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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024

BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

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Bluffton man sentenced for child pornography

By SYDNEY KENT
A man from Bluffton will spend the next year in prison after police located violent child pornography on his cell phone. Jamie Lynn Bessent, 50, was sentenced to three years in the Indiana Department of Correction

with two years suspended. Bessent was recommended for the SOMM program, a program for sexual abusers, and will be available for a sentence modification after completion. The sentencing comes after Bessent pled guilty to possession

of child pornography, a Level 5 felony. Two additional charges for possession of child pornography were dismissed pursuant to the plea agreement. According to a probable cause affidavit, Bessent was confronted by law enforcement in mid-Feb-

ruary when he went to the Wells County Sheriff's Department to update information related to being on the sex offender registry. The Internet Crimes Against Children taskforce, reported that Bessent uploaded child sexual abuse material on Oct. 18 and

Oct. 21 in 2022. When questioned about viewing the material, Bessent reportedly admitted to choosing to do so over 10 times in the past year. An officer asked Bessent to view Bessent's phone, and located (Continued on Page 2)



Above, Matthew Musco serves chili in front of the Dog House as part of the Chili Walk on Oct. 5. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

Bluffton's in the (hot) dog house

An Ossian restaurant legacy to open in downtown Bluffton

By JONATHAN SNYDER
Matthew Musco, the owner of the soon-to-open Pitties Dog House in Bluffton, aspires to continue a legacy established in 2013 in Ossian by his father. Musco's dad, Victor, owned Vic's in the Dog House, a hot dog restaurant in Ossian famous for its unique creations. The restaurant closed down due to Victor's health issues, but Musco wants to revitalize that legacy and take inspiration from the old business. "When he (Victor) passed away in 2021, I knew I wanted to

do something, I just didn't know what," Musco said. "I thought it was very creative when he did it in Ossian ... the food was affordable. He didn't go through any type of Sysco reps or anything like that. He would go to Sam's Club, and he was making that drive at that time, I want to say at about 68 or 69-years old." Musco's restaurant, located at 211 West Market St., will have a section in the front for hot dogs and a small bar in the back for adults. Musco wants to make the restaurant an "experience" for the

people walking in, with the front also having table, board and hopefully arcade games available. "I didn't want just a plain old bar, and I didn't just want a plain old restaurant," Musco said. "I'm not really about turning tables. I'm more about saying, 'Hey, come in. Let's have a good time. Let's experience something new.' For a child, it could be a new experience and a nostalgic experience for an adult." Musco, who has three kids of his own, wants the restaurant to (Continued on Page 2)

Prosecutor: Video, unused bullet prove guilt in Delphi killings

By RICK CALLAHAN
Associated Press
DELPHI, Ind. (AP) — A man charged with killing two teenage girls in a small Indiana community forced them off a hiking trail before cutting their throats, a prosecutor said Friday, telling jurors that the evidence includes an unused bullet and video recorded on the eldest girl's phone.

"The last thing the girls saw was Richard Allen's face," Carroll County prosecutor Nicholas McLeland said. And they heard his "chilling words: 'Girls, down the hill,'" while Allen was wielding a gun, McLeland said. "Out of fear the girls complied."

Richard Allen, 52, is charged with two counts of murder as well as two additional counts of murder while committing or attempting to commit kidnapping. The trial is a spectacle in Delphi, a town of 3,000, with people lining up in the morning chill to secure a seat in the courtroom.

Allen, a pharmacy technician, was arrested in October 2022, more than five years after the deaths of 13-year-old Abigail Williams and 14-year-old Liberty German, a case that had vexed police and inspired much speculation by true-crime enthusiasts. The out-sized media attention in the small community prompted a specially appointed judge to pick jurors in Fort Wayne, nearly 100 miles away.

They'll be sequestered for what could be a monthlong trial, banned from watching the news

and allowed only limited use of their phones to call relatives while monitored.

In his opening statement, McLeland described the crime scene: a rugged, wooded area near the Monon High Bridge Trail, just outside Delphi, the Carroll County seat.

He said an unused bullet discovered at the "gruesome" scene between the girls' bodies came from a gun that belonged to Allen, and that his grainy image and voice were captured by German on her phone.

A short video released in 2019 that also came from German's phone showed a suspect walking on Monon High Bridge. McLeland said that man was Allen.

Investigators searched Allen's home in 2022 and seized a .40-caliber pistol. Prosecutors disclosed in court documents released several weeks after his arrest that testing determined that an unspent bullet found between Williams and German "had been cycled through" Allen's pistol.

McLeland told jurors that in addition to the bullet evidence, they would also hear incriminating statements Allen made to correctional officers, inmates, law enforcement, and even his wife.

"They had details that only the killer would know," the prosecutor said. "Richard Allen is the man on the bridge."

Allen shook his head at times while McLeland spoke, and his wife, seated in the gallery, did the same when the prosecutor said (Continued on Page 2)

Israel, Hamas signal resistance to ending war after Sinwar's death

By JULIA FRANKEL
and **ABBY SEWELL**
Associated Press
JERUSALEM (AP) — Hamas confirmed Friday that its leader, Yahya Sinwar, was killed by Israeli forces in Gaza and reiterated its stance that hostages the militant group took from Israel a year ago will not be released until there is a cease-fire in Gaza and a withdrawal of Israeli troops.

The group's staunch position pushed back against a statement by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin a day earlier that his country's military will keep fighting until the hostages are released and will remain in Gaza to prevent a severely weakened Hamas from rearming.

The conflicting stands signal continued deep resistance on both sides to ending the war, even as President Joe Biden and other world leaders press the case that Sinwar's death is a turning point that should be used to unlock stalled cease-fire negotiations.

The standoff comes as Israel's war with Lebanon's Hezbollah — a Hamas ally backed by Iran — has intensified in recent weeks.

Hezbollah said Friday it planned to launch a new phase of fighting by sending more guided missiles and exploding drones into Israel. The militant group's longtime leader, Hassan Nasrallah, was killed in an Israeli airstrike late last month, and Israel sent ground troops into Lebanon earlier this month.

Sinwar, the former lead of Hamas, died "confronting the occupation army until the last moment of his life," said his Qatar-based deputy, Khalil al-Hayya, who represented Hamas during several rounds of cease-fire negotiations. Hamas will not return any of the hostages, al-Hayya said, "before the end of the aggression on Gaza and the withdrawal from Gaza."

Hamas heralded Sinwar in a statement, calling him a hero for "not retreating, brandishing his weapon, engaging and confronting the occupation army at the forefront of the ranks."

The statement appeared to refer to a video the Israeli military circulated of Sinwar's apparent last moments in which a man sits on a chair in severely damaged building, (Continued on Page 2)

Braun's annual tour of Indiana
Sen. Mike Braun visited the Wells County Public Library Friday morning as part of his annual tour of all 92 counties. Braun answered questions about current and upcoming legislative matters, particularly about property taxes, health care and renewable energy. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

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Outside
Warmer weather comes back for a visit
Today Sunday Monday
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Bluffton man sentenced

(Continued from Page 1)
 a group titled “babysitting” in the Telegram app. Some of the photographs in the chat featured children as young as infants being forced into sexual acts.
 During the hearing earlier this month, Bessent apologized for his behavior.
 “I’m sorry for what I’ve done,” Bessent said. “I’m embarrassed. It’s destroyed me, I want to get help for it, I want to be able to say that I don’t want it, I can defeat it. To do that, I need help. And I’m strong enough to ask for help, and I’m asking for help. I have fought for this country ... My addiction is a lack of fight, to fight this battle I need help.”
 Prosecutor Jeff Stineburg acknowledged Bessent’s service. He also pointed out that Bessent was already regis-

tered as a sex offender before this incident after he was charged for traveling to meet a minor.
 Bessent’s defense, Patrick Miller, said that Bessent’s previous charge was concerning, but not the reason they were there.
 “We’re here for possession of child pornography,” Miller said. “He didn’t travel, he watched it online. It’s an addiction. It’s a compulsion. He has indicated that he’s struggled with these issues for at least a decade.”
 Judge Kenton Kiracofe considered the previous charge as an aggravating factor, and his service in the military as mitigating factor despite a dishonorable discharge.
 “I think there’s some trauma that can occur, and he has incurred some

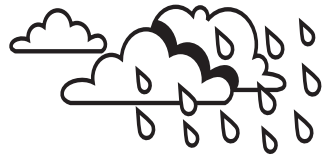
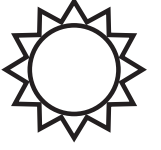
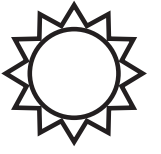
trauma,” Kiracofe said. “He also incurred significant childhood sexual trauma ... Not to excuse conduct here but I think it is connected.”
 “I think there are some things that need to be worked on,” Kiracofe continued before recommending Bessent for the SOMM program. “I’m inclined to treat this like we would if this were a substance offense. There’s some services at DOC.”
 Kiracofe concluded, “If you complete it, I will entertain a motion to modify your sentence. This puts the onus on you to complete that and get the treatment you said that you want.”
 Bessent is also required to complete a period of probation upon release from incarceration.
sydney@news-banner.com

Weather

Saturday, October 19, 2024
 (24-hour observations at 10:31 p.m. Friday)
High: 69; Low: 36; Precipitation: None
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.04 feet at 9:45 p.m. Friday

Wells County forecast

Today: Sunny, with a high near 70. Calm wind.
Tonight: Clear, with a low around 41. Calm wind.
Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 74. Calm wind becoming west around 5 mph in the afternoon.
Sunday Night: Clear, with a low around 45. Southwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm.
Monday: Sunny, with a high near 77.
Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 46.
Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 76.
Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 53.
Wednesday: A 20% chance of showers after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 73.
Wednesday Night: A 30% chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 40.
Thursday: A 10% chance of showers. Sunny, with a high near 60.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 37.
Friday: Sunny, with a high near 65.



Ossian restaurant legacy

(Continued from Page 1)
 be a good place for families, with a mixture of a bar and game areas.
 “This would give an opportunity for those families to actually go out again and not break the bank by buying their food,” Musco said. “They could eat some hot dogs and have nachos, some simple sandwiches, soft drinks and of course the adult beverages. They can socialize again, instead of just being around just the children, without other adults. I’ve been doing it for a year, you need that.”
 Musco’s choice to set up in Bluffton over Ossian came down to the revitalization and collaboration opportunities downtown.
 “I do like the community of Bluffton, how they (downtown businesses) all just kind of get together and just help each other,



Musco stands in front of the Dog House, his vision almost complete. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

that’s awesome,” Musco said. “We’re not talking trash to another business, we’re actually hyping them up. (We’re) saying, ‘Hey, you know what? We don’t have this, but they do. And that’s pretty cool. Now you just check them out.’ I’m always going to hype them up, because I want them to succeed, just like I hope they

want me to succeed.”
 Pitties has had to delay their opening date, but Musco hopes to be open yet in 2024.
 “Something like this, you can become a little bit more interpersonal and create that community, like a Pitties community,” Musco said. “Kids that would come in here and get older, they

might still keep coming in here, and then they bring their kids in. They know what they’re getting. You know, it’s not high class dining. It’s just something to fill your stomach and it isn’t going to make you sick. It’s gonna fill your belly and you’re gonna have a great time.”
jonathan@news-banner.com

Delphi killings

(Continued from Page 1)
 her husband had confessed to her.
 Defense attorney Andrew Baldwin told the jury there’s plenty of reasonable doubt.
 He said Allen’s statements were made under the stress of being in a tiny cell while under constant watch following his arrest. Baldwin noted that Allen mentioned shooting the girls in the back, though that wasn’t how they died.
 He said some police officers had believed that one person could not have committed the homicides alone.
 “Richard Allen is innocent,” Baldwin told the jury. “He is truly innocent.”
 The teens, known as Abby and Libby, were found dead Feb. 14, 2017. They went missing a day earlier while hiking the trail on a mild winter’s day off school. Within days, police released files found on German’s cellphone. Investigators also released one sketch of a suspect in July 2017 and another in April 2019, along with the bridge video.

After more years passed without a suspect identified, investigators said they went back and reviewed prior tips.
 Investigators found that Allen had been interviewed in 2017. He told an officer he had been walking on the trail the day Williams and German went missing and had seen three “females” at a bridge called the Freedom Bridge but did not speak to them, according to an affidavit.
 Allen also told the officer that as he walked from that bridge to the Monon High Bridge he did not see anyone but was distracted, “watching a stock ticker on his phone as he walked.”
 Police interviewed Allen again Oct. 13, 2022, when he said he had seen three “juvenile girls” during his walk in 2017. Investigators searched his home within days, a search the led to the discovery of the .40-caliber pistol.
 At earlier hearings, Allen’s attorneys had sought to argue that the girls were killed in a ritual sacrifice by members of a pagan Norse religion and white nationalist group known as the

Odinists.
 Several relatives of the girls testified Friday afternoon, including German’s grandmother, Becky Patty, who told jurors the two friends were so close that Williams once joined their family on a trip to Florida. She choked up as she recalled her last conversation with her granddaughter on the morning the girls left for their hiking trip to the Monon High Bridge, dropped off there by German’s older sister, Kelsi.
 Patty said she told her granddaughter to dress warmly for their excursion despite the mild weather.
 “The last thing she said to me was, ‘Grandma, we’ll be OK,’” Patty said.
 News media are barred by Judge Fran Gull from reporting directly from the courtroom with electronic devices. The judge also set strict rules for photo or video coverage outside the courthouse. Police confiscated cameras from several journalists outside the building on Friday morning before court proceedings began, including 2 cameras from a photographer with The Associated Press.

Resistance to ending Gaza war

(Continued from Page 1)
 badly wounded and covered in dust. In the video, the man raises his hand and flings a stick at an approaching Israeli drone.
 Sinwar was the chief architect of the Hamas raid on Israel last year that killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and kidnapped another 250. Israel’s retaliatory offensive in Gaza has killed over 42,000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities, who do not distinguish combatants from civilians but say more than half the dead are women and children.
 The war has destroyed vast swaths of Gaza, displaced about 90% of its population of 2.3 million people and has left them struggling to find food, water, medicine and fuel.
 Sinwar’s killing appeared to be a chance front-line encounter with Israeli troops on Wednesday, and it could shift the dynamics of the Gaza war even as Israel presses its offensive against Hezbollah with ground troops in southern Lebanon and airstrikes in other areas of the country.
 Hezbollah has fired rockets into Israel nearly every day since the Israel-Hamas war began, displacing tens of thousands of Israelis from their homes in the country’s north. More than 1 million people in Lebanon have been displaced by Israel’s aerial bombardment and ground offensive.

Iran, which also supports Hamas, hailed Sinwar Friday as a martyr who can inspire others in challenging Israel.
 “We, and countless others around the world, salute his selfless struggle for liberation of the Palestinian people,” Iran’s foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, wrote on the X social media platform. “Martyrs live forever, and the cause for liberation of Palestine from occupation is more alive than ever.”
 Israel has pledged to destroy Hamas politically in Gaza, and killing Sinwar was a top military priority. But Netanyahu said in a speech announcing the killing Thursday night that “our war is not yet ended.”
 Still, the governments of Israel’s allies and exhausted residents of Gaza expressed hope that Sinwar’s death would pave the way for an end to the war.
 U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Friday Sinwar’s death provides “an extraordinary opportunity to achieve a lasting cease-fire” and suggested the U.S. could have a role in helping to stabilize Gaza in the future. “Hopefully countries in the region will step up there,” Austin said at a NATO meeting in Brussels.
 Italy’s Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, meeting with her counterpart in Lebanon, said European countries are working for a “sustainable cease-fire” in both that country and in Gaza. Lebanese Prime Minister

Najib Mikati said “a diplomatic solution should overcome” the fighting.
 But a day after Biden labeled Sinwar’s death an “opportunity for a ‘day after’ in Gaza without Hamas in power,” he acknowledged the difficulty of forging a cease-fire there, saying it might be easier to negotiate a stop to the fighting in Lebanon.
 “It’s going to be harder in Gaza,” Biden told reporters Friday after meeting with European leaders in Berlin.
 A White House national security spokesman, John Kirby, said it was “too soon” to assess who Hamas “might anoint as Sinwar’s successor and what that individual may be willing to pursue.”
 In Israel, families of hostages still held in Gaza demanded the Israeli government use Sinwar’s killing as a way to restart negotiations to bring home their loved ones. There are about 100 hostages remaining in Gaza, at least 30 of whom Israel says are dead.
 “We are at an inflection point where the goals set for the war with Gaza have been achieved, all but the release of the hostages,” Ronen Neutra, father of the Israeli-American hostage Omer Neutra, said in a video statement. “Sinwar, who was described as a major obstacle to a deal, is no longer alive.”
 Netanyahu was planning to convene a special meeting Friday to discuss hostage negotiations, an Israeli official with knowledge of the negotiations said. The

official spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss confidential information.
 Israel’s military said Friday it allowed 30 trucks of food, water, medical and other supplies into northern Gaza, as the country faces pressure from the U.S. to ramp up aid. There was no immediate confirmation from the U.N. that the aid arrived and was being distributed in the north.

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Bluffton Parks & Rec News & Notes



By Brandy Fiechter

Destination Recreation

Our Senior Snippet classes are winding down, just in time for our Halloween and youth events to start ramping up.

Starting Monday, we will accept photos for the **FREE Virtual Costume Contest**. Send a current picture of your child in this year's costume to events@blufftonindiana.gov, along with your name, child's name, age, and phone number by Oct. 31. We will post them on Facebook, and whichever picture has the most votes will receive a prize. Voting will take place from Nov. 1 until Nov. 6. This contest is open to any Wells County resident, and you must be willing to pick up your prize at City Hall.

FREE Boo in Bluffton is on Halloween night, Oct. 31, from 5-6 p.m., rain or shine. Downtown sidewalks come to life with thousands of costumed children and their families visiting local businesses. Don't forget to stop by the City Gym for treats from 15 area participants. Businesses on the outskirts of town will hand out treats from 6-7 p.m. If you are a local business and would like to participate at your facility for Boo in Bluffton, you can sign-up at brenda.jackson@blufftonindiana.gov or call 824-1520. Door-to-door trick or treat for the City of Bluffton will be from 5-7:30 p.m.

FREE Open Gym starts next month! Supervised activities for school-aged kids begin from Nov. 2 to March 13 at the Bluffton City Gym. All participants must fill out a parental permission slip either the first day they attend or print one off and send it in with them from the city's website: <https://tinyurl.com/474zkksm>. This program is four days a week from 3:30-6 p.m. on Monday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Calendars will be available in the gym, or check the city's website calendar.

FREE Weekday Walking has started and will run until the end of March from 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. Walking is one of the best exercises for all age groups and has

many health benefits. If you can spare fifteen minutes daily for walking, it will help you maintain a healthy weight. Participants can enter through the glass door on the West side of the building and sign in on the gym door each day they attend. If you are the last to leave the gym, please turn off the light in the southwest corner. One Mile = 20 laps

Hooked On Crochet starts in a few weeks. Learning to crochet will give you a lifetime of pleasure and relaxation. You can learn to create handmade items for yourself and those you love. Classes will be taught by Kathy Gehrett at Washington Park Indoor Pavilion (710 S. Mulberry St.) from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Thursdays, Nov. 7, 14, and 21. Three one-hour group lessons cost \$20 due the first day. Yarn and instructions will be provided, and you must bring a size H hook. Call the park office to pre-register at 824-6069 or email events@blufftonindiana.gov. Class size is limited and open to beginners and advanced students.

The **WOOF Trail Run** is back on Nov. 2 and is better than ever. Choose from 5, 10, or 15 miles of stunning scenery at Ouabache State Park at 9 a.m. After you cross the finish line, enjoy delicious burgers and snacks while you celebrate your achievement with cool long-sleeve event T-shirts and finisher medals for every participant. Don't miss out on this fall trail run — sign up today and make your mark on the trails. Register here: <https://raceroster.com/events/2024/93217/woof-trail-run>.

We want to thank 3Rivers Credit Union for volunteering their time in the cold to clean up and mulch the iris garden on the River Greenway. We also want to thank the Lion's Club for their recent donation to improve Lion's Park. Bluffton is so blessed with caring businesses and clubs that give back to our community, and we genuinely appreciate that!

Have a great week!

Norwell Middle School announces Quarter 1 honor roll

Norwell Middle School has released the names of its students on the high honor roll and honor roll for the first quarter of the 2024-25 school year.

6th Grade Distinction (GPA of 3.7 or higher and no grade lower than A-)

Braxton Adam, Corbin Archbold, Kayden Ayers, Ava Bailey, Ripken Bailey, Grace Bender, Alexandra Bennett, Khloe Bertsch, Myles Borne, Ember Burgett, Faith Burke, Hannah Burt, Isabell Buskirk, Charlotte Butcher, Alexa Corey, Logan Craig, Malakai Davis, McKenna Dunwiddie, Nico Edwards, Lillian Federspiel, Ella Ford, McKenna Freed, Korbin Fritts, Lily Gerdom, Charlotte Giggy, Bryce Grant, Claire Groven, Jensen Hale, Lillian Harris, Duke Hill, Shelby Jade Jones, Ezra Karns, Emmalee Kelley, Chloe Kleinhans, Cohen Kober, Braylyn Kuehner, Chase LaBelle, Kinsey Landis, Taylor Leeth, Valerie Lenwell, Evelyn Lopez, Carsin Mattern, Lucy McBride, Haven Morris, Isabella Myers, Max Norris, Findley Oakleaf, Jensen Oakleaf, Ruby Oakleaf, Korbin Powers, Alexa Raschick, Shaelyn Reinhard, Graham Reppert, Penelope Rocha, Elissa Rosswurm, Ella Schwyn, Emmalee Scott, Breck Smith, Maddux Smith, Mathieu Smith, Scott Snyder, Ritchey Springer, Lucas Streeter, Micah Sult, Cree Thompson, Emma Thompson, Corey Troyer,

Alison Voght, Talon Wireman and Nolan Young.

6th Grade Honor (GPA of 2.7 or higher and no grade lower than B-)

Connor Archbold, Scarlett Barkley, Graham Barnhart, Natalie Baxter, Jaida Bolinger, Kami Branock, Brenden Braun, Brooks Brinson, Annisia Brown, Lauryn Brown, Ryan Brown, Abigail Burnau, Ruthanne Bushee, Eli Cassel, Hannah Chubb, Emerson Clark, Mirabel Costello, Serenity Cruz, Barrett Dafforn, Kennedy Dankson, Charles Easley, Levi Favory, Iruasi Fernandez, Aiden Fiechter, Teagyn Gehring, Riel Gonzalez, Braxton Grogg, Benton Hetrick, Decan Holmes, Sophia Huss, Orlando Hyden, Leighton Jenkins, James Kain, Connor James Karst, Parker Kopp, Alexander Long, Chandler Lothamer, Zayne Mason, James Mayer, Joshua McAfee, Mason McCune, Madaline McDougall, Mya McDougall, Liam Mechling, Gracy Mialkowski, Luke Miller, Paetynn Miller, Tristan Money, Kaine Moore, Madelyn Moses, Grace Mullin, Carson Myers, Sophia Neer, Dara Nusbauer, Serenity Perry, Tanner Raskie, Soren Roberts, Gabriel Ruch, Ivy Selking, Kale Seslar, Zeke Sliger, Konnor Smith, Zekeria Smith, Silas Steigerwald, Kiegann Stine-Shuster, Francisco Vasquez, Ashlynn Waters, Hallie Wilson and Maddox Yager.

(Continued on Page 6)

Local Roundup

Solid Waste District board will meet Monday morning

The board of the Wells County Solid Waste District will meet at 4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 21, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

- Items on the agenda include:
- Regular reports.
 - Investment options.
 - 2025 meeting dates.

County Drainage Board will meet Monday morning

The Wells County Drainage Board will meet at 4:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 21, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

- Items on the agenda include:
- Project updates and miscellaneous drainage matters.

County Commissioners will meet Monday morning

The Wells County Commissioners will

meet at 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 21, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

- Items on the agenda include:
- Regular appointments with Sheriff Scott Holliday, Highway Supervisor Shawn Bonar and County Engineer Nate Whitacre.
 - Review of a contract with Make My Move.
 - Appointment with Erin Prible regarding the business advocacy committee.
 - Consideration of the Rock Creek Stone Quarry Vacation Ordinance.
 - Discussion of the Murray Cemetery.
 - Monthly reports and miscellaneous business.
 - Approval of the 2025 sheriff salary contract.
 - Economic development update.
 - Northeast Indiana partnership agreement.
 - 2025 board appointments.

Bluffton Board of Works to meet Tuesday afternoon

The Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Utility customer advocates call for data center moratorium

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Citizens Action Coalition, a utility-focused customer advocacy group, on Tuesday called for a moratorium on new, large data centers.

Data centers house the computing equipment, network infrastructure and digital storage that we use to process, send, receive and store data. "Hyperscale" facilities are larger, and handle more.

The pricey facilities guzzle power. A single 1,000 megawatt hyperscale data center will use 52% more electricity than Indiana Michigan Power's 420,000 residential customers combined used in 2023, according to a news release from CAC.

"Hoosiers must be fully protected from the rapacious resource needs, massive tax subsidies, and extraordinary utility cost burden associated with these facilities that could lead to skyrocketing utility bills across Indiana," CAC Executive Director Kerwin Olson said.

He called on lawmakers to block new "hyperscale" data centers and to study what policies should be enacted before lifting the moratorium.

Olson said each Hoosier data center — eight are operating or have been announced — could earn billions in government subsidies.

Lawmakers enacted a data center-specific equipment sales tax exemption in 2019, before the boom in artificial intelligence propelled another boom in data center construction.

Computer equipment, software, security systems, cooling infrastructure and electricity qualify for the 7% exemption.

That "will provide a significant reduction in cost" for data centers, said Lauren Tanselle, an assistant director at the nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency's Office of Fiscal and Management Analysis. She gave a statutorily required presentation before lawmakers on Tuesday.

Seven have been approved for the exemption, although the contracts for three remain pending. In the short-term, Tanselle said, her office estimated that 63% of the data centers' initial \$14 billion to \$20.8 billion investments — so, between \$8.8 billion to \$13.2 billion — could be spent on equipment that qualifies for the exemption.

A corresponding report noted that the estimates don't account for labor and installation, which isn't subject to sales tax. Using a U.S. Chamber of Commerce estimate — that 75% of data center equipment costs are in labor and installation — the exempt amount could be between \$2.2 billion and \$3.3 billion, according to the report.

In the long-term, Tanselle continued, data centers could save big. Electricity is approximately 40% of annual operating expense for data centers, according to the report. They'd also see discounts on routine equipment replacement.

VISITATION & SERVICES

Jane Ann Searles
Celebration of Life: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, October 19 at the First Church of Christ.

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 W. Washington St. 824-3850
www.thomarich.com

John C. Reusser
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Service: 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, October 22 at St. Luke Church in Decatur.

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From our family to you ...

The Reimschisel family at Family Ford of Bluffton hope that you will take a few moments at least once each week to spend some time with what really matters during these "interesting times."

This short essay is from **Our Daily Bread**® — a free publication we would love to share with you. Stop in anytime. There is no cost or obligation.

Family Ford of Bluffton
970 N. Main St., Bluffton 824-2300

COLOSSIANS 3:17, 23-24 SATURDAY | OCTOBER 19
Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord. | COLOSSIANS 3:23 |

AN AUDIENCE OF ONE

As the "voice of the Denver Nuggets," team chaplain Kyle Speller is most known for his rip-roaring, public address announcing during the championship basketball club's games. "Let's go!" he thunders into the mic, and thousands of onsite NBA fans, as well as millions more watching or listening to the action, react to the voice that earned Speller's nomination as the 2022 All-Star Game PA Announcer. "I know how to feel the crowd and kind of set that home court atmosphere," he says. Still, every word of his voice artistry—featured also in TV and radio commercials—is to glorify God. His work, Speller adds, is "just doing everything for an audience of One."

The apostle Paul stressed a similar ethic to the Colossian church, whose members let doubts about Christ's divinity and sovereignty seep into even their practical lives. Instead, wrote Paul, in "whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (COLOSSIANS 3:17). Paul added, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters" (V. 23). For Kyle Speller, that includes his role as a chaplain, of which he says, "That's kind of my purpose here . . . and the announcing is the icing on the cake." Our own work for God can be just as sweet for our audience of One.

PATRICIA RAYBON

What's the key factor in your work ethic? How would working as for God change your perspective?

Thank You for my work, Jesus, and inspire me to do it all as for You.
For further study, read How Can I Find Satisfaction In My Work? at DiscoverySeries.org/Q0708.

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TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!
www.news-banner.com or www.facebook.com/news-banner

What's that? There's an election coming up soon?

Sometimes I wonder how stupid they think we are. "They" can be applied to your choice of several options.

I subscribe to two magazines — "Golf" and "Smithsonian." No sooner have I sent my annual payment than I begin getting notices that it's time to renew. I kept all of the mailings from one of them last year. The final tally was 10, including two "Last Chance" notices. I figure as long as I mail it in 2-3 weeks before the expiration date, why should they worry? But obviously, they don't trust me to remember to do that. I would venture to guess between postage and paper and someone's time, they spent about one-third of my annual subscription amount.

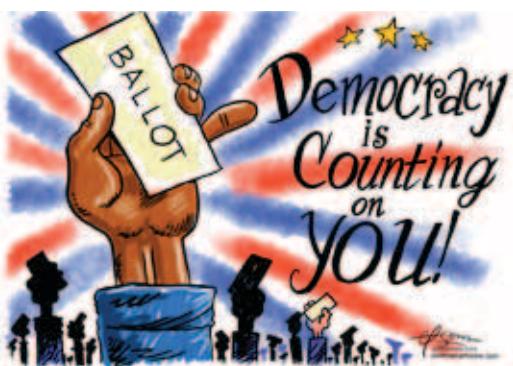
I also get two prescriptions. I used to get them from a local pharmacy but I got tired of the automated phone calls reminding me that it's time to call in my renewal. These began about halfway through the 90-day supply and continued with increased frequency as the end of that period approached. It became a game of sorts, but it always struck me that apparently they know I'm an old fart and probably need reminded. We should probably appreciate that they don't call every day to remind us to take those pills.

So now I get them from a mail-order pharmacy that has some sort of relationship with my Medicare Advantage Plan. They too send out the reminders but they come as emails and can be more easily ignored — but still aggravating. They obviously don't believe I have the wherewithal to monitor my little bottles of pills to know when it's time to order a renewal. I did choose the "Automatic Refill" option for one of them, just to see how it would work. I still get emails.

A side story; an intentional digression: For years, I have overheard customers come into the News-Banner office and tell our person at the front counter "I need to renew my prescription." They were always older people. I would silently chuckle. Until one day, more years ago than I want to admit, I pulled up to the drive-thru window at our pharmacy and told the gal I needed to "renew my subscription." I no longer chuckle when someone gets it wrong at our front counter. Well, I do, but with a different perspective.

Undoubtedly my biggest pet peeve when it comes to being reminded of things is this constant barrage we have seen this fall, telling us to be sure to vote. The Indiana Secretary of State's office put together an advertising campaign in newspapers, television, billboards and radio, exhorting us with a big bold headline: "You need to vote." I am curious how much of taxpayers' dollars are being spent on this, but my inquiry has yet to be answered.

Editorial cartoonists have gotten the fever:



You cannot watch an NFL game this fall without seeing "VOTE" stenciled on end zones and watching multiple promotional messages from different players encouraging us to vote. I am sure they all feel better, just as I once did a long time ago in a galaxy far away, when I wrote my one and only editorial encouraging people to vote. It made me feel like I'd done my virtuous, civic duty — until I got a bit older and crustier and, I like to think, wiser. Anyway, I don't write those exhortations anymore.

Here's the thing — as our friends like to say every Wednesday: While I'm not the sharpest knife in the drawer, I'm not stupid. You're not stupid. We know when Election Day is and what's at stake. But if someone needs to be *encouraged* and *reminded* to vote, do we really *want* them to vote? If they don't have a clue that an election is approaching, they surely don't have a clue as to who stands for what.

Meanwhile, another "they" — both political parties — are encouraging us to take advantage of early voting and doing it as soon as possible. Obviously, each party wants to get *their* voters out but I am flummoxed as to why we should be in such a hurry and can only conclude they also think we're stupid: Go vote before your feeble mind forgets.

Meanwhile, I see U.S. Sen. Mike Braun was scheduled to be in Bluffton Friday. He also happens to be the Republican candidate for governor. The election is now about two weeks away but, we are told, this is not a campaign stop but rather a "Q&A on federal issues." Which means the expenses for this informational town-hall tour which happens to be close to the election is being paid for by taxpayers.

How stupid do they think we are? Apparently, very.

miller@news-banner.com

Saturday's Sub



Mark Miller



A shift in the race

A few days ago, there was a report that the Harris campaign is in trouble and the Trump campaign is "extremely bullish" on former President Donald Trump's chances to win the presidency. The reporter, former ABC News journalist Mark Halperin, said his account is based on "robust private polling" and talks with sources on both sides. "She's in a lot of trouble," Halperin said of Vice President Kamala Harris. "Pennsylvania is tough for her right now. ... Wisconsin and Michigan are looking worse for Harris than before. ... The conversations I'm having with Trump people and Democrats with data are extremely bullish on Trump's chances in the last 48 hours. Extremely bullish."

Not long after, Trump himself released the results of the campaign's most recent swing-state polling. It showed Trump ahead in every state, although by small margins: up by 3 points in Arizona, by 5 in Georgia, by 1 in Michigan, by 3 in Nevada, by 1 in North Carolina, by 1 in Pennsylvania and by 1 in Wisconsin.

Meanwhile, nationally, Trump appears to be rising, and Harris falling. A new NBC News poll showed Trump actually ahead of Harris by a single point, 47% to 46%, in a matchup in which fringe candidates are included in the field, and tied, 48% to 48%, in a one-on-one matchup. Compare those to the last NBC News poll, in September, which showed Harris leading Trump, 49% to 44%.

Trump has been "bolstered by Republicans coming back home to support him after last month's rough debate and a subsequent polling deficit, as well as by a favorable assessment of Trump's term as president," NBC News concluded. On the other side, the survey showed "Harris' popularity declining compared to a month ago, after she got a big summertime boost."

At the same time as Trump's rise have come reports about growing concerns inside the Harris campaign. A representative account was CNN's "Democrats grow anxious as Election Day nears," which reported that "Democrats are increasingly anxious over Harris' fate" and "there is a growing sense that her campaign is stuck in the mud." Several other reports offered variations on that theme.

Amid all this, Trump's top campaign management released a memo Sunday morning. Chris LaCivita, Susie Wiles and Tony Fabrizio argued that Harris experienced a "joy ride" of rising acceptance and support in late July after a secretive group of Democratic power brokers pushed President Joe Biden out of the race and Harris quickly replaced him. But after the joy ride, they said, nothing much has happened.

"According to our internal data, from the end of July through Labor Day, Harris largely treaded water," the trio wrote. "She made no real gains in her image or her ballot standing against President Trump." And then, after Labor Day, Harris actually slipped a bit against Trump despite spending \$241 million in advertising in that period — more than twice what Trump spent. "When you compare the state of the race on the day after Labor Day to now, what you see will be eye-opening and likely the rea-

son many smart operatives on the other side are wringing their hands over the current state of the race," LaCivita, Wiles and Fabrizio concluded.

The bottom line, the three argued, is that despite talk about Harris' momentum at various times in the race, she really hasn't had any momentum after that period in July when everything was going her way. And now, with the election three weeks away, she's struggling.

Of course, there has been Democratic pushback, both against the party's in-house worriers, known as "bed-wetters," and against the Trump team. But the Trump memo's framing of what has happened since the big Biden-Harris switch suggests we need a closer look at what has happened in the race so far.

So here is a theory: The normal resting state of the race is for Trump to be a little ahead. But Harris has enjoyed three big bumps since becoming the Democratic candidate, and each of them has made the race trend her way before fading. The first bump, and biggest by far, was when Biden pulled out of the race. The second, and second biggest, was the Democratic convention. And the third was the Sept. 10 debate between Harris and Trump.

When Biden dropped out on July 21, Democrats were elated and Harris enjoyed the sugar high to end all sugar highs — or the joy ride, as the Trump people say. Her standing went up in the polls, her personal favorability ratings went up, and the race, in which Trump had long led Biden, seemed to be turned upside down. All this was encouraged by celebratory media coverage, of course.

Then, just when it seemed the sugar high might finally be wearing off, came the Democratic National Convention, beginning on Aug. 19. Harris got another week of celebratory coverage, and the joy ride started back up. And then it seemed the joy ride was slowing down once again just before the debate took place on Sept. 10. The short version is that Trump had a bad debate. Harris did not have a particularly good debate, but it was better than Trump's, giving her a net benefit. The joy ride started up again.

Now, though, it is slowing down one more time. And this time, there are no scheduled events in the future — no convention, no debates, no nothing — which might start the Harris joy ride rolling one last time. Of course, some unforeseen thing could happen that gives Harris a new bump. But it might not. And if there is no new bump and the race is in its normal resting state on Election Day, then there is a good chance Trump will win.

All this might be wrong. Remember that. A new trend could be starting at this very moment that we don't recognize. But right now, at least, the race appears to have shifted a bit in Trump's direction, raising the possibility that without some new development to restart the joy ride, Harris could be in deepening trouble for the next three weeks.

byork@washingtontexaminer.com.



Byron York

Democrats pay the price for trans insanity

There used to be a time when Republican elected officials and candidates shied away from talking about trans issues.

They didn't want to appear extreme or intolerant. Why bother wading into a fraught cultural issue when there were so many other things to talk about? Deferring to "medical professionals" or "the experts" seemed the easy way out.

Now, though, Republicans have emphatically found their voice. Across the political landscape, GOP Senate candidates are hitting their Democratic opponents on their trans-radicalism and have them on the run, while the Trump campaign is pounding Kamala Harris on the issue with perhaps the most prominent ad of this election cycle.

The chickens have come home to roost, and they are apparently all cisgender.

For the longest time, Democrats have gone along with the steadily evolving trans-orthodoxy as established by the cultural left. Existing in a bubble, they assumed that doubters could be isolated or embarrassed into going along, and didn't realize just how wildly out of touch they'd become.

It's one thing to say people should be tolerant of the choices of consenting adults; it's another to say that minors must have access to life-altering so-called "gender-affirming" treatments. It's one thing to say everyone should live and let live; it's



Rich Lowry

another to say that biological males must participate in female sports, no matter how manifestly unfair it is to the girls and women.

There were plenty of flashing red lights for Democrats to heed. A Washington Post poll last year found that 57% of people say that gender is determined at birth. Roughly two-thirds of people said biological males shouldn't compete in girls' and women's sports. And 68% opposed giving children ages 10-14 access to puberty-blocking medication, and 58% opposed teens age 15-17 having access to hormonal treatments.

It's only now, when they are getting punished on the issue, that Democrats are coming out and saying, in effect, that they've favored the gender binary all along.

Fighting off a challenge from Democratic Rep. Colin Allred, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz has targeted the congressman for his opposition to a bill called the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act. In a sign that the attack was working, Allred responded in his own ad: "I don't want boys playing girls' sports or any of this ridiculous stuff that Ted Cruz is saying."

This led to denunciations of Allred from the left. According to the LGBT publication The Advocate, he "embraced far-right language around gender identity in a new ad" — the offending words presumably being "boys" and "girls."

Similar ads have run wherever

there is a competitive senate race, many of them from the Mitch McConnell campaign outfit, the Senate Leadership Fund.

In Ohio, the embattled incumbent Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown has also responded with an ad calling the idea that he supports males competing against females in sports "a complete lie." The spot points out that Ohio has already prohibited such intrusions. But in an interview with the aforementioned Advocate last year, Brown harshly denounced such laws.

"I think all this shows is that there's still so much hate in this country," he said, "and by extension hate in politics. Politicians who introduce and support these prohibitive bills should be ashamed of themselves, and it's my hope that their constituents see through these ugly efforts."

Brown wants us to believe that he's had a sudden — and surely instantly revocable, if he survives — conversion.

For his part, Donald Trump is airing an ad during football games highlighting how Kamala Harris said in 2019 that she supported government-funded transition surgery for prisoners and detained illegal immigrants. As the ad notes, it's hard to believe that anyone seriously seeking public office would advocate such a thing.

Now, in the final weeks of an extremely tight election, Harris and her Democratic colleagues are being held to account for their ideological excesses. They can cry foul, but they brought it on themselves.

Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry

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Call to Worship

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APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH - NORTH
630 E. Dustman Rd.
9:45 & 11:45 a.m. - Worship.

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8013 W.-1100S.-90, Montpelier
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

BETHEL
(Independent Bible)
4500E-300S, Bluffton
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

BETHEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS
6114E-750N, Ossian
blcsossian.org
9 a.m. - Divine Service. 10:15 - Adult Bible Class, Youth Bible Class & Sunday School. 11:30 - Voice of Bethlehem on 92.7 FM.

BLUFFTON CHURCH OF GOD
327 W. Cherry St.
10 a.m. - Sunday School. 11 a.m. - Worship. 6 p.m. - Service.

BLUFFTON WESLEYAN CHAPEL
(Independent Holiness Church)
1309 W. Washington St.
blufftonwesleyan.net
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 & 6:30 p.m. - Worship.

BOEHMER UNITED METHODIST
3467 S 600 W, Liberty Center
boehmerumc.org
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:45 - Sunday School.

CALVARY LUTHERAN, ELCA
1532 N. Main St.
9 a.m. - Worship.

CHESTER CENTER
900S-300W, Poneto
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

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A CITY ON A HILL CHURCH
705 W.-900 N., Uniondale
9 a.m. & 10:45 - Worship.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH - COUNTRY
1970 S.-800E., Bluffton
9:45 & 11:45 a.m. - Worship.

CHRISTIAN NEW LIGHT
1011 W. Washington St.
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship. 6 p.m. - Praise & worship.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
735 S. Marion St.
10 a.m. - Bible Study. 10:45 - Worship.

COVENANT CHAPEL
3550 S. SR 1
mycovenantchapel.org
9:15 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:15 - Worship. (Children's Church for ages 6-12).

DILLMAN UNITED BRETHREN
8888S-1100W-90, Warren
9 a.m. - Worship. 10 a.m. - Sunday School.

DOMESTIC CHURCH OF CHRIST
9 a.m. - Sunday school. 10 a.m. - Church service.

EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST
1204 W. Cherry St.
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:40 a.m. - Sunday School.

FAIRVIEW CHURCH OF GOD
5511 W. Yoder Rd., Yoder
fairviewlife.com
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST
210 W. Townley
fbc-bluffton.com
10 a.m. - Worship. 11 a.m. - Discipleship.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OSSIAN
1001 Dehner Dr.
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. - Worship. 6:30 - Service.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST
909 W. Spring St.
FCCfamily.com
9:30 & 11 a.m. - Worship.

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
1515 Clark Ave.
blufftonnazarene.org
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 9-10 a.m. - Free ESL classes. 10:15 - Worship. 6 p.m. - Service.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
215 E. Dustman Rd.
firstpcbbluffton.org
9:30 a.m. - Children/youth & Adult Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

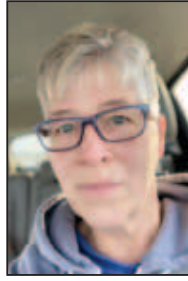
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN (EVANGELICAL)
123 S. Jefferson St., Ossian
www.OssianChurch.com
8:45 a.m. - Sunday school. 10 a.m. - Worship. 11:30 - New members class.

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF BLUFFTON
301 W. Cherry St.
9:15 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
325 W. Washington St.
blufftonfirstumc.com
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:45 - Sunday School.

Time to Take a Devotional Break

MEETING WITH A SKUNK
This week I met a skunk. Not in person, but with my car. I never intended to hit the already-dead critter in the early morning darkness. Sadly, another driver left parts of the unfortunate animal across the entire width of my lane.



by Martha Paxson

I winced as the front wheel connected with nature's leftovers and the unpleasant aroma of n-butyl mercaptan (I had to look that one up) filled my nostrils. Arriving at work, I parked in my usual spot, mentally apologizing to my colleagues whose cars were nearby.

Social media quickly offered advice about removing skunk smell from a car or garage, including charcoal, vinegar, and unused coffee grounds.

Opening a small bag of coffee grounds, I tested one of the suggestions. To my surprise, the remedy worked fairly well — at least to some extent.

The entire episode reminded me that sin is very much like hitting a skunk on a dark morning highway.

We didn't CHOOSE to be sinful creatures. The choices of Adam and Eve

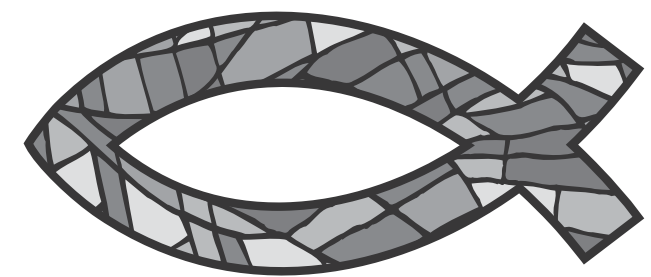
in the garden resulted in mankind entering the world with an active sin nature (Romans 5:12-21). I would never have chosen to hit any animal, especially not a skunk, but reality cannot be ignored. I cannot go back and change history.

Sin affects everything in our lives (Romans 3:23). Just as a smell worse than rotten eggs permeated the air around my vehicle and seemed to cling to my nostrils, sin affects how we think, speak, and behave. Without God's grace, we can never be rid of it.

Everyone believes that their method of dealing with sin is the best solution: ignore it, deny it, work to rid ourselves of it, or excuse it. However, the Bible says that only the blood of Jesus Christ will eternally cleanse our sins and bring about reconciliation with God (Hebrews 9:22; Romans 10:9).

The good news is that skunk smells eventually fade. The BEST news is that sin can be eradicated forever by the power of God. His solution for sin is the only one we will ever need.

mpaxson99@yahoo.com



FIRST BAPTIST
202 W. Cherry St.
fbcbluffton.com
10:15 - Worship.

FORGIVEN CHURCH
1409 S. Main St.
forgivenonline.org
9 a.m. - Worship.

GRACE BAPTIST
1621 S. 350 E. Stogdill Rd. Ext.
gbcbluffton.com
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. & 6 p.m. - Worship.

GRACE BIBLE
6626 Village Way, Berne
gracebibleberne.com
9 a.m. - Sunday classes. 10 a.m. - Collective Worship.

HARVEST TIME BIBLE
11015S-600E, Keystone
9:10 a.m. - Prayer. 10 a.m. - Worship.

HOPE MISSIONARY
429 E. Dustman Rd.
hope4thefamily.com
8 a.m., 9:30 & 11 a.m. - Service at Main Campus. 9:30 & 11 a.m. - Service, north campus, Ossian.

KEYSTONE CHURCH
10556S-200W
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:30 - Sunday School.

KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
2803 N. Main St.
jw.org
10 a.m. - Worship.

LANCASTER CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST
4510 E 400N, Craigville
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 9:40 - Fellowship. 10 a.m. - Worship.

LIBERTY CENTER BAPTIST
3071 W. Cherry St.
8:30 a.m. - Pastor/Deacon's Prayer. 9 - Sunday School. 9:55 - Fellowship. 10:15 - Worship.

LIBERTY CENTER COMMUNITY CHURCH
8:45 a.m. - Choir practice. 9 a.m. - Coffee, donuts, conversation. 9:30 - Worship w/infant nursery & children's church. 10:45 - Sunday School.

LIFE COMMUNITY
428 S. Oak St.
lifecommunity.net
10:30 a.m. - Service (Children's programs available).

LIVING FAITH MISSIONARY
17718 Bluffton Rd., Yoder
10 a.m. - Worship. 11:30 - Sunday School.

LIVING WATER UNITED CHURCH
6486 S 700E, Bluffton
8:45-9 a.m. - Prayer. 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

MARKLE CHAPEL HILL SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
470 E. Morse St.
Saturday: 9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:45 - Sabbath School (Bible study).

MARKLE CHURCH OF CHRIST
455 E. Morse St.
marklechurch.org
9 a.m. - Adult Bible study groups. 10:30 - Worship. Children's & student programming both hours.

MARKLE RIVERSIDE 316
145 W. Morse St.
10 a.m. - Worship.

MURRAY MISSIONARY
1117 N. Washington St., Murray
murraymc.org
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 11 a.m. - Sunday School.

NEW BEGINNING
2187 W. SR 218
10 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

NEW HOPE LUTHERAN
(Missouri Synod)
8824 N. SR 1, Ossian
newhopelutheran-ossian.webs.com
9 a.m. - Sunday School & Adult Bible study. 10 a.m. - Worship.

NOTTINGHAM
1100 S. SR 1
9:30 - Sunday School. 10:30 & 6 p.m. - Worship.

OSSIAN CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
302 N. Metts St.
ossiannaz.org
9:15 a.m. - Bible study. 10:30 - Service.

OSSIAN UNITED METHODIST
201 W. Mill St.
ossianumc.org
9 a.m. - Worship, Worship child care nurse. 10 a.m. - Fellowship. 10:15 - Adult Sunday School.

PARK COMMUNITY
617 S. Bennett St.
parkccbluffton.org
10 a.m. - Connection. 11 a.m. - Worship.

PETROLEUM COMMUNITY CHURCH
3625 E. 2nd St.
9 a.m. - Worship. 10:30 - Sunday School.

PONETO BAPTIST
Grape Street
8:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 9 a.m. - Worship.

PONETO FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH
36 E. Walnut St.
9 a.m. - Worship. 10 a.m. - Fellowship. 10:15 - Sunday School.

RIVER OF HOPE
1224 W. Central
11 a.m. - Worship & the Word.

RIVER OF LIFE
122 Lamar St.
Suite 108, 110
riveroflifebluffton.com
10:30 a.m. - Worship.

SONLIGHT WESLEYAN
2350 S. SR 1
sonlightwesleyan.org
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship. Nursery & Children's classes available during Sunday School & Worship.

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9450 S 300 W, Poneto
9 & 10:45 a.m. - Worship.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC
1300 N. Main St.
Saturday: 7:45 a.m. - Prayer. 8 a.m. - Mass. 8:30 - Rosary. 4 p.m. or by appointment - Confessions. 5 p.m. - Mass. Sunday: 7:30 & 10 a.m. - Mass.

ST. LUKE CHURCH
4960W-100N, Decatur
stlukechurch.in
9 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Sunday School.

ST. MARK EV. LUTHERAN
16933 Thiele Rd.
stmarkfw.org
8:45 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN (NALC)
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10 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Children's Sunday School.

THE CHURCH AT MCNATT
9221 W 800 S-90, Montpelier
8:30 a.m. - Coffee fellowship. 9:15 - Worship.

SIX MILE
4790 SE SR 116
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115 E. Market St.
6:30 p.m. - Bible study.

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11811 N. Wayne St., Zanesville
towerlifecenter.com
9:30 a.m. - TLC Groups. 10:30 - Worship.

TURNPOINTE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
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turnpointechurch.com
9:30 a.m. - Fellowship. 10 a.m. - Adult & Children's Worship.

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5867 N. Main St.
9 a.m. - Worship.

UNIONTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST
11419 N-200W, Ossian
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

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2771 SE Mulberry St., Vera Cruz
9-10 a.m. - Sunday School. 10-10:30 - Fellowship. 10:30 - Worship.

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH
205 S. Adams St., Monroe
9 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Discipleship for adults & children.

ZANESVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GOD
11984 N. Marzane Rd.
9 a.m. - Bible Class. 10 a.m. - Worship.

ZANESVILLE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST
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9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

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NMS honor roll

(Continued from Page 3)

7th Grade Distinction

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Canyon Aschliman, Oakley Bryant, Violet Butcher, Julia Collins, Keegan Corey, Wesley Dafforn, Jackson Decker, Kaydence Denton, Jack Dunwiddie, Lydia Felton, Cooper Figert, Paxton Frisch, Gabriel Gerber, Annabelle Gill, Reece Goeglein, Austin Harnish, Allison Hart, Laken Heaston, Nolan Hitzfield, Cole Jackemeyer, Grant Keller, Harrison Koop, Piper Krumma, Camryn McCartney, Macy McNabb, Hudson Meriwether, Mercy Meyer, Ellie Miller, Grayson Miser, Mason Morales, Layla Moyer, Madison Nordman, Elias Nussbaum, Brynleigh Ormsby, Nevaeh Pilkinton, Paizley Price, Hazel Richhart, Aubree Roberts, Meghan Roberts, Claire Sands, Tyson Taylor, Graciela Torres, Rylan Watson and Samuel Worthman.

7th Grade Honor

(GPA of 2.7 or higher and no grade lower than B-)

Sephora Alfreus, Braydon Arnold, Melody Bailey, Tanna Bauman, Maleah Baumgartner, Celia Behning, Madalyn Bookmiller, Alyssa Borkholder, Vivian Branham, Kaiden Brooksher, Kayah Bryant, Tenley Buck, Joshua Buirley, Mackenzie Bunn, Ethan Crist, Carter Culbreath, Harbert Davis, Cayden Doak, Allison Eltzroth, Adleigh Ervin, Clark Evans, Leila Fitzmaurice, Blake Fuess, Camryn Fulton, Aria Geng, Owen Glisson, Veronica Haiflich, Weston Harris, Rachel Hoag, Annabelle Johnson, Lyric Johnston, Anistyn Jolloff, Alexis Keller, Kennedy King, Carsen Kleinhans, Kody Krinn, Brody Lengerich, Travis Lenwell, Carter Lloyd, Wade Meyer, Paxton Miller, Emma Moon, Brielle Noe, Sydney Nordman, Taylor Nunn, Brooklyn Quintanilla, Garrett Reed, Jace Reinhard, Claire Ringger, David Runkel, Riley Schoenemann, Brynlee Slinger, Alec Smith-Fisher, Wesley Springer, George Tucker, Rylie Van't Hof, Mason Vandal, Grady Wagers, Shannon Weimer, Chloe Whitaker, Blake Whitmer, Easton Wilson, Jaxon Yager and Colin Young.

8th Grade Distinction

(GPA of 3.7 or higher and no grade lower than A-)

Isabel Affolder, Stella Ballard, Kynnlei Beste, Reid Bolyn, Jordyn Brickley, Joao Caldoro, Landon Clark, Caedon Confer, Dalton Crow, Miles Daugherty, Lily Dillion, Mason Diver, Rylan Falk, Kendall Fegley, Kenley Fisher, Baylee Ford, Kayla Freed, Camdyn Gerber, Chase Gerber, Krista Ilean Gerber, Parker Gerber, Ally Graft, Jordyn Grzych, Rilynn Hoopingartner, Gracie Hulvey, Hadie Isch, Carter Jackemeyer, Titus Jacob, Claire Kelley, Wyatt Knell, Hunter Kurtz, Elijah Landis, Derek Lenwell, Haley Lewis, Addison Long, Benjamin Lukins, Elizabeth Mann, Angela Mayer, Brenna Meyer, Quinn Oakleaf, Leah Randol, Easton Reinhard, Madeline Ringger, Joshua Roby, Conley Rupp, Elaina Scott, Charles Simerman, Bristol Smith, Dravin Stevens, Avery Thornton, Maddux Thornton, Katelyn Troutt, Stella Tumbleson, Case Wireman and Mason Zent.

8th Grade Honor

(GPA of 2.7 or higher and no grade lower than B-)

Kyle Adams, Joshua Antrim, Emma Bailey, Burk Bates, Robert Baxter, Cruz Bolinger, Henry Brinson, Callie Burton, Benjamin Captain, Andrew Collins, Jillien Dawalt, Crete Edwards, Marshall Elston, Leah Ewing, Myah Frauhiger, Chandler Green, Owen Grover, Cohen Karns, Brynlee Kinsey, Jason Lenwell, Madelynn Lewis, Elizabeth Long, Novalynn Malone, Anna McBride, Hadley Meyer, Roman Meyer, Ian Mitchell, Noah Nash, Clayton Parsons, Brynn Payton, Allyson Peterson, Kenley Reed, Jaydin Rhoads, Eli Rodgers, Stormie Selking, Adalyn Stine-McCave, Abigail Swineford, Isaiah Thompson and Cody Waldman.

Russia flaunts doomsday weapons to keep West from ramping up support for Ukraine

The Associated Press
This year has seen President Vladimir Putin repeatedly brandish the nuclear sword, reminding everyone that Russia has the world's largest atomic arsenal to try to deter the West from ramping up support for Ukraine.

He ordered his military to hold drills involving battlefield nuclear weapons with ally Belarus.

He announced Russia will start producing ground-based intermediate range missiles that were outlawed by a now-defunct U.S.-Soviet treaty in 1987.

And last month, he lowered the threshold for unleashing his arsenal by revising the country's nuclear doctrine.

Putin is relying on those thousands of warheads and hundreds of missiles as an enormous doomsday machine to offset NATO's massive edge in conventional weapons to discourage what he sees as threats to Russia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Russia's strategic weapons

The Federation of American Scientists estimated this year that Russia has an inventory totaling 5,580 deployed and non-deployed nuclear warheads, while the U.S. has 5,044. Together, that's about 88% of the world's nuclear weapons.

Most of these are strategic, or intercontinental-range weapons. Like the U.S., Russia has a nuclear triad of ground-based intercontinental ballistic missiles, long-range bombers and ICBM-armed submarines.

Since Putin came to power in 2000, the Kremlin has worked to upgrade the Soviet-built components of the triad, deploying hundreds of new land-based missiles, commissioning new nuclear submarines and modernizing nuclear-capable bombers. Russia's effort to revamp its nuclear forces has helped prompt the U.S. to launch a costly modern-

ization of its arsenal.

Russia has reequipped its land-based strategic missile forces with mobile Yars ICBMs and recently began deploying the heavy, silo-based Sarmat ICBMs — designated "Satan II" missiles in the West — to gradually replace about 40 Soviet-built R-36M missiles. Sarmat has had only one known successful test, and reportedly suffered a massive explosion during an abortive test last month.

The navy commissioned seven new Borei-class atomic-powered submarines, each with 16 Bulava nuclear-tipped missiles, and plans to build five more. They are intended to form the core of the triad's naval component alongside a few Soviet-era nuclear subs still operating.

Russia still relies on Soviet-built Tu-95 and Tu-160 strategic bombers carrying nuclear-tipped cruise missiles. Moscow has restarted production of the supersonic Tu-160 that was halted after the 1991 Soviet collapse, aiming to build several dozen modernized aircraft with new engines and avionics.

Russia's non-strategic nuclear weapons

The U.S. estimates that Russia has between 1,000 and 2,000 non-strategic, or tactical, nuclear weapons intended for use on the battlefield that typically are far less powerful than the strategic warheads capable of destroying entire cities.

Russia has high-precision ground-launched Iskander missiles with a range of up to 310 miles, which can be fitted with either a conventional or a nuclear warhead.

The air force has a fleet of MiG-31 fighter jets that carry a hypersonic Kinzhal missile, which can be equipped with a nuclear or conventional warhead. Russia has widely used conventional versions of both Iskander and Kinzhal against Ukraine.

As part of the Kremlin's

nuclear messaging, Russia and ally Belarus held drills to train their troops with the battlefield nuclear weapons in May, shortly after Putin began his fifth term.

MAD and Russia's nuclear doctrine

Moscow and Washington have relied for decades on nuclear deterrence under the concept of mutually assured destruction — MAD for short — based on the assumption that an overwhelming retaliation would discourage either side from launching an attack.

Russia's nuclear doctrine adopted in 2020 envisaged using such ultimate weapons in response to a nuclear strike or an attack with conventional weapons that threatens "the very existence of the Russian state." Moscow hawks criticized that document as too vague,

urging Putin to toughen it.

Last month, he warned the U.S. and NATO allies that allowing Ukraine to use Western-supplied longer-range weapons for strikes deep inside Russia would put NATO at war with his country.

He reinforced the message by announcing a new version of the nuclear doctrine that considers a conventional attack on Russia by a non-nuclear nation that is supported by a nuclear power to be a joint attack on his country — a clear warning to the U.S. and other allies of Kyiv.

Putin also declared the revised document envisages possible nuclear weapons use in case of a massive air attack, holding the door open to a potential nuclear response to any aerial assault — an ambiguity intended to deter the West.

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Sports

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024 • The News-Banner • Page 1a

Tigers' final drive comes up short on controversial call in loss to Wildcats

By ANDREW FEEBACK

The Bluffton Tigers turned in a much better showing Friday night than the previous two games, but this one featured a tough finish as they came up short to the visiting Franklin County Wildcats 29-22.

"Obviously not what we want," Bluffton head coach Brent Kunkel said. "It's frustrating because we thought we had some stuff coming out of the half that we could hit. Credit to Coach Gillman and his staff; they've got some tough-nosed kids."

Bluffton (6-3) appeared to score with no time on the clock, leaving them a conversion away from either tying or winning the game.

But a penalty for offensive pass interference wiped it out, and the Tigers failed to score on the following play.

Unlike the past two games, where the Tigers fell behind early and couldn't

come back, they found themselves in front for much of the contest.

Cooper Craig's one-yard touchdown run early in the second quarter, followed by a two-point conversion pass from Axton Beste to Parker Barnes, had the Tigers up 8-0.

Franklin County (6-3) responded with a 63-yard drive, most of it on the ground, ending with Mason Wewe's two-yard score to make it 8-7.

The Tiger defense came up with a huge stop to end the first half when Treyton Bustos intercepted a pass in the end zone.

The Wildcats went in front 14-8 when Quinn Gillman scored on a 12-yard run early in the second half.

Bluffton responded to go up 15-14 after an eight-play drive. Beste had a hand in every play, running six times and throwing twice to Elijah Bertsch. His last run came on fourth and goal,

just managing to get inside the pylon before being pushed out of bounds.

The defense again came up with a crucial stop, turning the Wildcats over on downs at the Bluffton 38-yard line.

This time it was Craig with the big play, an electrifying run down the sideline for a 29-yard score that had the home team up 22-14.

After the teams traded three-and-outs, Gillman started to take over.

He threw a 34-yard pass to Kayden Kerr, then took off on a 26-yard run that got the Wildcats into the red zone.

His five-yard touchdown run and subsequent two-point conversion run tied the game with 6:53 to play.

A big kickoff return into Wildcat territory gave the Tigers a spark, but Beste was picked off by his counterpart on the very next play, with Gillman returning it to the Bluffton 23.

Five plays later, Gillman hit Braylon Kruthaupt in the end zone on third down, and Franklin County led 29-22 with 4:36 remaining.

Beste found Craig for a 15-yard pickup on third and 12, and two more first downs had the Tigers 25 yards from paydirt. A pass interference penalty on the Wildcats moved the ball down to the 12.

Facing third and three from the five-yard-line, a block in the back penalty sent the Tigers back to the 15, where it was now third and long.

The Tigers then ran a reversal that featured Craig throwing a pass back to Beste, who headed toward the far sideline and was tackled short of the end zone.

The clock stopped for a first down at the two-yard-line, but the Tigers needed to call timeout to stop it again with 0.6 seconds

(Continued on Page A2)



Trey Bustos eludes the flying tackle of Franklin County's Nick Vanoven as Bustos busts a huge kickoff return in the fourth quarter Friday night Fred F. Park Field. (Photo by Glen Werling)

Turnovers, Graft's injury plague Knights in loss to Eagles

By RYAN WALKER

The No. 5 team in 4A gave Norwell all it could handle in The Courtyard.

Columbia City's (8-1, 6-1 NE8) 49-7 halftime score held to the final whistle in the Eagles' rout over the Knights (2-7, 2-5 NE8) in the regular season finale.

The first quarter checked off a lot of boxes for the Eagles and was mostly trouble for the Knights.

Columbia City scored three touchdowns during the first 12 minutes and got help from both sides of the ball.

Eagles' quarterback Grayson Bradberry tossed to Gavin Smith and let his receiver do the rest, taking a few Knight defenders into the endzone for a 25-yard score.

Norwell's top player, Drew Graft, went down with a lower-body injury attempting to make a play on a pass in the endzone. He was helped off the field and returned to the sideline in street clothes and crutches.

His absence hurt as a weapon in the offensive game, an anchor on defense and his kickoff and extra point responsibilities.

The next drive, Smith scored again — but on defense. Knights' quarterback Cayden Cassel pitched backward on an option play that hit the turf. Smith scooped and scored for 18 yards and got the Knights on their heels early.

The Eagles had the Knights right where they wanted them, up two scores midway through the first quarter and forcing another third down and long scenario.

This time, Cassel dropped back and looked for receiver Brady Smith on the far left sideline, coming back on a curl route. He snatched the ball, made his defender miss and took off down the Knights' home sideline. He outran a couple of Eagles and rushed his way through another for the Knights' only score of

the game for 68 yards. He completed the drive with an extra point in for Graft.

"Cassel made a nice throw, Brody made a nice catch and then a great move," Norwell head coach Josh Gerber said. "Just to go down the sideline and finish in the endzone. It was a really nice play by him."

It was perhaps the only true shining moment for Norwell, who then allowed 35 unanswered points the rest of the half.

On two more option plays, Cassel and his tailbacks dropped two more balls on the turf, losing one of them. Columbia City's Smith, who scored on a rushing and fumble recovery touchdown earlier, picked off a Cassel pass one-handed just moments after his eight-yard rushing touchdown.

On the night, the Eagles outdueled the Knights in total yardage 371-131. Norwell knew the task at

(Continued on Page A2)



Norwell's Brady Smith (right) turns up field following a reception as he heads to the endzone for the Knights' only touchdown of the game in their 49-7 loss to Columbia City at Norwell Friday night. (Photo by Chad Kline)

Starfires rout Raiders in regular season finale, bye week ahead



Leeland Goodnight stiff-arms South Adams' Jackson Garcia on a short run in the first quarter Friday night at Carnes Field. (Photo by Glen Werling)

By RICK SPRUNGER

South Adams made the short trip to Carnes Field Friday night and went back home with a 58-0 win tucked under its belt.

The Starfires rolled 51 points up on the scoreboard in the first half to get the clock running at halftime and then finished with a lone score on the first play of the fourth quarter.

It was the last home game for Southern Wells seniors Jackson Collins, Quinten Darling and Bryson Williams.

As if the score wasn't bad enough for Southern Wells, the Raiders also lost 5-9, 285-pound junior lineman Korbin Eltzroth to an injury less than three minutes into the game.

Eltzroth didn't get up from a pile after a Raider offensive play, didn't put

any weight at all on his right foot coming off the field and was on crutches for the remainder of the game.

"We don't know if he'll be able to play (in the sectional) or not," said Southern Wells coach Blake Blaker after the game.

"He's a big part of what we do. The nice thing is that we got the bye, so he'll have two weeks to recover."

But Blaker had bigger

concerns than that when this one was over.

"If we do what we're coached to do, it's easy," said a frustrated Blaker on the field afterwards. "But we need to be more consistent; We just have to execute. We've got (receivers) running their own routes and guys doing their own thing."

"But we just . . ." His

(Continued on Page A2)



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Bluffton Tigers

(Continued from Page A1)

showing.

Beste then threw a pass to his left and hit Bustos in the end zone for an apparent score, but the officials determined Bluffton committed offensive pass interference, backing them up 15 yards and forcing another attempt from the 17-yard-line on an untimed down.

Beste's final attempt was intercepted near the goal line.

"It's a frustrating end," Kunkel said. "We thought we did everything we could do to win that, but fell short."

After a rough couple weeks defensively, the Bluffton defense had a much better showing against an

impressive Wildcat offense that had scored at least four touchdowns in all but one game this season.

Only two players ran the ball for Franklin County, and they had nearly identical numbers: Gillman carried 22 times for 125 yards, and Wewe ran 22 times for 135.

Franklin County, located in southeast Indiana, was a late addition to Bluffton's schedule. Unfortunately, this was a one-off and there will be no rematch next year.

Bluffton will open sectional play next week against a newcomer to Class 2A, but a familiar foe: Adams Central.

It will come just two weeks after the teams met on the Jets' field, this time

on the Tigers' turf.

"Our job this week is to figure out what's our counter, what's our answer," Kunkel said. "We'll come out Friday and put our best foot forward against one of the best programs in north-east Indiana. Our guys are excited for the challenge and won't back down."

The game will begin at 7 p.m.

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FRANKLIN COUNTY 29, BLUFFTON 22	
At Bluffton	
Score By Quarters	
Franklin Co. 0	7 15 — 29
Bluffton	0 8 14 0 — 22
Scoring Summary	
First Quarter	
No scoring.	
Second Quarter	
B—Cooper Craig 1 run (Parker Barnes pass from Axton Beste), 10:12.	
FC—Mason Wewe 8 run (Hunter	

Norwell Knights

(Continued from Page A1)

hand Friday night. A top-five school in the class above them, but losing Graft, one of their senior leaders, seemed to be the biggest blow. At this time, it is unsure whether Graft will be able to go next week.

"I think the big thing is that belief is a huge thing with high school athletes, and anytime that doubt can creep in, it's tough," Gerber said. "It's hard to win when you doubt yourself and you

doubt what's going on and then all of a sudden, you lose probably your best athlete. And like, 'Can we really do this?'"

Norwell will travel to Bishop Luers in the opening round of the sectional at 7 p.m. next Friday.

ryan@news-banner.com

COLUMBIA CITY 49, NORWELL 7	
At Norwell High School	
Score By Quarters	
Col. City 21	28 0 0 — 49
Norwell	7 0 0 0 — 7
Scoring Summary	
First Quarter	
CC—Grayson Bradberry 25-yard pass to Gavin Smith (Jaxson Johnson kick), 8:21.	

Team Statistics		NOR	CC
First Downs		19	19
Rushes-Yards	28-51	40-221	
Yards Passing	80	150	

Southern Wells Raiders

(Continued from Page A1)

voice trailed off.

Then, "I don't know if it's a lack of discipline. I don't know what it is."

Southern Wells' problems Friday night started on the opening kickoff.

South Adams' Will Patterson fielded the kick on the 17, found a seam, and set sail down the left sideline.

Joshua Aulbach made a touchdown-saving tackle from behind at the Southern Wells six.

But Wes Summersett took it in from there on the Starfires' first play from scrimmage, and the Berne squad was off to the races.

South Adams needed just three plays to move the ball 51 yards on its next series and four plays to go 57 yards on the series after that.

That made it 21-0 after one quarter, and then the roof fell in on Southern Wells in the second period.

A 40-yard touchdown fling from quarterback Tytus Lehman to Derek McKeen and a 39-yard scoring

scamper by Patterson upped the count to 35-0 midway through the quarter, and Jackson Garcia added a field goal and Jax Wanner a two-yard touchdown run for a 44-0 score with 1:18 left in the first half.

Patterson then capped the half with a 17-yard scoop-and-score after a Southern Wells fumble deep in its own backfield with just 16 ticks remaining.

Southern Wells was able to move the football in the second half.

The Raiders got first downs on three successive plays early in third quarter, one on a nice catch by Levi Blake for 20 yards on a pass from Slusher and a second on an 11-yard carry by Blake that got the ball to the South Adams 25 before a fumble ended the drive.

A 34-yard pass from Slusher to Aulbach got the Raiders to the Starfire 35 with less than two minutes remaining in the contest.

After a fumble in the backfield moved them back

seven yards, Blaker used a timeout to maximize his team's chances of at least putting up a touchdown on Senior Night.

He wasn't able to get another one called after consecutive incompletions.

"I tried," said a disgusted Blaker. "Twice. They (the officials) wouldn't give me another one."

"I suppose it's possible that he didn't hear me, but I don't know how," he added. "I was five feet away from him and yelling in his ear. I think they just wanted to get the game over with and get out of there."

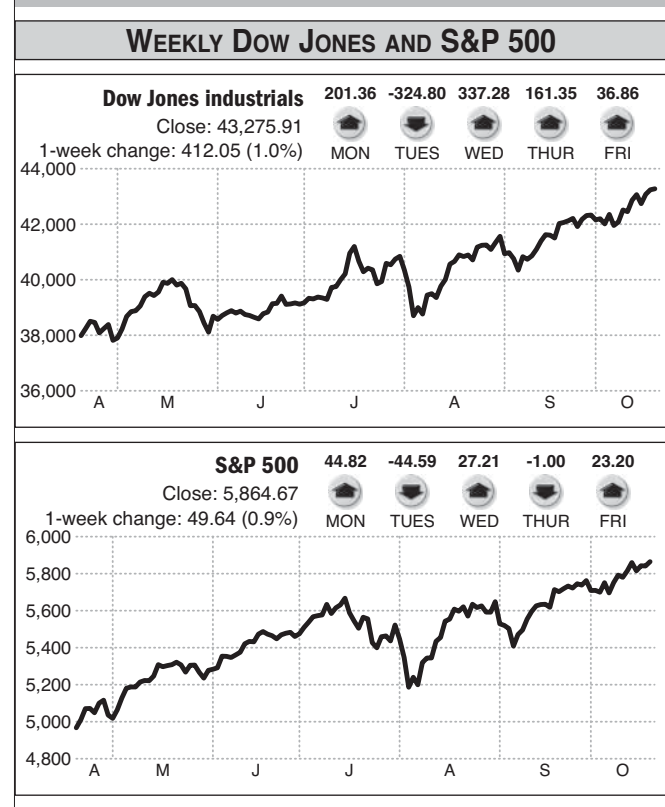
Southern Wells will next play in two weeks when it travels to either Triton or Southwood in Class A sectional play.

sports@news-banner.com

SOUTH ADAMS 58, SOUTHERN WELLS 0	
at Southern Wells	
So. Adams	So. Wells
21	30
0	0
0	0
0	0
First Quarter	
SA—Wes Summersett 6 run (Jackson Garcia kick), 11:40.	
SA—Caiden Neuenschwander 19 pass from Tytus Lehman (Garcia	

Team Statistics		FC	BLU
First Downs	19	13	
Rushes-Yards	44-260	24-75	
Yards Passing	63	170	
Passing (C-A-I)	6-14-2	17-25-2	
Penalties-Yards	4-8	7-6	
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0	
Punts-Average	1-34	3-32	
Time of Possession	22:20	25:40	
Individual Statistics			
Rushing: Franklin County, Mason Wewe 22-135, Quinn Gillman 22-125. Bluffton, Cooper Craig 10-45, Axton Beste 13-31.			
Passing: Franklin County, Gillman 6-14-2-63. Bluffton, Beste 16-24-2-157, Craig 1-1-0-13.			
Receiving: Franklin County, Braylon Kruthaupt 3-36, Kayden Kerr 2-32, Jack Seals 1-(minus 5). Bluffton, Elijah Bertsch 4-69, Treyton Bustos 5-38, Craig 3-28, Parker Barnes 3-16, Beste 1-13, Easton Blair 1-6.			

THE WEEK IN REVIEW



STOCK MARKET INDEXES							
52-Week High	Low	Name	Last	Wk Chg	Wk %Chg	YTD %Chg	12-mo %Chg
43,325.09	32,327.20	Dow Jones Industrials	43,275.91	+412.05	+0.96	+14.82	+30.64
16,671.23	13,471.47	Dow Jones Transportation	16,383.13	+144.88	+0.89	+3.05	+13.37
1,070.05	795.23	Dow Jones Utilities	1,067.18	+35.69	+3.46	+21.04	+32.22
19,905.65	14,638.37	NYSE Composite	19,884.81	+173.59	+0.88	+17.99	+32.27
18,671.07	12,543.86	Nasdaq Composite	18,489.55	+146.62	+0.80	+23.17	+42.40
5,878.46	4,103.78	S&P 500	5,864.67	+49.64	+0.85	+22.95	+38.84
3,204.68	2,322.38	S&P MidCap	3,198.21	+44.62	+1.41	+14.98	+33.63
1,464.59	1,065.49	S&P SmallCap	1,435.16	+23.11	+1.64	+8.87	+31.25
58,895.59	41,178.32	Wilshire 5000	58,763.38	+550.31	+0.95	+21.67	+38.57
2,300.00	1,633.67	Russell 2000	2,276.09	+41.68	+1.87	+12.28	+35.42

STOCK EXCHANGE HIGHLIGHTS							
NYSE GAINERS (\$2 OR MORE)		NYSE LOSERS (\$2 OR MORE)		NYSE ACTIVES (\$1 OR MORE)			
Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
NuScale wt	7.38	+3.51	+90.6	ContainSt	rs12.00	-5.18	-30.2
Wolfspeed	16.01	+4.53	+39.5	Huya	3.45	-0.85	-19.8
NuScale	18.21	+5.07	+38.6	Orgenesi rs	2.11	-1.64	-43.7
ITMData	29.15	+6.02	+26.0	Coty	7.70	-1.51	-16.6
JAMGlobal	5.97	+1.14	+23.6	NIO	5.22	-1.02	-16.3
Citizinc	5.86	+1.11	+23.4	Cheetah	3.93	-0.72	-15.5
GinkgoBI rs	8.88	+1.55	+21.1	JinkoSolar	20.36	-3.66	-15.2
VicarSrg rs	7.74	+1.33	+20.7	Centene	62.02	-10.42	-14.4
AevaTch rs	4.16	+0.69	+19.9	Elevance	63.07	-7.11	-11.2
ChnGrm	2.43	+0.39	+19.1	Gaotu Tch	3.20	-0.53	-14.2

NASDAQ GAINERS (\$2 OR MORE)		NASDAQ LOSERS (\$2 OR MORE)		NASDAQ ACTIVES (\$1 OR MORE)			
Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
BrightMind	47.21	+46.13	+97.7	BoneBio wt	11.00	-49.50	-451.8
180 Life rs	5.03	+3.71	+281.1	Silvaco n	6.89	-5.41	-44.0
JIADE n	2.09	+1.47	+336.0	Orgenesi rs	2.11	-1.64	-43.7
VS Media	2.35	+1.53	+185.9	ProAuto n	9.43	-4.98	-34.6
VersusUS rs	3.03	+1.93	+175.5	SvcPropTr	3.47	-1.28	-26.9
PRORTher	4.33	+2.48	+134.1	PremCatr n	3.19	-1.09	-25.5
Lightgrd	7.01	+3.84	+121.1	Banzai rs	3.31	-1.12	-25.3
Korro rs	80.04	+41.37	+107.0	PengSol	15.69	-5.07	-24.4
BioVie	2.35	+1.17	+99.2	Rezolve n	5.28	-1.59	-23.1
Staf360 rs	2.45	+1.20	+96.0	LucidGrp	2.63	-0.77	-22.6

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST												
Name	Div	Last	Wk Chg	Wk %Chg	YTD %Chg	Name	Div	Last	Wk Chg	Wk %Chg	YTD %Chg	
AFLAC	2.00	114.50	+1.24	+1.1	+38.8	KrS Chln	2.58	32.57	-2.44	-7.0	+20.6	
AT&T Inc	1.11	21.85	+0.48	+2.2	+30.2	Kroger	1.28	56.53	+1.17	+2.1	+23.7	
AMD	1.60	155.97	-11.92	-7.1	-5.5	LinNat	1.80	33.49	+1.06	+3.3	+24.2	
AirLines	4.00	13.09	+1.30	+11.0	+4.7	Lowe's	4.60	281.64	+5.88	+2.1	+26.6	
AEP	3.52	10.09	+0.44	+2.5	+24.0	LucidGrp	...	2.63	-0.77	-22.6	-37.5	
Apple Inc s	1.00	235.00	+7.45	+3.3	+22.1	MARA Hldg	...	18.88	+2.00	+11.4	+9.6	
ApdMplM	1.60	186.36	-18.70	-9.1	-15.5	MCDnlds	7.08	316.56	+1.52	+3.8	+8.8	
BP PLC	1.74	31.33	-0.78	-2.4	-11.5	Microsoft	3.32	418.16	+1.84	+0.4	+11.2	
BkofAm	1.04	42.32	+0.37	+0.9	+25.7	MolecTm	...	75	-1.72	-4.0	-79.9	
BrightMind	...	47.21	+46.13	+4271.3	+97.7	NIO	...	5.22	-1.02	-16.3	-42.4	
B3201.4	...	...	...	...	...	NL Inds	...	32.80	+0.95	+0.6	+44.2
BrMySq	2.40	53.22	+1.02	+2.0	+3.7	NewGenia n	...	1.20	+2.22	+22.4	-20.0	
CampSp	1.48	48.50	+1.09	+2.3	+12.2	NiSource	1.06	35.14	+1.21	+3.6	+32.4	
Carmell A	...	...	...	...	...	NokiaCp	...	13	4.75	+39	+89.9
Caterpillar	5.64	393.86	-8.16	-2.0	+33.2	NorfolkS	5.40	252.37	+2.20	+0.9	+6.8	
CathPr rs	...	...	...	...	...	Nucor	2.16	158.24	+6.33	+4.2	+9.1
Chevron	6.52	150.75	-0.67	-0.4	-1.1	NuZee	...	1.77	+1.37	+344.7	-30.3	
Cisco	1.60	56.76	+2.51	+4.6	+12.4	Nvidia s	0.04	138.00	+3.20	+2.4	+178.7	
Citigroup	2.24	62.85	-2.89	-4.4	+22.2	Palantir	...	42.97	+5.4	+1.2	+150.3	
CleanSp	...	...	...	...	...	PepsiCo	5.42	175.06	+2.5	+0.1	+3.1
CocaCola	1.94	70.44	+0.87	+1.3	+19.5	Plizer	1.68	229.22	+0.6	+0.2	+1.5	
DxSOXBr rs	...	...	...	...	...	FlugPowr h	...	2.24	+1.2	+5.7	-50.2
DxSOXBI	...	...	...	...	...	PRUPPO	...	74.64	+3.4	+0.5	+47.2
Disney	30	97.28	+3.15	+3.3	+7.7	PSHQQQ	...	7.13	-0.4	-0.6	-47.0	
Eaton	3.76	348.18	+6.79	+2.0	+44.6	SpdRJA	3.98	432.64	+3.91	+0.9	+14.8	
ElLiLily	5.20	91.97	-14.09	-1.5	+57.5	S&P500ETF	4.13	584.59	+5.01	+0.9	+23.0	
ExxonMbl	3.60	120.01	-3.60	-2.9	+20.0	SoFTech	...	10.18	+1.17	+13.0	+2.3	
FormD	60	11.10	+0.38	+3.5	-8.9	SPDR Fncl	...	46	47.62	+1.11	+2.4	+26.6
FrankElec	90	104.53	-0.78	-0.7	+8.2	StDynam	1.84	136.57	+6.71	+5.2	+15.6	
FrtMCoM	30	48.18	-1.69	-3.4	+13.2	Tesla	...	220.70	+2.90	+1.3	-11.2	
GE Aero	1.12	192.61	+1.45	+0.8	+89.2	Tevogen	...	1.72	+1.34	+352.6	...	
GrstOnc h	...	...	...	...	...	TonixP rs	...	18	+0.3	+21.6	-98.6
HP Inc	1.02	37.28	+0.27	+0.7	+23.9	Trump	...	29.58	+4.30	+17.0	+69.0	
HomeDp	9.00	415.00	+3.10	+0.8	+19.8	VerizonCm	2.71	43.99	+0.99	+2.3	+16.7	
ShChinaLC												

Heartfelt responses from veterans

Dear Readers: I was so touched by all of the feedback from military families. Thank you for your service, and thank you for sharing some of the responses that you have felt most comfortable with. Below are some examples.

Dear Annie: I absolutely loved your response to "Wondering Vet." As a former military member myself, I also found it challenging to respond when people thanked me for my service. Eventually, I settled on saying, "Thank you, it was an honor and a privilege to serve," and now it feels so natural and comfortable to reply this way. — Navy Vet

Dear Annie: Thank you for addressing this topic. As a veteran, I also used to wonder how to respond when thanked for my service, especially when I was traveling in uniform or pressed for time. I eventually found a simple, effective reply: "Thank you for your support." — A Veteran

Dear Annie: The best response I ever received when thanking someone for their service was: "Thank you, you were worth it." It was such a powerful and touching response. Whenever I meet a Vietnam veteran, I always thank them for their service and say, "Welcome home." — USN Veteran

Dear Annie: I loved your response to the veteran who struggled with how to reply when thanked for their service. I spent years trying to figure this out, too. Eventually, I started saying, "Thank you for your taxes that allowed me to serve." It began as a lighthearted comment but gradually became sincere. Without the support from those at home, our service wouldn't have been possible. — A Grateful Veteran

Dear Annie: I've been retired from the Navy Seabees for 24 years now, and like many others, I also struggled with how to respond when thanked for my service. About 18 years ago, one of my brothers (who also served in the Navy) shared a response he had heard from a Marine: "It was an honor to serve you." That simple phrase captured everything I wanted to express,

and I've been using it ever since. The heartfelt reactions I receive when I say this are priceless. — Vet

Dear Annie: My husband, a veteran, used to feel awkward when responding to "Thank you for your service." But a few years ago, we learned that some veterans respond with "I appreciate it." He adopted that phrase, and it has made all the difference. — A Veteran's Wife

Dear Annie: As someone who has worked at a VA hospital for many years, I often say, "Thank you for your service" to the veterans I meet. While some reply with a simple "You're welcome" or say they were just doing their job, the best response I've ever heard was, "You were worth it." It struck me deeply and served as a powerful reminder of the sacrifice our military personnel make for people they don't even know. — A Grateful VA Worker

Dear Annie: I also struggled with this for a long time, especially as a Vietnam veteran who didn't receive thanks after the war. It was hard to respond when people began thanking me years later. But when I reflected on why I enlisted in the first place, I realized it was all about honor. Now, when someone thanks me, I simply reply, "It truly was my honor. Thank you." — A Vietnam Veteran

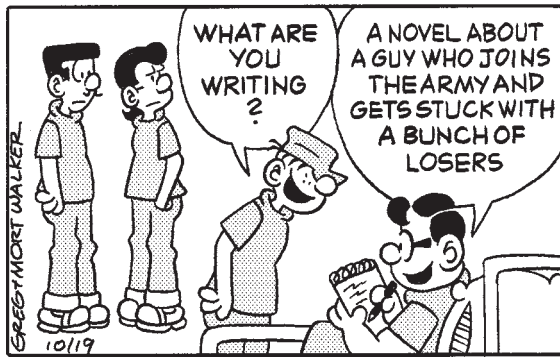
"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit http://www.creatorspublishing.com for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearnie@creators.com.

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Dear Annie by Annie Lane



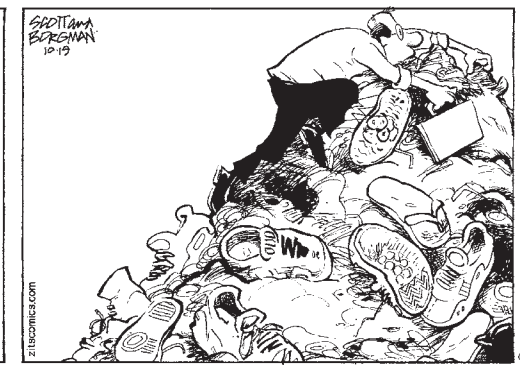
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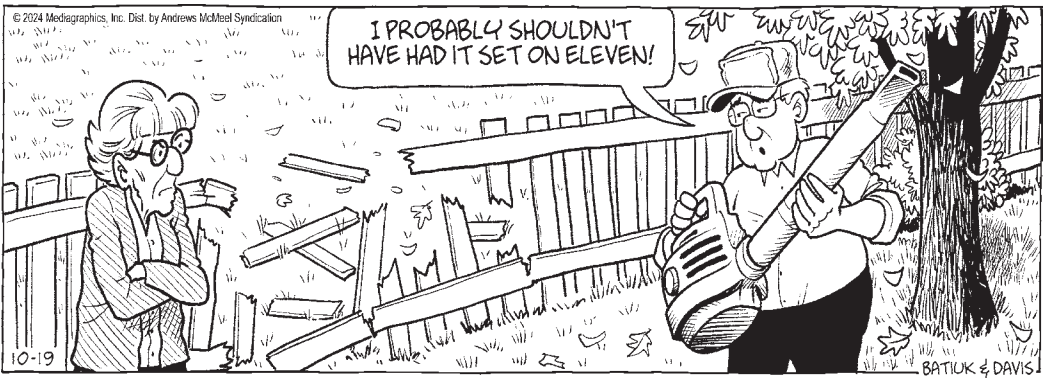
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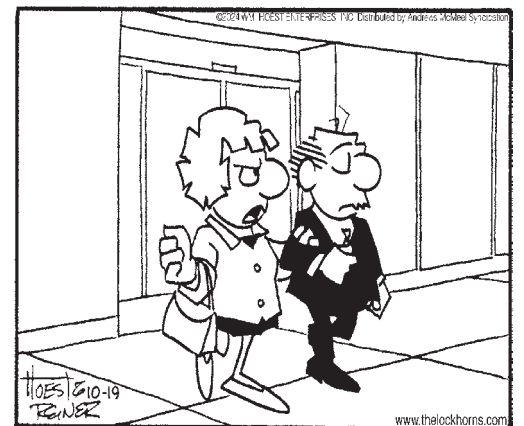
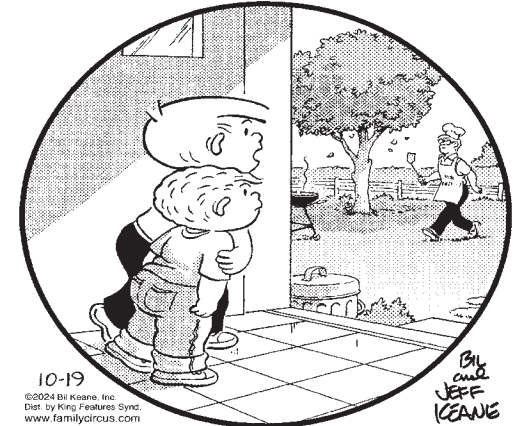
CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



God has not left us to wander around guessing

asked if he had ever found a tribe or group of people anywhere in the world who did not believe in God or in some type of higher power. He admitted he had not. Though he claimed to be an atheist, he reluctantly said that belief in a divine power was universal.

Not only can we know that God exists, but everyone can have a personal relationship with Him. God has not left us to wander around guessing — God has shown Himself to us through His Son, Jesus Christ. He came to us in human flesh. He is the image of the invisible God (see Colossians 1:15, 19). This was confirmed when Jesus Christ was

raised from the dead by His Father in Heaven.

The privilege is ours to know Him as our Savior. How awful it is to miss the love of God by rejecting the sacrifice His Son made for us on the cross of Calvary. He has done everything necessary to remove the barriers between God and humanity. Those who believe in His Name have been given "the right to become children of God" (John 1:12, NKJV).

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

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Question: Is it true that atheists are simply people who do not believe in a real God? — R.G.

Answer: Atheists say they do not believe in God at all, while an agnostic is not sure whether or not God exists. Skeptics attack the Bible and retreat in confusion, agnostics scoff at its teaching but are unable to produce an intellectually honest refutation. Atheists have denied its validity but must surrender to its historical accuracy and archaeological verification. A distinguished anthropologist was once

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes solution time: 22 mins.

Table with columns for time slots (10:19, M, A, D1, D2, 5 PM, 5:30, 6 PM, 6:30, 7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30, 12 AM, 12:30) and rows for various TV channels (WINM, CBS, Antenna, ABC, NBC, MNT, CW, PBS, FOX, etc.) listing programs and their descriptions.

Table with columns 1-10 and rows 11-53, representing the crossword puzzle grid and its solutions.

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SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

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

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Difficulty: ★★★★★

10/19

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Campers/RV's

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

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.

FOR SALE

Miscellaneous

MEN'S, LARGE, JOE Camel, leather jacket and high visibility work coats, 25'x22', divided in 5, chain link kennels, 260-415-5410.

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

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

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

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.

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

Guaranteed Sold

A 20 word, "For Sale" or "Automotive", line classified ad runs until your item is sold for only \$39! (six-month maximum, excludes real estate). Limited to one-item, private party only.

Contact the Bluffton News-Banner, 824-0224, 125 N. Johnson St., or classifieds.news-banner.com

Lottery Numbers

Friday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 14-19-22-30-41
Cash4Life — 01-23-41-43-59, Cash Ball: 01
Quick Draw Midday — 08-09-11-12-15-21-22-24-32-33-38-39-43-46-58-60-68-71-72-80, BE: 39
Daily Three-Midday — 02-02-00, SB: 08
Daily Three-Evening — 03-00-02, SB: 06
Daily Four-Midday — 06-00-08-05, SB: 08
Daily Four-Evening — 06-09-06-09, SB: 06
Quick Draw Evening — 01-04-16-21-27-28-29-31-32-35-39-43-54-56-65-68-69-72-73-77, BE: 21
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$25.8 million
MEGA MILLIONS
04-09-26-39-58, Mega Ball: 23, Megaplier: 4X
POWERBALL
Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$437 million

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Ossian, IN 46777
Attorney Gerret J. Swearingen

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This Week's Garage Sales
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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, garden stuff, tools, etc. some furniture.

YARD SALE, OCT. 18-20, 8 a.m.-7, 4408W 100N, Bluffton. Pet supplies, collectors stuff, new stuff, Cobalt Blue collection, furniture, lamps, record collection & stereo, basket collection, seasonal, rugs, misc.

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

Public Notice

Public Notice
The Harrison Township Trustees Office will be holding a Harrison Township Advisory Board meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the Harrison Township Trustees Office in the Annex Building located at 223 West Washington Street. The agenda includes 1. Township Assistance 2. Add'l appropriation for the parks 3. Fire territory report. Kyle Hunt, Harrison Twp. Trustee
nb 10/19
hspaxlp

SUDOKU ANSWER

6	7	9	1	8	9	7	8
8	8	7	2	6	9	1	9
2	9	1	7	9	8	8	6
9	7	9	8	2	1	6	2
9	6	2	9	1	2	7	8
8	1	2	8	6	7	2	9
7	8	6	2	9	8	9	1
1	9	9	8	7	8	6	2
2	2	8	6	9	1	9	8