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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2024 | BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection | \$1.00



The board of trustees for Norwell Community Schools held their regular board meeting in a newly renovated multi-purpose room at Ossian Elementary School on Tuesday. Above, the board discusses expiring debt and a potential bond for future projects. Pictured speaking at the podium is Jim Elizondo and Deb Adams. At the table, from left, is Superintendent Mike Springer, and board members Gene Donaghy, Chad Kline, Traci Neuenschwander and Angie Topp. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)

Parents frustrated with Norwell's increased latchkey child care costs

By HOLLY GASKILL
New increased prices for latchkey care at Ossian and Lancaster elementary schools have sparked frustration among parents. The prices, approved in June, implemented an increase and flat fee for latchkey care, called Bear Care at OES and Bobcat Care at LES. While the increase was only \$1 hourly if the child stays for the full two-and-a-half hours either before or after school, it was a stark increase for parents who only used the service for a short while. Previously, the district charged \$3 hourly, with parents charged for every quarter hour — this meant a parent could be charged between \$0.75 and \$15 for a full morning or afternoon service. The adjustment leveled this price to \$10 for a morning or afternoon, regardless of the time a student stayed. Multiple parents voiced their anger with this hike during the board meeting for Norwell Community Schools on Tuesday. They were not asked by the board to identify themselves. OES Principal Theresa Casto and LES Principal Ginger Butcher cited multiple reasons this was changed, but emphasized sustainability. Latchkey services are self-supported within the district's budget. Butcher said latchkey was often overwhelmed for the first 15 minutes after school, sometimes so parents could cut the regular car rider pick-up line and then numbers would drop dramatically. She said this would leave the program overstaffed without the income to support the employees. Casto added the students' billing was being tracked by hand, and this environment created an unnecessary burden on employees. With the price increase, the schools added a provided breakfast during the morning care, a snack afterward, and materials for activities — all of which they were previously unable to do. The schools also implemented an electronic check-in and check-out system. Casto and Butcher indicated attendance for latchkey is down at either school thus far and that there have also been no students coming for just 15 minutes. However, a parent in the audience claimed attendance was down because it was no longer an affordable resource. The administration recognized this and proposed a half-price model for those not attending more than half of the allotted session. They also considered a discount for multiple students from the same family in the latchkey program. Butcher said the new (Continued on Page 3)

Ossian elementary 'refresh' complete, district considers future projects

By HOLLY GASKILL
Norwell Community Schools unveiled the recent renovations of Ossian Elementary School prior to their regular board meeting on Tuesday. The "refresh," as the district has called it, remodeled the vast majority of the building, including restructuring classrooms, replacing flooring, and adding new cabinetry and furniture, among other items. The construction incorporates the new districtwide colors of navy and gold but retains some of the iconic Ossian bear remnants. Construction began in the spring and was substantially finished before the beginning of school. Some work will continue through the school year, said Project Manager Dylan Markley of Weigand Construction on Tuesday. Crews will also return next summer to renovate the bathrooms. Board member Gene Donaghy thanked the teachers and students for their flexibility during construction. (Continued on Page 2)



Norwell's board meeting was preceded by an open house of renovations at Ossian Elementary School. Above is the kindergarten wing and new lockers.

Ossian and Jefferson Township continue fire budget and contract talks

By SYDNEY KENT
"The taxpayers in Ossian and Jefferson Township need to expect that in 10 years or less," Council President Josh Barkley stated. "Their payments are going to triple." A meeting between the Ossian Fire Department, Ossian Town Council and Jefferson Township Advisory Board was scheduled to take place before the council meeting on Monday evening. The purpose was to sign a new contract for fire protection between the parties in 2025. However, two of the advisory board members, Tim Baker and David Haiflich, were unable to attend the meeting. Member AJ Springer was present. Historically, the town of Ossian has paid a significantly higher portion of the fire budget despite an equal amount of use. Throughout months of many hours of meetings, the advisory board has given several reasons why they would not sign a contract, including an unwillingness to pay for manpower. Baker and Haiflich have also had issues paying 50% of the budget, requesting that they pay per invoice. On Monday, Ossian Fire Chief Ben Fenstermaker discussed the specifics of the \$251,477 proposed fire budget. Over half of the budget is designated towards paying for manpower. Fenstermaker emphasized that the current department does not do the work for the money. However, he requested a pay increase of \$4 per run for firefighters. Currently, volunteers receive just \$16 per run. "Even at 20 bucks per run, these guys are not doing it for the money," Fenstermaker said. "Anything we can give them, we should. It's not money-motivated. There is a national shortage of public servants." As part of the changes, part-time firefighters in Ossian will also receive a pay increase from \$15 to \$18 per hour in 2025. He explained that the increase was necessary to stay competitive with surrounding fire departments. "There is not any fluff in my budget," Fenstermaker said. "I've heard that from people. I am more than happy to answer any questions from anyone." "I think it says a lot that our firefighters stay for a lengthy time," Council member Stephanie Tucker added. "I think your budget is low," Gene (Continued on Page 2)

Board of Works approves purchases of two vehicles

By JONATHAN SNYDER
A truck for the Electric Department and a mower for the Parks Department were approved by the Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety Tuesday. Electric Department Assistant Supervisor Brad Penrod found a 2024 Altech TA60 truck to replace one of their old trucks from 1998. The 1998 truck has 160,000 miles. Penrod stated the truck will cost \$263,303, with Mentzer clarifying that the Electric Department's depreciation account has plenty of money to cover the expense. The mower for the Parks Department costs \$19,781.99. Mayor John Whicker, who spoke on the issue due to Parks Department Supervisor Brandy Fiechter's absence, stated that the department has been replacing mowers on a consistent basis for years. Clerk-Treasurer Michelle Simon stated that the expense could come out of the department's general operating fund or capital improvement fund, depending on Fiechter's choice. A water adjustment for Ryan Tomlin at 352 Stillwater Dr. was also approved by the board. Tomlin stated that during an out of town trip with his family, the water on his toilet was stuck open and running the whole time. The water meter at Tomlin's home read over 230 gallons (Continued on Page 2)

Indiana looks to Swiss experts to create student apprenticeships

Swiss institute shows Indiana business, school, state officials how cooperation can offer career training for high school students
By PATRICK O'DONNELL
The 74
Indiana officials have turned to experts at the Swiss version of MIT for help becoming a national career training leader by making apprenticeships available to thousands of high school students across the state. Indiana is the latest state to work with ETH Zurich — where Albert Einstein once studied — to develop ways to break down barriers between educators and business so that career training can be a large part of a reinvented high school experience. Indiana government, business and education officials — like those in Alabama, California, Colorado, Washington State, New York City and Washington, D.C. — have spent the last few years working with Ursula Renold, the former head of the Swiss vocational system. Now a professor at ETH, Renold's highly-regarded Center on the Economics and Management of Education and Training Systems, known as CEMETS, earns rave reviews and advises companies and officials around the world. A broad Indiana coalition including legislators, the state community college Ivy Tech, the Indiana Department of Education and Indiana Chamber of Commerce have visited Switzerland under CEMETS' direction. Committees of executives from several industries have also taken trips to see Swiss companies and schools in their field. The coalition expects to release a statewide plan to expand youth apprenticeships — potentially from 500 today to 50,000 in 10 years — in September. "College, of course, is very important, and it will continue to be important," said Claire Fiddian-Green, President and CEO of the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation, which has paid for and is leading some of the work. "But we know that it's not serving the majority of students in Indiana today." "We are trying to grow another great pathway that allows for upward mobility for young people in our state and also meets the demand for skilled labor that employers have been struggling to find for a long time," she said. That vision includes creating thousands of apprenticeships in fields such as health care, manufacturing and information technology, which are common in Europe. Such apprenticeships would add to the more traditional ones in the U.S. in the construction trades. Among potential changes coming to (Continued on Page 2)

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Outside

Sunny and warm, but showers approach
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Friday High 83 Low 66
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Ossian Elementary 'refresh'

(Continued from Page 1)
 tion last spring and for continuing to adapt to changes. OES was built in 1989 and was the second project of a districtwide plan to improve facilities. The board later discussed potential future projects with the pool and weight room or adding inclusive playgrounds. "The plumbing underneath the pool is kind of a ticking time bomb that I'm a little bit worried about," Superintendent Mike Springer emphasized. "That's something that's going to be a pretty heavy financial need. That's going to be something you can't cover out of the operations fund."



Norwell's board meeting was preceded by an open house of renovations at Ossian Elementary School. Shown above the inside of a classroom. At left is the cafeteria. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)

The board had also previously outlined plans to build a new central office building, but Springer said this would be the lowest priority among other projects. For the district to pursue any of these improvements, it would seek to issue a general obligations bond. Jim Elizondo of Stifel Public Finance explained that the district has some expiring debt in 2025, which could lower the district's tax rate or allow the district to obtain funding for building projects. The current tax rate is \$0.8967 and would decrease in 2025 to \$0.79.

"There are so many projects that we want to do to enhance the building and for our students ... we just don't have funding available in the

operations fund right now," advised Deb Adams, the district's financial services director. Springer emphasized that this would not mean increasing the tax rate but maintaining the current tax rate. "When we did all these

projects, we did not raise our tax rates," added board member Corey Krug. "So a lot of people complain, 'Oh, the school built a new building, and my assessment went up, and I'm paying a lot more to school.' Your tax rate has not changed." The board will discuss

the bond issuance, possible future projects and district budget during their next board meeting, 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 27, at Norwell High School. A strategic planning meeting will follow the regular agenda. holly@news-banner.com

Student apprenticeships

(Continued from Page 1)
 Indiana based on the Swiss system are letting 11th and 12th graders work part time while attending school part time; and letting businesses have a say in which work skills schools teach students. The plan will likely call for high school students to receive credit toward graduation from their work and training experiences, a change already being discussed at the department of education as it debates new diploma requirements.

Indiana already has a pilot Modern Youth Apprenticeship Program that started in 2021 to let high school juniors and seniors earn money working in businesses, such as AES Indiana and pharmaceutical company Roche, through their first year in college. Nearly 500 students have worked as apprentices in the three-year program. This story is from The 74, a non-profit news organization covering America's education system from early childhood through college and career. That program will soon expand to four other communities across the state, but officials want to grow it even more. "We've really kind of hit the accelerator," said Robert Behning, the Indiana House education committee chairman. Annelies Goger, a fellow at the Brookings Institution who researches career training, has traveled to Switzerland with Indiana officials for research on how the state, along with Colorado and Alabama, is breaking ground in trying to bring apprenticeships to a large scale. "I am struck by the level of cohesion and shared vision in the state across many of the key leaders in workforce, education, the legislature, and the chamber," Goger said. "CEMETS has played a critical role in creating the space and time for these leaders to work together and align around how they plan to tackle several challenges with student success." The top challenges the Indiana coalition has identified and are look-

ing to Renold and the Swiss for solutions include high school class schedules that interfere with work, a lack of public transportation for students to get to jobs without a car, and businesses' willingness to train large numbers of students — not just a few as a charity effort. Perhaps the biggest will be having competitors in each field partner to find common skills they all want new employees to have, so apprentices can train for an entire industry, not just a single employer. The Swiss have solved many of these issues, at least to a far greater degree than the U.S. About two thirds of students in Switzerland participate in apprenticeships as part of their education. Though attending university can still be the most prestigious path, apprenticeships are respected and are often combined with college by students who want both theoretical and practical training. The Swiss also have no reluctance in having high-school age students as apprentices as Indiana is considering. Many Swiss apprenticeships start as early as age 15, not after high school when most start in the U.S. Swiss companies view working with young people as a chance to attract new talent, not the risk and bother many American companies do. The Swiss system also gives companies a say in what skills schools teach in return for taking on responsibility and the expense of co-training teenagers. Fiddian-Green said she was sold on the potential of Indiana schools and businesses cooperating to help students and themselves after attending a summer seminar in 2019 that CEMETS runs every year. Teams from around the world spend the week of the seminar touring businesses and schools, then work with Renold's staff to try and better grow training programs back home. Fiddian-Green said visiting training centers that Swiss businesses create just for young people and seeing how

competing companies can agree on what students need to be taught to succeed in that industry, not just their own company, was eye-opening. "You start to have light bulbs go off after you've been there about three days, because it all starts to kind of click together," she said. Noel Ginsburg, the Colorado businessman who created the CareerWise youth apprenticeship program in Colorado in 2016 had a similar experience. He credits Renold and the CEMETS summer seminar with showing him how apprenticeships succeed for so many students and inspiring CareerWise, which has served nearly 2,200 apprentices. "It's the combination of the theoretical that you learn in the classroom, where there's discussion, but then you see it at scale, which is why CEMETS is powerful," Ginsburg told The 74. JP Morgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon and his wife Judith are also fans of Renold, CEMETS and the Swiss system after Renold and staff took them to businesses and schools to see it in person. Chase now hires CareerWise apprentices in its New York City offices and is an outspoken backer of CareerWise expansion in that city. Judi Dimon told The 74 she was impressed with how engaged Swiss apprentices were, even those still of high school age. And she saw how seriously companies took apprenticeships as a recruiting and talent pipeline strategy, not a charity program as many youth training programs are. "It was not... a corporate responsibility project that is paid for by the (company) foundation," Dimon said. "It is core to the businesses themselves, and to the culture and to their ability to attract young talent." That shift of viewing high school work experiences as a real business strategy and not just a public relations effort is cited by many experts as crucial to expanding high school internships or apprenticeships to a large scale anywhere in the U.S., not just Indiana.

Weather

Wednesday, August 14, 2024
 (24-hour observations at 11:43 p.m. Tuesday)
High: 83; **Low:** 59; **Precipitation:** None
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.10 feet at 8:45 p.m. Tuesday

Wells County forecast

Today: Sunny, with a high near 83. Calm wind becoming east around 5 mph in the afternoon.
Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 62. East wind around 5 mph.
Thursday: A slight chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 5 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 78. South wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.
Thursday Night: Showers and possibly a thunderstorm. Low around 67. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New rainfall amounts between 1 and 2 inches possible.
Friday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms, then showers likely after 8 a.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 83. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.
Friday Night: Showers likely, mainly before 8 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 66. Chance of precipitation is 60%.
Saturday: A 30% chance of showers after 8 a.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 77.
Saturday Night: A 20% chance of showers before 2 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 63.
Sunday: A 30% chance of showers after 8 a.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 78.

Fire talks

(Continued from Page 1)
 Donaghy interjected. "Ossian started our EMS in April 1975. There were 20 volunteers, and six drivers. Probably made \$1.60 per run ... This budget is very low and is going to have to grow eventually to handle this." Council President Josh Barkley agreed, adding that he believes the area will eventually be a fire territory. "We need to take our time with it," Fenstermaker said. "I can do a lot with a little. I have been for a long time. This is a start." The parties have until the end of October to sign a new contract for fire protection in 2025. If an agreement is not signed, a letter discontinuing fire protection services for Jefferson Township residents outside of Ossian will again be sent to the advisory board. "There is no room in here to keep putting these meetings off," Jefferson Township Trustee Larry Heckber

said. "If we don't hear back (from the advisory board), that letter is going to get sent out. I hope it doesn't have to get to that." Heckber confirmed that all four surrounding townships said they could not provide adequate fire coverage for the area. Council member Dennis Ealing advised that the town is asking the township to pay for 50% of the services, just as they did last year. However, last year the township only agreed to pay a portion of the budget. "This year, I think we are going to have to hold steady and get half," Ealing said. "In the letter to the editor, (the board) keeps saying they have no representation. They say they have no idea what they are paying for. They know exactly what they are paying for." A meeting to discuss the contract is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Sept. 9 at Collier's in Ossian. sydney@news-banner.com

Board of Works

(Continued from Page 1)
 of water per hour from the late night of June 26 to the night of July 16. The board approved to half the excess expenses from his water bill, with board member Josh Hunt suggesting to shut the water to his house off before he leaves next time. "This is good evidence of what a toilet can do," Utility Supervisor Jon Oman said. The board also approved Street Department Commissioner Tim Simpson's request to look for quotes to purchase a new plow truck. They plan to replace a 1993 single axel model, with Simpson stating that the department could look for a used cabin chassis to keep the expense down. Personnel decisions approved by the board are as follows:
 • Sewer Collections

Department Operator Triston Niblick was approved a \$1 per hour raise.
 • Street Department employee Todd Chrisman was reclassified from a Laborer to a Truck Driver after getting his CDL license, which comes with a pay raise.
 • Amber Hartman was hired by the Clerk-Treasurer's Office as a Deputy Clerk.
 • The Fire Department's Nathan Bueter moves from a Paid On-Call position to a part-time position. He is now a full-time hire for the Northwest Allen County Fire Protection Area.
 • The Fire Department hired Lucas Ash as a part-time firefighter, Michael Henderson as a part-time and paid-on-call firefighter and Nicholas Stephens as a paid-on-call firefighter. jonathan@news-banner.com

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Habecker Dining banquet/meeting rooms

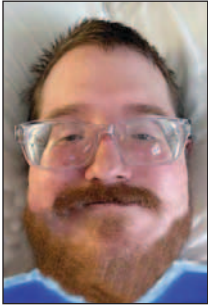
Wednesday, August 21 Session 1: 4:00pm
 Session 2: 6:00pm

The Center for Energy Education (C4EE) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and a center for renewable energy research, education, and workforce development

OBITUARIES

Preston Lee Geese, 30

Preston Lee Geese, 30, of Bluffton, died Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024. Born Feb. 15, 1994, in Fort Wayne, Preston was a graduate of Norwell High School in Ossian. He was preceded in death by his brother, Ian Geese. A Celebration of Life for Preston Lee Geese will be held at a later date. Arrangements are being handled by Doan & Mills Funeral Home, 790 National Road West, in Richmond.



Memorial contributions may be made to: Muscular Dystrophy Association, 2817 East Dupont Road, Ft. Wayne, IN 46825. Condolences may be sent to the family via the guest book at www.doanmillsfuneralhome.com.

Latchkey care costs

(Continued from Page 1)

multiple students from the same family in the latchkey program. Butcher said the new electronic check-in system could calculate these rates easily, which led the same parent to ask why the schools couldn't just bill by every quarter hour again.

In response, Superintendent Mike Springer said it was a "balancing act" between providing the resource for parents and keeping the program viable in and of itself, but that the district would not embrace an "a la carte" model.

No solution was approved Tuesday, but Springer said he would continue discussions with the schools and small groups of the school board to find a reasonable compromise. He said this change would be made prior to the next board meeting and retroactively affect billing.

"Why wasn't this thought of before school started?" the same parent asked. "Because we had to start somewhere," said board member Corey Krug. "Because it wasn't sustainable the way we were doing it ... But it's four days into the school year, and we go off the experts that are dealing with it on a daily basis. They make a suggestion to us, and if I disagree with them on this — who am I to say I know what it is to run latchkey? I'm going to listen to the experts."

OES Assistant Principal Matt Taylor also later explained that Bear Care has moved to the gym's activity deck to offer more space for activities and

allow for direct access to the gym.

Several parents later also asked to review the pick-up and drop-off traffic at OES, which has been altered due to one-lane construction on the bridge just outside of downtown Ossian. One parent said she's repeatedly seen drivers nearly get into crashes, as no one has helped direct traffic through the parking lot.

Springer said it was the first he had heard of the issue and asked if the parent had spoken with Casto or Taylor. She said she had not, and Springer encouraged the parents to communicate their concerns directly.

Furthermore, board member Traci Neueneschwander enthusiastically encouraged parents to attend the upcoming Aug. 27 strategic planning meeting, where the district planned to discuss transportation. Strategic planning follows the regular meeting, which begins at 5:30 p.m. at Norwell High School.

Later during the meeting, the board approved a per diem increase for substitute teachers. The new daily rates are \$200 for retired teachers and licensed teachers, \$200 for licensed long-term substitutes for the first consecutive 15 days followed by an experienced-based per diem, \$125 for non-licensed substitutes, \$125 for non-licensed long-term substitutes for the first consecutive 15 days followed by a \$200 per diem, and \$100 for non-licenses substitutes without a college degree.

The board also discussed a proposal for the 2025-26 school calendar, par-

ticularly whether it was important to start later in August or finish school by Memorial Day in May. No decision was made.

Also Tuesday, the board: Accepted the resignation of LES third grade teacher Allison Norman, Bobcat Care Supervisor Amarea Chandler, and bus driver Tammy Clark.

Approved employment recommendations for Zoe McNulty as Norwell Middle School Show Choir and Vocal Music teacher, Penny Cole as an LES fifth grade teacher, Breanna Clifton as OES technology integration teacher; Kelleigh Hart as LES technology integration teacher; Katelyn Jones for OES vocal music activity; Rya Weikel as district office secretary; Brittney Zent and Emma Miller as NHS teaching assistants; Courtney Ivins as an LES teaching assistant; Deb Brickley as a part-time LES teaching assistant; Gloria Rodgers, Isabella Winget and Macy Richmond as Bobcat Care assistants; Elizabeth Stalla as the NMS seventh grade volleyball coach and Patrick Humerickhouse as a volunteer coach; Valerie Terhune for NHS food service; Jenna Bauermeister as a bus aide; Jodi Heller as a full-time bus driver; and Suzanne Cyrus as NMS art club co-sponsor.

Accepted a donation of \$2,933.14 for OES STEM activities from the Wells County Foundation via the Elizabeth V. Patton Unrestricted Endowment Fund.

holly@news-banner.com

One fatality in Adams County crash

On Aug. 12, around 1:49 p.m., deputies with the Adams County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to the intersection of County Road 200 West and County Road 500 North in reference to a personally injury accident.

Upon investigation, deputies were able to determine that a 2020 Chevrolet Equinox being operated by Wendell W. Hartman, 89, from Fort Wayne, was traveling northbound on C.R. 200W. Hartman's vehicle did not stop at the stop sign for northbound traffic at C.R. 500N. Hartman's vehicle collided with a 2006 Subaru Legacy being operated by Arsalie D. Morgan, 18, from Decatur. Morgan had been traveling eastbound on C.R. 500N at the time. There is no posted stop sign for east and westbound traffic on C.R. 500N. The collision caused Morgan's vehicle to leave the roadway, travel through a residential yard, strike a tree and two parked vehicles in a driveway. One of the parked vehicle's was pushed and caused damage to a residence.

Morgan and passenger Malania K. D. Doster, 18, from Decatur complained of minor pain. Morgan was transported to a local hospital.

Hartman was transported to Lutheran Hospital for severe injuries, where he later died from his injuries.

The crash is currently under investigation by the Adams County Sheriff's Office. The Adams County Sheriff's Office was assisted by the Decatur Fire Department, Adams Memorial Emergency Services, and the Monroe Police Department.

Horse-drawn buggy accident injures four

On Sunday, Aug. 11, at 9:08 p.m., the Adams County Sheriff's Office was dispatched to a traffic accident in the area of SR 124 and County Road 200 East rural Monroe, involving a passenger vehicle and a horse-drawn buggy. A preliminary investigation shows the horse-drawn buggy, operated by Joe Schwartz, 30, from Monroe, and the passenger vehicle operated by Shanelle Bayes, 32, from Decatur, were eastbound on SR 124, just east of C.R. 200E. The passenger vehicle failed to observe the horse-drawn buggy and rear-ended it. The three passengers of the horse-drawn buggy were ejected. The horse-drawn buggy passengers' ages are 24-years-old, 2-years-old and 10-months-old.

The driver of the buggy was airlifted by Lutheran Air in life-threatening condition for further medical treatment and the other three passengers in the horse-drawn buggy were transported to a Fort Wayne hospital by Adams County EMS.

The driver of the passenger vehicle was uninjured. Alcohol is believed to be a factor in this incident. The crash investigation is ongoing by the Adams County Sheriff's office.

The Adams County Sheriff's Office was assisted by Monroe Fire Department, Adams County EMS, Lutheran Air, Decatur Police Department.

INCIDENTS

City:

Monday, 2:06 p.m., O'Reilly Auto Parts. Driver warned for misuse of center turn lane.

Monday, 4:10 p.m., Hard-ee's. Report of a man acting erratic. Man was struggling mentally.

Monday, 5:27 p.m., All American. Report of a truck on fire in the parking lot.

Monday, 7:39 p.m., 1100 block of West South Street. Report of a defiant teenager.

Monday, 7:44 p.m., 1500 block of West Central Avenue. Caller reported neighbor's dog bit their dog, to which the neighbor pulled out a knife and threatened to kill the dog. A child was present. Officer advised subjects to keep animals and knives on own property.

Tuesday, 3:14 a.m., 1100 block of Sunnyslenn Court. Report of a car alarm going off.

Tuesday, 10:21 a.m., Indiana Pancake House. Multiple reports of a suspicious man with two children at restaurant.

Tuesday, 11:09 a.m., All American. Report of a man unconscious in his car. Man was sleeping, left work in Bluffton and was too tired to safely drive home.

County: Friday, 3:11 p.m., 6500W 900S, Warren. Report of a tractor that hit a pole. Parties were separated.

Friday, 7:21 p.m., 800N and 100W, Uniondale. Report of two loose cows. Cows were near but not in roadway, suggesting they had a plan.

Friday, 9:36 p.m., 700 block of Clark Avenue. Warrant served to Joseph Morrison.

Saturday, 9:43 a.m., 5700 South Meridian Road, Pone- to. Report of harassment via phone call.

Police Notebook

Saturday, 12:32 p.m., Tower Life Center, Zanesville. Report of a small brush fire.

Sunday, 8:24 p.m., Wells County Jail. Report of subject causing problems. Subject calmed down, was upset about property seized by BPD.

Monday, 5:12 a.m., 800S and S.R. 3, Warren. Report of vehicle in area where bridge construction is occurring.

Monday, 9:44 a.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served to Kenneth Boyer.

Ossian: Saturday, 12:48 a.m., Silo Farms. Report of man coming to callers door demanding to see his wife.

Saturday, 1:00 p.m., 1000N S.R. 1, Ossian. Caller reported Walmart delivery driver drove into garage door.

Saturday, 8:18 p.m., U.S. 224 and C.R. 100 East. Officer received alert from Flock camera of a driver with suspended license. Officer pulled over the vehicle and found driver with odor of alcohol beverage and slurred speech. Samuel Fuentes arrested for driving while intoxicated and suspended.

Saturday, 11:45 p.m., 4900E 900N, Ossian. Report of knocking sounds, area cleared.

Sunday, 11:12 a.m., 1000 North Jefferson Street, Ossian. Report of domestic violence.

Sunday, 1:29 p.m., 1000N

S.R. 1, Ossian. Caller reported family member threatening to kill him. Firearms were later seized pursuant to Indiana's red flag law.

ARRESTS

Seth Curtis Chaffins, 39, Bluffton; possession of a hypodermic syringe and possession of methamphetamine, both Level 6 felonies. Bond set at \$10,000.

Christopher Ray Williamson, 44, Ossian; driving while suspended, a Class A misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Paul Raymond Storm, 35,

Monroeville; driving while suspended — prior, a Class A misdemeanor. Booked and released.

VISITATION & SERVICES

Evelyn E. Pope

Calling: 4 - 8 p.m. Wednesday, August 14 and one hour prior to the service. Service: 10:30 a.m. Thursday, August 15 at the funeral home.

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Upcoming Events

August 17 - JB's Cuisine Machine w/ live music from Bob Thompson
August 31 - Live music from the Trevor Hunt Band

Corrections and clarifications

Saturday's Local Roundup misprinted the date for the August meeting of the Board of Health. Its meeting was at 6:30 a.m. Monday.

Obituary Policy

The News-Banner and Ossian Journal publishes "basic" obituaries free of charge for "local" deaths. "Basic" obituaries will include the deceased's name, age, community of record, date and place of death, basic genealogical information, the date, time and location of calling hours and services and the name of the funeral home handling arrangements.

If additional information and/or a photo is desired to be included, or if the deceased does not meet the definitions of a "local" person, there is a charge.

Area funeral homes will provide details on the policy and will coordinate obituary publication.

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Fifty years of Indiana property tax

Indiana voters elected Otis Bowen as Governor in 1972 on a pledge of “visible, lasting and substantial” property tax relief. The slogan appealed to voters because property taxes had been growing rapidly for two decades. Growth between 1951 and 1972 averaged 8.5 percent per year, raising the share of taxpayer incomes paid to the tax from 3 percent in 1951 to 5 percent in 1972. Indiana had the 11th highest property taxes as a percent of income in the United States. We were a high property tax state.



Larry DeBoer

Hoosier Opinions

Today we rank 40th. The property tax as a percentage of income is 2.1 percent. Property owners are unhappy, though, because tax increases

have averaged 8.6 percent for the past two years. The tax percent of income had been 1.9 percent in 2022.

Last year the General Assembly established a State and Local Tax Review Task Force (SALTR, pronounced “salter”), to study issues in Indiana taxation. This year SALTR will look at property tax policy. You can see the exhibits and watch the meetings on the General Assembly’s website.

Some history might be helpful. Indiana was a high property tax state in 1972. Over the next 50 years we became a low property tax state. What policies did we use to make that happen?

Otis Bowen’s property tax relief bill passed on April 13, 1973. The vote was tied in the Senate, so Lt. Governor Orr cast the deciding vote in favor.

The bill took three main approaches. First, it provided an immediate 20 percent credit for all property owners. The credit was funded by doubling the state sales tax from 2 percent to 4 percent. Second, it allowed counties to adopt a local income tax for further property tax relief. Third, it froze property tax levies or rates. Counties adopting the local income tax had their levies frozen and non-adopting counties had their rates frozen.

It worked. Property taxes as a percentage of income fell from 5 percent in 1972 to 2.5 percent in 1980. Indiana policy makers have used this 3-part approach for property tax relief ever since.

The legislature increased the sales tax rate to 5 percent in 1983 to make up revenue losses from the 1979-82 recession. In 2002, though, the rate rose to 6 percent to fund property tax relief for homeowners, who were about to see large increases in tax bills resulting from the court-ordered market value reassessment. In 2008 the sales tax rate was increased to 7 percent, to provide revenue to replace property taxes for the school general fund. All-told, 4 percentage points of our 7 percent sales tax originated to fund property tax relief.

In the 1980s two new local income taxes were created. These mostly provided added local revenue, but they reduced the need to tax property. New local income taxes authorized in 2007 did offer added property tax relief, and the LIT reform of 2017 made explicit the share of local income taxes devoted to property tax relief. As of 2024 the local income tax provides more than half a billion dollars in property tax credits, and for counties and cities LIT provides almost as much revenue as property taxes.

Counties with frozen rates would have received a big boost in revenues with the 1980 statewide reassessment of property, so the General Assembly reformed the tax controls in 1979. Levies were limited by a maximum levy. It could rise with average assessed value growth, with a minimum of 5 percent and a maximum of 10 percent.

During 1980s and 1990s, though, the share of property taxes in income crept upwards towards 3 percent. So, in 2002 maximum levy growth was linked directly to Indiana income growth. Controlled property taxes would remain stable as a share of income. Then, in 2010, we amended the state Constitution to create new caps on the percentage of assessed value that taxpayers could pay. Between 2007 and 2024 the share of income paid to property taxes dropped from 3 percent to 2.1 percent.

What will the SALTR task force recommend? We don’t know, but it’s a good guess that some of the policies they consider will be in the tradition of Otis Bowen’s 1973 reform.

Larry DeBoer is a Purdue University economist. He wrote this for Indiana newspapers.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 14, the 227th day of 2024. There are 139 days left in the year.

Today in history: On Aug. 14, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law, ensuring income for elderly Americans and creating a federal unemployment insurance program.

Also on this date: In 1936, in front of an estimated 20,000 spectators, Rainey Bethea was hanged in Owensboro, Kentucky in the last public execution in the United States.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill signed the Atlantic Charter, which detailed the post-war goals of the two nations.

In 1945, President Harry S. Truman announced that Imperial Japan had surrendered unconditionally, ending World War II.

In 1947, Pakistan gained independence from British rule.

In 1994, Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, the terrorist known as “Carlos the Jackal,” was captured by French agents in Sudan.



Hot tip: Both parties should stop bribing voters with tax cuts

You get a tax cut! And you get a tax cut! And you get a tax cut!

Both major-party presidential nominees sound pretty Oprah-esque these days. They’re pledging lower taxes to bribe important voting blocs, including all the tipped service workers in Nevada.

Perhaps “bribe” sounds harsh. To some extent, politics is always transactional. Politicians often try to win votes by promising to improve people’s material interests. Maybe they pledge to deliver lower gas prices or a higher minimum wage. But usually those politicians at least offer the fig leaf of improving the greater social welfare or promoting equity or efficiency. Or something else similarly public-spirited-sounding.

GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump has no such concern (real or feigned) for such lofty goals. He has dangled military aid, lifesaving medical equipment, and corporate tax cuts in exchange for various political favors or donations. These are crass quids and quos that Democrats have, correctly, condemned.

But now Trump is taking these tax cut kickbacks on a national tour. And, unfortunately, Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic presidential nominee, has joined him.

Both candidates have pledged to make earnings on tips tax-free. Unsurprisingly, both made the promise at campaign events in Las Vegas, where 1 in 4 jobs are in the tip-heavy leisure and hospitality industries.

Setting aside the grotesquerie of this transparent tit for tat, this is a bad idea - whether you care about equity, or the federal budget deficit, or the integrity of markets and tax administration.

Tipped earnings are already relatively likely to evade taxation since they’re often transacted in cash and less traceable by Uncle Sam. Making all of these earnings *legally* tax-free raises even more serious questions of fairness.

Why should a waiter or blackjack dealer who gets most of their income from tips be exempted from taxes, when an employee at a nearby Walmart or a bus driver earning the same income - or perhaps much less - must pay taxes on all their hard-earned wages?

The proposal would also cost quite a bit of money. Exempting all tip income from federal income and payroll taxes, as Trump proposes, would lower federal revenue by \$150 billion to \$250 billion over the course of a decade, the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget estimates. (The cost falls to “only” \$100 billion to \$200 billion if gratuities remained subject to payroll taxes, per Harris’s version of the proposal.) The payroll tax exemption would starve the Social Security and Medicare trust funds of needed revenue in particular, potentially hastening benefit

cuts. But even those huge sums likely underestimate the cost, since those estimates assume the tax policy doesn’t change anyone’s behavior. Which is a fairly rosy assumption.

This new loophole would open up tons of ways to game the tax system by reclassifying more earnings as supposed “tips.” However many workers receive gratuities now - Yale’s Budget Lab estimates about 4 million people are in tipped occupations - we should expect that number to balloon. Heck, your favorite columnist should ask her employer to convert some of her pay to “tips” - and might even find a good enough accountant to legally avoid whatever guardrails the IRS tries to put on the policy.

Plus, consumers are already aggravated by the proliferation of tip requests, as Tax Policy Center researcher Steven M. Rosenthal points out. Do we really want to encourage even *more* tin-can shaking, by cable companies, dental practices and clothing retailers, too?

The Harris campaign has said it would work with Congress to ensure the benefit isn’t abused, including by restricting it to workers in the leisure, hospitality and gaming industries. But, at the very least, expect these industries’ employers - who can already pay a lower minimum wage to tipped workers in most states - to shift workers toward lower base pay and higher tipped income.

If you really wanted to help service-sector employees - along with other similarly situated low-wage workers - there are fairer, less distortionary ways to do so. For example, you could impose a higher minimum wage or bigger child tax credit (both of which Harris has supported).

Instead Trump continues to innovate with slapdash, self-sabotaging voter payoffs. In addition to his tip proposal, he’s also promised to repeal taxes on Social Security benefits. This, too, would be expensive and expedite the insolvency of Social Security and Medicare trust funds (toward which taxes on these benefits go). It would also be regressive. That’s because, for lower-income households, Social Security benefits are *already* partially exempted from taxes; if you eliminate all taxes on these benefits, you would disproportionately help higher-income households.

These kinds of ideas are bad and poorly designed, whether they’re coming from Republicans or Democrats. If our presidential nominees insist on blatant pandering, the least they can do is ensure they’re not making the system even worse in the process.

Reach Catherine Rampell at crampell@washpost.com



Catherine Rampell

Kamala’s path to greatness

How did Kamala Harris become so good at this?

How does a sub-par vice president get transformed nearly instantaneously into a joyful performer who can do no wrong?

It’s easy.

As the 20th century writer and strategist James Burnham put it, “Where there is no alternative, there is no problem.” Since there was no alternative to pumping up Harris to star status -- or the only alternative would be to sub out Joe Biden for a barely replacement-level politician -- she’s now inspirational, hip and beguilingly moderate.

In other words, Kamala has reversed the usual dynamic for getting considered a JFK- or Obama-level political talent: She is great because she’s the Democratic nominee; she’s not the Democratic nominee because she’s great.

If Joe Biden had done the responsible thing and stepped aside last year, there presumably would have been a contested nomination battle. Kamala would have been the favorite and perhaps would have won the nomination. But she would have had to fight for it -- doing town halls and interviews, participating in debates, defending her record, dealing with media scrutiny and winning the support of real voters.

Securing a nomination is a major accomplishment, and there’s usually a moment when even the weakest



Rich Lowry

nominee looks like he might have something going on. Back in 1988, it was, Wow -- Michael Dukakis is leading George H.W. Bush by 17 points. In 1996: Maybe this Jack Kemp pick has injected the sense of energy into the ticket that Bob Dole needs. Etc.

Kamala didn’t have to prove her chops this way. To the contrary, that she did nothing to win the Democratic nomination has perversely smoothed her way to stardom.

A real nomination process would likely have exposed Kamala or at least would have made the current cocoon impossible. (She hasn’t done a formal TV interview since June 24, and Harris has generously suggested that she will schedule one by the end of the month.)

All her positions would have been litigated, and any change in policy would have been seized on and denounced by fellow Democrats. In the context of a primary, the media would have been happy to cover all the contention and ask the tough questions -- for all we know, they might even have become vested in some candidate other than Kamala.

By fast-forwarding past the primaries and caucuses, Kamala went directly into a race with the hated Donald Trump, where the media is inevitably deeply committed to her.

Meanwhile, she hasn’t had to interact with voters in settings where she’s

going to get challenged; hasn’t had to do dozens of interviews fighting for attention with other Democrats; and hasn’t seen, as nominees often do, key lines of attack against her developed by intramural party competitors.

Because trying to have a competitive process after Biden stepped aside would have been too difficult, she was simply selected. Yet, she is being treated like she swept through the primaries and caucuses like an unstoppable political phenomenon, when she still has never run in a national Democratic primary; she got out too early in 2019 and got in too late in 2024.

The sheer fact of her ascension created the incentive for Democrats and the media to declare her great. In reality, she’s a cardboard cutout of a politician whose main political talent is to be able to, just barely, simulate determination, passion and mirth while reading from a teleprompter.

Insulated from personal interactions with voters and from media scrutiny, running against an unpopular former president, and boosted by a party and press that have no alternative but to invest all their hopes in her, she is suddenly more than the sum of her parts.

Coach Walz, as Kamala dubbed her running mate Tim Walz, may have told his football players at some point that “there’s no substitute for going out and earning it.” Kamala 2024 is a testament to the fact that, actually, there is.

Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry

The News-Banner

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If watching sports were an Olympic event

My love for sports started very young. As a bonafide Tom boy, I spent a lot of time hitting a ball around and playing catch with my brother. While attending our local rural school, I was often included in the baseball game and even



Kathy Schwartz

played center for the football scrimmages on the playground. With the transfer to town high school, I quickly became aware that sports were for boys, and girls were delegated to be on the sidelines cheering them on.

Some of my fondest memories find me sitting at the feet of my dad listening to Tiger baseball and Lions football. There was something magical about creating that winning home run or scoring that touchdown in my mind.

Flash forward to the ten minutes before I was about to go down the aisle to marry this man from Indiana. The snow was fluttering down from the northern Michigan

sky. I was startled by a light tapping on the door. A very shy groomsmen handed me a slip of paper. My heart fluttered. How wonderful for the love of my life to send me a note to declare his undying love. Imagine my surprise as I read his message, "Purdue Beat Michigan!" That should have been a great indicator that sports would be an important part of our life together.

My husband wanted to share his love for golf. After a few hair-raising outings, he bought me a gift of golf lessons from a local golf shop. Smart guy! We did share many wonderful outings and golfing vacations. We both have reached a point where we are unable swing a club but sit and watch matches on TV with appreciation for the skill it takes to make it look so easy.

Parenthood found us sitting on a multitude of bleachers cheering on our children. It even stretched past graduation as one daughter played collegiate sports. A person truly gets to know about effort and



sacrifice sitting through all types of weather and inept referees.

And then there is the Olympics! This is an opportune time to receive an overdose of stimulation as events are broadcasted both day and night. I have sat watching everything from archery to rowing to gymnastics to swimming to badminton to kayaking to hand ball to soccer to... Well, you get the idea. The availability of multiple stations provides a brief glance of many events, and I do mean brief. My husband only pauses a few minutes on each station as his fingers fly around the remote commanding a symphony of clicks to capture the Guinness World Record for the greatest number of channel changes in an hour. This might explain why I watch the recap of events on the evening shows because I am sure to see more than I do of the live feeds.

Now the question that begs to be answered is WHY?

I can truthfully say I do not exclusively cheer for TEAM USA,

though a smile does cross my face when that American flag flies above the podium and the lump in my throat as the tears roll down Scottie Scheffler's face. I am not a competitive person. I am not living vicariously through the athletes, as I have no urge to do most of the events. The thought of standing on top of a platform 32.81 ft from the water and hurling myself off, is definitely NOT on my list of things to do. I get winded just watching the running events and hold my breath as I watch surfers drop into the curve of a gigantic wave.

After much introspection, I watch because I enjoy being amazed! I marvel at these human beings that have striven to be the absolute best at something that they clearly have a deep-seeded passion for. A person does not get to this point without a lot of sacrifice and dedication. AND they did not do it alone. With every victory comes the pictures of a family member, a friend, and/or a coach celebrating the accomplishment.

The things that amaze me the most are the events that I would not dream of doing, even in my younger years.

Running: any shape or form: I might be able to step quickly if my life is threatened, but to choose to run 1500 meters is not in my wheelhouse.

Balance Beam: I could not do a cartwheel, let alone backwards and on an elevated 4-inch board.

Rings: My armpits just hurt watching.

Archery: My arm still carries the scar I acquired from that bow string during a ninth grade PE class.

The list could go on and on. **Here's the Thing:** Even if you are unable to participate in a certain sport, watching can provide you with many hours of entertainment, joy, and amazement. Watching can give you that necessary break from real life. Maybe there should be a gold medal for watching sports. If the powers to be decide it is worthy of consideration, I know a guy.

Editor's Note: This is one of a series of articles and opinions written by a group of retired and current teachers — Ken Ballinger, Billy Kreigh, Kathy Schwartz, and Anna Spreiding. Their intent is to spur discussions at the dinner table and elsewhere. You may also voice your thoughts and reactions via The News-Banner's letters to editor.

Harry Lindstrand Art Open House Sunday at the Wells County Historical Museum

A special Open House to celebrate the life and work of Wells County artist, Harry Lindstrand will be held on Sunday, August 18, 1:00 – 5:00 pm at the Wells County Historical Museum located at 420 West Market Street, Bluffton. The event is free and open to the public.

The open house will include paintings on-loan from the Wells County Public Library and the Wells County Creative Arts Council. In addition, many Lindstrand paintings have been loaned by individuals within the community to the museum for the open

house. Several members of the Harry and Dorothy McAfee Lindstrand family will be at the event and will be sharing stories and comments about the paintings. The family will also share several paintings for visitors to see from their private collection.

Light refreshments sponsored by the Wells County Historical Society will be served. For more information about the event, visit the Wells County Historical Society and Museum on Facebook or at wchs-museum.org.

Lunch at Ouabache was all about owls

By **BARBARA BARBIERI**

The subject was owls as the Friends of Ouabache State Park hosted August's Thursday noon gathering of the Lunch & Learn series at the park's Lodge by the Lake.

Alyssa Linder from Upper Wabash Interpretive Services was the program presenter. She brought three owls with her to meet the lunchers including a Great Horned Owl, an Eastern Screech Owl and a Barn Owl. All were rescue birds and live full time at the Upper Wabash Interpretive site as they have injured eyes.

As each bird was introduced it was learned that owls are raptors as they use their talons to secure



Alyssa Linder & Great Horned Owl

food such as mice, rats and smaller animals. All three types of owls can be found in this area but often are so well camouflaged we do not see them.

The next Lunch & Learn will be held on Thursday, Sept. 13, when Jeff Ormis-

ton, retired naturalist from Fox Island, will talk about Pond Life.

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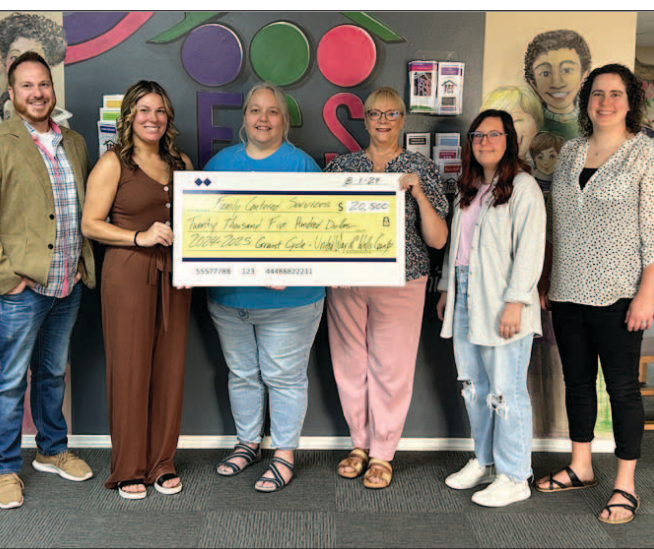
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United Way of Wells County funding

Supporting Junior Achievement

Junior Achievement received a grant of \$2,500 each year for the next two years. Junior Achievement works to help young people discover what's possible in their lives. They do this by helping them connect what they learn in school with life outside the classroom to help pursue their dreams. Pictured are United Way of Wells County executive director Ben Renkenberger and JA of Wells County board chair Erica Bennett. (Photos submitted)



Multiple grants for FCS programs

Family Centered Services received funding for multiple programs including The Closet, Mentor Moms, Parent Cafe, Youth as Resources and Teen Court. Pictured from left are United Way of Wells County executive director Ben Renkenberger, FCS Closet Coordinator Brandi Brinneman, FCS Director of Human Resources Dawn Fowler, FCS Chief Operations Officer Lisa Antrim, FCS Program Coordinator Courtney Ginter and FCS Administrative Assistant Emily Wyatt.

Online Directory

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

Genesis Pest Services genesispestservices.com	MR. KOOL heating and cooling mrkoolheatingandair.com	DAZEY'S SUPPLY dazeys.com/bluffton-in
STEFFEN Financial Group stefffinancial.com	JC'S GARAGE DOOR SALES & SERVICE jcsgaragedoor.com	Daniel's JEWELERS daniels-jewelers.net
INDIANA FARM BUREAU INSURANCE Bluffton Office (260) 824-2234 infarmbureau.com	3 RIVERS 3riversfcu.org	Myers FUNERAL HOMES myersfuneralhomes.com
WELLS COUNTY 4-H GROWS HERE extension.purdue.edu/wells	RiverStone DENTAL riverstonedental.net	Bluffton Tire blufftontire.com
Goodwin-Cole & Harnish MEMORIAL CHAPEL A Tradition of Caring thegmfamily.com	HIDAY AUTOMOTIVE GROUP hidaymotors.com	Edward Jones EdwardJones.com
INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS AUDIO VIDEO SECURITY NETWORKING icav.us	Jerry Flack & Associates jerryflackinsuranceandinvestments.com	LaFontaine Center A RHF Community lafontainecenter.org
Lengerich MEATS lengerichmeats.com	Still Waters FAMILY DENTISTRY stillwatersfamilydentistry.com	Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home thomarich.com
		NBDigital nb-digital.com

A Talk with Tego



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Tego

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County golf teams sweep, Schwartz breaks 9-hole record

All three Wells County schools picked up victories on the golf course Tuesday evening.

In addition, Savanna Simerman of Norwell and Emma Schwartz of Bluffton were medalists in their matches.

Schwartz's 36 on the back nine of Timber Ridge is a personal best and new school record. Schwartz already claimed the 18-hole school record last week at Cross Creek, where she shot an 80.

Below are all the results and individual numbers:

Garrett at Norwell

The Knights hosted and defeated the Railroaders 181-214 at Timber Ridge and played the front nine.

Simerman led the way with a 40, followed by Ellie Gatton (42), Emma Burnau (47), Jordyn Shroyer (52) and Jessica Bynum (53).

Two junior varsity golfers went for Norwell. Jacquelyn Mayer scored a 47 while Kylee Nevius shot a 55.

Norwell will travel to Eastbrook to face the Panthers and Southern Wells Raiders at

4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 20.

Adams Central at Bluffton

The Tigers notched another win in the regular season, this time against ACAC rival Adams Central by a score of 194 - 234.

Schwartz led the way with a 36, followed by Eve Corkwell (48), Tressa Renner and Addison Kauffman (55) and Piper Morgan (56).

Bluffton's five-player junior varsity team also went out on the course and shot a 233. Isabella Stout, Sy'Annah Jordan-Turner and Aleah Grover all shot 58s, while Madelyn Funk shot a 61 and Addison Gehring 63.

Bluffton will be at Southwood at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 15.

Southern Wells at Whitko

The Raiders picked up a 217-232 road win over Whitko.

Erika and Kolbie Beavans shot 52s to lead the Raiders, followed by Callie Ripperger 55 and both Sophie Meeks and Colena Reeves shot 58s.

Southern Wells will be at Heritage at 5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 15.



Bluffton's Emma Schwartz drills a drive on Hole 17 at Timber Ridge during the regular season match with Adams Central on Tuesday. Her 36 is a school record for nine holes, her second record claimed this season. (Photos by Ryan Walker)

High School Calendar

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 14

No events scheduled.

THURSDAY, AUG. 15

GIRLS GOLF: Southwood at Bluffton, 4:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Heritage, 4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUG. 16

No events scheduled.

SATURDAY, AUG. 17

CROSS COUNTRY (co-ed): Bluffton, Norwell, Southern Wells at Norwell Invitational, 9 a.m.

MONDAY, AUG. 19

BOYS SOCCER: Wayne at Norwell, 5:30 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL: Huntington North at Bluffton, 7:30 p.m.; North Side at Norwell, 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUG. 20

GIRLS GOLF: Bluffton at Woodlan, 4:30

p.m.; Norwell and Southern Wells at Eastbrook, 4:30 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL: Norwell at Northrop, 6:45 p.m.; Eastbrook at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 21

BOYS TENNIS: Norwell at Concordia, 4:30 p.m.

GIRLS GOLF: Bluffton at Northfield, 5 p.m.; Norwell at Wayne, 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUG. 22

BOYS TENNIS: Bluffton at Belmont, 4:30 p.m.; Jay County at Norwell, 5 p.m.

BOYS SOCCER: Norwell at Blackhawk, 6:30 p.m.

GIRLS GOLF: Norwell at Belmont, 4 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER: Northrop at Norwell, 7 p.m.

Bluffton's football opener moved to South Adams

Bluffton's home and season opener for football won't be played on home turf this season.

Athletic director Steve Thompson released a statement that the Tigers' football game against Blackhawk Christian on Aug. 23 will be moved to South Adams High School. This is due to the resurfacing of the track around the field, which will not be completed by next Friday. Kickoff will remain at 7 p.m.

Other items of note in the release include:



- Bluffton fans will sit on the home stands' side with gates opening at 6 p.m.. Tiger passes will still be accepted. Tickets can be purchased on Eventlink through the website or at the game via debit or credit card. Cash will not be accepted.
- The Tigers will be wearing their home uniforms.
- The game personnel will still be all Bluffton staff, including the public address announcer, scoreboard, chain crew, supervision and ticket takers.

Green Valley Golf League results

George Thomas, Doug Scher, Bill Foreman and Ron Blevins were a part of the winning team in the Green Valley Golf League.

Dave Willits had a low gross of 30, while Scher and Scott DeHoff had a low net of 24. Thomas was the closest to pin and Don Pettit had the longest putt.

Rookie Jhonkensy Noel hits a 430-foot homer for the go-ahead run as the Guardians edge Cubs

By BRIAN DULIK

Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — Rookie Jhonkensy Noel hit a 430-foot solo homer in the sixth inning off Drew Smyly, providing the go-ahead run for the American League Central-leading Cleveland Guardians in a 2-1 victory over the Chicago Cubs on Tuesday night.

Noel's drive onto the left field porch was his ninth home run in 32 games since making his major league debut on June 26. He had his first two-homer game Monday in the series opener, a 9-8 win by Cleveland.

"I don't know about being in a groove, but I know I'm a good hitter and I just try to do damage to the pitcher every game," Noel said through an interpreter. "Every game is the same mindset."

The Guardians took sole possession of the best record in baseball at 71-49 with their fourth straight victory. They also own the top home mark in the majors, going 37-20 at Progressive Field.

Pedro Avila (4-1) retired two batters for the win, while Emmanuel Clase earned his fourth save in four days — for the first time in his career — to tie St. Louis' Ryan Helsley for the major league lead with 37.

"Emmanuel is just incredible, and I'm so thankful for him," Cleveland manager Stephen Vogt said. "It's unbelievable how hard he works to keep himself available to pitch every day. The fact that he loves to pitch just magnifies it."

Guardians starter Matthew Boyd pitched 5 1/3 innings and allowed one run in his first MLB game since June 26, 2023, with Detroit. The left-hander gave up three hits and struck out six without a walk in his return from Tommy John surgery.

Boyd signed with Cleveland on June 29, then went 1-0 with a 0.83 ERA in five rehab starts. He threw 80 pitches, 61 of them strikes, before walking off the mound with a broad smile.

"Today was awesome — a milestone — but this was just the beginning," Boyd said. "The energy in this ballpark has always been palpable and the opportunity that sits here with this ballclub is special."

Smyly (3-6) gave up one run in 1 1/3 innings for the Cubs, who are 4-3 in their ongoing stretch of 14 straight games against AL teams. They have won 20 of 34 overall since July 4, the third-best record in baseball during the timeframe.

"Two tough losses here, for sure," Chicago second baseman Nico Hoerner said. "We had some opportunities, but didn't take advantage of them."

The Cubs opened the scoring in the second on a sacrifice fly by Dansby Swanson. Right fielder Noel caught the ball deep in foul territory, but Hoerner beat the throw home.

Cleveland tied it in the bottom half on Brayan Rocchio's bunt single that brought in Andrés Giménez. Javier Assad mishandled the ball, accounting for the only run he allowed in 4 2/3 innings.



Tigers' Eve Corkwell (left) drives on Hole 17 during the match against the Jets. Norwell's Jessica Bynum (right) putts during the Knights' match on the front nine in the win over Garrett.



News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	21	4	.840	—
Connecticut	18	6	.750	2½
Indiana	11	15	.423	10½
Chicago	10	14	.417	10½
Atlanta	7	17	.292	13½
Washington	6	19	.240	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	17	8	.680	—
Seattle	17	8	.680	—
Las Vegas	16	8	.667	½
Phoenix	13	12	.520	4
Los Angeles	6	18	.250	10½
Dallas	6	19	.240	11

Monday's Games

No games scheduled.

Tuesday's Games

No games scheduled.

Wednesday's Games

No games scheduled.

Thursday's Games

Phoenix at Chicago, 8 p.m.

Washington at Minnesota, 8 p.m.

New York at Los Angeles, 9 p.m.

Friday's Games

Phoenix at Indiana, 7:30 p.m.

Seattle at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.

Connecticut at Dallas, 9:30 p.m.

N.Y. Yankees 4, Chicago White Sox 1

Toronto at L.A. Angels, late

Wednesday's Games

Kansas City (Ragans 9-7) at Minnesota (Ober 12-5), 1:10 p.m.

Texas (TBD) at Boston (Houck 8-8), 6:10 p.m.

Washington (Herz 2-4) at Baltimore (Kremer 4-9), 6:35 p.m.

Chicago Cubs (Tailon 8-6) at Cleveland (Cobb 0-1), 6:40 p.m.

Seattle (Woo 5-1) at Detroit (Brieske 1-2), 6:40 p.m.

Houston (Blanco 9-6) at Tampa Bay (Littell 5-8), 6:50 p.m.

Oakland (Estes 5-4) at N.Y. Mets (Peterson 6-1), 7:10 p.m.

N.Y. Yankees (TBD) at Chicago White Sox (Martin 0-1), 8:10 p.m.

Toronto (Berrios 10-9) at L.A. Angels (Anderson 9-10), 9:38 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Oakland at N.Y. Mets, 1:10 p.m.

Seattle at Detroit, 1:10 p.m.

Boston at Baltimore, 6:35 p.m.

Minnesota at Texas, 8:05 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	69	50	.580	—
Atlanta	62	56	.525	6½
New York	61	58	.513	8
Washington	55	65	.458	14½
Miami	45	75	.375	24½

Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	67	52	.563	—
St. Louis	60	60	.500	7½
Cincinnati	59	61	.492	8½
Chicago	56	62	.488	9
Pittsburgh	59	62	.475	10½

West Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	71	49	.592	—
Arizona	67	53	.558	4
San Diego	67	53	.558	4
San Francisco	61	60	.504	10½
Colorado	44	76	.367	27

Monday's Games

Cincinnati 6, St. Louis 1

Cleveland 9, Chicago Cubs 8

L.A. Dodgers 5, Milwaukee 2

Arizona 5, Colorado 4

San Diego 2, Pittsburgh 1

Atlanta 1, San Francisco 0, 10 innings

Tuesday's Games

Cincinnati 4, St. Louis 1

Miami 5, Philadelphia 0

Cleveland 2, Chicago Cubs 1

Washington 9, Baltimore 3

Oakland 9, N.Y. Mets 4

L.A. Dodgers 7, Milwaukee 2

Colorado at Arizona, late

Pittsburgh at San Diego, late

Atlanta at San Francisco, late

Wednesday's Games

Colorado (Gordon 0-3) at Arizona (Montgomery 7-6), 3:40 p.m.

Pittsburgh (Keller 10-6) at San Diego (Pérez 2-5), 4:10 p.m.

Washington (Herz 2-4) at Baltimore (Kremer 4-9), 6:35 p.m.

Chicago Cubs (Tailon 8-6) at Cleveland (Cobb 0-1), 6:40 p.m.

Miami (Cabrera 2-3) at Philadelphia (Phillips 4-1), 6:40 p.m.

St. Louis (Gibson 7-4) at Cincinnati (Spies 4-4), 6:40 p.m.

Oakland (Estes 5-4) at N.Y. Mets (Peterson 6-1), 7:10 p.m.

L.A. Dodgers (TBD) at Milwaukee (Montas 5-8), 8:10 p.m.

Atlanta (Holmes 0-0) at San Francisco (Ray 2-1), 9:45 p.m.

Thursday's Games

L.A. Dodgers at Milwaukee, 2:10 p.m.

Midwest League

High-A Midwest League Alliance

Monday, Aug. 12

No games scheduled

Tuesday, Aug. 13

Fort Wayne 4, Dayton 1

Wednesday, Aug. 14

Dayton at Fort Wayne, 6:35 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Dayton at Fort Wayne, 6:35 p.m.

Friday's Games

Dayton at Fort Wayne, 7:05 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

Tuesday's Transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball

American League

CLEVELAND GUARDIANS —

Reinstated LHP Matthew Boyd from the 15-day IL. Optioned RHP Peter Strzelecki to Columbus (IL). Sent CF Anthony Gose outright to Columbus.

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Lost connection

Dear Annie: A lifelong friend of mine moved to Utah a little over a year ago with a man twice her age. They met in a similar career field and travel together. She has been helping take care of his 10-year-old son.

We were best friends all of our childhood, and even as we got older, we remained close to varying degrees. Before she left, she promised we'd remain in touch and still try to see each other when possible. We even got together for lunch when she was back in town a few months after the initial move. We had a really nice time. At least, I thought we did.

Since September, I haven't heard back from her. I have texted and feel nervous to call for some reason. My wife and parents say maybe the relationship she's in is isolating her and she's unable to reach out. I thought being with a man that much older was weird, but my friend has always been a capable, independent woman, so I'm just not sure.

Any idea why she's ghosting me? Thank You. — Best Friend Forever in Colorado

Dear Best Friend Forever: The best way to find out why she has not texted you back is to pick up the phone and call her. She is your best friend! This is especially true if you feel that something is wrong with her relationship. She would need a friend.

She could also be busy taking care of his 10-year-old son. Regardless of the reason, communication is the answer to your question. The best

communication is done face to face, but if you don't want to make a trip, start with a phone call and not just a text. If she is a true friend worth keeping, she will appreciate you telling her how you feel. If not, then you are better off without her.

Dear Annie: I lost my husband of 36 years due to rare bone marrow cancer. From the day of the diagnosis to the day of his passing, it was exactly two months. My family and I were shocked. GriefShare helped me so much.

Please inform others to check for their local support groups via Google or GriefShare.org (name of your town or city). — Grateful Nan

Dear Grateful Nan: I am sorry for your loss. Thank you for sharing the link. I hope it helps others find the support they need.

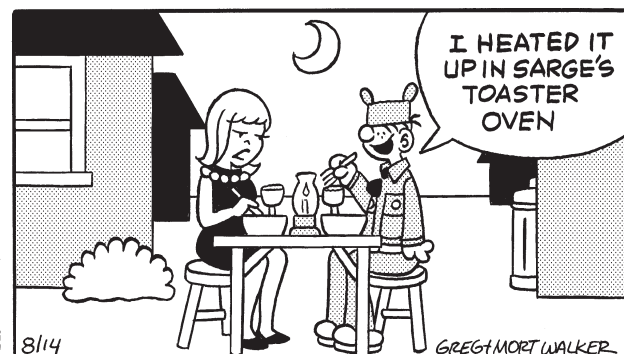
"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit <http://www.creator-publishing.com> for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. © 2024 CREATORS.COM



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

BEETLE BAILEY



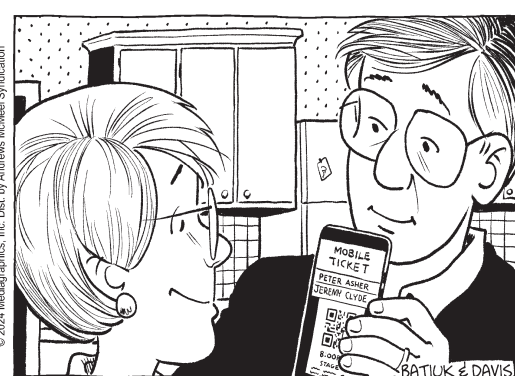
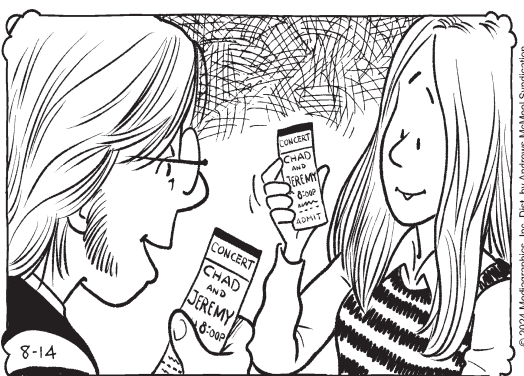
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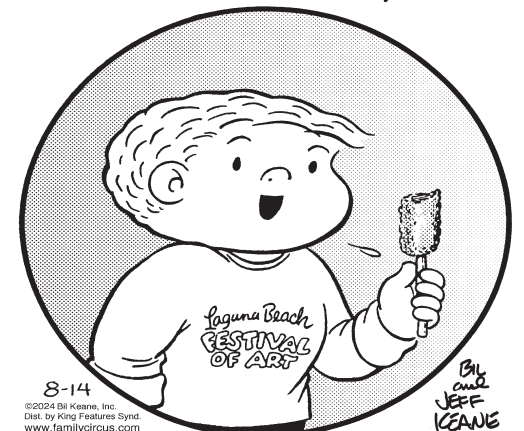


CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



Ministering to people's souls is far greater than providing only physical needs

Question: My church is truly a community church, offering after-school activities so that parents can finish their workdays and then collect their children from this safe space. However, while the church does well at caring for the children, there's no effort to teach them about God. The leadership says plainly, "We don't want to offend any of the neighborhood families that might believe differently from Christians." Should Christians replace God's Word with activities? — C.C.

Answer: Christian service is often mistaken for humanitarian service. Christ called His followers to proclaim His message and this is done in various ways. Ministering to people's souls is

far greater than providing only physical needs. Often, however, we earn the opportunity to share Christ when a helpful hand has been extended to someone in need. Then you can say with Paul, "I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience" (2 Timothy 1:3, NKJV).

An elderly couple had been praying for the Lord to show them how they could serve Him. Physically, they were unable to venture far from home. One day a neighbor (a young mother), knocked at their door and handed them some fresh bread she had baked. The couple, overwhelmed at her gift, invited her in. Looking into her pale face with dark circles under her eyes, they learned she was suffering from a serious disease and

asked if they could pray with her. A tear fell on her cheek, and she said, "No one has ever prayed for me before." As the weeks and months passed, the couple came to know the woman and began looking after her children on occasion while the woman went for medical treatment. The old couple baked cookies and taught the children Bible stories after school. In time, the entire family came to know the Lord.

This is service with eternal value. "Do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord" (2 Timothy 1:8, NKJV).

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

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TV schedule table with columns for time slots (5 PM to 12:30 AM) and various channels (WIMM, CBS, Antenna, ABC, NBC, etc.) listing programs like Washington Watch, News-at-5, Wheel of Fortune, Jeopardy!, etc.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 That fellow, 4 Monumental, 8 Unspoken feeling, 12 GI entertainers, 13 Japanese soup, 14 Hibernia, 15 Day-paint, 16 Katharine Ross role of 1969, 18 Nymph pursuer, 20 Twitch, 21 Pet food brand, 24 Metric measures, 28 Wherever, 32 Sea predator, 33 Middling grade, 34 Pub projectiles, 36 "Nasty!", 37 Tide type, 39 Loo, 41 Gose, 43 British pianist Hess.

Crossword puzzle grid with letters filled in for the solution. Includes 'Solution time: 23 mins.' and 'Yesterday's answer 8-14'.

Grid for yesterday's crossword puzzle solution, showing numbers 1-61 in a crossword pattern.

The Classifieds

SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

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

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Difficulty: ★★★

8/14

VEHICLES

Campers/RV's

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EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

THE BLUFFTON POLICE Department is seeking applications to fill the position of Ordinance Compliance Officer. This full-time civilian position is responsible for ensuring compliance with all city ordinances and is based in the police department working M-F 8a-4p. Duties include downtown parking enforcement and resolution of weed and junk complaints. The successful applicant must be at least 18 years old with a high school diploma or GED equivalent, possess a responsible driving history and clean criminal background. Knowledge of law procedures preferred. Application is available on the city's website www.blufftonindiana.net. For more information contact Chief of Police Kyle Randall at 824-3320 or kyle.randall@blufftonindiana.gov. Applications are due back August 23, 2024 by 4:30 p.m.

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NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
IN THE WELLS CIRCUIT COURT
DOCKET NO.
90C01-2408-EJ-000025
OF WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA

Notice is hereby given that Cheryl A. Sills was on the 8th day of August, 2024, appointed personal representative of the estate of MARGARET A. CRANDALL, deceased, who died on the 15th day of July, 2024, and was authorized to administer her estate without Court supervision.

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

Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, this 8th day of August, 2024.

Beth Davis
Clerk, Wells Circuit Court
Matthew P. Hayes
Attorney for Personal Representative
Attorney No. 32002-02
GORDON & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
119 East Oak Forest Drive
Bluffton, IN 46714
(260) 824-9377

nb 8/14, 8/21
hspaxlp

SUDOKU ANSWER

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

Help Wanted

BLUFFTON POLICE DEPARTMENT Now Hiring! The Bluffton Police Department is accepting applications for the position of police officer. Applicant must be 21 years of age by close of application date, but less than 40; have a high school diploma; two-year college degree or equivalent (60 hours), or three years of work experience in police related field or an ILEA Basic graduate or equivalent. Must provide college transcripts. Applicant must possess and maintain a valid Indiana driver's license and responsible work experience. Applicant must pass a background investigation, written test, physical agility test, oral interview, voice stress examination, required statewide baseline physical and psychological examination and drug test. Applications may be picked up at the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, 128 E Market St, Bluffton, IN, between the hours of 8 am-4:30 pm Mon-Fri. or online at blufftonindiana.net. If you have questions about the application process, you may call the Bluffton Police Department at 260-824-3320, Kyle Randall, Chief of Police. Last day to accept applications will be September 30, 2024

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Notices

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Lottery Numbers

Tuesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 15-23-28-40-43

Cash4Life — 18-25-33-36-56, Cash Ball: 01

Quick Draw Midday — 05-08-11-14-19-23-40-45-50-53-54-57-58-61-62-64-66-67-77-78, BE: 64

Daily Three-Midday — 04-01-00, SB: 06

Daily Three-Evening — 03-03-04, SB: 08

Daily Four-Midday — 02-09-06-07, SB: 06

Daily Four-Evening — 01-03-05-05, SB: 08

Quick Draw Evening — 04-07-19-29-31-34-39-40-45-49-53-58-61-62-66-68-70-75-78-79, BE: 66

Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$19.3 million

MEGA MILLIONS
34-55-59-65-70; Mega Ball: 12; Megaplier: 4X.

POWERBALL
Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$20 million

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August

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

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