

The News - Banner

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2024

BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

\$1.00

Elementary schools exercise caution with social media threat

By JONATHAN SNYDER and HOLLY GASKILL

Wells County elementary schools practiced precautions for a potential shooting threat Friday afternoon.

According to superintendents at Southern Wells, Bluffton-Harrison and Norwell schools, law enforcement notified the districts that an individual in Blackford County with alleged ties to Wells County had posted "I'm going to shoot up a preschool" on

Facebook. All four elementary schools continued their daily schedule with precautions, keeping students inside the building and working with law enforcement to ensure a safe dismissal.

Dismissal at each location continued without issue, administrators reported. Norwell and Southern Wells families were notified following the incident.

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Mouse Game won't be at the Bluffton Street Fair - but it will be back

By HOLLY GASKILL

For many visitors to the Bluffton Street Fair, the "Mouse Game" is a staple and a favorite to the annual festivities.

The roulette-style game costs just 25 cents per round and features a live mouse instead of a ball. James and Jean Martin of Portage, Indiana, returned with the game for decades.

And after James' passing

this past October, the future of the games was left up in the air.

In a Facebook post, Jean shared, "We've come to the time in our life that ... our 'Mouse Game Time' has come to an end. We will always have the memories of so many people and of my husband who loved the mouse game and loved being in the game. He was and always will be the

'Mouse Man' to my family and I'm sure to many of yours as well."

Ron Games - yes, Games - remembered seeing the announcement at his home in Plymouth, Indiana. He had known the game from the LaPorte fair. "It was always a wholesome game - people were happy even if they lost," he said.

Games said he especially
(Continued on Page 2)



Festive night

It was a good night for the Tigers as they celebrated homecoming at Fred F. Park Field with a 36-7 victory over Woodlan. Elycia Herrada was crowned queen and Gabe Ball king during halftime. Middle, the Tigers burst through the banner at the outset of the game. Below left, the Bengal Brigade provides the halftime show. Below right, Herrada (left) reacts after being announced homecoming queen with assistant principal Stacy Morrison. (Photos by Glen Werling)



N-B collects 10 state press association awards

The News-Banner received 10 awards Friday afternoon at the Hoosier State Press Association's annual banquet in Indianapolis.

The individual first-place honors went to editor Holly Gaskill for best general news photo, opinion page editor Mark Miller for best general commentary and best in-depth feature or feature package, and Sydney Kent for best portrait photo.

Second-place honors went to sports editor Ryan Walker for best sports event coverage, Rick Sprunger for best sports feature, and Kent and Gaskill for best multiple picture group.

Miller also received third place for best editorial writer and Kent third for best in-depth feature or feature package. The News-Banner also received third place for best special section.

The News-Banner is in Division 3, a category that includes all daily newspapers in the state with a population of 6,000 readers.

"During my time at the News-Banner, we have won quite a few awards - these might be the most impressive," said President and Publisher Doug Brown. "Mark has been winning awards for years and are well deserved. Holly, Ryan, Sydney and our most recent addition, Jonathan Snyder, are setting the standard for our new generation. I couldn't be happier for them to receive statewide recognition for the work they do day in and day out. The future is very bright for The News-Banner."

Below are awards and works, as listed during the awards program:

- First Place, Best General Commentary: Mark Miller
- Third Place, Best Editorial Writer: Mark Miller
- Third Place, Best In-Depth Feature/Feature Package: Sydney Kent, Christmas in Recovery series - December 2023, two stories following the addiction recovery journeys of women at Grace and Mercy Transitional Housing and Hannah's House during the holiday season.
- First Place, Best In-Depth Feature/Feature Package: Mark Miller, "One family remembers" - May 23, 2023, the story of Lt. Jim Harris, a Liberty Center man who lost his life during the Vietnam War, and those who will always cherish his memory.
- Second Place, Best Sports Event Coverage: Ryan Walker, "Lewis outduels Tigers in county baseball battle" - April 26, 2024, detailing Norwell's 5-0 triumph over Bluffton in baseball.
- Second Place, Best Sports Feature: Rick Sprunger, "The handkerchief on the rim" - Feb. 23, 2024, following the history of the Norwell High School basketball tradition and its revival preceding the girls' journey to the state title competition.
- First Place, Best General News Photo: Holly Gaskill, "Downtown fire" - July 7, 2023, depicting firefighters at the raging fire that ultimately condemned

(Continued on Page 2)



Local royalty

Ossian crowned its new fair prince and princess Friday night - pictured above, Maverick Mygrant (left) and Sophia Bristol.

The two hold one of their prizes, stuffed animals that announce that they're the 2024 Ossian Days prince or princess. The new royalty will be featured in the parade at 5 p.m. Saturday.

At right, 2023 Ossian Days Princess Addie Valenti places the tiara atop Bristol's head, at right. More photos on Page 10. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)



Inside

Local/Area

Obituaries 3
Police Notebook . . . 3

Opinion

Saturday Sub 4

Also...

Sports 6-7
Classifieds 9
Diversions 8

Outside



A bright and sunny weekend

Today	Sunday	Monday
High 87	High 88	High 86
Low 58	Low 58	Low 57

More Weather on Page 2

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Vol. 95 No. 268

SATURDAY
September 14, 2024

PADDLEFISH solar project

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
edf-re.com/project/
paddlefish-solar-project/
(260) 355-5951
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Mouse Game

(Continued from Page 1)
 liked it because it was something he “always felt lucky” and was inexpensive to play, but added with a laugh, “I’ve thrown away my fair share of \$20 bills though too.”

He jokingly told his wife he wanted to buy the Mouse Game if it was ever for sale — but it wasn’t a joke for long. Just a month later, the couple pulled the trigger on the purchase.

Games currently works in the auction business but plans to transition into running the Mouse Game full-time. Unfortunately, the quick turnaround just didn’t work out for this year’s Street Fair.

Next year, Games hopes to take the Mouse Game to all the fairs where it has become a beloved tradition — including Bluffton, LaPorte, DeKalb — and possibly a few more. He’s also excited to get involved in the communities he’ll visit.

And just like the Martins, Games is looking forward



The Mouse Game, which features a roulette wheel and a live mouse, will be under new ownership next year. (News-Banner File Photo)

to getting the whole family involved. While he says one of his adult children was shocked by the purchase, another just remarked, “Of

course he bought the Mouse Game,” Games joked.

The couple also have one young grandchild and another on the way, and Games is

excited for the opportunity to bring them along. “I want to continue this as a family legacy,” he said.

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Firefighters gain ground on three Southern California blazes, scale back evacuation orders

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Helped by cooler temperatures, firefighters gained ground Friday against three blazes in Southern California and authorities began scaling back evacuation orders that displaced thousands of people.

The largest is the Bridge Fire east of Los Angeles, which has burned 81 square miles, torched at least 33 homes and six cabins and forced the evacuation of 10,000 people. The cause of the fire is not yet known. After days of burning without fire crews being able to stop its forward march, it was 3% contained on Friday.

“Firefighters made great progress on the ground, aided by aircraft to attack the fire aggressively 24 hours per day,” the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said in a statement.

While firefighters have made significant progress, the three major wildfires that have ravaged the mountains east of Los Angeles, destroying dozens of homes, injuring a dozen people, and burning more than 155 square miles, still pose significant threats to some communities.

California is entering the height of wildfire season and has already seen nearly three times as much acreage burn as during all of 2023.

Evacuation orders were being scaled back, including in parts of Big Bear where the Line Fire forced thousands of people to flee. Authorities say a delivery driver purposely started the blaze Sept. 5.

The fire has charred 59 square miles in the San Ber-

nardino mountains, where Southern Californians ski in the winter and mountain bike in the summer. It was 21% contained as of Friday.

The Line Fire is burning through dense vegetation that grew after two back-to-back wet winters when snowstorms broke tree branches, leaving behind a lot of “dead and down fuel,” Cal Fire Operations Section Chief Jed Gaines said.

The Big Bear Zoo said it moved all its animals to a zoo in the city of Palm Desert to protect them from the wildfires and escalating temperatures.

The fires have threatened tens of thousands of homes and other structures across Southern California since they escalated during a triple-digit heat wave.

Cooler weather that began midweek has helped firefighters slowly gain the upper hand in battling the blazes. No deaths have been reported, but at least a dozen people, mainly firefighters, have been treated for injuries, mostly heat-related, authorities said.

Jason Anderson, district attorney for San Bernardino County, said Thursday that nine arson-related charges have been filed against Justin Wayne Halstenberg, who is accused of starting the Line Fire.

Anderson said Halstenberg, 34, attempted to start three fires within an hour in the city of Highland. Two were extinguished by firefighters and a good Samaritan, and the third became the Line Fire, according to authorities.

“This is particularly galling in a community that unfortunately over the last

couple of years has dealt with the scourge of wildfires,” he told reporters, adding that the suspect’s vehicle has been linked to three areas where the fires were started.

Halstenberg is due to be arraigned on Monday according to the San Bernardino County District Attorney’s Office, which said Friday that it did not have information about an attorney for him.

Halstenberg’s mother, Connie Halstenberg, told the Los Angeles Times that her son “did not light that fire.”

The full extent of the damage caused by the wildfires remains unclear, but Anderson said at least one home has been destroyed by the blaze.

Farther south, the Airport Fire in Orange and Riverside counties has burned more than 37 square miles. Reportedly sparked by workers using heavy equipment, it was 8% contained as of Friday morning.

Ten firefighters and two residents were injured in the blaze, according to the Orange County Fire Authority. The fire has been difficult to tame because of the steep terrain and dry conditions — and because some areas hadn’t burned in decades. It destroyed at least 27 cabins in the Holy Jim Canyon area, authorities said.

In northern Nevada, Washoe County officials confirmed Friday that a wildfire that broke out south of Reno last weekend destroyed 14 homes the first two days but none since as containment continues to increase.

Authorities have lifted all

but a few of the evacuation orders that initially forced covered as many as 20,000 residents. Power has been restored to all but about 140 customers, NV Energy said. No deaths or serious injuries were reported.

Containment of the Davis fire was estimated at 56%, with no growth in the perimeter for the third day in a row after it burned nearly 9 square miles of timber and brush along the Sierra Nevada’s eastern slope near Lake Tahoe.

The Washoe County sheriff was seeking tips from the public as an investigation continued into the origin of the human-caused fire, which started Sept. 7 in a regional park about halfway between Reno and Carson City.

Weather

Saturday, September 14, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:56 p.m. Friday)

High: 86; Low: 59; Precipitation: None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.08 feet at 7:45 p.m. Friday

Wells County forecast

Today: Sunny, with a high near 87. East wind 5 to 10 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 58. East wind around 5 mph.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 88. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 58. East wind around 5 mph.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 86.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 57.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 85.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 58.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 83.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 59.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 84.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 59.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 84.



N-B awards

(Continued from Page 1)
 the historic building at 123 S Marion St. in downtown Bluffton.

• **First Place, Best Portrait:** Sydney Kent, “A life well loved” — Jan. 26, 2024, a portrait of Roberta Arnold at her kitchen table in the home where she has lived since 1955.

• **Second Place, Mul-**

tiple Picture Group: Holly Gaskill and Sydney Kent, “Fire destroys downtown landmark” — July 7, 2023, additional photographs of the downtown Bluffton fire.

• **Third Place, Best Special Section:** Staff, “Who We Are” — Published June 29, 2023.

newsroom@news-banner.com

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, Sept. 15 • 2-4 p.m.

513 S. Marion St.
Bluffton, IN 46714

\$249,900

4 Bedrooms • 2 Full Baths • Sq. Feet: 2,324
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2024 BLUFFTON Street Fair

Sept 17-21

“Passport to Fun”

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
 7pm - Grand Opening Parade
 Grand Marshal: Erin Prible

WED, SEPT 18
 5:45pm - Antique Tractor Parade
 6pm - Antique & Classic Car Parade
 6:15pm - High School Band Parade

THURS, SEPT 19
 6pm - Industrial Parade

WEDNESDAY

12-5:30 pm - Antique & Classic Car Show - Along S. Main
 7-8:30 pm - Music-Community Worship Night Band - Stage

THURSDAY

8-10 pm - Free Concert - Whoa, Man! - Stage

FRIDAY

7-9 pm - FNX Wrestling - Stage

SATURDAY

11 am - Diaper Derby- Baby crawl Race - Stage
 11:15 pm - OPTIMIST Tractor Pull - 3-7 Year old - W Washington
 11:30 pm - Kids Big Wheel Race- 6-8 Year old - W Washington
 6-8 pm - STREET FAIR IDOL - Main Event - Stage
 9 pm - CONCERT: The Ultimate Garth Brooks Tribute - Stage

For a Complete Schedule, Watch for the Special Section in the News-Banner on Monday, September 16th.

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 all others take 3 or 4 tickets

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 SATURDAY: \$18 - Unlimited Rides 11am - 5pm
 \$30 - Unlimited Rides 5pm - Close

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OBITUARIES

Kenneth Wayne Lachowsky, 63

Kenneth Wayne Lachowsky, 63, of Bluffton, passed away Sunday morning, Sept. 8, 2024, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.
 Ken was born on Oct. 5, 1960, to Paul Edward and Dorothy G'Neil (Kirkdoffer) Lachowsky. Both parents preceded him in death. Ken married Barbara Ann (McKinney) Brando in Tennessee on June 19, 2016. She preceded him in death on Aug. 13, 2019.
 In addition to his parents, Ken was

preceded in death by a brother, Phillip Lachowsky.
 A public memorial service will be held on Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024, at 12:45 p.m., at the Bluffton North Apostolic Christian Church, 630 East Dustman Road, Bluffton, IN.
 Goodwin – Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton has been entrusted with the arrangements.
 Online condolences may be shared at www.goodwincaleharnish.com.

Lawrence Stabler, 84

Lawrence Stabler, 84, of Bluffton, passed away Thursday evening, Sept. 13, 2024, at Stillwater Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

Arrangements are pending with Goodwin – Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton.

Much ado on the Plaza

Parlor City Shakespeare Company performed their rendition of "Much Ado About Nothing" Friday night at the Parlor City Plaza. Pictured are castmates Heather Barkley and Casey Stomback (front) and Sarena Wirgau and Stephen Stachofsky (back). The group will hold a second performance at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 14 at the plaza and 6:30 p.m. Sept. 15 at Life Community Church. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)



Local Roundup

Solid Waste, Drainage, County Commissioners cancel Monday meetings

The Solid Waste Management District board, Wells County Drainage Board, and Wells County Commissioners have canceled their regular meetings in light of the Bluffton Free Street Fair.
 The Drainage Board will meet next at 4:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 7, and the commissioners will follow at 5 p.m. in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.
 The Solid Waste district board will meet next at 4 p.m. Oct. 21., also in Room 105 at the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

Rock Creek Conservancy District will meet Monday

The Rock Creek Conservancy district will hold its quarterly meeting at 6 p.m., Monday, Sept. 16, at the Liberty Center Fire Department, 2954 Market St., Liberty Center.
 Topics on the agenda include:
 • Maintenance and water monitoring reports.
 • Treasurer reports and financial matters.

Bluffton Board of Works to meet Tuesday afternoon

The Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Southern Wells school board will meet Tuesday

The board of the Southern Wells Community Schools will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17, in the high school media center of the SWCS campus.
 Topics on the agenda include:
 • Personnel and financial matters.
 • Public hearing on 2025 budget.
 • Consideration of project and bond resolutions for the construction of a new auxiliary gym.
 • Discussion of the 2025-26 calendar.
 • School improvement plans.
 • Superintendent information.

Bluffton Common Council will not meet Tuesday

The Bluffton Common Council will not meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St., due to the Bluffton Free Street Fair.

BHMSD school board will hold public hearings Monday

The board of the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District will meet for a public hearing at 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 9, in the school district's administration building at 803 E. Harrison St. in Bluffton.
 Topics on the public hearing agenda are:
 • Educational need for elementary playground improvements, middle school upper gymnasium floor improvements, high school parking lot and drive improvements, and other deferred maintenance improvement items listen on the capital projects plan.
 • Overview of projects.
 • Financial impact of projects.
 A budget hearing will immediately follow, then the regular meeting. Topics on the agenda for the regular meeting include:
 • Financial and personnel matters.
 • Regular reports and announcements, including updates from Assistant Superintendent Julie Meitzler and Superintendent Brad Yates, the enrollment report, and the Bluffton Lady Tigers Holiday Shootout.
 • Updates on building projects.

Bluffton Parks & Rec News & Notes



By Brandy Fiechter

Destination Recreation

Is it just me, or does there seem to be a lot of bees in the area lately? I suppose they know that Street Fair is about to start and anticipate all the sweet treats, just like I do. Be sure to like and follow Bluffton Free Street Fair Association, Inc. on Facebook so that you don't miss out on any of the great concerts, entertainment, parades, rides and fair food!
 Indulging in fair food? Want a fun way to burn those calories? Join our **5 in 5 5k Series**, starting Sept. 26. Run or walk a 5K on the River Greenway every Thursday at 6 p.m. It's a great way to stay active and healthy. Plus, it is only \$1 per day, and if you complete 4 of the 5 in the series, you can earn a beanie. No need to pre-register; just show up before 6 p.m.

forcing people to remain indoors. That is why the Parks Department has decided to open the city gym FREE of charge to any adult who would like to get some exercise during the cold months. Participants can enter through the glass door on the West side of the building and sign in on the wooden door each day they attend. If you are the last to leave the gym, please turn off the light in the southwest corner. 1 Mile = 20 laps. If that time of day doesn't work with your schedule, you can consider purchasing a single gym membership for only \$25 starting Oct. 1, which will last you until the end of the year.
 The **Free Tot Time** program in the City Gym will be open every Tuesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon, so you can bring your tots and burn off some energy during October – March. This drop-in program will allow young children to play with others their age in a large open space. Balls will be available in the storage closet at the East end of the gym when we hear the children arrive. Please note that this is not a staff-facilitated event, and parents are responsible for their children. We will offer a special tour or activity on the first Thursday of each month. Thursday, Oct. 3, 11 a.m.- noon, will be our Police Station visit. Please sign in at the gym door each visit and turn off the lights if you are the last to leave. Call the park office at 824-6069 if you have any questions.

We recently delivered the annual **Fall Coloring Contest** to the schools, so be sure to check your child's backpack for it. Kids have until Oct. 16 to turn in the coloring sheet to the park office on the 2nd floor of the City Hall building, 128 E. Market St. One child will be drawn randomly to win a prize. Additional coloring pages can be printed off the city's new website at <https://tinyurl.com/56urtfpz>.

Mark your calendars for the **Immunization Clinic** during the Farm Wagon event on Tuesday, Oct. 1, from 7:30-9:30 a.m. in the parking lot of Life Community Church. It's a convenient way to get immunized-you can stay in your vehicle. Just remember to bring your insurance card (commercial, Medicare, Medicaid). For any questions, contact clinic@vaccinateindiana.org or call 317-628-7116.

Our free **Weekday Walking** program, starting on Oct. 1 and running until March 31, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. in the City Gym, is open to all adults. Walking is one of the best exercises for all age groups and has many health benefits. If you can spare fifteen minutes daily for walking, it will help you maintain a healthy weight. But in many places, the weather is unfavorable for many months,

We are very excited to announce that, thanks to a LARE grant, we are about to solicit bids to stabilize around 1,100 feet of the Wabash River Bank from Wayne Street to the Howard Rich Pavilion. The River Greenway trail is our most used amenity, with over 260 visitors a day, so we want to make sure we protect it from erosion. Stay tuned for work site announcements.

Have a great week!

Kid's Pedal Tractor Pull at Street Fair

The Bluffton Optimist Club will be sponsoring a Kid's Pedal Tractor Pull Contest on Saturday, Sept. 21 at the Bluffton Street Fair.
 Sign in will begin at 11:00 a.m. near the library on West Washington Street with the

contest beginning at 11:15 a.m. Boys and girls weighing up to 60 lbs. may participate. Weights will determine the classes.
 Awards will be presented to all participants and class winners will be recognized. The pedal tractors are provided.

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From our family to you ...

The Reimschisel family at Family Ford of Bluffton hope that you will take a few moments at least once each week to spend some time with what really matters during these "interesting times."
 This short essay is from **Our Daily Bread®** — a free publication we would love to share with you. Stop in anytime. There is no cost or obligation.

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

2 KINGS 5:1-3, 9-14 SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 14
 He went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him. [2 KINGS 5:14]

GOOD CONGEE

Jocelyn's bestselling dish at her food stall was her congee. She'd stir the rice porridge very carefully until it had a smooth consistency. So, she was startled when a regular customer said, "Your congee tastes different. The texture isn't as fine."
 Jocelyn's new assistant had prepared it this time and explained why it was different: "I didn't stir it as long as the recipe said since that's how I do it at home. I also added more sesame oil. In my opinion, it tastes better that way." She had decided to ignore the recipe and do it her way instead.
 This is how I sometimes respond to God's instructions. Instead of fully obeying His commands as given in Scripture, I subject them to my opinions and proceed my way.
 Naaman, the commander of the Syrian army, was on the verge of making a similar mistake. On receiving God's instruction through the prophet Elisha to wash himself in the Jordan so his leprosy would be healed, the proud soldier got angry. He had his own expectations for how his need ought to be addressed, believing his opinion was superior to God's command (2 KINGS 5:11-12). His servants, however, convinced him to listen to Elisha's words (v. 13). As a result, Naaman was healed.
 When we do things God's way, we experience a peace that's indescribable. Let's work with Him in fulfilling His purposes.
 KAREN HUANG
 How do you allow your opinions to compromise your obedience to God? How does this affect His work in your life?
 Dear God, please help me to obey You in full, for Your command far surpasses my opinion.

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Of mice and men and girlies and street fairs

Somewhere along the line, I seem to have garnered a reputation of not being a Street Fair fan. Not sure why, but each year, as August becomes September, a number of friends and others seem to enjoy reminding me of the upcoming invasion.

It might have had something to do with spending my week as a parking lot attendant as opposed to running a newspaper. Virtually every day found at least one miscreant that needed to get moved or towed. And Friday nights were a special challenge. My attitude might have been enhanced by having a row of carnival-workers' residential trailers next to our parking lot, in which we often found the prior night's remnants of used condoms and human feces. Other than that, fair week, I thought, was always a lot of fun.

However, in the years since I relinquished daily responsibilities for the N-B's operations, I've come to appreciate what Ted Ellis often told me (in a somewhat chiding manner): "If we didn't have the fair, we would be working hard to create something like it."

Yes, it has its attributes. Most notably, perhaps, its history. And local historian, columnist, nature-lover and good friend Alan Daugherty is the go-to guy in that regard. And he's not shy about reminding me of the annual inexorable arrival of his favorite week of the year.

"This is going to be an unusual Street Fair," he mentioned in his late-August email that contained his September Angelkeep columns. Part of the Street Fair tradition includes the official change from summer to fall, but in 2024, Alan shared, "Autumn will not begin until the last Merry goes round."

I replied, wondering how rare that might be. So of course, Alan took that as a challenge. A few days later, he sent images of a couple post cards promoting the 1900 three-day fair which also took place within the confines of calendar-summer. Not only was the fair held Sept. 18, 19 and 20 but autumn officially arrived later than normal that year on Sept. 23.

The promotional pieces are quite interesting, using a devilish, werewolf character and referring to Bluffton as "The Asphalt City": "We have the finest drives of any city its size in the world," it explained.

The Street Fair came up in Holly Gaskill's weekly news meeting last Thursday, during which I learned the Mouse Game would not make its annual appear-

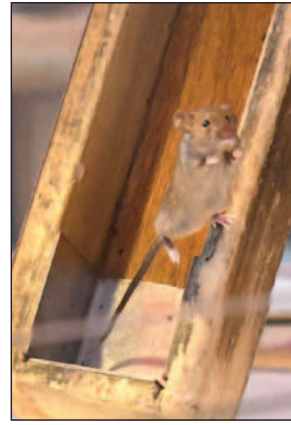
Saturday's Sub



Mark Miller



A post card promoting the 1900 Street Fair contains interesting art and wording; Alan Daugherty reports that devilish characters like the one on this portion of the reverse side were often used in fair badges and tokens. A swastika was used in a 1908 button; it represented good luck prior to its confiscation by the Nazis in the 1930s. At bottom left, Glen Werling snapped this portrait of a conscripted star of the Mouse Game in 2022. The "Burlesk" tent was at the corner of Walnut and Main Street opposite the courthouse. Rhoads Grocery store closed in 1967. A badge from the 1900 fair also contains interesting art.



Mouse Game photo from News-Banner archives. All other photos courtesy of Alan Daugherty.



ance this year. Not being a native, she didn't quite grasp the historical significance and wondered whether that was newsworthy. While I have described myself as "an Adams County refugee," I've been around long enough to realize that it is indeed big news.

While the game is an iconic piece of the annual offerings along Main and Market streets, I have long puzzled on the contradiction of a community that celebrates National Prayer Day on the courthouse steps also allows gambling there. Few people, I have found, have recognized that dichotomy. But, I know I have a strange mind.

"Interesting," Holly said when I explained it.

"Then you'd probably be even more amazed that the Street Fair featured a strip-tease tent for many years," I told her. She was.

Euphemistically called "the girlie show," former N-B co-worker Connie Edington has some tales to share — a boyfriend that once took her to a performance and the "city fathers" who, as part of their "official" duties in organizing the fair, scouted out shows in other com-

munities. They only wanted the best for Bluffton, I am sure. Daugherty, when quizzed, thinks the show made its final appearance in the mid-1960s.

It's probably a safe bet that a girlie show will not return to the Parlor City's pride and joy, but we understand the Mouse Game will be back next year. In keeping with my more enlightened demeanor to find the positives of the fair, I suggest we look at the Mouse Game as Bluffton's DEI program: We welcome the diversity, equity and inclusion the roulette game brings.

All of which makes the Street Fair a fun topic to explore. Especially when I am no longer on parking lot duty.

miller@news-banner.com

CORRECTION: Two weeks ago in this column, I questioned why the Wells County Council had to find a way to spend an excess of revenue realized by productive investments. Council president Seth Whicker shared that after determining the cost of refunding that \$800,000 negated the intent, the money is being placed in the county's "Rainy Day Fund" rather than being spent.

Kamala Harris won the debate, but maybe not the election

When I was in the polling business many years ago, our reports always started with the mood of the electorate, whether things were moving in the right direction or seriously off on the wrong track, then moved to two sections on character and issues.

Usually those sections were pretty balanced. We advised candidates on which character traits and issue stands worked for them and which did not. We suggested how they could emphasize their strengths and address or pivot away from their weaknesses.

However, there's not much need for such a balanced approach in this presidential election, or about the candidates' first and possibly only television debate, the one on ABC News on Sept. 10. With only minor exceptions, character traits work for Vice President Kamala Harris. And with only minor exceptions, issue stands work for former President Donald Trump.

So the obvious debate strategy for Trump would have been to hammer home his advantages on issues, starting with two issues on which voters give dismal grades to the Biden-Harris administration, then going on to the raft of issues on which Harris, in her previous campaign for president, took stands widely unpopular during this one.

From time to time, and succinctly in his closing statement, Trump did this. But he also went off on alarms and excursions, which, however entertaining for his rally audiences, seemed distracting or puzzling for the moveable voters whose votes he needs.

He took up valuable time, for example, trying to insist that no one has been leaving his rallies early. He cited Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, a controversial figure for those who follow these things and unknown to most others, as a supportive leader. He engaged in an extended debate over whether he really lost the 2020 election.

As Fox News' Brit Hume noted, Harris "baited him successfully, which is the story of the debate in my view." Such diversions point to character weaknesses: an unwillingness to focus, a preoccupation with personal slights, and a lack of discipline. In contrast, Harris was clearly well prepared and disciplined in reciting favorably worded phrases.

"We're not going back," Harris said at one point. "It's time to turn the page." That's absurd from one point of view. Nothing she said indicated that a Harris-Walz administration's policies would be much different from the Biden-Harris administration's. But her words do point to what a majority of voters have found troubling about Trump's character.

Harris benefited as well from the ABC moderators' erroneous fact-checking when they argued that no one favors ninth-month abortions, that the Springfield city manager must be a conclusive source of events there, and that violent crime rates declined sharply in 2021 and 2022.

But media partiality to Democrats is just one of several asymmetrical factors in politics. It's more enduring than the



Michael Barone

Republicans' Electoral College edge in 2016 and 2020, for Democrats had an edge there in 2004 and 2012. But a disciplined Republican candidate should expect media bias and should be prepared with brief and persuasive ripostes. Trump wasn't.

To their credit, the ABC moderators, after raising the Harris-favoring abortion issue early, then asked why she — actually, anonymous campaign staff tweeters — has renounced her 2019 presidential campaign promises to ban fracking, institute mandatory gun buybacks, and decriminalize illegal border crossings.

After perfunctorily repeated, obviously rehearsed lines about how she had sort of supported fracking, she segued into comparing her "middle-class" childhood to Trump's, citing her underwhelming proposals to increase homeownership, and mentioning a high school friend assaulted by a stepfather and her work "protecting seniors from scams." Not just a word salad but a whole buffet, with a dash of Tabasco to provoke her opponent.

CNN's instant poll on who won the debate has Harris ahead 63% to 37%. This is almost the exact opposite of the CNN count on the June 27 debate, which had Trump ahead of President Joe Biden 67% to 33%, and may hearten Harris backers.

But the result is in line with the average of polls taken immediately after the five presidential debates in September and October 2016 and 2020: Fifty-nine percent thought the Democrat won, as against 35% for Trump. So this debate response looks like those in years when Trump won the electoral vote by 77,736 popular votes in three states in 2016 and lost it by 42,918 popular votes in three states in 2020.

Pre-debate polling showed Harris ahead 48% to 47% in the RealClearPolitics average of recent polls and 49% to 47% in Nate Silver's Silver Bulletin. Silver was projecting her with a 50% to 49% popular vote edge in November but gave Trump a 61% chance of an Electoral College majority.

But any projections are contingent on events. Nate Cohn, proprietor of the highly rated New York Times/Siena College poll, which showed a pre-debate Trump lead of 48% to 47%, noted that 28% said "they needed to learn more" about Harris, as compared to only 9% about Trump. "More than anything, voters say they want to hear more about where she stands on the issues," Cohn wrote. "And a majority of voters say she's a 'risky' choice and 'more of the same' — hardly an enviable combination."

Did she resolve those qualms in her favor in the debate? Not in my view, but I'll give the final word to Silver. "Harris got the debate she wanted. If she isn't able to move the needle in the polls at least a little bit, maybe that means the country just isn't buying what she's selling."

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Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, Sept. 14, the 258th day of 2024. There are 108 days left in the year.

Today's highlight in history: On Sept. 14, 1901, President William McKinley died in Buffalo, New York, of gunshot wounds inflicted by an assassin eight days prior; Vice President Theodore Roosevelt succeeded him, becoming the youngest-ever U.S. president at age 42.

Also on this date:

In 1847, during the Mexican-American War, U.S. forces under Gen. Winfield Scott took control of Mexico City.

In 1861, the first naval engagement of the Civil War took place as the USS Colorado attacked and sank the Confederate private schooner Judah off the coast of Pensacola, Florida.

In 1927, modern dance pioneer Isadora Duncan died in Nice, France, when her scarf became entangled in a wheel of the sports car in which she was riding.

In 1982, Princess Grace of Monaco, formerly film star Grace Kelly, died at age 52 of injuries from a car crash the day before.

In 1991, the government of South Africa, the African National Congress and the Inkatha Freedom Party signed a national peace pact.

In 1994, on the 34th day of a strike by players, Acting Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig announced the 1994 season was over.

In 2001, Americans packed churches and public squares on a day of remembrance for the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks. President George W. Bush prayed with his Cabinet and attended services at Washington National Cathedral, then flew to New York, where he waded into the ruins of the World Trade Center and addressed rescue workers in a show of resolve.

In 2012, fury over an anti-Muslim film ridiculing the Prophet Muhammad sparked violent clashes across the Muslim world.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Walter Koenig ("Star Trek") is 88. Architect Renzo Piano is 87. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Larry Brown is 84. Actor Sam Neill is 77. Country singer John Berry is 65. Actor Melissa Leo is 64. Actor Faith Ford is 60. Film director Bong Joon-Ho is 55. Supreme Court justice Ketanji Brown Jackson is 54. Actor Kimberly Williams-Paisley is 53. Actor Andrew Lincoln is 51. Rapper Nas is 51. Olympic gold medal middle-distance runner Hicham El Guerrouj is 50. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis is 46. Chef/TV personality Katie Lee is 43. Actor Jessica Brown Findlay is 37. NBA All-Star Jimmy Butler is 35. Golfer Tony Finau is 35. Actor Emma Kenney is 25.

Submit your Letters to the Editor via: • Our website link (Submit your Letter) • E-Mail: email@news-banner.com • Mail: PO Box 436, Bluffton IN 46714 • Drop-off: 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton. All letters must be signed and must include a phone number or address in case verification is desired. Letters are edited for brevity and clarity. Letters must be no more than 500 words.

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(Independent Bible)
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9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

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blcssossian.org
9 a.m. - Divine Service. 10:15 - Adult Bible Class, Youth Bible Class & Sunday School. 11:30 - Voice of Bethlehem on 92.7 FM.

BLUFFTON CHURCH OF GOD
327 W. Cherry St.
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fbc-bluffton.com
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(Independent Holiness Church)
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blufftonwesleyan.net
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BOEHMER UNITED METHODIST
3467 S 600 W, Liberty Center
boehmerumc.org
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:45 - Sunday School.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN (EVANGELICAL)
123 S. Jefferson St., Ossian
www.OssianChurch.com
8:45 a.m. - Sunday school. 10 a.m. - Worship. 2 p.m. - Hymn sing & ice cream social.

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

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

Catholic leaders discuss family and fraternity during congress in Ecuador

By GABRIELA MOLINA
Associated Press

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — The world is wounded, Catholic leaders said Thursday in Ecuador. But an emphasis on supporting the family could be a path towards healing. Catholic leaders from more than 50 countries have discussed this and other topics in Quito, the Ecuadoran capital, during this year's International Eucharistic Congress, which will run through Sept. 15.

Thursday's agenda was focused on family and fraternity. Both topics were addressed by Pope Francis in a recorded message that was played during the opening ceremony last Sunday. "It's an essential condition for a new, fairer world," said Francis, who just opened the final leg of his tour through four countries.

"Today it is not possible to save ourselves on our own happy island and isolate," said Cardinal Mauro Gambetti, vicar general for the Vatican. "We need to walk together."

Rosalía Arteaga, former Ecuadoran vice president who attended the congress, said to The Associated Press that family is a "corner stone" for fraternity, "not from a patriarchal perspective," but because good relations between parents and children help in preserving society's values.

In Ecuador — where 80 percent of its 17 million people identify as Catholic — same-sex marriage was legalized in 2019. Abortion was decriminalized in cases of rape in 2022, though activists consider it insufficient and discriminatory, and keep pushing to widen sexual and reproductive rights.

During his remarks Thursday, Monsignor Graziano Boronovo, appointed by the pope as under-secretary of the Dicastery for Evangelization, said that families, as social institutions, are currently in "crisis" due to same-sex marriages and "other forms of coexistence."

"The family is the original nucleus," Boronovo said.

A Jesuit priest, Iván Lucero, said that the Catholic Church could look for new ways to support same-sex marriages and non-traditional families.

"The pope has a greater understanding and closeness to these couples, whose number is growing," Lucero said. "But at the same time, we must ensure that the traditional family is not lost or questioned."



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
2803 N. Main St.
jw.org
10 a.m. - Worship.

LANCASTER CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST
4510 E 400N, Craigville
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 9:40 - Fellowship. 10 a.m. - Worship.

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

LIBERTY CENTER COMMUNITY CHURCH
8:45 a.m. - Choir practice. 9 a.m. - Coffee, donuts, conversation. 9:30 - Worship w/infant nursery & children's church. 10:45 - Sunday School.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TURNPOINTE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
500 W. Logan, Markle
turnpointechurch.com
9:30 a.m. - Fellowship. 10 a.m. - Adult & Children's Worship.

UNIONDALE COMMUNITY CHURCH
5867 N. Main St.
9 a.m. - Worship.

UNIONTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST
11419 N-200W, Ossian
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

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

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

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

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

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Turnovers turn to points in Tigers' win over Warriors

By RYAN WALKER
 "That was a little crazy there to say the least," Bluffton head coach Brent Kunkel said.

His Tigers (4-0, 2-0 ACAC) got the 36-7 homecoming victory on its brand-new turf Friday night over the Woodlan Warriors (1-3, 0-2 ACAC), and a batch of unexplainable plays was on display.

It included three Warriors fumbles in the second half, desperately trying to hold on to its five-point lead at the break. But the Tigers scored on all three of those drives, whether it was one way or another.

Zane Betz started the festivities at center, where he snapped the ball on one on a two-snap count. Quarterback Axton Beste took the surprise and ran with it, avoiding a Warrior defender and scrambling through two more in a zig-zag toward the right side of the field. He was able to buy a second to step into his throw and find a wide-open Elijah Bertsch for a 32-yard Houdini-act.

It was a play that high school quarterbacks don't typically make, especially as a sophomore.

"This kid's special," Kunkel praised. "I keep saying it — it's not like we're coaching them on how to do those things. The kid is a special, special kid and makes a play, and finds Eli. Eli goes down and scores."

The ensuing kickoff from Abram Gehrett was a mix between an onside kick and a squib that was perfectly placed on the 30-yard sideline, and Marshall Gerber did a dolphin dive on it to recover it.

According to Kunkel, that was not planned. It ended up working anyway in the long run on yet another play call that Kunkel did not ask for.

Beste took the snap after the recovered onside kick, rolled to his right and threw a 10-yard weak fly ball into triple coverage. Woodlan defenders tipped the pass

many times that should have been a sure-thing interception but landed miraculously in the hands of Treyton Bustos, who then turned around and sprinted toward the end-zone for six.

"And then we call a run play, and Axton decided to throw it," Kunkel continued.

The Warriors would fumble for a third time in the second half, as the Tigers put the game away with two long drives ending in touchdowns for Cooper Craig, who filled in for the injured Khamel Moore. The first went for 13 yards and the second for one yard to cap off his 104-yard showing.

The turnovers aided Bluffton's 24-point half, as both teams chewed up all 24 minutes of the first half in a 12-7 Tigers' lead at halftime.

Again, it wasn't Kunkel's plan, but Bluffton and Woodlan shared just three possessions each in the first half. It was a ball carrier's delight, running the show and running the clock down along with it.

The Tigers scored twice on those three drives, and the Warriors once. Its third drive practically didn't count because Woodlan decided to take the ball to halftime with only a minute on the clock. Give credit to the Woodlan defense for the close match.

"It was one of those grind it out games, and we went in at the half, (and) felt fortunate to be up 12-7," Kunkel said. "We didn't really make any crazy adjustments, just talked to the guys about staying in the moment and coming out and executing."

In the end, it was Bluffton's defense with another terrific showing.

That defense has allowed 34 points (8.5 per game) on the season, led by returning all-ACAC linebacker Griffin Morgan. The bulky backer led the team with eight tackles (1.5 for loss) and recovered one of the fumbles. His right-hand man, Gabe Ball, started in

place for Jake Boots Friday and debuted with six tackles (1.5 for loss).

As a team, the Tigers have produced 38 tackles for loss and three sacks. That's a grand total of 148 yards in loss for opposing offenses. Six fumbles have also been recovered with five interceptions.

Bluffton's biggest issue was that it left six points on the board.

First-year sophomore kicker Abram Gehrett had his first kick blocked. Going for two points on the second touchdown drive, Bustos was hit as the ball got to him on a two-point conversion. The Tigers went on to miss the next four kicks, each looking better than the last, but not through the uprights. Kunkel is not worried and has all the faith in the world in his sophomore.

"I talked to (Gehrett) there at the end there, and I said, 'Hey, man, we're not changing. You're our guy. So just relax and have some confidence,'" Kunkel said.

Beste's 124 yards passing and 97 on the ground surpasses the 1,000 mark on the season combined. He has 1,005 total yards of offense in just his fourth start under center.

"I did say I'm very happy that No. 13 is on our team," Kunkel said.

Bluffton will take its 4-0 and 2-0 ACAC record back home next week to face Jay County (2-2, 1-1 ACAC).

ryan@news-banner.com

BLUFFTON 36, WOODLAN 7	
At Bluffton	
Score By Quarters	
Woodlan	0 7 0 0 — 7
Bluffton	6 6 12 12 — 36
Scoring Summary	
First Quarter	
B—Axton Beste 15-yard run (kick failed), 5:41.	
Second Quarter	
B—Beste 25-yard run (2-point failed), 8:27.	
W—Drew Fleek 5-yard run (Evan Koch kick), 5:05.	
Third Quarter	
B—Beste 32-yard pass to Elijah Bertsch (kick failed), 8:03.	
B—Beste 18-yard pass to Treyton Bustos (kick failed), 6:35.	
Fourth Quarter	
B—Cooper Craig 12-yard run (kick failed), 8:57.	

(Continued on Page 7)



Trey Bustos won the tip drill and breaks out of the pack for a touchdown in the third quarter against Woodlan Friday night at Fred F. Park Field. (Photos by Glen Werling)



Cooper Craig bowls his way through a phalanx of Woodlan defenders in the second quarter Friday night at Fred F. Park Field.



Norwell's Max Babcock (right) returns a punt with Belmont defenders chasing him down during the Northeast 8 cross county showdown. The Knights demolished the Braves to earn its first regular season and conference win of the season. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

Warriors' big plays too much for the Raiders

By ANDREW FEEBACK
 GASTON — The Southern Wells Raiders found big plays to be the bane of their existence in Friday night's 51-6 loss to the Wes-Del Warriors.

Five of Wes-Del's seven touchdowns came on plays of at least 40 yards, and it was another long night for the Raider defense.

Eli Wright did most of the damage for Wes-Del early on, with his 48-yard burst getting the home team on the board first. Minutes later, his 64-yard dash gave the Warriors a 12-0 lead.

On the opening play of the second quarter, with Wes-Del facing third and 13, the Warriors ran the same play that led to Wright's previous touchdown, and this time he took it 82 yards for another score.

Southern Wells did itself no favors offensively in the first half with five straight possessions lasting less than two minutes.

The Raiders did put together a nice drive in which quarterback Trey Slusher com-

pleted four passes for double-digit gains, the last of which went to Bryson Williams for a 10-yard score, but the game got away from the Raiders very quickly after that.

Mason Davis found an opening and raced 58 yards for a touchdown, then Grayson Mealy scored from 87 yards on a third down play.

Wes-Del threw just one pass the entire game, a flea-flicker from receiver Carter Flynn to Tyler Summers for a 40-yard pickup. Owen Long's touchdown run on the next play gave Wes-Del a 43-6 lead at halftime.

Southern Wells reached the red zone on its final first-half possession, but Slusher's pass was intercepted near the goal line.

The only scoring play of the second half was a 37-yard run from Wes-Del's Rhyker Mauck.

The Raiders finished with negative rushing yards once again, with 17 carries resulting in minus-23 yards.

The Warriors, on the flip side, finished

(Continued on Page 7)

Norwell thumps Belmont, earns first win of the season

By RICK SPRUNGER

DECATUR — It was a happy bunch of Norwell Knights that came off the field with their first victory of the season Friday night.

The Knights made the short trip to Decatur and cruised to a 55-0 walk in the park over a hapless and beleaguered Belmont outfit. Norwell blitzed the Braves for a 49-0 halftime lead and finished out with a running clock in the second half.

"We'll never apologize for a win," said Josh Gerber after the game even though the victory was over a Belmont team that was losing for the 26th straight time over portions of four seasons and for the 53rd time in 54 games.

The Knights got the job done with two big-play touchdown passes on consecutive snaps of the football, a blocked punt at the Belmont 12-yard line that set up a third score, and two defensive scores in four plays late in the first half.

"We took what they gave us," said Gerber of the two big pass plays. "We didn't think their athletes could cover ours on the edge, so we decided to throw the ball vertically until they changed their defense."

The first one came late in the first quarter with Norwell already leading, 6-0.

Following a 14-yard touchdown run by Adam Mahnensmith and a Belmont three-and-out, Norwell took over at its own 49. Quarterback Cayden Cassel immediately went to the air and found Garry Riley for 51 yards.

Riley had to come back to get the football and then zipped right past his defender, who had fallen down.

Then, after four plays and another Belmont punt, Cassel went right back up top from his own 25 and went to a wide-open Max Babcock, who caught the ball just past midfield and then turned on

the jets to pull away from his defender.

Counting Mahnensmith's run, that made it three Norwell touchdowns in three successive snaps and gave the Knights a 21-0 lead after one quarter.

The Knights were just getting warmed up. But in the second quarter, it was the defense that came up big.

On the third play of the period, Trey Privett raced through the Belmont line untouched, blocked a punt, and smothered the ball at the 12. Two Mahnensmith runs later, and Norwell was up, 28-0.

The defense shone again on two plays late in the first half.

Brady Smith picked off a Cole Easton pass at the Belmont 17 and ran it in for one touchdown.

Then, just three plays later, Privett scooped up a fumble at the Belmont 35 and chugged down the right sideline for the score that made it 49-0.

The fumble in question was the subject of some controversy, as the drop came almost immediately after Belmont receiver Jason Lykins was hit.

"Actually, we thought it was an incomplete pass," said Gerber of the play that happened almost immediately in front of him. "Both of the officials on our side of the field, though, said they thought it was a catch and fumble. But in that kind of a game situation (with the score already 42-0), I probably would have called it an incomplete pass."

There was no whistle, however, and Privett played it through to the end and scored six more Norwell points.

In between the blocked punt and the two defensive scores, there was a more conventional Norwell touchdown.

Ben Peterson's one-yard push broke the plane

and capped an eight-play, 51-yard drive that saw one fourth-down conversion and consecutive carries by Drew Graft for 19 yards and Peterson for 14 that put the ball at the 1.

Norwell's statistical advantage of a mere 241 yards to Belmont's 116 in total first-half offense belied the Knights' dominance on the scoreboard.

But much of that was due to the extremely short field after the blocked punt and the two defensive scores.

Norwell added 48 more yards in total offense to Belmont's 13 in the second half, which was played entirely with a running clock.

The Knights will return to action next week when they play host to New Haven.

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NORWELL 55, BELLMONT 0		
at Belmont		
Norwell	21 28 0 6 — 55	
Bellmont	0 0 0 0 — 0	
First Quarter		
N—Adam Mahnensmith 14 run (kick failed), 5:18.		
N—Garry Riley 51 pass from Cayden Cassel (Drew Graft kick), 2:59.		
N—Max Babcock 75 pass from Cassel (Babcock run), 0:47.		
Second Quarter		
N—Mahnensmith 3 run (Graft kick), 10:55.		
N—Ben Peterson 1 run (Graft kick), 3:42.		
N—Brady Smith 17 interception return (Graft kick), 3:15.		
N—Trey Privett 35 fumble return (Graft kick), 2:04.		
Third Quarter		
No scoring.		
Fourth Quarter		
N—Kaidyn Inostroza 4 run (kick failed), 8:22.		
Team Statistics		
First Downs	NOR 15	BELL 5
Rushes-Yards	34-148	26-52
Passing Yards	141	67
Passing (C-A-I)	3-4-0	7-17-1
Punts-Average	3-47.0	7-29.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	4-30	3-20
Time of Possession	23:30	24:30
Individual Statistics		
Rushing: Norwell: Kaidyn Inostroza 8-19, Ben Peterson 1-34, Adam Mahnensmith 4-26, E.J. Morgan 4-7, Lincoln Moyer 3-18, Drew Graft 2-48, Garry Riley 2-10, Cayden Cassel 2-(11), Cooper Bunn 1-(3); Belmont: Jason Lykins 10-41, Trenton Jackson 7-21, Logan Resendez 3-(1), Easton Curtis 3-(7), Oliver Werling 2-0, Daniel Selking 1-8.		
Passing: Norwell-Cayden Cassel 3-4-0 141; Belmont-Easton Curtis 6-14-1 31, Daniel Selking 1-3-0 36.		
Receiving: Norwell-Max Babcock 1-75, Garry Riley 1-51, Drew Graft 1-15; Belmont-Will Franze 4-51, Jason Lykins 2-13, Oliver Werling 1-3.		

Bluffton Tigers

(Continued from Page 6) B—Craig 1-yard run (kick failed), 5:52.

Team Statistics table showing BLU and WL stats for First Downs, Rushes-Yards, etc.

Individual Statistics table for Bluffton Tigers showing Yards Passing, Penalties-Yards, etc.

5-17. Shaiden Snyder 4-6. Ashton Jacquay 2-5, Ty Louden 7-3. Bluffton: Cooper Craig 20-104, Axton Beste 15-97, Parker Barnes 4-22.

Passing: Woodlan: Ty Louden 1-3-0-34. Bluffton: Axton Beste 10-11-0-124. Receiving: Woodlan: Carter Fleek 1-34. Bluffton: A.J. Strevler 5-59, Elijah Bertsch 2-37, Treyton Bustos 3-28.

Southern Wells Raiders

(Continued from Page 6) with a staggering 505 yards on 30 attempts.

Southern Wells will travel to Woodlan next Friday night.

WES-DEL 51, SOUTHERN WELLS 6. At Wes-Del Score By Quarters table.

Wes-Del 12 31 0 8 — 51. Scoring Summary: First Quarter: WD—Eli Wright 48 run (run failed), 7:10.

Team Statistics table for Southern Wells Raiders showing SW and WD stats.

Rushing: Southern Wells, Trey Slusher 10-(minus 23), Levi Blake 6-(minus 2), Lyric Maddox 1-2. Wes-Del, Mason Davis 2-64, Owen Long 5-4, Brock Nauman 6-21, Grayson Mealy 4-104, Eli Wright 4-204, Carter Flynn 1-(minus 3), Zach Gillam 1-3, Colton Stanley 4-59, Rhyker Mauck 4-50.

High School Calendar

SATURDAY, SEPT. 14 BOYS TENNIS: Bluffton at Madison Grant Invitational, 9 a.m. CROSS COUNTRY (co-ed): Bluffton, Norwell, Southern Wells at Wildcat Invitational, 9 a.m.

7:30 p.m. TUESDAY, SEPT. 17 BOYS TENNIS: New Haven at Norwell, 5 p.m. GIRLS GOLF: Jay County at Southern Wells, 4:30 p.m.

GIRLS GOLF: Bluffton at Woodlan, 4:30 p.m. GIRLS SOCCER: Norwell at South Adams, 5 p.m. VOLLEYBALL: Bluffton at Southern Wells, 7 p.m.; Norwell at Leo, 7 p.m.

News-Banner Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

High School Friday's Scores: Adams Central 39, Jay Co. 8, Andean 28, Munster 0.

Indy Brebeuf 69, Guerin Catholic 62, Jasper 41, Evansville Bosse 0, Jeffersonville 30, Lou, Fern Creek, Ky, 27.

W. Noble 35, Angola 10, Warren Central 35, Lawrence Central 0, Warsaw 56, Wawasee 6.

Kansas City 8, Pittsburg 3, Tampa Bay 3, Cleveland 1, N.Y. Yankees 5, Boston 4.

South 14: Bluffton 36, Woodlan 7, Boomville 35, N. Knox 6.

Lafayette Harrison 51, Richmond 14, Lafayette Jeff 43, Muncie Central 14.

College NCAA Football Scores EAST: Carson-Newman 56, W. Virginia St. 25.

Kansas City 8, Pittsburg 3, Tampa Bay 3, Cleveland 1, N.Y. Yankees 5, Boston 4.

North 12: Fairfield 48, Culver Academy 33, Fishers 37, Hamilton Southeastern 35.

Madison-Grant 48, Oak Hill 24, Martinsville 39, Decatur Central 38.

NFL Thursday, Sept. 12: Buffalo 31, Miami 10, Sunday, Sept. 15.

Oakland (Ginn 0-1) at Chicago White Sox (Flexen 2-14), 7:10 p.m.

South 14: Garrett 41, Lakeland (IN) 27, Greenfield 28, Pendleton Hts. 14.

Madison-Grant 48, Oak Hill 24, Martinsville 39, Decatur Central 38.

NBA WNBA Thursday's Games: New York 99, Dallas 67.

Atlanta (Sale 16-3), 7:20 p.m. Chicago Cubs (Taillon 10-8) at Colorado (Freeland 5-7), 8:10 p.m.

North 12: Hanover Central 48, Lowell 21, Heritage 38, S. Adams 22.

Madison-Grant 48, Oak Hill 24, Martinsville 39, Decatur Central 38.

Baseball MLB American League Thursday's Games: Colorado 4, Detroit 2.

Atlanta (Sale 16-3), 7:20 p.m. Chicago Cubs (Taillon 10-8) at Colorado (Freeland 5-7), 8:10 p.m.

North 12: Heritage Hills 48, S. Spencer 0, Hobart 41, Kankakee Valley 23.

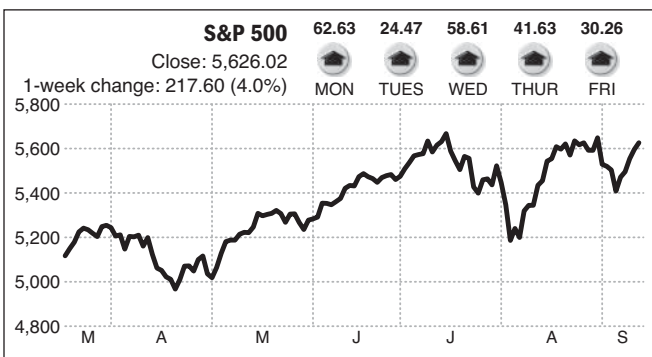
Madison-Grant 48, Oak Hill 24, Martinsville 39, Decatur Central 38.

Baseball MLB American League Thursday's Games: Colorado 4, Detroit 2.

Atlanta (Sale 16-3), 7:20 p.m. Chicago Cubs (Taillon 10-8) at Colorado (Freeland 5-7), 8:10 p.m.

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

WEEKLY DOW JONES AND S&P 500



STOCK MARKET INDEXES

Table of Stock Market Indexes including Dow Jones Industrials, Dow Jones Transportation, NYSE Composite, etc.

STOCK EXCHANGE HIGHLIGHTS

Table of NYSE GAINERS, LOSERS, and ACTIVES, and NASDAQ GAINERS, LOSERS, and ACTIVES.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table of Stocks of Local Interest with columns for Name, Div, Last, Wk Chg, etc.

MONEY RATES

Table of Money Rates showing Prime Rate, Discount Rate, etc.

CURRENCIES

Table of Currencies showing Australia, Britain, Mexico, etc.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of Mutual Funds listing Name, Total Assets, NAV, Total Return, etc.

Advertisement for STEFFEN AUCTION featuring vehicles, tools, and tractors. Includes contact information and auction dates.

Advertisement for ALLEN COUNTY, IN Real Estate Auction. Features 48+ acres of land and a ranch home. Includes location details and contact info.

Stock Footnotes: g = Dividends and earnings in Canadian dollars. h = Does not meet continued-listing standards. If = Late filing with SEC. n = New in past 52 weeks. pf = Preferred. rs = Stock has undergone a reverse stock split of at least 50 percent within the past year.

Jealousy is a red flag

Dear Annie: I am a woman in my mid-30s, and my wife is in her early 40s. We met a little less than two years ago and haven't left each other's side since. We got married about a year ago. Needless to say, we both fell fast and hard for each other. When I met her, my whole world changed, and I look at the world in a completely different way. She makes me want to be a better person altogether. But we have a problem. My wife already had trust issues from a previous relationship in which she was betrayed. Well, several months ago, I broke her trust by talking to my ex on the phone. It was an innocent conversation, but I knew that it would upset my wife. I felt terrible and immediately admitted what I'd done, admitted that it was wrong and promised that it wouldn't ever happen again.

Fast-forward four months, and nothing seems to be enough for my wife. She continues to throw it in my face. Every time my phone makes a noise, she wants to look at it. There's not a day that goes by that she doesn't make a smart-aleck remark about my talking to my ex on the phone. I am truly lost because I love this woman more than life itself and have never been happier. But I can't continue to allow her to say the mean and hurtful things she's been saying, and I can't take the distance between us, and I can't take any more of the barrages of questions. I love her and don't want to ever face life without her, but the cruelty is breaking me down quickly. I don't know what to do anymore. — Heartbroken Wife

Dear Heartbroken: Jealous, controlling behavior is not the stuff of a healthy relationship, and it can veer into emotionally abusive territory. Your wife's past relationship issues don't give her license to treat you poorly. You love her and want her in your life — but she needs to seek individual counseling and/or to attend couples counseling with you so that you can both have a shot at

a healthy, sustainable life together built on trust.

Dear Annie: So many of your letters come from disgruntled people who feel alienated by other people's text messages. I think it is important to realize that when you read a text message, you do not hear the inflection of the person's voice. The sender's words can come across totally differently to the person reading it. A simple phone call following up a text might solve many misunderstandings. — Wiser in North Carolina

Dear Wiser: Wise words indeed. I know many people who have ended up in huge arguments over misunderstandings that arose over text message. Reserve texts for light chitchat, words of encouragement and basic logistics only. Anything other than that deserves a phone call.

Dear Annie: You recently told "At Our Wit's End," a couple whose adult child was struggling with alcoholism, to attend an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting. You should have told them to attend a meeting of Al-Anon, the organization for family and friends of alcoholics. I hope you will publish a correction. — Grateful Al-Anon Member

Dear Grateful: I regret the error. That was indeed due to a mix-up. Thanks for setting the record straight.

"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" features favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation. It is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit <http://www.creatorspublishing.com> for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

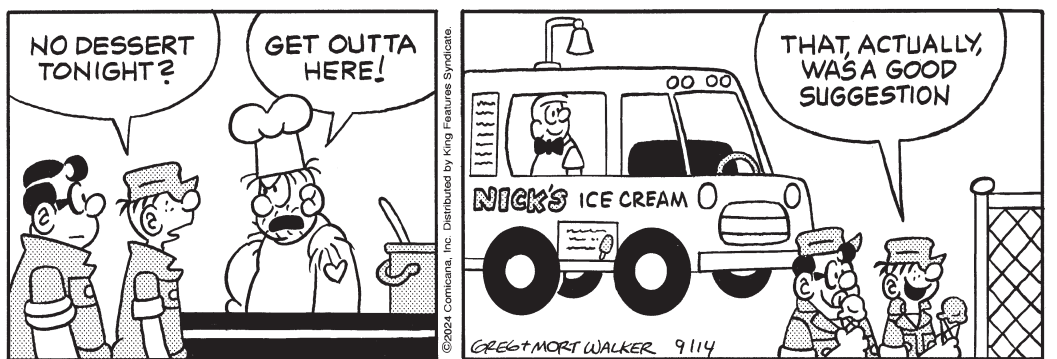
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Dear Annie

by Annie Lane



BEEBLE BAILEY



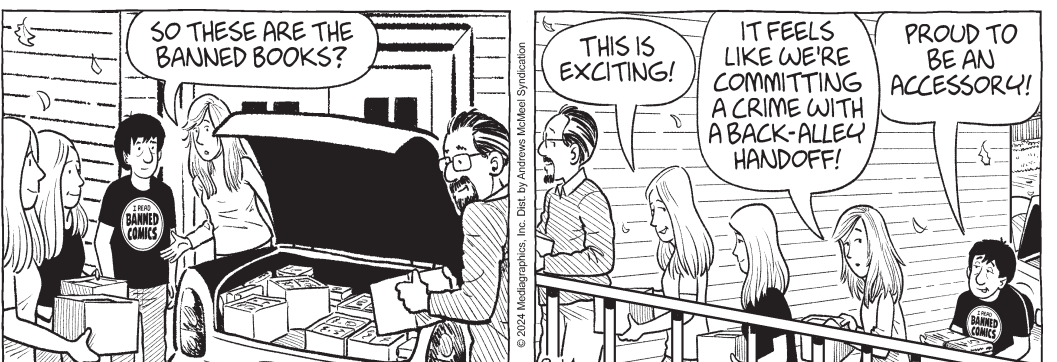
BLONDIE



ZITS

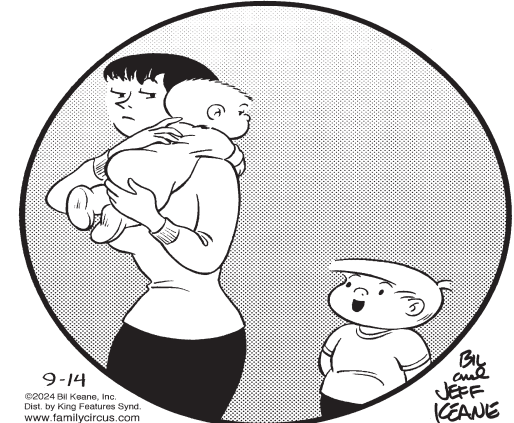


CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



Scripture does not promise an earthly glimpse into Heaven

Question: I heard a preacher caution people to be careful about believing stories of people going to Heaven or Hell and coming back to tell about it. Is there some element of truth in these accounts or are they outright lies? — I.D.

Answer: There have been many accounts written about people dying and coming back to life and telling about Heaven. There was much excitement, curiosity, and confusion. Someone said, "No one has ever come back from the grave to speak of Heaven."

This is true with one exception: His name is Jesus Christ. He left His glorious home in Heaven with God the Father and came to Earth for one

purpose. To demonstrate His magnificent love for mankind, He laid aside His glory and came as a humble baby. He lived 33 years and walked on Earth to give us the hope of Heaven and the assurance of Heaven and said, "In my Father's house are many rooms. ... I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2, ESV).

Then Jesus died, but He stayed in the grave only three days and was risen to new life.

Jesus is going to once again descend from Heaven and come again and take out of this world those who have received His message and repented of sin. He said, "I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also"

(John 14:3, ESV). This is a glorious promise and one that every person can rely on if they belong wholly to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Scripture does not promise an earthly glimpse into Heaven. The most important thing for us is to know Christ while we still live; otherwise, we will only know Him as Judge in death. Seek Christ and He will meet you in your need. "Come to Me ... and I will give you my rest" Matthew 11:28, NKJV).

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

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09/14	M	A	D1	D2	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM	12:30
WINM (12)	11	26	63		Music Moments	Let's Take It Outside	A Fishing Story	Life's Highway	Twin Factor	Off the Co	Divine	Sue Thomas F.B.E. "The Sniper"	Foundation	Huckabee			Dr. Phil		The News on Merit Street	
CBS WANE (18)	2	15	15		College Football	College Football	College Football	College Football	College Football	College Football	College Football	College Football	College Football	College Football	Nightcast (1:35) IN Focus (N)		(1:35) IN Focus (N)		(1:35) The Equalizer "Boom"	
Antenna WANE-2 (152)	106	20			Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Plastic"	Law & Order: SVU "Dear Ben"	NWSL-Pre (N)	NWSL-Pre (N)	NWSL-Pre (N)	NWSL Soccer Angel City FC at Racing Louisville FC	NWSL-Show (N)	NWSL-Show (N)	NWSL Soccer San Diego Wave FC at Utah Royals FC	Wave FC at Utah Royals FC	ABC21 (N)	Invest. (P)	Seinfeld	Modern Family		
ABC WPTA (21)	4	3	21	21	College Football	College Football	College Football	College Football	College Football	College Football	College Football	College Football	College Football	College Football	ABC21 (N)	Invest. (P)	Seinfeld	Modern Family		
NBC WPTA-2 (212)	7	8	14		2024 Solheim Cup	News (N)	NBC News (N)	Big Ten (N)	College Football	College Football	College Football	College Football	College Football	College Football	News (N)	Saturday Night Live "Kristen Wiig; Raye"				
MNT WPTA-3 (213)	10	9	56	34	World Chase Tag	Chicago Fire "Sharp Elbows"	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	9-1-1 "Careful What You Wish For"	The Rookie "Breaking Point"				Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Murdoch Mysteries "Clean Hands"	Law & Order: SVU "Short Circuit 2" (188) Fisher Stevens.		
CW WISE (38)	8	4	33	33	LIV Golf League	Friends	College Football	College Football	College Football	College Football	College Football	College Football	College Football	College Football	Friends	Friends	TMZ (N)			
PBS WFWA (38)	13	5	39	39	Sherlock "The Abominable Bride"	Revival 69: The Concert That Rocked the World (2022, Documentary)				Doc Martin "Return to Sender"	Keep-As Time Goes By				Mr. Bean	Songs at the Center	Austin City Limits "St. Vincent, Joy Oladokun"			
PBS WFP (48)	3				American Masters "Woodshop"	Weekend Update	WoodSongs	WoodSongs	WoodSongs	Major Taylor: Champion of the Race	A Reason to Live				My Music With	Austin City Limits "St. Vincent, Joy Oladokun"	NOVA "Eagle Power"			
FOX WFTT (55)	6	5	55		College Football	College Football	College Football	College Football	College Football	College Football	College Football	College Football	College Football	College Football	News at 10 (N)	The Quiz With Balls "Sister Act"	Entertainers			

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Springy dance

4 Men-only

8 Experts

12 French pal

13 Garage job

14 Barbie, e.g.

15 Dallas hoopster, briefly

16 "Swan Song" author

17 Jacob's brother

18 Up-staging on stage

21 Ecol. watchdog

22 Caviar

23 Flamboyant

26 Up to

27 Lawyers' gp.

30 Help a crook

31 Lobbying gp.

32 Dutch cheese

33 Group of seals

DOWN

1 Toast toppings

2 Apple variety

3 Donate

4 Somnolent

5 Oklahoma city

6 Slightly

7 Not brand-name

8 "Skyfall" singer

9 Mozart's "— fan

10 Flour

11 Plain

19 Sala-mander

20 "You've got mail" co.

23 Maple tree

24 "Veep" ailer

25 British ref. work

26 Make lace

27 Ruckus

28 "Humbug!"

29 "I — Rock"

31 Sicily's capital

32 Israeli carrier

34 Barn bird

35 Tennis great

36 Home

37 Allow entry

38 Columnist

39 Sweet sandwich

40 Employs

41 Campus digs

42 Notion

43 Cloister residents

44 Nerd's kin

Solution time: 26 mins.

MOD DCL RANDO
 ABE ARA UMBER
 LAB TABLESALT
 EMU AVAILD
 SATS ART RIPE
 CAT EDISON
 PIVOT OGLEED
 ECHOES GNU
 PEST UFO PADS
 SPRAT LEE
 ONIONSALT OLE
 MOCHA TIONOD
 GRUMP SEP ESS

Yesterday's answer 9-14

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13					14			
15			16					17			
18			19			20					
23	24	25			26			27	28	29	
30					31			32			
33					34			35			
36								37			
38	39	40					41		42	43	44
45							46			47	
48							49			50	
51							52			53	



Ossian Days princes and princesses

Contestants for the Ossian Days Prince and Princess Contest, pictured above, dressed up to the fair's theme, "Transportation: The Past, Present and Future." The young royals answered questions in front of the audience and one-on-one in front of the judges. The event also raises money for Norwell Dollars for Scholars.

Two contestants chose to represent the Wild West and their trusty steeds as for transportation — Bev Grzych interviews Denver Wikel, at left, and Nora Yoquelet, below left. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)

Public Notice

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Circuit Court of Wells County, Indiana, in Cause No. 90C01-2211-MF-000038 wherein Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Soundview Home Loan Trust 2006-WF1, Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-WF1 was Plaintiff, and Donald G. Huss; Vicky L. Huss were Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 9 day of October, 2024, at the hour of 1:00 PM or as soon thereafter as is possible, at Courthouse 102 W. Market St., 1st Fl. Bluffton, IN 46714, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Wells County, Indiana.

Part of the Northwest Quarter of Section 17, Township 26 North, Range 12 East, Harrison Township, Wells County, Indiana, described as follows: Starting at the Northwest corner of said Northwest Quarter found per record witness; thence Easterly, 200.00 feet along the North line of said Northwest Quarter to the place of beginning; thence continuing Easterly, 322.00 feet along said North line; thence Southerly, deflecting right 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds, 270.56 feet; thence Westerly, deflecting right 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds, 322.00 feet parallel with the North line of said Northwest Quarter; thence Northerly, deflecting right 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds, 270.56 feet to the place of beginning. Containing 2.00 acres, more or less.

More commonly known as: 1086 East 200 South, Bluffton, IN 46714

State Parcel No.: 90-08-17-200-006.000-003
Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws.

Plaintiff Attorney
ATTORNEY NO. 15-22-01486
Codilis Law, LLC
8050 Cleveland Place
Merrillville, IN 46410
(219) 736-5579
Scott Holliday,
Sheriff of Wells County
HARRISON TOWNSHIP
1086 East 200 South,
Bluffton, IN 46714
Street Address
The Sheriff's Department
does not warrant the
accuracy of the street
address published herein.

NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector.

nb 9/7, 9/14, 9/21
hspaxlp

Congo court sentences 3 Americans, 34 others to death on coup charges

KINSHASA, Congo (AP) — A military court in Congo handed down death sentences Friday to 37 people, including three Americans, after convicting them on charges of participating in a coup attempt.

The defendants, most of them Congolese but also including a Briton, Belgian and Canadian, have five days to appeal the verdict on charges that include attempted coup, terrorism and criminal association. Fourteen people were acquitted in the trial, which opened in June.

The open-air military court in the capital, Kinshasa, convicted the 37 defendants and imposed "the harshest penalty, that of death" in the verdict delivered in French by presiding judge Maj. Freddy Ehuma. The three Americans, wearing blue and yellow prison clothes and sitting in plastic chairs, appeared stoic as a translator explained their sentence.

Richard Bondo, the lawyer who defended the six foreigners, disputed whether the death penalty could be imposed in Congo, despite its reinstatement earlier this year, and said his clients had inadequate interpreters during the investigation of the case. "We will challenge this decision on appeal," Bondo said.

Six people were killed during the botched coup attempt led by the little-known opposition figure Christian Malanga in May that targeted the presidential palace and a close ally of President Felix Tshisekedi. Malanga was fatally shot while resisting arrest soon after live-streaming the attack on his social media,

the Congolese army said.

Malanga's 21-year-old son Marcel Malanga, who is a U.S. citizen, and two other Americans were convicted in the coup attempt. He told the court that his father had forced him and his high school friend to take part in the attack. "Dad had threatened to kill us if we did not follow his orders," Marcel Malanga said.

Other members of the ragtag militia recounted similar threats from the elder Malanga, and some described being duped into believing they were working for a volunteer organization.

Marcel's mother, Brittney Sawyer, maintains that her son is innocent and was simply following his father, who considered himself president of a shadow government in exile. In the months since her son's arrest, Sawyer has focused her energy on fundraising to send him money for food, hygiene products and a bed. He has been sleeping on the floor of his cell at the Ndolo military prison and is suffering from a liver disease, she said.

The other Americans are Tyler Thompson Jr., 21, who flew to Africa from Utah with the younger Malanga for what his family believed was a free vacation, and Benjamin Reuben Zalman-Polun, 36, who is reported to have known Christian Malanga through a gold mining company. The company was set up in Mozambique in 2022, according to an official journal published by Mozambique's government, and a report by the Africa Intelligence newsletter.

'No evidence' Hawaii officials prepared for wildfire despite warnings

HONOLULU (AP) — Investigators reviewing the emergency response to last year's wildfire that killed 102 people on Maui said in a report released Friday they found "no evidence" Hawaii officials made preparations for it, despite days of warnings that critical fire weather was coming.

That lack of planning hindered efforts to evacuate the historic town of Lahaina before it burned, the report said.

A forecaster with the National Weather Service emailed fire managers an "unprecedented advance warning" on Aug. 4, 2023, of the danger that would develop on Aug. 8, including extreme winds as a hurricane passed far to the south, according to the report released by the state attorney general.

But in the ensuing days, the report found, there is no evidence that key agencies — the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, Maui Fire Department, Maui Police and others — developed plans for dealing with severe wildfire risk, such as by having extra staff on duty, stationing emergency vehicles or supplies in high-risk areas, or plotting possible evacuations.

"The strongly worded nature of the email, had it been communicated to fire managers in other states with better developed severity preparedness strategies, could have gained attention and prompted discussion and operational planning," the report said. "It was a call for State of Hawaii fire managers to prepare for the impending extreme weather."

The heroic efforts of firefighters and police — who risked their lives sprinting door to door to warn residents to leave — were undercut by the lack of planning as the deadliest U.S. wildfire in a century destroyed thousands of buildings.

Wednesday September 18th **BLUFFTON STREET FAIR** CAR SHOW SHIRT FOR PRE-REGISTERED ENTRIES

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BLUFFTON, INDIANA

\$10.00 REGISTRATION FEE **AWARDS AT 5:30 PM**
REGISTRATION START AT NOON **CRUISE PARADE AT 6:00 PM**

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2024 BLUFFTON Street Fair

Sept 17-21 "Passport to Fun"

BRACELET PRICES 2024

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
Sept. 17, 18 & 19

\$25 - Unlimited Rides (5p.m. — Close)
FRIDAY: \$18 - Unlimited Rides 1 — 7pm
SATURDAY: \$18 - Unlimited Rides 11am — 5pm
\$30 - Unlimited Rides 5pm — Close

TICKETS:
\$1⁵⁰ ea. or 20/\$25
Kiddie Rides take 2 tickets,
all others take 3 or 4 tickets
*Subject to Change

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