

# The News - Banner

www.News-Banner.com

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00

## A mother's love, the Father's grace

**By SYDNEY KENT**  
 "Something happens to you when you have a baby," Colleen Deniston said. "And when you lose a baby. The five babies that I lost were traumatic, and I was

too mentally unstable to handle it. Looking back now, I could see where Jesus was with me when I didn't know."

Deniston became a mother for the first time while still a child herself. Raised in a controlling environment, her innocence was interrupted by unimaginable trauma.

At 13-years-old, Deniston ran away in hopes of finding a better life. She was ultimately placed in foster care, moving from home to home until she turned 18. However, the connections to her past still pulled her into



Colleen Deniston (right) laughs with the ladies at Hannah's House after a morning worship session. (Photos by Sydney Kent)



Colleen Deniston (right) embraces Bethanie Burns (left) who is a dear friend and coworker at Grace and Mercy.

a life of continued turmoil.

It was the desire to protect her daughter that allowed her to persevere in what she called a

prison in her own mind.

"I didn't want my daughter to know everything that I came out of," Deniston explained. "Even

as an adult, I didn't feel like I had a voice, but — I do now."

The nature of Deniston's (Continued on Page 2)

## Bill changes requirements for county contracts

**By HOLLY GASKILL**  
 Wells County contracts may change to fit new requirements in Indiana House Enrolled Act No. 1158. The bill, authored by state Rep. Matt Lehman and first sponsored by Sen. Travis Holdman, adds a set list of requirements to contracts for county elected officers. Namely, contracts will be submitted for review by the county attorney and executive to allow for a review process. All financial contracts must also be approved by the county executive. The act takes effect July 1.

Sheriff Scott Holliday brought the matter to the County Commissioners' attention during their meeting Monday. "There was a couple of sheriffs I think that made the news when it comes to making certain purchases or contracts that didn't do the rest of us any favors," Holliday said, referencing the recent investigation into purchases made by a Clark County sheriff.

Holliday said his contract has previously modeled a similar process as outlined in the act. Its requirements also apply to the county auditor, coroner, recorder, surveyor, treasurer, clerk and fiscal body.

"What it does is it just clarifies the procedure that we've been implementing and trying to implement throughout the last year and a half," added County Attorney Ted Storer. "So the sheriff's right — he's been following many of the same processes. It also gives us ... the opportunity to put some standard clauses that all officers are required to provide in the contract before they even submit it to the auditor for the commissioners

(Continued on Page 2)



Top, smoke simulates the chemical gas in the scenario. Below, Fire Chief Don Craig, Assistant Chief Chris Wolf, along with Brian Ehrman, Kadin Gerber, Josh Hall and Nathan Bueter responded to the mock call. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)

## Wells County, city responders train for disaster

**By JONATHAN SNYDER**  
 Bluffton and Wells County Emergency Services ran a training program at the Valero Renewables Plant on Friday to simulate what would happen if a disastrous chemical spill occurs.

The Bluffton Fire Department, Bluffton Police Department, Wells County Sheriff, Wells County Emergency Services, and Wells County Emergency Management Agency were tested on their response time and reaction to the fake spill.

The simulation involved a train hitting a tanker carrying chlorine gas. The gas, simulated by yellowish-green colored



smoke flares, spilled out into the air. Two inflatable dummies, which simulated an injured and deceased victim were also on scene.

Vantage Point Consulting helped set up the scenario and provided guidance on where each department could improve and other things they may encounter in a real disaster. How to decontaminate victims, as well as discernment on who needed decontamination the most, was discussed.

(Continued on Page 2)

## Bucher grateful for local support



Grant Bucher

In the wake of his recent Primary Election loss to obtain the Republican nomination to represent Northeast Indiana in Congress, Wells County native Grant Bucher has not lost his enthusiasm. He is particularly grateful to the 2,048 people in Wells County who voted for him.

"It was extremely encouraging, certainly," he said Thursday afternoon. He added that his showing in

Wells County, which led the crowded eight-person field with 43% of the vote, "can be attributed more to my family and friends who love and serve their community well. And they advocated for me.

(Continued on Page 2)

## Collins, Craighead named BHS co-valedictorians

Connor Reed Collins and Claire Denise Craighead are the Co-Valedictorians of the Bluffton High School Class of 2024.

Connor Collins is the son of Josh and Jenny Collins of Bluffton. He was on the High Honor Roll for all four years of high school. Upon graduation, Collins will receive an Academic Honors Diploma. He is also a member of the National Honor Society.

While in high school, Collins competed in Business Professionals of America. He is a three-time state qualifier in the events of extemporaneous speech and advanced accounting.

Collins has participated in bowling, helping the team win regionals and advance to the state tournament twice. He is currently on the golf team.

Outside of the classroom, Collins is a 10-year 4-H member. He has spent three years showing pigs, seven years showing goats, and has also participated in forestry, models and weather. He has won goat senior showmanship, reserve grand champion dairy goat wether and participated in royal showmanship. He also volun-

teers with 4-H, teaching bowling and showmanship skills, as well as park cleanup and painting.

Collins will attend Purdue University in West Lafayette, to study applied physics.

Claire Craighead is the daughter of Jason and Gwen Craighead of Bluffton. As the president of the National Honor Society, she will also receive an Academic Honors Diploma.

While in high school, Craighead has been on the High Honor Roll for four years, and has won numerous academic awards in math, science and German.

(Continued on Page 2)



Claire Denise Craighead



Connor Reed Collins

**Inside**

Local/Area

Obituaries . . . . . 3

Police Notebook . . . 3

**Opinion**

Saturday Sub . . . . . 4

**Also...**

Sports . . . . . 1a-2a

Classifieds . . . . . 4a

Diversions . . . . . 3a

**Outside**

And the wind blows storms back into our lives

Today	Sunday	Monday
High 66	High 74	High 76
Low 44	Low 56	Low 56

More Weather on Page 2

**Online**

Follow us on Facebook!  
 Go to [www.facebook.com/newsbanner](http://www.facebook.com/newsbanner)

Place Your Classified Ads 24/7

Vol. 95 No. 163

**SATURDAY**  
 May 11, 2024

**PADDLEFISH**  
 solar project

Susan Poper - Local Representative  
 201 E. Market St., Suite No. 3  
 Bluffton, IN 46714  
 Office Hours: By appointment only

info@paddlefishsolar.com  
 edf-re.com/project/  
 paddlefish-solar-project/  
 (260) 355-5951  
 Paddlefish Solar Project  
 facebook.com/PaddlefishSolar

**How to contact us:**

Call us: **824-0224**  
 or **1-800-579-7476**  
 email@news-banner.com

On the Web:  
[www.news-banner.com](http://www.news-banner.com)

Follow us at:  
[twitter.com/newsbanner](https://twitter.com/newsbanner)

8 04879 07558 5



# A mother's love

(Continued from Page 1)  
upbringing led to a deep fear of faith. She struggled to find safety, autonomy and agency.

The resulting hopelessness came to a peak as she sat in her car several years ago, defeated.

Deniston said she was too tired to find a way forward — both literally and figuratively. She wasn't even sure where she was parked. It was at that moment that she noticed a small group of women exiting a vehicle in the parking lot.

"Karna (Thistles) and the Grace and Mercy girls got out of the car," Deniston said. "I asked if this was a church. It was God's House in Marion. Karna invited me in. I needed Jesus with skin on, you know? I didn't know that's what I needed. God used her to talk to me."

Deniston was insistent that no one would believe her story. The service ended and she didn't know where she would go next.

"So, Karna invited me to live with her," Deniston laughed. "I followed her home that night to Bluffton. Then I asked Jesus to come into my heart. He started working in me, breaking strongholds in my life. He set me free."

Deniston said that along with Thistles, Grace and Mercy staff Bethanie Burns and Andrea Dimond

continually poured into her — despite the fact that she was not a resident. Their presence and testament of faith was a powerful force in Deniston's life.

Though she had begun healing from the pain of her past, she worried about her daughter, Karley Vaughn. At the time, Vaughn was trapped in domestic violence in another state and struggling with addiction.

She began to pray over the possibility of bringing Vaughn to Indiana.

"We almost lost her," Deniston paused as her voice quivered. "Two weeks after I asked God to get Karley here — I found out she was coming. Bethanie, Andrea and Karna helped me get her into rehab and then Grace and Mercy."

Deniston began work as an intern at Grace and Mercy at the time. The position allowed her to both bear witness to and be an integral part of Vaughn's recovery.

"I was able to help her with my grandkids and be in her life," Deniston said. "When she graduated and got married, I took a paid position and became the House Manager. I also work at Hannah's House part time since it has opened. I never have felt like I work there because of what they have done for me and Karley. We live

a different life. They are our family."

Vaughn, a stylist at Beauty For Ashes in downtown Bluffton, said that her mom is the most caring person she knows.

"My mother is the most kindhearted woman," Vaughn said. "She always puts others before herself. She's been through a lot, and because of that, she always has the best advice. I am so thankful for her."

"It blesses my heart when one — you can tell (Vaughn) and I are mother and daughter," Deniston laughed. "We do the best we can with what we know. God has really taken up the slack. He's healed things I could never have healed myself."

Darcy Johnson, the House Manager at Hannah's House, also previously completed the program at Grace and Mercy. Johnson said that Deniston was there throughout her journey.

"She's pretty much my mom," Johnson said. "She is a very caring and loving person."

Deniston said she is honored to be able to touch the women who walk through the doors of both buildings. Her work is a testament to the idea that mothering is much more than a task associated with a birth certificate.

"My mom used to be passed out on the couch,

she never really spent time with me. I struggled to replace a hole in my heart," Cheyenne Neuen-schwander, a resident at Hannah's House, said in a video testimony. "I am only 20-years-old. I still have the need for structure and a mother figure in my life. I have a house full of mother hens."

The full video, presented at the 2024 Community Care Auction, can be viewed on the Tree-boy Productions YouTube page.

"I just knew I wanted to love these girls the way I was loved and accepted," Deniston concluded. "I knew that sometimes I needed Jesus with skin on, so I needed to allow someone to hug me so I could feel loved. I needed to belong. I needed to be safe. And that is what a lot of these women need. I just want to give back the love that I received."

For the women consumed by grief from the loss of a mother, a child, or a chance to carry a child despite many efforts — Deniston's words are salve for weary souls.

"I know what it is like to be lonely and desperate and scared," Deniston said softly. "I just love the women and I know they're hurting. I hope that the seeds are planted — I know God grows beautiful things from that."

*sydney@news-banner.com*

# Weather

Saturday, May 11, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:39 p.m. Friday)

High: 66; Low: 49; Precipitation: 0.02 inches of rain  
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 4.12 feet at 8:45 p.m. Friday

## Wells County forecast

**Today:** Showers and thunderstorms likely, mainly before 9 a.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 66. West wind 10 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

**Tonight:** Mostly clear, with a low around 44. West wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 74. West wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Sunday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 56. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph.

**Monday:** A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 76.

**Monday Night:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 8 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 56. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

**Tuesday:** Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before 8 a.m., then showers likely between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m., then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 66. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

**Tuesday Night:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms before 2 a.m., then a slight chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 49. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

**Wednesday:** A 20% chance of showers before 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 71.

**Wednesday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 49.

**Thursday:** A 30% chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 74.

# County contracts

(Continued from Page 1)  
to review."

Storer said these provisions could include processes for mediation, arbitration or termination and requirements that any litigation occur within Wells County. "We can pass an ordinance by the commissioners about that process and what standard clauses that way all our county offices know what clauses need to be in the contract before they even come to us," Storer stated.

Holliday said there should be clarification regarding the contracts he signs, particularly for the jail, which don't ultimately cost the county money. "It's not every con-

tract — those (contracts with cost) have to be part of the county's fiscal budget," he said.

"We may have a disagreement about that share, but we can take care of that sometime," Storer responded.

"There isn't a lot of contracts that usually fall within my realm ... that bring in funds for the county — no one wants to enter a contract that costs the county money in the county budget without anybody's approval," Holliday clarified. "But that the department head (needs approval on every contract), I think it's kind of silly in my opinion. So just bring it up so we're not dealing with this July 1, and everybody's up to speed and aware of what we need to do

with it."

Storer suggested the county officials issue written notification of this change, and Commissioner Blake Gerber suggested they could discuss it during their June employee meeting.

During his regular report, Holliday advised there were 68 inmates being housed in the Wells County Jail — 39 were pre-trial holds for the Circuit Court, 21 for the Superior Court, six from the Department of Correction and one Level 6 felon. By Wednesday's Wells County Council meeting, the total population had increased by one but the breakdown had no changes.

*holly@news-banner.com*

# Bucher grateful

(Continued from Page 1)  
Amazing."

The 2008 Norwell graduate now living in Steuben County also took the top spot in Adams County with about 28% of the vote. He came in third in Jay County and fourth in

Steuben, finishing in fifth place overall in the race that former Congressman Marlin Stutzman won. He has no regrets about his decision to enter the race, which has consumed his family's life the past year in addition to maintaining

a full-time job as a project manager for Weigand Construction.

He also expressed his appreciation "to everyone who jumped into this campaign to help. You know who you are."

Bucher shared his

observations in a lengthy discussion about what he learned and what he is taking away from the experience, which is included in a post-election analysis on page 4 of today's edition.

— Mark Miller

# BHS co-valedictorians

(Continued from Page 1)

Craighead participated in student council for four years and is currently the vice president. She has served on the committees for the Food Bank Drive, Riley Children's Hospital auction, and the Veteran's Day committee. Craighead has participated in swimming for two years, vol-

leyball for three years, and softball for four years. She has been selected as a team captain for volleyball and softball this year.

In addition to her school achievements, Craighead attends the Bluffton North Apostolic Church, where she is active in the youth group. She has participated in a mission trip to

Big Laurel, KY for three years. She also volunteers at the Wells County Food Bank.

Craighead will spend the summer working and traveling in Arizona, while supporting the Apostolic Christian Church in Prescott, Arizona, and then enter the workforce in the fall.

# Disaster training

(Continued from Page 1)

Evacuation and shelter protocols, both for the public and for Wells County buildings like the jail, as well as quickly getting information to the public was also discussed.

Currently, there are two forms of instant notification communication that Wells County uses. The Wells County Sheriff's app has a notification system in place, and through Everbridge, a critical event management software provider based out of Boston, Massachusetts.

Fire Chief Don Craig, Wells County Sheriff Scott Holliday, and Police Chief Kyle Randall all stated that they learned something new during the disaster debriefing session. Craig noted

that unpredictable wind would play a major factor in chemical gas spills, due to the chemical cloud's change in direction. Holliday also added that transporting on average 70 prisoners from the Wells County Jail, should the chemical cloud cover that area, will be tough to address with their current transportation fleet.

Overall, each response team came out of the situation better prepared to deal with the chaos that this event may cause, should it ever happen. Randall noted that while the simulated response was not perfect, it was done well. All the departments at the event took the suggested improvements from Vantage Point to heart.

*jonathan@news-banner.com*



## Al Pfister

### Sale Manager

1169 N. Main St. Ste. 14 Bluffton, IN

**30 Years Experience**  
**Land, Farms, Farm**  
**Equipment, Estate Sales**

Call Al • 260-760-8922  
Email: [auction@adamswells.com](mailto:auction@adamswells.com)  
1-800-451-2709  
[www.schraderauction.com](http://www.schraderauction.com)



**SCHRADER**  
Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc.  
Auction Marketing Specialists Since 1944



## Get Ready for Spring & Summer.

Call and Schedule a Check Up Today!

# MR. KOOL

plumbing, heating, and cooling

## #1 Best Heating & Cooling Co.

## Best Plumbing Service





(260) 824-1126 • [mrkoolbluffton@gmail.com](mailto:mrkoolbluffton@gmail.com) • 610 N. Main St. Bluffton, IN 46714  
COS210004

# FAST, RELIABLE FIBER INTERNET

SOLUTIONS FOR HOME AND BUSINESS

UNLIMITED DATA | UP TO 1\* GBPS | 24/7 SUPPORT



## SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE IN MANY AREAS.

Sign up today or get fiber-ready by signing the underground agreement.

**Call for more details!**

833.727.5563

[twncomm.com/heartland](http://twncomm.com/heartland)




\*Services provided by TWN Communications. Not available in all areas. Restrictions, terms and conditions apply. Taxes, regulatory, surcharges and other charges are applicable. A line connection fee may be applicable. Call for details or visit [twncomm.com/terms-conditions](http://twncomm.com/terms-conditions) for additional information and terms and conditions of services. Residential customers on qualifying internet plans will receive download/upload speeds of 25.0 Mbps to 1.0 Gbps, per respective plan. A 30-day notice is required to cancel service.



**OBITUARIES**

**Stacey R. Wilson, 72**

Stacey R. Wilson, 72, of rural Poneto, passed away at 12:54 a.m. on Thursday, May 9, 2024, at his residence in Poneto. He was born Oct. 10, 1951, in Bluffton. He married Patricia Elaine (Carnes) Wilson on Nov. 11, 1989, at the Blanche Chapel Church.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia Elaine (Carnes) Wilson, Poneto; daughter, Amber Wilson (Jeff) Schreiber, Bluffton; son, Justin (Mandy Lugar) Wilson, Baltimore, Md.; brothers, Bruce (Gloria) Wilson, Ossian, Jim (Ronda) Wilson, Bluffton, Steve (Lynette) Wilson, Dade City, Fla. and Roger Wilson, Uniondale; sister, Deb Charleston, Uniondale; and five grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father,

Robert A. Wilson; and mother, Laurel (Fulk) Wilson.

Family and friends may gather to share and remember at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home located at 109 W Windsor St Montpelier on Monday, May 13, 2024, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

A service to celebrate his life will be at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, with Jeremy Lord officiating. Interment will follow in the McFarren Cemetery in Wells County.

Arrangements are being handled by Walker & Glancy Funeral Home in Montpelier.

Online condolences may be made at [www.glancyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.glancyfuneralhomes.com)

**Rochelle E. Walburn, 77**

Rochelle E. Walburn, 77, of Bluffton, passed away Friday morning, May 10, 2024, at Coventry Meadows Assisted Living in Fort Wayne.

**Bluffton Parks & Rec News & Notes**



By Brandy Fiechter

**Destination Recreation**

The City-Wide Clean Up for Bluffton residents will run from 8 a.m. to noon today. Dumpsters will be placed at the Wastewater Treatment Facility, 702 N. Main St., to dispose of extra trash and bulk items. Items not accepted are hazardous waste materials, tires, electronics, printers, computers, televisions, recyclables and large pieces of furniture. Carpet will be taken if cut into 4-foot pieces and bundled up. A driver's license may be required.

OmniSource now has collection containers located at the Bluffton Recycling Center for E-Waste. There is a \$20 charge for TV's and computer monitors. You can purchase these at the Wells County Auditor's office in the Court House.

The Firefly Ballet Tour will be at Kehoe Park on Tuesday, May 14, at 7 p.m. Start your summer with Fort Wayne Ballet's professional company of dancers, great music, and the twinkling lights of evening stars and fireflies. This tour brings a variety of fantastic dance performances to surrounding communities. These performances are free and open to the public, so bring your lawn chair and enjoy the show.

Train for the Trot — It's not too soon to commit and start training for the 50th Annual Parlor City Trot. We are offering training plans and support for the 5k, 10k, and half-marathon. Train for the Trot starts June 1 and includes a daily training schedule based on your distance and goal, a training tech t-shirt and \$5.00 for your Parlor City Trot registration. We will also offer several group-run opportunities throughout the summer. We plan to use the Training Peaks app for this program to provide the most personalized plans delivered directly to your phone or GPS watch. You do have the option of receiving a printed training plan as well. Sign

up now at <https://tinyurl.com/298p2ukm>.

Splash pads are on target to be up and running by Memorial weekend. Bluffton has two splash pads at Pickett's Run Park (304 E Washington) and Roush Park (925 W Silver). Hours of operation are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and the water features can be turned on by touching the sensors.

We still have summer swim and diving lessons available for those who still need to sign the kids up. Two-week classes are only \$20. Call the park office at 824-6069 to register by May 23. Once the pool opens on Memorial weekend, call them at 824-1550 to ask about our popular private swim lessons.

Did someone say Pickleball? The Bluffton Parks Department will offer another year of Intro to Pickleball for adults and teens over 16 to learn the fun and fast-paced game of Pickleball. Join volunteer instructor Rick King on Tuesdays and Thursdays through June and July at Washington Park (710 S. Mulberry) Tennis Courts, starting at 10 a.m. This is a free drop-in program.

Speaking of the tennis courts in Washington Park, we are honored to be selected as one of the locations for the IHSAA girls' tennis regionals held on May 21-22 from 3 p.m. to sundown. If you are looking to play tennis or pickleball on those evenings, please visit the Lion's Park courts.

If you see a crew of volunteers working this weekend at Veteran's Park, be sure to thank them. Valero Renewables has been donating flowers and weeding the park for many years as a service to our community. We truly appreciate businesses like this who roll up their sleeves to help keep our parks beautiful.

**Happy Mother's Day weekend to all the moms in our community!**

**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, May 13, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

**Bluffton-Harrison school board will meet Monday**

The board of the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District will meet at 6 p.m. Monday, May 13, in the school district's administration building at 803 E. Harrison St. in Bluffton.

Items on the agenda include:

- Personnel and financial matters.
- Reports and announcements from Superintendent Brad Yates and Assistant Superintendent Julie Meitzler.
- Updates regarding the middle school roof replacement and improvements project, high school building envelope, athletic facility needs and Our Town Safety Village.
- Policy updates and donations.

**Regional Sewer District board will meet Monday**

The board of the Wells County Regional Sewer District will meet at 5:30 p.m. Monday, May 13, in the meeting room of the main library, 200 W. Washington St.

Items on the agenda include:

- Superintendent report and update.
  - Engineer's project status updates.
  - Financial matters.
- A public hearing regarding Project 4 in Tocsin will begin at 6 p.m.

**Ossian Town Council will meet Monday evening**

The Ossian Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, May 13, at the Ossian Town Hall, 507 N. Jefferson St. in Ossian.

**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, May 14, in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Service Center at 117 W. Harvest Road in Bluffton.

**Bluffton Board of Works to meet Tuesday afternoon**

The Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

**Norwell school board will meet Tuesday evening**

The board of the Norwell Community Schools will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, at the school district's central office, 312 N. Jefferson St. in Ossian.

**Wells County Public Library board will meet Tuesday**

The board of the Wells County Public Library will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, in the meeting room of the main library, 200 W. Washington St.

Items on the agenda include:

- Reports from the director, treasurer and librarians.
- Report from the Ossian branch.
- Committee reports regarding the building, budget, policy, public awareness, nominating and director evaluation.
- Personnel updates.

An executive session will directly follow the regular agenda to discuss personnel.

**Markle Town Council will meet Wednesday evening**

The Markle Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 15, in the meeting room of the Markle fire station, 150 W. Sparks St. in Markle.

**County Election Board will meet Friday afternoon**

The Wells County Election Board will meet at 2 p.m. Friday, May 17, in the clerk's office in the Wells County Courthouse, 102 W. Market St.

**Police Notebook**

**INCIDENTS**

**County:**

Thursday, 4:03 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served to Kyle Schone.

Thursday, 4:05 p.m., Wells County Jail. No contact order served to Ollie Puckett.

Thursday, 6:09 p.m., 900 block of East 100 South, Bluffton. Report of issue with vehicle on property.

Thursday, 7:42 p.m.,

River Terrace Estates. Report of altercation between residents.

Friday, 12:04 a.m., South Hoosier Highway and East 300 South, Bluffton. Report of traffic barrel in road.

Friday, 5:50 a.m., Jeff Road and West 1100 South, Montpelier. Car versus deer.

Friday, 9:45 a.m., Wells County Jail. Report of rape, father advised not to handle situation on his own.

**Ossian:**

Thursday, 6:07 a.m., 7600 North S.R. 1, Ossian. Car versus deer.

**ARRESTS**

Kyle Steven Schone, 30, Fort Wayne; domestic battery with serious bodily injury, and domestic battery with a deadly weapon, both Level 5 felonies, and strangulation and intimidation, both Level 6 felonies. Bond set at \$20,000.



**Norwell extracurricular awards**

Norwell held an awards ceremony for extra-curricular honors in its gymnasium Friday. Some awards include the 12N Award — accepted by Makenzie Fuess, left, Annabelle Johnson, Haleigh Reinhard and Reghan Plunkett, pictured above, left to right. At left, Lane Lewis and Johnson received awards from the Bluffton Rotary Club. Below, Collin Burns (left), received the Bobby Moser award and Lillian Norris received the Lori Rupright award. (Photos submitted)



**From our family to you ...**

The Reimschisel family at Family Ford of Bluffton hope that you will take a few moments at least once each week to spend some time with what really matters during these "interesting times."

This short essay is from



— a free publication we would love to share with you. Stop in anytime. There is no cost or obligation.



Family Ford of Bluffton  
970 N. Main St., Bluffton  
824-2300

1 SAMUEL 28:3-10

All you need to say is simply "Yes" or "No"; anything beyond this comes from the evil one. [MATTHEW 5:37]

**STAYING THE COURSE IN CHRIST**

As Gandalf the Grey confronted Saruman the White, it became clear that the latter had turned from what he was supposed to be doing—helping to protect Middle-earth from the power of the evil being Sauron. What's more, Saruman had allied with Sauron! In this scene from the film *The Fellowship of the Ring*, based on J.R.R. Tolkien's classic work, the two former friends then engage in an epic good-versus-evil battle. If only Saruman had stayed the course and done what he knew was right!

King Saul also had trouble staying the course. In one account, he rightly "expelled the mediums and spiritists from [Israel]" (1 SAMUEL 28:3). Good move, for God had declared that dabbling in the occult was "detestable" (DEUTERONOMY 18:9-12). But when God didn't answer the king's plea—due to his prior failures—for how to deal with a massive Philistine army, Saul caved: "Find me a woman who is a medium, so I may go and inquire of her" (1 SAMUEL 28:7). Talk about a complete reversal! Saul failed once more as he went against his own decree—what he knew was right.

A millennium later, Jesus said to His disciples, "All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one" (MATTHEW 5:37). In other words, if we've committed ourselves to obeying Christ, it's vital that we keep our oaths and be truthful. Let's stay the course in doing those things as God helps us.

What helps you keep your oaths? Why is it vital that you stay the course in being truthful?  
Dear Jesus, please help me stay the course in following Your ways.

Tom Felten, *Our Daily Bread*®, Copyright © 2024 by Our Daily Bread Ministries, Grand Rapids, MI. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. [www.odb.org/](http://www.odb.org/). For further distribution, please contact [permissionsdept@odb.org](mailto:permissionsdept@odb.org)

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



**Jerry Flack & Associates**

WE REPRESENT MANY - MANY - MANY INSURANCE COMPANIES

WE HAVE ALL THE MEDICARE AND MEDICAID OPTIONS AVAILABLE

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

**WE HAVE THE MARKETPLACE UNDER 65 PRODUCTS.**

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

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

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

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

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



# Grant Bucher: 'I think we made some ripples in the pond.'

This being the Saturday after an election, there is something in my genes that compels me to share some observations. This year's is dominated by the story of local-boy-does-good Grant Bucher's foray into running for office. Not just any office, but Northeast Indiana's Congressional District 3 race. Best I can determine, no one from Wells County has done anything similar — running for a national level office — since a 1963 Lancaster Central High School grad ran for president in 1988. Something I only recently learned, it will be a story for another day.

## Saturday's Sub



Mark Miller

When I first became aware that a Bucher from Angola had announced his candidacy, I wondered if he had a Wells County connection. Once that was confirmed, I assumed I would have the opportunity to chat with him at some point — which occurred this past November when he spoke to our local Rotary Club. That resulted in a profile printed a week or so later. Grant and I had some additional conversations during the campaign and he reached out to me on Election Day simply to say "thanks" for my sympathetic ear and being one of the media people in the district to recognize his candidacy. He subsequently agreed to a more lengthy chat about what he'd learned from his experience.

There are positives and negatives, of course; lessons of how things really work, which can often be discouraging. But he also leaves the experience with hope.

He did not go into the race naively. "But you get into it, you roll back the curtain and it is pretty much as expected," he shared, referring to how critical fundraising is, how that works, the role the PACs play and then the amount of negative campaigning that arises, especially in the home stretch.

"There is a direct correlation between what you raise and how much attention you get," he said, and then ultimately, how many votes accrue. "You can overcome that but it is really, really hard." He is not ashamed nor is he disappointed with the approximately \$75,000 his campaign raised, but that was dwarfed by the \$1-million-plus war chests gathered by at least three of his opponents, much of that reported to be personal loans the candidates made to their campaigns. "Self-funding," the term has come to be.

Hence, he figures he was outspent by about a 10-to-1 margin, "but when you throw in the money from the SuperPACs, it was more like 40-to-1," he said.

The money that is spent by these Political Action Committees is "gobs more" than you can raise locally, which is limited to \$3,300 per individual, Grant continued. PAC patronage is something he inquired about, but neither sought nor received. Data shows that more than \$3 million came into Northeast Indiana from the PACs, spent almost entirely on negative attack ads against targeted candidates. It is a complicated and somewhat shadowy process to track who is funding what PAC and why they target who they do, producing ads I would describe as twisting what might be a technical "fact" into arguably undebatable fiction.

Grant is concerned about the degree of influence these groups have and is hopeful that someday those efforts could at least be re-directed in a more positive fashion. "We were spared," any of that negativity, he said. I would surmise that was largely because without a voting record, there was nothing for them to misrepresent.

The importance of fundraising is not better illustrated, I think, than by what I would call the "debate fiasco." WANE TV, WOWO Radio and the Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette announced a joint effort to host a candidate debate forum for the race. Grant contacted one of the organizers, asking why he had not received an invitation.

"We're inviting just the top four frontrunners," he was told.

"Perfect," he replied, "I've been running in fourth place in recent polls."

After a brief pause, the person promised Grant he would get back with him. Grant was skeptical and asked if he could call back later but was assured someone would contact him. He never got that call. A subsequent announcement for the event held April 17 at Purdue-Fort Wayne stipulated that the four participants were "chosen by financial parameters." It was, he admits, a major disappointment.

I have to wonder what might have been. Although these debates do not typically reach a large audience, might Grant's participation and exposure have triggered some interest by someone who might've helped him expand his profile? Might his unique approach caught more media interest? His lack of experience would have likely been noted. One of his observations included in our profile last November comes to mind: "If experience in holding political office is the metric by which we have good Congresspeople," he said, "then we should not have the mess in D.C. we have." What might have been? We will never know.

Despite all that, "we got 10% of the district vote," he gushed — 8,255 votes. "That's just incredible. It is certainly more people than I had talked to throughout the

campaign." He calculates that his campaign spent about \$10 per vote received while the "frontrunners," including their PAC contributions, spent more than \$75 per vote received.

"Of course, I would have loved to have won to make it abundantly clear that God's hand was in this," he continued. In his announcements of his decision to run for the office, Grant had shared that he had felt "called to run for this office" in order to fulfill God's plan for his life. His advertising included the phrase "Inspired to Run. Driven to Serve," a slogan meant to share that vision.

"I think we made a significant showing," he said, certainly more than the professionals expected. Since Tuesday, he has heard from some people in Washington asking how an unknown rookie with no money could get that many votes. Which, he quickly added with a chuckle, "I'm not sure I want to brag about" or be too excited about any attention from Washington. "But I think we made some ripples in the pond." So maybe, I am thinking, there is still something to God's plan.

Which brings us to the positives that came out of the campaign, which he insisted are more numerous than the negatives. At the top of that list is "the awesome experience to do this as a family," he said, "both nuclear

"the Trump litmus test." It has become all too apparent that in order to win a Republican primary for almost any statewide or federal race in the country, one must pledge allegiance. (To be clear: Those are my words, not Grant's.) What he shared then is the same as his synopsis now, but in the aftermath, he began by saying "I heard about Trump *all the time*."

"I actually tried to be proactive about it when talking to a group," he said, "but the question *always* came up. I always said 'Look, I like a lot of what he got done. I wish there was someone as effective but less divisive. But if it comes down to a choice between Trump and Biden, I will certainly vote for Trump.'"

That stance "was dismissed by multiple people," he said. There was one of two responses: 1) "I can't believe you would even consider voting for him."

"But wait," I replied, "These are people at Republican events?"

"Yes," Grant affirmed. "There are a significant number of anti-Trump Republicans out there." We both noted that Nikki Haley had garnered almost 22% of Indiana votes Tuesday without spending a cent in the state and officially suspending her campaign months ago.

But the majority reaction was clearly No. 2) "I only vote for MAGA Trump candidates."

The bottom line was, even though Grant said he supported his policies and would vote for him, "that was not enough allegiance. I was not MAGA enough. I was not 'Trump' enough."

Several years ago when Mike Braun was running for Senate (in 2017) and Jim Banks was running for Congress (in 2015), I had an opportunity for one-on-one chats and I asked questions about their opinion of Mr. Trump. They both had very similar answers to Grant's at the time, specifically expressing their desire that he might clean up his act. But they have since learned the lesson to pledge full allegiance. And, not coincidentally, so did Marlin Stutzman.

"I wanted to ask 'Why does that matter?'" Grant continued. "My allegiance is to God, my family and the people I would represent. I would be willing to work with whoever is there." Just like in his job, he cannot choose the people — the customers and other contractors — he must work with. But that is part of being a project manager for Weigand Construction, he explained, to get along and work together for the common goal. And the way it should be in Washington.

He did ask one person that question. Apparently it did not accomplish anything: I am guessing it only made matters worse. He didn't ask it again.

Which segues into looking at our local experiences. We certainly saw the impact of some of that \$3 million spent by PACs. I was often amazed at all the shots taken at eventual winner Marlin Stutzman. Somebody in Washington doesn't like him. Additionally, he was the early polling leader, putting the biggest target on his back. Nevertheless, he won back the seat he had given up to run for the open Senate seat six years ago that Mike Braun won. The discussion with Grant about this was largely speculative on both sides but interesting. Grant related that unfortunately, negative campaigning works. Stutzman began with a majority lead in the polls that was reduced to the 24% plurality that barely topped second-place Tim Smith, who of course was the target of other attack ads.

In hindsight, I wish I would have kept a tally of who sent how many mailers for all the contests before I chucked them into the recycling bin on my walk between the mailbox and the house.

And in the top local race, two lessons from Grant's experience apply. There is, as Grant mentioned, a direct correlation between the money spent and the attention and votes you get. I have not seen the final tally of receipts and expenses yet, but it will be interesting to compute the amount of money spent per vote received in the commissioner race and where that came from.

Although there was, thankfully, no negative campaigning, I would question one mailing which tied illegal immigration and 2nd Amendment rights to local county government. What one has to do with the other is a mystery, except that it employs the scare-tactic-issue approach. Although Trump was not invoked, the spirit was there. Just made me scratch my head.

Which, in the end, summarizes my view of political campaigns at the national and state levels in these divisive times. They seem to want to further divide us in order to get elected. Which, to come full circle, helps me appreciate Grant Bucher all the more.

"I hope this isn't the last time we talk," he said as we ended our conversation Thursday. Me too.

miller@news-banner.com

## Inspired to Run. Driven to Serve.

GRANT BUCHER  
US CONGRESS • IN DISTRICT 3

This was Grant Bucher's large sign campaign message



and extended."

He asked that I particularly mention his wife Melinda who "did more for the campaign than anyone realizes." He mentioned his two sons, Grayson and Gentry as "the best little campaigners and encouragers." It seems that while playing outside, Gentry, 4, would race to get some brochures whenever their neighbors would be out for a walk.

"I wish I would have taken a picture of Grayson (age 7) being determined to get the 4'x4' signs out. He would manhandle these signs that are twice his size."

There were several instances which "displayed God's hand in this" when some needed funds suddenly and unexpectedly appeared.

His extended family also treated the effort as a mission and that "real excitement grew" as the campaign progressed. "I think what we discovered was that people are hungry for hope," he said. I would throw my perspective in here: It was Grant who provided that hope, at least for me, that someone like him would make such an honest and positive character-based approach to a campaign rather than an issue or negative scare-tactic approach that has become all too common. "There is, I think, a hope that our government can be turned around," he continued. He expressed being "excited and anxious" about where that sentiment might lead.

"We need a renewal in our nation and it's not going to be accomplished by apathy or disengagement," he shared at this point in our chat. Which caused me to jump down to what I'd thought would be my final question: "What's next for Grant Bucher?"

He laughed. "My next race will be the 'Ironman' race," he said. He is getting back to and stepping up his daily workouts, put aside by the political race. He has absolutely no plans for any further forays at this point but admitted that he was "not completely turned off by this process." It is, I am sure, highly dependent on what he perceives his God wants him to do.



"I was not MAGA enough."

One of the first questions I asked Grant last November is whether he'd encountered what I called

### 2024 Wells County Primary Election

		Bl. Lanc. East	Bl. Lanc. West	Bluffton 1	Bluffton 2	Bluffton 3	Bluffton 4	Bluffton 5	Bluffton 6	Bl. Lanc. West	Harrison	Harrison East	Jefferson West	Jefferson East	Lancaster West	Lancaster East	Nottingham	Rockcreek	Union	TOTALS						
Local Contested Races																										
Wells County Commissioner	Tamra BOUCHER (R)	130	80	67	54	69	62	161	58	73	91	82	49	91	113	89	79	90	109	75	91	84	128	1,925	42.51%	
	Jeff STRINGER (R)	151	78	60	47	67	60	153	56	119	128	102	119	138	130	121	106	171	159	132	97	191	218	2,603	57.49%	
Wells County Council At-Large	Vicki ANDREWS (R)	182	108	90	63	93	69	211	83	161	139	118	139	110	145	124	104	150	170	158	135	163	198	2,913	27.68%	
	Scott ELZEY (R)	141	93	75	59	82	68	187	71	97	105	89	64	164	185	138	127	137	163	115	88	172	247	2,667	25.34%	
	Heath SCHLAGENHAUF (R)	105	68	61	51	64	59	152	49	102	136	127	86	84	85	116	84	119	127	124	112	138	146	2,195	20.86%	
	Seth WHICKER (R)	195	123	68	49	69	78	192	74	98	145	93	92	134	150	126	121	151	184	107	86	189	224	2,748	26.11%	
President of the U.S.	Nikki HALEY	72	33	15	21	27	20	61	23	29	36	29	27	52	63	34	38	48	51	27	14	47	65	832	17.74%	
	Donald TRUMP	226	130	120	79	108	107	262	104	163	198	164	150	195	193	184	147	215	229	181	173	230	299	3,857	82.26%	
Congress: Grant Bucher's Percentage:		55.05	56.55	42.42	53.92	39.13	37.80	57.14	50.77	36.36	56.17	53.13	31.61	30.52	34.47	34.67	32.85	59.42	38.93	32.52	52.11	40.07	26.98	43.06%		

I've always found it interesting to enter the Precinct Voting Data into a spreadsheet and see what pops up. What stands out in this Primary is: First, Vicki Andrews' strong support county wide. She won every precinct south of SR 124 except for Bluffton 5 and Harrison Township where newcomer Heath Schlagenhaupt had his strongest showing, and placed no lower than third anywhere. Those six third-place finishes came in the northern precincts furthest away from her base. Second, Grant Bucher's support was consistent throughout the county's 22 precincts with his leading share dipping below 30% of the eight-person race only in Union Township where Andy Zay of adjacent Huntington County had his best Wells County showing. Third, Jeff Stringer's support was consistently strong outside of Bluffton, but Tamra Boucher tallied 11 more votes within the county seat city limits. Finally, while Wells County is without question in the heart of "Trump Country," the officially-no-longer-a-candidate Nikki Haley's near-18% tally indicates a not-so-insignificant level of discontent within the GOP ranks.

— Mark Miller

## Today in History

**By The Associated Press**  
Today is Saturday, May 11, the 132nd day of 2024. There are 234 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On May 11, 1981, legendary reggae artist Bob Marley died in a Miami hospital at age 36 of acral lentiginous melanoma, a skin cancer that is rare but the most common type found among people of color.

On this date:  
In 1647, Peter Stuyvesant arrived in New Amsterdam to become governor of

New Netherland.  
In 1858, Minnesota became the 32nd state of the Union.

In 1935, the Rural Electrification Administration was created as one of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs.

In 1946, the first CARE packages, sent by a consortium of American charities to provide relief to the hungry of postwar Europe, arrived at Le Havre, France.

In 1953, a tornado devastated Waco, Texas, claiming 114 lives.

The News-Banner  
(USPS 059-200)

Periodicals Postage Paid at Bluffton, IN 46714.  
Published every day except Sundays and principal holidays at 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton IN 46714, Post Office Box 436

News-Banner Publications, Inc.

Evening News est. 1892 • Evening Banner est. 1899 • Consolidated 1929

George B. Witwer, Chairman of the Board; Doug Brown, President, Publisher; Dianne Witwer, Secretary/Treasurer. Holly Gaskill, Editor. Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor.

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.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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.

**HIDAY AUTOMOTIVE GROUP**  
824-0900 General Motors  
824-1931 Chrysler

**NATIONAL OIL Delivery to Home FARM • BUSINESS**  
824-2220

**Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home**  
WELLS COUNTY'S OLDEST CONTINUING BUSINESS  
306 West Washington St., Bluffton, IN  
260-824-3850  
www.thomarich.com

**NAPA WELLS CO. AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY, INC.**  
643 N. Main St. Bluffton  
260-824-4460

**MIKE ANDERSON CHEVROLET**  
FIND NEW ROADS  
604 S. JEFFERSON, OSSIAN • 622-4115

**POSY POT Florist**  
126 W. Townley Bluffton • 824-3330

**R Warren Pharmacy**  
(260)375-2135  
1-800-895-7035  
222 N. Wayne Street - Warren, IN  
Your Pharmacist, Terry Daniels P.D.  
Has Over 30 Years of "Pharmaceutical Experience"  
Mon.-Fri 9-5:30; Sat. 9-12 noon

**Cupp Real Estate**  
127 Oak Forest Dr., Bluffton, IN  
824-1588

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

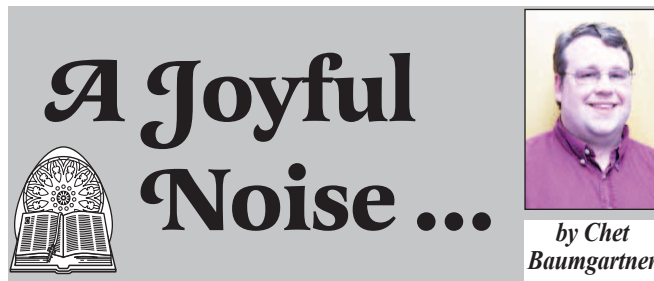
**FIRST UNITED METHODIST**  
325 W. Washington St.  
blufftonfirstumc.com  
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:45 - Sunday School.

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

**GRACE BIBLE**  
6626 Village Way, Berne  
gracebibleberne.com  
9 a.m. - Sunday classes. 10 a.m. - Collective 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.



**WHEN THE CLOUDS COME**  
Someone please alert the authorities: I looked out my office window Friday morning, and I saw that somehow, the sky turned blue and the clouds white.

I scoured the Book of Revelation and Matthew 24 and 25, just in case John or Jesus warned of this before His return, and neither the Son of God or His disciple mentioned it.

However, meteorologists apparently refer to this phenomena as a ... let me double check my sources ... "sunny day."

And while I should never challenge God's will in regards to the weather, I admit that I rather enjoy this mesmerizing hue after April showers didn't bring May flowers, but just more showers — and more gray clouds.

And as much as I enjoy thunderstorms, I confess that the sun is good for the eyes — and the soul.

But even the sun can't bless the soul shrouded in the clouds and storms of sin. They need the light of the Son.

No matter how badly they've sinned, He can and will forgive; He can and will cleanse; He can and will "renew a steadfast spirit within me," as King David pleaded after sinning with Bathsheba and killing her husband to cover it up.

He will gladly and abundantly answer that prayer when the repentant — those who don't only want forgiveness for a sin, but deliverance from their sin natures — pray it.

**WHEN THE CLOUDS COME**

**Verse 1:**

Lord I chased another rainbow  
Satan flashed before my eyes  
I ignored the stormy billows  
Though you've warned me of His lies  
Now I'm stumbling, numb, and helpless  
Sin's pollution soaks my soul  
And darkness clouds your Spirit  
That kept me sweetly whole

**Chorus:**

When the clouds come  
When my heart can't see  
When I can't run  
From the storm that wars inside of me  
I will bow down  
With a broken plea  
Lift my Spirit far above  
Where the clouds come

**Verse 2:**

Lord I've pled upon your mercy  
Through the blood of Jesus Christ  
Please revive your peace and glory  
So your love again can thrive  
To lead me from the lure of sin  
As Your will soaks through my all  
Anointing heart and body  
With the power of your call

**Chorus**

When the clouds come  
When my heart can't see  
When I can't run  
From the storm that wars inside of me  
I will bow down  
With a broken plea  
Lift my Spirit far above  
Where the clouds come

**Bridge**

Though the Spirit's blessed conviction breaks a heart through urgency  
Teach us Lord to tame it purely out of pure love's fervency

**Chorus**

When the clouds come  
When my heart can't see  
When I can't run  
From the storm that wars inside of me  
I will bow down  
With a broken plea  
Lift my Spirit far above  
Where the clouds come

Apparently, I must then conclude, I'm simply looking at sky not on the verge of rain.

baumofchet@gmail.com

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

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

**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 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.

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

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

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

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

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

**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.

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

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

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

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

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

**PARK COMMUNITY**  
617 S. Bennett St.  
parkccbluffton.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.

**UNIONDALE COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
5867 N. Main St.  
9 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.

**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**  
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.

**Bi-County Services**  
of Adams & Wells County  
Supported Living • Waiver Services • Workshop  
(260)824-1253

**Goodwin-Cole & Harnish MEMORIAL CHAPEL**  
A Tradition of Caring  
Locally Owned and Operated Since 1922  
Douglas L. Cole & Mitchell P. Harnish  
Owner Owner  
3220 St. Rd. 124 East, Bluffton • 824-3852

**Ford** Family Ford of Bluffton  
More Than A Customer... You're Family

**Bluffton Dental Clinic**  
1417 Baker Place, Bluffton, IN  
(260) 824-5940  
Dr. Pamela J. Johnson  
decaturdentalin.com

**Les Gerber Insurance**  
AUTO • HOME • LIFE • BUSINESS  
Perry Gerber  
1120 N. Main St., Bluffton  
260-824-1237

**PIZZA KING**  
114 W. Water  
824-4956  
Dine In, Carry Out or We Will Deliver  
"For The Times You Don't Want to Leave Home."

**TRULAND EQUIPMENT**  
Where provider means partner.  
• BLUFFTON • LOGANSPORT • HUNTINGTON  
• LAFAYETTE • FRANKFORT • WABASH  
• FLORA • SWAYZEE

**AdamsWells**  
INTERNET TELECOM TV  
260-565-3131  
A Division of Craigville Telephone Company, Inc.

**Ford** Family Ford of Bluffton  
More Than A Customer... You're Family

**TO REPORT CHURCH NEWS:**  
• E-mail to churchnews@news-banner.com  
• Drop information at 125 N. Johnson St. in Bluffton

**Bluffton Dental Clinic**  
1417 Baker Place, Bluffton, IN  
(260) 824-5940  
Dr. Pamela J. Johnson  
decaturdentalin.com



# High remodeling costs mean little relief in sight for home buyers

By ALEX VEIGA  
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Homeowners have been spending more on home renovations in recent years, as high interest rates and stubbornly high inflation drove up costs for everything from flooring to refrigerators.

The home improvement spree got particularly heated early in the pandemic, when Americans invested to make their homes better suited for remote work and learning. But the home improvement frenzy appears to be cooling.

Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies' latest leading indicator of remodeling activity, or LIRA, suggests homeowner spending on renovations and repairs will fall to \$449 billion this year. That would represent a roughly 7% drop from 2023.

Spending on home remodeling was down 1.2% in the first quarter from a year earlier — the first annual decline in more than

a decade. Historically, annual growth in home improvement spending has averaged 5%.

Many factors are contributing to the slowdown, including elevated interest rates, stubbornly high inflation and a national home sales slump. Home sales are one of the biggest drivers of spending, with homebuyers typically investing most heavily in upgrades or repairs in the first three years after buying their home.

"Sales are just really critical for a lot of remodeling activity," said Abbe Will, a senior researcher at the JCHS.

The housing market remains constrained by the inventory of homes on the market, mortgage rates and rising prices. Those trends suggest slower home improvement spending growth, at least through the first quarter of 2025, according to the JCHS report.

"We are projecting declines going into the first part of next year, but certainly our trend suggests that we might see a bottom

to the market this year," Will said. For homeowners considering renovation projects, this means it may be easier to schedule a contractor, but don't bank on lower prices. Costs for construction, remodeling and labor will remain high, Will noted.

Here are five ways to help keep a lid on costs in your next home improvement project:

## 1. CONSIDER HOME VALUE IMPACT

Sometimes less-costly upgrades like a new front door can offer a better return on investment than more expensive projects.

A recent analysis by home construction industry tracker Zonda found that upgrading the outside features of a home, such as a garage door or front entrance, typically helps boost a property's resale value and the project's return on investment, or ROI.

"When it comes to adding resale value to a home, exterior replacement projects continue to make the most sense," said Clay DeKorne, chief editor of Zonda's

JLC Group. "Discretionary projects like an upscale bathroom or kitchen remodel will feel valuable to those who make the selections but won't provide nearly as much return to sellers."

## 2. SHOP AROUND

Some projects, like painting a room, you may be able to do yourself. Major renovations will require more leg work to find the right contractor and get estimates on building materials, appliances or other needs. The more you know upfront, the better prepared you'll be to anticipate any potentially costly snags.

## 3. SET EXPECTATIONS

Delays happen. It could be a surprise repair detour when demolishing a wall to expand a bathroom in an older home, or the light fixture or window style you want isn't available for several weeks. Factor in more time than you think you'll need.

## 4. PRIORITIZE MAINTENANCE

Replacing siding or waterproofing the wood on an outdoor

deck may not be the most exciting renovation, but it will save you money in the long run, says Heather Cook, a broker-agent with Real Brokerage in Charlotte, North Carolina.

"You need to take care of these maintenance items because they're going to creep up on you and cost you ten times as much later," she said.

## 5. CHECK YOUR INSURANCE COVERAGE

Another potential cost you'll want to avoid: Expenses for fixing accidental damage to your home during a renovation.

If you hire a contractor to do the work, get proof they're insured.

And after the work is done update your insurer so the upgrades are accounted for in your policy. Most insurers require that homeowners carry insurance for at least 80% of their home's replacement value to ensure full coverage for repairs or rebuilding after a loss, according to the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America.

# U.S. pledges money, aid to help track and contain bird flu on dairy farms

By JONEL ALECCIA  
and MIKE STOBBE  
Associated Press

U.S. health and agriculture officials pledged nearly \$200 million in new spending and other efforts Friday to help track and contain an outbreak of bird flu in the nation's dairy cows that has spread to more than 40 herds in nine states.

The new funds include \$101 million to continue work to prevent, test, track and treat animals and humans potentially affected by the virus known as Type A H5N1, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said. And they include about \$98 million to provide up to \$28,000 each to help individual farms test cattle and bolster biosecurity efforts to halt the spread of the virus, according to the Agriculture Department.

In addition, dairy farmers will be compensated for the loss of milk production from infected cattle, whose supply drops dramatically when they become sick, officials said. And dairy farmers and farm workers would be paid to participate in a workplace

study conducted by the USDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

So far, farmers have been reluctant to allow health officials onto their farms to test cattle because of uncertainty about how it would affect their businesses, researchers have said. Also, farm workers, including many migrant workers, have been reluctant to be tested for fear of missing work or because they didn't want to be tracked by the government.

The National Milk Producers Federation, a trade group representing dairy farmers, said they welcomed the new resources. "Care for farm workers and animals is critical for milk producers, as is protecting against potential human health risks and reassuring the public," the group said in a statement.

The incentives should help increase farmers' willingness to test their herds, said Keith Poulsen, director of the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, who has been monitoring the out-

break. "It provides the latitude and capacity to start going in the right direction," he said.

The new spending comes more than six weeks after the first-ever detection of an avian bird flu virus in dairy cattle — and one confirmed infection in a Texas dairy worker exposed to infected cows who developed a mild eye infection and then recovered. About 33 people have been tested and another 260 are being monitored, according to the CDC.

As of Friday, 42 herds in nine states have confirmed infections in dairy cows. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said that the outbreak has not spread more widely.

"It's still in the same nine states and that's the most positive thing about where we are," he told reporters.

Samples of grocery store milk tested by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration showed remnants of the virus in about 1 in 5 samples of retail milk nationwide, however, suggesting that the outbreak could be more

widespread, scientists have said.

Under a federal order issued last month, farmers are required to test lactating dairy cattle for H5N1 before the animals are moved between states. The Agriculture Department said Friday that 112 out of 905 tests conducted between April 29 and May 5 by federal animal health laboratories appeared to be positive. Officials could not say how many cows tested positive because multiple samples may have been collected from a single cow. Labs are conducting about 80 more tests per day than before the order took effect, an Agriculture Department spokesman said.

About 50,000 dairy cattle typically cross state lines every week, Poulsen estimates.

The FDA found that pasteurization, or heat-treating, killed the virus in the grocery samples of milk, cottage cheese and

sour cream. The agency reiterated warnings that people should not consume raw, or unpasteurized milk, because of possible risk from the virus. Officials on Friday also said they expect results soon from tests of pooled raw milk samples sent to commercial processors to "determine

potential levels of virus that pasteurization must eliminate." The USDA found no evidence of the virus in a small sample of retail ground beef.

"The risk to the public from this outbreak remains low," Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra said.

*Happy Mothers Day*

*Affordable Living Surrounded by Elegance*

**La Fontaine Center** An RHF Community

208 W. State St. 260.356.9099  
Huntington, IN TDD: 1.800.545.1833 x359

The person below has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's regulations implementing section 504 (24 CFR, part 8, 1988) Yuri Escandon, 504 Coordinator, Long Beach, CA 90815 / 562-257-5100 / TDD (800)545-1833 ext. 359

# You. Renewed.

**We make convenience part of your treatment.**

Your "road to recovery" isn't a 45-minute drive up State Road 1. That's why Fort Wayne Orthopedics has locations close to home—like Bluffton—so you can focus on healing, not a commute. Our personalized treatment plans, specialist doctors, and clean, safe surroundings will help you feel renewed, refreshed and ready to take on the world. Plus, you'll still have a full tank of gas.

**Adam Hall, MD**  
Hand, Elbow & Shoulder

**Lakai R. Enterline, DO**  
Sports Medicine & General

**Brandon S. Huggins, MD**  
Spine

**John Paul M. Manalo, MD**  
Total Joint Replacement

(800) 566-5659 | [fwortho.com](http://fwortho.com)

Bluffton Regional Medical Center  
303 S. Main St., Suite 404 A  
Bluffton, IN 46714

## LAND AUCTION

TUESDAY, MAY 21ST | 6:00 PM

Bluffton, IN

**90± Acres**

100 S & 200 W Bluffton, IN 46714

AUCTION TO BE HELD AT:  
WELLS COUNTY 4-H PARK  
1240 4-H PARK RD, BLUFFTON, IN 46714

**Tract 1: 54 ± Acres** Tillable Frontage On Both CR 100 S & CR 200 W Zoned Agricultural, Liberty Township

**Tract 2: 12 ± Acres**, 8± Acres Tillable, 4± Acre Woods, Frontage on 100 S & 200 W Zoned Agricultural, Liberty Township, Wells County, IN

**Tract 3: 24 ± Acres** Mostly Woods, 6± Tillable, Frontage on CR 200 W, Zoned Agricultural, Liberty Township

TO BE SOLD AS INDIVIDUAL TRACTS OR ANY COMBINATION

**SOIL MAP BREAKDOWN**

Bk2: Blount-Del Rey silt loams, 1 to 4 percent slopes, eroded

DeA: Del Rey-Blount silt loams, 0 to 1 percent slopes

Mh: Milford silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes

Pm: Pewamo silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes

Patricia Mossburg & Joyce Shady, Owners

Auction Terms & Conditions Real Estate: Tract 1 \$10,000 Nonrefundable down payment due at close of auction, Tract 2 \$50,000 Nonrefundable down payment due at close of auction, Tract 3 \$15,000 Nonrefundable down payment due at close of auction. Possession Of tillable ground upon harvest of 2024 crops, Possession of woods to be given day of closing, Closing to be within 45 Days of auction. Buyer to receive 2024 cash rent, Taxes prorated to date of closing, A staked survey will be provided, cost of the survey split 50/50 between buyer & seller. Title search, title policy, closing cost to be split 50/50 between buyer and seller. Not Sold Subject to Inspections, Please have inspections done Prior to day of auction Sold AS/IS WHERE/IS. Sold Subject to Sellers approval. Not Responsible for accidents. Auctioneers License: Trevor Gray (AU11500020 AC31500055)

[kjauction.com](http://kjauction.com) 260.724.7402 @kjauction



# Sports

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024 • The News-Banner • Page 1a



## High fives and smiles

The Norwell Knights baseball team secured at least a share of the Northeast 8 Conference championship in its 13-1 rout over Huntington North Friday night. The Knights are one win away from winning the title outright. Above left, Cade Shelton (right) leaps in the air with teammate Garry Riley after a three-run home run. Above right, Shelton high-fives head coach Christian Bohata as he rounds third base after his home run. Bottom, Korben Neuenschwander (right) proves he has the ball in his glove to the home plate umpire to get an out call at home plate. (Photos by Ryan Walker)

## Knights blast Vikings to clinch share of Northeast 8 baseball title

By RYAN WALKER

Last year, Huntington North won the Northeast 8 Conference championship and beat the Norwell Knights 5-4 to do it. But on Friday night, there was no chance the Knights were going to let that happen again.

Norwell (14-6, 6-0 NE8) demolished Huntington North (4-11, 1-4 NE8) 13-1 in a five-inning mercy rule to clinch a share of the NE8 Conference championship.

The win sets the stage for next Tuesday at Columbia City. The Eagles slipped up their chance the previous night at Parkview Field, where they fell to Leo and dropped to 4-2. East Noble is the only team remaining that would split with Norwell and has two games left with New Haven and Belmont.

The Vikings were not in a position to defend the title, entering the game with just a 1-3 conference record. But considering the aching loss last season, it made it that much sweeter for the three seniors who witnessed it.

"Yeah. Especially the way we won," head coach Christian Bohata said, a Norwell baseball alumnus. "It's a statement win. I personally wasn't there (last year against Huntington North), obviously being the JV coach last year, but I know the guys really, really wanted this one. That was said a lot. Yesterday, I said leading up to the game I said 'Hey,

they spoiled it for us last year — we've got to get these guys.' We came out focused. We came out, punched them in the mouth and we kept the throttle down."

"Yeah, we're really, really excited," Senior Cade Shelton said. "We know the job's not finished — we've still got to play Columbia City Tuesday. We're focused on that now."

"We were pretty salty after the Huntington North game," Shelton referenced about the loss last season.

The heavily favored Knights didn't need to do much to jump on the scoreboard in the first inning. Vikings' starting pitcher Isaac Wilson walked three batters in a row with the bases loaded. But the Knights got the sticks red hot and put up an 11-spot in just three innings.

Lane Lewis, Drew Jolley, Logan Cotton all had RBI base-hits in those innings. And the highlight of it all — a three-run cannonball with a bat flip by Shelton surged the Knights to a 9-1 lead and never looked back.

"I was thinking fastball," Shelton said. "When I got a good low inside fastball where I like it, (I) just kind of threw my hands out it and celebrated with my team."

"He put a good swing on one, and his swing is something that we've really, really been working with him on," Bohata said. "Tonight, it showed the

work he's put in, and even behind the scenes the work he's put in, it showed tonight."

It's not a surprise that Shelton, a Huntington University signee, led the charge in the 13-1 thrashing. He's hit a cool .375 with 15 compared to a .296 and 12 RBI season shortened by 10 games due to a lower-body injury.

But where he's had a strong impact this season is on the mound — something he hasn't done since his freshman and sophomore seasons.

Not only has he thrown the second-most innings and has been the No. 2 starter behind Lane Lewis, but he's been dominant. This year, in his 25.2 innings pitched, he's posted a 1.09 ERA and threw a near-complete game shutout against the Vikings Friday night.

Bohata shared that the coaching staff worked with him to be next next guy in the rotation after Lewis pitched and be the second part of the 1-2 punch. It's a refund skill that Shelton has brought to the table after the Knights graduated several of their starting pitchers last season.

His final line on Friday was five innings, one hit, one run and six strikeouts.

Norwell will face Columbia City on the road at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 14.

ryan@news-banner.com



Norwell defeated Northrop 8-5 on the home softball diamond Friday night. At left, Norwell senior Sami Lemler reaches down to pick the ball out of the air on a line drive from a Northrop batter in Friday night's game at Norwell. At right, Kayla Watkins delivers a pitch to a Northrop batter in the non-conference game. (Photos by Chad Kline)

## Sports Roundup

### Raiders fall to Starfires on Senior Night

Southern Wells finished its regular season in track and field at home Thursday night.

The team honored its 10 seniors at the event: Malaina Culbertson, Ella Lahr, Natalyn Luckey, Tessa Maul, Emma Peterson, Karlee Warner, Andrew Aker, Joshua Bricker, Perrin Gates and Peyton Long.

The Raiders fell in both the boys and the girls meets to South Adams with the boys losing 86-37 and the girls 97-21.

#### Top finishers were:

#### Boys

- Kane Jenkins third in the 300m hurdles with a time of 48.61.
- Joshua Bricker first in the 3200m run with a time of 11:21.20.
- Peyton Long first in the shot put at 42-7.5.
- The 4x800m relay team third with a time of 10:02.0.
- Malaki Capper first in the 200m with a time of 25.00.
- Capper first in the high jump at 5-6.
- Capper first in the 100m dash with a time of 12.30.
- The 4x100m relay team second with a time of 48.69.
- Andrew Aker second in the 1600m with a time of 5:15.36 and Kelton Barr third at 5:15.60.
- Perrin Gates second in the discus at 115-6.
- The 4x400m relay team third with a time of 4:11.07.
- Jenkins second in the 110m hurdles with a time of 18.83 and Peyton Ellis third at 19.81.

#### Girls

- Sydney Alstoft third in the 100m hurdles with a time of 20.56.
- Kinley Allred third in the 200m with a time of 31.75.
- The 4x400m relay team second with a time of 5:23.12.
- Ella Lahr second in the 3200m run with a time of 16:33.80 and Chanice Mounsey third at 16:42.63.
- Ashlie Needler first in the shot put at 32-8.5 and Aubree Meyer second at 31-5.
- The 4x800m relay team second with a time of 14:20.44.
- The 4x100m relay team first. time was not listed.
- Allred third in the 100m with a time of 15.76.
- Dannicka Sorenson third in the 800m run with a time of 3:12.53.
- Karlee Warner second in the discus at 81-4.
- Andi Bryant third in the long jump at 11-5.75.
- Lexie Fiechter third in the 400m with a time of 1:13.84.

Southern Wells will be at the girls and boys sectional next week with the girls going first on Tuesday and the boys on Thursday. Both meets will take place at Marion High School and start at 5:30 p.m.

### Raiders drop to Patriots in ACAC softball

Southern Wells fell 10-0 in its ACAC softball game on the road to Jay County Friday night.

With the loss, the Raiders drop to 4-14 on the season and 0-5 in the conference.

Emma Parks had the lone hit for the Raiders.

Kyah Thomas earned the loss, throwing 4.2 innings.

Southern Wells will be at Liberty Christian at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 11.

### Knights lose to Vikings in JV baseball

Norwell fell 9-5 at Huntington North in junior varsity baseball Friday night.

The Knights had eight hits in the game, two each from Cade Thornton and Nick McBride. Luke Ward had a double, and Josiah Ray had a two-RBI single. Trey Preivett and Adam Mehnensmith also had RBI.

Palmer Krug got the loss, throwing five innings and striking out seven.

## High School Calendar

#### SATURDAY, MAY 11

BASEBALL: St. Mary's Memorial at Bluffton, 12:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Canterbury, 11 a.m.

BOYS GOLF: Norwell at Angola Invitational, 12:30 p.m.

SOFTBALL: Norwell at Belmont, 10 a.m.; Southern Wells at Liberty Christian, 11 a.m.

TRACK AND FIELD (CO-ED): Norwell at Huntington North's 9/10 Boys Invitational, 11 a.m.; Bluffton hosting throwers showcase, 10 a.m.

#### MONDAY, MAY 13

BASEBALL: Blackhawk at Bluffton, 5 p.m.

BOYS GOLF: Bluffton at South Adams, 4:30 p.m.

GIRLS TENNIS: Norwell at Carroll, 4:30 p.m.

SOFTBALL: Columbia City at Norwell, 5:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Lakewood Park Christian, 5 p.m.

#### TUESDAY, MAY 14

BASEBALL: Norwell at Columbia City, 5:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Bluffton, 5 p.m. (nonconference)

BOYS GOLF: Belmont/East Noble at Norwell, 4 p.m.; Adams Central at Southern Wells, 4:30 p.m.

GIRLS TENNIS: (Sectional) Bluffton, Norwell at Bluffton vs. TBD, 4:30 p.m.

SOFTBALL: North Side at Southern Wells, 5:30 p.m.

TRACK & FIELD: (Girls sectional,) Bluffton, Norwell, Southern Wells at Marion, 5:30 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

BASEBALL: Norwell at Northrop, 5:30 p.m.

GIRLS TENNIS: (Sectional) Bluffton, Norwell at Bluffton vs. TBD, 4:30 p.m.

SOFTBALL: Woodlan at Norwell, 5:30 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, MAY 16

BASEBALL: Norwell at Carroll, 6 p.m.; Bluffton at Huntington North, 6 p.m.

BOYS GOLF: Eastbrook at Bluffton 4:30 p.m.; Madison-Grant at Southern Wells, 4:30 p.m.

GIRLS TENNIS: (Sectional) Bluffton, Norwell at Bluffton vs. TBD, 4:30 p.m.

TRACK & FIELD: (Boys sectional,) Bluffton, Norwell, Southern Wells at Marion, 5:30 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, MAY 17

BASEBALL: Anderson Prep at Southern Wells, 5:30 p.m.

SOFTBALL: Bluffton at Norwell, 5 p.m.

## Knights beat Bruins in softball contest

Norwell defeated Northrop at home 8-5 in softball Friday night.

The win bolsters the Knights' record to 9-6 on the season. Norwell collected 11 hits in the game, two each by Reese Frauhiger, Kaydance Clark, Kara Brown, Makayla Young and Nevada Lenwell. Brown had a home run and a double for three RBI, her fourth home run of the season. Frauhiger had two doubles and an RBI. Clark had a double and two RBI.

Kayla Watkins got the win, throwing five innings and allowing three runs (two earned), no walks and four strikeouts.

Norwell will be at Belmont to continue Northeast 8 play starting at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 11.



# News-Banner Scoreboard

## BASKETBALL

### NBA

#### SECOND ROUND

(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)  
**Saturday, May 4**  
 Minnesota 106, Denver 99

(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)  
**Sunday, May 5**  
 Cleveland 106, Orlando 94, Cleveland wins series 4 - 3

**Monday, May 6**  
 New York 121, Indiana 117  
 Minnesota 106, Denver 80, Minnesota wins series 2 - 0

**Tuesday, May 7**  
 Boston 120, Cleveland 95  
 Oklahoma City 117, Dallas 95, Oklahoma City leads series 1 - 0

**Wednesday, May 8**  
 New York 130, Indiana 121, New York leads series 2 - 0

**Thursday, May 9**  
 Cleveland 118, Boston 94, series tied 1 - 1

Dallas 119, Oklahoma City 110

**Friday, May 10**  
 Indiana 111, New York 106  
 Denver at Minnesota late

**Saturday, May 11**  
 Oklahoma City at Dallas, 3:30 p.m.  
 Boston at Cleveland, 8:30 p.m.

**Sunday, May 12**  
 New York at Indiana, 3:30 p.m.  
 Denver at Minnesota, 8 p.m.

**Monday, May 13**  
 Boston at Cleveland, 7 p.m.  
 Oklahoma City at Dallas, 9:30 p.m.

New York	26	14	.650	½
Boston	19	19	.500	6½
Tampa Bay	19	20	.487	7
Toronto	17	21	.447	8½

#### Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Cleveland	24	15	.615	—
Minnesota	23	15	.605	½
Kansas City	23	16	.590	1
Detroit	19	19	.500	4½
Chicago	11	28	.282	13

#### West Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Texas	22	17	.564	—
Seattle	20	18	.526	1½
Oakland	18	21	.462	4
Houston	14	24	.368	7½
Los Angeles	14	24	.368	7½

#### Thursday's Games

Minnesota 11, Seattle 1  
 Houston 4, N.Y. Yankees 3  
 Chicago White Sox 3, Cleveland 2  
 Kansas City 10, L.A. Angels 4

#### Friday's Games

Houston 5, Detroit 2  
 N.Y. Yankees 2, Tampa Bay 0  
 Minnesota 3, Toronto 2  
 Washington 5, Boston 1  
 Baltimore 4, Arizona 2

#### Saturday's Games

Chicago White Sox 6, Cleveland 3  
 Texas at Colorado, 8:40 p.m.  
 Kansas City at L.A. Angels late  
 Oakland at Seattle late

#### Sunday's Games

Minnesota (Woods Richardson 1-0) at Toronto (Gausman 2-3), 3:07 p.m.  
 Arizona (Nelson 2-2) at Baltimore (Means 1-0), 4:05 p.m.  
 N.Y. Yankees (Cortes 1-3) at Tampa Bay (Littell 1-2), 4:10 p.m.  
 Washington (Irvin 2-3) at Boston (Criswell 2-1), 4:10 p.m.  
 Houston (Javier 2-0) at Detroit (Skubal 4-0), 6:10 p.m.  
 Cleveland (McKenzie 2-2) at Chicago White Sox (Clevinger 0-1), 7:10 p.m.  
 Texas (Heaney 0-4) at Colorado (Feltner 1-3), 8:10 p.m.  
 Kansas City (Ragans 2-2) at L.A. Angels (Anderson 2-4), 9:38 p.m.  
 Oakland (Estes 0-0) at Seattle (Miller 3-2), 9:40 p.m.

#### Sunday's Games

Arizona at Baltimore, 1:35 p.m.  
 Washington at Boston, 1:35 p.m.  
 Minnesota at Toronto, 1:37 p.m.  
 Houston at Detroit, 1:40 p.m.  
 N.Y. Yankees at Tampa Bay, 1:40 p.m.  
 Cleveland at Chicago White Sox, 2:10 p.m.  
 Texas at Colorado, 3:10 p.m.  
 Kansas City at L.A. Angels, 4:07 p.m.  
 Oakland at Seattle, 4:10 p.m.

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE

##### East Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Philadelphia	27	12	.692	—
Atlanta	23	12	.657	2
Washington	19	18	.514	7
New York	18	19	.486	8
Miami	10	30	.250	17½

##### Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Milwaukee	23	15	.605	—
Chicago	23	16	.590	½
Pittsburgh	17	22	.436	6½
Cincinnati	16	21	.432	6½
St. Louis	15	23	.395	8

##### West Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Los Angeles	26	13	.667	—
San Diego	20	20	.500	6½
Arizona	18	21	.462	8
San Francisco	17	22	.436	9
Colorado	9	28	.243	16

#### Thursday's Games

Philadelphia 27, Atlanta 23  
 Washington 19, New York 18  
 Miami 10, St. Louis 10  
 St. Louis 15, Cincinnati 16  
 Cincinnati 16, Pittsburgh 17  
 Pittsburgh 17, Chicago 23  
 Chicago 23, Milwaukee 23  
 Milwaukee 23, San Francisco 17  
 San Francisco 17, Colorado 9  
 Colorado 9, Los Angeles 26

#### Friday's Games

Philadelphia 27, Atlanta 23  
 Washington 19, New York 18  
 Miami 10, St. Louis 10  
 St. Louis 15, Cincinnati 16  
 Cincinnati 16, Pittsburgh 17  
 Pittsburgh 17, Chicago 23  
 Chicago 23, Milwaukee 23  
 Milwaukee 23, San Francisco 17  
 San Francisco 17, Colorado 9  
 Colorado 9, Los Angeles 26

#### Saturday's Games

Philadelphia 27, Atlanta 23  
 Washington 19, New York 18  
 Miami 10, St. Louis 10  
 St. Louis 15, Cincinnati 16  
 Cincinnati 16, Pittsburgh 17  
 Pittsburgh 17, Chicago 23  
 Chicago 23, Milwaukee 23  
 Milwaukee 23, San Francisco 17  
 San Francisco 17, Colorado 9  
 Colorado 9, Los Angeles 26

#### Sunday's Games

Philadelphia 27, Atlanta 23  
 Washington 19, New York 18  
 Miami 10, St. Louis 10  
 St. Louis 15, Cincinnati 16  
 Cincinnati 16, Pittsburgh 17  
 Pittsburgh 17, Chicago 23  
 Chicago 23, Milwaukee 23  
 Milwaukee 23, San Francisco 17  
 San Francisco 17, Colorado 9  
 Colorado 9, Los Angeles 26

### Friday's Games

Chicago Cubs 7, Pittsburgh 2  
 Washington 5, Boston 1  
 Atlanta 4, N.Y. Mets 2  
 Baltimore 4, Arizona 2  
 Philadelphia 8, Miami 2  
 Milwaukee 11, St. Louis 2  
 Texas at Colorado late  
 L.A. Dodgers at San Diego late  
 Cincinnati at San Francisco late

### Saturday's Games

Arizona (Nelson 2-2) at Baltimore (Means 1-0), 4:05 p.m.  
 Chicago Cubs (Steele 0-0) at Pittsburgh (Skene 0-0), 4:05 p.m.  
 Atlanta (Fried 2-1) at N.Y. Mets (Scott 0-0), 4:10 p.m.  
 Philadelphia (Walker 2-0) at Miami (TBD), 4:10 p.m.  
 Washington (Irvin 2-3) at Boston (Criswell 2-1), 4:10 p.m.  
 Cincinnati (Lodolo 3-1) at San Francisco (Black 0-1), 7:15 p.m.  
 St. Louis (Gibson 2-2) at Milwaukee (Peralta 3-1), 7:15 p.m.  
 Texas (Heaney 0-4) at Colorado (Feltner 1-3), 8:10 p.m.  
 L.A. Dodgers (Paxton 4-0) at San Diego (Waldron 1-4), 8:40 p.m.

### Sunday's Games

Arizona at Baltimore, 1:35 p.m.  
 Chicago Cubs at Pittsburgh, 1:35 p.m.  
 Washington at Boston, 1:35 p.m.  
 Philadelphia at Miami, 1:40 p.m.  
 St. Louis at Milwaukee, 2:10 p.m.  
 Texas at Colorado, 3:10 p.m.  
 Cincinnati at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.  
 L.A. Dodgers at San Diego, 4:10 p.m.  
 Atlanta at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m.

### Midwest League

#### East Division

W	L	Pct.	GB	
Great Lakes	20	11	.645	—
Lake County	19	11	.613	1
Lansing	14	17	.452	6
West Michigan	14	17	.452	6
Dayton	13	18	.419	7
Fort Wayne	11	20	.355	9

#### West Division

W	L	Pct.	GB	
Quad Cities	19	12	.613	—
Wisconsin	19	12	.613	—
Beloit	17	13	.567	1½
Cedar Rapids	17	13	.567	1½
South Bend	12	19	.387	7
Peoria	10	21	.323	9

#### Thursday's Games

Great Lakes 5, Lansing 3  
 West Michigan 6, Fort Wayne 3  
 Dayton at Lake County, ppd.  
 Cedar Rapids 8, South Bend 1, 5 innings

#### Friday's Games

Fort Wayne 5, West Michigan 3  
 Lake County 8, Dayton 0, 1st game  
 Dayton 7, Lake County 2, 2nd game  
 Lansing 7, Great Lakes 6, 11 innings  
 South Bend 7, Cedar Rapids 6  
 Quad Cities 7, Wisconsin 3  
 Peoria 4, Beloit 1

#### Saturday's Games

Lansing at Great Lakes, 1:05 p.m.  
 Peoria at Beloit, 2:05 p.m.  
 Cedar Rapids at South Bend, 4:05 p.m.  
 Dayton at Lake County, 6:35 p.m.  
 Wisconsin at Quad Cities, 7 p.m.  
 Fort Wayne at West Michigan, 7:05 p.m.

#### Sunday's Games

Lansing at Great Lakes, 1:05 p.m.  
 Peoria at Beloit, 2:05 p.m.  
 Cedar Rapids at South Bend, 4:05 p.m.  
 Dayton at Lake County, 6:35 p.m.  
 Wisconsin at Quad Cities, 7 p.m.  
 Fort Wayne at West Michigan, 7:05 p.m.

### TRANSACTIONS

#### Friday's Transactions

#### BASEBALL

##### Major League Baseball

##### AMERICAN LEAGUE

**NEW YORK YANKEES** —  
 Optioned RHP Ron Marinaccio to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL). Reinstated RHP Nick Burdi from the 15-day IL. Sent SS Oswald Peraza to Somerset (EL) on a rehab assignment.

##### NATIONAL LEAGUE

**CHICAGO CUBS** — Reinstated OF Seiya Suzuki from the 10-day IL. Placed INF Dansby Swanson on the 10-day IL, retroactive to May 8.

##### MILWAUKEE BREWERS

Selected the contract of LHP Robert Gasser from Nashville (IL). Recalled RHP Janson Junk from Nashville.

Placed RHP Joel Paypams on the family bereavement list. Optioned RHP Tobias Myers to Nashville.

Transferred RHP J.B. Bukauskas to the 60-day IL from the 15-day IL. Designated RHP Corbin Martin for assignment.

##### PITTSBURGH PIRATES

Recalled INF Nick Gonzales from Indianapolis (IL). Acquired RHP Daulton Jefferies from San Francisco Giants in exchange for OF Rodolfo Nolasco who they optioned to Indianapolis. Optioned INF Alike Williams to Indianapolis. Transferred C Jason Delay to the 60-day IL from the 10-day IL.

##### ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

Acquired LHP Kolton Ingram off waivers from Texas. Transferred RHP Riley O'Brien to the 60-day IL from the 15-day IL.

#### BASKETBALL

##### National Basketball Association

**NBA** — Fined Indiana Pacers head coach Rick Carlisle \$35,000 for public criticism of the officiating and questioning the integrity of the league and its officials in a game on May 8 against New York Knicks.

##### Women's National Basketball Association

**CHICAGO SKY** — Waived F Taya Reimer.

##### INDIANA FEVER

— Exercised their options on Gs Lexie Hull and Kristy Wallace. Waived Gs Leilani Correa and Maya Caldwell.

#### FOOTBALL

##### National Football League

##### CINCINNATI BENGALS

— Signed free agents DE Justin Blazek, WRs Cole Burgess and Tre Mosley, LBs Noah Cain and Elijah Collins, LBs Aaron Casey and Maema Njongmeta, SS Michael Dowell and P.J. Jules, TE Cam Grandy, QB Rocky Lombardi, P Austin McNamara, OT Eric Miller and CB Lance Robinson. Signed draft picks DT McKinley Jackson, CB Josh Newton, TE Tanner McLachlan, S Daijahn Anthony and C Matt Lee.

##### CLEVELAND BROWNS

— Waived C Dawson Deaton with a failed physical designation. Signed draft picks G Zak Zinter, WR Jamari Thrash, LB Nathaniel Watson, CB Myles Harden and DT Jonon Briggs. Signed undrafted free agents G Javion Cohen, S Christopher Edmonds, CB Dyshawn Gates, LB Winston Reid, RB Aidan Robbins, T Lorenzo Thompson, and TE Treyton Welch.

# THE WEEK IN REVIEW

## WEEKLY DOW JONES AND S&P 500

**Dow Jones industrials** 176.59 31.99 172.13 331.37 125.08  
 Close: 39,512.84  
 1-week change: 837.16 (2.2%)



**S&P 500** 52.95 6.96 -0.03 26.41 8.60  
 Close: 5,222.68  
 1-week change: 94.89 (1.9%)



## STOCK MARKET INDEXES

High Low Name Last Wk Chg Wk %Chg YTD YTD %Chg

39,889.05	32,327.20	Dow Jones Industrials	39,512.84	+837.16	+2.16	+4.84	+18.65
16,717.04	13,471.47	Dow Jones Transportation	15,597.49	+249.09	+1.62	-1.90	+13.16
969.91	765.47	Dow Jones Utilities	942.35	+28.04	+3.07	+6.88	-1.76
18,342.24	14,638.37	NYSE Composite	18,162.05	+364.16	+2.05	+7.77	+19.12
16,538.86	12,174.06	Nasdaq Composite	16,340.87	+184.54	+1.14	+8.86	+33.02
5,264.85	4,098.92	S&P 500	5,222.68	+94.89	+1.85	+9.49	+26.64
3,056.49	2,322.38	S&P MidCap	2,993.96	+64.92	+2.22	+7.64	+23.07
53,009.37	40,263.73	Wilshire 5000	52,468.29	+912.92	+1.77	+8.64	+29.11
2,135.46	1,633.67	Russell 2000	2,059.78	+24.06	+1.18	+1.61	+18.32
18,201.38	13,412.08	Lipper Growth Index	17,706.98	+146.61	+0.83	+9.19	+31.45

## 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
PimcoCA	9.34	+4.64	+98.7	CazooGR	5.89	-3.60	-37.9	Palantir	5142966	168.47	-2.73
Bakkt H	9.84	+3.34	+51.4	DbleVer	18.89	-11.48	-37.8	Pfizer	2523664	28.01	+6.2
Dingdong	2.16	+5.65	+260.0	InsprMed	167.83	-81.89	-32.8	FormD	2012937	11.99	+2.9
Sweetgen	31.56	+4.46	+14.2	B&G Foods	8.01	-3.38	-29.7	UberTch	1803337	66.99	-2.24
NYC Reit	8.17	+2.39	+41.3	JeldWen	14.56	-5.50	-27.4	GameStop	1593561	17.46	+9.9
TridData	20.14	+5.78	+40.3	XponFin	8.48	-3.05	-26.5	SnplncA	1528868	16.01	+2.0
ZIM Intg	17.59	+4.71	+36.8	Paragon28	7.75	-2.78	-26.4	BkofAm	1505537	38.45	+12.0
US Cellular	46.46	+12.36	+36.2	MyersInd	17.04	-5.78	-25.3	AMC Ent	1473100	2.91	+9.9
PlayGMS	11.29	+2.93	+35.0	AltaEquip	8.85	-2.84	-24.3	BooBrd	1324440	2.58	-1.4
Kyndryl	27.27	+6.73	+32.8	EPAM Sys	183.40	-58.72	-24.3	Shopify	1310508	58.94	-15.52

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
RebornCof	3.39	+1.97	+138.7	MacroGen	3.31	-12.36	-78.9	Tesla	3769306	168.47	-2.73
AEye A	2.58	+1.44	+126.3	TreacoreM	4.38	-6.62	-60.2	MarathDig	3160980	17.16	+0.6
XBP Euro	3.84	+1.72	+81.1	RaplTher	4.33	-4.00	-48.0	Apple Inc	2983453	183.05	-38.8
Novavax	8.88	+3.95	+80.1	Cerence	5.35	-4.80	-47.3	RiviaAu	2593099	9.99	+0.8
PopCult	2.86	+1.26	+78.8	Cardlytc	8.81	-6.07	-40.3	Intel	2389024	29.85	-9.2
NuZee	2.44	+0.98									







# The Classifieds

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

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

WE ACCEPT



## SUDOKU

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

### King Classic Sudoku

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

©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Difficulty: ★★☆☆

5/11

## Lottery Numbers

**Friday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY**  
Cash 5 — 06-11-13-20-44  
Cash4Life — 16-26-39-42-47, Cash Ball: 04  
Quick Draw Midday — 01-08-12-14-22-24-30-36-39-40-49-50-51-56-60-62-68-69-75-79, BE: 69  
Daily Three-Midday — 04-01-05, SB: 01  
Daily Three-Evening — 06-00-02, SB: 06  
Daily Four-Midday — 02-04-01-07, SB: 01  
Daily Four-Evening — 07-08-05-06, SB: 06  
Quick Draw Evening — 02-08-09-12-18-23-26-32-36-37-40-41-43-48-49-50-56-62-67-70, BE: 67  
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$12 million  
MEGA MILLIONS 13-22-26-32-65, Mega Ball: 18, Megaplier: 4X  
POWERBALL Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$36 million

## Public Sale Calendar

**MAY 12-MAY 19 - (Online Only Auction) - Phyllis Montgomery, Seller.** Major auction of fine antiques and collectibles. "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 16 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 1556 Shadow Run Trail, Bluffton. Steffen Group, 824-3006, www.steffengrp.com, 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.

## 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](http://www.blufftonindiana.net). Applications due June 14th.

**HELOISE HINT:** Want to start a business? Job experts say to do extensive research on the best practices for starting a business. Also, talk with people who have already started their own businesses. Chatting with an accountant or a lawyer can help as well. Fax Heloise @ 210-HELOISE (435-6473).

### FOR SALE

#### Miscellaneous

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

### Wanted to Buy

**WANTED : ANTIQUES & OLD TOYS** Cash Paid for old toys! Gi Joe, Transformers, Tin toys, Robots, Pressed Steel Cars/trucks, Action Figures, Antiques of all kinds, etc. Searching for attics, basements, barns, etc to go through. Call or Text! 260-223-8083

## SERVICES

### Services

**WINDOW CLEANING SERVICES**  
Residential/ranch/lake homes/villas/condos. Entire home inside & out. Lowest rates in the state. 765-603-9981. Psalms 51:7

## 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.

**HELOISE HINT:** Going to offer a number of your children's games or toys? Put the toys or game pieces and key parts in sealable zip-top bags. Customers can see that all the pieces are there before buying. Email HELOISE@Heloise.com.

## Services

**TROPHY CONSTRUCTION.** ALL types of construction: Pole barns, roofing, remodeling, concrete, seamless gutters, etc. Free estimates. (260) 223-4835.

**HOME MAINTENANCE AND** repairs. Free quotes. Locally owned and operated. [hirebrennan.com](mailto:hirebrennan.com), 260-353-9339.

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

## RENTALS

### Office Space Rental

**GREAT LOCATION**  
MAKE YOUR AD stand out for extra attention! Add a graphic or photo for an additional \$5 or a border for an additional \$1. Contact the Bluffton News-Banner office, 260-824-0224, 125 N. Johnson St., or submit online at [www.news-banner.com](http://www.news-banner.com) and click on classifieds.

## Public Notices

**NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION**  
IN THE WELLS CIRCUIT COURT OF WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA  
DOCKET NO. 90C01-2404-EU-000016  
Notice is hereby given that LINDA S. HERMAN was on the 1st day of May 2024, appointed personal representative of the estate of EDWIN M. HERMAN, deceased, who died on the 1st day of July, 2021, and was authorized to administer his estate without Court supervision.

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

Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, this 1st day of May, 2024.  
Beth Davis  
Clerk, Wells Circuit Court  
Matthew P. Hayes  
Attorney for Personal Representative  
Attorney No. 32002-02  
GORDON & ASSOCIATES  
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION  
119 East Oak Forest Drive  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
(260) 824-9377

nb 5/4, 5/11  
hspaxlp

90C01-2404-EU-000015  
STATE OF INDIANA }  
WELLS COUNTY }  
IN THE WELLS }  
CIRCUIT COURT }  
IN THE MATTER OF THE }  
ESTATE OF }  
STEVEN A. WAGNER, }  
Deceased }  
**NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED }  
ADMINISTRATION }**

Notice is hereby given that NANCY A. WAGNER was, on the 1st day of May, 2024, appointed personal representative of the estate of STEVEN A. WAGNER, deceased, who died on February 5, 2024, and was authorized to administer said estate without court supervision.

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

Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, this 1st day of May, 2024.  
Beth Davis  
Clerk, Wells Circuit Court  
Timothy K. Babcock  
Attorney No. 21526-90  
DALE, HUFFMAN & BABCOCK  
30 Premier Avenue  
Bluffton, Indiana 46714  
(260) 824-5566  
Attorney for Estate

nb 5/4, 5/11  
hspaxlp

## VEHICLES

### Auto/Trucks

**INDIANA AUTO AUCTION, INC.** Huge Repo Sale May 16, 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:** Monitor all of the liquid-containing bottles that pertain to your vehicle. This includes cleaning fluid, gas cans or oil cans. Make sure that none are leaking. Write to HELOISE@Heloise.com.

STATE OF INDIANA )  
 ) SS:  
COUNTY OF WELLS )  
IN THE WELLS )  
CIRCUIT COURT )  
2024 TERM )  
Cause Number: )  
90C01-2404-AD-10 )  
IN RE: THE MATTER OF )  
THE ADOPTION OF: )  
E.P.O., d.o.b. 08.15.2017. )  
**NOTICE OF ADOPTION )  
BY PUBLICATION**

Michael K. O'Rourke is notified that a petition for adoption of a minor child, named E.P.O. born on August 15, 2017, was filed in the office of the clerk of Wells County Circuit Court, located at 102 W Market St. #301 Bluffton, IN 46714, and reachable at (260) 824-6485. The petition for guardianship alleges that the consent to adoption of E.P.O. is not required because in accordance with I.C. 31-19-9-8 he has abandoned or deserted the minor child for at least six (6) months immediately preceding the date of the filing of the petition for adoption and/or that the child has been in the custody of another person if for a period of at least one (1) year; the parent: (A) fails without justifiable cause to communicate significantly with the children when able to do so; or (B) knowingly fails to provide for the care and support of the children when able to do so as required by law or judicial decree and in given that the biological Father has made no efforts to support or communicate with the minor children and has therefore abandoned the minor children.

If Mr. O'Rourke seeks to contest the adoption of the child, E.P.O., then Mr. O'Rourke must file a motion to contest the adoptions in accordance with IC 31-19-10-1 in the above named court not later than thirty (30) days after the date of service of this notice.

If Mr. Michael K. O'Rourke does not file a motion to contest the adoption within thirty (30) days after service of this notice the above-mentioned court will hear and determine the petition for adoption. The consent to adoption of E.P.O. will be irrevocably implied and Michael K. O'Rourke will lose the right to contest either the adoption or the validity of Michael K. O'Rourke's implied consent to the adoption.

No oral statement made to Michael K. O'Rourke relieves Michael K. O'Rourke of Michael K. O'Rourke's obligations under this notice.

This notice complies with IC 31-19-4.5-3 but does not exhaustively set forth a person's legal obligations under the Indiana adoption statutes. A person being served with this notice should consult the Indiana adoption statutes.

nb 5/4, 5/11, 5/18  
hspaxlp

## SUDOKU ANSWER

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

## May GOODS & SERVICES DIRECTORY

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

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

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

Attorney  
Gerret J. Swearingen

**SWEARINGEN ELDER LAW**

- Medicaid Planning
- Durable Power of Attorney
- Estate Planning & Deeds
- Special Needs Trusts
- Long Term Care Planning
- In-Home Healthcare Planning
- Wills, Living Wills, & Advance Healthcare Directives

(260) 888-9256  
FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION!

**Home Remodel and Repair**  
Locally Owned

Repair Bowed Basement Walls  
Foundations repaired  
Floor joist repair or replaced  
Concrete • Doors  
Windows • Painting  
Tile • Small Jobs Welcome

Text me at 260-301-1269  
Jim Baker

**LAWN CARE**

- MOWING
- YARD CLEANUP
- LANDSCAPING
- STONE / GRAVEL
- WEED CONTROL

**SCHEDULE TODAY!**

FREE ESTIMATES  
260-223-5884

**Jerry Flack & Associates**  
Jerry Flack & Julie Myers  
Retirement Advisors  
A Senior Citizen Answers Our Phone!

OFFICE 260-824-1618 • Corner of Main & Market • Bluffton, IN

ASSISTING IN:  
• FREE Medicare Supplement Comparison  
• Life Planning  
• Safe Money Ideas  
• Dental • Vision • Hearing

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

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

**The HIDEAWAY BEER & BOURBON**

THURSDAY - Dollar Off Drinks (Excludes Pop)  
WEDNESDAY - KARAOKE  
FRI. & SAT. - Live Music

Follow us on [Facebook] for our Events.  
123 S JOHNSON ST. • 824-0455

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

**A-1 U-Stor**  
Safe & Secure Self Storage  
824-1846

- Safety Lighting • Clean Units
- 24 Hr. Access
- Video Cameras

www.a1-ustor.com  
After hours & Saturdays  
Call 273-9678 or 824-4782  
In Monroe at corner of U.S. 27 and S.R. 124  
Office at 1180 N. Main, Bluffton

**LANCASTER Senior Apartments**  
1800 S. Wayne St. | Bluffton

- 1 & 2 Bedrooms
- Maintenance Free
- All Ground-level
- Private Entrances
- Water Included

260 824-5280

TDD: 7-1-1  
For those 62+ or disabled, regardless of age.

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

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

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

We Carry Prevagen and CBD Oil!

**R Warren Pharmacy**  
(260)375-2135  
Nature's Sunshine Distributor  
222 N. Wayne St., Warren • 1-800-895-7035  
Terry Daniels, Pharmacist • Melinda Daniels, RN

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

**YOUR BUSINESS IN THE NEWS-BANNER Every Day!**  
For as little as ...  
**\$187 PER ISSUE**  
Plus The Ossian Journal Every Week!  
Call 824-0224 or 622-4108  
June deadline is Tues., May 28!