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Kidnapping suspects receive prison sentence

By SYDNEY KENT
Two of three South Dakota suspects convicted of kidnapping an 11-year-old from Zanesville on New Year's Eve were sentenced to three years in prison. Isaiah Schryvers, 25, and Sara Gaudino, 24, appeared in the Wells Circuit Court on Wednesday afternoon for a joint sentencing hearing. The married couple each pled guilty to one count of kidnapping, a Level 5 felony, with the plea agreement limiting the executed portion of the sentence to four years. The charges were filed after

the couple was arrested — along with Zachary Delozier, 27. The trio was located with an 11-year-old that was reported missing from Zanesville just 24 hours earlier, largely in part due to Flock camera systems and concerted efforts between law enforcement across several states. Delozier was charged with child molesting, a Level 1 felony, child molesting, a Level 2 felony, promotion of child sexual human trafficking, a Level 3 felony, and child solicitation, a Level 4 felony. However in March, Delozier was indicted by the federal gov-

ernment for the crime, leading prosecutors to dismiss local charges without prejudice. The status of Delozier's case in federal court is currently unclear. Schryvers claimed that Delozier paid the couple \$350 to drive from South Dakota to Indiana to pick someone up. "He told me and my wife he was talking to a girl on Facebook messenger that was over 18," Schryvers said on the stand Wednesday. "Being DV myself, it tugged on my heart. I refused for a while and he kept pestering me, so I agreed."

Both Schryvers and Gaudino repeatedly acknowledged that it was obvious that the victim was under 16 when they initially saw her. "They knew this was a young person," Judge Kenton Kiracofe said. "I think their noble efforts, that they thought they were helping somebody, are undercut with the evidence the child was being assaulted while they were driving." Prosecutor Colin Andrews said that the time period for the crime that was committed, capped



Sara Gaudino Isaiah Schryvers

at six years for a Level 5 felony, did not seem to be long enough. (Continued on Page 2)



Above, Beauty from Ashes' Carissa Plumley, left and Karley Vaughn stand with donated items for Hurricane relief. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

Interlocal agreement with Harrison Township signed by park board

By JONATHAN SNYDER
Harrison Township and Bluffton's Parks Department signed an Interlocal agreement to help support parks in the Harrison Township area, the Bluffton Park Board announced Thursday. Parks Department Superintendent Brandy Fiechter stated that the agreement will allow the township trustees to use their funds to support park initiatives, adding that their funds can be used for grant opportunities as local matches. The township and Common Council both signed the agreement before arriving at the park board's desk. The township is not required to give any money to the agreement, but if the township hears a cause they are interested in they can choose to donate any amount they

want. "It's a joint mutual effort to benefit all the parks in the Harrison Township area," Fiechter said. "This is just another avenue where we can get funding and work cooperatively together to make Bluffton a better place." Additionally, the board chose to raise the pavilion rental price for Lancaster Park to \$95 for rentals lasting a maximum of four hours and \$105 for rentals lasting four hours or more. The original price for rentals was \$60 and \$70 respectively for rentals. This decision means that Lancaster Park's pavilion is the same price as Roush Park's pavilion, with the board citing that they wanted Lancaster's prices to be similar to other (Continued on Page 2)

Local organizations gather donations for Hurricane Helene and Milton relief

By SYDNEY KENT
After recent catastrophic weather events in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia, several organizations in the community are coming together in efforts to offer desperately needed support. At least 230 people have died as a result of Hurricane Helene at the end of September, which catastrophically flooded towns throughout several states, destroying homes, roads and bridges. While scrambling to recover from the aftermath of Helene, Hurricane Milton hit Florida on Thursday after the storm smashed through coastal communities where it tore homes into pieces, filled streets with mud and spawned a barrage of deadly

ton put out a call to "fill the foyer" with necessary items to provide relief in North Carolina. The state currently has the highest confirmed death toll after Helene. "The Crossroads District churches are going to fill a truck with supplies and deliver them to a North Carolina relief staging area," a post from the church's Facebook page reads. "They have sent a list of much-needed supplies." The list includes bottled water in large quantities, feminine hygiene products, diapers, toiletries, canned food that can be opened without a can opener and cases of nonperishable items. Donations can be dropped off at Sunlight Wesleyan church during church hours until Saturday. (Continued on Page 2)



Curtain call for 'Tom Sawyer'
There will be two more chances to catch Creative Arts Theater's production of "Tom Sawyer" at the Auditorium at 428 South Oak St. There will be 7 p.m. performance this evening and a 3 p.m. one on Saturday, Oct. 12. Tickets are \$15. Taking a bow above left to right were Matthew Elwell (Rev. Sprague), Ralph Tuttle (Judge Thacher), Steve Steffey (Sheriff) and Paul Morgan (Injun Joe). (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

Milton leaves at least 6 dead and millions without power

By JULIO CORTEZ, KATE PAYNE and HAVEN DALEY Associated Press
ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Rescue teams plucked Florida residents from the flotsam of Hurricane Milton on Thursday after the storm smashed through coastal communities where it tore homes into pieces, filled streets with mud and spawned a barrage of deadly

tornadoes. At least six people were dead. Arriving just two weeks after the misery wrought by Hurricane Helene, the system also knocked out power to more than 3 million customers, flooded barrier islands, tore the roof off a baseball stadium and toppled a construction crane. Among the most dramatic rescues, Hillsborough County officers found a 14-year-old boy float-

ing on a piece of fence and pulled him onto a boat. A Coast Guard helicopter crew rescued a man who was left clinging to an ice chest in the Gulf of Mexico after his fishing boat was stranded in waters roiled by Hurricane Milton. The agency estimated the man had survived winds of 75 to 90 mph and waves up to 25 feet high during his night on the water. "This man survived in a night-

mare scenario for even the most experienced mariner," Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Dana Grady said. Despite the destruction, many people expressed relief that Milton wasn't worse. The hurricane spared Tampa a direct hit, and the lethal storm surge that scientists feared never materialized. The storm tracked to the south in the final hours and made landfall late Wednesday as a Category 3 hurricane in Siesta Key, about 70 miles south of Tampa. Damage was widespread, and water levels may continue to rise for days, but Gov. Ron DeSantis said it was not "the worst-case scenario." "You face two hurricanes in a couple of weeks — not easy to go through — but I've seen a lot of resilience throughout this state," the governor told a brief-

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Today	Saturday	Sunday											
High 77	High 76	High 73											
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Kidnapping suspects

(Continued from Page 1)
 “As a level five felony it doesn’t seem high enough,” Andrews said. “The child was willing to go. I don’t know what she had going on that she thought this was the best option, but the defendants took advantage of it.”
 “These people lived remotely, there’s no running water,” Andrews explained. “It is the state’s belief that (Delozier) intended to take her and make her his wife ... She would have been cut off from civilization.”
 Andrews emphasized that Schryvers and Gaudino did not commit a crime of omission. He noted that through Chicago and into Wisconsin, there were multiple stops and bathroom breaks that occurred where the subjects could have contacted authorities or sought help.
 “The victim said there

was always someone watching her,” Andrews continued. “Their complicity in the operation as it further progressed into jurisdictions ... There’s a molestation that happened in the van by Mr. Delozier. Schryvers said it well — he should have done something ... There is irreparable damage inflicted on (the victim) for the rest of her life.”
 “(The victim) was taken advantage of,” Miller said. “Like everyone else in this situation. These two individuals were left stateside with these kidnappings.”
 “I believe I’d be a good candidate for probation,” Gaudino said during her allocution statement. “There are resources available to me in South Dakota. From what I gather, I would be housed with (Schryvers’ cousin) and have support from my dad

and grandparents.”
 Andrews acknowledged that the case significantly impacted the town of Zanesville, placing people in fear for their children’s safety.
 “Kidnapping conjures a certain stereotype or image in one’s head,” Kiracofe said. “That it’s this unknown person that drives up and snatches a child. We all know that really isn’t common. In this case, it very much is the stereotype. Not a child walking in the street, but it was a concerning individual that has a plan to get this child and take them back.”
 Kiracofe also referenced the dozen or so Predator Catcher Indianapolis cases that have been filed in the Wells Circuit Court in recent years. Each case involves a sting operation where a suspect is arrested after attempting to solicit a minor

to meet for sexual purposes.
 “This is that next step,” Kiracofe said pointedly. “This was a real person.”
 Andrews told the court that the victim and her family have moved out of the state following the traumatic experience.
 “What these people have been through is hellish,” Andrews said.
 “I’m guilty of my part, and I honestly don’t wish this on my worst enemy,” Schryvers said during his allocution statement. “I wouldn’t wish this on my children and I’d be exactly where the parents are if my children were taken. There’s not a day that goes by that I don’t think about what happened and how I could have stopped it. I wasn’t paying attention and drove most of the way, I know that’s not an excuse.”
sydney@news-banner.com

Weather

Friday, October 11, 2024
(24-hour observations at 11:01 p.m. Thursday)
High: 70; Low: 43; Precipitation: None
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.03 feet at 8:45 p.m. Thursday

Wells County forecast

Today: Sunny, with a high near 77. Southwest wind 5 to 15 mph.
Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 52. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Saturday: A 30% chance of showers, mainly before 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 76. South wind around 5 mph.
Saturday Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 55. South wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%.
Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 73.
Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 42.
Columbus Day: A 20% chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 57.
Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 33.
Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 55.
Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 35.



Hurricane relief

(Continued from Page 1)
 Beauty From Ashes salon, located at 122 North Johnston Street, is also collecting hurricane relief donation items in their storefront to be taken to North Carolina by Mission House in Huntington. Questions can be directed to 260-353-1622.
 Items needed at this location include

the same as above, plus soap, wipes, socks, work gloves, pet foods, candles, matches or lighters, flashlights and batteries.
 Anyone who would like to donate financially is encouraged to do so through the American Red Cross. The National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster encourages those

who wish to volunteer not to “self-deploy” and sign up through trusted organizations.
 “Be patient,” the NVOAD website urges. “Recovery lasts a lot longer than the media attention. There will be volunteer needs for many months, often years, after the disaster.”
sydney@news-banner.com

Hurricane Milton

(Continued from Page 1)
 ing in Sarasota. He said he was “very confident that this area is going to bounce back very, very quickly.”
 Five people were killed in tornadoes in the Spanish Lakes Country Club near Fort Pierce, on Florida’s Atlantic Coast, where homes were destroyed, authorities said. Police also found a woman dead under a fallen tree branch.
 Speaking at a White House briefing, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said there were reports of as many as 10 fatalities from tornadoes, but he cautioned that the number was tentative.

borough, Pinellas, Sarasota and Lee urged people to stay home, warning of downed power lines, trees in roads, blocked bridges and flooding.
 Among the dozens of tornadoes was a twister that hit the tiny barrier island of Matlacha, just off Fort Myers. The fishing-and-tourism village also endured a surge, with many of the colorful buildings sustaining serious damage. Tom Reynolds, 90, spent the morning sweeping out 4 feet of mud and water and collecting chunks of aluminum siding torn off by a twister that also picked up a car and threw it across the road.

storm surge could toss it around and compound any damage.
 Power was knocked out across much of the state. More than 3.4 million homes and businesses were without electricity, according to poweroutage.us, which tracks utility reports.
 The fabric that serves as the roof of Tropicana Field — home of the Tampa Bay Rays baseball team in St. Petersburg — was ripped to shreds by fierce winds. Debris littered the field.
 About 80,000 people spent the night in shelters, and thousands of others fled after authorities issued mandatory evacuation orders across 15 Florida counties with a total population of about 7.2 million people.

By Thursday afternoon, Milton was headed into the Atlantic Ocean as a post-tropical cyclone with winds of 75 mph — just barely hurricane force.
 Crossing the bridge from the mainland to Anna Maria Island early Thursday, Police Chief John Cosby breathed a sigh of relief. Nearly all residents had evacuated. There were no injuries or deaths, and the projected storm surge never happened. After fearing that his police department would be underwater, it remained dry.
 “It’s nice to have a place to come back to,” he said.

At least 340 individuals and 49 pets have been rescued in ongoing efforts, DeSantis said Thursday afternoon.
 South of Tampa, Natasha Shannon and her husband, Terry, felt lucky to be alive after the hurricane peeled the tin roof off their cinder block home in Palmetto. They spent the night in a shelter with their three children and two grandchildren after she pushed them to leave.
 “I said, ‘Baby, we got to go. Because we’re not going to survive this,’” she said.
 They returned to find the roof torn into sheets across the street, shredded insulation hanging from exposed ceiling beams and their belongings soaked.
 “It ain’t much but it was ours,” she said. “What little bit we did have is gone.”
 The worst storm surge appeared to be in Sarasota County, where it was 8 to 10 feet — lower than in the worst place during Helene. The storm also dumped up to 18 inches of rain in some areas.
 Officials in the hard-hit Florida counties of Hills-

Elsewhere on the island, a house was blown into a street, temporarily blocking it. Some structures caught fire. Reynolds said he planned to repair the home he built three decades ago.
 “What else am I going to do?” he said.
 In contrast, city workers on Anna Maria Island were grateful not to be wading through floodwaters as they picked up debris Thursday morning, two weeks after Helene battered buildings and blew in piles of sand up to 6 feet high. Those piles may have helped shield homes from further damage, said Jeremi Roberts of the State Emergency Response Team.
 “I’m shocked it’s not more,” city worker Kati Sands said as she cleared the streets of siding and broken lights. “We lost so much with Helene, there wasn’t much left.”
 Helene flooded streets and homes in western Florida and left at least 230 people dead across the South. In many places along the coast, municipalities raced to collect and dispose of debris before Milton’s winds and

In Punta Gorda, a 10-foot surge from the Peace River swept into the historic district, damaging homes and depositing six boats along one riverside street. It was the third surge to hit the neighborhood in three months.
 Josh Baldwin said he was leaning toward scrapping his 38-foot boat rather than pay \$100,000 to fix it. He couldn’t get insurance because it was moored in Punta Gorda.
 “They don’t like to pay out, and this place always gets ruined in hurricanes,” he said.
 A half-block away, information technology workers Kent and Cathy Taylor and their son were using an SUV attached to a chain to pull waterlogged drywall out of the bottom floor of their three-story home, which they bought in July. The lower level is gutted, but the upper floors are still structurally sound.
 “It will be beautiful again — it’s just a nick,” Cathy Taylor said.

Interlocal

(Continued from Page 1)
 dogs.”
 Fiechter also announced that they submitted grant requests to Health First Indiana for fitness programs and to the Wells County Foundation for funding a potential new pool. Pavilion rentals are expected to exceed last year’s totals, with 148 rentals to date and 25 on the books over the next three months. Fiechter also announced that 424 total people used pickleball courts over the summer, with the pickleball club having 50 members. Furthermore, the parks will begin to take steps to “winterize” restrooms, as temperatures are expected to drop into the low 30’s next week.
jonathan@news-banner.com

1 person is dead and 12 are trapped in a former Colorado gold mine

DENVER (AP) — One person was killed and officials were working to rescue 12 others trapped deep beneath the surface of a former Colorado gold mine after an elevator malfunctioned at the tourist site, authorities said Thursday.
 The elevator descending into the Mollie Kathleen Gold Mine near the town of Cripple Creek had a mechanical problem around 500 feet (152 meters) beneath the surface, creating a “severe danger for the participants” and one person was killed, Teller County Sheriff Jason Mikesell said at a press conference.
 Twelve people were still at the bottom of the mine, about 1,000 feet (305 meters) beneath the surface. They were safe and in communication with authorities, said Mikesell. Rescuers were working to get the elevator back online.
 The elevator accident was reported to authorities at about noon, the sheriff said. He declined to identify the victim or say how they died. Two children were involved but it was unclear if they were among those who were trapped.
 Eleven people who were riding the eleva-

tor were rescued, Mikesell said. Four had minor injuries. The sheriff did not elaborate on how they were injured or the nature of the elevator’s mechanical problems.
 The sheriff said authorities could rescue the trapped group by rope if necessary, but were hoping to get the elevator system safely working and to resolve the situation Thursday night.
 “We want to inspect it, make sure it’s safe before bringing them back up with it,” Mikesell said. “We do have a plan B and a plan C already set in place with rescue officers.”
 The state was sending an elevator expert to the scene.
 Authorities were communicating with the trapped group with radios, but the group had not been told the extent of the problem with the elevator, according to Mikesell, who added, “That’s because I want to keep people calm.” The group had access to water and the atmosphere was considered good.
 Among those trapped was a member of the family mining operation who has mine rescue experience, Mikesell said.

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OBITUARIES

Betty Lorene Griffis, 101

Betty Lorene (Shreck) Griffis died on Sept. 30, 2024, in Tucson, Arizona.



She was born on Aug. 25, 1923, in Scott, Ohio and grew up in Van Wert with her parents, two brothers, and a sister. After high school, and during WWII, Betty graduated from Lima Memorial Hospital School of Nursing. On Jan. 2, 1946, Betty married Lloyd just days after he returned from his wartime service as a pilot. In 1963, Betty and Lloyd and their three children, David, Beth, and Susie, moved to Bluffton. Betty was a member of Calvary Lutheran Church. She was part of the Altar Guild and the Mission Society, and sang in the choir. Betty was a creative and competent cook, and a talented seamstress.

Betty continued her nursing profession by volunteering with the American Red Cross. She played golf with her friends in the Ladies Golf League and she was a sharp bridge player, eventually earning Life Master status. She was actively involved with the League of Women Voters.

Betty and Lloyd loved to travel. They visited many European countries, China, and most of the U.S. Eventually, they moved to Tucson, enjoying the weather and their Tucson family, David and Virginia, grandsons and great-grandsons.

Betty was preceded in death by her husband, Lloyd, and her brothers, Morris and William Shreck, and an infant great-grandson, James. She is survived by her sister, Nanette Davies, and her children, David Griffis (Virginia), Elizabeth Deemer (Barry), and Susan Swenson (Andrew), six grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life is planned for a future date. Memorials may be offered to The American Red Cross or the Tucson Medical Center Hospice.

Kathleen "Kay" Woods, 88

Kathleen Yvonne "Kay" Woods, 88, of Huntingburg, formerly of Markle, passed away Monday, Oct. 7, 2024.



She was born July 13, 1936, to Paul and Evalyn (Farr) Kreider; and was united in marriage to Richard Earl Woods on June 27, 1958

Kathleen is survived by three children, Jannette Woods-Reynolds, Cheryl (Jason) Yager and Dr. Rachelle (Dr. Ryan) Sherer; two sisters, Rachel (Jack) Byers, and Julia (Fred) Haney; 12 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Condolences, photos and memories may be shared online at www.nassandson.com. It will be an Extravaganza of love, joy, memories and Praise for our Lord!

BHMSD, Norwell will host candidate forums

Two Wells County schools districts have announced candidate forums for their contested school board raises.

The PTO of the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District will host a forum for school board candidates at 7:15 p.m. Monday, Oct. 14, at the Gibson stage area at Bluffton-Harrison Elementary School. Peter (Chris) Koiner challenges incumbent Trent White for the board's District 3 seat. Preston Kaehr is unopposed for his At-Large seat.

Norwell Community Schools will host their forum at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 15 in the Norwell High School auditorium. Cathie Peterson and Jeremiah Tomlin are both running for the open Lancaster Township seat on the board. Todd Nash is unopposed for the Jefferson Township seat.

Early voting is available at the Wells County Clerk's Office 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.

Applications for absentee ballots must be received by the Wells County Clerk's Office by the Oct. 24.

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.

Holcomb deploys National Guard for Florida hurricane relief

By WHITNEY DOWNARD, Indiana Capital Chronicle

As Floridians evacuate en masse or shelter in place ahead of Hurricane Milton, a Category 5 storm that will bring winds up to 160 mph, Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb opted to activate Indiana National Guard units on Wednesday.

"Whether we're aiding North Carolina recovery efforts following Hurricane Helene, or assisting Floridians in the wake of Hurricane Milton, time and time again, when devastation strikes, Hoosiers of all backgrounds answer the call in helping those in desperate need," Holcomb said in a statement. "Indiana's finest who serve in the National Guard, chief among them, will continue to provide critical help on the ground and air while we back here at home mourn the great loss our neighbors down south are experiencing."

Approximately 400 Indiana National Guard soldiers will mobilize today and be in Florida this week to assist in recovery efforts, prevent the loss of life and reduce human suffering caused by Hurricane Milton.

The announcement comes on the heels of Hurricane Helene, a Category 4 storm that hit several southern states last month and brought devastation throughout. More than 200 people have died and many more are still missing. Holcomb previously activated about a dozen guard members to provide assistance in North Carolina, where most of the damage occurred.

Unusually warm water conditions in the gulf, a byproduct of a warming planet, have fueled the back-to-back storms and made the hurricanes both wetter and more intense.

Units deployed the Florida will touch down today and assist with route clearance, shelter management and supply distribution as well as command and control.

"Hoosier Guardsmen answer the call to uniquely serve our nation and our neighbors, and moments like this are precisely why the Indiana National Guard trains and prepares to ensure we're ready to mobilize when the need arises," said Major General Dale Lyles, the Indiana adjutant general.

Indiana National Guard members are also currently serving along the Texas border and in the Middle East.

Wells County Briefs

Commissioners approve contract for curve correction

The Wells County Commissioners approved a \$1.95 million contract for curve correction on County Road 200 South. Highway Supervisor Shawn Bonar said bidder Brooks Construction came in roughly \$1 million under the engineer's estimate for the project.

Bonar also asked the commissioners about purchasing an excavator from TTG, but County Attorney Ted Storer said Bonar would first have to seek three bids for the equipment.

Committee will steer Make My Move efforts

Erin Prible, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce, told the Wells County Commissioners that a seven-member committee will assist in conversation for the county's partnership with Make My Move. The Indianapolis-based company markets areas to prospective homebuyers with incentives for moving; the commissioners approved a \$15,000 contract in September.

Prible said the committee's first meeting will be later this month, and she will return with reports on their continued conversations.

Drainage Board hears project updates

On Monday, the Wells Coun-

ty Drainage Board agreed to pay \$8,438.66 for repairs on the GP Markey Tile in Harrison Township. Surveyor Jarrod Hahn said the tile currently has a negative balance but collects roughly \$33,000 annually.

The board also learned it would soon have to replace a section of the J.A. Miller Tile, which would require them to go by nearby woods. Hahn said tile has been replaced in sections over the years, but was put in around 1900. "It's served us well," he added.

Council approves additional transfers

The Wells County Council approved several additional appropriations and transfers on Tuesday. They also approved an ordinance allowing the Recorder's Perpetuation Fund for the salary of a part-time employee in 2025, as the office had this year; the employee was also given a \$2,000 increase.

Additional appropriations were:

- \$4,450 for overtime and \$10,000 for equipment repairs in the Wells County Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Scott Holliday explained that the overtime is due to assistance billed to the town of Ossian for coverage. Holliday also represented four requests for the Wells County Jail — \$10,000 for general repairs, \$35,000 for meals, \$9,000 for utilities and \$44,950 for equipment.
- \$5,000 for translation services in the Wells County Circuit Court.
- \$181,734.16 for roads and bridg-

es to LIT & Economic Development. In a letter included with the request, County Engineer Nate Whitacre said these funds were allocated for projects but not used. "While I believe this step (transferring remaining funds) is normally executed closer to the beginning of the year, the absence of the County Engineer at that time delayed this."

- \$20,000 for the Wells County Convention and Visitors Commission. These funds are collected through a stay on overnight accommodations and intended solely for the promotion of tourism through the commission.

Transfers were:

- Sheriff's Department: \$20,000 from police pension, \$4,000 courthouse security overtime, \$868 software support, and \$1,000 contract service ERS transferred into \$1,775 for full-time courthouse security, \$7,000 for spec. deputy security, \$6,725 for overtime, \$8,500 for gas and oil, and \$1,868 for service contracts. For LIT public safety, \$22,254 was transferred from police vehicles to vehicle equipment.
- Wells County Jail: \$5,000 from part-time jail staff and \$700 from training transferred into \$5,000 for overtime, \$500 for trash hauling and \$200 for uniforms.
- Superior Court: \$4,900 from capital equipment transferred to psychiatric services.
- Community Corrections: \$1,500 from truck maintenance to maintenance agreement and \$500 from training to telephone.

— Compiled by Holly Gaskill

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

County: Wednesday, 12:46 p.m., 300 W and U.S. 224, Uniondale. Report of four trucks stuck in closed road.

Wednesday, 3:56 p.m., 9500 S 500 E, Keystone. Report of battery.

Wednesday, 9:09 p.m., M&J General Contractors.

Report of suspicious subject.

Thursday, 8:48 a.m., Wells County Courthouse. Subject arrived for court, arrested on warrant.

ACCIDENTS

County: Monday, 7:14 a.m., Hoosier Highway at S.R. 218, Poneto. Garrison Rash, 20, Monroe, was

driving a 2006 Honda ST1300 motorcycle south on Hoosier Highway and noticed a stop sign at the last minute and could not stop at the intersection. Rash lost control of the bike and crashed into the field. Damage exceeded \$1,000.

ARRESTS

Donell Julian Dixon, 23, Kokomo; sexual misconduct with a minor, a Level 5 felony. No bond set.

Heather Angel Fitzsimmons, 49, Bluffton; theft of a vehicle, a Level 6 felony, deception — identity, a Level 6 felony, and theft, a Class A misdemeanor. No bond set.



Samantha Booher, Erin Daugherty, Jasmine Spriggle, and Alyssa Rittmeyer joined by Wells County Chamber Ambassadors. (Photo submitted)

Chamber of Commerce Honors Erin Daugherty as October Member of the Month

The Wells County Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce Erin Daugherty, agent and owner of State Farm Insurance, as the October Member of the Month. Daugherty's dedication to her clients, community involvement in local initiatives, and leadership have earned her this well-deserved recognition.

When asked about the honor, Daugherty expressed surprise and gratitude. "I was caught off guard quite a bit. I don't really think about how much I do because I just enjoy doing it. It's part of who I am," she said. "But when I do step back and think about it, it's cool that people appreciate it."

Daugherty's team at State Farm has seen tremendous growth since opening their office in Bluffton in January 2019. Starting out with just one person, Daugherty quickly expanded her team and now works alongside a dedicated staff, including Jasmine Spriggle, Alyssa Rittmeyer, and Samantha Booher, who joined in August. The team provides a full range of insurance services, including auto, home, life, small business insurance, and supplemental health policies, with plans to expand into security products and retirement planning in the future.

Looking ahead, Daugherty is excited about new ways to serve the community. "We're thinking about

different things for next year to be even more involved. It's not just me — it's my entire staff, and that's why we're growing," she shared.

"In my previous life, I was missing the ability to connect with my church and my community. Now, I feel like I'm fulfilling a promise I made to be fruitful in those areas."

Reflecting on her journey into the insurance industry, Daugherty spoke about her transition from retail management to becoming a State Farm agent. After 15 years in retail, Daugherty felt a calling for change. "Retail was hard on my family. I didn't feel like I could be the mom I wanted to be. I was working weekends, traveling, and missing important moments. When State Farm started recruiting me

in 2017, I resisted at first, but eventually, I knew it was the right path."

Daugherty has embraced the opportunity to lead her State Farm agency, emphasizing the company's commitment to agents having control over their business. "I love being part of a team that's the best. State Farm has been number one for almost 100 years, and they allow agents to have a say in how we run our offices. It's unique, and it's one of the things I value the most."

As Daugherty continues to grow her business and expand into new areas

like financial planning, she remains committed to serving the Wells County community and helping families feel secure in their futures.

VISITATION & SERVICES

Carolyn J. Graham

Calling: 4-7 p.m. Friday, October 11 and one hour prior to the service. Service: 10:30 p.m. Saturday, October 12 at the funeral home.

Thoma/Rich, Lemler

Funeral Home 308 W. Washington St. 824-3850

www.thomarich.com

Chester Center Church

Across from Southern Wells High School Corner of 9009 S 300 W Poneto

Flea Market and Bake Sale

Thursday Oct. 10th, 9-5
Friday Oct. 11th, 9-5
Saturday Oct. 12th, 9-?
A variety of vendors outside

VISITATION & SERVICES

Roger E. Wilson

Calling: 12-7 p.m. Sunday, October 13 at the funeral home and one hour prior to the service at the church. Service: 11:30 a.m. Monday, October 14 at the First Church of Christ.

Thoma/Rich, Lemler

Funeral Home 308 W. Washington St. 824-3850

www.thomarich.com

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

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Now, even children are polarized? Heaven help us.

Many of the things I read in the national media don't resonate as true for where I live in northeast Indiana. And that is usually a good thing.

Take, for example, a recent CNN report on attitudes children have about playing with other children. Children have been playing with each other since time immemorial with the usual mix of sheer fun and the occasional contretemps that is quickly settled, mostly without the involvement of an adult.

Children who find themselves in a situation with other unknown children generally make friends quickly and immediately take off into improvised play. There seems to be an innocence in how they accept new playmates and get down to the business of having fun.

But maybe not so much anymore, if the CNN report is to be believed. The network interviewed some 10-year-old children about their willingness to go to a house of the other political party. The results are disturbing.

This was not a scientific study with a carefully stratified sample; it was a series of one-on-one interviews by an academic psychologist. That doesn't invalidate the results, especially given the unsettling answers received.

After showing images of houses with Harris or Trump signs, the children were asked if it would be OK for them to play with children living in homes of the other party. Most were OK with that, as would be expected, but a significant minority refused. And it wasn't equally balanced between the two parties.

CNN's Anderson Cooper reported the major finding was that "children in the study were polarized, with what researchers called more extreme responses from the blue state children than the red state children."

"Democrat-leaning children were approximately nine times more likely (or 800 percent more likely) to express negative emotions (nervous/worried or angry/frustrated) about Donald Trump than Republican-leaning children were likely to express about Kamala Harris," according to the CNN website.

The 800 percent discrepancy between Democrat and Republican households is disturbing. CNN attributed this to the fact that Donald Trump has been in the public eye much longer than Kamala Harris. Could the anti-Trump bias of many national media outlets have something to do with it?

What are these children hearing at home? One adjective used for Donald Trump was "pure evil" while Kamala Harris was described by one youngster as a "liar." Are they merely overhearing their parents discussing the election or are they being intentionally schooled?

Maybe it is just a sign of our troubled times that young children are reflecting the partisan vitriol motivating their parents. That doesn't make it right.

Parents have an important responsibility for the upbringing of their children, much more than the state or the public school system. This should be obvious but the multiple news reports of parents challenging school boards over what their children are being taught, indoctrination to these parents' way of thinking, tells us that even this simple tenet of the social structure is up for debate in our brave new world.

I stand resolutely on the side of the parents in this debate; whose children are they, anyway? That said, I implore parents (and grandparents like me) to take notice of the responsibility that comes with this authority. They have the duty to instruct their children in the moral standards demanded of good people and responsible citizens, and the responsibility to model exemplary behavior in the home.

These children didn't come up with terms like "pure evil" and "liar" after extensive independent research. They heard these epithets at home. I know I can be an unrealistic dreamer at times, but shouldn't the Republican children have offered positive comments about Trump and the Democrat children positive comments about Harris rather than such negative ones about the other?

The good news here is that parents still are significantly influential with their children. The bad news is that too many parents are abusing this influence by fostering negative and unhelpful attitudes in young, formative minds.

None of these interviews were conducted in Indiana, but we shouldn't assume our households are exempt. I do have one datapoint that may provide encouragement, though. I am a volunteer for the Big Brothers Big Sisters Real Men Read program. During the 2016 election between Donald Trump and Hilary Clinton, I heard only one negative political comment from a young student. We weren't allowed to read during the 2020 campaign period due to Covid restrictions so I can't comment on that election, but it will be interesting what I may hear later this month when I return to my assigned school. I will go out on a limb and predict that I won't hear any negative statements.

If our republic is to survive, it will be on the backs of informed, well-intentioned citizens who understand the need for civility in civil society. Our democracy cannot survive without it.

Mark Franke, an adjunct scholar of the Indiana Policy Review, is formerly an associate vice chancellor at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.



Mark Franke

Hoosier Opinions



Thinking about marijuana legalization

I am not a fan of marijuana in any of its forms. Unlike most baby boomers, I didn't try it as a kid.

From age 18 onwards, I spent more than four decades with a security clearance, which doesn't permit illegal drug use. It seems a bit late to take it up now, so I don't really have a personal interest in legalization. I do have some observations and have seen a fair bit of economic research on the subject.

As a U.S. Army officer, I discharged more than a few folks for using marijuana. I did the same for alcohol use. Employers have every right to demand limits to intoxicants by their employees.

But, as I sat and thought on this column, it occurred to me I never kicked anyone out of the Army for being addicted to marijuana, nor did I kick anyone out for casual alcohol use. The addicts were alcoholics, not pot smokers.

Moreover, as I think about my last four decades as an adult, I don't know anyone who really ruined their life over marijuana use. Sure, I know some people who used it too much and got fired (by me or someone else), but no one whose life spiraled out of control because of it or died from its effects.

Two of my college roommates died in a drunk driving accident while we were in school. That was devastating. The number of people I know who have shortened lives and careers over alcohol abuse is long and distinguished. We regulate and tax alcohol, while prohibiting marijuana use. This just doesn't stand the test of reason.

The Jennifer McCormick-Terry Goodin Democratic ticket has proposed legalization of medical marijuana in Indiana that puts the state on a pathway towards fuller legalization for adults. Their plan has three big components.

First, it would establish a cannabis commission that would be responsible for the regulation, licensing and safety standards for medical marijuana use. Second, they would allow for a legal, regulated medical marijuana production and distribution industry in the state, overseen by the cannabis commission. Finally, using lessons learned from the creation, regulation and oversight of medical marijuana, they propose full legalization for adult use.

This approach is similar to states that have fully allowed marijuana use by adults, including Ohio, Michigan and Illinois, where recreational use is now legal. In Kentucky, medical marijuana use is also legal. In fact, Indiana is one of only 9 states where marijuana use is neither legal nor decriminalized, and it is the only state entirely bordered by states where it is legal.

Indiana law enforcement doesn't really interest itself in marijuana use. If it did, our jails would be spilling over. It no longer makes sense to turn a blind eye to marijuana use when we could better regulate it, tax it and shift revenues from criminal enterprises to legal businesses.

The McCormick-Goodin campaign cited several well know studies to document the likely fiscal effects of cannabis legalization. They cited a Tax Foundation study from 2022 that projected a \$172 million tax revenue growth from legalization, and another study that found hemp production today employs almost 12,000 Hoosiers with a total state economic impact of about \$1.8 billion.

I think these estimates are conservative, and the benefits clearly outweigh the costs.

There are costs to marijuana legalization. Making it legal doesn't make it safe, but it might make it safer through regulation of strength and content.

Hoosier Opinions

Legalization might prompt higher use of marijuana, but research on that is mixed, in part because data on use prior to legalization is poor. In places where marijuana has been legal for a long time, almost 30 years, actual use rates appear similar to other states.

We know that marijuana-related traffic accidents have risen in states after legalization, even though total accident rates are unchanged. This suggests that marijuana legalization results in consumers substituting pot for other drugs.

The best study on this issue examined drug use, crime and alcohol use before and after legalization on both sides of the Washington state border after cannabis was legalized. That study offered what I think is conclusive, quasi-experimental evidence that marijuana use in legal settings is a substitute for use of harder drugs and alcohol.

Most interesting, this study found that both property crimes and rapes diminished in the counties where cannabis was legalized, but not in the adjacent counties where it remained illegal. The authors attributed this to the diversion of policing resources away from cannabis towards property crimes, and the reduced use of violence-inducing drugs and alcohol.

A broader study of legalization saw no increase in crimes due to legalization, looking at every state over a 15-year period. And another study measured the localized effect of retail marijuana locations in Denver after legalization, finding that they reduced neighborhood crime, most likely by depriving dealers of a market. There are many studies that find mixed effects, but these three studies meet much higher analytical thresholds than any other I've seen.

The arguments against legalization continue to fail tests of reason. Many law enforcement officials do not wish it to be legalized, but lack evidence that it would contribute to more crime. Experience and anecdote just do not suffice in this type of environment, where we have good evidence from places that have already legalized marijuana.

Gov. Eric Holcomb has argued that marijuana legalization should wait for federal action, as cannabis possession and use remains a federal crime. At one time, I was sympathetic to that argument. In light of recent legislation, I no longer find that selective appeals to federalism pass the sniff test. This is a state issue if ever there was one.

The Libertarian Party has long supported legalization of cannabis but has not outlined an implementation plan. That is about the extent of the movement in Indiana, despite fairly strong polling support by citizens. I'd be willing to make a high-stakes bet that marijuana legalization would pass easily through referendum.

I am also swayed by the knowledge that illegal marijuana sales help fuel organized crime in precisely the same way prohibition ushered in organized crime across much of the country. Weakening gangs and discomfiting street dealers is an unalloyed good.

In the end, I don't think a proposal legalization of marijuana will sway many voters. It won't change my mind. But the decision to offer a thoughtful, detailed and pragmatic plan that addresses the key concerns of citizens tells us a great deal about candidates and how they will govern.

Michael Hicks is the George and Frances Ball Distinguished Professor of Economics and the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at Ball State University.



Michael Hicks

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Oct. 11, the 285th day of 2024. There are 81 days left in the year.

Today in history: On Oct. 11, 1991, testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Anita Hill accused Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas of sexual harassment; Thomas re-appeared before the panel to denounce the proceedings as a "high-tech lynching."

Also on this date:

In 1906, the San Francisco Board of Education ordered all the city's Asian students segregated into their own school. (The order was later rescinded at the behest of President Theodore Roosevelt, who in exchange promised to curb future Japanese immigration to the United States.)

In 1968, Apollo 7, the first manned Apollo mission, was launched with astronauts Wally Schirra, Donn Fultons Eisele and R. Walter Cunningham aboard.

In 1984, Challenger astronaut Kathryn D. Sullivan became the first American woman to walk in space as she and fellow Mission Specialist David C. Leestma spent 3 1/2 hours outside the shuttle.

In 1986, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev opened two days of talks in Reykjavik, Iceland, concerning arms control and human rights.

Election Letters Policy

The News-Banner accepts Letters to the Editor concerning local election candidates and issues. All letters must be signed; the writer's address and phone number must be included in case verification is desired. Letters are subject to editing for brevity, clarity and length; letters are limited to 500 words.

• There is a limit to one letter per writer per campaign period. • The editor reserves the right to refuse publication of any letter at all times. • An appearance of a letter-writing campaign will be deemed as such and discontinued. • Letters pertaining to the Nov. 5, 2024 election must be received by Sat., Oct. 26, with the exception of responses by a candidate to any letter published on or after that date. 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. (There is a 24-hour drop-slot available.)

Your Right to Know

A continuing series on how to contact government officials

As an Indiana citizen you have the right to inspect and copy most governmental records and attend government meetings.

Open review and discussion of government actions are fundamental principles of our form of government.

If you feel you have been improperly denied access to a record or a public meeting, you are encouraged to contact the office of the Public Access Counselor, an office established by the Governor to deal with access complaints.

Call 1-800-228-6013

You may discuss your issue with an access counselor free of charge.

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Overcoming family guilt and setting boundaries

Dear Annie by Annie Lane



Dear Annie: I'm a 50-plus married empty nester with a full-time job and three dogs. Life is still busy for us.

My mom, stepfather and younger half-brother live in another state. My father died when I was young, and my mother remarried and had my brother. At 17, I moved out and have been mostly out of sight, out of mind to my family.

Recently, my mom and stepfather have separated, and I've since learned that they have no savings or retirement funds. My mom and brother want my stepfather to come live with me, and my mother plans on moving in with my brother.

The emotional battle that is taking place in me is almost too much. Am I supposed to say yes out of duty? He doesn't drive, and we aren't public transport accessible. I'm not ready to give up my job to take care of or keep someone else entertained. Am I the worst?

I feel like I am only being asked because there is literally no one else to ask. My mother and brother are inseparable, leaving my stepfather out of their circle as well. If I say no, I'll lose all three. If I say yes, I could lose my own spouse and, possibly, my sanity. Thank you for your advice. — Midlife Guilt

Dear Midlife Guilt: No, you are not the worst. Your mother and brother should not be guilted you into taking on a responsibility that you aren't equipped for. And there's nothing selfish about protecting your marriage, your job and your well-being.

Explore some other options with your family; this might involve some creative thinking. Does your stepfather qualify for any government assistance? Are you in a place to provide some financial support? Remember that saying no to this one option doesn't mean you don't care.

Dear Annie: My grandson married a lovely girl who we are crazy about. She has fought a weight problem all her life. She is still heavy, though not obese. They have a 1-year-old baby and are over the moon with her.

Both of them feed this child every moment. Healthy snacks are not necessarily low calorie. I don't know what she weighs, but I can't pick her up. I fear they are raising this child to have the same issues as her mom, needing constant oral fixations. They feed her when she is not obviously hungry. I don't want to start any problems, but obesity starts in childhood. What can I do without causing problems? — Overfeeding a Baby

Dear Overfeeding: You're right that obesity can start in childhood, though I'm not sure I'd say it starts in infancy. The most important thing here is your great-granddaughter's overall health and well-being, not solely her weight. Ultimately, your grandson and his wife know the ins and outs of their baby's health better than anyone else, and I would hope they have the same goal you do, which is to make sure she is a healthy and well-taken-care-of child.

Focus on what you have some control over when you are with the baby, such as feeding her healthy snacks when it's time to eat and getting in physical activity and playtime. Time will tell whether there is genuine reason to be concerned about the baby's weight.

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

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BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



ZITS

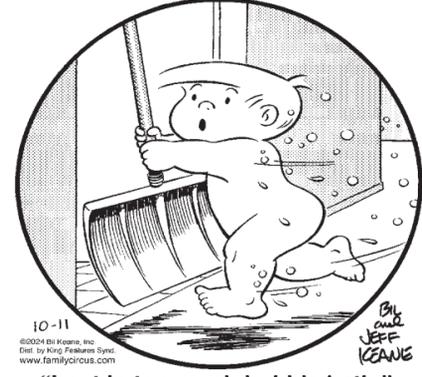


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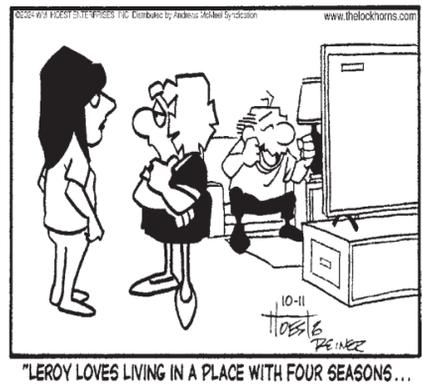


THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



Life is a struggle — that is the nature of things

Question: I'm beginning to realize the Christian's battle is not with other people but rather unseen powers. I'm asking God to give me more love for others because many people don't fully understand that the real battle in life is in the unseen world. — U.W.

Answer: The world, the flesh, and the devil are our enemies. In times of war one can hardly expect the goodwill of the enemy's forces. During World War II, the American journalist Cecil Brown wrote a cover story on the tragedy of the sinking of two British battleships. He said, "There is always the dan-

ger of underestimating the enemy to the point where you are overconfident. Figure him to be twice as good and twice as smart, then make preparations in advance!"

Though our weapons aren't earthly, the enemy's weapons are earthly, and we can expect Satan to use every tool at his command for our persecution and destruction. Life is a struggle — that is the nature of things. Even within our physical bodies, doctors tell us, a conflict for supremacy is going on. The bacteria in our bloodstream are waging a constant war against alien germs. The red corpuscles fight the white corpuscles constantly in an effort to maintain life within the body.

A battle is also raging in the spiritual realm. The Bible says, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12, KJV). When we come to Christ, God calls us out of this world's sin and confusion; not to share any longer in its sin and spiritual darkness, but to bear witness to the light of Christ.

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

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Table with 12 columns (Time slots) and 12 rows (Channels) listing TV programs and their descriptions.

Cavaliers' overtime goal makes the difference in girls' soccer sectional vs. Knights

By RYAN WALKER

An overtime goal by Canterbury's Sara Grabowski was the final dagger into the Norwell girls' soccer season.

Grabowski's two goals led to a 2-1 overtime win that put Canterbury in the sectional championship on Saturday night on the Knights' own field. Norwell wraps up the season with an 11-6 record.

The 19th-ranked Cavaliers (10-7) know something about clutch scoring with their 2023 season ending in the state finals for 1A. Grabowski's eventual game-winner went through with 1:39 remaining in the first overtime.

The Cavaliers controlled the ball for the vast majority of the match. With being a high-quality opponent, the Knights' coaching staff was forced to make a decision it hadn't done all season, — and that was to place its leading scorer Grace Mann on defense.

Mann came into the match with 41 goals, tied for 13th in the state of Indiana, but recently committed to DI Creighton to be a defender. Head coach Dan Batdorff thought that putting his top player in the back end was the best opportunity to come out with a win in a close contest rather than a high-scoring game.

"(Assistant coach) Greg (Mann) and I started talking last week about it, and we just started saying 'OK, what's going to best serve us here,'" Batdorff said. "We thought keeping the game close and tight with a chance into overtime and maybe get a quick (goal) or go in even to a shootout. That's what we were kind of hoping for and just take our chances there."

It seemed that the strategy worked, holding a strong Canterbury squad to one goal through regulation with Mann and the defense holding strong. However, the defensive strategy gave only a handful of opportunities for Norwell to get on the scoreboard.

The first of Grabowski's strikes came in the first seven minutes of the game. The offensive threat was plentiful early and often for Canterbury but wasn't able to capitalize for the remainder of the 33 minutes.

Batdorff kept Mann on defense for the rest of the game, rather than folding his hand. It proved to be worth it in the long run.

With 14:25 remaining, Mann took the ball coast-to-coast from the defensive end and freed herself for an open shot. The ball slipped past the goalkeeper and just like that, it was a tie ball-game.

Mann's opportunities to aid the offense were the few times she tried to create a rush on her own or penalty kicks from deep distances. But the one real chance she got, she ran with, and put the Knights on her back.

"She did not want to lose this game," Batdorff said. "She came forward. She took it on herself that she was going to score this goal. I saw it in her eyes. She was like 'This is all me. I'm going to do this,' and we were hoping that's what she would do."

But with the go-ahead goal in overtime and the Cavaliers' dominance in time of possession, that favored the visitors mightily for the rest of the match. Norwell couldn't stay on its side of the field to even have a chance, and Canterbury drained the clock out for a victory.

No. 19 Canterbury will meet up with No. 18 Belmont at 7 p.m. on Saturday.

It was the third season in a row Batdorff's Knights finished with a winning record. With the game on the line, his team scratched its way to a near upset over a ranked, state runner-up from last season. The 100% effort was all he could ask for.

"I'm very proud ... I knew they would never give up," Batdorff said. "I knew no matter what, they wouldn't let down and they would step it up."

ryan@news-banner.com



Knights' Mann leaps for joy after tying the game with a goal late in the second half.



Norwell senior Madison Mashuda (right) puts her face in her jersey while the Canterbury Cavaliers celebrate in the background during the sectional semifinal at Norwell High School Thursday night. The Cavaliers move on to the sectional championship with a 2-1 overtime victory over the Knights to end their season. (Photos by Ryan Walker)



Knights' Grace Mann (left) plays keepaway and prepares to kick the ball away from Cavaliers' Brady Ryland.

High School Calendar

FRIDAY, OCT 11
FOOTBALL: Bluffton at Adams Central, 7 p.m.; Norwell at Huntington North, 7 p.m.; Southern Wells at Heritage, 7 p.m.
SATURDAY, OCT 12
BOYS SOCCER: (Sectional) Norwell at Concordia, 7 p.m.
CROSS COUNTRY (co-ed): Bluffton, Southern Wells ACAC meet at South Adams, 11 a.m.;

Norwell at Delta Eagle Invitational, 10:30 a.m.
VOLLEYBALL: Norwell at Maconaquah Invitational, 9 a.m.
MONDAY, OCT 14
 No events scheduled
TUESDAY, OCT 15
 No events scheduled.
WEDNESDAY, OCT 16
 No events scheduled.

Fry's 2-run homer, squeeze bunt lead Guardians over Tigers

By LARRY LAGE
 AP Sports Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Pinch-hitter David Fry had a go-ahead, two-run homer in the seventh inning, then bunted home an insurance run in the ninth to help the Cleveland Guardians force a decisive Game 5 against the Detroit Tigers in their AL Division Series with a 5-4 victory on Thursday night.

"David Fry is one of the best baseball players in this league," Guardians manager Stephen Vogt said.

Cleveland ended a streak of 11 losses

in postseason elimination games dating to Game 6 of 1997 World Series after Emmanuel Clase retired got five outs for his third multi-inning save of the year.

"It's win or go home," Vogt said. "You want your best pitchers out there as long as possible."

AL Cy Young Award favorite Tarik Skubal will start Game 5 for the Tigers on Saturday afternoon in Cleveland.

The winner advances to the AL Championship Series against the New York Yankees starting Monday.

News-Banner Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Buffalo	3	2	0	600	142	106
Miami	2	3	0	400	60	113
N.Y. Jets	2	3	0	400	93	85
New England	1	4	0	200	62	102

South

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Houston	4	1	0	800	102	114
Indianapolis	2	3	0	400	119	122
Tennessee	1	3	0	250	79	90
Jacksonville	1	4	0	200	97	143

North

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Baltimore	3	2	0	600	92	126
Pittsburgh	3	2	0	600	92	73
Cincinnati	1	4	0	200	140	145
Cleveland	1	4	0	200	79	121

West

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Kansas City	5	0	1.000	118	85	
Denver	3	2	0	600	96	73
L.A. Chargers	2	3	0	500	68	50
Las Vegas	2	3	0	400	96	131

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Washington	4	1	0	800	155	115
Dallas	3	2	0	600	117	121
Philadelphia	2	2	0	500	86	96
N.Y. Giants	2	3	0	400	89	104

South

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Atlanta	3	2	0	600	111	115
Tampa Bay	3	2	0	600	127	114
New Orleans	2	3	0	400	140	96
Carolina	1	4	0	200	83	165

North

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Minnesota	5	0	1.000	139	76	
Detroit	3	1	0	750	104	82
Chicago	3	2	0	600	113	85
Green Bay	3	2	0	600	128	108

West

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Seattle	3	3	0	500	144	150
San Francisco	3	3	0	500	162	130
Arizona	2	3	0	400	120	129
L.A. Rams	1	4	0	200	94	139

Thursday's Games

San Francisco 36, Seattle 24

Jacksonville vs Chicago at London, GBR, 9:30 a.m.

Arizona at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
 Cleveland at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
 Houston at New England, 1 p.m.
 Indianapolis at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
 Tampa Bay at New Orleans, 1 p.m.

Washington at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
 L.A. Chargers at Denver, 4:05 p.m.
 Pittsburgh at Las Vegas, 4:05 p.m.
 Atlanta at Carolina, 4:25 p.m.
 Detroit at Dallas, 4:25 p.m.
 Cincinnati at N.Y. Giants, 8:20 p.m.
 Open: Kansas City, Miami, L.A. Rams, Minnesota

Monday's Games

Buffalo at N.Y. Jets, 8:15 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 17
 Denver at New Orleans, 8:15 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 20
 New England vs Jacksonville at London, GBR, 9:30 a.m.

Cincinnati at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
 Detroit at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
 Houston at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
 Miami at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
 Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
 Seattle at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
 Tennessee at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
 Carolina at Washington, 4:05 p.m.
 Las Vegas at L.A. Rams, 4:05 p.m.
 Kansas City at San Francisco, 4:25 p.m.

N.Y. Jets at Pittsburgh, 8:20 p.m.
 Open: Chicago, Dallas
Monday, Oct. 21
 Baltimore at Tampa Bay, 8:15 p.m.
 L.A. Chargers at Arizona, 9 p.m.

BASKETBALL

WNBA

WNBA Finals

(Best-of-5)
 Thursday, Oct. 10: Minnesota at New York, 8 p.m.
 Sunday, Oct. 13: Minnesota at New York, 3 p.m.
 Wednesday, Oct. 16: New York at Minnesota, TBD

x-Friday, Oct. 18: New York at Minnesota, TBD
 x-Sunday, Oct. 20: Minnesota at New York, 8 p.m.

BASEBALL

MLB

DIVISION SERIES (Best-of-5)

American League

New York 3, Kansas City 1
 Saturday, Oct. 5: New York 6, Kansas City 5
 Monday, Oct. 7: Kansas City 4, New York 2
 Wednesday, Oct. 9: New York 3, Kansas City 2
 Thursday, Oct. 10: New York 3, Kansas City 1
 Cleveland 2, Detroit 2
 Saturday, Oct. 5: Cleveland 7, Detroit 0
 Monday, Oct. 7: Detroit 3, Cleveland 0
 Wednesday, Oct. 9: Detroit 3, Cleveland 0
 Thursday, Oct. 10: Cleveland 5, Detroit 4
 Saturday, Oct. 12: Detroit (Skubal 18-4) at Cleveland, 8:08 p.m. (TBS, Max)

National League
 Los Angeles 2, San Diego 2
 Saturday, Oct. 5: Los Angeles 7, San Diego 5
 Sunday, Oct. 6: San Diego 10, Los Angeles 2
 Tuesday, Oct. 8: San Diego 6, Los Angeles 5
 Wednesday, Oct. 9: Los Angeles 8, San Diego 0
 Friday, Oct. 11: San Diego (Darvish 7-3) at Los Angeles, 8:08 p.m. (FOX)

New York 3, Philadelphia 1
 Saturday, Oct. 5: New York 6, Philadelphia 2
 Sunday, Oct. 6: Philadelphia 7, New York 6
 Tuesday, Oct. 8: New York 7, Philadelphia 2
 Wednesday, Oct. 9: New York 4, Philadelphia 1

HOCKEY

NHL

Thursday's Games

Pittsburgh 6, Detroit 3

Sports Roundup

Knights win on volleyball Senior Night over Vikings

Norwell picked up a four-set victory on Senior Night over Huntington North Thursday night.

The Knights came back after losing the first set 25-27, then won by scores of 26-24, 25-15 and 25-17. Their record is now 16-11 and 3-4 to finish out the Northeast 8 Conference season.

Stat leaders: Vanessa Rosswurm 18 kills and three blocks, Rebecca Settle three aces, Macie Saalfnrak 25 assists and Autumn Lee 19 digs.

Norwell won the junior varsity match 2-1 (16-25, 25-11, 15-10) and the freshman match 2-0 (25-13, 25-16).

Norwell will finish the regular season at the Maconaquah Invitational against Culver Academies at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 12.



Toyota returns to F1 in technical partnership with the Haas team

TOKYO (AP) — Toyota is returning to Formula 1 after 15 years as the Japanese automaker becomes a "technical partner" of American racing team Haas.

There will be Toyota branding on the Haas cars starting from next week's United States Grand Prix in Austin, Texas, and the auto giant's racing division will provide "design, technical and manufacturing services" to the North Carolina-based team.

This doesn't mean a return of the Toyota works team which raced in F1 for eight seasons until 2009, however.

Haas will still race under its own name and Toyota isn't going to be supplying engines like it did for other teams in the 2000s.

Haas already has an agreement to use Ferrari engines through 2028 as part of an existing partnership which dates to Haas' first F1 season in 2016. Haas previously extended its Ferrari deal in July to cover the new F1 regulations coming in 2026.

The announcement of the "multi-year agreement" seemed to suggest Toyota could seek to place a driver with Haas, which doesn't have a spare seat for next year.

The head of Toyota's Gazoo racing division, Tomoya Takahashi, said in a statement Friday that Toyota would aim to "cultivate drivers, engineers, and mechanics" in its partnership with Haas. The team has already signed Ferrari reserve Oliver Bearman and the experienced Esteban Ocon, who's currently at Alpine, as its drivers for 2025.

Toyota spent lavishly when it joined F1 in 2002 as it attempted to build a title-winning team, but never won a race despite several near-misses.

Toyota made a sudden announcement at the end of the 2009 season that it was leaving F1 as part of a cost-cutting program even though it had almost finished designing its car for the following season.

Since then, Toyota has focused on other forms of auto racing like NASCAR, the Le Mans 24-hour race — where it has a rivalry with Ferrari — and rallying.

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

King Classic Sudoku

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

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Difficulty: ★★★★★

10/11

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Lottery Numbers

Thursday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 08-13-19-22-30

Cash4Life — 05-07-12-34-60, Cash Ball: 03

Quick Draw Midday — 02-05-06-11-12-15-16-20-23-24-32-35-43-50-55-64-66-76-77-80, BE: 20

Daily Three-Midday — 07-00-06, SB: 01

Daily Three-Evening — 07-06-02, SB: 09

Daily Four-Midday — 00-00-01-08, SB: 01

Daily Four-Evening — 05-04-04-03, SB: 09

Quick Draw Evening — 10-13-16-18-22-25-26-28-35-36-38-39-40-41-46-56-60-74-78-79, BE: 36

Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$24.9 million

MEGA MILLIONS
Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$150 million

POWERBALL
Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$364 million

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AUCTION PREVIEW & ONLINE BIDDING ASSISTANCE:
SUN, OCT 13TH (2PM - 3PM) & THUR, OCT 17TH (4PM - 6PM)



EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

NEED MORE EMPLOYEES! A 20 word, line classified in the Bluffton News-Banner for a month is \$52. Contact the office at 125 N. Johnson St., 824-0224, or submit on-line at classifieds.news-banner.com.

Help Wanted

TOWN OF WARREN, Indiana Hiring Utility Manager. An application period for the position of full time Utility Manager is now open through October 15, 2024, due to retirement. Departments to oversee include water, sewer, electric, parks and streets. Duties include employee management, project planning, maintenance of positive relationships with the public, all employees and officers of the Town, representation at workshops and meetings, scheduling of regular day to day and long term operations. The position is a mix of office and field work. Must hold at least a WT3 or DSM license, have at least eight years experience with managerial a plus. Knowledge of Electric Utility also a plus. Base pay of \$28.50 per hour adjusted upward based on experience. Benefit Package available. For information contact Lee Poulson, Utility Manager, at 260-375-3424 or utility1@citiznet.com or Clerk Treasurer Marilyn Morrison at townofwarrenin@gmail.com at 260-375-2656. Application form can be found at warrenindiana.org or by requesting through above contacts. Please include resume.

THE NEWS-BANNER IS looking to hire an individual for fast pace jobs including labeling, inserting and delivering bundles of newspapers. Must be willing to work from 4 a.m.-9 a.m. Monday-Saturday. Some heavy lifting, and an Indiana drivers license required. Mail resume, or fill out an application, to News-Banner, P.O. Box 436, 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton, IN 46714.

LOOKING TO HIRE full or part time for general carpenter. Must have reliable transportation, general construction knowledge, and own tools. Call Scott at 260-353-9339.

This Week's Garage Sales

Clip & Save

ESTATE SALE AT 222 W. Wiley from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m Friday & Saturday.

2125 BLAIR ROAD, 46819, Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

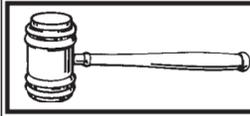
HUGE SALE, 5975 N 600 E, Tocsin, Fri.-Sat., 9-5. Collectibles, jewelry, record albums, household, much more!

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, 4-8 p.m., Saturday 8-11 a.m., 605 S. State Road 201, Bluffton. Lots of clothes and cleaning out the attic.

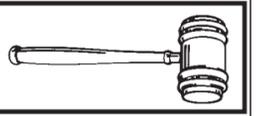
505 E HORTON ST. Boys NB to 4T & Youth Medium & Large, some women's, toys, Christmas and more!
Oct. 10 5:30 PM-7:30 PM, Oct. 11 4:30 PM-7:30 PM, Oct. 12 9:00 AM- noon.

209 N. OGDEN, OSSIAN GARAGE SALE: 3tier cat playpen, basketball goal, toys, holiday, books, crafts, household, lots misc. CLOTHES: women's+, misses, girls 6-8, men's S- 3XL, coats/jackets and sweatshirts. Fri/Sat. Oct.11 9AM-5PM, Oct.12 9AM-5PM

Receive a free garage sale kit when placing a three day line classified ad.



Public Sale Calendar



BIDDING ENDS OCTOBER 12 - Private Family Collection, seller. Fine art work including five original pieces by William P. Silva, other quality artwork, 2006 Pontiac Torrent, 2005 Toyota Highlander, outstanding sterling silver, pewter and other serving pieces, early American primitives, unique furniture, antiques, glassware, early collectibles, taxidermy mounts, household, more! Sale manager Rod Fetters, 260-557-8451, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

OCTOBER 12 - 9 a.m.-6 p.m. - (Online Only) - The Estate of Robert McNabb, seller. Spectacular 7,700 SF lake front home on 1.23 acres w/200' of lake frontage on Hamilton Lake. Luxury home features 6 bedrooms, 7 baths, expansive entertaining space, 4-car attached garage. Selling absolute at or above 1.4 million dollars. Seller's have over 4.7 million invested in this one of kind lake property. Open house Oct. 12, 9 a.m.-noon, 1180 LN 150 Hamilton Lake, Hamilton, IN. Brandon Steffen, sale manager, 260-426-0633, www.steffengrp.com, 260-426-0633.

OCTOBER 12-19 - Online Only Personal Property - Brandon Steffen, seller. Outstanding luxury home furnishings. Restoration Hardware dining room table and chairs, Restoration Hardware bedroom furniture, pottery, barn furniture, Crate and Barrel furniture, Kimball baby grand piano, Restoration Hardware leather cigar sofa, fine rugs, wall art, lamps and lighting, home decor and mirrors, outdoor patio furniture, concrete garden fountain, planters, exercise equipment, pet accessories, kitchenware, household. Auction preview Oct. 13, 2-3 p.m., Oct. 17, 4-6 p.m., 915 W. Wayne St., Fort Wayne, IN. Sale manager Brandon Steffen, 260-710-5684, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

BIDDING ENDS OCTOBER 13 (Online Only) - Boots Estate, seller. 1993 Ford F150, boat mini bike, wagons, Pyrex, Corningware, antiques, collectibles, glassware, jewelry, advertising, furniture, toys, household, electronics, board games, much more. Sale manager Bobby Perry, 260-273-7260, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

OCTOBER 13 - 3 p.m. - Multiple consignors, owners. Online only bidding only. 700+ lots! Furniture, Craftsman band saw and radial arm saw, ice maker, banjo, baseball cards, 100+ Pfaltzgraff, tools, pet doors, live traps, collectible glass, Detecto scales, Generac generator, tiller, yard cart, washer, Dryer 50 pc. Ruby Flash & Kings Crown glass and much

more! Pick up Oct. 14, 1-6 p.m. & Oct. 15, 9 a.m.-noon, 812 Elm Street, Decatur, IN. [Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC](http://www.krueckeberg.com), 260-724-7402, [kjauction.com](http://www.kjauction.com).

OCTOBER 13-OCTOBER 20 - (Online Only) - Estate of Larry N. Curry, seller. 1997 Chevy Express Conversion van, 2013 Chevy Impala LTZ w/73,000 miles, John Deere LA115 riding lawn mower, rare vintage Schwinn bikes, large quantity of hand and power tools, lawn and garden, modern and vintage furniture, household, games, toys, flat screen TV & home decor. Open houses Oct. 15 and Oct. 17 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 419 W. Roe St., Ossian. Sale manager Rod Fetters, 260-557-8451, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

OCTOBER 24 - 9 a.m.-6 p.m. - (Online Only) - Estate of Larry Curry, seller. Excellent 1,398 SF, 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch home in Rose Ann Heights neighborhood on .52 acre lot, 2 car attached garage. Home has a ton of potential. "Explore the Possibilities." Open houses: Oct. 15, Oct. 17 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., Oct. 22 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., 419 W. Roe St., Ossian. Sale manager, Brandon Steffen, 260-710-5684, Rod Fetters, 260-557-8451, www.steffengrp.com, 824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

BIDDING STARTS CLOSING OCTOBER 27 - 6 p.m. EST - Chester & Phyllis Smith, owner. Online only real estate & personal property! Real Estate 6 p.m.: Three or four bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, 1,512 sq. feet, full basement, large detached 2-car garage, beautiful corner lot w/mature trees, Adams Central Community Schools. Personal Property 6:30 p.m.: Machinist tools, Kennedy toolbox, vintage Fisher-Price toys, primitives, TV trays, NIB air purifier, furniture, treadmill, Pyrex, Correlle dishes, stove, refrigerator, 100 pieces Currier and Ives dishes, 50+ jewel, tea, dishes, luggage, blankets, scrapbooking, History of Adams County books, tillers, bicycles, swing & more! Preview Oct. 15, 5-6 p.m., 318 E. Jackson Street, Monroe. Pick up Oct. 28, 1-5 p.m. EST, Oct. 29, 10 a.m.-noon. [Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC](http://www.krueckeberg.com), 260-724-7402, [kjauction.com](http://www.kjauction.com).

BIDDING NOW OPEN & ENDS OCTOBER 29 - 10 a.m. EST - Christine Pierce, owner. 526 E Market Street, South Whitley, IN. Online only apartment complex auction! Four duplex buildings, 8 units, 2 bedroom, 1 bath units, electric baseboard heat, wall AC units, 1,456 sq. foot buildings, new roofs in 2021, year built 1990, income producing! 100%

rent capacity, .86 acre parcel, Whitko Community Schools. [Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC](http://www.krueckeberg.com), 260-724-7402, [kjauction.com](http://www.kjauction.com).

NOVEMBER 13 - 6:30 p.m. ET - (Live and online) - Gary and Jennifer Weilbaker, farm. American Legion, 118 N. Broadway Street, Butler. Property location: Along and/or near CR 26 and CR 79 in Troy Twp. (Tract 1, North Part Tract 2) and Stafford Twp. (Tracts 2-4). Tracts 5-6 located near CR 20 and CR 27 in Smithfield Township. Adjoining tracts, road access, tile outlets, 264.651+/- acres, 6 tracts, DeKalb Co. Jon Rosen, 260-740-1846, Neal Wolhuter, 260-336-2219, [Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management](http://www.haldermanrealty.com), halderman.com, 800-424-2324.

NOVEMBER 14 - 6 p.m. - Becher Family Farms LLC, sellers. Auction location: Adams Co. 4H Expo Hall, 160

W. Washington St., Monroe, IN. Four tracts, Washington Township, Adams County. Tract 1: 82.88 acres, County Rd. 200 West, Sec 18. Tract 2: 80.2 acres, County Rd. 450 North, Sec 8. Tract 3: 35.05 acres, County Rd. 450 North, Sec 9. Tract 4: 39.97 acres, County Rd. 400 North, Sec 9. [Heartland Auction & Realty, Inc.](http://www.heartlandauctionrealty.com), heartlandauctionrealty.com, 260-724-3499.

Lancaster Township, Wells County Indiana
The Lancaster Township Board will be having a meeting on Monday, Oct. 21, 2024 at 6:00 PM at the Lancaster Township Office located at 915 N Main Street, Bluffton Indiana.
Agenda: Approval of Minutes
Adoption of 2025 Budget
David Rigney
Lancaster Township Trustee
915 N. Main Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
260-824 9501 Office
260-760-0501 Cell

nb 10/11
hspaxlp

Public Notices

NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
IN THE WELLS CIRCUIT COURT
DOCKET NO.
90C01-2409-EU-000033
OF WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA

Notice is hereby given that Jill A. Clark was on the 23rd day of September, 2024, appointed personal representative of the estate of DONALD D. MYERS, deceased, who died on the 27th day of August, 2024, and was authorized to administer his estate without Court supervision.

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

Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, this 23rd day of September, 2024.

Beth Davis
Clerk, Wells Circuit Court
Matthew P. Hayes
Attorney for Personal Representative
Attorney No. 32002-02
GORDON & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
119 East Oak Forest Drive
Bluffton, IN 46714
(260) 824-9377

nb 10/4, 10/11
hspaxlp

NOTICE
The City of Bluffton will receive sealed quotes for the Pathways Project Maintenance. A Notice to Bidders and a list of the Pathways may be obtained from the office of the Clerk Treasurer, 128 East Market Street, Bluffton IN or online at www.blufftonindiana.net. Quotes must be received at the office of the clerk treasurer by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 22, 2024 or presented at the time of the meeting to be read aloud at a public meeting of the Board of Public Works and Safety.

nb 10/3, 10/11
hspaxlp

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION ESTATE NO. 90C01-2409-EU-000029

In the Wells Circuit Court of Wells County, Indiana:
Notice is hereby given that SUSAN M. PINKERTON was on September 23, 2024, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of JUDY L. PINKERTON, deceased, who died on January 29, 2023.

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

Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, on September 23, 2024.

Beth Davis, Clerk
WELLS CIRCUIT COURT
David N. Baumgartner
Attorney for Estate
No. 4288-01
Baumgartner Attorneys PC
360 W. Main St.
Berne, IN 46711
Telephone: (260) 589-3139
nb 10/4, 10/11
hspaxlp

SUDOKU ANSWER

1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
8	9	7	1	9	2	8	7	6	5	4	3
4	1	6	7	8	9	8	7	6	5	4	3
8	2	9	4	6	8	1	7	9			
7	6	8	8	9	5	4	1	2			
1	8	2	8	4	6	9	9	7			
9	4	9	2	1	7	6	8	8			
6	8	8	9	2	4	7	9	1			
2	7	1	9	8	8	9	6	4			
9	5	4	6	7	1	2	8	8			

At least 22 killed in central Beirut, with Israel firing on UN peacekeepers

By **BILAL HUSSEIN, WAFAA SHURAF and SAMY MAGDY**
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Israeli airstrikes on central Beirut Thursday left two neighborhoods smoldering, killing 22 people and wounding dozens, Lebanon's health ministry said, as well as further escalating Israel's bloody conflict with Iran-backed Hezbollah militants in Lebanon.

The air raid on central Beirut — the deadliest in over a year of war — apparently targeted two residential buildings in separate neighborhoods simultaneously, according to an AP photographer at the scene. It brought down one eight-story building and wiped out the lower floors of the other.

The Israeli military said it was looking into the reported strikes. Israeli airstrikes have been far more common in Beirut's tightly packed southern suburbs, where Hezbollah bases many of its operations.

After the strikes, Hezbollah's Al Manar TV reported that an attempt to kill Wafiq Safa, a top security official with the group, had failed. It said that Safa had not been inside of either of the targeted buildings.

Thursday's strikes followed a year of tit-for-tat exchanges

between Hezbollah and Israel that boiled over into all-out war in recent weeks, with Israel carrying out waves of heavy strikes across Lebanon and launching a ground invasion. Hezbollah has expanded its rocket fire to more populated areas deeper inside Israel, causing few casualties but disrupting daily life.

The attack came the same day as Israeli forces fired on United Nations peacekeepers in southern Lebanon and wounded two of them, drawing widespread condemnation and prompting Italy's Defense Ministry to summon Israel's ambassador in protest.

Israeli strikes hit central Beirut
Witnesses reported a large number of ambulances and people gathering in the rubble of two Beirut sites that were hit, in the Ras al-Nabaa neighborhood and Burj Abi Haidar area.

The Lebanese Health Ministry said 22 people were killed and 117 others wounded, without elaborating on their identities. Recent Israeli airstrikes in neighborhoods adjoining Beirut, in particular the densely populated southern suburbs, have killed Hezbollah's leader, Hassan Nasrallah, and other senior commanders.

Hezbollah began firing rockets into Israel on Oct. 8, 2023, in support of Hamas and the Palestin-

ians, drawing Israeli airstrikes in retaliation.

Hezbollah kept up rocket fire into Israel on Thursday, setting off air raid sirens in parts of northern Israel. Several drones heading toward Israel were intercepted, the military said.

Iran — which supports Hamas, Hezbollah and other armed groups across the region — launched some 180 ballistic missiles at Israel last week in retaliation for the killing of top Hamas and Hezbollah militants.

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said Wednesday that its response to the Iranian missile attack will be "lethal" and "surprising," without providing further details, as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke with President Joe Biden.

Asked about the latest airstrikes in Lebanon, U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris told reporters in Las Vegas, "We have got to reach a cease-fire, both as it relates to what's happening in Lebanon, and of course Gaza. We are working around the clock in that regard, but we need these wars to end and we've got to definitely de-escalate what is happening in the region."

Before the latest strikes, Lebanon's crisis response unit said Israeli attacks over the past day had killed 28 people, bringing the

total to 2,169 killed in Lebanon since the war erupted last October.

Hezbollah attacks have killed 28 civilians as well as 39 Israeli soldiers, both in northern Israel since October 2023 and southern Lebanon since Israel launched its ground invasion on Sept. 30. Israel says the invasion, so far focused on a narrow strip along the border, aims to push militants back so that tens of thousands of Israelis can return to their homes in the north.

UN peacekeepers caught in intensified fighting in Lebanon

The U.N. peacekeeping mission in Lebanon, known as UNIFIL, said in a statement that its headquarters and positions "have been repeatedly hit" by Israeli forces.

It said an Israeli tank "directly" fired on an observation tower at the force's headquarters in the town of Naqoura, Lebanon, and that soldiers had attacked a bunker near where peacekeepers were sheltering, damaging vehicles and a communication system. It said an Israeli drone was seen flying to the bunker's entrance.

The two UNIFIL troops wounded in the attacks and hospitalized are Indonesian, Italy's Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said.

The Israeli military acknowledged opening fire at a U.N. base in southern Lebanon on Thursday and said it had ordered the peace-

keepers to "remain in protected spaces."

Later Thursday, the U.N. peacekeeping chief said 300 peacekeepers in frontline positions on southern Lebanon's border have been temporarily moved to larger bases, and plans to move another 200 will depend on security conditions as the conflict escalates. Jean-Pierre Lacroix told an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council that peacekeepers with UNIFIL are staying in their positions, but because of air and ground attacks they cannot conduct patrols.

UNIFIL, which has more than 10,000 peacekeepers from dozens of countries, was created to oversee the withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon after Israel's 1978 invasion. The United Nations expanded its mission following the 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah, allowing peacekeepers to patrol a buffer zone set up along the border.

Israel accuses Hezbollah of establishing militant infrastructure along the border in violation of the U.N. Security Council resolution that ended the 2006 war.

The European Union's top diplomat, Josep Borrell, sharply condemned Israeli strikes that hit UNIFIL positions as "an inadmissible act, for which there is no justification."

Social Security recipients will get a 2.5% cost-of-living boost in 2025

By **FATIMA HUSSEIN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Millions of Social Security recipients will get a 2.5% cost-of-living increase to their monthly checks beginning in January, the Social Security Administration announced Thursday.

The cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA, for retirees translates to an average increase of more than \$50 for retirees every month, agency officials said.

About 72.5 million people, including retirees, disabled people and children, get Social Security benefit.

But even before the announcement, retirees voiced concern that the increase would not be enough to counter rising costs.

Sherri Myers, an 82-year-old retiree from Pensacola City, Florida, is now hoping to get an hourly job at Walmart to help make ends meet.

"I would like to eat good but I can't. When I'm at the grocery store, I just walk past the vegetables because

they are too expensive. I have to be very selective about what I eat — even McDonald's is expensive," she said.

Recipients received a 3.2% increase in their benefits in 2024, after a historically large 8.7% benefit increase in 2023, brought on by record 40-year-high inflation.

The smaller increase for 2025 reflects moderating inflation. Social Security Commissioner Martin O'Malley told The Associated Press that the upcoming increase will provide a measure of relief for recipients as inflation has cooled and the agency serves a record number of retirees while funding is at a historic low.

His message to those who feel that the adjustment is not enough: "They're not wrong."

"I've heard the stories and it is a struggle for seniors," he said, adding that "in their older years, they have to spend their money on a different array of costs and expenses, including pre-

scription drugs." He said policies advanced by the Biden-Harris administration should result in many people seeing lower prescription drug costs.

The agency will begin notifying recipients about their new benefit amount by mail starting in early December. Adjusted payments to nearly 7.5 million people receiving Supplemental Security Income will begin on December 31.

The program is financed by payroll taxes collected from workers and their employers and that is slated to increase to \$176,100. The maximum amount of earnings subject to Social Security payroll taxes was \$168,600 for 2024, up from \$160,200 in 2023.

The announcement comes as the national social insurance plan faces a severe financial shortfall in the coming years.

The annual Social Security and Medicare trustees report released in May said the program's trust fund will be unable to pay full bene-

fits beginning in 2035. If the trust fund is depleted, the government will be able to pay only 83% of scheduled benefits, the report said.

AARP CEO Jo Ann Jenkins said in a statement that "there is more we must do

to ensure older Americans can continue to count on Social Security. AARP continues to call on Congress to take bipartisan action to strengthen Social Security and secure a long-term solution that Americans can rely

on." The presidential candidates, Democrat Kamala Harris and Republican Donald Trump, have presented dueling plans on how they would strengthen Social Security.

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