

# BHMSD board candidates discuss roles, safety

**By HOLLY GASKILL** 

Three of four board candidates for Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan Schools were present for a forum Monday evening.

Of the three seats on the ballot, only one has a contested race — incumbent Trent White is challenged by Chris Koiner for District 3. White was unable to attend the forum and declined to send a written statement.

Preston Kaehr represented his unopposed At-Large seat, which he was appointed to in July. The seat was vacant after Angie Sheets was appointed to fill Bruce Holland's District 1 seat when he moved out of the district.

Mike Murray, District 2, was also present and spoke about the continuation of his term after announcing he would not run for reelection. "I took my name out of consideration for running, thinking somebody might want to serve — nobody did," he said. "So, it was up to me whether to continue (after) Dec. 31, and I'm going to continue because I don't feel like I'm relieved of that responsibility because somebody didn't come for-



Three of four candidates for Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan Schools' board of trustees were present for a forum hosted by the Bluffton-Harrison PTO on Monday night. Pictured are Preston Kaehr, At-Large; Mike Murray, District 1; and Chris Koiner, District 3. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)

#### ward."

Moderator Erin Prible, executive director of the Wells County Chamber of Commerce, asked the candidates six questions related to their perspectives on board lead-

ership, goals for office and district-wide challenges.

Firstly, the candidates were asked how they would provide support to students and staff as the Bluffton-Harrison PTO, who organized the forum, strives to do so. This sentiment was mirrored in the following question, which also asked how their involvement in the school community had (Continued on Page 2)

# **BHS construction may be delayed**

#### **By HOLLY GASKILL**

Renovation and repairs at Bluffton High School may be delayed due to a manufacturing error.

On Monday, Superintendent Brad Yates told the Bluffton-Harrison MSD school board that the project contractors noticed a slight defect in the exterior paneling. He explained, "It's very difficult to view. When I was speaking with the installers, they said you can only see it (for) about one hour a day when the sun's coming from the right angle to see the shadow on the panel, but it's an indentation on the panel."

Yates said the district is currently in talks to either receive replacement paneling or a discount to use the panels "in a space that would not have any issue to the aesthetics of the building." There have been otherwise no significant issues in the renovation project, which aimed to address moisture issues in the walls and windows.

Students will also be able to use the middle school pool after fall break next week; the pool was added to current projects after a circuit failure flooded the basement and equipment room. Yates also said Adams Central has experienced an issue with its pool and will hopefully coordinate with BHMSD for practices.

Also during the meeting, Bluffton-Harrison Elementary School counselor Ashley Kilgore announced that BHES has received an Indiana Bronze Star School Counseling Award from the Indiana Department of Education. The school tracked specific data, set goals, and monitored progress through the Carrying the Torch to Student Success counseling program to receive the honor.

"It's quite a bit of hard work — she went through that (announcement) really quick about the work they did," Yates quipped.

The district's enrollment is also growing, with this year's IDOE county day registering 1,742 students — up 43 from last year.

"This is more than just a num-(Continued on Page 2)



Ossian Police Commissioner President Caleb Chichester presents a photo of the new K-9 officer, Toby. (Photo by Sydney Kent)

# Jury selection underway for trial of a man accused of 2017 Delphi murders

# K-9 Toby set to join Ossian Police Department

#### By RICK CALLAHAN Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Eight women and six men have been selected so far to a jury in the trial of a man charged in the Indiana killings of two teenage girls during a winter hike in 2017.

Jury selection opened Monday in the case against Richard Allen, which has long haunted the girls' hometown of Delphi and spurred endless online speculation.

Allen, 52, is charged with two counts of murder and two counts of murder while committing or attempting to commit kidnapping in the killings of 13-year-old Abigail Williams and 14-year-old Liberty German. If convicted, he could face up to 130 years in prison. Prosecutors are not seeking the death penalty.

Jury selection is expected to continue Tuesday at a location in Fort Wayne, about 100 miles from where the killings occurred.

Once the 12 members and four alternates are selected, they will be taken to Delphi, a town of about 3,000 residents, sequestered during trial and banned from using cellphones or watching news broadcasts.

If jury selection is completed on Wednesday, jury instructions

and opening statements could take place Friday morning. The trial is expected to last a month.

Prosecutors said they plan to call about 50 witnesses during the trial, while Allen's defense attorneys expect to call about 120 witnesses.

Allen, a pharmacy technician who had lived and worked in Delphi, was arrested in October 2022, nearly six years after the girls known as Abby and Libby were killed.

A relative had dropped the eighth graders off at a hiking trail just outside Delphi on Feb. 13, (Continued on Page 2)

#### **By SYDNEY KENT**

A black Labrador is the soon-to-be newest team member of the Ossian Police Department.

His name is Toby, and he is expected to join the OPD by the end of this year.

Police Commissioner President Caleb Chichester presented a photo of Toby and described him as a family dog with specialized training in search and rescue, drugs and retrieval. However, he is not drilled in aggression tactics or "bite" training.

Chichester acknowledged the need for Toby's services, particularly in drug training, noting that illegal substances are present in the town.

The cost for the K-9's initial fees, vehicle outfitting, training, memberships, harnesses and insurance were estimated

(Continued on Page 2)

# Non-voters cite disillusionment, candidates and complexity

#### By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ Indiana Capital Chronicle Erin Landis wants to vote.

But a state program meant to protect Landis and her five children from a domestic abuser has complicated her access to the polls.

Landis, who described herself as a centrist Democrat with union roots, last tried to vote several years ago.

"It did cause a lot of chaos the last time I tried to vote," she told the Capital Chronicle. "... Clerks couldn't give me straight answers. I went through so many people, just trying to call office after office, explaining the same story. No one could help me."

Landis doesn't know if her vote was counted.

Her true address is shielded by the Address Confidentiality Program. The initiative, administered by the Office of the Indiana Attorney General, seeks to protect survivors of domestic abuse, stalking, sexual assault, human trafficking and other offenses. A confidential post office box nearly three hours away has served as the family's official address for about a decade, Landis said.

The P.O. box is what's listed on their identification cards — which are required to vote in Indiana. The program changes how participants vote, according to the Secretary of State's Office.

"Trying to use my I.D. for anything ... it's an issue," Landis said. "It's meant to provide safety for my family and myself, and it's more of a burden." The 46-year-old and her voting-age children are among the million-plus eligible Hoosiers who don't participate in elections.

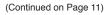
Indiana's voter turnout sank to 50th out of 51 — in a ranking of the U.S. states and the District of Columbia — in the 2022 midterm elections, according to the most recent Indiana Civic Health Index. The state landed at just 46th in the contentious 2020 election.

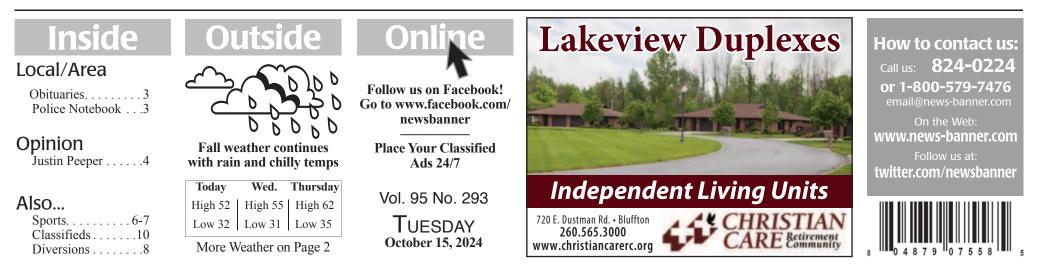
Candidates, issues drive decisions Other Hoosiers show less inter-

est in voting.

A plurality of more than 1,000 respondents -38% - told the Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute that they didn't know enough about the candidates or issues to vote, in a survey conducted November 2023 to February 2024.

Some confessed they didn't know how or where to vote in written responses to the institute, which shared its survey results with the Indiana Capital Chronicle.





#### LOCAL/NATION

## **BHMSD** board candidates

(Continued from Page 1) prepared the candidates for board leadership.

All three candidates felt a responsibility to participate in and support district organizations and events. Each, however, has had different experiences in participation.

Kaehr and Koiner have young children in the district, whereas Murray's children have already graduated from the district. All three men have assisted in athletics and club activities, and Kaehr substitute taught for the district last year.

"I think it also has given me a good perspective of what's happening, kind of at the ground level, that I didn't really fully appreciate, especially being a substitute teacher for different days," Kaehr said. "And that, I believe, gives me a really good base for being able to be an effective school board member.'

Later, the candidates were asked what being a supporter of public education meant to them. All three focused on the "public" lens with slightly different interpretations. Murray discussed advocating for the district with state legislation, while Kaehr and Koiner examined the local social aspect.

Kaehr stated he wants to represent multiple viewpoints, knowing there will be diverse backgrounds and experiences within his district. Koiner, however, criticized the district's handling of bullying, saying he's heard from multiple families who have reportedly not been taken seriously on bullying issues with their students.

Considering this, the candidates were then asked what they believed the board's role in the district was and how they would make decisions. Murray, who has served on the board for eight years, followed the by-the-book definition determine policies and hire a superintendent. He said he bases decisions on collecting

**Preston Kaehr** 

facts and then following the chain of command through administration, working together as a board to make decisions.

Kaehr furthermore highlighted the position of an elected official, which requires the board members to represent the interests of their district.

"That's a big part of how I'm going to be looking at my decision making ... that the constituents that I represent are helping me understand what they are wanting to see, what they're continuing to want to have their school system look like, while also, as (Murray) mentioned, making sure that we are using facts and information and allowing our administration to do their job, to get to the bottom of things, to provide us with good recommendations and using the resources that they've been given, so that we continue to do things at a high level, and we allow the staff to go do their job."

Koiner, however, felt the board's two largest roles are determining curriculum and keeping students safe. With a background in security, Koiner said he's "willing to look into any safety measure possible ... to make sure these kids feel safe because when these kids feel safe, they learn better.'

Koiner expanded on school safety in discussing the challenges the district faces. He wants to address concerns by adding school resource officers and cameras. "I know there's been



**Chris Koiner** a couple of incidents recent-

ly," he said. "Yes, they were

handled, but I still think we

can do more. We can be pro-

ing that the district had

sought a referendum for

additional school safe-

ty measures, like adding

SROs, in 2023. The refer-

endum failed, with 57.81%

of district voters against the

9.63% property tax increase.

Murray also highlighted

concerns with building

needs, teacher pay and the

upcoming legislative ses-

cerns with items at the state

level, saying, "In my lim-

ited time of just being more

involved with the board in

this short-term appointment

that I've had, I have realized

that there are a lot of things

that come from the state

didates shared their goals, as

well as a three-minute clos-

orities for his leadership -

family values, good finan-

cial decisions and account-

ability. His four main moti-

vations, however, are his

children. "Like every other

parent, I have a real desire

to see my kids, receive a

great education," he said. "I

want them to be trained and

knowledgeable, but I also

want them to develop really

strong character traits as

kids so that they can be pro-

would be based on helping

Koiner said his decisions

ductive adults.

In closing, the board can-

Kaehr listed three pri-

Kaehr also noted con-

sion.

level."

ing statement.

Murray echoed this, not-

active instead of reactive."

**Mike Murray** 

students be the best they can be by providing safety and security. He also wants to challenge the school's curriculum, which he feels meets Indiana academic standards but does not strive higher.

'Why are we comfortable with average?" he questioned. "It's the same thing with security, though. Why are we comfortable with one (SRO)? Now, I know there's some state stuff, but there's still stuff we can help improve." Koiner also believed the board needs to do a better job representing families.

Murray challenged the idea that the schools were "average," saying, "We're always improving the curriculum - looking at it, we're doing above what the state requires. Yes, we can always improve, and we're always looking for new ways to improve. But the curriculum paid for my daughter's first year of college, which it has done for many."

Murray then expressed thanks for the district he and his children graduated from. "I love supporting our staff, administration, and, most importantly, our students," he said. "And I love the organizations that come alongside us, like the PTO, and all the organizations - I don't want to start singling them all out, or I'll forget somebody ... We're always looking for ways to improve."

No questions were submitted by the public. holly@news-banner.com

• Approved amendment 24-10-1 approving the issuance of bonds by the Ossian Redevelopment Commis-

• Approved trick-or-

Weather

Tuesday, October 15, 2024 (24-hour observations at 10:01 p.m. Monday) High: 57; Low: 47; Precipitation: Trace of rain Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.10 feet at 8:45 p.m. Monday

### Wells County forecast

Today: A 30% chance of showers, mainly before 8 a.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 52. North wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Tonight: Areas of frost after 2 a.m. Otherwise, mostly clear, with a low around 32. Northwest wind around 5 mph.

Wednesday: Areas of frost before 9 a.m. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 55. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Wednesday Night: Widespread frost after 2 a.m. Otherwise, mostly clear, with a low around 31. Northwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Thursday: Widespread frost before 9 a.m. Otherwise, sunny, with a high near 62.

Thursday Night: Patchy frost after 5 a.m. Otherwise, clear, with a low around 35.

Friday: Patchy frost before 9 a.m. Otherwise, sunny, with a high near 67.

Friday Night: Clear, with a low around 37.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 70.

### **BHS** construction

(Continued from Page 1) ber - it's a reflection of the positive impact our school community is making on families who choose BHMSD for their children's education," Yates said. "Since the 2019-2020 school year, our enrollment has increased by 6%, which equals 100 new students."

Additionally, Yates announced the tentative contract agreement between the district and the Bluffton-Harrison Teachers Association for the 2024-25 school year. The new contract increases the base salary for teachers by 2%, from \$45,000 to \$45,900, increases the board contribution to health insurance by 2%, increases the board contribution to 401a from 1.75% to 2%, and adds a one-time \$750 conditional stipend for all teachers.

The contract is slated for ratification at the board's Oct. 28 meeting.

Board members Angie Sheets, Julie Thompson, Mike Murray and Preston Kaehr were present Monday; Trent White was absent. In other updates, the board:

• Heard from Colin Andrews, the district's attorney, who reported no updates on the bond process for the district. The board approved a \$1.1 million bond in September to address a number of building needs, and "No news is good news," Andrews said. Andrews also recently discussed the consequences of harmful virtual communication, like sexting, with BHS students and will give a similar presentation to middle school students. He commented, "The students were wonderful. They were very receptive."

• Approved 4-0 employment recommendations of: Tanner Lesh as high school health and physical education teacher as well as the diving coach; Alyssa Keipper as Area 18 Career Coach; Keri Baker as accounts manager and deputy treasurer; Tammy Melching as special education clerical support; Shannon Krider as payroll specialist; Mark Owen in the maintenance department; Alyssa Moser, Staci Hunt, Hunter Cunningham, Sarah Moser, Malinah Roush, Jeddy Tudor, Kristi Searles, Tara Longenberger, Lisa Sheets, Amy Rusu, Elizabeth Claghorn, Kemper Amstutz, Cindy Brooks, Marah Hill, Kim Mayer, Steve Abbett, Olivia Fisher, Ashlee Xayyachack, Laura Xayyachack and Clarissia Tijerina as Indiana Learns tutors; Tina Brubaker as a long-term substitute teacher; Ben Burman, Brent Kunkel, Brett Hothast, Clint Renner, Vic Reinhard, Justin Uptgraft, Philip Heer, Trent White and Travis Roush as Future Tigers boys' basketball coaches; Erin Roush, Marah Hill, Zoey Smith, Gerald Freees, Danielle Kunkel, Felicia McElveen, Jenny Tudor, Kelli Kistler and Chrissy Craig a Future Tigers girls' basketball coaches; Katlynn Snider as substitute adult childcare supervisor; Addison

# **Ossian Police Department**

(Continued from Page 1) at up to \$14,293. However, the endeavor is completely covered by a donation from Bargain Hut for \$15,500.

When we started down this path looking I was skeptical to get half (of the funding)," Chichester said. "The community support has just been unbelievable. After the initial fees, Toby will cost the department approximately \$1,600 annually. Chichester said Chief Kurt Jack will offset some fees, as he is planning to donate food for the K-9 like he does for the K-9s in

an another county.

Chichester noted that the department hopes to officially welcome Toby in December. First, he must go through 30 days of train2025 budget in the amount of \$2,174,972. It will now need to be approved by the Department of Local Government Finance.

The Jefferson Township Advisory Board was also present at Monday's meet-

ing to discuss the ongoing

issue of fire protection in the

township, which will appear

in Wednesday's News-Ban-

In other business, Ossian

• Approved a bid to

API Construction for work

on the Archbold-Wilson

Park access driveway for

ing with his handler, Officer James Elliot. Unlike many K-9s, Toby is encouraged to live inside the home with his handler. When Elliot is away, Toby will stay with Jack - also saving on boarding costs.

The council also approved three needed new ballistic vests for \$3,601 for the department.

In other updates, the council approved the town's

### Jury selection

(Continued from Page 1) 2017, but the two failed to show up at the agreed pickup site later that day. They were reported missing that evening and their bodies were found the following day in a rugged, wooded area near the trail.

Within days, police released files found on Libby's cellphone — two grainy photos and audio of a man saying "down the hill" — that they believed represented the killer.

But no arrest followed.

In July 2017, investigators released a sketch of the suspect, and another in April 2019. They also released a brief video showing the suspect walking on an abandoned railroad bridge.

After years of failing to find a suspect, investigators said they went back

and reviewed "prior tips." Allen had been interviewed in 2017. He told the officer that he had been walking on the trail the day the girls went missing and that he saw three "females" at another bridge but did not speak to them. He said he did not notice anyone else because he was distracted by a stock ticker on his phone, according to an arrest affidavit.

Police interviewed

Allen again on Oct. 13, 2022, when he reasserted he had seen three "juvenile girls" during his walk in 2017. Investigators searched Allen's home and seized a .40-caliber pistol. Testing determined an unspent bullet found between the teen's bodies "had been cycled through" Allen's gun.

According to the affidavit, Allen said he'd never been where the bullet was found, did not know the property owner, and "had no explanation as to why a round cycled through his firearm would be at that location."

The case has seen repeated delays after evidence was leaked, Allen's public defenders withdrew and were later reinstated by the Indiana Supreme Court. The Delphi killings remain the subject of rampant speculation and theories by true-crime enthusiasts

Allen County Superior Court Judge Fran Gull, who is overseeing the case, issued a gag order at prosecutors' request in December 2022, two months after Allen's arrest. It bars attorneys, law enforcement officials, court personnel, the coroner and the girls' relatives from commenting on the case, including on

social media

\$301,403.

ner.

Town Council:

Gull has banned cameras from the courtroom during Allen's trial.

In August this year, she ruled prosecutors can present evidence of dozens of incriminating statements they say Allen made in conversations with correctional officers, inmates, law enforcement and relatives. That evidence includes a recording of a telephone call between Allen and his wife in which, prosecutors say, he confesses to the killings.

The judge's ruling was "a real blow to the defense," said Hal Johnston, an adjunct criminal law professor at Indiana University who is not involved in the case.

"The incriminating statements are going to be extremely persuasive because that's what the treating hours at 6-8 p.m. on Halloween.

 Approved payment to Wayne Asphalt for \$79,644.40.

• The Ossian Redevelopment Committee approved contracting Baker Tilly for consulting services on bond issuing for the extension of Baker Drive in the amount of \$40,000 prior to Monday's meeting.

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jury wants to hear," Johnston said.

Allen's attorneys had hoped to present evidence the girls were killed in a ritual sacrifice by members of a pagan Norse religion and white nationalist group, but Gull ruled against that, saying the defense furnished no "admissible evidence" of such a connection.

She also blocked Allen's attorneys from arguing the killings may have been committed by others, including the late owner of the property where the teens' bodies were found.

Prosecutors have not disclosed how Abby and Libby were killed. But a court filing by Allen's attorneys in support of their ritual sacrifice theory states their throats had been cut.



 Accepted resignations from Laura Gerber, former payroll specialist, and Alyshah Dunlap, former high school intense intervention instructional assistant.

April Crous as substitute teacher; Timothy Nolan as special purpose bus substitute driver; and Aaron Sturgeon and Robert Vanderkolk as middle school boys' basketball volunteer coaches.

Minick as substitute teacher:

• Approved 3-0 employment recommendations for Wendy Kaehr as a Future Tigers basketball coach; Sheets, Thompson and Murray were in favor, and Preston Kaehr abstained.

 Announced their intent to employ a high school intense intervention instructional assistant and special purpose bus driver.

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#### **OBITUARIES**

#### Joan Beeks, 70

Joan Beeks, 86, a longtime resident of Bluffton, passed away on Sunday morning, Oct. 13, 2024, at The Waters of Dunkirk after fighting a long, hard battle with Parkinson's disease. Joan passed peacefully, surrounded by her family.

Joan was born on Oct. 18, 1937, in Trenton, Georgia, to John and Mary (West) Hancock. She attended Bluffton High School and married Larry

Beeks on Oct. 25, 1954. They shared 59 years of marriage together. Joan worked at Franklin Electric in Bluffton for many years and retired in 2003.

Joan is survived by her children, Cathy Micklitsch of Pennville, Cindy Beeks of Montpelier, Cheri (Bill) Harris of Pennville, Connie (Ron) Dykes of Plymouth, Michigan, and Larry (Tami) Beeks II of North Webster; 18 grandchildren, 23 great-

#### Raymond Paxson, 70

Raymond D. Paxson, 70, a lifelong resident of rural Pennville, (Penn Township, Jay County) passed away at 9:52 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024, at Persimmon Ridge in Portland.

He was born on Friday, Jan. 8, 1954, in Bluffton. He married Sue Ellen (Rippy) Paxson on Friday, June 8, 1973, at the Pennville U.M.C. Ray graduated from Pennville High School

in 1972 and graduated from Purdue in 1976 with a bachelor's degree in horticulture and teaching. Ray taught at Warren Central High School, worked at Production Credit in Portland, was vice president of Ossian State Bank, and had also worked at Farm Credit in Bluffton. Ray also worked at Raymond James in Bluffton, Markle Bank in Bluffton, First Merchant's Bank in Bluffton, and retired as senior vice president. He was a member of the Gilead Church in Bryant, and was a Jay County farmer for many years. Ray received the Century Farm Award from the Jay County Fair Association in 2016 and had also received the Hoosier Homestead Farm award.

Ray will be forever missed by his wife, Sue Ellen (Rippy) Paxson of Portland; son, Daniel (Angela) D. Paxson of Pennville; daughter, Angela (Jason) K. Shawver of Portland; son, Andrew (Heather) C. Paxson of Bryant; grandchildren, Nathaniel Paxson, Cameran Paxson, Avery Paxson, Carson Paxson, Kavyn Adams, Ainslee

#### William "Bill" E. Harris, 91

William "Bill" E. Harris, 91, of Bluffton, passed away Saturday morning, Oct. 12, 2024, at Christian Care Retirement Community.

Bill was born in Wells County on Aug. 27, 1933, to Charles and Constance (Thompson) Harris. He married Joyce A. Keller on May 27, 1951, at the Six Mile Church Parsonage in Bluffton; she survives.

A 1951 graduate of Bluffton



grandchildren and two greatgreat-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John Hancock and Mary McBride, her sister, Katie Beeks, her husband Larry Beeks I and her grandson, Quentin Beeks.

A Graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 19, 2024, at Fairview Cemetery with her daughter, Connie Dykes officiating.

Memorials may be made in Joan's memory to Friends Who Care Cancer Relief Foundation or to St. Jude Children's Hospital and can be sent to the funeral home.

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

> Paxson and Jacob Shawver; sister, Donna Bense of Columbus; brothers, Edward Paxson of Carmel, Richard Paxson of Bryant, Max Paxson of Bryant, Bill Paxson of Bryant; mother-in-law and stepfather-in-law, Alton and Nancy Swingley of Portland; brother-in-law, Brian (Shelly) Rippy of Winchester; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Carl Paxson and

Mabel Ilene (Hesher) Paxson; grandchild, Weslee Paxson; sister, Connie Paxson; brother, David Paxson; and and father-inlaw, Kenneth Rippy.

Family and friends may gather to share and remember from 1-8 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2024, at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, located at 109 W. Windsor St. in Montpelier, and one hour prior to service on Thursday, Oct. 17, 2024.

A service to celebrate Ray's life will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 17, 2024, at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home with Pastor John Myers officiating. Interment will follow in the Twin Hill - I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Pennville.

Preferred memorials may be made to the Gilead Church 8435 W. 650 N. Bryant, IN. 47326 or to Rock Steady Boxing 128 E. Market St. Bluffton, IN. 46714

Arrangements are being handled by Walker & Glancy Funeral Home in Montpelier.

Online condolences may be made at www.glancyfuneralhomes.com.

> Fort Wayne; two sons, Steven Harris of Bluffton and Dennis (Ellen) Harris of Harmony, Florida; along with 10 grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, and 27 great-grandchildren.

Aside from his parents, Bill was preceded in death by a sister, Florence Harris; two brothers, Claude (Ruba Jane) Harris and Clyde (Biddy) Harris; and an infant great-grandson, Nicholas McKee.

Visitation will be on Friday, Oct. 18, 2024, from 1:00 until 4:00 p.m., at Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton, followed immediately by a funeral service at 4:00 p.m., also at the funeral home. Doyle Frauhiger will officiate. Private family burial will be held at a later date at Six Mile Cemetery in Bluffton.

# **Police Notebook**

#### **INCIDENTS**

City: Thursday, 2:53 p.m., 1000 South Main Street. Caller reported theft of backpack and paint from parking

Park Center Inc. Counselor R. Greene, 23, Dunkirk, was requesting to speak with officer.

Thursday, 3:40 p.m., Budget Inn. Caller someone tried to rent a home that wasn't his on Facebook.

Friday, 6:39 a.m., 400 block of Linnwood Drive. Report of cat in drain. Cat was rescued.

Friday, 9:12 a.m., Dairy Queen. Report of yellow dog in area.

Friday, 11:36 a.m., Bobcat of Fort Wayne South. Report someone rented trailer and attempted to steal it.

Friday, 3:16 p.m., South Wayne Street and East Harrison Road. Cited for stop arm violation.

Friday, 8:49 p.m., 800 block of Creek Drive. Report of trespassing.

Saturday, 12:38 a.m., All American. Caller reported his wife left residence and is unable to locate her.

Saturday, 1:41 a.m., 1200 Lancaster Street. Caller requested officer collect his wife from man's residence.

Saturday, 9:42 a.m., 800 block of Creek Drive. Caller reported civil issuer regarding mower.

Saturday, 12:52 p.m., Bluffton Police Department. Report of noise complaint from car.

Saturday, 3:28 p.m., Main Street and Capri Court. Report of subject hitting dog - dog fell out of window.

Saturday, 4:07 p.m., BMV. Driver cited for driving while suspended.

Saturday, 8:31 p.m., 900 block of West Market Street. Report of petty parking issue between neighbors.

Saturday, 8:45 p.m., 400 block of West Wabash Street. Report of arguing and playing music too loudly.

Sunday, 1:23 a.m., Wings ETC. Driver cited for no valid license.

Sunday, 1:44 p.m., Walmart. Report of two males fighting over female, like its animal kingdom.

Sunday, 5:11 p.m., West Wabash and North Johnson streets. Driver cited for driving while suspended.

D. Heckman, 26, Bluffton. Heckman could not stop in time and the Jeep struck the Chevy's driver door and front wheel well. Damage exceeded \$2,500.

Saturday, 11:20 a.m., S.R. Thursday, 3:17 p.m., 1 at Wabash Street. William attempting to turn a 2012 Chevrolet Colorado right, and realized he was in the wrong lane. Greene attempted to merge into the proper lane and struck a 2015 Chevrolet Equinox driven by David Aker, 75, Bluffton. Damage exceeded \$2,500.

Saturday, 7:13 p.m., Bond Street at Wabash Street. David Franklin, 72, Warren, was driving a 2016 Ford Edge northbound on Bond Street and did not see a juvenile on a bicycle in the roadway. Franklin attempted to stop but could not do so before hitting the juvenile. The juvenile had minor injuries, including bruises and road rash. Damage did not

exceed \$1,000. Monday, 7:44 a.m., S.R. 1 at Walnut Street. Roland L. Williams, 56, Bluffton, was driving a 2013 Ford Explorer northbound on S.R. 1 and saw a patrol car drive by, and looked to see who was driving. When he looked back toward the road, he could not stop before colliding with a 2015 Buick Encore driven by Amber L. Foss, 26, Bluffton, which then was pushed into a 2005 Saab 9-3 driven

by Steven A. Mittlestedt, 35, Bluffton. Only the Explorer was towed from the scene. Damage exceeded \$5,000.

#### **Financial Focus**

#### **PSA: Vote for solid** investment strategies

The presidential election is just a few weeks away. As an investor, how might you be affected by the results?

Possibly not as much as you might think. Historically, the financial markets have done well — and sometimes not so well - no matter who has controlled the White House and Congress. Also, many campaign promises go unfulfilled, and those that are carried out may lead to unexpected results. Furthermore, other forces, such as the

Federal Reserve's ability to move interest rates, can have a sizable impact on the investment world.

Instead of making changes to your investments based on election results, try to focus on the things you can control. Most important, you'll want to build your portfolio based on your goals, risk tolerance, time horizon and need for liquidity. These factors may change over time, and when they do, you may need to adjust your investment mix.

Ultimately, when it comes to investing, you may want to pay less attention to what names are on the ballot and instead "vote" for the strategies that can help you reach your long-term objectives.

This content was provided by Edward Jones for use by Jeremy Todd, your Edward Jones financial advisor at 260-824-0686

> JEREMY M. TODD CFP® AAMS® **Financial Advisor** 1331 Baker Place Bluffton, IN 46714 260-824-0686



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Edward **Jones** MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING This article was written by Edward Jones for us by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.





igh School, Bill was employed at Sterling Casting Corp. as a maintenance supervisor for 45 years. He was a member and trustee of Six Mile Church and also served many years as a board member for the Six Mile Cemetery Association. He was also a board member of the Wells County Historical Society Museum, member of the Old Fort Model A Club and Model A Restorers Club.

In addition to his wife, Bill is survived by two daughters, Deborah (David) Morse and Pamela (Gary) Harris, both of

#### Arno K. Sonnenberg, 84

Arno K. Sonnenberg, 84, passed away early Monday morning, Oct. 14, 2024, at his residence, following an extended illness.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Six Mile Church Building Fund.

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

Arrangements are pending with Goodwin – Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel Bluffton, IN.



Moments With Mom

On Wednesday morning, Oct. 9, Southern Wells Elementary School hosted the annual "Moments with Mom" breakfast sponsored by Partners in Education. There were more than 700 moms, grandmas, guardians, and children in attendance. In coordination with MWM, the library opened the Fall Book Fair for the event so moms and students could buy some books and other goodies. (Photo submitted)

Sunday, 5:23 p.m., Wings ETC. Report of wallet in road. It was a glove.

Sunday, 6:27 p.m., 200 block of Hillcrest Road. Caller reported neighbor's dog killed their dog.

Monday, 9:39 a.m., KOA Campground. Report of unwanted subject on property.

ACCIDENTS City:

Wednesday, 1:55 p.m., 120 W Spring St. Jeanette F. Moore, 77, Bluffton, was backing a 2013 Chevrolet Trailblazer and struck a parked 2018 Chevrolet Cruze. Damage exceeded \$2,500.

Wednesday, 5:45 p.m., Market Street at mile marker 1. Amber Humphrey, 19, Ossian, was backing a 2003 Chrysler PT Cruiser and struck a 2017 Chevrolet Cruze driven by Destinie M. Puckett, 22, Bluffton. Damage exceeded \$2,500.

Thursday, 9:49 a.m., Silver Street at mile market 1. Christoper P. Koiner, 36, Bluffton, was driving a 2019 Chevrolet Equinox, exiting the north side entrance of Pak A Sak at 904 S Main St., and failed to yield the rightof-way to a 1999 Jeep Grand Cherokee driven by Dylan

#### **Obituary Policy**

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

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

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



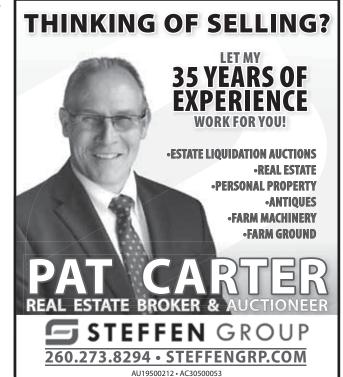


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#### ΟΡΙΝΙΟ

### Science explains why I'm feeling my age this year

A couple of months ago I paused for a day like we all do once a year to celebrate another journey around the sun. I've never been one for big birthday bashes, as having a meal with family and friends is much more my cup of tea

Turns out this year's 44th trip around the sun might be a bit more meaningful than others, according to some new research that my wife pointed out to me about a month ago.

"Do you feel older this year?" she asked.

I had just run a couple of different races with some former and current students; clearly both groups some in their teens and others in their 20s - finishedbefore me but I was glad to still be able to somewhat keep up with them.

Perhaps this year there have been a few more aches and pains I've lamented about from time to time.

And of course there are those 10 pounds or so that I need to drop that just don't want to come off as easily as it seems they used to.

"Maybe a little but not much," I finally said to answer Jen's question about if I feel a bit older this year.

Turns out she had come across an article a couple of weeks after my 44th birthday in which scientists from Stanford discovered massive bimolecular shifts that take place in our 40s and 60s.

In other words, we don't age in a gradual, linear process. Instead, it occurs in waves as opposed to a gradual climb. And guess what age scientists discovered one of the two key intervals for rapid aging?

Forty-four.

"Researches assessed many thousands of different molecules in people from age 25 to 75, as well as their microbiomes — the bacteria, viruses and fungi that live inside us and on our skin - and found that the abundance of most molecules and microbes do not shift in gradual, chronological fashion. Rather, we undergo two periods of rapid change during our life span, averaging around age 44 and age 60," according to an article on Stanford Medicine's News Center website.

Who knew?

At least I have some science behind me now to justify suddenly starting to feel my age this year a bit more than other years.

But all hope is not lost for those of us in our mid-40s. Instead, there is a way to slow down this scientifically proven age acceleration problem. The approach to tapping the brakes, however, shouldn't come as a surprise.

Solutions include drinking more water, eating more fruits and vegetables and less junk food, drinking less alcohol, sitting less, exercising more, and doing more weight training.

We start to lose muscle strength quickly in our 40s - meaning weight training becomes even more important to combat feeling your age at 44 and 60.

Looks like I need to work a bit harder this year as I exercise to fight the massive bimolecular shifts that strike during your 44th year.

That's a challenge I'm up for.

jdpeeper2@hotmail.com

# Who's W

A continuing series on how to contact government officials

# What the census can tell us about swing states

Jonathan Draeger, reporter for RealClear-Politics, wrote Tuesday that "the 2024 presidential contest couldn't be tighter." Unless, of course, it turns out not to be nearly as close as this season's run of polls suggests it is.

One indication that it might not be was a New York Times-Siena poll released this week showing Donald Trump leading Kamala Harris in Florida 55% to 41%. That's quite a switch from the 48.85% to 48.84% by which George W. Bush carried the state in 2000, or the 48.6% to 47.4% there for Trump over Hillary Clinton in 2016.

As the Times' brilliant and painstaking poll analyst Nate Cohn wrote, this result could just turn out to be an outlier: Polling theory says one in 20 polls is outside the margin of error. Or it could represent a continuation of the 2022 off-year results, which showed Republicans doing much better in Florida than in the current target states, such as Pennsylvania and Michigan.

But it could also have resulted, he explained, from population change. According to Census Bureau estimates, Florida's population grew by 4.7% between

July 2020 and July 2023 (the latest available), a greater percentage increase than any other state except much less populous Idaho. That's a population increase of more than 1 million people in just three years, with many newcomers perhaps attracted by Florida's famously less restrictive COVID-19 policies.

As Cohn noted, many other polls may miss the effects of interelection demographic changes by weighting results according to

respondents' recollections of previous votes. Since voters historically have overreported supporting election winners, this tends to overstate support for the previously losing party and, in this case, for Trump. However, pollsters take that risk for fear of understating his support, as so many 2016 and 2020 polls did.

Cohn's analysis raises the question of whether population shifts may affect the balance, which seems exquisitely close, in the seven target states. So let's look at the changes in the 2020 and 2023 census estimates by county. Nationally, the period saw movement away from central cities and toward exurbs and salubrious rural areas.

This analysis reveals little about Nevada, where 69% of 2020 votes and 79% of the 2020-23 population increase were in Las Vegas-centered Clark County.

A little more can be said about Arizona, where Phoenix-centered Maricopa County had 61% of 2020 votes and 58% of the 2020-23 population increase. Among smaller counties, those leaning Republican grew by 83,000 people (all totals rounded off), and those leaning Democratic, including Tucson's Pima County, grew by 21,000. Advantage: Republicans.

The picture is mixed in fast-growing and excruciatingly marginal Georgia and North Carolina.

North Carolina's population grew by 3.7% overall, d by 4% in the side counties including Charlotte Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill, Greensboro and Winston-Salem, which voted 56% to 75% for Joe Biden. The other 94 counties (mostly Republican) grew by 3.5%. That slight edge, plus the weakness of the Republican nominee for governor, gives Democrats reason to hope Harris can win the one target state Biden lost by 49.9% to 48.6% in 2020. Georgia, which Trump lost 49.5% to 49.2%, looks different. Metropolitan Átlanta's three central coun-

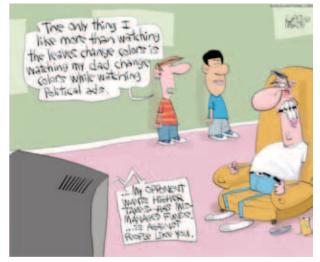


Michael Barone ties, heavily Democratic, grew by only 7,000 people, and four Democratic-trending ring counties with diverse populations increased by 44,000. But 12 mostly white exurban counties, which vote overwhelmingly Republican, increased by 100,000, and with polls showing Black voters trending Republican, Trump is likely to reduce Democratic margins in Blackmajority exurban counties whose population increased by 22,000.

The three northern "blue wall" states, in contrast, had less than 1% population loss (Pennsylvania and Michigan) or gain (Wisconsin). If, as many expect, Trump

carries Georgia, North Carolina and Arizona, Harris must win all three "blue wall" states to be elected president.

In Pennsylvania, Democrats depend heavily on big margins in Philadelphia, and in 2020, turnout increased to 743,000, a 40-year high. But Philadelphia's population fell by 50,000 people in 2020-23, and as a Philadelphia Inquirer report detailed, Hispanic and Black voters in Philadelphia have been



trending Republican. The city's four suburban county populations rose by just 27,000. Not enough to offset the city decline and the likely increased Hispanic support in five blue-collar counties beyond metropolitan Philadelphia.

In western Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh's Allegheny County, with trendy inner-city neighborhoods and upscale suburbs, lost 25,000 people, while nearby Butler County, where Trump was shot July 13 and returned last Saturday, gained 4,000.

Overall, the state beyond metropolitan Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, where Biden carried only eight of 57 counties, gained 19,000 people.

In Michigan, the picture is similar. The three counties, including or touching on Detroit, lost 46,000 people in 2020-23, and the industrial belt from Flint to Bay City, where Democrats are struggling, lost another 8,000. The three counties with large universities, which delivered a higher Biden percentage than either of the two blue-collar areas, lost 6,000. The state's other 74 counties, which voted 58% to 40% for Trump over Biden, gained 26,000.

Wisconsin seems slightly more favorable for Democrats. The historic Democratic powerhouse, Milwaukee County, lost 22,000 people, but the three suburban WOW counties, historically Republican but a little less so in the Trump era, gained just 8,000. That is overmatched by the 13,000 gained by Madison's Dane County, which with its state capital and flagship university exceeded Milwaukee's Democratic percentage and almost equaled its Democratic vote margin in 2020.

Let me close with a perhaps unscientific observation. Looking at the target state polls reported by RealClearPolitics with all or the bulk of interviews conducted since Sept. 25, two weeks ago as I write, I note that 14 show Trump leading, along with one for Harris and one tie. It's less one-sided if you look at the target state polls reported by Nate Silver's Silver Bulletin, but still with 15 for Trump, six for Harris and six ties. Note that there are almost no target state polls conducted since the vice presidential debate on Oct. 1.



Justin

Peeper

#### Markle

Town Council: Matthew Doss, president. 225 N. Haflich St., Markle. Phone: 260-602-6805.

Nicolas Lund, vice president. 120 Woodfield Court, Markle. Phone: 260-438-5845.

Blake Caley. Home address: 510 E. Morse St., Markle. The Clerk-Treasurer is Stephenie Hensley, Town of Markle, 197 E. Morse St. (P.O. Box 367), Markle 46770,

phone 758-3193. Email: clerk@markleindiana.com Mike Grant is the Town Operations Manager. Scott Spahr is the Wastewater Utility superintendent.

Stephen Jeffers is the Water Utility superintendent. Weekend or emergency utility problems: 1-260-358-6604.

John Markley is the Town Marshal. The police nonemergency phone is 758-2225.



treason.

executed.

mier of Vichy France, Pierre

Laval, was executed for

nal Hermann Goering fatal-

ly poisoned himself hours

before he was to have been

made landfall on the Caro-

lina coast as a Category 4

storm; Hazel was blamed

for about 1,000 deaths in the

Caribbean, 95 in the U.S.

of its kind took place

between vice-presidential

nominees, Democrat Walter

F. Mondale and Republican

Bob Dole faced off in Hous-

of the Los Angeles Kings

broke Gordie Howe's all-

time NHL scoring record in

a game against his former

team, the Edmonton Oilers.

In 1989, Wayne Gretzky

In 1976, the first debate

and 81 in Canada.

In 1954, Hurricane Hazel

In 1946, Nazi war crimi-

By The Associated Press Today is Tuesday, Oct. 15, the 289th day of 2024. There are 77 days left in the year.

Today's highlight in history: On Oct. 15, 2017, actress and activist Alyssa Milano tweeted that women who had been sexually harassed or assaulted should write "Me too" as a status. Within hours, tens of thousands had taken up the #MeToo hashtag (using a phrase that had been introduced a decade earlier by social activist Tarana Burke).

Also on this date:

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte, the deposed French emperor, arrived on the British-ruled South Atlantic island of St. Helena, where he spent the last 5 1/2 years of his life in exile.

In 1945, the former pre-

**Election Letters Policy** 

ton.

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.)

Have the vibes run out for Harris, as my Washington Examiner colleague W. James Antle suggests?

Seems like a fair question.

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## The travesty of the CBP One app

J.D. Vance infamously got his mic cut during the VP debate when he tried to explain the intricacies of the Biden-Harris administration's CBP One app.

What he was getting at that the app provides a patina of legality to the mass entry into the United States of otherwise inadmissible aliens was correct.

Realizing that the border flow, particularly the historic numbers associated with it, was a political problem, the administration figured out a brilliant way to get apprehensions down — by not apprehending people.

More than a million migrants have been paroled into the country using the app. Many come through the border ports, but also hundreds of thousands via a program that allows them to fly into the country and gain entry through airports.

Launched in 2020, CBP One was intended as a good-government, time-saving tool to manage the legitimate flow of people and goods at the border, but it's now been twisted to launder illegal immigrants into the country.

The only way for otherwise inadmissible aliens to try to get into the country at a port of entry is to download the app, provide the required information, and schedule an appointment. Then, the applicant is more or less guaranteed to get paroled and

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granted a work permit almost certainly never to leave again.

Many of the migrants who enter illegally between the ports of entry are permitted to get into the country as well — with the crucial difference being that they are counted as part of the illegal-immigration problem; the users of the CBP **LOWRY** One app, magically, are not.

The limit for the number of migrants who are provid-

ed this service has steadily increased, from 1,000 a day, then 1,250, and now 1,450. According to congressional figures, 96% of the CBP One applicants are permitted into the country, even though everyone knows the vast majority of them are economic migrants, not the victims of persecution.

In other words, this is fraud against our system, aided and abetted by the U.S. government. The administration says that the migrants availing themselves of the CBP One app are "seeking to enter the United States lawfully through a U.S. port of entry." But this is a falsehood.

Just because you show up at a port of entry, it doesn't mean you have a right to enter the United States.

The valid means to get into the country as an alien is to go to a consulate and get a visa. None of the CBP One applicants are doing that. It's true that coming through a port relieves the alien of the obligation of committing the crime of entering without inspection. This is only happening, though, because the administration itself is ignoring the law, which requires detaining inadmissible aliens until they are granted asylum or expelled. As Mark Krikorian of the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) has put it, the message is, "Don't break the law – we'll do it for you."

The administration has, in effect, inverted the port inspection process meant to keep inadmissible aliens out of the United States - into a system under which inadmissible aliens are instead released into the interior.

As the immigration expert Art Arthur notes, the administration insisted that it had to do away with President Trump's "Remain in Mexico" policy because it was too dangerous for asylum-seekers to stay in Mexico for the couple of months it might take them to get a hearing. Now, they are staying months in Mexico to get their appointment via the CBP One app. What's the difference? Obviously, that one process was excluding inadmissible aliens and the other is waving them in.

The app also facilitates the work of smugglers, who might scam migrants or help them exploit the weaknesses in the system.

None of this is necessarily widely understood, but one person who does get it is J.D. Vance – you know, the one whose mic was cut in that debate. Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry

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

Rich

#### LIFESTYLES

### How to find joy in every season

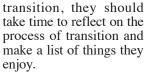
#### **By BARBARA** BARBIERI

"Finding Joy in every Season of the Soul" was the topic shared by Jill Ellis Baughan on a recent Tuesday evening at the First Baptist Church in Bluffton.

In each season of the year she told of ways of finding joy.

In summer, a season of abundance, listeners were encouraged to celebrate childhood-their own and their neighbors as well as to tell God thank-vou

During autumn, a season of change and



In winter, a season of loss and hardship, they were reminded to say yes" to God, seek Joy even through tough times and allow others to surround you when they are needed.

In spring, a season of new beginnings, all were asked to take a risk by trying something new and to make of list of adventures you would like to do. And then to do some of them.



**Jill Ellis Baughan** 

All who attended were given a hand-out sheet to remind them of how to find Joy in every season of the year.

### **Master Gardeners sponsor iris event**

7 p.m. Alan Daugherty will present a program about the Cook/Williamson Iris Gardens at the Wells

On Thursday, Oct. 17, at County 4-H Community building.

> The gardens were once located at the west edge of Bluffton and gained world

wide recognition. Many of the iris species had been developed here.

The program is open to the public.

### A Talk with Tego



Stormy is an extremely affectionate, six-monthold, spayed female.

Tego's Tips: There are three of the five felines still looking for a forever home with waived adoption fees until Oct. 25.



Gunner is a super sweet, five-month-old, neutered male.

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



Tego

# **Events at the Creative Arts Council of Wells County**

428 S. Oak Street in Bluffton 260-824-5222 www.wellscocreativearts.com creativeartscouncil@gmail.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/wellscocreativearts

Instagram: @creativeartscouncil Creative Arts office hours - Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday (by appointment only).

#### Creative Arts Dance Academy - \*New 6 week class

• "Foundations in Dance" beginning Nov. 2

Ages: Students 5-8 years old

Day/Time: Saturdays from 10:00-10:45 a.m.

Dates: 11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/23, 12/7, 12/14 (no class 11/30 due to Thanksgiving)

Tuition: \$40 for the 6 week session To register: https://www.wellscocreativearts.com/foundations-in-dance or call the office at (260) 824-5222

#### Excerpts from "The Nutcracker"

Creative Arts Youth Dance Company proudly present excerpts from "The Nutcracker'

Performances: Dec. 6 at 7:00 p.m. and Dec. 7 at 3:00 p.m.

#### **Creative Arts School of Music**

• Voice Lessons with Lynne Niermeyer, Tuesday afternoon/evenings, \$30/half hour lesson

• Guitar Lessons with Mike Needler, Tuesday afternoon/evenings, \$35/half hour lesson

For more information regarding the music lessons above, please call the office at (260) 824-5222 for lesson times/availability.

#### **Creative Arts Theater**

Creative Arts 24/25 Theater season has been announced:

• "The BEST Christmas Pageant Ever" -Dec. 12-14

• "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" – March 6-8, 2025

• Disney Newsies JR – June 13-14, 2025 • Disney Artistocats Kids - June 27-28,

2025 Tickets: \$15.00 per person sold through

ArtsTix - (260) 422-4226 Auditorium: 428 S Oak Street, Bluffton

Auditions for "The Best Christmas Pag-

eant Ever" • Auditions will be held Oct. 15 from 5-8

p.m. at Creative Arts Council for "The Best



Christmas Pageant Ever". Call backs will be Oct. 17 at 6 p.m.

Synopsis: In this hilarious Christmas classic, a couple struggling to put on a church Christmas pageant is faced with casting the Herdman kids- probably the most inventively awful kids in history. You won't believe the mayhem-and the fun- when the Herdmans collide head-on with the story of Christmas!

Performances: Dec. 12-14

For more information on auditions/roles visit: https://www.wellscocreativearts.com/ holiday-production

#### **Ongoing Activities**

Creative Crew: Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All forms of creativity welcome: painting, drawing, needlework and more.... spend the morning working on your craft and socialize with other artists. Enter Door 1 or Door 10 at Life Community Church, the creative crew meets in the cafe.

Readers' Brown Bag Luncheon: Meeting the last Tuesday of the month at noon at Life Community Church, enter door 10. All readers are welcome. Feel free to call the office for more information.

\*\*\*Important Scheduling Note: Changes can occur after the Creative Happenings column has been published. Please confirm dates and times before planning to participate in programs and activities\*\*\*

Creative Arts Council activities are supported by memberships, sponsors and grants from funders including Arts United, a regional agency; the Indiana Arts Commission, a state agency; and the National Endowment for the Arts, a national agency.

# A special communion service for Gloria's family

My earliest memories of communion was keen fascination as I watched the 'big people' wash each other's feet. I felt the solemness and security of seeing Dad and Mom do what Jesus had done with his disciples before he died on the cross.

Now, today, in our communion service, I glanced around the room. Julia, now 13, was sitting up front with the girls her age and older, Austin was with Uncle John, and Hosanna in her glory holding her newborn cousin who is named after her. The six-yearold boys, Jesse and Elijah, were sitting on either side of Grandpa, wishing they could sleep, and little Joshua was next to me. be quite stressful for me with a handful of young ones who didn't want to hold still and missed not sitting with their daddy. Much has changed, I now find it more relaxing. Usually Daniel's dad has at least two of our children the entire service. Now as I tend a child or the children watched with eagertwo, I relax with my Bible and ness. The bread was made by my enjoy meditating and praying. sister-in-law who is the deacon's Sometimes when I'm battling wife. After taking wine I handed hard things or see another person who is facing difficulties I'll ask the minister. I had just taken my God for a verse for the situation. seat when little Joshua looked I've been amazed many times up in my face and asked, "Was it over, when I opened my Bible to a promise that fit precisely with the



situation at hand. Quietly I claim it and continue to absorb what is

being taught. Today I was especially touched remembrance of the blood Jesus



ly reminded him how it was in



by the story of the woman who washed Jesus' feet and anointed them with an expensive ointment. The bishop from Ohio, who was preaching simply said, "She did what she could. She did what she could." Isn't that life? We aren't asked to fix everyone's problems like we wish we could, but give Jesus all we have, no matter the I admit, church service used to cost- it may include time, money, dreams for the future, or our reputation. When we give our all to him, we'll never be short changed, he promised to give back more than we ever give to him.

> Now as the time neared for the bread and wine to be passed the stainless steel cup back to good?"

"Yes," I said simply and brief-

shed for us- or for me. I like to personalize it, knowing that Jesus would gladly have died, if it had only been for me, or for you alone. What love!

Soon there was a congregational song in German while the members took turns washing each other's feet. This is a special time of demonstrating our subjection to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Uncle John and my cousin Josh, who are a part of the ministry, were taking care of two of our children. When it was time to fetch the towels and buckets of water they told them they could go along and help. No second invitation was needed. They came back with pleased expressions, cooked happy to be a part of the special occasion.

Lunch was provided by the Wengerd family. Mrs Wengerd made an unusually delicious potato casserole with chunks of chicken which they had marinated and

grilled. Salad and frozen cheese cakes finished off the meal. This recipe is similar to what was served.

#### **COMFORTING CHICKEN &** POTATO CASSEROLE

2 pounds sliced potatoes, cooked and shredded

 $\cdot$  2 cups chicken, diced and

1 can cream of chicken soup or homemade chicken soup

 $\cdot$  1 /2 cup butter, melted or browned

2 cups melting cheese, such as top of mixture. Velveeta

· 1 teaspoon salt

 $\cdot$  1 to 2 cups sour cream

- $\cdot$  1 /2 cup chopped onion (opt)
- · 1 package crushed crackers

(opt)

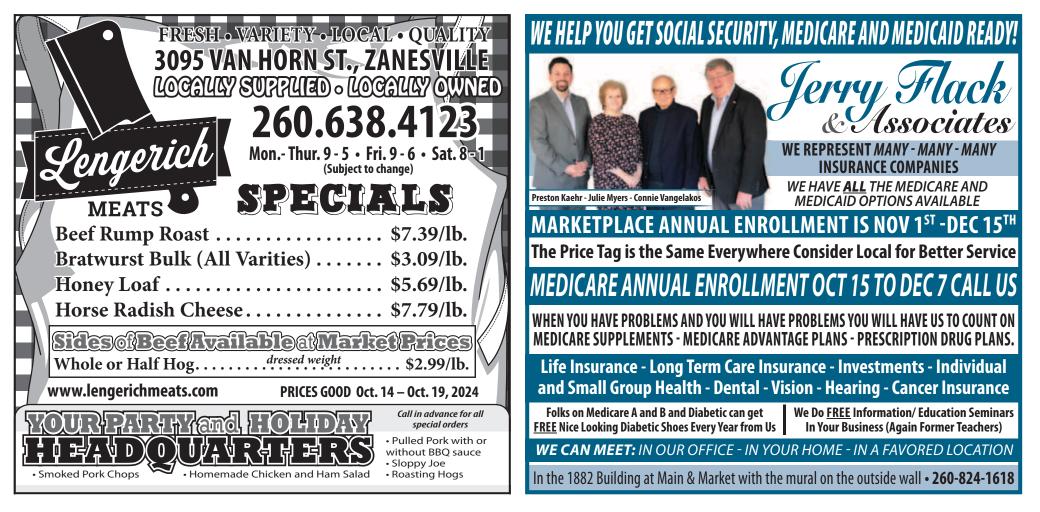
Instructions

1. Mix potatoes, chicken, chicken soup, butter, cheese, salt, sour cream and onion. (The cheese may be melted with the butter or placed in the casserole and melted as the casserole heats.)

2. Spoon into a two-quart casserole.

3. Sprinkle cracker crumbs on

4. Bake at 350 for 40 minutes or until heated through.



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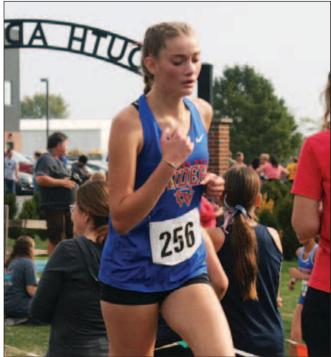
#### SPORTS





Bluffton and Southern Wells had a great day at the ACAC cross country championships at South Adams on Saturday. At top, the Bluffton boys stand together with their first-place varsity trophy. Above, the Southern Wells middle school team holds its first place trophy. (Photos provided)





At top, Raiders' Kelton Barr paces himself at the beginning of the varsity race. Above, Raiders' Marianne Pease holds strong during the final stages of the girls' varisty race. (Photos by Ryan Walker)

# Bluffton crowned ACAC champs for 4th time in a row

#### By RYAN WALKER

BERNE — For the fourth straight season, the Bluffton Tigers are the boys' cross country champion in the ACAC.

The Tigers' dominance is highlighted by the fact that this year's class of seniors have won the ACAC every season of their career. On Saturday, the 47-point victory to second place South Adams etched another great season for the program.

"The credit goes to all the guys who run the races and put in the training," head coach Michael Vanderkolk said. "From day one, the program was hungry for something more. Year after year, the program improves because these guys want to improve what has been established, and it's a testament to them not settling. I've just been fortunate to be among the coaches who help guide them 2007. They are on the cusp of breaking into something special, and we look forward to attacking the sectional with a sense of purpose next week."

The rest of the county had a handful of teams finishing third place or better.

Out of the seven schools participating, the Bluffton boys varsity and Southern Wells middle school teams came away with firstplace finishes. The Southern Wells girls' middle school team took second and was beaten by four points, while the Bluffton girls' came in third. The Raiders boys and girls varsity teams finished seventh overall.

The top runners for Southern Wells in the varsity race were Jarin Frauhiger in 16th and Kelton Barr 17th. For the girls, Sarah McFarren placed 21st and Marianne Pease 25th.

In the middle school meet, Logan Leas of Southern Wells finished third, Colten Fiechter seventh, Rylan Leas eighth and Logan Rogers ninth. For the girls, Aubree Neuenschwander came in second and Tenley Fiechter ninth. 45th (20:25.2) and Jimmy Borabo-Hower 57th (22:06.4).

Bluffton girls: Abigail Ramseyer finished third with a time of 20:17.8, Cora Kunkel sixth (20:48.6), Reagan Harris 15th (22:33.7), Amarah Robles 23rd (23:59.5), Dakota Lee 26th (23:59.5), Addison Sonnigsen 27th (24:25.0), Juaneliz Rivera Torres 40th (26:20.2), Briana Ortiz 41st (26:28.2), Kierstynn Reed 45th (28:16.6) and Namine Van-Hyfte 49th (29:36.2).

Southern Wells boys: Jarin Frauhiger finished 16th with a time of 18:13.3, Kelton Barr 17th (18:13.8), Colter Kiel 24th (18:50.5), Miles Garrett 31st (19:16.3), Daniel Isasi Escudero 36th (19:53.7), Kane Jenkins 38th (20:10.7), Peyton Ellis 39th (20:15.1) and Braden Yencer 53rd (21:29.5).

Southern Wells girls: Sarah McFarren

#### Middle school race

Bluffton boys: Yates Deacon finished 11th with a time of 11:39.5, Hudson Withers 12th (11:40.3), Christian Clubs 15th (12:27.5), Parker Klopfenstein 19th (12:54.6), Aldan Wood 20th (12:55.3), Rhys Smith 21st (12:56.0) and Rowen Drayer 28th (13:50.6).

Bluffton girls: Erin Ramseyer finished third with a time of 12:30.4, Paisley Neuenschwander 13th (12:56.9), Mackenzie White 20th (13:14.6), Sophia Robles 21st (13:24.6), Naomi Fry 23rd (13:33.2), Kianna Linderwell 26th (13:38.8) and Willow Todd 27th (13:39.2).

Southern Wells boys: Logan Leas finished third with a time of 10:42.9, Case Kirkwood fifth (10:50.6), Colten Fiechter seventh (10:51.1), Rylan Leas eighth (11:01.9), Logan Rogers ninth (11:13.5), Liam Leas 17th

along the way."

Two of those seniors went 1-2 in the boys' race as individuals: Levi Johns and Jude Baumgartner both finished under 16:30, hitting personal records and earning first-team all-conference honors.

The girls also showed out in third place a big improvement from the last few seasons with the additions of Abigail Ramseyer and Cora Kunkel, who placed third and sixth.

"I'm proud of the way the girls fought today," Vanderkolk said. "We may not have had many personal bests, but these ladies came in with a confidence that inspires me as their coach. Overall, they delivered one of the best, if not the best, team races this program has seen since the girls moved to the 5K in ryan@news-banner.com

#### Varsity race

Bluffton boys: Levi Johns finished first with a time of 16:16.3, Jude Baumgartner second (16:23.7), Aidan Graves eighth (17:14.6), Jackson Rockwell 13th (17:44.6), Griffin Linderwell 14th (17:51.7), Ryan Schlagenhauf 18th (18:14.0), Owen Lesh 20th (18:29.6), Brett Kuhlenbeck 28th (18:58.4), Manning Nash 33rd (19:23.2), Andy Baumgartner 35th (19:30.1), Clayton Brubaker 43rd (20:20.2), Azimjon Bahronov finished 21st with a time of 23:39.3, Marianne Pease 24th (24:16.9), Keely Miller 36th (25:51.6), Kameron Hawkins 39th (26:42.8), Gracie Reeves 40th (27:18.3) and Chanie Mounsey 43rd (28:47.9).

The sectional will be next week at Taylor University starting at 11:15 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 19.

#### **Team results:**

Boys: 1. Bluffton (38 team points), 2. South Adams (85), 3. Jay County (90), 4. Adams Central (104), 5. Heritage (118), 6. Woodlan (121) and 7. Southern Wells (124).

Girls: 1. Jay County (49 team points), 2. Adams Central (65), 3. Bluffton (71), 4. Woodlan (94), 5. Heritage (124), 6. South Adams (131) and 7. Southern Wells (160). (12:39.2) and Rhett Tucker 23rd (13:03.5).

Southern Wells girls: Aubree Neuenschwander finished second with a time of 12:22.3, Tenly Fiechter ninth (12:44.6), Parker Bryant 11th (12:55.2), Grace Rogers 12th (12:56.2), Anna McFarren 22nd (13:25.4), Ellie Nichols 24th (13:36.2) and Alexis Sunderman 32nd (13:49.2).

#### **Team results:**

Boys: 1. Southern Wells (32 team points), 2. Jay County (33), 3. Bluffton (77), 4. Adams Central (79) and 5. Woodlan (139). incomplete: Heritage and South Adams.

Girls: 1. Woodlan (52 team points), 2. Southern Wells (56), 3. South Adams (78), 4. Bluffton (80), 5. Adams Central (95) and 6. Jay County (144). Incomplete: Heritage.

### **Sports Roundup**

# IHSAA releases football sectional matchups

The IHSAA football sectional pairings draw is in.

Sunday night, the IHSAA did its annual drawing to see where each school will be playing next Friday in the first round of the playoffs. This year, Southern Wells drew the rare bye in the tournament, while both Bluffton and Norwell will be meeting state championship contenders from last year.

Norwell drew Bishop Luers on the road, the reigning 2A state champion and recently got the bump up to 3A. The Bishop Luers Knights are currently ranked 10th in the recent AP Poll, but will likely drop out after a 14-13 loss to South Side last week. They are currently 5-3 on the season.

Bluffton drew Adams Central, the threetime 1A state runners-up. The Jets and Tigers just met in Monroe on Friday in which No. 6 Adams Central (7-1) won 49-24. But Bluffton will get them at home for the first round of the playoffs.

The winner will play Jay County or Bellmont. On the other side of the bracket, Heritage faces Delta and Oak Hill draws Mississinewa.

The winner of the Jets and Tigers game

will play either Churubusco or Manchester. On the other side of the bracket, Eastside battles at Whitko and Prairie Heights faces Central Noble.

Southern Wells (0-8) drew a bye and will travel to the winner of Triton and Southwood. On the other side of the bracket, Blackhawk Christian will square off with North Miami and Fremont will travel to Northfield.

# Knights earn three honors in NE8 girls' soccer awards

The Northeast 8 Conference released its selections for the girls' soccer award winners. Norwell had three selections:

• Grace Mann, first-team forward.

• Madison Mashuda, honorable mention defender.

• Abby Wagner, honorable mention goalie. Norwell finished 3-4 in the NE8.

# Norwell finishes XC regular season at Delta Invitational

Norwell ended its cross country regular season at the Delta Invitational on Saturday.

The Knight girls finished sixth with 190 points while the boys finished ninth with 236 points.

# Pittman, Colts beat Titans

#### By MICHAEL MAROT AP Sports Writer

Indianapolis Colts receiver Michael Pittman Jr. tends to overcome the toughest challenges. Four days after reports came out that he suffered a back injury which might keep him out multiple weeks, Pittman caught three passes for 35 yards and may have salvaged Indy's playoff hopes by outjumping a defender for the go-ahead 10-yard TD catch in a 20-17 win over the Titans.

#### Individual results

Boys: Caiden Petrie finished 30th with a time of 17:43.50, Elijah Jacob 55th (18:43.40), Kayden Robbins 60th (18:53.50), Zathan Westfall 63rd (18:54.60), James Springer 74th (19:17.80), Gavin Threewits 75th (19:18.20), Kale Meredith 85th (19:30.20), Hudson Petrie 88th (19:36.30), Greyson Shoemaker 94th (19:56.90) and Parker McCartney 123rd (21:49.60).

Girls: Alana Cady finished 36th with a time of 22:36.21, Mariah Kline 38th (22:45.50), Teagan Lesley 46th (23:09.80), Addison Meyer 47th (23:10.80), Lyanna Kelley 48th (23:13.10), Kylee Hannie 62nd (24:06.00), Adalynn Fausz 70th (24:47.30) and Hattie Lewis 109th (31:38.60).

#### Team results

Boys: 1. Carmel (28 team points), 2. Guerin Catholic (56), 3. New Haven (133), 4. Greenfield Central (143), 5. Delta (151), 6. Bellmont (156), 7. Warsaw (167), 8. Muncie Central (214), 9. Norwell (236), 10. Speedway (300), 11. Park Tudor (300), 12. Yor-ktown (307), 13. Anderson Prep (366), 14. Anderson (399) and 15. Alexandria Monroe (448).

Girls: 1. Avon (47 team points), 2. Guerin Catholic (55), 3. Greenfield Central (93), 4. Park Tudor (130), 5. Speedway (169), 6. Norwell (190), 7. Yorktown (191), 8. Leo (195), 9. Frankton (227), 10. Delta (224), 11. Bellmont (247), 12. New Haven (345), 13. Muncie Central (345) and 14. Elwood (404).

The sectional will be next week at Taylor University starting at 11:15 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 19.

#### Knights fall in Maconaquah volleyball invite in title match

Norwell fell in the championship match in the Maconaquah volleyball invitational on Saturday.

The Knights went 3-1 on the weekend, finishing the regular season with a 19-12 record.

Results were: 2-0 win over Culver Academies (25-21, 25-15), 2-0 win over Manchester (26-24, 27-25), 2-0 win over Northwestern (25-9, 25-23) and a 2-1 loss to Maconquah (19-25, 25-16, 8-15).

Combined stat leaders: Macie Saalfrank 26 kills (Vanessa Rosswurm 24, Jaycie Grzych 22), Emma Vachon seven aces (Rebecca Settle six), Vachon 56 assists (Saalfrank 42), Bella Swineford eight blocks (Saalfrank seven) and Autumn Lee 38 digs (Saalfrank 23).

Norwell will face New Haven in Round 2 of the sectional at home starting at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 19.

### **High School Calendar**

TUESDAY, OCT 15 No events scheduled. WEDNESDAY, OCT 16 No events scheduled. THURSDAY, OCT 17

VOLLEYBALL: (Sectional) Bluffton vs. Whitko at Woodlan, 6 p.m.; Southern Wells at Daleville, 7:30 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, OCT 18

FOOTBALL: Franklin County at Bluffton, 7:30 p.m.; Columbia City at Norwell, 7 p.m.; South Adams at Southern Wells, 7 p.m. SATURDAY, OCT 19

CROSS COUNTRY (co-ed): (Sectional) Bluffton, Norwell, Southern Wells at Taylor, 10 a.m.

9

Thursday, Oct. 10: Cleveland 5,

National LeagueLos Angeles 3,

Saturday, Oct. 5: Los Angeles 7,

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: Los Angeles 2, San

Diego 0 New York 3, Philadelphia

Saturday, Oct. 5: New York 6, Philadelphia 2 Sunday, Oct. 6: Philadelphia 7,

Tuesday, Oct. 8: New York 7, Phila-

Wednesday, Oct. 9: New York 4,

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

Cleveland 2 Tuesday, Oct. 15: Cleveland (Bibee 12-8) at New York (Cole 8-5), 7:38 p.m. (TBS, truTV, and Max) Thursday, Oct. 17: New York (Schmidt 5-5) at Cleveland, 5:08 p.m. (TBS, truTV, and Max) Friday, Oct. 18: New York (Gil 15-7) at Cleveland, 8:08 p.m. (TBS, truTV, and Max)

x-Saturday, Oct. 19: New York at

Cleveland, 8:08 p.m. (TBS, truTV,

x-Monday, Oct. 21: Cleveland at New York, 5:08 p.m. (TBS, truTV,

and Max) x-Tuesday, Oct. 22: Cleveland at

New York, 7:38 p.m. (TBS, truTV, and Max)

National LeagueLos Angeles 1, New York 1 Sunday, Oct. 13: Los Angeles 9,

Sunday, Oct. 13: Los Angeles 9, New York 0 Monday, Oct. 14: New York 7, Los Angeles 3 Wednesday, Oct. 16: Los Angeles (Buehler 1-6) at New York (Severino 11-7), 8:08 p.m. (FS1) Thursday, Oct. 17: Los Angeles (Yamamoto 7-2) at New York, 8:08 p.m. (FOX and FS1) Friday. Oct. 18: Los Angeles at

Friday, Oct. 18: Los Angeles at New York, 5:08 p.m. (FOX and FS1) x-Sunday, Oct. 20: New York at Los

Angeles, 8:08 p.m. (FOX and FS1) x-Monday, Oct. 21: New York at Los

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

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Angeles, 8:08 p.m. (FOX and FS1)

**HOCKEY** 

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Florida

American LeagueNew York 1,

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Detroit 4 Saturday, Oct. 12: Cleveland 7,

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San Diego 2

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#### **FOOTBALL**

#### NFL

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don. GBR Dh, GBR Baltimore 30, Washington 23 Green Bay 34, Arizona 13 Houston 41, New England 21 Indianapolis 20, Tennessee 17 Philadelphia 20, Cleveland 16 Tampa Bay 51, New Orleans 27 L.A. Chargers 23, Denver 16 Pittsburgh 32, Las Vegas 13 Atlanta 38, Carolina 20 Detroit 47, Dallas 9 Cincinnati 17, N.Y. Giants 7 Open: Kansas City, Miami, L.A. Rams, Minnesota

Monday's Games Buffalo 32, N.Y. Jets 20 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.

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.

### College

EAST Albany (NY) 24, Bryant 17 Army 44, UAB 10 Buffalo 30, Toledo 15 CCSU 38, Mercyhurst 20 Columbia 24, Wagner 6 Dartmouth 44, Yale 43, OT Delaware 44, Maine 21 Duquesne 38, St. Francis (Pa.) 7 Georgetown 17, Lafayette 0 Georgerown 17, Larayette o Holy Cross 19, Fordham 16 Howard 21, Sacred Heart 14 Iowa St. 28, West Virginia 16 LIU Brooklyn 31, Stonehill 7 Merrimack 32, Morgan St. 24 Missouri 45, Umass 3 Penn 31, Bucknell 21 Pittsburgh 17, California 15 Rhode Island 31, Brown 21 Robert Morris 23, Delaware St. 0 St. Thomas (Minn.) 39, Marist 32 Wisconsin 42, Rutgers 7 Alabama 27, South Carolina 25 Alabama A&M 56, Bethune-Cook-

man 12 Alabama St 54 MVSU 17 Alcorn St. 17, Grambling St. 15 Chattanooga 41, Furman 10 Cincinnati 19, UCF 13 Clemson 49, Wake Forest 14 ETSU 31, Samford 28 Georgia 41, Mississippi St. 31 Georgia Southern 24, Marshall 23 Georgia Tech 41, North Carolina 34 LSU 29, Mississippi 26, OT

Louisiana-Lafayette 34, Appala-chian St. 24 Louisiana-Monroe 38, Southern Miss. 21

Louisville 24, Virginia 20 Memphis 21, South Florida 3 Mercer 34, Princeton 7 Morehead St. 14, Presbyterian 7 NC Central 68, Va. Lynchburg 0 New Hampshire 17, Elon 10 North Alabama 47, Abilene Christian 34

North Texas 41, FAU 37 Old Dominion 21, Georgia St. 14 Syracuse 24, NC State 17 Tennessee 23, Florida 17, OT Tennessee St. 41, E. Illinois 17 Texas A&M Commerce 42, North-

Western St. 21 Towson 28, Norfolk St. 23 Vanderbilt 20, Kentucky 13 W. Carolina 30, The Citadel 16 Wofford 31, VMI 16 MIDWEST Ashland 41 Findlay 21

Ashland 41, Findlay 21 Augsburg 37, Hamline 27 Augustana (III.) 35, Elmhurst 21

Augustana (SD) 20, Minot St. 7 Aurora 42, Concordia (Wis.) 14 Ball St. 37, Kent St. 35 Bethel (Minn.) 59, Macalester 0 Bluffton 42, Manchester 10 Cent. Oklahoma 48, NW Missouri St. 20

Coe 16, Central 13, 2OT Cornell (Iowa) 28, Beloit 0 Davenport 24, Michigan Tech 20 Davton 16. Davidson 14 Denison 48, Wooster 30 Drake 27, Butler 17 Emporia St. 49, Missouri Southern

30 Fort Hays St. 38, Washburn 7 Grand Valley St. 49, N. Michigan

17 Gustavus Adolphus 51, St. Scho-

lastica 13 Hanover 37, Rose Hulman 16 Illinois 50, Purdue 49, OT Illinois College 50, Chicago 37 Indiana St. 31, Murray St. 27 Indianapolis 47, Quincy 10 Iowa 40, Washington 16 John Carroll 49. Capital 14 Kenyon 27, Hiram 7 Lake Forest 54, Lawrence 7 Lindenwood (Mo.) 29, Charleston Southern 14 Loras 48. Luther 13 Marietta 35, Heidelberg 7 Martin Luther 30, Crown (Minn.) 14 McKendree 37, SW Baptist 14 Miami (Ohio) 38, E. Michigan 14 Minnesota St. 24, Minn. St. (Moorhead) 19

Missouri St. 41. Illinois St. 7 Missouri Western 38, Cent. Missouri 28

Monmouth (III.) 49, Grinnell 7 Mount St. Joseph 49, Anderson

(Ind.) 0 Mount Union 78, Wilmington (Ohio) 19

Muskingum 42, Ohio Northern 30 N. Dakota St. 24, S. Illinois 3 N. Illinois 17, Bowling Green 7 North Central 70 Millikin 14 North Park 30, Carroll (Wis.) 26 Northern St. 24, Minn. Duluth 21 Northwestern (Minn.) 34, Greenville 14

Notre Dame 49, Stanford 7 Notre Darie 49, Stanford 7 Ohio 27, Cent. Michigan 25 Pittsburg St. 20, Neb.-Kearney 10 Ripon 24, Knox 17 Rockford 74, Concordia (III.) 45 S. Dakota St. 63, Youngstown

St. 13 SE Missouri 34. Tennessee Tech 3 Saginaw Valley St. 27, Chicago 14 Simpson 21, Nebraska Wesleyan

14 Sioux Falls 35, Concordia (St.P.)

21 South Dakota 42, N. Iowa 17 St. John's (Minn.) 38, Concordia (Moor.) 31

St. Norbert 14, Benedictine (III.) 0 St. Olaf 19, Carleton 13 Tiffin 31, Ohio Dominican 13 Truman St. 48, Missouri S&T 17 UT Martin 45, W. Illinois 17 Upper Iowa 38, William Jewell 31, OT

W. Michigan 34, Akron 24 Walsh 36, Hillsdale 35, OT Wartburg 70, Buena Vista 21

Washington (Mo.) 65, Carthage 16 Wayne St. (Neb.) 41, SW Min-Wheaton (III.) 42, Illinois Weslevan

**News-Banner Scoreboard** 

21 Winona St. 48, Mary 7 Wis.-Eau Claire 41, Wis.-Stevens

Pt 0 Wis.-Oshkosh 34, Wis.-La Crosse

33 Wis.-Platteville 28. Wis.-River

Falls 7 Wis.-Stout 29, Wis.-Whitewater 27

Wittenberg 17, Ohio Wesleyan 6 FAR WEST BYU 41, Arizona 19 Boise St. 28, Hawaii 7 Colorado St. 31, San Jose St. 24 E. Washington 35, Sacramento St. 28 Kansas St. 31, Colorado 28 Kansas St. 31, Colorado 28 Minnesota 21, UCLA 17 Montana 31, N. Arizona 20 Montana St. 38, Idaho 7 N. Colorado 21, Weber St. 17 Nevada 42, Oregon St. 37 New Mexico 52, Air Force 37 New Mexico 52. Air Force 37

New Mexico 52, Air Force 37 Oregon 32, Ohio St. 31 Penn St. 33, Southern Cal 30, OT Portland St. 42, Idaho St. 38 S. Utah 42, E. Kentucky 21 San Diego St. 27, Wyoming 24 UC Davis 56, Cal Poly 10 Washington St. 25, Fresno St. 17

#### **BASKETBALL**

#### **WNBA**

WNBA Finals (Best-of-5) No. 2 Minnesota 1, No. 1 New York 1

Thursday, Oct. 10: Minnesota 95, New York 93, OT Sunday, Oct. 13: New York 80, Minnesota 66

Wednesday, Oct. 16: New York at Minnesota, 8 p.m.

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

#### **BASEBALL**

#### MLB

**DIVISION SERIES** (Best-of-5) American League 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,

- WewYork 2 Wednesday, Oct. 9: New York 3, Kansas City 2 Thursday, Oct. 10: New York 3, Kansas City 1
- Cleveland 3, Detroit 2 Saturday, Oct. 5: Cleveland 7, Detroit 0
- Monday, Oct. 7: Detroit 3, Cleve-
- land 0 Wednesday, Oct. 9: Detroit 3,

Cleveland 0

man again this week. Indy also must decide whether to start the 21-day clock for the return of All-Pro defensive tackle DeForest Buckner (sprained ankle) to return from injured reserve.

NEXT STEPS essential. The Colts desperately



 
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 Vegas Calgary 3 Los Angeles3 Anaheim 2 Vancouver 2 Seattle San Jose 2 0 Edmonton 3 0 NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three

teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Sunday's Games Winnipeg 2, Minnesota 1, OT Dallas 2, Seattle 0 Calgary 4, Edmonton 1

Vegas 3, Anaheim 1 Monday's Games New Jersey 3, Utah 0 Florida 4, Boston 3 Ottawa 8, Los Angeles 7, OT N.Y. Rangers 4, Detroit 1 Pittsburgh 6, Montreal 3

N.Y. Islanders at Colorado, 9 p.m. Tuesday's Games Florida at Columbus, 7 p.m. New Jersey at Carolina, 7 p.m. Vancouver at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m. Vegas at Washington, 7 p.m. Minnesota at St. Louis, 7:30 p.m. San Jose at Dallas, 8 p.m. Seattle at Nashville, 8 p.m.

Chicago at Calgary, 9 p.m. Philadelphia at Edmonton, 10 p.m. Wednesday's Games Buffalo at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m. Los Angeles at Toronto, 7:30 p.m. Dastaget Calerado

Los Angeles al foronto, 7:30 p Boston at Colorado, 9:30 p.m. Utah at Anaheim, 10 p.m. **Thursday's Games** Buffalo at Columbus, 7 p.m. Dallas at Washington, 7 p.m. Los Angeles at Montreal, 7 p.m. New Jersey at Ottawa, 7 p.m. Vancouver at Florida, 7 p.m. Vegas at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m. N.Y. Rangers at Detroit, 7:30 p.m Edmonton at Nashville, 8 p.m. N.Y. Islanders at St. Louis, 8 p.m. San Jose at Chicago, 8:30 p.m. Philadelphia at Seattle, 10 p.m.

needed to beat the Titans to

stay in the AFC South title

chase. With three straight

matchups against division

leaders following a Week

7 game against struggling

Miami (2-3), protecting their

home turf this weekend is

Cincinnati at Cleveland, 1 p.m. Colts beat Titans

(Continued from Page 6)

It's no surprise in Indy's locker room.

"I've only been here what week is this six? Week 5, Week 6? He's got to be one of the toughest players I've played with," said quarterback Joe Flacco, a 17-year veteran. "It's awesome, I mean when you have guys like that you can go a long way, and that's the kind of guys you need to have to play winning football. He's unbelievable for that."

While some may discount Pittman's value because his numbers and highlights don't always stand out, the Colts (3-3) never have. They're relied on Pittman's reliable leadership by example style for so long, they gave him a contract extension worth \$70 million in March.

last December against Pittsburgh, Pittman never backs down. His performance against the Titans (1-4) was a perfect example.

When Flacco needed to find someone to beat a blitz on third-and-9, he backpedaled and lobbed the perfect pass to let Pittman use his size advantage to win the jump ball — and hang on as he hit the field.

"I wanted to jump before he jumped, and, honestly, I didn't want to be too high because it (the game) wasn't over yet," Pittman said. Obviously, I was excited. But I knew, 'Hey, the game's not over yet. We've still got time.' So, you know, just keep it moving. And then I kept it level and then it led to another decent play." That 16-yard catch went for a first down, nearly allowing the Colts to run out the clock with another play Pittman made look easy. 'He just showed up. Like I said, the toughest guy I've ever been around and when we needed a play, he made the big time play," coach Shane

Steichen said. "Just a credit to him and his toughness.'

WHAT'S WORKING Flacco. At age 39, the Super Bowl 47 MVP isn't flashy. He wins with smarts. Since replacing injured starter Anthony Richardson, Flacco has completed 70% of his throws with five TD passes and one interception while leading Indy to two wins in three games.

WHAT NEEDS WORK Ground game. A sprained ankle prevented Jonathan Taylor, the 2021 NFL rushing champ, from finishing the Steelers game three weeks ago, and in the two full games he's missed, Indy is averaging 3.8 yards on 48 carries. Flacco – or Richardson - need a more balanced attack to keep defenses honest.

has struggled with injuries and consistency. Womack was in coverage on two key, late plays to help seal Sun-

sive line is a three-time Pro Bowler in search of a contract extension. But after missing the two previous games with a neck injury, he couldn't finish the Tennessee game because of an injured calf. Rookie Tanor Bortolini, a fourth-round draft pick, has done a solid

# **STOCK DOWN**

day's victory. Ryan Kelly. Indy's longtime anchor on the offen-

He's been worth every penny so far.

From training camp dustups to small skirmishes during joint practices to his response after taking a dangerous hit to the head

#### **STOCK UP**

Samuel Womack III. All the veteran cornerback has done since being acquired off waivers just before the regular season started is make plays. He's been a steadying influence for a young position group that job replacing Kelly

INJŪRIĖS Indy begins yet another week hoping Richardson (right hip), Taylor (sprained ankle) and Kelly can play against Miami. Steichen said Monday he expects Richardson to play after going through pregame warmups each of the past two weeks. Undrafted rookie Dalton Tucker has played well in place of injured right guard Will Fries (lower right leg). And don't make the mistake of counting out Pitt-

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#### rate monitor?" **By ANNE M. PETERSON AP Sports Writer** Gabriel scored on 27-yard keeper

EUGENE, Ore. (AP) – Oregon coach Dan Lanning saw it in quarterback Dillon Gabriel's eyes — he was ready to meet the moment.

Gabriel threw two touchdown passes and ran for another late score, helping third-ranked Oregon outlast No. 2 Ohio State 32-31 on Saturday night.

Gabriel, who transferred to Oregon (6-0, 3-0) this season from Oklahoma for the Ducks' first season in the Big Ten, completed 23 of 34 passes for 341 yards. He also ran for 32 yards on four carries.

Jordan James ran for 115 yards and a score for the Ducks in front of a record crowd of 61,128 for the first matchup between two teams ranked in the top five at Autzen Stadium. It was the highest-ranked opponent that Oregon has beaten during the regular season.

After the victory, the Oregon fans rushed the field and the Ducks' mascot crowd-surfed over their shoulders. Afterward coach Dan Lanning joked with reporters: "Anyone have a heart-

early in the fourth quarter to give Oregon a 29-28 lead. But Ohio State (5-1, 2-1) responded with a clock-eating drive that ended with Jayden Fielding's 40-yard field goal that made it 31-29 with six minutes to go.

Gabriel rallies No. 3 Ducks past No. 2 Buckeyes

A pass-interference call got the Ducks to Ohio State's 9, but Oregon settled for Atticus Sappington's 19-yard field goal and a 32-31 lead with 1:47 left.

Will Howard hit Emeka Egbuka with a 26-yard pass to pull the Buckeyes closer to field goal range, but an offensive pass-interference call on freshman Jeremiah Smith pushed Ohio State back. On third-and-20 on the Oregon 38, Howard took off running with four seconds left but gained only 12 yards and slid as time ran out.

"I just know how much time and effort everyone puts into this, and that goes for the coaches, the players, the support staff within this building to make the whole show go," Gabriel said. "There's joy in winning, and you love

to see your team succeed."

Howard threw for 336 yards an two touchdowns for Ohio State . Smith had nine catches for 100 yards and a score in what was the first big test for the Buckeyes this season.

Ohio State coach Ryan Day is 1-7 against teams ranked in the top five. Because of the expanded College Football Playoff, the loss may not have the impact on the Buckeyes' postseason hopes as it might have had in previous seasons.

"We could sit here and look at one play here, one play there or complain about a call, but we're not going to do that. We're going to own it," Day said.

Howard scored on a 1-yard keeper on Ohio State's opening drive of the game. It was his fifth rushing touchdown of the season, most by a Buckeye in five seasons.

Oregon capitalized when Derrick Harmon forced Quinshon Judkins' fumble and recovered the ball on the Ohio State 28. James punched the ball in from 3 yards out but the Ducks flubbed the snap on the extra point attempt.





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#### **BEETLE BAILEY**

WHERE I LEFT

MY KEYS

UGH! I DON'T KNOW

#### DIVERSIONS

WHY WOULD I LOOK

WHERE THEY BELONG?

### Healing after accusations and heartbreak

Dear Annie: A relationship I had for two and a half years has recently ended. I met a woman, "Marie," through mutual friends, and we quickly became best friends, eventually turning romantic. She was the first woman I ever dated, and while our relationship had its ups and downs, the challenges were unique. She had rare health problems and a history of being treated badly by men. Over time, I became somewhat of a caretaker for her, and we were inseparable.

But things changed. She began accusing me of being "manipulative" and a "gaslighter." While I made mistakes this was my first relationship — I always apologized when I realized I was wrong. But she would refuse to explain what I had done, leaving me apologizing without understanding why. We tried counseling, but after one session, she didn't want to continue.

Two weeks ago, I moved from Arizona to South Carolina, while she stayed behind for work. Despite my efforts to stay in touch, she told me she didn't deserve how I treated her and that I needed to move on and treat the next woman better. I'm heartbroken because I haven't done some of the things she accused me of, like turning friends against her.

To complicate things, her mother has thanked me for everything I did for her daughter and even sent me photos from their family vacation. Seeing those pictures hurt deeply, as I don't think she'll ever smile at me the way she does in them. I feel broken. – Broken

Dear Broken: You may feel broken now, but you're on the path to building a much better life for yourself. While the pain is real, remember that this was someone who wasn't willing to work on the relationship through therapy and often turned things around by accusing you of manipulation and gaslighting. That's name-calling, not healthy communication. In the long run, it's better that you've parted ways. Stay strong; better days are ahead.

take our grown kids and their spouses on nice vacations. We've flown them business class to various overseas locations, and since we don't live in the same cities, we cherish this time together.

The issue is our son-in-law, "Pete." He behaves like he's paying for the trip,

constantly boasting about his latest business ventures, though our daughter is the real breadwinner. He always orders the most expensive items on the menu and complains if the liquor selection isn't toptier. This is not how they live at

home, and his entitlement is frustrating.

Pete also doesn't like children and makes it known how irritated he gets when any are around. His thin skin means that even the slightest comment causes him to sulk for days. Overall, his behavior has made these vacations unpleasant.

Dear

Annie

by Annie Lane

We brought this up with our daughter in what we thought was a civil conversation, but she brushed it off, saying he's just "maximizing" his vacation. To us, "maximizing" feels like him taking full advantage of our generosity.

We've thought about ending these trips, but we love spending time with our son and his wife, who are a joy to be around. We don't want to stop the vacations entirely because of Pete's behavior. What do you suggest? — Frustrated Generous Parents

Dear Frustrated Generous Parents: Pete sounds like quite the handful! I think it's time to let him foot the bill for his topshelf liquor. You're already treating them to flights and luxury accommodations; he can splurge on his own taste in spirits. His entitlement isn't doing anyone any favors, least of all your grandchildren, who certainly don't need that kind of role model.

It might be time for a reality check. Letting him take responsibility for his actions (and expenses) could cool his britches a bit. Nothing like paying for your own extravagances to bring things into perspective.

"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Part-Dear Annie: Every year, my wife and I ner?" 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 dearannie@creators.com.

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AREN'T THEY

RIGHT THERE ON

THE KEY RACK



T'S OKA

DAGWOOD'S

FROM HOME

TODAY

WORKING

#### CRANKSHAFT



The LOCKHORNS



"THE COLOR SHADES WE HAVE SIMILAR TO YOUR HUSBAND ARE ASHEN, BLANCHED, BLEACHED, PEAKY, ETIOLATED AND SALLOW."

### My Answer By Dr. Billy Graham

Question: I've been told that the "golden years" are known as the years follow*ing retirement – the time to* enjoy the fruit of one's labor. When I retired my life fell apart. Does society know that there is no such thing as retirement bringing a time of rest and leisure? It's a

### Bible doesn't hide the negative side of getting older

what brings pleasure. The Bible doesn't hide the negative side of getting older – nor should we. But neither does aging mean that God no longer has a purpose for us.

One of the most poetic and candid descriptions of infirmities in all literature comes from the writer of Ecclesiastes. After surveying the futility of life without God, he urges his readers to commit their lives to Him while they are still young. The reason? Not only would God give meaning and joy to their lives right now, but if they delay too long, it will be too late to enjoy God's good gifts.

# come when we say, "I find

no pleasure in them" (Ecclesiastes 12:1, ESV). But is this all there is to

growing older? No. Scripture records the story of Barzillai in 2 Samuel 19, emphasizing that he was "old," yet still useful. The Bible is dotted with examples of the aged - men and women who refused to use old age as an excuse. It isn't always easy, but we will

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane 10-15 KEANE

"Was 'Once upon a time' when you were little, Grandma?

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**CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer** AC

time of sickness followed by death. It's a dreadful thing. -R.B.

Answer: Many are surprised to learn that the term 'golden years' was coined in 1959 for an advertising campaign for one of America's first retirement communities. People bought into the idea that retirement was a time of leisure and doing

He tells us to remember our Creator in the days of youth, before the days of trouble, for the time will make our own lives better (and those who care about us) if we work at growing old gracefully; and God will help us.

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

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# Farmers' Almanac teases a 2024-25 winter less crazy than the last

#### By AGDAILY

Farmers, get ready for a challenging winter. The 2025 Farmers' Almanac predicts a cold, stormy season, far different from last year's unusual weather anomalies.

While the winter of 2023-24 saw unpredictable warm spells and sudden cold snaps, this year's forecast promises more traditional winter conditions, particularly for the northern and eastern regions.

Winter officially starts on December 21, 2024, with the winter solstice, but don't expect the cold to hold off until then. La Niña's influence means cold temperatures and storms could hit earlier. The Farmers' Almanac highlights that the season's coldest temperatures will affect the Northern Plains and Great Lakes, where heavy snow is expected, especially during the final week of January into early February, as frigid Arctic air sweeps across much of the country.

The eastern half of the U.S. is on "red flag" alert for the final week of January due to a highly active storm track.

Between January 20 and 27, expect frequent bouts of heavy precipitation, along with gusty winds. This period could bring significant amounts of snow, rain, sleet, or ice, depending on your region.



A map of the winter forecast. (Image provided by The Farmer's Almanac)

For those in Texas and the Northwest, mark your calendars for early February. A potential snowstorm could bring up to 6 inches in Texas, while Idaho's Bitterroot Mountain range could see up to 12 inches.

Above-average precipitation is forecasted for the eastern third of the U.S., including the Great Lakes, Ohio Valley, and Midwest. The almanac says the Pacific Northwest will also have a wet and chilly winter, while the Southwest and South Central States are expected to experience average to below-average precipitation. This is a stark contrast to last year, when Texas experienced unusually cold conditions.

This winter, the Southern Plains, including parts of Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, and New Mexico, should have a warmer season, with the Southeast and Atlantic Coast also expected to experience above-average temperatures.

#### Looking back, and forward

Last winter's strange anomalies were driven by an El Niño event, but this year's steadier La Niña influence should bring more consistent winter weather patterns. However, with a highly active storm track predicted, the season is expected to deliver heavy snow, ice, and rain for many regions.

The Farmers' Almanac

continues to use its timetested formula, developed in 1818, which accounts for environmental fluctuations, sunspots, the motion of the Moon, and other proprietary factors.

Even when nature throws curveballs, the almanac doesn't shy away from forecasting the weather months in advance.

For more detailed forecasts and regional maps, you can order your 2025 Farmers' Almanac or get all-access online. And, to be clear, this almanac should not be confused with the competing Old Farmer's Almanac, which is also leaning toward higher precipitation amounts compared with last year.





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# September tractor, combine sales decline

#### By AGDAILY

In September 2024, U.S. sales of agricultural tractors fell by 19.2 percent, and combine sales dropped by a significant 40.7 percent compared to the same period last year, according to data from the Association of Equipment Manufacturers. Canadian sales also experienced declines, with tractor sales down 24.9 and combines

falling by 51.9 percent. Curt Blades, Senior

concerns about potential supply disruptions due to global tensions.

Despite these challenges, U.S. farmers are adapting by being conservative in their financial decisions and are hesitant to take on debt for new equipment. As a result, tractor and combine sales may continue to struggle in the near term, with many sales likely lost for good due to the long-term trend of farm consolidation and fewer farmers needing smaller tractors. With agricultural operations becoming more efficient, the future demand for tractors is expected to remain subdued, marking a continued contraction in the market for this equipment segment.



Vice President at AEM, attributed the downturn to the overall softness in the agricultural economy, highlighting the cyclical slowdown seen throughout the summer.

The decline in tractor sales, particularly among smaller models under 40 horsepower, points to broader financial challenges faced by farmers.

The agricultural sector continues to navigate rising costs and inflationary pressures. Farmers are dealing with reduced net incomes due to lower commodity prices and higher input costs, such as seed, fertilizer, and equipment maintenance. The cost of financing tractors has also surged, making new equipment purchases less attractive.

Farmers, particularly those in the grain sector, have seen their incomes shrink. Corn prices dropped from \$5.67 per bushel in 2021 to \$3.78 in August 2024, while soybeans fell from \$12.17 to \$9.82 per bushel in the same period. This decline in earnings, coupled with higher input costs, has further dampened equipment purchases.

Supply chain concerns are also at the forefront of farmers' minds, with many critical agricultural inputs now being produced by foreign companies. The rise of international ownership in seed and chemical production has sparked

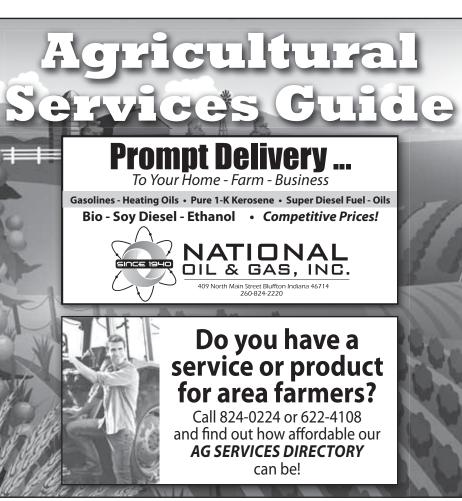
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Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

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**EMPLOYMENT** 

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Box 436, 125 N. Johnson St.,

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824-0224, or submit on-line at

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Bluffton, IN 46714.

#### Lottery Numbers

#### **Saturday's Drawings** HOOSIER LOTTERY **Cash 5** — 08-37-41-43-45

**Cash4Life** — 13-17-18-26-37, Cash Ball: 02

Lotto Plus - 20-22-24-33-35-38

Quick Draw Midday -06-23-26-27-31-35-43-45-47-49-50-51-59-62-64-67-69-71-78-79, BE: 50

Daily Three-Midday -04-05-02, SB: 05

Daily Three-Evening — 01-07-09, SB: 02

Daily Four-Midday -03-09-04-05, SB: 05

**Daily Four-Evening** — 00-05-06-02, SB: 02

**Quick Draw Evening** 08-09-11-14-15-19-26-

31-35-37-39-44-46-52-54-

57-60-64-66-79, BE: 66

Hoosier Lotto - 03-04-09-40-41-45 **POWERBALL** 

#### **Help Wanted**

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.

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, represen tation at workshops and meetings, scheduling of regu-lar day to day and long term operations. The position is a mix of office and field work. Must hold at least a WT3 or DSM license, have at least eight years experience with managerial a plus. Knowl-edge of Electric Utility also a plus. Base pay of \$28.50 per hour adjusted upward based on experience. Benefit Package available. For information contact Lee Poulson, Utility Ma 260-375-3424 Manager, at or

utility1@citznet.com or Clerk Treasurer Marilyn Morrison at townofwarrenin@gmail.com at 260-375-2656. Application form can be found at warrenindiana.us or by requesting through above con-tacts. Please include resume.

THE CITY OF Bluffton is hiring for the Tree Crew of the Electric Department. The minimum educational requirement is a high school diploma or equivalent. Applications and a job description may be obtained in the Clerk Treasurer's Office, 128 E Market St, Bluffton, IN from 8:00 am-4:30 pm Monday -Friday or on the City website www.blufftonindiana.net



#### **RENTALS**

Office Space Rental MAKE YOUR AD STAND OUT! Add a graphic or photo to a line classified ad for an additional \$5. Contact the News-Banner office at 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton, (260) 824-0224, or submit online to www.news-banner.com and click on classifieds.

#### **SERVICES**

#### Services

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BIDDING ENDS OCTOBER 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. 17, 4-6 p.m., 915 W. Wayne St., Fort Wayne, IN. Sale manager Brandon Steffen, 260-710-5684, *Steffen Group Real Estate & Auctions*, 260-426-

0633, steffengrp.com. BIDDING ENDS 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, The Steffen Group, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006 OCTOBER 24 - 9 a.m.-6 p.m. - (Online Only) - Estate of Larry Curry, seller. Excel-lent 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 managers, Brandon Steffen, 260-710-5684, Rod Fetters, 260-557-8451, The Steffen Group Inc., 824-3006, www.steffengrp. com **BIDDING STARTS CLOS-**ING 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, Corelle 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, 260-724-7402, 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, 260-724-7402, Kjauction. com

#### Services

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#### VEHICLES

#### Campers/RV's

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

NOVEMBER 3-10 - (Online

Only) - Estate of Elizabeth (Carter) Aeschliman & othèrs, seller. Ladies diamond wedding ring, ladies diamond cluster ring, diamond earrings, Sapphire necklace & earrings, lg. assortment of costume jewelry, Howard Miller china cabinet, cherry finish china cabinet, 2019 GE window air conditioner, collectibles, glassware, vintage silver-plate flatware sets, marbles, Anri Italy wood carved figurines, holiday decor, household. Open houses Oct. 31, Nov. 7, 3-6 p.m., 117 W. Craig St., Ossian. Sale manag-ers Bobby Perry, Patrick Carter, *The Steffen Group*, www. steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006. 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 Wolheter, 260-336-2219, Halderman Real Estate & Farm *Management*, 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., heartlandauctionrealty. com, 260-724-3499.



**THURS. & FRI.**, Oct. 17 & 18, 8 am-6 pm, Sat., Oct. 19, 8 am -2 pm (free from 2-4pm), Ossian United Methodist Church United Methodist Ossian Women's projects.

MOVING SALE OCT. 15 through Oct. 20, 9 a.m. to dusk, 338 E. St. Rd. 124, Bluffton. Household items craft items, some antique glassware, horse tack, garder stuff. tools. etc. some furniture

> Wells County Tax Sale Scheduled

Wells County will conduct a tax sale on Wednesday, October 30, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at the Wells County Courthouse for delinquent properties that have delinquent taxes and special assessments due from the prior year's spring installment.

In Indiana, the county treasurer and auditor are required to sell tax liens on delinquent properties that remain unpaid from the prior year's spring installment. Wells County will offer the tax sale certificates at a public sale that is not less than a public sale that is not less than the total amount due in delinquent taxes costs and penalties. "The taxes, costs, and penalties. "The purpose of this Tax Sale is to offer these delinquent properties in order to collect back taxes to help explained County Auditor Lisa McCormick. Kathy Peeper, Wells County Treasurer, also stated, "There are currently 25 properties available for the tax sale totaling

\$107,859.30 in delinquencies." In addition to serving as a source for local governments to collect unpaid property taxes, tax sales also serve as an opportunity for real estate investors to earn interest income upon redemption of the property within one year from the sale, or to take title to the property through a post-tax sale process that involves petitioning

the local court for a tax deed. Wells County has contracted with SRI, Inc., an Indianapolis-based company founded in 1989 that conducts tax sales, commis-sioners' certificate sales, and commissioners' deed sales for over 80 counties in Indiana, Michigan, and Colorado.

Persons interested in registerdaing at tv Tax Sale should visit the SRI. Inc. website at <u>https://www.sriser-</u> vices.com and read the information regarding tax sales.

05-14-20-41-57; Power ball: 06; Power Play: 3X

#### Sunday's Drawings HOOSIÉR LOTTERY **Cash 5** — 03-06-20-24-

43 **Cash4Life** — 14-38-48-50-60, Cash Ball: 01 Quick Draw Midday -06-14-15-20-21-23-24-28-35-46-49-51-54-59-60-62-70-71-74-78, BE: 06 Daily Three-Midday — 03-06-09, SB: 00 Daily Three-Evening — 09-01-01, SB: 05 Daily Four-Midday — 07-09-05-05, SB: 00 Daily Four-Evening -06-05-02-05, SB: 05 **Ouick Draw Evening** 02-04-05-08-09-12-16-28-30-40-41-47-49-53-54-59-60-67-68-78, BE: 67

**Monday's Drawings** HOOSIER LOTTERY **Cash 5** – 19-21-24-26-

31 **Cash4Life** — 09-32-44-

48-50, Cash Ball: 04 Quick Draw Midday -01-02-10-11-13-14-20-22-26-28-37-47-49-68-72-73-75-76-79-80, BE: 79 Daily Three-Midday -02-05-02, SB: 08 Daily Three-Evening — 04-09-04, SB: 07 Daily Four-Midday — 08-07-06-03, SB: 08 Daily Four-Evening — 00-06-03-05, SB: 07 **Quick Draw Evening** 12-16-23-30-34-35-41-46-49-50-55-56-57-60-62-65-68-71-72-79, BE: 46 Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednes-

day): \$388 million **MEGA MILLIONS** Estimated jackpot (for Tuesday): \$169 million **POWERBALL** 14-18-33-64-67; Powerball: 14; Power Play: 2X

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#### Public Notices

#### Notice

The City of Bluffton Parks is seeking bids to stabilize 1,100 feet of the Wabash River using rip rap, embedded root wads, and life stakes. Bid Packets are available at https://blufftonindiana.net/294/ Legal-Notices and are due back in the Clerk Treasurer's office on Oct 22nd by 4:30pm.

nb 10/8, 10/15 hspaxlp

#### NOTICE

The Board of Public Works and Safety of the City of Bluffton is accepting sealed bids for Trash and Recyclable Collection Service for 2025-2028. Notice to Bidders, and Specifications, may be obtained from the office of the Clerk Treasurer, 128 East Market Street, Bluffton, Indiana, 46714, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Bids are due by 4:30 p.m. on October 29, 2024, and will be opened and read aloud at the public meeting of the Board of Pub-lic Works and Safety at 4:30 p.m. on October 29, 2024

nb 10/15, 10/22 hspaxlp

#### SUDOKU ANSWER

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nb 10/15 hspaxlp

#### NOTICE TO BIDDERS FOR M.S.D. OF BLUFFTON-HARRISON WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Board of School Trustees

of the M.S.D. of Bluffton-Harrision (the "Owner") will receive sealed ids for the Bluffton Middle School Restroom Renovation

Bids will be accepted at the M.S.D. of Bluffton-Harrison Admin-istration Office, 805 East Harrison Street, Bluffton, Indiana, until 10:00 a.m. (local time), on November 12, 2024. Bids will be opened and tabulated at that time in the Board Room. A Pre-Bid Meeting is sched-uled for October 29, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at Bluffton Middle School, 1500 Stogdill Road, Bluffton, IN

All bidding and construction shall be in accordance with construction documents prepared by Barton-Coe-Vilamaa. Architect and Engineers, Inc., which can be obtained from the office of Barton-Coe-Vilamaa. Call 260/489-9079 (office of Barton-Coe-Vilamaa) to request an invitation to receive digital access to the bidding documents

Bidders will be required to file, with their bids, a certified check made payable to the M.S.D. of Bluffton-Harrison or a Bid Bond for an amount not less than five per-cent (5%) of their maximum bid or Should a successful bidder withdraw its bid, or fail to execute a satisfactory Contract, M.S.D. of Bluffton-Harrison may then declare the bid deposit or bid bond to be

forfeited as liquidated damages. Each successful bidder shall be required to furnish an approved Performance Bond and a Labor and Materials Payment Bond which cover faithful performance of the contract and the payment of all obligations arising thereunder. A Maintenance Bond shall also be required. Said bonds shall remain in full force and effect for twelve months from the substantial completion of the Work.

The contract will be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder complying with the conditions for bidding, provided the bid is reasonable and it is to the best interest of the Owner to accept it. The Owner reserves the right to reject the bid of any or all bidder in accordance with Indiana Code 36-1-12.

Bids not reaching said office by 10:00 a.m., on November 12, 2024 will not be opened and will be returned unopened to the original bidder

Dated this 7th day of October 2024.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES M.S.D. OF **BLUFFTON-HARRISON** nb 10/15, 10/22 hspaxlp

### Non-voters cite disillusionment

#### (Continued from Page 1)

The organization administered the poll to thousands of current and former clients as part of community needs assessments, so that most respondents earn at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, Director Erin Macey said. This year, that's about \$62,000 for a family of four.

Linda Hanson, who leads the nonpartisan League of Women Voters' Indiana chapter, said a traditionally poor civics education has likely contributed to a votingeligible population that feels uninformed about candidates, issues and even the mechanics of voting.

That's why, she said, the League created a website guiding users through registering to vote, checking their registration and finding who's on their ballot. An accompanying handbook lays out Hoosier voting rights and governance structures at the local, state and federal levels.

Riley Choe knows who's on the ballot — but doesn't like the options.

The Marion County resident,

who reported leaning "a little bit left of a moderate Democrat," said candidate quality is key.

The 20-year-old described participating in two elections thus far and volunteering with political efforts. But their vote isn't a guarantee: "I have submitted a ballot with entries left blank, as in a vote of 'no confidence.'

Choe is deeply critical of Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett, his administration, and by extension, the Indiana Democratic Party.

Allegations of sexual misconduct against a top aide and other staffers, first reported by the Indianapolis Star and Mirror Indy, have rocked the deep-blue city.

"Having to choose a party that lets sexual assault go unpunished because my rights ... could go away if the other side wins - it doesn't make me excited to vote," Choe said.

Hogsett's not on the ballot in November, but other Democrats are. Choe described scrutinizing how gubernatorial nominee Jennifer McCormick and other candidates have reacted to the allega-

tions.

They plan to vote — but won't necessarily complete the ballot.

Respondents in the institute's survey thought similarly, with one writing, "All candidates are basically the same" and another adding, "There all liars.'

#### Other reasons

Respondents in the institute's survey could pick multiple reasons for not voting. About 35% said they felt like their vote "doesn't matter."

Hanson said line-drawing strategies have contributed to the state's notoriously uncompetitive districts. She recounted how software advancements in the early 2000s let ruling parties across the country - Republicans and Democrats - further entrench themselves during the 2011 redistricting cycle.

"That election changed the dynamics in our Legislature, so that it wasn't like 50% or 60% - it was 80% of one party," Hanson said. "That in itself helped to squash competition. And this is, I think, what contributes to that lack of voter interest."

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 5,2024.

Hanson said her group has been encouraging voters to participate in primary elections, since, she said, that's when electoral competitiveness peaks in Indiana.

But about 16% of non-voting survey-takers said they didn't have the time to vote.

Indiana has limited Election Day polling hours -6 a.m. to 6 p.m. — and many counties further limit hours and locations for early in-person voting.

Limited voting hours were also a barrier cited by Hanson.

'In Delaware County, for example, there is one place for all of that (month) for early voting. One place in all of Delaware County," Hanson said. "It's our county courthouse."

Hanson, who teaches at Ball State University, said she told students "it's not a bad walk."

Those wanting to vote by mail must qualify for one of 17 excuses listed in law; lying on the application is a crime.

A small percentage of survey respondents cited a criminal record as a reason avoiding the polls, with one writing, "Felons can't vote."

Many states bar convicted felons from the ballot box - but Indiana isn't among them. As long as a prospective voter isn't physically behind bars during election season, they're eligible.

Hanson encouraged Hoosiers to plan how they'll vote.

"This is something that's not just your right, earned by people dying for it, but also it's your responsibility," she said. "Because if we're gonna have a democracy work, it's every one of us has to be involved.'

And, she added: "You're paying taxes, and that tax money is going to be spent by the people you elect. Don't you want to have a say in who's going to make those decisions?"

Landis, meanwhile, said she'll try voting again.

She's working on forms she received in the mail - two weeks delayed, as always - but doesn't know how it'll go.

### FEMA workers change some hurricane-recovery efforts after threats

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) Federal disaster workers paused and then changed some of their hurricanerecovery efforts in North Carolina, including abandoning door-to-door visits, after receiving threats that they could be targeted by a militia, officials said, as the government response to Helene is targeted by runaway disinformation.

The threats emerged over the weekend. The Rutherford County Sheriff's Office said in a statement Monday that it received a call Saturday "about possibly harming" Agency working in the hard-

Authorities got a descrip-

60 miles west of Charlotte. Sheriff's officials said in a statement that Parsons who was armed with a handgun and a rifle – was charged with "going armed to the terror of the public," a misdemeanor. He was released after posting bond. The sheriff's office said

initial reports indicated that a "truckload of militia" was involved in making the threat, but further investigation determined that Parsons acted alone.

Messages left seeking comment at phone listings

FEMA confirmed in

emphasized that disasterrecovery centers remain open and that FEMA continues "to help the people of North Carolina with their recovery."

Workers from the agency's disaster-assistance teams — who help survivors apply for FEMA aid and connect them with additional state and local resources — have stopped going door to door and instead are working from fixed locations while the potential threats are assessed, a person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press. The details of the operations.

response workers on the ground," as well as "significant misinformation online." Cooper directed state law enforcement officials to work with local authorities to identify "the specific threats and rumors." The Washington Post

reported Sunday that the U.S. Forest Service, which is supporting hurricane recovery work, sent a message to multiple federal agencies, warning that

eral responders in Rutherford County to leave the county immediately.

The message stated that National Guard troops had encountered "armed militia" saying they were "out hunting FEMA."

FEMA has faced rampant disinformation about its response to Helene, which hit Florida on Sept. 26 before heading north and leaving a trail of destruction

ald Trump and his allies have seized on the storm's aftermath to spread false information about the Biden administration's response in the final weeks before the election. Their debunked claims include false statements that victims can only receive \$750 in aid, that emergency response funds were diverted to immigrants, that people accepting federal relief money could see their land seized and that FEMA is halting trucks full of supplies.

Former President Don-

across six states. FEMA had advised all fed-



# Netanyahu mulls plan to empty northern Gaza of civilians, cut off aid

#### **By JULIA FRANKEL Associated Press**

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is examining a plan to seal off humanitarian aid to northern Gaza in an attempt to starve out Hamas militants, a plan that, if implemented, could trap without food or water hundreds of thousands of Palestinians unwilling or unable to leave their homes.

Israel has issued many evacuation orders for the north throughout the yearlong war, the most recent of which was Sunday. The plan proposed to Netanyahu and the Israeli parliament by a group of retired generals would escalate the pressure, giving Palestinians a week to leave the northern third of the Gaza Strip, including Gaza City, before declaring it a closed military zone.

Those who remain would be considered combatants - meaning military regulations would allow troops to kill them - and denied food, water, medicine and fuel, according to a copy of the plan given to The Associated Press by its chief architect, who says the plan is the only way to break Hamas in the north and pressure it to release the remaining hostages.

The plan calls for Israel to maintain control over the north for an indefinite period to attempt to create a new administration without Hamas, splitting the Gaza Strip in two.

There has been no decision by the government to fully carry out the so-called "Generals' Plan," and it is unclear how strongly it's being considered.

When asked if the evacuation orders in northern Gaza marked the

first stages of the "Generals' Plan," Israeli military spokesperson Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani said no.

"We have not received a plan like that," he said.

But one official with knowledge of the matter said parts of the plan are already being implemented, without specifying which parts. A second official, who is Israeli, said Netanyahu "had read and studied" the plan, "like many plans that have reached him throughout the war," but didn't say whether any of it had been adopted. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity, because the plan isn't supposed to be discussed publicly.

On Sunday, Israel launched an offensive against Hamas fighters in the Jabaliya refugee camp north of the city. The amount of aid reaching the north has declined significantly since Oct. 1, according to the U.N.

The U.S. State Department spokesperson has said Washington is against any plan that would bring direct Israeli occupation in Gaza.

#### Human rights groups fear the plan's potential toll on civilians

Human rights groups say the plan would likely starve civilians and that it flies in the face of international law, which prohibits using food as a weapon and forcible transfers. Accusations that Israel is intentionally limiting food to Gaza are central to the genocide case brought against it at the International Court of Justice, charges Israel denies.

A coalition of Israeli NGOs on Monday urged the international community to act, noting that "there are alarming signs that the Israeli military is beginning to quietly implement" the plan.

'States have an obligation to prevent the crimes of starvation and forcible transfer," they wrote, warning that continuing a "wait and see' approach will enable Israel to liquidate northern Gaza."

So far, very few Palestinians have heeded the latest evacuation order. Some are older, sick or afraid to leave their homes, but many fear there's nowhere safe to go and that they will never be allowed back. Israel has prevented those who fled earlier in the war from returning.

"All Gazans are afraid of the plan," said Jomana Elkhalili, a 26-year-old Palestinian aid worker for Oxfam living in Gaza City with her family.

"Still, they will not flee. They will not make the mistake again ... We know the place there is not safe," she said, referring to southern Gaza, where most of the population is huddled in dismal tent camps and airstrikes often hit shelters. "That's why people in the north say it's better to die than to leave."

The plan has emerged as Hamas has shown enduring strength, firing rockets into Tel Aviv and regrouping in areas after Israeli troops withdraw, bringing repeated offensives.

After a year of devastating war with Hamas, Israel has far fewer ground troops in Gaza than it did a few months ago and in recent weeks has turned its attention to Hezbollah, launching an invasion of southern Lebanon. There is no sign of progress on a cease-fire in either front.

Israel's offensive on the strip has killed more than 42,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health

### **UN Security Council expresses** its 'strong concern' for UN peacekeepers after Israeli attacks

UNITED NATIONS (AP) The U.N. Security Council expressed "strong concern" Monday as Israel has fired on and wounded U.N. peacekeepers in southern Lebanon during intensified fighting, reiterating its support for their role in supporting security in the region.

It's the first statement by the U.N.'s most powerful body since Israel's attacks on the positions of the peacekeeping force known as UNIFIL began last week, drawing international condemnation.

U.N. peacekeeping chief Jean-Marie Lacroix told reporters that Secretary-General António Guterres confirmed Monday that peacekeepers will remain in all their positions even as Israel has urged the peacekeepers to move three milesnorth during its ground invasion in Lebanon.

Israel has been escalating its campaign against Hezbollah in Lebanon across a U.N.drawn boundary between the two countries. The sides have been clashing since the Iranianbacked militant group started firing rockets a year ago in solidarity with its ally Hamas in Gaza. Hamas' deadly attacks in southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, launched the war.

The Security Council statement, issued after emergency closed consultations on Lebanon, did not name either Israel, Lebanon or Hezbollah. Read by Swiss U.N. Ambassador Pascale Baeriswyl, the council's current president, it urges all parties "to respect the safety and security of UNIFIL personnel and U.N. premises.

The 15-member Security Council has been deeply divided over the war in Gaza, with the United States defending its ally Israel as support for the Palestinians has grown among members and casualties have escalated. The Biden administration has become more critical of civilian deaths as well as the recent attacks on UNIFIL.

Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants, but says more than half of the dead are women and children.

People in northern Gaza could be forced to 'surrender or starve'

The Generals' Plan was presented to the parliament last month

by a group of retired generals and high-ranking officers, according to publicly available minutes. Since then, officials from the prime minister's office called seeking more details, according to its chief architect, Giora Eiland, a former head of the National Security Council.

### NASA's Europa Clipper spacecraft will scour Jupiter moon for ingredients for life

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) – A NASA spacecraft has set sail for Jupiter and its moon Europa, one of the best bets for finding life beyond Earth.

Europa Clipper will peer beneath the moon's icy crust where an ocean is thought to be sloshing fairly close to the surface. It won't search for life, but rather determine whether conditions there could support it. Another mission would be needed to flush out any microorganisms lurking there.

"It's a chance for us to explore not a world that might have been habitable billions of years ago, but a world that might be habitable today - right now," said program scientist Curt

Its massive solar panels make Clipper the biggest craft built by NASA to investigate another planet. It will take 5 1/2 years to reach Jupiter and will sneak within 16 miles of Europa's surface — considerably closer than any other spacecraft.

Clipper lifted off Monday aboard SpaceX's Falcon Heavy rocket from NASA's Kennedy Space Center. Mission cost: \$5.2 billion.

One of Jupiter's 95 project scientist Bonnie known moons, Europa is almost the size of our own Buratti imagines any life moon. It's encased in an would be primitive like the ice sheet estimated to be 10 bacterial life that originated in Earth's deep ocean miles to 15 miles or more thick. Scientists believe this vents. "We will not know frozen crust hides an ocean from this mission because we can't see that deep," that could be 80 miles or more deep. The Hubble she said. Unlike missions Space Telescope has spot- to Mars where habitabil

ted what appear to be geysers erupting from the surface. Discovered by Galileo in 1610, Europa is one of the four so-called Galilean moons of Jupiter, along with Ganymede, Io and Callisto.

What type of life might Europa harbor? Besides water, organic compounds are needed for life as we know it, plus an energy source. In Europa's case that could be thermal vents on the ocean floor. Deputy ity is one of many questions, Clipper's sole job is to establish whether the moon could support life in its ocean or possibly in any pockets of water in the ice.

When its solar wings and antennas are unfurled, Clipper is about the size of a basketball court - more than 100 feet end to end and weighs nearly 13,000 pounds. The supersized solar panels are needed because of Jupiter's distance from the sun. The main body - about the size of a camper - is packed with nine science instruments, including radar that will penetrate the ice, cameras that will map virtually the entire moon and tools to tease out the contents of Europa's surface and tenuous atmosphere. The name hearkens to the swift sailing ships of centuries past.

Jupiter will span 1.8 billion miles. For extra oomph, the spacecraft will swing past Mars early next year and then Earth in late 2026. It arrives at Jupiter in 2030 and begins science work the next year. While orbiting Jupiter, it will cross paths with Europa 49 times. The mission ends in 2034 with a planned crash into Ganymede - Jupiter's biggest moon and the solar system's too.

The roundabout trip to





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