — It's a beloved century-old Carnival season tradition in New Orleans — masked riders on lavish floats fling strings of colorful beads or other trinkets to parade watchers clamoring with outstretched arms.

It's all in good fun but it's also a bit of a "plastics disaster," says Judith Enck, a former Environmental Protection Agency regional administrator and president of the advocacy group Beyond Plastics.

Carnival season is at its height this weekend. The city's annual series of parades began more than a week ago and will close out on Tuesday — Mardi Gras — a final day of revelry before Lent. Thousands attend the parades and they leave a mess of trash behind.

Despite a massive daily cleanup operation that leaves the post-parade landscape remarkably clean, uncaught beads dangle from tree limbs like Spanish moss and

get ground into the mud under the feet of passers-by. They also wash into storm drains, where they only complicate efforts to keep the flood-prone city's streets dry. Tons have been pulled from the aging drainage system in recent years.

And those that aren't removed from the storm drains eventually get washed through the system and into Lake Pontchartrain — the large Gulf of Mexico inlet north of the city. The nonbiodegradable

plastics are a threat to fish and wildlife, Enck said.

"The waste is becoming a defining characteristic of this event," said Brett Davis, a New Orleans native who grew up catching beads at Mardi Gras parades. He now heads a nonprofit that works to reduce the waste.

One way of making a dent in the demand for new plastic beads is to reuse old ones. Parade-goers who carry home shopping bags of fresh-

ly caught beads, foam footballs, rubber balls and a host of other freshly flung goodies can donate the haul to the Arc of New Orleans. The organization repackages and resells the products to raise money for the services it provides to adults and children with disabilities.

The city of New Orleans and the tourism promotion organization New Orleans & Co. also have collection points along parade routes for cans, glass and, yes, beads.

Special Feature

Your MONEY \$ Your TAXES

How long to hang on to your tax returns

As individuals attempt to more effectively organize their homes, they may come across a familiar pile of documents that they might hesitate to discard. Conventional wisdom has suggested taxpayers hold on to their tax returns for at least seven years. However, the Internal Revenue Service indicates that the seven-year timeline is not necessarily applicable to everyone. The IRS recommends taxpayers speak with their insurance company or creditors to see if they require account holders to hold on their tax records longer than the IRS. If they don't, individuals can follow these guidelines, courtesy of the IRS.

1. Keep records for 3 years if situations (4), (5), and (6) below do not apply to you.
2. Keep records for 3 years from the date you filed your original return or 2 years from the date you paid the tax, which-

ever is later, if you file a claim for credit or refund after you file your return.

3. Keep records for 7 years if you file a claim for a loss from worthless securities or bad debt deduction.

4. Keep records for 6 years if you do not report income that you should report, and it is more than 25 percent of the gross income shown on your return.

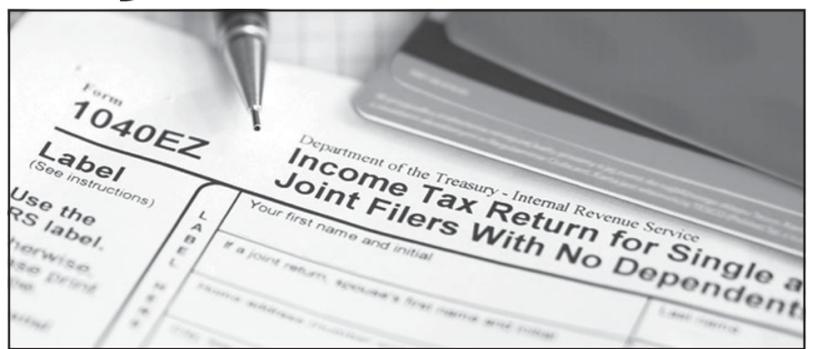
5. Keep records indefinitely if you do not file a return.

6. Keep records indefinitely if you file a fraudulent return.

7. Keep employment tax records for at least 4 years after the date that the tax becomes due or is paid, whichever is later.

These can serve as guidelines taxpayers can follow if they are attempting to declutter at home but don't want to discard tax returns they might someday need. Taxpayers also can consult with

their accountants or tax preparers for advice on how long to keep their returns. In addition, those who want to keep their returns can scan relevant return documents and then store them digitally on an external hard drive. This frees up space in a home and can calm any fears about discarding returns taxpayers may have.



TOPP CPA FIRM
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

Top notch tax service

Dean (Chip) Topp, CPA
chip@toppcca.com

Mon-Friday 8-5; Sat 8-12
Call for evening appointments
159 N. Jefferson St., Berne, IN 46711
260-589-8778

- Individual Taxes
- Corporation Taxes
- Partnership Taxes
- Bookkeeping & Payroll
- Property Taxes
- Quickbook ProAdvisor

Edward Jones

> edwardjones.com Member SIPC

Is a Roth IRA right for you? Let's talk.

BLUFFTON DOUG FEAR, AAMS® Financial Advisor 2035 Commerce Dr., Suite 209 260-565-4134	JEREMY TODD, AAMS®/CFP® Financial Advisor 1169 N. Main St. Suite 2 260-824-0686	JEREMY PENROD, AAMS®/CFP® Financial Advisor 201 E. Market St., Suite 1 260-824-2354	OSSIAN LARRY A. SMITH, AAMS® Financial Advisor 102 S. Jefferson 260-622-7952
--	---	---	---

MKT-58940-A AECSPAD

Your Local Tax Specialists

E & E **EMSHWILLER & EMSHWILLER**

BUSINESS CONSULTING • TAX PREPARATION
BOOKKEEPING • PAYROLL • QB CONSULTS
IRS REPRESENTATION

JOHN EMSHWILLER, EA
NICK SCHEER, EA
CORY RECKARD, CPA
COLIN PENROD, EA

207 N. Johnson Street, Bluffton, IN 7230 Engle Road, Fort Wayne, IN

www.emshwiller.net • 260.824.1826