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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

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## BHMSD approves \$1.1 million bond

**By HOLLY GASKILL**  
Bluffton-Harrison schools will pursue several capital projects and improvements in 2025 through a \$1.1 million bond.

The board of trustees for Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan Schools approved issuing the bond 5-0 Monday evening, following a second public hearing. No one from the public spoke at either public hearing.

The district identified three main improvement projects — the

elementary playground, middle school upper gymnasium floor, and high school parking lot — as well as other unnamed deferred maintenance items.

Jim Elizondo of Stifel Public Finance stated that the district's current debt service rate (\$0.4879) was anticipated to decrease in 2025 due to increased assessed value within the district. Subsequently, he did not expect the bond amount to raise the rate.

The district can expect the debt

service rate to fall in 2026 and in the several years following — if left untouched — due to expiring debt.

Superintendent Brad Yates later discussed the district's ongoing construction projects at all three schools. Firstly, the elementary's safety village is nearly complete and is slated for a ribbon cutting on Sept. 27. The project includes mock buildings and roadways for students to practice traffic safety skills.

Meanwhile, the middle school is repairing the pool after equipment failed during a power outage this summer, flooding the basement and mechanical room. Yates said the new boiler has been installed and they're currently installing the base-mounted pumps, but waiting for additional parts to arrive. The project is expected to be done by the middle of October.

At Bluffton High School, the track replacement has been

delayed but is almost finished. The school has also added a designated "Future Tigers Field," a lined field across from the home stands, for children to play during the game while being in sight of their parents. The area is also monitored by school staff. The high school's project to address roof leaks and moisture issues is also on target for completion in November or December.

The board later approved a  
(Continued on Page 2)



### Let the games begin

Rides and vendors took over the downtown Bluffton streets Monday in preparation for the Bluffton Free Street Fair. Vendors will open 3 p.m. on Tuesday and the opening parade begins at 7 p.m. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)



## Fifth person is sentenced from Wells County predator catcher stings

**By SYDNEY KENT**  
A man who attempted to solicit a 14-year-old at Kroger will spend three years in prison.

Thomas Garand Johnson, 36, was sentenced to five years at the Indiana Department of Correction with two years suspended.

With 101 days of jail credit towards his sentence and good time credit while in prison, Johnson will be released in less than two years.

In June, Johnson was charged with one count of child solicitation, a Level 4 felony. According to a probable cause affidavit, Johnson reportedly drove from Fort Wayne to Kroger in Bluffton to meet who he believed to be a 14-year-old boy. Instead, Johnson was met by a decoy from Predator Catchers Indianapolis.

A group member explained that the confrontation with Johnson was not recorded,

unlike almost all other cases, because he was quickly attempting to leave the property.

Johnson pled guilty to the charges only two months later.

The group has become known in Wells County and surrounding areas in the state. Johnson was the 14th suspect to be arrested through decoy-sting arrangements.

Patrick Langland, Ronald Comer, Austin Travis Wayne Phillips and Jill Sweeney received the same charge: a Level 4 felony for child solicitation. All four suspects were sentenced to six years in prison with three years suspended.

Johnson was the second subject recommended for participation in the Sex Offender Management and Monitoring program while incarcerated. Ten additional cases are still pending.

sydney@news-banner.com

## U.S. airs frustration with Israel's military Gaza strikes

**By EDITH M. LEDERER**  
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations on Monday accused Israel's military of striking schools, humanitarian workers and civilians in Gaza in a sign of growing American frustration with its close ally as the war approaches its first anniversary.

Israel has repeatedly said it targets Hamas militants, who often hide with civilians and use them as human shields, in retaliation for the Oct. 7 attacks in southern Israel that killed about 1,200 people and launched the war in Gaza.

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield was unusually outspoken against the Israeli military at a U.N. Security Council meeting, saying many of the strikes in recent weeks that injured or killed U.N. personnel and humanitarian workers "were preventable."

Many council members cited last week's Israeli strike on a former school turned civilian shelter run by the U.N. agency helping Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, in which six UNRWA staffers were among at least 18 people killed, including women and children.

Israel said it targeted a Hamas command-and-control center in the compound, and Israel's U.N. ambassador, Danny Danon, asserted Monday that Hamas militants were killed in the strike. He named four, claiming to the council that they worked for UNRWA during the day and Hamas at night.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

has called for an independent investigation. Thomas-Greenfield told council members that the U.S. will keep raising the need for Israel to facilitate humanitarian operations in the Palestinian territory and protect humanitarian workers and facilities like the UNRWA shelter.

She also reiterated U.S. "outrage" at the death of Turkish American activist Aysenur Eygi, who was shot and killed during a protest in the West Bank last week. Israeli Defense Forces said it likely killed Eygi by mistake, and the government has begun a criminal investigation.

"The IDF is a professional military and knows well how to ensure that incidents such as these do not happen," the U.S. envoy said.

Thomas-Greenfield said the United States expects Israeli military leaders to implement "fundamental changes" in their operations — including to their rules of engagement and procedures to ensure that military operations do not conflict with humanitarian activities and do not target schools and other civilian facilities.

"We have also been unequivocal in communicating to Israel that there is no basis — absolutely none — for its forces to be opening fire on clearly marked U.N. vehicles as recently occurred on numerous occasions," Thomas-Greenfield said.

At the same time, she said Hamas is also hiding in — and in some cases, taking over or using — civilian sites, which poses "an ongoing threat."

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### Local eats at Ossian Days

Above, Firemen from the Markle Fire Department threw candy to excited children. (Photo by Sydney Kent)

At left is Blaire Werling, seconds before disaster at Saturday's donut hole eating contest. Werling initially had the lead in the 26 and older division before Josh Hanson took his fifth victory in the contest. (Holly Gaskill)

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### Outside



#### Perfect weather for Street Fair

Today	Wed.	Thursday
High 83	High 82	High 84
Low 58	Low 58	Low 56

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# BHMSD bond

(Continued from Page 1)

2025-26 school calendar, beginning on Aug. 13, 2025, and ending on May 28, 2026. Yates said families had surveyed 2-1 in favor of this calendar, which started and ended a week later than the other option.

Yates also advised that BHMSD's official count day is Oct. 1 — the district is currently tracking about 1,741 students, up 43 from last year.

Also during the meeting, the board:

- Heard from Assistant Superintendent Julie Meitzler about a new grant that has allowed the district to continue services with a licensed therapist, which the district added last year through another grant.
- Learned the Bluffton Lady Tigers Basketball Program has scheduled their youth basketball shootout over the holiday break for their 1st Annual Holiday Shootout.
- Approved the administrative leave with pay of Clayton Fry from Aug. 26-30 and Todd Morgan on Sept. 3, as well as the administrative leave without pay of Fry from Aug. 31 until further notice.
- Recognized the retirement of Brenda Clammefrom her role of 27 years as accounts manager and deputy treasurer. She has worked 32 years with the district and her retirement will be effective Jan. 21.
- Accepted resignations from Lindsey Leonard, Area 18 CTE career coach; Todd Morgan, high school health/PE teacher, assistant football coach and assistant baseball coach; and Shane Leimgruber, middle school custodian.
- Approved employment recommendations for Justin Uptgraft as bus driver, Jill Heintzelman as elementary special education instruc-

tional assistant, Kevin Leising as long-term substitute teacher, Haley Onweller and Thomas Kizer as substitute teachers, Grace Sommerfeld as an elementary school vocal/music production sponsor, and Erica Bluhm as an elementary school chess club co-adviser.

- Approved the following coaching recommendations: Craig Teagle as boys' varsity basketball head coach with Chad Grieser and Luke Reust as assistant coaches and Mark Prible as a volunteer assistant coach; Matthew Sturgeon and Brett Bothast as middle school boys' basketball coaches and Scott Ribich as volunteer middle school boys' basketball coach; Ben Sprunger as high school wrestling head coach with Tim Zeis as assistant coach and Elliot Jimenez, Nick Krinn, Ryan Thomas and Brady Johns as volunteers; Uptgraft as high school boys' swimming head coach and Steve Linderwell as assistant coach; Doug Curtis as high school girls' varsity basketball head coach with Jaci Moser, Bryan Bowman and Abby Ault as assistant coaches; Jeff Blair and Lauren Brinneman as middle school girls' basketball coaches; Hunter Cunningham as high school girls' swimming coach with Kristi Searles as assistant coach; Searles also as middle school head coach and Jenny Boyd as assistant coach; Eric Mounsey as the boys Future Tigers Coordinator with Aaron Sturges, Patrick Pearson, Clint Renner, Sturgeon, Matt Beste, Jackson Lambert, Stacy Herrold, Ben Burman, Vic Reinhard, Uptgraft, Luke Reust, Phillip Heer, Chad Grieser and Denny Squires as volunteer coaches; Moser and Kistler sharing the role of Future Tigers Coordinator with Marah Hill, Erin Roush, Tristan Dick, Zoey Smith,

Kelli Kistler, Chrissy Craig, Felicia McElveen, Keri Stahly and Brady Green as volunteer coaches;

- Approved the recommendation of Wendy Kaehr as a girls' Future Tigers basketball coach volunteer 4-0; board members Angie Sheets, White, Julie Thompson, Trent White and Mike Murray voted in favor, and Preston Kaehr abstained. They also approved the recommendations for Trent White as boys' Future Tiger basketball coach volunteer and Trayton White as an elementary chess club co-adviser 4-0; Kaehr, Sheets, Thompson and Murray voted in favor, and Trent White abstained.
- Announced their intent to hire an elementary school Title I instructional assistant, accounts manager and deputy treasurer, high school health/physical education teacher and middle school custodian.
- Accepted donations of \$1,000 from an anonymous donor for the football program, \$500 from an anonymous donor for football pork chop dinner expenses, \$1,500 from Park Community Church for lunch balances, \$2,014.41 from Gay Saunder to purchase one book for every elementary student and one for the library, and 500 mini tubes of toothpaste for third and fourth grade students from First Church of the Nazarene.
- Approved crediting the director of maintenance's accrued vacation days as a lump-sum contribution to the employee's retirement plan. The amount will be paid out of the rainy day fund.

The regular meeting was also preceded by a budget hearing; no one from the public commented. The budget is available on the district's website.

holly@news-banner.com

# U.S. airs frustration

(Continued from Page 1)

She said it underscores the urgency of reaching a cease-fire and hostage release deal in Gaza. While the United States works with fellow mediators Egypt and Qatar to try to get both sides "to agree that enough is enough," she said, "this is ultimately a question of political will" and difficult compromises.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken heads to Egypt this week for talks partly about refining a proposal to present to Israel and Hamas.

The United States urges "all council members with influence over Hamas to join others in pressing its leaders

to stop stalling, make these compromises, and accept the deal without delay," Thomas-Greenfield.

She spoke after the top U.N. humanitarian official in Gaza said the territory is "hell on Earth" for its more than 2 million people, calling the lack of effective protection for civilians "unconscionable."

Sigrid Kaag, the U.N. senior humanitarian and reconstruction coordinator for Gaza, told council members and reporters that the war has turned the territory "into the abyss."

Over 41,000 Palestinians have been killed during

Israel's offensive, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants.

Humanitarian operations are being impeded by lawlessness, Israeli evacuation orders, fighting and difficult conditions for aid workers that include Israeli denials of access, delays, a lack of safety and security, and "poor logistical infrastructure," Kaag said.

Danon insisted that Israel's humanitarian efforts "are unparalleled" for a country forced to go to war and urged the Security Council and the U.N. "to

speak to the facts."

Over 1 million tons of aid have been delivered via more than 50,000 trucks and nearly 1 million land crossings, he said, adding that hardly a fraction have been stopped.

When asked about Danon's statement, Kaag pointed to recent strikes on humanitarian convoys and schools and health facilities where Israel had received prior notification.

"It's not about trucks. It's about what people need," she said. "We're way, way off what people need, not only daily, but also what we would all consider a dignified human life."

# DEA closing 2 offices in China even as agency struggles to stem flow of fentanyl chemicals

By JOSHUA GOODMAN and JIM MUSTIAN  
Associated Press

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration is shutting down two of its hard-won offices in China, The Associated Press has learned, a move that comes even as the agency struggles to disrupt the flow of precursor chemicals from the country that have fueled a fentanyl epidemic blamed for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Americans.

"These closings reflect the need to harness DEA's limited and strained resources to target where we can make the biggest impact in saving American lives," DEA Administrator Anne Milgram told agents in an email last week that also included plans to close a dozen other offices worldwide to trim DEA's current footprint of 93 offices in 69 countries.

Though rumored for months, it was unclear exactly why DEA is shutting down its offices in Shanghai and

Guangzhou, leaving only those in the capital Beijing and the autonomously-governed city of Hong Kong, and how that could affect its efforts on fentanyl. DEA said only that the move followed a data-driven process intended to maximize the agency's impact.

DEA veterans say it marked yet another setback in the often-halting cooperation between the two geopolitical rivals. Even though China has added dozens of fentanyl-producing chemicals to its list of controlled substances and warned companies against shipping them, the country remains the world's largest source of precursors in a fentanyl crisis blamed for nearly 100,000 U.S. deaths a year.

"We need to work with the Chinese and get them to help stop the flow of precursor chemicals," said Mike Vigil, a former head of DEA's foreign operations, "and it's hard to develop those relationships with less representation in the country."

It took years of U.S. requests before

China even agreed to allow the DEA to open offices outside of the capital of Beijing in 2017. Hopes were high for its two-agent office in Guangzhou, a major center for trade and organized crime, and a similar outpost in Shanghai, the country's financial hub.

But a U.S. official familiar with the closures who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive diplomatic matter said China's cooperation was largely in name only, and that the agents assigned to the field offices faced difficulties obtaining visas and numerous restrictions as U.S.-China relations soured.

China suspended anti-narcotics cooperation in 2022 in retaliation for then-Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, a self-ruled island which Beijing claims. Those efforts appeared to improve more recently, however, following President Joe Biden's meeting last year in San Francisco with his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping.

# Weather

Tuesday, September 17, 2024  
(24-hour observations at 9:47 p.m. Monday)  
High: 86; Low: 55; Precipitation: None  
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.08 feet at 8:45 p.m. Monday

## Wells County forecast

Today: Sunny, with a high near 83. East wind 5 to 10 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 58. East wind around 5 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 82. Calm wind becoming east around 5 mph in the afternoon.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 58. Northeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 84.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 56.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 86.

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

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 87.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 61.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 84.

Sunday Night: A slight chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 61.

Monday: A slight chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 82.

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OBITUARIES

Janice Anderson, 82

Janice A. Anderson, 82, of Craigville, passed away Sunday morning Sept. 15, 2024, at Mar-  
kle Health and Rehabilitation Center.



Janice was born in Wells County on April 12, 1942, to Elmer R. and Leota M. (Frauhiger) Julian; both parents preceded her in death. She married James W. Anderson in Ossian on Dec. 27, 1975; he preceded her in death on Feb. 4, 2015.

A 1960 graduate of Lancaster High School, Janice worked as a medical transcriptionist from 1973 until 2009 for Dr. Merkle's office and the Caylor-Nickel Clinic in Bluffton. She attended the Lancaster Chapel United Methodist Church in Craigville. Janice enjoyed reading, crafts, sewing, gardening and spending time with her grandchildren.

Janice is survived by two daughters, Julie M. Dietrich of Ossian and Jodie L. (Scott) Shutt of Uniondale; two sons, Brian J. (Bernice) Anderson of Ossian and Brandon R. (Tara) Anderson of Craigville; a

stepdaughter, Paula J. (Randy) Brown of Angola; eight grandchildren, Michael Shutt, Alyssa (Cole) Hoopingartner, Breanna Dietrich, Jarred Dietrich, Damon Anderson, Kaylee Anderson, Landon Anderson and Izzy Anderson; along with five great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by her stepmother, Anna L. Julian; a brother, James A. Julian; a stepson, James S. Anderson; a stepdaughter, Pamela Anderson; and a stepsister, Donna Breedlove.

Visitation will be held from 2-7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 19, 2024, at Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton, followed immediately by a funeral service at 7 p.m., also at the funeral home. Pastor Dewey Miller will officiate.

Memorial contributions in memory of Janice may be made to Dementia Friends Indiana & Lancaster Chapel United Methodist Church.

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

Lee E. Kershner, 79

Lee E. Kershner, 79, of Bluffton, passed away Sunday morning, Sept. 15, 2024, at Ossian Health and Rehabilitation Center.



Lee was born in Hartford City on Jan. 5, 1945, to Glen E. and Dorothy M. (Albertson) Kershner both parents preceded him in death. He married Bobbie J. Klefeker in Palmetto, Florida, on June 13, 1964, she survives in Bluffton.

Lee graduated from Chester Center High School in 1963, and delivered milk for Hoods Dairy and Pet Dairy for over 25 years in Florida. He later retired and moved back to Indiana to be closer to family. Lee was a member of the Bluffton Masonic Lodge 145. He enjoyed fishing, pheasant hunting, boating, museums and especially enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren.

Lee is survived by two sons, Greg Kershner of Bluffton and Tracy (Angel) Kershner of Ona, Florida; a daughter, Kim (Fred) Moore of Bluffton; six grandchildren, Trent (Caylynn) Moore, Kylee (Gabe)

Smith, Ryan (LeeAnn) Kershner, Cassie (Kyle) Moore, Victoria Kershner and Caleb Kershner; two sisters, Sharen (Steve) Smoot of Sevierville, Tennessee, Karen (Neil) Mowery of Bluffton; and two sisters-in-law, Nancy (Chuck) Thiers of Ellenton Florida, and Kay Kershner formerly of Montpelier.

In addition to his parents, Lee was preceded in death by two grandsons, Dustin Lee Kershner and Robert Tyler Kershner; a brother, Larry Kershner; and his mother and father-in-law, Bob and Betty Klefeker.

Visitation will be held on Friday, Sept. 20, 2024, from Noon to 4:00 p.m. at Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton, followed immediately by a masonic service and a funeral service at 4:00 p.m. at the funeral home. Steve Surbaugh will officiate.

Memorial Contributions in memory of Lee may be made to Life Community Church.

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

Wendell Osborn, 83

Wendell J. Osborn passed away peacefully on Sept. 5, 2024 at the age of 83 years old, in Mesa, Arizona. He was surrounded in love both near and far by family and friends.



Wendell was born on Jan. 9, 1941, in Bluffton.

Wendell was preceded in death by his parents, Herman and Golda Osborn, and sister, Sharon (Stan) Merrill.

Wendell is survived by his wife, Sandra Osborn, his daughter, Babette (Glenn) Whorley, and son, Jeffrey (Tami) Osborn, sister, Marilyn Barnett, and brother, Bruce (Gloria) Osborn. His family legacy grew to seven grandchildren, Jessica (Nick) Johnson, Nicholas Whorley, Andrew (Nicole) Whorley, Brittany (Cody) Harman, Courtney (Kory) Barnes, Logan Osborn and Luke Osborn. Wendell also is survived by eight great-grandchildren, Kamryn, Carly and Ivy Johnson, Knox, Cruz and Rowe Harman, and Ensley and Ada Barnes. Wendell also had eight nephews and two nieces.

Wendell graduated from Chester Center High School in Poneto in 1959. He married his high school sweetheart Sandra, who he met in the first grade. Wendell and Sandra (daughter of Samuel and Waneta Cooper) were married at the Friends Church in Keystone on Aug. 5, 1961. Wendell and Sandra just celebrated 63 years of marriage.

Wendell graduated from Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana in January 1963, receiving a bachelor of science degree in agronomy. Wendell had a career in the agriculture field as a sales representative for agriculture chemicals as well as running the family business, Osborn Certified Seed and Osborn Ag Products, and was a farmer in Wells County for many years. His love of agriculture transpired into landscaping his home in Mesa, which he maintained until he passed away.

Wendell was a sports fan and loved watching basketball, with an avid interest in Purdue and the Phoenix Suns. He

enjoyed sports and played basketball, volleyball, pickleball and golf, and enjoyed water skiing, boating, hiking and hunting. He also restored an antique truck and tractor and enjoyed driving them in the Bluffton Street Fair. Wendell and Sandra were also blessed to share a long life of travel to many locations in America and around the world. Wendell and Sandra retired to Arizona in the early 2000's.

Wendell became a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Snowflake, Arizona in 2004. Wendell and Sandra were sealed in the Snowflake Temple for Time and All Eternity in 2005. They moved to Mesa, Arizona, in 2011 and are members of the Boulder Mountain Ward in Mesa. Wendell held many callings throughout the past 20 years in the church.

Wendell was a recipient of a living kidney donation from his bishop in 2014. He had a great life for 10 additional years and shared many family moments that included the addition of seven of his great-grandchildren. The family would like to suggest memorial donations to a kidney foundation of your choice in lieu of flowers so that others may have this opportunity.

Funeral Services were held on Friday, Sept. 13, 2024 in Mesa, Arizona at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Burial Services will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday Sept. 21, 2024, at McFarren Cemetery, 1300 W 500 S in Bluffton. Wendell will be laid to rest near his parents, sister and brother-in-law, grandparents, aunts and uncles. Burial services will be preceded over by his lifelong Chester Center friend, the Rev. Timothy Apt of Athens, Alabama.

Burial arrangements have been entrusted to Walker & Glancy Funeral Home in Montpelier. All are welcome to join the family and friends as we celebrate the life of Wendell J Osborn at the service.

B. Tracy Bye, 59

B. Tracy Bye, 59, of rural Poneto, passed away Sept. 14, 2024, at Parkview Regional Medical Center in Fort Wayne. She was born Oct. 28, 1964, in Huntington. She married Timothy K. Bye on Oct. 21, 2000.

She will be missed by her mother, Shirley M. (Oswalt) Schlotter; children, Dustin (Kimberly) Schlotter, Erica (Cody) Garrison, Wesley (Kimmy) Elkins and Marschel Bye; 10 grandchildren; siblings, Rose L. James and Joe (Shannon) Schlotter; and adopted son, Michael Lake.

She was preceded in death by her husband, father, Larry C. Schlotter, and brother, Randy G. Schlotter.

Family and friends may gather from 4-8 p.m. Sept. 19, 2024, at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St. in Montpelier.

A service will be at 11 a.m. Sept. 20 at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home with Pastor Clyde Wallace officiating. Interment will follow in the Brookside Memorial Park in Montpelier.

Shelly Reinhard, 59

Shelly Reinhard, 59, passed away Monday morning, Sept. 16, 2024, at her residence in Bluffton, following an extended illness.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel 3220 East SR 124 Bluffton, IN.

Obituary Policy

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

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

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

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

County: Friday, 12:27 p.m., 1000 S and 200 E, Keystone. Driver cited for disregarding stop sign.

Friday, 4:45 p.m., 200 block of Lamar Street, Bluffton. Brandon Betz served no contact order.

Friday, 8:52 p.m., 2500 W 300 N, Bluffton. Report of possible break in, caller advised it was a family member.

Friday, 8:57 p.m., 100 W and 550 N, Uniondale. Caller reported hearing explosions in the woods. Officers located subjects setting off tannerite.

Saturday, 3:28 a.m., 1900 E 1000 S, Keystone. Car vs deer.

Saturday, 10:47 a.m., S.R. 116 and 200 W, Mar-  
kle. Driver cited for speeding.

Saturday, 8:40 p.m., East 100N and North 700E, Bluffton. Car vs deer.

Saturday, 8:50 p.m.,

300 W and 1200 S, Keystone. Caller reported suspicious males attempting to pick up juvenile females from Speedway in Montpelier. Unable to locate.

Sunday, 3:05 p.m., South 200E and East 700S, Bluffton. Report of stop sign leaning up against a pole.

Monday, 1:37 a.m., 2100S 350E, Bluffton. Caller reported man with flashlight attempting to enter residence, no one located on property.

Monday, 6:29 a.m., 600 E and S.R. 124, Bluffton. Report of possible cow in the road, unable to locate.

Ossian: Friday, 12:05 p.m., 9800 N 100 E, Ossian. Report of blocked road from semi, semi was transporting shed.

Friday, 3:15 p.m., 800N and 100 E, Ossian. Driver cited for speeding.

ACCIDENTS

County: Monday, 5:36 a.m., 300

W and 400 S, Liberty Center. Melissa Ehrhart, 42, Bluffton, was driving West on 400 S when she ran the stop sign at the intersection of 300 W. Ehrhart's Chevrolet Blazer collided with a Ram 1500 Pickup truck driven by Blake Stevens, 29, Montpelier. Earhart's Blazer continued into a corn field and was reportedly on fire upon arrival. Damages did not exceed \$25,000.

Ossian: Friday, 7:45 p.m., 700N and 100E, Ossian. Kathleen Moon, 79, Huntington, was driving westbound on 700 N when she failed to observe a stop sign due to the glare of the sun. Moon's Nissan Murano collided with a Honda Pilot driven by Rhett Xayyachack, 20, Bluffton. The Pilot spun and came to a rest in the intersection, while the Murano continued approximately 100 feet into a cornfield. Moon was extracted from

(Continued on Page 11)

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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.

**BRACELET PRICES 2024**  
Tues., Wed. & Thurs. • Sept. 17, 18 & 19  
\$25 - Unlimited Rides (5p.m. - Close)  
\*Subject to Change

**TICKETS:**  
\$1<sup>50</sup> ea. or 20/\$25  
Kiddie Rides take 2 tickets, all others take 3 or 4 tickets

**KIDS' DAYS SPECIAL PRICES!**  
FRIDAY: \$18 - Unlimited Rides 1 - 7pm  
SATURDAY: \$18 - Unlimited Rides 11am - 5pm  
\$30 - Unlimited Rides 5pm - Close

**POOR JACK AMUSEMENTS**

## Never underestimate word-of-mouth marketing

Each August or September, friend and fellow News-Banner columnist Chet Baumgartner and I make a trip to Ball State to visit our alma mater. I'm not sure when we started making our annual roadtrip back to visit campus, but it has turned into a tradition that we rarely — if ever — miss each year.



Justin Peeper

Part of the tradition is returning to the place that was our home away from home from 1999-2003 at Ball State — the Art and Journalism Building. We didn't spend much time in the art section but instead logged our hours in the journalism section as we learned about all of journalism's facets — writing, editing, design, photography, law, ethics and advertising.

Our study of journalism was well-rounded and even included areas we didn't plan to pursue after graduation such as advertising.

There isn't much I remember from the advertising class that we had to take, but one of the professor's lectures has always stood out to me. It popped back in my mind last week as we walked past the room where we had the class.

The professor began the lecture by asking the class if anyone knew the most powerful form of advertising. The first few guesses were incorrect, which probably showed the professor right away that most of us had not fully completed the reading prior to class.

Oops. Eventually, however, a classmate came up with the correct answer: word-of-mouth advertising.

In other words, this type of advertising is when someone you know talks about a company's products. This type of advertising or marketing is so powerful because when someone you know recommends a product or business, you're likely to spend money on the product or at the business if you trust the person making the recommendation.

It made a lot of sense to me back then and still does today, as we tend to put a lot of faith in recommendations from those we trust.

When we were in college in the early 2000s, social media had yet to make its debut. Instead, we were surrounded by email and AOL Instant messenger. Back then, word-of-mouth advertising tended to be exactly that — recommendations you told each other face to face or over the phone.

Social media, however, has taken that concept to levels most of us could never have imagined in the early 2000s.

While I don't post a lot of Facebook compared to some of my social media friends, I do go online often when I need a recommendation.

Earlier this summer, I needed to find a tailor to alter some pants since the place I used to go for alterations went out of business. Within minutes of asking for recommendations online, several social media friends had responded with recommendations.

When my wife and I adopted our Bernese mountain dog a couple of years ago, our 5-year-old pooch was in desperate need of a trip to the groomer. Within a couple of hours of asking for recommendations on Facebook, we had a plethora of suggestions.

And just last week a Facebook friend posted that Home Depot had come out with the 2024 version of the spooky life-size LED ghost golden retriever that is the perfect Halloween decoration for our front porch. We bought one last year and never would have known there was an updated one had it not been for word-of-mouth advertising.

Earlier this summer I read an article online about how some businesses were trying to think of more out-of-the-box ways to attract new customers and retain longstanding customers.

I couldn't help but think back to the one and only introduction to advertising class that I had to take at Ball State for my journalism degree.

When consumers have a good experience at a business or with a product, they'll be among the first to recommend it to others. When they don't, expect the opposite.

Advertising 101.

I might have skipped some of the reading in my advertising class, but that day's lesson on the power of word-of-mouth advertising and marketing is as true today as it was back then.

jdpeeper2@hotmail.com

## Today in History

By The Associated Press  
Today is Tuesday, Sept. 17, the 261st day of 2024. There are 105 days left in the year.

Today in history: On Sept. 17, 1787, the Constitution of the United States was completed and signed by a majority of delegates attending the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.

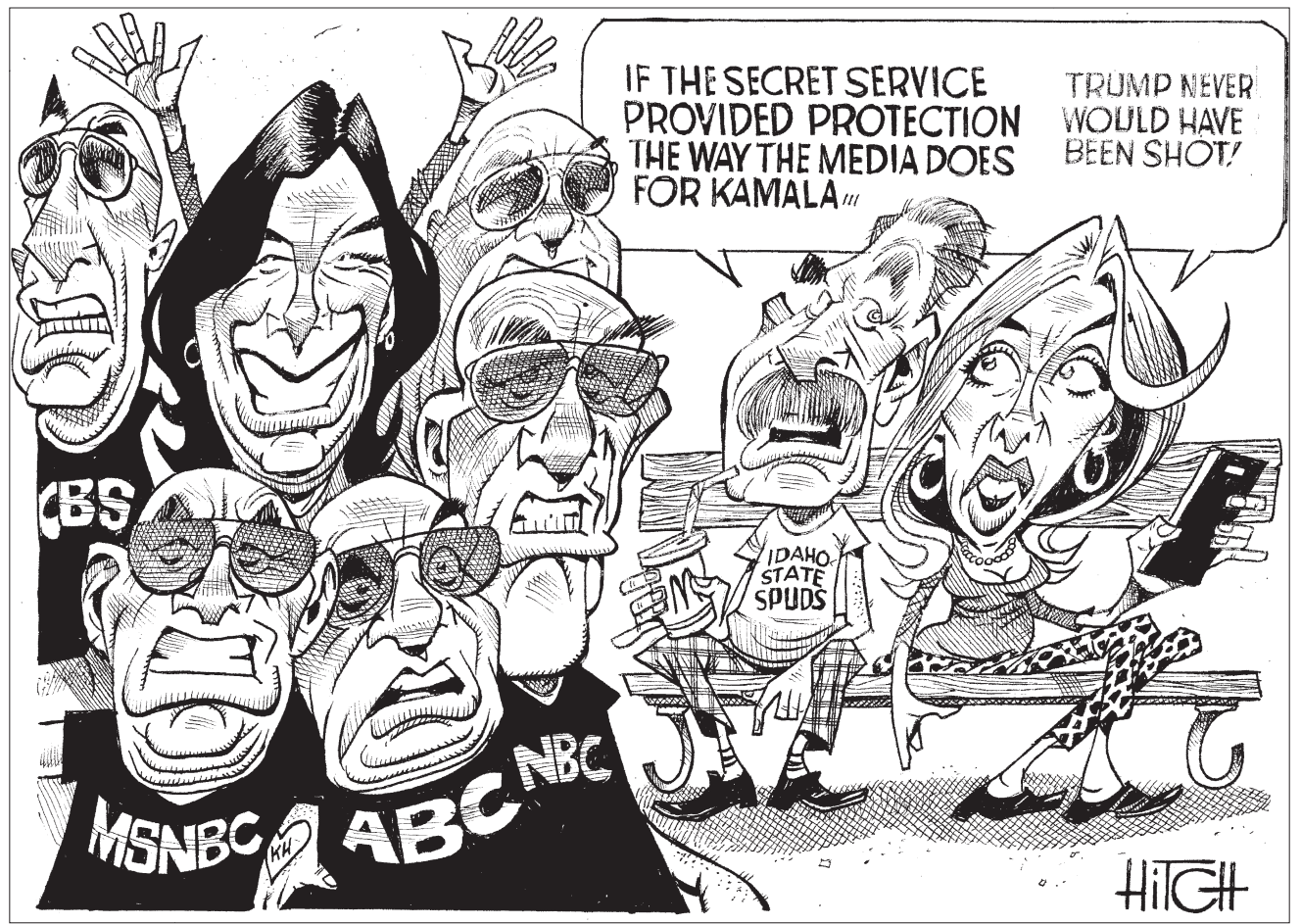
Also on this date:  
In 1862, more than 3,600 men were killed in the Civil War Battle of Antietam in Maryland.

In 1908, Lt. Thomas E. Selfridge of the U.S. Army

Signal Corps became the first person to die in the crash of a powered aircraft, the Wright Flyer, at Fort Myer, Virginia, just outside Washington, D.C.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied paratroopers launched Operation Market Garden, landing behind German lines in the Netherlands.

In 2021, a Los Angeles jury convicted New York real estate heir Robert Durst of killing his best friend 20 years earlier. (Durst, who was sentenced to life in prison, died in 2022.)



## Democrats downplay extremist positions. Do they even remember them?

The correction is the most underrated journalistic form. Almost no one reads them except other journalists. But read properly, each one tells a little story not just of what the journalist got wrong, but how they missed it. Sometimes that story is pretty dull: Names can be spelled many ways! But sometimes it's a revealing tale, and that's what you'll find in the whopper of a correction that Time issued last week:

"The original version of this story mischaracterized as false Donald Trump's statement in the presidential debate accusing Vice President Kamala Harris of supporting 'transgender operations on illegal aliens in prison.' As a presidential candidate in 2019, Harris filled out a questionnaire saying she supported taxpayer-funded gender transition treatment for detained immigrants."

The mistake is understandable, to a point, because it sounds too bizarre to be true. (It also slipped past the legendarily persnickety fact-checkers at the New Yorker.) The fact that Kamala Harris endorsed a policy so extreme that it sounds like an urban legend tells you just how badly Democratic politicians misunderstood their voters in 2019 — just as its peremptory dismissal by two publications tells you how badly many of those voters still misunderstand their politicians today.

Rank-and-file Democrats do have a vague, general sense that the party tacked too far to the left four years ago. (In addition to supporting government-funded transition surgery for detained immigrants, Harris promised to gut immigration enforcement and abolish private health insurance, and she was not the only primary contender running on a progressive wish list.) But today Democrats tend not to dwell on details, preferring to write off the party's leftward lurch as temporary insanity, induced by George Floyd's death and pandemic hardships. This is a mistake.

Factually, it's wrong: the 2020 Democratic primary was basically over before the pandemic became a full-blown panic and months before Floyd was killed. Whatever drove Democratic politicians toward the party's progressive fringe, it was not the unusual stresses of an unprecedented time. Democratic voters should figure out what did happen to prevent it from happening again.

More important is that this kind of pandering to the fringe isn't safely in the party's past. It's just an unusually vivid example of an ongoing pattern in which Democratic politicians endorse, explicitly or implicitly, policies so extreme that if you reference them even Democratic political junkies will accuse you of making them up. This has created considerable space for what I call stealth extremism: Democratic lawmakers adopt some radical position to appease an interest group, and are given cover by voters who voters insist that couldn't possibly be true, because no sane person would do that.

For example, on abortion, the de facto Democratic position is becoming "no restrictions at all, ever." Every time I point this out, I am inundated with emails calling me a liar. Yet there are examples of Democrats supporting laws that allow abortion up to the moment of birth — and more examples of Democrats refusing to name a single restriction they would support, even on elective abortions in the third trimester — including Harris on the debate stage last week.

That position is extreme by standards of American public opinion and internationally, which is why Democrats practice stealth extremism, dodging the question or resorting to vague generalities about Roe v. Wade.

Mainstream Democrats fill in the gaps with false assumptions — that no state would ever allow doctors to abort a healthy pregnancy if the baby would be capable of living outside the womb, and no doctor would ever perform such a procedure anyway. Nine states and the District of Columbia allow abortion at any time during a pregnancy. In an Atlantic profile last year of a doctor who performs abortions up to 32 weeks, and sometimes even after, the doctor estimated that half or more of his patients are healthy women carrying healthy babies.

You see a similar phenomenon with issues over sexuality and sexual identity. Every time I write about transgender issues, readers remind me of "facts" that aren't true: that all kids considering transition are given thorough assessments (some are, some aren't); that treatments such as puberty blockers, hormones and surgeries have a wealth of rigorous evidence behind them (they don't); and that transgender women competing in women's sports have little advantage over their cisgender counterparts (as far as we can tell, they retain significant advantages). Think also of controversies over graphic books on sexuality given to middle-schoolers. The backlash from conservative parents seemed hysterical to Slate writer Aymann Ismail until he actually read one of the books.

Stealth extremism is a problem for Democrats, and not just because it means the party is implicitly supporting policies its voters wouldn't agree with, if they knew what those policies actually were. The strategy also leaves the party politically vulnerable.

After the debate, I watched commentators puzzle over the perception that Harris is more extreme than Donald Trump. What could be more radical than the weapons-grade nonsense we saw him spewing onstage? And of course, they're right that Trump says extreme things. The problem for Democrats is the things their party leaves unsaid — but not noticed by the rest of the electorate. And the corrections, when they come, are bound to be doozies.

Follow Megan McArdle @asymmetricinfo on X.



Megan McArdle

## The real scandal in Springfield, Ohio

In what ranks as one of the most memorable debate moments in recent history, Donald Trump said that Haitian immigrants are eating people's pets in Springfield, Ohio.

No one has yet turned up evidence that this is true, although there is an audio recording of a man reporting that he witnessed four Haitian immigrants absconding with geese from a local pond.

Since everyone is always happy to see geese go someplace else, this call hasn't made much of an impression on the debate over Trump's comments, which, true to form, were the most incendiary thing he could say about Springfield.

Even if Tabby and Fido aren't on the menu in the small Ohio town, the fact remains that a place with a population of 60,000 has seen an influx of 15,000 to 20,000 Haitian immigrants since 2020, making the new arrivals a wildly disproportionate share of the population in short order.

Prior to this point, Springfield had nothing to do with Haiti, and looking at the map, a town located between Columbus and Dayton would be one of the least likely places to have anything to do with Haiti. It is very far from Little Haiti in Miami, and it had no pre-existing Haitian population or an infrastructure to provide services to Haitian Creole speakers.

No matter. Under the Biden administration's open-handed immigration policies, every place in the



Rich Lowry

country has become subject to sudden, disruptive demographic change. We've seen it in big cities, where Democratic mayors have complained of the associated burdens, and now we are seeing it in a small city.

To match in relative terms what's happened in Springfield, more than 2 million migrants would have had to arrive in New York City the past several years.

Numbers matter. No one would care if there were 150 new Haitian migrants in Springfield since 2020, or 1,500. But 15,000 is a different proposition. Quantity, as they say, has a quality all of its own.

To be clear, Haitian immigrants (many permitted here legally under Biden policy) didn't begin showing up in Springfield hoping to filch unsuspecting domestic short hairs. Rather, they were looking for work in a city that was seeing something of an economic revival. That's all well and good, but people are more than cogs to be plugged into warehouses or manufacturing operations.

They come with families and needs for housing, health care and education. They have pre-existing cultural predilections different from ours (Haiti and the United States are very different places), and if they don't speak the language, that makes everything even more difficult.

Nor are resources unlimited. Health care facilities, schools and the housing stock have all been strained

in Springfield.

The New York Times reports that consultations began to take three times as long at the local community health center. The head of the clinic told the paper: "We lost productivity. We had huge burnout of staff." It hired six Haitian Creole speakers, and annual spending on translation services increased from \$43,000 in 2020 to \$436,000.

The school district, according to the Times, has had to hire two dozen new English-as-a-second-language instructors, and several interpreters.

The city manager, Bryan Heck, wrote a letter to U.S. senators saying that the influx is "putting a significant strain on our resources and ability to provide ample housing for all of our residents."

The Haitians also tend to be poor drivers. Ohio governor Mike DeWine has pledged help from the state highway patrol.

News reports often dismiss the concerns of residents as ill-informed or xenophobic. Their complaints about the costs and disorder associated with the wave of immigration are legitimate, though, and the sense that the town has undergone a large-scale change that no one was consulted about is very real. Who signed up to become a laboratory for Biden's experiment in permitting Haitians to come to and stay in the United States?

The cats and dogs may be safe and sound, but all is not right in Springfield.

Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry

## The News-Banner

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# Follow Gloria on a ladies' workday

Amish traditions, ideas, and practices vary drastically from one church to the next, but my guess would be that most Amish housewives wash off the interior of their house once, or some even twice a year.

Since it is a major task, we enjoy teaming up and helping one another. After all, it's nice being together more than just on Sundays.

Today was a workday at my sister-in-law Virginia's house. Most of the ladies brought their horse and buggy and others came with a driver. Stepping inside Virginia's house, I smelled cleaners, a quick glance revealed that curtains had been taken off to be laundered. I scanned the list on the kitchen table. The upstairs of her house, including walls, windows, and furniture was in need of a cleaning.

I chose the boys' bedroom. Filling up a bucket with hot water I squirted in some soap and added a dash of white vinegar. I decided to work from top to bottom. The ceiling and walls were not super dirty, just dusty with some tell tale marks of flies and a few spiders they had been fighting.

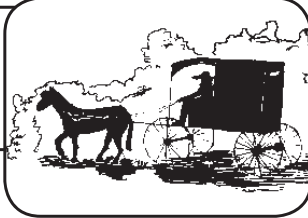
Joshua, who had come with me, played at the toy cabinet just outside the bedroom door. When the walls and ceiling were done I began washing off the bedroom suite. "This is probably a set Daniel made," I mused. As I worked alone my thoughts kept rolling, "...much has changed since that work day seven years ago, when Daniel called to let me know he got a call from DCFS with our first foster placement (which ended in adoption)."

Usually I enjoyed working with someone else, but today it felt good to be by myself, and God, of course. I showed Joshua the fox hide on the dresser that had been dried and cured. Antlers and turkey calls were more markings of things the boys enjoyed doing.

With the floor scrubbed and furniture polished, I headed back for the list. I was amazed at how swiftly

## The Amish Cook

by Gloria Yoder



the list was being scratched off. By now ladies were all over, cleaning something somewhere. I stuck the casserole in the oven and by 11:30 everything was marked off the list and we were ready to sit down and eat together. The many times Virginia helped others' clean their house came back to bless her before the new baby arrived.

One lady brings a hot dish and the others all pitch in with their choice of salad or dessert. I have been astonished many times over, how the meal ends up having a perfect balance of everything. Today there was coleslaw, pie, cake, fruit slush, tapioca, and jello yogurt.

By 12:30 the dishes were washed and people were heading back home.

Ah, the wonder of being home in my own house again. Joshua and I filled our water bottle and headed straight for the cabin where he is now napping and I am writing. In less than an hour the children will be home, so I'll need to start think of heading back and getting an after school snack on the table. Stories from all five of the school children are poured out over this time. We're working at the skill of only one person talking at a time, but we haven't mastered it yet.

After snack the children will be teamed up by twos and sent off to do some tasks before having off time until supper.

The first grade boys will probably be wondering about workday. This morning it was hard for them to imagine that they will be going to school instead of workday with me, as they had always done in years gone by.

Okay, there are several recipes I'd like to pass on; maybe for today we'll

go with our fresh fruit slush. It is similar to what we had today. The children, down to Joshua, help me peel and slice bananas to make this slush for the school lunches. For our next batch, I'm going to try adding tropical fruit for a different twist.

Whenever I find bananas on sale I'll buy a box full and whatever we don't eat fresh, is turned into slush, only we don't really go by an exact recipe. Recently Joshua, my little raspberry guy, helped pick raspberries from our patch which we put in. We all enjoyed that for a change. My sister Faith likes strawberries in hers. Grapes, blueberries, and pineapples also add a yummy dimension.



### FRUIT SLUSH

- 1-quart sliced peaches
- Six bananas, sliced
- 6 oz. orange juice concentrate
- 1 cup of water
- ½ cup sugar or to taste
- One teaspoon Stevia (opt)

Stir all together, refrigerate or freeze. If you like, try adding a handful of grapes, blueberries, raspberries, or some crushed pineapple for some extra flavor.

## Public Sale Calendar

**BIDDING ENDS SEPTEMBER 14 - Online Only Personal Property - Gregory Brandt living trust, seller.** Horizon 210 Four Winn speed boat, 2007 Yamaha jet ski, pontoon boat with trailer, life jackets, towables, Detro dump trailer, Crown forklift, Cyclone leaf vacuum system, tools, Craftsman riding lawn mower, furniture, bikes, household & much more! Sale manager Brandon Steffen, 260-710-5684, Steffen Group Real Estate & Auctions, 260-426-0633, steffengrp.com.

**BIDDING ENDS 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. Pat Carter, sale manager, 260-273-8294, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

**SEPTEMBER 15-22 - 2 p.m. - (Online Only) - Estate of Jeffrey W. Brown, seller.** Collectible vehicles, (3) 1967 Dodge Darts, 1971 Dodge Challenger, 1967 Comet R/T, 1988 Ford Ranger, Dune Buggy, Chop Top Baja Beetle, 1991 JD 670 diesel tractor, 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, assorted hardware, lawn & garden, aluminum fishing boat, log splitter, antique furniture, collectibles, Hot Wheels, beer signs, more. Preview Sept. 19 from 3-6 p.m., 7271 N 300 W-90, Markle. Sale managers Pat Carter, 260-273-8294, Brandon Steffen, 260-710-5684, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, 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. Rick Johnloz, 260-827-8181, Emma Barr, 260-494-0992, Jason Johnloz, 260-273-9177, *Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management*, halderman.com, 800-424-2324.

**SEPTEMBER 22-SEPTEMBER 29 - 2 p.m. - (Online Only Personal Property Auction) - The Estate of Elizabeth Ann (Carter) Aeschlieman, seller.** 2004 Lexus 4-door sedan, exceptionally clean modern furniture, patio furniture, collectibles, home interior decor items, various holiday decorations, household, lawn & garden, tools, much more. Preview: Sept. 19, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Sept. 26 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 406 Goldenrod Ct., Bluffton, IN. Sale manager Pat Carter, 260-273-8294, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

**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.

**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, Jason Johnloz, jasonj@halderman.com, 260-273-9177, *Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management*, 800-424-2324, halderman.com.

**SEPTEMBER 24 - 9 a.m.-6 p.m. - Online Only - The Estate of Jeffrey Brown.** Two story country home situated on 2.41+/- acre lot with 2 outbuildings totaling 866 SF, Wells County. This 1,876 SF home features 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large living room, eat-in kitchen, utility room and 1 car garage. Open houses: Sept. 19 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 7721 N. 300 W. Markle, IN. Sale managers Brandon Steffen, 260-710-5684, Pat Carter, 260-273-8294, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, steffengrp.com.

**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.

**SEPTEMBER 25 - 9 a.m.-6 p.m. - Online Only - The Estate of Jeffrey Brown.** 9.27+/- acre prime building site in Union Twp., Northern Wells County. Property features open land, wooded acreage, 24'x48' pole building. Perfect home site, country estate. "Explore the potential of this property." Open houses: Sept. 19 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 1200 N (Scott Street) and Marzane Rd. - TBD, Zanesville, IN. Sale managers Brandon Steffen, 260-710-5684, Pat Carter, 260-273-8294, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, steffengrp.com.

**SEPTEMBER 28 - 9 a.m. - Charles (Chuck) Bertsch.** 3898 East 400 North, Bluffton. This is the 3rd and final auction for the Bertsch Estate. Chuck was an avid collector of engines, motors and anything

electrical. This auction has some hit and miss engines, over 100 motors, gas engines (4 hp to 12 hp), Honda 6500 generator, Aqua Blast hot water pressure washer, brass bell, Maytag motors, lots of lawn mower parts, scrap iron, Hammer drill, welder, anvil and lots more. Preview Sept. 27, 4-6 p.m. *Miz Lehman Realtors/Auctioneers*, 260-589-2903, www.mizlehman.com.

**BIDDING NOW OPEN & STARTS CLOSING SEPTEMBER 29 - 6 p.m. EST - Max & Vivian Minnich, owners.** Online only real estate auction! Five bedroom, 1 full bath, 2,178 sq. feet home, hardwood floors throughout, full basement, 2 car detached garage, 20'x42' pole barn, 2.055 acres, Marion Township, Allen County, Indiana, East Allen County School Corporation. Auction preview Sept. 16, 5-6 p.m. or by appointment, 13045 Wayne Trace, Hoagland. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

**SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 6 - (Online Only) - The Estate of Wayne E. Penrod, seller.** Artifacts, tools, furniture, household. Open house Oct. 5 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.

**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. 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.

**OCTOBER 3 & 4 - 9 a.m. - Secured creditors & various consignors, owners.** 815 Adams St., Decatur. Two day truck & equipment auction. Day 1 (Online bidding only): Over 300+ lots including skid loader attachments, tool boxes, workbenches, iron gates, chains & binders, 1 trip 40' high side shipping container w/side doors, dome shelter containers, & much more! Day 2 (Onsite and Online bidding): Offering 600+ lots! 100+/- municipal units! Cars, SUV, 1/2 ton & 3/4 ton pickup trucks, cargo & passenger vans, large group of Chevy Impalas, Tahoes, & Dodge Chargers, dump trucks, large group of box trucks, day cabs, sleepers, utility trucks, bucket trucks, mobile food trailer (like new), utility & semi trailers, SUV's, pickup trucks, 100+ various skid loader attachments & much more! *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

**OCTOBER 5-OCTOBER 12 - Private Family Collection, sellers.** Fine art work including William P. Silva oil paintings, 2006 Pontiac Torrent, 2005 Toyota highlander, sterling silver, primitive and early American antique furniture, country primitives; glassware, early collectibles. Open houses Oct. 8 and Oct. 10 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 102 S. Jefferson St., Ossian, IN. Rod Fetters, sale manager, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

**OCTOBER 12 - 6 p.m. - (Online Only) - The Estate of Robert McNabb, seller.** Spectacular 7,700 SF lake front home on 1.32 acres w/200' of lake frontage on Hamilton Lake. Luxury home features 5 bedrooms, 7 baths, expansive entertaining space, 4-car attached garage. Selling absolute at or above 1.4 million dollars. Seller's have over 4.5 million invested in this one of kind lake property. Open houses Sept. 21, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Oct. 1, 5-7 p.m., Oct. 12, 9 a.m.-noon, 1180 LN 150 Hamilton Lake, Hamilton, IN. Brandon Steffen, sale manager, 260-426-0633, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, www.steffengrp.com.

**OCTOBER 13-OCTOBER 20 - (Online Only) - The Estate of Larry N. Curry, seller.** 1997 Chevy Express Conversion van, 2013 Chevy Impala with 73,000 miles, John Deere LA115 riding lawn mower, rare Schwinn bikes, tools, furniture, household. Open houses Oct. 15 and Oct. 17 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 419 W. Roe St., Ossian. Rod Fetters, sale manager, *The Steffen Group*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

**OCTOBER 24 - (Online Only) - The Estate of Larry N. Curry, seller.** Excellent 1,400 SF, three bedroom, 2 bath ranch home in Rose Ann Heights on 1/2 acre lot. This home has a ton of potential. "Explore the Possibilities." Open houses: Oct. 15, Oct. 17 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Oct. 22 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., 419 W. Roe St., Ossian. Brandon Steffen and Rod Fetters, sale managers, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

**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.*, 260-724-3499, heartlandauctionreality.com.

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# Tigers' late comeback slips past Knights in county clash

By RYAN WALKER

Norwell made them sweat to do it, but in the end, Bluffton came away with the 3-2 win in boys' tennis.

The Wells County clash has favored the Norwell Knights (6-5) in head coach Noah Tobias' tenure — a 5-0 in regular season matches, not including a 3-2 win over the Tigers in the sectional championship last year.

The Tigers (8-4) scratched and clawed their way and got head coach Robert Vanderkolk the 200th win of his career Monday night, but it did not come easy.

The Tigers are in a similar spot the Knights were last season. With a strong returning class of seniors, and Norwell's large graduating class last year, Bluffton is looking to get back revenge for the sectional.

Tobias' Knights are continuing to learn and gain experience with first-time varsity players and have been tinkering with the No. 2 doubles lineup all season. But you can thank the rivalry for the drama and Vanderkolk's prediction of a sectional championship following the loss to Norwell in the final last year.

"I think we really wanted to prove ourselves like, 'Hey, you're not necessarily going to walk over us,'" Tobias said. "I think we all remember Bob's comments from last year after we beat them in sectional, but you're going to have to fight for this. You're not just going to walk over us. We definitely made them sweat."

Within the first 30 minutes of the contest, Norwell had Bluffton on the ropes. It had as many as four of the five courts in the lead.

"(The Knights) weren't just going to show up and say 'Oh, we graduated everybody, we don't have Grant (Mishler) anymore. What are we supposed to do?' They've been getting better and better each night. My hats off to them, they played hard," Vanderkolk said.

The Tigers were also down to Reid Abbett at No. 3 singles, a junior varsity player who has now played in three straight varsity matches for a sick Anthony Hartman.

Abbett has held his own since getting the emergency call-up, but a lack of experience got him a 6-3, 6-4 loss to Landon Diver.

When Abbett lost his match, it got Norwell the 2-1 edge, desperately seeking the final point to gain a sweet victory. The Knights' No. 1 doubles team of Eddie Archbold and Ayden Quintanilla picked up

a win 6-1, 6-4 while Bluffton got its first point from No. 2 doubles' Dane Schlagenhaut and Kade Abbett 6-0, 6-4.

Vanderkolk also shared that he and the coaching staff had a decision to make with Abbett and Jacob Ribich. Ribich was recently bumped back down to No. 3 singles, but since Hartman was out, Vanderkolk needed to place Ribich in his normal spot or bump him back up to No. 2 singles.

He contemplated all day Monday, going in and out of his assistant coaches classrooms and asking Hunter Cunningham and Spencer Schwartz what to do, and ultimately was convinced to trust Ribich in the big moment.

At first, Norwell's Braylon Troutt held a strong advantage over Ribich, but the Tigers' sophomore adjusted his game plan and began to chip away at the deficit. He eventually came back and won the first set, and then began taking the lead in the second.

In the meantime, Nolan Lambert took care of No. 1 singles to tie the team's score to 2-2 and everything relied on Ribich's match.

Up 5-2, Ribich and Troutt went to several consecutive deuces, and Troutt took him down to win the point. But the next time, Ribich sealed the deal and gave the Tigers the win.

"I don't have much hair left but Jacob tried to get rid of the rest of it in the first half of the first set," Vanderkolk said, "Braylon played a heck of a match. Jacob was able to change up his strategy of what he wanted to do to finish the first set off. To come from behind and win and then he took care of business in the second set — I couldn't be prouder of him today."

For the Knights, Tobias was pleased overall with what he saw with still five matches and an invitational left to go in the season. Bluffton will likely be the toughest competition in the sectional for Norwell's shot at a repeat, and Monday's one-point loss was enough to see the match could be within grasp.

Tobias was especially thrilled with his No. 1 doubles team, who he said they've been waiting for them to play at their best against good competition. Archbold and Quintanilla did just that and more and left no doubt in earning one of the team's second point.

"I thought everybody did a really good job today," Tobias said. "A couple

(Continued on Page 7)



Bluffton's Jacob Ribich (right) slices a shot toward Norwell's Braylon Troutt during the county class Monday night. Ribich's win sealed the 3-2 victory over the Knights. (Photos by Ryan Walker)



Norwell's No. 1 doubles team of Eddie Archbold (left) and Ayden Quintanilla slap rackets after getting a point during the match. The two defeated their Tigers' opponent.

## Sports Roundup

### Norwell takes win over East Noble in boys' soccer

After six straight losses, the Norwell boys' soccer team is back in the win column, and in a big way.

The Knights defeated East Noble at home 2-1 in Northeast 8 Conference play, improving their record to 5-6 (1-3 NE8).

Norwell has been hit by the injury and illness bug the past few weeks, but got back Philip Gaier, who saved the day for the Knights. His 23 saves at goalie helped the team allow just one goal.

Kyler Morris and Hudson Gerbers were the goal scorers for Norwell, while Kale Fuess added an assist.

Norwell won the junior varsity game 3-0 with goals by Simon Isch and Matthew Hernandez.

Norwell will be back in action next week at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 23.

### Knights sweep Panthers in home volleyball match

Norwell swept Eastbrook at home in volleyball Monday night.

The Knights won by scores of 25-11, 25-12 and 25-18. Their record is now 9-7 on the season.

Stat leaders: Vanessa Rosswurm 11 kills, Rebecca Settle and Emma Vachon three aces, Vachon 23 assists and 16 digs and Mekynzi Beck three blocks.

Norwell won the junior varsity match (25-18, 25-15) over Eastbrook and the freshman match (25-24, 25-23) over Churusbuso.

Norwell will be at home to take on Marion at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17.

### Norwell falls to East Noble in NE8 girls' soccer match

Norwell fell 2-1 in girls' soccer at East Noble Monday night.

The Knights fell to 6-4 (2-3 NE8) with the loss.

Grace Mann was the goal scorer for Norwell, assisted by Kaylee Bennett. Abby Wagner was in net.

Norwell will be at Eastbrook at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17.

## High School Calendar

**TUESDAY, SEPT. 17**  
BOYS TENNIS: New Haven at Norwell, 5 p.m.

GIRLS GOLF: Jay County at Southern Wells, 4:30 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER: Nowell at Eastbrook, 7 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL: Woodlan at Bluffton, 7 p.m.; Marion at Norwell, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Heritage, 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 18**  
BOYS TENNIS: Luers at Bluffton, 5 p.m.  
GIRLS GOLF: Luers/South Adams at Norwell, 4:30 p.m.

**THURSDAY, SEPT. 19**  
BOYS TENNIS: South Adams at Bluffton, 5 p.m.; Norwell at East Noble, 5 p.m.  
GIRLS GOLF: Bluffton at Woodlan, 4:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 20**  
GIRLS GOLF: (Sectional) Norwell at Chestnut Hills, 9 a.m.

FOOTBALL: Jay County at Bluffton, 7 p.m.; New Haven at Norwell, 7 p.m.; Southern Wells at Woodlan, 7 p.m.

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**FRIDAY, SEPT. 20**  
GIRLS GOLF: (Sectional) Norwell at Chestnut Hills, 9 a.m.

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 20**  
GIRLS GOLF: (Sectional) Bluffton at Arbor Trace, 9 a.m.

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## Vanderkolk earns 200th career win

Bluffton boys' tennis coach Robert Vanderkolk holds up a sign made by friends to honor his 200th career victory Monday night against Norwell. (Photo by Ryan Walker)



By RYAN WALKER

Twenty-one years ago, Robert Vanderkolk took over a program he once played for. He was named head coach of the Bluffton Tigers boys' tennis team.

Twenty-one years later, he has his 200th career win.

The Tigers defeated the Norwell Knights in a grinding 3-2 win to accomplish the feat for their head coach.

Vanderkolk, a man known for speaking his mind and quick-witted comments, was at times struggling to find the words to say when talking about 200 wins.

"It means I've been doing this for too long," Vanderkolk said. "It's just a testament to the work the guys do. I'm a very small piece to the puzzle."

It couldn't have come at a better time,

ryan@news-banner.com

beating the county rival that he grew up competing against and now coaching against. The win got his team to an 8-4 record and hungry for its third-straight ACAC title and hopes to win the team's first sectional in over a decade.

But as much as Vanderkolk himself is thirsty for more hardware, his reflection of why he coaches tennis outweighs everything.

"I don't do this for the money," Vanderkolk said. "I don't do this for the personal glory. I just enjoy being around the guys on a daily basis. The fact that the school district and the community has supported me for 21 years while I do this means more to me than the 200 wins. Hopefully, that's not the last win."

# Tigers slip past Knights

(Continued from Page 6)

points went Bluffton's way that could have went our way, and that was really the deciding factor. I feel like it was really just that close."

But the end result this time went to the Tigers, an oh sweet victory for Vanderkolk, and a future postseason rematch could be in the cards.

"It's always good to beat our neighbors from to the north no matter what sport it is no matter what level it is," Vanderkolk said. "There's a little bit of juice to it on both sides as there should be."

## Individual results

- Nolan Lambert (B) defeated Gavin Reynolds 6-3, 6-3 at No. 1 singles.
  - Jacob Ribich (B) defeated Braylon Trout 7-5, 6-3 at No. 2 singles.
  - Landon Diver (N) defeated Reid Abbett 6-3, 6-4 at No. 3 singles.
  - Eddie Archbold and Ayden Quintanilla (N) defeated Ben Maggard and Coy Lantz 6-1, 6-4 at No. 1 doubles.
  - Kade Abbett and Dane Schlagenhauf (B) defeated Rylan Heyerly and Dylan Randol 6-0, 6-4 at No. 2 doubles.
- Bluffton also won the junior varsity match 7-2.

## Results for JV:

- Lance Moser (B) defeated Levi White 8-2.
  - Jace Draper (B) defeated Christian Werling 8-1.
  - Jasper Kreigh (N) defeated Chase Houser 8-0.
  - Carter Lehman (B) defeated Carter DeWeese 9-7.
  - Jackson Meyer and Alex Maggard (B) defeated Ethan Williamson and Ryan Ewing 8-2.
  - Jared Moser and Lincoln Rodgers (B) defeated Levi White and Christian Werling 8-4.
  - Jasper Kreigh and Greyson Chavis (N) defeated Jed Logan and Graham Linderwell 8-6.
  - Grant Reifsteck and Braden Lemler (B) defeated Brady Watkins and Carter DeWeese 8-4.
  - Kenny Mercer and Carter Williams (B) defeated Jensen Miller and Braden Hoag 8-6.
- Bluffton will host Bishop Luers at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 18.  
Norwell will host New Haven at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17.

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Tigers' Nolan Lambert returns a shot toward his opponent during the match with the Knights. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

# News-Banner Scoreboard

## FOOTBALL

### NFL

**Thursday's Games**  
Buffalo 31, Miami 10

**Sunday's Games**  
Cleveland 18, Jacksonville 13  
Green Bay 16, Indianapolis 10  
L.A. Chargers 26, Carolina 3  
Las Vegas 26, Baltimore 23  
Minnesota 23, San Francisco 17  
N.Y. Jets 24, Tennessee 17  
New Orleans 44, Dallas 19  
Seattle 23, New England 20, OT  
Tampa Bay 20, Detroit 16  
Washington 21, N.Y. Giants 18  
Arizona 41, L.A. Rams 10  
Kansas City 26, Cincinnati 25  
Pittsburgh 13, Denver 6  
Houston 19, Chicago 13

**Monday's Games**  
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 8:15 p.m.

**Thursday, Sept. 19**  
New England at N.Y. Jets, 8:15 p.m.

**Sunday, Sept. 22**  
Chicago at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.  
Denver at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.  
Green Bay at Tennessee, 1 p.m.  
Houston at Minnesota, 1 p.m.  
L.A. Chargers at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.  
N.Y. Giants at Cleveland, 1 p.m.  
Philadelphia at New Orleans, 1 p.m.

**Monday, Sept. 23**  
Jacksonville at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.  
Washington at Cincinnati, 8:15 p.m.

## BASKETBALL

### WNBA

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

**Tuesday's Games**  
Minnesota at Connecticut, 7 p.m.  
New York at Washington, 7 p.m.  
Chicago at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.  
Las Vegas at Seattle, 10 p.m.  
Phoenix at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

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

**Thursday's Games**  
Atlanta at New York, 7 p.m.  
Chicago at Connecticut, 7 p.m.  
Indiana at Washington, 7 p.m.  
Los Angeles at Minnesota, 8 p.m.  
Dallas at Las Vegas, 10 p.m.  
Seattle at Phoenix, 10 p.m.

## BASEBALL

### MLB

**AMERICAN LEAGUE**

New York	87	63	.580	—
Baltimore	84	66	.560	3
Boston	75	75	.500	12
Tampa Bay	73	77	.487	14
Toronto	72	78	.480	15

**Central Division**

Cleveland	87	64	.576	—
Kansas City	82	70	.539	5½
Minnesota	79	71	.527	7½
Detroit	78	73	.517	9
Chicago	35	115	.233	51½

**West Division**

Houston	81	68	.544	—
Seattle	77	73	.513	4½

Texas	71	79	.473	10½
Oakland	65	86	.430	17
Los Angeles	60	89	.403	21

**Sunday's Games**  
Detroit 4, Baltimore 2  
Minnesota 9, Cincinnati 2  
Toronto 3, St. Louis 2  
Cleveland 2, Tampa Bay 0  
Chicago White Sox 4, Oakland 3  
Pittsburgh 4, Kansas City 3  
N.Y. Yankees 5, Boston 2  
Seattle 7, Texas 0  
Houston 6, L.A. Angels 4

**Monday's Games**  
Cleveland 4, Minnesota 3  
Chicago Cubs 9, Oakland 2  
Detroit 7, Kansas City 6  
Chicago White Sox at L.A. Angels, late

Houston at San Diego, late

**Tuesday's Games**  
San Francisco (Snell 3-3) at Baltimore (Suárez 8-5), 6:35 p.m.  
Minnesota (Matthews 1-3) at Cleveland (Williams 3-9), 6:40 p.m.  
Boston (Pivetta 5-10) at Tampa Bay (Baz 2-3), 6:50 p.m.  
Detroit (Mize 2-6) at Kansas City (Ragans 11-9), 7:40 p.m.  
Oakland (Spence 7-9) at Chicago Cubs (Wicks 2-3), 7:40 p.m.  
Toronto (Bassitt 10-13) at Texas (Eovaldi 11-8), 8:05 p.m.  
Chicago White Sox (Martin 0-4) at L.A. Angels (Canning 5-13), 9:38 p.m.  
Houston (Brown 11-8) at San Diego (King 12-9), 9:40 p.m.  
N.Y. Yankees (Gi 13-6) at Seattle (Woo 8-2), 9:40 p.m.

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**

Philadelphia	90	60	.600	—
New York	82	68	.547	8
Atlanta	81	69	.540	9
Washington	68	82	.453	22

Miami	55	95	.367	35
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**Central Division**

Milwaukee	87	63	.580	—
Chicago	77	73	.513	10
St. Louis	75	75	.500	12
Cincinnati	73	78	.483	14½
Pittsburgh	71	79	.473	16

**West Division**

Los Angeles	89	61	.593	—
San Diego	85	65	.567	4
Arizona	83	66	.557	5½
San Francisco	72	78	.480	17
Colorado	57	93	.380	32

**Sunday's Games**  
Philadelphia 2, N.Y. Mets 1  
Minnesota 9, Cincinnati 2  
Washington 4, Miami 3  
Toronto 3, St. Louis 2  
Pittsburgh 4, Kansas City 3  
Chicago Cubs 6, Colorado 2  
San Diego 4, San Francisco 3, 10 innings  
Arizona 11, Milwaukee 10, 10 innings  
L.A. Dodgers 9, Atlanta 2  
Monday's Games  
N.Y. Mets 2, Washington 1, 10 innings  
L.A. Dodgers 9, Atlanta 0  
Chicago Cubs 9, Oakland 2  
St. Louis 4, Pittsburgh 0  
Milwaukee 6, Philadelphia 2  
Arizona at Colorado, late  
Houston at San Diego, late

**Tuesday's Games**  
San Francisco (Snell 3-3) at Baltimore (Suárez 8-5), 6:35 p.m.  
Atlanta (Holmes 2-1) at Cincinnati (Williamson 0-0), 6:40 p.m.  
L.A. Dodgers (Miller 2-4) at Miami (McCaughan 0-0), 6:40 p.m.  
Washington (Parker 7-9) at N.Y. Mets (Megill 3-5), 7:10 p.m.  
Oakland (Spence 7-9) at Chicago

Cubs (Wicks 2-3), 7:40 p.m.  
Philadelphia (Wheeler 15-6) at Milwaukee (Montas 7-10), 7:40 p.m.  
Pittsburgh (Falter 8-7) at St. Louis (Lynn 6-4), 7:45 p.m.  
Arizona (TBD) at Colorado (Feltner 2-10), 8:40 p.m.  
Houston (Brown 11-8) at San Diego (King 12-9), 9:40 p.m.

## Midwest League

Midwest League Playoffs (x-if necessary) (Best-of-3)

**Semifinal**  
East Division  
Lake County, Dayton  
Tuesday, Sept. 10: Lake County at Dayton, 7:05 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 12: Dayton at Lake County, 6:35 p.m.  
x-Friday, Sept. 13: Dayton at Lake County, 6:35 p.m.

**West Division**  
Wisconsin, Quad Cities  
Tuesday, Sept. 10: Wisconsin at Quad Cities, 7:30 p.m.  
Thursday, Sept. 12: Quad Cities at Wisconsin, 7:40 p.m.  
x-Friday, Sept. 13: Quad Cities at Wisconsin, 7:40 p.m.  
Championship (Best-of-3) Wisconsin 1, Lake County 0  
Sunday, Sept. 15: Wisconsin 5, Lake County 4  
Tuesday, Sept. 17: Wisconsin at Lake County, 6:35 p.m.  
x-Wednesday, Sept. 18: Wisconsin at Lake County, 6:35 p.m.

# Colts are seeking solutions after first two opponents ran roughshod over their defense

By MICHAEL MAROT  
AP Sports Writer  
INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indianapolis' biggest off-season need was supposed to be beefing up a young secondary that struggled in 2023.

Instead, two weeks into the season, the run defense has been the most glaring problem.

The Colts' first two opponents, Houston and Green Bay, each rushed for more than 200 yards, putting winless Indy already in a two-game deficit in the AFC South and last in the NFL with 237.0 yards rushing allowed per game entering Monday.

Clearly, the Colts need to find a quick solution with the Chicago Bears (1-1) coming to town for Week 3.

"We have to get in our meeting room on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and get it fixed. That is the bottom line," coach Shane Steichen said after Sunday's 16-10 loss. "We have the guys in that locker room to do it. I have no doubt about that. I am not going to lose any faith in that, we just have to get it fixed."

It won't be easy, especially with three-time Pro Bowl defensive tackle DeForest Buckner hurting. He's only missed one game since being acquired in 2020, being held out of a November game after going on the COVID-19 list.

Buckner's streak could be in serious jeopardy this week. Despite playing through a back injury Sunday, he left the game and was carted to the locker room with what turned out to be a sprained ankle. He did not return.

And with last season's sacks leader, Samson Ebukam, already out with a torn Achilles tendon that leaves two big holes on Indy's defensive line.

Personnel may only be part of the problem.

Even with Buckner, the Colts allowed 100-yard

rushers in consecutive weeks and Green Bay needed only two quarters to top 200 yards.

While the Colts' half-time adjustments helped plug some of the holes, it's unclear whether they will change anything over the last 15 games.

"You give up that, two weeks in a row, you come to a reality that's a problem," linebacker E.J. Speed said Monday when asked about the 474 yards rushing they've allowed this season. "I know that I accepted it, being a linebacker and teams running the ball on us and I know this week I'll be doing everything in my

power to stop the run." What's working

Jonathan Taylor. On a day the Colts played so poorly in other facets, Taylor looked like the 2021 NFL rushing champ. While his league-high scoring streak ended at seven games, he accounted for nearly half of Indy's 338 total yards with 103 rushing and 32 receiving.

What needs work  
Ball security. Quarterback Anthony Richardson is now 2-4 as a starter and clearly needs more time to become the franchise quarterback Indy expects. Yes, he's showed potential. But after fumbling twice and

throwing three interceptions, one coming on the final heave of the game, Richardson must take care of the ball.

## Public Notice

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION**  
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Indiana Code § 6-1.1-20-3.1 that the Board of Education (the "Board") of Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District (the "School Corporation") did, on September 16, 2024, make a preliminary determination to issue bonds for the renovation of and improvements to school facilities, including deferred maintenance improvements, athletics improvements, site improvements, and the purchase of equipment (collectively, the "Project"). The bonds will have a maximum maturity of seven (7) years, a maximum principal amount of \$1,100,000 and estimated interest rates ranging from 2.00% to 6.00% resulting in total estimated interest costs of \$194,045.

As required by Indiana Code § 6-1.1-20-3.1(b)(1), the following information was available to the public at the public hearings on the preliminary determination: (i) the School Corporation's current and projected annual debt service payments divided by the net assessed value of taxable property within the School Corporation, which is 0.55%; and (ii) the sum of the School Corporation's outstanding long term debt plus the outstanding long term debt of other taxing units that include any other territory of the School Corporation divided by the net assessed value of taxable property within the School Corporation, which is 1.95%.

The School Corporation's current Debt Service Fund levy is \$2,842,378 and the current rate is \$0.4879. After the bonds are issued, the gross Debt Service Fund levy will increase by a maximum of \$650,000 and the gross Debt Service Fund tax rate will increase by a maximum of \$0.0967. However, as existing obligations mature, the anticipated net increase to the Debt Service Fund tax rate is expected to be \$0.00 above the current Debt Service Fund tax rate.

The estimated amount of the School Corporation's Debt Service Fund levy and tax rate that will result during the following ten years if the School Corporation issues the bonds, after considering any changes that will occur to the Debt Service Fund levy and tax rate during that period on account of any outstanding bonds or lease obligations that will mature or terminate during that period, is as follows:

Year	Estimated Total Debt Service Levy	Estimated Total Debt Service Rate
2024	2,842,378	0.4879
2025	3,279,109	0.4879
2026	3,258,743	0.4753
2027	2,850,140	0.4076
2028	1,955,423	0.2742
2029	1,927,735	0.2703
2030	1,586,842	0.2225
2031	1,604,864	0.2250
2032	1,606,253	0.2252
2033	1,603,499	0.2248
2034	1,605,885	0.2251

The purpose of the bonds is to provide for the Project. Any owners of real property within the School Corporation or registered voters residing within the School Corporation who want to initiate a petition and remonstrance process against the proposed issuance of the bonds must file a petition that complies with Indiana Code § 6-1.1-20-3.1 subdivisions (4) and (5) not later than 30 days after the first publication of this notice.

Dated September 17, 2024.  
/s/ Secretary, Board of Education  
Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District  
nb 9/17  
hspaxlp

# Online Directory

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

<b>Genesis Pest Services</b> genesispestservices.com	<b>MR. KOOL Heating and Cooling</b> mrkoolheatingandair.com	<b>DAZEY SUPPLY</b> dazeys.com/bluffton-in
<b>STEFFEN Financial Group</b> stefffinancial.com	<b>JC'S GARAGE DOOR SALES &amp; SERVICE</b> jcsgaragedoor.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 GROWS HERE</b> extension.purdue.edu/wells	<b>RiverStone DENTAL</b> riverstonedental.net	<b>Bluffton Tire</b> blufftontire.com
<b>Goodwin Cole &amp; Harris MEMORIAL CHAPEL</b> thegmcfamily.com	<b>HIDAY AUTOMOTIVE GROUP</b> hidaymotors.com	<b>Edward Jones</b> EdwardJones.com
<b>INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS AUDIO VIDEO SECURITY NETWORKING</b> icav.us	<b>Jerry Flack &amp; Associates</b> jerryflackinsuranceandinvestments.com	<b>La Fontaine 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
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	3	1	4			6		
			9		6	1	7	
9	6		8			4	2	
2	1		3				5	
	5		1	8	4	9		
		4	7		2			
		2			8			
1		9	6	7		2		5
			2		1		7	

Difficulty: ★★

9/17

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**Monday's Drawings**  
**HOOSIER LOTTERY**  
Cash 5 — 06-09-15-19-30  
Cash4Life — 18-22-31-38-55, Cash Ball: 04  
Quick Draw Midday — 01-02-07-09-10-16-18-21-22-24-27-31-32-36-42-50-67-69-76-78, BE: 31  
Daily Three-Midday — 06-07-06, SB: 07  
Daily Three-Evening — 00-08-00, SB: 06  
Daily Four-Midday — 00-05-05-01, SB: 07  
Daily Four-Evening — 05-09-08-08, SB: 06  
Quick Draw Evening — 02-04-06-07-15-26-32-33-36-37-41-47-51-59-62-65-68-71-72-73, BE: 36  
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$21.6 million

**MEGA MILLIONS**  
Estimated jackpot (for Tuesday): \$31 million

**POWERBALL**  
08-09-11-27-31 Powerball: 17; Power Play: 5X

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**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 Superior Court of Wells County, Indiana, in Cause No. 90D01-2312-MF-000033 wherein Specialized Loan Servicing LLC was Plaintiff, and Unknown Heirs, Legatees, Devisees, Executors, Administrators, and assigns if any of Anita F Rogers, et al., 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 9th day of October, 2024, at the hour of 1:00 PM or as soon thereafter as is possible, at Wells County Sheriff's Office, 102 West Market Street, Bluffton, IN 46714, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Wells County, Indiana.

THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE LOCATED IN WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA: PART OF THE SOUTH-WEST QUARTER OF SECTION FOUR (4), TOWNSHIP TWENTY SIX (26) NORTH, RANGE TWELVE (12) EAST, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: COMMENCING AT A POINT WHERE THE EAST LINE OF OAK STREET INTERSECTS WITH THE NORTH LINE OF ARNOLD STREET, IN THE CITY OF BLUFFTON, THENCE NORTH ALONG THE EAST LINE OF OAK STREET 50 FEET, THENCE EAST PARALLEL WITH THE NORTH LINE OF ARNOLD STREET 140 FEET, THENCE SOUTH TO THE NORTH LINE OF ARNOLD STREET, THENCE WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF ARNOLD STREET 140 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING 16/100 OF AN ACRE.

More commonly known as: 527 W Arnold, Bluffton, IN 46714  
Parcel No. 90-08-04-300-062,000-004

Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws.

"Subject to all liens, encumbrances and easements of record not otherwise extinguished in the proceedings known as Cause No. 90D01-2312-MF-000033 in the Circuit/Superior Court of the County of Wells, Indiana."

Plaintiff Attorney:  
Matthew C. Gladwell (30493-49)  
Christopher J. Arlinghaus (31680-15)  
Aaron Rodgers (28418-84)  
Reisenfeld & Associates LLC  
3962 Red Bank Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45227  
Voice: (513) 322-7000  
Facsimile: (513) 322-7099  
Scott Holliday,  
Sheriff of Wells County  
Township  
527 W Arnold,  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
Street Address  
SHERIFF FILE NO.

The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street addressed published herein

SERVICE DIRECTED TO:  
Cathy Morse  
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This communication is from a debt collector. This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

nb 9/3, 9/10, 9/17 hspaxlp

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

nb 9/18, 9/25 hspaxlp

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### Public Notices

**NOTICE**  
The City of Bluffton is taking sealed bids for Single Axle 4x2 Heavy Duty Snow Plow Truck for the Street Department. A Notice to Bidders may be obtained from the office of the Clerk Treasurer, 128 East Market Street, Bluffton IN or online at [www.blufftonindiana.net](http://www.blufftonindiana.net). Bids must be received at the office of the Clerk Treasurer by 4:30 p.m on Tuesday, September 24. Bids will be opened and read aloud at a public meeting of the Board of Public Works & Safety on Tuesday September 24, at 4:30 p.m.  
nb 9/10, 9/17 hspaxlp

**90C01-2409-ES-000003**  
STATE OF INDIANA }  
COUNTY OF WELLS } SS:  
IN THE MATTER OF }  
THE ESTATE OF }  
KEATON W. OSMUN }  
**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION**  
(For Publication in Newspaper)  
Notice is hereby given that Brandy L. Carr was on the 10th day of September, 2024, appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Keaton W. Osmun, deceased, who died on the 17th day of March, 2024.

All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the Office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.  
Dated at Bluffton, Indiana this 10th day of September, 2024.  
Beth Davis  
Clerk, Wells Superior Court  
Attorney for the Estate:  
Kent C. Litchin  
GROSSMAN & LITCHIN P.C.  
116 E. Berry Street, Suite 1600  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802  
Telephone # (260) 422-4706  
Attorney # 10860-02  
nb 9/18, 9/25 hspaxlp



# The mission to save and to restore Indiana's historic barns

By C.J. MILLER  
Hoosier Ag Today

Indiana has about 20,000 historic wooden barns scattered around the state, but many of them are quickly falling into disrepair. That's why the Indiana Barn Foundation is bringing awareness to the efforts to save these cultural landmarks.

"Let's give these old barns a chance because they tell us a lot about our agricultural history, and a lot of cases they tell us a lot about our family and community history too," says Kent Yeager, President of the Indiana Barn Foundation. The organization was founded in 2014 by the late Mauri Williamson, a retired Purdue ag professor who sought to preserve Indiana's farm history and heritage.

Last weekend, the organization hosted an historic barn tour in Shelby County that featured one unique polygonal barn called the Rudicel-Montgomery Barn, which is owned by the Montgomery family and built near Waldron in 1910.

"This barn has 12 sides, which I believe in Indiana there were fewer than 20 of these that ever existed," according to Yeager. "This particular form of barn is just a very rare thing, and so we wanted to highlight it for the historic value of it—if nothing else, I hope [the Montgomery family]



The Rudicel-Montgomery Barn near Waldron in Shelby County is a unique 12-sided barn that was built in 1910. It was part of the Indiana Barn Foundation's Barn Tour on Saturday, Sept. 14. (Photo by C.J. Miller)

can find a way to use it. It's got significant historic value to the state, to agriculture, and that's what a lot of this work is about with these old barns." One effort that's been made to keep more of these barns around is that significant property tax deductions are available for barns built before 1950.

"We didn't want people to have a reason to say, 'I'm going to let that barn go,' or 'I'm going to tear it down so I don't have to

pay property taxes on it.' At least we eliminated that reason. It's a small thing in the context of the value of a lot of these barns, but it is important and hopefully people will take advantage of it."

Yeager says the ultimate goal is to restore as many of these historic barns and create value for them once again. He adds that many barns have already been repurposed into wedding venues, wineries, retail shops and res-

taurants.

"One of the things that happened is that farm machinery outsized a lot of these barns," he says. Even people with livestock became very specialized, and so we lost the purpose that some of these barns were originally built, so the more people can do to find another purpose—that is the best thing to maintain them."

Learn more about the Indiana Barn Foundation at [IndianaBarns.org](http://IndianaBarns.org).

# Over 300 state, national farm groups call on Congress to pass farm bill

By AGDAILY

Citing worsening economic conditions impacting the nation's farmers, over 300 national and state groups, including the National Corn Growers Association and its affiliated corn state grower associations, sent a letter to congressional leaders today calling on them to pass the farm bill before year's end.

Signatories included groups representing farmers, livestock and specialty crop producers, lenders, and other essential stakeholders in agricultural communities across the U.S. Commodity and lending groups will head to the Capitol en masse this week to advocate for passage of the legislation with a stronger agricultural safety net.

"It is critical that Congress pass a new farm bill that strengthens the safety net as many producers are facing multiple years of not being profitable, and this is causing their overall

financial situation to deteriorate," the letter said. "Some will have challenges as they seek operating credit for the 2025 crop year."

The farm bill is typically passed every five years and supports the nation's farmers, ranchers, and forest stewards through a variety of safety net, credit, conservation, and other critical programs. The law was originally scheduled for reauthorization in 2023. Last November, Congress voted to extend the existing legislation to September 30, 2024. Since that point, the leadership from both parties on the Senate and House Agriculture Committees have worked to push the legislation forward.

As the farm bill has faced delays, producers across the country have experienced headwinds, ranging from extreme weather to high input costs to uncertain global demand to supply chain disruptions.

Since the beginning of the year, the harvest price of major crops traded on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and the Intercontinental Exchange have fallen by an average of 21 percent while total production costs remain near record levels.

Farmers and their allies say these challenges have exposed areas of the farm bill that need to be strengthened.

"Since the 2018 Farm Bill was signed into law, we have realized considerable gaps in the farm safety net due to sharply changing conditions, including the trade war with China, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, COVID-19, and related supply chain challenges, rising foreign subsidies, tariffs, non-tariff trade barriers and other harmful practices," the letter said. "These conditions seriously tested the effectiveness of the 2018 Farm Bill, and it was only by the aggres-

sive use of supplemental assistance that many farms survived."

The letter noted that the outlook for farm country is even more daunting, as the U.S. Department of Agriculture-projected market prices for the 2024 crop are well below costs of production, and current projections paint another bleak picture for 2025.

"The farm bill reauthorization provides an opportunity for Congress to address serious challenges in agriculture," the letter said. "A durable farm safety net, along with risk management tools like a strong federal crop insurance program, voluntary and locally led incentive-based conservation programs, and enhanced international marketing and promotion programs, will be critical in shoring up America's farm families and rural communities, which otherwise face an uncertain — and potentially calamitous — future."

# Indiana farmland prices reach record highs

By ASHVINI MALSHE  
Purdue University

Indiana farmland prices have continued the trend of record highs in 2024, according to the latest Purdue Farmland Value and Cash Rents Survey results.

The survey is conducted out of the Purdue University Department of Agricultural Economics and produced through the cooperation of numerous professionals knowledgeable about Indiana's farmland market. These professionals provide an estimate of the market value for bare poor-, average- and top-quality farmland in December 2023, June 2024 and a forecast for December 2024.

The average price of top-quality farmland reached \$14,392 per acre, a 4.8% increase from June 2023. Average- and poor-quality farmland also saw gains, with prices increasing 3.7% and 4.4% to

\$11,630 and \$9,071 per acre, respectively.

"While farmland prices increased between 2023 and 2024, survey respondents noted that much of the growth appears to have taken place in the latter half of 2023," said Todd Kueth, the Schrader Endowed Chair in Farmland Economics at Purdue and the survey's author. "A number of forces, such as high interest rates and lower farm incomes, are placing downward pressure on prices, but the limited supply of land is keeping prices firm."

The change in farmland prices varied significantly across regions and quality grades. The southwest region experienced exceptionally high appreciation rates, especially for top- and average-quality land, while the southeast region saw the most pronounced declines across all quality grades. Top-quality land in

the southwest now surpasses the central region in price per acre. However, the central region continues to hold the highest values for average- and poor-quality land.

Kueth also noted that respondents expect a modest decline in farmland prices through the rest of 2024, though prices are anticipated to remain slightly above those from June 2023. Additionally, land transitioning out of agricultural production surged in value by 21.6%, driven by large-scale development projects, while recreational land prices dipped slightly. Statewide cash rents saw minimal changes, with some variation across regions, reflecting broader trends in land values.

The Department of Agricultural Economics conducts the Purdue Farmland Value and Cash Rents Survey each June and it

is published in the quarterly publication Purdue Agricultural Economics Report.

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# Police Notebook

(Continued from Page 11)

the vehicle and transported to the hospital. Xayyachack later went to the hospital for evaluation. Damages did not exceed \$25,000.

Saturday, 8:44 a.m., U.S. 224 and 100 E. Glenn Haneline, 84, Roanoke, was driving east on 224 when he failed to stop at a stop sign at the intersection of 100E. Haneline's

Chevrolet C/K Pickup collided with the front passenger side of a Chevrolet Equinox driven by Nathan Heinkel, 16, Ossian. The officer advised that the intersection became a four-way stop around two months ago. Damages did not exceed \$5,000.

## ARRESTS

Rena Diane Cook, 36, Huntington; probation vio-

lation, a Level 6 felony. No bond set.

Jhosue Arellano Vazquez, 23, Berne; operating without ever obtaining license, a Class C misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Robert Clark, 50, Richmond; driving while suspended — prior, a Class A misdemeanor. Booked and released.

# BHMSD achieves Red Wagon Corporation Honor from Riley Hospital

Friday, Sept. 13, was a special night for the Bluffton-Harrison MSD school community as the district has once again achieved Red Wagon Corporation status due to its fundraising contributions for Riley Hospital for Children during the 2023-24 school year.

Since 1993, BHMSD has contributed more than \$300,000 to the Indianapolis-based children's hospital. Each school hosts special events once a year to raise funds. From Bluffton-Harrison Elementary School's dress up days, Bluffton-Harrison Middle School's boat races and Talent Show, and Bluffton High School's Riley Auction, students, staff and parents are able to contribute in fun but meaningful ways each school year.

Susan Miles, Kids Caring and Sharing Program Officer with the Riley's Children Foundation, was present at Friday's home football game to present Steve Baker of BHS, Stacy Herrold of BHMS and BHMSD Superintendent Brad Yates with personal-

ized school license plates and a district certificate.

"Our students, faculty and staff, and greater school community's generosity to Riley's Children Hospital is inspiring," Yates said. "Our district has a long history of supporting Riley's Children Hospital, and we are thrilled to continue our legacy as a Red Wagon Corporation."

Because of each school's fundraising status, the personalized license plates are featured on two of the hospital's red wagons, a vital transportation resource for families who visit the hospital for medical services.

The Red Wagon Corporation honor is given when a school corporation achieves a fundraising amount during the school year that is equivalent to \$1 per student per building.

Miles says BHMSD is the only school corporation in Indiana that has had a Red Wagon Corporation designation every year since the program started in 2007.



Pictured from left are Alyssa Brown of Archbold & Lewis, Erin Prible, executive director of the Wells County Chamber of Commerce, Danielle Lambert, Amara Hitchcock, Austin Hitchcock, Tyler Lambert, Lenny Vandegriff-Mauzy, Missi Lambert and Craig Lambert of Craig's Canines, Tammy Schaffer of WC Friends of a Shelter, John Stauffer of WEG Commercial Motors, Tim Lambert of Lambert Painting, Nate Stauffer of Parlor City Cabinetry, Adrian Biberstine of Craig's Canines, Patty Langel of WC Friends of a Shelter, Arlene Biberstine, Steve Stauffer, Letty Stauffer of Craig's Canines, Ben Renkenberger of the United Way of Wells County, Cindy Fiechter of North Eastern Group Realty and Hank Ifer and Kurt Ifer of Ifer Construction. (Photo submitted)

# Chamber welcomes Craig's Canines with ribbon cutting ceremony

The Wells County Chamber of Commerce, along with its ambassadors, is pleased to welcome Craig's Canines to the community with a ribbon-cutting ceremony held on Sept. 9. Craig's Canines, located at 4496 E. Elm Grove Road, a new dog boarding facility, is already creating a buzz with its innovative approach to pet care.

Craig's Canines was born out of owner Craig Lambert's love for dogs and his desire to help others. "I started the business in September of 2018 to provide a trustworthy pet care option for friends and family," Lambert explained. "This made me realize that many people don't have friends or family in the area to help them care for their pets while they are at work or on vacation, and that I could be the solution. When my seasonal work ended for the summer, I decided to give it a shot. Spoiler alert: it turns out I absolutely loved taking care of animals full-time."

Building on his passion, Lambert took the next step in expanding Craig's Canines by transforming a former cattle barn into a modern, dog-friendly facility. The renovation began in October 2023 and was completed by early July. "We fully renovated the interior," he explained. "We added spray foam insulation, installed HVAC systems, and put in a disinfecting unit to ensure optimal conditions for the dogs. I'm thrilled with how quickly we've been able to get up and running," Lambert shared.

The facility features 10 private kennels, each measuring 6 ft. by 5 ft., capable of accommodating one to three dogs, depending on their size and the specific requirements of their owners. Each kennel also includes an individual outdoor run measur-

ing 5 ft. by 10 ft. Lambert offers flexible drop-off and pick-up times seven days a week to fit any schedule, and he also provides in-home visits for clients who prefer not to board their pets.

Moreover, Craig's Canines offers house visits exclusive to Bluffton, providing a convenient option for dog owners with busy schedules or dogs that don't do well in boarding situations. This service includes a 15-20-minute visit to let pets out, provide food, water and medication if needed. Additional fees may apply for longer visits. For health concerns, Craig's Canines does not offer house visits to individuals who smoke inside their homes.

"House visits are a great way to break apart long workdays," Lambert noted. "They're especially useful for dogs that may find boarding stressful. This service is not limited to dogs and operates separately from the dog facility's hours."

Looking ahead, Lambert plans for growth, including potentially opening another location in the next few years. "My goal is to continue expanding to meet the needs of the community," Lambert added. "I'd love to hire more staff and provide even more services in the future. The support from the community has been amazing, and I'm so grateful for everyone who has helped spread the word about Craig's Canines."

Craig's Canines is open Monday through Sunday, with flexible drop-off and pick-up hours from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.. For more information or to schedule services, visit their website at [www.craigscanines.com](http://www.craigscanines.com) or contact Craig's Canines at [craigscanines@gmail.com](mailto:craigscanines@gmail.com) or by text or call at (260) 273-8976.

# Interpretive programs at Ouabache

## Ouabache State Park

4830 E SR 201, Bluffton, IN 46714, 260-724-0926

Interpretive Naturalist: Lydia Ade

### Friday, Sept. 20

Fall Tree Quiz: Collect a quiz sheet from the Park Office and return by the end of the day to win a prize. Park Office is open from 8:20 a.m. to 4 p.m.

1 p.m.: Lodge History: Join a guided tour to learn about the fascinating history of the Lodge and people behind it.

3 p.m.: Phenology Friday: Meet at the Park Office to study the seasons and how things change—looking for birds, mam-

mals, plants and more. Bring binoculars and hiking boots if desired.

### Saturday, Sept. 21

Scavenger Hut: Collect a scavenger hunt list from the Park Office and return by the end of the day to win a prize. (Hours 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

10 a.m.: Bison Feeding: Meet at the front of the Bison Enclosure to learn about our national mammal and watch us feed them.

### Sunday, Sept. 22

10 a.m.: Welcome Fall!: Help us celebrate the Autumn Equinox with a fall-themed craft at the Campview Shelter.

**Mon. - Wed. 9-5 • Thur. - Fri. 9-6**  
**Sat. 8-1 (Subject to change)**

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- 5 - 1 lb. Packages Ground Beef
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- 2 - Packages of Chicken Breast (2 per)

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- 1 - Package Pork Casing Sausage
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- 2 - New York Strip Steaks
- 2 - Packages Pork Steaks (2 per)
- 2 - Beef T-Bone Steaks
- 1 - Beef Sirloin Steak
- 1 - Package of Chicken Breast (2 per)

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Sept 17-21 "Passport to Fun"

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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*

Wednesday  
September 18th

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*\*Subject to Change*

# Do you know the three branches of U.S. government?

*Many don't, leading to a push for civics education*

By **ALLEN G. BREED** and **TIM SULLIVAN**  
AP National Writers

BLUFFTON, South Carolina (AP) — On the first day of his American National Government class, Prof. Kevin Dopf asks how many of his students are United States citizens. Every hand shoots up.

"So, how did all you people become citizens?" he asks. "Did you pass a test?"

"No," one young woman says tentatively. "We were born here."

It's a good thing. Based on his years of making his students at the University of South Carolina Beaufort take the test given to immigrants seeking U.S. citizenship, most would be rejected.

"Thirty, 35% of the students will pass it," says Dopf, a retired Army lieutenant colonel and former West Point instructor. "The rest of them are clueless. I mean, they're just clueless."

Most states require some sort of high school civics instruction. But with a recent survey by the Annenberg Public Policy Center showing that about a third of American adults can't name the three branches of the federal government, many think we should be aiming higher.

Over the past few years, a small but growing number of states have begun requiring students at publicly funded colleges to complete a civics requirement. That comes as polling indicates civics education is wildly popular across the political spectrum.

Civics — the study of citizens' rights and responsibilities — fosters a sense of unity, advocates say, and an ability to deal with disagreement. It empowers citizens, and many people believe it could help heal America's divides. Having it in higher education means they can look at issue in more sophisticated ways, perhaps weaving it into other classes.

"I feel we are in the business for making a case for America," said Louise Dube, head of iCivics, which promotes civics education.

But what does it mean when those talking about

civics often can't be, well, civil?

Take North Carolina, where lawmakers and academics got into a heated battle over who should decide how civics would be taught.

Last year, North Carolina Republicans introduced the REACH Act, an acronym for "Reclaiming College Education on America's Constitutional Heritage." The bill required undergraduates to take at least three credit hours in American government and read a series of major U.S. history documents, from the Declaration of Independence to Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1963 "Letter from Birmingham Jail." They would also have to pass a final exam worth 20% of the final grade.

If the bill seemed anodyne on the surface, it met with intense pushback. Critics pointed to the bill's "reclaiming" title, its attempt to dictate curriculum usually set by professors and that it was drafted by Jameson Broggi, an avowedly conservative U.S. Marine Corps captain and lawyer who has said curriculum must include "devotion to American institutions and ideals."

The North Carolina act easily passed the state House in March 2023 and a first reading in the Senate. It seemed on its way to victory.

University of North Carolina officials and faculty were not happy.

"We tried to slow this down in House but had zero success," Bart Goodson, senior vice president of government relations for the 16-school UNC system wrote to a fellow administrator in an April 2023 email, obtained by Broggi through an open records request.

"It was a 'wrap yourself in the flag' type bill and anyone who spoke against was essentially viewed as non-American," Goodson wrote.

So, as the idea moved slowly through the legislative process, UNC faculty took matters into their own hands.

Wade Maki, chair of the UNC faculty assem-

bled, worked with professors from four other campuses, including two historically Black universities, to draft a set of learning outcomes. They studied what's being done in other states.

The resulting proposal, called the "Foundations of American Democracy," mirrors the REACH Act in many ways. They even added Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address to the list of required documents.

It seemed like everyone wanted the same thing.

But supporters of requiring civics through legislation were troubled — why did the faculty object to their version?

"What are these people afraid of?" asked Michael B. Poliakoff, president and chief executive officer of American Council of Trustees and Alumni, which helped Broggi draft the North Carolina act and a similar one that passed in South Carolina three years ago.

"As if understanding the founding documents and the pivotal moments in our history, culminating with letter from Birmingham Jail, would be too disturbing, too retro."

That's not the point, the academics say.

Unlike standards in K-12 schools, college faculty typically decide the content of individual courses. It's seen as a core of academic freedom.

"Faculty are the primary owners of the curriculum," says Maki, who teaches philosophy at UNC-Greensboro. "We know what works in ways that sometimes someone outside of higher ed may not know what works."

The UNC board of governors, all 24 of whom were appointed by the GOP-led legislature, unanimously approved the plan in mid-April. Details are still being ironed out, with the requirement applying to students entering the system starting July 2025. (The NC REACH Act's sponsors, displeased with the UNC plan, have vowed to revive the legislative effort next year.)

According to the conservative, New York-based Civics Alliance, legislation in at least 10 states — Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Missouri, Nevada, South Carolina,

Texas, Utah, and Wyoming — require undergraduates at public universities to take at least one American history and/or government course. The requirement is being enacted, or at least discussed, in other states.

And the Alliance — which rails against "identity politics" and "radical New Civics activists" — is looking to spread the word.

The organization has created model legislation that calls for the "study of and devotion to America's exceptional and praiseworthy history." David Randall, the alliance's executive director, said its materials had "informed" legislation in Florida, Iowa and Texas, but declined to say what other states might have reached out.

Some state college systems, like UNC, haven't waited for a legislative mandate to act.

For example, students at Indiana's Purdue University and its satellite campuses can choose from three paths — write reflections after attending six approved civics-related events, listen to 12 podcasts and take a series of quizzes or complete one of 13 politics or history courses — and pass an exam. University of Arizona system faculty are currently developing "American Institutions" curricula to fulfill a requirement from the board of regents.

Professors acknowledge not all students appreciate the forced civics learning.

"Some view it as the vegetable in a meal, some view it as the dessert. For some, the goal is just to finish the meal," said David Reingold, dean of Purdue's College of Liberal Arts, who oversaw the implementation of the system's civics program.

The Civics Alliance says America's colleges, which train K-12 teachers, have been "taken over by a radical establishment determined to replace proper civ-

ics education with pedagogics such as Critical Race Theory and action civics ..."

Whitney Ross Manzo, an associate professor of political science at Meredith College in Raleigh, says fears about political indoctrination assume "a power that faculty simply don't have."

"If I could force something on my students, it would be to read their syllabus and do their homework. I don't have the power to change their political ideology," said Manzo, who once taught in Texas.

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"Passport to Fun"

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7pm - Grand Opening Parade - Midway  
Grand Marshal: Erin Prible

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2024**  
5:45pm - Antique Tractor Parade - Midway  
6pm - Antique & Classic Car Parade - Midway  
6:15pm - High School Band Parade - Midway

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024**  
6pm - Industrial Parade - Midway

Entry Forms: [www.blufftonstreetfair.com](http://www.blufftonstreetfair.com)  
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