

# The News - Banner

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

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## Norwell Community Schools discuss bond, tax rate

**By HOLLY GASKILL**  
Norwell Community Schools will issue a \$3.3 million bond toward multiple renovation and replacement items across its buildings.

The bond funds are budgeted to address over 30 items across the district, from replacing buses to buying wayfinding signage at Ossian Elementary School. The board of trustees had approved a series of resolutions regarding the

bond at their last board meeting, Aug. 27. Tuesday was the second and final hearing on the matter.

Tuesday was also a hearing on the 2025 budget, slated for adoption on Oct. 15.

Notably, the district's assessed value has made several large jumps in recent years. According to data presented Tuesday, the district's assessed value was \$818 million in 2021 and is estimated to be \$1.25 billion in 2025.

The tax levy remains roughly the same — \$9.4 million — but the district has retained the same overall tax rate by raising its debt service rate, which allows the district to address capital projects. Southern Wells Community Schools and the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District have also issued similar bonds in the last month due to increased assessed value.

While the district would

have the option to lower the tax rate, Springer felt it was more "responsible budgeting" to maintain consistency over the years. He added, "(Debt service) is your only funding mechanism to get things (building projects) done."

Board members Angie Topp and Corey Krug also stated they felt it was important to remain consistent. "I think where people get a little fuzzy on this is that cer-

tified assessed value isn't something we control — the only thing we control is that tax rate," Topp said.

"I talked to 37 separate taxpaying households in northern Wells," Krug shared. "One said they would like it (the tax rate) to drop, one was indifferent and the other 35 said (they) like keeping the tax rate the same because then (they) can go talk to the assessor together ..."

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## Meyer Renovation given exemption for business apartments

**By JONATHAN SNYDER**  
A special exemption for two apartments on an existing structure at 10350 N State Road 1 in Ossian was approved by the Board of Zoning Appeals Tuesday.

The property is currently a business three zone. Jason Meyer of Meyer Renovation stated that two people involved with the building will be living at the back of the building, with the apartments attached to it. Meyer stated that there is a firewall between the apartments and the building itself, which houses three companies: Meyer Renovation, Creative Cabinets and Countertops and Meyer Removal. Meyer additionally claimed that units in Ossian's Industrial Park have a similar setup, with living units available for employees.

BZA Secretary Michael Lautzenheiser Jr. said that the wording of the special exemption for housing in business zones states that the residency must be in the same parcel as the business, and that the housing can only be used by the owner or an agent of the owner responsible for management of the premises.

Meyer stated that only the prop-

erty caretaker responsible for gardening, housekeeping and other maintenance of the property and the office and project manager for the three companies housed in the facility, will be living in the two apartments.

Mike Fancher of 3053E 1050N in Ossian expressed his concerns about the exemption, citing earlier issues about permits and lights not getting resolved until recently. Fancher used these issues and distrust of the project to note that it would be difficult to enforce who is living in the apartments, should the employees not be living there.

While board member Tyson Brooks acknowledged that the situation surrounding the permits was a fiasco, over time the concerns of both the Area Plan Commission and the public have been resolved. The lights have been turned off, a two-stage ditch was constructed and permits have been filed for.

"It was done poorly, I'll be the first to admit it," Brooks said. "But ... what we try not to do, we try not to ruin people, we try to work with people. Mr. Meyer has, with all due respect, finally come

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## BOW opens bids for snow plow, discusses encroachment issues

**By JONATHAN SNYDER**  
Bids for a new snow plow truck for the Street Department were opened by the Board of Public Works and Safety Tuesday.

In total, four bids came in. Kalida Truck and Equipment out of Ohio had the low bid at \$87,500. Selking International from Decatur had two bids for different trucks. The first came in at \$186,626.40 and the other came in at \$194,046.40. Imel Motor Sales also bid at \$149,000.

Street Commissioner Tim Simpson stated that the large discrepancy in bids is because of the trucks age, and the materials used in upfitting the trucks for snow plow use. Simpson knows that two of the bids are for used trucks. The board did not make a decision on which truck to purchase, as Simpson still needs to review the bids and make a recommendation.

Two encroachment agreement issues were also presented to the board. Ben Daily, 1127 Ridgewood Lane, has a mobile shed that was moved to the east side

of the property, which encroaches on a city easement. Utility Director Jon Oman stated that they can still maintain all their utilities even with the easement in place. The board approved Daily's request, contingent on the drafting of the official agreement.

Furthermore, Derek and Andrea Graham's encroachment agreement for 228 East Wiley St. was officially signed and approved by the board. The Grahams presented their case on July 30 and were approved at the time, with the official paperwork drafted in time for the meeting.

Additionally, a work allowance authorization request was also approved by the board. A spot repair on Wiley Street cost \$166,425 out of the work allowance fund of the Sewer Lining project. The new expense will not change the total cost of the project, as the board set aside \$400,000 total for similar scenarios. Further spot repair bills will be paid as they are completed. An SRF

(Continued on Page 2)



Grain bin fire

At approximately 10:30 p.m., fire departments were dispatched on report of smoke coming from a grain bin at Fiechter Farms, 11622 S.R. 1 in Montpelier, pictured above. First responders targeted hot spots with water for roughly two hours, like shown at left, before attempting to empty the corn. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)



## Pay raises coming for Indiana's highest elected officials

**By CASEY SMITH**  
**Indiana Capital Chronicle**  
Indiana's top elected officials will all see a significant pay bump in the next year just as lawmakers convene to craft a budget with little leeway for extra spending. At the very top, Gov. Eric Holcomb's successor will become one of the highest paid governors in the nation while other offices will see raises between 44% and 66%.

Holcomb is term-limited and has three candidates vying to succeed him: Republican Mike Braun, Democrat Jennifer McCormick

and Libertarian Donald Rainwater. Any new officeholder will seek to implement their own priorities after inauguration, but may find they have fewer resources to do so than previous administrations.

One other office getting a pay raise will be on the November ballot: the race for attorney general. Incumbent Republican Todd Rokita is running for reelection and faces a challenge from Democrat Destiny Wells.

The raises, drafted in the last few days of the 2023 budget process with no public discussion,

were passed before two significant budget hits: a Medicaid shortfall of nearly \$1 billion and shrinking reserves. Lawmakers are scheduled to convene in January to draft Indiana's two-year budget.

**About those pay raises**  
The final version of the budget included a pay raise for six of Indiana's executive leaders: the governor, the lieutenant governor, the secretary of state, the attorney general, the state treasurer and the state comptroller.

The pay for those offices —

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**Outside**

Small chance of showers hangs in the balance

Today	Thursday	Friday
High 75	High 77	High 76
Low 56	Low 59	Low 61

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September 25, 2024

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# Norwell discusses bond

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If we keep doing the proper things (with our building), and Norwell continues the upward trajectory, AVs hopefully do go up, because we become a place where a lot of people want to move.”

That said, Springer recognized that future expiring debt and continuing trends in property values will require the district to consider its options in the future, where it may make sense to lower the tax rate. “That needs to be a community discussion, and I hope we get a lot of people in the community continuing to come to (board meetings and strategic planning),” he added.

The overall tax rate, as discussed on Tuesday, was 0.9547. However, Springer said this would actually be 0.8967 — the district’s rate the previous two years — after revision from the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance.

No one from the public gave comments during the bond or budget hearings.

Also during the meeting, Springer recognized the recent efforts of the “Mini-bus Brigade,” a group of coaches and teachers who have helped fill the gap in bus drivers for the district. Springer said driver hires will soon be certified and ready to take over their routes, but that the group has been a special blessing to the district in the meantime.

“I think this goes across our district — a lot of good attitudes, a lot of good cooperation,” Springer said. “Our high school is really special.



A group of teachers was acknowledged at the Norwell school board meeting for their role in helping to fill in on bus routes for the school. Pictured from left to right are, Eric Thornton, Ty Platt, Paul Grote, Dusty Clifton and Mike McBride. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

These guys, not just the five that are here, but as a staff, they jump in, they help, they adapt. It’s a really good culture and environment.”

Later, the board approved a pay increase from \$16 to \$20 per hour for extracurricular activity bus drivers.

The board also approved a 2025-26 calendar, with school starting on Aug. 13 and ending on May 28 and graduation on June 7. A survey of families showed a near split between having the Wednesday before Thanksgiving or the Friday before spring break off; the Wednesday off had stronger favor with staff and was approved by the board. Breaks also aligned with those scheduled by SWCS and BHMSD.

Additionally, the board approved moving a late start date from April 9 to Feb. 12.

In other updates, the board:

- Accepted employment recommendations 4-0 for

Gage Schuckman as volunteer wrestling coach for the high school, Deanna Elzey and Debra Brickly as part-time Lancaster Elementary School kindergarten teachers, and Amanda Hammelman-Thomas as a teaching assistant at Norwell Middle School. Board members Topp, Krug, Gene Donaghy and Traci Neuenschwander were in favor, and Chad Kline was absent.

- Approved pay increases for the treasurer Linda Lenwell and human resources coordinator Courtney Springer, recommended by financial services director Deb Adams.

- Approved a roughly \$13,000 contract with Frontline Education. Assistant Superintendent Anna Murphy said this software is already being used by the district, but the new contract allows staff access to over 15,000 professional development lessons ranging from required training

on sexual harassment to further education on classroom management methods. The district previously used Vector Solutions for \$4,500, but Murphy said Frontline was far more beneficial.

- Approved field trip requests for FFA to go to the state soils judging contest and for the fourth grade at Ossian Elementary School to travel to Sauder Village in Archbold, Ohio.

The board will meet next at 5:30 p.m. at the NHS auditorium and a “Meet the Candidate” forum will follow at approximately 6:30 p.m. District residents will vote on two open seats in the November election — Todd Nash, Ossian, is running for the Jefferson Township seat currently held by Donaghy, and Cathie Peterson, Craigville, and Jeremiah Tomlin, Bluffton, are running for the Lancaster Township seat currently held by Topp.

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# Snow plow bids

(Continued from Page 1)

request totaling \$191,910.21 was also paid to Inliner Solutions for their work on the project.

Board member Scott Mentzer also presented an interest allocation breakdown for both the city’s and Utility Department’s major funds. The interest revenue generated by the city and utility departments is split amongst their major departments. For the utility side,

25.5% of interest will go to the Water Department, 62.1% to the Wastewater Department and 12.5% to the Electric Department.

For city funds, 39% goes to the general fund, 12% to the Parks Department, 12.4% to the Street Department, 5.5% to the fire territory, 13.3% to the restricted funds accounts, and 17.9% to the self-insurance fund.

Dispatcher Devin Smith was also

approved for a raise by the board, with Karen Shafer officially changing titles from an accounts receivable position to the Utility Finance Clerk. Brad Penrod is officially the Electric Department Supervisor and Dick Green moved to the Electric Department’s substation and circuitry coordinator position. The board also approved a new salary schedule for the utility department in their meeting.

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# Pay raises coming

(Continued from Page 1)

along with legislators’ salaries — are statutorily defined as a percentage of the salary of an Indiana Supreme Court justice. Chief Justice Loretta Rush determines whether a pay raise is necessary and the Office of Management and Budget calculates the increase.

In this case, former State Budget Director Zac Jackson then analyzed the average salary increases over a comparable amount of time for state employees in the same income bracket, which excludes quasi-public agencies such as the Indiana Economic Development Corp.

Based on that determination, justices, judges and prosecutors in the state’s judicial system saw a 3% increase between the 2023 fiscal year and the 2024 fiscal year, the latter of which started on July 1.

By law, the governor’s salary will be equal to that of a justice at \$221,024, a 65% increase from Holcomb’s salary of \$133,684. Previously, lawmakers set the office’s salary at \$95,000 in 2007, with raises every four years tied to increases for other state employees within that salary bracket.

That puts the governor’s salary among the highest in the nation. Indiana’s next governor will make more

than all of its peers in neighboring states — Illinois’ executive leader, the next closest, will make \$205,700 — and be within striking distance of much larger and wealthier states.

Raises across five other elected offices were calculated the same way as the governor’s after setting a base rate in 2007. For the lieutenant governor, the officeholder takes home \$116,987 currently, a number that will jump 66% to \$194,501 — or 88% of a justice’s salary — in the new year.

The state attorney general’s salary will be 83% of a justice’s salary, or \$183,450. That is a 50% increase from the current salary of \$122,184.

The offices of the treasurer, secretary of state and comptroller are all currently paid \$101,594. Though called the auditor in the state constitution, the office changed its name to comptroller in 2023.

Those three offices will take home \$145,876 in 2025, or 66% of a judge’s salary — a 44% increase.

Lastly, lawmakers have a base salary that is 18% of a judges salary, or \$33,032. That pay will take effect in 2025 — though legislators earn more than the base salary, roughly \$70,000 annually. The bulk of that extra pay comes from the \$196

per diem paid to each legislator for each day in session. Lawmakers are also eligible for mileage reimbursements.

Lawmakers passed the increases on the last day of session, inserting the language in one of the last versions of the budget bill drafted after public hearings. In 2007, the last time the General Assembly weighed in on salaries, salaries for elected officials was passed in a separate, independently vetted bill.

### Budgeting for the year ahead

Those pay bumps will go into effect in a different Indiana, however.

The week before it passed the budget bill and raises, legislators got a rosy forecast with an unexpected \$1.5 billion in revenue. During the pandemic, the influx of federal funds and high sales tax revenues boosted state reserves to unprecedented levels, high enough to trigger two rounds of taxpayer refunds.

By December, the state’s

economic fortunes had shifted.

Medicaid officials told lawmakers that the state program was short \$984 million, largely due to high growth in demand for services for aging and disabled Hoosiers. Cost-saving measures enacted by leaders saved an estimated \$300 million by barring parents of severely disabled children from working as attendant caregivers and by pausing Medicaid increases, among other actions.

Combined with a recent whistleblower lawsuit alleging that the agency overpaid insurers and hospitals by \$700 million, Medicaid is sure to be a target of much debate in 2025.

Outside of those considerations, the pandemic era of explosive revenue growth has cooled to pre-pandemic norms. Typically, the state aims to keep reserve levels between 10-12.5% of expenditures and will hit a post-pandemic low of 10.4% in the 2025 fiscal year.

# Weather

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

(24-hour observations at 9:21 p.m. Tuesday)

High: 75; Low: 64; Precipitation: 2.10 inches of rain

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.30 feet at 8:45 p.m. Tuesday

## Wells County forecast

**Today:** A 20% chance of showers after 2 p.m. Patchy fog before 8 a.m. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 75. Calm wind becoming west around 5 mph in the afternoon.

**Tonight:** A 10% chance of showers before 8 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 56. Calm wind.

**Thursday:** A 20% chance of showers after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 77. East wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Thursday Night:** A slight chance of showers before 8 p.m., then a slight chance of showers after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 59. Northeast wind around 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

**Friday:** A 40% chance of showers, mainly after 2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 76.

**Friday Night:** A 50% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 61.

**Saturday:** A 50% chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 76.

**Saturday Night:** A 40% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 61.

**Sunday:** A 50% chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 76.

**Sunday Night:** A 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 60.

**Monday:** A 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 74.

**Monday Night:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57.

**Tuesday:** A chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 72.

# Zoning board

(Continued from Page 1)

around and turned off the lights, two-staged the ditch, and got his permits. Typically we’re at the right steps for no building that’s existed whatsoever, this is where we should be right now without a building. We’re trying to do the best we can with a situation that we’ve never faced before.”

Fencing was also a concern for a set of dumpsters on the southwest foreigner of the property. While the dumpsters are fenced in on the south side, a side

with a residential home on it, the other sides have had issues with getting fencing due to nearby easements, ditches in the area and Ossian sewer projects that are planned to run through the area.

The board approved the exemption, with a commitment that only current employees of Meyer, who hold the job titles of property caretaker and office and project manager, are able to live in the two apartments.

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# STAUFFER FARMS

## Three Day Event!

October 4th, 5th, and 6th

<p><b>Friday, October 4th</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm</li> <li>• Shop Local Vendor Booths until 8:00 pm</li> <li>• Concert &amp; Bonfire until 10:00 pm</li> <li>• \$10 entry fee per vehicle</li> </ul> <p><b>Saturday, October 5th</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10:00 am - 5:00 pm</li> <li>• Car Show 10:00 am - 4:30 pm</li> <li>• Shop Local Vendors, Hayrides, Facepainting, Pumpkins, &amp; Mums, Food, Bounce Houses, Corn Maze, Kettle Corn, Woodworking, Bonfire, &amp; MORE</li> <li>• \$5 entry fee per vehicle</li> </ul>	<p><b>Sunday, October 6th</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm</li> <li>• Shop Local Vendors</li> <li>• Hayrides, Facepainting, Pumpkins, &amp; Mums, Food, Bounce Houses, Kettle Corn, Woodworking, Bonfire, &amp; MORE</li> <li>• \$5 entry fee per vehicle</li> </ul> <p><b>Car Show &amp; Awards</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entry Fee \$20</li> <li>• Registration 10 am-1 pm   Awards 4 pm</li> <li>• Car Show departure at 4:30 pm</li> </ul> <p><b>Benefiting Forgotten Children Worldwide</b></p> <p>Sponsors: <b>Crossroads Pantry inc., Marathon, Edge Manufacturing Inc., Hot Rod Golf Carts &amp; Renovate Counseling Services</b></p>
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**FALL HOURS: Wed & Thurs 2pm - 6pm • Fri & Sat 10am - 6pm • Sun 1pm - 5pm**  
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## OSSIAN DAYS 2024

### THANK YOU

Thanks to the News-Banner crew for all the wonderful coverage at our recent Ossian Days events. Also thank you and God bless all who attended and did any kind of work, donation and even the fellowship was over the top this year. The saying goes: If you work and try hard enough, the efforts will be rewarded to “bigger things!”

The pie event went way over the top. I can’t express the gratitude and even to have the privilege to bake these pies for this occasion is an honor. Thank you also to Mrs. Schaper for letting me use some of her wonderful apples.

To the buyers (I hope I have all the names), a big and warm grateful “Thank You”:

Pie No. 1, \$6,000: BKM Real Estate, F&M Bank, Ossian, Krueckeberg Auction and Realty, Les Gerber Insurance.  
 Pie No. 2, \$5,200: Barkley Builders, Colliers Comfort, Phil and Alice Dinovo, Edward Jones - Larry Smith; Emshwiller & Emshwiller, Energy Control - David Bell, First Bank of Berne, Monte and Bonnie Fisher, Larry & Mic Heckber, Ossian Smoked Meats - Pete and Beau Sorg, Shelton Financial Group, Steffen Group.  
 And Thanks to auctioneer Sam Haflich. You are the Bestest.

Most sincerely,  
Helen J. Witte

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- Full-Time Healthcare QMAs/Nurses
- PRN Healthcare QMAs/Nurses
- Contracted Instructor - Arthur & Gloria Muselman Wellness Pavilion
- Contracted Evening Swimming Lesson Instructor - Arthur & Gloria Muselman Wellness Pavilion

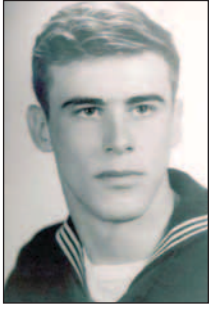
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OBITUARIES

Thomas "Tom" McNamara, 91

Thomas "Tom" Henry McNamara, 91 of Lake Placid, Florida, passed away Sept. 18, 2024, with family who loved him and the support of Good Shepherd Hospice.



The dedicated and loving husband of 61 years to Margaret L. McNamara (deceased), was born Thomas Henry McNamara on June 21, 1933, in South Bend, Indiana, to William Carr Whitehead McNamara and Aveline Marie Probst McNamara. Tom, a graduate of St. Paul High School in 1952, soon enlisted in the U.S. Navy.

Tom met his Maggie while on leave from the Navy one weekend pumping gas at the family gas station in Marion, Indiana. Tom said she was the best thing that ever happened to him in his life. They married and moved to Whiting Field, in Milton, Florida, to the Naval Air Station. They stayed there until Tom fulfilled his service obligation in the Navy as Aviation Machinist Mate 3rd Class and served three years as crash and rescue on the Naval Airfield in Milton Florida, 1952-1956. This dedication to serve and rescue followed Tom through the rest of his life. Serving 13 years as a Volunteer Fire Fighter with the Bluffton Fire Department and on the Board of Directors formulating the Fire Department at Sun n' Lakes area in Lake Placid, Florida.

After serving in the Navy, Tom and Marge made a home near Swayzee, Indiana, as Tom continued working as 50% owner at the Family Texaco specializing in Brake and Alignment.

Tom and Maggie lived in Marion until 1968, when the family relocated to Bluffton, Indiana. Tom became Manager of Erie Stone in Bluffton, Markle and Montpelier, overseeing the daily management from 1967 until retirement in 1988.

They began wintering at Lake Placid from Bluffton, beginning in 1988. Thomas was very active in the organization and participation of many Sun n' Lakes Community Club House events as he and Marge were two of the original 23 founding members. Lake Placid became their full-time home.

A loving and caring father of four children, Thomas and Brenda McNamara Jr., Teresa (McNamara) and Randy Melton, Timothy McNamara, all of Bluffton, and

Lou Scott, 68

Lou Scott, 68, of Bluffton, passed away on Monday morning, Sept. 23, 2024 at her daughter's home in Ossian.

She was born on Nov. 4, 1955, to Jacqueline (Collier) and William Robinette, Jr. Lou was married to the late Jim Scott in 1974.

Survivors include her two daughters, Shawna (J.D.) Scott-Hamilton and Brandy (Matt) Scott-Springer, along with five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She is also survived by her mother Jacqueline, her sister Betty Robinette, her brother William Perry Robinette, and her

Tamara (McNamara) and Graham Goodfellow of Nagambie, Victoria, Australia. A very dedicated father, who demonstrated conviction and integrity in his daily life.

Remembered as a humorous yet inspirational, intelligent, charismatic, inventive grandpa, full of life, the gentle and very caring Grandma Mac or G'Pa to eight grandchildren, Ike Gilbert and Yen Truong of San Diego, California, Dominice Gilbert and JR Lodico of St. Petersburg, Florida, Dustin and Jessica Melton of Florence, Arizona, Casey and Kelli Melton of Indianapolis, Leslie (McNamara) and Michael Lindsay of Bluffton, Amanda McNamara of Ossian, and Scott McNamara of Bluffton, Sarah McNamara (deceased). "A Grandpa who gave guidance when asked, patient to explain a process or reason. Guiding by his personal values, a trait seen in his Grandchildren in their own life journey."

Thomas was a very kind, fun loving and proud great-grandpa to great-grandsons, Grant and Sean Gilbert of San Diego, California, along with Makayla and Millie (McNamara) Lindsay of Bluffton.

Thomas's final journey was expectedly met with his usual stoic determination and matter of factual manner: "There comes a time when you just have to park your car."

Dear Loving Husband, Father, Dad, G-Paw, Grandpa, Great Grandpa, you will be so greatly missed.

As requested by Tom, there will be no funeral services.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Thomas's memory can be directed to The Comfort Crew for Military Kids at comfortcrew.org. This not-for-profit organization helps military children handle loss. Phone: 512-337- (CREW(2739)) or 512-372-8359 donations can be made online at: www.comfortcrew.org A dedication can be noted online if desired.

"What we once enjoyed and deeply loved we can never lose, for all that we love deeply becomes part of us." - Helen Keller

Online condolences and the most recent obituary and service times can be found at www.bankspagetheus.com. Arrangements are entrusted to Banks/Page-Theus Funerals and Cremations, 410 Webster St. Wildwood, FL.

brother Robert Robinette. She is preceded in death by her husband Jim Scott and her father William Robinette, Jr.

Per Lou's request, private family services and burial have taken place. Memorials may be made to Wells County Food Bank, Covenant Chapel Missions or Park Church Missions and may be directed to the funeral home.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home. Friends may share online condolences with the family at www.thomarich.com.

John Harry "Homer" Smeltzer, 68

John Harry "Homer" Smeltzer, 68, of Fort Wayne, passed away on Friday, Sept. 20, 2024.



He was born to the late Edwin R. and Isabelle (Franklin) Smeltzer Jr. in Bluffton on March 1, 1956. John graduated from Norwell High School in 1975. He proudly served in the Army National Guard. John was the former Post Commander, Honor Guard Commander and Junior Shooting Director of American Legion Post 241. He was formerly in the clown unit of the Mizpah Shrine.

John is survived by his siblings, Judy Kendrick, James (Kathy) Smeltzer, and Jeffrey Smeltzer; daughter, Holly (Adam) Bailey; grandchildren, Emily and Seth; great-granddaughter, Kinsley Grace; and

a host of relatives and friends. Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by siblings, Gloria Ann Smeltzer, Steve Franklin, Eddie Smeltzer III, and Mary Shaw.

A funeral service will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 26, 2024, with visitation beginning at 4 p.m. until the time of service at Fairhaven Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 6557 N Clinton St. in Fort Wayne. A graveside service will be held at 9 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 27, at Fairview Cemetery, 418 Westfield Dr. in Bluffton.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to American Legion Post 241 Honor Guard or the Northeast Honor Flight.

Obituary Policy

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

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

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

Ossian Rotary to hear about Imagine Early

At its regular weekly meeting on Thursday, Sept. 26, Ossian Rotary will host Imagine Early Executive Director Ashleigh King. Imagine Early is an early childhood care and education coalition serving Adams and Wells Counties.

The mission of Imagine Early is to help foster thriving communities in Adams and Wells counties by making quality early care and education available to every family, empowering parents and children alike to reach their full potential.

The initiative aims to expand the capacity of childcare providers for local families, with dual objectives. First is better preparation for preschool and kindergarten, ensuring children are well-prepared for their educational journey. And second is alleviating workforce strain, reducing the burden on working parents who struggle to find quality affordable childcare, there-

by enabling maintaining employment.

Feedback from local families and employers highlights the difficulty in finding reliable and affordable childcare providers, which can sometimes prevent employees from working. Imagine Early seeks to address these concerns by enhancing the availability and quality of childcare services in our communities.

King has a passion for healthcare. She spent 11 years working for Caylor Nickel Clinic, now Bluffton Medical Group. Climbing to leadership through her healthcare career, her passion to do more in this community continued to grow. She was given the opportunity to work for Family Centered Services, a nonprofit rooted in Bluffton. During those years she realized the need for childcare and the importance of early childhood for our youngest citizens.

Many parents/caregivers

put their careers on hold to care for their children due to lack of availability or affordability of childcare in our area. King's goal is to change that. Imagine Early is a group of community members who meet monthly to address the challenges within our communities and how we can collaborate. If you are a parent, caregiver, employer or community member sharing the same passion, you are welcome to join the coalition.

Anyone is welcome to attend Ossian Rotary 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 due to weather, Ossian Rotary will cancel its meeting for that day.

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

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

County:

Saturday, 11:13 p.m., 1100N and 600W, Markle. Adam Carew arrested for protection order violation.

Sunday, 2:08 p.m., S.R. 116 and 200N, Bluffton. Deer permit issued.

Sunday, 11:47 p.m., Oubache State Park. Report of drunk camper knocking on doors.

Monday, 9:11 a.m., 3400N S.R. 1, Bluffton. Report of issues with dogs running around.

Monday, 3:52 p.m., 3100N 100W, Bluffton. Officer assisted subjects with flat tire.

Monday, 4:02 p.m., 7800 North Marzane Road, Markle. Report of harassment.

Monday, 4:08 p.m., 4700W 100N, Bluffton. Report of junk vehicles in yard.

Monday, 7:49 p.m., 300W and 500S, Bluffton. Driver warned for speeding.

Monday, 8:01 p.m., 250S

and 600E, Bluffton. Report of suspicious vehicle, driver advised he had permission to be in area.

Ossian:

Saturday, 5:40 p.m., 4400 North S.R. 1, Ossian. Caller reported two subjects hitting each other with small children in back. Officer located subjects and children who all advised they were playing "Slug Bug" and nothing was wrong.

Saturday, 6:47 p.m., U.S. 224 and North 600E, Craigville. Driver reported man asleep at wheel at stop sign, man woke up and offered subjects money to drive him to Bluffton. Anthony Kephart arrested for driving while intoxicated.

Sunday, 10:18 p.m., 200W and 1200N, Ossian. Deer permit issued.

Monday, 5:36 p.m., 1100N and 450E, Ossian. Barricades moved again.

Monday, 6:46 p.m., 600E and 1000N, Ossian. Report

of barricades near a bean field in easement. County highway contacted to remove.

FIRES

Saturday, 1:27 p.m., 2600E 900S, Nottingham. Report of grass fire out of control. Fire under control approximately 38 minutes later.

ARRESTS

Christopher Sean Waller, 54, Bluffton; rape — by force or threat, a Level 3 felony. No bond set.

Sierra Jackson, 25, Hun-

(Continued on Page 6)

VISITATION & SERVICES

Carolyn Ann Stinson

Calling: 3:30 - 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 25.

Service: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 25 at the funeral home.

Thoma/Rich, Lemler

Funeral Home  
308 W. Washington St.  
824-3850

[www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com)

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Be A PART OF IT



Friends Who Care Day Saturday September 28th!

A portion of all sales from that day will be donated to the friends who care cancer Relief Fund. We will also be accepting free-will donations. Come see us and help support this great local charity!



1263 S. Main • Bluffton • 824-3626



## Reading improvement deserves applause

One of the most influential factors in a person's future success is the ability to read.

When it comes to acquiring this important skill, the end of third grade is a key milestone for students. The ability to read by this point in their educational journey is essential to future learning in all other subjects.

That is why it is so encouraging to see Indiana leaders intentionally focused on improving literacy at a level we have never seen before. While we certainly have more work to do to ensure every child has the knowledge and skills they need to enjoy lifelong success, recent literacy data provide a glimpse into the progress already being made through these unprecedented investments.

Recently released results from Indiana's third grade reading test, IREAD, show the largest single-year increase since the assessment began more than a decade ago. During the most recent school year, 82.5% of our third graders demonstrated proficient reading skills, a 0.6 percentage point statewide increase over the previous year's assessment. While the results show that we have a long way to go to meet Gov. Eric Holcomb's goal of 95% reading proficiency by 2027, they also highlight that what we are doing is working.

To hit the 95% target, the state and philanthropic partners have invested heavily to train teachers in the science of reading, an evidence-based methodology that emphasizes phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension.

Elementary teachers from nearly 200 schools participated in comprehensive science of reading training, and those schools saw a 2.5 percentage point jump between 2023 and 2024, compared to just a 0.2 percentage point increase for schools that did not participate.

While 2.5 percentage points may not seem like a large number, in terms of improvement on academic assessments, it is uncommon to see a jump this high from one year to the next. Some schools that opted into the science of reading coaching and support saw an increase of more than 20 percentage points, illustrating enormous gains as a result of their participation in the training.

After years of declining scores prior to COVID, it is great to see gains for now three years in a row. And what's even more exciting: nearly 300 additional schools have opted in to receive this strategic, no-cost literacy support beginning this school year. As this support grows to include educators and students across Indiana, I am optimistic that this positive momentum will continue, helping more students to achieve success in reading and in life.

JIM MERRITT

Jim Merritt served in the Indiana Senate for 30 years. He also wrote "Passing the Torch; Preserving Indiana's Heritage"

## Hoosier Opinions



## Sadness and dread as the next Middle East war looms

"We've seen this movie before." People often say that about wars in the Middle East, but it isn't true. Each one is a unique catastrophe, with its own combination of horrific causes and effects. Every innocent child that dies during these wars is a human soul that will never be replaced.

I've been covering the Middle East for nearly 45 years, and I've grown to hate these wars and the immense suffering they bring to both Israelis and Arabs. It's like watching people trapped as a violent hurricane approaches. Each time, you hope they can escape and disaster can be averted. But too often, they can't.

The spillover of the Gaza war into Lebanon this month might have seemed inevitable, but it wasn't. This was a war that both sides had hoped to avoid. The Biden administration, knowing the terrible cost, has been trying to find an exit ramp for 11 months. But the hard logic of war proved stronger than the soft logic of peace. Hezbollah wouldn't stop firing rockets; Israel wouldn't stop retaliating. The two sides moved up the ladder — and the United States couldn't stop them.

Many people feel a moral obligation to choose sides in these wars. I'm a journalist, and it's part of my job to talk to all the combatants, if I can. But that doesn't mean I don't have opinions. I think Hamas rule has been a tragedy for Palestinians in Gaza and an intolerable menace for Israel. I think Hezbollah is a terrorist group that kidnapped Lebanon and has the blood of hundreds of Americans on its hands.

But I've seen Israel make some recurring mistakes, as well. Those are agonizing to watch if, like me, you think of Israel as an outpost of democracy in the Middle East and, in the words of the prophet Isaiah, "a light unto the nations."

What I'm watching now in Lebanon is hauntingly similar to what I saw in 1982 as a young reporter in Beirut covering the Israeli invasion that year. The problem, then as now, was overreach. Israel wanted to go to the root, to crush its chief adversary at the time, the Palestine Liberation Organization. No more half-way measures; use every weapon in the arsenal.

Israel had dazzling military and intelligence dominance back then, just as it does now. Its troops reached the suburbs of Beirut in days. But then what? Israel's overwhelming power masked a strategic weakness: Its leaders didn't have a good answer to the question, "Tell me how this ends." The siege of Beirut continued until a U.S. mediator finally negotiated an exit for PLO leader Yasser Arafat and his fighters. Israel was caught in what turned out to be a quagmire.

I had the good fortune at the time to be able to talk with Israeli leaders, such as Prime Minister Menachem Begin, as well as Palestinian officials. The last time I visited with Begin was in August 1983, after the war in Lebanon had soured. I described the Israeli leader

as "the lion in winter," brooding about the casualties in Lebanon and the trauma the war had brought to his people.

"The truth is that he is sad," explained Yehiel Kadishai, Begin's personal secretary and colleague since the days of the Irgun underground. "He is a person who can't show a laughing face when there is sadness in his heart." Aides explained that Begin asked to be briefed each day on the latest casualty figures from Lebanon and the families of each Israeli soldier who had died. He cherished Israel, but friends told me that in his depression, he feared that he had left it weaker.

The scourge of Hezbollah has a special meaning for me, too. I visited the U.S. Embassy in Beirut on April 18, 1983, and left about half an hour before a terrorist car bomb demolished the building. Most years since then, I exchange messages with the embassy official who escorted me to the elevator that day. She emailed me last week, after an Israeli airstrike killed Ibrahim Aqil, one of the Iran-backed terrorists who plotted the embassy bombing that day. Suffice to say, she doesn't grieve for Aqil's loss.

We talk often about unintended consequences of war. And the hideous truth is that the very existence of Hezbollah was in some ways a result of the 1982 Israeli invasion. By driving the PLO from Beirut, Israel removed the main check against Shiite militia power. The cadres of what became Hezbollah began to assemble almost immediately — with Iran's covert backing. Over the next 40 years, Hezbollah forced the nation of Lebanon into submission.

Hasan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah, was another of the unlikely cast of characters I interviewed over the decades. He was not the stereotypical villain. In answering my questions, he was clever, nimble, sometimes teasing. He seemed intrigued by the idea of talking with an American, as though it were a novelty.

But what I remember most was the intense security screening before the interview. His bodyguards disassembled my pens, my notebooks, the contents of my wallet — looking for a hidden Israeli bomb or surveillance device. Thank God this was in the days before pagers. The neighborhood where I met Nasrallah, in the Dahiya, or southern suburbs, of Beirut, has been pounded by Israeli airstrikes this past week.

Memory is supposed to provide clarity, but it can also be a fog. You think you know where you're going, but when sudden events strike, they obliterate the past and all you see is the present — and the need to act. And then, you're somewhere you never intended to be.

I wish I had answers to the questions that haunt all of us as we watch the Middle East shattered by an ever-widening war. The only things that seem clear to me are that total victory is an illusion in this conflict, and that security is essential.

Follow David Ignatius @IgnatiusPost on X.



David Ignatius

## Who's Who

A continuing series on how to contact government officials

### BLUFFTON CITY ELECTED OFFICIALS

**Mayor:** John Whicker (R), City Hall, 128 E. Market St., 824-1520. Home address: 510 Channing Way; phone 820-2399; john.whicker@blufftonindiana.gov

**Clerk-Treasurer:** Bri Lautzenheiser (R), City Hall, 128 E. Market St.; 824-0612. bri@blufftonindiana.gov

**Council:** Chandler Gerber (R), 1st District. Home address: 411 Stillwater Dr., 273-8792; chandler.gerber@blufftonindiana.gov

Josh Hunt (R), 2nd District. Home address: 734 N. Main St., 417-1024; josh.hunt@blufftonindiana.gov

Janelle Stronczek (R), 3rd District. Home address: 802 S. Main St., 273-1539; janelle.stronczek@blufftonindiana.gov

Scott Mentzer (R), 4th District and council president. Home address: 628 E. South St., 615-1566; scott.mentzer@blufftonindiana.gov

Susan Reed (R), 5th District. Home address: 1703 Western Ave., 830-1609; sarah.reed@blufftonindiana.gov

Blake Fiechter (R), At-large, 333 Crestwood Ct., 827-8755; blake.fiechter@blufftonindiana.gov

Rick Elwell (R), At-large. Home address: 704 W. Dustman Rd., 827-8216; rick.elwell@blufftonindiana.gov

**City Court Judge:** Robert Bate (R), Police-Fire Building, 200 E. Market St., 824-3392; court@blufftonindiana.gov

## Today in History

### By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 25, the 269th day of 2024. There are 97 days left in the year.

Today in history: On Sept. 25, 1957, nine Black students who had been forced to withdraw from Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, because of unruly white crowds were escorted to class by members of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division and the National Guard.

Also on this date:

In 1513, Spanish explorer Vasco Nunez de Balboa crossed the Isthmus of Panama and sighted the Pacific Ocean.

In 1956, the first trans-Atlantic telephone cable officially went into service with a three-way ceremonial call between New York,

Ottawa and London.

In 2005, in the presence of disarmament observers, the Irish Republican Army decommissioned its arsenal of weapons, officially ending a 36-year armed campaign for a unified Irish state.

In 2012, President Barack Obama, speaking to the U.N. General Assembly, pledged U.S. support for Syrians trying to oust President Bashar Assad, calling him "a dictator who massacres his own people."

In 2013, skipper Jimmy Spithill and Oracle Team USA won the America's Cup with one of the greatest comebacks in sports history, speeding past Dean Barker and Emirates Team New Zealand in the winner-take-all Race 19 on San Francisco Bay.

## Thank you, Caitlin Clark

I called a long-time friend the other day, a fellow sports fan, to catch up, and we spent the first 20 minutes talking about women's professional basketball.

Neither of us had ever exhibited the slightest interest in the WNBA, but both of us, simultaneously, unbeknownst to the other, had become Caitlin Clark fans.

There are transformational players who change the competitive balance in a league or change how the game is played, but it's rare to come across players who lift an entire league on their shoulders.

There was much knowing chatter when Clark entered the WNBA that she was in for a rude awakening after her historic college career, that she wouldn't look so special against the best women players in the world. And, yes, there was a period of adjustment, but as the WNBA regular season ends and the playoffs begin, we can say the Clark doubters have been proved categorically wrong.

Infamously, Geno Auriemma, the storied coach of the University of Connecticut women's team, said back in June, "The delusional fanbase that follows her disrespected the WNBA players by saying she's going to go in that league and tear it apart."

Delusional? Clark has had the best rookie season in WNBA history and turned everything she's touched to ratings or attendance gold.

For all the jealousy and even hos-



Rich Lowry

tility she's elicited from other WNBA players, Clark is doing them all a favor. The WNBA could have had an unlimited advertising and marketing budget and not produced anything like the results of simply putting "C squared" on the court.

With Clark, the everyday is extraordinary. For the final game of the season against the Fever, the unremarkable Washington Mystics moved the event to the NBA arena and drew 20,711, the most for a game in WNBA history.

The Mystics usually play in an arena with a capacity of 4,200.

The Indiana Fever averaged 17,000 attendees per home game and 15,000 on the road; both are more than any other team by a healthy margin. When the team shows up in an opposing arena, often a lion's share of the fans are rooting for Clark, not the home team.

The Ion network, which broadcasts WNBA games, saw its ratings increase 133% from a year ago, to 670,000 per game. It benefited from broadcasting seven games with more than a million viewers, all involving the Indian Fever. Notably, viewership among men age 25-54 increased 181%.

Clark finished the season tied for seventh most points per game and led the league in assists per game. She set rookie records for total points in

a season, assists per game and three-pointers made. She's the only rookie ever with a triple-double -- and she did it twice.

She scored the second most three-pointers ever in a season, falling just short of the all-time record.

WNBA legend Sheryl Swoopes, who has never sounded overly enamored with Clark, recently said that the Fever star wasn't yet "dominating" the league. Perhaps, but Clark's numbers match or eclipse those that Swoopes amassed in her MVP seasons. Swoopes, for instance, averaged 18.5 points, 3.3 assists and 4.9 rebounds per game in 2002. Clark averaged 19.5 points, 8.4 assists and 5.7 rebounds per game this year -- and, again, she's a rookie.

Clark is a fierce competitor on the court and a modest voice off it, constantly expressing -- and showing -- deep gratitude for her rock-star-like following. She's a role model in every way for her young fans, and her older ones can marvel at her skills while appreciating her class.

The Fever are making their first playoff appearance since 2016, after starting the season with a woeful 1-8. They might be bounced quickly, but, after an incredible post-Olympic-break surge, who knows?

Regardless, for sports fans along for the thrilling ride and WNBA players and executives benefiting from the boost to their business, the universal sentiment should be, "Thank you, Caitlin Clark."

Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry

## The News-Banner

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# Whether words heal or harm depends primarily on the speaker's intent

How very often we hear or read the thoughts of another person and feel an overwhelming awakening of sorts. We wonder how we never thought of that particular subject or topic in just that particular way. It is similar to going into a very dark space and having someone strike a match. The flame catches the darkness by surprise illuminating that which only moments before was not able to be seen.

That phenomenon has occurred in my life with such frequency that I no longer wonder how I had missed that thought previously but instead just marvel at how very much I have yet to learn, to think about, to discover about the world without and the world within. On occasion I find myself feeling quite brilliant – it is a momentary feeling that dissipates almost as quickly as it forms, leaving me with the awareness that there is so very much that is known and unknown, seen and unseen. We have barely scratched the surface! That very awareness contributes to the enigma of life.



Billy Kreigh

It may seem like a futile search to learn anything at all because the very act of learning emphasizes how little we will actually ever know. But relegating learning to the “unnecessary” column would be both a mistake and a tragedy. Being open to learning, hearing, questioning, debating, discussing, pondering, studying, in my most humble opinion, is essential if we have any hope to further understanding of ourselves, our relationships, how and why people do or say what they do, how the world “works.”

While it is usually apparent what another person says or does or doesn't say or do, the intent is very often obscured either unknowingly or intentionally. What does intent even mean here? Guess in my understanding, my intent if you will, is to act or speak with a determined design to achieve a premeditated desired outcome. There are numerous directions we can go here, so let's pick one. ...ok, my column, I'll pick. Let's go with language.

The words that we speak, our tone, our timing, our intent are all vital to perception. Our words are



powerful enough to form, shape, delineate our reality; words can heal, harm, even destroy. That is why language awareness is so critical. In this particular time, language is at the forefront of our lives. I have heard it said a bazillion times in just the past few weeks that our rhetoric and perhaps our rather careless attention to the words that slip through our lips, our cavalier attitude concerning truth and facts, our intent can be far reaching.

The constant barrage of lies, name calling, deliberate slinging around half truths, no truths, incendiary implications, attempts at outright intimidation... why one might think that some people believe that the only sure fire way to feel better about themselves is to put others down. I refer to this as “acid communication.” It generally has one goal, and one goal only.

There are so many pertinent examples of how we get it wrong. Not really necessary for us to list any specifics here, we all know exactly what cringe-worthy situations I am referring to. A few years back in an article I included one of my all-time favorite quotes by

Shardi Sai Baba. At the risk of being repetitive, I am intentionally stating it again because IMHO it warrants repeating. “Before you speak, ask yourself: is it kind, is it true, is it necessary, does it improve upon the silence?” Wouldn't it be amazingly wonderful if every single person asked these questions before ever uttering a word? Wonder how quiet the world might become. Wonder how much of the country's “conversations” would be altered or even abandoned.

Each of us must deal with this particular issue for ourselves. But dealing with our intent is crucial. It is imperative that we consciously consider exactly what result, reaction, or response we intend with our words. Interestingly when a person speaks words that sound so disingenuous, he often feigns confusion and ignorance when the listener responds to those words with questions. This situation is followed by a look of amazement from the speaker and a “guldurn it” moment – like “gee, I sure didn't mean for you to take what I said that way!” Really? Then please explain exactly what you did intend. And if after some intentional thinking, you find that your intention was indeed to harm or offend...do not ruin your apology with an excuse. It must be said that for the most part, we are

incredibly aware of what we are doing and saying. To pretend otherwise is merely duplicitous and mendacious.

**Here's the thing:** The words we speak create the perception of the world in which we exist. If we hear something that is unclear, we have the right to inquire as to what was really meant. We can also inquire as to the intent. But, when the intent is abundantly clear, we need to call it out for what it is. If the intent is to sow discord and disinformation, then let's call it what it is. If it looks like a duck, sounds like a duck, and walks like a duck – it's probably a dang duck. Let's make a concerted effort to speak more carefully – to ourselves, our loved ones, our friends, our enemies, our community. The words we put out into the universe, never evaporate or vanish. Each one remains. They are too heavy to casually toss about making unfounded statements and giving life to lies and “alternate facts.” We can do better than that; we have to do better..

bkreigh@adamswells.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.*



## Class of 1950 reunion

The Bluffton High School class of 1950 met at Hoosier House on Sept. 18 for their 74th class reunion. Front row from left are Don Lockwood, Joyce (Felts) Giliom and Geraldine (Mounsey) Claghorn. Back row, Shirley (Reed) Townsend, Evelyn (Stoller) Gerber, George Schlagenhaut, Betty (Sprunger) Hughes, Geraldine (Worthman) Irwin and Barbara (Decker) Irving. (Photo submitted)

## Fremion art in FWMA exhibit featuring 'Hoosier Salon' art

The art by Indiana artists and work chosen for the “Artists of the Hoosier Salon From the Permanent Collection” show will continue through Oct. 6, at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art. Among the artists are Wells county artist Joel Fremion.

Other Fort Wayne area artists included are Peggy Brown, Jim McBride, John Hrehov and John Kely. A lecture about the

exhibit will be presented on Friday, Sept. 27, at 7 p.m. by Mark Ruschman, Senior Curator of Art and Culture, Emeritus, for the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites. (Reservations needed to fwmoa.org/events, \$15 members or \$20 non-members).

Other exhibits and their closing dates are: “Sam Gilliam: His Art of Printmaking” will be on view through Oct. 27. Thir-

ty-four of his prints will be shown.”Diverse Directions: Rethinking the Landscape” featuring natural landscapes will be hung through Dec. 8.

**Gallery Hours** are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday (until 8 p.m. on Thursdays) and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$10 adults, \$8 students and seniors, \$25 per family and free Thursdays from 5 to 8 p.m.

## October festivals in Indiana

October festival in Indiana will include:

**Pumpkin Fantasyland:** Oct. 1-31, Ligonier's Fashion Farm. Displays, hayrides, maze, refreshments, admission charged, pumpkinfantasyland.com

**Brown County Backroads Studio Tour:** Oct. 2-31, drive down scenic roads in Brown county and stop to meet the artists, no admission charge, beststudiotour.com

**Octoberfest:** Oct. 5, downtown Peru, chili coo-koff, entertainment, food, admission fee for chili, visitmiamicounty.com.

**Apple Festival of Kendallville:** Oct. 5-6, Fairgrounds with Pioneer village events, free, kendallvilleapplefestival.com.

A Renaissance in Roanoke: Oct. 12, Downtown juried art marketplace, Plein Art Paintout, food, free, renaissancerooanoke.org.

## A Talk with Tego

**Tego's Tips:** Waived adoption fees for all cats/kittens that have already been spayed/neutered. They will come with their first kitten vaccine, dewormed and flea treatment. There are 17 to choose from. Please save a life and adopt to make room for the kittens that continue to come in.



Tego

Pets are available for adoption at the Wells County Animal Shelter, 1613 W. Cherry St., Bluffton. For more information call 824-6063.

# Online Directory

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

<b>Genesis Pest Services</b> genesispestservices.com	<b>MR. KOOL</b> HEATING AND COOLING mrkoolheatingandair.com	<b>DAZEY'S SUPPLY</b> dazeys.com/bluffton-in
<b>STEFFEN Financial Group</b> stefffinancial.com	<b>JC'S GARAGE DOOR SALES &amp; SERVICE</b> jcsgaragedoor.com	<b>Daniel's JEWELERS</b> daniels-jewelers.net
<b>INDIANA FARM BUREAU INSURANCE</b> Bluffton Office   (260) 824-2234 infarmbureau.com	<b>3 RIVERS</b> 3riversfcu.org	<b>Myers FUNERAL HOMES</b> myersfuneralhomes.com
<b>WELLS COUNTY 4-H GROWS HERE</b> extension.purdue.edu/wells	<b>Riverstone DENTAL</b> riverstonedental.net	<b>Bluffton Tire</b> blufftontire.com
<b>Goodwin-Cole &amp; Harsh MEMORIAL CHAPEL</b> A Tradition of Caring thegmcfamily.com	<b>HIDAY AUTOMOTIVE GROUP</b> hidaymotors.com	<b>Edward Jones</b> EdwardJones.com
<b>INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS AUDIO VIDEO SECURITY NETWORKING</b> icav.us	<b>Jerry Flack &amp; Associates</b> jerryflackinsuranceandinvestments.com	<b>La Fontaine Center</b> A RHF Community lafontainecenter.org
<b>Lengerich MEATS</b> lengerichmeats.com	<b>Still Waters FAMILY DENTISTRY</b> stillwatersfamilydentistry.com	<b>Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home</b> thomarich.com
		<b>State Farm Erin Daugherty</b> 260.827.0527 myblufftonsagent.com
		<b>HOME COURT HOME CARE</b> homecourthomecare.com
		<b>NBDigital</b> nb-digital.com

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## Exhibits at Fort Wayne's Krull Gallery

There is no admission charge to view the exhibitions in the Krull Gallery, located in the downtown Allen County Public Library's main branch.

Professor and student art from the University of Saint Francis will be showcased from Oct. 5-Nov. 16. An open reception will be held on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 3 to 5 p.m.

A Holiday Show will feature the work of artists from the Fort Wayne Artist Guild from Nov. 23 to Jan. 3. This opening reception will be held on Saturday, Nov. 23, from 3 to 5 p.m.

For more information about the gallery check out acpl.info.

## ABCINEMA

130 W. Monroe St. Decatur, IN • 260-724-SHOW

**The Wild Robot**  
Thursday, September 26th 6pm  
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# Police Notebook

(Continued from Page 3)  
 tington; dealing methamphetamine, a Level 2 felony, possession of methamphetamine, a Level 3 felony, possession of cocaine, a Level 6 felony, possession of xylazine and possession of paraphernalia, both Class A misdemeanors. No bond set.  
 Kyle Michael Girod, 35, Decatur; domestic battery, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$25,000.  
 Derek Lee Fox, 44, Keystone; criminal recklessness, a Level 6 felony, intimidation with a deadly weapon, a Level 5 felony, operating while intoxicated with a minor in vehicle, a Level 6

felony. Bond set at \$20,000.  
 Jeffrey S. Priestler, 41, Bluffton; driving while intoxicated — prior, a Level 6 felony and operating while suspended — prior, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$6,500.  
 Colton Cross Bailey, 25, Fort Wayne; operating while intoxicated, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$5,000.  
 Adam Lee Carew, 37, Huntington; invasion of privacy, a Class A misdemeanor, and public intoxication, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$2,500.  
 Ricky Diaz Lopez, 33, Bluffton; operating with an ACE of .15 or more or oper-

ating while intoxicated, both Class A misdemeanors, and reckless driving and operating without financial responsibility, both Class C misdemeanors. Bond set at \$2,500.  
 Travis Aaron Lee, 40, Decatur; Invasion of privacy, a Class A misdemeanor, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$500.  
 Anthony Charles Kephart, 22, Bluffton; operating while intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$500.  
 Brianna Lynne Ehringer, 56, Montpelier; theft, a Class A misdemeanor. Booked and released.  
 Elmer Pineda Del Cid,

39, Fort Wayne; operating without obtaining license, a Class C misdemeanor.  
 Evelyn Gabriela Pineda Revolorio, 22, Fort Wayne; operating without obtaining license, a Class C misdemeanor. Booked and released.  
 O Damon Din, 32, Fort Wayne; operating while suspended, a Class A misdemeanor, and operating without financial responsibility, a Class C misdemeanor. Booked and released.  
 Colton Cross Bailey, 25, Fort Wayne; operating while intoxicated, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$5,000.  
 Kyle Wayne Souter, 41,

Decatur; probation violation, a Level 6 felony. No bond set.  
 Gideon Michael Williams, 19, Bluffton; battery, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,000; probation violation, a Class A misdemeanor. No bond set.  
 Scott Allen Harvey, 43, Warren; failure to appear. Bond set at \$500.

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Taking care of a vehicle involves more than just maintaining the equipment under the hood. There are a number of steps involved in keeping a car or truck in top form, and that includes regular car washes.

Car washes keep a vehicle shiny and clean, which can help it look good while sitting in the driveway or cruising the highway. However, regular car washes are more than cosmetic.

- Protection from the sun: A car that is routinely and properly washed and waxed is less vulnerable to damage from the sun's ultraviolet rays.
- Extend the life of paint: Dirt and debris can build up on the paint surface and eventually lead to scratches and other damage. Bird droppings and sap can be corrosive. Washing will help remove grime and protect the paint in the process.
- Preserve the vehicle's value: Drivers who plan to sell or trade in their vehicles in the future should realize that a well-maintained car can bring in as much as 20 percent more for above-average condition, according to Kelley Blue Book. Main-

taining a clean and shiny vehicle can protect its long-term value.

- Remove salt: Drivers who live near the ocean or in areas where roads are salted in the winter to melt snow may have cars with high salt corrosion rates. Unless it's washed off frequently, salt can take its toll, leading to damage.
- Improve fuel efficiency: Drivers have felt pain in their wallets at the fuel pump in recent years. Dirty cars may be less aerodynamic and less fuel-efficient as a result. Keeping a car clean may improve its fuel efficiency.
- Maintain the interior: Car washes are not only about the exterior. Keeping a clean and tidy interior can help improve the air quality inside of the vehicle and prolong the life of upholstery, mats and interior components.

Car washes should be a routine part of vehicle maintenance. Professional car washes tend to be more eco-friendly than washing a car at home, so drivers are urged investigate their service plans and features.

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# Sports

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2024 • The News-Banner • Page 1a

## Tigers' late rally not enough to take down No. 9 AC Jets

By RYAN WALKER

MONROE — Bluffton tried to play spoiler against the No.9 ranked team and unbeaten ACAC rival Adams Central, but fell short.

Despite their now 5-12 record, the Tigers (1-4 ACAC) managed to hang on in the match that ended up 3-1. They were ahead in the first set and stole away the third set to keep the game alive, all while making some comebacks.

"We walked in thinking that we could take them," Bluffton head coach Caylee Pyle said.

Bluffton leaped out to an early lead and quieted a rowdy Jets' crowd. At the highest point, the Tigers led 15-11. But a Jets (14-5, 4-0 ACAC) timeout turned the plane around for a 9-3 run and capped off the first set with a 25-21 victory.

In the second, Adams Central carried that momentum and blasted the Tigers 9-1. But just when you thought the game was in hand, the Tigers maneuvered their way back into contention.

They may not have gotten within a close enough margin to have a real threat to win the set but fell to a more manageable 25-17.

In the third, and potentially final set, the Jets held a 14-8 lead when Pyle rallied the troops for one last effort to salvage the game.

Again, just when the game was about to be put away, the Tigers swung back — and finished the job.

An unthinkable comeback pursued, and Bluffton eventually tied the game at 23 each before heading into an overtime set at 24. The Tigers mashed the final two points and had life.

"Immensely," Pyle said when asked how proud she was of her team's rallying effort. "It showed perseverance and grit and the want. It's something we've been working on a lot in practice. I put them down 10 and I make them earn every single point. You don't get a point for the other team's mistakes from that drill. I think that came out and showed 'Hey this is why we do that,' so that mattered. For them to not give up was a bright spot to me."

A tight, but favorable Adams Central fourth set finished the game with no harm to the perfect record in the conference.

For the Tigers, it's perhaps a glimpse into what's to come.

In the last four games coming into the Jets' game, Bluffton was 4-0 and won the Canterbury Invitational. Putting together a solid effort against a ranked opponent in 2A was encouraging.

Pyle would still like to see more from her team by the end of the season but is trending in the right direction.

"Our skills have increased, but our mentality is still wavering. I think we are where we can be, but we're hitting that plateau and I think we can go further before the season's over."

Bluffton will be at Eastbrook at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 26.

Stat leaders: Maryn Schreiber 18 kills, Isla Gibson 20 assists, Marly Drayer 17 digs and Sophie Eisenhut two blocks.

Bluffton lost the junior varsity match 2-1 (27-29, 25-13, 18-16). Stat leaders were Bridget Steffen with 10 kills, Kamryn Ault 17 assists and four aces, Jaida Mills 12 digs and Steffen with four blocks.

ryan@news-banner.com



Bluffton's Rori Drayer (right) tries to spike over Adams Central defenders' Maci Henry (left) and Lillie Litter during the ACAC contest in Monroe on Tuesday. The Jets topped the Tigers 3-1. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

## High School Calendar

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 25**  
BOYS TENNIS: Huntington North at Bluffton, 5 p.m.  
GIRLS SOCCER: Norwell at Heritage, 5:30 p.m.

**THURSDAY, SEPT. 26**  
BOYS SOCCER: Heritage at Norwell, 7 p.m.

BOYS TENNIS: Concordia at Bluffton, 5 p.m.; Leo at Norwell, 5 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL: Bluffton at Eastbrook, 7 p.m.; Norwell at DeKalb, 7:30 p.m.; Whitko at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 27**  
FOOTBALL: Bluffton at Southern Wells, 7 p.m.; Norwell at East Noble, 7 p.m.

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 28**  
BOYS SOCCER: Norwell at Columbia City, 11:30 a.m.

BOYS TENNIS: Norwell at Delta Invitational, 8:45 a.m.

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

VOLLEYBALL: Bluffton, Southern Wells at ACAC Tournament (Heritage), 9 a.m.

## Sports Roundup

### Knights defeat Eagles in NE8 road volleyball match

Norwell picked up a big victory at Columbia City in volleyball Tuesday night.

The Knights won 3-1 and improved their record to 12-8 (1-1 NE8). They won by scores of 25-22, 25-21 and 25-22.

Stat leaders: Jaycie Grzych and Macie Saalfrank 10 kills (Vanessa Rosswurm nine), Autumn Lee 14 digs, Rebecca Settle and Lee with four aces, Emma Vachon 19 assists and Izzy Anderson four blocks.

Norwell lost the junior varsity contest 0-2 (25-17, 25-15 and the freshman game 1-2 (25-22, 20-25, 13-15).

Norwell will continue NE8 play in its

next game at DeKalb at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 26.

### Raiders defeat Cavaliers in road volleyball

Southern Wells defeated Canterbury on the road to move back to .500 in volleyball Tuesday night.

The Raiders won by scores of 25-23, 25-23, 20-25, 25-19. Their record is now 9-9 on the season.

Abbie Powell had 29 kills, 31 digs and three aces, Aly Green 14 dis, three aces and four kills and Kaylea Coffel had 12 digs.

Southern Wells will be at home to face Whitko at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 26.

## AL Central champion Guardians, clinch first-round bye in playoffs

By BRIAN DULIK  
Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — Lane Thomas hit a two-run homer and drove in three, Josh Naylor had a pair of RBIs, and the AL Central champion Cleveland Guardians clinched a first-round bye in the postseason with a 6-1 win over the Cincinnati Reds on Tuesday night.

Tanner Bibee (12-8) allowed one run on four hits over seven innings to win for the first time at home since July 19. The right-hander struck out seven in what could be his final outing until Game 1 of the ALDS.

Cleveland earned a five-day break between the end of the regular season and the start of the division series on Oct. 5 at Progressive Field.

"Getting these days off is going to give us a lot of rejuvenation, especially for a young team," Bibee said. "Now, we're going to be here at home for like two weeks in a row. It's going to be nice."

Thomas and Kyle Manzardo both went deep against Carson Spiers (5-7) in a three-run first as the Guardians improved their AL-best home record to 49-28. They have the second-best overall mark in the AL, 1 1/2 games

behind the New York Yankees.

Cleveland manager Stephen Vogt said he will treat the next four games the same way as the first 158, but admitted, "We might give guys a day off."

The Reds made their debut under interim manager Freddie Benavides, who was promoted Sunday after David Bell was fired. Benavides' only managerial experience was four years in the minors for Cincinnati, most recently in 2007 at Single-A Billings.

With the loss, Cincinnati was assured of finishing with a losing record for the eighth time in 10 seasons.

Spencer Steer had an RBI single in the fourth, plating Tyler Stephenson, for the Reds' final hit. Leadoff hitter Jonathan India was struck on the helmet by a pitch in the fifth, but remained in the game for two more innings.

Hunter Gaddis and AL saves leader Emmanuel Clase retired all six batters they faced to complete the four-hitter for the Guardians.

Spiers gave up three runs in four innings. Ian Gibaut followed in his first major league appearance since Sept. 30, 2023, working one inning and allowing one run.

## Skubal throws seven scoreless as Tigers continue postseason push

By DAVE HOGG  
Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Tarik Skubal allowed two hits in seven scoreless innings and the Detroit Tigers took another step toward an improbable postseason appearance with a 2-1 victory over the Tampa Bay Rays on Tuesday.

Skubal (18-4), a leading candidate to win the AL Cy Young award, struck out seven

batters while walking only one on a day the weather didn't cooperate. He is 6-0 with a 1.94 ERA in his last nine starts.

"I have the best seat in the house to watch the best pitcher in the league," Tigers manager A.J. Hinch said. "He was incredible on a tough day to pitch. We changed the time from a night game to an afternoon game,

(Continued on Page A2)

## Retired quarterback Brett Favre says he has Parkinson's disease

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and STEVE MEGARGEE  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Retired NFL quarterback Brett Favre has been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, he told a congressional committee Tuesday.

Favre made the disclosure as part of his testimony about a welfare mispending scandal in Mississippi. Favre, who does not face criminal charges, has repaid just over \$1 million in speaking fees funded by a welfare program in the state and was also an investor in a biotech company with ties to the case. The biotech firm has said it was developing concussion treatments.

The former football star, 54, told the committee that he lost his investment in the company that he thought "was developing a breakthrough concussion drug I thought would help others."

"As I'm sure you'll understand, while it's too late for me — I've recently been diagnosed with Parkinson's — this is also a cause dear to my heart," Favre said.

What causes Parkinson's disease is unknown, and it is unclear if Favre's disease is connected to his football career or head injuries. He said on a radio show in 2022 that he estimates he may have experienced "thousands" of concussions in his two decades in the NFL.

According to the Parkinson's Foundation, scientists believe that the disease is caused by a combination of

genetic and environmental factors, and those environmental factors "may include head injuries, pesticide exposure or area of residence."

Favre "is one of the 90,000 people in the U.S. who will be diagnosed with PD this year alone," said Parkinson's Foundation CEO John Lehr.

In the 2022 interview, Favre said he initially thought the num-

ber of concussions he had received playing football was low, but realized it could be much higher once he learned more about them, including that they can happen without causing someone to lose consciousness.

During one 2004 game, Favre sustained a concussion but returned after sitting out only two plays and threw a touchdown pass without having been cleared to return to action.

The Super Bowl-winning quarterback appeared at the Republican-led House Ways and Means Committee hearing to advocate reform of the federal welfare system to better prevent fraud.

"The challenges my family and I have faced over the last three years — because certain government officials in Mississippi failed to protect federal TANF funds from fraud and abuse, and are unjustifiably trying to blame me, those challenges have hurt my good name and are worse than anything I faced in football," Favre

said.

House Republicans have said the scandal in Mississippi points to the need for an overhaul in the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. Favre says he provided services to the nonprofit that paid him with state funds, but the state auditor has said Favre did not show up for the speaking engagements.

Favre has said he didn't know the payments he received came from welfare funds and has noted his charity had provided millions of dollars to poor kids in his home state of Mississippi and in Wisconsin, where he played most of his career with the Green Bay Packers.

Favre was known for his durability during his Hall of Fame career. He had an NFL-record streak of 297 consecutive starts, a figure that goes up to 321 if playoff games are included.

He won three straight MVP awards with the Green Bay Packers from 1995-97. Favre led the 1996 Packers to their first Super Bowl title in nearly three decades and brought them back to the Super Bowl the following year.

Favre was with Green Bay from 1992-2007 and also played for the Atlanta Falcons (1991), New York Jets (2008) and Minnesota Vikings (2009-10). At the time of his retirement in 2011, Favre owned multiple NFL career passing records. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2016.



Brett Favre

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# Bowman, Briscoe and Cindric advance in NASCAR playoffs

**By JENNA FRYER**  
**AP Auto Racing Writer**  
 CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Alex Bowman opened NASCAR's playoffs on defense — not of his style of driving, but of his status in the seat of the No. 48 Chevrolet at Hendrick Motorsports.

The first playoff race was just days away and Bowman spent an entire afternoon insisting rumors he'd be out of the car next season were untrue.

"That rumor has certainly been annoying," Bowman said. "All I can tell you is like what my bosses have told me, and that is that there are no plans to change anything. As far as I know, I'm driving the No. 48 next year. Just focused on trying to be strong the next 10 weeks."

Despite the assurances from Hendrick Motorsports and a contract that runs through next season, Bowman still had doubters. Then he finished fifth in the playoff opener at Atlanta Motor Speedway, moved into the top 10 in points, and received a public endorsement from boss Rick Hendrick.

"The team is really happy, the sponsor is really happy, so we're good to go," said Hendrick, who answered "yes" when asked if Bowman would "unequivocally" be in the HMS lineup next year.

That sentiment was backed by Andrea Brimmer, chief marketing officer of Bowman sponsor Ally, who reposted Hendrick's quote on social media "To

all the doubters." She added an emoji that intimates "be quiet."

Bowman was then 18th at Watkins Glen and ninth Saturday night at Bristol Motor Speedway, where he started on the pole and advanced into the second round of the playoffs. His 120 points scored in the three races was the most among the 16 drivers, and unlike former Cup champions Brad Keselowski and Martin Truex Jr., Bowman avoided playoff elimination.

The reseeding process has him ranked 11th out of 12 drivers and below the cutline as NASCAR heads to Kansas Speedway for Sunday's second round opening race.

"We did what we needed the whole first round of the playoffs, but also we want to be better and continue that through the next round," said Bowman, who doesn't think the speculation about his future will stop.

"They'll keep talking. I'm not worried about it," he said.

The talk seems pointless as Bowman has turned his season around and is one of a handful of surprise drivers to advance into the second round. Although Ty Gibbs and Harrison Burton were not considered title contenders and their first-round elimination was not shocking, the departure of Keselowski and Truex opened up slots to otherwise overlooked drivers.

The field is led into Kansas by Kyle Larson, who obliterated the competition at Bristol by leading all but

38 of the 500 laps Saturday night and winning by more than 7 seconds. Then there's Christopher Bell, a final four participant the last two seasons, regular season champion Tyler Reddick, William Byron, defending Cup champion Ryan Blaney and the usual cast of characters.

The surprises are Bowman, Chase Briscoe, Austin Cindric and Daniel Suarez — any of whom could have been picked as first round dropouts based on their season-long performance.

Stewart-Haas Racing has hardly been competitive this season and is closing three of its four teams in November, yet Briscoe has surged in his final months in the No. 14 Ford. He snatched the final spot in the playoff field by winning the regular season finale at Darlington, then rallied from crashing at Atlanta with finishes of sixth and eighth in the next two races.

He dropped to last in the field with the points reset before Kansas, but he's still a contender.

"I don't think anybody believes this, but I really think we can battle for the championship," Briscoe said. "And I think these last two weeks show that. We're hitting our stride at the right time, and with this format, if you can just be good for 10 weeks, then you can be a champion."

"I feel like we're as strong as any team right now."

Cindric made it through with consistency, scoring back-to-back 10th-place

finishes at Atlanta and Watkins Glen, and then was 13th at Bristol — enough to advance the Team Penske driver.

"I don't know what the average finish is for the round, but two top-10s and a 13th, that's what we need to do as a team," Cindric said, "and it's something we had challenges putting together, but the potential is there. Everything resets, so no reason why we can't replicate

that performance."

Suarez, despite nearly winning the opener at Atlanta, found himself in trouble at Bristol with a Trackhouse Racing entry that lacked the speed needed to be competitive. He struggled the entire race and, with a 31st-place finish, barely made it into the second round.

But as soon as the race was over, Suarez was already looking toward the second round, which starts

at Kansas, then goes to Talladega Superspeedway in Alabama, and the hybrid road course at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

"I think we're going to be pretty good. I'm really excited for Kansas. I think we can be competitive there," Suarez said. "A superspeedway, as we all know, anything can happen. And a road course in there, always puts a smile on my face."

## Tigers postseason push

(Continued from Page A1)  
 then ended up sitting out an hour delay, but he dominated."

Skubal will get a chance for a 19th win on Sunday if the Tigers need him to beat the Chicago White Sox on the final day of the regular season to make the postseason.

The Tigers (83-74) began the day tied with Kansas City for the second and third wild-card spots — the Royals hold the tiebreaker — and one game ahead of the Minnesota Twins. Sellers at MLB's trade deadline, Detroit is an MLB-best 28-11 since Aug. 11.

Reliever Beau Brieske retired the first five batters he faced before Brandon Lowe homered with two outs in the ninth, pulling the Rays to within 2-1, but he struck out Josh Lowe for his third career save and first this season.

Tampa Bay (78-79) dropped five games behind the Tigers.

"We felt our best chance was to win out, and we didn't get there today," Rays manager Kevin Cash said. "We needed help before this game, and now we're going to need even more."

Wenceel Pérez reached base three times for Detroit, walking twice before hitting a two-run double in the fifth.

"We're doing a great job of playing together," said Pérez, who returned on Sept. 13 after missing a month with an oblique strain. "This is like a playoff game for us,

and we're stepping up to the challenge."

Tampa Bay starter Ryan Pepiot (8-7) allowed two runs on three hits and four walks in six innings.

The Tigers had the first good chance of the game, putting runners on the corners with one out in the fourth, but Pepiot got Colt Keith to pop out before striking out Spencer Torkelson.

Detroit loaded the bases with one out in the fifth, thanks to two walks and a single. Pérez fell behind 0-2 but worked the count full before hitting a ground-rule double on the ninth pitch of the at-bat.

"That was a tough inning — there were a couple really close pitches," Cash said. "And then Pérez fouls a couple off and hits one fair by about 2 inches."

First pitch was moved up from 6:40 p.m. to 1:10 p.m. because of a forecast for rain,

then was delayed 49 minutes by showers. The game was played in 1 hour, 59 minutes in front of a crowd of 22,770 — much smaller than had been expected.

"We ambushed the city with the time change, but the people who were here were loud," Hinch said. "I want to thank the fans for changing their plans and being a part of this win."

Detroit called up right-hander Jackson Jobe, one of baseball's best pitching prospects, to throw out of the bullpen in the season's final week. It made room for him on the roster by designating righty Shelby Miller for assignment.

### UP NEXT

The teams play the second of three games on Wednesday, with Detroit RHP Keider Montero (6-6, 4.86 ERA) facing Tampa Bay RHP Zack Littell (8-9, 3.56).

### NOTICE OF REAL PROPERTY TAX SALE

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 application 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 sale.

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

- (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 delinquencies; 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 sale, if redeemed more than six (6) 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 property 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 prescribed 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 Tax Sale:

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 tax sale at least 30 minutes before 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: 09/25/2024

\$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.

\$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.

\$245.99 Hess, Sara Elizabeth 200 W Keystone 46759

\$262.87 Hess, Sara Elizabeth 200 W Keystone 46759

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

\$1,737.24 Haiflich, Edwin N 800 N Ossian 46777

\$1,405.24 Okey, Austin/Sarah 2421 N East Craigville 46731

\$5,372.09 Arnold, Carter T Sr 5609 E 100 N Bluffton 46714

\$17,499.81 Regency Ossian RE, LLC 1630 E Us 224 Ossian 46777

\$4,182.11 Smith, Justin B 4662 N 800 E Decatur 46733

\$425.69 Indo Advertising Corp Main Liberty Center 46766

\$498.70 Dougherty, Carrol D / Campbell, Robert E/Connie D 2970 W Walnut Liberty Center 46766

\$924.00030 006-04364-00 \$695.09 Holloway, Rex E 3046 W Market Liberty Center 46766

\$2,562.64 Kendall, Devin/Brittney 8995 S Main Petroleum 46778

\$1,096.59 Petroleum Speed Shop LLC Market Petroleum 46778

\$14,840.02 Regency Montpelier RE, LLC 11640 S 200 E Montpelier 47359

\$2,185.86 Peterson, Rob L/Andrea K 125 E Washington Bluffton 46714

\$2,914.89 Cunningham, Jeffrey W / Rhonda K 10 Columbian Ave Bluffton 46714

\$1,122.90 Rockwell, Tim 1319 W South Bluffton 46714

\$924.00048 010-07948-00 \$545.27 Roth, Madream/Stotlar,

\$3,152.60 Green House Group, LLC 518 S Marion Bluffton 46714

\$1,841.72 Rockwell, Tim 1112 W Central Bluffton 46714

\$1,769.58 Vanauken, Jeffrey L 1325 W Cherry Bluffton 46714

\$34,416.47 Montalto At Bluffton, LLC 1100 S Main Bluffton 46714

\$29,314.97 Bluffton Acres Lip II 2379 N Main Bluffton 46714 012-03753-01 and 012-03753-01 are to be sold and redeemed together.

\$273.28 Bluffton Acres II LLP Main Bluffton 46714

\$5,302.54 David Alan Spaalfrank Revocable Living Trust 410 Meadow Ln Bluffton 46714

\$308.24 Cart, Clara L 1825 Mercury Markle 46770

\$463.61 Wallace, Debra 811 W Lavefer Ossian 46777

\$2,133.13 Bryant, Timothy H / Barbara J Stantz 509 S Jefferson Ossian 46777

\$840.14 Fox, Kenneth E / Joanne Marie 306 Young Ossian 46777

\$1,951.40 Gulker, Irene A 402 W Lavefer Ossian 46777

\$1,303.71 Bradtmueller, Marvin L / Rebecca 709 N Melching Dr Ossian 46777

\$419.98 Your First Choice LLC Washington Poneto 46781

\$4,455.66 Werling et al, Kenneth W 900 Railroad Uniondale 46791

**Total Properties: 38**

I hereby certify that the foregoing 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 thereon 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 25th day of September, 2024.

Lisa McCormick, Auditor, Wells County Indiana.

nb 9/25 hspaxlp

### Public Notices

90C01-2409-ES-000003  
 STATE OF INDIANA )  
 )SS:  
 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, appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Keaton W. Osmun, deceased, who died on the 17th day of March, 2024.

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

Dated at Bluffton, Indiana this 10th day of September, 2024.

Beth Davis  
 Clerk, Wells Superior Court  
 Attorney for the Estate:  
 Kent C. Litchin  
 GROSSMAN & LITCHIN P.C.  
 116 E. Berry Street, Suite 1600  
 Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802  
 Telephone # (260) 422-4706  
 Attorney # 10860-02

nb 9/18, 9/25 hspaxlp



# SUDOKU

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

## King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★

9/25

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## Help Wanted

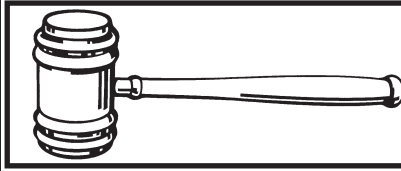
**TOWN OF WARREN**, Indiana Hiring Utility Manager. An application period for the position of full time Utility Manager is now open through October 15, 2024, due to retirement. Departments to oversee include water, sewer, electric, parks and streets. Duties include employee management, project planning, maintenance of positive relationships with the public, all employees and officers of the Town, representation 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. Knowledge of Electric Utility also a plus. Base pay of \$28.50 per hour adjusted upward based on experience. Benefit Package available. For information contact Lee Poulson, Utility Manager, at 260-375-3424 or utility1@citiznet.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.

## This Week's Garage Sales

**Clip & Save**  
**HUGE 3+ FAMILY** downsizing sales Sept. 26-28, Thurs./Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-3, 2125 Blair Road, 3 miles N. of Wells Co. line, off Bluffton Rd./Hwy 1. Household, tools, collectibles, "31 Bags", kitchen, Boyds, antique radios & parts, seasonal, puzzles, lawn, elect. typewriter/case. Watch for signs. Pics. on FB Marketplace.

## Lottery Numbers

**Tuesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY**  
**Cash 5** — 13-19-22-29-43  
**Cash4Life** — 19-22-29-40-50, Cash Ball: 03  
**Quick Draw Midday** — 07-08-11-12-20-23-31-34-37-41-43-53-54-56-58-59-61-62-63-65, BE: 43  
**Daily Three-Midday** — 01-09-03, SB: 08  
**Daily Three-Evening** — 07-02-05, SB: 01  
**Daily Four-Midday** — 07-09-00-02, SB: 08  
**Daily Four-Evening** — 02-09-07-08, SB: 01  
**Quick Draw Evening** — 05-08-14-16-23-32-34-36-43-46-48-49-50-53-58-68-70-75-79-80, BE: 50  
**Hoosier Lotto** — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$22.3 million  
**MEGA MILLIONS**  
 01-06-10-23-27; Mega Ball: 18; Megaplier: 5X.  
**POWERBALL**  
 Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$223 million



## Public Sale Calendar

**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." Sale managers Brandon Steffen, 260-710-5684, Pat Carter, 260-273-8294, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, steffengrp.com.  
**SEPTEMBER 28 - 9 a.m. - Charles (Chuck) Bertsch.** 3898 East 400 North, Bluffton. This is the 3rd and final auction for the Bertsch Estate. Chuck was an avid collector of engines, motors and anything electrical. This auction has some hit and miss engines, over 100 motors, gas engines (4 hp to 12 hp), Honda 6500 generator, Aqua Blast hot water pressure washer, brass bell, Maytag motors, lots of lawn mower parts, scrap iron, Hammer drill, welder, anvil and lots more. Preview Sept. 27, 4-6 p.m. *Miz Lehman Realtors/Auctioneers*, 260-589-2903, www.mizlehman.com.  
**BIDDING NOW OPEN & STARTS CLOSING SEPTEMBER 29 - 6 p.m. EST - Max & Vivian Minnich, owners.** Online only real estate auction! Five bedroom, 1 full bath, 2,178 sq. feet home, hardwood floors throughout, full basement, 2 car detached garage, 20'x42' pole barn, 2.055 acres, Marion Township, Allen County, Indiana, East Allen County School Corporation. Auction preview by appointment, 13045 Wayne Trace, Hoagland. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.  
**SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 6 - (Online Only) - The Estate of Wayne E. Penrod, seller.** Artifacts, art, antiques, collectibles, home goods & decor, electronics, tools, furniture, lawn & garden, sports goods, household, & more! Open house Oct. 5 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 69 W 1st St., Poneto, IN. Sale manager, Isaac Stoller, 260-413-3515, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.  
**BIDDING ENDS SEPTEMBER 30 - (Online Only) - Various consignors, seller.** Firearms consisting of Springfield, Hopkins & Allen, Colt, Browning, Stevens, Glock, Winchester, ammunition, arrowheads, duck decoys, & more. Open House Sept. 28 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 215 E Market St, Bluffton, IN. Sale manager, Isaac Stoller, 260-413-3515, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.  
**OCTOBER 2 - 6 p.m. - Ruby Johnson, Brant Johnson, owner.** Auction location: Lighted Gardens Reception Hall, 10794 N. State Road 1, Ossian. Property location: 14631 Smith Rd., Yoder. 48+/- acres offered in 4 tracts and combinations. Productive tillable land, excellent road frontage and access along Smith Rd., 2,400+ sq. ft. sprawling brick ranch home on full basement with 20x30 outbuilding, Allen County. Auction manager Jared Sipe, 260-750-1553, *Schrader Real Estate and Auction of Fort Wayne*, 866-340-0445, SchraderFortWayne.com.  
**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.** 1993 Ford F150, boat mini bike, wagons, Pyrex, Corningware, antiques, collectibles, glassware, jewelry, advertising, furniture, toys, household, electronics, board games, much more. Open houses Oct. 3 and Oct. 10 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 366 W 300 N, Bluffton. Sale manager Bobby Perry, 260-273-7260, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.  
**OCTOBER 12 - 9 a.m.-6 p.m. - (Online Only) - The Estate of Robert McNabb, seller.** Spectacular 7,700 SF lake front home on 1.23 acres w/200' of lake frontage on Hamilton Lake. Luxury home features 6 bedrooms, 7 baths, expansive entertaining space,

4-car attached garage. Selling absolute at or above 1.4 million dollars. Seller's have over 4.7 million invested in this one of kind lake property. Open houses 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 Inc.*, 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.*, www.steffengrp.com, 824-3006.  
**NOVEMBER 14 - 6 p.m. - Becher Family Farms LLC, sellers.** Auction location: Adams Co. 4H Expo Hall, 160 W. Washington St., Monroe, IN. Four tracts, Washington Township, Adams County. Tract 1: 82.88 acres, County Rd. 200 West, Sec 18. Tract 2: 80.2 acres, County Rd. 450 North, Sec 8. Tract 3: 35.05 acres, County Rd. 450 North, Sec 9. Tract 4: 39.97 acres, County Rd. 400 North, Sec 9. *Heartland Auction & Realty, Inc.*, heartlandauctionrealty.com, 260-724-3499.

## Public Notices

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 COMMANDED** 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 present at said hearing.  
**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 child support.  
**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 proceed 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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**Jerry Flack & Julie Myers**  
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 Call 824-0224 or 622-4108  
 Oct. deadline is Tues., Sept. 24!

## SUDOKU ANSWER

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



