

# The News - Banner

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2024

BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

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## Johnson resigns as Wells County health officer

**By HOLLY GASKILL**  
In a statement Friday, the Wells County Health Department announced Dr. Kay Johnson agreed to voluntarily resign from her position as local health officer. Johnson will retain the role and responsibility as interim health officer until a new doctor is

appointed. She will also serve in a new consulting role for the Board of Health. Johnson told The News-Banner she would remain with the county in the consulting role through 2026. She also called the agreement "fair and amicable" and advised "everyone is happy with the outcome."

The announcement directly follows a unanimous decision by the Health Board on Thursday authorizing Board President Chris Esterling to approve a "settlement package" outside of a public meeting. A similar motion was approved by the Wells County Commissioners at their Feb. 5 meeting.

"It's a good time for change and to move forward," Commissioner President Jeff Stringer said. "I'm glad we came to an agreement, and I wish the best to her." The Health Board unanimously voted to initiate the process for Johnson's removal in December. During a subsequent public

hearing, several board members expressed their belief Johnson had not adequately led the department through a pivotal time of understaffing in 2023. Johnson and her legal counsel claimed these issues had not been raised before the board considered her removal.

(Continued on Page 2)

## Optimist Club remains hopeful for volunteers

**By SYDNEY KENT**  
The Bluffton Optimist Club is seeking new friendly smiles to join their service club.

Steve Higgins, president of the chapter, spoke to The News-Banner shortly after he attended a regular eye doctor appointment earlier this week.

He said that his eyes were slightly sensitive, though his sight has continued to improve since his cataract surgery. Hig-

gins has hope that the future outlook for the Wells County chapter of the club will improve as well.

"We are struggling now because some of the older guys that have done a lot of the work in the club are having some health issues," Higgins explained. "They can't participate at the same level. We do a lot of good things in the community. We don't want to give that up."

The Wells County chapter began on May 4, 1964. Since its opening, the club has participated in, sponsored, and raised money for countless community events. Higgins said the club emphasizes programs with children.

The mission of the international organization is to provide hope and a positive vision, to bring out the best in youth, communities, and one another.



The Bluffton Optimist Club builds pizzas for the annual fundraiser. (Photo provided)

Higgins said there are groups in 28 countries with approximately 64 clubs in

Indiana. In 2023 alone, the club donated funds to the Cub

Scouts of America, the summer reading program (Continued on Page 2)

## Mt. Fuji to open Sunday

**By JONATHAN SNYDER**  
A new Japanese restaurant is opening Feb. 18 at 121 North Main St. in Bluffton.

Mt. Fuji Sushi and Hibachi will be serving various dishes, with sushi, ramen and several teriyaki entrees featured on their menu. There are also various hibachi meals available, offering a selection of steak, lobster, shrimp and chicken.

The restaurant has another location in Monticello, Indiana, which has been open for almost a year. Both locations have the same management crew.

The meal prices range from \$5.99 for two pieces of sushi to \$29.99 for filet mignon and lobster tail. A



The inside of Mt. Fuji's dining area. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

full menu is available outside the front door of the restaurant facing North Main Street.

Mt. Fuji is allowed to serve alcohol, but according to Tony Garton, who serves on the Alcoholic Beverage Commission, the restaura-

nt still needs to take some additional actions before they can serve them.

Mt. Fuji's hours are 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday. Mt. Fuji is avail-

able on DoorDash and carryout options are open until 20 minutes before closing.

Almost 70 people can be seated at one time on a first come first serve basis. Parking is available off of East Perry Street.

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## Legislators mum on governor picks but talk 13th checks

**By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ**  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Indiana's top two lawmakers, who are Republicans, kept quiet Thursday on which of six GOP candidates they'd back as the state's next governor.

Leaders also expressed uncertainty about how they'd handle public retiree benefit bills, but indicated legislation on antisemitism could pass muster this year. However, a contentious effort to make higher education institutions friendlier to conservatives could face more skepticism in the House.

Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray said he was still "pending" on which gubernatorial candidate to support. But when he settles on someone, he said he'd keep that private. "Our chamber will have to work very closely with the governor and the governor's administration," Bray, R-Martinsville, told reporters Thursday. "I don't really expect that I'm going to come out publicly and be supportive of somebody."

House Speaker Todd Huston, R-Fishers, was even more firm.

"I am as neutral as neutral could be," he said. But asked what he was looking for in a candidate, Huston said it would be someone with a "vision for Indiana."

"You know, building on the prosperity we have, the growth that's taking place, and somebody that has a vision for ... building on what we're doing and making it even better," he said. "I'm pleased with the quality of candidates we have and ... I look forward to working with whoever our party selects."

**What's next for bills on retiree benefits, antisemitism in the Senate**

With the legislative session past the halfway point, leaders are looking over the bills from their colleagues — and coming up against bill-killing policy differences.

Efforts to provide public retirees an additional benefit and to ban specifically antisemitism in educational settings were victims of those differences last year.

Bray said those bills might see success this session.

Lawmakers have traditionally given public retirees an additional benefit, like a 13th check or a cost-of-living adjustment, every budget year. That's because pensions rarely keep up with how much it costs to live.

The House is advancing a one-time 13th check, while the Senate prefers a more long-term approach featuring guaranteed bonuses instead of the traditional ad hoc treatment. It's unclear when retirees would get a first payout under that bill.

Bray noted that the House heard — and unanimously moved — his chamber's approach in a committee Thursday. He said he was "optimistic" it would get passed, but signaled the House's corresponding effort could face a more difficult path.

"I don't have the ability to say whether that'll pass right now or not," Bray said.

The Senate also killed, last year, a bill specifying that

(Continued on Page 2)

## Literacy bill advances as worries rise over retaining more third graders

**By CASEY SMITH**  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

House lawmakers are moving forward with a bill that seeks to remedy Indiana's literacy "crisis" despite mounting pushback against a provision that could require thousands of students to repeat third grade.

Senate Bill 1, authored by Sen. Linda Rogers, R-Granger, would require schools to administer the statewide literacy test — IREAD — in second grade, a year earlier than current requirements, and would exempt successful takers from sitting the exam again. Students who don't pass would receive targeted support to improve their reading over the summer and through third grade and would have three chances to pass the

exam.

If third-graders still can't meet the IREAD standard, legislators want their school districts to retain them.

The bill advanced from the House Education Committee along party lines on Wednesday and now heads to Ways and Means. Republicans supported the measure and Democrats opposed.

"Indiana is blessed with great educators, and I am confident they will rise to this challenge — along with parental involvement — to help us meet our statewide goal of 95% reading proficiency," Rogers said. "We owe this to every Hoosier child."

Exceptions are carved out in Rogers' bill for students who have been

retained in third grade before, special-education students, certain English language learners, and students who pass the math portion of the statewide assessment and receive remedial reading instruction.

**How we got here**

Last year, 13,840 third-graders did not pass IREAD, according to test data. Of those students, 5,503 received an exemption and 8,337 did not. But about 95% of students without an exemption moved onto 4th grade and just 412 were retained.

Multiple education experts emphasized that third grade is a critical year for literacy because it's at that time students shift from learning to read toward reading to learn.

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### Outside



Sunny and cold today,  
wind gusts into the evening

Today	Sunday	Monday
High 24	High 38	High 44
Low 19	Low 21	Low 28

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### Online

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February 17, 2024



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## Johnson resigns

(Continued from Page 1)

Johnson had held the position since 2010 and was re-appointed to a another four-year term in 2022.

The board tabled their discussion after the extensive hearing and postponed a decision in a special session

following a two-hour executive session later in January. County Attorney Ted Storer announced the parties were nearing an agreement on Feb. 5, asking that Stringer be authorized to sign an agreement on behalf of the board outside of a public

meeting.

The agreement was not made available to The News-Banner at the time of print.

The Wells County Board of Health is responsible for appointing a new health officer, and the County Com-

missioners will then certify the appointment.

The County Commissioners will meet at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 20. The next regular meeting of the Health Board is at 6:30 a.m. Thursday, April 18.

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## Optimist Club

(Continued from Page 1)

at the local library, and the Miss Wells County pageant, among others. They also invested time and care into students in multiple ways.

For example, aspiring woodworkers and musicians at Southern Wells High School were invited to present their impressive self-made guitars to the club. Students at Bluffton High School were also presented with the opportunity to compete in an essay contest about optimism.

Higgins said this important work cannot continue without the addition of new members and generations to carry on the spirit of joy. At 64-years-old, Higgins is one of the youngest members to participate.

“All ages are welcome. If you are community-minded and enjoy serving others,” Higgins said. “Then it’s right up your alley. Not all members attend every meeting, some participate in the events and fundraisers or as they can.”

He said the group recently changed their meeting time to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesdays at Hoosier House in Bluffton. They hope the new time will allow for more people to attend and learn more.

To learn more about Optimist International, interested parties may attend a weekly meeting, call 314-371-6000, or visit the organization's website, [optimist.org](http://optimist.org).

sydney@news-banner.com



Bluffton Optimist Club member Scott Johnson forms a pizza box for the clubs annual 'BIG GAME' Pizza fundraiser last week. (Photo provided)

## Literacy bill advances

(Continued from Page 1)

Rogers has repeatedly said, however, that her proposal is not a “retention bill,” and holding Hoosier kids back in school should “be a last resort.” She maintained, too, that if literacy supports and remediation in Senate Bill 1 are properly implemented, “we will not have to retain any children.”

Even so, tensions ran high at the Statehouse on Wednesday.

Numerous parents and educators who testified said that although they support efforts to identify and assist struggling readers earlier, they remained opposed to the legislation due to the mandatory retention provision.

“It’s possible to cherry pick a study here and there showing positive effects. But no review of the entire literature has concluded that retention has any positive long term benefits,” said Russ Skiba, professor emeritus at Indiana University, also representing the University Alliance for Racial Justice.

Skiba additionally said retention is “likely to cause serious, long-term effects for students,” including failure to complete high school, failure to advance to college, “and even increased crime.” Negative effects of retention “fall hardest” on Black and Latino students, he continued.

“The \$57 million that could be saved by eliminating retention from this bill could be applied to the many positive and preventive strategies identified in the bill,” Skiba told lawmakers. “Do what works. Avoid what doesn’t. Take the resources wasted on ineffective and harmful strategies like retention and use it to implement

positive and proven, effective literacy strategies. That would be a real science of reading that would truly benefit the students of Indiana.”

**Ending social promotion**  
Education advocates, faith leaders and the state’s largest teachers’ union were at the Statehouse a day earlier to speak out against Senate Bill 1 and its implications on third graders.

“Retention, while it may seem like a straightforward solution, has been shown by research to be both academically ineffective and emotionally harmful. The prospect of retention can stigmatize and demoralize our young learners, risking a cycle of offender achievement that we must,” said Keith Gambill, president of the Indiana State Teachers Association, who spoke at a news conference on Tuesday. “We must shift our focus from punitive measures to empowering our students with the skills they need to succeed.”

A dozen others who spoke alongside Gambill further held that holding kids back when they struggle to read is not the answer. They argued, rather, that retention decisions continue to be made by teachers, school administrators and parents.

“We do not agree with one-size-fits-all approaches that have potentially devastating, long-term effects on children,” said GlenEva Dunham, president of Indiana’s American Federation of Teachers chapter. “Retaining students has not been proven to be effective.”

Dunham, Gambill and others insisted that — instead of focusing on

retention — more emphasis needs to be placed on identifying struggling readers before kindergarten, making sure schools have updated reading materials and technology, along with support staff like reading specialists.

Echoing requests from many Hoosier education officials and experts, Rep. Ed DeLaney, D-Indianapolis, called for lawmakers to wait until 2026 to put in effect the stricter retention policy.

“We need to change this retention thing. We need to at least delay it until we see if these other reforms work,” DeLaney said before voting against the bill on Wednesday. He promised to offer an amendment to that effect on the House floor.

Paul Ketcham, representing the Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents, said schools have “enough time” to put all components of Senate Bill 1 into effect by the 2024-2025 academic year.

“We are negligent if we do not address this problem now, because there is a cohort of students now,” he said. “Let’s roll our sleeves up. Let’s work together. Let’s do it now. I don’t think waiting makes it a better bill. I think addressing the issue now impacts students in our buildings now.”

**Minor changes adopted**  
Several amendments were adopted to the bill in committee, including one that requires summer school courses for struggling second graders to be taught by teachers and tutors who are trained in the science of reading.

The amendment, authored by Rep. Jake Teska, R-South Bend, also stipulates that a student who has received “intensive intervention” for two years

and was retained more than once before third grade is not subject to the retention requirement.

Another change approved by the committee requires the state board of education to establish a method for ILEARN to be offered virtually.

Other proposed amendments offered by Democrats were unsuccessful, though.

One of those, authored by Rep. Tonya Pfaff, D-Terre Haute, would have lowered Indiana’s compulsory school age from seven to six years old.

Committee chairman Rep. Bob Behning, R-Indianapolis, said he supported the motion but was concerned it would affect about 2,000 students and have “a significant fiscal impact” on the state budget.

“I think that this is an issue that would be better discussed next year, during a budget year, since it has a huge fiscal,” Behning said. Other GOP lawmakers agreed.

A separate failed amendment from DeLaney additionally sought to completely delete the retention language from the bill.

“I believe that the parent has got to have the right to say that their child should not be retained. Their child might be having adjustment issues, their child might be the oldest kid in the class and would then come out to be maybe two years older than some of their classmates,” he said. “I don’t like the fact that these tough decisions have to be made, but ultimately I don’t think the state is the one to make those decisions.”

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

Due to Monday being a federal holiday, Presidents’ Day, the mail will not be delivered and therefore home delivery of The News-Banner will be delayed one day.

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

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

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

## Weather

Saturday, February 17, 2024

(24-hour observations at 9:02 p.m. Friday)

**High:** 30; **Low:** 21; **Precipitation:** 1.7 inches of rain  
**Wabash River Level** (at the Main Street bridge): 1.44 feet at 10:45 p.m. Friday

## Wells County forecast

**Today:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 24. Northwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Tonight:** Mostly clear, with a low around 19. Southwest wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

**Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 38. Southwest wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

**Sunday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 21. West wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Washington’s Birthday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 44.

**Monday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 28.

**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 49.

**Tuesday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 35.

**Wednesday:** A 20 percent chance of rain after 1 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 55.

**Wednesday Night:** A 30 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 38.

**Thursday:** A 30 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 50.

**Thursday Night:** A chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 28.

**Friday:** A slight chance of rain and snow. Partly sunny, with a high near 39.

## Legislators

(Continued from Page 1)

antisemitism — bias against Jewish people — is religious discrimination and is not allowed within the public education system. However, Indiana law already bans discrimination on the basis of both race and “creed,” which means religion.

The House designated it a priority bill this session following the terrorist attack on Israel and subsequent, deadly war in Gaza. Bray said it would “probably” get through the Senate this time.

“We’re having some conversations now and making sure that people are comfortable with it,” he said. “I’m not going to say there might not be a change or two to it as well.”

Senate Minority Leader Greg Taylor, D-Indianapolis, said he believed the bill would go through a “significant change” in the Senate. He added, “Hopefully, it’s a change we can agree upon.”

Taylor, who is Black, has been adamant about protecting more groups: “We have a lot of other -isms out there,” he said.

**‘Viewpoint discrimination’ bill comes to the House**

Huston, meanwhile, indicated a controversial Senate bill on higher education might not make it through his chamber. That’s after several hours of passionate testimony against the bill in a House committee Wednesday.

The sweeping legislation would tighten lawmaker oversight of Indiana’s public colleges and universities for “intellectual diversity.” It would alter boards of trustees, tenure and promotions, create complaint procedures and more. Supporters say it’s meant to make conservative students and faculty feel welcome but opponents say it could actually stifle freedom of expression.

Huston said university trustees are “incredibly important” and emphasized the “financial acumen” needed.

“We’ll see,” he said of the bill. “If we — if I — if it ever gets to that point, I’m sure it’ll be an interesting conversation about who (in the caucus) is interested and who isn’t.”

Democrat Minority Leader Phil GiaQuinta, D-Fort Wayne, said the bill is “obviously ... not ready for prime time.”

## Corrections and clarifications

Friday’s coverage of the Area Plan Commission misstated that Doug and Amy Dunwiddie were looking to purchase a property on 711 West Cherry St. — the Dunwiddies own the property and are looking to sell, causing the potential buyer to need the property rezoned. The petition was given a do-pass recommendation to be rezoned to a residential area because it is currently a residential property and has been for years.



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# Bluffton Parks Rec News Notes



By Brandy Fiechter

## Destination Recreation

Tomorrow, Sunday, Feb. 18, is the **Mother-Son Nerf War and the Daddy-Daughter Dance**, and if you are freaking out that you forgot to buy tickets, don't worry, we have you covered. Tickets for both events will be available at the door for only \$10 each (exact change preferred, or checks can be made to Bluffton Parks). Tickets will go on sale 15 minutes before the event, so come a little early to get this taken care of. The Mother-Son Nerf war starts at 2 p.m., and you must bring your own Nerf gun and eye protection; the Daddy-Daughter Dance begins at 6 p.m.

If you still need to sign up for the **Hooked-on Crochet** class, now is your chance to register for March's lessons before they fill up! Learning to crochet will give you a lifetime of pleasure and relaxation. You can learn to create hand-made items for yourself and those you love. Classes will be taught by Kathy Gehrett at City Hall (128 E Market) from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Thursdays, March 7, 14, and 21.

Three one-hour group lessons cost \$20, due the first day. Yarn and instructions will be provided, and you will need to bring your size H hook. Call the park office at 824-6069 to pre-register. Class size is limited and open to beginners and advanced students.

Kids ages seven and up are invited to face off in a **Lego Build Challenge!** If your child loves Legos, they won't want to miss this event at the Bluffton City Gym on Tuesday, March 5, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. All the Legos will be provided for this free event. You must pre-register by calling 824-6069.

Join us for our special **Toddler Time Post Office Tour** on Thursday, March 7. Come to the City Gym by 11 a.m.; we will walk over together and arrive by 11:15 to see a behind-the-scenes look at the mail room. This is a FREE drop-in event.

The Bluffton City Gym is open every

Tuesday and Thursday from 11-noon for you to bring your tots and burn off some energy through March. This free drop-in program will allow young children to play with others their age in a large open space. Balls will be available in the storage closet at the East end of the gym when we hear the children arrive. Please note that this is not a staff-facilitated event, and parents are responsible for their children. We will offer a special tour or activity on the first Thursday of each month. Please sign in on the wooden door each visit and turn off the gym lights if you are the last to leave.

**Murphy is a Mischievous Leprechaun** who will travel from park to park in Bluffton this spring, causing mischief and pulling pranks. Children of all ages are encouraged to find this mischievous leprechaun March 1-15. In this "hide and seek" game, a paper cut out of Murphy will be hidden in one of the city trails or parks. If you find the cut out of Murphy, you must deliver him back to the Parks Department to claim a prize. We will then re-hide Murphy in a different location after he is found. Winners are limited to claiming the prize one time during those two weeks.

The next **Hue Can Paint** class will be on March 18, when kids will paint an Easter Bunny Top Hat. The Bluffton Parks Department will host a canvas painting class for youth ages seven and up on Monday, March 18. Lessons will be held at the Washington Park Indoor Pavilion (710 S. Mulberry St.) from 6-7:45 p.m. Your kids will enjoy the step-by-step instructions from a local artist to paint a one-of-a-kind creation to take home. Not only will they leave with beautiful artwork, but they will also feel accomplished as they master the painting techniques. The cost is only \$15 per person and includes all supplies and instructions. To register, call 824-6069; space is limited to the first 12 pre-registered participants.

Have a great week!

# Local Roundup

## County Election Board will meet Tuesday afternoon

The Wells County Election Board will meet at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, in the clerk's office in the Wells County Courthouse, 102 W. Market St.

- Topics on the agenda include:
- Certificate of appointment to Rockcreek Township Trustee
  - A review of the list of candidates who filed for the May 7, 2024, primary election
  - Any other election matters

## Solid Waste District board will meet Tuesday

The board of the Wells County Solid Waste District will meet at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

- Topics on the agenda include:
- A report from Supervisor Kevin Poling.
  - Continued conversation regarding cardboard recycling and business permits.
  - Approval of an agreement for paper shredding and hazardous material disposal.

## Bluffton Board of Works to meet Tuesday afternoon

The Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, in the meeting room on the first floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

- Topics on the agenda include:
- Personnel and financial matters.
  - Discussion regarding truck traffic on Harvest Road.

## County Drainage Board will meet Tuesday afternoon

The Wells County Drainage Board will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

- Topics on the agenda include:
- Discussion of the maintenance assessment on the Lobolly Joint Drain.
  - Project updates and miscellaneous matters.

## County Commissioners will meet Tuesday evening

The Wells County Commissioners will meet at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

- Topics on the agenda include:
- Department reports from Sheriff Scott Holliday and Highway Supervisor Shawn Bonar.
  - Wells on Wheels report from transportation manager Lew King.

- Approval of a quarter four invoice from the Wells County Council on Aging.
- An update on the Wells County Public Library from Director Sarah MacNeill and commissioner-appointed library board member Matt Yergler and John Stauffer.
- Monthly reports and miscellaneous business.
- Approval of right-of-way and utility agreements.

## Bluffton Common Council will meet Tuesday evening

The Bluffton Common Council will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

- Topics on the agenda include:
- Consideration of rezoning petition Ordinance 1612 brought by Mike Lautzenheiser on behalf of the Area Plan Commission.
  - Consideration of a Ordinance 1613 for an additional appropriation from the opioid fund.
  - Consideration of Ordinance 1614 re-establishment of the CCD fund rate.
  - Phillips Financial.

## Southern Wells school board will meet Tuesday

The board of the Southern Wells Community Schools will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, in the high school media center of the SWCS campus.

- Topics on the agenda include:
- A spotlight on Raider success.
  - Financial and personnel matters.
  - Recognition of an Early Literacy Achievement Grant.
  - A routine review of policy and procedures.
  - Instruction and curriculum requests, including a request for a new early literacy position.
  - Superintendent information.

An executive session will immediately follow the regular agenda items. Reason for the executive session was stated as discussion of job performance or evaluation of an employee.

## Markle Town Council will meet Wednesday evening

The Markle Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21, in the meeting room of the Markle fire station, 150 W. Sparks St. in Markle.

- Topics on the agenda include:
- A 2023 report on Wells County Economic Development from Executive Director Chad Kline.
  - Consideration of Resolution 2024-1, approving a municipal right-of-way permit application.
  - Reports from the operations manager, town marshal and clerk-treasurer.
  - HCUED and Region 3-A report.

# Police Notebook

## INCIDENTS

**City:**  
Wednesday, 3:48 p.m., Kroger. Caller reported someone threatened to shoot them after a road rage incident.

Wednesday, 4:59 p.m., 300 block of West Miller Street. Report of an issue with property, advised it is a civil issue.

Wednesday, 5:33 p.m., All American. Report of a blue jacket found behind building.

Wednesday, 6:13 p.m., Bluffton High School. Alarm went off at high school. Burnt popcorn was found to be at fault.

Wednesday, 7:36 p.m., 900 block of East Spring Street. Report of fireworks.

Wednesday, 8:14 p.m., WEG. Subject sped into parking lot at WEG and dropped someone off before parking. Officer spoke to subject who advised he was the passenger when the car was speeding.

Thursday, 10:22 a.m., West Silver and South Morgan streets. Report of a truck parked incorrectly.

Thursday, 5:09 p.m., Save On Liquor South. Report of juveniles possibly with alcohol.

Thursday, 6:11 p.m., 300 block of White Bridge Court. Report of glass in the roadway.

Thursday, 10:40 p.m., Budget Inn. Report of subject fighting with manager.

Thursday, 11:29 p.m., 300 block of East Central Avenue. Report of an argument over household responsibilities.

Friday, 6:12 a.m., Capri Meadows Apartments. Report of subject outside sleeping on bench, walked from Fort Wayne. Subject given a ride to Connecting Center, found help in local shelter.

Friday, 10:13 a.m., Lowes. Report of theft.

**County:**  
Thursday, 1:15 p.m., 3100 South Main Street, Liberty Center. Search warrant conducted.

Thursday, 3:41 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served to Jamie Ramseyer.

Thursday, 10:56 p.m., South 300 West and West 1000 South, Keystone. Car versus deer.

Friday, 4:24 p.m., Ind. 1 and East 400 North, Bluffton. Report of a subject in all dark clothing walking in the dark. The officer somehow couldn't locate any-

one.  
Friday, 7:19 a.m., 2700 East 200 North, Bluffton. Report of a vehicle crashed into ditch on property, unoccupied.

**Ossian:**  
Friday, 5:26 a.m., Ind. 224 and Ind. 1, Ossian. Driver cited for driving while suspended.

## ARRESTS

Jamie Lynn Bessent, 50, Bluffton; possession of child pornography, a Level 5 felony. No bond set.

Jamie Mae Ramseyer, 31, Bluffton; possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony, and criminal conversion, a Class A misdemeanor. No bond set.

Santiago Tomas Hernandez, 21; Bluffton, operating without ever obtaining a license, a Class C misdemeanor.

Jonathon Niles Notestine, 33, Huntington; driving while suspended, a Class A misdemeanor.

David Lonnie Lawhorne Jr., 28, New Haven; invasion of privacy, a Class A misdemeanor.

Terry Lynn Meyers Jr., 56, Marion; driving while suspended — prior suspension, a Class A misdemeanor.

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## Man convicted in 2022 shooting of Indy police officer that wounded officer in the throat

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A man accused of shooting an Indianapolis police officer in the throat during a shootout that followed a car crash has been convicted of attempted murder and other charges.

A Marion County jury convicted Mylik Hill, 33, on Thursday of two counts of attempted murder, six counts of resisting law enforcement and one count of possession of a firearm by a serious violent felon. His sentencing was set for March 11.

The February 2022 shooting seriously wounded first-year Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Officer Thomas Mangan. The officer suffered damage to his voice box and Adam's apple when Hill shot him in the throat at the base of his

neck. Mangan was shot as officers were responding to the scene of a car crash in Indianapolis' Fountain Square neighborhood. Witnesses directed officers to a car and Hill, who was believed to be connected to the reported accident, prosecutors said.

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## Struggling to get out of a 'do-nothing' mode

There have been occasional thoughts the past several weeks about doing something — taking a walk, deciding where to eat supper or perhaps writing a column. I did manage to mail one in a few weeks ago but then I got into a groove of doing nothing. Warmer weather, ocean waves and sand between your toes encourages that.

A couple good books were consumed. A biography of Gerald Ford revealed some interesting comparisons between his years as president and our present state of affairs. Perhaps some comments were in order about leaders making decisions based on what they feel is best for the country, not on what their political advisers recommend in order to get re-elected.

My "do-nothing" state of mind should have included not watching the national news. I was contemplating an essay on renouncing any allegiance to a certain political party.

There could have been a column about some interesting people encountered — not nearly as intriguing as having dinner with a rock star as Doug Brown shared from his recent travels. However, when you show up at a golf course as a single, you expect to be paired with strangers. I've always enjoyed playing with and getting to know strange golfers (we're all at least a bit strange) and have never been disappointed.

For example, Mario, about my age, still has a strong Italian accent. Turned out he had emigrated from his homeland as a teenager about the same time as our youngest son's father-in-law. Mario's nephew, Keith, has a daughter that earned a role in a Broadway production when she was 10 years old. He and his wife split time between their home and jobs in Albany, N.Y., and a Manhattan apartment for several years. Interesting conversations.

In another round, one of my group was retired from a sales career which included a stint selling newspaper advertising. We had something in common to talk about. The other was a young man — about the age of our youngest son — vacationing in Florida from Vietnam. He is a banker. He grew up outside of Hanoi but now lives and works in Ho Chi Minh City. We all knew that as Saigon. Times change.

Fifty-some years ago, who among my generation would have ever had such a crazy thought that you might one day play a round of golf with the son of an officer in the North Vietnamese military? "Yuan" — I have no idea if that is spelled correctly — is a very nice, friendly, enthusiastic, polite young man, but deferred specific questions about his father's role.

"How's the bank business?" I asked. He expects the next several years to see an explosion of new investments in manufacturing plants in his country by American companies moving their operations out of China. Times do change.

There could have been a column about my growing TS problem — tech-stupidity. It is getting increasingly difficult to travel with a flip phone. But I am TS-2: tech-stupid and tech-stubborn.

But all that was put aside when I logged into the N-B's website one day last week and read that Steve Wagner had died. Unexpectedly. Life is short. You never know.

I do not recall the exact circumstances of our first encounter — where or when — but I do recall his easy-going, friendly, sometimes quirky manner that defied you not to like him.

Among his many attributes, Steve was a champion for Rotary. He was never a member, but he sent more of his Southern Wells students to the annual Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, a slightly misnamed weekend event that develops leadership skills while having fun. The northern Indiana district of Rotary Clubs' RYLA Camp has been held at a Boy Scout camp near Delphi. My wife and I have driven students both to and from the event. It's always more fun on the way home as you listen to the students rave about their weekend.

Steve seems to have understood the camp's value better than any other school counselor in the county. You could easily say he had a passion for that, but I think Steve had a passion for everything he did — a passion for life itself. I do not have any testimonials at hand, but I am betting there are a lot of his former students who would say that he made a difference in their lives. I think that's what most of us want to do: make a difference. Steve did.

Our arrival back home included going through a month's worth of mail. Staring at that pile, you realize you have to do something. No more nothing.

miller@news-banner.com

## Saturday's Sub



Mark Miller



## Here's a deal that could get aid to Ukraine

Republican moderates in the House have a solution to the congressional stalemate over getting aid to Ukraine: Pass a "skinny" version of the Senate's supplemental aid package that would cut out economic and humanitarian aid, providing only military aid for Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan. In exchange, the bill would include two border provisions: (1) Restoration of Title 42, the covid-related order that allowed border officials to turn away illegal migrants, minus its public health requirements; and (2) reinstatement of the Trump-era "Remain in Mexico" policy, which required asylum seekers to wait in Mexico while their asylum claims were considered.

Such a deal, which is still being hammered out with moderate House Democrats, makes perfect sense. The European Union just approved a \$54 billion economic aid package for Ukraine, so we can let our allies take the lead on humanitarian and financial support for Kyiv. And military provisions make up most of the U.S. aid package anyway.

On Tuesday, President Biden demanded the GOP "immediately" pass the Senate's bill, asking, "Are you going to stand up for freedom, or are you going to side with terror and tyranny? Are you going to stand with Ukraine, or stand with [Vladimir] Putin? Will you stand with America or with Trump?" This was both unhelpful and unrealistic. Attacking Republicans as Trump-Putin stooges is no way to get anything through the House, and the Senate's bill is not going to become law as written.

Here is the reality: Republicans have something Biden wants — aid for Ukraine. To get it, he needs to give them something they want (and need) — major concessions on border security. Even the many House Republicans who want to help Ukraine need those concessions to do so, so that the anti-Ukraine right cannot accuse them of caring more about Ukraine's borders than our own.

The reason the Senate border deal is going nowhere was that it was an immigration reform *compromise*, not a border *concession*. Republicans were being asked to approve a border-security package they found woefully insufficient — and then approve the aid to Ukraine that Biden wants. That was never going to fly. In fact, it backfired — losing the votes of pro-Ukraine Republicans in the Senate. Passing Ukraine aid is the Democrats' concession. The Democrats' concession has to be securing the border.

On Monday night, House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) said the Senate bill was dead on arrival in the House because it was "silent" on border security. "The mandate of national security supplemental legislation

was to secure America's own border before sending additional foreign aid around the world," Johnson said in a statement. "Now, in the absence of having received any single border policy change from the Senate, the House will have to continue to work its own will on these important matters." He has reportedly told members that Biden is refusing to meet with him to discuss the border-Ukraine compromise.

The solution that moderate Republicans suggest would give Johnson a way to bring the bill to the House floor. And it would solve the Republicans' fundamental political problem, which is that they cannot vote to help Ukraine secure its borders without voting to secure our own borders as well.

The hurdle Johnson would still face is that several Freedom Caucus members who are dead set against such a compromise sit on the House Rules Committee, which decides which bills can come to the floor. So the House would have to suspend the rules to take it up without the committee's approval. This requires a two-thirds vote as well as the speaker's consent.

If Johnson won't provide that consent, supporters of a skinny aid package tell me they won't rule out using a discharge petition to bring it to the floor anyway. This would require 218 votes, which means a handful of moderate Republicans would have to team up with virtually the entire Democratic caucus. Normally, such a direct assault on their own speaker's authority would be virtually unthinkable. But GOP moderates watched in October while a handful of far-right extremists teamed up with Democrats to oust Johnson's predecessor, Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.), from the speakership, so they might decide what's good for the far right is good for the center as well.

Let's hope it doesn't come to that. Another alternative would be for Johnson to break up the Senate bill into pieces and let the House vote on each element — Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan — separately. Each element would likely pass with a different coalition if allowed a floor vote. But this lets Democrats off the hook on securing the border, which Johnson has said is his nonnegotiable demand.

This much is certain: There is no time to waste. Right now, with military aid stalled, Ukrainian troops are being forced to ration artillery. It is only a matter of time before Congress's failure to act begins to result in Russian military gains on the ground. Johnson needs to move a bill, and fast.

Follow Marc A. Thiessen @marcthiessen on X



Marc Thiessen

## Gospel on PBS lifts spirits

If you are tired of TV shows like "The Bachelor" where women demean themselves by competing for the "love" of a man; if you are sick of all the shootings and explosions on TV, the canned laughter on sitcoms that mostly aren't funny (which is why they have to insert canned laughter in the first place); if you want to have your spirit lifted out of the mundane and into the heavens, there is a place you can go.

Visit PBS and the brilliant, fun, entertaining blessing you will get from watching a new docuseries called "Gospel."

Hosted by Harvard Professor Henry Louis Gates Jr., "Gospel" traces the history of gospel music, which has sustained African-Americans through toils and troubles. Gates, who has created and hosted programs examining the family history of prominent Black Americans and others, has created an uplifting program that will bless all but the hardest of hearts.

"From the blues to hip hop," says PBS, "African Americans have been the driving force of sonic innovation for over a century. Musical styles come and go, but there's one sound that has been a constant source of strength, courage, and wisdom on any given Sunday. GOSPEL ... digs



Cal Thomas

deep into the origin story of Black spirituality through sermon and song."

As I've written before about Gates' work, he doesn't judge people for the historical plight of Black Americans. Instead, he presents facts and lets viewers reach their own conclusions. His is a soft touch but with a powerful message.

What amazes about "Gospel" is that in the midst of much suffering - from slavery to more contemporary discrimination and hate -- there is so much joy.

Historians and other scholars fill in the facts about this unique musical style, but it's the music, itself, that transforms listeners to another level.

When I have visited Black churches, I have experienced something decidedly different from what I encounter in majority white churches. First, I am usually greeted by people who clearly identify me as a visitor. The spiritual energy is noticeable from the start. The preacher doesn't just preach a sermon. He (and sometimes she) exhorts. No one falls asleep in the Black church. It is not something to be witnessed, as on TV, but experienced.

Gates' program recalls how some of these great gospel hymns were written. He even demonstrates the

influence some of the music has had on rock and roll. Chuck Berry makes a brief appearance with his famous guitar riff. As in more staid hymns composed by white writers, many gospel songs were inspired by pain and suffering. In both genres, those twin experiences are overcome by hope and then joy.

Some critics of this up-tempo music once called it "the Devil's music," but that's what some called Rock and Roll. Gospel music isn't about the Devil, but God and Jesus. While emotional at times, its base and theology are mostly solid. Listen to Mahalia Jackson sing "Precious Lord," which she sang at the funeral of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. There is no Devil in that song.

You can't stay quiet while listening to gospel music. It is so powerful I have seen white people stand up and shout, which is akin to raising the dead in some white churches.

Here's a thought: how about a performance of gospel songs during halftime at next year's Super Bowl? It would beat some of what we've witnessed in recent years, including this year.

"Gospel" is viewable on your local PBS station, or at PBS.org. If you aren't smiling, joining in the singing, and experiencing a blessing, you may want to check your vital signs. "Gospel" is more than great TV. It is a warm spiritual bath.

tcaeditors@tribpub.com

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

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, Feb. 17, the 48th day of 2024. There are 318 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 17, 1801, the U.S. House of Representatives broke an electoral tie between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr, electing Jefferson president; Burr became vice president.

On this date: In 1815, the United States and Britain exchanged the instruments of ratification for the Treaty of Ghent, ending the War of 1812.

In 1863, the International Red Cross was founded in Geneva.

In 1864, during the Civil War, the Union ship USS Housatonic was rammed and sunk in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina, by the Confederate hand-cranked submarine HL Hunley in the first naval attack of its kind; the Hunley also sank.

In 1944, during World War II, U.S. forces invaded Eniwetok Atoll, encountering little initial resistance from Imperial Japanese troops. (The Americans secured the atoll less than a week later.)

## The News-Banner

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# Call to Worship

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



**A CITY ON A HILL CHURCH**  
705 W.-900 N., Uniondale  
10 a.m. - Worship.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH - COUNTRY**  
1970 S.-800E., Bluffton  
9:45 & 11:45 a.m. - Worship.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## A Joyful Noise...

by *Chet Baumgartner*

**TRUE LOVE — AND PIZZA**

On the eve of Valentine's Day — when Americans inexplicably conclude that those tiny candy hearts taste good — the National Retail Federation estimated that people planned to break spending records Feb. 14.

According to the NRF's annual survey, consumers would reportedly spend \$25.8 billion, including a record-breaking \$6.4 billion on jewelry and nearly \$5 billion to enjoy a night out.

To put that in terms bachelors can grasp, people intended to spend enough to purchase almost 3 billion Papa John's pepperoni pizzas — when on sale. Based on these broad calculations, people could have bought enough pizza to give everyone in the world three slices each, but instead they diverted those funds to remind themselves that they love each other... or that they love themselves. About 30 percent of people not celebrating Valentine's Day still planned to "treat themselves to something special," the survey reported.

However, one article warned on Feb. 13, drivers with Lyft, Uber, and DoorDash threatened to strike on Valentine's Day, and these strikes could potentially cancel plans for couples "dependent on a ride service for their evening getaway," the reporter wrote.

After Valentine's Day dawned, though, Uber officials at least said the strikes didn't disrupt any romantic ambitions. But other circumstances will.

People live in a fallen world, and even the power of love can't guarantee that roses will always blossom beneath couple's feet as they journey — and sometimes stumble — through life. But when those couples, through the power of God, still commit to Ephesians 5 faithfulness, they unleash a love that no day, card, chocolate, sentiment, or even pizza can adequately honor. And they unleash a love that no circumstance or trial — even death — can destroy.

**Verse 1**

He lost his job in seventy-one  
She lost their child the next year  
They've lost their tempers a time or two  
Lost sight of God's plan through their tears

**Pre-chorus**

But they never lost hope  
They never lost faith  
And when I saw them leave church Sunday

**Chorus**

They were still holding hands  
Still walking side by side  
They follow the One  
Who gave His own Son  
When love called for sacrifice  
And each step tells the story  
How God's grace can overcome  
'Til their race here is won  
And their work is done  
They'll be still holding hands

**Verse 2**

This world will say to love your own way  
Trust your heart, be true to you  
But when I see these silver-haired saints  
Love like the Lord told them to

**Pre-chorus**

Then I know God told us the truth

**Chorus**

Cause they're still holding hands  
Still walking side by side  
They follow the One  
Who gave His own Son  
When love called for sacrifice  
And each step tells the story  
How God's grace can overcome  
'Til their race here is won  
And their work is done  
They'll be still holding hands

**Tag**

They both vowed, "I do"  
And God vows, "You can"  
So keep holding His hand

*baumofchet@gmail.com*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC**  
1300 N. Main St.  
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**ST. LUKE CHURCH**  
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stlukechurch.in  
9 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Sunday School.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**UNIONTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

**VERA CRUZ FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER CCCU**  
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9-10 a.m. - Sunday School. 10-10:30 - Fellowship. 10:30 - Worship.

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

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

**ZANESVILLE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST**  
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9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

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

**KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES**  
2803 N. Main St.  
jw.org  
10 a.m. - Worship.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## 2 juveniles charged in mass shooting at the Chiefs Super Bowl parade

By NICK INGRAM, SCOTT MCFETRIDGE and JIM SALTER  
Associated Press  
KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Two juveniles were charged with crimes connected to the mass shooting at the Kansas City Chiefs Super Bowl rally, authorities said Friday, as the city tries to recover in the aftermath of the violence.

A news release from the Jackson County Family Court said the juveniles are being detained in the county's Juvenile Detention Center on gun-related and resisting arrest charges. Additional charges are expected as the investigation continues.

No further information was released. Defendants age 17 and under in Missouri are typically adjudicated through the juvenile system, which is far more private than the system for adults. Names of the accused are not released, nor are police documents such as probable cause statements.

In cases involving serious crimes such as murder, juveniles as young as 12 can be certified for trial as adults, said Lynn Urban, a professor who chairs the Criminal

Justice and Criminology Department at the University of Central Missouri.

Federal law prohibits the death penalty for anyone under age 18 at the time of the crime.

Police initially detained three juveniles but released one who they determined wasn't involved in the shooting. Police are looking for others who may have been involved and are calling for witnesses, victims and people with cellphone video of the violence to call a dedicated hotline.

Meanwhile, Kansas Citians are turning to religious gatherings, vigils and counseling to try to cope with the horror of what happened.

A mother and popular disc jockey died in the burst of gunfire Wednesday as the parade and rally were concluding, and 22 others — more than half of them children — were injured. By Friday, two people remained in critical condition and one was in serious condition. Most of the injured children were out of the hospital and expected to recover.

But the emotional recovery is only just beginning in a community horrified that two juveniles could cause

such trauma. Police believe a dispute between several people led to the shooting.

The slain woman was identified by radio station KKFI-FM as Lisa Lopez-Galvan, host of "Taste of Tejano." On Friday, a family friend, Katrina Rojas Vincent, said she could feel Lopez-Galvan's presence as she stood near the shooting site.

"Her spirit will always be here welcoming people back to this location, to not be afraid to not have any fear, to enjoy yourself and live your life," Vincent said.

She described Lopez-Galvan as a vibrant, giving person.

"Always had that a smile ear to ear and just the positivity that she brought to our community with the music that she would play" on her radio program, Vincent said.

The Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney's Office set up in-person counseling for the traumatized. Twelve people attended Thursday, including two children, spokesman Michael Mansur said Friday. The agency also established a hotline offering counseling, but Mansur didn't immediately have

information on how many called the hotline.

The Chiefs won their third Super Bowl in five years Sunday, beating the San Francisco 49ers 25-22 in overtime. The two previous celebrations went off without any trouble.

On Wednesday, players rode double-decker red buses through Missouri's largest city. The parade ended with a rally at the sprawling Union Station. It was just breaking up with shots erupted. Many people thought they were hearing fireworks. Eventually, some ducked for cover. Others leapt over barriers and sprinted, many carrying children.

Beyond the gunshot wounds, several people were treated at hospitals for injuries suffered amid the chaos. So many personal belongings were left behind that police set up a site for people to try and find what they lost.

Two men at the rally jumped on and detained someone with a gun, though police have not confirmed whether it was one of the people arrested.

Paul Contreras of Bellevue, Nebraska, said he heard a man yelling to stop some-

one and was able to tackle the person from behind. Contreras noticed that the person he tackled had a gun, he said, and he wasn't sure if he might have another under a heavy jacket.

Soon, Contreras was joined by another man.

"We're like, we got to keep him down until law enforcement gets there. Because as much as we're fighting to keep him down, he's fighting to get up," Contreras, whose daughter captured it all on video, told The Associated Press.

The man who helped Contreras was Trey Filter. He was with his family when he heard yells of "get him."

"We was like, 'We got him,'" Filter, 40, of the Wichita, Kansas, area, told AP. "I'll always remember that. And then they started screaming, 'There's a gun!'"

The gun fell near his wife, Casey Filter, who picked it up. By then, the fleeing person was under a dogpile.

The shooting occurred despite the presence of more than 800 police officers in the area, including on top of nearby structures, said Mayor Quinton Lucas, who attended with his wife and

mother and ran for safety when the shots were fired. But he doesn't expect to cancel the upcoming St. Patrick's Day parade.

"We have parades all the time. I don't think they'll end. Certainly we recognized the public safety challenges and issues that relate to them," Lucas said.

Taylor Swift, who is dating Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce, donated \$100,000 to Lopez-Galvan's family. Two \$50,000 donations were posted Friday under the singer's name on a GoFundMe page. Swift's representative confirmed the donations to Variety, the trade publication reported, and The Associated Press independently verified the posts.

Kansas City has long struggled with gun violence, and in 2020 it was among nine cities targeted by the U.S. Justice Department in an effort to crack down on violent crime. In 2023, the city matched a record with 182 homicides, most of which involved guns.

Lucas has joined with mayors across the country in calling for new laws to reduce gun violence, including mandating universal background checks.

## Woman's corpse, 30 cremated remains found after ex-funeral home owner evicted from house

DENVER (AP) — A financially troubled former funeral home owner kept a deceased woman's body in a hearse for two years at a house where police also found the cremated remains of at least 30 people, authorities said Friday in the latest case to underscore lax oversight of Colorado's funeral industry.

The grisly discovery occurred Feb. 6 during a court-ordered eviction of a house rented by Miles Harford, the 33-year-old owner of Apollo Funeral and Cremation Services in the Denver suburb of Littleton, police said. It had been closed since September 2022.

"Mr. Harford appears to have experienced financial trouble in his business. At

times he was not able to complete cremations to provide remains to families for services," Denver Police Cmdr. Matt Clark said Friday. He said on occasion, Harford might have provided family members with another person's ashes instead of the ashes of their loved ones.

Temporary urns — plastic boxes the size of a shoe box — were found in the crawl space of the house while a Denver sheriff's deputy oversaw the removal of Harford's belongings, Clark said. Some of the boxes were empty.

Other urns were found in a moving truck parked outside and still others were in a hearse, where investigators found the woman's body covered with blankets,

Clark said. Harford said she died in August of 2022.

The recovered cremains appear to be associated with individuals who passed away between 2012 and 2021, he said.

Authorities have been in contact with Harford and an arrest warrant was issued for him Friday. He's believed to be in the Denver area and police were "working to facilitate his arrest," Clark said, adding that Harford has been cooperative with investigators.

Former customer Crystallyn Nunez said it took months to get the ashes of her grandfather and father back from Harford after they died in 2021.

Repeated phone calls and texts were met with a series

of excuses, she said. Harford at one point said he was in a car crash while transporting the remains, then later claimed his mother had gotten into an accident while trying to deliver them, Nunez said. When the family offered to come pick them up, Harford danced around the issue, she said.

The discovery is the latest in a string of horrific cases involving funeral home operators in Colorado, which has some of the weakest oversight of the funeral industry in the nation. The state has no routine inspections of funeral homes or qualification requirements for operators.

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## Knights turn away Patriots on Senior Night

By ANDREW FEEBACK

The Norwell seniors took care of business on Senior Night at The Castle Friday, combining for 36 points as the Knights defeated the visiting Jay County Patriots 49-38.

It may have been the final home game of the season, but the number of fouls and whistles stopping play made it feel more like an early-season matchup.

In spite of this, coach Mike McBride was pleased with his team.

"I thought our kids did a nice job," he said. "We were very patient against the zone. I thought the threes we took were very good, we just didn't shoot it very well from three tonight. We were able to get the ball inside against their zone and get some baskets at the rim. We took advantage of being able to get to the free throw line; we went 15-19, which I thought was really important tonight."

Norwell (12-8) gradually built its lead up to double digits by half-time, and got it up to 17 during the

third quarter.

The inside play of Cade Shelton, who led all scorers with 16 points, helped the Knights extend their lead. He scored five of his points during a 7-0 run that had Norwell up 34-17.

"Defensively, we were really good tonight," McBride said. "We made it hard for them to get easy baskets. Our rebounding was really good as well."

The Knights hit a bit of a dry spell after that, and the Patriots (7-12) finally got a shot to drop from behind the arc.

A three-pointer from Liam Garringer started a 12-2 run by the visitors that saw them get as close as six points down the stretch.

Gradin Swoveland, who led the Patriots with nine points, also knocked down a triple. A pair

of buckets from Wesley Bihn, Swoveland made two free throws. When Parker Nichols made a three from the wing on a fast-break, the Patriots were suddenly with-



in 38-32 with more than five minutes left. "We knew they were going to their 1-3-1, and we had worked on it," McBride said. "But we weren't looking to the area we needed to look to. There was a specific area we knew was open, that we kept going over, and after it got down to six, then we started getting the ball to the short corner. Once we got to the short corner, we were able to score or get fouled. When they tried to start taking away the short corner, that opened up the middle guy. Once we were able to

move it and get our spots filled, we were in great position."

Cohen Bailey drew a foul and made both shots to stem the tide. He joined Federspiel in double figures with 11 points.

A free throw from Adam McBride, a layup from Federspiel and a three-pointer from Owen Wallis had the lead back up to 14.

"He gave us a good spark off the bench tonight," McBride said of Wallis.

As McBride mentioned, the Knights were 15-19 from the free throw line, which was significant in a game where they shot 34 percent (15-44) from the floor.

Jay County made all nine of its attempts from the stripe, but made just 13-42 overall from the floor.

Norwell will travel to Fort Wayne Monday night to play the Concordia Cadets.

The Knights took the junior varsity game 37-36. Nick McBride scored 14 points while Caiden Petrie and Garry Riley both had six.

sports@news-banner.com

**NORWELL 49, JAY COUNTY 38**  
At Norwell

**JAY COUNTY (7-12):** Jayden Comer 0-1 0-0 0, Parker Nichols 2-8 2-2 7, Levi Muhlenkamp 1-2 0-0 2, Jackson Edwards 0-0 0-0 0, Carter Fuglietti 0-0 0-0 0, Liam Garringer 1-5 2-2 5, Trevin Dunnington 0-2 0-0 0, Ben Crouch 2-8 2-2 6, Eli Dirksen 1-3 1-1 3, Cole Forthofer 0-0 0-0 0, Aiden Phillips 1-3 0-0 2, Wesley Bihn 2-2 0-0 4, Gradin Swoveland 2-8 2-2 9. TOTALS: 13-42 9-9 38.

**NORWELL (12-8):** Cade Shelton 4-4 1-1 9, Caiden Petrie 0-0 1-2 1, Garry Riley 0-0 0-0 0, Brady Smith 0-0 0-0 0, Kaedyn Quintanilla 0-4 0-0 0, Adam McBride 1-3 3-4 6, Trace Moser 0-0 0-0 0, Owen Wallis 2-3 0-0 6, Cohen Bailey 3-12 4-4 11, Nick McBride 0-2 0-0 0, Ashton Federspiel 5-13 6-8 16, Ryne Thornton 0-2 0-0 0, Drew Jolley 0-1 0-0 0. TOTALS: 15-44 15-19 49.

**Jay County 7 4 14 13 — 38**  
**Norwell 13 9 14 13 — 49**

**Three-point Field Goals:** Jay County 3-15 (Swoveland 1-3, Garringer 1-3, Nichols 1-3, Crouch 0-2, Dunnington 0-1, Dirksen 0-1, Muhlenkamp 0-1, Comer 0-1), Norwell 4-19 (Wallis 2-3, Bailey 1-4, Adam McBride 1-3, Nick McBride 0-2, Federspiel 0-4, Quintanilla 0-3). Rebounds: Jay County 19 (Dirksen 5, Crouch 3, Swoveland 3, Phillips 3, Garringer 2, Bihn 2, Nichols 1), Norwell 27 (Shelton 7, Quintanilla 5, Bailey 5, Federspiel 4, Adam McBride 4, Thornton 2). Turnovers: Jay County 23, Norwell 14. Fouled out: None. Technicals: None. JV: Norwell 37, Jay County 36.

## Turnovers, foul trouble plague the Tigers in a loss to Braves

By RYAN WALKER

DECATUR — Turnovers, free throws and foul trouble hurt Bluffton's chances to knock off a much improved Belmont squad 46-37 Friday night.

The Tigers (10-10) fumbled 21 possessions away that cashed in for nearly 30 of the Braves (19-3) points in the loss.

Bellmont also got to the line six more times than Bluffton, taking advantage of third-quarter foul trouble by Tucker Jenkins, Cam Williams and Kaleb Green.

Regardless if the three starters were in the game or not, the Tigers gave away the ball far too much. They had nine turnovers in the first half, and without their starting point guard, it got worst in the second half.

"We just gotta clean it up," Bluffton head coach Criag Teagle said after the game. "We make passes that we don't practice. You've got to make the passes you practice during during the day Monday through Thursday."

Despite Belmont's improved 19-3 record from 12-12 last year under new head coach Peyton Selking, Bluffton hung right in there and were down just two by the break.

Kord Fuelling converted two three-point plays in the paint before Andrew James and Jack Scheumann got a pair of triples. But the Tigers fought back on Andrew Hunt's splash and six post buckets by Jenkins.

That gave a two-point edge to Bellmont at the end of the first quarter, and there wasn't any ground gained in the next eight minutes either.

Hunt's second three-pointer at 6:46 in the second quarter kept a 1-point lead or tie game over the next five minutes. Scheumann's free throws and James' two spread the score to 24-20, but Hunter Wenger made his only basket on a layup with four seconds left.

The Tigers were responding to everything the Braves threw at them. That was until the trio got into foul trouble.

Scheumann and Fuelling jump-started the second half with 11-2 run all by themselves.

Meanwhile, Jenkins hit the only shot of the third quarter early, but the Tigers didn't see a point until Declan Grieser posted up on the right block for two at the 2:06 mark.

By that time, it was 35-28 Braves, and Scheumann picked the pocket of Axton Beste with a few seconds on the clock left and picked up two more, accomplishing 1,000 career points on it, too.

Most of Teagle's starting five needed to sit the bench with three fouls, and forced a new rotation on the floor. The coach didn't

want to make the excuse for it this late in the season.

"That's your leading scorer and your second-leading scorer sitting on the bench which makes a huge difference," Teagle said. "Cam's our point guard along with Axton, who is getting those guys scores a lot of times. So, yeah, that hurt, but that's why you have a team. Other guys got to step in and play and make up for that, but that definitely made a little bit of a difference in the third quarter, yes."

When Jenkins came back in, it made a small difference, but not nearly enough.

He got two post shots to fall through and brought the lead down to seven, but his team never came within that margin for the rest of the game.

Again, it was turnovers into fast-break points.

All things considered, the Tigers still put up a fight that might not have been expected against this Braves team. Their mistakes were costly, but losing by less than double digits meant they did something right.

"I thought we did a pretty good job," Teagle said. "We attacked the rim more and we got some ball reversals and some open looks. We just got out of sync in the second half when we got in foul trouble. We had some guys in spots they haven't probably practiced or played live in the game, but I was proud of them because they went in and gave good effort against a really good basketball team."

Jenkins led the Tigers with 14 points, while Scheumann's 23 led the field.

Bluffton has a quick turnaround with Mississinewa coming to The Tiger Den at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17.

The Braves won the junior varsity contest 43-39. Marshall Gerber was the leading scorer for the Tigers with 11 points, followed by Coleson Teeple with six and Griffin Morgan five.

ryan@news-banner.com

**BELLMONT 46, BLUFFTON 37**  
At Bellmont

**BLUFFTON (10-10):** Tucker Jenkins 7-8 0-1 14, Axton Beste 3-5 0-0 7, Andrew Hunt 2-4 0-0 6, Cameron Williams 1-4 0-0 3, Kaleb Green 0-0 3-4 3, Declan Grieser 1-2 0-0 2, Hunter Wenger 1-2 0-0 2, Eli Garrett 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 15-27 3-5 37.

**BELLMONT (19-3):** Jack Scheumann 8-15 4-5 23, Andrew James 6-8 0-0 13, Kord Fuelling 3-10 4-7 10, Dylan Velez 0-4 0-0 0, Gavin Krull 0-4 0-0 0, Job Hoffman 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 17-42 7-11 46.

**Bluffton 14 8 6 9 — 37**  
**Bellmont 16 8 13 9 — 46**

**Three-point FG:** Bluffton 4-10 (Hunt 2-3, Williams 1-4, Beste 1-2, Green 0-1), Bellmont 4-12 (Scheumann 3-5, James 1-2, Fuelling 0-1, Krull 0-3). Rebounds: Bluffton 18 (Jenkins 6, Beste 6, Green 2, Williams 2, Grieser 1, Garrett 1), Bellmont 13 (James 3, Scheumann 3, Velez 3, Fuelling 2, Krull 1, Hoffman 1). Turnovers: Bluffton 21, Bellmont 6. Fouls: Bluffton 12, Bellmont 9. Fouled Out: None. Technicals: None. JV: 43-39 Bellmont.



Bluffton's Tucker Jenkins (right) fights through Bellmont's Kord Fuelling (left) and Dylan Velez to get to the basket Friday night at Bellmont High School. Jenkins led the Tigers with 14 points and six rebounds in the losing effort 47-37. (Photo by Michael Vanderkolk)

## High School Calendar

**SATURDAY, FEB. 17**  
**BOYS BASKETBALL:** Mississinewa at Bluffton, 7:30 p.m.

**GIRLS BASKETBALL:** (Semi-State) 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.

**TUESDAY, FEB. 20**

**BOYS BASKETBALL:** Southern Wells at Wes-Del, 7:30 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 21**  
No events scheduled.

**THURSDAY, FEB. 22**  
No events scheduled.

**FRIDAY, FEB. 23**  
**BOYS BASKETBALL:** Norwell at Homestead, 7:30 p.m.; Bluffton at Southwood, 7:30 p.m.; Cowan at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, FEB. 24**  
No events scheduled.

## Tigers' Johnny Cruz advances to the wrestling quarterfinal

Bluffton's Johnny Cruz will live to see another day, and Norwell's Hunter Douglas' season came to a close Friday at the wrestling state championships at Evansville.

Cruz pinned the No. 3 seeded Aramis McNutt (25-2) from Highland in 2:16 at 285 pounds. He will wrestle tomorrow for the state quarterfinal round.

His opponent will be the No. 8 seed

Hosia Smith from Indianapolis Cathedral. Cruz is the No. 10 285-pounder in the state.

For Norwell, Douglas fell to No. 10 Chayce Yant of Fishers in the first round by technical fall 18-3 at 120 pounds. Douglas finishes the season with a 18-6 record as a sophomore.

The quarterfinals will begin at 9 a.m. at the Ford Center in Evansville.

## Tigers, Knights show out at boys' swimming preliminary round

Bluffton and Norwell competed at the boys' swimming sectional preliminaries deep into Thursday night.

To advance to Saturday's championship events, an individual event must place in the top 16, with the top eight going into the finals round. Team events are the top eight only.

Due to weather conditions, the sectional championships at Jay County have been moved back. The diving will start at approximately 1:15 p.m., and are shooting for a 4 p.m. event starting time.

Norwell is going for its second-straight title, while Bluffton is seeking its first in school history.

There were plenty of first seeds to give out between the Knights and Tigers. A total of four events and two relays.

**Below are the events going to the finals:**

**Bluffton**

- Noah Brooks, Dalton Rodgers, Eliza Robles and Isaac Wheeler first in the 200-yard medley relay.

- Ashton Arnett fourth, Jackson Meyer seventh and Graaham Linderwell eighth in the 200-yard freestyle.

- Wheeler second, Rodgers seventh and Braden Lemler ninth in the 200-yard IM.

- Wes Frettinger fourth, Athan King fifth and Lincoln Rodgers 14th in the 50-yard freestyle.

- Wheeler first, Arnett fourth and Lemler 10th in the 100-yard butterfly.

- Brooks second, Rhett Gerber sixth and Frettinger 13th in the 100-yard freestyle.

- Griffin Linderwell second, Jackson Meyer sixth and Graham Linderwell eighth in the 500-yard freestyle.

- King, Robles, Frettinger and Griffin Linderwell fourth in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

- Brooks first, Rodgers fourth and Gerber fifth in the 100-yard backstroke.

- Robles ninth, Anthony Hartman 12th in the 100-yard breaststroke.

- Brooks, Griffin Linderwell, Rodgers

(Continued on Page A2)

# No. 1 Hamilton Heights vs. No. 2 Norwell, the perhaps earlier than preferred rematch

Norwell and Hamilton Heights likely were done celebrating their regional championships five days ago. As both teams know, there's a heck of a lot more left on the table.

The two probably went into Semi-State selection Sunday with the reality of the random draw, that the two consensus top teams in 3A had a one-in-three shot for a rematch of last year's regional final.

The IHSAA logo printed on the ping pong with the name "Hamilton Heights" was sucked up first from the tube into the hands of commissioner Paul Neidig, and of course, the one named "Norwell" followed.

Those results will wake them up bright and early with a date Saturday morning at 10 a.m. at Huntington North High School. The other side in the North Region has NorthWood (20-6) facing Bremen (15-11), the two bottom teams left, respectively.

It's not to say that this would be the state championship. No. 3 Gibson Southern sits on the South Regional side of the bracket — but having both in the quarterfinal rubs fans all across the state of Indiana the wrong way.

Regardless, if both teams wanted to bring home a state championship, they needed to run into one another at some point. It might as well be now.

The Huskies, now 24-2 after a

55-31 regional win over Woodlan at Lapel High School, are rated as the No. 1 team by the ICGSA.

Norwell wrapped up its first regional title since the 2021 year with a 58-44 win over Benton Central.

When we look at some more metrics and rankings, the Knights have the slightest of edges, just like the four-point defeat last season to the Huskies.

Norwell is the top team on the Jeff Sagarin ratings in 3A, but Hamilton Heights is a hair behind them at No. 2. Maxpreps lists Norwell as the top team in 3A and No. 10 in the state regardless of class, Hamilton Heights second, and then 12th overall.

The margin is paper-thin, and it's hard to get a grasp on a projected winner.

Many remember Camryn Runner, one of the best players in Indiana. She dropped 25 points in a 6-7 shooting performance and went 10-10 at the line against Norwell last season.

The University of Evansville signee averaged around 17 points per game in her first three years of varsity basketball, but now has had a monster 27.0 rate, 5.6 rebounds and 4.1 steals.

Her sidekick, Ella Hickok, averages 10.2 and junior guard Katie Brown averages 8.8.

One could think, 'Well, just stop Runner, right?' Wrong. As Hickok

exploded for a team-high 28 over Woodlan.

But Norwell has the firepower and the depth too.

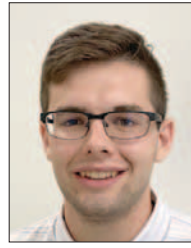
Senior's Kennedy Fuelling and Makenzie Fuess combine for nearly 40 points per game, but it was Vanessa Rosswurm and Dekota Hubble stepping up when it mattered most.

Rosswurm hit 4-6 from downtown to lead the team with 17 points, while Hubble added 13 points to a nine-rebound game.

The key was Hubble's eight offensive rebounds that either gave her points or her teammates points in return.

I expect this to be the game of the year and a packed Huntington North gymnasium on Saturday. A Clash of the Titans, if you will.

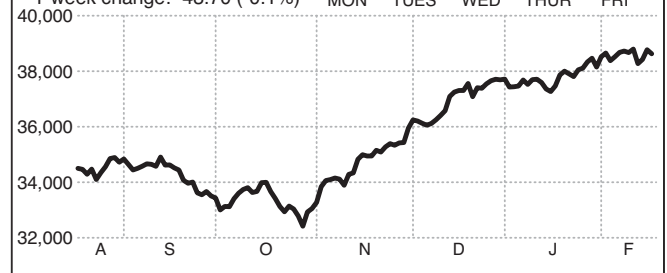
A reminder that the winner of this game will play the winner of the Northwood/Bremen game at approximately noon The Semi-State championship will be played at 8 p.m. for the right to go to the state title game.



Ryan Walker

# THE WEEK IN REVIEW

## WEEKLY DOW JONES AND S&P 500



### STOCK MARKET INDEXES

	High	Low	Name	Last	Wk Chg	Wk %Chg	YTD %Chg	12mo %Chg
38,927.08	31,429.82	Dow Jones Industrials	38,627.99	-43.70	-11	+2.49	+14.19	
16,717.04	13,400.45	Dow Jones Transportation	15,629.19	-586.31	-3.62	-1.70	+3.26	
979.98	765.47	Dow Jones Utilities	844.40	+9.97	+1.19	-4.23	-11.45	
17,502.54	14,471.08	NYSE Composite	17,409.30	+133.43	+7.7	+3.30	+9.91	
16,080.07	10,982.80	Nasdaq Composite	15,775.65	-215.01	-1.34	+5.09	+33.84	
5,048.39	3,808.86	S&P 500	5,005.57	-21.04	-42	+4.94	+22.71	
2,857.94	2,322.38	S&P MidCap	2,828.30	+19.83	+7.1	+1.68	+6.08	
50,856.86	37,776.71	Wilshire 5000	50,451.41	-126.51	-25	+4.46	+23.60	
2,071.78	1,633.67	Russell 2000	2,032.74	+22.75	+1.13	+2.28	+4.44	
17,565.59	12,426.88	Lipper Growth Index	17,450.25	-106.32	-61	+7.61	+31.28	

### STOCK EXCHANGE HIGHLIGHTS

NYSE GAINERS (\$2 OR MORE)			NYSE LOSERS (\$2 OR MORE)			NYSE ACTIVES (\$1 OR MORE)					
Name	Last	Chg %Chg	Name	Last	Chg %Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last Chg			
AspenAero	17.56	+5.56	+48.3	Express rs	2.83	-1.45	-33.9	Palantir	4425476	24.44	+0.6
JumiaTch	4.75	+1.49	+45.7	Herbalife	8.07	-4.00	-33.1	FordM	2805229	12.30	-0.5
ResidioTc	22.24	+4.66	+28.5	Wesco Intl	145.68	-8.15	-24.8	Nu Hdg	2249143	10.36	+4.7
NOW Inc	12.14	+2.44	+25.2	TelData	14.04	-4.51	-24.3	SnapInc A	1982760	11.17	+0.6
MercnG	50.67	+10.12	+25.0	Teradata	37.39	-11.60	-23.7	BkofAm	1867030	34.09	+1.02
NEuro	5.99	+1.16	+24.0	NuSkin	13.69	-3.91	-22.2	NV CmtyB	1859855	4.90	+0.5
ShakeShk	98.29	+18.70	+23.5	Manitowoc	13.23	-3.63	-21.5	Pfizer	1807310	27.62	+0.6
KelgWkN	15.12	+2.69	+21.6	CooperStd	14.16	-3.74	-20.9	UberTch	1769391	78.41	+7.50
RenSola	2.15	+3.7	+20.8	AMN Hlth	61.69	-14.04	-18.5	AT&T Inc	1450692	16.97	+1.3
Sylvamo	56.11	+9.59	+20.6	Twilio	58.59	-13.01	-18.2	Carnival	1329755	14.80	-5.1

NASDAQ GAINERS (\$2 OR MORE)			NASDAQ LOSERS (\$2 OR MORE)			NASDAQ ACTIVES (\$1 OR MORE)					
Name	Last	Chg %Chg	Name	Last	Chg %Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last Chg			
Beam n	13.57	+11.46	+543.1	AN2Ther	3.64	-16.36	-81.8	Tesla	4944155	199.95	+6.38
Database rs	9.10	+6.95	+323.3	PixieDust n	2.37	-2.35	-49.8	MarathDig	4120135	26.94	+3.05
MicCloud	56.36	+4.06	+211.5	SSR Mng g	4.91	-4.64	-48.6	Lyft Inc	3216402	17.91	+4.88
ChildPlace	29.12	+16.62	+132.9	G1Thera	2.38	-2.15	-47.5	ARM	2874995	173.87	+1.39
NanoX	12.95	+7.09	+21.0	TOP Finl	3.16	-2.23	-41.4	Am Hldg n	2828644	128.34	+13.13
FusFuel	2.28	+1.17	+105.4	Quidel	41.76	-26.39	-38.7	Apple Inc s	2667830	182.31	-6.54
PopCult rs	2.65	+1.35	+103.8	ToughBls rs	3.99	-2.32	-36.8	Nvidia	2629397	726.13	+4.80
InGeneHl	16.15	+8.22	+103.7	Vroom rs	10.51	-5.65	-35.0	CleanSp	2546773	17.86	+3.91
ARB IOT n	2.52	+1.27	+101.6	IntelISol rs	4.42	-2.35	-34.7	Beam n	2499938	13.57	+1.13
UnivrsPh rs	2.46	+1.24	+101.6	SizzleAc un	7.43	-3.80	-33.8	Amazon	2479752	169.51	-4.94

# Swim sectional preliminary

(Continued from Page A1)

and Wheeler first in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

### Norwell

• Rylan Heverly first in the 200-yard freestyle.

• Kale Meredith third and Parker McCartney 11th in the 200-yard IM.

• Gage Reinhard sixth in the 50-yard freestyle.

• Colten Strunk seventh and Braden Hoag 12th in the 100-yard butterfly.

• Heverly first and Keaton Blinn 15th in the 100-yard freestyle.

• Ethan Williamson third, Reinhard fourth in the 500-yard freestyle.

• Meredith, Reinhard, Strunk and Heverly fifth in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

• Williamson 11th in the 100-yard backstroke.

• Meredith fourth and McCartney 10th in the 100-yard breaststroke.

• Hoag, Meredith, Reinhard and Heverly third in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

# News-Banner Scoreboard

### BASKETBALL High School

**Friday Boys' Scores**

Adams Central 71, W. Noble 53  
Alexandria 67, Frankton 57  
Angola 62, Eastside 41  
Beilmont 46, Bluffton 37  
Bethany Christian 31, S. Bend Trinity 29  
Bethesda Christian 74, Speedway 51  
Borden 41, Clarksville 39  
Bremen 49, Glenn 36  
Brownsburg 51, Hamilton Southeastern 50  
Brownstown 77, Eastern (Pekin) 38  
Carmel 44, Warren Central 40  
Carroll (Ft. Wayne) 67, Homestead 61  
Centerville 53, Tri 49  
Cowan 58, Monroe Central 48  
Danville 54, Crawfordsville 35  
DeKalb 49, Garrett 36  
East Chicago Central 73, Hammond Noll 67  
Evansville Harrison 80, Evansville Bosse 65  
Fairfield 61, Churubusco 50  
Faith Christian 51, Tri-County 48  
Fishers 63, Zionsville 58  
Foundation, Ky. 82, Cannelton 37  
Fremont 64, Central Noble 55  
Ft. Wayne Blackhawk 43, NorthWood 32  
Ft. Wayne Dwenger 50, Ft. Wayne Northrop 39  
Ft. Wayne Luers 66, Ft. Wayne North 62  
Ft. Wayne Wayne 71, Ft. Wayne Concordia 55  
Gary West 61, Lighthouse 49  
Goshen 50, Westview 47  
Hebron 80, Boone Grove 38  
Heritage Hills 71, Tell City 32  
Highland 49, Hobart 36  
Indpls Cathedral 73, Indpls Ben Davis 64  
Indpls Chatard 58, Indpls Lutheran 51  
Indpls Scecina 46, Lebanon 33  
Indy Brebeuf 81, Heritage Christian 68, OT  
Kankakee Valley 58, Hanover Central 54  
Kokomo 62, Anderson 49  
LaVelle 68, Coston 51  
Lake Central 32, Crown Point 30  
Lakeland 60, Prairie Heights 30  
Lakewood Park 62, Clinton Christian 36  
Lapel 64, Madison-Grant 51  
Lawrence North 93, Indpls Pike 77  
Liberty Christian 51, Waldron 42  
Logansport 80, N. Miami 47  
Manchester 80, Maconaquah 75  
Merrillville 73, Michigan City 68  
Mishawaka 81, South Bend Career Academy 36  
Mishawaka Marian 53, Jintown 46  
Mississinewa 46, Eastbrook 39  
Morgan Twp. 59, Westville 57  
Munster 58, Andean 39  
N. Judson 47, Argos 42  
N. White 45, W. Central 44  
New Haven 66, Heritage 62, OT  
Noblesville 60, Avon 34  
Northridge 66, Columbia City 40  
Norwell 49, Jay Co. 38  
Oak Hill 72, Elwood 35  
Penn 55, Elkhart 49  
Peru 72, Rochester 64  
Portage 77, LaPorte 27  
S. Bend Clay 70, New Prairie 38  
S. Bend Riley 66, S. Bend Adams 55  
S. Bend St. Joseph's 93, S. Bend Washington 59  
Southwestern (Hanover) 72, Austin 60  
Southwood 37, Northfield 32  
Triton Central 0, Beech Grove 0  
Valparaiso 63, Chesteron 57  
Wabash 44, Whitko 36  
Wapahani 74, Daleville 48  
Westfield 64, Franklin Central 50  
Wheeler 48, Knox 47  
Winamac 52, Pioneer 31  
Winchester 61, Northeastern 49  
Greater Indpls Conf. Playoffs  
Championship  
Indpls Attucks 91, Purdue Polytechnic 62  
Seventh Place  
Indpls Metro 86, Victory 46  
Third Place  
Indpls Washington 81, Indpls Tindley 62  
Hoosier Conf. Playoffs  
Championship  
Tipton 63, Lafayette Catholic 51  
Third Place  
Twin Lakes 49, Hamilton Hts. 48

Princeton 72, Brown 63  
St. Peter's 75, Siena 53  
Villanova 70, Georgetown 54  
Yale 76, Penn 62

**SOUTH**  
North Florida 82, Kennesaw St. 81

**MIDWEST**  
Toledo 85, Ohio 83  
VCU 95, Saint Louis 85

**Women's Basketball Scores**  
Friday, Feb. 16

**EAST**  
Creighton 71, St. John's 51  
Elon 53, Northeastern 37  
Harvard 74, Cornell 51  
Penn 66, Yale 52  
Princeton 74, Brown 62  
UCConn 85, Georgetown 44

**FAR WEST**  
Arizona 64, Washington St. 45  
Arizona St. 73, Washington 66, 2OT  
Hawaii 59, Cal Poly 47  
Southern Cal 88, Oregon 51  
Stanford 84, California 49  
Utah 77, Colorado 76

**NBA**  
**Thursday's Games**  
Memphis 113, Milwaukee 110  
Golden State 140, Utah 137  
Minnesota 128, Portland 91

**Friday's Games**  
2024 Rising Stars Semifinal 1  
Team 40, Team 35  
2024 Rising Stars Semifinal 2  
Team 41, Team 36

**Saturday's Games**  
No games scheduled.

**Sunday's Games**  
2024 All-Star Game  
East NBA All Stars vs West NBA All Stars, 8 p.m., Indianapolis

**HOCKEY**  
**NHL**  
**Thursday's Games**  
Seattle 4, Boston 1  
Los Angeles 2, New Jersey 1  
Florida 4, Buffalo 0  
Anaheim 5, Ottawa 1  
Toronto 4, Philadelphia 3, OT  
N.Y. Rangers 7, Montreal 4  
Tampa Bay 6, Colorado 3  
Dallas 9, Nashville 2  
St. Louis 6, Edmonton 3  
Pittsburgh 4, Chicago 1  
San Jose 6, Calgary 3  
Vancouver 4, Detroit 1

**Friday's Games**  
Carolina 5, Arizona 1

**Saturday's Games**  
Los Angeles at Boston, 12:30 p.m.  
Edmonton at Dallas, 3 p.m.  
Ottawa at Chicago, 3 p.m.  
Detroit at Calgary, 4 p.m.  
Buffalo at Minnesota, 5 p.m.  
Florida at Tampa Bay, 5 p.m.  
Nashville at St. Louis, 5 p.m.  
Anaheim at Toronto, 7 p.m.  
Washington at Montreal, 7 p.m.  
Philadelphia vs. New Jersey at MetLife Stadium, 8 p.m.  
Winnipeg at Vancouver, 10 p.m.  
Carolina at Vegas, 10:30 p.m.  
Columbus at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

**Sunday's Games**  
N.Y. Rangers vs. N.Y. Islanders at MetLife Stadium, 3 p.m.  
Arizona at Colorado, 6 p.m.  
Los Angeles at Pittsburgh, 6 p.m.

**Monday's Games**  
Anaheim at Buffalo, 12:30 p.m.  
Dallas at Boston, 1 p.m.  
Toronto at St. Louis, 1 p.m.  
Vancouver at Minnesota, 2 p.m.  
Detroit at Seattle, 3:30 p.m.  
Edmonton at Arizona, 4 p.m.  
Vegas at San Jose, 4 p.m.  
Winnipeg at Calgary, 4 p.m.  
Chicago at Carolina, 7 p.m.  
Ottawa at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.

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

<p><b>MR. KOOL</b> Heating and Cooling mrkoolheatingandair.com</p>	<p><b>DAZEY'S SUPPLY</b> dazeys.com/bluffton-in</p>
<p><b>WELLS COUNTY 4-H</b> GROWS HERE extension.purdue.edu/wells</p>	<p><b>JC'S GARAGE DOOR</b> SALES &amp; SERVICE jcsgaragedoor.com</p>
<p><b>Daniel's</b> JEWELERS daniels-jewelers.net</p>	<p><b>ABOVE&amp;BEYOND</b> Vehicle Reconditioning abovebeyondrecon.com</p>
<p><b>Goodwin-Cole &amp; Hannah</b> MEMORIAL CHAPEL thegmcfamily.com</p>	<p><b>3 RIVERS</b> 3riversfcu.org</p>
<p><b>Myers</b> FUNERAL HOMES myersfuneralhomes.com</p>	<p><b>KELLY'S</b> COLLISION CENTER, INC. kellysautocollision.com</p>
<p><b>FISHER'S</b> GARAGE DOORS fishersgaragedoors.com</p>	<p><b>RiverStone</b> DENTAL riverstonedental.net</p>
<p><b>Bluffton Tire</b> bluffontire.com</p>	<p><b>MOSER &amp; SON</b> Heating &amp; Air Conditioning moserandsonheatingandair.com</p>
<p><b>INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS</b> AUDIO VIDEO SECURITY NETWORKING icav.us</p>	<p><b>HIDAY</b> AUTOMOTIVE GROUP hidaymotors.com</p>
<p><b>Edward Jones</b> EdwardJones.com</p>	<p><b>State Farm</b> Erin Daugherty myblufftonsfagent.com</p>
<p><b>Lengerich</b> MEATS lengerichmeats.com</p>	<p><b>Jerry Flack &amp; Associates</b> jerryflackinsuranceandinvestments.com</p>
<p><b>La Fontaine Center</b> A RHF Community lafontainecenter.org</p>	<p><b>HomeCourt</b> HOME CARE homecourthomecare.com</p>
<p><b>Still Waters</b> FAMILY DENTISTRY stillwatersfamilydentistry.com</p>	<p><b>bi-countyservices.com</b></p>
<p><b>Thoma/Rich, Lemler</b> Funeral Home thomarich.com</p>	<p><b>NBDigital</b> nb-digital.com</p>

### STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Name	Div	Last	Wk Chg	Wk %Chg	YTD %Chg	Name	Div	Last	Wk Chg	Wk %Chg	YTD %Chg
AFLAC	2.00	79.38	+1.15	+1.5	-3.8	IBM	6.64	187.64	+1.30	+0.7	+14.7
AT&T Inc	1.11	16.97	+1.3	+8.1	+1.1	Invr QQQ	1.16	430.57	-6.48	-1.5	+5.1
AMD	1.60	173.87	+1.39	+0.8	+17.9	Kroger	1.16	47.64	+2.42	+5.6	+4.2
Amazon	...	169.51	-4.94	-2.8	+11.6	Lincoln	1.80	27.35	+1.71	+6.7	+1.4
AEP	3.52	81.35	+4.69	+6.1	+2.2	Loves	4.40	226.85	+4.59	+2.1	+1.9
Apple Inc s	...	96.18231	-6.54	-3.5	-5.3	Lyft Inc	...	17.91	+4.88	+37.5	+19.5
ApplMal	1.28	199.57	+13.73	+7.4	+23.1	MarathDig	...	26.94	+3.05	+12.8	+14.7
Arm Hldg n	...	128.34	+13.13	+11.4	+70.8	MicroSft	6.68	292.02	+2.55	+0.9	-1.5
BP PLC	1.74	35.45	-4.7	-1.3	+1.1	NDI	3.00	404.06	-15.74	-3.7	+7.5
BkofAm	...	96.3409	+1.02								



# Unable to buzz my babysitter

Dear Annie: We have a very close friend whose 16-year-old daughter, "Lily," babysits for us quite often.

There have been a couple of times, however, that Lily has not had her phone with her when she comes to babysit. I like to check in often with Lily to ensure things are going well with my kids, a 3- and 4-year-old. So when I couldn't get a hold of her one day, I called her mom, who is our friend. She explained that Lily didn't have her phone because she got in trouble, and taking the phone away was her punishment. But our friend assured me that she had shown Lily how to call 911 using an iPad (my little ones have 2nd generation iPads, so not very up to date).

She was also relying on my 14-year-old daughter, who happened to be home that day during the babysitting session. She said since she knew my daughter was home that there was a phone there for use just in case. I don't feel that it's my daughter's responsibility to have a phone for emergencies, especially when she's not the one responsible for babysitting.

That was the first time this happened, but it happened again this past weekend when Lily came to babysit. I texted her to ask how things were going, and her mom replied, saying "All is well" and that she had been checking in. Again, my 14-year-old was also home.

How can I relay to our good friend and mom of our babysitter that I'm really not comfortable with that set up? Am I out of line? — Phoneless in Texas

Dear Phoneless: Your concern in this situation is warranted, especially considering how young your children are. Fast, reliable, direct communication with your babysitter is vital; you shouldn't have to pass messages through Lily's mother to get an update on your kids.

Express your worries kindly but

firmly to Lily's mom and see what solutions you can come to together that prioritize the safety and well-being of all your children. If she's not able to get on the same page, then it might be time to look for new sitters.

Dear Annie: I'm writing in response to "Worried in Louisiana," whose mother-in-law is in poor health and kept pretty isolated from the rest of the family by her sole caretaker, one of her daughters. I'm a nurse and if I couldn't see my 96-year-old amputee mother, I would be calling the police immediately for a welfare check. The police can assess the living conditions and initiate extraction if necessary. There is no reason for her to be kept away from her family other than for nefarious purposes. I've seen some crazy things working as a nurse, and this has red flags flying everywhere. — Nurse on Alert

Dear Nurse: Thank you for this suggestion. Others who felt similarly also recommended involving adult protective services. In the words of another wise reader, "If the mother is OK, then no harm was done. But if she's being mistreated or neglected, this might save her life."

"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" features favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation. It is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit <http://www.creatorspublishing.com> for more information. Send questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com).

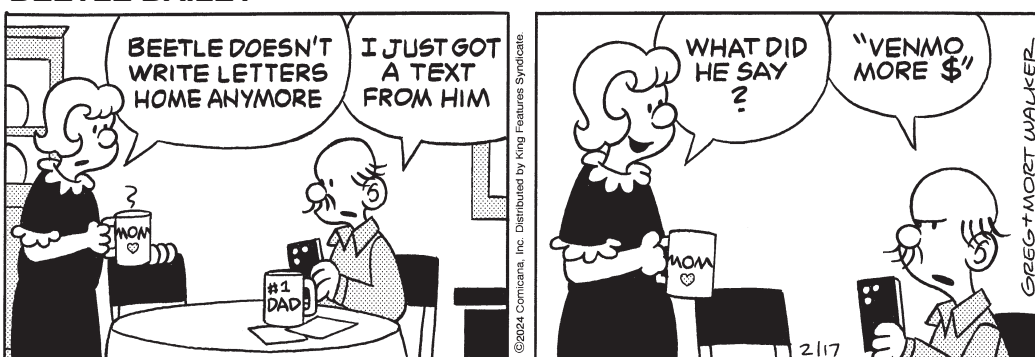
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## Dear Annie

by Annie Lane



## BEETLE BAILEY



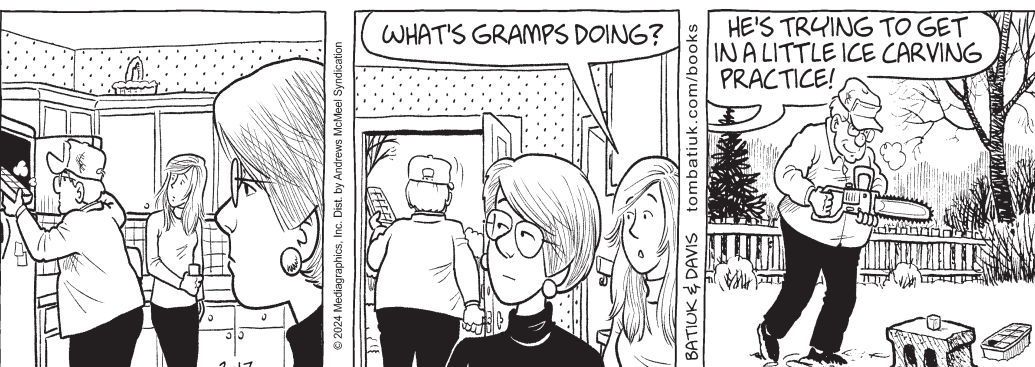
## BLONDIE



## ZITS



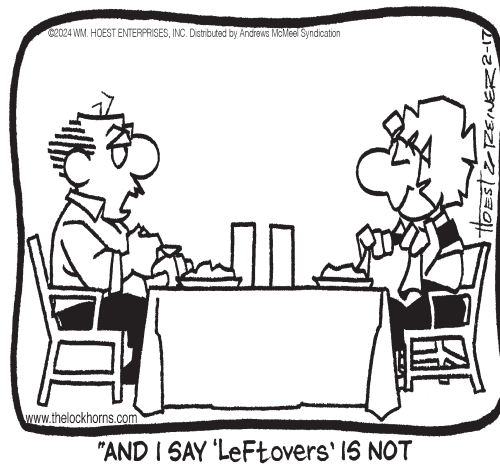
## CRANKSHAFT



## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

## The LOCKHORNS



## My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



# Salvation is free to us, but it cost Jesus His life

Question: It's hard to get a clear answer on the cost of salvation. Some say it's a gift from God, others say we have to earn our salvation, and then there are those who claim it costs nothing. My pastor says it's all the same and that people just use different terminology. Which is it? — S.C.

Answer: People have become well versed in Christian terminology but are remiss in the actual practice of Christ's principles and teachings. Our greatest need is not more Christianity but more true Christians.

Salvation is free to us, but it cost Jesus His life. It will also cost the sinner his or her sins when a person receives His gift. This

does not mean that we have to clean up our lives in order to be saved. The Lord knows we don't have the power to do that. But we must come to Him in repentance, and then His Holy Spirit will take up residence and empower us to walk away from sin. That's why Jesus paid for our sins with His blood — to set us on a new path.

Now many people quickly say, "Well, I do love God and follow Him," but we must put it to the test. Do we prove our love to God when we go against His commands? The Bible says, "Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep

His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (1 John 2:3-4, NKJV).

How can we imagine living in disobedience while claiming the Holy Spirit is guiding us? If we do so without conviction and repentance, we prove we do not love Jesus — because Jesus said His Spirit would convict of sin.

We can be convicted of sin — we can pray and confess our sin — but the real test is our willingness to obey.

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

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## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Pogo stick sound  
6 Roller-bladed  
12 Large vulture  
13 Unorthodox doctrine  
14 Lampoon  
15 Sheathe  
16 Langston Hughes poem  
17 Online auction site  
19 Club —  
20 Bistro handout  
22 Small batteries  
24 In shape  
27 Sicilian spouter  
29 Doc's "Now!"  
32 Two-level buses  
35 Journalist Wintour  
36 To boot  
37 Slinger — Jepsen  
38 "Today" rival, briefly

**DOWN**

1 Gravy vessel  
2 Aware of  
3 Figure of speech  
4 Fish-fowl insert  
5 Chinese brew  
6 The Mets' old home  
7 Nairobi's land  
8 Joan of —  
9 Trucker in a union  
10 Being, to  
11 Turned blue?  
12 CBS forensic drama  
18 Cable packages for one  
21 Moray, for one  
23 Request  
24 Rx overseer  
25 Charged bit  
26 Wolfram  
28 Like some fables  
30 Celestial altar  
31 Mao —tung  
33 "Kapow!"  
34 Anti  
39 Old market-place  
41 Mushroom room parts  
42 — Major  
43 Sneaky laughs  
45 Legendary boxing family  
47 En-grossed  
48 Yale students  
49 "Guinness Book" suffix  
51 Tramar contents  
53 Dad on "Black-ish"

**Solution time: 26 mins.**

**Yesterday's answer 2-17**

02/17	M	A	D1	D2	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM	12:30	
WINM (12)	11	26	63		Swan's Place	Let's Take It Outside	A Fishing Story	Life's Highway	Living the Dream	Divine	Life	Sue Thomas "Planes, Trains and Automobiles"	Foundation	Pacific Garden Mission	CURE America	BillyGraham.TV	The Listen				
CBS WANE (15)	2	15	15		(8:00) PGA Tour Golf from Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades, Calif.	Law & Order: SVU "Traumatic Wound"	Law & Order: SVU "Poisoned Motive"	Law & Order: SVU "Brief Interlude"	Law & Order: SVU "Her Negotiation"	Law & Order: SVU "Surrender Benson"	NCIS: Hawaii "Changing Tides"	The Equalizer "Eye for an Eye"	48 Hours (N)	Nightcast (3:55) IN Focus (N)	(0:55) The Equalizer "It Takes a Village"						
Antenna WANE-2 (152)	106	20			Law & Order: SVU "Traumatic Wound"	Law & Order: SVU "Poisoned Motive"	Law & Order: SVU "Brief Interlude"	Law & Order: SVU "Her Negotiation"	Law & Order: SVU "Surrender Benson"	NCIS: Hawaii "Changing Tides"	The Equalizer "Eye for an Eye"	48 Hours (N)	Nightcast (3:55) IN Focus (N)	(0:55) The Equalizer "It Takes a Village"							
ABC WPTA (21)	4	3	21	21	(3:00) NHL Hockey	ABC21 (N)	ABC World News (N)	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	NHL Hockey Philadelphia Flyers vs. New Jersey Devils in East Rutherford, N.J. (L) (N)	SNL Quinta Brunson; Lil Yachty (N)	Law & Order: SVU "American Tragedy"	Law & Order: SVU "Internal Affairs"	Seinfeld "The Pick"	Modern Family						
NBC WPTA-2 (212)	7	8	14		(4:00) Track U.S. Indoor Championships (L) (N)	News (N)	NBC News (N)	Family Feud	Family Feud	Got Talent: The acts showcase their talent with incredible performances in hopes of being crowned the ...	9-1-1 "Boston"	The Rookie "Mother's Day"	Major Crimes "Year-End Blowout"	Murdoch "There's Something About Mary"	Law & Order: SVU "The Newsroom"						
MNT WPTA-3 (213)	10	9	56	34	World Chase Tag	College Basketball Syracuse at Georgia Tech From McCamish Pavilion in Atlanta. (L) (N)	College Basketball Kentucky at Auburn From Auburn Arena in Auburn, Ala. (L) (N)	College Basketball Baylor at West Virginia (L) (N)	College Basketball Michigan State at Michigan From Crisler Center in Ann Arbor, Mich. (L) (N)	UFC Amanda Lemos vs. Mackenzie Dern, strawweight. From Honda Center in Anaheim, Calif. (L) (N)	College Basketball Yale at Princeton (L) (N)	NHL Hockey Nashville Predators at St. Louis Blues From Enterprise Center in Saint Louis, Mo. (L) (N)	Blues Post. (L) (N)	NHL Hockey Nashville Predators at St. Louis Blues From Enterprise Center in Saint Louis, Mo. (L) (N)	College Basketball Valparaiso at Missouri State From JQH Arena in Springfield, Mo. (L) (N)	United Fight Alliance					
CW WISE (33)	8	4	33	33	To the Rescue	Weekend Plan	Antiques Roadshow	The Lawrence Welk Show	Doc Martin "To the Lighthouse"	Keep-As Time Goes By	Mr. Bean	Songs at the Center	Austin City Limits "Alain Morissette" (N)	NOVA "Building the Eiffel Tower"							
PBS WFWA (39)	13	5	39	39	Weekend Plan	Antiques Roadshow	The Lawrence Welk Show	Doc Martin "To the Lighthouse"	Keep-As Time Goes By	Mr. Bean	Songs at the Center	Austin City Limits "Alain Morissette" (N)	NOVA "Building the Eiffel Tower"								
PBS WFPB (48)	3				Weekend Plan	Antiques Roadshow	The Lawrence Welk Show	Doc Martin "To the Lighthouse"	Keep-As Time Goes By	Mr. Bean	Songs at the Center	Austin City Limits "Alain Morissette" (N)	NOVA "Building the Eiffel Tower"								
FOX WFTF (55)	6	5	55	55	Weekend Plan	Antiques Roadshow	The Lawrence Welk Show	Doc Martin "To the Lighthouse"	Keep-As Time Goes By	Mr. Bean	Songs at the Center	Austin City Limits "Alain Morissette" (N)	NOVA "Building the Eiffel Tower"								
<b>CABLE CHANNELS</b>																					
LIFE	23	113	108	252	(4:00) Drunk, Driving, and 17	*(4:00) Iron Man 2	(10) Robert Downey Jr.	*(4:00) Spider-Man: No Way Home	(21) Zendaya Coleman, Tom Holland.	*(4:00) Iron Man 2	(10) Robert Downey Jr.	*(4:00) Spider-Man: No Way Home	(21) Zendaya Coleman, Tom Holland.	*(4:00) Iron Man 2	(10) Robert Downey Jr.	*(4:00) Spider-Man: No Way Home	(21) Zendaya Coleman, Tom Holland.	*(4:00) Iron Man 2	(10) Robert Downey Jr.	*(4:00) Spider-Man: No Way Home	(21) Zendaya Coleman, Tom Holland.
FX	24	132	136	148	*(4:00) Iron Man 2	(10) Robert Downey Jr.	*(4:00) Spider-Man: No Way Home	(21) Zendaya Coleman, Tom Holland.	*(4:00) Iron Man 2	(10) Robert Downey Jr.	*(4:00) Spider-Man: No Way Home	(21) Zendaya Coleman, Tom Holland.	*(4:00) Iron Man 2	(10) Robert Downey Jr.	*(4:00) Spider-Man: No Way Home	(21) Zendaya Coleman, Tom Holland.	*(4:00) Iron Man 2	(10) Robert Downey Jr.	*(4:00) Spider-Man: No Way Home	(21) Zendaya Coleman, Tom Holland.	
TVLAND	25		106	304	*(4:00) Iron Man 2	(10) Robert Downey Jr.	*(4:00) Spider-Man: No Way Home	(21) Zendaya Coleman, Tom Holland.	*(4:00) Iron Man 2	(10) Robert Downey Jr.	*(4:00) Spider-Man: No Way Home	(21) Zendaya Coleman, Tom Holland.	*(4:00) Iron Man 2	(10) Robert Downey Jr.	*(4:00) Spider-Man: No Way Home	(21) Zendaya Coleman, Tom Holland.	*(4:00) Iron Man 2	(10) Robert Downey Jr.	*(4:00) Spider-Man: No Way Home	(21) Zendaya Coleman, Tom Holland.	
E!	26	142	114	236	*(4:00) Iron Man 2	(10) Robert Downey Jr.	*(4:00) Spider-Man: No Way Home	(21) Zendaya Coleman, Tom Holland.	*(4:00) Iron Man 2	(10) Robert Downey Jr.	*(4:00) Spider-Man: No Way Home	(21) Zendaya Coleman, Tom Holland.	*(4:00) Iron Man 2	(10) Robert Downey Jr.	*(4:00) Spider-Man: No Way Home	(21) Zendaya Coleman, Tom Holland.	*(4:00) Iron Man 2	(10) Robert Downey Jr.	*(4:00) Spider-Man: No Way Home	(21) Zendaya Coleman, Tom Holland.	
PARMT	30		241	241	*(4:00) Iron Man 2	(10) Robert Downey Jr.	*(4:00) Spider-Man: No Way Home	(21) Zendaya Coleman, Tom Holland.	*(4:00) Iron Man 2	(10) Robert Downey Jr.	*(4:00) Spider-Man: No Way Home	(21) Zendaya Coleman, Tom Holland.	*(4:00) Iron Man 2	(10) Robert Downey Jr.	*(4:00) Spider-Man: No Way Home	(21) Zendaya Coleman, Tom Holland.	*(4:00) Iron Man 2	(10) Robert Downey Jr.	*(4:00) Spider-Man: No Way Home	(21) Zendaya Coleman, Tom Holland.	
ESPN	31	50	140	206	(4:00) Basketball Kansas at Oklahoma (L) (N)	College Basketball Kansas at Oklahoma (L) (N)	College Basketball Kansas at Oklahoma (L) (N)	College Basketball Kansas at Oklahoma (L) (N)	College Basketball Kansas at Oklahoma (L) (N)	College Basketball Kansas at Oklahoma (L) (N)	College Basketball Kansas at Oklahoma (L) (N)	College Basketball Kansas at Oklahoma (L) (N)	College Basketball Kansas at Oklahoma (L) (N)	College Basketball Kansas at Oklahoma (L) (N)	College Basketball Kansas at Oklahoma (L) (N)	College Basketball Kansas at Oklahoma (L) (N)	College Basketball Kansas at Oklahoma (L) (N)	College Basketball Kansas at Oklahoma (L) (N)	College Basketball Kansas at Oklahoma (L) (N)	College Basketball Kansas at Oklahoma (L) (N)	
ESPN2	32	54	143	209	(4:00) Wm. Basketball	College Basketball Baylor at West Virginia (L) (N)	College Basketball Baylor at West Virginia (L) (N)	College Basketball Baylor at West Virginia (L) (N)	College Basketball Baylor at West Virginia (L) (N)	College Basketball Baylor at West Virginia (L) (N)	College Basketball Baylor at West Virginia (L) (N)	College Basketball Baylor at West Virginia (L) (N)	College Basketball Baylor at West Virginia (L) (N)	College Basketball Baylor at West Virginia (L) (N)	College Basketball Baylor at West Virginia (L) (N)	College Basketball Baylor at West Virginia (L) (N)	College Basketball Baylor at West Virginia (L) (N)	College Basketball Baylor at West Virginia (L) (N)	College Basketball Baylor at West Virginia (L) (N)	College Basketball Baylor at West Virginia (L) (N)	
FSMW	33		418	671	NHL Hockey Nashville Predators at St. Louis Blues From Enterprise Center in Saint Louis, Mo. (L) (N)	Blues Post. (L) (N)	NHL Hockey Nashville Predators at St. Louis Blues From Enterprise Center in Saint Louis, Mo. (L) (N)	NHL Hockey Nashville Predators at St. Louis Blues From Enterprise Center in Saint Louis, Mo. (L) (N)	NHL Hockey Nashville Predators at St. Louis Blues From Enterprise Center in Saint Louis, Mo. (L) (N)	NHL Hockey Nashville Predators at St. Louis Blues From Enterprise Center in Saint Louis, Mo. (L) (N)	NHL Hockey Nashville Predators at St. Louis Blues From Enterprise Center in Saint Louis, Mo. (L) (N)	NHL Hockey Nashville Predators at St. Louis Blues From Enterprise Center in Saint Louis, Mo. (L) (N)	NHL Hockey Nashville Predators at St. Louis Blues From Enterprise Center in Saint Louis, Mo. (L) (N)	NHL Hockey Nashville Predators at St. Louis Blues From Enterprise Center in Saint Louis, Mo. (L) (N)	NHL Hockey Nashville Predators at St. Louis Blues From Enterprise Center in Saint Louis, Mo. (L) (N)	NHL Hockey Nashville Predators at St. Louis Blues From Enterprise Center in Saint Louis, Mo. (L) (N)	NHL Hockey Nashville Predators at St. Louis Blues From Enterprise Center in Saint Louis, Mo. (L) (N)	NHL Hockey Nashville Predators at St. Louis Blues From Enterprise Center in Saint Louis, Mo. (L) (N)	NHL Hockey Nashville Predators at St. Louis Blues From Enterprise Center in Saint Louis, Mo. (L) (N)	NHL Hockey Nashville Predators at St. Louis Blues From Enterprise Center in Saint Louis, Mo. (L) (N)	
USA	34	133	105	242	Chicago Fire "Haunted House"	Chicago Fire "All-Out House"	Chicago Fire "All-Out House"	Chicago Fire "All-Out House"	Chicago Fire "All-Out House"	Chicago Fire "All-Out House"	Chicago Fire "All-Out House"	Chicago Fire "All-Out House"	Chicago Fire "All-Out House"	Chicago Fire "All-Out House"	Chicago Fire "All-Out House"	Chicago Fire "All-Out House"	Chicago Fire "All-Out House"	Chicago Fire "All-Out House"	Chicago Fire "All-Out House"	Chicago Fire "All-Out House"	
DISC	35	72	182	278	Expedition "Knights Templar Treasure Hunt"	Expedition "The Quest for El Dorado"	Expedition "The Quest for El Dorado"	Expedition "The Quest for El Dorado"	Expedition "The Quest for El Dorado"	Expedition "The Quest for El Dorado"	Expedition "The Quest for El Dorado"	Expedition "The Quest for El Dorado"	Expedition "The Quest for El Dorado"	Expedition "The Quest for El Dorado"	Expedition "The Quest for El Dorado"	Expedition "The Quest for El Dorado"	Expedition "The Quest for El Dorado"	Expedition "The Quest for El Dorado"	Expedition "The Quest for El Dorado"	Expedition "The Quest for El Dorado"	
TLC	36	73	183	280	90 Day Fiancé	Love & Translation	Love & Translation	Love & Translation	Love & Translation	Love & Translation	Love & Translation	Love & Translation	Love & Translation	Love & Translation	Love & Translation	Love & Translation	Love & Translation	Love & Translation	Love & Translation	Love & Translation	
HIST	38	77	120	269	The Unexplained "Mysterious Stones"	The Unexplained "The Hunt for Jack the Ripper"	The Unexplained "The Hunt for Jack the Ripper"	The Unexplained "The Hunt for Jack the Ripper"	The Unexplained "The Hunt for Jack the Ripper"	The Unexplained "The Hunt for Jack the Ripper"	The Unexplained "The Hunt for Jack the Ripper"	The Unexplained "The Hunt for Jack the Ripper"	The Unexplained "The Hunt for Jack the Ripper"	The Unexplained "The Hunt for Jack the Ripper"	The Unexplained "The Hunt for Jack the Ripper"	The Unexplained "The Hunt for Jack the Ripper"	The Unexplained "The Hunt for Jack the Ripper"	The Unexplained "The Hunt for Jack the Ripper"	The Unexplained "The Hunt for Jack the Ripper"	The Unexplained "The Hunt for Jack the Ripper"	
A&E	39	134	118	265	First 48 "Bad Driver"	First 48 "1 Killed"	First 48 "1 Killed"	First 48 "1 Killed"	First 48 "1 Killed"	First 48 "1 Killed"	First 48 "1 Killed"	First 48 "1 Killed"	First 48 "1 Killed"	First 48 "1 Killed"	First 48 "1 Killed"	First 48 "1 Killed"	First 48 "1 Killed"	First 48 "1 Killed"	First 48 "1 Killed"	First 48 "1 Killed"	
HALL	40	117	185	312	*(4:00) A Valentine's Match	*(4:00) Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone	*(2001, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	*(2001, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	*(2001, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	*(2001, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	*(2001, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	*(2001, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	*(2001, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	*(2001, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	*(2001, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	*(2001, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	*(2001, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	*(2001, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	*(2001, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	*(2001, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	
SYFY	41	135	122	244	*(5:55) Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone	*(2001, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	*(2001, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	*(2001, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	*(2001, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	*(2001, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	*(2001, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	*(2001, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	*(2001, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	*(2001, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	*(2001, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	*(2001, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	*(2001, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	*(2001, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	*(2001, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	*(2001, Children) Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Daniel Radcliffe.	
TBS	43	130	139	247	*(4:30) Black Panther	*(18) Michael B. Jordan, Chadwick Boseman.	*(4:30) Black Panther	*(18) Michael B. Jordan, Chadwick Boseman.	*(4:30) Black Panther	*(18) Michael B. Jordan, Chadwick Boseman.	*(4:30) Black Panther	*(18) Michael B. Jordan, Chadwick Boseman.	*(4:30) Black Panther	*(18) Michael B. Jordan, Chadwick Boseman.	*(4:30) Black Panther	*(18) Michael B. Jordan, Chadwick Boseman.	*(4:30) Black Panther	*(18) Michael B. Jordan, Chadwick Boseman.	*(4:30) Black Panther	*(18) Michael B. Jordan, Chadwick Boseman.	
TNT	44	131	138	245	All-Star Saturday Pregame (L) (N)	All-Star Saturday Pregame (L) (N)	All-Star Saturday Pregame (L) (N)	All-Star Saturday Pregame (L) (N)	All-Star Saturday Pregame (L) (N)	All-Star Saturday Pregame (L) (N)	All-Star Saturday Pregame (L) (N)	All-Star Saturday Pregame (L) (N)	All-Star Saturday Pregame (L) (N)	All-Star Saturday Pregame (L) (N)	All-Star Saturday Pregame (L) (N)	All-Star Saturday Pregame (L) (N)	All-Star Saturday Pregame (L) (N)	All-Star Saturday Pregame (L) (N)	All-Star Saturday Pregame (L) (N)	All-Star Saturday Pregame (L) (N)	
AMC	45	131	1254		*(4:30) Red 2	*(2013, Action) John Malkovich, Amy Poehler, Paul Giamatti.	*(4:30) Red 2	*(2013, Action) John Malkovich, Amy Poehler, Paul Giamatti.	*(4:30) Red 2	*(2013, Action) John Malkovich, Amy Poehler, Paul Giamatti.	*(4:30) Red 2	*(2013, Action) John Malkovich, Amy Poehler, Paul Giamatti.	*(4:30) Red 2	*(2013, Action) John Malkovich, Amy Poehler, Paul Giamatti.	*(4:30) Red 2	*(2013, Action) John Malkovich, Amy Poehler, Paul Giamatti.	*(4:30) Red 2	*(2013, Action) John Malkovich, Amy Poehler, Paul Giamatti.	*(4:30) Red 2	*(2013, Action) John Malkovich, Amy Poehler, Paul Giamatti.	
COM	47	107	249		The Office "The Office"	*(4:30) Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby	*(4:30) Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby	*(4:30) Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby	*(4:30) Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby	*(4:30) Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby	*(4:30) Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby	*(4:30) Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby	*(4:30) Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby	*(4:30) Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby	*(4:30) Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby	*(4:30) Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby	*(4:30) Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby	*(4:30) Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby	*(4:30) Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby	*(4:30) Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby	
FS1	48	64	150	219	NASCAR Xfinity Racing Series: United Rentals 3																

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## SUDOKU

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

### King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

2/17

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## VEHICLES

### Auto/Trucks

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** - General Services Administration (GSA) Sale Thurs., February 22, 12pm. View vehicles in person on February 21, 2pm until 5pm and February 22, 8am-12pm. View up to date listing at [www.indianaautoauction.net](http://www.indianaautoauction.net) or [www.autoauctions.gsa.gov](http://www.autoauctions.gsa.gov). (A)

**INDIANA AUTO AUCTION, INC.** Huge Repo Sale February 22, 2024. Over 100 repossessed units for sale. Money order or cashier's check only. \$500 cashier's check or money order deposit per person required. Register 8 am-9:30 am. No public entry after 9:30 am. All vehicles sold AS IS! 4425 W. Washington Center Road, Fort Wayne. (A)

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## Lottery Numbers

**Friday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY**  
Cash 5 — 22-23-34-42-43  
Cash4Life — 02-28-41-45-59, Cash Ball: 02  
Quick Draw Midday — 04-05-06-11-13-14-17-21-22-25-30-32-35-46-49-56-65-66-71-78, BE: 78  
Daily Three-Midday — 02-01-01, SB: 08  
Daily Three-Evening — 01-07-03, SB: 03  
Daily Four-Midday — 01-05-06-03, SB: 08  
Daily Four-Evening — 05-00-05-04, SB: 03  
Quick Draw Evening — 02-03-04-05-06-10-11-16-20-32-42-46-47-51-53-57-61-66-70-72, BE: 70  
**Hoosier Lotto** — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$4.8 million  
**MEGA MILLIONS**  
19-23-39-42-67, Mega Ball: 18, Megaplier: 4X  
**POWERBALL**  
Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$306 million

## EMPLOYMENT

### Help Wanted

**WELLS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** is currently seeking applicants for the position of Full Time Deputy Sheriff. Applicants must be a US Citizen, at least 21 years of age upon graduation from police academy, possess a high school diploma or equivalent as well as a valid Indiana Operators License. Applicant can't have any felony convictions. Applicants must pass all aspects of the hiring process including physical agility testing, written examination, background investigation, oral interview, polygraph and physiological evaluation. Selected applicant must be able to graduate from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. ILEA certified applicants do not have to attend the physical agility and written examination portion of the process. 20-year matrix salary range for a Deputy Sheriff (no rank) is \$56,600 - \$68,400. Years of service and experience will be honored for a starting salary up to five years in the pay matrix. Pre-Application can be found on our website at [www.wellscountysheriff.com](http://www.wellscountysheriff.com). Once pre-application is completed, details on the paper application will be emailed to the applicant. Return completed paper application to 1615 W Western Ave, Bluffton, Indiana 46714 Attn: Chief Deputy Randy Steele no later than 12:00 pm on March 15, 2024.

## NOTICE

### Found

**DRONE FOUND** ON N. Oak St. Extended around a year ago. Call 260-824-4563 with description.

### 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](mailto:glacierpure@outlook.com)

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**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](http://news-banner.com) and click on classifieds.

## Pets

**HELOISE HINT:** When you are completing home-improvement projects with lots of power tools, nails, solvents or paints. Keep your pets away from the areas until the project is finished. You don't want them getting injured by accident. Fax Heloise @ 210-HELOISE (435-6473).

## Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA )  
 ) SS:  
COUNTY OF WELLS )  
 ) IN THE WELLS  
 ) CIRCUIT COURT  
 ) CAUSE NUMBER:  
 ) 90C01-1101-DR-14  
IN RE: THE MARRIAGE OF: )  
COREY LEE HARRIS )  
Petitioner )  
vs )  
TRINA M. (HARRIS) KRAMER )  
**ORDER FOR SUMMONS**  
**BY PUBLICATION**

The Court, having read and examined the Praecipe for Notice by Publication, and being duly advised, now Orders that the Notice of Filing of Petition to Modify Child Support in this matter be served upon Trina M. (Harris) Kramer by publication.  
Dated this 2/9/2024  
Kenton W. Kiracofe  
Judge, Wells Circuit Court

Distribution:  
David G. Crell  
STATE OF INDIANA )  
 ) SS:  
WELLS COUNTY )  
 ) IN THE WELLS  
 ) CIRCUIT COURT  
 ) CAUSE NUMBER:  
 ) 90C01-1101-DR-0014

ON RELATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD SUPPORT BUREAU IN RE: THE MARRIAGE OF: COREY LEE HARRIS Petitioner vs TRINA M. (HARRIS) KRAMER Respondent  
To: COREY L. HARRIS  
P.O. Box 127  
124 1/2 E. Craig St.  
Ossian, IN 46777  
AND  
To: TRINA M. HARRIS  
**ORDER TO APPEAR**  
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a MODIFICATION hearing will be held in the above captioned cause on the **19th day of April, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.** in the Wells Circuit Courtroom, Wells County Court House, Bluffton, IN 46714. The Court being duly advised in the premises hereby ORDERS you to appear at said hearing. Your failure to appear as ordered may result in a bench warrant being issued for your arrest.  
EXAMINED, ORDERED and DECREED this 2/9/2024  
Kenton W. Kiracofe  
JUDGE  
WELLS CIRCUIT COURT

Note:  
Personal Service on Petitioner Required by Sheriff  
Service by Publication on Respondent  
cc:  
Wells Co. Child Support  
STATE OF INDIANA )  
 ) SS:  
WELLS COUNTY )  
 ) IN THE WELLS  
 ) CIRCUIT COURT  
 ) CAUSE NUMBER:  
 ) 90C01-1101-DR-000014  
IN RE: THE MARRIAGE OF  
COREY LEE HARRIS  
Petitioner  
and  
TRINA M. (HARRIS) KRAMER  
Respondent  
**PETITION FOR MODIFICATION**  
Comes now the Indiana Department of Child Services, by the Prosecuting Attorney for the 28th Judicial Circuit, and respectfully petitions the Court for a modification of the child support order heretofore entered in this cause, and in support of its petition, the State alleges and says:

1. That on the 3rd day of DECEMBER, 2013, the Court entered an order for the support of the children herein in the amount of \$75.83 per week.  
2. That a change of circumstances has occurred since the creation of this order that is substantial and continuing in nature and renders the original order entered herein unreasonable.  
3. That the support order previously entered on the 3rd day of DECEMBER, 2013, should be modified in an amount consistent with the best interest of the children herein.  
Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Court modify the previous support order in a manner consistent with the best interests of the children and provide any and all other relief just and proper in the premises.  
Respectfully submitted,  
David G. Crell  
Prosecuting Attorney  
Child Support Division  
**Certificate of Service**  
I certify that on the 1st day of December, 2023, service of a true and complete copy of the above forgoing pleading was made upon all parties of record by depositing the same in the U.S. Mail in an envelope properly addressed and with sufficient first class postage affixed.  
WELLS COUNTY  
PROSECUTING  
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
David G. Crell  
nb 2/17, 2/24, 3/2  
hspaxlp

## Services

**A 20 WORD**, line classified, service ad for 2-months is \$97. Contact the office at 125 N. Johnson St., 824-0224, or [classifieds.news-banner.com](http://classifieds.news-banner.com).

## Read & recycle

# February

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Charles Miller-Electrical  
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Jim Baker

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Feb. deadline is Tues., Jan. 23!

## Public Sale Calendar

**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. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, [Kjauction.com](http://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. 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](http://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! Pick up Feb. 22-23, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. EST, Feb. 27, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Feb. 28, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Items located mostly in Parago, IN, and Gosport, IN, with some in Martinsville, IN. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, [Kjauction.com](http://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 Corpo-

## Public Notice

**NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION**  
IN THE WELLS CIRCUIT COURT OF WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA  
DOCKET NO. 90C01-2401-EU-000007  
Notice is hereby given that LYNETTE E. JOHNSON, KAYLEEN J. REUSSER and CAMILLE E. HAVENS, were on February 9 2024, appointed co-personal representatives of the estate of EVELYN JOAN BREWER, deceased, who died on the 11th day of January, 2024, and were authorized to administer her estate without Court supervision.  
All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file those claims in the office of the Clerk of the Wells Circuit Court within three (3) months after the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or those claims will be forever barred.  
Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, this 9th day of February, 2024.  
Beth Davis  
Clerk, Wells Circuit Court  
Matthew P. Hayes  
Attorney for Co-Personal Representatives  
Attorney No. 32002-02  
GORDON & ASSOCIATES  
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION  
119 East Oak Forest Drive  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
(260) 824-9377

## SUDOKU ANSWER

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nb 2/17, 2/24  
hspaxlp