



# The News - Banner

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2024 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00

## Proposed city logo gets update, positive review

**By JONATHAN SNYDER**  
 Following feedback from the public, Reusser Marketing presented an updated marketing plan to the Bluffton Common Council on Tuesday.

Joe Beste and Tommy Moore, representing the firm, emphasized why each part of the proposed logo was implemented and a new logo for the city flag.

Beste and Moore discussed how the city's core values are represented in the plan, including honoring the city's resilient heritage, being stewards of the city's environment, driving economic strength, holding an enduring work ethic and other things relating to community, culture and leadership.

Beste looked over what each part of the logo represents about the city, with the nine squares in a semicircle representing the nine townships and the bison being a symbol of strength and community, as bison's are known for their herd mentality. The bison also represents the multitude of people from different areas of Wells County finding reason to visit the city. Council member Chandler Gerber stated that the bison also is an homage to the county and being a symbol of unity between both entities.

The bison head on the flag was replaced with a profile image of a bison. The red, white and navy flag colors remain the same, representing the school districts in Wells County. The colors also represent the

Wabash River and the bluffs on the river banks that the city was originally built on.

While the council liked the new look flag and updates to the plan, they also wanted an opportunity to showcase the new look to the public before approving the plan.

Council member Rick Elwell stated that an outlet to give information about the reasons behind the logo to the public and a chance to respond is necessary. Reusser and the council agreed that a short video explaining their decisions will be made and that the logo and flag should be made readily visible at the Bluffton Free Street Fair.

"The information booth is a pivotal juncture in the public pathway so it's going to get way more exposure there," Elwell said. "Not trying to stall the effort at all ... but we're setting a precedent for generations."

A final decision on the marketing plan is scheduled for the council's Oct. 1 meeting. Traditionally, the second September meeting for council is canceled due to Street Fair activities.

Additionally, the council appropriated \$21,000 from the opioid fund for programs and \$200,000 from the Fire Territory's equipment replacement fund to their equipment replacement line item. Fire Chief Don Craig stated that these funds will be used for purchasing the two new command vehicles approved by the Board of Public Works and Safety on Aug. 28.

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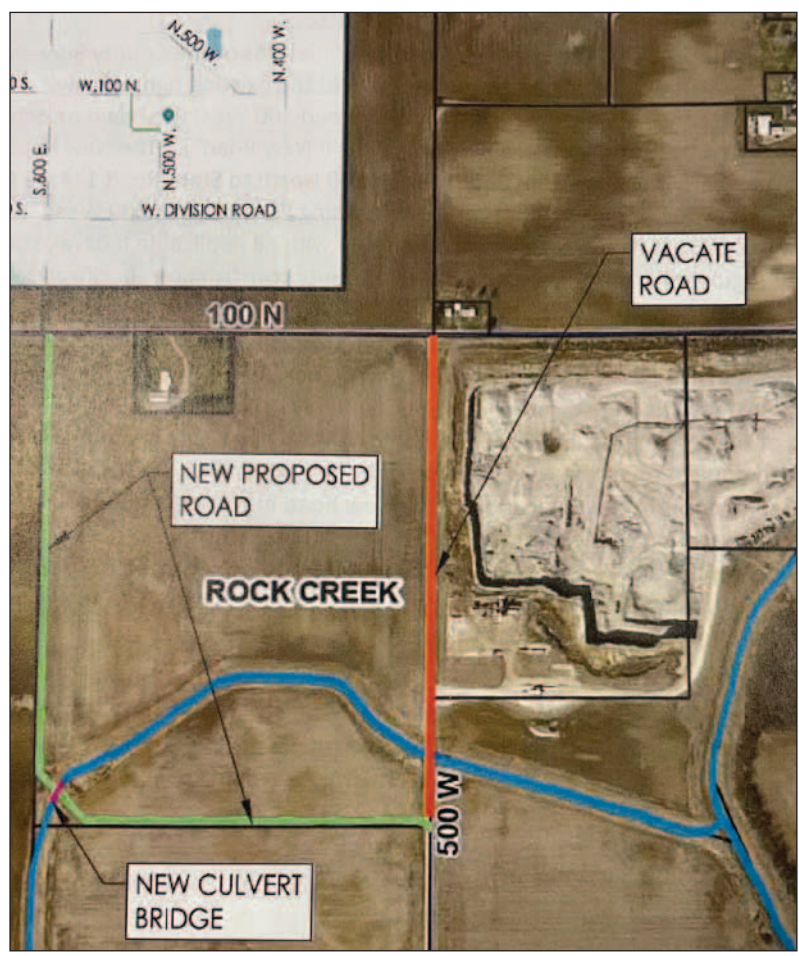
Reusser's Joe Beste presents the updated flag and logo. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)

## Decision expected in October for Rock Creek quarry petition

**By HOLLY GASKILL**  
 Nearly one year after the Rock Creek Stone Quarry petitioned to close a portion of County Road 500 West, a resolution may be reached in October.

On Tuesday, Wells County Commissioners set that deadline to revise a drafted ordinance that outlines the road closure and expectations for constructing a new road.

The ordinance currently states that the quarry will construct the new road to "Wells County construction specifications", but County Attorney Ted Storer advised the commissioners to add more specific language. "We could at least put a little more meat on those bones," Storer said.



The road project, as presented in the Rock Creek Stone Quarry proposal.

"The intent being to bring more clarity to what the county would expect, and put that all upfront, as opposed to approving something and trying to quibble over some terms later on," Commissioner Mike Vanover said.

The commissioners instructed County Engineer Nate Whitacre, Highway Supervisor Shawn Bonar and Surveyor Jarrod Hahn to meet with Storer to discuss specific needs to be added to the ordinance. Chase Fiechter, representing the quarry, said this was a fair decision.

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## Woman sentenced to five years for two counts of neglect

**By SYDNEY KENT**  
 A woman from Bluffton was sentenced to five years in prison after she failed to protect two children from repeated sexual abuse.

Sarah Haler, 41, pled guilty to two counts of neglect of a dependent, both Level 6 felonies.

Haler was sentenced above the advisory for the charge — 2.5 years for each count, ordered to be served consecutively.

Two counts of assisting a criminal, both Level 5 felonies, were dismissed as part of a plea agreement with the state. The deal limited Haler's prison time to five or fewer years.

During Haler's hearing last

Wednesday, Prosecutor Colin Andrews explained the reason for the plea deal. Andrews said the state lacked the requisite factual background to pursue the charges into trial. He advised that despite this, both victims were acknowledged in the plea deal.

"I'll say it again, I wish I could have done more," Andrews emphasized. "It's absolutely horrible what has happened (to) these children. As we speak today, I believe they are safe and with their father."

According to a probable cause affidavit, the charges were filed in September last year after two

(Continued on Page 2)

## Commissioners approve \$15K to attract remote workers

**By HOLLY GASKILL**  
 Wells County has joined several other counties and cities in northeast Indiana in efforts to attract remote workers to the region.

On Tuesday, the Wells County Commissioners voted 2-1 to partner with Make My Move for \$15,000. Make My Move is an Indianapolis company that helps market places to remote workers

with incentives like grants for purchasing a house.

The company has received funding through the Indiana Economic Development Commission and Northeast Indiana Strategic Development Commission, as well as partnerships with the cities of Huntington, New Haven and Angola, and Wabash and Kosciusko counties.

On Aug. 19, Vice President of Enterprise Sales Ben Ledo stated that the \$15,000 would buy in the county for a two-year program to relocate 100 families to northeast Indiana. This was met with skepticism, and Commissioner Jeff Stringer asked Ledo to return with a more concrete plan for how it would benefit Wells

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## River Road residents retain counsel over street light issue

**By JONATHAN SNYDER**  
 River Road Residents have retained counsel over the River Road lighting project, the Bluffton Common Council announced in their Tuesday meeting.

Council member Scott Mentzer reported the update to council during their meeting Tuesday. Mentzer stated that, on advice from City Attorney Tony Crowell, no public comments will be made at this time regarding the situation.

On March 20, the Board of Public Works and Safety announced that new street light materials were purchased for lighting River Road and the Rivergreenway. This purchase came with the help of a grant from the Caylor-Nickel Foundation, which

was rewarded back in September of last year. In a survey from the Parks Department, over 165 people stated that lighting the rivergreenway was either "very important" "important" or "somewhat important"

On April 19, a letter to the editor was sent in by residents of River Road, citing concerns about the aesthetics of the lights, the legal documentation of city rights-of-way and the alleged lack of communication. A petition was also sent to Mayor John Whicker's office.

Common Council member Scott Mentzer and Whicker later advised they would meet with the petitioners to discuss the legal doc-


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**Outside**



**Sunny and warm today, cool and breezy tonight**

Today	Thursday	Friday
High 84	High 87	High 79
Low 57	Low 64	Low 50

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Vol. 95 No. 259  
**WEDNESDAY**  
 September 4, 2024



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Susan Poper - Local Representative  
 201 E. Market St., Suite No. 3  
 Bluffton, IN 46714  
 Office Hours: Tues. 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
 Thurs. 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
 or by appointment

info@paddlefishsolar.com  
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 paddlefish-solar-project/  
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# Proposed city logo

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Furthermore, the council approved a transfer of \$21,200 from the equipment and furniture line item and \$6,222 from the salaries line item of the dispatch budget to the garage and motor, communication, repair and maintenance and other services line items. Craig reported that some shortfalls in the budget, as well as a worker's compensation claim, are surprises that need the money to address.

In the Board of Works meeting earlier in the day, the board determined that Resource Mulch of Lima, Ohio, will grind the compost out of the city's site in preparation for Fall.

Street Commissioner Tim Simpson presented quotes from Resource Mulch and Worx Companies. Resource had the low bid at \$11,300, while Worx came in at \$14,800. Simpson reported



Beste shows some potential logo usage around the city. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

that Resource has ground compost for the city for multiple years, including the year previously. He also hopes that the process will be completed by the end of September.

Utility Supervisor Jon Oman came before the board asking to advertise an open position in the Utility

Office. Oman is looking for a new accounts receivable clerk following Marcy Wayman's transfer from the Utility to the Clerk-Treasurer's Office. Oman stated that applications from the original Clerk-Treasurer's open position will be reviewed first.

The board also paid

an SRF Claim to James S. Jackson Construction Company totaling \$848,388. Additionally, two Apprentice Lineman, Josh Grandlienard and Shawn Miller, received merit raises. Both people completed their second year of Line School.

*jonathan@news-banner.com*

# Rock Creek petition

(Continued from Page 1)

The quarry requests the closure of approximately 1,650 ft., from CR 100N to just south of the Whitelock Ditch. Fiechter advised they plan to expand the mine across the roadway. If approved, the quarry will pay for a new roadway diverting traffic west.

Rock Creek Stone Quarry had petitioned in 2023 only to vacate the road, creating a dead end on CR 500 W. At a first hearing, this prospect was met with concerns about commuter access to State Road 124. The group then advised they would reconsider their proposal

and re-approached the county in June 2024 with plans to divert traffic on a new road.

On Tuesday, two neighbors voiced their opposition to the road closure. Jim McAfee specifically raised concerns about potential drainage issues the expansion could cause, which the commissioners said could be addressed in the overall project. Storer later asked Rick Johnloz, who represented Brickley Farms, about drainage issues.

"I don't see that as an issue," Johnloz said. "Just takes a little money sometimes, you know, to upgrade things sometimes, and get a

new outlet put in."

Johnloz also represented the advocacy committee for the Wells County Chamber of Commerce, which supported the expansion and petition. He added, "I manage property also for a company that's for IMI and for Heritage Aggregates — I believe they're the two largest stone companies in the state — and I can tell you that they would swallow up Rock Creek (Stone) Quarry in a hurry if it was available for sale. And for the neighbors out there, you're better off with Fiechters being your neighbors instead of IMI or Heritage. Nothing against those compa-

nies, but they will do it their way. They won't listen to you (like this)."

After previously opposing the petition, area resident Laura Roberts returned to add, "I know there are still a lot of concerns. I feel like the Fiechters have tried really hard ... and I think this is a really good compromise. We still have access (to S.R. 124). We still have emergency services that can come in. So, I'm not opposed to it."

The commissioners have canceled their Sept. 16 meeting due to the Bluffton Free Street Fair. They will meet next at 5 p.m. on Oct. 7.

*holly@news-banner.com*

# Woman sentenced to five years

(Continued from Page 1)

children reported a series of repeated sexual abuse at the hands of Haler's boyfriend, Joshua Huffman, 42, Montpelier. The children told police that they had reported the abuse to Haler, and that she did nothing to protect them.

Both children also reported that Huffman would threaten them if they did not comply, and that he made them believe Haler owed him money.

During a lie detector test on Sept. 11, Haler reportedly showed deception when asked if she knew that Huffman was molesting the children before they disclosed it to her. After the test, Haler told investigators that she knew she should have left Huffman when the abuse was reported.

"I contemplated reading to you (the) children's statements of what they told

police," Judge Kenton Kiracofe said. "I want to make clear your crime here and the punishment you're going to receive was not because the children were molested in your household or under your care. The crime is they told you, and you did nothing."

"I never meant for (them) to be in that situation," Haler tearfully said during her statement to the court. "I honestly don't know why I didn't do anything at that point in time, I should have. I don't know if I was scared or what was going on or my anxiety ... I don't know what else to say other than I am sorry. It eats me up."

"They had to wake up every day in the same household as this person," Kiracofe continued. "The next time they got molested by him, and the next time, and the next time, they had to know that you knew — and you didn't stop it. The

victimization that happened to them was awful ... You were the one person in their lives that could have stopped this and you didn't."

Because the abuse was alleged to occur in multiple locations, both Haler and Huffman face similar charges in Blackford County.

In Wells County, Huffman was charged with two counts of child molesting, both Level 1 felonies, two counts of child molesting, both Level 4 felonies, one count of child exploitation and one count of possession of child pornography, both Level 5 felonies.

In Blackford County, Huffman was charged with two counts of child molesting, both Level 1 felonies, and two counts of child molesting, both Level 4 felonies.

Haler is scheduled for a pretrial conference at 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 3 in the Black-

ford Circuit Court.

Huffman is scheduled for a three-day trial in the matter beginning at 9 a.m. on Oct. 15 in the Wells Circuit Court.

*sydney@news-banner.com*

# Weather

Wednesday, September 4, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:46 p.m. Tuesday)

High: 76; Low: 49; Precipitation: None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.10 feet at 7:45 p.m. Tuesday

## Wells County forecast

**Today:** Sunny, with a high near 84. Southeast wind around 5 mph.

**Tonight:** Clear, with a low around 57. East wind around 5 mph.

**Thursday:** Sunny, with a high near 87. South wind around 5 mph.

**Thursday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 64. Calm wind becoming south around 5 mph.

**Friday:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 79. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

**Friday Night:** Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before 8 p.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms between 8 p.m. and 2 a.m., then a slight chance of showers after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 50. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

**Saturday:** A 10% chance of showers before 8 a.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 66.

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

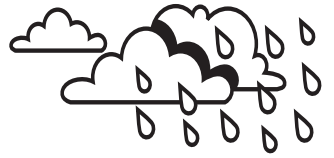
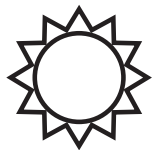
**Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 69.

**Sunday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 46.

**Monday:** Sunny, with a high near 74.

**Monday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 48.

**Tuesday:** Sunny, with a high near 77.



# River Road

(Continued from Page 1)

umentation and address their concerns, but noted that mentions of the project date back to 2021.

An additional letter to the editor on Aug. 21 restated the concerns of the River Road residents. Council

member Chandler Gerber also posted on his facebook page on Aug. 22 calling for a stop to the lighting project and for full transparency on the issue, a statement co-signed by council member Blake Fiechter.

*jonathan@news-banner.com*

# Remote workers

(Continued from Page 1)

County specifically. Ledo cited success stories in South Bend on Tuesday, but Stringer still found these results unsatisfactory.

"I look at this as if I were going to do this for my business," Stringer said. "Is it clear? Can I put an ROI (return on investment) to it? I'm not convinced there's an ROI on it ... Sounds like it might work, but I'm not going to put \$15,000 on it."

Commissioners Blake Gerber and Mike Vanover, however, were more receptive. The partnership was ultimately approved, with Gerber and Vanover in favor and Stringer against.

"I think it's a small amount, for \$15,000," Gerber said.

"I've been a fan of it, in fairness," Vanover added. "Commissioner Stringer hasn't been to presentations you (Gerber) and I have been on ... That being said, I believe in the program, and I would make a motion to invest \$15,000 since it is a regional issue."

Ledo advised that further expenses would only be the incentive cost as the county recruits new residents through the program.

*holly@news-banner.com*



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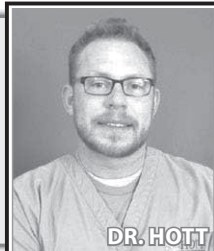
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OBITUARIES

Anna Nash, 85

Anna L. Nash, 85, passed away Monday morning, Sept. 2, 2024, at Christian Care Retirement Community in Bluffton, following an extended illness.

Anna was born in Waynedale, Indiana, on Oct. 23, 1938, to Edward E. and Elma (Ruch) Niswonger; both parents preceded her in death. She married Merlin R. Nash in Fort Wayne on Feb. 27, 1965; he preceded her in death on Sept. 8, 2019.

She worked as an LPN for many years, working for several local doctors. Anna retired from Markle Medical Center in 2010. She was a member of the Ossian Nazarene Church. Anna enjoyed feeding her birds, going shopping, vacations with her family and spending time with her grandchildren. She enjoyed stitching with her church group.

Anna is survived by two sons, Scott (Kim) Nash of Markle and Stephen (Marcy) Nash of New Haven; seven grandchildren, Alexa Nash-Mayer, Chase (Leah) Nash, Conner (Karley) Nash, Cayden Nash, Caitlyn Nash, Jaxon Nash and Chelsea Nash; six great-grandchildren, Charlotte Mayer, Boone Mayer, Kase Mayer, Ryder Nash, Jackson Nash and Genevieve Nash; two sisters, Rheta Knoblouch of Florida and Penny Pawlak of Michigan.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a grandson, Zane Nash on June 12, 2024.

Visitation will be held from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024, at Goodwin – Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel. Funeral services will be held at 5 p.m. on Sunday, following visitation. Pastor Travis Tackett will officiate. Burial will follow at a later date in the Prairie View Cemetery in Tocsin.

Memorial contributions in memory of Anna may be made to the Ossian Nazarene Church.

Online condolences can be made at [www.goodwin-caleaharnish.com](http://www.goodwin-caleaharnish.com).



Ossian Rotary to hear from Norwell Community Schools psychologist department Thursday

On Thursday, Sept. 5, Ossian Rotary will host Aaron and Christie Bernier, school psychologists with Norwell Community Schools. They will discuss their roles in assisting students in the various Norwell schools at all levels.

Both Aaron and Christie graduated with doctorates in psychology from National Louis University in Chicago in 2021. Aaron's higher education actually began at American Public University, where he graduated with a bachelor's in business degree, followed by degrees in administration and educational psychology. Additionally, he is a Nationally Certified School Psychologist with the National Association of School Psychologists. Aaron also served on the board of the Arizona Psychological Foundation from 2023-2024.

Aaron is a strong advocate of stu-

dents with disabilities and helping them reach their greatest potential. Prior to entering the educational field, he was self-employed for twenty years managing a range of businesses including retail, service, production, and marketing companies. Aaron is a U.S. Navy veteran.

Christie Bernier began her educational career in at the University of Saint Francis where she earned her associates of science degree in surgical technology and her double bachelor of science in elementary education and special education. She also attended Argosy University in Phoenix, where she graduated with her master's degree in educational psychology and her education specialist degree. Christie is a Nationally Certified School Psychologist with the National Association of School Psychologists. Additionally, Chris-

tie was a special education teacher from 2004 through 2014. Christie is very passionate about working with students with disabilities and helping them gain the skills they need to become lifelong learners. She has always had a special place in her heart for working with children with disabilities.

Both Aaron and Christie grew up in Fort Wayne and are graduates of Carroll High School.

Anyone is welcome to attend Ossian Rotary this Thursday morning, at 7:30 at First Baptist Church of Ossian, 1001 Dehner Drive for this program.

For more information, please contact Matthew Gullion, Ossian Rotary President, at [mwggullion@gmail.com](mailto:mwggullion@gmail.com).

Next Thursday, August 1st, Ossian Rotary will host Bob Meyer, Ossian Pickleball.

Ray Affolder, 89

Ray Affolder, 89, of Berne, passed away on Aug. 30, 2024.

He was born on March 16, 1935, in Berne to the late Edwin and Dorcie Affolder. On July 14, 1956, he married Phyllis Joan Wolford.

Ray is survived by his loving wife; his children, Mark A. (Lee Ann) Affolder of Berne and Marla J. Lutes of Pennville; grandchildren, Tara McHenry, Michelle Affolder, Hannah Parker, Caleb Lutes, and Christopher Lutes, Brett Affolder, Blake Affolder; six great-grandchildren with another due in late September; and one great-great grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his son, James R. "Jim" Affolder; and his siblings, Irene Schindler, Dale Affolder, Edwin "Jack" Affolder, Helen Balsiger, Lillian Grogg and Howard Affolder.

Family and friends are invited to gather and remember Ray from 4-5 p.m. on Sept. 5, 2024, at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, located at 100 N. Washington St. in Geneva.

A service to celebrate Ray's life will follow at 5 p.m., with burial taking place at the M.R.E. Cemetery in Berne.

Arrangements are being handled by Downing & Glancy Funeral Home in Geneva.

Jacob Gephart, 89

Jacob L. "Jake" Gephart, 89, of Gas City, passed away in his home on Sept. 1, 2024.

The family will receive visitors from 4-7 p.m. on Sept. 9, 2024, as well as one hour prior to the service at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, Storey Chapel 400 E. Main St. in Gas City.

A funeral to celebrate Jake's life will be held at noon on Sept. 10, 2024 at the funeral home.



Pictured from left are Danielle Thompson of Flagstar Bank, Wells County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Erin Prible, Jacob Duncan and Kevin Sills of Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance, Helen Minnich of Minnich Motors, Keith Muhlenkamp of First Merchants Bank, Wes Minnich of Minnich Motors, Heather Morgan of National Oil & Gas, John Stauffer of WEG Commercial Motors, Ben Renkenberger of the United Way of Wells County, Hattie Wondercheck of the Chamber of Commerce and Trent Bucher of Honegger of Ringer & Co. (Photo submitted)

Ribbon cutting ceremony for Minnich Motors

The Wells County Chamber of Commerce staff and Ambassadors were thrilled to welcome Minnich Motors, located at 2165 Commerce Dr, Bluffton, Indiana, which is now open and ready to meet the community's automotive needs. With a focus on affordability and reliability, Minnich Motors is filling a much-needed gap for those looking for quality vehicles in the \$3,000 to \$10,000 range, particularly for young drivers and those needing dependable work cars.

Wes Minnich, owner of Minnich Motors, opened the dealership after years of hearing from friends and community members about the challenges of finding reasonably priced, reliable vehicles for their families. "I've always wanted to get my car dealer's license, and after considering the feedback from the community and my own experience, I felt it was the right time," Minnich said. "I wanted to offer something

different – fully inspected and reconditioned cars to be safe and reliable, yet still affordable."

With a background in vehicle detailing, service, parts, and sales at Hiday Motors and extensive experience in automotive reconditioning, Minnich brings a wealth of knowledge to his new venture. At Minnich Motors, each vehicle undergoes a thorough inspection and reconditioning process, often requiring up to 10 hours of labor and about \$1,000 in parts and repairs. This ensures every car sold meets high standards for safety and reliability.

Minnich Motors takes a hands-on approach to sourcing vehicles, carefully selecting cars at auctions, and investing time in ensuring they are in the best condition possible. "I go to the Fort Wayne auction with a list of 20 cars, test drive them and narrow it down to the ones that meet our quality standards. It's important

to me that we don't just slap a sticker on a car and put it up for sale. We want to offer vehicles that we feel confident putting our own families in," Minnich explained. Looking ahead, Minnich plans to expand the dealership's inventory to include more vehicles.

The dealership also focuses on providing flexible hours to meet the needs of its customers. While the official hours are Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Minnich Motors offers appointments on Saturdays and is willing to accommodate customers outside of regular hours.

Minnich Motors is excited to be a part of the Bluffton community and looks forward to help-

ing families find the right vehicle at the right price. To learn more about Minnich Motors or to browse their current inventory, visit them in person at 2165 Commerce Dr., Bluffton, IN, or online through their website at [www.minnichmotors.com](http://www.minnichmotors.com) and Facebook Marketplace.

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Applications are now open for 2025 Statehouse internships

Applications to intern with Indiana House Republicans for the 2025 legislative session are now open.

State Rep. Matt Lehman (R-Berne) said the Indiana House of Representatives offers a spring semester internship at the Statehouse in Indianapolis during the legislative session, which will start in January and conclude in April. House interns earn \$900 biweekly and work full time, Monday through Friday.

"Now is a great time to submit your application to join our team as an intern and get a better understanding of how our state government operates," Lehman said. "I look forward to working with young Hoosier professionals who are eager to jump into the fast-paced legislative session and make a positive impact."

Internships are open to college students and recent graduates of all majors. Interns get free parking, career and professional development assistance, enrollment access to an Indiana government class, and opportunities to earn academic credits through their college or university.

"I encourage local college students and recent graduates to apply for this

internship at the Indiana Statehouse," said State Rep. Lorissa Sweet (R-Wabash). "Young Hoosiers can use what they've learned in school and apply their skills during this fast-paced and fun internship opportunity."

Interns are also eligible to apply for a competitive \$3,000 scholarship to use toward undergraduate and graduate expenses.

The program offers opportunities for students to work in various departments related to their studies, including legislative operations, policy and communications.

Applications are available online at [indianahouserepublicans.com/](http://indianahouserepublicans.com/) internship and are due by Oct. 31.

Applications open for Street Fair prince and princess contest

Applications have been extended for the Bluffton Free Street Fair's 2024 Prince and Princess Competition.

Participants must Wells County residents between four and six years old. Apply via an online form with a photo for a chance to be on the court. The application is available on the Bluffton Free Street Fair Facebook page.

The court will be announced on Sept. 8 and judging will be held on the Courthouse Plaza on Sept. 21.

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## Age verification for pornography is fine, but is it effective?

I recently peeked at our top stories of the year so far and was surprised to find that two of the five articles with the most page views were about Indiana's new pornography age verification law. On one hand, we have done some amazing enterprise work I wish were higher. But I have to recognize that something about those stories caught people's attention.

The overall goal of the legislation is to limit access to the adult material for minors.

The law is now in effect, and Pornhub — perhaps the best-known website for adult content — has officially shut down in Indiana. I know that because I went to the site and was met with a video and text explaining why.

"As you may know, your elected officials in Indiana are requiring us to verify your age before allowing you access to our website. While safety and compliance are at the forefront of our mission, giving your ID card every time you want to visit an adult platform is not the most effective solution for protecting our users, and in fact, will put children and your privacy at risk," the site said.

Pornhub believes that Indiana's Senate Enrolled Act 17 will drive traffic to other less-savory sites with fewer safety measures in effect.

"Until a real solution is offered, we have made the difficult decision to completely disable access to our website in Indiana," it says.

I imagine many legislators are just fine with that. The content — while legal — isn't something most want to go to bat for.

It's still possible that a lawsuit could prevail eventually. But the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit called the Hoosier measure "functionally identical" to one adopted by Texas. That law has been in effect since April, when the U.S. Supreme Court declined to issue a preliminary injunction.

I don't know ultimately how the case will be decided but I have trouble believing that providing identification is too onerous for citizens to comply. After all, if I have to show my ID to vote — the most foundational right there is — then it doesn't seem crazy to do the same to watch porn.

Last I checked, there isn't a right in the Constitution to view adult content.

Some content creators argue it's an easy law to get around with a virtual private network (VPN) to avoid detection. This is probably true, and it is unclear if the law will actually be effective.

Meanwhile, there is more pornography on X, formerly known as Twitter, every day. And you don't even have to go searching for it. Bots place the material in threads that are completely unrelated and unwanted.

I was curious if X would have to follow the law, but it only applies to a publicly accessible website if at least one-third of the images and videos published depict material harmful to minors.

I'm sure it will only be a matter of time before parents start suing these sites, which the new law allows.

A parent or guardian who prevails is entitled to actual damages or damages of up to \$5,000. Indiana's Attorney General can also file actions against a website that does not implement or "properly use a reasonable age verification method." And those actions come with a hefty \$250,000 fine.

Overall, I don't have a problem with the law — though I'm not sure it's actually needed or will be effective. But it sure looks good on a campaign flyer.

*Niki Kelly is the editor of the Indiana Capital Chronicle, a non-profit newsroom. [nkelly@indianacapitalchronicle.com](mailto:nkelly@indianacapitalchronicle.com)*

## Today in History

### By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 4, the 248th day of 2024. There are 118 days left in the year.

Today in history: On Sept. 4, 1949, more than 140 people were injured following a performance by singer Paul Robeson in Peekskill, N.Y. as an anti-Communist mob attacked departing concertgoers.

Also on this date: In 1781, Los Angeles was founded by Spanish settlers under the leadership of Governor Felipe de Neve.

In 1944, during World War II, British troops liberated Antwerp, Belgium.

In 1957, Arkansas Gov. Orval Faubus ordered Arkansas National Guardsmen to prevent nine Black students from entering all-white Central High School in Little Rock.

In 1972, U.S. swimmer Mark Spitz became the

first to win seven medals at a single Olympic Games, winning a seventh gold at the Munich Olympics in the 400-meter medley relay.

In 1972, the longest-running game show in U.S. history, "The Price is Right," debuted on CBS.

In 1998, Google was founded by Stanford University Ph.D. students Sergey Brin and Larry Page.

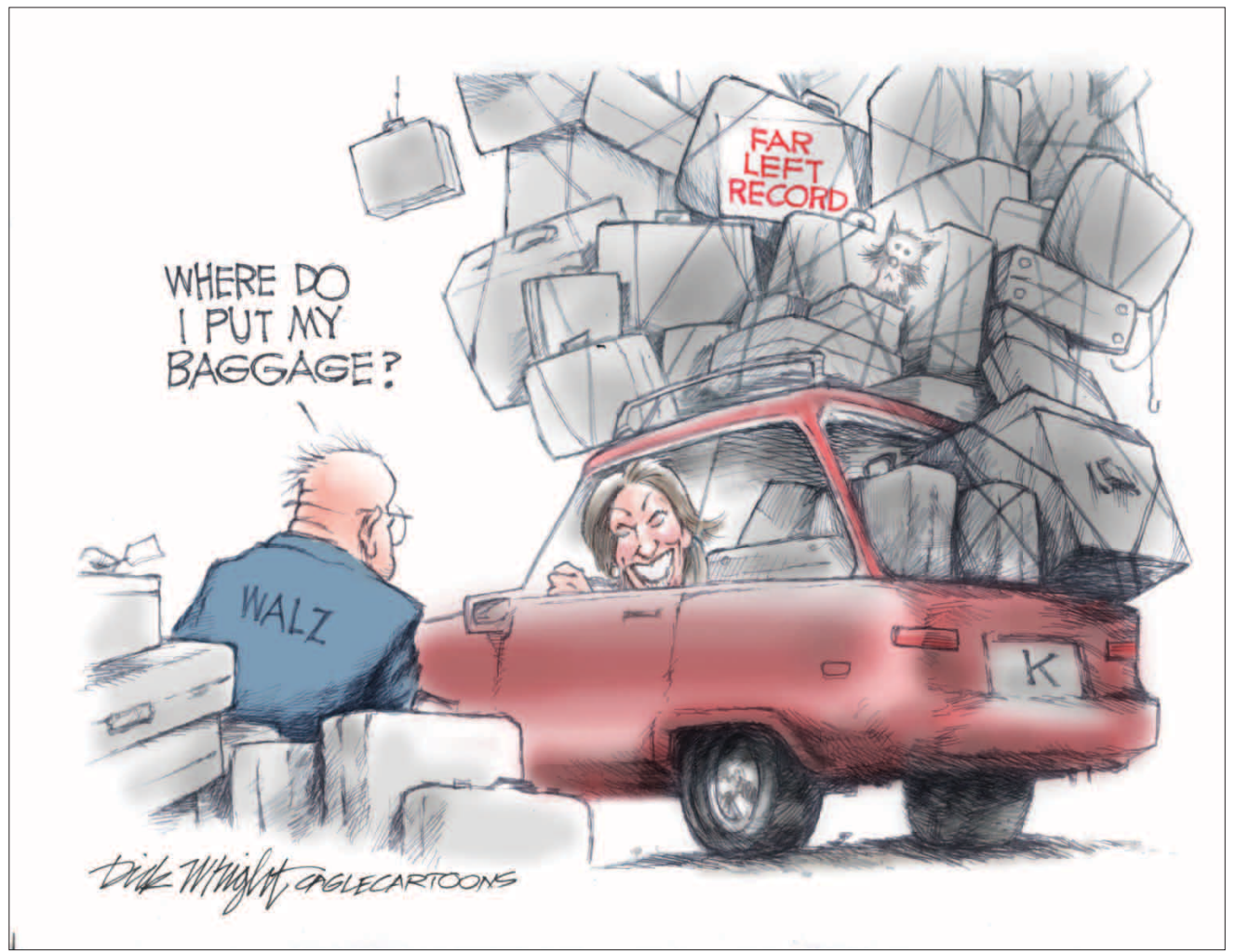
In 2016, elevating the "saint of the gutters" to one of the Catholic Church's highest honors, Pope Francis canonized Mother Teresa, praising her radical dedication to society's outcasts and her courage in shaming world leaders for the "crimes of poverty they themselves created."

Today's Birthdays: Actor Mitzi Gaynor is 93. Golf Hall of Famer Raymond Floyd is 82. Golf Hall of Famer Tom Watson is 75. Baseball Hall of Famer Mike Piazza is 56.



Niki Kelly

## Hoosier Opinions



## Tim Walz isn't exactly what he seems

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz has surely benefited from his portrayal as the country's "football dad." But he wouldn't have passed the truth test in my father's household, where lying was ranked as the highest punishable offense.

I'm not saying that Walz lies, precisely. But he tends to gild his résumé for political gain. He's hardly the first to do this. And it's not always detrimental to one's career, as Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), has proved. Blumenthal claimed to be a Vietnam veteran even though he sought and received at least five deferments to avoid serving in the war.

Walz, too, is a bit of a fibber. Take his 1995 arrest for drunken and reckless driving. Walz, then a 31-year-old high school teacher, was clocked at 96 mph in a 55-mph zone in Nebraska. He was pulled over by a state trooper, who, upon smelling alcohol, asked Walz to take a field sobriety test, which he failed. Walz then submitted to a hospital for a blood test, which revealed his blood alcohol level to be 0.128, well above the state's legal limit.

All this information is recorded in police records, yet during Walz's 2006 congressional campaign, the press was told that he hadn't been drinking, that he drove himself to the police station and that the reason he failed his field sobriety test was because of a misunderstanding related to hearing loss from his time in the National Guard artillery unit.

In 2018, when Walz was running for governor of Minnesota, he came clean and admitted to drinking and driving. Telling the truth eventually is better than never at all, I suppose — and Walz now refers to his incarceration that night as life-changing. Today, his go-to beverage is Diet Mountain Dew. But Walz's prevarications didn't stop there.

Now, admittedly, there's lying and then there's LYING. When Walz said he and his wife wouldn't have their two children if not for in vitro fertilization, he was pointing to his Republican opponent, Sen. JD Vance, whom Walz accused of wanting to eliminate IVF as a fertility option. But the Walzes did not, in fact, use IVF, according to his wife, Gwen Walz, who clarified the record in a statement. The couple went another less-expensive, less-invasive route — intrauterine insemination — which is also less ethically challenging because, unlike with IVF, no embryos are created outside the womb.

This might seem a small deviation from the truth if Walz hadn't been using the anecdote to attack Vance on a false premise. Both Vance and former president Donald Trump are on record as supporting IVF.

Meanwhile, it is doubtful that Walz concerns himself much with the ethics of "women's reproductive health," including abortion, since he signed a bill last year that would no longer require doctors to preserve the life of infants who survive abortion. Whereas Minnesota law used to require medical personnel to "preserve the life and health of the born

alive infant," the Walz-approved law says only that doctors "care for the infant who is born alive."

So "care" can mean "let die," if one's conscience permits.

Such deceptive language is the stuff of nightmares and leads to the gulag. Walz's administration cloaks reality with words that neither offend nor inform. Then he employs soothing love language to justify turning Minnesota into a sanctuary state for children seeking transgender treatments. Everybody is welcome in Minnesota, he says, but he also believes that children, in some cases, should be allowed access to surgical and chemical procedures without the consent of their parents.

And you thought Republicans were dangerous. It's almost certain that Walz won't be giving any "big solo interviews" because, according to Politico, he "might not have a full command of where Harris is on every issue." This is certainly understandable, as Harris has changed her positions on several issues since Democrats made her the emergency presidential nominee five weeks ago.

Harris seems to prefer that she and Walz grant only joint interviews, which, as Politico said, "tend to be softer and focus more on the relationships between the two candidates." No tough questions, in other words. Morning show softballs may give comfort to the ill-prepared, but they deny viewers the content they need to be better-informed voters. Nothing about the pair's first (taped) interview Thursday night, with CNN's Dana Bash, satisfied that imperative. Although Harris was relatively well-spoken, Walz seemed to be a mixed-up mess.

He answered none of the four questions he was asked, including whether he had misspoken when he said he had carried a gun "in war" when he never was deployed. A simple "yes" might have sufficed, but instead he sputtered evasive nonsense and, to be rhetorically accurate, gobbledygook.

Walz's Midwestern charm and "tonic masculinity," to quote a Post colleague, might work for state politics and political rallies, but voters don't need their tires changed — or a new gutter. They need to feel confident that Walz can capably step into the presidency if need be.

There's no reason to believe Harris picked Walz because of his avuncular antics or his image as a great father, the latter of which should be assumed as normal, not celebrated as something rare.

As Harris's repackaging team tweaked her record to make her seem like a moderate, she studiously selected as her running mate the country's most liberal governor — a man who just happens to fudge reality, exaggerate his accomplishments and invent half-truths to burnish his résumé.

And to think, the Democratic Party's big pitch in Chicago was character.

*kathleenparker@washpost.com*



Kathleen Parker

## The Harris-Walz CNN interview, summarized

*In case anyone did not have the hour required to watch CNN's interview with Vice President Kamala Harris and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz (and also some ads and clips from the same interview), here is a summary.*



Alexandra Petri

Dana Bash: Hello. We have assembled some confusing furniture so we can all look different heights than we are. We will interview you near a big glass window so we can see your bus. That is the important thing of interviews, that they can be chaperoned by a bus. We feel good about this. My first question is: What will you do as president? Day one?

Kamala Harris: I will work hard to restore the vibes. I think the simple fact that people will see someone taking office who is not Donald Trump will do a lot for the vibes, and then I will try to build off of that. Also, opportunity.

Bash: Any policy specifics? Harris: You mean policy specifics, like Project 2025? Here is one policy specific I can offer: I will not be doing Project 2025, and I will be doing a child tax credit!

Tim Walz: That is all I personally need to hear!

Bash: How about fracking? We hear that fracking is very big in Pennsylvania, a state you need to win. Yet you said in 2019 that you didn't approve of fracking.

Harris: Yes, and then in 2020 when

I realized I needed the votes of Pennsylvanians, I said I would not ban it. My values have not changed. I still don't approve of it, but I still need the votes of Pennsylvanians.

I would prefer to be elected than not elected. Am I jazzed about it? No. I can continue to promise that I am not jazzed about fracking, but if what makes a difference to you in voting for me is whether or not I will ban fracking, I will not ban it. Would you rather have Donald Trump be president? I hear he likes to go out to the ocean and just pour oil on the pelicans there, from spite.

Bash: Governor Walz, you said you had fired a weapon in war and that you had conceived your child via IVF, but in fact you served in the military for decades but not in war and conceived your child via a different fertility treatment. How can anyone trust you?

Walz: Consider that Donald Trump says he won the election, whereas he did not win the election. Now, look at the sentence you just said, and tell me if that is a hill you want to die on. My grammar is sometimes bad.

Bash: How about foreign policy? Harris: We are working tirelessly on a cease-fire.

Bash: Here is something insulting Donald Trump said about you. Do

you care to respond?

Harris: No. Bash: Okay, well, that's all the substantive questions we had time for. Tell me about that picture of your grandniece looking at you as you gave your acceptance speech. I know you've been trying to run for office in a way —

Harris: Those were the substantive ones?

Bash: — trying to run for office in a way that doesn't focus on how historic it would be if you were to be elected. But that picture suggested that it might mean things to people. Maybe?

Harris: Please, Dana. Every time anyone is elected president, it's always historic. Abraham Lincoln was the first Republican president; James Buchanan was the first bachelor president; Donald Trump was the first president to try to overturn the results of the election. There's always something historic about every candidacy, if you really dig, and I'm sure that would also be true of mine. Just one of many ways that I am just a normal candidate for president! Just a regular person who wants to be president!

Walz: I was a teacher and I did notice one thing that was historic about this candidacy, but I want it to be a surprise for after she's elected! Please just vote for her!

Harris: Again — no Project 2025, and child tax credits!

*Follow Alexandra Petri @petridishes on X.*

## The News-Banner

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

# The anticipation of camping calamities is exhausting

Because our past camping adventures have not been without calamities (hitting the telephone pole at the end of our driveway and breaking the stairs, striking a gasoline pump barrier and cracking open the gray water tank, colliding with a tree limb and bending the awning roller), I anticipated that this most recent excursion would have its own difficulties.

Jim and I recently returned from Erie, Pennsylvania, Jim's hometown and the location of his 50th year class reunion. We enjoyed the reunion dinner at the former Academy High School on August 24. Jim reconnected with classmates and orchestra members. Sunday we joined his classmates for a lunch cruise on the triple decker Victorian Princess. Our three-hour tour took us around the bay, into Lake Erie, and

back to the dock.

Home for the Wednesday-to-Wednesday sojourn was site #57 at Folly's End Campground in Fairview, a 20-minute drive from Erie. The sites on either side of us belonged to absent "permanent" campers, folks who haul big boats in for fishing on weekends. These anglers are partial to the bounty in Lake Erie and steelhead trout in Elk Creek that runs beside the campground.

Our only immediate neighbors for the week were the nonhuman variety. Living under the deck of the camper to our south was a snake. I saw it just once, a nonvenomous eastern racer; Java, our chocolate lab, was the first to spot its shedded snake skin at the edge of that deck. The site north of us was home to a very fat groundhog. Venturing out in the early evening, Mr. Groundhog munched on grass and other vegetation. We didn't let Java meet Mr. G, preferring to watch him from the sofa of our home on wheels. We could have anticipated camping calamities like a snakebite or match between Java and Mr. Groundhog. You can imagine the encounters, but neither happened.

Other humans occupied our campground loop. Jim played chess with the

campground host. Larry had posted a sign at his site inviting others to join him for a game of chess. Jim took him up on that invitation. No calamity there. Jim would have had to break his wrist during one of the games for it to be considered a calamity.

While Jim played chess, Java and I sat under our awning. After an hour, she started panting. Thinking she was just hot, I took her inside where the AC was running. It became clear she wasn't well, burping and licking her lips. She threw up what I thought was the entire contents of her stomach—until she threw up a second time. She rested on a rug while I cleaned the floor. Then she got up, went to her water bowl, and lapped up nearly half its contents. That came back up too. Am I grossing you out? I'll stop. By the following day she was fine. I don't know what caused the upset stomach, but that episode was the only real excitement on this trip.

Jim, Java, and I took frequent walks along the creek bed. For most of our stay, the water was really low. We still saw a trout or two. Amateur geologist Jim, took every opportunity to search for fossil rocks. And he found plenty—rocks revealing the prior existence of brachiopods (ancient clam-like mollusks), planolites (worm tracks), and trilobite (ancient arthropods) tracks. Nope, no calamity there. Even the two nights of heavy rain didn't cause the creek to exceed its banks. Such an event would have made for an exciting story, like the pontoon that got away.

Using his phone as a hotspot, Jim was able to connect via Zoom with the Fort Wayne Astronomical Society for the monthly Board Meeting. That morning he dragged himself to the local library to use their connections and complete his treasurer's spreadsheet and report. The actual meeting began with Jim stationed at the picnic table. All was well until about an hour into the meeting. A horrific storm rolled in bringing with it bright flashes of lightning and loud peels of thunder. Jim with phone and laptop in hand dashed inside to finish the meeting. Calamity avoided there. No electrocuted treasurer or even drenched

computer.

The closest we came to a calamity was a week with no sewage hookup, only water and electricity. We can do four days easy, no problemo. A full week and the black water tank fills up. We eat well on our camping adventures, lots of protein, lots of fiber. I'll say nothing more graphic. By day five the lights revealing the level in the gray and black water tanks were at 3; 4 is full.

We do not own a portable waste water tank, the kind you fill and drag to the dump station. Jim tried to borrow one from a neighbor. The gentleman he asked declined to share his, claiming he just didn't trust it to come back undamaged. Don, the campground owner/manager rescued us by lending us one of the two he keeps around for such emergencies. Instead of dragging the tank by hand after filling it from our black water tank, Jim "MacGyvered" a means to haul it behind the truck using come-along

straps. Two trips to the dump station left enough room in the camper tanks to complete our stay. An actual calamity would have been those black and gray water tanks filling to overflowing and backing up inside the camper. That, folks, was a monstrous near miss!

Here's the Thing: I don't know if it's the new camper, the new truck, or we're just getting better at camping; but the anticipated calamities weren't a part of this adventure. We'll see what our September camping experience holds. We'll be at Oubache State Park for the weekend of my 50th year class reunion. Look out, Norwell Class of 1974. Here we come.

Let's talk.

annaspalding1956@gmail.com

*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 Spalding. 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.*



Anna Spalding



Charles Joray, at left, presenting his latest book "The Early History of Vera Cruz 1838-1910" to Jason Habbegger, of the Wells County Public Library's historical staff. (Photo provided)

## Vera Cruz history book added to library's info of Wells County

By BARBARA BARBIERI

A just off the press hard-cover book about the early history of Wells County's Vera Cruz has been added to the shelves of the Wells County Public Library's history area, by the author Charles Joray.

Those interested in the county's history will want to check out the 305 page book that includes 177 photos of the area that once was known as Newville. Twenty-six chapters cover the churches and businesses, the histories of families who settled the area in the early 1800's and even two unsolved murders.

The book is heavily foot-noted for accuracy and indexed for quick information finding. His reasoning for undertaking the project, which took two and a half years, was because all of his parental ancestors lived in Vera Cruz.

Joray, who was Director at the Wells County Public Library from 1975 to

1982 before moving to being Director of the Kokomo Public Library, has researched and authored over 17 family histories and family cookbooks. In 2018 he took ownership of the Vera Cruz Cemetery (St. John Cemetery) from the St. John Family Worship Center. (The cemetery site had been part of the 80-acre Emanuel Julie Granliard Joray farm before it was part of the church.) He and volunteers continue to over see the cemetery.

The book is available for purchase for \$45 from Joray via email at charles@joray.org. He also may be reached by phone at 765-210-0913.

On Tuesday, Nov. 19, 6:30-7:30 p.m. he will be presenting a program about Vera Cruz at the Wells County Public Library. Registration to the library would be appreciated.

Joray also will be presenting a copy of his book to the Wells County Historical Museum.

## Five Points Fall Festival on September 7

Five Points School, corner of Jeff Rd. and 1100 S, will be celebrating with a Fall Festival on Saturday, Sept. 7, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Lunch consisting of pulled pork, soup beans, fried corn bread, sauerkraut, hot dogs, chips, cookies, applesauce and beverage will be offered for a free-

will donation. Local vendors will be on hand as will some antique cars. Old-fashioned games will be offered for visitors to play.

The festival is held yearly.

## Community Harvest Farm Wagon

The Community Harvest Farm Wagon visits Life Community Church every Tuesday at 9 a.m. to

give FREE fresh food to needy families. The church address is 428 S. Oak St. in Bluffton.

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# Official: 4 killed on Chicago-area L train likely didn't see the shooter

By SOPHIA TAREEN  
Associated Press

FOREST PARK, Ill. (AP) — A man suspected of killing four people aboard a Chicago-area transit train shot them at close range while they were asleep, officials said Tuesday.

The shooting took place before 5:30 a.m. Monday aboard the Chicago area's L system, on a Blue Line train that was moving near where the line ends in Forest Park, a suburb about 10 miles west of downtown Chicago. A suspect was later arrested on another Chicago Transit Authority L line, according to police. Authorities charged the 30-year-old man with first-degree murder on Tuesday.

Forest Park Mayor Rory Hoskins said the victims likely didn't even see the shooter.

"They were shot execution-style as they slept," Hoskins told The Associated Press.

Three men and one woman were killed, according to the Cook County medical examiner's office. Forest Park police said all four were adults, but officials did not yet have exact ages yet for all of

them.

Police said a preliminary investigation shows the victims were on two different cars as the Blue Line train was headed toward Forest Park. The Blue Line runs 24 hours and stretches from that suburb through downtown Chicago to O'Hare International Airport. It runs both below and above ground.

The suspected shooter fled. But police were able to find the man thanks to video footage from the train, Hoskins said.

Authorities identified him as Rhanni S. Davis of Chicago. Public records did not have a listed phone number for Davis. A message sent Tuesday to a listed email was not immediately returned. Forest Park police and the Cook County state's attorney's office did not immediately respond to messages about Davis' legal representation. The Cook County public defender's office said it wasn't representing him.

CTA officials said they were assisting in the investigation and that security footage "proved to be vital."

"Although this matter remains under investigation, all current information points this being an isolated incident," CTA President Dorval Carter Jr. said in a statement.

Forest Park police are used to calls to the busy transit stops there, Hoskins said. The CTA's Green Line also ends in Forest Park and runs nearly 24 hours a day.

Over the years, nonprofit organizations have also used the transportation hubs for outreach and providing medical care and other services to homeless people who seek refuge aboard the trains, particularly in winter.

But the mass shooting in the community of 14,000 people has sparked new fears. Hoskins, whose position as mayor is part time, said he couldn't recall a homicide being reported in Forest Park in years.

His teenage son takes the L to school and he watched a little closer than usual at Tuesday morning's drop off.

"People are rattled," he said. "We want to make them feel safe."

## Illinois law banning concealed carry on public transit is unconstitutional, judge rules

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — A federal judge has ruled that an Illinois law banning the concealed carry of firearms on public transit is unconstitutional.

U.S. District Judge Iain D. Johnston in Rockford ruled last Friday with four gun owners who filed a lawsuit in 2022 contending that their inability to carry weapons on buses and trains violated their Second Amendment right to self-defense.

Johnston relied on a pivotal U.S. Supreme Court case from 2022 that established that gun laws must be consistent with conditions found in the late 1700s when the Bill of Rights was composed. No regulation on

where weapons could be carried existed.

Illinois became the nation's last state to approve concealed carry in 2013. The law established a number of places that were off limits to guns, such as public arenas, hospitals, buses and trains.

Attorney General Kwame Raoul said through a spokesperson that he was reviewing the decision and would likely appeal.

He noted that until there's a final judgment in the matter, gun owners should continue to abide by concealed-carry provisions; Johnston's ruling currently applies only to the four plaintiffs who brought the lawsuit.

## Stock market today: Wall Street tumbles on worries about economy, Dow drops more than 600

By STAN CHOE  
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks tumbled Tuesday to their worst day since an early August sell-off, as a week full of updates on the economy got off to a discouragingly weak start.

The S&P 500 sank 2.1% to give back a chunk of the gains from a three-week winning streak that had carried it to the cusp of its all-time high. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 626 points, or 1.5%, from its own record set on Friday before Monday's Labor Day holiday. The Nasdaq composite fell 3.3% as Nvidia and other Big Tech stocks led the way lower.

Treasury yields also stumbled in the bond market after a report showed U.S. manufacturing shrank again in August, sputtering under the weight of high interest rates. Manufacturing has been contracting for most of the past two years, and its performance for August was worse than economists expected.

"Demand remains subdued, as companies show an unwillingness to invest in capital and inventory due to current federal monetary policy and election uncertainty," said Timothy Fiore, chair of the Institute for Supply Management's manufacturing business survey committee.

Stocks of oil and gas companies were some of the market's biggest losers after the price of crude oil fell roughly 4% on concerns about how much fuel a fragile global economy will burn. A barrel of benchmark U.S. oil is almost back to \$70 and down for the year after climbing above \$85 in April.

Exxon Mobil lost 2.1%, and ConocoPhillips dropped 3.5%.

Similar worries about a slowing U.S. economy and a possible recession had helped send stocks on a scary summertime swoon in early August. It briefly knocked the S&P 500 nearly 10% below its record set in July, but financial markets quickly rebounded on hopes that the Federal Reserve could pull off a perfect landing for the economy.

The Fed appears set to lower interest rates later this month in hopes of easing conditions for the economy and avoiding a recession after earlier jacking its main interest rate to a two-decade high to beat high inflation.

Other reports due later this week could show how much help the economy needs, including updates on the number of job openings U.S. employers were advertising at the end of July and how strong U.S. services businesses grew last

month. The week's highlight will likely arrive on Friday, when a report will show how many jobs U.S. employers created during August.

The jobs report has once again become the main event for the stock market each month, taking over from updates on inflation, according to analysts at Bank of America. Many traders are anticipating the Fed will deliver a full percentage point of cuts to interest rates this year, which is a "recession-sized" amount, Gonzalo Asis and other economists and strategists wrote in a BofA Global Research report.

The strength of this jobs report, or lack thereof, will likely determine the size of the Fed's upcoming cut, according to Goldman Sachs economist David Mericle. If Friday's data shows an improvement in hiring over July's disappointing report, it could keep the Fed on course for a traditional-sized move of a quarter of a percentage point.

But if Friday's report is weaker, it could drive the Fed to deliver an out-sized cut of half a percentage point from the federal funds rate's current range of 5.25% to 5.50%, Mericle said.

While cuts to rates are generally boons to investment prices, a recession could more than wipe out that benefit by dragging down corporate profits.

On Wall Street, U.S. Steel fell 6.1% in its first

trading after Vice President Kamala Harris said Monday that she opposed the company's planned sale to Japan's Nippon Steel. The Democratic presidential nominee's comments, which echo President Joe Biden's position, came after Nippon Steel Corp. said last week it would spend an additional \$1.3 billion to upgrade facilities in Pennsylvania and Indiana, on top of a previous \$1.4 billion commitment.

Nippon Steel also reiterated that it expects the transaction to close by the end of this year, despite ongoing political and labor opposition.

Nvidia was the heaviest weight by far on the S&P 500 after falling 9.5%. Its stock has been struggling even after the chip company topped high expectations for its latest profit report. The subdued performance could bolster criticism that Nvidia and other Big Tech stocks simply soared too high in Wall Street's frenzy around artificial-intelligence technology.

All of the stocks that have come to be known as the "Magnificent Seven," which accounted for the vast majority of the S&P 500's return last year and early this year, fell at least 1.3%.

Still, it wasn't a complete washout on Wall Street. Nearly 30% of the stocks within the S&P 500 climbed, led by those that tend to benefit the most from lower interest rates. That includes dividend-paying stocks, as well as companies whose profits are less

closely tied to the ebbs and flows of the economy, such as real-estate stocks and makers of everyday staples for consumers.

All told, the S&P 500 fell 119.47 points to 5,528.93. The Dow dropped 626.15 to 40,936.93, and the Nasdaq composite sank 577.33 to 17,136.30.

In the bond market, the yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 3.84% from 3.91% late Friday. That's down from 4.70% in late April, a significant move for the bond market.

In stock markets abroad, indexes were lower across much of Europe and Asia.

Worries were also growing about the resilience of China's economy, as recently disclosed data showed a mixed picture. Weak earnings reports from Chinese companies, including property developer and investor New World Development Co., added to the pessimism.

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# Sports

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2024 • The News-Banner • Page 1a

## Knight girls, Tiger boys bring home bi-county cross country titles

By RYAN WALKER

The six schools in Wells' and Adams' Counties got together for the bi-county cross country conditioner on Tuesday, and Norwell and Bluffton made its mark.

In a Hokum Karem-style race, the Knight girls blew away the competition with four of the top five pairings crossing the finish line to take first. Tigers' top duo Levi Johns and Jude Baumgartner led the team to a first-place finish with only two minutes of separation between them and Bellmont.

Hokum Karem is a race where teams pair two runners together in a relay, where one is running one mile and the other awaits to be tagged and takes off for his/her mile. There are six turns per group for a total of three miles per runner.

The six schools are very familiar with one another, competing in races throughout the season, and meeting up at the sectional later in the year. It makes for a friendly middle-of-the-week workout for teams to go for bragging rights.

"Seeing everybody is always fun," Bluffton head coach Michael Vanderkolk said. "We see these teams all the time. We're all in the same sectional now, and most of us are in one conference. You really do become supporters of each other. It's nice talking to the other coaches and cheering on the other runners. It's a tough sport and having that type of support is huge. I respect what these programs do."

Head coach Vanessa Hannie and her Knights were the overall champion again in an impressive effort.

"It feels good," Hannie said. "The girls have worked hard. For them to build some strength in their miles and see what they have. Typically we'll do some sort of workout throughout the week, and this is their workout day. They showed up and they did well."



Norwell's Mia Kurtz strides forward toward the end of her first mile during the bi-county conditioner.

For Norwell, Ashley Tucker and Ashley Waldman finished second overall together. Freshman pairing of Mia Kurtz and Mya Oatess along with Reagan Wilson and Brooklyn Meyer went 3-4 in the race. The four groups of Knights were only outdone by Adams Central's Madison Gerber and Addison Gilbert.

Bluffton's top pair was Cora Kunkel and Kierstynn Reed, who placed fifth overall. For Southern Wells, it was Marianne Pease and Sarah McFarren in ninth.

The rest of the girls' team results were Adams Central in second, Bluffton third, Bellmont fourth, Southern Wells fifth and South Adams sixth.

Johns and Baumgartner beat out the hosting Norwell Knights' top group of Gavin Threewits and Gage Reinhard.

Vanderkolk wanted Johns and Baumgartner to have an opportunity to defend the same title it won last season at the event in 2023.

For the rest of the Tigers' runners, it was all about working together and finishing the race and posting good times. It's been their strategy over the past two seasons, ending races strong from top to bottom rather than relying on the front of the pack. A couple of ACAC trophies and a sectional came with it.

The conditioner is a good experience for teams to not only compete with familiar faces but to get a better workout during the week than normal, and Bluffton enjoyed every second of it.

"Anytime you can get out, compete and get a win is just a huge confidence booster," Vanderkolk said. "Especially in a meet like this where that sixth runner is paramount. It's truly a testament to our depth. It's nice to see the whole team coming around and picking each other up."

The rest of the boys' team results were

(Continued on Page A2)



### The best around

The bi-county conditioner for Adams' and Wells' cross country teams squared off in a six-team Hokum Karem race the at Norwell High School. At top, the Knight girls hold their first-place trophy in the girls' race and above, the Tiger boys show their trophy for winning their race. At left, Bluffton's Levi Johns crossed the finish line at 31:52 and taps his watch to record his time, which was good for first place with partner Jude Baumgartner. (Photos by Ryan Walker) **More photos on Page 2A.**

## Sports Roundup

### Knights beat Raiders in VB county clash

Norwell defeated county foe Southern Wells in volleyball at the Raider Dome in straight sets Tuesday night.

The Knights won 25-22, 27-25 and 25-13 and improved their record to 6-4 on the season. Southern Wells fell to 5-5.

Stat leaders for Norwell were: Vanessa Rosswurm with 12 kills (Jaycie Grzych 11 kills), Emma Vachon four aces and 32 assists, Grzych and Hope Mitchell one block and Autumn Lee 21 digs.

Stats for Southern Wells: Abbie Powell 16 kills, 11 digs and 3.5 blocks. Sydney Alstoft 19 assists. Kaylea Coffel six digs and three aces.

Norwell also won the junior varsity match 2-0 (25-13, 25-12). Norwell fell to Bellmont's freshman team 2-0 (15-25, 16-25).

Norwell will be at home against Wayne at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 4.

Southern Wells will host its own 4-Way Invitational at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 7.

### Tigers edge Squires in road boys' tennis match

Bluffton took down the hosting Manchester Squires in boys' tennis on Tuesday.

The Tigers won by a score of 3-2.

#### Individual results

- Nolan Lambert (B) defeated Owen Harshman 6-0, 6-0 at No. 1 singles.

- Anthony Hartman (B) defeated Caleb Struble-Hedstrom 2-6, 7-5, 6-1 at No. 2 singles.

- Brendyn Mugford (M) defeated Jacob Ribich 3-6, 7-5, 6-1 at No. 3 singles.

- Cole Henderson and Connor Trump (M) defeated Ben Maggard and Coy Lantz 7-5, 6-3 at No. 1 doubles.

- Kade Abbott and Dane Schlagenhaut (B) defeated Milo Hupp and AJ Weaver 1-6, 6-1, 6-0 at No. 2 doubles.

Bluffton won the lone junior varsity match 1-0. Jared Moser defeated Adam Kerlin 6-1, 6-3.

Bluffton will host Wayne at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 4.

### Tigers defeats ACAC foe Starfires in girls' golf

Bluffton topped ACAC foe South Adams in girls' golf at Timber Ridge on Tuesday.

The Tigers shot a 195 to the Starfires 212. Eve Corkwell and Emma Schwartz shared medalist honors for the Tigers with a

score of 48.

Following them were Addison Kauffman (49), Piper Morgan (50) and Tressa Renner (61).

Bluffton won the four-person team junior varsity match 241-248 over the Starfires. Isabella Stout shared medalist honors with South Adams' Nora Ringer with 57s. Following Stout was Aleeah Grover (58), Rylee Todd (61) and Maddie Funk (65).

Bluffton will be at Concordia starting at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 4.

### RV DeKalb tops Norwell at Timber Ridge in golf

Norwell fell at home to RV DeKalb in girls' golf on Wednesday.

The Knights scored a 193 compared to the Barons' 166.

Leading the way for Norwell was Ellie Gattton and Savanna Simerman (45), Jordyn Schroyer (50), Jessica Bynum (53) and Emma Burnau (54).

Norwell will visit Huntington North at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 5.

### Norwell falls in boys', girls' NE8 soccer to Braves

Norwell fell in both of its soccer games to Bellmont on Tuesday.

The boys were defeated at home 4-2 and are now 4-4 (0-1 NE8) on the season. Hudson Gerbers, Simon Isch, Kale Fuess and Cooper Nagel were the goal scorers for the Knights.

Bellmont won the junior varsity contest 1-0.

The girls traveled to No. 16 Bellmont and fell 3-0, falling to 2-3 (1-1 NE8) on the season.

Norwell also fell in the junior varsity match 4-0.

The boys will be at Jay County with a 6 p.m. start time on Thursday, Sept. 5. The girls will be at home at 5:30 p.m. the same day.

### Knights swept in boys' tennis

Norwell got swept at home to No. 21 Carroll in boys' tennis on Wednesday.

#### Individual results

- Andrew Jamison defeated Gavin Reynolds 6-1, 6-0 at No.1 singles.

- Tim Croft defeated Braylon Troutt 6-1, 6-3 at No. 2 singles.

- Alex Sznaza defeated Landon Diver 6-1, 6-3 at No. 3 singles.

- Sam Nietert and Sam Mettler defeated

(Continued on Page A2)



Norwell's Jase Harmon (right) plays keepaway from Belmont forward Daniel Vogel Tuesday night at Norwell High School. The Braves got the 4-2 win in conference play. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

## High School Calendar

### WEDNESDAY, SEPT 4

BOYS TENNIS: Wayne at Bluffton, 5 p.m.; Oak Farm at Norwell, 5:30 p.m.

GIRLS GOLF: Bluffton at Concordia, 4:30 p.m.; Woodlan at Southern Wells, 5 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL: Wayne at Norwell, 7:30 p.m.

### THURSDAY, SEPT 5

BOYS SOCCER: Norwell at Jay County, 6 p.m.

BOYS TENNIS: Columbia City at Norwell, 5 p.m.

GIRLS GOLF: Bluffton at Heritage, 5 p.m.; Norwell at Huntington North, 4:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at South Adams, 5 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER: Jay County at Norwell,

5:30 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL: Bluffton at Manchester, 7 p.m.; Norwell at South Adams, 7:30 p.m.

### FRIDAY, SEPT 6

FOOTBALL: Bluffton at South Adams, 7 p.m.; Norwell at Leo, 7 p.m.; Southern Wells at Jay County, 7 p.m.

### SATURDAY, SEPT 7

CROSS COUNTRY (co-ed): Bluffton at Manchester Invitational, 8 a.m.; Norwell, Southern Wells at Marion Invitational, 8:30 a.m.

GIRLS SOCCER: North Side at Norwell, 10 a.m.

VOLLEYBALL: Raider 4-Way Invitational (Southern Wells), 9 a.m.

## Big Ten goes 17-1 with new coaches, QBs in Week 1 slate

By MICHAEL MAROT  
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Big Ten kicked off its season with four new teams, five new coaches and 13 schools featuring new starting quarterbacks.

It was a smashing success. With no league contests in Week 1 for the first time since 2019, the league finished a 17-1 weekend with Miller Moss' dramatic last-minute touchdown drive to give South-

ern California a 27-20 victory over then-No. 13 LSU, a key win over a high-powered Southeastern Conference school in a matchup of Heisman Trophy-winning replacements.

The victory shot Southern California up 10 spots in this week's AP Top 25 to No. 13. "There's some pretty good Big Ten football today," Trojans coach Lincoln Riley said after winning his Big Ten debut.

(Continued on Page A2)

BI-COUNTY CONDITIONER



At left, Southern Wells' Kelton Barr (right) runs past partner Jarin Frauhiger in the background. At right, Raiders' Marianne Pease finishes the first of her three miles at the meet.



At left, Bluffton's Kierstynn Reed paces herself through the second mile of the meet. At right, Norwell's Gavin Threewits (left) gets to go-ahead from teammate Gage Reinhard, going for their second mile.

Bi-county conditioner

(Continued from Page A1)

picking each other up.”  
 The rest of the boys' team results were Belmont in second, Norwell third, South Adams fourth, Adams Central fifth and Southern Wells sixth.  
 Southern Wells' top pair was Kelton Barr and Jarin Frauhiger in eighth.  
**Pairings for each school**  
**Boys**  
 Bluffton: Levi Johns and Jude Baumgartner (first overall at 31:53.1), Aidan Graves and Jackson Rockwell (eighth at 34:23.4), Ryan Schlagenhauf and Griffin Linderwell (12th at 35:37.6), Andy Baumgartner and Manning Nash (13th at 36:33.7) and Clayton Brubaker and Owen Lesh (20th at 39:18.7).  
 Norwell: Gage Reinhard and Gavin Threewits (second overall at 32:36.9), Kayden Robbins and John Baxter (11th at 35:32.7), Zathan Westfall and James Springer (16th at 37:18.0), Parker McCartney and Greyson Shoemaker (23rd at 40:14.7) and Wyatt Lukins, Chase Behning and Parker Behning (28th at 46:21.3).  
 Southern Wells: Jarin Frauhiger and Kelton Barr (ninth overall at 34:24.3), Col-

ter Kiel and Peyton Ellis (15th at 36:42.4), Kane Jenkins and Miles Garrett (21st at 39:19.2) and Daniel Escudero Isasi and Braden Yencer (24th at 41:07.0).  
**Girls**  
 Bluffton: Cora Kunkel and Kierstynn Reed (5th overall at 41:56.4), Reagan Harris and Dakota Lee (11th at 45:21.5), Briana Ortiz and Amarah Robles (15th at 46:39.2) and Juaneliz Rivera Torres and Chloe Lesh (22nd at 51:15.6).  
 Norwell: Ashley Tucker and Ashley Waldman (second overall at 39:53.9), Mia Kurtz and Mya Oatess (third at 40:42.5), Reagan Wilson and Brooklyn Meyer (fourth at 41:18.1) and Addison Meyer and Macy Oatess (eighth at 43:22.4).  
 Southern Wells: Marianne Pease and Sarah McFarren (ninth overall at 43:36.4), Keely Miller and Kameron Hawkins (20th at 50:15.4) and Gracie and Chanie Mounsey (24th at 54:47.6).  
 Bluffton will be at Manchester's invitational at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 7 while both Norwell and Southern Wells will be at the Marion Invitational at 8:30 a.m. the same day.

ryan@news-banner.com

Sports Roundup

(Continued from Page A1)

Eddie Archbold and Ayden Quintanilla 6-2, 6-1 at No.1 doubles.  
 • Alex Holliday and Jack Jones defeated Rylan Heyerly and Ethan Williamson 6-1, 6-0 at No. 2 doubles.  
 Norwell fell in the junior varisty match 6-1.  
**Results for JV**  
 Jenson Miller and Braden Hoag (N) defeated Jack Hatfield and Joe Peterson 8-4.  
 • Brody Edsall defeated Levi White 8-0.  
 • Thomas Barker defeated Christian Werling 8-0.  
 • Brody Edsall defeated Brady Watkins 6-0.

• Thomas Barker defeated Carter DeWeese 6-2.  
 • Boston Smith and Ethan Ratliff defeated Dylan Randol and Ryan Ewing 8-6.  
 • Aiden Trier and Porter Johnson defeated Jasper Kreigh and Greyson Chavis 6-3.  
 Norwell will host Oak Farm at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 4.

Tigers sweep middle school football over Patriots

Bluffton won both of its middle school football games over conference rival Jay County on Tuesday.  
 The Tigers' eighth grade team won 32-18. The seven grade team won 12-6.

Big Ten goes 17-1

(Continued from Page A1)

my team, I I like our team, I like our defense, I like our offense, I like our special teams, I like the vibe of this team. There's a long, long way to go, but I'm sure glad I'm coaching these guys.”  
 Similar sentiments spread throughout a league that played games everywhere from the Atlantic Coast to Seattle, even stretching across the Pacific Ocean to Hawaii in Week 1. And while Big Ten schools weren't breaking scoring records, like the SEC, the glitzy dynamics left something for everyone to celebrate.  
 — Quarterbacks Will Rogers and Davis Warren won their starting debuts at

Washington and Michigan, last year's national championship finalists, giving Jedd Fisch and Sherrone Moore their first wins since being named head coaches at their respective schools.  
 — Highly-touted quar-

terback Dillon Gabriel, the transfer from Oklahoma, threw two TD passes in his debut with Oregon, a 24-14 winner over Idaho. The Ducks' performance however dropped them four spots to No. 7 in the poll.

News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

**WNBA**

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

W	L	Pct	GB
x-New York	27	6	818
x-Connecticut	24	9	727
Indiana	17	16	515
Atlanta	11	21	344
Chicago	11	21	344
Washington	10	23	303

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

W	L	Pct	GB
x-Minnesota	24	9	727
x-Las Vegas	20	12	625
x-Seattle	20	13	606
Phoenix	16	17	485
Dallas	9	24	273
Los Angeles	7	25	219

x-clinched playoff spot

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

**Tuesday's Games**  
 Seattle 71, Connecticut 64  
 Washington 90, Dallas 86  
 Atlanta at Phoenix, late  
 Chicago at Las Vegas, late

**Wednesday's Games**  
 Los Angeles at Indiana, 7 p.m.

**Thursday's Games**  
 Seattle at New York, 7 p.m.  
 Washington at Phoenix, 10 p.m.

**Friday's Games**  
 Dallas at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.  
 Las Vegas at Connecticut, 7:30 p.m.  
 Minnesota at Indiana, 7:30 p.m.  
 Los Angeles at Chicago, 9:30 p.m.

(Megill 3-5), 7:10 p.m.  
 Cleveland (Lively 11-8) at Kansas City (Lugo 14-8), 7:40 p.m.  
 N.Y. Yankees (Stroman 10-6) at Texas (Eovaldi 10-7), 8:05 p.m.  
 L.A. Dodgers (Miller 2-3) at L.A. Angels (Canning 4-12), 9:38 p.m.  
 Detroit (Montero 4-6) at San Diego (Darvish 4-3), 9:40 p.m.  
 Seattle (Kirby 10-10) at Oakland (Sears 11-9), 9:40 p.m.

**Thursday's Games**  
 Houston at Cincinnati, 1:10 p.m.  
 Minnesota at Tampa Bay, 1:10 p.m.  
 Seattle at Oakland, 3:37 p.m.  
 L.A. Angels at Texas, 8:05 p.m.  
 Detroit at San Diego, 8:40 p.m.

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**

**East Division**

W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	82	56	594
Atlanta	75	63	543
New York	75	64	540
Washington	62	76	449
Miami	51	87	370

**Central Division**

W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	81	58	583
Chicago	71	68	511
St. Louis	70	69	504
Cincinnati	66	73	475
Pittsburgh	65	73	471

**West Division**

W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	83	55	601
San Diego	79	61	564
Arizona	77	61	558
San Francisco	68	70	493
Colorado	51	88	367

**Monday's Games**  
 Milwaukee 9, St. Louis 3  
 Cincinnati 5, Houston 3  
 L.A. Dodgers 11, Arizona 6  
 San Diego 3, Detroit 0  
 N.Y. Mets 4, Boston 1  
 Pittsburgh 5, Chicago Cubs 3

**Tuesday's Games**  
 Washington 6, Miami 2  
 N.Y. Mets 7, Boston 2  
 Atlanta 3, Colorado 0  
 Pittsburgh 5, Chicago Cubs 0  
 Philadelphia 10, Toronto 9

St. Louis 7, Milwaukee 4, 12 innings  
 L.A. Dodgers at L.A. Angels, late  
 Arizona at San Francisco, late

**Wednesday's Games**  
 Philadelphia (Sánchez 9-9) at Toronto (Francis 8-3), 3:07 p.m.  
 Houston (Arrighetti 7-11) at Cincinnati (Martinez 6-6), 6:40 p.m.  
 Washington (Gore 8-11) at Miami (Bellozo 2-2), 6:40 p.m.  
 Boston (Houck 8-9) at N.Y. Mets (Megill 3-5), 7:10 p.m.  
 Colorado (Blalock 1-1) at Atlanta (Morton 7-7), 7:20 p.m.  
 Pittsburgh (Falter 6-7) at Chicago Cubs (Imanaga 11-3), 7:40 p.m.  
 St. Louis (Gray 12-9) at Milwaukee (Rea 12-4), 7:40 p.m.  
 L.A. Dodgers (Miller 2-3) at L.A. Angels (Canning 4-12), 9:38 p.m.  
 Detroit (Montero 4-6) at San Diego (Darvish 4-3), 9:40 p.m.  
 Arizona (Gallen 10-6) at San Francisco (Birdsong 3-4), 9:45 p.m.

**Thursday's Games**  
 Houston at Cincinnati, 1:10 p.m.  
 Arizona at San Francisco, 3:45 p.m.  
 Philadelphia at Miami, 6:40 p.m.  
 Washington at Pittsburgh, 6:40 p.m.  
 Colorado at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.  
 Detroit at San Diego, 8:40 p.m.

**Midwest League**

**High-A Midwest League Glance**

**Saturday, Aug. 31**  
 Fort Wayne 3, Lansing 2

**Sunday, Sept. 1**  
 Fort Wayne 8, Lansing 4

**Monday, Sept. 2**  
 Dayton 1, Great Lakes 0

**Tuesday, Sept. 3**  
 West Michigan 5, Lansing 4, 11 innings  
 Fort Wayne 6, South Bend 5, 11 innings  
 Quad Cities 3, Beloit 0  
 Lake County 4, Peoria 3  
 Wisconsin 2, Cedar Rapids 1

**Wednesday, Sept. 4**  
 South Bend at Fort Wayne, 6:35 p.m.

BASEBALL

**MLB**

**AMERICAN LEAGUE**

**East Division**

W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	81	59	579
New York	80	59	576
Boston	70	69	504
Tampa Bay	68	70	493
Toronto	67	73	479

**Central Division**

W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	80	59	576
Minnesota	75	63	543
Kansas City	75	65	536
Detroit	70	69	504
Chicago	31	109	221

**West Division**

W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	75	63	543
Seattle	69	69	500
Texas	66	73	475
Oakland	60	78	435
Los Angeles	57	80	416

**Monday's Games**  
 Baltimore 13, Chicago White Sox 3  
 Cleveland 4, Kansas City 2  
 Cincinnati 5, Houston 3  
 San Diego 3, Detroit 0  
 N.Y. Mets 4, Boston 1  
 Minnesota 5, Tampa Bay 4  
 Oakland 5, Seattle 4  
 N.Y. Yankees 8, Texas 4

**Tuesday's Games**  
 Tampa Bay 2, Minnesota 1  
 Baltimore 9, Chicago White Sox 0  
 N.Y. Mets 7, Boston 2  
 Cleveland 7, Kansas City 1  
 Philadelphia 10, Toronto 9  
 Texas 7, N.Y. Yankees 4  
 L.A. Dodgers at L.A. Angels, late  
 Seattle at Oakland, late

**Wednesday's Games**  
 Philadelphia (Sánchez 9-9) at Toronto (Francis 8-3), 3:07 p.m.  
 Chicago White Sox (Cannon 2-9) at Baltimore (Suárez 7-4), 6:35 p.m.  
 Houston (Arrighetti 7-11) at Cincinnati (Martinez 6-6), 6:40 p.m.  
 Minnesota (Henriquez 1-0) at Tampa Bay (Sulser 0-0), 6:50 p.m.  
 Boston (Houck 8-9) at N.Y. Mets

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**Online Directory**

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

<b>Genesis Pest Services</b> genesispestservices.com	<b>MR. KOOL</b> mrkoolheatingandair.com	<b>DAZEY'S SUPPLY</b> dazeys.com/bluffton-in
<b>STEFFEN Financial Group</b> stefffinancial.com	<b>JC'S GARAGE DOOR</b> jcsгарagedoor.com	<b>Daniel's JEWELERS</b> daniels-jewelers.net
<b>INDIANA FARM BUREAU INSURANCE</b> Bluffton Office   (260) 824-2234 infarmbureau.com	<b>3 RIVERS</b> 3riversfcu.org	<b>Myers FUNERAL HOMES</b> myersfuneralhomes.com
<b>WELLS COUNTY 4-H</b> GROWS HERE extension.purdue.edu/wells	<b>Riverstone DENTAL</b> riverstonedental.net	<b>Bluffton Tire</b> blufftontire.com
<b>Goodwin-Cole &amp; Harvath MEMORIAL CHAPEL</b> thegmcfamily.com	<b>HIDAY AUTOMOTIVE GROUP</b> hidaymotors.com	<b>Edward Jones</b> EdwardJones.com
<b>INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS</b> icav.us	<b>Jerry Flack &amp; Associates</b> jerryflackinsuranceandinvestments.com	<b>LaFontaine Center</b> lafontainecenter.org
<b>Lengerich MEATS</b> lengerichmeats.com	<b>Still Waters FAMILY DENTISTRY</b> stillwatersfamilydentistry.com	<b>Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home</b> thomarich.com
		<b>State Farm Erin Daugherty</b> myblufftonsfagent.com
		<b>HOME COURT HOME CARE</b> homecourthomecare.com
		<b>NBDigital</b> nb-digital.com

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Repairing relationships so I can see my grandkids

Dear Annie: I'm hurt and angry. My son and daughter-in-law will not let me see my grandchildren. It has been five years since I last saw them.

This all started after I had a fight with my daughter-in-law when my son lost his job. She demanded that I help him financially, but my finances were such that I could not afford to do so.

I have only seen my grandchildren two times in the past five years — at my daughter's wedding and my mom's funeral.

Dear Tired and Hurt: Hurt people hurt people, and your son is hurting. Your daughter-in-law was afraid and hurting when her husband lost his job.

For instance, it is OK to say, "I feel tired and hurt, and I have a lot of love to give to both of you and the children." It is not OK to say, "You did this wrong" or, "You were mean when talking about my son."

Dear Annie: I saw your response to "Stuck on Snapchat's" question, and as a rising senior who hasn't used social media since sophomore year, it does get easier and less stressful.

Dear Annie: I saw your response to "Stuck on Snapchat's" question, and as a rising senior who hasn't used social media since sophomore year, it does get easier and less stressful.

Dear Annie by Annie Lane



most people take that as a reasonable answer. I won't go into the full details, but social media, ESPECIALLY Snapchat, got me into some trouble when I was younger, and I really don't think it's as great of a platform as it's hyped up to be.

Besides, anyone who pressures you for not having Snapchat probably doesn't have the greatest intentions. Stay safe and off Snapchat; you'll find your people.

No. 1: Don't let people peer pressure you into ANYTHING; stand your ground firmly on what you believe in.

No. 2: You don't have to be friends with everyone. It's all right to dislike people.

No. 3: Don't put popularity above academics.

No. 4: Don't dismiss red flags in ANY relationship, whether it be a friend or a partner. Don't ever ignore red flags because you love someone.

No. 5: And last but not least, don't stress too much.

No matter how hard things get, there's one quote I live by: "It'll all be OK in the end; if it's not OK, then it's not the end."

Good luck in high school; I believe in you! — Advice From A High School Senior

Dear High School Senior: You are wise beyond your years. Thank you for your letter. I hope it helps others in similar situations.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. © 2024 CREATORS.COM

BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



ZITS

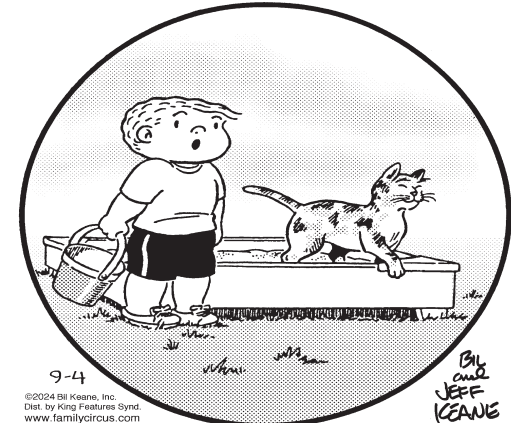


CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



Spiritual awakening is the only hope for the human race

Question: It is true that our nation is in a free-fall that seemed to escalate with the 9/11 attack. Many church leaders are calling for a revival, but many believe it's too late and that we don't have a majority of people concerned enough to make a difference for good.

Answer: The 1850s in America brought a marked decline in religion in the United States. The discovery of gold in California, as well as a number of other

developments, had turned people's minds and hearts away from religion and toward material things. The political turmoil threatened the disintegration of the nation and also preoccupied public attention.

In September of 1857, a quiet businessman named Jeremiah Lanphier decided to invite other businessmen to join him in a noon-day prayer meeting once a week, seeking for the renewing work of the Holy Spirit.

10,000 were gathered daily for prayer in New York City alone. Awakening swept the country, and within two years an estimated 1 million people had professed faith in Christ.

The effects of the awakening were profound, both in individual lives and in society. Untold good came from that movement, including that of social betterment and most important, evangelism.

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

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"Daddy, could you change the sand in our box?"

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes solution time: 23 mins.

Table with columns for date, time, and channel listing TV programs such as Washington Watch, News-at 6, CBS News, etc.

Grid for yesterday's crossword puzzle answer, showing numbers 1 through 41.

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## This Week's Garage Sales

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**117 W MARKET BLUFFTON** (AT THE BACK ON PERRY STREET) GARAGE SALE Vintage Antiques Halloween items costumes crafts misc decor games golf clubs faux fur vests nice L XL Plus size women's clothes lots of misc Sep. 05 9:00 AM-5:00 PM Rain or Shine

**GIGANTIC GARAGE SALE** September 5 & 6, 9-5, September 7, 9-2 Sack Sale, FORGOTTEN CHILDREN WORLDWIDE, 650 N. MAIN STREET, BLUFFTON. Bring a friend who has never attended one of our sales before and both of you will receive a KFC coupon. All "new" items as we liquidated everything in June due to remodeling. Follow Us on Facebook.

**LARGE GARAGE SALE** Friday, Sept. 6, 9 to 5, Saturday, Sept. 7, 9 to 2 p.m., 1508 Ridgewood Lane (Old Creek), Bluffton. Home decor, pictures, decorative pillows, Longenberger baskets, vases, Christmas/Fall decorations, antique large crocks, bar stools, vintage heat lamp, antique table, lamps, lampshades, kitchen items, folding chairs, china hutch, king size comforter, small desk, women's clothes L & XL, purses, dog beds, kids clothes size 10-12, jewelry, men's small, toys, games, dollhouse, Our Generation doll clothes & accessories, ladies 26" bike, girl's 18" bike, 3 Razor scooters, digital bird feeder, 4 tier organization cart, free piano. NO early sales.

**MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE**, 1158 N 450 E, Bluffton, Sept. 5 & 6, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Sept. 7, 8 a.m.-? Toys, home decor, adult clothing, boy & girl clothing, shoes, designer purses, bedding & outdoor items.

## VEHICLES

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## EMPLOYMENT

### 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](http://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

### ENTRY LEVEL

**NEED MORE EMPLOYEES?** Place a 20 word, line classified ad for a month for \$52. Add a graphic or photo for an additional \$5. Contact the Bluffton News-Banner office, (260) 824-0224, 125 N. Johnson St., or [www.news-banner.com](http://www.news-banner.com) and click on classifieds.

## Help Wanted

**WELLS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** is currently seeking applicants for the position of Full Time Deputy Sheriff. Applicants must be a US Citizen, at least 21 years of age upon graduation from police academy, possess a high school diploma or equivalent as well as a valid Indiana Operators License. Applicant can't have any felony convictions. Applicants must pass all aspects of the hiring process including physical agility testing, written examination, background investigation, oral interview, polygraph and psychological evaluation. Selected applicant must be able to graduate from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. ILEA certified applicants do not have to attend the physical agility and written examination portion of the process. 20-year matrix salary range for a Deputy Sheriff (no rank) is \$56,600 - \$68,400. Years of service and experience will be honored for a starting salary up to five years in the pay matrix. Application can be found on our website at [www.wellscountysheriff.com](http://www.wellscountysheriff.com). Once application is completed, details on the testing date and location will be emailed to the applicant. The application must be completed by September 13th, 2024.

## SERVICES

### Services

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## Lottery Numbers

**Tuesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY**  
Cash 5 — 04-13-30-33-38  
Cash4Life — 22-28-30-51-55, Cash Ball: 01  
Quick Draw MIDDAY — 07-11-12-15-17-26-28-31-33-39-42-43-62-64-65-67-71-74-77-78, BE: 17  
Daily Three-MIDDAY — 04-08-09, SB: 01  
Daily Three-Evening — 05-01-08, SB: 00  
Daily Four-MIDDAY — 08-05-04-05, SB: 01  
Daily Four-Evening — 09-05-02-01, SB: 00  
Quick Draw Evening — 07-13-15-19-22-25-28-29-37-39-53-57-63-66-67-70-72-73-78-80, BE: 28  
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$20.8 million  
MEGA MILLIONS 12-41-43-52-55; Mega Ball: 09; Megaplier: 4X.  
POWERBALL Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$93 million

## SUDOKU

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

### King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★

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9/4

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## September GOODS & SERVICES DIRECTORY



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## Public Sale Calendar

**SEPTEMBER 7 - 9 a.m.** - Various consignors, sellers. Lehman Feed Mill, 5111 S 000 Rd., Berne, IN. Farm Machinery Consignment Auction. Tractors, hay wagons, grain carts, discs, planters, plows, trucks, trailers, semis, livestock trailers, tools, lawn & garden equipment, shop equipment, livestock equipment & more! Consign anytime Sept. 4, 5, or 6 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call Heartland to advertise your items! **Heartland Auction & Realty, Inc.**, 260-724-3499, [heartlandauctionrealty.com](http://heartlandauctionrealty.com).

**SEPTEMBER 8-SEPTEMBER 15 - (Online Only Auction) - Private Collector, seller.** Outstanding collection of 2,000-plus comic books, large assortment of 8-Tracks, cassettes, CD's & DVD's, Star Wars figures, DJ lighting, vintage books, dolls, large Nativity set, toys, collectibles. Previews: Sept. 5 and Sept. 12 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 117 W. Craig St., Ossian. Pat Carter, sale manager, 260-273-8294, **The Steffen Group Inc.**, 260-824-3006, [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com).

**BIDDING NOW OPEN & STARTS CLOSING SEPTEMBER 9 - 6 p.m. EST - Susan Pollock estate, owner.** Two bedroom, 1 full bath, 1,264 sq. feet, basement, 8'x12' utility shed, Root Township, Section 34, Adams County, Indiana. North Adams Community Schools. **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC**, 260-724-7402, [kjauction.com](http://kjauction.com).

**SEPTEMBER 10 - 10 a.m. EST - (Live and Online) - Norman & Norwin Bauermeister.** 815 Adams Street, Decatur, IN. Bauermeister Brothers retirement farm equipment auction! Tractors, tillage & grain handling equipment, skid loader, JD 5320, JD 6300, JD 4240, JD 7820 FWA, JD 980 23' field cult., 24' UM dual wheel single rolling basket w/harrow, 1965 Dodge D600 & 1974 Chevy C60 grain truck, J&M 425 hopper wagon, 8'x52' Mayrath swing auger, 3 point attachments & much more! For questions on equipment please call Butch, 260-246-3656. Check-out and pick up Sept. 10, 3-5 p.m. Sept. 11, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 7845 N 650 E, Ossian, IN. **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC**, 260-724-7402, [kjauction.com](http://kjauction.com).

**SEPTEMBER 15-22 - 2 p.m. - (Online Only) - Estate of Jeffrey W. Brown, seller.** Collectible vehicles, 1967 Dodge Dart, 1971 Dodge Challenger, 1988 Ford Ranger, Dune Buggy, Chop Top Baja Beetle, Allis Chalmers tractor, John Deere 640 tractor, pull type mower, riding lawn mowers, Mopar parts, automotive parts, name brand shop & power tools, air operated tools, automotive

shop supplies, chain saws, log splitter, antique furniture, collectibles, beer signs, more. Preview Sept. 12 & 19 from 3-6 p.m., 7271 N 300 W-90, Markle. **The Steffen Group Inc.**, 260-824-3006, [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com).

**SEPTEMBER 17 - 2-6 p.m. ET - Online - Greenbush, Inc., farm.** Property location: 1231 N 740 E, Marion. 242.9+/- acres, classified forest, barns, quality farmland, timber, Van Buren Twp., Grant Co. Tract 1: 80+/-A, barns. Tract 2: 55.5+/-A. Tract 3: 18.3+/-A. Tract 4: 7.1+/-A, potential building site, 42'x56' barn, 30'x31' barn. Tract 5: 63+/-A, 55.28+/- classified forest. Tract 6: 19+/-A, 18.7+/- classified forest. Timber value appraisal available. Open house Sept. 7, 1-4 p.m., Steve Goodwin (forester) present. Rick Johnloz, 260-827-8181, Emma Barr, 260-494-0992, Jason Johnloz, 260-273-9177, **Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management**, 800-424-2324, [halderman.com](http://halderman.com).

**SEPTEMBER 23-SEPTEMBER 30 - (Online Only) - Various consignors, seller.** Firearms consisting of Springfield, Hopkins & Allen, Colt, Browning, Stevens, Glock, Winchester. Open House Sept. 28 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 215 E Market St, Bluffton, IN. Sale manager, Isaac Stoller, **The Steffen Group Inc.**, 260-824-3006, [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com).

**SEPTEMBER 24 - 2 p.m.-6 p.m. ET - Online - Don A. Heckber, farm.** Property location: 11648 N SR 1 Ossian, IN. 31.63+/-total acres, agriculture prime farmland, 31.5+/- tillable, 0.13+/- non-tillable, Topography: Level, Zoning: Agricultural, School District: Norwell Community Schools. Rick Johnloz, 260 827 8181, [rickj@halderman.com](mailto:rickj@halderman.com), Jason Johnloz, [jasonj@halderman.com](mailto:jasonj@halderman.com), 260-273-9177, **Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management**, [halderman.com](http://halderman.com), 800-424-2324.

**SEPTEMBER 24 - 6 p.m. - Online Only - The Estate of Jeffrey Brown.** Two story country home situated on 2.41+/- acres with outbuildings. This 1,876 SF home features 3 bedrooms, large living room, eat-in kitchen, utility room and 1 car garage. Open houses: Sept. 12 and 19 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 7721 N. 300 W. Markle, IN. **The Steffen Group Inc.**, [steffengrp.com](http://steffengrp.com), 260-824-3006.

**SEPTEMBER 24-OCTOBER 1 - (Online Only) - Grover, seller.** Tractor, mower, tools, woodworking, primitives. Open House Sept. 28 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., 8726 S 600 W-90, Warren, IN. Sale manager, Isaac Stoller, **The Steffen Group Inc.**, 260-824-3006, [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com).

**SEPTEMBER 25 - 6 p.m. - Online Only - The Estate of Jeffrey Brown.** Land location: 1/4 mile west of Marzane Rd on Wells County Rd 1200 N (Scott Street), Zanesville. 9.27+/- acre prime building site in Union Twp., Northern Wells County. Property features open land, wooded acreage, a 24'x48' pole building. Perfect home site, country estate. "Explore the potential of this property." Open houses: Sept. 12 and 19 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. **The Steffen Group Inc.**, 260-824-3006, [steffengrp.com](http://steffengrp.com).

**SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 6 - (Online Only) - The Estate of Wayne E. Penrod, seller.** Artifacts, tools, furniture, household. Open house Oct. 6 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 69 W 1st St., Poneto, IN. Sale manager, Isaac Stoller, **The Steffen Group Inc.**, 260-824-3006, [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com).

**OCTOBER 2 - 6 p.m. - Ruby Johnson, Brant Johnson, owner.** Auction location: Lighted Gardens Reception Hall, 10794 N. State Road 1, Ossian. Property location: 14631 Smith Rd., Yoder. 48+/- acres offered in 4 tracts and combinations. Productive tillable land, excellent road frontage and access along Smith Rd., 2,400+ sq. ft. sprawling brick ranch home on full basement with 20x30 outbuilding, Allen County. Inspection Sept. 9 & 16, 5-7 p.m. Auction manager Jared Sipe, 260-750-1553, **Schrader Real Estate and Auction of Fort Wayne, SchraderFortWayne.com**, 866-340-0445.

**NOVEMBER 14 - 6 p.m. - Becher Family Farms LLC, sellers.** Auction location: Adams Co. 4H Expo Hall, 160 W. Washington St., Monroe, IN. Four tracts, Washington Township, Adams County. Tract 1: 82.88 acres, County Rd. 200 West, Sec 18. Tract 2: 80.2 acres, County Rd. 450 North, Sec 8. Tract 3: 35.05 acres, County Rd. 450 North, Sec 9. Tract 4: 39.97 acres, County Rd. 400 North, Sec 9. **Heartland Auction & Realty, Inc.**, [heartlandauctionrealty.com](http://heartlandauctionrealty.com), 260-724-3499.

**SEPTEMBER 25 - 6 p.m. - Online Only - The Estate of Jeffrey Brown.** Land location: 1/4 mile west of Marzane Rd on Wells County Rd 1200 N (Scott Street), Zanesville. 9.27+/- acre prime building site in Union Twp., Northern Wells County. Property features open land, wooded acreage, a 24'x48' pole building. Perfect home site, country estate. "Explore the potential of this property." Open houses: Sept. 12 and 19 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. **The Steffen Group Inc.**, 260-824-3006, [www.steffengrp.com](http://steffengrp.com).

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**OCTOBER 2 - 6 p.m. - Ruby Johnson, Brant Johnson, owner.** Auction location: Lighted Gardens Reception Hall, 10794 N. State Road 1, Ossian. Property location: 14631 Smith Rd., Yoder. 48+/- acres offered in 4 tracts and combinations. Productive tillable land, excellent road frontage and access along Smith Rd., 2,400+ sq. ft. sprawling brick ranch home on full basement with 20x30 outbuilding, Allen County. Inspection Sept. 9 & 16, 5-7 p.m. Auction manager Jared Sipe, 260-750-1553, **Schrader Real Estate and Auction of Fort Wayne, SchraderFortWayne.com**, 866-340-0445.

**NOVEMBER 14 - 6 p.m. - Becher Family Farms LLC, sellers.** Auction location: Adams Co. 4H Expo Hall, 160 W. Washington St., Monroe, IN. Four tracts, Washington Township, Adams County. Tract 1: 82.88 acres, County Rd. 200 West, Sec 18. Tract 2: 80.2 acres, County Rd. 450 North, Sec 8. Tract 3: 35.05 acres, County Rd. 450 North, Sec 9. Tract 4: 39.97 acres, County Rd. 400 North, Sec 9. **Heartland Auction & Realty, Inc.**, [heartlandauctionrealty.com](http://heartlandauctionrealty.com), 260-724-3499.

**SUDOKU ANSWER**

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

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