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Who gets the shift?

Homeowners, all residential properties paying an increasing share of property taxes

By MARK MILLER
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 In reviewing the 2024 property tax data that was released in late February, it is clear that a trend identified in a News-Banner analysis in 2022 has not only continued, but accelerated.

That trend is called "tax shifting," as the burden of property taxes has been and continues to shift from one group of entities to another. That shift is illustrated in the pie charts at right.

A News Analysis

In 2018, the share of what can be called the "property tax pie" that residential properties (to include owner-occupied homes, residential rental homes, apartments and mobile homes) were paying was just shy of 30% — 29.96% to be exact. Non-residential properties — business and industrial real estate and personal property to include long term care facilities and agricultural land — were paying 70.04% of the total property tax bill of about \$18,876,000. Homeowners — single-family owner-occupied homes — were paying about 19% of the total.

The 2024 data reveals that the residential-properties' share of the tax bill has grown to essentially one-half — 49.19% to be exact. The total tax levied on all Wells County properties this year is about \$32,612,000, a growth of almost 73% in just six years. Homeowners are now footing almost exactly one-third (33.09%) of the bill.

Just one year ago, the share of the property tax pie that residential-property-categories were funding was about 43%. The increase in that percent to nearly one-half results in a 32% increase in the actual dollars collected from residential properties (from about \$12.1 million to just over \$16 million) while non-residential tax dollars increased only 3.9% (from about \$16 million to about \$16.5 million).

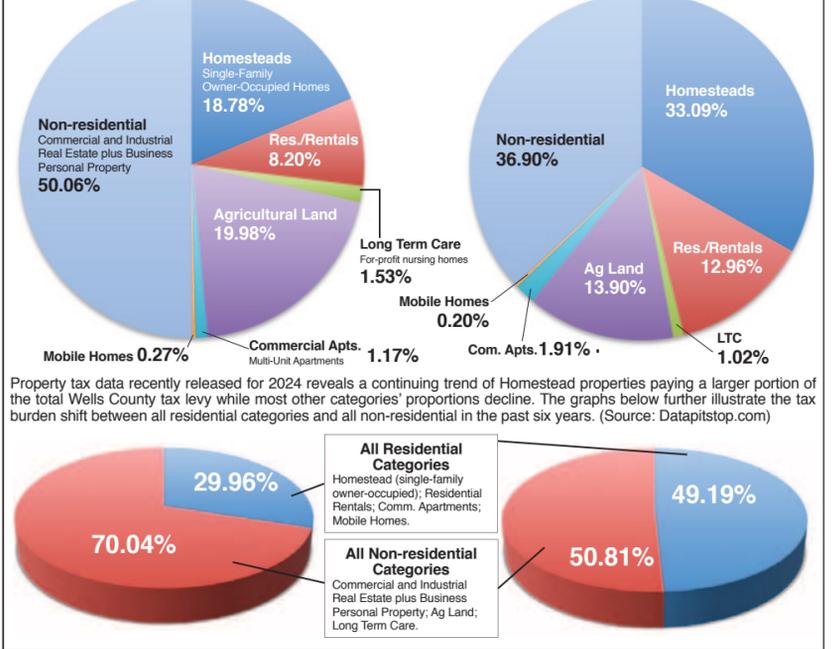
The result: property tax bills increasing for most homeowners in the double-digits. Additionally, due to changes in how residential rental properties were assessed last year, property tax bills for those properties doubled — or nearly doubled — more often than not.

The numbers and statistics can be overwhelming. Digging into the hows and whys is time consuming and often confusing. There are numerous factors and issues that come into play, many which raise additional questions.

The two key factors that go into the property tax formula are assessed values and taxing unit budgets. These result in a tax rate that is then applied to each property. A list of other factors that have impacted 2024 property tax bills includes but is not limited to:

- **Assessed Values:** Residential properties have, as documented over the past several years, been the biggest driver in the proportion of property taxes that residential properties pay. Home prices, although cooling off the past year, have seen the highest rate of increases in perhaps decades. As noted in earlier analyses, those increases

Wells County Property Tax Levies by Category: 2018 vs 2024



are inconsistently applied due to proscribed assessment procedures. For example, one "neighborhood" — a technical assessment term — can experience higher sales than an adjacent "neighborhood" resulting in broad differences in AVs among nearly adjacent properties. The Bell Brook addition on Bluffton's northeast side consists of three "neighborhoods" and have resulted in inconsistent increases in AVs, and thus property tax bills.

The Oak Forest subdivision on Bluffton's north side had consisted of four neighborhoods but this was consolidated into two in order to address that very issue. That

change, however, resulted in some inconsistent changes this year which should even out in the coming years.

Meanwhile, business and commercial real estate values have been relatively stable over the past several years although recent sales may impact that in the coming years. Agricultural AVs, as also noted in previous articles, are not based on land values or recent sales but on a complicated formula monitored by Purdue University economists. Ag Land values went up about 26% across the board in 2024, as predicted by Purdue economist Dr. Larry DeBoer.

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Tots in the Post Office

A group of tots enjoyed a tour by Stephen Bates of the Bluffton Post Office on Thursday, pictured above right. It was the last of the monthly activities planned, however, the city gym will still be open to kids on Tuesdays and Thursdays at from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. until March 28. At top, children colored pictures for the Postmaster and placed them into a mailbox. They then had a chance to view where their mail went.

Postmaster Brian Smith, above left, talked to the group about the work that is done at the post office, as well as where certain mailboxes might be located. (Photos by Sydney Kent)

County to tackle Highway Department financial matters

By HOLLY GASKILL

The Wells County Council will hold a special session later this month to address several financial and personnel matters in the Highway Department.

The first of these items follows upcoming Local Trax grant projects.

On Tuesday, the department requested two additional appropriations — \$984,800 from the Local Trax fund and \$1.1 million from the Rainy Day fund — for a grant project from Adams Street to Hoosier Highway. Adams County Engineer Nate Rumschlag, contracted to assist Wells County with ongoing projects, said Wells will be reimbursed all but \$984,000 from a federal grant for the project.

Because Rumschlag was unsure how long reimbursement would take, the council was initially hesitant to approve the significant amount from the Rainy Day fund. However, Rumschlag said he had discussed the matter with Auditor Lisa McCormick, and they had agreed on the decision due to other upcoming Local Trax projects.

Rumschlag also stressed that the county has to make the payment within a window to secure the bid, which was lower than the engineer's estimate.

The council ultimately approved a resolution on the matter, and can approve the additional appropriations at their special session at 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 25.

Highway Supervisor Shawn

Bonar also approached the council and County Commissioners with continued discussion regarding a lack of administrative support. With Rumschlag's resignation, Bonar said he is inundated with ongoing county projects and administrative work in addition to transitioning into the new highway garage.

Bonar proposed the county reduce their contracted hours with Rumschlag and hire an additional bookkeeper. Currently, an interlocal agreement with Adams County supports Rumschlag's services for one day weekly and "as needed" for \$1,500. Bonar suggested the county reach an annual agreement with Adams County instead of their current 90-day agreement.

Bonar also requested a \$27,000 stipend for his additional workload.

Explaining this proposed stipend, Bonar referenced the recent stipend approved for an Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator, a position previously held by Rumschlag. The council approved a \$3,000 stipend for the role, which Rumschlag said accounted for 0.5% of his total job. Bonar also referenced neighboring counties' structure and compensation for similar situations.

"Well, what surprised me was the last council meeting when I watched an ABA director get a \$3,000 stipend," Bonar said. "That kind of hurt right here. And I thought, I'm getting taken advantage of, and I need to stand up for

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Outside

 Chance of showers today,
 chance of snow tonight

Today	Sunday	Monday
High 47	High 40	High 54
Low 29	Low 27	Low 39

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Online

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Changes in Wells County Property Tax Factors, 2023-2024

Taxing Unit	Unit Tax Rates			Total Certified Assessed Value			Budgets		
	2024	Pctg. Chg. 23-24	2023	2024	Pctg. Chg. 23-24	2023	2024	Pctg. Chg. 23-24	2023
County Total	0.2498	-3.81%	0.2597	\$2,146,731,596	9.16%	\$1,966,613,165	\$19,392,346	8.74%	\$17,833,124
Co. Gen.	0.1678	-4.77%	0.1762				\$12,279,969	6.27%	\$11,555,345
Highway Cum Cap Dev	0.0333	0.00%	0.0333				\$4,824,227	1.75%	\$4,741,439
							\$326,500		\$0
Bluffton City#	0.6302	20.15%	0.5245	\$621,895,299	5.38%	\$590,138,098	\$11,785,425	15.03%	\$10,245,705
Ossian Town	0.3194	-5.28%	0.3372	\$184,473,719	10.91%	\$166,329,317	\$1,825,519	17.06%	\$1,559,432
Markle Town	1.0746	19.63%	0.8983	\$28,339,738	9.59%	\$25,860,421	\$1,619,950	6.84%	\$1,516,267
Poneto Town	0.7427	-3.43%	0.7691	\$4,509,183	7.69%	\$4,187,205	\$149,250	35.77%	\$109,926
Uniondale	0.3248	-6.40%	0.3470	\$7,575,857	11.78%	\$6,777,543	\$179,601	12.72%	\$159,339
Vera Cruz	0.0907	-14.35%	0.1059	\$2,489,286	21.45%	\$2,049,687	\$33,299	2.05%	\$32,631
Zanesville	0.2683	2.88%	0.2608	\$15,575,578	15.57%	\$13,477,753	\$136,167	-10.87%	\$152,770
BHMSD	0.9689	2.63%	0.9441	\$582,573,830	6.54%	\$546,800,483	\$22,707,204	-0.09%	\$22,728,465
NWCS	0.8967	0.00%	0.8967	\$1,095,875,080	11.53%	\$982,582,678	\$33,942,140	7.66%	\$31,527,891
SWCS	0.6439	-4.34%	0.6731	\$468,282,686	7.10%	\$437,230,004	\$11,033,720	9.76%	\$10,052,501
Library	0.0649	-5.53%	0.0687	\$2,118,391,858	9.15%	\$1,940,752,744	\$3,872,212	3.99%	\$3,723,507
Solid Waste	0.0066	-4.35%	0.0069	\$2,146,731,596	9.16%	\$1,966,613,165	\$246,440	3.84%	\$237,329
Chester Twp.	0.0200	-41.35%	0.0341	\$153,600,011	0.08%	\$153,475,274	\$52,050	-7.79%	\$56,450
Harrison#	0.2231	114.93%	0.1038	\$570,953,311	6.53%	\$535,977,315	\$86,826	-76.07%	\$362,770
Jackson	0.0055	-20.29%	0.0069	\$89,889,824	10.24%	\$81,543,803	\$44,253	-7.79%	\$47,993
Jefferson	0.0913	81.87%	0.0502	\$375,022,224	12.00%	\$334,835,331	\$245,975	25.70%	\$195,690
Lancaster#	0.2338	103.48%	0.1149	\$421,801,657	7.66%	\$391,774,987	\$125,469	23.93%	\$101,243
Liberty	0.0000	-100.00%	0.0809	\$106,140,688	7.78%	\$98,474,789	\$162,800	-8.93%	\$178,773
Nottingham	0.0000	-100.00%	0.0477	\$118,652,163	14.38%	\$103,736,138	\$91,542	0.00%	\$91,542
Rockcreek	0.0532	-7.80%	0.0577	\$146,091,934	16.40%	\$125,513,080	\$112,232	-0.80%	\$113,132
Union	0.0427	-8.96%	0.0469	\$164,579,784	16.49%	\$141,282,448	\$150,010	17.23%	\$127,958
#Includes Bluffton Fire Territory									
							\$108,085,380	6.76%	\$101,239,738
							\$31,982,741	12.47%	\$28,437,374

This chart summarizes just some of the data that goes into the computations that result in determining property taxes. While the Assessed Values and the Budgets are the two main factors that drive rates, the resulting Tax Levies (see chart below) then get applied to the unique factors of each individual property. The bottom line here is that the total taxes to be collected in Wells County in 2024 are up by about 12.5%, which means the average bill will increase by that percentage. However, since residential properties, both homeowners and rentals, experienced a higher percentage growth in Assessed Value, these two categories will absorb a larger share of that 12.5% increase. Agricultural land also saw an increase in their share of the pie after five years of declining share.

Increasing property taxes

(Continued from Page 1)
This change resulted in the Ag Land category's piece of the pie increasing in 2024 for the first time since 2018.

Residential/rental AV changes: This category, which includes single-family residences and some multi-family structures but does not include the larger apartment complexes, saw the highest percentage of growth in AV, and thus in property tax bills, of any other category. This is primarily the result of a change in the assessment formula.

Wells County Assessor Laura Roberts explains that her office had been using what is referred to as a "straight cap rate" based on the rent income. A change was made for the 2023-Pay-2024 cycle to utilize what is called the "gross rent multiplier" process that also factors in sales of the properties. While the state's Department of Local Government Finance has long preferred this method, Roberts says that Wells County had not had enough "valid" sales of rental properties to have "good comps," meaning comparable sales to apply to other properties.

"Rentals are often sold from one family member to another," she explains, which essentially disqualifies such a sale as a "valid" market-based comparison.

The result was a 71% increase in the total tax dollars levied in this category, growing from about \$2.5 million in 2023 to about \$4.25 million in 2024.

One landlord's approximately 50 properties, assessed values — as a group — increased about 25% and tax bills increasing by 36%. But the increases were by no means consistent among properties with no major modifications, which experienced increases from 2.8% to more than 50%.

Bluffton Fire Territory: This new taxing entity is a result of numerous meetings and public hearings last year among the elected leaders from the city and Lancaster

and Harrison townships to solve fire protection issues. Financial analyses by professionals predicted increases of at least 6% in these areas. Preliminary analysis appears to show that these predictions were fairly accurate if not a bit high. Exactly how much this impacted taxpayers in the city and the two townships is still being reviewed.

Change in LIT Property Tax Credits: Wells County Council voted last year to change the formula of how the county's Local Income Tax revenue is utilized. 23% of that revenue had been designated to be used as a property tax credit for homeowners, residential rentals, long term care and agricultural property. Homeowners received the lion's share of those credits (85%) with the remainder divided among the other categories. Funds designated to those tax credits was reduced to 14% of the LIT revenue.

The impact of this change is fairly easy to compute for homeowners and comes out to about 3 to 3.5 (and perhaps as much as 4) cents per \$1,000 Gross AV. The net amount will be impacted by each property's deductions, such as mortgage and Homestead deductions.

Wells County Council President Seth Whicker was not surprised to learn these numbers and defends the decision. The revenue removed from the property tax credits was primarily applied to public safety.

"The county's number one priority is the safety of our citizens," he says, noting the challenges and costs facing 911 and EMS services. "We had to fund these issues and this was the most efficient way to do that."

County council was also advised by tax consultant Darren Bates that the property tax credit option is going to be removed by the state at some point.

Budgetary pressures: One cannot ignore the fiscal pressures for local taxing units to provide needed government services in an inflationary environment

Taxing Unit	Certified Tax Levy by Taxing Unit		
	2023	2024	Change
Wells County	\$5,107,294	\$5,362,537	5.00%
Chester	\$52,214	\$30,637	-41.32%
Harrison	\$349,324	\$0	-100.00%
Jackson	\$5,627	\$4,944	-12.14%
Jefferson	\$105,548	\$195,554	85.27%
Lancaster	\$43,487	\$45,133	3.79%
Liberty	\$77,610	\$53,436	-31.15%
Nottingham	\$49,482	\$53,869	8.87%
Rockcreek	\$61,265	\$66,506	8.55%
Union	\$59,524	\$63,167	6.12%
Bluffton City	\$3,095,274	\$4,919,621	58.94%
Zanesville	\$35,150	\$41,789	18.89%
Markle	\$232,304	\$304,538	31.09%
Ossian	\$603,494	\$632,844	4.86%
Poneto	\$32,204	\$33,490	3.99%
Uniondale	\$23,518	\$24,606	4.63%
Vera Cruz	\$2,171	\$2,258	4.01%
SWCS	\$2,945,618	\$3,015,272	2.36%
NWCS	\$8,841,526	\$9,868,451	11.61%
BHMSD	\$5,162,344	\$5,644,558	9.34%
WCP Library	\$1,333,297	\$1,374,836	3.12%
Hntgtn Library	\$49,238	\$61,299	24.50%
WC Solid Waste	\$135,696	\$141,684	4.41%
Rock Creek Cnsrvncy	\$34,165	\$41,712	22.09%
Totals	\$28,437,374	\$31,982,741	12.47%

This chart lists the property taxes that will be billed in each taxing unit in 2024, compared to last year's numbers. The state has a statutory limit on how much a unit's tax levy can increase. The number for 2024 is 4%. There are exemptions, exceptions and adjustments as explained in the accompanying article, which the News-Banner hopes to be able to explain at some point.

and in a labor market that has become increasingly competitive. Evidence has been seen recently in conversations at the county-level meetings regarding pay and benefits, specifically in addressing issues at the health and highway departments. A breakdown of budget changes from 2023 to 2024 is included in a chart above.

Tax levy growth limitations

The Indiana Legislature has had an established limit on how much local government tax levies can grow. It is called the Maximum Levy Growth Quotient — MLGQ for short, and often also referred to as simply the MGQ, Maximum Growth Quotient. That limit for 2024 is 4%.

So the question is, if the state limits the tax levy growth at 4%, how can Wells County's increase in the total tax levy be more than 12%?

The quick answer is: there are exceptions. Perhaps the largest is municipal and school debt, but those increases have limitations as well. How that works is complex.

There are adjustments that are applied which, for

example, resulted in the county's general fund levy increase of almost exactly 5% to come in at \$1,754 below the MGQ of 4%.

Taxing units can also appeal to the state to collect a higher levy, a process that apparently does not include a public hearing.

As displayed on the accompanying chart, 15 of Wells County's 24 taxing units appear to exceed the 4% MGQ, with Jefferson Township having the largest percentage increase. The News-Banner is continuing to research this particular puzzle, including how school debt factors in, what bases taxing units can appeal for the MLGQ exceptions and how widely utilized those appeals are. The News-Banner is also analyzing the variances in property tax bills throughout the county.

While 2024 property tax bills are still being prepared and will not be mailed out for a couple weeks, taxpayers can see what their 2024 bill will be by going wellscounty.org and clicking on the "GIS" link in the top menu bar and then searching for their property.

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Weather

Saturday, March 9, 2024

(24-hour observations at 9:53 p.m. Friday)
High: 55; **Low:** 42; **Precipitation:** 0.50 inches of rain
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.78 feet at 8:45 p.m. Friday

Wells County forecast

Today: A 30% chance of showers, mainly before 7 a.m. Cloudy, with a high near 47. Northwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Saturday Night: A slight chance of rain and snow showers before 10 p.m., then a slight chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 29. West wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 40. Breezy, with a northwest wind 15 to 25 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 27. West wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 54.

Monday Night: Clear, with a low around 39.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 63.

Tuesday Night: A 20% chance of showers after 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 46.

Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 64.

Wednesday Night: A 30% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 49.

County Council

(Continued from Page 1)
myself because I think I'm doing great things for the county."

While the council recognized additional compensation was appropriate, they hesitated with the proposed amount or the potential for another full-time permanent position.

According to Bonar's calculations, the total adjustments would only lead to a \$1,742.41 cost increase from the county's current projects. Commissioner Jeff Stringer said there are no prospective candidates for county engineer, and outside consulting would cost significantly more than the current agreement with Adams County.

Rumschlag also endorsed this proposal. "The intent was by reducing my role, it frees up to allow you to do a bookkeeper position," Rumschlag said. He also assured it would ultimately help the workload to have a full-time bookkeeper, noting it was previously discussed as a need.

"We're very vulnerable as a department because we didn't have the staff," Rumschlag added. "And my leaving essentially exposed that."

Stringer also stressed that the county needed to be working toward some solution, even if it was temporary, because they are not guaranteed to always have Rumschlag's services.

"(Bonar's) already work-

ing, to your point, he's working 50% more now," Stringer said. "(Rumschlag) leaves, that all falls on (Bonar). There is no light at the end of the tunnel, there are no sunny days — it's in the trench all day long, digging what he's doing. And you know, I don't want to add cost, but when you do the math here, it's a net savings to the county."

Stringer added, "It's a band-aid. It's a stipend, not a salary."

The council ultimately asked Bonar to return with a job description for an additional bookkeeper, and they could revisit the conversation on March 25.

"I feel like it's great to have this conversation," said council member Vicki Andrews. "I feel like we're just a little premature and trying to make this kind of decision."

"At a minimum, I do think that there has to be, with all the hours put in, I want to get the stipend taken care of," council member Seth Whicker said. "The engineering with Adams County ... either way, like it or not, we still need (Rumschlag) coming to help out. And if we want to wait on a job description, I'm OK saying that we could look at those two positions in our next meeting. But I do think that we owe it, in my view, to (Bonar) and to keep (Rumschlag) around, to get those two items squared."

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Ossian, Bluffton to test tornado sirens Tuesday

March 10-16, 2024, is severe weather preparedness week in Indiana. Coinciding with the statewide test of the Emergency Alert System, the Bluffton Dispatch Center will be conducting a test of the Bluffton and Ossian tornado sirens.

The test will take place on Tuesday March 12, 2024, between 10-10:30 a.m. In the event of bad weather, the test will be moved to Wednesday, March 13, 2024, between 10-10:30 a.m. The purpose of the test is to check our preparedness as a community for severe weather.

Edward Jones

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2024-2025 Kindergarten Registration Open House



April 10, 2024 • 3:30-6:00pm
Please enter door #20. Bring Birth Certificate & Proof of Residency. Students are encouraged to attend. Tours will be offered. Sign up for screening held in May.

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Local Roundup

Friends of the Shelter will meet Monday afternoon

Friends of the Shelter, the organization that provides support for the Bluffton/Wells County Animal Shelter, will meet at 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 11, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Items on the agenda include financials and upcoming events.

Health board will hold executive session Monday

The board of the Wells County Health Department will meet at 6 p.m. Monday, March 11, in the large conference room of the Wells County Public Library, 200 W. Washington St.

Reasons for the executive session were: to receive information about and interview prospective employees and to discuss records classified as confidential by state or federal statute.

Regional Sewer District board will meet Monday

The board of the Wells County Regional Sewer District will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 11, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

Items on the agenda include:

- Financial matters.
- Superintendent report and board update.
- Project status updates.

Health board will hold special session Monday

The board of the Wells County Health Department will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, March 11, in the large conference room of the Wells County Public Library, 200 W. Washington St.

The only item included on the agenda is the appointment of a new health officer.

Ossian Town Council will meet Monday evening

The Ossian Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, March 11, at the Ossian Town Hall, 507 N. Jefferson St. in Ossian.

Items on the agenda include:

- Reports from the Fire Department, Park Board and Police Commission.
- Review of a Community Crossings Matching Grant proposal for Meadow Lane improvements.
- Review of Ordinance 24-2-5.
- Consideration of Pay Application No. 5 from Ottenweller Contracting.
- Review of a request from Oak Lawn Cemetery to change the culvert right-of-way.
- Consideration of Salary Ordinance 24-3-1.
- Appointments to the Ossian Redevelopment Commission and council liaisons.
- Consideration of a utility adjustment.
- Consideration of a countywide master plan from Economic Development Executive Director Chad Kline.

An Ossian Redevelopment Commission

(Continued on Page 10)

Bluffton Parks & Rec News & Notes



By Brandy Fiechter

Destination Recreation

I cannot believe that spring break is quickly approaching. Don't forget to change your clocks tonight for daylight savings. This is also the time of year that Open Gym will end as the days get longer and the weather warms up, allowing kids to enjoy the parks outside. The last day is Thursday, March 14.

We have a NEW program called **Junk to Glam Barbie Dreamhouse** on April 13 from 10-11:30 a.m. at Washington Park Inside Pavilion. Families are invited to work together to build a Barbie Dreamhouse out of a box and upcycle items to use as decorations. All supplies will be provided. Make sure you bring your Barbie doll to try out its new home. The morning will also include refreshments and a photo area. Registration is limited to the first 20 boxes sold, and the cost is \$15 per box to create your very own Barbie Dream House. When registering, please indicate how many will be attending in your group. An adult is required to be present with their child/children to assist in the build.

Speaking of new events, we have decided to begin offering **Tot Swim Lessons** for ages 2-3, in addition to our already popular Pee Wee Swim (4-pre-K) and Group Swim lessons for K-12. Registration for all swim lessons will be held on Saturday, April 27, in the foyer of City Hall (128 E Market) from 9-11 a.m.

Early swim lessons set a positive foundation for a lifetime of participation and enjoyment in and under the water. Swim lessons for children who have just finished grades K-11 are held Monday through Friday, June 3-14 at either 10-10:50 a.m. or 11-11:50 a.m. OR June 24-July 5 at 11-11:50 a.m. at the Wells Community Pool. Diving lessons are only offered at the June 24-July 5 classes for students who have passed all the swim levels. The cost is \$20, due at registration. Pee Wee Swim Lessons for ages 4 through pre-K will run M-W-F the week

of June 17. Swim time is from 11 to 11:45 a.m.; a parent must get in the water with each child. The cost is only \$6 per child.

Tot Swim lessons for ages 2-3 will be M-W-F the week of June 17 from 10-10:45 a.m. An adult must get in the water with each child.

If your child would benefit from one-on-one lessons, call the Wells Community pool starting May 25 to schedule private lessons at 824-1550. Dates and times vary according to the rental calendar. Lessons cost \$25 per half hour, and openings fill up fast.

Mark your calendars for the next **Theater Thursday**, which will be held on March 21. The Bluffton Parks Department and Wells County Public Library have partnered to offer adults a free monthly movie. The movie starts at 10 a.m. at the Wells County Public Library.

We want to thank our most recent donors who have contributed to the Kehoe Concert Series. Thank you, Fairway Floor Covering, Meyer Building; AdamsWells Internet Telecom TV, ProFed Credit Union, Napa, Phil and Sue Swain, Brad and Michelle Baumgartner, Diane Humphrey, Patricia Troxel, Raymond James Kim Gentis, Habig Trucking & Excavating, Complete Smiles, Roembke Mfg & Design, Craigville Appliance and Family Ford of Bluffton. We truly appreciate these donations that keep this event free for our community to enjoy.

Reminder: Baseball, Softball, T-ball, and any team organizers who wish to request diamond rentals during 2024 must attend the next Park Board meeting, which is scheduled for Thursday, March 14, at 6:30 p.m. on the 2nd floor of City Hall to coordinate schedules. Questions about the diamonds and rental agreements can be sent in advance by calling 824-6069 or e-mailing parks@blufftonindiana.gov.

Have a great week!



Fourteen Ossian Rotary members and friends gathered last Monday night at the conclusion of the 2024 Ossian Rotary / Changing Footprints shoe drive to sort the 856 pairs of shoes collected for distribution to those in need. Ossian Rotarians and helpers included (l-r) Carol Baker, Sammy Kefer (8), Jame Thompson, and Stephanie Kefer. (Photos provided)

Ossian Rotary completes shoe drive

Fourteen Ossian Rotary members and friends gathered last Monday night at the conclusion of the 2024 Ossian Rotary/Changing Footprints shoe drive.

Thanks to donations at collection barrels at multiple places around town, a total of 856 pairs of shoes was collected. They will be cleaned, sorted, and delivered to Changing Footprints, an organization that specializes in redistributing them to those in need, in Indiana, across the country and around the world.

In addition, this year 90 pairs of good, usable shoes will accompany a mission team from First Baptist Church of Ossian as they travel to Cuba to assist men, women and children with their physical and spiritual needs.

Ossian Rotary is a small part of a larger organization, Rotary International, which was founded over 110 years ago in Chicago.

Ossian Rotary is a



Pictured left to right are Jeremy Penrod, Matthew Gullion, Carol Baker, and Stephanie Kefer.

group of people with a desire to meet new people, network, get involved and make a difference in Ossian and other communities. Each week features different speakers, who help attendees stay

informed on topics that are relevant to our community. Anyone is welcome to attend. Please contact Jeremy Penrod, Ossian Rotary President, at jeremy.penrod@edwardjones.com for more information.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:
Wednesday, 3:36 p.m., Bluffton Police Department. Report of a lost wallet.

Wednesday, 4:28 p.m., 900 block of South Mulberry Street. Officer requested to stand by for custody exchange.

Wednesday, 7:48 p.m., Walmart. Report of skip scan thefts.

Wednesday, 11:07 p.m., 900 block of Clark Avenue. Report of theft, likely not a theft.

Thursday, 11:52 a.m., 900 block of South Marion Street. Caller reported woman yelling and refusing to leave the area. Officer asked her to leave and she left.

Thursday, 4:10 p.m., 500 block of East Silver Street. Report of license plate theft.

Thursday, 4:14 p.m., West Wiley Avenue and South Indiana Street. Report of two juveniles playing on railroad. Subjects advised they were cleaning off scrap wood

from around the tracks, told to move.

Thursday, 6:12 p.m., Pak A Sak North. Woman accusing subject of a scam.

Thursday, 7:25 p.m., South Adams and West Cherry streets. Driver cited for speeding 63 in a 45 mph zone.

Thursday, 8:24 p.m., West Central Avenue and Beth Avenue. Report of glass in roadway.

Friday, 9:26 a.m., 800 block of South Bond Street. Report of theft.

Friday, 11:00 a.m., Expert Transmission. Report of theft of services of vehicle not currently on lot.

Friday, 11:45 a.m., 1400 block of Hunter Road. Caller advised she found coat that did not belong to her in her home.

Friday, 1:22 p.m., Lowes. Report of theft.

County:

Thursday, 4:08 p.m., 1400 South 450 East, Bluffton. Crash report, dog ran into side of a vehicle.

Friday, 6:20 a.m., Inteva. Driver cited for no valid license.

Friday, 6:33 a.m., North

(Continued on Page 10)

VISITATION & SERVICES

Tina K. Purdue

Calling: 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 9.

Service: 12:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 9 at the funeral home.

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home

308 W. Washington St.
824-3850
www.thomarich.com

VISITATION & SERVICES

Lorena E. Spaulding

Calling: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Sunday, March 10.

Service: 2 p.m.
Sunday, March 10 at the funeral home.

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home

308 W. Washington St.
824-3850
www.thomarich.com

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We've done this before, but there is new stuff to talk about

The old saying goes that there are only two things

Saturday's Sub

in life that are certain: death and taxes. I would add that there is one thing certain about taxes: the more you learn about them, the more you don't know.

What we've come to refer to as my little tax saga, which I think is entering its third year, seems to bring new questions with each succeeding cycle. A number of them center on the same issue which we call "tax shifting" and is highlighted in today's front page news analysis.

We like to label some stories as a "news analysis" because it includes some observations in addition to straight facts. It can sometimes border on opinion. We feel it important that we note the difference. But I digress.

This year includes new explorations into areas that have already existed but has not been a focus and, I believe, cries out for a fresh look. I have heard of and been aware of the MLGQ as mentioned in that article, but I had never connected it with reality. During my conversation in December with State Sen. Travis Holdman about his State Tax Review Task Force, he mentioned the Maximum Levy Growth Quotient that is supposed to limit the property tax levy to 4% in 2024.

It popped into mind as I was putting this year's data together. So why has ours grown by more than 12%? Working on that. Stay tuned.

Meanwhile, a few much more opinionated observations about this year's saga at this stage. (Thus it is on the opinion page, just to be clear.)

- Homeowners are (once again) experiencing these double-digit increases. Our share of the pie continues to grow in spite of the state legislature increasing both the standard and supplemental Homestead deductions in an effort to relieve some pain. I've thought about computing what my tax bill would have been without those changes and still may. It's just not risen to the top of my tax-saga-to-do list.

- We are blessed with open, conscientious, local elected officials and school superintendents. Don't want all of them to get a big head, but I have yet to run into any resistance about answering questions and helping me analyze and understand data and how the system works. "Patience" would be another good adjective. I can be slow on the uptake at times.

I have run into some concern that I am looking for villains. If we find any, so be it, but I just want to understand how these things work, which may be helpful for our readers in their interactions with those who make these decisions, some of whom, I've discovered, have just as many questions as the rest of us.

- They feel the pain. County Auditor Lisa McCormick and Assessor Laura Roberts in particular, when it comes



Mark Miller

to tax bills. Lisa and her husband's home taxes went up about 20%. They invested in a rental property. Its taxes have doubled this year. The Roberts residence's taxes in the dynamically growing community of Rockford doubled. To be precise, 120%. Their Assessed Value went up more than 60%. "We did add a deck to our above-ground pool," she told me. OK. But a 60% deck?

By the way, I lamented last week about perhaps having the distinction of having the largest percentage increase in the county (among homes that I've sampled) for our home's taxes at 28%. Not to gloat, but as of now, Laura has that crown.

- As mentioned in today's analysis, a change in the assessing process plus all the other factors has resulted in very significant increases in taxes on residential rental properties. (Again, this category does not include apartment complexes.) With a big factor in those AVs being the amount of rent charged, this seems to be a vicious cycle: landlords have to raise rent to cover the increase in taxes; the next tax cycle reveals higher rent income which results in a higher AV. On it goes.

Bluffton has a problem here. The N-B has had a couple hires in the past year or so who could not find affordable, suitable rental housing and are thus commuting from outside of the county. Wish I had a solution.

- While the price of homes has been the obvious factor in the growth of "Homestead" residential housing, one issue continues to be the inconsistency of the overall increase in this category. Another solution needed.

Further evidence of this arrived in my email inbox Thursday afternoon. A reader was inspired to look into the properties in his neck of the woods of eastern Lancaster Township. He found that of the eight residential properties in "my mile" as country folk say it, increases from 2023 to 2024 varied from 7 to 36%. Property tax bills from 2022 to 2024 varied from 23 to 68% hikes. There are reasons, we presume, and plan to look into that.

More good news: rising residential home values are not going away. Local data for the Wells County real estate market has been released by the Upstate Alliance of Realtors. The median sales price went up 20.5% in 2023.

- There are also a number of other factors that feed into the "tax shift" that has put an increasing tax burden on residential properties. The state has focused for many years on being "business friendly" in its tax structure. That has obvious benefits; not arguing against it. But when this filters down to the county level in property tax reality, one might be excused for asking for further review.

We will not belittle nor begrudge the property taxes paid by our local industries and businesses. It is not small change. Valero Renewables will pay \$377,319 this year, for example, which is up about 15% from 2021's \$328,833. One modern, in-use commercial property in downtown Ossian has seen a 1.54-percent increase in its

property tax bill since 2021. Meanwhile, you can find plenty — likely a majority — of homeowner properties with 50% and more growth in the same time period.

Tax shifting is not unique to Wells County. A quick analysis of numbers from neighboring Huntington and Adams counties reveal the same characteristics. However, those counties' 2024 data is not yet available. The nearest rural county that has its 2024 data posted is Noble; it's ratio of residential-to-nonresidential portions of the pie have gone from a 34-66 mix in 2018 to a 45-55 ratio in 2024.

- I am learning about how school debt funding works after realizing it is outside of the MLGQ. The more you learn, the more you don't know. But it has had and will obviously continue to have an impact on the mail we get from the county treasurer's office.

- I am most puzzled by this MLGQ thing. In a brief conversation with Holdman this week, I learned about the appeal option. When hearing how much our total levy went up, he did not seem shocked but mentioned that perhaps something "needs tightened up." The legislative session was wrapping up so he was pressed for time. We will chat more later; meanwhile I submitted three specific questions to the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance Feb. 28 which basically say: "Explain this to me please."

"We're working on it," I am told. Waiting.

- Last but far, far from least is this: Are Wells County taxpayers suffering any more or less than our fellow citizens in comparable Indiana counties? Last year, I devoted a few hours to trying to compare and quantify that. My conclusion was that while we are seeing double-digit increases and want to cry "woe is me," it could be worse if we would be living elsewhere. How are we doing in 2024?

There are so many factors that go into doing a comparison. In an effort to try to simplify that — to ascertain how to compare data and get an updated idea of how we compare with our neighbors — I've been renewing my acquaintance with Darren Bates, a tax consultant who lives near Muncie and works with 60 of Indiana's 92 counties, including Wells. A half-hour or so into a conversation and looking through his extensive data bases that involved assessed values (both gross and net), tax rates, tax caps, local income tax rates, property tax credits, school budgets and school projects, county budgets per-person, and a few other details, we concluded our conversation with this:

"So Darren, if you had to choose, which county would you live in: Adams, Huntington or Wells?"

"I think, generally speaking, Wells is doing better than their surrounding counties," he replied. "You've been good stewards."

I sincerely believe him, and it's nice to hear. It's just difficult to keep that in mind sometimes — like when you get that piece of mail from the treasurer's office.

miller@news-banner.com

Other Opinions

Justices correct to keep Trump on the ballot

No, there is no one weird trick to keep former President Donald Trump off the ballot and out of the White House. That is the unanimous opinion of the Supreme Court, which ruled Monday that the 14th Amendment does not authorize states to disqualify presidential candidates from seeking the office based on alleged oath-breaking and insurrection. This settles a legal controversy whose answer ought always to have been clear, leaving primary responsibility for preventing Trump 2.0 in the hands of voters.

Nearly as important as the substance of the Supreme Court's decision this week was its speed. The justices expedited review of the Colorado Supreme Court's Dec. 19 ruling that Mr. Trump was ineligible thanks to the Constitution's "insurrection clause." Thus their opinion arrived one day before Super Tuesday's nominating contests. That allowed voters to choose from among all the candidates without worry that their preferred option will be removed by the time of the general election. The country would benefit from similar promptness in another matter under the high court's consideration: Mr. Trump's weak claim that he is immune from criminal prosecution.

Of course, the substance of the 14th Amendment case was what matters most. The notion that an arcane Civil War-era provision could be used to exclude Mr. Trump from presidential politics was always a bit too good to be true. The arguments in favor contained multiple points of failure: Did the insurrection clause even apply to the presidency, as opposed to the "offices" it explicitly named? Had the rule against rebels returning to power in Washington, approved soon after the Civil War, already been expunged with the Amnesty Act of 1872? Was the former president even an insurrectionist, and who should decide? As it happened, the Supreme Court didn't need to bother with these intricacies. The justices turned instead, sensibly, to federalism.

The framers designed the presidency as a uniquely national office, so it made little sense to suppose that the authors of the 14th Amendment could have intended to make eligibility subject to a de facto state veto. The justices accordingly noted that federal officers "owe their existence and functions to the united voice of the whole, not a portion, of the people." They warned against the "patchwork" that would result from allowing various states with various rules to make various determinations about who may or may not run for federal office.

To be sure, the court's unanimity was not perfect. In a disgruntled joint concurring opinion, liberal justices Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Ketanji Brown Jackson took their conservative colleagues to task for declining to limit their rationale to federalism. Instead, the court's majority opinion went on to say that nobody can enforce Section 3 against anybody without an act of Congress detailing whom the provision disqualifies. The three liberals called this judicial overreach, designed to "insulate this Court and petitioner" from future political firestorms.

Justice Amy Coney Barrett, a Trump appointee, agreed with the liberals. What she objected to, however, in a short concurrence that read more like a blog post than a legal opinion, was the "stridency" with which the three expressed their quibble. "All nine Justices agree on the outcome of this case. That is the message Americans should take home."

Justice Barrett might not be the right messenger — spin is not part of the court's job description — but it was the right message. This often bitterly divided Supreme Court managed to reach the same bottom line: Whatever else it might do, the 14th Amendment does not authorize states to cull the presidential ballot. It struck a blow both for federalism and for democracy — albeit ironically, given Mr. Trump's own antidemocratic tendencies. The way to prevent his comeback remains clear: to vote.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Trump needs Haley voters to win back the White House

Things are looking good for Donald Trump. He (nearly) swept Super Tuesday. Nikki Haley has ended her primary challenge. The Supreme Court struck down efforts to keep him off the ballot. And four new polls show him beating President Biden in November.

Biden is almost twice as unpopular as Trump was at this point in 2020, measured by the gap between their approval and disapproval. A 43 percent plurality of Americans say the president's policies have hurt them personally (only 18 percent say they have helped), he faces double-digit disapproval on every issue, and 86 percent say he is too old for another term.

Many Republicans look at this and say: There's no way Biden can win.

Yes, he can. And if you don't believe it, I've got three words for you: Senator John Fetterman.

Pennsylvanians demonstrated in 2022 that Americans will vote for a Democrat who had a stroke *during the campaign* if they don't like the Republican alternative. And though Biden is the most unpopular president in the history of polling, Trump is almost as unpopular. In November, millions of Americans will be choosing between two candidates they dislike. Trump needs them to dislike him less. Yes, Biden is deeply vulnerable, but Trump has to exploit his vulnerabilities and make a concerted effort to win over Haley voters and skeptical swing voters who could very well decide the election.

The issue facing Trump is not "Never Trump" voters who didn't support him in the past and won't vote for him now under any circumstances. It is "Not Trump Again" voters, Americans who are open to his policies — and might have voted for him before — but don't like how he behaved, particularly after the 2020 election, and supported Haley in the primaries. The former group is unpersuadable; the latter might not be.

But Trump has to go out and persuade them. He needs to recognize that right now, the party is not united. It is deeply divided between the dominant MAGA wing, which encompasses about two-thirds of Republican voters, and the not-MAGA wing, which makes up about a third. Trump can't take back the presidency without bringing the not-MAGA Republicans into his fold. But according to the Fox News Voter Analysis, 53 percent of not-MAGA Republicans in Iowa, 57 percent in South Carolina and 65 percent in New Hampshire say they won't cast their ballot for Trump in November.

If even a fraction follows through on that promise, it could cost him the White House. Haley has won 2,873,491 votes in the GOP primaries this year.

Trump lost in 2020 by just 42,918 votes in three battleground states: Georgia (11,779), Wisconsin (20,682) and Arizona (10,457). An equally small number of votes could be the difference between defeat and victory in 2024.

One challenge in bringing them in: Many Trump-skeptical Republicans voted for him in 2016 because the Supreme Court was on the ballot. Well, thanks to his success in securing the 6-3 conservative majority, the Supreme Court is no longer the driving issue it was for these Republicans.

This much is certain: The election will tighten, and Trump can't afford to leave any votes on the table. Attacking Haley supporters as "RINOs" might make his MAGA base swoon, but it does not help him win the presidency. Neither does boasting on Truth Social that "Nikki Haley got TROUNCED last night, in record setting fashion" or dismissing her voters as "Radical Left Democrats." He needs to be gracious

in victory and make a concerted effort to earn the votes of Republicans who did not support him in the primaries.

He also needs to win over independent swing voters who like how his policies have improved their lives but don't like him. The reason he lost in 2020 is that he spent most of his time feeding his base instead of trying to expand it. He needs to win over persuad-

able Americans and bring them into his coalition, not drive them away. Biden's disastrous presidency means Trump-skeptical voters might be willing to give the former president a fresh look — but only if he asks for one.

How does he do that? He needs to convince them that a second Trump term would be a return not to chaos but to competence; that he would use the presidency not to seek revenge but to restore our country. He needs to pick a vice president with broad appeal to all wings of the party, not one who will confirm many Republicans' worst fears. And he needs to signal that he understands why some are skeptical about returning him to the White House and assure them that their concerns are unfounded — and thus give them permission to vote in their self-interest.

Biden is weak, and Trump's hardcore MAGA base is firmly behind him. But MAGA voters are not going to decide this election. Haley might be out of the race, but Haley voters and others who did not support Trump could decide the election.

Follow Marc A. Thiessen @marcthiessen on X



Marc Thiessen



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



Call to Worship

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



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

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

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH - NORTH
630 E. Dustman Rd.
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ASBURY CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST
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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.

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

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1309 W. Washington St.
blufftonwesleyan.net
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 & 6:30 p.m. - Worship.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FIRST BAPTIST
202 W. Cherry St.
fbcbuffton.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. 10:15 - Worship. 6 p.m. - Service.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
215 E. Dustman Rd.
firstpcbuffton.org
9:30 a.m. - Children/youth & Adult 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.

Time to Take a Devotional Break

WHAT'S IN YOUR HAND?

A well-known song from the 1960s extolled the virtue of everyone living their life MY WAY. Despite possible misunderstandings, the singer crooned that he had few regrets about living "his way" even though he admitted to making some mistakes. He believed that independently forging a path through life brought him the most satisfaction.

Not everyone is confident enough to do things "our way" — especially when God places His call to obedient service on our hearts. We may feel uncertain, unqualified, or simply terrified to attempt something completely new.

"When I pay this bill, I'll be able to..."

"After the kids are grown, we'll..."

"If I had more _____ (insert word here — time, money, energy, interest, etc.) I could..."

Exodus 3-4 tells the story of God presenting a life-changing mission to Moses through a burning bush. Moses approached the unique shrub with curiosity, obediently keeping a safe distance from the unusual sight (Exodus 3:5). But that is where the future leader of the Israelites showed us what NOT to do after receiving a heavenly mis-

sion: he began to question God's plan.

"Who am I to approach Pharaoh? (Exodus 3:11)"

"Whom should I say has sent me? (Exodus 3:13)"

"What if they don't believe me? (Exodus 4:1)"

"How can these stumbling lips adequately and eloquently speak for God? (Exodus 4:10)"

Finally, there came an outright refusal: "Send someone else. (Exodus 4:13)"

God answered each question and excuse by reminding Moses to use the resources he already had to prove the power and authority of his message (Exodus 4:2, 6).

While we serve a God of infinite power, He may require that we use the abilities and gifts He has given to us. He occasionally pairs us with someone who supports our mission, as He did by allowing Moses to work with his brother (Exodus 4:14), or we may be given a solitary task to complete. No matter the mission, God equips His people with all they require (Hebrews 13:21).

As God places His mission in your heart, His infinite provisions will meet every need — just don't be surprised if those miraculous supplies are already closer than you imagine.

mpaxson99@yahoo.com



by Martha Paxson

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.

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

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

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

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.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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.
ossiannumc.org
9 a.m. - Worship, Worship child care nurse. 10 a.m. - Fellowship. 10:15 - Adult Sunday School.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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
11419 N-200W, Ossian
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

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

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

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

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

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Maryland upsets No. 4 Ohio State in Big Ten Tournament to seize familiar spot in semis

By DAVE CAMPBELL
AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Shyanne Sellers had 25 points, eight rebounds and seven assists to lead Maryland's upset of fourth-ranked and regular-season champion Ohio State 82-61 in the quarterfinals of the Big Ten Tournament on Friday.

Brinae Alexander and Jakia Brown-Turner each scored 19 points and Faith Masonius added 15 points and 11 rebounds for the Terrapins (19-12), who delivered the type of statement performance that ought to push them toward the safe side of the bubble for an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament.

"I'm telling you right now: The Maryland team you see in March is not the same team you see at the beginning," Sellers said. "I think we just proved that."

Maryland will play the Nebraska-Michigan State winner on Saturday afternoon, the 10th time in 11 years the Terrapins have reached the semifinals. The Huskers and Spartans took the court for their quarterfinal game right after the Terrapins finished avenging two regular-season losses to Ohio State.

Maryland owned a 55-31 rebounding edge and a 19-5 advantage in second-chance points on the way to its

first win this season against a ranked opponent.

"To finally get over that hump today when it matters most in the most time of pressure is a testament to these guys," coach Brenda Frese said.

Rebeka Mikulasikova scored 16 points and Taylor Thierry had 13 points for the Buckeyes (25-5), whose quest for a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament took a hit. Ohio State has lost two games in a row.

"Maryland played a great game. They were really prepared. They played like a team that might have needed this to get in the tournament, and we played like a team that showed up as the No. 1 seed and everybody was just supposed to lie down," Buckeyes coach Kevin McGuff said.

Maryland beat Illinois on Thursday after entering the bracket as the No. 8 seed, the first time the Terrapins played in the second round of the tournament since joining the league nine years ago.

With second overall WNBA draft pick Diamond Miller now with the Minnesota Lynx and injuries factoring in, the season was a grind. After going 137-20 in conference play over their first nine years in the Big Ten, the Terrapins lost nine league games — more than the three previous seasons combined.

The Terrapins nonetheless brought

real potential to make a run this weekend with three graduate starters — Alexander, Brown-Turner and Masonius have 16 years of college experience between them — and a third-year star in Sellers.

The native of Aurora, Ohio, whose father, Brad Sellers, played for the Buckeyes and in the NBA, shot 9 for 17 from the floor and injected a spark into her team at the most pivotal moments. She sank a pullup jumper at the second-quarter buzzer for a 38-30 halftime lead.

Ohio State's full court press never fazed Maryland. The Buckeyes instead were flustered by the physical play in the paint — often voicing their frustration by the foul calls and non-calls that went against them. But the rebounding disadvantage is what really did them in.

"We looked like a volleyball team out there for half the game, just batting the ball around," McGuff said.

Jacy Sheldon, who had a quiet 10 points, eight below her team-leading average, was called for a charging foul late in the third quarter. Sellers hit a jumper on the other end. Then Cotie McMahon was hit in the face during a scrap for a rebound with no whistle, setting McGuff up for a technical foul after a fast break 3-pointer by Alexander gave Maryland a 15-point lead. Sellers sank both free throws to make it 61-44.

McMahon, who had 12 points and nine rebounds, finished 3 for 17 from the floor. The first team All-Big Ten player missed her first seven shots, at one point covering her face in her hands in disbelief after she couldn't get a one-handed leaner in the lane to fall.

Reds' Noelvi Marté suspended 80 games by MLB for positive drug test

NEW YORK (AP) — Noelvi Marté, a 22-year-old infielder who is the Cincinnati Reds' top prospect, was suspended for the first 80 games of the season on Friday following a positive test under Major League Baseball's drug program.



Noelvi Marté

Marté tested positive for the performance-enhancing substance Boldenone, triggering the first suspension under the big league program since Milwaukee right-hander J.C. Mejía was banned for 162 games on Sept. 20 for a positive test for Stanozolol. Mejía's suspension was his second under the program.

Marté was expected to be the Reds' starting third baseman this season, joining Cincinnati's core of young players that includes Elly De La Cruz, Matt McLain, Spencer Steer and Christian Encarnacion-Strand.

The suspension is without pay. Marté's salary this season was likely to be just above the \$740,000 minimum.

Marté signed with Seattle from the Dominican Republic for a \$1.55 million bonus in July 2018. He was traded to the Reds in July 2022 along with three other prospects for All-Star right-hander Luis Castillo.

Marté made his major league debut last Aug. 19 and hit .316 with three homers, 15 RBIs and six stolen bases in 35 games. He batted .279 with 20 doubles, 11 homers, 45 RBIs and 18 steals over three minor league levels last year.

Four players have been disciplined this year under the minor league program.

Joey Votto agrees to minor league deal with Blue Jays

TORONTO (AP) — Former NL MVP Joey Votto says he has agreed to a minor league contract with his hometown Toronto Blue Jays.



Joey Votto

The 40-year-old first baseman became a free agent last fall after the end of a \$251.5 million, 12-year contract with the Cincinnati Reds, his only team over 17 major league seasons.

"I am excited about the opportunity to work my way back to the Major Leagues. It's even sweeter to attempt this while wearing the uniform of my hometown team, the Toronto Blue Jays," Votto wrote Friday on X.

There was no immediate announcement by the team.

Votto hit .202 with 14 homers and 38 RBIs in 65 games last year. He didn't play his first game until June 19, 10 months to the day after surgery on his left biceps and rotator cuff.

A six-time All-Star and the 2010 NL MVP, Votto has a .294 average with 356 homers, 1,144 RBIs and a .409 on-base percentage in 2,056 games.

Cincinnati declined his \$20 million option for 2024.

ACAC released boys' basketball awards

The Allen County Athletic Conference released its all-conference selections for the 2023-24 season.

Bluffton's Tucker Jenkins was the lone selection in Wells County on the first team as a center. The senior finished with a team-high 13.1 points per game and six rebounds.

The Tigers also netted freshman sharpshooter Axton Beste on the list as an honorable mention. He shot the three-ball at a 47% clip.

Southern Wells pair of seniors Chandler Oswald and Evan Pennington also made the list. Oswald was on the second team and Pennington as an honorable mention.

Oswald led the Raiders with 13.2 points per game and Pennington 8.3.

The ACAC was dominated by Adams Central, who finished 6-0 in the conference and had three players on the first team: Isaac Schultz, Micah McClure and Trace Maller.

Bluffton finished tied for fourth with Heritage with a record of 3-3, while Southern Wells was sixth at 1-5.

Many moves by Stanley Cup contenders at NHL trade deadline leaves no clear favorite

By STEPHEN WHYNO
AP Hockey Writer

Florida got Vladimir Tarasenko, so the New York Rangers traded for Alexander Wennberg and Jack Roslovic and Carolina went out and got Jake Guentzel and Evgeny Kuznetsov.

Colorado reshaped its roster with Casey Mittelstadt, Brandon Duhaime and Sean Walker, so defending champion Vegas answered with one move bigger than the last: first Anthony Mantha, then Noah Hanifin and finally the stunner that beat the NHL trade deadline buzzer: landing All-Star forward Tomas Hertl.

After the dust settled, nearly every Stanley Cup contender made a significant addition before Friday's trade deadline and the league is no closer to having a clear-cut favorite than before the frenzy began. All the activity sets up what should be a wide-open chase for the title once the playoffs begin in six weeks.

"There isn't a Boston of last year that had an ungodly amount of points and (then) the rest of the league," St. Louis president and general manager Doug Armstrong

said. "So, if you were in that market and you were competing, you would have to think you have a chance to win a Cup and you maybe put a few more chips in."

The Golden Knights, as they've done for years as hockey's most prominent high-stakes gamblers, put all their chips in to try to go back to back. The defending NHL champions sent top prospect David Edstrom and their 2025 first-round pick to San Jose for Hertl, a two-time All-Star signed for six more seasons after this one.

Word of that move vaulted Vegas into a tie with the Panthers and Edmonton for the best odds — 7-1 — of winning it all, according to FanDuel Sportsbook. The Avalanche, Hurricanes, Dallas, Boston and the Rangers are not far behind but none of them higher than 11-1 to hoist the Cup.

"If you're a team that's contending for the Cup, the players want your manager, your management team to be aggressive, assertive and get as many good players in as you can," Washington GM Brian MacLellan said after trading Kuznetsov,

Mantha and defenseman Joel Edmundson. "It's a long haul, and teams load up for the playoffs."

Armstrong, whose Blues won the Cup in 2019 a year after MacLellan's Capitals, also pointed out his colleagues take risks giving up multiple draft picks and prospects in hopes of celebrating a championship in June.

"You can't predict how the playoff matchups are going to go," Armstrong said. "The teams in the Pacific and the teams in the Central loaded up and two of them are (going) to play each other in the first round. That's just the way it is. And so there's going to be somebody just as unhappy as teams that didn't make the playoffs."

But the swing is still worth it, especially for teams that did not give up a first-round pick. Only five were traded this week (including one that could only be No. 31 or 32) and seven total this season.

"It didn't seem like the market was there for first-rounders," MacLellan said. "A lot of the contending teams were the same teams

last year, too, that spent a lot of draft capital and prospects."

Tampa Bay's Julien BriseBois agreed, particularly that a lot of the top teams in the East spent big at the 2023 deadline. The Golden Knights, the only team to trade two first-rounders and an elite prospect, made moves as much to stem the tide of losses that have dropped them into a wild card spot as to set up another long run.

Vegas will have plenty of competition just to get through the West — not only from Colorado, Dallas and Edmonton but also Winnipeg, a dark horse that quietly got better by acquiring winger Tyler Toffoli and defenseman Colin Miller from New Jersey to go along with center Sean Monahan, who has been with the Jets since early February.

"You look at all the teams, it feels like everybody's trying to stack up and do whatever they can to win, so it's not going to be easy," Toffoli said. "It's always tough, and anything can happen in the playoffs."

Clark sets NCAA record for 3s in one season

By PATRICK DONNELLY
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Caitlin Clark broke the NCAA Division I record for 3-pointers in a season by a woman or man, finishing with 24 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists on a poor shooting night to lead No. 4 Iowa past Penn State 95-62 in the Big Ten Tournament quarterfinals on Friday.

Clark missed her first 11 3s before finally connecting in the fourth quarter. It was her 163rd 3-pointer of the season, surpassing Stephen Curry of Davidson (2007-08) and Darius McGhee of Liberty (2022-23) for the most by

a D-I player.

Clark, who had already surpassed Pete Maravich as the all-time leading scorer in D-I, finished 2 of 14 from long range and 5 of 19 from the field while facing frequent double-teams. But Iowa (27-4) still had little trouble with Penn State (19-12), leading 31-14 after the first quarter with Clark contributing only four free throws.

The second-seeded Hawkeyes advanced to face either Indiana or Michigan in the Big Ten semifinals on Saturday.

Sydney Affolter scored a career-high 18 points and had nine rebounds for Iowa. Gabbie Marshall scored 15,

Taylor McCabe had 12 and Kate Martin had 11 points and nine boards.

Leilani Kapinus led seventh-seeded Penn State with 19 points and Ashley Owusu had 18.

Clark, the nation's leading scorer who came in averaging 32.3 points per game, made her first field goal — a mid-range jumper — early in the second quarter. It was her only basket of the half, but she hit eight of nine free

throws before halftime and 12 of 13 overall.

She'd been held without a 3-pointer only once in her college career. Clark went 0-for-6 from beyond the arc but scored 24 points in a win over Purdue on Jan. 13, 2022.

The Nitanny Lions cut Iowa's lead to single digits just once after the first quarter. An 11-2 brought Penn State within 33-24. But Iowa scored the next nine points to regain control.

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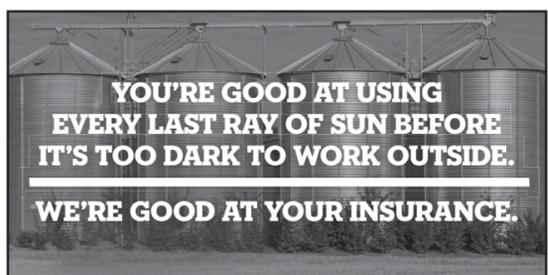
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BASKETBALL

High School Boys' Basketball Regional Schedule

4A
East Chicago Central vs. Mishawaka
Fort Wayne North Side vs. Fort Wayne Wayne
Kokomo vs. Fishers
New Palestine vs. Ben Davis
Franklin Community vs. Center Grove
Avon vs. Lawrence North
Jeffersonville vs. Evansville Harrison

3A
Peru vs. West Lafayette
Glenn vs. Suth Bend St. Joseph
Delta vs. Fort Wayne Concordia Lutheran
Batesville vs. Scottsburg
Northview vs. Danville
Guerin Catholic vs. Indianapolis
George Washington
Southridge vs. Evansville Bosse

2A
North Judson-San Pierre vs. 21st Century — Gary
Wapahani vs. Tipton
Wabash vs. Westview
Fort Wayne Blackhawk Christian vs. Lafayette Central Catholic
Switzerland County vs. Forest Park
Irvington Prep vs. Park Tudor
Sullivan vs. Brownstown Central
Parke Heritage vs. Northeastern

1A
Marquette Catholic vs. DeMotte Christian
Seton Catholic vs. Libery Christian
Tri-County vs. Elkhart Christian
Fort Wayne Canterbury vs. North Vermillion
Bethesda Christian vs. Clay City
Oldenburg Academy vs. Greenwood Christian
Christian Academy of Indiana vs. Barr-Reeve
Trinity Lutheran vs. Evansville Christian

College

Men's Basketball Scores Friday, Mar. 8

EAST
N. Illinois 78, Buffalo 68
SOUTH
ETSU 98, VMI 66
Hampton 56, Elon 55
High Point 77, Radford 63
Longwood 69, Winthrop 56
Mercer 84, The Citadel 76
UNC-Asheville 60, Charleston Southern 55
William & Mary 79, NC A&T 62
MIDWEST
Bowling Green 80, Ball St. 70
Cent. Michigan 65, E. Michigan 62, OT
Dayton 91, VCU 86, OT
Drake 79, Evansville 58
Indiana St. 78, Missouri St. 59
N. Iowa 67, Belmont 62
Ohio 72, Miami (Ohio) 59
Oral Roberts 77, South Dakota 62
UALR 82, W. Illinois 57
W. Michigan 90, Akron 84

Women's Basketball Scores Friday, Mar. 8

EAST
Albany (NY) 57, NJIT 42
Binghamton 56, Bryant 51
Florida St. 78, Syracuse 65
Georgetown 62, Xavier 40
Maine 49, Mass.-Lowell 43
Marshall 116, Appalachian St. 74
Rhode Island 57, Saint Joseph's 47
Seton Hall 71, DePaul 64
Vermont 54, UMBC 41
SOUTH
Austin Peay 73, Kennesaw St. 60
Chattanooga 66, Mercer 55
Duchesne 63, George Mason 62
Jacksonville 79, Bellarmine 62
James Madison 77, Southern Miss. 49
LSU 78, Auburn 48
NC State 54, Duke 51
Old Dominion 67, Louisiana-Monroe 64
Richmond 70, Loyola Chicago 54
Saint Louis 65, VCU 63
South Carolina 79, Texas A&M 68
Tennessee 83, Alabama 61
UNC-Greensboro 72, Wofford 62
Virginia Tech 55, Miami 47
MIDWEST
Iowa 95, Penn St. 62
Kansas 77, BYU 53
Maryland 82, Ohio St. 61
Nebraska 73, Michigan St. 61
Notre Dame 77, Louisville 68
Omaha 61, UMKC 55
Providence 69, Butler 60
S. Indiana 69, E. Illinois 54
SOUTHWEST
Baylor 71, Texas Tech 60
TCU 68, Oklahoma St. 66
UT Martin 54, UALR 48
FAR WEST
Loyola Marymount 78, Saint Mary's (Cal) 62
Pacific 72, San Diego 66
Stanford 66, Oregon St. 57

NBA

Thursday's Games

Detroit 118, Brooklyn 112
Minnesota 113, Indiana 111
Dallas 114, Miami 108
Phoenix 120, Toronto 113
Sacramento 131, San Antonio 129
Chicago 125, Golden State 122
Denver 115, Boston 109
Friday's Games
Washington 112, Charlotte 100
New Orleans 103, Philadelphia 95
New York 98, Orlando 74
Atlanta 99, Memphis 92
Cleveland 113, Minnesota 104, OT
Oklahoma City 107, Miami 100
Houston at Portland, 10 p.m.
Milwaukee at L.A. Lakers, 10 p.m.
Saturday's Games
Chicago at L.A. Clippers, 4 p.m.
Brooklyn at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Boston at Phoenix, 8:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Golden State, 8:30 p.m.
Utah at Denver, 9 p.m.
Toronto at Portland, 10 p.m.

HOCKEY

NHL

Thursday's Games

Philadelphia 2, Florida 1
Columbus 4, Edmonton 2
Washington 6, Pittsburgh 0
New Jersey 4, St. Louis 1
Calgary 6, Tampa Bay 3
Carolina 4, Montreal 1
Boston 4, Toronto 1
Nashville 4, Buffalo 2
Minnesota 5, Arizona 2
Vancouver 3, Vegas 1
N.Y. Islanders 7, San Jose 2
Los Angeles 4, Ottawa 3, OT
Friday's Games
Detroit at Arizona, 9 p.m.
Minnesota at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Dallas at Anaheim, 10 p.m.
Winnipeg at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Saturday's Games
Carolina at New Jersey, 12:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Buffalo, 12:30 p.m.
Nashville at Columbus, 12:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Boston, 3 p.m.
Calgary at Florida, 4 p.m.
Chicago at Washington, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at San Jose, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
St. Louis at N.Y. Rangers, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at Vegas, 10 p.m.
Winnipeg at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Dallas at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Edmonton at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Nashville at Minnesota, 3:30 p.m.
Calgary at Carolina, 5 p.m.
Arizona at Chicago, 6 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Anaheim, 8 p.m.
Monday's Games
New Jersey at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
St. Louis at Boston, 7 p.m.
Washington at Winnipeg, 7:30 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

BASEBALL

MLB

Thursday's Games
Tampa Bay 3, Philadelphia 2
Atlanta 3, Boston 2
Houston 6, St. Louis 3
Milwaukee 8, Chicago White Sox 2
Texas 7, Arizona 5
Oakland vs Cleveland at Mesa, Ariz., canc.
Seattle 5, L.A. Angels 0
Colorado vs Kansas City at Scottsdale, Ariz., canc.
Toronto 5, Detroit (ss) 4
N.Y. Mets 3, Washington 1
Detroit (ss) 11, N.Y. Yankees 5
Chicago Cubs 2, Cincinnati 2
San Francisco vs L.A. Dodgers at Scottsdale, Ariz., canc.
Friday's Games
Philadelphia 6, Houston 3
Pittsburgh (ss) 6, Minnesota 3
Pittsburgh (ss) 6, Atlanta 6
Toronto 2, N.Y. Yankees 1
Kansas City 4, Texas 2
Chicago Cubs (ss) 9, Seattle 5
Cleveland 2, Chicago White Sox 1
Milwaukee (ss) 7, Oakland (ss) 4, 1st game
L.A. Angels 8, Colorado 7
Arizona 7, Chicago Cubs (ss) 5
Baltimore 4, Detroit 3
St. Louis 7, Washington 6
N.Y. Mets 3, Miami 1
L.A. Dodgers vs Cincinnati at Phoenix, 8:05 p.m.
San Diego vs San Francisco at Peoria, Ariz., canc.
Oakland (ss) vs Milwaukee (ss) at Las Vegas, 9:05 p.m., 2nd game
Saturday's Games
Houston vs Washington (ss) at West Palm Beach, Fla., 12:05 p.m.
Atlanta vs Baltimore at North Port, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Detroit vs Pittsburgh at Lakeland, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Minnesota vs N.Y. Yankees at Fort Myers, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Philadelphia vs Toronto at Clearwater, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
St. Louis vs N.Y. Mets at Jupiter,

Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Cleveland vs L.A. Angels at Good-year, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Kansas City vs Arizona (ss) at Surprise, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers vs Texas at Phoenix, 3:05 p.m.
Oakland (ss) vs Milwaukee (ss) at Las Vegas, 3:05 p.m.
San Francisco vs Oakland (ss) at Scottsdale, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs vs Colorado at Mesa, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Milwaukee (ss) vs Seattle at Phoenix, 3:10 p.m.
San Diego vs Chicago White Sox at Peoria, Ariz., 3:10 p.m.
Arizona (ss) vs Cincinnati at Scottsdale, Ariz., 3:10 p.m.
Tampa Bay vs Boston at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 5:05 p.m.
Washington (ss) vs Miami at West Palm Beach, Fla., 6:05 p.m.
Sunday's Games
Baltimore (ss) vs Toronto (ss) at Sarasota, Fla., 1:05 p.m., 1st game
Boston vs Tampa Bay at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 1:05 p.m.
Houston vs Miami (ss) at West Palm Beach, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Minnesota vs Washington at Fort Myers, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees vs Atlanta at Tampa, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh vs Philadelphia at Bradenton, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Toronto (ss) vs Baltimore (ss) at Dunedin, Fla., 1:07 p.m., 2nd game
N.Y. Mets vs Detroit at Port St Lucie, Fla., 1:10 p.m.
Miami (ss) vs St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla., 1:10 p.m.
Cincinnati vs Cleveland at Good-year, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
Oakland vs Kansas City at Mesa, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
San Francisco (ss) vs Chicago White Sox at Scottsdale, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
Texas vs Chicago Cubs at Surprise, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers vs Arizona at Phoenix, 4:05 p.m.
L.A. Angels vs San Diego at Tempe, Ariz., 4:10 p.m.
Seattle vs San Francisco (ss) at Peoria, Ariz., 4:10 p.m.
Colorado vs Milwaukee at Scottsdale, Ariz., 4:10 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

Friday's Transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball
MLB — Suspended Cincinnati INF Noelvi Marte 80 games without pay for testing positive for a performance enhancing substance in violation of MLB's joint drug prevention and treatment program.
American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLOS — Optioned RHP Seth Johnson to the minor league camp. Reassigned C Silas Ardoin, RHPs Justin Armbruster, Garrett Stallings and Nathan Webb and LHP Ronald Guzman to the minor league camp.
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Optioned RHP Davis Martin, LHP Sammy Peralta, OF Oscar Colas and SS Jose Rodriguez outright to Charlotte (IL). Optioned RHP Josimar Cousin and LHP Jake Eder outright to Birmingham (SL). Reassigned LHPs Ky Bush and Fraser Ellard, Cs Adam Hachenberg and Edgar Quero and RHP Lane Ramsey to the minor league camp.
CLEVELAND GUARDIANS — Optioned OF George Valera and RHP Daniel Espino to Columbus (IL).
DETROIT TIGERS — Optioned RHP Brendan White outright to Toledo (IL). Reassigned RHPs Garrett Hill, Jackson Jobe and Ty Madden, LHP Brant Hurter and C Eliezer Alfonzo to the minor league camp.
LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Optioned RHP Jack Kochanowicz to Salt Lake (PCL).
TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Reassigned RHPs Andrew Bash, T.J. Brock, Chad Dallas, Devereaux Harrison and Ryan Jennings, Cs Zach Britton and Andres Sosa, LHP Jimmy Burnette, INF Damiano Palmeigiani and OF Alan Rodon to the minor league camp. Optioned LHP Adam Macko to Buffalo (IL).
National League
CHICAGO CUBS — Optioned OF Brennan Davis and SS Luis Vazquez to Iowa and RHP Porter Vozze to Tennessee (SL).
CINCINNATI REDS — Optioned OFs Reece Hinds and Jacob Hurtubise, RHPs Carson Spitzer, Casey Legumina and Christian Roa outright to Louisville (IL).
PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Optioned RHP Mike Burrows outright to Indianapolis (IL). Reassigned RHPs Connor Sadeck and Sean Sullivan to the minor league camp.
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Optioned RHP Adam Kloffenstein to Memphis (IL). Reassigned LHP Cooper Hjerpe to the minor league camp.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

CHICAGO BEARS — Re-signed LS Patrick Scales to a one-year contract. Signed DB Tarvarius Moore. Agreed to terms with WR Collin Johnson on a renegotiated contract extension.
CLEVELAND BROWNS — Agreed to terms with LT Jedrick Wills Jr. on a restructured contract.
PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Released CB Patrick Peterson and WR Allen Robinson. Signed DT Breiden Fehoko.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
ARIZONA COYOTES — Returned D Patrik Koch and F Dylan Guenther to Tucson (AHL) on loan. Acquired a 2024 sixth-round pick from Nashville in exchange for F Jason Zucker. Acquired a 2027 fifth-round pick from Tampa Bay in exchange for D Matt Dumba and a 2025 seventh-round pick.
BOSTON BRUINS — Returned C Marc McLaughlin to Providence (AHL) on loan. Signed D Parker Wotherspoon to a one-year contract extension.
CAROLINA HURRICANES — Acquired Evgeny Kuznetsov from Washington in exchange for a 2025 third-round pick.
CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Assigned DS Louis Crevier and Isaak Phillips to Rockford (AHL).
COLORADO AVALANCHE — Acquired a 2024 fifth-round pick from Anaheim in exchange for F Ben Meyers. Reinstated RW Valeri Nichushkin from personal leave.
COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS — Assigned G Malcolm Subban, acquired via trade with St. Louis in exchange for future considerations, to Cleveland (AHL). Assigned D Jakob Zbrnil, acquired via trade from Boston in exchange for D Andrew Peeke and a 2027 third-round pick, to Cleveland. Traded C Jack Roslovic to New York Rangers in exchange for a conditional 2026 fourth-round pick. Recalled F Trey Fix-Wolansky from Cleveland (AHL).
DETROIT RED WINGS — Assigned D Radim Simek to Grand Rapids (AHL).
FLORIDA PANTHERS — Acquired RW Kyle Okposo from Buffalo in exchange for D Calle Sjaln and was assigned to Rochester (AHL). Loaned G Evan Cormier to Charlotte. Acquired D Tobias Bjornfot off waivers from Vegas. Assigned D Zach Uens to Flor

MINNESOTA WILD

— Acquired F Turner Elson from New York Rangers in exchange for F Nic Petan. Elson was assigned to Iowa (AHL). Acquired Luke Toporowski, who will report to Iowa (AHL) and a conditional 2026 sixth-round pick from Boston in exchange for LW Pat Maroon. Returned LWs Adam Beckman and Jake Lucchini to Iowa. Acquired C Dmitry Ovchinnikov and a 2026 fourth-round pick from Toronto in exchange for C Connor Dewar. Ovchinnikov will play for Toronto (AHL).

NASHVILLE PREDATORS

— Acquired F Wade Allison from Philadelphia in exchange for F Denis Gurianov. Signed D Dante Fabbro to a one-year contract. Signed G Gustavs Grigals to a one-year, two-way contract. Signed F Mark Jankowski to a two-year contract.

NEW JERSEY DEVILS

— Acquired G Jake Allen from Montreal in exchange for a conditional 2025 third-round pick. Acquired a 2026 fourth-round pick from Winnipeg in exchange for D Colin Miller. Acquired G Kaapo Kahkonen from San Jose in exchange for G Vitek Vanecek and a 2025 seventh-round pick. Reassigned G Akira Schmid to Utica (AHL).

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS

— Acquired D Erik Johnson from Buffalo in exchange for a 2024 fourth-round pick in the.

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS

— Recalled D Ty Smith from Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL). Loaned Valteri RW Puustinen, C Jonathan Gudden and LW Joona Koppanen to Wilkes-Barre/Scranton. Traded G Magnus Helberg to Florida for G Ludovic Waeber and a conditional 2025 pick.

SAN JOSE SHARKS

— Acquired LW Klim Kostin from Detroit in exchange for D Radim Simek and a 2024 seventh-round pick. Assigned C Thomas Bordeleau to San Jose (AHL). Traded C Tomas Hertl, a 2025 third-round pick and a 2027 third-round pick to Vegas for C David Edstrom and a 2025 first-round pick. Traded D Nikita Khokhlov to Calgary for a 2024 fifth-round pick.

SEATTLE KRACKEN

— Signed RW Jordan Eberle to a two-year contract extension. Recalled D Cale Fleury from Coachella Valley (AHL). Assigned D Ryker Evans to Coachella Valley.

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING

— Reassigned DS Max Crozier and Emil Lilleberg to Syracuse (AHL).

VANCOUVER CANUCKS

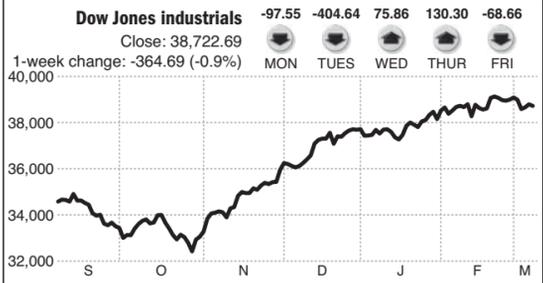
— Returned LW Vasily Podkolzin to Abbotsford (AHL) on loan.

WINNIPEG JETS

— Acquired RW Tyler Toffoli from New Jersey in exchange for a 2025 second-round pick and a 2024 third-round pick.

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

WEEKLY DOW JONES AND S&P 500



STOCK MARKET INDEXES

	52-Week High	Low	Name	Last	Wk Chg	Wk %Chg	YTD %Chg	12-mo %Chg
39,282.28	31,429.82	Dow Jones Industrials	38,722.69	-364.69	-93	+2.74	+21.35	
16,717.04	13,400.45	Dow Jones Transportation	15,718.22	-114.40	-7.2	-1.4	+10.62	
979.98	765.47	Dow Jones Utilities	855.65	+22.61	+2.71	-2.95	-3.59	
18,021.87	14,471.08	NYSE Composite	17,889.62	+161.35	+9.1	+6.15	+20.11	
16,449.70	10,982.80	Nasdaq Composite	16,085.11	-189.83	-1.17	+7.15	+44.41	
5,189.26	3,808.86	S&P 500	5,123.69	-13.39	-2.6	+7.42	+32.68	
2,994.56	2,322.38	S&P MidCap	2,952.39	+41.73	+1.43	+6.14	+20.38	
52,279.11	37,776.71	Wilshire 5000	51,615.39	-110.40	-2.1	+6.87	+34.49	
2,115.95	1,633.67	Russell 2000	2,082.71	+6.32	+3.0	+2.74	+17.49	
18,062.75	12,426.88	Lipper Growth Index	17,869.92	-115.94	-6.4	+10.20	+43.80	

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
SonSenL	18.79	+7.02	+59.6	CazooG rs	2.74	-1.86	-40.4	NY CmtyB	5373970	3.42	-1.3
NUScale	5.49	+2.04	+59.1	ViCSec	18.12	-10.32	-36.3	Palantir	5214507	26.04	+1.1
NaviomM	44.30	+9.95	+29.0	SOS Ltd	2.27	-1.25	-35.5	Pfizer	3520300	27.22	+6.3
OrionGPH	8.47	+1.80	+21.0	Methold	14.12	-7.48	-34.6	FormD	2788520	12.18	-2.7
Chemours	25.84	+5.06	+24.4	CwrdA	8.09	-3.93	-32.7	BiofAm	2305664	35.60	+1.25
DaqNewE	28.05	+5.16	+22.5	FootLockr	24.20	-10.40	-30.1	HP Ent	1893046	17.99	+2.43
HippoH	17.91	+3.23	+22.0	CwrdB	8.00	-3.31	-29.3	SnapInc A	1805679	12.39	+1.14
PaycomS	19.21	+3.39	+21.4	SunovEn	5.35	-1.89	-26.1	AT&T Inc	1717564	17.20	+2.2
GatosSilv	7.68	+1.29	+20.2	SpitAir	4.85	-1.61	-24.9	Nu Hldg	1705466	11.07	-2.0
HarmonyG	7.14	+1.20	+20.2	UdriNtrf	11.76	-3.62	-23.5	Petrobras	1663447	14.78	-1.90

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
AirshipAI	6.80	+5.31	+356.4	Amylyx	3.36	-15.35	-82.0	Tesla	5480072	175.34	-27.30
AptomG	6.88	+5.28	+328.7	MicCloud rs	5.42	-3.60	-39.9	SoFiTech	5129805	7.71	-1.28
BoneBio wt	19.58	+13.47	+220.5	AdiaPh rs	2.06	-1.20	-36.8	MarathDig	4383767	23.48	-3.52
TradeGr rs	25.53	+16.35	+178.1	CSP Inc	35.76	-20.14	-36.0	AMD	4270102	207.39	+4.75
OceanBio A	5.56	+3.56	+178.0	SemlerSci	30.62	-16.87	-35.5	Canoo rs	4212583	2.13	-29
NKGenBio	2.18	+1.33	+156.8	NaturUol	11.24	-5.75	-33.8	Apple Inc A	3924708	170.73	-8.93
NvHrAir A	2.85	+1.70	+147.8	VivanMed	2.05	-1.04	-33.7	RiviaAu A	3702611	12.78	+1.43
Energum A	8.12	+4.62	+132.0	Sidus A rs	4.14	-2.02	-32.7	Nvidia	3437555	875.28	+5.31
Solowin n	28.05	+15.52	+123.9	ChXiang rs	3.92	-1.81	-31.6	AirshipAI	2968169	6.80	+5.53
Immuron	3.80	+2.08	+120.9	RgnclBio	4.50	-2.04	-31.2	Intel	2800921	44.00	+1.8

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Name	Div	Last	Wk Chg	Wk %Chg	YTD %Chg	Name	Div	Last	Wk Chg	Wk %Chg	YTD %Chg
AFIAC	2.00	82.11	+1.68	+2.1	-5	Inv QQQ	1.16	439.02	-6.59	-1.5	+7.2
AT&T Inc	1.11	17.20	+2.2	+13	+2.5	JaguaH	...	08	-0.1	-7.9	-45.7
AMD	1.60	207.39	+4.75	+2.3	+40.						

The Classifieds

SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

3/9

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Help Wanted

THE CITY OF Bluffton Street Department is accepting applications for a Laborer/Truck Driver. The minimum educational requirement is a high school diploma or equivalent. Applicants must possess and maintain a CDL License or obtain one within the time limit. The City utilizes E-Verify and follows EEOC guidelines. Applications may be obtained from the Clerk Treasurer's office, 128 East Market St., Bluffton, IN between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm Monday-Friday or at www.blufftonindiana.net.

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 glacierepure@outlook.com

Pets

HELOISE HINT: Just got a new dog? If you're not careful, your dog can get dirty quickly. However, vets say not to use regular shampoo. Buy shampoos that are specifically formulated for your pet's breed. Fax Heloise @ 210-HELOISE (435-6473).

VEHICLES

Auto/Trucks

INDIANA AUTO AUCTION, INC. Huge Repo Sale March 14, 2024. Over 100 repossessed units for sale. Money order or cashier's check only. \$500 cashier's check or money order deposit per person required. Register 8 am-9:30 am. No public entry after 9:30 am. All vehicles sold AS IS! 4425 W. Washington Center Road, Fort Wayne. (A)

HELOISE HINT: How long does it take for brake fluid to become contaminated? According to the Car Care Council, it can happen in about two years. Have the brake fluid checked regularly so it can be changed before it goes bad. Write to HELOISE@Heloise.com.

RENTALS

Wanted to Rent

SMALL BUILDING FOR antique restoration project west of Bluffton, south of Uniondale. Approximately a two year project. Access to electricity needed. Call 386-965-3191.

NOTICE

Notices

HAVING AN UPCOMING event? A 20 word, line classified ad for six days is only \$24.50. Add a border for an additional \$1 or a graphic for an additional \$5. Contact the Bluffton News-Banner office at 260-824-0224 or 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton, IN, or online at news-banner.com and click on classifieds.

SERVICES

Services

PORTABLE OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 877-930-3271 (I)

CHOOSE EARTHLINK FIBER Internet for speeds up to 5 Gigs, no data caps, no throttling. Prices starting at \$54.95. Plus, a \$100 gift card when you make the switch. Call 1-833-754-0929 (I)

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Inogen One G4 is capable of full 24/7 oxygen delivery. Only 2.8 pounds. FREE information kit. Call 855-965-4916 (I)

Services

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

THINKING ABOUT INSTALLING a new shower? American Standard makes it easy. FREE design consultation. Enjoy your shower again! Call 1-855-475-0534 today to see how you can save \$1,000 on installation, or visit www.newshowerdeal.com/hoosier (I)

NEVER PAY FOR Covered Home Repairs Again! Complete Care Home Warranty COVERS ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. 30 DAY RISK FREE. \$200.00 OFF 2 FREE Months! 1-855-408-3894 (I)

Services

ETHAN'S OUTDOOR SERVICES LLC Lawn Care, Lawn Rolling, Spring & Fall Clean Ups, Landscaping & Grass Seeding. Call Ethan today for a free estimate. 260-827-7945. 260-827-7945 ethansoutdoor@gmail.com

HIGH-SPEED INTERNET. WE instantly compare speed, pricing, availability to find the best service for your needs. Starting at \$39.99/month! Quickly compare offers from top providers. Call 1-844-961-0666 (I)

GUARANTEED LIFE INSURANCE! (Ages 50 to 80). No medical exam. Affordable premiums never increase. Benefits never decrease. Policy will only be cancelled for non-payment. 833-535-1043 (I)

Lottery Numbers

Friday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY

Cash 5 — 07-19-31-40-41
Cash4Life — 16-37-42-49-51, Cash Ball: 02
Quick Draw Midday — 07-14-16-24-26-27-29-30-34-35-38-41-51-57-64-66-72-73-74-76, BE: 38
Daily Three-Midday — 01-01-08, SB: 05
Daily Three-Evening — 02-04-01, SB: 04
Daily Four-Midday — 09-08-03-03, SB: 05
Daily Four-Evening — 05-05-05-07, SB: 04
Quick Draw Evening — 01-09-21-23-26-28-32-35-37-38-50-51-53-55-60-66-67-68-73-79, BE: 32
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$6.1 million

MEGA MILLIONS

19-20-22-47-58, Mega Ball: 01, Megaplier: 3X
POWERBALL
 Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$521 million

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

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

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. 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.

HELOISE HINT: If you aren't happy at your current job. Think over what you dislike about it. Talk with your supervisor to see if there are any changes that can be made to resolve these issues. Fax Heloise @ 210-HELOISE (435-6473).



HOLLEY SALES, INC. is looking for an experienced medium duty / heavy duty truck mechanic. Full-time. Starting pay is \$25.00 per hour. 40-45 hours per week. Some Saturday mornings required. Paid uniforms. Vacation & holiday pay. Please apply in person at 12005 Indianapolis Rd. Yoder, IN 46798 or send your resume to dirk@holleytruckparts.com. For more information, call 260-478-7411.

Read & recycle

SUDOKU ANSWER

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



Now Seeking: Full-Time Housekeeper

Swiss Village, Inc. is now seeking a Full-Time, 1st Shift Housekeeper to work Monday-Friday with a minimal weekend commitment. Prior experience in housekeeping is preferred. Seeking candidates who are at least 18+ years of age. Position eligible for insurance benefits, Paid Time Off (PTO), and 403(b) Retirement Plan participation.

Apply online at www.swissvillage.org or send Resume to: **Kayla Reilly, HR Specialist**
Swiss Village | 1350 W. Main St. | Berne, IN 46711
 or email: careers@swissvillage.org
 EOE

Public Notice

Union Township, Wells County, Indiana Cash & Investments Combined Statement - 2023

Local Fund Number	Local Fund Name	Beg Cash & Inv Bal Jan. 1, 2023	Receipts	Disbursements	End Cash & Inv Bal Dec. 31, 2023
01	Governmental Activities				
01	Rainy Day	\$6,223.19	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,223.19
06	Levy Excess	\$185.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$185.00
1	Cumulative Fire	\$41,080.63	\$16,169.70	\$0.00	\$57,250.33
101	Township	\$50,299.58	\$27,885.21	\$20,114.73	\$58,070.06
2	Fire Fighting	\$16,872.85	\$23,023.16	\$20,967.21	\$18,928.80
205	Fire Equipment Debt Fund	\$4,937.78	\$27,040.08	\$27,560.46	\$4,417.40
5	Township Assistance	\$33,276.76	\$3,619.53	\$1,191.15	\$35,705.14
	Total All Funds	\$152,875.79	\$97,737.68	\$69,833.55	\$180,779.92

CERTIFICATION
 State of Indiana
 SS:

Wells County
 I, Brian D. Imel, Trustee of UNION TOWNSHIP, Wells County, Indiana, do solemnly affirm under the penalty of perjury that the preceding report contains the information required by Indiana Code 36-6-4-13, and is, true and correct; that the amounts with which I am charged in this report are all of the amounts received by me; and that the various items of expenditures credited have been fully paid in the amounts stated; that such payments were made without express or implied agreement that any portion thereof shall be retained by or repaid to me or to any other person. A complete abstract that contains the statements required under Indiana Code 36-6-4-13(a)(5) and (a)(6) is available for inspection in the county auditor's office.
 I further affirm that a complete and detailed annual report, together with all accompanying vouchers showing the names of persons having been paid money by the township, have been filed as required by law in the office of the County Auditor, and that copies of such annual report are in custody of the Township Board and the State Board of Accounts. Said report is subject to inspection by any taxpayer of the township.

Brian D. Imel
 UNION TOWNSHIP Trustee
 Telephone: 260-273-1834
 Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, the Chairman of the Township Board of UNION TOWNSHIP at its annual meeting, this 29th day of February, 2024.
 Robert L. Caley
 Township Board Chairman
 This report was received, accepted, and approved by the Township Board at its annual meeting, this 29th day of February, 2024.
 Union Township Board:
 Robert L. Caley
 Kedric Bailey
 John Walmsley

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Local Roundup

(Continued from Page 3)

meeting will directly follow the council meeting, during which the board will consider the election of officers, review an Economic Development annual report and approve an invoice for engineering resources.

Wells County SWCD board will meet Tuesday evening

The board of the Wells County Soil and Water Conservation District will meet at 9 a.m. Tuesday, March 12, in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Service Center at 117 W. Harvest Rd.

- Items on the agenda include:
- Reorganization of the board
 - Policy updates
 - Field days
 - Quickbooks

Bluffton Board of Works to meet Tuesday afternoon

The Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 12, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

- Items on the agenda include:
- Financial matters.
 - A request from Monica Edgeman regarding the 4-H 5K.
 - A water adjustment request for 321 W. Horton St.
 - Consideration of a MS4 agreement with Christopher Burke.
 - Opening of concrete bids.

Norwell school board will meet Tuesday evening

The board of the Norwell Community Schools will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 12, at the school district's central office, 312 N. Jefferson St. in Ossian.

- Items on the agenda include:
- Personnel matters.
 - Recognition of donations.
 - Field trip requests.
 - Superintendent's report, including recognition of NHS athletics, an update regarding the food and nutrition department, construction updates, and assessed values and tax rate comparisons.
 - Discussion regarding the board's policy for FMLA.
 - Discussion regarding SchoolCare Student Information Software, and consideration for its approval.
 - Consideration to remove the district's COVID-19 Continuous Education plan.
 - Approval of a job description for a physical therapist.
 - Approval of the pre-school handbook.
 - Adoption of CTE and related arts curriculum and elementary ELA curriculum.
 - Declaration of a no-value item.

Wells County Public Library board will meet Tuesday

The board of the Wells County Public Library will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 12, in the meeting room of the main library, 200 W. Washington St.

- Items on the agenda include:
- Reports from the librarian, staff, treasurer and director.
 - Committee reports regarding the building, budget, police and bylaws, and public awareness and outreach.
 - Review of winter reading statistics.
 - Discussion regarding the solar eclipse.
 - Review of the 2023-27 long-range plan.
 - Discussion regarding the WCPL endowment funds.
 - Personnel and financial matters.

Markle Town Council will meet Wednesday evening

The Markle Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 11, in the meeting room of the Markle fire station, 150 W. Sparks St. in Markle.

- Items on the agenda include:
- Discussion with Craig Lutz of Republic Services.
 - Second reading and vote on Ordinance 2024-1.
 - Town Correspondence
 - Operations manager, town marshal, clerk-treasurer reports
 - HCUED and Region 3-A reports

Rock Creek Conservancy District will meet Thursday

The board of the Rock Creek Conservancy District will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 14, at the Liberty Center Fire Department, 2954 W. Market St.

- Items on the agenda include:
- Maintenance and water monitoring program reports.
 - Treasurer's reports and claim forms.

Bluffton parks board will meet Thursday evening

The Bluffton parks board will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 14, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

- Items on the agenda include:
- Project updates.
 - Requests regarding the park diamonds.
 - Request for the Washington tennis court May 21-22.
 - Request for Pickett's Run for the FCS Duck Race Aug. 10.
 - Summer hiring consideration of reproping T-ball diamond at Lions park.
 - Recognition of department donations.

Wells County Briefs

Council approves additional appropriations, transfers

The Wells County Council approved a series of additional appropriations during their meeting Tuesday. They were as follows:

- Sheriff's Department: \$10,305 for overtime, to be reimbursed by the Ossian Police Department, \$63,900 for police vehicles and \$11,900 for equipment.
- Health Department: \$4,042.10 for part-time clerical work, \$5,726.30 for supplies, \$3,368.41 for contractual services, \$5,389.46 for other services, \$1,684.21 for travel and \$13,473.66 for equipment. These funds were reimbursed by an Immunization Cooperative Agreement grant.
- Clerk's Office: \$909.89 for supplies, \$17,985 for maintenance and \$9,000 for app development. These funds were reimbursed by a federal HAVA grant.
- Superior Court: \$2,000 for translation

services. These funds will be reimbursed by a court interpreter grant.

- CASA: \$10,749 for the director, \$3,000 for guardian ad litem, \$230 for volunteer recognition, \$500 for training and recognition and \$2,777 for room rental.

- Highway Department: \$555,848 for Community Crossing Matching Grant for rehabilitation of County Road 450 East from 1000 North to 11000 North.

All council members were present Tuesday.

Drainage board appoints qualified deputy

The Drainage Board unanimously approved Corey McKinney as a qualified deputy during their Monday meeting. Surveyor Jarrod also presented an annual Flood Safety Awareness proclamation during the following commissioners' meeting.

All commissioners were present Monday.

Norwell grad interns with Indiana House of Representatives

This legislative session, Norwell High School graduate Hayden Emrah is gaining professional experience as a legislative intern with the Indiana House of Representatives.

Emrah, a Wells County native, is the son of Josh and Tori Emrah. He graduated from Ball State University in 2022 with a degree in public relations.

"This opportunity to meet so many incredible people while completing meaningful work on behalf of Hoosiers has been a rewarding experience," Emrah said. "I'm grateful to be able to learn and work alongside staffers and legislators, and I'm excited to use the skills I've gained here in my future career."

As a legislative intern, Emrah corresponds with constituents through phone calls, letters and emails while also staffing committee hearings and floor proceedings.

"I'm delighted to see the exceptional work Hayden has done during his internship," Lehman said. "His

commitment and strong interpersonal skills have helped greatly throughout session, and it's good to see a local student take advantage of this opportunity.

At the start of each year, the Indiana House of Representatives offers paid internship opportunities to college

students, law students, graduate students, and recent college graduates for the duration of the legislative session.

For more information on the House Republican internship program, visit IndianaHouseRepublicans.com/internship.

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Police Notebook

(Continued from Page 3)

300 West and West 300 North, Bluffton. Report of a dead deer in the road.

Friday, 7:19 a.m., S.R. 1 and East 1200 South, Montpelier. Report of a Jay County Sheriff's Department vehicle speeding through area. JCSD advised they do not have a vehicle in the area.

Friday, 11:38 a.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served to Jon Baumgardner.

Ossian:

Thursday, 2:35 p.m., North 450 East and 100 North, Ossian. Driver cited for speeding.

ACCIDENTS

Wednesday, 6:47 p.m., S.R. 218 and 600 West. Elizabeth Hendricks, 82, was driving when the driver side mirror of her Chevrolet Equinox struck the driver side mirror of a Ford Edge driven by Enrique Lopez, 28. Only the driver mirror's

of each vehicle sustained damage. Damages did not exceed \$2,500.

ARRESTS

John Alexander Burke, 33, Bluffton; criminal trespassing, a Class A misdemeanor, and possession of marijuana, a Class B misde-

meanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

Katharine Anne Rao, 40, Yoder; driving while suspended — prior, a Class A misdemeanor.

Yuliana Caloneo Morillo, 40, Marion; operating without ever obtaining a license, a Class A misdemeanor.

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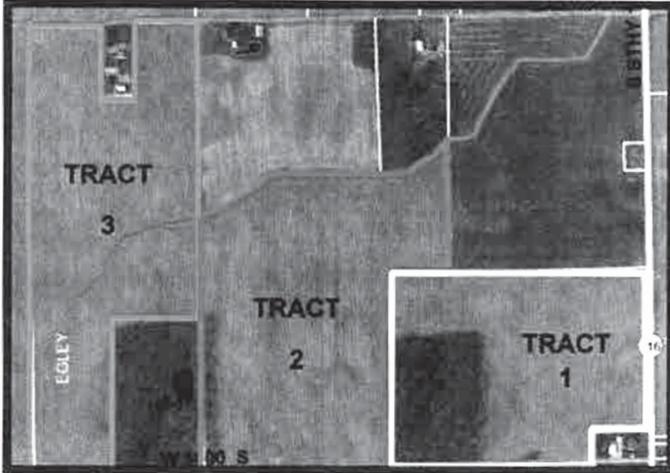
Public Sale Calendar

BIDDING STARTS CLOSING MARCH 14 - 10 a.m. EST - Clemens and Carol Burger, owners. Ken-Bar Tool & Engineering Company liquidation! Over 300 lots. 2016 GMC Sierra, 2005 Chevrolet 3500 cargo van, 2008 Mercury Grand Marquis, CNC machines, mills, lathes, ladders, grinders, saws, tooling, tools, more! Preview March 11, 10 a.m.-noon, 3121 S. Walnut St., Muncie, call for information. Pickup March 18 and 19, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., large items can be picked up by appointment only up to 10 days. **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC**, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.
MARCH 14 - 6 p.m. - Denver Neuenchwander Estate, sellers. Lehman Park, 212 Park Ave., Berne. 135+/- acres available. Selling in 3 tracts, as a combination or whole unit. Tract 1: 39+/- acres along SR 116, tillable/woods. Tract 2: 48+/- acres along 1000 S, tillable. Tract 3: 48+/- acres along 1000 S, tillable. **Heartland Auction & Realty, Inc.**, heartlandauctionrealty.com, 260-724-3499.
MARCH 17-25 - (Online Only Auction) - Various consignors, seller. Antiques, primitives, Lionel trains and train items, modern furniture, vintage advertising, household items, patio furniture. Auction Preview: March 19 and March 21 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 118 East Craig St., Ossian, IN. **The Steffen Group Inc.**, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.
MARCH 23 - 10 a.m. - Various owners represented. Location: Farmers Grain & Ag LLC,

1257 St. Rd. 33, Willshire, OH. Tractors, combines, heads & carts, harvest equip., Grain carts, wagons, trucks, trailers, pickups, construction, manure equipment, livestock equipment, hay equipment, planters, no-till drills, sprayers, NH3 bars, farm related, miscellaneous, mowers & ATVs, toys, native lumber. Questions, call: Farmers Grain & Ag, LLC, 419-495-2338. Auction managers: Ritter Cox, 800-451-2709, 260-609-3306 & Tim Kreider, 260-413-8008. **Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc.**, 260-244-7606, 800-451-2709, SchraderAuction.com.
MARCH 23-30 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of Sandra McCay and others, seller. 2007 Dodge Caliber SXT sedan, 1999 Ford F250 with dump bed, 2013 12' utility trailer, primitives, Turn of the Century cast iron riding horse, quilts, large qty. of crocks, antique furniture, Fenton, Carnival and other glassware. Preview: March 21, March 28 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 816 S. 11th Street, Decatur, IN. **The Steffen Group Inc.**, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.
APRIL 7-14 - (Online Only Auction) - Unique Blue Bar and Grill (Formerly Stag Bar), seller. Ongoing needs. Outstanding collection of beer signs, neon signs, beer taps, collectibles, tools, much more. Preview: April 4 and April 11 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 205 W. Market St., Bluffton, IN. **The Steffen Group Inc.**, <http://www.steffengrp.com>, 260-824-3006.

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