

Commissioners approve road vacation for quarry

By HOLLY GASKILL

After over a year of discussions and revisions, the Wells County Commissioners have approved an ordinance to vacate the roadway for a portion of County Road 500 West. Rock Creek Stone Quarry initially petitioned for the vacation in September 2023, stating it would be more cost-effective to expand their business. While the petition was initially met with pushback from neighbors, the ongoing discussion met several compromises between the parties. For example, the quarry will pay to construct an alternative route, allowing traffic from State Road 124 to C.R. 100 N.

The vacation will also not take

effect sooner than Dec. 31, 2025, to allow the road to be used as a detour with another project. The new road will follow all county specifications and has to be in place before vacation.

The commissioners approved

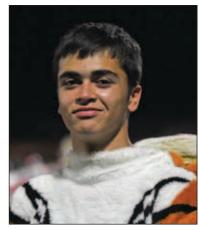
the ordinance 2-0 during their regular meeting on Monday; Commissioners Jeff Stringer and Mike Vanover were in favor, and Blake Gerber was unable to vote on the matter as he attended via Zoom. (Continued on Page 2)

More than a Tiger

Exchange student roars into student life at Bluffton High School

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Azim Bahronov, a foreign exchange student from Uzbekistan, has fully immersed himself in activities at Bluffton High School. Bahronov participates in choir,



Azim Bahronov stands after a Tigers game.

cross country, and most notably, he is the official mascot for the Bluffton Tigers. Bahronov heard about the mascot opportunity from a classmate. While Bahronov showed interest, his already busy schedule kept him from fully committing to the role. A trip to South

A trip to South Adams High School for a football game changed Bahronov's mind, however. He saw how the mascot played a big role in getting a crowd involved in any athletic event.

Bahronov stated that his sudden acceptance comes from a desire to try new things while in the U.S.,



Bahronov stands with a sign ,encouraging the Tiger football team. (Photos by Glen Werling)

and embracing being out of his comfort zone.

"This is the year that I want to be out of my comfort zone and doing something new for me," Bahronov said. "If I decided to do it, I will do it and I will finish it. I'm just doing my best to be involved in everything, because (Continued on Page 2)

Should minimum wage be lower for tipped workers?

Two states are set to decide

By KAVISH HARJAI Associated Press

Mel Nichols, a 37-year-old bartender in Phoenix, Arizona, takes home anywhere from \$30 to \$50 mum wage as long as customer tips make up the difference. Voters in Arizona and Massachusetts will decide in November whether it's good policy to continue to let employers pass some of their labor costs to consumers.

The ballot measures reflect an accelerating debate over the so-

rates, that means tipped workers' base pay is \$11.35 an hour.

Voters will decide whether to approve a measure backed by state Republicans and the Arizona Restaurant Association to change the minimum for tipped workers to 25% less than the regular minimum wage as long as their pay Wage, a not-for-profit that works to end the subminimum wage.

If voters approve the measure, the Bay State would join seven states that currently have a single minimum wage. Michigan will soon join that group after an August state Supreme Court ruling initiated a phase-out of the sub-

Co-founder of Pretzels, Inc. Bill Mann dies

By HOLLY GASKILL

Co-founder of Pretzels and long-time Wells County resident William "Bill" Mann died Monday. He was 88.

Mann established Pretzels, Inc. in 1978 alongside lifelong friend, Bill Huggins. The company grew from a small operation to a principle supplier, and the two received the Circle of Honor Award for the Snack Food Association in 2007. Pretzels, Inc. sold to Hershey in 2021.

Mann was preceded by his wife, Elizabeth "Betty" in 2008, and is survived by four children, Monica Kim Mann, Kami Jo Osborne (Tom), Kelli Renee Beisel (Jim), and William August "Chip" Mann II (Kim); 13 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25, 2024, at Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. before the service. His obituary appears on page 3.

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an hour with tips included. But the uncertainty of how much she's going to make on a daily basis is a constant source of stress.

"For every good day, there's three bad days," said Nichols, who has been in the service industry since she was a teenager. "You have no security when it comes to knowing how much you're going to make."

That uncertainty exists largely because federal labor law allows businesses to pay tipped workers, like food servers, bartenders and bellhops, less than the minicalled subminimum wage, which advocates say is essential to the sustainability of the service industry and detractors say pushes the cost of labor off employers' shoulders and leads to the exploitation of workers.

The amount tipped workers make varies by state. Fourteen states pay the federal minimum, or just above \$2 an hour for tipped workers and \$7 an hour for nontipped workers.

Arizona employers can pay their tipped workers \$3 less hourly than other workers. Under current with tips is \$2 above that minimum.

The hourly minimum wage in Arizona is currently \$14.35 and increases yearly according to inflation.

Voters in Massachusetts are being asked to eliminate the tiered minimum-wage system.

There, voters will decide on a measure to incrementally increase the state's tipped worker wage — currently \$6.75 per hour — until it meets the regular minimum wage by January 2029. The measure was put forward by One Fair

minimum wage.

"When you're not making the money that you should be making to pay your bills, it becomes hard on you," said James Ford, a longtime Detroit-based hospitality worker. "(The ruling) makes me think we're moving forward."

Other states have wage measures on the ballot. In California, voters will choose whether to raise the hourly minimum wage from \$16 to \$18 by 2026 in what would be the highest statewide minimum wage in the country. Measures in

(Continued on Page 2)

Israel's wars are costly, paying could force tough choices

By DAVID McHUGH AP Business Writer

On top of the grievous toll in human life and misery, Israel's war against the Hamas and Hezbollah militant groups has been expensive, and the painfully high financial costs are raising concerns about the long-term effect of the fighting on the country's economy.

Military spending has ballooned, and growth has stalled, especially in dangerous border areas that were evacuated. Economists say the country could face declining investment and higher taxes as the war strains government budgets and forces tough choices between social programs and the military.

Here is a look at the monetary costs Israel faces as a result of the conflict:

The Israeli government is spending much more per month on the military, from \$1.8 billion before Hamas started the fighting by attacking Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, to around \$4.7 billion by the end of last year, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

The government spent \$27.5 billion on the military last year, according to the institute, ranking 15th globally behind Poland but ahead of Canada and Spain, all of which have larger populations. Military spending as a percentage of annual economic output was 5.3%, compared with 3.4% for the United States and 1.5% for Germany. That pales in comparison to Ukraine, which spent 37% of its GDP and more than half its entire government budget on fighting off Russia's invasion.

In the three months after Hamas attacked, Israel's economic output shrank 5.6%, the worst performance of any of the 38 countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, a group of mostly rich nations.

The economy partly rebounded with growth of 4% in the first part of this year but grew only 0.2% in the second quarter.

The war has inflicted an even heavier toll on Gaza's already broken economy, where 90% of the population has been displaced and the vast majority of the workforce is unemployed. The West Bank economy has also been hit hard, where tens of thousands of Palestinian laborers lost their jobs in Israel after Oct. 7 and Israeli military raids and checkpoints have hindered movement. The World Bank says the West Bank economy contracted by 25% in the first quarter.

In Israel, the war has imposed many economic burdens. Call-ups and extensions of military service threaten to crimp the labor supply. Security worries deter investment in new business, and disruptions in flights have kept many visitors away, cutting into the tourism industry.

Meanwhile, the government is paying for housing for thousands of people who had to leave their homes in the south near the border with Gaza and in the north where they were exposed to fire from Hezbollah.

One of the biggest concerns is the open-ended nature of the fight-(Continued on Page 2)

Holcomb defends travel plans

Announces new direct flight to Ireland

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ Indiana Capital Chronicle

Gov. Eric Holcomb on Monday said it's worth sending Hoosier officials abroad to clinch economic development deals — while also touting a soon-to-launch international direct flight to Ireland.

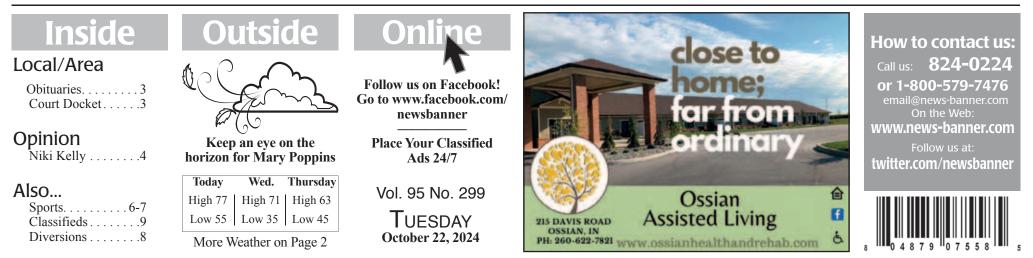
He was in the Emerald Isle after spending a week in Greece at the invitation of the Council of State Governments. The term-limited Republican has spent more than a month this year on trade missions as his time in office ticks down.

Holcomb told reporters that he's still able to effectively govern the state despite his frequent travels, adding, "It's not either-or."

"Ultimately, all these deals come down to people — one to one, two to two, three to three — and that requires sitting at the same table," he said.

"We were in that position decades ago, where whatever washed upon our shore is what we got," he continued. "We have to go out and hustle."

Holcomb's administration on Monday announced the relaunch of (Continued on Page 2)



LOCAL/NATION

Road vacation approved

(Continued from Page 1)

Stringer later reiterated Jessica Beste's hiring as the economic development director, originally announced by the Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety last week. Beste has worked as a mortgage lender for 17 years and previously worked at Stockton Mortgage in Bluffton. Stringer said Beste began in the role on Monday, as opposed to original reports of her first day being Oct. the economic development

County Attorney Ted Storer said he will continue to work with Bluffton's attorney, Tony Crowell, on an interlocal agreement. There is no current agreement regarding financial commitments or oversight of the new department. However, the commissioners and Bluffton Common Council members have verbally agreed to work together with

efforts

The parties have also mentioned a possible new nonprofit entity with an overseeing board as a longterm vision for economic development efforts.

Also during their meeting, the commissioners approved a \$9,800 contract with Christopher B. Burke Engineering to review and revise floodplain mapping.

Executive Director of

the Area Plan Commission Mike Lautzenheiser said the county is currently in a review period for mapping with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Department of Natural Resources, and the service will help finalize the maps when it's more cost-effective to make adjustments. Concerns about specific properties can be directed to the APC office.

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More than a Tiger

(Continued from Page 1)

I didn't have opportunity before in Uzbekistan."

Bahronov said that he loves seeing new volunteering opportunities, clubs and different subjects formerly unavailable in his Uzbek curriculum. Bahronov added that these opportunities keep him occupied and looking forward to each new day in Amer-

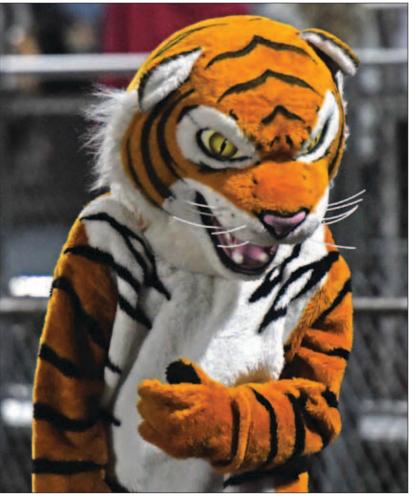
"For every exchange student (you will be) missing your home country, being homesick, you will miss your friends, you will miss your family and all of this stuff," Bahronov said. "But ... we have to be engaged. If you're engaged, you will not have enough time ... to be homesick. If you're engaged, you will have a lot of friends. This is something that keeps you happy."

Bahronov has quickly adapted to life as the mascot. Bahronov gets joy out of seeing kids ask him for a high-five or a photo while he's in the suit. Bahronov feels that giving kids a reason to smile and be happy is something important, even if they do not know who is in the suit.

Bahronov's life at school has also been filled with joy from his classmates and teammates. Bahronov's journey sees him downsizing from a school in Uzbekistan of slightly over 1,000 students at a time to a school with less than 500. Bucking any fears of unfamiliarity, Bahronov has grown close with his cross country teammates and others at the school.

together or make some jokes, during runling) ning or just pushing ourselves and supporting each other," Bahronov said. " I didn't love

sports before, but now I just adore them. All kinds of sports because of the spirit of supporting your team. Even if you



"We make team dinners, we just hang out Above, Bahronov bows to the eager crowd in attendance. (Photo by Glen Wer-

port them (his teammates)."

can't run on the meets because of injuries, you can still sup-

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Holcomb travel plans

(Continued from Page 1)

a direct flight from Indianapolis to Dublin, Ireland — which took plenty of time and involved stiff competition, he said.

The Aer Lingus flight will operate year-round — with a break between January and February — with service scheduled four times weekly, according to a news release. It's set to launch in May.

Dublin Airport is one of just two

Aer Lingus CEO Lynne Embleton told Holcomb, "This deal is forever," he recounted. "That spoke volumes to me about how they seek to be a great partner for the state of Indiana, and we will, of course, reciprocate.'

The deal is backed by a state incentive package.

The IEDC will provide \$17 million annually, while the Indianapolis International Airport will put up about \$2 de risk that initial investment on both sides," Holcomb said.

Indiana lawmakers have consistently invested in wooing direct flight service to the state, approving \$10 million in spending in the most recent biennial budget, \$10 million in the previous budget, and millions more in the budget prior.

The Ireland trip was scheduled to include a visit to the Eli Lilly & Co. Weather Tuesday, October 22, 2024

(24-hour observations at 11:30 p.m. Monday at Fort Wayne International Airport) High: 80; Low: 48; Precipitation: None Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.09

feet at 8: p.m. Monday

Wells County forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 77. South wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 55. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 71. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming northwest in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

Wednesday Night: Clear, with a low around 35. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming light north after midnight.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 63. Thursday Night: A 20% chance of showers after 2 a.m.

Mostly clear, with a low around 45. Friday: A 40% chance of showers, mainly after 8 a.m.

Partly sunny, with a high near 72.

Friday Night: A 30% chance of showers, mainly before 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 43.

Saturday: A 10% chance of showers before 8 a.m. Sunny, with a high near 59.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 33. Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 58. Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 37. Monday: Sunny, with a high near 68.

Minimum wage

(Continued from Page 1) Alaska and Missouri would gradually raise minimum wages to \$15 an hour while also requiring paid sick leave.

In the last two years, Washington, D.C., and Chicago also have started to eliminate the subminimum wage.

And the minimum wage is figuring into the presidential race, where both former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris want to eliminate federal taxes on workers' tips.

Employers must ensure that workers get the full minimum if they don't make that much with tips. But they don't always comply with federal labor law. One in 10 restaurants and bars investigated nationally by the U.S. Labor Department between 2010 and 2019 violated a provision of the Fair Labor Standards Act, resulting in the establishments paying \$113.9 million in back wages.

The issue disproportionately affects women, who make up about 47% of the U.S. workforce but nearly 70% of those who work in tipped professions, according to an AP analysis of U.S.

gation from the restaurant association over how it collected signatures.

Instead, One Fair Wage will focus on trying to pass a wage hike in the Legislature. Democratic State Rep. Mariana Sandoval said she hopes her party in November can flip the Legislature, where Republicans hold a one-seat majority in both chambers.

After working for tips for more than 20 years, server Lindsay Ruck, who works at a restaurant at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, said she's faced her fair share of belligerent customers. But because their tips make up such a significant part of her pay approximately \$60 an hour she's hesitant to stand up to them.

To Ruck, higher base pay not less — is called for.

"I think that there should be just a single minimum wage and then people should get tipped on top of that," Ruck said.

The National Restaurant Association and its state affiliates warn of reduced hours, lower employment and menu price hikes if employers can't rely on tips to pay their workers. That's why Dan Piacquadio, a coowner of Harold's Cave Creek Corral restaurant outside Phoenix, is hoping voters pass Proposition 138. "This is just a way to protect our current system that's been there for 20 years and protect restaurant owners, keep restaurants affordable, and most importantly, keep very good pay for all tipped workers," Piacquadio said. Between 2012 and 2019. the number of restaurants and people employed at those restaurants grew at a faster clip in the seven states that have a single minimum wage compared to states that pay the federal minimum tipped wage, according to labor economist Sylvia Allegretto. "We are sitting here in a state that has a \$16 minimum wage," Allegretto said from Oakland, California, where she works at the leftleaning Center for Economic and Policy Research. "No subminimum wage, and we've got a thriving restaurant industry."

in Europe that lets U.S. bound travelers complete immigration and customs procedures prior to flying out, per the Indiana Economic Development Corp. That means there's no going through customs after landing.

million in credits and advertising for two years, the Indianapolis Business Journal reported.

"For a state like Indiana that used to be flyover country, by definition, for us to be able to compete ... you need to manufacturing campus. The Indianapolis pharmaceutical giant announced in September that it would invest about \$2 billion into its Irish facilities, up from plans originally announced last year.

Israel's wars are costly

(Continued from Page 1) ing, which has lasted more than a year. Israel's economy rebounded quickly from a 2006 war with Hezbollah in southern Lebanon. But that conflict lasted only 34 days.

Moody's Ratings cited that idea on Sept. 27, when it lowered the Israeli government's credit rating, two notches. The Baa1 rating is still considered investment grade, albeit with moderate risk, according to Moody's.

Israel's economy is hardly collapsing. The country has a diversified, highly developed economy with a strong information-technology sector, which supports tax revenues and defense spending. Unemployment

is low, and the TA-35 stock index is up 10.5% on the year.

Even amid the fighting, tech companies raised some \$2.5 billion in capital during the third quarter, according to Zvi Eckstein, head of the Aaron Institute for Economic Policy at Reichman University.

Israel started the war "in the best economic condition" regarding government debt, which stood at a relatively modest 60% of GDP, Eckstein said. "We financed the war mainly with debt," which has now risen to 62% but is still contained compared with France at 111% and in line with Germany at 63.5%.

The institute foresees

debt reaching 80% of GDP, assuming the fighting does not markedly intensify and some sort of cease-fire or conclusion can be reached by the end of next year. Even then, higher defense spending is likely, especially if Israel maintains a military presence in Gaza after the war.

Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich's budget for 2025 foresees a deficit of below 4%, saying that will ensure that Israel's debt burden remains stable. Smotrich said the country has a stable shekel currency, rising share prices, a tight jobs market, strong tax revenues and access to credit, and a rebounding tech sector.

Moody's questioned the deficit figures, forecasting a 6% deficit for next year.

The credit downgrade will lead to higher borrowing costs, meaning Israelis are likely to see cuts to public services and higher taxes, said Karnit Flug, a former head of Israel's central bank and now vice president of research at the Israel Democracy Institute.

Before the war, American military aid to Israel amounted to around \$3.8 billion per year under a deal signed during President Barack Obama's administration. That comes to roughly 14% of Israel's prewar military spending, much of which goes to U.S. defense companies.

Census data.

In Arizona, Republican state Sen. J.D. Mesnard, the sponsor of Proposition 138, said the measure is a win for both businesses and lowerwage workers.

The employer is protected in the sense that they can preserve this lower base, knowing that there are going to be tips on top of it," Mes-nard said. "The tipped worker is guaranteed to make more than minimum wage, which is more than they're guaranteed today.'

Nichols doesn't support

"It would reduce my hourly, and anything that reduces my hourly is not something that I want to lean into," she said. "I don't believe that business owners need any more cuts in labor costs."

Proposition 138 was initially put forward as a response to a ballot measure pushed by One Fair Wage that would create a single minimum wage of \$18, but the group abandoned the effort after threats of liti-



OBITUARIES

Hans P. Manges, 80

Hans P. Manges, 80, passed away Saturday evening, Oct. 19, 2024, at Heritage Pointe of Warren, following an extended illness.

Hans was born in Frankfort, Indiana, on Jan. 1, 1944, to Cline and Rachel (Peterson) Manges, both parents preceded him in death. He married Janice Kay (Hively) at the Merriam Christian Chapel in Merriam on June 15, 1968, she survives in Warren.

He was a member of the Garrett High School class of 1962. Hans went on to serve in the United States Army during the Vietnam War from 1965 until 1967. He then worked for United Airlines for 38 years until he retired. He attended the Warren Church of Christ.

Hans was involved with the Wells County 4-H activities and enjoyed helping with the 4-H pancake booth at Street Fair. He enjoyed tinkering with his Allis Chalmers tractor and spending time out in the barn and his shop. He loved spending time with his family, especially spending time with his grandkids. Hans was a kindhearted man, who would drop anything he was doing to help others in need.

In addition to his wife, Hans is survived by a son Brian (Katia) Manges of Chesterfield, Virginia; a daughter, Kelly (Troy) Leyse of Bluffton; three grandchildren,

Jim Steffen, 68

Jim Steffen, 68, of Ossian, passed away on Sunday evening, Oct. 20, 2024, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Jim was born on Nov. 20, 1955, in Bluffton to Norman E. & Rosella "Rosie" (Burkhart) Steffen.

A 1974 graduate of Norwell High School, Jim owned and operated Bluffton Heating & Plumbing for many years. He also worked as the service

manager for Hiday Motors – Chevrolet Store and retired from Roembke Mfg. & Design, Inc. in Ossian. Jim was very proud of his two sons and was always ready to help them in any way. In his retirement, he was actively involved and enjoyed working with his sons at The Steffen Group, Auctioneers & Real Estate.

Jim loved to go up north on snowmobiling trips, landscaping and working in his flowers. He loved to spend time with his family at Lake Wawasee.

On Aug. 2, 1975, in rural Zanesville, Jim and Kathy M. (Burke) Steffen were married.

Survivors include his wife of almost 50 years, Kathy of Ossian; and sons, Bran-



Makayla (Jason) Cook, Curt Leyse and Georgia Leyse; a great-grandchild Axton Cook; two sisters, Gweneth Kandal of Butler, and Joan Aiken of Lafayette; two brothers, Harry (Barb) Manges of Fort Wayne, and Mike (Carol) Manges of Huntington; a sister-in-law, Virginia Manges of North Manchester.

In addition to his parents Hans is preceded in death by a

brother, Clyde Manges; two sister Bertha Royer and Nell Grobis; and two brothersin-law, Donald Royer and Kenneth Grobis.

Visitation will be Friday, Oct. 25, 2024, from 11:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., at the Goodwin – Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton. A funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, immediately following the visitation. Chaplain Ginny Soultz will officiate. Burial will follow at Elm Grove Cemetery in Bluffton. Military rites will be conducted by the United States Army Honor Guard and American Legion Post 111 of Bluffton.

Memorial Contributions can be made to Heritage Pointe of Warren.

Online condolences can be made at www.goodwincaleharnish.com

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Goodwin – Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel.

> don M. Steffen and Brett (Nick Pronesti) Steffen, both of Fort Wayne; along with a brother, Donnie (Brenda) Steffen of Bluffton. He is also survived by sisters-in-law, Charlotte Steffen of Bluffton and Joyce Burke of Spring Hill, Tennessee; and a nephew, Ryan Burke of Franklin, Tennessee.

He is preceded in death by his parents; and a brother, Steven "Steve" L. Steffen; and brother-in-law, Michael L. Burke.

Visitation will take place from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 25, 2024, at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

A private family service will take place on the beach of Lake Wawasee, at The Oakwood Resort with Jeff Lemler officiating.

Memorial may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

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

William August Mann, 88

William August Mann, 88, passed away peacefully Oct. 21, 2024, surrounded by his loving family after a long illness. Born June 21, 1936, in Woodlawn, Maryland, Bill was the son of late Lorin Lockhart Mann and late Edith Adeline Mann (nee Clark).

After moving to Bluffton, in 1954, he met and married the love of his life Elizabeth "Betty" (nee Barnes), with

whom he celebrated 52 years of marriage until her death in 2008.

He is predeceased by sister, Diane Isenock; brother, Lorin "Jake" Mann; and sister, Mary Ellen Biddle.

Surviving are his four children, Monica Kim Mann, Kami Jo Osborne (Tom), Kelli Renee Beisel (Jim), and William August "Chip" Mann II (Kim).

Bill is a proud and wise grandfather of 13 grandchildren, Marshall Parr Durr (Laura Zanotti), Ti Mikkel Allen (Rob), Palmer Douglas Durr, Kai Elizabeth Louis (John), Kamann Rae Ravan (JT), Thomas Keenan Osborne, Emma Beisel Ferrell (Charlie), Courtland James Beisel, August Liam Beisel (Brittany), Josephine Lorin Beisel, Adeline Grace Mann, Sadie Clair Mann, and William August Mann III.

He is also blessed with eight greatgrandchildren, Kamden Patrick Louis, Elizabeth Klaude Louis, Osborne Kasey Louis, Molly Lou Ravan, Markley Jean Ravan, James William "Bill" Ravan, Maci Rae Ravan, and Elizabeth Grove "Betty" Ferrell.

Bill is a veteran of the Indiana National Guard and was an active and devoted member of his church and community. He enjoyed golfing, reading, cruising with family, anything to do with pretzels, golfing, golfing and golfing – and, most of all, he loved telling stories and being surrounded by his loved ones. And golfing.

Bill was a compassionate, determined man with a laser-sharp wit and a big heart. These characteristics, along with a fierce work ethic, allowed him much success in his life and business ventures.

Since 1954, Bill helped establish, manage, and operate Bluffton's pretzel manufacturing businesses, including Duchess Pretzels Corporation with his father, Bachman Foods in 1970, and finally, he partnered with his life-long

James A. Lloyd, 77

James A. Lloyd, 77, passed away Monday morning, Oct. 21, 2024, at his residence in Ft. Wayne.



friend, Bill Huggins, to establish Pretzels, Inc. in 1978. The two won the Circle of Honor Award for the Snack Food Association, and Bill served as chairman in 1993.

The same dedication that Bill had for the pretzel business could only be matched by the loyalty he showed to his many employees over the years, many of whom enjoy a meaningful relationship with

him to this day; namely, Luann Garton, who worked alongside Bill in the pretzel business for over 50 years.

Bill's role as a successful businessman was indeed rewarding, but he considered his starring role to be that of a husband, father, grandfather, greatgrandfather and friend. Bill always cared for others before himself – he was generous with his time, offering advice and wisdom. Bill observed and absorbed the activities of his loved ones, acting as the 'eyes' of his late wife, Betty.

The family would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to Bill's caregivers, Cheryl Buckland, Barb Gray, Jodi Guntle, Linda Hedrick, Starr Jojola and Nikki Philippe. He loved you all as family, and we always felt secure that he was being so lovingly cared for and loved by all of you.

The family would like to thank the staff and caregivers at Christian Care Retirement Community, and memorial donations can be made in his honor.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, Oct. 25, 2024, at 2 p.m. at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Tony Garton will officiate. You may livestream the service using Zoom ID Meeting 838 5808 8061. You are welcome to logon after 1:45 p.m.

Visitation will be Friday, Oct. 25, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the funeral home, prior to the service.

Private family burial will be held at Stahl Cemetery in Bluffton.

Memorials may be made to Christian Care Retirement Center and directed to the funeral home.

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

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

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS City:

Friday, 2:13 p.m., 400 block of West Wabash Street. Report of threaten-

ing. Friday, 7:44 p.m., 500 Bluffton Police Department. Report of harassment.

Saturday, 4:14 p.m.,

600 block of Beth Avenue. Report of property damage. Saturday, 6:39 p.m., 800 block of South Johnson 124 and North Main Street. Caller reported someone dumped a deer carcass and bag of deer limbs under bridge.

Sunday, 10:09 p.m., 100 block of South Main Street.



Reports of receipts and expenditures of political committees have been filed with the Wells County Clerk's office for the preelection period of April 13 through Oct. 11: • Committee to Elect Vicki Andrews, County Council At Large; Vicki Andrews (R), County Council, At-Large. The committee showed no cash on hand, \$1,544.69 in itemized contributions and \$1,764.93 in itemized expenditures. The committee had no debts. Itemized contributions were from Mike Vanover, Keystone, \$400: Wells County GOP, Bluffton, \$1,000; and Vicki Andrews, Warren, \$144.69. Itemized expenditures were \$530.29 to Signs on the Cheap, Texas, for political signs; \$156.95 to Costco, Fort Wayne, for parade candy; \$41.99 to Amazon for sign stakes; \$461 to News-Banner, Bluffton, for newspaper advertising; \$224.70 to Ellie Grace, Bluffton, for shirt printing;

and \$350 to Vicki Andrews, Warren for food expenses for events.

• Committee to Elect Tamra Boucher. The committee showed \$124.07 in cash on hand, County Council At Large; Scott Burke (I), County Council, At-Large.

The committee showed no cash on hand, \$2,000 in itemized contributions and \$2,000 in itemized expen-



block of West Wabash Street. Report of fight between neighbors.

Saturday, 12:59 a.m., North Main and East Monroe streets. Driver arrested for DUI.

Saturday, 8:39 a.m., 200 block of Willowbrook Trail. Rodney Teslaa arrested for stalking and residential entry.

Saturday, 9:10 a.m., All American Airplane Express. Report of homeless man.

Saturday, 9:52 a.m., Posy Pot. Caller reported crowbar in alley.

Saturday, 11:55 a.m., South 400 E and East River Road. Report of dead deer in road. Caller wanted to keep it.

Saturday, 1:39 p.m., 900 block of West Market Street. Report of motorcycle tag keyed overnight.

Saturday, 2:29 p.m.,

Street. Report of animal bite.

Saturday, 9:24 p.m., North Main and East Market streets. Report of suspicious woman walking in road. Unable to locate.

Sunday, 2:17 a.m., North Main Street and East Dustman Road. Driver cited for no insurance.

Sunday, 3:45 a.m., 500 block of West Market Street. Subjects advised to shut party down or be cited.

Sunday, 5:11 a.m., Clark Avenue and Dorothy Drive. Car versus deer.

Sunday, 11:36 a.m., Three Rivers Credit Union. Driver cited for speeding 52 in a 30 mph zone.

Sunday, 4:50 p.m., 200 block of North Baldwin Street. Report of domestic issue, subject arrested for domestic violence.

Sunday, 7:26 p.m., S.R.

Report of fighting.

Monday, 9:03 a.m., East Spring and South Main streets. Report of items that fell off trailer and into roadway.

Monday, 10:56 a.m., Bluffton-Harrison Middle School. Report of issue involving juvenile.

County:

Friday, 1:05 p.m., 2700 Southwest Higgins Street, Bluffton. Trespass warning requested.

Friday, 3:27 p.m., 6300 S 200 E, Bluffton. Officer requested to address civil issues.

Friday, 3:27 p.m., Stefan Oil. Officer assisted subject with vehicle.

Friday, 8:07 p.m., 2700 Southeast Mulberry Street, Bluffton. Caller reported domestic incident.

Friday, 10:03 p.m., East (Continued on Page 10) \$250 in itemized contributions, \$100 in itemized expenditures and \$25.93 in unitemized expenditures. The committee had no debt.

Itemized contributions were \$250 from Renelle Stauffer, Bluffton.

Itemized expenditures were \$100 to CampHouse Marketing, Decatur, for marketing.

• Scott J. Burke for

ditures. The committee showed one outstanding debt of \$2,000.

Itemized contributions were from Scott Burke, Ossian, \$2,000.

Itemized expenditures were \$2,000 to New Haven Printing for graphic artist services.

Debts owed were \$2,000 to Scott Burke, Ossian. (Continued on Page 10)

HIDEAWAY	Friday & Saturday Bands
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THURSDAY -	9 pm-1 am - Jiggs Band
Dollar Off Drinks	Friday Night Oct. 25th
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Combatting a torrent of misinformation

Refute tweets. Point out fake photos. Add context. Push back on outright lies.

All in the day of a journalist trying to correct online misinformation. Sometimes it's so prevalent I could spend an entire day trying to rectify mistakes and not get anything else done.

And I am so, so tired.

I would much rather our team dig into real issues - like resources for

Kelly

poor Hoosiers, why some kids can't read, property tax growth, education funding and how we are spending state economic development dollars.

The last 10 days have

put me over the edge as I have watched misinformation - and its manipulative cousin, disinformation — about the Hurricane Helene aftermath spread like wildfire.

I can't count the number of people peddling falsehoods, including that those devastated by the storms would receive only \$750 and that the Federal Emergency Management Agency didn't have enough money because it had spent it on housing immigrants instead.

CNN explained what really happened: Congress appropriated \$650 million in the 2024 fiscal year to fund a program that helps state and local governments house migrants - and instructed US Customs and Border Protection to transfer that \$650 million to FEMA to administer the program. But this \$650 million pot is entirely distinct from FEMA's disaster relief funds.

And the \$750 is just the immediate payment to help people with critical needs such as food, diapers and shelter. Survivors can apply for additional assistance, including for home repair assistance in the tens of thousands. Still, the lie has been promoted by conservative politicians using the disaster to attack the Biden Administration.

But it's not just about hurricanes. U.S. Sen. Mike Braun released an ad attacking opponent Jennifer McCormick for her liberal policies. Much of the ad was fair game, until his team digitally altered signs held by Hoosiers at a McCormick rally to say, "No gas stoves!"

McCormick has never said she wants to ban gas stoves, and after backlash Braun removed the alteration from the ad.

Democrats also peddle falsehoods. One such example is President Biden repeatedly saying inflation was at 9% when he took over in 2021 from Donald Trump. It was at 1.4%.

In doing research on the topic of misinformation, I found a study saying both Democrats and Republicans are more likely to permit the spreading of misinformation when it articulates a "deeper truth" that captures their grievances.

"The study illustrates how both Democrats and Republicans shift their standards to suit their interests. It seems that we all do it," said Zuckerman Sivan, an MIT professor of strategy and entrepreneurship.

For their research, the co-authors recruited American voters to complete six online surveys. Participants were shown statements made by both Republican and Democrat politicians, along with a disclaimer indicating that a third-party fact-checking organization had verified



Harris has no credibility on immigration

Kamala Harris isn't great at answering questions, but is perhaps at her very worst in addressing the border.

This isn't because she can't string sentences together (she can, although the results are always mixed), or that she doesn't know what she's saying (she's quite deliberate in sticking to her talking points). No, she can't answer for the administration's failures at the border, because there simply is no good answer.

What is she going to say? Yes, we completely screwed this up, and I regret to say, did it on purpose. I've learned my lesson, though, and want to reverse field on this issue going forward.

An answer like that wouldn't be sincere, but since when has that been an obstacle?

Since she and her team obviously believe that a confession is not in her interests, her only alternative is to deceive, obfuscate and evade, and hope it's enough to see her through to Nov. 5.

She tries to sound like she's always wanted to be border hawk — if only she'd been able to get her way

"The first bill we proposed to Congress was to fix our broken immigration system," she said on "60 Minutes" a week or so ago, "knowing that if you want to actually fix it, we need Congress to act. It was not taken up.'

Every single word of this, with the possible exception of the prepositions, is misleading. The proposal was a massive amnesty bill. It was intended "to fix" the system only if you believe the real problem is illegal immigrants in the United States haven't yet been legalized. The bill had no meaningful border provisions, not even more border patrol agents.

By complaining that the legislation wasn't taken up, Harris clearly wanted to create the impression that GOP obstruction stymied the bill. Yet, Democrats had unified control of Congress at the time, and choose to ignore the proposal because everyone understood it was an absurd non-starter.

For all that Harris insists that "from day one, literally, we have been offering solutions

the matter is that there was no border crisis to solve on day one - because the Biden administration hadn't unraveled the Trump policies yet.

After roughly three years of an unprecedented crisis that it ignored and excused away, the White House finally decided that it needed to do something for political cover, and turned to a supposedly hawkish bipartisan Senate deal on the border.

After this opportunistic turnabout, Harris pretends that she's the one who's putting politics aside for the public good and excoriates Trump for cynically opposing the bill (never mind that the proposal blessed key aspects of an unacceptable status quo).

Harris told Bret Baier of Fox News that the election "will determine whether we have a president of the United States who actually cares more about fixing a problem even if it is not to their political advantage in an election." This is headspinning given how she and Biden blew up the border at the outset of the administration for ideological reasons and now want to brand themselves as newly pro-enforcement for political reasons.

As for her recent radicalism on the issue, Harris brushes it aside as if it were some teenage phase. "I do not believe in decriminalizing border crossings," she told Baier, disavowing a position she took a few years ago, "and I have not done that as vice president, and I would not do that as president.

She didn't offer any explanation for her change in thinking - presumably because there wasn't one beyond realizing that what once was seemingly a passionate commitment had become a political liability.

That Harris is so tinny and unpersuasive on the border is, in large part, not a product of poor communications skills; rather it is part and parcel of a strategic choice to try to muddy the waters instead of admitting how and why the administration created an utterly avoidable debacle.



Rich Lowry



Hoosier

Opinions

the statement as non-factual.

Voters were then asked whether they thought the statement was based on objective evidence or subjective impressions, whether they thought the overarching statement was true, and whether it was more important for the statement to be based on objective evidence or to send the right message about American priorities.

The researchers produced two key findings:

• Voters cared more about "moral truth" when they were evaluating a politician they liked.

· Voters relied more on strict factuality when evaluating a politician they didn't like.

Both of these findings were slightly stronger for Republican voters, though they also applied to Democrats.

So, as these final weeks unfold in the new world of fake photos and misinformation, please read stories from all sides of an issue before coming to an opinion. Look into the sources of data or photos before you share them. Be skeptical and curious.

Journalists often joke that if your mother tells you something you should "trust, but verify" it. And that should apply to all voters as we prepare to cast our ballots.

Niki Kelly is the editor of the Indiana Capital Chronicle, a nonprofit newsroom. nkelly@indianacapitalchronicle.com

Election Letters Policy

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

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

Submit your Letters to the Editor via: • Our website link (Submit Your Letter) • E-Mail: email@news-banner.com • Mail: PO Box 436, Bluffton IN 46714 • Drop-off: 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton. (There is a 24-hour drop-slot available.)

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> Holly Gaskill, Editor Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor

Why does Trump like Zelensky? He's a Ukrainian Donald Trump.

It might have come as a shock to the anti-Ukraine right, but Donald Trump made clear during his recent meeting with Volodymyr Zelensky that he not only likes the Ukrainian president but also credits Zelensky with saving him during his first impeachment.

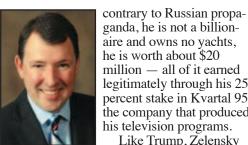
'He was like a piece of steel," Trump said, standing with Zelensky at Trump Tower on Sept. 27. "He said, 'President Trump did absolutely nothing wrong. He said it loud and clear. And the impeachment hoax died right there. ... He was a piece of steel. He gave a very honest straight answer, and that really ended, essentially ended, the impeachment hoax. And I appreciated that.'

Many congressional Republicans who voted against aid to Ukraine would give anything to bask in the effusive praise and genuine affection Trump showered on Zelensky.

But Zelensky backing him during his impeachment is not the only reason Trump should like Zelensky. The two men have much more in common. Indeed, Zelensky is in many ways a Ukrainian Trump.

Like Trump, Zelensky is a political outsider, a TV star who built a multimillion-dollar media empire before becoming president of his country. Both men got huge ratings with successful television series — Trump with "The Apprentice" and Zelensky with "Servant of the People." As entertainers, both men liked to make fun of themselves: Trump regularly appeared on "Saturday Night Live" and made jokes about his hair and his taste in decor, while Zelensky appeared on Russian television playing piano with his ... well, watch for yourself.

Like Trump, Zelensky gave up a lucrative career to serve his country. Trump said at a rally last week, "I could right now be having a beautiful life. I could be at a gorgeous beach someplace." The same is true for Zelensky. While Forbes reports that,



ganda, he is not a billionaire and owns no yachts, he is worth about \$20 million — all of it earned legitimately through his 25 percent stake in Kvartal 95, the company that produced his television programs.

Like Trump, Zelensky Marc took aim at the "deep state." He decided to enter Thiessen politics because he came to believe that the politi-

cal class in Ukraine was hopelessly corrupt - and that only an outsider could root out corruption and make his country great again. He was elected on a promise to pursue the "de-oligarchization" of the country and became the first noncorrupt president of Ukraine since independence. On taking office, Zelensky stripped lawmakers of immunity from prosecution, replaced corrupt officials and signed legislation curtailing the power of oligarchs. He was in the midst of this fight when Russia launched its full-scale invasion in 2022

Like Trump, Zelensky has inflicted unprecedented punishment on Russian President Vladimir Putin. Trump proudly told me in a 2020 interview that "nobody has been tougher on Russia than I have" — and cited his decisions to block the Nord Stream 2 natural gas pipeline and arm Ukraine with Javelin missiles, among other actions, as proof. Well, Zelensky not only used those Javelin missiles to reverse Putin's assault on Kyiv; under his leadership, Ukraine has wiped out nearly one-third of Russia's Black Sea Fleet, destroyed more than 8,000 Russian tanks (about 70 percent of Russia's operational fleet), and killed more than 620,000 Russian invasion troops. It also reportedly destroyed the \$11 billion Nord Stream 2 pipeline in a covert operation — a move Trump would undoubtedly applaud.

Indeed, Trump and Zelensky are the only two presidents since World War II who have launched military strikes inside Russia. (In 2018, Trump launched a cyberattack against Russia's Internet Research Agency, an act of war.)

Like Trump, Zelensky understands leverage. Two years after Putin invaded his country, Zelensky turned the tables on Moscow and invaded Russia — seizing nearly 500 square miles of Russia's Kursk region. Zelensky's decision to launch a counterattack was a bold military move that forced Russia to redeploy forces from Ukraine to counter it. But it was also a smart negotiating tactic. As Trump put it in "The Art of the Deal," "The best thing you can do is deal from strength, and leverage is the biggest strength you can have. Leverage is having something the other guy wants. Or better yet, needs. Or best of all, can't do without." Zelensky now holds something Putin can't do without: Russian territory. If Trump wins the presidency and seeks to forge a peace accord, he can use that leverage at the negotiating table to regain Ukrainian territory Russia unlawfully seized.

Trump is holding his cards close to his vest on Ukraine, because he understands leverage, too. But those who expect Trump to side with Putin against Zelensky might be in for a surprise. In his debate with President Joe Biden, Trump said that Putin's demands to keep all Ukrainian territory he has already seized and to force Ukraine to abandon its bid to join NATO are "not acceptable." And in an interview with me at Mar-a-Lago last month, Trump repeated his warning that if Putin does not agree to a peace deal, he'll give Ukraine more military aid than it has ever gotten before.

Standing with Zelensky, Trump said, "We both want to see this [war] end, and we both want to see a fair deal made." If Trump can help Zelensky secure a just and lasting peace, then Zelensky can finally get back to the job he was elected to do: confronting the Ukrainian "deep state" and making Ukraine great again.

Follow Marc A. Thiessen @marcthiessen on X

LIFESTYLES

The youth group from Danville visits Gloria for the weekend

"They're here! They're here!" A glance towards the driveway confirmed the information to be accurate. The second van was only a minute or two behind.

The children had been eagerly waiting in the front yard. They knew some of the out of state also stopped by joined us for the guests, and others not so much. The youth group from Daniel's former church in Danville, Ohio had come for the weekend. out to the deck where we all Included in those two large vans found a place to sit while we were three of Daniel's brothers and his only sister Mary.

The week up to that point was filled with the norm of family life discover that there was no need to along with painting our living room and getting ready to host overnight guests. Now the work was behind us and the fun part was here.

remember as our black tom turkey, did his best in welcoming them as he proudly strutted with an open fan and an occasional gobble.

We walked on past the flower beds with petunias, which for the first time in years, were not blooming well and the rose plant the goat had carefully clipped all the pink roses and brilliant green leaves.

In the house the girls took their belongings in the basement where they would camp out for the night. We chatted and caught up on basic news while we waited until the bacon wrapped smokies were finished baking in the oven.

who relished hosting guests, especially when we got to feed them. I missed him keenly, yet it was a sense of comfort to have his friends and family from Ohio join us even after he has passed.



Daniel's parents who had moment, as Dad led in prayer and welcomed everyone.

We opened the double doors snacked. Now, some of these youth, I had not known all that well, but it did not take long to spend time being shy or bashful; why they're all people just like us- we just hadn't gotten to know all of them well up to that point.

The hour and a half at our Mr. Strutter, which you may house passed quickly and soon it was time to head for the volley ball game at school. While us girls waited until the Flat Rock youth were ready for volley ball we decided to walk over to the graveyard. It was a precious time together. Most of the girls had faced death in the family in one way or another in the last couple years; the unseen bond was there.

> Heading back to school the youth got started playing. Though I enjoy volleyball I opted to watch and take care of the children then go back home and get some food ready for supper and have some time with God.

It was intriguing for me to observe the two youth groups My mind flashed to Daniel, together- the one at home, and the one with Daniel's family. I do not cease to be amazed how God created everyone, none are the same, but all with a plan and a purpose.

By 5:30 we all headed for Dan-

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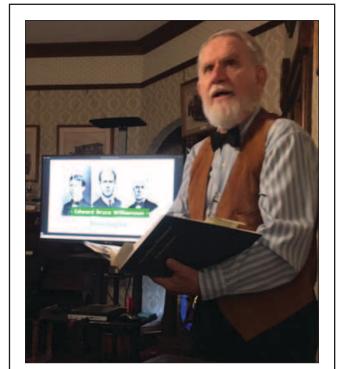
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stacks, ice cream, and cobblers.

After the return back to our house we had a party like you can only have with a dozen girls. Candy, stories, singing, and a yummy snack served by one of the Ohio girls, fitted out the evening. And who would want to go to bed early on a night like that?

The children were impressed to be a part of it all and found candy on the floor long after we were done with our candy tossing game. Joshua was 'training' one of the girls exactly how to hold his foam airplane and send it, as the flew it back and forth. Jesse and Elijah had a blast trying out the remote control tractors one of the Ohio youth had bought for them.

The next morning we enjoyed warm baked oatmeal with yogurt and fresh fruit the girls had brought along. It felt good to have Daniel's sister Mary here again, to help with the Sunday morning prep of getting off for church. The other girls pitched in and did the dishes in no time.

Before we left we had a few special moments of all gathering in a circle for prayer as the children and I do just before we leave for church.

The forenoon seemed to pass quickly with Daniel's brother sharing of 'standing in the gap' and being there for others during iel's parents where we had hay Wengerd sharing on the life of dash of maple flavoring. Raisins, be used instead of brown sugar.



Daniel in the Old Testament and blueberries, chocolate chips, or a his trust in the Father.

After lunch we had a brief singing before the youth gathered at our house and we had our goodbyes. These girls, who had tremendously helped us out after Daniel passed, by stocking our freezer with baked goods and canning soup and applesauce for us, once more touched our hearts. It tugged at my heart as I watched them drive out the lane, nonetheless, I was blessed.

Now this morning as I think of them getting back to their jobs and duties I relive the memories.

I'm sure you would enjoy the cake pan. baked oatmeal the Miller sisters had made for our Sunday morning breakfast. Here's a recipe similar to theirs, only theirs had an extra yummy flavor which hard times in their lives and Mr. I'm guessing may have been a may use natural sweeteners may

sprinkle of cinnamon may be also be placed on top before baking. So, here you go, and remember, today's moments are tomorrow's memories.

Baked Oatmeal

- 1 cup brown sugar*
- ¹/₂ cup butter, melted
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 3 cups quick oats
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt 1 cup milk
- 1. Stir all together.
- 2. Spread in a 9 by 13 inch

3. Bake at 350 for 30 minutes or until golden brown.

Delicious served with milk, yogurt, or fruit. Serves 7

*Like the Miller sisters, you

Ossian United Methodist Church to host community meal

The Ossian United Methodist Church will host a Community Soup & Sandwich Meal on Saturday, Nov. 9 from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

A free will offering will be accepted with proceeds

Art exhibits at Allen County Public Library's Krull Gallery

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

Professor and student art from the University of Saint Francis will be showcased through Nov. 16.

to support women's missions. The menu includes chili,

potato soup, vegetable soup, hot dogs, sloppy Joe and a sweet treat. The church is located at

201 W. Mill St. in Ossian.

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

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



Snippets programs conclude

Senior Snippets programs sponsored jointly by the Bluffton Parks Department and the Wells County Historical Society concluded on a recent Wednesday morning with Alan Daugherty presenting an illustrated program about Wells County's "Irisoligist" E. B. Williamson. On hand for the presentation about the prize winning tall breaded Irises propagated by Williamson were a great granddaughter Tammy Cromie-Wilkins and great great granddaughter Sarah Stikeleather. Learned by those attending was that Williamson's daughter Mary was responsible for the prize winning smaller "Table Irises" called runts by Williamson. The "Wabash" Iris receiving the Dykes Medal in 1940 was a creation of Mary's. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

Swiss Stitchers to meet Oct. 28 at **Berne Fire Station**

Swiss Stitchers will meet Monday, October 28 at the Berne Fire Station at 7 p.m.

There will be a short business meeting, a discussion about 2025 programs plus show and tell.

Guests are always welcome.

Please call Vivian Lemmon at 692-6227 with any questions.

Pharoah's Car **Club to host Chili** or Soup Cook Off

Bluffton Pharoah's Car Club will be hosting a Chili or Soup Cook Off on Saturday, Nov. 9. The event runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Christian New Light Church, 1011 W. Washington Street in Bluffton.

To enter, bring a large pot of your homemade chili or soup to the church on Nov. 9.

Awards will be given for original, spicy and vegetarian recipes by guest judges.

Wristbands can be purchased for \$5.00 for tasting.

Proceeds Benefit Wreaths Across America.

For more information, call 260-388-7045 for more information.

AARP trail walk

On Friday, Oct. 25, members of AARP are asking folks to join them on the Indianapolis Cultural Trail for fresh air and exercise.

The event was announced in the monthly AARP Bulletin publication. More information at aarp.org/IndyOntheTrail.



Yankees vs. Dodgers: This World Series is great for baseball, but not for me

The Los Angeles Dodgers and the New York Yankees are about to square off in what will be Major League Baseball theater.

Hollywood's red carpet will roll out at Dodger Stadium and the city that never sleeps will shine under Yankee Stadium's bright lights for two of the most popular teams in baseball. The aura that's about to take place on the diamond is outstanding publicity for a sport that desperately needs it.

But for me, a die-hard baseball fan, I don't need it.

I can admit to both things: this World Series between the two most recognizable franchises and its famous NY and LA logos is good for the fringe fans, but is discouraging for others. The stars of the past 11 times the Dodgers and the Yankees met in the series include the likes of Jackie Robinson, Mickey Mantle, Sandy Koufax, Joe Dimaggio, Roger Maris and even the debut of Vin Scully. This time, the game's most recognizable players of Shohei Ohtani, Aaron Judge, Mookie Betts, Juan Soto, Freddie Freeman and Gerrit Cole will certainly garner attention from outside fans.

As much as I was mesmerized at the thought of this series this summer, I couldn't help feeling bitter watching the Yankees storm the field in Cleveland on Saturday. I grew up with a hatred toward them, but it was also a reminder that baseball's biggest problem is team payroll which rewards team spending over smaller market franchises.

I reluctantly tuned into the final inning of the Dodgers and Mets series on Sunday to watch them celebrate on the field, but again, had the same feeling.

I read an article last off-season that was a pity piece for the Yankees, saying it was one of the worst seasons in recent memory. They went 82-80. Some fans deal with losing seasons for decades.

In the off-season, they made a trade for one of the game's best in Soto and will likely give him something north of \$600 million in new money. The Yankees already have a \$300 million season payroll before Soto inks - tally that up with Judge's \$40 million per year, Cole's \$36 million, Giancarlo Stanton's \$32 million and Carlos Rodon's

\$27 million. Combined altogether, the payroll is good for second in the MLB.

To put that in perspective, the Yankees defeated the Cleveland Guardians in the championship series, who have a payroll two times less and sit 23rd in baseball. The Guardians, respected as one of the smartest baseball offices in the league,

stood nearly zero chance and needed lateinning heroic home runs to catch up.

My Detroit Tigers sat in 26th overall in payroll and made the playoffs and even won a series. The Kansas City Royals, the Yankees' prior opponent, finished 20th.

The Dodgers sit fifth overall \$247 million, but have manipulated the system with Ohtani's contract while angering fans in the process. Ohtani will make \$2 million of his \$700-million contract per season until 2033, the Dodgers 17th top-paid player. The Dodgers deferred \$68 million of his contract from 2034-43, making the \$700 million hit more sustainable now. If they paid the full contract right now, they'd be second in payroll, one ahead of the Yankees.

If you're lost in the numbers, I'll boil it down for you - pay to win with no penalty. That's not what should be rewarded in baseball, as fun as this Brooklyn/Los Angeles New York series can be.

In a way, it's as if teams like my Tigers are eons away from reaching the World Series again unless the checkbook has been dumped out. I'd rather win with player development than buy smaller market team's players.

All but one of the stars I mentioned earlier were acquired via free agency or trade followed by a big payday from their new teams. In most cases, it's when owners refuse to pay the hefty price, which is part of the job.

I'll say it again — it's good for the sport, but for me, it's a hard watch.

ryan@news-banner.com

Bowman's bad week capped by Logano making NASCAR's title race

By JENNA FRYER APAuto Racing Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) – Few people in motorsports had as crummy a week as Alex Bowman, who left Charlotte Motor Speedway two weeks ago celebrating along with his Hendrick Motorsports teammates in claiming four of the eight spots in NAS-CAR's semifinals.

Then he was disqualified when his car failed to meet minimum weight guidelines news confirmed to Bowman by a social media post he saw scrolling on his phone while already back at his North Carolina home.

He promptly threw the phone into his pool, which triggered an emergency call to

championship without him. Bowman finished a respectable fifth - one spot behind teammate Byron — but the final insult was still to come.

Logano won the race.

So the guy who left Charlotte believing he'd been eliminated from the playoffs is instead the first of four to advance to the Nov. 10 winner-take-all championship race. One of only two two-time active champions in NASCAR, Logano has a shot at moving ahead of Kyle Busch as the only three-time active Cup champion in the sport.

Logano was already at home with his wife and children in North Carolina when he learned Bowman was having difficulty passing tech. He called her Sunday from victory lane in Las Vegas to revel in his change of fortune. "She's like, 'Do you believe one week ago at this hour?' I come walking out of our bedroom, and I said, 'You're not going to believe this (expletive).' Here we are a week later. I told her, 'You ain't going to believe this, that we won this one.' So excited about the opportunity ahead of us." NASCAR heads to Homestead-Miami Speedway and then Martinsville Speedway in Virginia to determine the final three championship contenders. "Even Year Logano" — his first two titles came in 2018 and 2022 -will coast through the next two weeks with Team Penske and his No. 22 crew looking only toward the title race. "Our focus now moves forward to Phoenix. The next two weeks don't really matter," Logano said. "It's the advantage that we earned. We know what that advantage is worth. It's a worth a lot. Our focus (starting Monday) will be on Phoenix, job to finish."

High School Calendar

TUESDAY, OCT 22 No events scheduled. WEDNESDAY, OCT 23 No events scheduled. **THURSDAY, OCT 24** No events scheduled.

FRIDAY, OCT 25 FOOTBALL: (Sectional) Adams Central at Bluffton, 7 p.m.; Norwell at Bishop Luers, 7 p.m. SATURDAY, OCT 26 CROSS COUNTRY (co-ed): Regional at Huntington University, 10 a.m.

With Kurtis Rourke out, Tayven Jackson gets chance to shine as quarterback for No. 13 Indiana

By MICHAEL MAROT AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) Indiana quarterback Tayven Jackson seemingly spent his entire life preparing for Saturday - leading his home state team onto the field for one of the biggest games in program history.

All he has to do now is help the 13th-ranked Hoosiers beat Washington.

Indiana coach Curt Cignetti named Jackson the starter Monday, two days after Kurtis Rourke injured his right thumb during the first half of last weekend's 56-7 rout over Nebraska that will keep him on the sideline indefinitely.

"Kurtis Rourke will not play this week. We do expect him to return during the regular season with a thumb injury, that's all I'll say about the injury," Cignetti said during his weekly news conference. "We have 100% confidence, the team has 100% confidence, I have confidence, the staff has confidence in Tayven Jackson. I thought he played really well in the second half.

Cignetti provided no additional details about Rourke's injury, which appeared to occur when his throwing hand inadvertently struck the helmet of a Cornhuskers pass rusher late in the first half. He threw for 189 yards and one score as the Hoosiers (7-0, 4-0 Big Ten) built a 28-7 halftime lead, but he spent the second half watching from the sideline in street clothes.

Jackson looked good in another relief appearance, going 7 of 8 with 91 yards, two scores and a quarterback rating of 99.9 even better than Rourke's rating of 89.8.

Jackson also rushed twice for 21 yards while leading to another 28 points over the final 30 minutes and has grown accustomed to living life in the limelight.

His father, Ray, played on Washington State's 1998 Rose Bowl team and three years in the NFL. His older brother, Trayce Jackson-Davis, was an All-American basketball player with the Hoosiers. And the third-vear quarterback led prep powerhouse Center Grove High School to 28 consecutive wins during his junior and senior seasons before initially starting his college career at Tennessee.

So when Jackson opted to transfer to Indiana following the 2022 season, many Hoo-

Yankees and Dodgers meet in World Series for 12th time

Tayven Jackson

himself locked into a season-long battle for playing time with Brendan Sorsby. But when the Hoosiers fired coach Tom Allen, Sorsby entered

the transfer portal. Jackson opted to stick around even after Cignetti got the commitment from Rourke, the 2022 Mid-American Conference MVP.

And while Rourke won the job and led Indiana to its most lopsided win in school history, the Hoosiers first 7-0 start since 1967 and into playoff contention, Jackson bided his time, improved his craft and developed a friendship with the 23-year-old Rourke.

The two have grown so close that after each played a half in Indiana's most lopsided Big Ten victory since 1945, Jackson put his arm around Rourke and they walked together to the student section. And now Jackson has a chance to lead Indiana to a record-tying 8-0 start.

Cignetti has no doubt Jackson will be ready to face the Huskies (4-3, 2-2), last season's national runner-up who had a bye last week, or beyond.

"I thought he (Jackson) came in, did a nice job in the second half. Now he'll get more repetitions, which will help him prepare for the game on Saturday," Cignetti said. "He's a guy that's extremely capable, extremely capable. I'm sure he'll rise to the occasion.'

Still, it won't be easy replacing Rourke, whose leads the Big Ten with a quarterback rating of 188.7, shares the league lead with 15 TD passes and is second among conference quarterbacks in completion percentage (74.6%).

Rourke has played so well, he's in the discussion for Big Ten Offensive Player of the Year and even a potential Heisman Trophy contender.

Now, though, Jackson needs to be more than Indiana's quarterback of the future. He's being asked to keep the Hoosiers' magical season on track, now.

'Everybody's here for a reason, right?" Cignetti said. "In this sport, you're going to have injuries at every single position. It's a lot different when you're the starter, right? I'm sure he's excited about it."





Ryan Walker

911 as the phone settings indicated Bowman was in danger. The disqualification cost Bowman 20 points and eliminated him from the playoff field just as the Arizona native was hoping to reach next month's championship race at his home track of Phoenix Raceway.

The final spot in the playoff field then went to two-time Cup Series champion Joey Logano, who left Charlotte thinking he'd been eliminated from a shot at a third title.

Things didn't improve for Bowman: The window on his passenger car had been broken and he discovered a leak in his roof that needed repair.

"It couldn't happen to anybody else that way. Just a part of life," said Bowman, who needed a long career climb to earn his shot to replace Hall of Famer Jimmie Johnson in the No. 48 Chevrolet with NASCAR's top team.

Even after making the playoffs, Bowman has been forced the last two months to defend his seat and note he is under contract to return to Hendrick in 2025 with the full backing of sponsor Ally.

Now Ally is upset: Andrea Brimmer, the chief marketing officer, noted she was "gutted" for Bowman and the team that has "fought for every point this year and deserve to be moving forward."

At Las Vegas Motor Speedway over the weekend, Bowman watched Hendrick teammates William Byron, Chase Elliott and Kyle Larson continue their quest for the

As for Bowman? Well, he's not sure how to feel about the final three weeks of the season

"It's one of those that's probably going to sting for a while and depending on how the rest of the season goes, it will probably determine how quickly I do or don't get over it," Bowman said. "Some things in life, you don't get over but have to figure out how to move on with your life and keep digging from it."

Deshaun Watson's season is ended by a ruptured Achilles tendon

By TOM WITHERS AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) Deshaun Watson won't finish the season as Cleveland's starting quarterback for the second straight year.

He's injured again, and the Browns have new problems

Watson ruptured his right Achilles tendon in the first half of Sunday's loss to Cincinnati, collapsing as he began to run and leading some Browns fans to cheer while the divisive QB laid on the ground writhing in pain.

The team feared Watson's year was over and an MRI on Monday confirmed the rupture. The Browns said Watson will have surgery this week and miss the rest of the season but "a full recovery is expected."

Watson's injury is a blow to the Browns (1-6), who have lost five straight after making the playoffs last vear

The short-term implications are that either Dorian Thompson-Robinson or Jameis Winston will take over as the starter.

But Thompson-Robinson injured a finger on his throwing hand after replacing Watson on Sunday, and coach Kevin Stefanski was waiting to find out if the second-year QB can play

this week against Baltimore. Stefanski also said the team will sign another quarterback.

In the long term, Watson's injury, along with the fact that he wasn't playing close to what the Browns expected when they signed him to a \$230 million contract two years ago, could lead to them taking a quarterback high in next year's draft.

Stefanski, who stuck with Watson this season despite his struggles, was asked if he will come back as Cleveland's starter.

"Obviously I believe in Deshaun," he said on (Continued on Page 7)

By RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) - Broadway vs. Hollywood. Subway vs. Freeway. Judge vs. Ohtani.

New York neighbors who became crosscountry rivals, the Yankees and Dodgers renew their starry struggle in the World Series for the first time in 43 years.

"I've always had that sense being here that there's that underlying, craving for that," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said Monday. "The stars will be out. The eyeballs will be watching and, hopefully, we can deliver on a great Series.'

Two of baseball's most successful teams face each other starting Friday at Dodger Stadium, the Yankees coming off their 41st American League pennant and the Dodgers their 25th National League championship. New York is seeking its 28th World Series title but first since 2009, the Dodgers their eighth and second in a five-year span.

"When you're playing for the Dodgers and playing for the Yankees, it better feel dif-ferent," LA manager Dave Roberts said at Yankee Stadium last June. "If not, you better do something different for a profession.'

Yankees pinstripes vs. Dodgers Pantone 294. The Bronx Bombers vs. the Dem Bums' descendants. The granite-and-limestone of new Yankee Stadium on chilly autumn nights vs. Dodger Stadium in sunny Chavez Ravine, with the San Gabriel Mountains beyond the pavilions.

"It's kind of what the people wanted, what we all wanted," Dodgers star Mookie Betts said. "It's going to be a battle of two good teams, a lot of long flights across the country."

New York is 8-3 against the Dodgers in the most frequent World Series matchup, including 6-1 against Brooklyn and 2-2 since the rivalry became Big Apple against Tinseltown.

Mickey Owen, Al Gionfriddo, Cookie Lavagetto, Sandy Amoros, Johnny Podres, Don Larsen, Sandy Koufax and Reggie Jackson created indelible images in the matchup, which started in 1941 with one of the wackiest World Series turns.

Trailing 2-1 in the Series, Brooklyn led 4-3 with two outs in the ninth inning at Ebbets Field when Tommy Henrich swung and missed at strike three from Hugh Casey. The ball bounced away from Owen and rolled toward the Dodgers dugout as Henrich reached on the dropped third strike. Joe DiMaggio singled, Charlie Keller hit a tworun double and Joe Gordon added another two-run double later in the inning as the Yankees won 7-4 and went on to win the title in five games.

Lavagetto's two-out, pinch walk-off double in the ninth ended Bill Bevens' no-hit bid in 1947's Game 4 and two games later Gionfriddo robbed DiMaggio of a tying three-run homer.

New York beat the Dodgers again in 1949, 1952 and 1953, frustrating the fans in Flatbush, but Brooklyn finally won the title in 1955 when Podres pitched a Game 7 shutout at Yankee Stadium and Gil Hodges drove in both runs. Amoros preserved the lead when he made a running catch of Yogi Berra's sixth-inning drive in the left-field corner with two on and relayed to shortstop Pee Wee Reese, who threw to Hodges at first and doubled up Gil McDougald. Those players were celebrated in Roger Kahn's 1972 book "The Boys of Summer."

Larsen pitched the World Series' only perfect game in 1956's fifth game in the Bronx, Berra jumping into his arms after the final out, and the Yankees won Game 7 behind Johnny Kucks' three-hit shutout in what turned out to be the last World Series game at Ebbets Field.

Walter O'Malley moved the Dodgers to California after the 1957 season, and Koufax had an interlocking "LA" on his cap instead of a "B" when he struck out a then-Series record 15 in the 1963 opener at Yankee Stadium. The rivalry didn't resume until 1977 with the first of three matchups in a five-year span.

Jackson's three home runs led the Yankees to a clinching win in 1977's Game 6. The Yankees won another six-game Series the following year, highlighted by third baseman Graig Nettles' diving stops on Reggie Smith, Steve Garvey and Davey Lopes.

Los Angeles lost the first two games in the Bronx in 1981, and then won four in a row — capped by a 9-2 victory that had Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda dancing. The defeat prompted Yankees owner George Steinbrenner, his hand bandaged after an alleged fight with Dodgers fans in a hotel elevator, to issue a written apology "to the people of New York and to the fans of the New York Yankees everywhere.'

Both teams feel the history created by their predecessors.

'You put that jersey on and those pinstripes, it just feels different," Yankees slugger Juan Soto said.

Shohei Ohtani and Los Angeles took two of three when they met Aaron Judge and New York in a much-hyped series in June.

Roberts is reminded of the history when he approaches Dodger Stadium.

"I can't believe I'm driving up Vin Scully Way, when I go to work," he said. "It's overwhelming, but I try not to let my head go there too often; I just try to do my job."

News-Banner Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

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Philadelphia 28, N.Y. Giants 3 Seattle 34, Atlanta 14 L.A. Rams 20, Las Vegas 15 Washington 40. Carolina 7 Kansas City 28, San Francisco 18 Pittsburgh 37, N.Y. Jets 15 Open: Chicago, Dallas Monday's Games Baltimore 41, Tampa Bay 31 L.A. Chargers at Arizona, late Thursday, Oct. 24 Minnesota at L.A. Rams, 8:15 p.m Sunday, Oct. 27 Arizona at Miami, 1 p.m. Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m. Baltimore at Cleveland, 1 p.m. Green Bay at Jacksonville, 1 p.m. Indianapolis at Houston, 1 p.m. N.Y. Jets at New England, 1 p.m. Philadelphia at Cincinnati, 1 p.m. Tennessee at Detroit, 1 p.m. Buffalo at Seattle, 4:05 p.m. New Orleans at L.A. Chargers, 4:05

p.m. m. Carolina at Denver, 4:25 p.m. Chicago at Washington, 4:25 p.m. Kansas City at Las Vegas, 4:25 p.m. Dallas at San Francisco, 8:20 p.m. **Monday, Oct. 28** N.Y. Giants at Pittsburgh, 8:15 p.m.

BASEBALL

MLB WORLD SERIES (Best-of-7) New York Yankees vs. Los Angeles

Dodgers Friday, Oct. 25: New York Yankees (Cole 8-5) at Los Angeles Dodgers, 8:08 p.m., (Fox) Saturday, Oct. 26: New York Yankees

(Rodon 16-9) at Los Angeles Dodgers, 8:08 p.m., (Fox) Monday, Oct. 28: Los Angeles Dodg-ers at New York Yankees (Schmidt 5-5)

8:08 p.m., (Fox) Tuesday, Oct. 29: Los Angeles Dodg-ers at New York Yankees (Gil 15-7),

ers at ivew York Yankees (Gil 15-7), 8:08 p.m., (Fox) x-Wednesday, Oct. 30: Los Angeles Dodgers at New York Yankees, 8:08 p.m., (Fox)

x-Friday, Nov. 1: New York Yankees

at Los Angeles Dodgers, 8:08 p.m., (Fox) x-Saturday, Nov. 2: New York Yankees at Los Angeles Dodgers, 8:08 p.m., (Fox)

HOCKEY NHL

Sunday's Games Winnipeg 6, Pittsburgh 3 Los Angeles 4, Anaheim 1 Colorado 4, San Jose 1 Monday's Games Toronto 5, Tampa Bay 2 Tuesday's Games Washington at Philadelphia, 6 p.m. Minnesota at Florida, 6:30 p.m. Tampa Bay at New Jersey, 6:45 p.m. Dallas at Buffalo, 7 p.m. N.Y. Rangers at Montreal, 7:15 p.m. Toronto at Columbus, 7:30 p.m.

Detroit at N.Y. Islanders, 7:45 p.m. Winnipeg at St. Louis, 8 p.m. Vancouver at Chicago, 8:15 p.m. Colorado at Seattle, 8:30 p.m. Boston at Nashville, 8:45 p.m. Carolina at Edmonton, 9 p.m. Ottawa at Utah, 9:15 p.m. Pittsburgh at Calgary, 9:30 p.m. San Jose at Anaheim, 10:15 p.m. Los Angeles at Vegas, 11 p.m.

Wednesday's Games Philadelphia at Washington, 7:30 p.m. Thursday's Games Dallas at Boston, 7 p.m. Florida at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m. Minnesota at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m. New Jersey at Detroit, 7 p.m.

St. Louis at Toronto, 7 p.m.



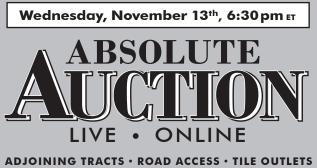


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GENERAC



Watson's season ends

(Continued from Page 6)

Zoom call. "But I also think it's important just to acknowledge that he just had a bad injury and bad break for him. We're feeling bad for him and know that he'll bounce back but not getting into all those things down the road."

Watson was injured on a noncontact play in the second quarter of Cleveland's 21-14 loss to the Bengals and was carted off the field in tears.

It's the second significant injury in two seasons for Watson, who broke a bone in his throwing shoulder last year. Watson also had surgeries on both knees after tearing ligaments while at Clemson and playing for Houston.

The 29-year-old got booed during pregame introductions. As he took off on a draw play, his leg buckled and he crumpled to the turf.

He immediately put his hands on his helmet, clearly aware of the severity of an injury similar to the one Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers sustained last year. Rodgers underwent a "speed bridge" surgery to speed up his recovery and enable him to practice within three months.

Stefanski did not know what kind of procedure Watson will have. A typical recovery time after an Achilles tendon repair is six to nine months. Atlanta's Kirk Cousins got hurt in October last year and was back for training camp in July.

Watson's injury triggered an ugly reaction from some fans.

As he was being assisted by the team's medical staff and Thompson-Robinson begin warming up, there was some derisive cheers and boos from the stands.

Cleveland fans have been unhappy

about Watson, who has been accused of being sexually inappropriate with women.

The reaction didn't sit well with several Watson's teammates, including star end Myles Garrett, the NFL's reigning Defensive Player of the Year, who was appalled by the fans' behavior.

"We should be ashamed of ourselves as Browns and as fans to boo anyone and their downfall," Garrett said.

Winston also admonished the uncomfortable celebration.

"I am very upset with the reaction to a man that has had the world against him for the past four years, and he put his body and life on the line for this city every single day," he said. "The way I was raised, I will never pull on a man when he's down, but I will be the person to lift him up.'

On Monday, Pro Bowl cornerback Denzel Ward, who is from Cleveland, said the misplaced passion was disappointing.

'Everyone has to be better than that," he said. "Regardless of what you may think of a person or what someone's been through or whatever the situation may be, that doesn't make it right or make it any better for you to kick a man when he's down."

The injury is yet another twist in Watson's tumultuous time with the Browns.

Cleveland traded three first-round draft picks and five overall to the Texans two years ago to get him, with owners Dee and Jimmy Haslam approving the team giving Watson a fully guaranteed contract.

With a solid roster, the Browns were

desperate to find a QB who could help them compete against the top AFC teams.

The Browns had moved on from Baker Mayfield despite drafting him No. 1 overall in 2018 and making the playoffs two seasons later.

But Watson has not played up to expectations, and Cleveland's move to get him has been labeled an abject failure with the team still on the hook to pay him \$46 million in each of the next two seasons.

Watson finished his third season passing for 1,148 yards with five touchdowns and three interceptions. He was sacked a league-high 33 times.

His arrival in Cleveland also came amid accusations by more than two dozen women of sexual assault and harassment during massage therapy sessions in Texas. Two grand juries declined to indict him and he has settled civil lawsuits in all but one of the cases

Watson was suspended by the NFL for his first 11 games and fined \$5 million for violating the league's personal conduct policy before he took his first snap with the Browns. The long layoff he sat out the 2021 season in a contract dispute - led to subpar play, and Watson made just six starts last season before hurting his shoulder.

Cleveland signed veteran Joe Flacco, who went 4-1 as a starter and led the Browns to the playoffs.

Before Watson got hurt this year, he didn't play much better and was one of the league's lowest-rated passers for a Cleveland team that hasn't scored 20 points in a game and may have to search anew for a franchise OB.

Pure Prairie bankruptcy devastates poultry farmers

Agriculture

By AGDAILY

Farmers in Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota are grappling with the fallout from the sudden closure of Pure Prairie Poultry, an Iowa-based poultry processor that shut its doors in early October. The company's closure has left over 1 million chickens without care and many contract farmers in dire financial straits, as they are now responsible for feeding birds that can no longer be processed.

Pure Prairie Poultry filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, leaving behind not only unpaid employees but also 1.3 million broiler chickens across 14 Iowa farms and more across other Midwest states. The situation has been described as particularly vexing based on the \$45.6 million that the U.S. Department of Agriculture invested through a Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loan program to help Pure Prairie Farms Inc. in 2022.

The company notified the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship that it could no longer afford to buy feed for the birds, prompting the department to seek an emergency court order to take control of the chickens. The state is now one of the creditors seeking repayment from Pure Prairie.

In Wisconsin, poultry farmers are scrambling to find solutions. Terry Filla, a contract farmer, shared his frustrations with reporters, stating, "Currently, we have roughly 60[,000] to 62,000 birds with no feed. We've called everybody, and we don't know what to do.'

Wisconsin's Secretary of Agriculture, Trade, and **Consumer Protection Randy** Romanski expressed concern over the situation but explained to Brownfield that his department lacks the

authority to intervene directly, as the issue is not related to disease.

"A business failed and the result is that it's affected farmers and businesses here in the state, and it's also affected the humane care of those animals," he said.

Efforts to gather information about the number of affected farmers in Wisconsin have been met with limited success. Romanski noted that his department requested information from Pure Prairie but has not received a full response. Meanwhile, Iowa officials have stepped in to feed the affected birds, and Minnesota has taken steps to euthanize some.

Adding to the complexity, former employees of the now-closed plant are also struggling. Several have not been paid since the plant's closure on October 2. According to one anonymous worker, "We're hoping that can kind of give that a little kick to show them that this is important. Just give us our last check, and we'll leave you alone.'

In a statement to ABC 6, Pure Prairie Poultry said, "We continue to explore possible buyers for our operations and have discontiued operations at our Charles City production plant. We recognize that our difficulties represent a hardship for our people, for our grower partners and for the community at large. As we continue to work toward a transition we will look to minimize any further impact on all parties and will share information as it become available.'

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) has also taken up the cause, urging the USDA to step in and assist the affected farmers. In a letter to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, Baldwin highlighted the USDA's previous investment of \$47 million in Pure Prairie Poultry and called for immediate action.

"Our agriculture industry is the beating heart of many of our communities," she said. "In the face of this dire situation, I'm calling on USDA to do everything they can for these Wisconsin farmers who now stare down financial ruin through no fault of their own.'

Baldwin also raised concerns about animal welfare, with many farmers giving away chickens by the tens of thousands to prevent starvation. She urged the USDA to provide feed and financial assistance and to work with Wisconsin's Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection to locate all impacted producers.

In the face of this emergency, volunteers have stepped up to help. Breanna Patz, a University of Wisconsin-River Falls student and founder of Pips 'n Chicks, organized efforts to evacuate and process birds from several struggling farms. "It took about four days from start to finish, and it was well beyond what I thought was possible," Patz said.

Her efforts helped save up to 175,000 birds from six farms, as volunteers and processors rallied to keep the chickens from starving.

Some of the poultry farms, such as Filla Farms have taken to soliciting donations from GoFundMe to help recoup some of their costs after giving away over 62,000 broilers to people who picked up the birds to process themselves.

As the situation unfolds, affected farmers are left waiting for a solution from federal and state agencies while the fallout from Pure Prairie Poultry's bankruptcy continues to grow. Despite

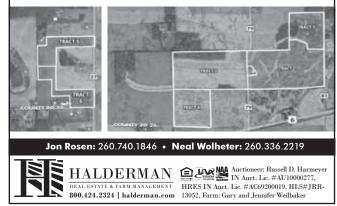
their best efforts to ensure that the birds are properly cared for, processed, or humanely euthanized in this challenging situation, the circumstances have become fodder for animal activist groups.

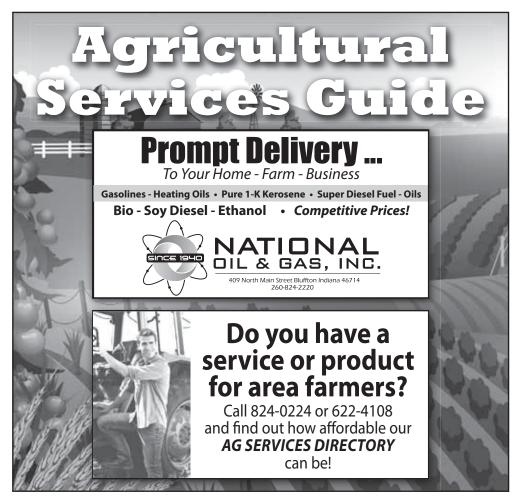
Activist groups such as PETA have already taken notice of these challenges, using them as opportunities for criticism. In response. PETA sent a letter to Vilsack calling for an investigation into the USDA's failure to fulfill its duties and to stop "throwing taxpayer money at bad actors like Pure Prairie Poultry." While growers work to address the difficulties, PETA's focus remains on highlighting the problems rather than supporting those working toward solutions.

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PROPERTY LOCATION: Along and/or near CR 26 and CR 79 in Troy Twp (Tract 1, North Part Tract 2) and Stafford Twp (Tracts 2-4) of DeKalb Co. Tracts 5-6 are located near CR 20 and CR 27 in Smithfield Township of DeKalb County.





Marital loneliness and difficult discoveries

Dear Annie: For the past four years, disgusted and my wife and I have barely spoken. We don't share anything or do anything together anymore. The only connection I have left is driving my daughter to school. I've tried everything to and I'm strugfix things between us, but nothing seems to work. Now divorce feels like the only option. But when I think about my daughter's future, I feel overwhelmed and consumed by guilt. She's 17, and I don't want to hurt her, but I feel so lonely and depressed.

I can't seem to figure out why I'm stuck in this situation. I know I want to leave, but something keeps stopping me. I don't know if it's fear, guilt or the hope that things might change. I just feel lost and unsure of what to do next. Please help; I don't know how this. — Help

Dear Help: What you're feeling is completely natural. You're experiencing a mix of very understandable emotions, including grief for the relationship you once had and for the partnership you still long for. The first step is to talk to your wife; let her know how you're feeling. Marriage counseling could also be a valuable tool to help both of you better understand where the disconnection began and if you can reconnect.

Dear Annie: I need your help with a difficult situation. My sister has been dating a man for two years, and though I've only met him a handful of times, I've respected him as her boyfriend. However, while preparing for my daughter's wedding, we discovered that he is a Level 3 sex offender. My sister confirmed this when I asked, saying he's served his time and has been doing well since.

Now I'm left feeling shocked,

unsure of what to do. Our parents and brothers don't know, gling with how to move forward. Confused and Concerned

Dear Confused and Con-

cerned: This is a tough situation. It's understandable that you're shocked and unsure of what steps to take, especially because it's your daughter's wedding.

Annie

by Annie Lane

An honest, kind conversation with your sister is essential. While she has the right to make her own choicmuch longer I can keep going like es, your family deserves to know the truth, especially if his presence impacts family dynamics. Approach the discussion calmly, expressing how this affects everyone, not just her.

For the wedding, you have the right to protect your daughter and family. If his attendance makes you uncomfortable, discuss boundaries with your sister and find a way to prioritize your daughter's special day while maintaining family peace.

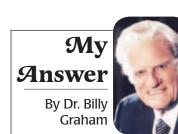
Seeking the help of a professional will help you prepare for these conversations. It's not easy.

"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 dearannie@creators.com.

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BEETLE BAILEY SO, WHAT DO Dear



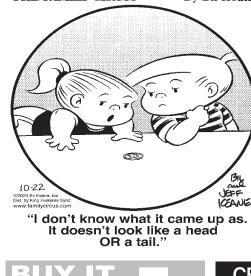


Question: I struggle with being happy. I find it easy to blame my turbulent childhood. The memories haunt me and I can't seem to overcome them. I find it easier to pray that God will give me courage to give up and just go to Heaven where I can be happy there. No one on Earth would even miss me. What about this is wrong thinking? – E.L

Knowing God cares makes all the difference

things, He will guide and Growing up in difdirect us in the way we ficult circumstances, should go – and it will particularly in abunever be suicide. sive relationships, leaves

We all need Christian friends and fellowship. Getting involved in a local Bible-believing church enhances our lives and exhibits the love Christ has for the world. Knowing that God cares - and that His people care makes all the difference in the world. God is sending forth His message of love, but we must tune in. We must be willing to listen and to receive His message and then obey it. (This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Graham.)





I KNOW YOU BOUGHT THEM AT A GAS STATION."



DIVERSIONS

Answer: God alone is the Giver of life and it is dangerous to take life into our own hands. Such thoughts are not from God but from Satan. The Bible says, "[Satan] comes only to ... kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10, cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7, NKJV).

scars, but God has better

plans for those who will

come to Him. He under-

stands feelings of despair.

Such experiences lead

to feeling worthless, as

though no one cares, but

we must not let society

tell us that because the

Bible says just the oppo-

site. "Casting all your

care upon [Jesus], for He

ESV)

Praying to God indicates a knowledge of His power, of His interest in our lives. Throughout Scripture He has given us examples that when people pray and seek Him, He listens and answers (see Jeremiah 29:11-13). In seeking Him in all

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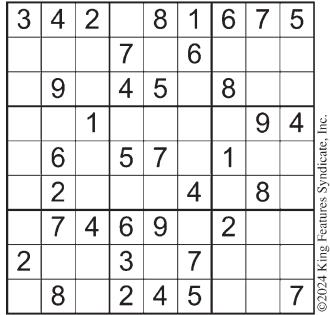
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SUDOKU

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King Classic Sudoku



Difficulty: $\star \star$

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.

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.

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

FOR SALE

Miscellaneous

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

RENTALS Office Space Rental

Lottery Numbers

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Monday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY **Cash 5** — 20-31-34-41-44

Cash4Life — 04-06-22-43-59, Cash Ball: 03

Quick Draw Midday — 06-11-15-21-24-26-34-40-44-50-54-57-60-63-67-68-69-74-78-79, BE: 15

Daily Three-Midday — 07-04-09, SB: 05

Daily Three-Evening — 08-03-06, SB: 06

Daily Four-Midday – 08-05-08-08, SB: 05

Daily Four-Evening -00-00-08-01, SB: 06

Quick Draw Evening 03-06-14-20-22-27-29-31-32-33-38-39-42-43-55-

58-59-62-74-77, BE: 59 Hoosier Lotto – Esti-

mated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$26 million **MEGA MILLIONS** Estimated jackpot (for Tuesday): \$205 million

PÓWERBALL 01-25-57-62-64 Powerball: 15; Power Play: 2X

Services

HANDYMAN SERVICES NO job too big or too small 260-353-9339.

Read & recycle this newspaper



OCTOBER 24 - 9 a.m.-6 p.m. (Online Only) - Estate of Larry Curry, seller. Excel-lent 1,398 SF, 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch home in Rose Ann Heights neighborhood on .52 acre lot, 2 car attached garage. Home has a ton of potential. "Explore the Possibilities." Open house Oct. 22 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., 419 W. Roe St., Ossian. Sale managers, Brandon Steffen, 260-710-5684, Rod Fetters, 260-557-8451, The Steffen Group Inc., 824-3006, www.steffengrp.com. BIDDING STARTS CLOS-ING OCTOBER 27 - 6 p.m.

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

ENDS OCTOBER 29 - 10 a.m. EST - Christine Pierce, owner. 526 E Market Street, South Whitley, IN. Online only apartment complex auction! Four duplex buildings, 8 units, 2 bedroom, 1 bath units, electric baseboard heat, wall AC units, 1,456 sq. foot buildings, new roofs in 2021, year built 1990, income producing! 100% rent capacity, .86 acre parcel, Whitko Community Schools. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, Kjauction. com

NOVEMBER 3-10 - (Online Only) - Estate of Elizabeth (Carter) Aeschliman & others, seller. Ladies diamond wedding ring, ladies diamond cluster ring, diamond earrings, Sapphire necklace & earrings, lg. assortment of costume jewelry, Howard Miller china cabinet, cherry finish china cabinet, 2019 GE window air conditioner, collectibles, glassware, vintage silver-plate flatware sets, marbles, Anri Italy wood carved figurines, holiday decor, house-hold. Open houses Oct. 31, Nov. 7, 3-6 p.m., 117 W. Craig St., Ossian. Sale managers Bobby Perry, Patrick Carter, The Steffen Group, 260-824-

3006, www.steffengrp.com. NOVEMBER 13 - 6:30 p.m. ET - (Live and online) - Gary and Jennifer Weilbaker, farm. American Legion, 118 N. Broadway Street, Butler. Property location: Along and/or near CR 26 and CR 79 in Troy Twp. (Tract 1, North Part Tract 2) and Stafford Twp. (Tracts 2-4).

Public Notices

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

nb 10/15, 10/22 hspaxlp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS FOR M.S.D. OF BLUFFTON-HARRISON

WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Board of School Trustees of the M.S.D. of Bluffton-Harrision (the "Owner") will receive sealed bids for the Bluffton Middle School

Restroom Renovation.

access, tile outlets, 264.651+/acres, 6 tracts, DeKalb Co. Jon Rosen, 260-740-1846, Neal Wolheter, 260-336-2219, Hal-derman Real Estate & Farm Management. halderman.com. 800-424-2324. NOVEMBER 14 - 6 p.m. Becher Family Farms LLC,

Tracts 5-6 located near CR 20

and CR 27 in Smithfield Town-

ship. Adjoining tracts, road

sellers. Auction location: Adams Co. 4H Expo Hall, 160 W. Washington St., Monroe, IN. Four tracts, Washington Township, Adams County. Tract 1: 82.88 acres, County Rd. 200 West, Sec 18. Tract 2: 80.2 acres, County Rd. 450 North, Sec 8. Tract 3: 35.05 acres, County Rd. 450 North, Sec 9. Tract 4: 39.97 acres, County Rd. 400 North, Sec 9. Heartland Auction & Realty, Inc., heartlandauctionrealty com, 260-724-3499.

SOFT CLOSE STARTS NOVEMBER 17 - 6 p.m. -Herman Family farm & Elite Tooling, owner. Online real estate auction. 47+/- acres, log home, machine shop, dog kennel, 2 ponds, CNC lathes, mill, machinist tools, Ferris mower, mowers, skid loader, 1960 Harley Davidson topper. Open house Oct. 26, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Nov. 9, 10 a.m.-noon, Nov. 12, 4-6 p.m. Green Auction, 260-589-8474, SoldonGreen.com.

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE Duviduo of o contification

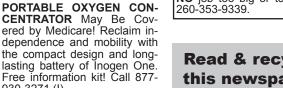
By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Circuit/Superior Court of Wells County, Indiana, in Cause No. 90D01-2402-MF-000006 wherein Specialized Loan Servicing LLC was Plaintiff, and Gary R Zickafoose, et al., were Defen-dants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bid-der, on the 11th day of December, 2024, at the hour of 1:00PM or as soon thereafter as is possible, at Wells County Sheriffs Office, 1615 W. Western Avenue, Bluffton, IN 46714, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Wells Coun-ty Indiana. ty, Indiana. THE

FOLLOWING DESCRIBED REAL PROPERTY SITUATED IN WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA, TO-WIT: THE SOUTH HALF OF LOT

NUMBER TWO (2) AS KNOWN AND DESIGNATED ON THE RECORDED PLAT OF BABERS ADDITION TO THE TOWN OF UNION STATION (NOW UNION-

DALE). THE SOUTH HALF OF LOT NUMBER ONE OF BABER'S ADDITION TO UNION STATION, AS FOLLOWS, COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHEAST COR-NER OF LOT NUMBER ONE, THENCE RUNNING WEST 165 FEET, THENCE NORTH 33 FEET, THENCE EAST 165 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 33 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING ONE HALF LOT ACCORDING TO THE RECORD-ED PLAT OF BABER'S ADDI-TION TO UNION STATION, NOW UNIONDALE. ALSO, NORTH HALF OF LOT NUMBER TWO OF BABER'S ADDITION TO UNION STATION, NOW UNIONDALE, BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS, COMMENCING AS FOLLOWS, COMMENCING AT THE NORTHEAST COR-NER OF SAID LOT NUMBER 2, THENCE SOUTH 33 FEET, THENCE WEST 165 FEET; THENCE EAST 165 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING ONE HALE LOT CONTAINING ONE HALF LOT ACCORDING TO THE RECORD-ED PLAT OF BABERS ADDI-TION TO UNION STATION, NOW UNIONDALE. SUBJECT TO ALL HIGH-WAYS, RIGHTS OF WAY, EASE-MENTS, ZONING AND SUBDIVI-SION CONTROL ORDINANCES, CONDITIONS, AND RESTRIC-TIONS OF RECORD. More commonly known as: 5970 N Main Street, Uniondale, IN 46791 Parcel No. 90-04-02-500-012.000-018 Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisement laws "Subject to all liens, encum brances and easements of record not otherwise extin-guished in the proceedings known as Cause No. 90D01-2402-MF-000006 in the Circuit/ Superior Court of the County of Wells, Indiana.'





10/22

CONSTRUCTION

Services

Room additions, fix old saggy

floors, all types remodeling.

Redo bathrooms, old founda-

tion repairs. Marv Schwartz: 260-525-8877.

MARV'S

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.

VEHICLES

Campers/RV's

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

SERVICES

Services

WESLEY **FINANCIAL** Timeshare GROUP. LLC Cancellation Experts Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations Over 450 positive reviews. Call 877-329-1207 (I)

ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEAN-ING forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-361-4260 (I)



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

YARD SALE: 1003 S. Oak St., Bluffton, Wed., Oct. 23, through Sat. Oct. 26, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Halloween items, camping items, and much more.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dated this 7th day of October 2024

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

SUDOKU ANSWER

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Plaintiff Attorney: Matthew C. Gladwell (30493-49)

Christopher J. Arlinghaus (31680-15) Aaron Rodgers (28418-84)

Reisenfeld & Associates LLC 3962 Red Bank Road Cincinnati, OH 45227 Voice: (513) 322-7000 Facsimile: (513) 322-7099

Scott Holliday, Sheriff of Wells County Township 5970 N Main Street, Uniondale, IN 46791 Street Address SHERIFF FILE NO. SERVICE DIRECTED TO: The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street addressed published herein This communication is from a debt collector. This is an attempt to col-

lect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. nb 10/22, 10/29, 11/5

hspaxlp

Police Notebook

(Continued from Page 3) 1000 S and 200 E, Keystone. Car versus deer.

Saturday, 9:11 a.m., All American Airplane Express. Subject warned for trespassing.

Saturday, 8:16 p.m., Wells County Jail. Report of threatening.

Sunday, 12:52 a.m., South 300 W and S.R. 218, Bluffton. Driver cited for disregarding stop sign.

Sunday, 4:05 p.m., 800 block of South Johnson Street, Bluffton. Protective order served to Kristopher Souter.

Sunday, 4:20 p.m., 19 block of Garden Lane, Bluffton. Protective order served to Daniel Bradfield.

Sunday, 8:44 p.m., 2500 E 350 N, Bluffton. Report of subject walking down street with flashlight. Subjects coming home from game. Sunday, 10:32 p.m., S.R.

116 and East 100 N, Bluffton. Car versus deer.

Monday, 10:07 a.m.,

Liberty Center United Methodist. Report of issue with line.

Monday, 12:52 p.m., Wells County Courthouse. Warrant served to Mallory Lommatzsch.

Ossian:

Friday, 5:18 p.m., 200 block of South Siebold Street, Ossian. Protective order served to Dustin Weimer.

Friday, 8:19 p.m., 700 block of Zuercher Lane, Ossian. Report of firearm sound from nearby residence.

Saturday, 11:59 p.m., 5700 N 450 E, Ossian. Report of harassment.

Sunday, 9:02 a.m., 2400 East Water Street, Ossian. Report of issues with neighbors dogs.

ACCIDENTS City:

Thursday, 6:12 p.m., 1529 S Harrison Plaza. Jordan Daughtery, 20, Liberty Center, was driving a 2011 Chevrolet Impala exiting the parking lot and failed to yield the right of way to a 2022 Honda Civic driven by Megan Tungate, 44, Bluffton. Damage exceeded \$2,500.

Friday, 9:27 p.m., 2100 N Main St. A 2015 Mazda CX-5 was hit while parked at Walmart. Video footage showed a black passenger car hit the vehicle, but the officer unable to get a license plate, make or model. Damage exceeded \$2,500.

Sunday, 7:51 a.m., S.R. 116. Michael J. Springer, 54, Bluffton, was driving a 2023 Tesla Model Y stopped at a train crossing and was rear-ended by a 2019 Dodge Grand Caravan driven by Alhassine S. Alhissen, 44, Indianapolis. Damage exceeded \$2,500.

ARRESTS

Darwin Manuel Lineras Narvaez, 31, Bluffton; strangulation, a Level 6 felony, domestic battery and interfering with the reporting of a crime, both Class A misdemeanors, and criminal mischief, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$52,500.

Calvin Crespo, 25, Bluffton; invasion of privacy, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$25,000.

Jonathan W. Goldwood, 37, Colombia City; child solicitation, a Level 4 felony. Bond set at \$15,000.

Rodney Teslaa, 61, Grandville, Michigan; residential entry and stalking, both Level 6 felonies. Bond set at \$10,000.

Michael Anthony Silva, 33, Fort Wayne; possession of narcotic drug and possession of methamphetamine, both Level 6 felonies, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$10,500.

Naomy Gutierrez, 23, Fort Wayne; possession of narcotic drug and possession of methamphetamine, both Level 6 felonies, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$10,500.

Devin Wade White, 28, Bluffton; operating while intoxicated - prior, a Level 6 felony, operating while intoxicated - endangerment, a Class A misdemeanor, operating while intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$5,000.

David Allen Bischoff, 23, Fort Wayne; operating while intoxicated - endangerment, a Class A misdemeanor, possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor, and operating with a controlled substance in body, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at

\$3,000.

Angel Dario Suarez Rios, 42, Bluffton; operating while intoxicated endangerment, a Class A misdemeanor, and operating while intoxicated, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

Christopher Ray Williamson, 44, Ossian; driving while suspended – prior, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

Jabari Ronell Eldridge, 41, Fort Wayne; operating without ever obtaining license, a Class C misdemeanor.



Wells Court Docket

(Continued from Page 3)

• Committee to Elect Scott Elzey; Scott Elzey (R), County Council, At-Large.

The committee showed \$120.97 in cash on hand, \$2,050 in itemized contributions, \$1,735.75 in itemized expenditures and \$193.28 in unitemized expenditures. The committee had no debts.

Itemized contributions were from Scott Elzey, Markle, \$800; Wells County Republican Central Committee, Bluffton, \$1,000; and Michael Vanover, Keystone, \$250.

Itemized expenditures were \$200 to Ossian Days Inc., Ossian, for a community event; \$100 to the Wells County Historical Society, Bluffton, for a community event; \$595.21 to 4-Imprint, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, for printing; \$128.60 to Walmart, Bluffton, for retail; \$560 to Bluffton News-Banner for newspaper advertising; \$151.94 to Team Mantra, Bluffton, for printing.

• The Committee to Elect Pam Gregory; Pam Gregory (R), Treasurer

The committee showed no cash on hand, \$125.67 in unitemized contributions and \$125.67 in unitemized

contributions, \$1,461.88 in itemized expenditures and \$263.20 in unitemized expenditures. The committee had no debt.

Itemized contributions were from John Senac, \$155, and Amanda Koiner, Bluffton, \$925.

Itemized expenditures were \$104.70 to the Bluffton Parks Department, unspecified; \$150.76 to 48HourPrint, unspecified; \$516.93 to Parlor City Trophy, unspecified; \$196.68 to Signs on Cheap, unspecified; and \$492.91 to Signs on Cheap, unspecified.

• Friends of Cathie Peterson; Cathie Peterson, Norwell Community Schools Board of Trustees, Lancaster Township.

The committee showed \$2,037.77 in cash on hand, \$3,334.20 in itemized contributions, \$2,110 in unitemized contributions and \$3,406.43 in itemized expenditures. The committee had no debt.

Itemized contributions were from Danny and Jackie Norris, Markle, \$100; Scott and Leonda Brenna, Bluffton, \$100; Jeremy and Sheri Ward, Ossian, \$100; Bruce and Kate Stinson, Bluff-

and \$12,308.50 in itemized expenditures. The committee had one outstanding debt of \$1,029.75.

Itemized contributions were from Mike Vanover, Keystone, \$500; Michael Eichenauer, Noblesville, \$500; Jeff Stringer, Uniondale, \$1,029.75 loan; Rolling Acres, Bluffton, \$250; and RTT Investments, Fort Wayne, \$2,000.

Itemized expenditures were \$831.55 to Veronica Wilson, Markle, for campaign management; \$750 to Veronica Wilson, Markle, for campaign management; and \$10,726.95 to New Haven Print, Fort Wayne, for printing mailers.

The committee owes \$1,029.75 to Jeff Stringer, Uniondale.

• Rina E. Stuck for Wells County Recorder; Rina Stuck (R), Recorder.

The committee showed no cash on hand, \$100 in itemized contributions, \$50 in unitemized contributions and \$150 in itemized expenditures. The committee had no debts.

Itemized contributions were from Glenna Plummer. Bluffton, \$100.

Itemized expenditures

Hagerman, Indianapolis, \$242.03; Rachel Roembke, Bluffton, \$96.02; Roger Thornton, Bluffton, \$100; Angela Topp, Bluffton, \$300; Steve Gerber, Bluffton, \$900 in-kind for billboard rental, Jeremiah Tomlin, Bluffton, \$2,000; Andrew Springer, Ossian, \$47.76; and Tomlin Audiology LLC, Yorktown, \$900. Itemized expenditures

were \$2,321.90 to Sky High Graphics, Bluffton, for signs; \$438.70 to Excell Color Graphics, Fort Wayne, for printing; \$307.09 to Baller Signs, Bluffton, for billboard graphics; \$970 to Universal Lettering, Van Wert, Ohio, for apparel; and \$900 to Steve Gerber, Bluffton, inkind for billboard rental.

• R. Seth Whicker for County Council - Wells; Seth Whicker (R), County Council, At-Large

The committee showed \$769.17 in cash on hand, \$2,000 in itemized contributions and \$1,905.60 in itemized expenditures. The committee had \$500 in debt.

Itemized contributions were from Sharon and Jeff Espich, Uniondale, \$500; Mike Vanover, Keystone,



expenditures. The committee had no debt.

• Elect Preston Kaehr; Preston Kaehr, Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitans Schools Board of Trustees, At-Large.

The committee showed \$0.60 in cash on hand, \$1.169.09 in itemized contributions and \$1,168.49 in itemized expenditures. The committee had no debt.

Itemized contributions were from Kole and Amy Meyer, Bluffton, \$100, and Preston Kaehr, Bluffton, \$1,069.09, in-kind.

Itemized expenditures were \$342.40 to Baller Signs, Bluffton, for signs; \$4 to First Bank of Berne for finance fees; \$475 to Leeskey LLC, Bluffton, for a billboard; and \$347.09 to Vista Print, North Waltham, Massachusetts, for promotional items.

 Restoring America One Community at a Time; Chris Koiner, Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan Schools Board of Trustees, District 3.

The committee showed \$23.66 in cash on hand, \$1,080 in itemized contributions, \$668.73 in uniternized

ton, \$100: Cathie Peterson, Craigville, \$482.20 in kind for logo, printing and postage; Jason and Amy Cupp, \$100, Bluffton; Nathaneal and Veronica Wilson, Markle, \$500; Meriwether Tool, Ossian, \$100; Barkley for Ossian, Ossian, \$250; CLP Real Estate, Craigville, \$1,000; and CLP Real Estate, Craigville, \$500 inkind for advertising.

Itemized expenditures were \$100 in-kind to Cathie Peterson, Craigville, for logo design, \$384.20 inkind to Cathie Peterson, Craigville for postage and printing; \$500 in-kind to CLP Real Estate, Craigville, for advertising; \$1,461.25 to AGE Graphics, Little Hocking, Ohio, for signs; \$176 to Bluffton News-Banner, Bluffton, for newspaper advertising; \$709.98^t to Team Mantra Wear, Bluffton, for printing; and \$75 to Bluffton Free Street Fair, Bluffton, unspecified.

• Friends of Jeff Stringer; Jeff Stringer (R), County Commissioner, District 3.

The committee showed no cash on hand, \$4,279.75 in itemized contributions

were \$43.46 to Walmart, Decatur, for parade candy; \$14.49 to Walmart, Decatur, for parade candy; \$75 to Bluffton Free Street Fair, Bluffton, for parade registration; and \$17.05 to Wells County Republicans, Bluffton, unspecified.

• Cliff for Coroner; Cliff Thomas (R), Coroner.

The committee showed no cash on hand, \$500 in itemized contribution and \$500 in itemized expenditures. The committee had no debts.

Itemized contributions were from the GOP, \$500.

Itemized expenditures were \$500 to Parlor City Trophy, unspecified.

Jeremiah Tomlin for Norwell Community Schools; Jeremiah Tomlin, Norwell Community Schools Board of Trustees, Lancaster Township.

The committee showed \$148.12 in cash on hand, \$5,085.81 in itemized contributions and \$4,937.69 in itemized expenditures. The committee had no debts.

Itemized contributions were from Steve Ringger, Bluffton, \$500; Jeffrey

Teen in custody after 5 found dead in home shooting in Washington state

FALL CITY, WASH. (AP) — Law enforcement officials found five people killed in a shooting inside a home southeast of Seattle on Monday morning and took a teenager into custody, police said.

Several people called 911 around 5 a.m. to report a shooting in Fall City, Washington, King County Sheriff's Office spokesperson Mike Mellis said at a media briefing Monday afternoon.

Arriving deputies immediately took one teen into custody while another teenager who had been hurt was taken to a Seattle hospital, Mellis said. Both teens live at the house, Mellis said.

Deputies entering the home found the bodies of five people, he said. Two were adults and three were described by Mellis as young teenagers. No names have been released yet.

"Once bodies were discovered, clearly we understand that this is a hugely significant crime scene," he said.

Mellis said the shooting appears to involve members of a family, but added that they didn't yet know how they were related. He also said there was no ongoing threat to the community.

The teen in custody was booked into King County's juvenile detention facility, according to Mellis. The teen will appear in court for a first hearing on Tuesday or Wednesday, a spokesperson for the county Prosecuting Attorney's Office said in an email.

A neighbor told KING-TV that a couple and their five children lived in the home.

\$500; Wells County GOP, Bluffton, \$1,000.

Itemized expenditures were \$1,155.60 to Baller Signs for signs and \$750 to Veronica Wilson, Uniondale, for campaign management.

The committee owes \$500 to Cari and Seth Whicker, Uniondale.

The following committees filed reports showing no cash on hand, receipts or contributions, expenditures, or outstanding debt:

• Hoosiers for Blake Gerber; Blake Gerber (R), County Commissioner, District 2

• Brian Hollingsworth for County Council At Large; Brian Hollingsworth (D), County Council, At-Large.

 Committee to Re-Elect Hahn for Surveyor; Jarrod Hahn (R), Surveyor.

• Health Schlagenhauf.

