

The News - Banner

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2024 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00



Painting class

"Hue Can Paint" classes were held in the indoor pavilion at Washington Park Monday. Above, Lily Gerdom paints her picture. At right, Britany Portillo traces her outline while Mary Beth Voght gives her more paint to work with. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)

Wells County Wastewater Treatment Plant project nearly 60% funded

By JONATHAN SNYDER
 Updates and upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Plant are expected to be completed between the summer and October of 2025.
 The new upgrades increase the maximum stormwater capacity of the facility. Previously, the facility could hold nine million gallons of wastewater at its peak flow — the updates will allow the facility to hold 13 million gallons. Common Council member Josh Hunt stated that in the past, major amounts of rainfall would put the facility at maximum capacity.
 "We would get the water from stormwater and things like that, that would leak into systems," Hunt said. "And it would put us over the top for total capacity. And then if we're over capacity, then you gotta let that

water back into the river. And that's not the proper way to do that."
 The new updates will make the plant more reliant on biological treatment processes versus chemically based methods, which will save costs on chemical purchases. An oxidation ditch, which manages rainwater flow, doubles as a habitat for bugs that will eat the waste materials in the water, cleaning it in the process. The plant will go from two separate plants to one, along with a new pump station for sewage flow and circular clarifiers, which further polish wastewater.
 The James S. Jackson Construction Company, the primary contractor for the project, is currently pouring concrete for multiple structures, according to Wastewa-
 (Continued on Page 2)

Forum for Wells County Council candidates is Oct. 7

The Wells County Chamber of Commerce will host a Meet the Candidate forum at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 7.
 The only contested county race is for three At-Large seats on the Wells County Council. Incumbents Vicki Andrews, Scott Elzey and Seth Whicker, all Republicans, are challenged by Scott Burke (I) and Brian Hollingsworth (D). Andrews will be absent from the forum due to a prior planned mission trip.
 The last day to register to vote is also Oct. 7. To register to vote and check voter registration status, visit indianavoters.in.gov.
 Early voting begins on Oct. 8 at the Wells

County Clerk's Office, and is available from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays through Nov. 1 as well as 8 a.m. to noon on Nov. 4. Absentee or early voting is also available 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 26 and Nov. 2 at the Clerk's Office, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 26 and Nov. 2 at Presbyterian Church, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 28 and 29 at the Wells County 4-H Park, and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 at Lighted Gardens.
 Election Day voting will be available from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Nov. 5 at the 4-H Park, Presbyterian Church, Lighted Gardens, Zanesville Tower Life Center and Southern Wells Community Church.

Supplies arrive by plane and by mule in North Carolina as Helene's death toll tops 130

By JEFFREY COLLINS
Associated Press
 ASHEVILLE, N.C. (AP) — Widespread devastation left behind by Hurricane Helene came to light Monday across the South, revealing a wasteland of splintered houses, crushed cargo containers and mud-covered highways in one of the worst storms in U.S. history. The death toll topped 130.
 A crisis was unfolding in western North Carolina, where residents stranded by washed-out roads and by a lack of power and cellular service lined up for fresh water and a chance to message loved ones days after the storm that they were alive.
 At least 133 deaths in six Southeastern states have been attributed to the storm that inflicted damage from Florida's Gulf Coast to the Appalachian Mountains in Virginia.
 The toll steadily rose as emergency workers reached areas isolated by collapsed roads, failing infrastructure and widespread flooding. During a briefing Monday, White House homeland security adviser Liz Sher-

wood-Randall suggested as many as 600 people hadn't been accounted for as of Monday afternoon, saying some might be dead.
 President Joe Biden said he will travel to North Carolina on Wednesday to meet with officials and take an aerial tour of Asheville.
 He said earlier that the federal government would be with affected residents in the nation's southeast "as long as it takes."
 Government officials and aid groups worked to deliver supplies by air, truck and even mule to the hard-hit tourism hub of Asheville and its surrounding mountain towns. At least 40 people died in the county that includes Asheville.
 The destruction and desperation were overwhelming. A flattened cargo container sat atop a bridge crossing a river with muddy brown water. A mass of debris, including overturned pontoon boats and splintered wooden docks and tree trunks covered the surface of Lake Lure, a picturesque spot
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Concert, 30 new homes mark Jimmy Carter's 100th birthday


By THALIA BEATY and GLENN GAMBOA
Associated Press
 A benefit concert and the construction of 30 new homes are among the many events marking President Jimmy Carter's 100th birthday on Oct. 1. Considering the former president's long legacy as a philanthropist, it's no surprise that he wants any gift-giving to go to other people.
 The star-studded concert at Atlanta's Fox Theatre ear-

lier in September has raised \$1.2 million so far to support the international programs of The Carter Center, which Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter founded in 1982 with the mission to "wage peace, fight disease, and build hope." The concert airs on Georgia Public Broadcasting on Oct. 1.
 Meanwhile, thousands of Habitat for Humanity volunteers gathered Monday to build 30 homes in St. Paul, Minnesota, over five days,

led by country music giants Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood, who worked alongside the Carters for years, beginning with projects in Hurricane Katrina's disaster area.
 The Carters' relationship with Habitat for Humanity stretches back 40 years, to when the couple went to New York City on a build in 1984.
 "The image of a president of the United States sleeping
 (Continued on Page 3)

WELLS COUNTY COUNCIL

Five running for three At-Large county seats

Vicki Andrews (R), 8708 S 600W-90, Warren.
 Andrews, 68, is a realtor and broker for Caldwell Banker Holloway, bus driver and substitute teacher for Southern Wells, and also does custom sewing and alterations.

Vicki Andrews
 (Continued on Page 2)

Scott Burke (I), 8665 N 100 E, Ossian.
 Burke, 53, has been a locomotive engineer for 34 years and owns the Grand Sweet Shop and M&S Motosports in Bluffton.
 He and his wife, Melissa,

Scott Burke
 (Continued on Page 2)

Scott Elzey (R), 1824 NW S.R. 116-90, Markle.
 Elzey, 65, is now retired and focused on his farm and rental properties. His professional career consisted of 13 years as a project manager at IBM, 16 years as senior technol-

Scott Elzey
 (Continued on Page 2)


Brian Hollingsworth (D), 617 E 350 S, Bluffton.
 Hollingsworth, 56, is a truck driver and has served over 37 years as a member of the U.S. Army Reserve.
 He was also a member of the Chester Town-

Brian Hollingsworth
 (Continued on Page 10)

Seth Whicker (R), 1191 W Hancock St., Uniondale.
 Whicker, 54, is a partner at SYM Financial Advisors. He currently serves as the president of the Wells County Council, and has been on the council for eight years.

Seth Whicker
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Outside

Cloudy and warm today with a chance of showers

Today	Wed.	Thursday
High 77	High 69	High 75
Low 43	Low 44	Low 49

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Online

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Wastewater project

(Continued from Page 1)
ter Treatment Plant Supervisor Tony Fey. The old pump station has been removed and the digging process for pouring concrete for the new station has begun. Installation of new equipment in the gravity thickener and some underground piping is also being worked on.

Value engineering done by Jackson and the city have seen a lot of money saved and redirected towards other areas, like new launder covers for the clarifiers. The covers decrease scum and algae buildup on weir troughs and walls, saving time that's used for scrubbing those areas. Jackson is

also crushing old concrete from the original plant built in the 1930s and turning it into gravel, to avoid paying that expense.

"They (Jackson) figured out what we don't have to have, where we could save some money, but then still have a real, high quality product for a great value," Hunt said. "We didn't want to sacrifice quality, but we knew there were certain things we didn't need."

"We may be able to save two to three hours, three to four hours a day, scrubbing once a day, to maybe five to six hours a month," Fey said. "And the guys that are up there for summertime,

in the dead of summer, they could be up there a couple hours a day just keeping them touched up and cleaned up."

These cost savings have put the city under budget for the project. Hunt stated that an additional mix of federal grant money and low bond rates from the State Revolving Fund have saved the city millions of dollars. Jackson's bid also came in low at nearly \$6 million less than other bids.

The additional cash has allowed the city to fix some lining in the sewer pipes underground. Fixing the lining prevents groundwater from leaking into the system

and wasting resources at the plant, according to Hunt.

"We've been really happy with the main general contractor and all the subcontractors," Fey said. "We've been working together, and I feel that they have gone above and beyond."

"The comments that I've heard from our team is that James S. Jackson and all their subs have been very good to work with," Hunt said. "Friction wise, it's been very small. On my end, I haven't had a lot of issues where people are coming to me with complaints about vendors or non-completion of work, or any issues like that."

jonathan@news-banner.com

Helene death toll

(Continued from Page 1)
tucked between the mountains outside Asheville.

The North Carolina death toll included one horrific story after another of people who were trapped by floodwaters in their homes and vehicles or were killed by falling trees. A courthouse security officer died after being submerged inside his truck. A couple and a 6-year-old boy waiting to be rescued on a rooftop drowned when part of their home collapsed.

Rescuers did manage to save dozens, including an infant and two others stuck on the top of a car in Atlanta. More than 50 hospital patients and staff in Tennessee were plucked by helicopter from the hospital rooftop in a daring rescue operation.

Several main routes into Asheville were washed away or blocked by mudslides, including a 4-mile section of Interstate 40, and the city's water system was

severely damaged, forcing residents to scoop creek water into buckets so they could flush toilets.

People shared food and water and comforted one another in one neighborhood where a wall of water ripped away all of the trees, leaving a muddy mess nearby. "That's the blessing so far in this," Somerville Johnston said outside her home, which has been without power since Friday.

She planned on treating the neighborhood to venison stew from her powerless freezer before it goes bad. "Just bring your bowl and spoon," she said.

Others waited in a line for more than a block at Mountain Valley Water, a water seller, to fill up milk jugs and whatever other containers they could find.

Officials warned that rebuilding would be lengthy and difficult. Helene roared ashore in northern Florida

late Thursday as a Category 4 hurricane and quickly moved through Georgia, the Carolinas and Tennessee. The storm upended life throughout the Southeast, where deaths were also reported in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and Virginia.

Federal Emergency Management Agency officials said Monday that shelters were housing more than 1,000 people.

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper took an aerial tour of the Asheville area and later met with workers distributing meals.

"This has been an unprecedented storm that has hit western North Carolina," he said afterward. "It's requiring an unprecedented response."

Officials implored travelers from coming into the region to keep the roads clear for emergency vehicles. More than 50 search teams spread throughout the region in

search of stranded people.

Several dozen people gathered on high ground in Asheville, where they found one of the city's hottest commodities — a cell signal.

"Is this day three or day four?" Colleen Burnet asked. "It's all been a blur."

The storm unleashed the worst flooding in a century in North Carolina. Rainfall estimates in some areas topped more than 2 feet since Wednesday.

Ten federal search and rescue teams were on the ground and another nine were on their way, while trucks and cargo planes were arriving with food and water, FEMA said. FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell surveyed damage with Cooper Monday.

Volunteers were showing up, too. Mike Toberer decided to bring a dozen of his mules to deliver food, water and diapers to hard-to-reach mountainous areas.

Vicki Andrews

(Continued from Page 1)

She currently serves as a member of the Wells County Council, At-Large.

Andrews is also a member of Southern Wells Community Church, and serves on the following boards: Citizens Against Drug Abuse, Solid Waste Management District, Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council, Wells County Drug Task Force and Purdue Extension board. She also volunteers for Junior Achievement.

Qualifications

I have previously worked in the county clerk's and treasurer's offices. I worked at Southern Wells as the corporation treasurer for over 22 years, through the Indiana Association of School Business Officials, I trained and received the title of Chief Financial Officer. I am currently in my 12th year as a county councilman. In all of

these offices, I have gained knowledge of how the government works especially in the budget and finance area.

Why are you running for this office?

I am running for this office based on my qualifications of past experience and the knowledge I have to make good decisions in county government. I have a servant's heart and want to serve the people of Wells County and do the best I know to use the taxpayer's dollars.

As an incumbent, what initiatives would you continue? What changes or new initiatives are needed?

As an incumbent, I would continue the employee's matrix system. I would like to make sure we are looking into the future of the EMS in Wells County. I hope to attend more AIC and state called meetings to always keep up to

date with new legislation and other county's issues. I would like to make more visits to the county offices to find out their needs.

What do you feel are the most significant challenges and opportunities for Wells County right now?

The challenges that I see are trying to keep our community growing but in the best way we can. As new ideas for the county come to mind, there are many challenges with growth. As we have seen the solar farms, wind farms, roads and bridge repairs and construction, employees wages and benefits, the court system challenges, we are the financial body but so many things go beyond the finances, they are the best way of life that we experience here in Wells County. Wells County is a safe place to live and work and I would like to see it continue.

Scott Burke

(Continued from Page 1)

also host an annual car show/cruise in to benefit families in need.

Qualifications

Since the 1970's, my family has had close ties to the community through small business. Through that relationship, I have developed common sense understanding of the economic landscape of Wells County.

Why are you running for this office?

To uphold the traditions and values of our community.

As a challenger, what initiatives would you continue? What changes or new initiatives are needed?

I would continue to maintain fiscal discipline. I would increase transparency in county government. I would seek to enable economic development consistent with the character of our community.

What do you feel are the most significant challenges and opportunities for Wells County right now?

The most significant challenge is maintaining growth that benefits the entire community in the face of the political, social and economic agendas against us. Wells County has an excellent investment opportunity in our young people. They are our future!

Scott Elzey

(Continued from Page 1)

ogy director at AT&T, and five years as a dispatch center manager at Frontier. He is currently serving his first term as a member of the Wells County Council.

Elzey also serves as the board president of the Wells County Convention and Visitors Commission and membership coordinator of the Wells County Historical Society, and board member of Bluffton NOW! and the Ossian Redevelopment Commission. He is also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and local Republican Party.

Qualifications

I was born in the town of Ossian and have lived in Wells County for over a half century. My wife and I raised our family on our 60-acre farm. I have a B.S. in business administration from Indiana University. I have management and business leadership experience to continue to help the County move forward.

One of the most important qualifications for Council is the availability of time. Although we usually meet monthly, there are a couple weeks in the early fall where we could meet

daily. Council members are appointed to other boards so several hours each week are required to do the job effectively. So far this year, I have attended over two dozen meetings taking place during the work day in addition to the scheduled Council meetings. I can meet these commitments because I am retired.

Why are you running for this office?

We are headed in the right direction, but Wells County needs to continue to grow good-paying jobs and provide additional housing in all price ranges. We need to continue our economic development initiatives to attract workforce talent.

We compete with other Northeast Indiana communities so we must keep the focus. If we are not growing forward, we are falling behind. We, as a county, have made that turn and are now heading in the right direction. I am passionate about improving the future for Wells County and want to continue leading those efforts.

As an incumbent, what initiatives would you continue? What changes or new initiatives are needed?

Weather

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

(24-hour observations at 11:17 p.m. Monday)

High: 72; Low: 65; Precipitation: None
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.40 feet at 8:45 p.m. Monday

Wells County forecast

Today: A slight chance of showers between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Patchy fog before 9 a.m. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 77. Light northwest wind increasing to 5 to 10 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 43. North wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 69. Calm wind.
Wednesday Night: Clear, with a low around 44. Calm wind.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 75.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 49.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 75.
Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 46.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 72.
Saturday Night: Clear, with a low around 49.

Sunday: A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Sunny, with a high near 75.

Sunday Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 48.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 70.

Progress reported in talks between ports and dockworkers

NEW YORK (AP) — With a strike deadline looming, the union for 45,000 dockworkers and the group representing East and Gulf Coast ports have exchanged wage offers, leaving a ray of hope that a deal can be reached without a major work stoppage.

In a statement, the U.S. Maritime Alliance, which represents 36 ports from Maine to Texas, said that both sides have moved from their previous positions. The alliance said it also asked the union to extend the current contract.

The International Longshoremen's Association is threatening to strike at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday in a move that could silence ports that handle about half the ship cargo coming in and going out of the U.S.

A message was left Monday evening seeking comment from the union.

"We are hopeful that this could allow us to fully resume collective bargaining around the other outstanding issues in an effort to reach an agreement," the alliance statement said.

The Alliance said its latest offer would increase wages by nearly 50% over the six-year contract, and triple employer contributions to retirement plans. The offer also would strengthen health care options and keep current language that limits automation.

The union has demanded 77% pay raises over six years to help deal with inflation. Many of the ILA workers can make over \$200,000 per year, but the union says they must work large amounts of overtime to reach that figure.

The two sides had not held formal negotiations since June, and a strike appeared imminent. In a statement Monday morning, the union said the ports had refused its demands for a fair contract and the alliance seemed intent on a strike. The alliance has said it was willing to bargain.

A work stoppage would significantly snarl the nation's supply chain, potentially leading to higher prices and delays in goods reaching households and businesses if it drags on for weeks.

If drawn out, the strike would force businesses to pay shippers for delays and cause some goods to arrive late for peak holiday shopping season — potentially impacting delivery of anything from toys or artificial Christmas trees, to cars, coffee and fruit.

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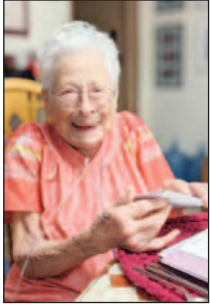
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OBITUARIES

Donna Ruth Sautbine, 96

Donna Ruth Sautbine, 96, of Puyallup, Washington, formerly of Bluffton, passed away at her residence on Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024. Donna was born on Sept. 12, 1928, in Decatur, to the late Hubert F. and Beatrice M. (Butcher) Gilpin. On April 4, 1953, she married William A. Sautbine. He preceded her in death on Feb. 2, 2021.



Donna was a former member of First United Methodist Church, Bluffton. Most recently she had been a faithful worshiper of St. Mark's Church Decatur online services. Donna worked as an emergency room RN at Caylor-Nickel Medical Center, where she retired after 30 years of nursing.

After retirement, Donna and Bill continued to travel in their trailer and visit throughout the US. In 1987, they came to Washington state to visit their daughter NanCee and decided to stay awhile but ended up making it their new home. Donna took this opportunity to explore her gifts as an artist, quilter, and crocheter. Family and friends were the recipients of her talents. Her greatest passion was as a genealogy researcher, visiting Salt Lake City numerous times and online researching.

She is survived by a son, Steven (Pam) Sautbine of Leesburg, Florida; two daughters, Mary Ellen (Rick) McEvoy of Bluffton and NanCee (Gary) Peterson of Puyallup, Washington; five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Donna is preceded in death by two brothers, Max E. Gilpin and Douglas Keith Gilpin, and one granddaughter, Heather J. Legener.

Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to noon on Monday, Oct. 7, 2024, at Haggard-Hirschy & Zelt Funeral Home, followed by a noon funeral service. Pastor David Reed will be officiating. Burial will follow in Decatur Cemetery.

Preferred memorials are to St. Mark's Church Decatur. Arrangements were Entrusted to Haggard-Hirschy & Zelt Funeral Home.

Wanda Lee Rogert, 93

Wanda Lee Rogert, 93, of Montpelier, passed away Sept. 28, 2024 at Albany Health and Rehab. She was born on Aug. 5, 1931, in Fort Scott, Kansas.

Survivors include her sisters, Annita and Gene, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Trubee Rogert, and sons, Thomas and Michael McKinnon.

The family will be having a service at a later date. Arrangements are being handled by Walker & Glancy Funeral Home in Montpelier.

Joyce Weekley, 82

Joyce P. Weekley, 82, passed away Sunday evening, Sept. 29, 2024, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Joyce was born on May 16, 1942, in Little Rock, Arkansas, to Elmer and Ethel (Blair) Cooley; both parents preceded her in death. She married Larry E. Weekley; he preceded her in death on Dec. 6, 2009.

Joyce was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and two children, Johnny W. Thompson and Vicky Lynn Thompson.

Survivors include two sons, Edward E. Thompson of Roanoke, and Robert (Cherrene) Thompson of Bluffton; seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

A private family graveside service will be held at Fairview Cemetery in Bluffton with Steve Sutton officiating. Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Jimmy Carter's 100th birthday

(Continued from Page 1)

in a church basement and physically helping rehab a tenement building captured the world," said Jonathan Reckford, CEO of Habitat for Humanity International. The Carters went on to build homes annually for 35 years. Carter repeatedly said that working with the organization was a way he put his Christian faith into action, Reckford recalled.

Cleora Taylor, a medical assistant, met the Carters in August 2018 when they helped build 41 new homes in South Bend and Mishawaka, Indiana.

Years later, Taylor recalled how the former president greeted her by name and knew about her children, including her daughter, who was 11 at the time and has autism.

"It means so much to me that he knew me," said Taylor, speaking from her living room in the home The Carters helped her build, on a street named Carter Court. "He's just such a good, welcoming, humble guy. I'm just glad to be a part of a legacy that he's leaving behind."

Presidential historian Cassandra Newby-Alexander, professor of Virginia Black history and culture at Norfolk State University, said the strength of Carter's legacy is in his morality. Unlike many who claim to care about the disadvantaged, Carter has shown that they — and not power or money — are his main concern, Newby-Alexander said.

"I think he has probably done more personally in his post-presidency than anyone else because he's not out there looking for attention," she said. "He's looking to change things. He's not out there trying to make money for himself. He's out there trying to live the life of a Christian — a true Christian, one who cares about the poor and the homeless and the children."

While leadership in philanthropy is

often gauged by the size of donations or the heft of assets under management, Carter's giving came in the form of his seemingly ceaseless personal effort. From building homes to monitoring elections and pursuing the elimination of a painful but neglected disease, Carter used his stature and presence to rally resources and attention to his causes.

"In so many ways, he set the standard for how presidents should be in their post-presidency, as someone who is going to continue to do good, someone who's going to continue to positively impact society," Newby-Alexander said.

Carter's legacy of giving back also includes working to eradicate Guinea worm, a commitment The Carter Center has made since 1986. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had identified the disease as a candidate for eradication after smallpox. Carter took up the mantle, vowing to outlive the last such parasite.

"To the demise of the worm" is the catchphrase, according to Dr. Jordan Tappero, deputy director for neglected tropical diseases at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which has given \$263 million to The Carter Center since 2000, mostly to support its work on Guinea worm.

The number of cases has fallen from 3.5 million when the center started to only 13 known cases in humans in 2022, and now focuses on closing the "last mile" of infections in several African countries. Even after Carter entered hospice in February 2023, Tappero said, Carter was still contacting his team.

"He still wants updates and wants to know what's going on because his mind will never stop until the last heartbeat," Tappero said, speaking in March 2023.

Carter engaged directly with health

ministries and heads of state to muster their commitment to public health interventions, said Steven M. Hilton of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. Since 1991, the foundation said it has committed nearly \$50 million to The Carter Center for eradicating Guinea worm and to support its work treating and controlling trachoma, a disease that can cause irreversible blindness.

Hilton considers Carter to be "a remarkable man with a deeply compassionate heart."

"I feel fortunate to have witnessed firsthand the strength of his character, including his dedication to seeing enormous humanitarian challenges through to the end," Hilton said in a statement.

Tappero draws inspiration from the Carters' humility, energy and dedication. "If we all had one-fifth of his energy, commitment and passion," he said, "the world would be a much better place."

Taylor, who lives near South Bend, Indiana, said she saw that commitment firsthand as Carter, 93 at the time, helped her put up a kitchen wall in her four-bedroom home.

"It was just so amazing that he still was out here, outside at that age, working with us," she said. "It made us want to work harder."

She still gets emotional thinking about that week, an incredible opportunity for her and her four kids.

"Not only did I get to meet Jimmy Carter and his wife and his children and hundreds of volunteers, other celebrities, I get to own a piece of the world. I get to own a piece of land," she said.

"I never thought that I would be able to do something like that, being a single mother. And for them to have to put so much into it, the volunteers and for Jimmy Carter to actually be here? It was amazing for people to care like he cares."

Local Roundup

Bluffton Common Council will meet Tuesday evening

The Bluffton Common Council will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 1, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

- Topics on the agenda include:
- Public hearing on the 2025 budget.
 - Approval of the 2025 budget.
 - Consideration of a several zoning ordinance amendments.
 - Consideration of transfer park resolution 2024-14.
 - Discussion of AEP transmission lines/easement and right-of-way

- Approval of Resolution 2024-15 Equipment Lease and Resolution 2024-16 Interlocal Agreement Park.

Bluffton Board of Works to meet Tuesday afternoon

The Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 1, in the meeting room on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

- Topics on the agenda include:
- Awarding truck bids.
 - Personnel and financial matters.
 - Maintenance request from Bluff-

- ton NOW!
- Consideration of an encroachment agreement.

Poneto Town Council to hold special meeting Wednesday evening

The Poneto Town Council will hold a special meeting at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 2, in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 105 West Washington St.

At this time, Jack Woods will discuss the Poneto Community Vision and ideas for the future of the town. The council will only receive information at this meeting.

Submissions open for Women of Wells magazine

The News-Banner is seeking community submissions for its second-annual publication, Women of Wells. The magazine offers a special spotlight to share women's stories, hobbies, advice and more — all written by and about local women.

"Let's hear about all the Women of Wells, this is about you and your story," said Brandy Freeman of The News-Banner. "This is about any and everything. We want to hear your voices."

Submission topics could discuss careers, recipes, adoptions, crafts, military service, recovery, finance, gardening, canning, motherhood, teachers and more.

The deadline for submission is Oct. 17. Please send your story and photos to jimc@news-banner.com or mail them to The News-Banner, P.O. Box 436, Bluffton, IN 46714. Contact with any further questions.

Agencies announce effort to support children with high acuity needs

By WHITNEY DOWNARD

Indiana Capital Chronicle Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb announced a cross-agency initiative Monday to provide more support to children with high acuity mental and behavioral health needs and keep youth in crisis in the least restrictive setting possible.

"Our agencies are working with a growing number of families who have children with significant and complex mental and behavioral needs," Holcomb said in a release. "These families need help navigating the supports available to them so children receive the right services in their individual communities, and we are committed to helping them."

The Family and Social Services Administration will be one of the four state agencies participating alongside the governor's office in the Children with High Acuity Needs Project, as well as the Department of Correction, the Department of Child Services and the Department of Education. The four-point plan is geared toward a child's overall well-being, according to the release.

A multi-agency rapid response team has assisted more than 20 children and their families, state officials shared, by "finding an

appropriate placement and connecting to needed services, helping to stabilize crisis situations."

The four pillars of the project include:

Cross-agency navigators that can coordinate care across state agencies and local services, whether education, mental health needs, intellectual or developmental disabilities, child welfare, juvenile justice or physical health needs. This pilot program will focus on using schools to avoid more restrictive settings, such as institutionalization, and helping those children leaving residential settings adjust to home life.

Foster parents and kinship caregivers, who will receive additional support to care for children with high acuity needs and be eligible for respite care. The state issued the request for proposals earlier this year and awarded contracts to 13 businesses serving different parts of the state.

A Gatekeeper process review for children in the state's psychiatric hospital network to keep children in the least restrictive setting possible and allow youth to leave when ready, rather than staying longer than medically necessary.

Youth transitional homes and caregiver coaching that will be an "intermediary"

level of support for youth returning to the community following residential care. As opposed to traditional group homes, these residences aren't designed to be long-term, but rather "to help youth reconnect with their daily routines and communities." Families will also receive caregiver coaching.

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INDOT announces closure of U.S. 224 near Uniondale

INDOT has announced the closure of U.S. 224 near Uniondale for a pipe replacement.

Starting on or after Oct. 2, crews will be working between N 200W and N 300W. Work on the pipe replacement is expected to last until mid-November. All work is weather-dependent and schedules are subject to change.

During the closure, drivers should use the approved detour of State Road 3, State Road 116 and State Road 1, or seek an alternate route.

Bluffton Street Fair 2025 changes dates

The Bluffton Free Street Fair will be moving up one week earlier than originally announced for 2025.

Rather than Sept. 23-27, 2025, the Street Fair will be Sept. 16-20, 2025. The Street Fair board announced the change Saturday, in light of conflicting dates with the Dekalb County Fair.

The Street Fair is traditionally the third full week of September, unless the first day of the month is Labor Day.

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'A Street Fair Story'

It's true that fall just arrived but I found myself thinking about Christmas two weeks ago all because of a case of COVID-19 that made its uninvited way into the Peeper house.

One of my all-time favorite movies to watch each year is the 1983 comedy film "A Christmas Story." The movie tells the story of young Ralphie Parker's dream that Santa Claus will bring him a Red Ryder BB gun.

My family never misses watching it either on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

One of the scenes that always makes me laugh is when the Bumpus Hounds break into the Parker's house on Christmas Day and devour the family's turkey in a matter of seconds, leaving Ralphie, his brother and their parents speechless and dumbstruck.

"The heavenly aroma still hung heavy in the house but it was gone — all gone," says Ralphie's character as the family looks at the mess in front of their eyes.

"No turkey. No turkey sandwiches. No turkey salad. No turkey gravy. No turkey hash. No turkey a la king or gallons of turkey soup. Gone. All gone."

That scene replayed in my head during Street Fair week, as I could smell in my head the heavenly aroma of deep-fried fair food.

Actually tasting some of those Street Fair delicacies, however, wasn't meant to be much like the Parker family lost their Christmas dinner to a pack of dogs.

The week started well but my wife soon started feeling ill. She had COVID-19 symptoms, and our at-home test soon revealed she had the virus again — her second time this year catching it. She took a second test to confirm; it came back positive just as quickly as the first one.

The following day, I wasn't feeling well either. My test wasn't positive but my symptoms were bad enough that making a trip to the fair wasn't going to happen this year.

At that moment, the gravity of the situation hit me the same way it struck the Parker family moments after the Bumpus Hounds devoured their Christmas turkey.

No fried chicken sandwich. No greasy French fries covered in ketchup. No pancakes with syrup drizzled on top from the 4-H booth. No ice cream cones or milkshakes. No elephant ears or lemon shake-ups. No bags of caramel corn or cotton candy. No cheesy mozzarella sticks with extra marinara sauce on the side. Nothing. Zilch.

By the time we started feeling better, Street Fair was down to its last hours. While we didn't make it to the fair, we were wise enough to follow Ralphie's father's lead from the movie once the shock of the hounds having eaten their dinner wears off.

In the movie, Ralphie's dad (better known as The Old Man) says, "All right. Everybody upstairs. Get dressed. We are going out to eat."

While we didn't have a Christmas dinner at a Chinese restaurant like the Parker family in the movie, we ordered carry out from our favorite Indian food restaurant while Street Fair was wrapping up Saturday night.

My order of chicken tikka masala, rice and garlic naan was a tasty substitute for Street Fair gastronomy — and probably a bit less expensive and better for my cholesterol and waistline.

jdpeeper2@hotmail.com

Letters to the Editor

The preponderance of hypocrisy

I thought I had a letter; one can only imagine my chagrin when I realized that I didn't have a letter — I had just a concept of a letter. Oh well.

Readers probably tire of my insistent and consistent haranguing of the importance of the language and word choice. Here it is once again. This time I refer to one word. Not just any word, though. This one is of such importance that it deserves an entire column of its own.

The word? Hypocrisy. I will give the direct definition from the dictionary — a dictionary that is neither blue, red, or striped. Hypocrisy: the practice of claiming to have moral standards or beliefs to which one's own behavior does not conform. A pretense of having some desirable or publicly approved attitude.

Interestingly, it is not even necessary to provide examples of the hypocrisy

that surrounds and bombards us each day. If one looks at the definition and then looks and listens to the actions and voices of the population in this country, the examples of hypocrisy are so abundantly obvious that they are impossible to overlook. Ignore? Well, that is entirely possible evidently.

But even those who most loudly proclaim over and over about what they believe and hold sacrosanct in their lives cannot realistically deny hypocrisy when those same beliefs are not reflected in their behavior, language, and treatment of others. Hypocrisy has no allegiance to political affiliation or any specific religion or profession... at its very basis it is the same for all of us. It is a simple concept.

Think about it and then let's share a conversation.

BILLY KREIGH
Bluffton

Submit your Letters to the Editor via: • Our website link (Submit your Letter) • E-Mail: email@news-banner.com • Mail: PO Box 436, Bluffton IN 46714 • Drop-off: 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton. All letters must be signed and must include a phone number or address in case verification is desired. Letters are edited for brevity and clarity.

The News-Banner

(USPS 059-200)

Evening News est. 1892 • Evening Banner est. 1899 • Consolidated 1929

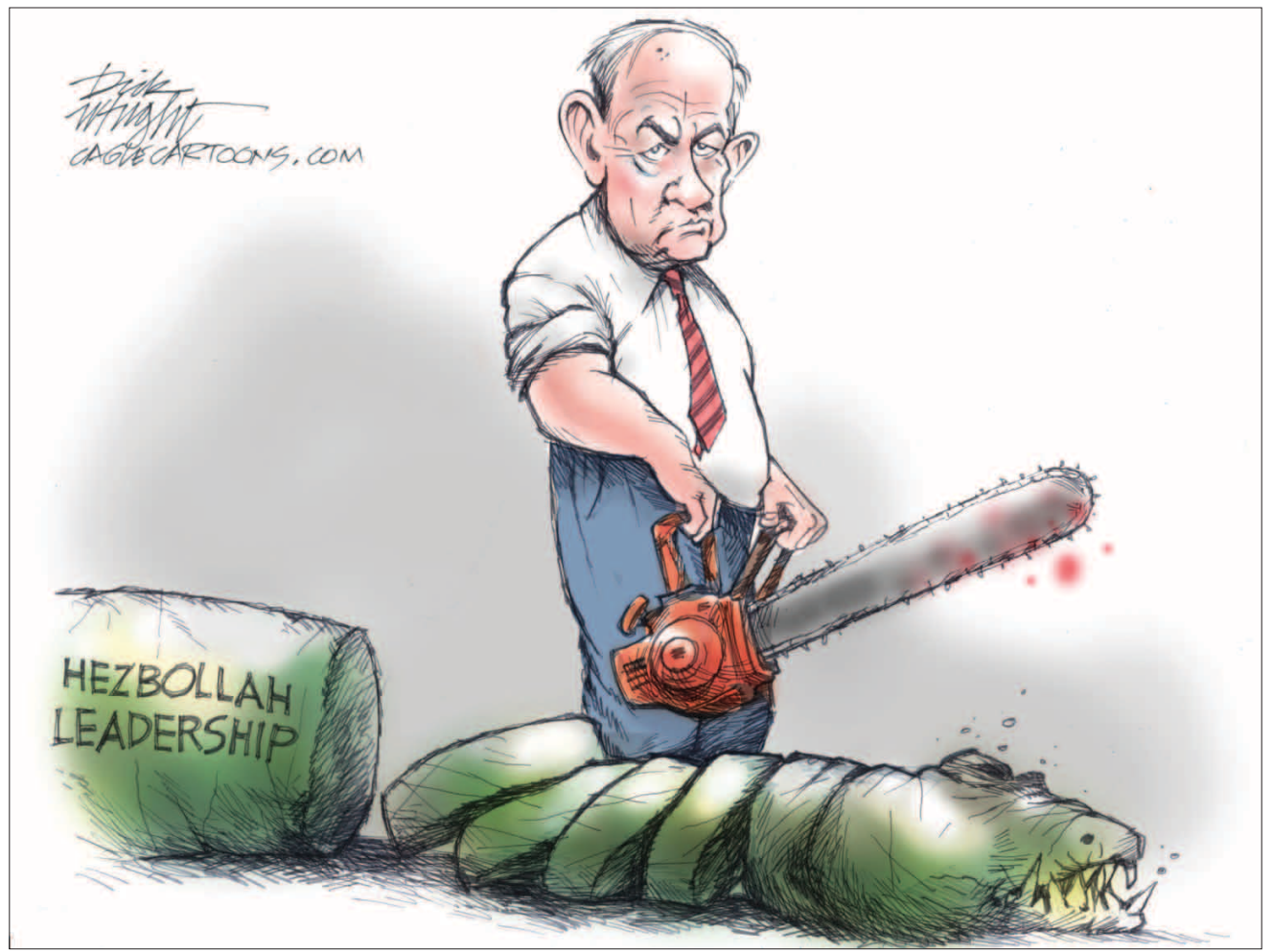
News-Banner Publications, Inc.

George B. Witwer, Chairman of the Board
Doug Brown, President, Publisher
Dianne Witwer, Secretary/Treasurer

Periodicals Postage Paid at Bluffton, IN 46714. Published every day except Sundays and principal holidays at 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton IN 46714, Post Office Box 436

Holly Gaskill, Editor
Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor

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



Israel's righteous war on Hezbollah

Israel is supposed to tolerate the intolerable. A terror group has launched thousands of missiles into the Jewish state over the last year — catalyzed by a hideous pogrom against Israel carried out by another terror group — and we are told that it is Israel, finally hitting back in earnest, that is dangerously escalating the situation.

Since the Hamas atrocities on Oct. 7, Lebanon-based Hezbollah has fired roughly 8,000 rockets into Israel. These indiscriminate attacks have forced tens of thousands of Israelis to flee the north of the country. In July, a missile killed 12 young adults and children who were playing soccer in the Golan Heights, a random massacre with no military purpose whatsoever.

Israel retaliated for the horror in the Golan Heights but has generally absorbed Hezbollah's attacks, since it's been focused on the war against Hamas to its south while the Biden administration has been working to stay its hand in the north.

The theme, as ever, is that the Jewish state is expected to accept as background noise unprovoked attacks on its sovereign territory that no other state would ever abide.

What other country is asked to bear the rocketing of its civilian population as the price for faux regional civility?

Israel won't abide by these rules, and nor should it. It began turning up the heat against Hezbollah with its "Mission Impossible"-worthy attacks on Hezbollah operatives via their pagers and other electronic devices.

The pager attack was an experiment in whether Israel could carry out perhaps the most carefully calibrated counterterrorist operation in the modern age and still get accused of committing war crimes. Sure enough, AOC and others have condemned the Jewish state.

Israel hits terrorist targets from the air — and it's accused of war crimes.

Israel goes in on the ground — and it's accused of war crimes.

Israel does neither, opting instead to target terrorists by using their own devices against them — and it's accused of war crimes.

The assumption is that Israel's role is to duck

and cover and take whatever punishment its remorseless enemies dole out, lest things "escalate."

The Israel Defense Forces could be fighting a delaying action as the Jewish state were being pushed into the sea by advancing forces committed to its destruction — and it would be still be accused of war crimes.

This entire way of thinking is a deep moral perversion masquerading as nuanced strategic thought.

The idea that the pager attack is a violation of international law is preposterous. The philosopher Michael Walzer made the case against the operation in *The New York Times*, arguing that the operatives killed and wounded "had not been mobilized and they were not militarily engaged." In the same breath, though, he conceded, "Yes, the devices most probably were being used by Hezbollah operatives for military purposes."

This made them legitimate military targets. As a practical matter, there is no other way that Israel could have hit so many terrorists with so little collateral damage. It could have droned or sent sniper teams after just a few of them and — tragically — ended up causing more collateral damage. The targeting of the pager attack was effectively done by Hezbollah itself by distributing the devices to its own operators.

Taking advantage of the resulting disruption in Hezbollah communications and the reduction in its effective ranks, Israel has followed up with a bombing strike against a meeting of high-level Hezbollah leadership and the destruction from the air of Hezbollah munitions and missile launchers. To the Biden administration, this looks like a mere escalation because it doesn't understand the concept of deterrence — making an enemy fear what you might do to him, rather than allowing the enemy to set the pace for a conflict or to constrain your actions out of worry over what he might do next.

If Israel can successfully deter Hezbollah, it could mean — this obviously isn't guaranteed — that the conflict de-escalates. Regardless, the Jewish state is under no obligation to tolerate the intolerable.

Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry



Rich Lowry

Stopping Putin in Ukraine could also arrest a slide toward World War III

Many people who dismiss warnings about a third world war were, before February 2022, confident that state-on-state war in Europe had become unthinkable. Even though Russia at that point was in the eighth year of its war to extinguish a contiguous European nation.

This war began with Russia's 2014 seizure of Crimea. Today's phase began in 2022 with a now-forgotten rationale: "Russia, which began the war proclaiming that its goal was the liberation of the innocent Ukrainians from the allegedly drug-addled, fascist government of [Volodymyr] Zelensky, now talks about ordinary Ukrainians as traitors."

So wrote, last year in *Foreign Affairs*, Margaret MacMillan, great-granddaughter of British prime minister David Lloyd George. He was a principal participant in the Versailles Conference after World War I. In 1916, Lloyd George had mused, "Who are the Slovaks? I can't seem to place them." At Versailles, he participated in placing them in a new — and perishable — nation: In 1938, Adolf Hitler called the dismembering of Czechoslovakia "the last territorial demand I have to make in Europe." Poland was next.

Only for Americans did World War II begin Dec. 7, 1941. It did not begin with Germany's September 1939 invasion of Poland. Or with Italy's 1935 invasion of Ethiopia. Rather, the 14 years of global anarchy properly designated World War II began with Japan's 1931 invasion of Manchuria. Today, two major regional wars are raging (against Ukraine and Israel), China is conducting edge-of-war aggression in the South China Sea and Iranian-armed Houthis are disrupting Red Sea navigation.

As analysts Andrea Kendall-Taylor



George Will

Fontaine call the full-scale invasion of Ukraine "the point of no return in Putin's long-standing crusade against the West." "Crusade," with religious connotations, is apposite.

English political philosopher John Gray, in his 2023 book "The New Leviathans: Thoughts After Liberalism," writes that the Russian Orthodox Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia described the 2022 invasion of Ukraine as "the active manifestation of evangelical love for neighbours." Eight months later, he conferred upon Vladimir Putin the titles "fighter against the Antichrist" and "chief exorcist." Tass, Russia's state news agency, has quoted a high state official who characterized the invasion as "de-satanization." Do not assume that Putin disbelieves such ideological-cum-theological appellation.

Fortunately, regarding Putin there is no Panglossian optimism of the sort President Franklin D. Roosevelt entertained about Joseph Stalin. ("I think that if I give him everything that I possibly can and ask nothing from him in return, noblesse oblige, he won't try to annex anything and will work for a world of democracy and peace.") And, after Iraq and Afghanistan, there is no U.S. susceptibility to what Princeton and Hoover Institution historian Stephen Kotkin calls the "Pygmalion syndrome": hope for transforming Russians, making them

more like us.

Putin has partially transformed, by revitalizing, the West. Catholic University historian Michael Kimmage writes (in the *Wall Street Journal*) that Ukraine's strength is "the aggregate will" of the dozens of countries "across the globe" whose aid is "comparable to" U.S. Lend Lease for World War II allies. For example, Sweden, the *Financial Times* reports, "ended two centuries of military non-alignment to join NATO," and in May announced that "it would provide Kyiv with a surveillance aircraft to allow it to conduct longer-range strikes, and long-range air-to-air missiles." The collective effort is, Kimmage writes, commensurate with the stakes: preventing Ukraine from becoming "a failed state or a Russian colony the size of Texas, bordering five members of the EU and NATO."

The West's most important laggard is Germany. When NATO was founded in 1949, a pithy statement of its purpose was: to keep the Americans in (Europe), the Russians out and the Germans down. Today, Germany needs to step up.

Germany has become symptomatic of Western nations, including the United States, allowing welfare spending to crowd out defense needs. The *Wall Street Journal* reports that Germany's 2025 defense spending was increased just enough to cover military pay raises. Increased child payments for all German families, regardless of wealth, will equal the defense ministry's budget.

The West, including Germany, has given Ukraine substantial succor. But absent many more weapons, with fewer restraints upon their use, the West might be purchasing protracted defeat, thereby vindicating Putin's estimation of the West's inability to persevere.

georgewill@washpost.com.

A peek at life in Indiana's wilderness 1760-1840

By BARBARA BARBIERI

A recent Saturday was the perfect fall day to check out some early area history at the Rendezvous on the Reserve in Blackford County near Montpelier.

The living history encampment was hosted by the Montpelier Historical Society on the Godfrey Reserve, which is one of the reservations set apart for the use of the natives who still occupied portions of Indiana at the time of the treaty of St. Mary's in October 1818.

The encampment depicted the fur trade-era in the Indiana wilderness spanning the years of 1760-1840.

Armed with a map visitors could stop and chat with enactors at:

*Mississinewa Confederation Native Village which was an example of the Eastern Woodlands culture.

*River Rogues were the pirates that were known to plunder the main shipping routes of the time.

*Longhunters, Voyagers and Trappers came taking advantage of the many types of fur available in the area.

*Settlers, Traders and



A recreation of a Great Lakes village of the Eastern Woodlands culture was first on the trail at the Reserve.

Sutlers who were brought to the area as folks settled the Indiana wilderness.

*Storytellers and Musicians provided demonstrations throughout the weekend as presented by Stone-Hunter, Black Fox, Scalded Head, The Mississinewa Confederation, Fiddsix, Janel Franks, Linda Fite and other.

Information

Francois Godfrey was the son of fur trader Jacques

Godfrey and a Miami woman and in addition to being an Indian leader was also a successful fur trader. He did business with early settlers and troops traveling from forts in Ohio to Kekionga (Fort Wayne) via a nearby military road.

The reserve was a tract of six sections lying along the Salamonie River, contained six sections, Harrison

Twp. and 344 acres in Jay County, sections 17-20. At one time the reserve contained a blacksmith shop, Indian Agent quarters, out-buildings, an apple orchard, a beach for swimming and baptisms, a natural spring, an eagle tree and other features.

Myaamia under the rule of Francois Godfrey lived here until around 1835.



A stone ax would have been one of the first tools used by the settlers.



Venison and blueberries were combined to make pemmican, an early example of food preservation.



Byron Maddox, at right, organizer of the rendezvous weekend was one of the Trappers at the event. In the photo DAR member Lynn Elliott was showing him a photo of the Marquis de Lafayette (the French aristocrat who played a large role in the American Revolution as he served with George Washington). In celebration of the 250th anniversary of our country members of the DAR are taking photos of Lafayette to various site to show him what American looks like now. At the rendezvous he would have felt right at home!

The Church at McNatt to host pork chop supper on Oct. 12

The 'McMen' of McNatt Church will host a pork chop supper on Saturday, Oct. 12 from 4:30-7 p.m.

The menu includes pork chop, cheesy potatoes, green beans, a variety of desserts

and a drink.

A free-will offering will be taken.

The Church is located 1 mile west of SR 3 on 800 S in Wells County.

Hobnobben Film Festival

Fort Wayne's Cinema Center will host the Hobnobben Film Festival over the weekend of Oct. 3-6, at the Cinema Center in Fort Wayne.

Events will take place all four days with more information at <https://hobnobben.org/2024>. For tickets go to hobnobben.org.

Gloria's children deal with the loss of a pet

"Mom, look at my ducky."

I turned from the dress I was hemming in time to see Joshua set his pet duckling onto the floor only to watch it fall right over.

A single glance at his pet, which he carried around for hours while the other children were at school, told me something I would rather not have absorbed just then.

There is no easy way of telling a four-year-old that his favorite pet is gone. "I'm afraid it's dead," I told Joshua.

I scooped him up and carried him to the house. Reality began to hit as he sobbed, "My ducky! I want my ducky... I want Daddy!!"

Memories of what it was like two and a half years ago when the reality set in that I won't have Daniel again on this side of eternity flooded through me.

It didn't take long for me to realize that seeing Mom's tears would only bring rivers more for him as he somewhat hysterically began crying for Daddy. I braced up and told him it would be okay. I assured him that God sees how sad we are and that he even knows why it happened even though we don't.

"Let's call Barb," Joshua suggested.

"That would be a good idea, she might have another one we could buy," I agreed. Barb, who is a driver for Amish folks around here, is an avid animal lover and had dropped this duckling off for us 10 days before.

Joshua was slightly comforted when I told him that Barb had a two-day-old chick she would sell.

When he was somewhat calmed down I asked, "What shall we now do with your duckling?"

"I just want to keep it."

I explained to him that we won't be able to do that, but that we could bury it.

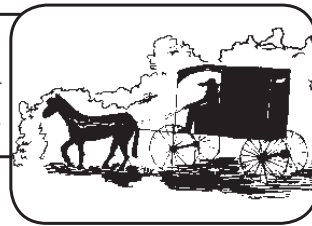
He needed a little time to think over it. In the meanwhile, he placed his Daddy shirtie (one of Daniel's night shirts, which Joshua uses as a security blanket) onto the floor in the entrance where the duck's home used to be, then laid the duck on top. Honestly, it churned something on the inside of me that is hard to explain. Yet I knew I needed to allow him to do what is best for his sake.

When the children came home from school he showed the deceased duck to his brothers and sisters who listened wide eyed to the story.

At Joshua's request Austin agreed to help bury it. The other children joined

The Amish Cook

by Gloria Yoder



in as well. Soon three shovels were in the process of digging behind the garage.

I admit, I didn't feel like going back there behind the garage with them, but when I considered their hearts, I knew it was the thing to do. With a prayer in my heart I headed back. They were happy to show me the box they had picked out for it and where they were going to put it.

Hosanna started the song, "Praise Him for ducky dear."

Julia and my eyes met. Yes, it seemed almost ridiculous, yet it was obviously healing for them to do this for their ducky, especially considering the memories of releasing Daddy a couple years before.

Joshua wanted to put up a sign. Austin was the one to make it and pen the words of Joshua's choice onto it. When they were finished I could see the relief in Joshua's face crowned with golden curls.

He came running to me, wrapping his arms around my legs, he exclaimed, "Thank you God for helping us make a sign!" I rejoiced with him as I looked at the crude homemade sign with the words, "Joshua's ducky died. He feels sorry for it."

That afternoon I was inspired by a note a from a friend who lost her son after an extended cancer journey. She wrote of her friend who saw a mother with two children coming out of Dollar tree. The baby was holding onto a glow stick, too young to understand that it would glow if it were first broken. She clutched it tightly. When his older brother took it from him and proceeded to break it, the baby screamed with disappointment. Handing it back, the older brother explained, "I had to break it so you could get the full effect from it."

Isn't it the way it is with us? God breaks us so he can fill his purpose in our lives.

Later, after the breaking is done, we get more glimpses of the reason for which we were created in the first place. When we look at others around us and see them glowing we can know they too, have been broken at some point.

And you know, even little Joshua has a radiance in his eyes he did not have before he went through these try-

ing times. There is a glow in having done what he could for his duckling and surrendering to the reality that he can not bring back what he so desperately wanted. And yes, he is bonding with his new chick. Elijah helped him build a castle for it with mag-blocks where they put it in for a little while. This morning he guessed it will grow to be a hen. I told him that it'll grow to lay eggs or grow to crow. He seemed impressed with the idea.

Right now Joshua is getting an apple which he wants to share with his chick. Do chicks eat apples? I don't know, I guess we'll find out. Joshua seems to have inherited his dad's liking for helping in the kitchen. There's a recipe for Most Unusual Apple Pie which a friend gave; Joshua and I want to try it while the other children are at school.



MOST UNUSUAL APPLE PIE

1 cup unsifted flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
¾ cup sugar
Pinch of salt
½ cup butter
1 egg
5 sliced apples

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Vikings ruin Knights Senior Night, score with 5.6 seconds left to win in PKs

By RYAN WALKER

A heartbreaking defeat occurred for the once red-hot Norwell Knights, who fell to Huntington North 3-2 in penalty kicks.

Norwell (7-8-1, 2-5 NE8) got both of its goals by senior captain Hudson Gerbers. The first was in the first half when Kale Fuess was lined up for a penalty kick in the corner. Fuess faked the shot and let Gerbers swoop in and drill a goal in the corner.

"That was all Hudson," Norwell head coach Kiel Nunn admitted. "He just took advantage of the moment and saw what was happening. That's why he's our captain. That's why he's our general out there on the field. He's aware of those moments and took advantage of a great shot."

The second was what was supposed to be the dagger. Gerbers struck the second in the low right corner and produced a 2-1 score. But on the ensuing possession, Huntington North (4-10-2, 3-4 NE8) desperately sprinted down the field for a glimmer of hope. Long story short, it got just the opportunity it needed.

Norwell's defense had an opportunity to kick the ball out of reach and force a hand pass from the sideline, according to Nunn, but they tried to control the ball in their favor. The Vikings stole the ball back and forced a corner kick with 10 seconds.

A high towering pass gave the Vikings a header perfectly on net and scored with 5.6 lit up on the Knights' scoreboard.

"The smart play would have been to just kick it out and let them get a throw-in," Nunn said. "We get a chance to defend, we move on, we hold them and I think we win that game."

The two seven-minute overtimes solved

nothing, heading into penalty kicks.

The visitors shot first and connected both times to begin. Norwell's Eli Randol missed just left and Fuess hit the top of the crossbar, sucking the life out of the Knights.

The Vikings scored their third shot as well, putting the Knights in a must-make scenario — all while hoping Huntington North missed the next two. Noah Schamerloh made Norwell's first, but Huntington North took the fourth and clinched the victory.

The Vikings stormed the field on a night that was supposed to be Norwell's on its Senior Night.

"That was a tough loss," Nunn said. "We had it in hand under a minute. Kudos on (Huntington North) for not quitting, not giving up. Just a mental breakdown and the next thing you know, we're in overtime."

Norwell was just on the brink of some late-season magic. A win over the Vikings would put them over .500, winning five of their last six games.

Instead, only Blackford remains on the schedule, who is 2-9 this year.

Luckily, the Knights can get back on their feet with a favorable sectional draw. Sunday night the bracket revealed Norwell will face Woodlan (6-7-1) and have a path to face Manchester or Heritage — both of which Norwell has defeated and will avoid the only schools with winning records in the field, Concordia and Bishop Luers.

Norwell will host Blackford at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 3.

In the junior varsity game, Huntington North won 2-1. Simon Isch scored the lone goal for Norwell.

ryan@news-banner.com



Hudson Gerbers (middle) yells in excitement with teammates in what could have been the game-winning goal with 1:01 left at the time for Norwell Monday night. But Huntington North came back almost a full minute later to tie the game and ultimately win in penalty kicks. (Photos by Ryan Walker)



Knights' forward Noah Schamerloh (kicking) takes a shot during the first half of the Northeast 8 Conference contest.

Sports Roundup

Tennis pairings released

The boys' tennis sectional pairings have been released for both Wells County schools.

This year, the Bluffton Tigers and Norwell Knights will play at Bluffton High School for the tournament. Both ended up on opposite ends of the bracket.

In the first round, Adams Central and South Adams will play for the quarterfinal on Tuesday. The winner will face Bluffton on Wednesday.

On Wednesday, the Knights match up with Belmont, whom they've beaten already this season.

The Knights will look to defend the sectional title from last season with the championship on Thursday.

p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 1.

Raiders back over .500 in volleyball with win

Southern Wells continues to put itself over .500 with another win in volleyball Monday night.

The Raiders hosted and defeated Tri-Central in straight sets. Scores were 25-19, 25-11 and 25-8. That puts Southern Wells at 12-11 on the season.

Kila Shelley had five aces, three kills and two digs. Ally Green four kills. Kyah Thomas three kills and two blocks. Abbie Powell had 14 kills and Sydney Alstoft 25 assists.

Vikings top Knights in final tennis regular season match

Norwell fell to Huntington North in the final boys' tennis regular season match.

The Knights lost in a close match 3-2 and finished with a 7-10 record to finish the season.

Individual results:

- Mason Kline (HN) defeated Gavin Reynolds 6-2, 6-0 at No. 1 singles.
 - Braylon Troutt (N) defeated Peyton Huff 6-4, 6-4 at No. 2 singles.
 - Brayden Mayer (HN) defeated Landon Diver 7-6, 7-4, 3-6, 6-4 at No. 3 singles.
 - Eddie Archbold and Ayden Quintanilla (N) defeated 6-4, 6-4 at No. 1 doubles.
 - Andrew Lochmaier and Isaiah Bordeaux (HN) defeated Rylan Heyerly and Dylan Randol 6-4, 7-6, 7-1 at No. 2 doubles.
- Norwell will face Belmont at Bluffton for the sectional semifinals at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 2.

Knights top No. 5 Jets in 3-2 comeback in volleyball

Norwell's volleyball team defeated the No. 5 team in 1A Adams Central at The Castle Monday night.

The Knights came back in the final three sets after being down 2-0. Scores were 22-25, 15-25, 25-18, 27-25 and 15-10.

Stat leaders: Vanessa Rosswurm with 13 kills (Jaycie Grzych and Macie Saalfrank 10), Izzy Anderson, Kaitlee Reinhard and Emma Vachon two aces, Vachon 30 assists, Saalfrank three blocks and Autumn Lee 22 digs.

Norwell won the junior varsity match 2-0 (25-10, 25-14) and the freshman match over Woodlan 2-1 (25-23, 24-26 and 15-13).

Norwell will be back home to face defending state runner-ups Belmont at 7

Hall of Famer Dikembe Mutombo dies at 58 from brain cancer

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

Dikembe Mutombo, a Basketball Hall of Famer who was one of the best defensive players in NBA history and a longtime global ambassador for the game, died Monday from brain cancer, the league announced. He was 58.

His family revealed two years ago that he was undergoing treatment in Atlanta for a brain tumor. The NBA said he died surrounded by his family.

"Dikembe Mutombo was simply larger than life," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. "On the court, he was one of the greatest shot blockers and defensive players in the history of the NBA. Off the floor, he poured his heart and soul into helping others."

Mutombo was distinctive in so many ways — the playful finger wag at opponents after blocking their shots, his height, his deep and gravelly voice, his massive smile. Players of this generation were always drawn to him and Philadelphia 76ers star Joel Embiid, who was born in Cameroon, looked to Mutombo as an inspiration.

"It's a sad day, especially for us Africans, and really the whole world," Embiid said Monday. "Other than what he's accomplished on the basketball court, I think he was even better off the court. He's one of the guys that I look up to, as far as having an impact, not just on the court, but off the court. He's done a lot of great things. He did a lot of great things for a lot of people. He was a role model of mine. It is a sad day."

Mutombo spent 18 seasons in the NBA, playing for Denver, Atlanta, Houston, Philadelphia, New York and the then-New Jersey Nets. The 7-foot-2 center out of Georgetown



Dikembe Mutombo

was an eight-time All-Star, three-time All-NBA selection and went into the Hall of Fame in 2015 after averaging 9.8 points and 10.3 rebounds per game for his career.

He also was part of one of the league's most iconic playoff moments, helping eighth-seeded Denver oust top-seeded Seattle in the first round of the 1994 Western Conference playoffs. That best-of-five series marked the first time a No. 8 beat a No. 1 in NBA history.

"It's really hard to believe," Toronto President Masai Ujiri said Monday, pausing several times because he was overcome with emotion shortly after hearing the news of Mutombo's death. "It's hard for us to be without that guy. You have no idea what Dikembe Mutombo meant to me. ... That guy, he made us who we are. That guy is a giant, an incredible person."

Mutombo last played during the 2008-09 season, devoting his time after retirement to charitable and humanitarian causes. He spoke nine languages and founded the Dikembe Mutombo Foundation in 1997, concentrating on improving health, education and quality of life for the people in the Congo.

And on occasion, LeBron James pointed out with a laugh on Monday, Mutombo didn't necessarily improve the health of others.

"My fondest memory of Dikembe Mutombo? He fractured my face on my birthday in Cleveland with an elbow," James, the Los Angeles Lakers' star, said while taking several minutes Monday to pay tribute to Mutombo's life. "I never even got an opportunity to tell him about that. But yeah. I don't remember how old ... I was in Cleveland, my first stint, and I think I was turning 22 maybe?"

High School Calendar

TUESDAY, OCT 1
BOYS TENNIS: (Sectional) Bluffton, Norwell vs. TBD at Bluffton, 4:30 p.m.
GIRLS SOCCER: Norwell at Huntington North, 6:30 p.m.
VOLLEYBALL: Heritage at Bluffton, 7 p.m.; Belmont at Norwell, 7 p.m.; Southern Wells at Jay County, 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, OCT 2
GIRLS SOCCER: Woodlan at Norwell, 5:30 p.m.
THURSDAY, OCT 3

BOYS SOCCER: Blackford at Norwell, 5:30 p.m.
VOLLEYBALL: Norwell at New Haven, 7 p.m.; Woodlan at Southern Wells, 7 p.m.
FRIDAY, OCT 4
FOOTBALL: Heritage at Bluffton, 7 p.m.; DeKalb at Norwell, 7 p.m.; Southern Wells at Adams Central, 7 p.m.
SATURDAY, OCT 5
CROSS COUNTRY (co-ed): Bluffton at the Bluffton Invitational, 10 a.m.; Norwell NE8 meet at Huntington North, 10 a.m.

Pete Rose, baseball's banned hits leader, has died at age 83

By HILLEL ITALIE
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Pete Rose, baseball's career hits leader and fallen idol who undermined his historic achievements and Hall of Fame dreams by gambling on the game he loved and once embodied, has died. He was 83.

Stephanie Wheatley, a spokesperson for Clark County in Nevada, confirmed on behalf of the medical examiner that Rose died Monday. Wheatley said his cause and manner of death had not yet been determined.

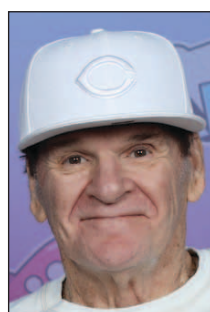
For fans who came of age in the 1960s and '70s, no player was more exciting than the Cincinnati Reds' No. 14, "Charlie Hustle," the brash superstar with shaggy hair and muscular forearms. At the dawn of artificial surfaces, divisional play and free agency, Rose was old school, a conscious throwback to baseball's early days. Millions could never forget him crouched and scowling at the plate, running full speed to first even after drawing a walk, or sprinting for the next base and diving headfirst into the bag.

Major League Baseball, which banished him in 1989, issued a brief statement expressing condolences and noting his "greatness, grit and determination on the field of play." Reds principal owner and managing partner Bob Castellini said in a statement that Rose was "one of the fiercest competitors the game has ever seen" and added: "We must never forget what he accomplished."

A 17-time All-Star, the switch-hitting Rose played on three World Series winners. He was the National League MVP in 1973 and World Series MVP two years later. He holds the major league record for games played (3,562) and plate appearances (15,890) and the NL record for the longest hitting streak (44). He was the leadoff man for one of baseball's most formidable lineups with the Reds' championship teams of 1975 and 1976, with teammates that included Hall of Famers Johnny Bench, Tony Perez and Joe Morgan.

But no milestone approached his 4,256 hits, breaking his hero Ty Cobb's 4,191 and signifying his excellence no matter the notoriety which followed. It was a total so extraordinary that you could average 200 hits for 20 years and still come up short. Rose's secret was consistency, and longevity. Over 24 seasons, all but six played entirely with the Reds, Rose had 200 hits or more 10 times, and more than 180 four other times. He batted .303 overall, even while switching from second base to outfield to third to first, and he led the league in hits seven times.

"Every summer, three things are going to



Pete Rose

happen," Rose liked to say, "the grass is going to get green, the weather is going to get hot, and Pete Rose is going to get 200 hits and bat .300."

Rose reached 1,000 hits in 1968, 2,000 just five years later and 3,000 just five years after that. He moved into second place, ahead of Hank Aaron, with hit No. 3,772, in 1982. No. 4,000 was off the Phillies' Jerry Koosman in 1984, exactly 21 years to the day after his

first hit. He caught up with Cobb on Sept. 8, 1985, and surpassed him three days later, in Cincinnati, with Rose's mother and teenage son, Pete Jr., among those in attendance.

Rose was 44 and the team's player-manager. Batting left-handed against the San Diego Padres' Eric Show in the first inning, he smacked a 2-1 slider into left field, a clean single. The crowd of 47,000-plus stood and yelled. The game was halted to celebrate. Rose was given the ball and the first base bag, then wept openly on the shoulder of first base coach and former teammate, Tommy Helms. He told Pete Jr., who would later play briefly for the Reds: "I love you, and I hope you pass me." He thought of his late father, a star athlete himself who had pushed him to play sports since childhood. And he thought of Cobb, the dead-ball era slasher whom Rose so emulated that he named another son Tyler.

Baseball Commissioner Peter Ueberroth, watching from New York, declared that Rose had "reserved a prominent spot in Cooperstown." After the game, a 2-0 win for the Reds in which Rose scored both runs, he received a phone call from President Ronald Reagan.

"Your reputation and legacy are secure," Reagan told him. "It will be a long time before anyone is standing in the spot where you're standing now."

Four years later, he was gone. On March 20, 1989, Ueberroth (who would soon be succeeded by A. Bartlett Giamatti) announced that his office was conducting a "full inquiry into serious allegations" about Rose. Reports emerged that he had been relying on a network of bookies and friends and others in the gambling world to place bets on baseball games, including some with the Reds. Rose denied any wrongdoing, but the investigation found that the "accumulated testimony of witnesses, together with the documentary evidence and telephone records reveal extensive betting activity by Pete Rose in connection with professional baseball and, in particular, Cincinnati Reds games, during the 1985, 1986, and 1987 baseball seasons."

News-Banner Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

NFL					
AMERICAN CONFERENCE					
East					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	3	1	0	.750	122 83
N.Y. Jets	2	2	0	.500	76 62
Miami	1	3	0	.250	45 103
New England	1	3	0	.250	52 87
South					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	3	1	0	.750	79 94
Indianapolis	2	2	0	.500	85 85
Tennessee	1	3	0	.250	79 90
Jacksonville	0	4	0	.000	60 109
North					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	3	1	0	.750	75 53
Baltimore	2	2	0	.500	106 88
Cincinnati	1	3	0	.250	102 104
Cleveland	1	3	0	.250	66 87
West					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	4	0	0	1.000	92 72
Denver	2	2	0	.500	62 55
L.A. Chargers	2	2	0	.500	68 50
Las Vegas	2	2	0	.500	78 97
NATIONAL CONFERENCE					
East					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Washington	3	1	0	.750	97 78
Dallas	2	2	0	.500	97 104
Philadelphia	2	2	0	.500	86 96
N.Y. Giants	1	3	0	.250	60 84
South					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tampa Bay	3	1	0	.750	97 78
Atlanta	2	2	0	.500	75 85
New Orleans	2	2	0	.500	127 70
Carolina	1	3	0	.250	73 129
North					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Minnesota	4	0	0	1.000	116 59
Detroit	3	1	0	.750	104 82
Chicago	2	2	0	.500	77 75

Green Bay	2	2	0	.500	104 89
West					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Seattle	3	1	0	.750	102 85
San Francisco	2	2	0	.500	103 82
Arizona	1	3	0	.250	96 106
L.A. Rams	1	3	0	.250	75 115
Thursday's Games					
Dallas 20, N.Y. Giants 15					
Sunday's Games					
Atlanta 26, New Orleans 24					
Chicago 24, L.A. Rams 18					
Cincinnati 34, Carolina 24					
Denver 10, N.Y. Jets 9					
Houston 24, Jacksonville 20					
Indianapolis 27, Pittsburgh 24					
Minnesota 31, Green Bay 29					
Tampa Bay 33, Philadelphia 16					
San Francisco 30, New England 13					
Washington 42, Arizona 14					
Kansas City 17, L.A. Chargers 10					
Las Vegas 20, Cleveland 16					
Baltimore 35, Buffalo 10					
Monday's Games					
Tennessee 31, Miami 12					
Detroit 42, Seattle 29					
Thursday, Oct. 3					
Tampa Bay at Atlanta, 8:15 p.m.					
Sunday, Oct. 6					
N.Y. Jets vs Minnesota at London, GB, 9:30 a.m.					
Baltimore at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.					
Buffalo at Houston, 1 p.m.					
Carolina at Chicago, 1 p.m.					
Cleveland at Washington, 1 p.m.					
Indianapolis at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.					
Miami at New England, 1 p.m.					
Arizona at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.					
Las Vegas at Denver, 4:05 p.m.					
Green Bay at L.A. Rams, 4:25 p.m.					
N.Y. Giants at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.					
Dallas at Pittsburgh, 8:20 p.m.					
Open: L.A. Chargers, Tennessee, Detroit, Philadelphia					
Monday, Oct. 7					
New Orleans at Kansas City, 8:15 p.m.					

BASKETBALL

WNBA	
WNBA Playoff Glance	
(x-if necessary)	
Semifinals	
No. 1	New York 1, No. 4 Las Vegas 0
Sunday, Sept. 29: New York 87, Las Vegas 77	
Tuesday, Oct. 1: Las Vegas at New York, TBD	
Friday, Oct. 4: New York at Las Vegas, TBD	
x-Sunday, Oct. 6: New York at Las Vegas, TBD	
x-Tuesday, Oct. 8: Las Vegas at New York, TBD	
No. 2 Minnesota 0, No. 3 Connecticut 1	
Sunday, Sept. 29: Connecticut 73, Minnesota 70	
Tuesday, Oct. 1: Connecticut at Minnesota, TBD	
Friday, Oct. 4: Minnesota at Connecticut, TBD	
x-Sunday, Oct. 6: Minnesota at Connecticut, TBD	
x-Tuesday, Oct. 8: Connecticut at Minnesota, TBD	
WNBA Finals	
Thursday, Oct. 10: Game 1, TBD	

BASEBALL

MLB	
MLB Postseason Glance	
(x-if necessary)	
WILD CARD SERIES	
(Best-of-3)	
American League	
Houston vs. Detroit	

Tuesday, Oct. 1: Detroit (Skubal 18-4) at Houston (Valdez 15-7), 2:32 p.m. (ABC)
Wednesday, Oct. 2: Detroit at Houston, 2:32 p.m. (ABC)
x-Thursday, Oct. 3: Detroit at Houston, 2:32 p.m. (ABC)
Baltimore vs. Kansas City
Tuesday, Oct. 1: Kansas City (Ragans 11-9) at Baltimore (Burnes 15-9), 4:08 p.m. (ESPN2)
Wednesday, Oct. 2: Kansas City (Lugo 16-9) at Baltimore, 4:38 p.m. (ESPN)
x-Thursday, Oct. 3: Kansas City (Wacha 13-8) at Baltimore, 4:08 p.m. (ESPN)
National League
Milwaukee vs. New York
Tuesday, Oct. 1: New York (Severino 11-7) at Milwaukee (Peralta 11-9), 5:32 p.m. (ESPN)
Wednesday, Oct. 2: New York at Milwaukee, 7:38 p.m. (ESPN)
x-Thursday, Oct. 3: New York at Milwaukee, 8:38 p.m. (ESPN2)
San Diego vs. Atlanta
Tuesday, Oct. 1: Atlanta at San Diego (King 13-9), 8:38 p.m. (ESPN)
Wednesday, Oct. 2: Atlanta at San Diego (Musgrove 6-5), 8:38 p.m. (ESPN2)
x-Thursday, Oct. 3: Atlanta at San Diego (Cease 14-11), 7:08 p.m. (ESPN2)

TRANSACTIONS

Monday's Transactions	
BASEBALL	
Major League Baseball	
National League	
FOOTBALL	
National Football League	
CINCINNATI BENGALS — Retired P Brad Robbins to the active roster from injured reserve.	

Colts overcome rash of injuries by plugging holes with reliable stable of replacements

By MICHAEL MAROT
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Joe Flacco jumped into action when he was needed on Sunday, and he got the job done for the Indianapolis Colts.

Yup, the 39-year-old quarterback proved as handy as ever in a 27-24 victory over previously unbeaten Pittsburgh. But the unflappable Super Bowl winner also understood he was only part of a resilient performance.

The Colts finished the game without quarterback Anthony Richardson, All-Pro running back Jonathan Taylor, center Ryan Kelly, four defensive starters and another key defensive lineman because of injuries. Yet somehow, they

never trailed.

Stepping in for Richardson, Flacco played a key role.

"Anytime you have a backup that's played at a high level for a long time, when he goes in, you have confidence in his ability to go out and operate," coach Shane Steichen said Monday. "That's what he did."

It didn't hurt that Flacco knew the Steelers well, having played them twice a year for more than a decade with the division-rival Baltimore Ravens.

And though everyone wanted to talk about Flacco's performance after he went 16 of 26 for 168 yards and two TDs, he had plenty of help.

Samson Ebukam, last season's team

leader in sacks, and All-Pro defensive tackle DeForest Buckner were out again on Sunday, along with emerging pass-rusher Kwity Paye. Still, the Colts sacked Justin Fields four times.

Trey Sermon, who rushed for 88 yards on 17 carries in December's win over Pittsburgh, closed out the game for the injured Taylor.

The most notable performance might have belonged to rookie center Tanor Bartolini, who made his first career start after Kelly, a three-time Pro Bowler, decided he couldn't play because of an injured neck. Facing the league's stingiest defense, the fourth-round draft pick out of Wisconsin made all the right calls.

Agriculture

Indiana woodland owner conference set for Nov. 1-2 in Wabash

By C.J. MILLER
Hoosier Ag Today

If you're an Indiana woodland owner, there's an event that's coming up in northern Indiana that you'll want to attend.

"We'd like to invite anyone who owns a woods or is interested in forestry to come join us for this wonderful conference in November," says Liz Jackson, Executive Director of the Indiana Forestry and Woodland Owners Association—talking about the upcoming Indiana Woodland Owner Conference. The event is set for November 1st and 2nd in Wabash.

"We'll have opportunities to network with other landowners," she says. "You

can also share solutions, get new ideas, and learn from wildlife and forestry professionals."

The conference starts on Friday, Nov. 1st with a busy field day.

"On Friday morning, we're going to have some forestry field tours including a visit to Salamonic River State Forest near Wabash. It's run by the Indiana DNR and we're going to look at a recent timber harvest and talk about the impacts and results of that," says Jackson. "Later Friday afternoon, we're going to go to a family-owned forest near Silver Lake. We're going to talk about the family's efforts to improve their woods for forestry and wild-

life."

Then, on Saturday, Nov. 2nd, the conference continues with an indoor program at the Honeywell Center in Wabash.

"We'll have natural resource experts talk about things like the safe and effective use of herbicides, a hardwood industry update, programs for wildlife, and the invasive Spotted Lanternfly that has recently come to Indiana."

Jackson adds that one of the state's leading foresters, Lenny Farlee with Purdue Extension, is among the many experts who will be at the conference.

"He's going to be talking about the invasive Tree of Heaven that many proper-

ties have. That's an invasive tree we want to get rid of. It's also a host for the Spotted Lanternfly, so it's something we're looking out for. It's not the easiest tree to control, so we want to make sure that people understand how to manage it."

The conference is sponsored by the Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association, Indiana Forestry Educational Foundation, and Indiana Tree Farm Committee with support from Purdue University Forestry & Natural Resources Extension, and Indiana Association of Consulting Foresters. This conference is also funded in part by the Renewable Resources Extension Act.

Harvest season arrives: Department of Agriculture shares tips to stay safe

Harvest season is officially underway for Indiana's 94,000 farmers, which means more slow-moving farm equipment will be on Indiana's rural roads and highways. To keep Hoosiers safe this year, state agencies are asking motorists to be alert and patient, as they share the road with farm equipment this fall.

"The fall is an exciting time for all Hoosiers as the temperatures cool and the leaves turn colors. And Hoosier farmers share that excitement as they prepare to begin harvest," said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "While traveling rural roads and highways this fall, remember to watch for large farm equipment moving between fields as they work to harvest the crops, and be sure to know the proper steps to safely navigate around."

In 2022 four vehicles were involved in crashes with farm equipment in Indiana which resulted in one death, according to the National Highway Traffic

Safety Administration.

"Moving farm equipment can be one of the most dangerous parts of a farmers job," said Don Lamb, director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture. "When motorists know how to safely navigate around farm equipment, our roads are safer. By working together, farmers and everyday Hoosiers can ensure they arrive safely to their destination."

Farm equipment during harvest season could include tractors, combines, grain carts, grain wagons and large trucks hauling agricultural products. These vehicles are wide, sometimes taking up most of the road, and often travel at speeds no greater than 25 mph.

The following list includes several safety tips for motorists approaching large farm equipment:

- Farmers will pull over when they are able to let motorists pass, but it may take time for them to get to a safe place to do so.
- Be alert. Farm equipment is wide, sometimes taking up most of the road.

- Be careful when passing. Do not pass in a designated "No Passing Zone" or within 100 feet of any intersection, railroad grade crossing, bridge, elevation structure or tunnel.
- Do not try to pass a slow-moving vehicle on the left without ensuring that the vehicle is not planning a left turn. It may appear that the driver is pulling over for you to pass when it is actually preparing to turn. You will drive right into its path, endangering yourself and the farmer.
- Avoid tailgating, as some farm equipment might have to make sudden stops along the road.
- Allow plenty of time to get to a destination, be aware of alternate routes and avoid distractions.

"When you see farmers out working and moving from field to field, please be patient as they work to harvest their crops which are needed to help feed our communities and the world," said Doug Carter, Indiana State Police Superintendent. "Let's all work together to help ensure everyone's safety on our

roadways."

For a list of safety tips, visit isda.in.gov.

Braves earn playoff spot over Mets, who win thrilling opener to clinch themselves

By PAUL NEWBERRY AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — A final day that wasn't on the schedule and won't soon be forgotten.

An improbable comeback by the New York Mets in the opening game of a makeup doubleheader to secure their playoff berth. A gritty recovery by the Atlanta Braves in the nightcap, stamping their postseason ticket as well.

And all the Arizona Diamondbacks could do was watch hopelessly from the desert, their hopes snuffed out by two games on the other side of the country.

"You're just focused on getting into the postseason," said Braves first baseman Matt Olson, soaked in champagne as he celebrated a 3-0 win in the last game of the regular season. "Whatever it took. If we had to play four games today, we would have done it."

The regular season went to extra innings after the Mets and Braves had a pair of games rained out last week by Hurricane Helene. They controlled their own fates, with each holding a tiebreaker edge over the defending NL champion Diamondbacks.

Arizona needed one team to sweep, so they were pulling for the Mets after they overcame deficits of 3-0 in the eighth inning and 7-6 in the ninth to win the opener 8-7, going ahead for good on Francisco Lindor's two-run homer.

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Brian Hollingsworth

(Continued from Page 1)

ship Volunteer Fire Department for over 20 years.

Qualifications

I have been manager of a few restaurants in the past. I have been fiscally responsible for training funds for Army reserve units I have been part of the command team for.

Why are you running for this office?

I believe people should have a choice on the ballots. For too many years here in Wells County you see almost every position run unopposed and one-sided. I further believe there should be balance, meaning if either side has total control it can lead to an unfairness for taxpayers.

As an challenger, what initiatives would you continue? What changes or new initiatives are

needed?

As for any changes to current initiatives, none stand out to me, but all should be reviewed on a continuous basis to ensure they are in the best interest and benefit all residents of Wells County equally. As far any new initiatives the opportunities are almost endless. There are so many programs and grants that could benefit the county and its

residents.

What do you feel are the most significant challenges and opportunities for Wells County right now?

The biggest challenges all relate to having opportunities for Wells County residents to have employment that meets their families' financial needs closer to home. Meaning not having to travel 100+ miles a day round

trip to work. I believe there is movement in this direction, but we must not stop seeking further improvements. We should also strive to give some of the same incentives we offer large corporations to come here to the small business owners and individuals wanting to start a small business. Growth is growth. A lot of large corporations started as small businesses.

Seth Whicker

(Continued from Page 1)

Whicker is a board member of the Wells County Foundation, Wells County EMS Foundation and Bi-County Services. He is also a volunteer for Junior Achievement, providing lessons on financial responsibility to elementary and high school students.

Qualifications

My wife and I were both raised in Wells County and live in Uniondale. We have raised three children here and understand the needs of families and the community. With degrees in financial analysis and planning, I work on budgeting issues on a daily basis. My work and educational background

make me uniquely qualified to be a watchdog for taxpayers. I am honored to put these skills to work for the taxpayers of Wells County.

Why are you running for this office?

From an early age, my parents, and my wife's parents instilled in us themes of involvement and giving back. As a result of what was modeled in our lives, I have sought opportunities to contribute to our community in a variety of ways. It is my goal to continue to make Wells County the greatest place to live, work, and raise a family.

As an incumbent, what initiatives would you continue? What changes or

new initiatives are needed?

Over my two terms on County Council, we have maintained a high level of fiscal responsibility and a balanced budget. We have also focused on and improved the county's infrastructure through road and bridge improvements. Recently, renovations have been completed which will extend the life of the Wells County Jail. I have been heavily involved in the creation of an interlocal agreement between the City of Bluffton and Wells County for consolidated 911 services. We also planned for and brought to completion the building of a much-needed highway garage. Lastly,

working closely with our county attorney, we created a first of its kind ordinance in Indiana to ban any future tax abatements for industrial solar.

With all this, we still face challenges and there is more to be accomplished. Funding levels for EMS services must be reviewed to determine fiscal efficiency. County Council must continue to work on reducing tax rates to provide relief to those with increased home assessments. In each of the past three years, including this most recent budgeting cycle, we have seen our tax rate decline. We must expand economic development to increase opportunities for

our own citizens and for those interested in making our county their home. It has been a pleasure and honor to serve the citizens of Wells County, and I look forward to continuing this work.

What do you feel are the most significant challenges and opportunities for Wells County right now?

I believe, as I mentioned above, that we are going to have financial challenges in the next several years related to EMS services that will need to be addressed. There are also various significant economic development/revitalization projects we are working on that have the possibility of dramatically

improving our community. We also must continue to have an ongoing focus on infrastructure, most importantly improving our roads and bridges. Lastly, with home assessments increasing dramatically over the past several years, we need to maintain a fiscally responsible budget. I am proud that over the past three years the county has seen its tax rate decline as we have not needed the added assessed value revenue from taxpayers. With higher inflation and taxes, we need to ensure County Council is doing our part to control spending and grow Wells County into the future.

Israel begins ground offensive against Hezbollah in southern Lebanon

By JOSEF FEDERMAN, ABBY SEWELL and MATTHEW LEE Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli ground forces crossed into southern Lebanon early Tuesday, marking a significant escalation of an offensive against Hezbollah militants and opening a new front in a yearlong war against its Iranian-backed adversaries.

The incursion follows weeks of heavy blows by Israel against Hezbollah — including an airstrike that killed its longtime leader, Hassan Nasrallah — and seeks to step up the pressure on the group, which began firing rockets into northern Israel after the start of the war in Gaza. The last time Israel and Hezbollah engaged in ground combat was a monthlong war in

2006.

The Israeli military said in a brief statement it had begun "limited, localized and targeted ground raids" against Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon.

"These targets are located in villages close to the border and pose an immediate threat to Israeli communities in northern Israel," it said.

There was no word on how long the operation would last, but the army said soldiers had been training and preparing for the mission in recent months. Israel has said it will continue to strike the group until it is safe for displaced Israelis from border communities to return to their homes.

Ahead of the Israeli announcement, U.S. officials said Israel had launched small ground raids

inside Lebanon, and Israel declared three small border communities to be a "closed military zone," restricting access only to army personnel.

There were no reports of direct clashes between Israeli troops and Hezbollah militants. But throughout the evening, Israeli artillery units pounded targets in southern Lebanon and the sounds of airstrikes were heard throughout Beirut.

Smoke rose from the capital's southern suburbs, where Hezbollah has a strong presence, shortly after Israel ordered residents of three buildings to evacuate.

Israel launches risky phase of fighting

Israel has been emboldened by its recent battlefield gains against Hezbollah and appears intent on deliver-

ing a knockout blow to its archenemy. But a ground operation marks a new and potentially risky phase of fighting. It also threatens to unleash further devastation on Lebanon, where hundreds have been killed in recent Israeli strikes and hundreds of thousands have been displaced.

Hezbollah is a well-trained militia, believed to have tens of thousands of fighters and an arsenal of 150,000 rockets and missiles. The last round of fighting in 2006 ended in a stalemate.

Both sides have spent the past two decades preparing for their next showdown.

While Hezbollah has built up a formidable arsenal, Israel has invested great sums into training and intelligence gathering.

Recent airstrikes wiping out most of Hezbollah's top

leadership and the explosions of hundreds of paggers and walkie-talkies belonging to Hezbollah indicate that Israel has infiltrated deep inside the group's upper echelons.

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