## Pond life studied at Ouabache event

Page 5

## Raiders end ACAC season unbeaten

Page 1a

VEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2024



#### Opening Day

The Bluffton Free Street Fair kicked off yesterday with its opening parade, featuring grand marshal Erin Prible (pictured above, at left) alongside her husband, Mark. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder) Kids who completed 1,000 books before kindergarten at the Wells County Public Library, were also featured in the parade, pictured below. At right, Naivee Brinneman enjoys the merry-goround. (Photos by Holly Gaskill) At bottom, Captain America and Spiderman carried a welcome sign through the parade, with a police officer from the Bluffton Police Department briefly chatting, one hero to another. More photos on Page 6.(Photo by Sydney Kent)







# Southern Wells will replace roof and add **AC in Raider Dome**

By HOLLY GASKILL

Southern Wells plans to accomplish multiple school improvement projects including adding air conditioning to the Raider Dome — by issuing a \$3 million

The board of trustees for Southern Wells Community Schools approved issuing the bond, as well as several associated project resolutions, during their regular meeting Tuesday evening. According to Superintendent Trent Lehman, the bond will have a \$0.06 impact on the district's current debt service rate, \$0.1244. However, with increased assessed value within the district, the total impact will be \$0.02.

Lehman said repairing the high school's roof will be the district's priority, as leaks have increased. They also hope to add air conditioning to the Raider Dome and administrative offices, replace ceiling tiles on the Raider Dome, renovate the locker rooms, make sewage improvements, roof replacement of the agriculture building, replace loading dock doors, buy a mower, and potentially other items. No one gave public comment on the project or bond reso-

"We plan to pursue the construction replacement and our upgrade to these items as soon as possible after securing funding, and are seeking completion of all items in under two years," Lehman said.

A new auxiliary gym was not included in the bond resolution, as had been originally discussed. Lehman said the district felt it was better to prioritize taking care of their current facilities rather than expanding. However, SWCS may still pursue the project in the future.

In the last month, all three Wells County districts have issued similar bonds for facility improvements — Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan Schools approved a \$1.1 million bond on Monday and Norwell Community Schools approved a \$3.3 million bond

Also Tuesday, Lehman told the board that SWCS families had surveyed overwhelmingly in favor of starting later in the 2025-26 calendar year, beginning school on Aug. 13 and ending May 28. Board member Delora Schneider asked if it correlated with (Continued on Page 2)

# **Water Department will** purchase leak analyzers to cut down on water waste

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Newly purchased leak analyzers, approved by the Board of Public Works and Safety on Tuesday, will help the Water Department locate line leaks in an effort to cut down on wasted water.

The department will purchase 10 analyzers for \$17,150. The analyzers will send alarms to the water department when a leak is detected. The purchase comes in response to a water leak survey that was presented to the Board of Works on Aug. 20.

Water Department Supervisor Dave Hendricks stated that all major leaks have been patched, with only small leaks in fire hydrants left to fix. Hendricks stated that the new equipment will allow the department to bring some of the leak analysis process in-house. Board member Josh Hunt stated that the analyzers are a great idea, citing that it will give them a starting point for leak detection with expansion opportunities later.

"I think it's a wise move," Hunt said. "It's a good way to get our feet wet, no pun intended."

Additionally, Utility Director Jon Oman updated the board that Virginia Transformers, the transformer provider for the Cherry Street Substation Project, is willing to compromise on the testing and assembly fee for both transformers. Oman stated that their revised offer will be available in two

The board also approved raises for Deputy Clerk Treasurer Marcy Wayman and Water Department Equipment Operators Jack Pezo and Wyatt Mayer. The board also paid a \$124,553 SRF Claim expense for the Dustman Road Interceptor Project.

jonathan@news-banner.com

# FBI investigating suspicious packages sent to election officials in more than 15 states

By SUMMER BALLENTINE and STEVE LeBLANC **Associated Press** 

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — The FBI and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service on Tuesday were investigating the origin of suspicious packages that have been sent to or received by elections officials in more than 15 states, but there were no immediate reports of injuries or that any of the packages contained hazardous material.

The latest packages were sent to elections officials in Alaska, Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York and Rhode Island. Mississippi authorities reported a package was delivered there Monday, and the Connecticut Secretary of State's office said the FBI alerted it of a package that was intercepted.

The FBI is collecting the packages, some of which contained "an unknown substance," agency spokesperson Kristen Setera in Boston said in a statement.

We are also working with our partners to determine how many letters were sent, the individual or individuals responsible for the letters, and the motive behind the letters," she said. "As this is an ongoing matter we will not be commenting further on the investigation, but the public can be assured safety is our top priority."

It's the second time in the past year that suspicious packages were mailed to election officials in multiple states.

The latest scare comes as early voting has begun in several states ahead of the high-stakes elections for president, Senate, Congress and key statehouse offices, causing disruption in an already tense voting season. Local election directors are beefing up security to keep workers and polling

(Continued on Page 2)

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# Also...

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Sunny and hot today the rest of this week

Thursday Friday Today High 85 | High 85 | High 88 Low 57 | Low 57 | Low 62

More Weather on Page 2

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Vol. 95 No. 271 WEDNESDAY **September 18, 2024** 



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### **Southern Wells**

(Continued from Page 1) other Wells County districts; Lehman said the superintendents had spoken about it. On Monday, BHMSD approved the same start and end dates.

The board did not approve the calendar on Tuesday to allow time for public feedback.

Elementary Principal Kristen Wall and Jr.-Sr. High School Principal Kim Conner also discussed their school improvement plans, which will be submitted to the Indiana Department of Education in early October. The schools largely track with or above state averages in student data; the principals want to continue to target growth, particularly in maintaining school attendance.

Schneider thanked the principals for how they spoke about the students' growth, saying, "Thank you for supporting them as they are, not as we want them to be, because that's what in the long run makes them successful.

Lehman further noted how encouraging it has been to see the legacy the teachers leave with their students. "I've always heard that more is caught than taught, and living in the community, seeing teachers, staff, parents - people that have



Board members for Southern Wells Community Schools heard from the related arts teaching staff on Tuesday, and practice bucket drumming to the tune of "Eye of the Tiger" by Survivor. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

created a legacy here of the way to do life is such a big deal," he said.

In a Spotlight on Raider Success, the Related Arts spoke about their programs and upcoming events, allowing the board to participate in a bucket drumming exercise to "Eye of the Tiger" by Survivor. The district will offer a robotics club soon, in addition to its extremely popular clubs for archery, walking and others.

Also during the meeting,

• Recognized the retire-

ment of bus driver Christina Furnish, who has worked for the district for 29 years.

 Approved employment recommendations for Mark Gates and Michael Haigh to split the athletic event sponsor position, Greg Penrod to coach eighth grade girls' basketball, Mike Carter and Caleb Sleppy to split elementary boys' intermural basketball and Brett Vickery as a baseball assistant coach.

• Accepted a donation from Poneto Baptist Church for elementary library lost/ damaged book fines.

• Approved the following fundraiser requests: jeans for teachers, girls' basketball to sell a variety of food items at events during the fall season when other groups are not selling and host an annual pork chop dinner on Dec. 6, Business Professionals of America to sell suckers, Sunshine Society to sell caramel brownies and Southern Wells Jr./Sr. High School to sell Wick's Pies and Nothing

The board's next meeting is 5:30 p.m. Oct. 15.

Bundt Cakes.

holly@news-banner.com

### Weather

Wednesday, September 18, 2024 (24-hour observations at 11:12 p.m. Tuesday) High: 84, Low: 54, Precipitation: None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.08 feet at 9:45 p.m. Tuesday

#### Wells County forecast

Today: Sunny, with a high near 85. East wind around 5

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 57. Northeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 85. Calm wind becoming east around 5 mph. **Thursday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 57.

Calm wind becoming east around 5 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 88.

**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 62. **Saturday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 89.

**Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 65.

Sunday: A 20% chance of showers after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 84.

**Sunday Night:** A 20% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 63.

Monday: A 20% chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 81.

Monday Night: A slight chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 58.

# Hezbollah blames Israel for exploding pagers

BEIRUT (AP) — Pagers used by hundreds of members of the militant group Hezbollah exploded near simultaneously in Lebanon and Syria on Tuesday, killing at least nine people — including an 8-year-old girl - and wounding several thousand, officials said. Hezbollah and the Lebanese government blamed Israel for what appeared to be a sophisticated, remote attack.

A U.S. official said Israel briefed the U.S. on the operation — in which small amounts of explosive secreted in the pagers were detonated — on Tuesday after it was concluded. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the information publicly.

The Israeli military declined to comment.

Among those wounded was Iran's ambassador to Lebanon. The mysterious explosions came amid rising tensions between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah, which have exchanged fire across the Israel-Lebanon border since the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas that sparked the war in Gaza.

The pagers that blew

acquired by Hezbollah after the group's leader ordered members in February to stop using cellphones, warning they could be tracked by Israeli intelligence. A Hezbollah official told The Associated Press the pagers that were a new brand but declined to say how long they had been in use.

At about 3:30 p.m. local time on Tuesday, as people shopped for groceries, sat in cafes or drove cars and motorcycles in the afternoon traffic, the pagers in their hands or pockets started heating up and then exploding — leaving blood-splattered scenes and panicking bystanders.

It appeared that many of those hit were members of Hezbollah, but it was not immediately clear if others also carried the pagers.

The blasts were mainly in areas where the group has a strong presence, particularly a southern Beirut suburb and in the Beqaa region of eastern Lebanon, as well as in Damascus, according to Lebanese security officials and a Hezbollah official. The Hezbollah official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the press.

# Suspicious packages

places safe while also ensuring that ballots and voting procedures won't be tampered with.

The National Association of Secretaries of State condemned what it described as a "disturbing trend" of threats to election workers leading up to Nov. 5, as well as the second apparent assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump.

"This must stop, period," the group said. "Our democracy has no place for political violence, threats or intimidation of any kind.'

The Colorado Secretary of State's Office said a package containing white powder and with the sender listed as 'U.S. Traitor Elimination Army" was intercepted at a mail facility. It said the package was similar to those sent to other states and that early indications suggest the powder was harmless.

On Tuesday, the FBI notified the Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth's office that postal service investigators had identified a suspicious envelope delivered to a building housing state offices. The package was

Packages also were sent to secretaries of state and election offices in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Wyoming this week. The packages forced evacuations in Iowa, Oklahoma and Wyoming. Hazmat crews quickly determined the material was harmless.

The Mississippi Secretary of State's Elections Division said it received a package similar to those sent to other states and that the state Department of Homeland Security was testing it. The division said it has notified county election officials to be on the lookout.

Oklahoma officials said the material sent to the election office there contained flour.

'We have specific protocols in place for situations such as this," Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate said in a statement after the evacuation of the sixstory Lucas State Office Building in Des Moines.

A state office building in Topeka, Kansas, was evacuated due to suspicious mail sent to both the secretary of state and attorney general, Kansas

## Indiana secretary of state's office receives suspicious 'powdery substance'

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ **Indiana Capital Chronicle** 

Indiana Secretary of State employees on Tuesday reported getting a "suspicious" envelope containing a "powdery substance" joining election officials in numerous states.

Local, state and federal authorities responded to the State Government Center to secure the immediate area, conduct tests and remove the contaminated mail, according to

Responding agencies included the Indiana Capital Police, Indiana State Police, State Fire Marshall, Indiana Department of Homeland Security, State and Post Office hazardous materials units, and the Federal Bureau of Investigations.

They determined — preliminarily — that the contents in the envelope

were non-hazardous, per the release. "We take every precaution to ensure the safety of our employees and the public. I want to especially

thank members of my team; our

law enforcement partners and other first responders for their swift and professional response," Secretary of State Diego Morales said. "We are relieved that everyone is safe.'

Powdery packages were also delivered this week to election-related offices in at least a dozen states, The Associated Press reported: Connecticut, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Wyoming.

Morales' office said he had made county clerks aware of the situation.

Spokeswoman Lindsey Eaton also noted that, earlier this year, Morales hand-delivered and mailed instructions on spotting and handling suspicious email — plus, doses of Narcan nasal spray — to county clerks' offices throughout the state.

She also highlighted recent regional election security and safety conferences for county election administrators, emergency management offices and local law enforcement agencies.

Highway Patrol spokesperson April M. McCollum said in a statement.

Topeka Fire Department crews found several pieces of mail with an unknown substance on them, though a field test found no hazardous materials, spokesperson Rosie Nichols said. Several employees were exposed to it and were being monitored.

In Oklahoma, the State Election Board received a suspicious envelope in the mail containing a multi-page document and a white, powdery substance, agency spokesperson Misha Mohr said. Testing determined the substance was flour.

State workers in an office building next to the Wyoming Capitol in Cheyenne were sent home Monday pending testing of a white substance mailed to the secretary of state's office.

Suspicious letters were sent to elec-

in at least six states last November, including the same building in Kansas that received suspicious mail Monday. While some of the letters contained fentanyl, even the suspicious mail that was not toxic delayed the counting of ballots in some local elections.

One of the targeted offices was in Fulton County, Georgia, the largest voting jurisdiction in one of the nation's most important swing states. Four county election offices in Washington state had to be evacuated as election workers were processing ballots cast, delaying vote-counting.

The letters caused election workers around the country to stock up the overdose reversal medication naloxone.

Election offices across the United States have taken steps to increase security amid an onslaught of harassment and threats following the 2020 election and the false claims that it was rigged.



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

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

or Call The Fair Office at 260-824-4351





#### **OBITUARIES**

#### Shelly Reinhard, 59

Shelly L. Reinhard, 59, passed away Monday morning, Sept. 16, 2024, at her residence

following an extended illness.
Shelly was born in Fort Wayne, on Aug. 17, 1965, to Stephen A. and Betty J. (Smith) Rhodes; both parents preceded her in death. She was a 1984 graduate of Norwell High School. Shelly worked for several years at Heyerly's Market in Bluffton and oper-

ated her own photography business as well as her own boarding and grooming business. She was a member of the Warren Church of Christ, and was a member of the Decatur Pickleball Club and was an avid bowler with the women's

Shelly is survived by two daughters, Sara (Lance) Fiechter and Megan (Logan) Nusbaumer, both of Bluffton; seven grandchildren, Maeley, Tessa, Coy and Ada Fiechter,



Visitation will be held from noon to 8 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024, at Goodwin – Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel. A funeral service will be held at

10:30 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 23, 2024, at the funeral home, with visitation one hour prior to the service. Pastor Mickey Strong will officiate. Burial will follow at the Apostolic Christian Cemetery in Adams County.

In lieu of flowers and gifts, the family request memorials be made in Shelly's memory to the Donor's Choice.

Online condolences can be made to www.goodwincaleharnish.com.

#### Thomas A. Smiley, 76

Thomas A. "Tom" Smiley, 76, of Bluffton, passed away on Monday evening, Sept. 16, 2024, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Tom was born on Nov. 10, 1947, in Bluffton to Bernard V. & Rosetta J. (Earhart) Smiley. He graduated from Pennville High School with the class of 1965. He played college basketball and baseball on a scholarship at William Penn University. Tom

was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he honorably served during Vietnam 1968-70. After returning home from the service, Tom worked construction and retired from Norfolk Southern Railroad as a signal maintainer. On April 8, 1972, at the First United Methodist Church, Tom and Nancy A. (Schaffter) Smiley were married.

He enjoyed playing golf, helping his children and grandchildren with their 4-H livestock projects, and enjoyed attending his children and grandchildren's sporting events. He was a longtime member of the American Legion Post #111 of Bluffton.

Survivors include his wife of 52 years, Nancy of Bluffton; children, Charlie (Sherri) Smiley of Zanesville, Ernie Smiley of Bluffton and Sarah (Pastor Wayne) Ball of Bluffton. He was a loving PAL to his five



grandchildren, Brandon (Chanda) Bennett of Bluffton, Will, Andrew, Gabe and Emma Ball of Bluffton, and a great-grandson, Austin Bennett; along with two sisters, Joleen and Loretta.

He is preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Steve and sister, Darla.

Visitation will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, Sept.19, 2024, at the Thoma/ Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Funeral Services will take place

at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 19, 2024, at the funeral home with Pastor Wayne Ball and Jeff Lemler officiating. Burial will follow at Fairview Cemetery in Bluffton with full military honors by the United States Army Honor Guard and American Legion Post #111 Honor Guard. Memorials may be made to the Wells

County 4-H Program for the Cattle, Hog & Sheep Barns, or River of Life Community Church, and can be directed to the funeral home.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the Smiley family at www.thomarich.com.

#### Justin Stanley, 37

Justin Cole Stanley, 37, of Bluffton, left this world on Sept.

Born on April 27, 1987, in Bluffton, Justin was known for his deep kindness and loving spirit. He touched the lives of those around him with his gentle heart and compassionate nature, leaving an imprint on all who knew him. Justin took great pride in being a father to his son, Declan, and they

shared many cherished moments together, especially enjoying time outdoors.

A lifelong Dallas Cowboys fan, Justin was passionate about the simple joys of life – whether it was cheering for his favorite team or finding peace in nature. He also dedicated himself to serving the Amish community as a driver, where he was known for his reliability and the friendships he built along the way.

He is survived by his beloved son,



Declan Stanley; mother, Kimberly Stanley; brothers, Cody (Tiffany) Stanley and Chase Stanley; and best friend, Jesse Jesus Benitez. He will be remembered fondly by his extended family of aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends who will forever carry his memory in their hearts.

Justin was preceded in death by his father, Robert Stanley; his grandparents, Bill

and Charity Coty; and his cousin, Jami

In honor of Justin's life, a celebration will be held 2-6 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 20, 2024 at Preble Fireman's Park, 4333 US-22 in Decatur. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Riley Children's Hospital, reflecting Justin's care and concern for children. Condolences can be left online at www.elzeypatterson-rodak.com.

#### Poll shows GOP in control of state races

#### **By NIKI KELLY**

**Indiana Capital Chronicle** 

A new Emerson College Poll shows Republicans Mike Braun and Todd Rokita with solid leads in their statewide races.

Braun is leading Democrat Jennifer McCormick 45% to 34% in the race for governor, with Libertarian Donald Rainwater at 5.8%. The rest are undecided.

In the Attorney General's contest, Rokita polled at 49% compared to Democrat Destiny Wells at 35%.

Those numbers are starkly different than a poll released by the Wells campaign last week that showed both races within the margin of error.

Third District Congressman Jim Banks, who is running for U.S. Senate, is up 46.6% to 33.3% against Democrat Valerie McCray.

Libertarian Andrew Horning is at 4.6%.

GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump has the highest numbers in Indiana. About 57% of Hoosiers said they would support him if the election were held today, compared to about 40% for Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris.

The survey of 1,000 likely voters was conducted September 12-13 and has a mar-

gin of error of 3 percentage points.

In the Wells poll, about 51% of likely voters were Republican, 36% were Democrats and 7% were independents. In the Emerson poll, about 45% were Republicans, 32% were Democrats and more than 23% independents.

The Emerson Poll methodology pairs an automated system that collects data over landline phones with an online panel of par-



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# **Ossian Rotary to hear from** local colorectal cancer survivor

At its weekly meeting on Thursday, Aug. 19, Ossian Rotary will hear from Lisa Craig, an Ossian-based certified public accountant. She will discuss her multi-year journey through colorectal cancer, from which she is now in remission.

Craig is a graduate of Miami University of Ohio with bachelor's of business degrees in accountancy and finance and later a master's in accountancy. Since 2011, she has been a certified public accountant that owns and operates her own business preparing individual income

In July, 2020, during the height of COVID, at the age of 38, Craig was diagnosed with colorectal cancer. She had no family history of cancer. To battle the disease, Craig underwent radiation, chemotherapy, and two surgeries, and has now been in remission for three and a half years. She will be discussing the alarming increase in colorectal cancer in younger generations, the importance of screening and early detection, warning signs and symptoms, as well as treatments available.

Anyone is welcome to attend Ossian Rotary this Thursday morning, at 7:30 at First Baptist Church of Ossian, 1001 Dehner Drive, for this program. Please note that if Norwell Schools has a weather delay or cancellation, Ossian Rotary will cancel its meeting for that day.

For more information, please contact Matthew Gullion, Ossian Rotary President, at mwgullion@gmail.

Next Thursday, Sept. 26, Ossian Rotary will host Ashleigh King with Imagine

## **Police Notebook**

#### **INCIDENTS**

Thursday, 11:51 p.m., 600 block of Beth Avenue. Trespassing warning.

Friday, 5:13 a.m., News-Banner. Request for vehicle removal. Note left.

Friday, 5:55 p.m., Bluffton Police Department. Report of scam.

Friday, 6 p.m., Bluffton Family Eye Car. Unwanted

Friday, 8:59 p.m., Market and Williams streets. Vehicle parked in no-parking zone. Unable to contact owner, ticket issued.

Friday, 9:21 p.m., Sunset Drive. Report of a missing

Friday, 9:26 p.m., 500 block of Silver Street. Parking issue. Unable to contact owner, ticket issued.

Saturday, 7:04 a.m., Market and Williams streets. Two vehicles needed moved for Street Fair tent.

Saturday, 12:32 p.m., Daniels Jewelers. Report of a verbal altercation between a man and a woman.

block of West Miller Street. One arrested on warrant.

Sunday, 2:48 a.m., Main Street and S.R. 124. One arrested for driving while suspended with a prior.

drugs in the lawn and garden section. Collected to be destroyed.

Sunday, 7:08 p.m., 100 block of South Johnson Street. Report of possible child abuse.

Sunday, 10:11 p.m., residence on Pine Grove Court. Report of a verbal altercation between two women.

Monday, 7:25 a.m., Post Office. Semi truck parking problem. Driven notified to move trailer.

Monday, 8:47 a.m., Hiday Chrysler. Driver cited for driving while suspended. Monday, 10:26 a.m., Cari

and Westfield drives. Playground vandalized. Monday, 2:29 p.m., 800 block of South Oak Street.

Report of fence damaged by Monday, 4:06 p.m., Merchant Street and Central

Avenue. Sideswiped vehicle. Monday, 7 p.m., 1200 block of West Washington Street. Report of verbal

altercation. Monday, 8:24 p.m., Hard-Saturday, 4:17 p.m., 500 ees. Man refusing to leave the property.

Monday, 10:41 p.m., Wells County Jail. Rebecca Markley arrested on warrant.

Tuesday, 8:29 a.m., First Bank of Berne. Report of Sunday, 12:52 p.m., man laying in the grass.

Walmart. Found possible Jarred Williams arrested on

Tuesday, 10:30 a.m., Main Street and Central Avenue. Street Department requested two trucks be moved.

Tuesday, 12:13 p.m., Bluffton Regional Medical Center. Car in no parking

#### **County:**

Monday, 12:53 p.m., Inteva. Shawn Stinson arrested during traffic stop for driving while suspended and possessing a stolen handgun.

Monday, 1:35 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrants served at the jail.

Monday, 2:45 p.m., 900S and South 50W, Keystone. Report of a deer needing put down.

Monday, 4:31 p.m., South Decker Drive and Western (Continued on Page 6)

#### Janice A. Anderson

Calling: 2 - 7 p.m. Thursday, September 19. Service: 7 p.m. Thursday, September 19 at the funeral home. Goodwin-Cale & Harnish MEMORIAL CHAPEL

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# Debating debates

They seem less about learning but still important to the electorate

Republican Richard Nixon and Democrat John F. Kennedy appeared in the first-ever televised debate between presidential candidates on Sept. 26, 1960. More than 65 million Americans watched.

Fast forward more than half a century, and 67 million Americans tuned in Tuesday night to watch Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Kamala Harris square off.

So, it's not that people aren't watching. But they have become so entrenched they can't look beyond their biases to assess

proposals or even a per-

formance.



Niki Kelly

# **Hoosier Opinions**

Nowadays, people watch just to see their own beliefs confirmed, not to learn and be open to new ideas.

On Tuesday, I was wrapped up with work and missed most of the event. So, I jumped on social media see how it was going. The result was jarring — a little bit like seeing two parallel universes side by side.

There was no nuance or objectivity. If a person supported Trump, they believed he won easily. If they favored Harris, they saw her as triumphant.

I desperately hope a lot of Americans who aren't as set in their choices watched with an open mind. I imagine some did. Not everyone lives on social media like I do.

If Joe Biden's disastrous performance in late June doesn't convince you that debates matter, I don't know what will. Without that event, Harris would not be the Democratic nominee now.

Trump said Thursday there won't be another debate. It is surprising that he would give up an opportunity to speak directly to voters. Especially given how close the race is

That can't be said for some other debates here in Indiana

Both Third District Congressman Jim Banks, who is running for U.S. Senate, and Mark Messmer, who is seeking the eighth congressional seat, have declined to debate their opponents.

On one hand, I understand. Both men are virtually assured election due to overwhelming GOP support in solidly red state Indiana. So why put themselves in a position where one slip of the tongue could torpedo a win?

One reason is that debating helps sharpen policy ideas and proposals as you prepare to defend and explain them to citizens.

Messmer's campaign manager Adam Johnson said, "Mark's track record and longstanding connection with the 8th district give voters the clarity they need on where he stands. As a campaign, we remain committed to providing ample opportunities for voters to continue to engage with Mark personally."

Banks didn't return a message this week about debates though earlier this year said he was focused on representing northeast Indiana, spending time with family and running a statewide campaign.

"He will entertain debate options as we get closer to Election Day," a campaign spokesperson told the

Indiana Capital Chronicle in August.

If Banks refuses to debate Democrat Valerie McCray and Libertarian Andrew Horning, it would be a first for

the Indiana Debate Commission.

Since the commission's founding in 2008, 100% of the balloted candidates running for U.S. Senate and governor have participated in IDC-sponsored debates which are broadcast live and shared freely with media outlets

Heck, I would even settle for joint town halls with alternating questions. They seem to come with less pressure, and I like the idea of letting citizens ask questions

There are still two months left before Election Day, and I hope Banks, Messmer and other candidates around the state agree to stand up and debate. Let their constituents take full measure and cast their ballots as they

Niki Kelly is the editor of the Indiana Capital Chronicle, a non-profit newsroom. nkelly@indianacapitalchronicle.com

# Today in History

By The Associated Press Today is Wednesday, Sept. 18, the 262nd day of 2024. There are 104 days left in the year.

choose.

Today's highlight in history: On Sept. 18, 2020, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a towering champion of women's rights who became the court's second female justice, died at her home in Washington at age 87, of complications from pancreatic cancer.

Also on this date:

In 1793, President George Washington laid the cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol.

In 1850, Congress passed the Fugitive Slave

Bluffton IN 46714, Post Office Box 436

Act, which created a force of federal commissioners charged with returning escaped slaves to their owners

In 1851, the first edition of The New York Times was published.

In 1947, the National Security Act, which created a National Military Establishment and the position of Secretary of Defense, went into effect.

In 1961, United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold was killed in a plane crash in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia).

In 1970, rock star Jimi Hendrix died in London at age 27.

# The News-Banner

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# Ukraine is bleeding out. It cannot fight forever.

KYIV — The terrible cost of Russia's continuing assault on Ukraine is viscerally clear at a military rehabilitation center on the outskirts of this city. Soldiers there describe how their bodies were shattered on the front lines. And they're the lucky ones who survived.

Alexei was trying to hold his position at Pokrovsk, the scene of some of this year's heaviest fighting, when a drone dropped a grenade near him. His left leg and right hand were nearly severed, attached by thin threads of tissue but now mended. Nikolai lost his left leg in Kharkiv, another Russian target. He waited 18 hours to be evacuated because of drone attacks. Dima lost both legs when his vehicle was hit by a drone in Pokrovsk. The four soldiers traveling with him were killed.

I met these wounded soldiers at a recovery center funded by a Ukrainian businessman named Victor Pinchuk, one of 15 similar facilities he has established around the country. Like soldiers everywhere, they're kids, with sleeves of tattoos and T-shirts promoting heavy metal bands. But they got old in a hurry. Talking with a half-dozen of them Friday, I heard the same grim account of what's at stake in this war. As Alexei put it: "We don't have a choice. If we stop fighting, we'll stop existing."

Listening to their stories, you realize that Ukraine is bleeding out. Its will to fight is as strong as ever, but its army is exhausted by a ceaseless drone war that's unlike anything in the history of combat. The Biden administration's rubric of support — "as long as it takes" — simply doesn't match the reality of this conflict. Ukraine doesn't have enough soldiers to fight an indefinite war of attrition. It needs to escalate to be strong enough to reach a decent settlement.

That's the lesson I took from a visit here to attend a conference sponsored by Pinchuk's group YES, which stands for Yalta European Strategy. It was founded 20 years ago to encourage Ukraine's integration with the West. Now it's trying to prevent the country's destruction. The title of the meeting was "The Necessity to Win." But the underlying message was that, without more firepower, Ukraine might be forced to settle on Vladimir Putin's terms to halt his brutal onslaught.

The YES gathering was unlike any conference I've attended. It was a Davos-like meeting of prominent politicians and diplomats, featuring a passionate address by President Volodymyr Zelensky. But on the wall behind the speakers was a grim display of snapshots of dozens of dead soldiers — some brighteyed, others haggard, all of them gone. And the most powerful presentations weren't from the big shots but from soldiers who had come in from the front.

"We are tired," said a drone unit commander named Serhii Varakin, who has been fighting Russian aggression in eastern Ukraine for more than eight years. His face, ringed with fatigue, was a portrait of the stress of relentless combat. The conference's most emotional moment came when this hardened warrior told the audience: "I should have had a family, wonderful children, taking pictures by the barbecue, but now I take pictures on the front line." The prolonged applause brought tears to Varakin's eyes.

During a break from the conference, I visited a Ukrainian friend named Sergiy Koshman, a free-wheeling intellectual from Kharkiv and onetime civil

society activist. Now he's working to design weapons. At our last meeting, a few months after Russia's full-scale invasion, he had described an almost giddy sense of national solidarity, with young activists talking about a mountaintop festival to defy Russian threats of using tactical nuclear weapons. But that mood has changed.

"We thought that once we showed solidarity, Russia would back off," he told me. "Now it seems the war could last for decades." He described a "radicalization" of intellectual life, in which the core principle had become: "We have to kill as many Russians as possible and find innovative ways to do it." The war has transformed the country. "It's so kinetic, when ballistic missiles are raining down on you daily. It's a different reality."

This cultural mood was vividly embodied by a soldier named Yarnya Chornohus. She's a poet when she isn't at the front, and she was a striking presence onstage: movie-star beautiful, with a snake tattooed on her right arm, the fangs open at her wrist, and the Ukrainian military emblem on her left arm. She said she had instructed her daughter to be ready to fight someday. As a poet, she said, she had learned the power of her verse comes from her experience of war.

A recurring theme of the conference was that President Joe Biden should remove current limits on Ukraine's use of American ATACMS long-range missiles to strike deep into Russia. A procession of speakers said Biden should stop worrying about the danger of Russian escalation — and implied he was weak for even considering the issue. That strikes me as wrong; a primary responsibility of any American president is to avoid war with a nuclear superpower.

But I came away from the conference thinking the United States should take more risks to help Ukraine. It matters how this war ends. If Putin prevails, it will harm the interests of America and Europe for decades.

"I have no announcement to make" on the ATAC-MS issue, national security adviser Jake Sullivan said in a video interview with the group. That's fine with me. Don't announce anything. Leave Putin guessing. But if Russia's surge continues, Putin's bases within ATACMS range should be legitimate targets. He's the one crossing the "red line" every day he continues his unprovoked aggression.

Zelensky, clad as always in a green combat shirt, said the proper range for U.S.-supplied weapons should be "long enough to act as a game changer and make Russia seek peace." He'll meet Biden in a week in New York to make that plea in person. I hope Biden says yes, privately.

If Zelensky is wise, he'll bring along Oleksander Budko, a wounded veteran who spoke to the YES group. Though he lost both of his legs in combat, the boyishly handsome Budko was recently chosen as "Ukraine's most desirable man" on a national television show. That's the spirit that sustains Ukraine in this dark moment, and it's moving to see.

But it's not sentimentality that underlies deeper American support for Ukraine, but U.S. national interest.

Follow David Ignatius @IgnatiusPost on X.

# Socialized medicine: The consequences

BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND — The new British Prime Minister, Keir Starmer, has commented on a report he commissioned that found the UK's National Health Service (NHS) is in a deplorable condition. The report's findings echoed media investigations of the past which discovered unacceptably long waits for treatment, hospital structures that are crumbling, patients dying unnecessarily, patients on trolleys in hallways because no rooms were available, mental health patients occupying cells infested with vermin, and fewer MRI scanners than in countries of similar size.

Fixing the NHS, which has had widespread support across party lines since its creation in 1948, was a central theme in Starmer's campaign that brought Labour back to power. Starmer announced a 10-year plan to "fix" the system which will doubtless include more spending and probably even higher taxes.

Starmer has promised no new funding for the NHS without reforms. He mentioned three areas that need immediate attention: transition to a digital NHS, moving more care from hospitals to communities, and focusing efforts on prevention over sickness.

That last one — prevention over sickness — is key not only in the UK, but also the U.S. and everywhere else. For too long politicians have focused more on care rather than cures.

I am (barely) old enough to



Cal Thomas

dent John F. Kennedy launched The President's Council on Physical Fitness, directed by the famous football player and coach Bud Wilkinson. Kennedy didn't have the authority to mandate a national exercise program, so he and Wilkinson sought to lead by example. They created a curriculum for public schools that

remember when Presi-

supplemented Physical Education programs already in place. Beginning in the 1961-1962 school year, the Kennedy council began a national publicity campaign to promote its directives on fitness. These included the fifty-mile-hike-in-twenty-hour challenge, inspired by the Marine Corps, eating the right foods, and a number of memorable popular culture tie-ins. Cartoonist Charles Schulz contributed "Snoopy's Daily Dozen," an exercise manual featuring Charlie Brown and the Peanuts gang.

Suddenly it was cool and fun to be fit.

Following up on Starmer's statement about prevention is something that should be a companion goal and that is curing diseases.

One example. Nearly 7 million American seniors are living with Alzheimer's dementia, according to the Alzheimer's Association. By 2050, this number is projected to rise to nearly 13 million. There are currently estimated to be nearly one million people living with dementia in the UK and this is projected to rise to 1.4 million in 2040.

A cure for this horrible and debilitating ailment would also create economic benefits, in addition to relief for patients, family members and caregivers. According to ScienceDirect.com: "Medicare and Medicaid would save up to a projected \$195 billion annually." Life insurance companies and unpaid caregivers would also benefit.

I'm betting people in the UK and the U.S. would be willing to pay a little more in taxes if they could be sure reforms were forthcoming in their respective health care systems and the money was spent wisely. Cures might cost more upfront but the backend savings in money and pain would be enormous and more than worth it.

The sooner Prime Minister
Starmer's proposed reforms are fully
known the quicker improvements
might be made. In the U.S., the Food
and Drug Administration might ease
some of its regulations that prevent
drugs with promise from reaching the
market sooner. Permission for drugs
currently used for other purposes
might be granted for people wishing

to try them, assuming any risks.

If Starmer's reforms work, a new NHS could be the model for the world.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) has frequently proposed "Medicare for all, a type of NHS for the U.S. If it isn't working here, what makes Sanders and his fellow advocates think it would work in a country with a population far larger than the UK?

tcaeditors@tribpub.com

# Ku Klux Klan: A fever in the heartland

In the early 1920s a resurgent Ku Klux Klan rose to prominence in Indiana. It is estimated that



Ballinger

and participation in Klan activities included nearly 300,000 Hoosiers in a population of approximately three million. Indiana, a state that sacrificed 25,000 lives in

dues paying

membership

the Civil War, had more Klan members than any state in the Union.

A mystery man and demagogue of huge proportions led the movement, beginning in Evansville and moving North through towns and cities familiar to us all (Kokomo, Muncie, Marion, Richmond, Indianapolis, etc.), where he took control of government and police departments all the way to the Governor's office. His goal was to be appointed as U.S. Senator and eventually to run for President. This Grand Dragon of the KKK was W.B. Stephenson. Originally from Texas, Stephenson and his minions made hooded vigilante justice and cross burnings common practice in the Hoosier Heartland. All this from Timothy

Egan's 2023 book, "A Fever in the Heartland, the Ku Klux Klan's Plot to take over America, and the woman who stopped them."

The KKK sold its ideas on a stated philosophy of temperance, chastity, and chivalry. It successfully promoted fear of the "other" and a vearning for times past. The KKK rejected modernism and its moral failings. All the while,

Stephenson and his brutal charges were anything but chaste and temperate in this time of the Roaring Twenties and prohibition. Quite the opposite. The targets of the KKK were Blacks, Jews, homosexuals, Catholics, darkskinned immigrants, and the teaching of evolution. Darkskinned immigrants were defined as Ital-

ians and Greeks. These groups, so proclaimed, provided an easily identifiable cause for the common man's disaffections. Stephenson was the master promoter of hate.

The KKK in Indiana had a women's division headed by

Here's STRATEGY BRAINSTORM TEM CREATE BRAIN INNOVATE TARGET MOTIVATES the THINK BOX Thing

NEW YORK TIMES SESTSEILES

TIMOTHY EGAN

Barr, and a Klu Klux Kiddies organization. **Evangelist Daisy** Barr was born in the poorish small town of Jonesboro, Indiana (the town of my birth

as well). Originally a Quaker minister, she left or was asked to leave the church as she picked up the torch for the KKK as a fiery revival meeting speaker and proponent of all that the KKK stood for. She

grew the organization throughout the Midwest by enlistment of thousands of women whose job it was to support and aid in the work of the KKK.

The core tenant of the KKK was (and still is) pride in race and religion. The very definition of nativism. Surprisingly, core allies of the

KKK were the many Protestant churches and faith leaders that promoted its growth either from the pulpit or through defacto support of resigned silence. From the book, "The Klan that spread to the North was steeped in homegrown

Christianity practiced by everyday folks. But instead of love your neighbor, these Klansmen hated many a neighbor.'

There are many heroes in this story. Among them, law enforcement, journalists, faith leaders, lawyers, and common citizens. First among them was a young woman, raped and brutalized by Stephenson, whose bedside death testimony eventually brought down the demagogue who previously proclaimed "We (the KKK) are the law itself." Because of these heroes, he was soon to find out that was no longer true.

WHAT'S NEW?

If the past is truly prologue, this story of the rise and demise of the KKK should prove providential. The KKK still exists, though in diminished form. Other nativist hate groups like the KKK who proclaim superiority through race and birthright are plentiful. The Oath Keepers, Proud Boys, Patriot Front, Three Percenters, etc. There are too many to count. Shockingly (sarcasm), they all support the current and most disgusting demagogue of our time, Donald Trump, who, in W.B. Stephenson fashion, disparages immigrants at every opportunity. Mr. Trump has never disavowed his affection for these groups. Add to that the obvious support of Vladimir Putin, who murders his political opponents and willingly sacrifices hundreds of thousands of his own citizens to death in an unjust war on a sovereign neighbor, and we find overwhelming evangelical support that requires a good bit of moral gymnastics to justify. I find it sad and unconvincing.

W.B. Stephenson said, "I did not sell the Klan in Indiana on hatred. I sold it on Americanism." This statement is consistent with MAGA reasoning and America First philosophy. The free world watches and is desperate for us, the USA, to be better than this.

**Here's The Thing:** I do not know who will win the election. However, I do know that a majority voters in the U.S. will vote against Donald Trump. I take some comfort there.

Just a heads up to whoever stole my Biden/Harris yard signs in 2020. I will be placing my Harris/Walz sign out soon. Thought this might help you plan. I'll wave to you.

.ken.ballinger@yahoo.com

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

#### Norwell ICE Spotlight award Elise Boomershine

Senior Elise Boomershine has been selected to receive the Norwell Internship Spotlight award. She is doing her experience in the Lancaster Elementary School Latchkey Program [Bobcat Care] this semester. Elise's mentor is Lillian Lovell. She is the daughter of Jacob and Carissa Boomershine of Craigville.

In the latchkey program, Elise supervises

students from Pre-K up to 5th grade. Her top responsibility is to ensure that all of the children are in a safe environment. She also spends a great deal of time interacting and caring for the students. Another key duty for Elise is to lead the children when they do activities at the playground or in the gym.

Upon graduation, Elise would like to study elementary education at Taylor University.



Elise Boomershine

## Dino Days at the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo

Dino Days will be celebrated at the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo on Sept. 21-22 with an archeological dig, wild Dinosaur Encounters and more.

Also available are Wild Encounters that

allow families to get a closer look at the workings of the zoo and meet favorite zoo animals up close and learn about their daily care and the team who take care of them. Registration required at kidszoo.org.



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## Pond dwellers studied by **Ouabache's Lunch & Learners By BARBARA**

(Photos by Barbara Barbieri)

Another find beside Kunkel

Lake was the chrysalis of a

Monarch butterfly attached to

on Oct. 10, when the topic

will be Seed Collecting by

a stick.

**BARBIERI** 

People attending the Friends of Ouabache State Park's Lunch & Learn September program were invited to study what lives in a healthy pond as they ate their own sack lunches and cookies provided by Corner Depot Catering.

The program presenter was to have been a naturalist from Fox Island but ably substituting for the program was Jody Heaston, head of volunteers for all of Indiana's state parks. For the program she and Ouabache's naturalist Lydia Ade collected samples of what grows in Kunkel Lake.

At all of the tables there were pans of water showcasing their findings that even included very small fish. Also found were eggs from Dragonflys and the smaller Damselflys, giant waterbugs, small cricket frogs, mud chimneys for crawdads and the chrysalises for a Monarch butterfly. (After being showcased all of the specimens were returned to Kunkel Lake.)

Heaston also shared a hand out showing the things that could be found in a pond, making note of how tolerant they would be to pollution. The finds in Kunkel Lake indicate that it is healthy.

The last Lunch & Learn for the year will be held



Friday, September 20th 6pm & 8:30pm Saturday, September 21st 1pm SSS,

3:30pm, 6pm, & 8:30pm Sunday, September 22nd 2pm & 4:30pm

Beetlejuice Beetlejuice Thursday, September 19th 6:20pm Friday, September 20th 6:20pm & 8:50pm Saturday, September 21st 4pm & 7:30pm Sunday, September 22nd 2:20pm & 4:50pm

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Jody Heaston holds up a leaf from an American Lotus plant,

also found growing in Kunkel Lake at Ouabache State Park.

Can you spot the little fish and

the water bug in the water

dish? (The little fish is at the

upper right and the water bug

Heaston. The program is

free but gate fees apply.

as at the lower right.)









#### **BLUFFTON FREE STREET FAIR 2024**



Wells County royalty was present for the opening parade of the Bluffton Free Street Fair on Tuesday. Above is Miss Wells County Teen Sophie Meeks, with her sister and 2023 Miss Wells County Gracie Meeks is in the passenger seat. At right is 2024 Miss Wells County Eve McElhaney. (Photos by Holly





It wouldn't be the Street Fair without games and goldfish, and Westlyn Baumgartner (at left) has her eyes on the

# **Police Notebook**

Avenue, Bluffton. Marcus Randall Driver pulled over for operating vehicle without obtaining a license and speeding, advised charges would be filed. Driver released from scene.

Ossian:

Monday, 10:17 p.m., 1100 N and 100 E, Ossian. Report of driver shooting at ground to intimidate caller. No evidence of driver or shooting found.

**ACCIDENTS** 

City: Wednesday, Sept. 11, 3:15 p.m., 1169 N Main St. Thomas Huffman, 63, Bluffton, was backing a 2018 Ram 1500 and failed to see a 2013 Chrysler 300 driven by Christina S. Debrise Harr, 38, Fort Wayne. Harr complained of neck pain but denied EMS attention. Damage did not exceed \$2,500.

Thursday, 5:45 p.m., 712 Lancaster St. Douglas E. Coffman, 59, Hartford City, was backing a 2015 Chevrolet Express and failed to see a 2007 Buick Terraza driven by Sara Sexton, 37, Bluffton. Damage did not exceed \$5,000.

Thursday, 10:23 p.m., 937 N Main St. Grace Vandentop, 23, Yoder, was backing a 2005 Buick Rendezvous and struck an unoccupied 2003 Chrysler PT Cruiser. Damage did not exceed \$10,000.

Friday, 12:34 p.m., 960 N Main St. Caitlin N. Baumalough, 27, Bluffton, was backing a 2015 Cadillac SRX from a parking stall and failed to see a barrier pole. Damage did not exceed \$5,000.

Friday, 8:39 p.m., S.R. 1 just south of Jackson Street. Brian M. Baultemeir, 56, Ossian, was driving a 2021 Chevrolet Equinox northbound and struck a deer. Vehicle towed by Pemberton's. Damage did not exceed \$5,000.

Saturday, 9:22 a.m., Superwash. Joshua L. Shu-

backed his 1997 Dodge Ram 1500 to create space for another vehicle, but did not see a 2020 Cadillac XT5 driven by Brock David Smith, 36, Zanesville. Damage did not exceed \$1,000.

**County:** 

Monday, 4:50 p.m., S.R. 116 and Church Road, Vera Cruz. Michael Huber, 64, Portland, drove through the intersection after stopping at the stop sign. Huber did not yield to oncoming traffic and the rear driver side of his Chevrolet Express was struck by a Chevrolet Silverado driven by James Stalker, 58, Bluffton. Damages did not exceed \$50,000.

**FIRES** 

City: Friday, 9:23 a.m., 1529 Lancaster St., Bluffton. Fire

Friday, 6:09 p.m., Christian Care Retirement. Fire alarm. Panel reset.

Saturday, 5:47 p.m., 957E S.R. 124, Bluffton. Structure fire. Bluffton, Markle, Liberty Township fire departments responded. Fire under control at 6:03

Saturday, 2:58 p.m., 4175W 1100S, Montpelier. Vehicle fire. Ossian and Chester Township fire departments responded. Fire under control at 3:26

Monday, 1:18 p.m., 8200N S.R., Ossian. Grass fire. Fire out at 1:37 p.m.

**ARRESTS** 

Shawn Travis Stinson, 43, Bluffton; theft of a firearm, a Level 5 felony, and driving while suspended prior, a Class A misdemeanor. No bond set.

Kelly Johanna Crawford, 43, Jarrettsville, Maryland; theft, a Class A misdemeanor, Bond set at \$1,500.

Kelly Johanna Crawford, 43, Jarrettsville, Maryland; theft of a vehicle, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$5,000.

Cole McKenzie Randol, 24, Fort Wayne; probation violation, a Level 6 Felonv. No bond set.

Rebecca L. Markley, 61, Bluffton; possession of methamphetamine, a Level 4 felony, possession of a legend drug, a Level 6 felony, possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$16,150.



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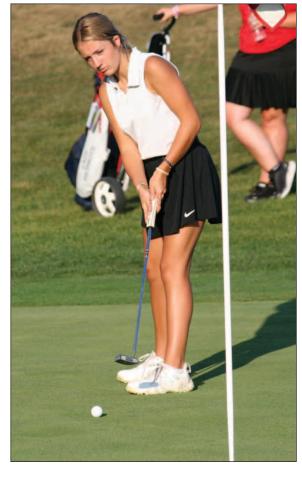
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#### Unbeaten ACAC conference season

The Southern Wells girls' golf team defeated the Jay County Patriots Tuesday night at Dogwood Glen Golf Course. With that win, the Raiders finish the regular season undefeated in the Allen County Athletic Conference. At right, the Raiders' golf team takes their preseason team photo. Members of the team are from left to right: Callie Ripperger, Collena Reeves, Kolbie Beavans, Erika Beavans and Sophie Meeks. At bottom left, Ripperger (left) and Reeves high-five after a good drive during the match. At bottom right, Erika Beavans putts during the match against Jay County. (Photos by Ryan Walker)







# Raiders defeat Patriots, end the ACAC regular season undefeated

By RYAN WALKER

WARREN — Southern Wells' golf team celebrated an undefeated conference regular season Tuesday

The Raiders finished the Allen County Athletic Conference regular season undefeated with a 209-224 final score over Jay County at Dogwood Glenn. Their overall match record for the year was 13-1.

The team also celebrated Callie Ripperger and Collena Reeves, the team's two seniors with gifts and a cake after the match.

Ripperger led the way with an impressive score of 42, earning the medalist honors. She was followed by Collena Reeves at (54), Kolbie Beavans (55) and Erika Beavans (58).

The Raiders' accomplishments this season is something to be proud of. Going out for six matches and not losing a single one in the ACAC. But the conference doesn't recognize the regular season champion, or else a plaque would have had a slice of cake after the match.

Instead, the ACAC just honors the meet champion, in which Bluffton won first, South Adams second and

Southern Wells third.

conference opponents and go undefeated — some home, some away that's six different rounds that we had to play well and win," Southern Wells head coach Ross Palmer said. "So it's kind of unfortunate that it's not recognized as a championship, like a regular season championship, but it's a huge accomplishment for our girls, and I think they take a lot of pride in that as well. I know I do.'

Saturday's conference meet had its challenges, where one of the Raiders' best golfers had a 103-degree fever during the course of 18 holes. Palmer said if she had golfed her average, the Raiders might have had the hardware coming back to Poneto.

Another crack at the postseason will come shortly, as the sectional next Saturday is just days away at Arbor Trace. Palmer expects six schools to compete for the three spots necessary to advance to the regional, Bluffton being one of them.

Palmer's golf program has been on fire lately, winning the 2022 ACAC and sectional meets along with this year's unbeaten conference record.

The 2022 class graduated four of "To go head to head with your its five starters, leaving only Ripperger from varsity and Kolbie Beavans, who played junior varsity that season. There was a learning curve, as Southern Wells dropped from first to sixth in the conference at the ACAC meet last year. But one season later, the team scraped 65 strokes off their game and got back on the map.

Part of it was due to the fact that Palmer had new golfers to the team, including Reeves who was a late addition to last year's squad. A few freshmen, Sophie Meeks and Erika Beavams, have also gained a year's worth of experience.

Palmer said that the team has vastly improved in understanding the game of golf and learning the twists and turns of it, including the mental standpoint. Learning how to navigate nine to 18 holes and have a good day are crucial to success at this level.

All of their hard work for the five members has been worth it for a tightly-knit group that loves to play with one another.

(Continued on Page A2)

# **Sports Roundup**

#### Norwell sweeps Marion in volleyball

Norwell swept their third straight game in volleyball Tuesday night at The Castle.

The Knights defeated Marion and won by scores of 25-8, 25-15 and 25-5. Their record is now 10-7 on the sea-

Stat leaders: Vanessa Rosswurm with nine kills, Autumn Lee six aces, Emma Vachon 28 assists, Mekynzi Beck with two blocks and Rebecca Settle eight digs. Norwell also won the junior varsity contest 2-0 (25-7,

Norwell will be at Leo to begin conference play at 7

p.m. Thursday, Sept. 19.

#### **Knights edge Bulldogs in NE8 tennis**

Norwell bounced back and won a conference match in boys' tennis Tuesday night. The Knights defeated New Haven on the road 3-2 and

improved to a 7-5 record on the season.

#### **Individual results:**

- Gavin Reynolds (NW) defeated Cordell Roberson 6-0, 6-0 at No. 1 singles. • Braylonn Troutt (NW) defeated Gavin Smith 6-1, 6-1
- at No. 2 singles. • Jacob Turnwald (NH) Landon Diver 6-2, 6-2 at No. 3
- Eddie Archbold and Ayden Quintanilla (NW) defeated Caiden Rowland and Ethan Goodwin 6-4, 7-5 at No. 1 dou-
- Corwynn Koberson and Mason Ehrman (NH) defeated Rylan Heyerly an Dylan Randol 6-1, 6-2 at No. 2 doubles.
- Norwell also won the junior varsity match 3-1.

#### **Results for JV:**

- Ethan Williamson and Ryan Ewing (NW) defeated Braylon Eddington Cameron Evans 8-2. • Levi White and Jasper Kreigh (NW) defeated Brady
- Exner and Tylan Amos 8-0. • Christian Werling and Greyson Chavis (NW) defeated
- Brady Exner and Tylan Amos 8-3.
- Braylon Eddington and Cameron Evans (NH) defeated Jensen Miller and Bradon Hoag 8-2.

Norwell will be at East Noble to continue NE8 play at 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 19.

#### Mann's 3 goals lead Knights vs. Panthers

Norwell defeated Eastbrook on the road 4-0 Tuesday night.

Grace Mann scored a hat trick and picked up an assist on the night, tallying her goal total to now 23 on the season. Aubrey Meyer scored and Karrigan Melcher added an assist. Norwell improves its record to 7-4 on the season.

Shae Brooks and Emma Garner were in net for the

Norwell tied the junior varsity match 0-0. Maggie Neuenschwander, Garner and Brooks were in net for Nor-

Norwell will be at South Adams at 5 p.m. Thursday Sept. 19.

#### Raiders fall to Patriots in ACAC V-ball

Southern Wells fell 3-0 on the road in volleyball to Heritage on Tuesday. The Raiders lost by scores of 25-20, 25-8 and 25-16.

They're now 8-8 (0-2) on the season.

Abbie Powell had eight kills and 16 digs for the Raiders, while Aly Green had four kills and Kaylea Coffel 10 digs. Southern Wells will be at home against ACAC and county rival Bluffton at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17.

# **High School Calendar**

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.

GIRLS SOCCER: Norwell at South Adams, 5 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL: Bluffton at Southern Wells, 7 p.m.; Norwell at

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. SATURDAY, SEPT. 21

CROSS COUNTRY (co-ed): Bluffton, Southern Wells at South Adams Invitational, 9 a.m.; Norwell at Riverview Heath Invitational (Westfield), 9 a.m. GIRLS GOLF: (Sectional) Bluffton at Arbor Trace, 9 a.m.

VOLLEYBALL: Bluffton at Canterbury Invitational, 9 a.m. MONDAY, SEPT. 23

BOYS SOCCER: Norwell at DeKalb, 6:30 p.m. BOYS TENNIS: Adams Central at Bluffton, 5 p.m.; Norwell at

Snider, 4:30 p.m. VOLLEYBALL: South Side at Norwell, 7:30 p.m. GIRLS SOCCER: DeKalb at Norwell, 6:30 p.m.



## Raiders' undefeated season

(Continued from Page A1)

"It's been a really exciting season for us," Palmer said. "We had some growing pains last year with some new girls that hadn't played in a varsity role yet, and I got that whole team back this year, and it's really shown their growth and experience over

these last two years. We've had a lot of success this year, and it's been a lot of fun being a part of it.

The Raiders' next chance on Saturday for glory will start at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept.

ryan@news-banner.com

# **Colts put Pro Bowl DT DeForest** Buckner on IR with ankle injury

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indianapolis Colts will be without three-time Pro Bowl defensive tackle DeForest Buckner for at least four games after he was placed on injured reserve Tuesday with a sprained right ankle.

Buckner has been one of the Colts defensive stalwarts since being acquired in a 2020 trade with San Francisco.

He's only missed one previous game with Indy (0-2), when he was placed on the COVID-19 list in November 2020. Buckner also has played through a series of injuries including a back injury for most of the 2023 season and that was aggravated in a Week 1 loss to Houston.

"He's a strong presence in that defensive line room, and not only the defensive line, but the whole defense," defensive coordinator Gus Bradley said before the announcement was made. "I mean, they look to him, they see him on the field. They have great trust in him, and know that he's going to play his tail off."

The timing is especially poor for Indy, which has allowed a league-high 474 yards rushing and two 100-yard rushers through the first two weeks.

Plus, the Colts are getting thinner by the week on defense. Last Tuesday, they put starting cornerback JuJu Brents on injured reserve with a knee injury, starting safety Julian Blackmon missed the Week 2 loss in Green Bay because of a shoulder injury and rookie pass rusher Laiatu Latu, the first defensive player selected in April's draft at No. 15 overall, hurt his hip on Sunday and did not return.

Losing Buckner means the Colts will need someone to fill his void starting Sunday against the Chicago Bears. That group includes Grover Stewart, Raekwon Davis, Adetomiwa Adebawore and Taven Bryan.

"We'll utilize those guys and position them where they have a chance to succeed." said Bradley, who has been scrutinized for the defense's poor start this season.

# Tigers hold on to beat Royals

By DAVE SKRETTA **AP Sports Writer** 

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Parker Meadows hit a broken-bat single in the 10th inning to give Detroit the lead, moments after Trey Sweeney had been given third base because of a balk, and the Tigers went on to beat the Kansas City Royals 3-1 on Tuesday night.

Tyler Holton (7-1) retired all six Royals he faced, striking out a pair in the ninth to force extra innings. Jason Foley took care of the Royals in the 10th, earning the save for the second straight night and 25th time this season.

Riley Greene added an RBI single off Lucas Erceg (2-6) later in the 10th for the Tigers, helping them to remain 1 1/2 games back of the Twins for the final AL wild-card spot. Minnesota beat the Guardians earlier Tuesday night.

The Royals stayed 2 1/2 games behind Baltimore for the first wild-card spot. They are 1 1/2 ahead of Minnesota.

Cole Ragans allowed one run on four hits and four walks with six strikeouts over seven innings for Kansas City, and Casey Mize allowed one run on six hits and four walks while pitching into the fifth for Detroit.

# Tennessee is adding a 10% fee on football game tickets next season to pay players

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Tennessee has announced a price hike for football tickets starting in 2025 with most of the increase going specifically to help pay players.

The increase announced Tuesday morning in an email to season-ticket holders notes a new 10% talent fee for all invoices to "help fund the proposed revenue share" for athletes and help Tennessee attract and keep the best talent. À video link features athletic director Danny White explaining the reason for the price hike per seat across Neyland Stadium.

"As the collegiate model changes, we have to remain flexible," White said of the price hike, which includes a 4.5% increase on top of the 10% talent fee. "We have to continue leading the way. That connection between resources and competitiveness has never been tighter. Only now we have the ability to share these resources with our athletes. We can generate revenue that will go directly to our players. This will give our teams the best chance to be successful and bring championships home to Rocky Top."

The increase comes with Tennessee off to a 3-0 and ranked sixth in the AP Top 25.

The announcement also includes a link to updates on talks between the NCAA and major college conferences trying to settle three antitrust lawsuits related to athlete compensation for name, image and likeness. They have a settlement agreement in place to pay \$2.78 billion in damages to hundreds of thousands of college athletes, dating back to 2016.

At a hearing last week, the federal judge overseeing those cases declined to grant preliminary approval of the deal and kicked it back to attorneys to address her concerns with certain aspects of the agreement.

The NCAA changed its rules in 2021 to allow athletes to cash in on their fame through sponsorship and endorsement deals after decades of prohibition.

Tennessee has been working to be at the front of the changing landscape supporting athletes. Quarterback Nico Iamaleava was a prized recruit who signed with the NIL collective supporting Tennessee athletes, the Volunteer Club founded by Spyre Sports Group. It was among the first and most well-organized to emerge around the country after the NCAA lifted its ban on athletes making money off their fame.

That deal prompted a meeting between NCAA investigators and Tennessee officials in January followed by a scathing letter from Chancellor Donde Plowman to NCAA President Charlie Baker. She ripped the NCAA for creating "extraordinary chaos" by failing to provide clear rules for name, image and likeness for both universities and athletes.

The attorneys general of Tennessee and Virginia filed an antitrust lawsuit against the NCAA a day after Plowman's letter was released. A federal judge granted the AGs a preliminary injunction Feb. 23 barring the NCAA from enforcing NIL rules.

White cited NIL for creating an even closer connection between resources and competitive success. Tuesday's announcement notes the current settlement projections could take effect as early as July 1, and the athletic director said Tennessee wants to be as transparent as possible with a fan base that has helped build the nation's best athletic department. White said the ticket fee is a big key to continuing that success.

"We want to be a leader in college sports. that means we want to be a leader in revenue sharing," White said. "We want to have the very best experience for our athletes right here on Rocky Top."

White, whose latest contract extension was announced in August, credited fans for selling out 102,000 seats at Neyland Stadium for a third straight year with a waiting list of 15,000 for season tickets. He said that comes as other programs around the country are talking about downsizing stadiums that they can't fill. Tennessee fans can start renewing tickets for 2025 on Thursday with a deadline of Feb. 27 with the option of a 10-month payment plan to handle the cost.

Tennessee won the SEC regular-season title in men's basketball and the program's first national championship in baseball in June.

# News-Banner Scoreboard

#### **FOOTBALL**

**NFL** 

AMERICAN CONFERENCE East								
	W	L	Т	Pct	PF			
Buffalo	2	0	0	1.000	65			
Miami	1	1	0	.500	30			
N.Y. Jets	1	1	0	.500	43			

New England1	1	0	.500	36	33				
South									
W	L	Т	Pct	PF	PA				
Houston 2	0	0	1.000	48	40				
Indianapolis 0	2	0	.000	37	45				
Jacksonville 0	2	0	.000	30	38				
Tennessee 0	2	0	.000	34	48				
N	or	th							
W	L	Т	Pct	PF	PA				
Pittsburgh 2	0	0	1.000	31	16				
Cleveland 1	1	0	.500	35	46				
Baltimore 0	2	0	.000	43	53				
Cincinnati 0	2	0	.000	35	42				
V	Ve:	st							
W	L	Т	Pct	PF	PA				
Kansas City 2	0	0	1.000	53	45				
L.A. Chargers2	0	0	1.000	48	13				
Las Vegas 1	1	0	.500	36	45				

Las vegas I	1	U	.500	30	45						
Denver 0	2	0	.000	26	39						
NATIONAL CONFERENCE											
East											
W	L	Т	Pct	PF	PA						
Dallas 1	1	0	.500	52	61						
Philadelphia1	1	0	.500	55	51						
Washington 1	1	0	.500	41	55						
N.Y. Giants 0	2	0	.000	24	49						
S	ou	th									
W	L	Т	Pct	PF	PA						
New Orleans2	0	0	1.000	91	29						
Tampa Bay 2	0	0	1.000	57	36						
Atlanta 1	1	0	.500	32	39						
Carolina 0	2	0	.000	13	73						
N	lor	th									
W	Ĺ	Т	Pct	PF	PA						
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Minnesota	2	0	0	1.000	51	23				
Chicago	1	1	0	.500	37	36				
Detroit	1	1	0	.500	42	40				
Green Bay	1	1	0	.500	45	44				
West										
W L T Pct PF PA										
Seattle	2	0	0	1.000	49	40				
Arizona	1	1	0	.500	69	44				
San Francis	co1	1	0	.500	49	42				
I A Rame	Λ	2	Λ	000	30	67				

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

Monday's Games Atlanta 22, Philadelphia 21 Thursday, Sept. 19 New England at N.Y. Jets, 8:15

Kansas City 26, Cincinnati 25 Pittsburgh 13, Denver 6 Houston 19, Chicago 13

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

Carolina at Las Vegas, 4:05 p.m. Miami at Seattle, 4:05 p.m. Baltimore at Dallas, 4:25 p.m. Detroit at Arizona, 4:25 p.m. San Francisco at L.A. Rams, 4:25

Kansas Citv at Atlanta, 8:20 p.m Monday, Sept. 23 Jacksonville at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m. Washington at Cincinnati, 8:15 p.m.

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#### **BASKETBALL**

**WNBA** 

EASTERN CONFERENCE									
	W	L	Pct	GB					
x-New York	32	7	.821	_					
x-Connecticut	27	12	.692	5					
x-Indiana	20	19	.513	12					
Atlanta	14	25	.359	18					
Washington	13	26	.333	19					
Chicago	13	26	.333	19					
WĔSTERN	I CO	NFE	RENCE	E					
	W	L	Pct	GB					
x-Minnesota	30	9	.769	_					
x-Minnesota x-Las Vegas		_		4½					
	30	9	.769	_					
x-Las Vegas	30 25	9 13	.769 .658	4½					
x-Las Vegas x-Seattle	30 25 24	9 13 14	.769 .658 .632	4½ 5½					

x-clinched playoff spot Monday's Games
No games scheduled. Tuesday's Ga Minnesota 78, Connecticut 76 New York 87, Washington 71

Atlanta 86, Chicago 70 Las Vegas at Seattle, late Phoenix at Los Angeles, late

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 No games scheduled.

#### **BASEBALL** MLB

**AMERICAN LEAGUE** 

East Division										
	W	T.	Pct	GB						
New York	87	63	.580	-						
Baltimore	84			31/2						
Boston		76		12½						
Tampa Bay	74	77	.490	131/2						
Toronto	72	78	.480	15/2						
				15						
Cent	Central Division									
	W	L	Pct	GB						
Cleveland	87	65	.572	_						
Kansas City	82	70	.539	5						
Minnesota	80	71	.530	61/2						
Detroit	79	73	.520	8						
Chicago	36	115	.238	501/2						
	st Div	visio	n							
	W	L	Pct	GB						
Houston	81	69	.540	_						
Seattle	77	73	.513	4						
Texas	71			10						
Oakland	66			16						
Los Angeles	60	90		21						
Mond				- 1						
Cleveland 4, I										
Chicago Cubs										
Detroit 7, Kan	sas (	Jity 6	Ó							

Chicago White Sox 8, L.A. Angels 4 Chicago White Sox 8, L.A. Ang San Diego 3, Houston 1 Tuesday's Games Minnesota 4, Cleveland 1 San Francisco 10, Baltimore 0 Tampa Bay 8, Boston 3 Oakland 4, Chicago Cubs 3

Detroit 3, Kansas City 1, 10 innings Toronto at Texas, 8:05 p.m. Chicago White Sox at L.A. Angels, Houston at San Diego, late N.Y. Yankees at Seattle, late Wednesday's Games

Oakland (Basso 1-0) at Chicago Cubs (Steele 5-5), 2:20 p.m. Chicago White Sox (TBD) at L.A. Angels (Kochanowicz 2-5), 4:07 p.m. San Francisco (Birdsong 3-5) at Baltimore (Kremer 7-9), 6:35 p.m. Houston (Valdez 14-6) at San Diego

A Purchase of \$4500 or More

rupou per party per visit.

(Cease 13-11), 6:40 p.m. Minnesota (Ober 12-7) at Cleveland (Bibee 11-8), 6:40 p.m. Boston (Houck 8-10) at Tampa Bay (Pepiot 8-6), 6:50 p.m. Detroit (Skubal 16-4) at Kansas City

(Marsh 8-8), 7:40 p.m. Toronto (Francis 8-4) at Texas (Bradford 5-3), 8:05 p.m.

N.Y. Yankees (Cortes 9-10) at Seattle (Miller 11-8), 9:40 p.m. Thursday's Games San Francisco at Baltimore, 1:05

Minnesota at Cleveland, 1:10 p.m. Toronto at Texas, 2:35 p.m. N.Y. Yankees at Seattle, 4:10 p.m. Boston at Tampa Bay, 6:50 p.m. L.A. Angels at Houston, 8:10 p.m.

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE

10,11101	.,	,							
East Division W L Pct GB									
Philadelphia	91	60	.603						
New York	83	68	.550	8					
Atlanta	81	70	.536	10					
Washington	68	83	.450	23					
Miami	56	95	.371	35					
Cent				33					
Cent									
	W	L	Pct	GB					
Milwaukee	87	64	.576	_					
Chicago	77	74	.510	10					
St. Louis	76	75	.503	11					
Cincinnati	74	78	.487	131/2					
Pittsburgh	71	80	.470	16					
Wes	t Di	visio	n						
	W	L	Pct	GB					
Los Angeles	89	62	.589	_					
San Diego	86	65	.570	3					
Arizona	83	67	.553	5½					
San Francisco	73	78	.483	16					
Colorado	58	93	.384	31					
Mond	av's	Gan							
N.Y. Mets 2, V									
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nings L.A. Dodgers 9, Atlanta 0 Chicago Cubs 9, Oakland 2 St. Louis 4, Pittsburgh 0 Milwaukee 6, Philadelphia 2

Colorado 3, Arizona 2 San Diego 3, Houston 1 Tuesday's Games
San Francisco 10, Baltimore 0
Miami 11, L.A. Dodgers 9 Cincinnati 6, Atlanta 5 N.Y. Mets 10, Washington St. Louis 3, Pittsburgh 1

Philadelphia 5, Milwaukee 1 Oakland 4, Chicago Cubs 3 Arizona at Colorado, late Houston at San Diego, late Wednesday's Games
Oakland (Basso 1-0) at Chicago

Cubs (Steele 5-5), 2:20 p.m. Arizona (Rodriguez 2-3) at Colorado (Gomber 5-10), 3:10 p.m. San Francisco (Birdsong 3-5) at Baltimore (Kremer 7-9), 6:35 p.m. Atlanta (Schwellenbach 6-7) at Cincinnati (Junis 4-0), 6:40 p.m.

Houston (Valdez 14-6) at San Diego (Cease 13-11), 6:40 p.m. L.A. Dodgers (Knack 2-4) at Miami (Weathers 3-5), 6:40 p.m. Washington (Herz 4-7) at N.Y. Mets (Quintana 9-9), 7:10 p.m.

Philadelphia (Nola 12-8) at Milwau-kee (Peralta 11-8), 7:40 p.m. Pittsburgh (TBD) at St. Louis (Gray 13-9), 7:45 p.m.

Thursday's Games
San Francisco at Baltimore, 1:05

p.m. Atlanta at Cincinnati, 1:10 p.m. L.A. Dodgers at Miami, 4:40 p.m. Arizona at Milwaukee, 7:15 p.m. Philadelphia at N.Y. Mets, 7:15 p.m. Pittsburgh at St. Louis, 7:15 p.m Washington at Chicago Cubs, 7:40

#### Midwest League

Midwest League Playoffs

(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 1
Sunday, Sept. 15: Wisconsin 5,

Lake County 4
Tuesday, Sept. 17: Lake County 6,

Wednesday, Sept. 18: Wisconsin at Lake County, 6:35 p.m.

#### **TRANSACTIONS**

Tuesday's Transactions BASEBALL Major League Baseball

American League
CLEVELAND GUARDIANS —
Designated RHP Carlos Carrasco for assignment. Placed LF Steven Kwan on the 10-day IL, retroactive to Sept. 14 Selected the contract of CF Myles

14. Selected the contract of CF Myle
Straw from Columbus (IL).

National League
CHICAGO CUBS — Recalled
RHP Daniel Palencia from lowa (IL). Optioned RHP Trey Wingenter to Iowa PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Sent C Endy Rodriguez to Indianapolis (IL) on a rehab assignment.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association CLEVELAND CAVALIERS — Resigned F Isaac Okoro.
FOOTBALL

National Football League CINCINNATI BENGALS — Signed DT Lawrence Guy to a contract.
CLEVELAND BROWNS — Signed RB
Royce Freeman to the practice squad.



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## Seeking closure when a close friend disappears

Dear Annie: My adult daugh- already got your ter was very close friends with a answer. The best woman, her husband and their two advice I can teenage daughters. When her friend moved across the country, my daughter was heartbroken. However, to find a way to they continued to talk, text and email almost daily. My daughter even traveled across the country and considered the possibility of moving to a nearby town.

Suddenly, and without any apparent reason, her friend "ghosted" her - stopped replying to texts, phone calls and emails. My daughter is devastated and can't think of any explanation for this abrupt change.

a card to her friend's house, expressing love and concern, and asking for help in understanding what happened. The friend's response was shocking: She texted my daughter, telling her to stay away, not to contact her or her family, and even true friend. accused her of "stalking."

I just want her friend to explain what went wrong. Is that asking too much? In the name of common decency, a simple sentence explaining what led to this sudden end to their friendship would mean a lot. The two of them had recently discussed a similar situation happening to someone else, and they both agreed it would never happen to them.

just wants to understand what happened. Any suggestions? — Need Some Answers

Dear Need Some Answers: You've





that's a hard truth we have to accept. While you can't control how others respond, you do have control over how you react to

offer you and

your daughter is

let it go. Some-

times, we don't

get the expla-

nations we're

hoping for, and

It seems that this friendship may She took a small potted flower and have run its course, and perhaps it wasn't built on the qualities that are essential for a healthy relation*ship* — *qualities like trustworthiness*, empathy, loyalty and openness. It sounds like this person may not fully understand what it means to be a

> Encourage your daughter to focus on the positive relationships in her life, where those values are present and appreciated. Over time, the pain of this loss will lessen, and she'll be stronger for having gone through it.

> "How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation

is available as a paperback and My daughter is devastated and e-book. Visit http://www.creatorspublishing.com for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

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#### **BEETLE BAILEY**





#### **BLONDIE**

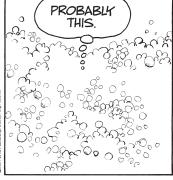












#### **CRANKSHAFT**





#### **My** Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham

Question: Is it true that people who love the world filled with evil must surely love the devil more than God? -

Answer: It is not loving the people of the world that is wrong; it is loving the things of the world – the world's

Jesus said, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son ..." (John 3:16, NKJV). Loving the world – the people of the world – is something that only comes from God in Heaven. The devil does not love the world at all; in fact, the Bible tells us that Satan "deceives the whole world" (Revelation

M A D1 D2 5 PM 5:30 6 PM

# **Devil seeks to** destroy the people of the world

12:9, NKJV). There is no love in deception. The devil seeks to destroy the people of the world by enticing them to reject God's ways and follow evil.

Satan goes along the road of life dropping things on the pathway that he knows will entice us. Maybe it is fame, maybe it's money. Or perhaps it's a title or enjoying popularity. If we hunger for things that come ahead of God, they are sinful and will lead us astray.

The story is told of an old farmer walking down the road to market as his pigs followed behind him. Other farmers were having a difficult time keeping their pigs on the pathway.

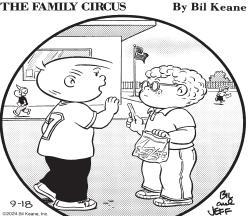
One farmer asked the old man how he got his pigs to follow him. The old man answered, "It is very simple. Every step I take, I drop a bean, and the pigs like beans, so they follow."

Satan wants to lure us into his traps, and he knows exactly what kind of "bait" will appeal to us. This is why it is important to stay close to the Lord through faithfully reading His Word and obeying His

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

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#### THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"No thanks. I don't do carrot sticks.

# The LOCKHORNS



"I'VE LEARNED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT HOW TO HANDLE LEROY BY READING MOMMY BLOGS."

5 Expert

6 Tic-tac-

**7** Stirred

8 Butler's

love

9 Tennis

spot

11 Actress

**20** Tran-

22 Tide

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Solution time: 23 mins.

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stats

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Jordan

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#### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS 39** Tipsy shoe elephant brand Madness **5** "Wham!" 3 Pre-43 Collapse 8 Last Easter write-up 46 Espresso period 12 Always froth 4 Aberra-13 Aussie 50 "Would tions

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**57** Sense

**58** Tofu

59 Dame

DOWN

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to you?" hopper 14 Fast 51 Budget runner entry **15** Res-– St. Vincent taurant

kitchen worker 55 Holly-17 Tag sale words **56** Museo

18 Early Mongolian 19 Exit

21 Hawaiian coast **24** Crony 25 Veers

suddenly 28 Tennis star Raducanu 30 Under the

weather 33 Jurist Lance 34 "Caddy

shack" director 35 Scot's refusal **36** PBS

**37** Relaxing refuges 38 Kitten

calls

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Yesterday's answer 9-18

2 Athletic 25 California short 26 Mineral

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sequence 38 "Butterfly"

singer 40 Perfect **42** Expert

serve 23 Capital of 43 Feudal estate 44 Shoppe descrip-

tor **45** Asset **47** To be, in

Paris 48 Citi

team **49** lowa city

52 Texter's "I think" 53 Dissenting vote

#### Survivor Castaways attempt to outwit, outlast and Big Brother (N) News at 6 CBS News Wheel of News (N) (:35) Late Show-Colbert 15 outplay each other for a prize of \$1 million (SP) (N) Edition (N) (N) Fortune (N) (N) Blue Bloods "Reagan V. Blue Bloods "No 15.2 106 20 Questions Asked The Golden Bachelorette Joan, the first Golder ABC21 News at 5 (N) ABC21 (N) ABC World ABC21 ABC21 (N) 25 Words News (N) NBC News Chicago Med Chicago Fire Chicago P.D (:35) Tonight Show (N) News (N) Family 21.2 WPTA-2 Dateline "The Eastlake 21.3 10 9 56 34 Bob Hearts Abishola Bob Hearts Dateline "Even the Devil Seinfeld 8 4 33 33 The Steve Wilkos Show TMZ Live (N) True Crime Chicago TMZ (N) True Crim Sullivan's Crossing Inside the NFL Week 2 Friends Friends TMZ (N) Dish "Can't Help Fallin Nation (N) 13 5 39 39 NOVA "Eagle Power" BBC News LIFE Ahead Big Cats Wildlife filmmakers follow lions, leopards Big Cats 24/7 PBS News Hour (N 39 and cheetahs in Botswana's Okavango Delta. (N) Company (N) The Day NOVA "Eagle Power PBS News Hour (N) Big Cats Wildlife filmmakers follow lions, leopard ecrets of the Dead Big Cats 24/7 ahs in Botswana's Okavango Delta. (N) ompany (N) WFFT Fox News at 6 55 6 6 55 55 WFFT Fox News at 5 Big Bang MasterChef Amateur chefs compete to become a FOX 55 News First at Neighbor Neighbor WFFT culinary master and earn the title MasterChef. (N) CABLE CHANNELS 23 113 108 252 Castle Spirit 24 132 136 148 Movie Transformers: The Last Knight \*\*\*\* Bumblebee ('18) John Cena, Hailee Steinfel ★★★ Transformers: The Last Knight ('17) Anthony Hopkins, Mark Wahlb The King of Queen 106 304 Andy Griffith Andy Griffith Andy Griffith Everybody Raymond Raymond Raymond Raymond Raymond The King of Queens of Queens Andy Griffith 26 142 114 236 Sex and the City Sex and the City Sex and the City \*\*\* Marry Me (2022, Romance) Owen Wilson, Chloe \[ \mathbb{F} \disp E! News \*\*★★ Second Act ('18) Vanessa E! mance) Meg Ryan, Carrie Fisher, Billy Crystal 241 241 Two and a Half Men PARMT Women's College Volleyball Texas at Baylor From the Ferrell Center in Waco, Texas. (L) (N) 31 50 140 206 Around (N) Pardon (L) SportsCenter Americano (L) (N) SportsCenter (L) (N) Wm. Volleyball Louisville at Kentucky Fr ESPN orial Coliseum in Lexington, Ky. (L) (N) 32 54 143 209 NFL Live (N) Around (N) Pardon (N) ESPN Original Documentaries (N) NFL's Greatest Games NFL Live 30 for 30 The Two Bills ESPN2 418 671 (4:00) MLB Baseball NASCAR Race Rewind Cardinals Golf Life NASCAR Race Rewind | Cardinals! | MLB Baseball Pittsburgh Pirates at St. Louis Cardinals From Busch Stadium in | Cardinals | Pre (L) (N) | St. Louis. (L) (N) | Post (L) (N) | Law & Order: Special Law & Order: Special Law & Order: SVU "She Law & Order: SVU Law & Order: Special Law & Order: SVU Law-SVU "Unintended 34 133 105 242 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Burned" USA Victims Unit "Paternity" Victims Unit "Stranger" | Victims Unit "Lead" "Melancholy Pursuit" Paints for Vengeance" Expedition "Ghost Ship of the Great Lakes" Expedition X "Haunted Expedition X "City of DISC he Everglades" (N) Dr. Pimple "Cyst Pits" Dr. Pimple Popper Mv 600-Lb. Life 36 73 183 280 Dr. Pimple Popper My 600-Lb. Life "Patrick's Journey Mv 600-Lb. Life "William's Journey 38 77 120 269 Pawn Stars "Where the Pawn Stars "Pawns N' Roses" HIST Pawn Stars" (N) Your Sox Off Shop Rock 39 134 118 265 Court Cam | Cou CourtCam | CourtCam | CourtCam | CourtCam 40 117 185 312 The Magic of Lemon Drops (2024, Romance) Pumpkin Everything (2022, Romance) Corey Sevier, Michael Ironside, Taylor Cole. \* The Heiress and the Handyman (2024, Romance) Corey Sevier, Jodie Sweetin. Golden HALL 41 135 122 244 (4:00) \*\*\* \* The Amazing Spider-Man (2012, Action) Emma Stone, Rhys Ifans, Andrew Garfield. \*\*\* The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (2014, Action) Emma Stone, Jamie Foxx, Andrew Garfield. The Ark "It Should Have Been You" (N) \*\*\*\* Insidious (2010, Horror) Rose Byrne. | 43 | 130 | 139 | 247 | Big Bang Mod Fam | \*\*\*\*\* My Cousin Vinny (1992, Comedy) Marisa Tomei, Ralph Macchio, Joe Pesci. | Mod Fall \*\*\*\* Forrest Gump (1994, Comedy Drama) Robin Wright, Gary Sinise, \*\* The Replacements (2000, Comedy) Gene AMC 107 | 249 | Family Guy | Family COM 64 150 219 Speak Joy Taylor, Keyshawn Johnson and Paul Pierce discuss the biggest sports topics of the day. Joel Klatt Ryan Day (N) MLS Soccer Charlotte FC at Orlando City SC From Inter&Co Stadium in Orlando, Fla. (L) (N) MLS Soccer Austin FC at Los Angeles FC From BMO Stadium in Los Angeles. (L) (N) On Balance (L) (N) Dan Abrams Live (L) (N) Banfield (L) (N) 307 Vargas Report (L) (N) WGN The Hill (L) (N) Cuomo (L) (N) 128 260 NCIS "Witness" NCIS "Bikini Wax' NCIS "Caught on Tape" NCIS "Pop Life" NCIS NCIS "Red Cell" Guy's Grocery Games Grocery (N) Guy's Grocery Games Guy's Grocery Games Guy's Grocery Games 59 153 110 231 Guy's Grocery Games Guy's Grocery Games Guy's Grocery Games FOOD | Housewives SLC | Hous Housewives SLC (SP) (N) Friends Friends NICK Friends Friends Friends Big City Big City Ladybug Ladybug Hamster & Hamster & ★★★ Jungle Cruise (2021, Adventure) Emily Blunt, Edgar Ramirez, Dwayne Hamster & Hamster & Raven FREEFORM Simpsons Simpsons 310 515 (4:30) ★★★ Lawless (\*12) Shia LaBeouf. (:25) \*★★ The Other Side of the Door ('16, Hor) | \*★★★ Eighth Grade ('18) Daniel (35) \*\*\* Now You See Me 2 (2016, Adventure) (45) \*\*\* Forgetting Sarah Mark Ruffalo, Woody Harrelson, Jesse Eisenberg. Marshall ('08) Jason Segel. MAX 325 310 515 (\*12) Shia LaBeouf. Jeremy Sisto, Sofia Rosinsky, Sarah Wayne Callies. 351 851 318 545 (3:45) \*\*\* \* Primal Fear (\*96) Richard Gere. Anderson, Taryn Manning, Terrence Howard. \*\*\* The Wolf of Wall Street (2013, Comedy Drama) Jonah Hill, Margot | \*\* Brooklyn's Finest (2009, Crime Story) Don **PARSHO** Cheadle, Ethan Hawke, Richard Gere. ♥★★★ Miss Sloane (2016, Drama) Mark Strong, Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Jessica Chastain. (:15) \* Out of the Blue 375 859 327 553 \* Vindicta (2023, Thriller) Jeremy Piven, Sean Astin, Elena Kampouris Anesthesia ('15) Sam Waterston, Glenn Close, Kristen Stewart. (:15) ♥★★★ Carol (2015, Romance) Rooney Mara, Sarah Paulson, Cate Blanchett.

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







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

King Classic Sudoku

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Difficulty: ★★★

#### Public Notices

90C01-2409-ES-000003 STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF WELLS )

IN THE WELLS SUPERIOR COURT 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, appoint-ed 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

STATE OF INDIANA SS: COUNTY OF WELLS IN THE WELLS CIRCUIT COURT CAUSE NUMBER: 90C01-2407-JC-000024 IN THE MATTER OF HM - DOB 5/20/2022

A CHILD ALLEGED TO BE CHILD IN NEED OF SERVICES AND

GAGE KIDWELL (ALLEGED FATHER) KATIE MCAFEE (MOTHER) AND ANY UNKNOWN ALLEGED

SUMMONS FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION & NOTICE

OF CHILD IN NEED OF SERVICES HEARING TO: Any Unknown Alleged Father

Whereabouts unknown NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

to Any Unknown Alleged Fathers, whose whereabouts are unknown, that the Indiana Department of Child Services has filed its Verified Petition Alleging the child to be in Need of Services, in accordance with I.C. 31-34-9-3, and that an adjudication hearing has been scheduled with the Court.
YOU ARE HEREBY COM-

MANDED to appear before the Judge of the Wells Circuit Court, 102 Market Street, Bluffton, IN 46714 - 260-824-6485 for a(n) Fact Finding/Disposition on 10/31/2024

At said hearing, the Court will consider the Petition and evidence thereon and will render its decision as to whether the above named minor child is child in need of services and shall enter adjudication accordingly. Your failure to appear after lawful notice will be deemed as your default and waiver to be present at said hearing.

UPON ENTRY OF SAID

ADJUDICATION, A DISPOSI-TIONAL HEARING will be held in which the Court will consider (1) Alternatives for the care, treatment or rehabilitation for the child; (2) The necessity, nature, and extent of your participation in the program of care, treatment, or rehabilitation for the child; and (3) Your financial responsibility for any services provided for the parent, guardian or custodian of the child including

YOU MUST RESPOND by appearing in person or by an attorney within thirty (30) days after the last publication of this notice, and in the event you fail to do so, an adjudication on said petition, judg-ment by default may be entered against you, or the court may proceed in your absence, without fur-

ther notice. Beth Davis Clerk Holly N Smith, 31840-49 Attorney, Indiana Department of

Child Services c/o Wells Co DCS 221 W Market St Bluffton, IN 46714 Office: 260-824-3530 nb 9/11, 9/18, 9/25

hspaxlp

### 9/18

**VEHICLES** 

Campers/RV's

**2018 THOR HURRICANE,** Model 31Z, Class A RV, \$79,000, 260-307-3225.

#### **SERVICES**

#### **Services**

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

#### Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA ) SS: COUNTY OF WELLS )
IN THE WELLS CIRCUIT COURT CAUSE NUMBER: 90C01-2407-JC-000023 IN THE MATTER OF:

GM - DOB 12/10/2020 A CHILD ALLEGED TO BE A CHILD IN NEED OF SERVICES AND JASON KING (ALLEGED

FATHER) KATIE MCAFEE (BIOLOGICAL MOTHER) AND ANY UNKNOWN ALLEGED FATHERS

SUMMONS FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION & NOTICE OF CHILD IN NEED OF

SERVICES HEARING TO: Any Unknown Alleged Father Whereabouts unknown

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to Any Unknown Alleged Fathers, whose whereabouts are unknown, that the Indiana Department of Child Services has filed its Verified Petition Alleging the child to be in Need of Services, in accordance with I.C. 31-34-9-3, and that an adjudication hearing has been scheduled with the Court

YOU ARE HEREBY COM-MANDED to appear before the Judge of the Wells Circuit Court, 102 Market Street, Bluffton, IN 46714 - 260-824-6485 for a(n) Fact Finding/Disposition on 10/31/2024 at 1:00 PM.

At said hearing, the Court will consider the Petition and evidence thereon and will render its decision as to whether the above named minor child is child in need of services and shall enter adjudication accordingly. Your failure to appear after lawful notice will be deemed as your default and waiver to be

upon Entry of SAID
ADJUDICATION, A DISPOSITIONAL HEARING will be held in which the Court will consider (1) Alternatives for the care, treatment, or rehabilitation for the child; (2) The necessity, nature, and extent of your participation in the program of care, treatment, or rehabilitation for the child; and (3) Your financial responsibility for any services provided for the parent, guardian or custodian of the child including

YOU MUST RESPOND by appearing in person or by an attorney within thirty (30) days after the last publication of this notice, and in the event you fail to do so, an adjudication on said petition, judgment by default may be entered against you, or the court may pro-ceed in your absence, without further notice.

Beth Davis Clerk Holly N Smith, 31840-49 Attorney, Indiana Department of Child Services c/o Wells Co DCS 221 W Market St Bluffton, IN 46714 Office: 260-824-3530

nb 9/11, 9/18, 9/25 hspaxlp

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#### Services

HANDYMAN **SERVICES** NO job too big or too small 260-353-9339.

**CONSUMER CELLULAR - the** same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/ month. For more information, call 1-855-572-5165 (I)

PREPARE FOR POWER outages with Briggs & Stratton® PowerProtect(TM) standby generators - the most powerful home standby generators Industry-leading available. comprehensive warranty years (\$849 value.) Proudly made in the U.S.A. Call Briggs & Stratton 1-877-798-0270. (I)

DIRECTV- ALL YOUR entertainment. Nothing on your roof!
Sign up for Directv and get
your first three months of Max, Paramount+, Showtime, Starz, MGM+ and Cinemax included. Choice package \$84.99/mo. Some restrictions apply. Call DIRECTV 1-888-885-8931 (I)

CHOOSE EARTHLINK FI-BER Internet for speeds up to 5 Gigs, no data caps, no throttling. Prices starting at \$54.95. Plus, a \$100 gift card when you make the switch. Call 1-833-754-0929 (I)

DURACELL. THE #1 trusted battery brand now offering the M150 Portable Power Station. When fully charged the M150 provides enough power to charge all your devices - laptops, phones, tablets, earbuds and more for work and fun. Give the gift of portable power this holiday season - only \$199. Go to portablepower info/145. (I)

HIGH-SPEED INTERNET. WE instantly compare speed, pricing, availability to find the best service for your needs. Starting at \$39.99/month! Quickly compare offers from top providers. Call 1-844-961-0666 (I)

DIAGNOSED WITH LUNG CANCER? You may qualify for a substantial cash award – even with smoking history. NO obligation! We've recovered millions. Let us help!! Call 24/7, 844-229-7933 (I)

#### **EMPLOYMENT**

**Help Wanted** 

TOWN OF WARREN, Indiana Hiring Utility Manager. An application period for the position of full time Utility Manager is now open through October 15, 2024, due to retirement. Depart-ments to oversee include water, sewer, electric, parks and streets. Duties include employee management, project planning, maintenance positive relationships with the public, all employees and officers of the Town, represen-tation at workshops and meetings, scheduling of regular day to day and long term operations. The position is a mix of office and field work Must hold at least a WT3 or DSM license, have at least eight years experience with managerial a plus. Knowl-edge of Electric Utility also a plus. Base pay of \$28.50 per nour adjusted upward based on experience. Benefit Package available. For information contact Lee Poulson, Utility Manager, at at 260-375-3424 utility1@citznet.com or Clerk

Treasurer Marilyn Morrison at townofwarrenin@gmail.com at 260-375-2656. Application form can be found at warrenindiana.us or by requesting through above contacts. Please include resume.

BEST-ONE OF MONROE is looking for individuals to perform tire related services as AG Tire Technicians. Duties include, but not limited to, mounting, balancing, rotating, and repairing AG Tires. This is a fast paced, strong customer service mindset and the ability to communicate with team members and customers effectively is a must. High School diploma or equivalent; valid driver's license; frequent lifting up to 75 pounds. Previous experience appreciated, but not required. Please forward resume and/or application to HCook@bestoneofmon roe.com. We are an Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action

#### **Help Wanted ENTRY**

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

#### RENTALS

#### Apartments for Rent

**BLUFFTON SENIOR VILLAS** 55+ Affordable Apartments 1 & 2 Bedroom Units Available Call 260-824-5820

#### LINE CLASSIFIED **AD DEADLINES:**

Monday editions: Friday by 4 p.m.; Tuesday-Friday editions: day-before by 3:30 p.m.; Saturdays: Friday by 11:30 a.m.

Submit ads to the Bluffton News-Banner office.

260-824-0224, 125 N. Johnson St., or online at classifieds.news-banner.com.

#### **Services** special!

Advertise your services every day in Wells County's most popular daily marketplace! A 20 word line classified for 2 months is \$97. Call 824-0224 or place ads on-line

classifieds.news-banner. com

PLACE ADS by calling 824-0224, bring or mail to Bluffton News-Banner, 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton IN 46714, or online at classifieds.newsbanner.com

# This Week's Garage



MOVING SALE Cedar chest, dryer, dishwasher, tools, 4x8 trailer, 2003 Grand Caravan car, furniture and many more items. John Deer rider. 3604 SE St Rd 116, Bluffton, IN

#### **Lottery Numbers**

**Tuesday's Drawings** HOOSIËR LOTTERY Cash 5 - 26-29-33-35-

**Cash4Life** — 03-11-33-36-45, Cash Ball: 01 Quick Draw Midday —

06-07-10-12-14-18-20-27-28-29-30-42-52-53-61-65-68-69-70-75, BE: 61

Daily Three-Midday — 03-02-05, SB: 00 Daily Three-Evening —

03-01-03, SB: 08

Daily Four-Midday — 07-02-09-02, SB: 00 Daily Four-Evening —

02-08-02-02, SB: 08 **Quick Draw Evening** 04-07-15-19-21-24-26-

30-33-37-39-40-45-46-47-67-68-69-72-80, BE: 45 Hoosier Lotto Estimated jackpot (for

Wednesday): \$21.6 mil-**MEGA MILLIONS** 14-31-48-57-64; Mega

Ball: 09; Megaplier: 3X. **POWERBALL** Estimated jackpot (for

Wednesday): \$176 million

#### **Public Notice**

NOTICE OF REAL PROPERTY

Wells County Indiana Beginning 10:00 AM Local Time, October 30, 2024 Courthouse Wells County

Pursuant to the laws of the Indiana General Assembly, notice is hereby given that the following described property is listed for sale for delinquent taxes and/or special assessments. The county auditor and county treasurer will apply on or after 10/11/2024 for a court judgment against the tracts or real property for an amount that is not less than the amount set out below and for an order to sell the tracts or real property at public auction to the highest bidder, subject to the right of redemption. Any defense to the application for judgment must be filed with the Wells County Circuit Court and served on the county auditor and treasurer before 10/11/2024. The court will set a date for a hearing at least seven (7) days before the advertised date of sale and the court will determine any defenses to the application for judgment at the hearing. The county auditor and the county treasurer are entitled to receive all pleadings, motions, petitions, and other filings related to the defense to the appli-

cation for judgment.
Such sale will be held on 10/30/2024 at the Courthouse and that sale will continue until all tracts and real property have been offered for sale. At the discretion of local officials, the tax sale may switch to an online format. If those measures are taking place, the public auction will be conducted as an electronic sale under IC 6-1.1-24-2 (b) 10 at www.zeusauction. com commencing on the same date/time listed above. All location updates will be posted at www. sriservices.com prior to the tax

Property will not be sold for an amount which is less than the sum

(A) the delinquent taxes and special assessments on each tract or item of real property; and

(B) the taxes and special assessments on the real property that are due and payable in the year of the sale, whether or not they are delinquent; and (C) all penalties due on the

delinguencies, and (D) an amount prescribed by the county auditor that equals the

sum of: (1) twenty-five dollars (\$25) for postage and publication costs; and (2) any other costs incurred by

the county that are directly attributable to the tax sale; and
(E) any unpaid costs due under IC 6-1.1-24-2(c) from a prior tax

sale. No property listed below shall be sold if, at any time before the sale, the Total Amount for Judgment is paid in full. If the real property is sold in the tax sale, the amount required to redeem such property will be 110% of the minimum bid for which the tract or real property was offered at the time of sale, if redeemed not more than six (6) months after the date of sale, or 115% of the minimum bid for which the tract or real

property was offered at the time of months after the date of sale, plus the amount by which the purchase price exceeds the minimum bid on the real property plus five percent (5%) per annum interest on the amount by which the purchase price exceeds the minimum bid on the property. All taxes and special assessments upon the property paid by the purchaser subsequent to the sale, plus five percent (5%) per annum interest on those taxes and special assessments, will also be required to be paid to redeem

such property. In addition, IC 6-1.1-25-2 (e) states the total amount required for redemption may include the following costs incurred and paid by the purchaser or the purchaser's assignee or the county before redemption: (1) The attorney's fees and cost of giving notice under IC 6-1.1-25-4.5; (2) The costs of title search or examining and update the abstract of title for the tract or item of real property. The period of redemption shall expire on Thursday, October 30, 2025 for certificates sold in the tax sale. For certificates struck to the county, the period of redemption may expire Thursday, February 27, 2025 If the tract or item of real prop-

erty is sold for an amount more than the minimum bid and the property is not redeemed, the owner of record of the property who is divested of ownership at the time the tax deed is issued may have a right to the tax sale surplus.

The Auditor and Treasurer specifically reserve the right to withhold from the sale any parcel which has been listed in error, or which otherwise becomes ineligible for sale either prior to 10/30/2024 or during the duration of the sale. This notice of real property tax

sale, and the tax sale itself are undertaken and will be conducted pursuant to the requirements of the laws of the State of Indiana which regulate the sale of land for delinquent taxes, pursuant to I.C. 6-1.1-24-1 et seq.

The County does not warrant the accuracy of the street address or common description of the property, and a misstatement in the key number or street address does not invalidate an otherwise valid sale. Minimum bid amounts are pre-

scribed by law and are subject to change prior to the auction date. Pursuant to IC 6-1.1-24-3(e)

property descriptions may be omitted for properties appearing on the certified list in consecutive years. A complete property list may be obtained at www.sriservices.com or in an alternative form upon request. Registration For Bidding On the

If you are interested in bidding on the tax sale for an Indiana county, you may register online at https://sriservices.com/. This registration is good for all counties that SRI services. You need to register only once for all counties. Make sure to bring the completed form with you to each sale. This will speed up the registration process for you the morning of the sale. If you do not have access to a computer with internet service you may register the morning of the sale.

Please arrive the morning of the \$1,096.59 Petroleum Speed Shop the beginning time to be assured you will receive your bid number before the start of the sale. Please bring your registration form and W9 form with you the morning of the tax sale. You will be

able to print these forms from the registration web site. Pursuant to IC 6-1.1-24-5.1 a business entity that seeks to register to bid at the Wells County Tax

Sale must provide a Certificate of Existence or Foreign Registration Statement in accordance with IC 5-23 from the Secretary of State to the Wells County Treasurer. Dated: 09/11/2024 902400002 001-00045-00 \$260.60 Cook, Steven C 200 W

Keystone 46759 001-00045-00, 001-00192-00, and 001-00289-00 are to be sold and redeemed 902400003 001-00181-00

\$697.91 Stuff, Nicholas 9830 S 200 W Poneto 46781 902400004 001-00192-00

\$1,695.73 Cook, Steven C 10363 S 200 W Keystone 46759 001-00045-00, 001-00192-00, and 001-00289-00 are to be sold and redeemed together.

902400008 001-00289-00 \$260.60 Cook, Steven C 200 W Keystone 46759 001-00045-00, 001-00192-00, and 001-00289-00 are to be sold and redeemed together.

902400009 001-00342-00 \$245.99 Hess, Sara Elizabeth 200 W Keystone 46759

902400010 001-00344-00 \$262.87 Hess, Sara Elizabeth 200 W Keystone 46759 902400012 002-01260-01 \$3,654.83 Gerber, Kelby M 3974 E Elm Grove Rd Bluffton 46714

902400014 003-01735-02 \$3,814.57 Kiel, Brett E 7928 W 1000 S-90 Warren 46792

902400016 004-02294-00 \$1,861.27 Monnot, Ronald Lee 1732 E 800 N Ossian 46777 902400017 004-02331-01 \$1,737.24 Haiflich, Edwin N 800 N Ossian 46777

902400018 005-03122-00 \$1,405.24 Okey, Austin/Sarah 2421 902400020 005-03275-01 \$5,372.09 Arnold, Carter T Sr 5609 E 100 N Bluffton 46714

902400021 005-03295-04 \$17,499.81 Regency Ossian RE, LLC 1630 E Us 224 Ossian 46777 902400022 005-03557-01 \$4,182.11 Smith, Justin B 4662 N

902400025 006-04125-01 \$3,628.32 Grover, Adam/Jennifer 5395 S 450 W Poneto 46781 902400027 006-04265-00

800 E Decatur 46733

\$425.69 Indo Advertising Corp Main Liberty Center 46766 902400028 006-04296-00 \$498.70 Dougherty, Carrol D/ Campbell, Robert E/Connie D 2970

W Walnut Liberty Center 46766 902400030 006-04364-00 \$695.09 Holloway, Rex E 3046 W

Market Liberty Center 46766 902400034 007-04670-00 \$2,562.64 Kendall, Devin/Brittney 8995 S Main Petroleum 46778 902400035 007-04953-01 \$3,041.26 Kahn, Kevin 9554 S 100

Keystone 46759 902400036 007-05014-00

LLC Market Petroleum 46778 902400037 007-05048-03 \$14,840.02 Regency Montpelier RE, LLC 11640 S 200 E-90 Montpelier 47359 902400040 008-05620-00 \$1,180.31 Roberts, Therese/David

R 3160 N 500 W Markle 46770 902400043 010-06961-00 \$2,185.86 Peterson, Rob L/Andrea

K 125 E Washington Bluffton 46714 902400044 010-07362-00 \$2,914.89 Cunningham, Jeffrey W/Rhonda K 10 Columbian Ave Bluff-902400045 010-07406-00

\$1,122.90 Rockwell, Tim 1319 W South Bluffton 46714 902400048 010-07948-00 \$545.27 Roth, Madream/Stotlar, Kathy 526 S Jersey Bluffton 46714 902400049 010-08024-00

\$3,152.60 Green House Group, LLC 518 S Marion Bluffton 46714 902400055 010-08398-00 \$1,841.72 Rockwell, Tim 1112 W Central Bluffton 46714

902400056 010-09143-00 \$1,769.58 Vanauken, Jeffrey L 1325 W Cherry Bluffton 46714 902400057 010-09670-20 \$34,416.47 Montalto At Bluffton, LLC 1100 S Main Bluffton 46714

902400059 012-03753-01 \$29,314.97 Bluffton Acres Llp li 2379 N Main Bluffton 46714 012-03753-01 and 012-03753-01 are to be sold and redeemed together. 902400060 012-03753-04

\$273.28 Bluffton Acres II LLP Main Bluffton 46714 902400061 012-09771-01

\$5,302.54 David Alan Saalfrank Revocable Living Trust 410 Mead-ow Ln Bluffton 46714 902400062 014-10212-00 \$308.24 Cart, Clara L 185 Mercury Markle 46770

902400063 015-10280-00 \$463.61 Wallace, Debra 811 W Lafever Ossian 46777 902400064 015-10624-01

\$2,133.13 Bryant, Timothy H/ Barbara J Stantz 509 S Jefferson Ossian 46777 902400065 015-10673-00 \$840.14 Fox, Kenneth E / Joanne

Marie 306 Young Ossian 46777 902400066 015-10890-00

\$1,951.40 Gulker, Irene A 402 W Lafever Ossian 46777 902400067 015-10895-00 \$1,303.71 Bradtmueller, Marvin L / Rebecca 709 N Melching Dr Ossian 46777

902400069 018-11174-00 \$419.98 Your First Choice LLC Washington Poneto 46781 902400070 019-11271-00 \$4,455.66 Werling etal, Kenneth W

900 Railroad Uniondale 46791 Total Properties: 42 I hereby certify that the fore-going is a true list of lots and land returned delinquent for the nonpayment of taxes and special assessments for the time periods set forth, also subsequent delinquent taxes. current taxes and costs due there on and the same are chargeable with the amount of tax, etc., with which they are charged on said list.
Given under my hand and seal

this 11th day of September, 2024. Lisa McCormick, Auditor, Wells County Indiana. nb 9/18

hspaxlp

# Students are reading fewer books in English class

By SHARON LURYE **Associated Press** 

Chris Stanislawski didn't read much in his middle school English classes, but it never felt necessary. Students were given detailed chapter summaries for every novel they discussed, and teachers played audio of the books during class.

Much of the reading material at Garden City Middle School in Long Island was either abridged books, or online texts and printouts, he said.

"When you're given a summary of the book telling you what you're about to read in baby form, it kind of just ruins the whole story for you," said Chris, 14. "Like, what's the point of actually reading?"

In many English classrooms across America, assignments to read fulllength novels are becoming less common. Some teachers focus instead on selected passages - a concession to perceptions of shorter attention spans, pressure to prepare for standardized tests and a sense that short-form content will prepare students for the modern, digital

The National Council of Teachers of English acknowledged the shift in a 2022 statement on media education, saying: "The time has come to decenter book reading and essaywriting as the pinnacles of English language arts education.'

The idea is not to remove books but to teach media literacy and add other texts that feel relevant to students, said Seth French, one of the statement's co-authors. In the English class he taught before becoming a dean last year at Bentonville High School in Arkansas, students engaged with plays, poetry and articles

SEPTEMBER 23-SEPTEMBER 30 - (Online

Only) - Various consignors, seller. Firearms

consisting of Springfield, Hopkins & Allen, Colt,

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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.

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com, Jason Johnloz, jasonj@halderman.com,

260-273-9177, Halderman Real Estate & Farm

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- 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 bath-

rooms, 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.*, steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006. SEPTEMBER 24-OCTOBER 1 - (Online Only)

- Grover, seller. Tractor, mower, tools, wood-

working, 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

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. 260-273-8294.

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,

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but read just one book together as a class.

"At the end of the day, a lot of our students are not interested in some of these texts that they didn't have a choice in," he said.

The emphasis on shorter, digital texts does not sit well with everyone.

Deep reading is essential to strengthen circuits in the brain tied to critical thinking skills, background knowledge — and, most of all, empathy, said Maryanne Wolf, a cognitive neuroscientist at UCLA specializing in dyslexia research.

"We must give our young an opportunity to understand who others are, not through little snapshots, but through immersion into the lives and thoughts and feelings of others," Wolf said.

At Garden City Middle School, students are required to read several books in their entirety each year, including "Of Mice and Men" and "Romeo and Juliet," Principal Matthew Samuelson said. Audio versions and summaries are provided as extra resources, he said.

For Chris, who has dyslexia, the audio didn't make the reading feel more accessible. He just felt bored. He switched this fall to a Catholic school, which his mother feels will prepare him better for college.

Even outside school, students are reading less

There's little data on how many books are assigned by schools. But in general, students are reading less. Federal data from last year shows only 14% of young teens say they read for fun daily, compared with 27% in 2012.

Teachers say the slide has its roots in the COVID-19 crisis.

**Public Sale Calendar** 

happened when COVID hit, to stop reading full-length novels because students were in trauma; we were in a pandemic. The problem is we haven't quite come back from that," said Kristy Acevedo, who teaches English at a vocational high school in New Bedford, Massachu-

This year, she said she won't accept that students are too distracted to read. She plans to teach timemanagement strategies and to use only paper and pencils for most of class time.

Other teachers say the trend stems from standardized testing and the influence of education technology. Digital platforms can deliver a complete English curriculum, with thousands of short passages aligned to state standards all without having to

assign an actual book. "If admins and school districts are judged by their test scores, how are they going to improve their test scores? They're going to mirror the test as much as possible," said Karl Ubelhoer, a middle school special education teacher in Tabernacle, New Jersey.

For some students, it's a struggle to read at all. Only around a third of fourth and eighth graders reached reading proficiency in the 2022 National Assessment of Educational Progress, down significantly from 2019.

Leah van Belle, executive director of the Detroit literacy coalition 313Reads, said when her son read "Peter Pan" in late elementary school, it was too hard for most kids in the class. She laments that Detroit feels like "a book desert." Her son's school doesn't even have a library.

Still, she said it makes sense for English classes There was a trend, it to focus on shorter texts.

"As an adult, if I want to learn about a topic and research it, be it personal or professional, I'm using interactive digital text to do that," she said.

Teachers fit books in with other 'spinning

Even in well-resourced schools, one thing is always in short supply:

Terri White, a teacher at South Windsor High School in Connecticut, no longer makes her honors ninth-grade English class read all of "To Kill a Mockingbird." She assigns about a third of the book and a synopsis of the rest. They have to move on quickly because of pressure for teachers to cram more into the curriculum, she said.

"It's like spinning plates, you know what I mean? Like it's a circus,' she said.

She also assigns less homework because kids' schedules are so packed with sports, clubs and other activities.

"I maintain rigor. But I'm more about helping students become stronger and more critical readers, writers and thinkers, while taking their socialemotional well-being into

account," she said.

In the long run, the synopsis approach harms students' critical thinking skills, said Alden Jones, a literature professor at Emerson College in Boston. She assigns fewer books than she once did and gives more quizzes to make sure students do the reading.

"We don't value the thinking time that we used to have. It's all time we could be on our phone accomplishing tasks," she said.

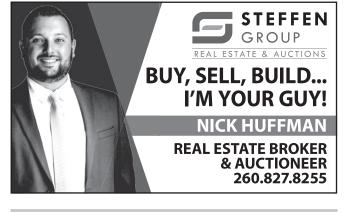
Will Higgins, an English teacher at Dartmouth High School in Massachusetts, said he still believes in teaching the classics, but demands on students' time have made it neces-

sary to cut back.

"We haven't given up on 'Jane Eyre' and 'Pride and Prejudice.' We haven't given up on 'Hamlet' or 'The Great Gatsby,'" Higgins said. But he said they have given up assigning others like "A Tale of Two Cities."

His school has had success encouraging reading through student-directed book clubs, where small groups pick a book and discuss it together. Contemporary authors like John Green and Jason Reynolds have been a big

"It's funny," he said. "Many students are saying that it's the first time in a long time they've read a full book."



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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.steffen-

grp.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, Schrader-FortWayne.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 6-OCTOBER 13 (Online Only) -Boots Estate, Seller. 366 W 300 N., Bluffton. 1993 Ford F150; Boat; Mini Bike; Wagons; Pyrex; Corningware; Glassware; Advertising; Furniture; Household; Board Games; Open Houses: Thursday, October 3 and Thursday, October 10 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Bobby Perry, 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, heartlandauctionrealty.com.

# Homes near Houston under evacuation orders as pipeline fire burns

By JUAN A. LOZANO and SEAN MUPRHY Associated Press

DEER PARK, Texas (AP) — A pipeline fire that erupted in a suburban Houston neighborhood burned for a second day Tuesday with still no definitive word on when the blaze would finally go out, when nearby residents may be able to return home or why a car drove through a fence and hit a valve before the destructive explosion.

Although the fire was getting smaller, the disruptions caused by the Monday morning explosion in a grassy corridor between a Walmart and a residential neighborhood left some locals increasingly weary. On Tuesday, people could be seen returning to their homes to get clothes and other items before quickly leaving again.

"We literally walked out with the clothes on our backs, the pets, and just left the neighborhood with no idea where we were going," Kristina Reff said. "That was frustrating."

Over 24 hours after the blast — which shot towering flames like a blowtorch above the suburbs of Deer Park and La Porte — authorities have provided few details about the circumstances leading up to the explosion.

Investigators said it happened after the driver of a sport utility vehicle went through a fence near the Walmart and struck an above-ground valve. As of Tuesday evening, authorities had not still not identified the driver or said what happened to them.

Deer Park officials have said police and FBI agents found no preliminary evidence to suggest the explosion of the pipeline, which carried natural gas liquids, was a coordinated or terrorist attack. In a statement Monday night, the city said it "appears to be an isolated incident" but officials have not provided details on how they came to that conclu-

The car was incinerated by the explosion, which scorched the ground across a wide radius, severed power transmission lines, melted playground equipment and ignited some homes.

The valve, which appears to have been protected by a chain-link fence topped with barbed wire, is located within a long grassy field where high-voltage power lines run. Several pipelines run underground.

Authorities evacuated nearly 1,000 homes at one point and ordered people in nearby schools to shelter in place. By Tuesday afternoon that number was down to just over 400.

"The fire is still burning, but the good news is that the pressure within the pipeline is continuously dropping, which means we are getting closer to the fire going out," Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo said in a statement

Operators shut off the flow after the explosion, but Hidalgo has said that 20 miles of pipeline stretched between the two closed valves and the chemicals inside had to burn off before the fire would stop.

Robert Hall, a senior advisor at the nonprofit Pipeline Safety Trust, said it's not surprising that it's taken more than a day for the material to stop burning.

"You're talking about 20-inch pipelines and miles between valves, so it takes a long time to burn down," Hall said.

Houston is the nation's petrochemical heartland and is home to a cluster of refineries and plants and thousands of miles of pipelines. Explosions and fires are a familiar sight, and some have been deadly, raising

recurring questions about industry efforts to protect the public and the environment.

Hall, who previously oversaw pipeline and hazardous materials investigations for the National Transportation Safety Board, said there are few regulations that govern the location of pipelines near homes and businesses.

"That becomes a very local issue, community by community," Hall said, adding that some jurisdictions require bollards — sturdy pipes filled with concrete — to prevent vehicles from crashing into sensitive infrastructure.

Hidalgo said Tuesday that Energy Transfer, the Dallas-based owner of the pipeline, has said it was working to isolate parts of the pipeline closest to the fire by clamping it on each side.

Energy Transfer did not our own beds," she said.

immediately respond to a question about what safety precautions were in place near the valve.

Hall said regulations from 2022 aimed at reducing deaths and environmental damage from ruptures were geared toward gas lines, not those carrying liquids, and would not have applied to this pipeline. He added that many new safety regulations that have been put in place do not apply retroactively to pre-existing pipelines.

Both Energy Transfer and Harris County Pollution Control were conducting air monitoring in the area and have found no health issues, according to Deer Park officials.

Since leaving home, Reff and her family have been staying in a hotel room paid for by Energy Transfer. But they were eager to return.

"It would be nice to be in our own beds," she said.

# Instagram makes teen accounts private as pressure mounts on the app to protect children

By BARBARA ORTUTAY AP Technology Writer

Instagram is making teen accounts private by default as it tries to make the platform safer for children amid a growing backlash against how social media affects young people's lives.

Beginning Tuesday in the U.S., U.K., Canada and Australia, anyone under under 18 who signs up for Instagram will be placed into restrictive teen accounts and those with existing accounts will be migrated over the next 60 days. Teens in the European Union will see their accounts adjusted later this year.

Parent company Meta acknowledges that teenagers may lie about their age and says it will require them to verify their ages in more instances, like if they try to create a new account with an adult birthday. The Menlo Park, California company also said it is building technology that proactively finds teen accounts that pretend to be grownups and automatically places them into the restricted teen accounts.

The teen accounts will be private by default. Private messages are restricted so teens can only receive them from people they follow or are already connected to. "Sensitive content," such as videos of people fighting or those promoting cosmetic procedures, will be limited, Meta said. Teens will also get notifications if they are on Instagram for more than 60

minutes and a "sleep mode" will be enabled that turns off notifications and sends autoreplies to direct messages from 10 p.m. until 7 a.m.

While these settings will be turned on for all teens, 16 and 17-year-olds will be able to turn them off. Kids under 16 will need their parents' permission to do so.

"The three concerns we're hearing from parents are that their teens are seeing content that they don't want to see or that they're getting contacted by people they don't want to be contacted by or that they're spending too much time on the app," said Naomi Gleit, head of product at Meta. "So teen accounts is really focused on addressing those three concerns."

The announcement comes as the company faces lawsuits from dozens of U.S. states that accuse it of harming young people and contributing to the youth mental health crisis by knowingly and deliberately designing features on Instagram and Facebook that addict children to its platforms.

While Meta didn't give specifics on how the changes might affect its business, the company said the changes may mean that teens will use Instagram less in the short term. Emarketer analyst Jasmine Enberg said the revenue impact of the changes "will likely be minimal."

"Even as Meta continues to prioritize teen safety, it's unlikely that it's going to make sweeping changes that would cause a major financial hit," she said, adding that the teen accounts are unlikely to significantly affect how engaged teens are with Instagram "not in the least because there are still plenty of ways to circumvent the rules, and could even make them more motivated to work around the age limits."

New York Attorney General Letitia James said Meta's announcement was "an important first step, but much more needs to be done to ensure our kids are protected from the harms of social media." James' office is working with other New York officials on how to implement a new state law intended to curb children's access to what critics call addictive social media feeds.

Others were more critical. Nicole Gil, the co-founder and executive director of the nonprofit Accountable Tech, called Instagram's announcement the "latest attempt to avoid actual independent oversight and regulation and instead continue to self-regulate, jeopardizing the health, safety, and privacy of young people."

"Today's PR exercise falls short of the safety by design and accountability that young people and their parents deserve and only meaningful policy action can guarantee," she said. "Meta's business model is built on addicting its users

and mining their data for profit; no amount of parental and teen controls Meta is proposing will change that."

Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.), the co-author of the Kids Online Safety Act that recently passed the Senate, questioned the timing of the announcement "on the eve of a House markup" of the bill.

"Just like clockwork, the Kids Online Safety Act moves forward and industry comes out with a new set of self-enforcing guidelines," she said.

In the past, Meta's efforts at addressing teen safety and mental health on its platforms have also been met with criticism that the changes don't go far enough. For instance, while kids will get a notification when they've spent 60 minutes on the app, they will be able to bypass it and continue scrolling.

That's unless the child's parents turn on "parental supervision" mode, where parents can limit teens' time on Instagram to a specific amount of time, such as 15 minutes.

With the latest changes, Meta is giving parents more options to oversee their kids' accounts. Those under 16 will need a parent or guardian's permission to change their settings to less restrictive ones. They can do this by setting up "parental supervision" on their accounts and connecting them to a parent or guardian.

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## Employee: Titan sub tragedy could have been prevented

By PATRICK WHITTLE Associated Press

A key employee who labeled a doomed experimental submersible unsafe prior to its last, fatal voyage testified Tuesday that the tragedy could have been prevented if a federal safety agency had investigated his complaint.

David Lochridge, Ocean-Gate's former operations director, said he felt let down by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's decision not to follow through on the complaint.

"I believe that if OSHA had attempted to investigate the seriousness of the concerns I raised on multiple occasions, this tragedy may have been prevented," he said while speaking before a commission trying to determine what caused the Titan to implode en route to the wreckage of the Titanic last year, killing all five on board. "As a seafarer, I feel deeply disappointed by the system that is meant to protect not only seafarers but the general public as well."

Lochridge said during testimony that eight months after he filed an OSHA complaint, a caseworker told him the agency had not begun investigating it yet and there were 11 cases ahead of his. By then, OceanGate was suing Lochridge and he had filed a countersuit.

filed a countersuit.

About 10 months after he filed the complaint, he decided to walk away. The case was closed and both lawsuits were dropped.

OSHA officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday.

Earlier in the day, Lochridge said he frequently clashed with the company's co-founder and felt the company was committed only to making money.

Lochridge was one of the most anticipated witnesses to appear before a commission. His testimony echoed that of other former employees Monday, one of whom described OceanGate head Stockton Rush as volatile and difficult to work with.

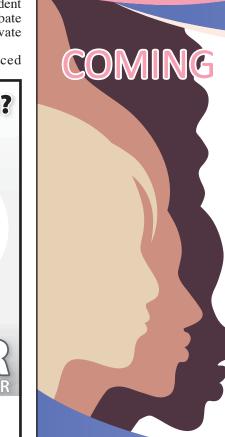
"The whole idea behind the company was to make money," Lochridge said. "There was very little in the way of science."

Rush was among the five people who died in the implosion. Ocean-Gate owned the Titan and brought it on several dives to the Titanic going back to 2021.

Lochridge's testimony began a day after other witnesses painted a picture of a troubled company that was impatient to get its unconventionally designed craft into the water. The accident set off a worldwide debate about the future of private undersea exploration.

Lochridge referenced

a 2018 report in which he raised safety issues about OceanGate operations. He said with all of the safety issues he saw "there was no way I was signing off on



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