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THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024

BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

\$1.00

Ossian man on probation after child pornography verdict

By SYDNEY KENT

A 34-year-old Ossian man who admitted to uploading violent child pornography to a Verizon server will spend less than two years on probation.

Last week Avery Dean Bodwell was sentenced to 912 days in prison with 586 days suspended for one count of possession of child pornography, a Level 6 felony. With 326 days of jail credit towards his sentence, Bodwell's incarceration time is effectively served. He is required to report to probation for 545 days.

In April 2022, detectives



Avery Dean Bodwell

received a tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children that a file containing child pornography was uploaded to Synchronoss Technologies Inc., a cloud-based storage provider for Verizon. Bodwell's phone number was traced back to

the file.

According to a probable cause affidavit, the description of the uploaded image depicted a woman and young child in a sexually abusive incident.

The tip led to a search warrant, and in June 2023, members of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, the Ossian Police Department, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security executed a search of Bodwell's home. Additional pornographic files depicting child sexual abuse and violent acts against young children were also located.

Though he was arrested on preliminary charges of possession of child pornography, a Level 6 felony, he was able to post bail the same day.

In November 2023, four additional Level 6 felonies for possession of child pornography were added. When a detective attempted to serve Bodwell the warrant for the additional charges, he reportedly left the property in a vehicle moments before.

He was detained at a traffic stop shortly after, where he resisted arrest. Bodwell was then charged with resisting law enforcement,

a Class A misdemeanor. He was sentenced to 60 days in jail for the crime last week.

Bodwell also did not have identification with him at the time. As a registered sex offender from a conviction for attempted sexual exploitation of a minor in Utah, Bodwell is required to possess identification at all times. This resulted in Bodwell being charged with failure to possess identification, another Level 6 felony.

According to court documents, the charge was dismissed a week ago.

sydney@news-banner.com



Southern Wells Junior/Senior High School honored soon-to-graduate seniors Wednesday night. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

Southern Wells recognizes seniors

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Southern Wells Jr./Sr. High School seniors were honored Wednesday for their academic accomplishments and scholarships.

The honored seniors were:

• Seth Alstoft: U.S. Marine Semper Fidelis Award for Musical Excellence, Dollars For Scholars,

Skilled Trade Scholarship and Technical Honors Recognition.

• Andrew Aker: 10 Varsity letters.

• Case Boxell: G. Robert and Emma Studabaker Agriculture Scholarship, Wells County 4-H Scholarship, Bluffton Elks Lodge 795 Award, Friends of Five Points School Scholarship, Southern Wells Athletic

Boosters Scholarship, Technical Honors Recognition and Dollars For Scholars.

• Joshua Bricker: U.S. Marine Scholastic Excellence Award, Ford Meter Box Scholarship, Southern Wells Athletic Boosters Scholarship, Wells County 4-H Scholarship, Bluffton Elks Lodge 794 Award, Dollars For Scholars, Glenis S. Dick Memorial

Scholarship Academic and Technical Honors Recognition and Top 10.

• Malaina Culbertson: Forrest D. Ramseyer Memorial Scholarship, Bettye J. Minniear Memorial Scholarship, LIGHT the Way Gifting Scholarship, Eric Snow Memorial Scholarship, Horatio Alger National Scholar, English

(Continued on Page 2)

Braun tabs McGuire as his choice for lieutenant governor

By The Associated Press

Indiana Republican gubernatorial nominee U.S. Sen. Mike Braun announced on Wednesday his choice for his running mate in the November election.

Braun, who won the recent primary with nearly 40% of votes, first announced his endorsement of state Rep. Julie McGuire in an interview with the Indianapolis Star. Indiana's lieutenant governor nominees are officially chosen by delegates at annual party conventions, and traditionally, party delegates honor the wishes of the gubernatorial nominee.

McGuire was elected to the statehouse just two years ago and represents parts of Marion County. In 2022, she unseated former Republican state Rep. John Jacob, who angered members of his party in part by repeatedly pushing a complete ban on abortion. Indiana's current law makes exceptions to the ban in rare and limited circumstances.

In a post on the social platform X announcing his choice, Braun called McGuire a "strong conservative."

"Julie shares my vision of making Indiana a national beacon of freedom and opportunity," the statement said.

The GOP convention will be held June 15. If nominated by the delegates, McGuire will join Braun's ticket in running against Democratic gubernatorial nominee Jennifer McCormick and Libertarian Donald Rainwater.

In an unusual situation this year, McGuire will be up against a conservative pastor from Noblesville, Micah Beckwith, who is actively campaigning for the position.

McGuire was uncontested in her own primary this year. Braun defeated five other Republican candidates in Tuesday's primary, including current Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch. Outgoing Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb is term-limited.



State Rep. Julie McGuire

Four properties are removed from TIF district's expansion

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Four properties slated to go on the Tax Increment Fund district's acquisition list were removed from the list before the resolution was approved on Tuesday.

After the Common Council approved the list in step three of the four-step process, the Redevelopment Commission held a public meeting about the expansion of the acquisition list. The Redevelopment Commission adopted the resolution on April 2, followed by approval from the Wells County Area Plan Commission and the Common Council.

"All we are doing is adding properties to a list," City Attorney Tony Crowell said prior to public comments Tuesday. "It doesn't mean that the Redevelopment

Commission is going to ... go out and talk to those property owners and try to buy the properties. It's simply adding properties to a list so that if some time in the future, if there is an interest, that someone may want to develop that property for an industry or business, it's already on the list so they don't have to go through this process. It's not a list that requires the Redevelopment Commission to buy any properties. It's not a list that requires the owners to sell their property."

Crowell clarified that the only property the commission ever purchased using TIF dollars was the property needed to improve Snider Drive and build a cul-de-sac there.

In public comments, Matt

(Continued on Page 2)

Clerk and auditor to receive stipends

By HOLLY GASKILL

The Wells County Council kept things brief Wednesday after an already-long week with the primary election.

With the election in mind, the council unanimously approved a new \$2,500 stipend allowed for the auditor and clerk through House Enrolled Act 1328. Clerk Beth Davis will receive a \$2,500 stipend to compensate for her additional election duties. The council will be able to renew the stipend for the clerk during every general election.

Additionally, Auditor Lisa McCormick will also receive a \$2,500 annual stipend for additional work required for duties to the council; this is effective immediately and will be renewed annually at the discretion of the council.

The stipends will be added to the salary ordinance at the council's next meeting.

Also during the meeting, the council nominated

(Continued on Page 2)



Training for the Olympics

Nine residents of Ossian Health Care and Rehabilitation Center are preparing for an annual "Olympics" competition, which will be held May 30 in Marion. Above left, Doris Bowman practices her bowling skills while, at right, Beverly Markley works on her putting under the watchful eyes of activities assistant Tiffany Kelly. The event is an intramural competition among the centers operated in Indiana by TLC Management and will include good-natured competition in virtual soccer, checkers, darts, cornhole and trivia in addition to putting and bowling. (Photos by Mark Miller)

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Outside



Just what we need: Some more rain

Today	Friday	Saturday
High 61	High 62	High 63
Low 46	Low 47	Low 43

More Weather on Page 2

Online

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Vol. 95 No. 161

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Southern Wells

(Continued from Page 1)

Department Award, Business Department Award, Academic Honors Recognition, Dollars For Scholars and Top 10.

- Dhapne Gallegos: Dr. Harry Brickley Farm Foundation Scholarship.
- Perrin Gates: Claude and Helen Decker Scholarship, Wells County 4-H Scholarship, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Cole Memorial Scholarship, Dollars For Scholars, Academic Honors Recognition, 10 Varsity letters and Top 10.
- Jaxon Heath: Lightle Endowed Scholarship, Technical Honors Recognition and Dollars For Scholars.
- Erik Habegger: Wells County Turnaround Scholarship.
- Caleb Johnson: August and Eleanor Streater Mathematics and Science Scholarship, James and Glennis Dick Business Scholarship, Boehmer United Methodist Church Scholarship, Forrest D. Ramseyer Memorial Scholarship, Claude and Helen Decker Scholarship, Southern Wells Athletic Boosters Scholarship, Academic Honors Recognition, Dollars For Scholars, The Laymon Scholarship and Top 10.
- Brayden Jackson: Technical Honors Recognition.
- Ella Lahr: I.S.W.A.T. Educational Scholarship, Indiana Association of Principals Indiana Association of Principals Academic All-Star Nominee, Southern Wells Athletic Boosters Scholarship, Dollars For Scholars, Academic Honors Recognition, U.S.

Marine Distinguished Athlete, Steve Wagner Memorial Scholarship, Glennis S. Dick Memorial and Top 10.

- Peyton Long: Southern Wells Athletic Boosters Scholarship, Academic Honors Recognition, Bruce C. Bade Scholarship, U.S. Marine Distinguished Athlete, Geraldine McFerren Meyers Scholarship, Montpelier Alumni Association Scholarship, Dollars For Scholars, 10 Varsity letters and Top 10.
- Tessa Maul: Southern Wells Athletic Boosters Scholarship, Academic Honors Recognition, Bluffton Fraternal Order of Firefighters Scholarship, The Laymon Scholarship, Steve Wagner Memorial Scholarship, Dollars For Scholars and Top 10.
- Gabe McElhaney: Agriculture Department Award, Technical Honors Recognition and Dollars For Scholars.
- Kammy Miller: N. David Kelsay Scholarship, Helena Homegrown Scholarship — Markle Branch, Agricultural Department Award, Technical Honors Recognition, Bluffton Elks Lodge 796 Award and Dollars For Scholars.
- Andrew Pearson: Academic Honors Recognition and Dollars For Scholars.
- Matthew Pearson: Academic Honors Recognition.
- Evan Pennington: Academic Honors Recognition, Dollars For Scholars and Top 10.
- Emma Peterson: Bettye J. Minniear Memorial Scholarship, and Gaylord and Crystal Mounsey Scholarship.

- Keith Pluimer: Montpelier Lions Club Scholarship, Agriculture Department Award, Montpelier Gamma Beta Chapter of Tri-Kappa Award, Dollars For Scholars and Top 10.
- Madalyn Scott: Academic Honors Recognition.
- John Shimp: JD Morgan Memorial Scholarship and Top 10.
- Audrey Sweeden: Technical Honors Recognition and Wells County 4-H Scholarship.
- Devin Tarr: Montpelier Gamma Beta Chapter of Tri-Kappa Award.
- Merissa Taylor: Wells County 4-H Scholarship.
- Yazmine Tucker: Southern Wells Athletic Boosters Scholarship and Dollars For Scholars.
- Karlee Warner: Dr. Harry Brickley Farm Foundation Scholarship, Academic and Technical Honors Recognition, Sheri Herr Memorial Scholarship, Art Department Award, Social Studies Department Award, Southern Wells Athletic Boosters Scholarship, Friends of Five Points School Scholarship, Dollars For Scholars, Bettye J. Minniear Memorial Scholarship and Gaylord and Crystal Mounsey Scholarship.
- Tristen Worster: Academic Honors Recognition, Robert E. Pence Work Based Learning Scholarship, Paddlefish Clean Energy Advocate Scholarship, Math Department, Dollars For Scholars and Top 10.
- Delaney Zigler: Dollars For Scholars.

jonathan@news-banner.com

Four properties

(Continued from Page 1)

Reiff, who owns property on Meridian Road slated to be added to the district, was concerned that the RDC would be putting him in competition with the city for negotiations with other businesses, should they open up.

In response, RDC member Scott Mentzer stated that the city has never had the desire to own property. Mentzer also noted that the city will not force a deal to go through, and there is no plan to turn the property into something else.

"The preference will always be for the owner and the business to execute the deal," Mentzer said. The city would only step in the middle should the parties feel like a third-party is necessary

to work something out. Really, we don't want to be involved in the process."

Courtney and Brett Pfister, who own property on State Road 100 South, also had concerns that the term "acquisition list" is a misleading statement. Courtney Pfister stated that he rents and farms 100 acres of land to the north of his property, which he plans to buy. Those 100 acres are currently owned by Leonda Stieglitz, according to the proposed list.

Pfister was concerned that a developer could swoop in and make a better offer and harm his future prospects. Mentzer and the board reminded him that, as property owners, the members

of the district keep full rights to negotiate or not negotiate. RDC member Chandler Gerber reaffirmed that there are no current plans for the land, nor any current interest from developers to acquire those plots.

"We are only here to help owners and sellers mutually do what they want to do," Mentzer added. "If that's not of interest for you (Courtney), to give you another option as an owner to allow the city to facilitate (negotiations) with whomever you may want to, we'll take your property off the list."

The RDC agreed to modify the agreement with Reiff's, Pfisters', and Stieglitz's properties.

jonathan@news-banner.com

Chaos reigns as Rafah border closed

By WAFSA SHURAF, SARAH EL DEEB and LEE KEATH

Association Press
RAFAH, Gaza Strip — Tens of thousands of displaced and exhausted Palestinians have packed up their tents and other belongings from Rafah, dragging families on a new exodus.

The main hospital has shut down, leaving little care for people suffering from malnutrition, illnesses and wounds.

And with fuel and other supplies cut off, aid workers have been scrambling to help a population desperate after seven months of war.

Gaza's overcrowded southernmost city has been thrown into panic and chaos by Israel's seizure of the nearby border crossing with Egypt and as its possible full-scale invasion of Rafah looms.

Families uprooted multiple times by the war are unsure where to go: to the half-destroyed city of Khan Younis, to points even farther north, or to an Israeli-declared "humanitarian zone" in Gaza already teeming with people with little water or supplies?

The past three days, streams of people on foot or in vehicles have jammed the roads out of Rafah in a confused evacuation, their belongings piled high in cars, trucks and donkey carts. All the while, Israeli bombardment has boomed and raised palls of smoke.

"The war has caught up with us even in schools. There is no safe place at all," said Nuzhat Jarjer. Her family packed on Wednesday to leave a U.N. school-turned-shelter in Rafah that was rapidly emptying of

the hundreds who had lived there for months.

Rafah had 250,000 residents before the war. Its population had ballooned to some 1.4 million as people from across Gaza fled there. Nearly every empty space was blanketed with tent camps, and families crammed into schools or homes with relatives. Like the rest of Gaza's population, they have been largely reliant on aid groups for food and other basics of life.

Israel on Monday issued evacuation orders for eastern parts of the city, home to some 100,000. It then sent tanks to seize the nearby Rafah crossing with Egypt, shutting it down.

It remains uncertain whether Israel will launch an all-out invasion of Rafah as international efforts continue for a cease-fire. Israel has said an assault on Rafah is crucial to its goal of destroying Hamas after the militant group's Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel that left 1,200 dead and 250 as hostages in Gaza.

The United States, which opposes a Rafah invasion, has said Israel has not provided a credible plan for evacuating and protecting civilians. The war has killed over 34,800 Palestinians, according to Gaza health officials, and has driven some 80% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million Palestinians from their homes.

For now, confusion has reigned. Fearing a greater assault, Palestinians fled districts other than the eastern areas they were ordered to leave. Tens of thousands are estimated to have left, according to a U.N. official who spoke on condition of anonymity because agencies

were still trying to determine precise figures.

Tent camps in some parts of Rafah have vanished, springing up again further north along main roads. New camps have filled streets, cemeteries and the beach in the central Gaza town of Deir al-Balah, 15 kilometers (10 miles) north, said Ghada Alhaddad, who works there with the aid group Oxfam.

Others made their way to Khan Younis, much of which was destroyed in a months-long Israeli ground assault.

Suze van Meegeen, head of operations for the Norwegian Refugee Council in Palestine, said the Rafah district where she is based "feels like a ghost town."

The Israeli military told those evacuating to go to a "humanitarian zone" it declared in Muwasi, a nearby rural area on the Mediterranean coast. The zone is already packed with some 450,000 people, according to the U.N. Few new facilities appear to be prepared, despite the military's announcements that tents, medical centers and food would be present.

The ground is covered in many places with sewage and solid waste, since there are few sanitation facilities, aid workers say. Clean water is lacking and dehydration is a major problem, with temperatures some days already reaching 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 Celsius).

The water quality is "horribly bad. We tested some of the water and the fecal content ... is incredibly high," said James Smith, a British emergency doctor volunteering at the European General Hospital in nearby Khan Younis. Acute

jaundice is rampant — and probably caused by hepatitis, but there are no capabilities to test, he said.

The newly arrived struggle to find tents because of an extreme shortage among aid groups.

Before his family left Rafah to Muwasi, Iyad al-Masry said he had to sell food received from aid groups to buy a tent for the equivalent of nearly \$400.

While setting up the tent, the family smoothed the dirt ground before setting down a cradle to rock an infant in. Al-Masry said he has been searching for water and can't afford the three shekels — a little less than \$1 — that sellers charge for a gallon of drinking water.

"We want to eat ... We are just waiting for God's mercy," he said.

Nick Maynard, a surgeon with Medical Aid for Palestinians who left Gaza on Monday, said two teenage girls who had survivable injuries died last week because of complications from malnutrition.

"They get this vicious cycle of malnutrition, infection, wounds breaking down, more infection, more malnutrition," said Maynard.

Weather

Thursday, May 9, 2024
 (24-hour observations at 10:05 p.m. Wednesday)
High: 80; Low: 58; Precipitation: None
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 3.46 feet at 5:45 p.m. Wednesday

Wells County forecast

Thursday: A chance of showers before 11 a.m., then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., then showers likely after 5 p.m. Cloudy, with a high near 61. East wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

Thursday Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms before 11 p.m., then a slight chance of showers between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 46. North wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Friday: Partly sunny, with a high near 62. Northwest wind around 10 mph.

Friday Night: A 40% chance of showers after 2 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 47. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest after midnight.

Saturday: A chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 63. Breezy. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 43.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 69.

Sunday Night: A 20% chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 53.

Monday: A slight chance of showers, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 75. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Monday Night: A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 54.

Tuesday: A 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 75.

Tuesday Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 58.

Wednesday: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Partly sunny, with a high near 76.

Clerk, auditor

(Continued from Page 1)

Stephanie Tucker for a one-year appointment to the Ossian Economic Development Commission. The council had previously nominated Scott Elzey but has since been informed the board already had someone in mind and was permitted to recommend a nomination.

holly@news-banner.com



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OBITUARIES

Thomas Woodard, 89

Thomas "Tom" E. Woodard, 89, of Bluffton, passed away Saturday evening, April 6, 2024, at Bluffton Regional Medical Center.

Tom was born in Bluffton on May 31, 1934, to Paul R. and Noravieve (Bowen) Woodard; both parents preceded him in death.

A 1952 graduate of Bluffton High School, Tom went on to serve in the U.S. Army from 1954 to 1956. He worked at Franklin Electric in Bluffton as an inspector, retiring after 45 years of service. He was a member of the American Legion Post 111 and the Bluffton Elks Lodge #796. Tom enjoyed NASCAR, playing cards, and hanging out with friends on Saturdays. He also loved his cat, "Wolf".

Tom is survived by many close friends, including his extended family, the Pauley

and Hatfield families of Bluffton.

A public graveside service will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, May 10, 2024, at Six Mile Cemetery in Bluffton. American Legion Post 111 chaplain Dr. Bryson E. Bell will officiate, with military rites being conducted by the American Legion Post 111 and the United States Army honor guard.

Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Legion Post 111.

Online condolences may be made at www.goodwincaleharnish.com.



Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:
Monday, 4:40 p.m., Pine Grove Apartments. Report of fighting. Officer discovered two different couples in verbal arguments, both going through divorces.

Monday, 5:44 p.m., 200 block of West South Street. Officer requested to standby for transaction. No issues.

Monday, 7:49 p.m., 400 block of Cedar Road. Report of a registered sex offender Kyle Anderson at location without permission. Incident is being looked into already.

Tuesday, 9:53 a.m., S.R. 201 and East Elm Grove Road. Men's wallet located.

Tuesday, 10:36 a.m., West Townley and South Marion streets. Report of lawn not mowed.

Tuesday, 4:01 p.m., 4800 East 300 North. Report of a fire in back yard.

Tuesday, 8:18 p.m., 600 block of West Ohio Street. Report of a subject walking on neighbors property.

Tuesday, 9:09 p.m., West Miller and North Oak streets. Officer assisted driver with vehicle issue.

Tuesday, 2:40 a.m., All American Airplane Express. Report of theft via fake \$100 bills.

Wednesday, 8:21 a.m., Bluffton High School. Report of theft.

Wednesday, 8:38 a.m., East Terrace Drive and S.R. 116. Driver cited for speeding.

Wednesday, 10:52 a.m., 700 block of West Horton Street. Report of the too jewelry.

County:
Monday, 11:31 a.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served without incident.

Monday, 1:28 p.m., 800 block of Avondale Drive. Officer assisted with giving control of residence back to management.

Monday, 2:03 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served to Matthew Banas.

Monday, 5:16 p.m., Silo Farms. Report of subject entering property without

permission.

Monday, 5:29 p.m., 10000 North 300 West, Markle. Caller reported someone had possession of their dog that ran away one month ago. Dog was returned to owner.

Monday, 6:33 p.m., 3500 East Market Street, Petroleum. Report of a verbal dispute.

Monday, 11:45 p.m., 5700 North 450 East, Ossian. Caller reported unwanted subjects on property.

Tuesday, 3:20 a.m., North S.R. 1 and East 700 North, Ossian. Subject detained during traffic stop for firearms and marijuana in vehicle. Ma Hit arrested for endangerment and possession of marijuana.

Tuesday, 2:59 p.m., S.R. 1 and East 900 North, Ossian. Rude and agitated driver told officer to hurry up and write a ticket and make it fast. Expedient citation for speeding issued.

Tuesday, 4:37 p.m., S.R. 124 and North 800 East, Bluffton. Report of 3 loose horses in the area.

Tuesday, 11:04 p.m., 2700 West Woodview Drive, Zanesville. Report of domestic issue.

Tuesday, 11:32 p.m., 3500 East Market Street. Caller reported subject loading up an ATV, possibly without permission. Subject advised it was his house, his property, and that his neighbor should mind her business.

ACCIDENTS

County:
Tuesday, 9:24 a.m., C.R. 1200 and S.R. 1. Terry Kahn, 70, Ossian, advised he backed his Chevy Silverado to give another driver more room and collided with a Chrysler Town and Country behind him, driven by Derrick Elliot. Damages did not exceed \$1,001.

Monday, 2:08 p.m., C.R. 300. Justin Fate, 29, Bluffton, advised he was attempting to pass the vehicle in front of him when the vehi-

cle failed to yield. Fate sped his Pontiac G6 into a yard located near 8500 South 300 West in order to avoid a head-on collision with oncoming traffic. Jayden Bostic, 23, Fort Wayne, was driving in the opposite direction and attempted to avoid a head-on collision by turning into the same yard, where both vehicles collided. Both drivers were significantly injured and transferred to the hospital for treatment. Damages did not exceed \$50,000.

ARRESTS

Ollie HD Puckett, 23, Bluffton; robbery, a Level 3 felony, possession of a firearm by a violent felon, a Level 4 felony, and battery committed with a deadly weapon, a Level 5 felony. Bond set at \$20,000.

Mark Alan Brockhaus Jr., 41, Fort Wayne; dealing cocaine or a narcotic drug, a Level 4 felony. Bond set at \$20,000.

Wa Hit, 25, Fort Wayne; operating a vehicle while intoxicated - engagement, a Class A misdemeanor, possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor, and operating with a controlled substance in body, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$2,500.

John Patrick Fennelly, 59, Ossian; refusal to identify self while stopped for ordinance, a Class C misdemeanor and resisting law enforcement, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$2,000.

Matthew Robert Banas, 34, Bluffton; theft of a vehicle, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$5,000.

Brandon Jerald Boykin, 34, Fort Wayne; driving while suspended, a Class A misdemeanor.

Jawna Maeann Tyree, 32, Bluffton; possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor.

Mercedes Valentina Bernabel Sanchez, 19, Fort Wayne; operating without ever obtaining license, a Class C misdemeanor.

ACLU files federal lawsuit to block new law 'undermining' professors' free speech

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronical

A federal lawsuit filed Tuesday challenges a contentious new Indiana law that seeks to push speech and course content in college classrooms toward "intellectual diversity."

The litigation lodged by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Indiana asserts that Senate Enrolled Act 202 violates the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution. The measure was adopted by the General Assembly and signed into law by Gov. Eric Holcomb in March.

The law requires all Indiana public colleges and universities institute policies that chill the speech of or compel speech from faculty members, a news release alleged.

The suit was filed on behalf of two professors at Purdue University Fort Wayne. Steven A. Carr is a professor of communication and the director of the Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. David G. Schuster is an associate professor in the history department.

The ACLU of Indiana said Purdue University is the named defendant because the state institution is mandated to enforce the allegedly unconstitutional provisions of the law.

"Although Professors Carr and Schuster both already seek to foster a culture of free inquiry in their classrooms, this does not mean that they believe it is appropriate to provide equal time or attention to all lines of questioning," the lawsuit said. "They exercise their judgment and academic freedom to determine when further inquiry on a subject is no longer desirable or appropriate, and they have no way of knowing whether this type of in-the-moment-decision-making will subject them to discipline or other employment consequences."

Professors 'fearful' of the law's penalties

The law in question states professors must be disciplined if they fail to "foster a culture of free inquiry, free expression, and intellectual diversity" and "expose students to scholarly works from a variety of political or ideological frameworks."

Both plaintiffs assert in the lawsuit that they could be "compelled to speak or prohibited from speaking," in violation of their First Amendment rights, or risk adverse employment actions

— including not being promoted, having their tenure revoked, or facing discipline up to and including termination.

The ACLU of Indiana indicated the professors are concerned the law could require public college and university faculty to give "debunked" theories equal time in their classrooms alongside "rigorously studied academic analysis."

The lawsuit provides specific examples of course content of concern to the two professors.

As part of his courses examining United States history in the post-civil war period, Schuster teaches about the "culture wars" surrounding the LGBTQ rights movement in the 1990s, according to the lawsuit.

"(Schuster) is aware that some academics teach about this movement as embodying the rise of a 'homosexual agenda,' during which, according to them, LGBTQ people were attempting to indoctrinate students and others with ideas about homosexuality," the complaint said. Schuster does not believe that "divergent perspective" is accurate, however, and instead maintains that teaching such a perspective "would be harmful to his students."

"He thus does not believe he should be required to teach this perspective, and while he has in the past invited students to discuss this perspective during office hours, he does not devote class time to it," the lawsuit continued.

Schuster additionally teaches about slavery and its legacy. The lawsuit claims the professor does not believe he should be required to teach any number of "divergent" scholarly perspectives on that subject, either — including that slavery "ultimately benefited African American people," which was once a dominant view among academics in that field.

Carr separately teaches about the Holocaust through his work at the Institute.

The lawsuit emphasizes that "divergent perspectives regarding the existence and scope of the Holocaust exist," ranging from denial that the Holocaust occurred, to "revisionist" accounts challenging the scope and causes of the genocide.

"Professor Carr would not teach those 'perspectives,' but the language of the statute would appear to require him to do so," the complaint reads.

Another example ref-

erenced in the lawsuit describes a course recently taught by Carr about the eugenics movement — including study of legislation involving forced sterilization passed in Indiana in 1907.

"He does not believe that he should be required to teach, for example, the 'divergent' scholarly perspective that racially based forced sterilization could ever be appropriate or even defensible," the lawsuit said.

The suit seeks to block the "unconstitutional" portions of the statute to protect the free speech rights of the two professors before the law is set to take effect on July 1.

"SEA 202 puts Indiana's professors in an untenable position. Through vague language and the threat of harsh sanctions, including termination, the law strips professors of the academic freedom that the Supreme Court has long recognized they have the right to exercise," said ACLU of Indiana attorney Stevie Pactor in a written statement. "No professor should have to choose between their employment and their First Amendment rights."

What's in the new law?

Senate Enrolled Act 202, one of this year's most debated higher education bills — was touted by GOP lawmakers as a way to increase "intellectual diversity" in publicly funded college classrooms.

Although faculty and students overwhelmingly contended the proposal would micromanage their institutions and have a "chilling effect" on free expression, the governor signed the bill into law, saying it "requires free inquiry and civil discourse programming for new students, strongly encourages academic freedom and protects faculty to express differing viewpoints from their colleagues and university leadership."

The law makes changes to the institutions' diversity-oriented positions and their policies for tenure, contract renewals, performance reviews and more. It also establishes new reporting and survey requirements based on "free inquiry, free expression, and intellectual diversity."

Now, Indiana is additionally one of a handful of states that requires boards of trustees to establish diversity committees on campuses.

Powerful storms kill 3 as tornados tear through central, southeastern U.S.

COLUMBIA, Tenn. (AP) — Severe storms tore through parts of the U.S. again Wednesday, spawning damaging tornadoes, producing massive hail, and killing two people in Tennessee and one person in North Carolina.

A storm that rumbled across northeastern Tennessee brought high winds that knocked down powerlines and trees. Claiborne County Sheriff Bob Brooks said a 22-year-old man was in a car struck by one of the trees.

Wednesday afternoon, a tornado emergency — the weather service's highest alert level — was issued for an area south of Nashville including the towns of Spring Hill, Chapel Hill and Eagleville.

The National Weather Service had previously reported a likely tornado on the ground in nearby Columbia, about 45 miles (72 kilometers) south of Nashville. People in Columbia were injured and homes were damaged, according to Lynn Thompson, assistant director of Maury County 911. Thompson told The Associated Press that he could not provide any further details: "We're getting overloaded right now."

Rita Thompson, Marketing & Communications director with Maury Regional Health, said the hospital had received five patients. One died, another was in serious condition and three had injuries that were not life-threatening.

The Federal Aviation Administration issued a temporary ground stop at Nashville International Airport because of the weather, media outlets reported. Northeast of Nashville, a flash flood emergency was

issued for Sumner and Robertson counties including the cities of Hendersonville and Gallatin. The National Weather Service said water rescues were ongoing in those areas and described the flooding from heavy thunderstorms as life-threatening.

"Do not attempt to travel unless you are fleeing an area subject to flooding or under an evacuation order," the weather agency alert said.

The National Weather Service in Nashville on Wednesday evening issued a tornado watch for parts of Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee until 3 a.m. CDT. The weather service continued issuing tornado warnings into the night, mostly in Tennessee, but also in Missouri, Alabama, Georgia and Texas.

In North Carolina, a state of emergency was declared for Gaston County Wednesday evening following a large storm. First responders were working to clear roads of downed power lines and broken trees and were helping residents, officials said. The New Hope Fire Department responded to a tree down on a car. One person in the car was killed and another was taken to a hospital, officials said.

The National Weather Service confirmed tornadoes touched down Tuesday in western Ohio: five in Warren County and one each in Darke, Mercer and Auglaize counties. The weather service said crews are still surveying areas in other counties to determine if tornadoes struck there, as well. The strong storms also brought hail and heavy rains to the state and knocked out power to thousands of utility customers.

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Upcoming Events

May 11 - Live music from Bel and The Bad Wolves
May 25 - D&D Fish & Tenderloin w/ live music from The Rock Bottom Boys of Madison County
May 27 - D&D Fish & Tenderloin

Congress accomplished something. Can it do it again?

Until recently, it seemed like you couldn't turn around without finding a headline lambasting the current Congress as the least productive ever. There was good reason for that, which we'll get into shortly, but it's worth noting that they've suddenly disappeared. Clearly, that's because of April's passage of the foreign aid package that includes significant aid for Ukraine, Israel and Gaza, and Taiwan, and a measure that attempts to force a sale of TikTok.

There was a great deal that was notable about these steps, including the willingness of GOP House Speaker Mike Johnson to buck members of his own party and not only bring the package to the floor, but turn to Democrats for help in passing it. To my mind, though, something even more notable took place: The Republican caucuses in both the House and the Senate divided over the matter — as did Democrats, if not quite as dramatically. In other words, members of both chambers voted as they saw fit, not according to the party line or in lockstep. It's been a while since we've seen this, and here's hoping we see more.

To be sure, even before the foreign aid votes, Congress wasn't quite as tangled by gridlock as it was often painted in the media. Just in the last few months, its members reached a budget deal that keeps the government operating into the fall, and they passed a variety of smaller measures in bipartisan fashion — including one to give a boost to nuclear energy.

Still, there's no question that the current Congress went into this spring with a notable lack of accomplishments on the major issues confronting the US. Part of this is just hard numbers: In 2023, Congress passed just 34 bills, the fewest in decades. Even given modern trends — the concentration of power in leadership hands that has produced great reliance on omnibus bills and continuing resolutions, rather than the more incremental legislating that marked Congress in its more productive days — that's not much to show. And it's worth remembering that some of the bills Congress did pass, including the budget bill and the foreign aid package, were hung up for months by partisanship and intra-party wrangling.

There's no mystery about what happened. The House, in particular, has been hamstrung by infighting within the Republican majority that has produced a succession of speakers, cliff's-edge ultimatums, and an inability to tackle major issues that everyone on Capitol Hill knows must be addressed. Passing a budget is pretty much the bare minimum we should expect, but Americans also have a right to wonder just why their Congress has been missing in action on everything from guns to abortion to immigration to the budget deficit.

But it's also worth pointing out that passing legislation isn't the only measure of Congress's worth. When I was first elected to Congress in 1964, the percentage of Americans saying they had trust in government was almost 80 percent — today it's closer to 20 percent. There are plenty of reasons for this long-term decline, but there's not much question that partisan gamesmanship in Congress over the last few decades has played a substantial role.

And it's not just the public that's expressing dissatisfaction. This year and last have seen a bewildering array of members of Congress themselves — mostly in the House — decide either to leave after this term or, even more unusually, to step down in the middle of the term. Members know the institution better than anyone, and with this wave of unexpected retirements, they're being quite blunt about their feelings on how well it's working.

My hope is that congressional leaders take a leaf from their own recent playbook on foreign aid. Congress has been stuck in part because leaders and legislators have prized party unity over tangible accomplishment — to the dismay of the vast majority of Americans who tend to be less ideologically committed and more pragmatic about where policy should wind up than the people who represent them. It's time for Congress to focus more on the pragmatic accomplishments that Americans want, and less on party ideology.

Lee Hamilton is a distinguished scholar with the IU School of Global and International Studies. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

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

Today in History

By The Associated Press
Today is Thursday, May 9, the 130th day of 2024. There are 236 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On May 9, 1994, South Africa's newly elected parliament chose Nelson Mandela to be the country's first Black president.

On this date:
In 1860, writer J.M. Barrie, the creator of Peter Pan, was born in Kirriemuir, Scotland.

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson, acting on a joint congressional resolution, signed a proclamation designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

In 1945, with World War II in Europe at an end, Soviet forces liberated Czechoslovakia from Nazi

occupation. U.S. officials announced that a midnight entertainment curfew was being lifted immediately.

In 1951, the U.S. conducted its first thermonuclear experiment as part of Operation Greenhouse by detonating a 225-kiloton device on Enewetak Atoll in the Pacific nicknamed "George."

In 1962, scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology succeeded in reflecting a laser beam off the surface of the moon.

In 1970, President Richard Nixon made a surprise and impromptu pre-dawn visit to the Lincoln Memorial, where he chatted with a group of protesters who'd been resting on the Memorial steps after protests against the Vietnam War and the Kent State shootings.



Lee Hamilton

Hoosier Opinions

The next generation, Mom, and the linden tree

Angelkeep Journals

I will think long and hard about Mom during Sunday coming. Mother's Day has become a reminiscence adventure.

Gone are the bygone times of buying corsages for mothers and grandmothers. Today's younger generations have no knowledge of corsages, nor flower meanings. Mother's Day church service included the distribution of red, pink, and white carnations for the ladies and color had a purpose.

White started in 1908, representing mothers who had died.

Red represented living moms.

Pink symbolized a mother's love.

Mamie Eisenhower elevated Mother's Day carnations and popularized the "peppermint" carnation. Today's young ask, "What's a Mamie," while thinking "Meme."

Angelkeep holds a nature version of Mother's Day. Mother Linden, also known as Mrs. Basswood, was a tree planted a generation — a quarter century — ago. She no longer lives. One of its three forked branches became a victim to rot and wind. The remainder, leaning dangerously in the direction of the house a few feet away, had to be removed before it fell and collided with the house windows, roof, and walls. It lives on in constant shoots, called suckers, rising from the roots yet remaining underground.

The tree, bordering on being considered invasive, provides wildlife with an abundance of pea-size berries. As a result, birds have deposited new growth in three locations at Angelkeep far from any structure. The offspring of the mother have achieved the level of producing their own next generation. Squirrels and birds clamor throughout the outstretched arms of the tree, devouring the goodness of food created by the mother.

Mother's Day in bygone days was typically a fried chicken treat, much of the work done prior to walking to church services where Mom played piano for all the favorite Mother's Day hymns. Last minute meal prep came after church with Mom yet wearing her family-gifted corsage. Her church presented carnation had been placed in a bud vase at the center of the dining room table. She would get a meager gift after the meal, prior to her getting a day off from washing dishes. She birthed several children who helped. Each hand-made a Mother's Day card.

Today's younger generation of children are miles



Alan Daugherty

away, measured by several states' distance, and have no idea how to make, let alone buy, a Mother's Day card. They text.

Angelkeep ponders, and wishes for times past. Not enough Mother's Day words were said. Not enough questions were asked. Not enough kisses and hugs were exchanged. Now it's too late. Time sped by. Memories remain, but fade with age. Today's Mom and Grandma consider themselves lucky to get an emoji kiss or hug.

Angelkeep also misses the mother linden tree. She rose higher than the house. Spring adorned her in white — pure white — the color of the living for a tree. Blooms were so prolific they appeared to the neighborhood as a 30-foot-tall cone of cotton candy.

A sweet memory indeed. Its aroma encouraged all nearby to move in close, perhaps become a tree hugger, before it became too late.

Sunday's Mother's Day just might involve Angelkeep pulling out a box of photo prints for some reminiscing of ol' lang syne. A recent funeral caused boxes to be located and rummaged through just a few weeks ago. Few remain living from those depicted in that generation of prints. The younger generation acknowledged having no such box.

Instead, images from the past, digitized, not printed, were stored in a stored extended hard drive, too big an ordeal to pull out for viewing.

The once considered miracle of digital had turned a generation into a "no longer worth the energy to reminisce."

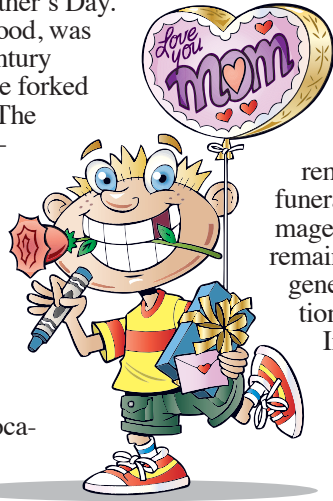
It seems a black carnation represents the evolution of generational forward movement.

"M" is for the mashed potatoes buttered. "O" meant oleo was budget wise. "M" is for the missing mini-hugs. Put them all together they spell MOM, her love unquestioned.

The older generation gets it.

Angelkeep bird moms are busy showing their new generation where to find the linden trees and its abundant supply of nourishment. Each feathered mom deserves a corsage of white linden blossom with their pink and red centers.

Mr. Daugherty is a Wells County resident who, along with his wife Gwen, enjoy their backyard and have named it "Angelkeep." daughertyag@gmail.com



After the war, what kind of future awaits Israelis and Palestinians?

The quest for a cease-fire to halt the humanitarian catastrophe of the Gaza war has been so intense that it's easy to overlook a deeper issue: What will the future look like for Israelis and Palestinians who have suffered so much in this terrible conflict?

As American mediators struggle this week to finalize a deal for a cease-fire and a phased release of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners, I hope they will give this issue the primacy it deserves. The one thing you can say with moral certainty is that Israelis and Palestinians deserve a future in which the hideous violence of war is replaced by stability and security.

This issue, whose shorthand description is "the day after," has never seemed to interest Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu very much. To me, that's his deepest failing — that he is leader of a war that took the lives of so many Palestinian civilians and Israeli soldiers without a coherent plan for what he hoped to achieve once the fighting ended. That's why Netanyahu should resign — not because he was responsible for the war but because he failed to prosecute it wisely and strategically.

Wars in the Middle East often end with a fuzzy ambiguity that allows both sides to claim victory. "Neither victor nor vanquished" is the phrase often used to describe such face-saving pacts. But that diplomatic approach won't work in Gaza. Israel wants a win against Hamas, whatever the cease-fire agreement says. And that feeling isn't held just by Netanyahu but also by most Israelis — and I'd guess by most Arab leaders, too.

So, let's consider the elements that would provide a reasonable settlement of this war, including security for Israel and a new future for Palestinians in Gaza. Many of these goals are actually in reach if leaders act sensibly.

The most urgent requirement is to rescue Palestinian civilians from the famine and devastation of seven



David Ignatius

months of war. Humanitarian assistance in Gaza has increased sharply since Israel withdrew most of its troops last month, but more is needed. The floating pier being built by the U.S. military will help.

But who will keep the peace when the aid trucks roll into Gaza City? That's the question Netanyahu has consistently failed to address. There's only one good

answer: Gaza needs an international stabilization force to provide security during and after the cease-fire.

If the United States and its allies can organize that force, Arab nations such as Egypt, Morocco and the United Arab Emirates will probably be willing to provide some troops. But they'll do so only if Israel agrees that this is the first step down the road to a Palestinian state. Netanyahu balks, and so do many Israelis. But this is the pathway to a future in which relations with all Arab states are "normal-

and American leaders. Here, too, there's an obvious pathway, but again it's one Netanyahu refuses to consider. Hamas's enemy in Gaza has always been the Palestinian Authority, which rules the West Bank and, until 2007, controlled Gaza as well. The PA has nearly 10,000 security personnel in Gaza on its registry. They need to be vetted and trained; they need tight controls, in addition to performance metrics. But a revitalized PA could actually begin its rebirth in Gaza, with careful planning.

The demilitarization of Hamas is another inescapable requirement. Netanyahu argues that this is why Israel needs a bloody final assault on Rafah, to destroy the four remaining Hamas battalions there. But those battalions don't threaten Israel, and they can be dismantled gradually — especially if an Arab-backed international force is securing Gaza City.

Netanyahu's repeated insistence that he must invade Rafah is partly theatrics, to frighten Hamas into accepting a hostage release deal. But what would Israel actually gain from such an assault? Hamas fighters are already roaming Gaza, and they'll be free to move north in any likely cease-fire deal. Israel accepts that, because it knows they won't be able to regroup and rearm in a way that would truly threaten Israel. That's true with the Hamas remnant in Rafah, too.

For Israel, success in this war would be the confidence that Hamas will never again be allowed to

build the force that slaughtered and terrorized Jews on Oct. 7. That goal is closer than it looks. And Israel knows it will retain the ability to pursue Hamas's leaders unless they surrender and leave their underground kingdom in the Gaza tunnels.

As negotiators exchange drafts of a final cease-fire plan, they should keep in mind the image of a postwar Gaza in the benign chaos of rebuilding — aboveground this time — as construction rigs and concrete trucks build new apartment buildings, municipal facilities and office blocks.

That's what peace will look like — maybe many years from now, but it's time to begin.



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Patriots thump Tigers with ACAC baseball title at stake

By RYAN WALKER

Heritage came into Bluffton and stole everything the Tigers wanted right out of their hands Wednesday night.

All the Tigers needed was a win to secure the ACAC title for the first time since 2009, but the Patriots bashed their way to a 14-1 victory to put an end to those hopes.

Bluffton, now 11-6 and 5-1 after its final conference game, made mistakes on the mound and defensively. Eight of the 14 runs scored were not off of the Heritage (13-2, 3-0 ACAC) sticks. It was passed balls, missed pickoff throws to first base, a throwing error and even a steal home.

Heritage did bat the ball around too — 11 hits in five innings, including a trio of doubles and a three-run blast by Andrew Mirelez, but the self-inflicted wounds came early and often.

"I think the 12-2 record that (the Patriots) bring in, and you're playing a good team like that—that's not going to make those kinds of mistakes and is very well coached, we just got lazy and slept in some areas," Bluffton head coach Jason Pierce said.

Heritage's starting pitcher didn't help the Tigers either. The future Indiana Tech Warrior sat mid-80s on the radar gun and even hit 87 miles per hour. He struck out eight Tigers in his five innings of work, allowing four hits and the one run that came by way of a passed ball of his own.



Tigers' A.J. Strevler plates the Tigers first and only run in the second inning, scoring on a passed ball.

The senior entered the night with a 3-0 record and a 1.62 ERA. He all but solidified himself as the conference's best pitcher. But Bluffton did have some bites at the apple in the game.

In the first inning, Noah Redmond took one of those 87 mph heaters and plunked the freshman and leadoff hitter Axton Beste, who reached third but was stranded there.

In the second, A.J. Strevler and Eli Garrett knocked the first hits for the Tigers, later scoring that one run. But the runners on first and third threat ended without putting up a curly number.

"We had Noah kind of missing the zone. We were in his head a little bit," Pierce said. "You could tell he was a little uncomfortable. We did not capitalize on that. I thought our approach overall at the plate, outside of watching some third strike calls, I thought we had a pretty good approach with (Redmond)."

By the third time through the batting order, Bluffton was hurt by a 6-1 deficit and Redmond went to work, striking out three in a row. That led to the eight-run fourth inning to break the contest wide open.

"I felt like once when we got down, I literally felt like we just folded," Pierce said.

The only other time the Tigers had anything going was Lukas Gehrett's double to deep left field, bouncing right on the warning track. He remained at second until the final



Heritage base runner Landri Linder (left) slides past Bluffton's Brody Lewis attempting to steal home on a throw back to the pitcher Wednesday night at Bluffton High School. The Patriots base runners found home plate often, scoring in various ways to tally 14 runs in a 14-1 effort to take control of the ACAC Conference. (Photos by Ryan Walker)

out was recorded and was stuck at second.

On the mound for Bluffton, Braxton Betancourt went three innings and allowed eight runs and struck out seven.

Bluffton's disappointing loss to the Patriots doesn't necessarily mean the end of their run for the conference. Heritage controls its own path now, but due to weather, games have been postponed to later dates. The Patriots still have Jay County, Adams Central and South Adams on the schedule.

Bluffton finished with a 5-1 record, and if the Patriots, and any other team, finishes 5-1, they'll split the championship. But if Heritage wins all three games, it'll win it outright.

It also doesn't mean that the Tigers have anything to play for. The sectional

draw gave them and their opponent, South Adams, a first-round bye. The winner earns a spot in the championship.

Pierce would like to take a loss to Heritage and learn from it in hopes of earning a different trophy by year's end.

"You've got to tip your hat to Heritage. It's a great baseball team," Pierce said. "Hopefully, it's a little bit of humble pie for us to realize that 'Hey, we need to start pulling our socks up a little bit tighter and making sure that we're focused every time we step into the gate ... I hope tonight comes back to benefit us in that situation.'"

Bluffton will host St. Mary's this Saturday for a doubleheader starting at 11 a.m., May 11.

ryan@news-banner.com

Sports Roundup

Knights top Barons to remain unbeaten in NE8 girls' tennis

Norwell defeated DeKalb on the Knights senior night, and got a 5-0 win Wednesday.

The Knights improved to 12-2 overall and 6-0 in the Northeast 8 Conference.

Individual results:

- Addy Heyerly defeated Sophie Pfister 3-6, 6-4, 10-4 in No. 1 singles.
- Delaney Hoover defeated Kenlee Dick 6-1, 6-1 No. 2 singles.
- Macie Saalfank defeated Lainy Newbauer 6-0, 6-0 at No. 3 singles.
- Annabelle Johnson and Macy Felger defeated Katelynn Hartsough and Allyson Kinsey 6-0, 6-1.
- Jordyn Xayyachack and Ciera Hiester defeated Paige Fillenworth and Mackenzie Clark 6-1, 6-2.

Norwell won the JV game 8-1, moving their record to 13-1.

Results for JV:

- Aubrey Meyer defeated Nicole Azzue 8-0.
- Gabbi Hoepfner defeated Reese Schmidt 8-1.
- Lucy Gerbers defeated Pierson Burley 8-2.

- Charli Swindell won 7-5.
- Hope Mitchell and Emmaline Johnson defeated Sydney Shambaugh and Kai Nagel 8-2.

- Sam Evans and Aubryn Keller defeated Kali Wyatt 8-7(5).

- Melissa Hoag and Campbell Sloan defeated Lily Armstrong and Gracie Pinnington 6-2.

- Carley Wolf and Isabella Hubble defeated Gena Lautzenhister and Alyssa Oberlin 6-1.

- Hazel Lewis and Molly Threwits fell to DeKalb.

Knights improve to 5-0 with NE8 baseball win over Barons

Norwell edged out DeKalb 5-3 in Northeast 8 baseball action Wednesday night.

The Knights moved to 5-0 in the conference, tying them for the lead with Columbia City, who is 4-0. Overall, the Knights are 13-6.

Of the five hits, the Knights got two from Drew Graft with an RBI. Noah Schamerloah, Drew Jolley also tallied RBI.

Lane Lewis picked up the win, throwing seven innings, allowing six hits, three unearned runs, one walk and 10 strikeouts.

Norwell will host Huntington North at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, May 9.

Tigers fall by one to Patriots in ACAC girls' tennis match

Bluffton fell at Jay County 3-2 in ACAC girls' tennis action Wednesday night.

The Tigers fall to 5-10 overall on the season.

Individual results

- Brenna Haines (JC) defeated Emma Schwartz 6-4, 6-4 at No. 1 singles.
- Brenna Bailey (JC) defeated Eve Corkwell 6-1, 6-2 at No. 2 singles.
- Kinzie Fiechter (B) defeated Maggie Dillon 6-2, 6-4 at No. 3 singles.
- Hazel Pfister and Sophie Eisenhut (B) defeated Meredith Dirksen and Sophia Sprunger 4-6, 6-2, 7-5 at No. 1 doubles.
- Lucie Henneaux and Zion Beiswanger (JC) defeated Alexis Grover and Emily Drayer 6-3, 6-2 at No. 2 doubles.

Bluffton lost the junior varsity match

5-3.

Results for JV:

- Avery Hunt (B) defeated Faith Faulkner 8-3.

- Raylan Newton (JC) defeated Madison Duncan 8-4.

- Tessa Frazee (JC) defeated Briell Coratti 8-6.

- Zara Eisenhut and Alexis Grover (B) defeated Audrey Muhlenkamp and Courtney Harris 8-2.

- Macee Stepehn and Trinity Glassford (JC) and Anna Zurcher and Madison Murray 8-6.

- Taren Bentley and Lydia Johnson (JC) defeated Zoey Schmidt and Isabella Rhoderick 8-3.

- Chloe Muhlenkamp and Adriene Denney (JC) defeated Olga Jordan and Kenley Falk 9-7.

- Zainab Ameen and Charos Anorboeva (B) defeated Macee Stephen and Trinity Glassford 8-3.

- Bluffton will host Carroll at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, May 9.

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amount of players for the junior varsity match. The Tigers had five, scoring a 230.

The team was led by Kyler Potter (50), Chris Castaneda (55), Will Ault (62), Hutch Craighead (63) and Landon Crist (65). Connor Collins and Graham Linderwell also participated and scored a 59 and a 64.

Bluffton will be at Woodlan at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, May 9.

Knights win by one in junior varsity baseball and softball

Norwell won 4-3 at home to DeKalb in junior varsity baseball Wednesday night.

Of the eight hits, the Knights had multi-hit games from Nick McBride, Adam Mahnensmith and Brayden Huffman. Huffman

had two RBI and Mahnensmith had one.

Noah Comer earned the win, throwing two-thirds of an inning without a hit or a run. Huffman started and lasted four innings, allowing three unearned runs, a walk and four strikeouts. Trey Privett closed with two innings, no runs, one hit and two strikeouts.

The Norwell junior varsity softball team also won by one run, winning 12-11 over Huntington North.

Of the eight hits, the Knights were led by Ayla Nern with three hits in the game and one RBI. Nara Brock and Madison Mashuda had triples. Alli Crow had two RBI with one hit.

Carli Fausz got the win, throwing four innings with four runs, one walk and six strikeouts.



NASCAR CUP SERIES Goodyear 400

Site: Darlington, South Carolina.

Schedule: Saturday, practice, 10:35 a.m., and qualifying, 11:20 a.m.; Sunday, race, 3 p.m. (FS1).

Last race: Kyle Larson beat Chris Buescher at Kansas on Sunday in a green-white-checkered finish and the closest finish — a thousandth of a second — in NASCAR history.

Next race: May 19, North Wilkesboro, North Carolina.

NASCAR XFINITY SERIES Crown Royal Purple Bag Project 200

Site: Darlington, South Carolina.

Schedule: Friday, practice, 5:05 p.m., and qualifying, 5:35 p.m.; Saturday, race, 1:35 p.m. (FS1).

Last race: Ryan Truex won at Dover for the second straight year, giving the younger brother of Martin Truex Jr. the only NASCAR victories of his career.

Next race: May 25, Concord, North Carolina.

NASCAR TRUCK SERIES Buckle Up South Carolina 200

Site: Darlington, South Carolina.

Schedule: Friday, practice, 3:05 p.m., qualifying, 3:35 p.m., and race, 7:30 p.m. (FS1).

Last race: Corey Heim passed Nick Sanchez for the lead on lap 70 of 134 and led the rest of the way at Kansas for his second victory of the season.

Next race: May 18, North Wilkesboro, North Carolina.

FORMULA ONE

Last race: Landon Norris turned his 110th career start into his first victory, winning at Miami.

Next race: May 19, Imola, Italy.

INDYCAR

Sonsio Grand Prix

Site: Indianapolis, Indiana.

Schedule: Friday, practice, 9:30 a.m. and 1:10 p.m., qualifying, 4:20 p.m.-5:20 p.m.; Saturday, race, 3:30 p.m. (NBC).

Last race: Scott McLaughlin won his second straight race at Barber Motorsports Park, giving Team Penske a much-needed triumph just days after IndyCar erased Josef Newgarden's victory and disqualified McLaughlin from the season opener.

Next race: May 26, Indianapolis, Indiana.

NHRA DRAG RACING

Last event: Justin Ashley won in Top Fuel and Matt Hagan won in Funny Car in Concord.

Next event: May 19, Elwood, Illinois.

WORLD OF OUTLAWS

Next events: May 10-11, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.

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This Week's Garage Sales

Clip & Save

BEAUTIFUL MOTHER'S DAY baskets, garden plants, & flowers Thursday & Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., 129 Beechwood Place, Bluffton. See you at the Farmers Market Saturday. Back to yard sale all next week.

5495 N 700 E CRAIGVILLE HUGE GARAGE SALE! Tons of girls clothes size 6y-8y including boutique items and lots of Matilda Jane, bags and purses including Coach and Vera Bradley, highchair, pack and play, toys, childrens and adult books, treadmill, household items, women's clothing L-XXL, kids shoes and lots more! May, 10 9:00 AM-4:00 PM, May, 11 8:00 AM-2:00 PM Rain or Shine

MULTI FAMILY GARAGE sale and baked goods, 7363 N. State Rd. 1, Ossian, IN, rain or shine, Wednesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Fresh home-baked cinnamon rolls, cakes, bars, bread, angel food cakes, homemade noodles, and much more! Furniture, antique treadle sewing machine, snowmobiles, crossbow, baby items, clothing of all sizes, home decor, Tupperware. Something for everyone.

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HELOISE HINT: Balloons can be dangerous for your pets. Do not let your pets play with balloons because they could pop and scare them. Even worse, your pet might swallow one that has already burst and choke on it by mistake. Email HELOISE@Heloise.com.

Lottery Numbers

Wednesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 14-23-30-35-44

Lotto Plus — 04-23-33-41-43-46

Cash4Life — 04-10-36-43-51, Cash Ball: 04

Quick Draw Midday — 11-13-16-22-25-28-29-32-34-35-36-39-41-42-46-51-65-71-76-77, BE: 22

Daily Three-Midday — 4-7-1, SB: 6

Daily Three-Evening — 6-1-5, SB: 4

Daily Four-Midday — 8-8-0-2, SB: 6

Daily Four-Evening — 8-8-0-2, SB: 3

Quick Draw Evening — 2-10-11-15-21-24-29-33-34-37-41-42-43-45-46-52-68-71-72-74, BE: 34

Hoosier Lotto — 12-22-32-35-38-43

MEGA MILLIONS

Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$331 million
POWERBALL
7-41-43-44-51 Powerball: 5; Power Play: 2x

Miscellaneous

EVEREST VX3 ICE & WATER VENDING MACHINE This Everest VX3 water/ice vending machine is the perfect addition to any business looking to boost their profits. With the ability to dispense both water and ice, this unit is sure to be a hit with customers. The machine is in great working condition and has been slightly used, making it a cost-effective option for those looking to invest in a vending machine. This unit is made in the United States and comes with a unit quantity of 1. Included is an all season insulation package, ice shield ozone disinfection, and cold fusion energy recovery. It is perfect for placement in other beverage and snack vending locations, as well as in restaurant and food service settings. Don't miss out on the opportunity to make extra money with this Everest VX3 vending machine. \$45,000.00 260-273-7020 glacierpure@outlook.com

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EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

THE CITY OF Bluffton is accepting applications for Paid-On-Call Firefighters and Part Time Firefighters. Both positions require a high school diploma or equivalent and a Driver's License. The City utilizes E-Verify and follows EEOC guidelines. Applications may be obtained from the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, 128 E. Market St, Bluffton, Mon-Fri from 8a-4:30p or online at www.blufftonindiana.net. Applications due June 14th.

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Services

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SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★

5/9

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LINE CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINES:

Monday editions: Friday by 4 p.m.; Tuesday-Friday editions: day-before by 4 p.m.; Saturdays: Friday by noon.

Submit ads to the Bluffton News-Banner office, 260-824-0224, 125 N. Johnson St., or online at classifieds.news-banner.com.

May

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

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Public Sale Calendar

MAY 9 & 10 - 9 a.m. - Secured creditors & various consignors, owners. Two day truck & equipment auction. Day 1 online bidding only: 100+ various skid loader attachments, tool boxes, workbenches, iron gates, chains & binders, 1 trip 40' high side shipping container w/side doors, dome shelter containers, various truck take off parts, plumbing, electrical and mechanical surplus including urinals, toilets, electrical components, more! Day 2 onsite and online bidding offering 700+ lots! 100+/- municipal units! Cars, SUV, 1/2 ton & 3/4 ton pickups, cargo & passenger vans, large group of Chevy Impalas, Tahoes & Dodge Chargers, Harley-Davidson motorcycles, dump trucks, 2012-2014 Freightliner M2106 box trucks, day cabs, sleepers, utility trucks, bucket trucks, utility & semi trailers, SUV's, pickups, 100+ various skid steer attachments, more! Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

MAY 12-MAY 19 - (Online Only Auction) - Phyllis Montgomery, Seller. Major auction of fine antiques and collectables. "An Auction of the Year." Extensive cast iron skillet collection, early candy scales, primitives, salesman samples, early rare gum dispenser, De Laval signs, beer signs, firearms, butter churns, large Westmorland glass collection, much more. Preview: May 9 and 16 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 1556 Shadow Run Trail, Bluffton. Steffen Group, www.steffengrp.com, 824-3006, Pat Carter, sale manager.

MAY 19 - 4 p.m. - Multiple consignors, owners. Online only consignment auction, 1,000+ lots! Furniture, oak kitchen table, large assortment of household items, tools, 100+ lots of collectible glass including Fostoria, Fenton, Candlewick, Pyrex and much more! Preview May 16, 3-5 p.m., 812 Elm Street, Decatur. Pick up May 20, 1-6 p.m. & May 21, 9 a.m.-noon. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

MAY 21 - 6 p.m. - Patricia Mossburg & Joyce Shady, owners. Wells County 4-H Park, 1240 4-H Rd., Bluffton. Property location: 100S & 200W, Bluffton. 90+/-A, Zoned Agricultural, Liberty Township, Wells County. To be sold in individual tracts or any combination. Tract 1: 54+/-A tillable, frontage on both CR 100S & CR 200W. Tract 2: 12+/-A, 8+/-A tillable, 4+/-A woods, frontage on 100S & 200W. Tract 3: 24+/-A, mostly woods, 6+/-A tillable, frontage on CR 200W. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

MAY 26-JUNE 2 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of John F. Holbrook, seller.

200+ pcs. Roseville, Rookwood, Hull, McCoy, VanBriggle, antique & modern furniture, 1950 Ford Sedan, Coca Cola vintage signs & collectibles, antique tools, 2-pc. Oak kitchen cabinet, JFK political buttons and advertising, vintage toys. Auction preview: May 23 from 3-6 p.m. and May 30 from 3-6 p.m., 10421 W. Yoder Rd., Roanoke, IN. Patrick Carter, sale manager, The Steffen Group Inc., www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

JUNE 1 - 8:30 a.m. - E & M Blacksmith Shop. 2404 W 350 S, Berne, IN. 13th annual consignment auction. Horses, ponies, horse-drawn machinery, produce equipment, buggies, harness, carts, new tack, saddles, shop tools, lawn & garden tools, sausage grinders & stuffers, new & used furniture, washing machines, hay,

straw & firewood. Accepting consignments every evening that week from 4-8 p.m., all day May 30, and May 31 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Troyer Auctions, LLC, 260-768-7246, ext. 3.

JUNE 4 - (Online Only Auction) - Bidding Opens at 9 a.m. and will close at 6 p.m. - The Estate of John F. Holbrook, seller. 300 W, Markle, IN. Northern Wells containing 6.79 acres in Union Township of vacant agricultural land, outstanding opportunity for potential building site with excellent location. Patrick Carter, sale manager, The Steffen Group Inc., www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

The Biggs Group - Ideal Builders
Notice of Receipt of Bids
Project: Fawn Meadows, Section 1 Subdivision

Summary: Along State Road #1 and Davis Road in the Town of Ossian, Indiana. The project shall consist of a 51 Lot residential subdivision. The subdivision bid items would consist of sanitary sewer, storm sewer, water lines, site grading, erosion control, road construction, etc.

General Plans and Specifications: Complete digital project bidding documents are available via email request to brett@msswebsite.us. No paper copies will be provided by the Owner.

Pre-Bid Meeting: Beginning at 10:00 a.m., on Friday, May 10, 2024, a pre-bid meeting will be held at the Ossian Town Hall, 507 N. Jefferson Street, Ossian, Indiana 46777. All prospective bidders are encouraged to attend.

Bids: Bids may be submitted via mail prior to May 30th, 2024, are to be submitted to Miller Land Surveying, 221 Tower Dr., Monroe, IN 46772. Bids may also be hand delivered, prior to 10:00 a.m. on Friday, May 31st, 2024, the day of Bid Opening, to the Ossian Town Hall, 215 N. Jefferson St., Ossian, IN. All bids must be submitted to The Biggs Group - Ideal Builders by 10:00 a.m., Friday May 31st, 2024, to be considered for the work. Bidders are responsible for the timely delivery of their bids. All bids shall be in sealed envelopes bearing the Project title, "Fawn Meadows Subdivision" and include the name and address of the bidder. All bids shall include a fully completed and executed Contractor's Bid Packet, prepared by MLS. Bids arriving after the time set will be returned unopened and only complete bids with all required materials will be considered.

Review and Consideration: All bids timely received shall be publicly opened and read aloud at Ossian Town Hall, 507 N. Jefferson Street, Ossian, Indiana 46777, at 10:00 a.m., May 31st, 2024. The Biggs Group reserves the right to reject all bids, waive defects and amend the Project's scope. It is anticipated that the Biggs Group will take bids received under advisement, and that a determination may be made by June 10th, 2024.

By: Jack Johnson, Director of Construction
The Biggs Group - Ideal Builders
oj, nb 5/2, 5/9 hspaxlp

Public Notices

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF A DECLARATORY RESOLUTION OF THE MARKLE REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND OF A PUBLIC HEARING WITH RESPECT THERETO

Notice is hereby given that the Markle Redevelopment Commission (the "Commission"), adopted a Declaratory Resolution on March 13, 2024 (the "Declaratory Resolution"), making certain modifications to the Markle Industrial Park Economic Development Area (the "Economic Development Area") by modifying the plan for the Economic Development Area as set forth in Exhibit A attached thereto (the "Amendment").

Notice is hereby given that the Commission will conduct a public hearing on June 12, 2024, at 8:00 a.m., local time, at the Markle Town Hall, 154 E. Morse Street, Markle, Indiana 46770, to receive and hear remonstrances and objections from all persons interested in or affected by the proposed Amendment and the proceedings pertaining thereto.

The Commission will consider the public utility and the benefit of the proposed Amendment. The Final Confirmatory Resolution and the Economic Development Plan may be inspected during normal business hours at the Markle Town Hall, 154 E. Morse Street, Markle, Indiana 46770.

Dated this 6th day of May, 2024.
MARKLE REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
nb 5/9 hspaxlp

SUDOKU ANSWER

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

Congressional primary victors emerge from crowded Indiana races

By **LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ**
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Hoosiers locked in their November general election ballots on Tuesday, uplifting a handful of primary election victors from out of crowded fields of candidates.

Three out of the state's nine seats will have new faces after two GOP incumbents retired and another left to pursue a higher office.

In the Third Congressional District, former U.S. Rep. Marlin Stutzman, a Republican, may return to Capitol Hill after leading his closest competitor by about 1,300 votes with 94% of the vote counted.

He eked out a victory Tuesday night over seven others, including Christian administrative nonprofit CEO Tim Smith, Judge Wendy Davis and state Sen. Andy Zay.

Stutzman, who served in Congress from 2010 to 2017, will face Democrat Kiley Adolph in November. She beat out Phil Goss with a commanding 63% of the vote. Incumbent Rep. Jim Banks left his seat to run for U.S. Senate.

In the Sixth Congressional District, left vacant by retiring GOP Rep. Greg Pence, Republican businessman Jefferson Shreve claimed victory over state Rep. Mike Speedy and five other hopefuls with just 28% of the vote.

Shreve, who in 2022 sold his self-storage business for nearly \$600 million, poured more than \$13 million into a failed Indianapolis mayoral bid last year that saw him take several moderate stances to woo a largely Democrat electorate.

He loaned his congressional campaign another \$4.5 million, flooding the airwaves and mailboxes alike with advertisements that took a decidedly hard-right turn.

Democrat Cynthia Wirth, who ran uncontested, will counter him in November.

In the Eighth Congressional District — incumbent Republican Rep. Larry Bucshon retired — state Sen. Mark Messmer nabbed a plurality of the GOP vote: about 39%. He defeated John Hostettler, who previously represented the district from 1995 until 2007, and six other hopefuls. That includes two other current and former state lawmakers.

General election voters will choose between Messmer and Democrat Erik

Hurt, who defeated three other hopefuls with about 45% of the vote.

Challengers to incumbents finalized
In the First Congressional District, Democrat U.S. Rep. Frank Mrvan won his uncontested race.

He'll face Republican Randy Niemeyer in November, who beat out opponents Mark Levya and Ben Ruiz with about 62% of the vote.

In the Second Congressional District, uncontested Republican U.S. Rep. Rudy Yakym became his party's nominee. He'll face Democrat Lori Camp, who also ran uncontested, in November.

In the Fourth Congressional District, Republican U.S. Rep. Jim Baird easily defeated GOP challengers Charles Bookwalter and John Piper with about 65% of the vote.

Democrat Derrick Holder won his party's nomination with about 64% over opponent Rimpi Gim.

In the Fifth Congressional District, Republican U.S. Rep. Victoria Spartz pulled out a victory over several GOP hopefuls who entered when it was still an open race.

Spartz said last year that she'd leave Congress but jumped into the race just before a filing deadline.

She beat back state Rep. Chuck Goodrich, former congressional staffer Max Engling, speech-language pathologist Raju Chinthala and five other challengers with just 39% of the vote.

Democrat Deborah Pickett won her party's nomination, beating out Ryan Pfenninger with about 60% of the vote.

In the Seventh Congressional District, Democrat U.S. Rep. André Carson crushed two challengers, Curtis Godfrey and Pierre Pullins, with a whopping 91% of the vote.

The race to face him in the general election was at razor-thin margins Tuesday night: Republicans Jennifer Pace and Catherine Ping were within a couple hundred votes of each other but had pulled ahead of two other competitors.

In the Ninth Congressional District, Republican U.S. Rep. Erin Houchin handily beat out GOP challenger Hugh Doty with about 80% of the vote.

General election voters will chose between her and Democrat Timothy Peck, who defeated Liam Dorris with 66% of the vote.



Pictured in the photo from left are Wells County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Erin Prible, Kevin Sills of Farm Bureau Insurance, Tonya McGary of Linder Oil Company, Keith Muhlenkamp of First Merchants Bank, John Marshall and Angie Marshall of Linder Oil, Ben Renkenberger of United Way of Wells County, Jessica Beste of Stockton Mortgage, Kody Kummer of Forgotten Children, Heather Morgan of National Oil, Nick Huffman of Steffen Group and Kevin Pritchard of Ruoff Mortgage. (Photo submitted)

Linder Oil Company honored as Chamber's Member of the Month

The Wells County Chamber of Commerce staff and Ambassadors awarded Linder Oil Company, a family-owned custom oil blender in Ossian, the title of May Member of the Month. Owners John and Angie Marshall were pleasantly surprised with the honor at their business location at 820 Industrial Parkway.

Founded in 1978 by Bob Marshall, Linder Oil began its journey in a modest building in downtown Fort Wayne, specializing in the blending of base oils with additives to create superior lubricants mainly distributed in drums and through bulk deliveries. Over the decades, Linder Oil has expanded its operations and facilities significantly, moving to its current location in Ossian in 2006 after a series of strategic moves aimed at accommodating growth and enhancing distribution capabilities.

Today, Linder Oil is recognized for its custom-made maintenance oils, primarily serving steel mills, rubber processing oil companies, and small manufacturing businesses across the Midwest. The company

prides itself on its direct sales model and exceptional service, offering rapid delivery turnarounds that distinguish it from major competitors.

"We are incredibly honored to receive this recognition from the Wells County Chamber of Commerce," said John Marshall. "Our success is truly a team effort, and each of our 13 staff members plays a crucial role. We're not just selling products; we're providing solutions right here from our site, where everything is mixed and blended with precision."

Under the leadership of the Marshalls, Linder Oil has continued to thrive and expand, adding a 5,000 square foot extension to their production area and office space in 2016. The company is always on the lookout for opportunities to grow and is actively seeking new employees, emphasizing that no special skills are required as training is provided.

For more information about Linder Oil Company and their services, please visit their website at linderoilco.com or call 260-622-4680.

Judge delays Fort Wayne murder trial

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (AP) — A judge on Tuesday delayed until October the murder trial of an Indiana man charged in the killings of two teenage girls after the man's attorneys expressed concerns they would not have adequate time to present their case.

Richard Allen's trial was set to begin next week with jury selection in Allen County for a May 13 to May 31 trial in Carroll County. Special Judge Frances Gull set the new trial date on Tuesday for Oct. 14 through Nov. 15.

The latest change in Allen's scheduled trial came after Gull in March moved his

trial, which had previously been set for October, to May after Allen's attorneys sought a sooner trial date.

However, Allen's attorneys have since claimed they have not had enough time to prepare their case and said the court had not granted them enough time to present their case during the trial itself.

Allen, 51, who had worked and lived in the Delphi area, was arrested in October 2022 and charged in the 2017 slayings of 13-year-old Abigail Williams and 14-year-old Liberty German. He's pleaded not guilty to murder charges.

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