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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2024

BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

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## Woman stabbed 36 times, investigator testifies

Second day of Markle murder trial brings opening statements, witness testimony

By SYDNEY KENT & HOLLY GASKILL

Thirty-six stab wounds reportedly contributed to the death of 72-year-old Bernice "Dianna" Eubank of Markle.

Huntington County Prosecutor Jeremy Nix included the detail

from police investigation in the state's opening statement on day two of five in the trial against Anthony Castleman, 38. Castleman is charged with first-degree murder for the death of his grandmother. Her body was found behind her home on Nov. 12,

2023.

Following jury selection on Monday, the trial reconvened Tuesday with opening statements from the state and defense, as well as multiple hours of testimony from witnesses and experts.

During his opening statement, Nix explained that on Nov. 10, Eubank drove Castleman to his mother, Tiffanee Cole's, house while she ran errands and picked him up later. This was reportedly

the last time Eubank was seen alive.

Nix further explained that Castleman drove Eubank's car to his cousin's house, and that cousin then took Castleman to Ohio, where he met with a second cousin to obtain a bus ticket. After that, Castleman was not seen until Dec. 26 in Georgia, where he used a fake alias and refused to cooperate with law enforcement.

"Anthony Castleman's DNA

was found in and on grandma," Nix added, referring to the DNA results of the investigation.

The jury also heard an opening statement from Castleman's defense, the mother-daughter team of Kristina Lynn and Katrina Lynn of Lynn Law Office in Wabash.

Kristina Lynn said the case was a "rush to judgment by police" and a "conspiracy to frame Anthony Castleman" in her opening state-

(Continued on Page 2)

## Ossian Town Council signs fire agreement

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Ossian and Jefferson Township will have a fire protection agreement for 2025, with Ossian's Town Council officially signing an agreement in a special meeting Tuesday.

Ossian and the township will each pay approximately \$122,000 for fire protection. Town Council member Josh Barkley stated that this agreement ultimately is what they asked for and that equipment purchases will be jointly owned

by both entities. The agreement will only last for one year while discussions continue about 2026's needs.

"From listening to some previous meetings we're going to start talking about this pretty quick," Barkley said.

Some clarification on budget processes was requested of the council from Carolyn McCoy. McCoy and Clerk-Treasurer Angie Ealing discussed Jefferson Town-

(Continued on Page 2)



Glen Werling, left, and Dennis Ealing both sign the fire protection agreement between Ossian and Jefferson Township (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

## Board of Works acts on four bids

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Three bids were accepted by the Board of Works — with an additional bid being opened — for various issues and projects including trash pickup, riverbank stabilization, downtown pathway maintenance and snow removal from parking lots.

Republic Services bid for trash and recycling pickup for four years, with rates starting at \$20.22 per household in 2025 and rising to \$23.41 per household in 2028. No other bids were received by the board, with mayor's assistant Brenda Jackson reviewing Republic's bid before an official decision.

The riverbank stabilization project for the Rivergreenway will be performed by Isch Excavating, who had the low bid at \$145,000, almost \$4,000 less than the next highest bid. Minnich Lawn Service was awarded both the downtown pathway maintenance and snow removal bids. Minnich's prices are \$37,900 per year for downtown pathway maintenance and \$85 to \$225 per parking lot cleared, depending on lot size and the amount of snow. Minnich will also charge a \$100 hourly rate for snow removal.

A transfer of funds within the Animal Shelter's budget was also approved. Police Chief Kyle Randall requested a transfer from various line items including office supplies, garage and motors, emergency animal care, communication and travel and training. The miscellaneous supplies line item will receive \$1,500 and \$2,200 will be appropriated to utilities. Randall noted that the Animal Shelter budget was completed in May of last year, and that the transfer was needed due to significant inflation last summer.

"We were caught behind the 8-ball with that," Randall said. "If it was 2023 I think we would be OK."

The board also approved a road closure request from Habbeger's Ace to close down West Washington Street from Jersey to Indiana Streets. Habbeger's is planning to do concrete work in the main lot area from 5 a.m. to 9 a.m. on Wednesday. Street Commissioner Tim Simpson stated that he made the schools aware of the closure and that the closure is needed so trucks can have room to pump the concrete in.

A work change directive was (Continued on Page 2)



### Halloween comes to town

Skeleton decorations are out in full swing in Bluffton. For a list of local trick or treating times see Page 3. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)

## UN: Israel must step in if it bans the UN agency

By EDITH M. LEDERER and JAMEY KEATEN  
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United Nations stressed Tuesday that if Israel puts in place new laws cutting ties with the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, the Israeli government will have to meet their needs under international law.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres says there is no other U.N. alternative to the agency, known as UNRWA. It has been a lifeline during the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, and the Israeli legislation "will have a devastating impact on the humanitarian situation" in the Palestinian territories, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

The U.N. agencies for children, health and migration also stressed that UNRWA is the "backbone" of the world body's operations in Gaza, where people rely on emergency food aid during the more than yearlong war, which has killed tens of thousands and left much of the enclave in ruins.

The United Nations is heartened by statements of support

for UNRWA from all quarters and countries, Dujarric said, and "we would very much appreciate efforts by any member state to help us get over this hurdle."

Israel has alleged that some of UNRWA's 13,000 staff members in Gaza participated in the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks by Hamas, which sparked the war in Gaza. It (Continued on Page 2)

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**Outside**

Don't blow away in this warm gusty day

Today	Thursday	Friday
High 80	High 70	High 57
Low 63	Low 40	Low 34

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# Investigator testifies

(Continued from Page 1)

ment. Lynn told the jury they would hear evidence regarding what officers found and how family members at the crime scene allegedly tainted the investigation. Lynn stated that police relied heavily on testimony from David Watson, Castleman's cousin, and called him unreliable and untruthful.

Cole was the first of four family witnesses to testify on Tuesday. Cole told the jury that she last saw her mother with her son, Castleman, on Friday, Nov. 10. Castleman was unemployed, did not have a car or cell phone, and had been living with Eubank at the time.

On Nov. 10, the three reportedly spoke about Eubank and Castleman buying a \$1,000 truck for Castleman in Fort Wayne on Saturday, Nov. 11. Castleman was also left for several hours at Cole's residence while Eubank ran some errands. Cole said Castleman briefly left during this time for unknown reasons and returned seeming "wired."

Cole said she had not called her mother the next day, knowing Eubank intended to "make a day of" the trip to Fort Wayne with shopping and dining out. Cole said she received a call around 10 p.m. on Nov. 11 and returned the next morning, Sunday, Nov. 12. The caller advised Cole that her mother's car was at Watson's house.

Cole said she called her mom and went to Eubank's home when Eubank didn't answer the call.

Cole reportedly found the house in disarray, with broken picture frames, items moved around and a large piece of the living room rug missing. She said she noticed a bottle with cigarette butts in it, as well as a small bottle of alcohol. She found it strange because Eubank did not allow either substance in her home.

Cole returned home to call her aunts, Eubank's sisters, Patsy Fields and Linda Browning. They also testified Tuesday.

Fields and Browning said they drove around to check the parking lots of local churches and the homes of cousins they thought Eubank may have gotten lunch with. Fields had also noted Eubank's absence after Eubank had not picked her up for church that morning.

Cole, Fields and Browning later walked around Eubank's property and noticed a large pile of debris behind a shed. Part of the living room carpet appeared to be in the pile and soaked with blood. Eubank's husband's urn, which Cole said Eubank was known to carry with her throughout the day, was also found broken with the debris.

Cole said that after calling local

hospitals, she called the police.

Fields was the second witness to testify and largely corroborated the events detailed by Cole. After staying the evening with her son, Billy Fields, in Huntington on Nov. 10, the two drove past Eubank's house on Nov. 11 and noticed Eubank's vehicle was not there.

Billy Fields took the stand after his mother to confirm the statement, adding that he also didn't see Eubank's car at the house on three more occasions passing the property. He said there appeared to be no activity on the property all day, but admitted that he had no way of knowing what had happened in between him passing the property.

Patsy Fields said after she received a call from Cole, she and Browning visited the property to find their sister. Fields said the house was locked, and the usual spare key was missing from under a rock. The pair walked around the property looking for Eubank.

Fields said she found a picture of her and her sisters with blood on it and carried it around with her while she walked around calling out for Eubank.

"If Linda hadn't told me to stop, I would have pulled back the rug and seen what was there," Fields began to cry on the stand. "I kept telling her, I know she's dead, she's dead."

Browning reiterated much of the same details told in Fields' testimony, adding that she noticed a "homemade aluminum pipe" on the front porch. Browning said that she stopped Fields from pulling back on the carpet after touching a box in the pile and realizing it was soaked in blood. She began to pull back various credit and debit cards from the pile.

A juror asked Browning what type of relationship she had with Castleman, to which she responded that their interactions were "not good" in the summer and fall of 2023. She attributed Castleman's reactions to conversations holding him accountable to getting a job and a place to live as the reason.

The state called four experts to the stand during the remainder of the day — Dr. Lindsey Emery, a private-practice forensic pathologist, Joyce Moss, a forensic nurse at the Fort Wayne Sexual Assault Treatment Center, Crime Scene Investigator Tim Dolby with the Indiana State Police, and Huntington County Deputy Coroner Eric Sands all testified to the details of Eubank's autopsy, manner of death and cause of death.

Emery said that Eubank had 36 stab wounds total: 13 to the head and neck region, 19 to the torso region and four wounds to the hand. Emery explained that the wounds were both incised and stab wounds, meaning that some

wounds were longer than they were deep, and vice versa.

Emery determined the stab wounds to be Eubank's cause of death and explained the differences between crime statistics that are available in movies versus real life. Emery pointed out several aspects she could not decipher, such as the exact time of death and the exact weapons or instruments used to commit the injuries.

"Anyone that says, 'They died five hours and 40 minutes ago,'" Emery explained. "That's bogus and actually, it is impossible."

Emery detailed the effects of the stab wounds, including injury to nearly all of Eubank's major organs. Emery advised that Eubank's head had multiple bruises and contusions consistent with a blunt-force injury.

Nix displayed a long series of graphic and disturbing images, to which the defense consistently objected. Judge Samuel Conrad continually overruled the objections.

When the first image appeared, showing a wound across Eubank's temple, Castleman quickly shut his computer screen off and began rubbing his temples. The graphic images appeared to disturb several jurors.

Moss took samples of potential DNA from Eubank's body for evidence and her findings were shared with jurors. Moss also said there was a red area on Eubank's genitalia that may have been normal for her or may indicate a sexual assault.

Dolby said he was called to Eubank's home around 4:08 p.m. on Nov. 12. A different series of photos of the property were shown, with Dolby explaining the contents of the images. In one picture, Dolby pointed out Eubank's shin under a pile of debris and lattice. In another photo, Dolby had photographed a picture of Eubank's blood-soaked sweater after it was removed from her body.

Dolby explained that DNA samples were taken from various areas of the crime scene and Eubank's vehicle. The defense pointed out that many of the DNA samples were never tested through a series of questions regarding their results.

Sands indicated Eubank's time of death at 6 p.m. on Nov. 12, which was when her body was located under the debris. He also explained, much like Emery, that real life is not fiction and some details simply are not known.

The trial is expected to continue at 8:30 a.m. today in the Huntington Circuit Court.

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# Weather

Wednesday, October 30, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:24 p.m. Tuesday)

High: 80; Low: 62; Precipitation: None  
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.16 feet at 8:45 p.m. Tuesday

## Wells County forecast

**Today:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 80. Southwest wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 63. South wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

**Thursday:** Showers and thunderstorms likely before 11 a.m., then showers and possibly a thunderstorm between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 5 p.m. High near 70. Breezy, with a south wind 20 to 25 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

**Thursday Night:** A 30% chance of showers before 8 p.m. Mostly clear, with a low around 40. West wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Friday:** Sunny, with a high near 57.

**Friday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 34.

**Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 62.

**Saturday Night:** A 30% chance of showers after 2 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 42.

**Sunday:** A 50% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 66.

**Sunday Night:** Showers likely. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 56. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

**Monday:** Showers likely. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 71. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

**Monday Night:** A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 58.

**Tuesday:** A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 71.

# Ossian council

(Continued from Page 1)

ship's cut, which goes into a miscellaneous revenue line item in its general fund. Ealing stated that protections are in place that prevents the money from going elsewhere, however. Additional discussions about informing the public of various details were also had, with the council encouraging people who are unsure of certain things to contact them personally.

Additionally, Town Attorney Mike Harper stated that

new information regarding a project referred to as the "downtown project" has seen new information from developers forwarded to municipal consultants. Harper stated that the town could close on that deal soon, and noted that this would require a special meeting on Nov. 18. Barkley said that a developer agreement is needed and that additional paperwork should be in order before that meeting.

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# Board of works

(Continued from Page 1)

approved by the board, with a 36-inch storm sewer underneath Bell Brook Court set to be lined. Utility

Director Jon Oman stated that the \$100,135 expense comes out of the work allowance for the project, leaving no cost to the city,

and that the lining will help stave off pavement deterioration problems. The board also approved two SRF pay requests, totaling \$45,376 to

DLZ and \$817,725 to James S. Jackson Construction for the wastewater plant project.

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# UN agency

(Continued from Page 1)

also has accused hundreds of UNRWA staff of having militant ties and said it has found Hamas military assets in or under the agency's facilities.

**Israel's new laws**

Two laws passed Monday could prevent UNRWA from continuing its work. Even the United States, Israel's closest ally, joined many governments and humanitarian organizations in opposing the legislation, which doesn't take effect for three months.

Guterres sent a letter Tuesday to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu outlining his concerns and "the issues of international law that have been raised," Dujarric said.

As an occupying power, under international humanitarian law, Israel is required to ensure the needs of the Palestinians are met, including for food, health care and education, the U.N. spokesman said. And if Israel isn't in a position to meet those needs, "it has an obligation to allow and to facilitate the activities of the U.N., including UNRWA and other humanitarian agencies, to meet those needs," he said.

"Should UNRWA cease to operate — and for us there is no alternative — Israel

would have to fill the vacuum," Dujarric said. "Otherwise, it would be in violation of international law."

Israel's U.N. Ambassador Danny Danon responded to the secretary-general's letter to Netanyahu by saying, "Rather than condemning UNRWA for turning a blind eye to terrorism and in some cases participating in terrorism, the U.N. instead condemns Israel."

He claimed in a statement that UNRWA isn't interested in providing humanitarian aid to Gaza, calling it "nothing but an arm of Hamas operating under the guise of the United Nations."

"Israel will continue to facilitate humanitarian aid in Gaza according to international law," Danon said, "but UNRWA has failed in its mandate and is no longer the right agency for this job."

**Dismay from U.N. agencies**

World Health Organization spokesman Tarik Jasarevic said UNRWA health workers have provided over 6 million medical consultations over the past year. They also have offered immunizations, disease surveillance and screening for malnutrition, and UNRWA's work "couldn't be matched by any agency — including WHO," he said.

Jeremy Laurence, spokesman for the U.N. human rights office, said that "without UNRWA, the delivery of food, shelter, health care, education, amongst other things, to most of Gaza's population would grind to a halt."

UNRWA was established by the U.N. General Assembly in 1949 to provide relief for Palestinians who fled or were expelled from their homes before and during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war that followed Israel's establishment, as well as their descendants.

**Israel faces criticism**

Timed to the Israeli laws passing, Norway announced Tuesday that it will ask the 193-nation General Assembly to request a ruling from the top United Nations court about whether Israel is obligated to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid to Palestinians by international

organizations, including the U.N.

"The Israeli government's policy is making it increasingly difficult for Palestinians to access life-saving assistance and basic services such as health care and education," Norway's foreign minister, Espen Barth Eide, told The Associated Press.

Meanwhile, at the U.N.'s regular Security Council meeting on the Middle East — this month open to all U.N. members — speakers supported UNRWA and virtually all called for immediate cease-fires in Gaza and Lebanon.

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield expressed deep concern at the Israeli legislation, saying, "right now there is no alternative to UNRWA when it comes to delivering food and other life-saving aid in Gaza."

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OBITUARIES

Carol Meyer, 70

Carol K. (McAhren) Meyer, 70, went to be with the Lord on Oct. 27, 2024. She and her husband, Rodney E. Meyer, have resided in Albany, IN for the past 34 years. Rodney survives.



Carol was born on Nov. 10, 1953, in Libertyville, Illinois. She was the oldest of three girls born to Leo and Luella (Warthman) McAhren from Adams County. Carol graduated from Adams Central in 1972 and worked at the Decatur Daily Democrat and Wayne Novelties until she married Rodney on Oct. 20, 1973.

Three days after their wedding, they began work together at Miracle Camp, near Lawton, Michigan. In 1980, Rod began a new job in Portland, Indiana. It was at that time that Carol decided to head to school for nurse's training. She completed her LPN training and went on to become a registered nurse. She started out as a homecare nurse and worked her way into an office RN position with Advantage Home Care in Muncie. She spent the next 33 years there until her retirement in 2022.

During her working years, Carol also volunteered as camp nurse at Miracle Camp. She also did several mission trips with Rod. She was also a member of the Berne Evangelical Church.

Besides her husband of 51 years, Carol has two surviving sisters, Joan Light (Tim) of Pleasant Mills, Indiana, and Becky Holeman (Brian) of Parker, Colorado.

Rod and Carol were never able to have natural children, but they found themselves with more children than they could count due to their ministry in the Dominican Republic. They legally adopted Yinet Meyer, Diana Meyer, and Selian, Isabel and Evelyn Reyes. Amaury Beltre is their oldest son. They also have three beautiful grandchildren, not including the 80 children in two orphanages. We could go on.

Visitation will take place at from 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 2 at the Berne Evangelical Church, 5481 S 450 W, Berne, IN 46711. The Celebration of Life Service will begin at 11 a.m. at the church with Pastor Bruce Rocke officiating.

Preferred memorials can be made by sponsoring a student or providing assistance to an orphanage through Helping Hands Unlimited, PO 111, Albany, IN 47320.

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

Konnie Sue Hyde, 60

Konnie Sue Hyde, 60, passed away Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024, at Lutheran Hospital in Ft. Wayne, following an extended illness.

Konnie was born in Bluffton, on Feb. 3, 1964, to Max E. and Julia G. (White) Hyde, both parents preceded her in death.

Survivors include two daughters, Kassie (David) Butler and Karrie Capper both of Bluffton; three grandchildren; three sister, Karen Hyde of Bluffton, Kathy Randall of Poneto, and Kim Hyde of Ft. Wayne; one step-brother, John Ellwood of Geneva; and one stepsister, June Ellwood of Hartford City.

In addition to her parents, Konnie is preceded in death by a step-brother, Greg Ellwood.

Receiving of friends will be held on Friday, Nov. 8, 2024, from 4:00 until 6:00 p.m. at Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel, a memorial service will immediately follow at 6:00 p.m. at the funeral home. Zach Hughett will officiate. Burial will take place at Elm Grove Cemetery at a later date.

Online condolences can be made to www.goodwin-calehamish.com.

Jack L. Decker, 93

Jack L. Decker, 93, of rural Bluffton, passed away on Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 29, 2024, at his residence.

Funeral arrangements are currently pending with the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

Sue A. McDonald, 82

Sue A. McDonald, 82, of Bluffton, passed away on Tuesday morning, Oct. 29, 2024, at Lutheran Hospital of Indiana.

Funeral arrangements are currently pending with the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

# Local trick or treating times

There are number of local opportunities for kids and families to celebrate Halloween on Thursday, Oct. 31. Door-to-door trick or treating will be offered in Bluffton from 5-7:30 p.m., Markle from 5:30-7:30 p.m., Ossian from 6-8 p.m. and Warren from 6-8 p.m.

Other events on Thursday include:

- Boo in Bluffton, downtown Bluffton: Dress in costume and visit participating downtown businesses and the City Gym from 5-6 p.m. Participating businesses on the outskirts of town will hand out treats from 6-7 p.m.
- First Church of Christ Trunk or Treat: 5:30-7:30

Obituary Policy

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

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

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

p.m. 909 W Spring St. in Bluffton.

• Christian Care Trunk or Treat: 6-7 p.m. at 720 E Dustman Rd.

• Teen Halloween Party: 6-7 p.m. at the main branch of the Wells County Public Library.

• Happy Harvest Goodie Grab: 6-8 p.m. at Ossian Church of the Nazarene, 302 N Metts St. in Ossian.

Norwell High School Show Choir Presents:

The 21st Annual Designer Handbag Bingo and Raffle Drawing

**When:** Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024  
**Where:** Norwell High School Cafeteria (Enter through Door 20)  
**Time:** Doors open at 9 a.m. 10 a.m. Games Start!  
 Snacks and Lunch available for purchase on site.  
**Tickets are available at the door.**  
 \$25 per ticket for 22 Games  
**Combined prize retail value exceeds \$7,000!**  
 Proceeds benefit Norwell Show Choir  
**Thank you for your support!**

# Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

**City:**  
 Friday, 2:21 p.m., Walmart. Report of theft.

Saturday, 8:36 a.m., Main and Wabash streets. Two vehicle accident.

Saturday, 10:52 a.m., 500 block of West Central Avenue. Two vehicles parked the wrong direction.

Saturday, 11:15 a.m., 1100 block of West Washington Street. Parking problem.

Saturday, 11:21 a.m., 1200 block of Hollyhock Lane. Juvenile issue.

Saturday, 6:11 p.m., Washington Park. Citation issued to owner for dogs running at large.

Saturday, 9:23 p.m., Walmart. Report of theft.

Saturday, 9:49 p.m., 600 block of Beth Avenue. Dog attacked another dog.

Sunday, 6:41 a.m., Main Street and 250 N. Vehicle off roadway, appears to have struck something and been left.

Sunday, 8:07 a.m., 2190 Commerce Drive. Report of a homeless individual sleeping inside the bathroom.

Sunday, 9:04 a.m., Walmart. Report of an individual asking for money. Advised of no solicitation policy.

Sunday, 1:42 p.m., Lancaster Elementary School. Officer reported large amount of water flowing from a pump in the grass.

Sunday, 6:42 p.m., Main Street and Capri Court. Individual riding bike in the middle of the road. Spoke with subject about traffic laws.

Sunday, 7:05 p.m., Lowe's. Byron Hutchins arrested on warrant.

Monday, 11:30 a.m., Bluffton High School. Student cited for possession of a vape.

Monday, 3:36 p.m., Walmart. Report of theft.

Tuesday, 7:51 a.m., Strickland Brothers 10 Minute Oil. Driver cited for

expire plates.

Tuesday, 11:30 a.m., 100 block of North Oak Street. Report of dog bite.

**County:**  
 Saturday, 1:59 a.m., 300 W and 800 S. Abandoned vehicle.

Saturday, 9:07 p.m., 1481 W 100 N, Bluffton. Car vs. deer.

Sunday, 6:53 a.m., 100 E and 1050 N. Broken down vehicle. Towed.

Monday, 12:54 a.m., Wells County Jail. Ali Souleimane turned himself in on warrant.

Monday, 6:35 a.m., 3487 NW S.R. 116. Car vs. deer.

Monday, 8:21 a.m., Main Street and Center Drive. Abandoned vehicle.

Monday, 9:57 a.m., Wells County Jail. Carlos Villablobos Peley turned himself in on warrant.

**Ossian:**  
 Friday, 6:36 p.m., 11169 N Meridian Rd., Ossian. Civil issue.

Saturday, 3:41 p.m., 1770

E 950 N, Ossian. Resident reported individuals riding dirt bikes and ATVs in her property. Issued trespass warning.

Monday, 7:19 a.m., Dollar General, Ossian. Two vehicle accident. Both vehicles towed.

FIRES

Sunday, 7:26 p.m., 1607 W 200 N. Report of black smoke in trees. Markle Fire Department responded. Fire under control at 7:53 p.m.

Monday, 7:34 p.m., 716 N Main Street. Structure fire. Liberty Township, Ossian and Bluffton fire departments responded. Fire under control at 7:55 p.m.

ARRESTS

Ali Issa Souleimane, 30, Fort Wayne; driving while suspended, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond not set.

Carlos Villablobos Peley, 31, Bluffton; operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond not set.

# SW announces high school honor roll

Southern Wells Jr.-Sr. High School has released the names of its students on the high honor roll and honor roll for the first quarter of the 2024-25 school year.

7th Grade

**High Honor Roll** — Josiah Bricker, Tenley Fiechter, McKynleigh Flowers, Laim Leas, Aubree Neuenschwander, Ellie Nichols, Harper Reynolds, Isaac VanDeman and Abigail Zaklikiewicz.

**Honor Roll** — Rowen Bennett, Parker Bryant, Savannah Daugherty, Ryker Engle, Elsa Franks, Randy Frauhiger, Alexander Gaskill, Ayla Grove, Rowyn Hartley, Trinity McClellan, Morgan Meyer, Carly Pease, Megan Schwartz and Tiffany Smith.

8th Grade

**High Honor Roll** — Gabriella Hoffacker, Gwyneth Howell, Kyan Johnson, Lyla Lyons, Sawyer McEvoy, Olivia Newman, Lucy Palmer, Amelia Penrod, Adelynn Robles and Grace Rockwell.

**Honor Roll** — Aubree Beavans, Brooklyn Blinn, Colton Caldwell, Landon Clifton, Madelyn Deel, Alaina Edmonds, Mack Frauhiger, Rylen Gates, Avery Geesaman, Cadence Haisley, Camryn Hamilton, Adelyn Heim, Chase Kirkwood, Logan Leas, Rylan Leas, Georgia McGalliard, David McMillan, Lyric McQueary, Aubrey Michael, Heath Miller, Jacob Miller, Kylie Peterson, John Schneider, Ella Schwartz, Timothy Smith, Logan Tarr and Brayden Williams.

Freshmen

**High Honor Roll** — Adam Aulbach, Harlie Durham, Madison Grover, Sophia Heckman, Olivia Kahn, Violet McClain, Addison Miller, Evelyn Peterson, Milee Rickard, Abigail Sawin, Laren Schneider, Lanilie Simpson, Drew Steffen, Cadence Watkins and Abrielle Zigler.

**Honor Roll** — Kaleb Boots, Kaylee Davis, Ellie DeWeese, Hunter Durham, Garrett Elzey, Lucy Fairchild, Hallie Frauhiger,

Mallory Gifford, Sevoa Harris, Kameron Hawkins, Mary Huffman, Bailey Jenkins, Sarah McFarren, Bryson Michael, Keely Miller, Adalynn Morrison, Marianne Pease, Alexis Pennington, Abbie Powell, Clayton Runkle, Mia Vanover, Allie Westfall and Kendal Zavattaro.

Sophomores

**High Honor Roll** — Joshua Aulbach, Cash Banter, Kyah Boots, Aliah Carroll, Gavin Howell, McKenna King, Carson Liddy, Sophia Meeks, Elisabeth Penrod and Kila Shelley.

**Honor Roll** — Kinley Allred, Jayda Brown, A.J. Bryant, Kaylea Coffel, Dirk Frauhiger, Timothy Hamilton, Miranda Holloway, Landon Johnson, Samantha Kahn, Sean McClellan, Aubree Meyer, Chanie Mounsey, Gunner Murray, Reagan Needer, Lillia Paxson, Catalina Ramirez, Delinda Schortgen, Emma Shepard and Bailey Trosper.

Juniors

**High Honor Roll** — Samuele Danieli, Peyton Ellis, Korbin Eltzroth, Jarin Frauhiger, Felipe Fuentes, Keith Gartin, Addison Gaskill, Shaylinn Geesaman, Lucas Goodrich, Jonathan McMillan, Emma Parks, Gracie Reeves, Adeline Sabinske and Emily Steffen.

**Honor Roll** — Sydney Alstoft, Kolbie Beavans, Laura Benbow, Peyton Bertsch, Chloe Enochs, Lexie Fiechter, Lilly Gartin, Caleb Gates, Jazlyn Gillum, Leeland Goodnight, Lucy Hayes, Danel Isasi Escudero, Kane Jenkins, Ronan Jump, Miley Martin, Isabella Maul, Miley Michael, Anthony Mills, Hayden Morgan, Trey Slusher, Audrina Stuller and MacKenzie Taylor.

Seniors

**High Honor Roll** — Ava Adkins, Hannah Armstrong, Lydia Baumgartner, Quinten Darling, Avery Gaskill, Alyssa

Green, Tyler Grover, Colter Kiel, Owen King, Ashlie Needler, Alaina Nusbaumer, Dominic Ramirez, Brandon Reed, Collena Reeves, Derek Rockwell and Nataleigh Zigler.

**Honor Roll** — Matthew Aulbach, Harley Barton, Aidan Carney, Colten Clark, Baden Craig, Maverick Floyd, Gillian Garlow, William Johnson, Bryce Kilander, Nickolas Lee, Hana McClain, Drayton Michael, Cohen Miller, Hallie Mounsey, Kenzie Paxson, Caroline Ripperger, Haidee Stet-

zel, Bryson Williams and Tucker Worster.

Fern Elizabeth Leman

Calling: 2 - 7 p.m. Thursday, October 31 at the funeral home and 9 - 9:30 a.m. prior to the service at the church. Service: 9:30 a.m. Friday, November 1 at Bluffton North Apostolic Christian Church.



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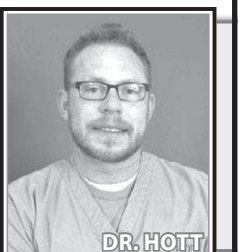
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## The mental health challenges among Indiana youth

A large share of Indiana's youth grapple with serious mental health challenges. Nearly half of high school students report experiencing depression, and what were already alarming rates of youth suicide attempts have increased. Behind these numbers are teens struggling in silence, families searching for support, and a lack of the resources to meet their critical needs. As mental health concerns reach new levels, it's clear we must act now to protect the future of our children. What is at stake is more than their mental well-being, but their ability to thrive in a world that increasingly feels overwhelming.



Tami Silverman

### Hoosier Opinions

Mental health is an essential component of overall well-being, influencing how individuals think, feel, and act. For young people, good mental health is critical for developing coping skills, building relationships, and navigating stress. Unfortunately, many Indiana youth face significant mental health challenges that, left unaddressed, may lead to long-term emotional and physical health issues. In addition to depression and suicidal thoughts and attempts, prolonged poor mental health is linked to increased risks for conditions such as heart disease, stroke, and diabetes, making access to early intervention and consistent support crucial for long-term wellness.

Recent findings from the 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) reveal the widespread nature of mental health struggles among Indiana high school students. Nearly half (47%) of students reported experiencing depression in the past year, a figure nearly identical to the 46.9% reported in 2021. Additionally, one-third of Indiana high school students reported experiencing poor mental health "most of the time or always," an increase from a rate of 30.7% in 2021.

More alarming is the increase in suicidal ideation and behavior. In 2023, nearly 1 in 4 Indiana high school students (23.6%) reported having made a plan to commit suicide, and more than 1 in 6 (15.7%) reported having attempted suicide, marking a rise from the previous year. These statistics highlight a disturbing fact: suicide remains one of the top three causes of death for Indiana children aged 10 to 19, and has for at least the past seven years.

Mental health challenges among Indiana youth are not experienced equally across all demographic groups. The 2023 YRBS found that female students are twice as likely to report poor mental health compared to their male peers, a trend also observed in previous years. This gender disparity is concerning, as it points to the unique mental health pressures faced by young women, pressures that are often compounded by societal expectations and experiences of discrimination.

LGBTQ+ students also face disproportionately higher rates of mental health challenges, suicidal thoughts, and suicide attempts compared to their heterosexual counterparts. These disparities highlight the need for mental health support systems that are sensitive to the unique experiences of young women and LGBTQ+ youth and can ensure their specific needs are met. Addressing these disparities is crucial to creating inclusive mental health care that supports all youth, regardless of gender or sexual orientation.

One of the biggest challenges to improving youth mental health in Indiana is the persistence of barriers to accessing care. The 2024 Mental Health America (MHA) report found that 2 in 3 (66.4%) Indiana youth who experienced major depression did not receive necessary treatment, an increase of 10.8 percentage points from the previous year. This lack of access is compounded by a shortage of mental health providers across the state. In 2023, Indiana had one mental health provider for every 500 residents, a modest improvement from the ratio of 530:1 in 2022, but still far behind the national average of 320:1. Furthermore, these ratios obscure that the location of mental health providers are not evenly spread across the state: the Indiana Department of Public Health reports that 91 of Indiana's 92 counties had a mental health provider shortage.

These challenges also impact parents and caregivers. The National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) found that 27.6% of Indiana parents reported difficulty accessing mental health care for their children in 2022, a rate higher than the national average of 24%. For families, this difficulty in accessing care can leave them feeling unsupported during critical moments in their children's lives. Without sufficient resources, many young people may fall through the cracks, facing worsening mental health without the help they need.

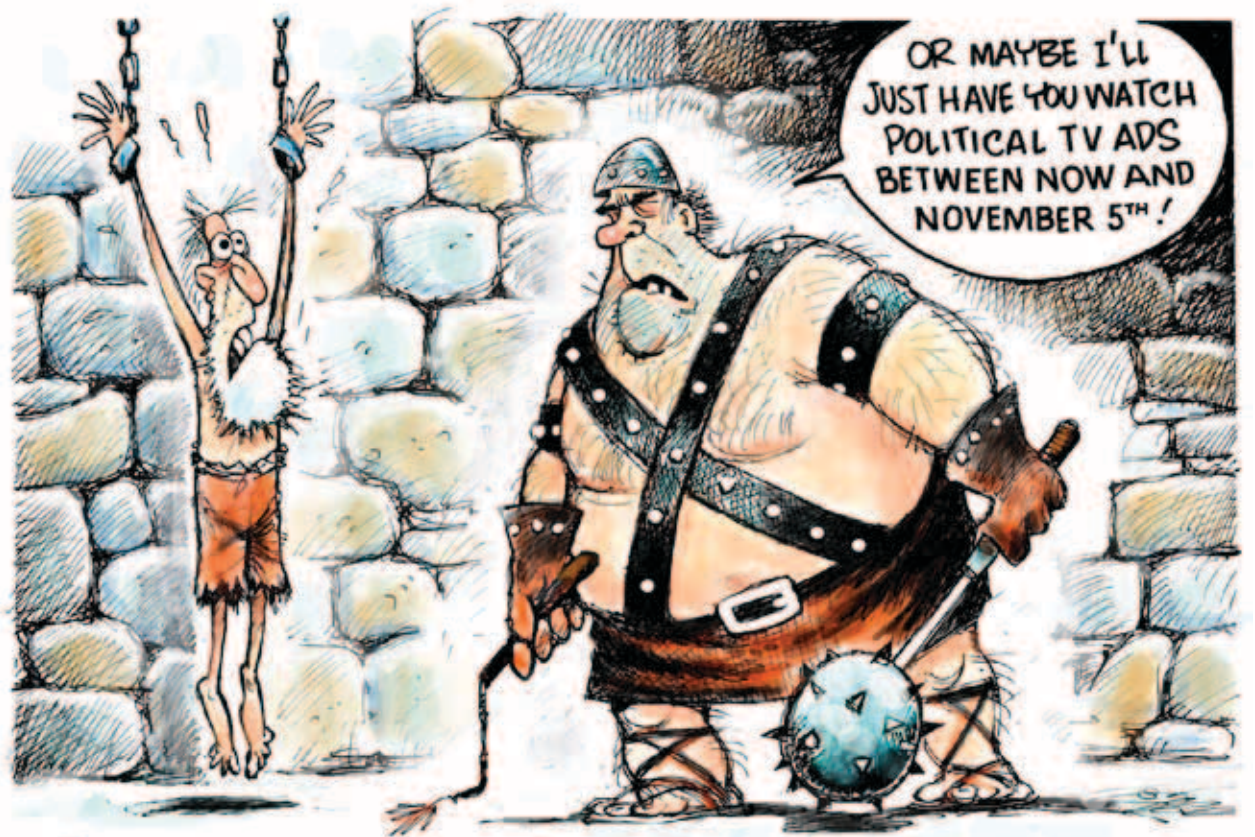
Schools and community groups in Indiana have an essential role to play in improving youth mental health access and outcomes. Prioritizing mental health training and capacity-building within these organizations can turn them into key partners in supporting young people's mental health and well-being.

One effective strategy is training staff to recognize the signs of mental health issues, trauma, and stress in young people. Programs like Youth Mental Health First Aid, offered by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, equip educators and youth workers with skills needed to identify mental health concerns early on. Another promising approach is implementing peer mentorship programs, where older or more experienced youth mentor younger peers. These programs provide a supportive structure for youth and positive outcomes for both mentors and mentees.

Promoting mental health literacy is another essential step. Youth-serving organizations can incorporate mental health education into their programming, teaching young people how to manage stress, practice self-care, and recognize the early signs of mental health issues. Mental health literacy helps reduce stigma, making it easier for young people to seek help when they need it most.

Addressing the mental health challenges faced by Indiana's youth requires a coordinated effort from schools, community organizations, families, and policymakers. By increasing access to care, promoting mental health literacy, and ensuring that support systems are in place, we can create an environment in which all young people have the opportunity to thrive. Together, we can build a future where every young person in Indiana receives the mental health care and support they need to lead healthy, successful, and fulfilling lives.

Tami Silverman is President & CEO of the Indiana Youth Institute. Distributed by the Indiana Capital Chronicle



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## Trump's ads on trans issues are effective. Harris has herself to blame.

It's hard to imagine a more niche issue than whether taxpayers should provide hormones and surgery for prisoners. A 2020 report from NBC found 4,890 transgender prisoners incarcerated in prisons across 45 states and D.C., a year in which 1.2 million people were incarcerated in state and federal prisons. Even if all of them had received surgery on the taxpayer dime (and the NBC report suggests that's far from the truth), it would be a rounding error in our total spending on inmates.

So it's kind of wild that the Trump campaign has posted on Instagram multiple ads attacking Kamala Harris using footage from a Transform the White House event in 2019, during which she talked up her efforts to secure surgeries for transgender prisoners. It's part of a broader ad blitz that Trump and other Republicans have been running on trans issues in the closing weeks of the campaign. The tagline of the Trump ads is that Harris's "agenda is they/them — not you."

Could this possibly be effective, wondered an account I follow on X. After I watched the ads, I think that yes, they are. Not because many Americans lie awake at night wondering whether they're paying for some prisoner's vaginoplasty but because they help fill a void that Harris created with her cautious early campaigning.

Harris started out with some severe handicaps: low favorability, an unpopular boss and a history of taking positions so far to the left of the average voter that even her supporters tend to assume they're conservative propaganda. The favorability problem has been mitigated with a charm offensive, but the other issues remain because Harris hasn't given voters much to counteract them beyond a résumé and some vaguely aspirational language. I suspect that's one reason her campaign seems to be flagging with the remaining undecided voters.

She could have addressed those problems head on by distancing herself from unpopular policies of President Joe Biden and from her own past pronouncements. Instead she tried to elide these deficits with a soft-focus campaign that seemed designed to avoid taking unpopular stands. Any backtracking was often accomplished by sending aides out to quietly spread the word.

That's understandable. Throwing Biden under the bus would have raised administration hackles in the party, and if you try to explain why you're abandoning your previous ideas, you'll probably have to explain why you supported them in the first place. There's some risk that in the course of executing such a hard pivot, you'll bobble an interview, creating a viral moment that makes things worse. So the Harris campaign adopted a strategy of "least said, soonest mended." It shunned journalists who might have asked inconvenient questions and crafted a message that was mostly vague uplift: Harris grew up middle class, she's pragmatic, she loves America and small businesses and working families.

There's nothing wrong with these platitudes, which

are the verbal equivalent of a navy suit and red tie: attractive, inoffensive and ubiquitous. The problem is that like the navy suits, they are not distinctive and do not convey a sense of the person underneath the uniform.

Her supporters had no trouble conjuring an exciting figure from these wisps of sentiment. Kamala Harris was brat. She was the meme queen. She was joy. But if you were trying to figure out why you should vote for her — not just against Trump but for her — she hadn't given you much to work with.

Voters want to know who politicians are. They know the 87-point policy plan will likely be changed or abandoned once in office, so they want to understand how politicians think and what they care about because that tells them what compromises politicians are likely to make and how they might react in unforeseen crises.

Donald Trump has given voters a clear picture of who he is and what he's likely to do in office — a grimly unrepresentative picture but at least one in sharp focus. Harris remains fuzzy by comparison. A former Obama official told the New Yorker's Evan Osnos that his current firm spends tens of thousands of dollars every month on lobbyists and yet "all these fancy-pants people, former members of Congress, nobody can tell me conclusively what she believes about anything."

The Harris campaign is asking swing voters to trade the devil they know for someone who seems less chaotic but also harder to read. Undecideds who aren't content to fill in that hazy picture with memes about coconut trees will look for clues not in the heartwarming pabulum of a stump speech but in what Harris has done and what causes she's associated with.

For Harris, many of those cues are liabilities: She's a California liberal associated with an unpopular administration. In a September New York Times poll, voters were significantly more likely to see Harris as too progressive than to see Trump as too conservative.

If that's what you're worried about, this ad is tailor made to reinforce your worst fears. Here is a picture of a convicted murderer; there is Harris bragging about how hard she worked to get prisoners surgery and about using "the power that I had" for "pushing forward the movement, frankly, and the agenda."

Of course, you can argue that this is the only humane policy and that the ads are ugly and harsh. Which they are. But you have to be in a pretty thick political bubble not to understand that sex-reassignment surgery for murderers will strike a lot of people as insane. Though it probably isn't an issue that many people vote on, it will make them wonder what other unpopular interest-group agendas Harris might push forward if they give her power. And because Harris hasn't given them much sense of who she is and what she wants — other than the presidency — it's hard for them to know where she'll draw the line.

@asymmetricinfo



Megan McCordle

## What's wrong in our nation?

As we move to the conclusion of this election cycle, there seems to be only one thing about which all Americans agree. That is, that something is very wrong in our nation.

In the latest Gallup polling, only 22% say they are satisfied with the direction of the country. The highest this has been over the last 16 years was 45% back in February of 2020. So, despite change in party control over these years, the sense that something is wrong in the country has persisted.

More in the framework of this election, only 39% say they are better off than they were four years ago, and 52% say they are not better off.

Most Americans do not even have confidence in the sources where they get their news. Only 31% say they have a great deal or fair amount of confidence in mass media. The first time Gallup asked this question, back in 1972, 68% expressed confidence in mass media. A record high percent of Americans, 80%, say the country is "greatly divided" on the most important values.

In a New York Times/Siena College poll, only 49% say "American democracy does a good job representing the people." And 76% say "American democracy is currently under threat."

All agree that something is wrong,



Star Parker

but no consensus emerges about what exactly is the problem.

Is it possible to put a finger on what is causing the cynicism and disillusionment that grips the psyche of our nation? My view is the problem is the drift of the nation from its founding principles. To put it another way, we have no choice about whether we have faith or belief. But we do have choice about what it is we believe.

The dramatic change that has taken place in America is the uprooting of the Bible as our starting point for right and wrong. We have exchanged our faith in God for a faith in government.

In 1950, Gallup reports 0% of Americans said they have no religion. By 1970, this was up to 3%. And by 2023, this was up to 22%. Over this same time, in 1950, the federal government consumed 14.2% of our GDP. The estimate from the Congressional Budget Office is that in 2024, that percent will be 23.9%.

The preamble to our Constitution explains its purpose is "to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity." Our Constitution was not presumed to be the source of our freedom. We are already free by virtue of, as noted in the Declaration of Independence, of being created thus by our

God. Our Constitution was designed to limit interference by government in the ability of free, God-fearing men and women to live their lives as they see fit.

The guideline for behavior, for right and wrong, is that which is transmitted to us from our Creator through the Bible.

Under this reality, America grew and became great. However, success brings the sin of pride, and we begin to attribute our success to our cleverness rather than our faith and personal responsibility. As increasing numbers of Americans have turned away from God, they have turned more to government.

The sad paradox is that as Americans turn to government, they abrogate the very freedom that the founders envisioned government's role to secure. The result is less economic growth, breakdown of the American family and disappearance of children. Growth of government, growth of federal debt and no children is no formula for a country with a future.

I believe this is what Americans are sensing and what is producing all the negative feelings and pessimism.

We must return to the vision of our founders. A free nation, under God. And a Constitution that secures "the blessings of liberty." Short of this, although we may experience ups and downs, the nation will not realize its great potential.

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# Halloween memories are influenced by childhood

As I was driving in the countryside on a beautiful fall day last week, I was struck by the different ways people express their views on Halloween. After deep thought, I have divided their responses into four categories.

The first category is the "I can't get enough of Halloween" syndrome. The symptoms are very evident. The front yards of these individuals are literally a carpet of decorations. Some type of a mechanical device

that towers over your neighbor's house is mandatory. It can be a twelve-foot skeleton, a screeching zombie, the Grim Reaper, or a gauze-laden faceless creature from beyond. Gravestones are a must. Let's not forget that random boney hand clawing its way out of the ground. Only the very brave is rewarded with a treat that often resembles a body part. The symptoms begin to appear in late summer and are in full bloom by October 1. Another tell-all indication is that the decorations stay up well past the actual holiday. There is no cure for this syndrome, the only hope is an understanding spouse that allows this obsession to continue.



Kathy Schwartz

The second category is "Halloween is great, but I don't want to scare anyone" group. This yard is filled with cleverly carved pumpkins, corn stalks, and cute cartoon characters. Ghosts made from putting a sheet over the kid's basketball and placing it on the tomato cage dutifully stand on guard at the doorway. The decorations appear ten days before Halloween and are quickly replaced by Christmas lights on November 1. This house is a target for little trick or treaters that giggle with delight at the hostess greeting them in her fluffy dog costume. The treats come in individually wrapped packages.

The third category is a group of people that love fall and all the things that it brings but choose not to recognize the holiday. Their yard is filled with pumpkins of various sizes, gourds of various colors and shapes, bunches of Indian corn, and the mandatory "Welcome Fall" sign in the front yard. The bushes are lit with twinkling orange lights and the walkway to the front door is lined with orange, yellow, and red votives. A person just gets a warm fuzzy feeling simply by looking at this yard. Trick or treaters gleefully skip to the front door to receive their treats.

The final group doesn't want to



have one thing to do with Halloween. Their yard is barren, even of fallen leaves, and their porch light is NEVER on. They scoff at the other three groups, pointing out the

obvious waste of money and time that has been spent marking the holiday. They often use the excuse of saving children's teeth as a reason for not having candy to hand out.

No matter which group you belong to, Halloween continues to be celebrated. I often think back to my childhood and how it influenced my opinion of Halloween.

I grew up in a widespread rural area of Michigan. We were farmers as were all our neighbors. I never went trick or treating. My dad wouldn't allow his kids to go begging for candy from the neighbors. Our local school had a Halloween party. We would all congregate in the gym and dunk for apples, toss canning rings onto prize boards, and enjoy apple cider and fresh baked doughnuts. The highlight of the evening was the costume contest. This is where my love of Halloween was cultivated.

Halloween costumes were made, not store bought. My mother was a seamstress and would start early September creating our costumes. My big brother

always wanted to be a cowboy, so his costume required very little prep. He would strap on his capgun pistols and grab a rope from the barn. We would endure him saying "Howdy" a zillion times. My costume would require more thought.

The one year I remember the most is when I was 8 years old and I had set my heart on winning the "Most Beautiful" trophy in the contest. I told my mother I wanted to be a dancehall girl, just like Miss Kitty on Gunsmoke. Mom gathered up some taffeta materials and shiny bangles to create the most beautiful dress I had ever seen! I felt so glamorous and just knew the trophy would be mine. I arrived at the gym on cloud nine. The evening began with the parade of costumes around the gym as the panel of judges made their decisions.

As I paraded around the gym, in the corner of my eye I caught my best friend, Mary Jo. She was the type of girl that every class has. She had a face that would put a China doll to shame and black hair that flowed in the breeze. Her blue eyes were sparkling crystals, and her smile would light up the room. She was dressed as Little Bo Peep. She even had a stuffed lamb on wheels she pulled behind her. I was not deterred. I began to strut in my very best impression of a dancehall maid. I just knew that would win over the judges. My stomach tightened as

I waited for the winners to be announced. Imagine my heart as I heard the winner of the Most Beautiful Costume was Little Bo Peep. I wasn't totally disappointed because I won the Funniest Costume category. My mother sprang into action and quickly told me that the judges wanted to give me the most beautiful category, but they flipped a coin and Mary Jo won. The judges couldn't possibly let me go unrecognized, so they gave me the other category. I believed every word.

Now as a mother, I totally understand what my mom did. She gave her most beautiful daughter an explanation for a heart-breaking experience and kept her love of costumes and make-believe alive.

Here's the Thing: No matter how you feel about Halloween, there is probably a good chance that feeling developed from something in your childhood. We are a product of our experiences. Everyone is entitled to their feelings. That is what makes life interesting. And yes, I still watch Gunsmoke.

Editor's Note: This is one of a series of articles and opinions written by a group of retired and current teachers — Ken Ballinger, Billy Kreigh, Kathy Schwartz, and Anna Spalding. Their intent is to spur discussions at the dinner table and elsewhere. You may also voice your thoughts and reactions via The News-Banner's letters to editor.

## Huntington's Veterans Day Parade is Saturday

Huntington's 12th Annual Veterans Day Parade is this Saturday, Nov. 2 at 10 a.m. The parade route starts out on MacGahan Street, traveling on to Jefferson Street, West Park Drive and to Memorial Park for a short ceremony.

## Christmas on Broadway in Fort Wayne Nov. 22

The annual Christmas on Boardway on Fort Wane will be held on Friday, Nov. 22, 5 p.m. with the Boys & Girls Clubs to be highlighted.

The Concordia Lutheran High School Band will lead the parade down Broadway from Broadway and Creighton to the Broadway Plaza. The Colorado blue spruce tree in front of the Shine & Harden office building will be lit with 40,000 colored lights for the 20th year at 6

p.m., along with fireworks.

Other parade participants will include Icy, the Fort Wayne Komets mascot and hockey team, a sleigh, reindeer float and a vintage 1942 fire truck from the Firefighters Museum.

The Smokin Joe's Food Truck and Travelin Tom's Coffee truck will offer refreshments for purchase.

The event will be telecast over 21 Alive beginning at 4 p.m. on Nov. 22.

## Free music series at Plymouth Church in Fort Wayne

A series of free Sunday afternoon concerts has been announced for 2024-2025 to be held at the Plymouth Congregational Church, 501 West Berry St. in Fort Wayne.

Scheduled are the following:

Nov. 17 at 2 p.m. at Meridian Prall, mezzo

soprano who was winner of the 2024 Metropolitan Opera competition.

Dec. 15 at 4 p.m., A Christmas Concert with Canto de Corazon with Robert Nance and Cote Godoy co-directors.

Jan. 19 at 4 p.m. at Pilgrim Baptist Church, 1331 Gay St., Fort Wayne: We

Are the Dream commemorating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Musicians from both churches and Heartland Sings.

Feb. 9 at 2 p.m., Songs of Motherhood with Natalie Young (soprano) and Ashlee Bickley McCrory (mezzo) presenting a recital

exploring the triumphs and trials of early motherhood.

March 10 at 4 p.m., A keyboard concert of organ and piano (a celebration of 25 years of Robert Nance as director of music at Plymouth Congregational Church). More information at [www.plymouthfw.org/plymouth-music-series](http://www.plymouthfw.org/plymouth-music-series).

## 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 taken with the proceeds

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.

## 'Just a bunch of potters' sale and exhibition

This will be the 25th annual Holiday Pottery Exhibition and Sale, hosted by 10 area potters at the North Pointe Woods Club House on Nov. 1-3.

A Friday night reception will be held on Nov. 1, from 5 to 8 p.m. with hours on Saturday and Sunday to be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Participating potters, who plan to be on hand, are

Kimberly Rorick, Kristy Jo Beber, Steve Vachon, Sie Davis, Joseph Pelka, Matt Schroeder, Janelle Slone, Steve Smith and John and Angie Platt.

The North Pointe Woods Club House is located at 8202 Riveroak Drive in Fort Wayne. More information at <http://www.facebook.com/bunchofpotters>.

## Wagon Wheel productions

Current productions and the 2025 summer season for the Wagon Wheel Center for the Arts have been announced.

Miracle on 34th Street (musical) will be presented the weekends of Dec. 6-8, 13-15, 20-22.

To arrange for tickets check out wagonwheelcenter.org.

2025 Summer Season Joseph & the amazing technicolor dreamcoat: June 5-14; South Pacific: June 19-28; Sister Act: July 3-12; Steel Magnolias: July 17-26; Grease: July 31-Aug. 9.

## Art exhibits at 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.

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 about the gallery check out [acpl.info](http://acpl.info).

## Manchester University fall speaker lineup

Manchester University offers more than a dozen presentations in its Values, Ideas and the Arts (VIA) series for Fall 2024. Presentations are at 11 a.m. on Mondays in Wine Recital Hall at the North Manchester campus unless otherwise noted. Presentations are free and open to the public.

Nov. 4: Presentation to kick off Focus on Faith Week.

Nov. 11: A panel discussion with Manchester students and faculty on mental health issues. Their stories seek to inform, educate and empower as these challenges become increasingly

prevalent. Nov. 18: Diversity in the Workplace - Political Views.

Nov. 25: Janzin Cripe, owner of Chillz Ice Cream and Donuts in North Manchester, discusses entrepreneurship in a small town.

Dec. 2: Diversity in the Workplace - Interfaith.

Manchester's VIA programming broadens students' cultural experiences, enriches students intellectually and aesthetically, provides opportunities to experience the arts, promotes dialogue about ideas and values, and embodies in its presentations the values

expressed in the University Mission. VIA features speakers, musicians and dramatic performers from the University community, across the country and around the globe.

Manchester University, in North Manchester and Fort Wayne, provides vibrant and transformative student experiences. Learn more at [www.manchester.edu/about-manchester](http://www.manchester.edu/about-manchester).

### Online Directory

Check out these websites of local & area companies and businesses.

<a href="http://mrkoolheatingandair.com">mrkoolheatingandair.com</a>	<a href="http://dazeys.com/bluffton-in">dazeys.com/bluffton-in</a>
<a href="http://stefffinancial.com">stefffinancial.com</a>	<a href="http://genesispestservices.com">genesispestservices.com</a>
<a href="http://daniels-jewelers.net">daniels-jewelers.net</a>	<a href="http://abovebeyondrecon.com">abovebeyondrecon.com</a>
<a href="http://infarmbureau.com">infarmbureau.com</a>	<a href="http://jcsgaragedoor.com">jcsgaragedoor.com</a>
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Thoughts for Autumn

Dear Readers: Hope you are all having a lovely fall. Please see below some poems that help embrace the season.

"The Wild Swans at Coole" by William Butler Yeats

"The trees are in their autumn beauty, / The woodland paths are dry, / Under the October twilight the water / Mirrors a still sky; / Upon the brimming water among the stones / Are nine-and-fifty swans. / The nineteenth autumn has come upon me / Since I first made my count; / I saw, before I had well finished, / All suddenly mount / And scatter wheeling in great broken rings / Upon their clamorous wings ... / But now they drift on the still water, / Mysterious, beautiful; / Among what rushes will they build, / By what lake's edge or pool / Delight men's eyes when I awake some day / To find they have flown away?"

"Nothing Gold Can Stay" by Robert Frost

"Nature's first green is gold, / Her hardest hue to hold. / Her early leaf's a flower; / But only so an hour. / Then leaf subsides to leaf. / So Eden sank to grief, / So dawn goes down to day. / Nothing gold can stay."

"Sonnet 73" by William Shakespeare

"That time of year thou mayst in me behold / When yellow leaves, or none, or few, do hang / Upon those boughs which shake against the cold, / Bare ruin'd choirs, where late the sweet birds sang. / In me thou see'st the twilight of such day / As after sunset fadeth in the west, / Which by and by black night doth take away, / Death's second self, that seals up all in rest. / In me thou see'st the glowing of such fire / That on the ashes of his youth

doth lie, / As the death-bed whereon it must expire, / Consum'd with that which it was nourish'd by. / This thou perceiv'st, which makes thy love more strong, / To love that well which thou must leave ere long."

"Late October" by Maya Angelou

"Only lovers / see the fall / a signal end to endings / a gruffish gesture alerting / those who will not be alarmed / that we begin to stop / in order to begin / again."

"When You Are Old" by William Butler Yeats

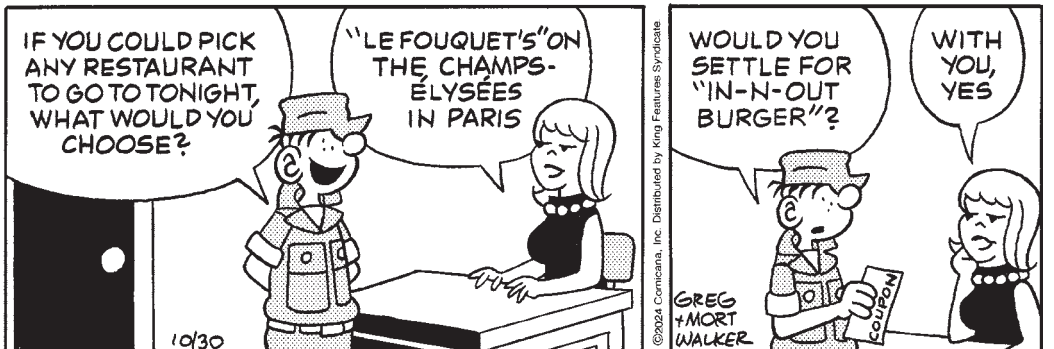
"When you are old and grey and full of sleep, / And nodding by the fire, take down this book, / And slowly read, and dream of the soft look / Your eyes had once, and of their shadows deep; / How many loved your moments of glad grace, / And loved your beauty with love false or true, / But one man loved the pilgrim soul in you, / And loved the sorrows of your changing face; / And bending down beside the glowing bars, / Murmur, a little sadly, how Love fled / And paced upon the mountains overhead / And hid his face amid a crowd of stars."

Annie Lane's second anthology — "How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" — is out now! Visit http://www.creatorspublishing.com for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. © 2024 CREATORS.COM

Dear Annie by Annie Lane



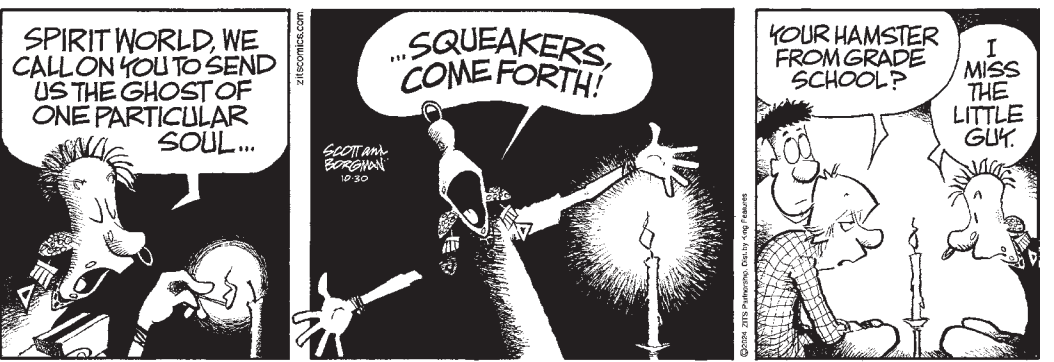
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My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



Every generation must be taught right and wrong

Question: My children are against teaching their children the importance of earning an allowance and contend that if parents love their children, they will want to give them what they want and need. This is certainly not how we taught our children; why do they refuse to pass on what they were taught? — P.R.

His son said to him, "Dad, I hate you and I want you to know why. I grew up never learning the responsibility of having to work for a living, of having to pay bills, or learning how to get through life. I never worked as a boy. You gave me everything on a silver platter. I suppose I should thank you for making it easy, but as an adult, you've made my life unbearable. I never learned how to make my own way like you did when you were young. I will always remember you talking about the Depression, the war, and the struggles your parents had to make ends meet. Why didn't you care enough to teach me what

you learned?" It is a sad commentary but one that is repeated over and over. It intensifies with each passing generation.

The Bible tells us to train up our children in the way they should go (see Proverbs 22:6). Scripture is the best resource to teach children about life. Training is preparation for the future. Parents should arm their children with truth from God's Word (see Deuteronomy 6:5-9).

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

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



The LOCKHORNS

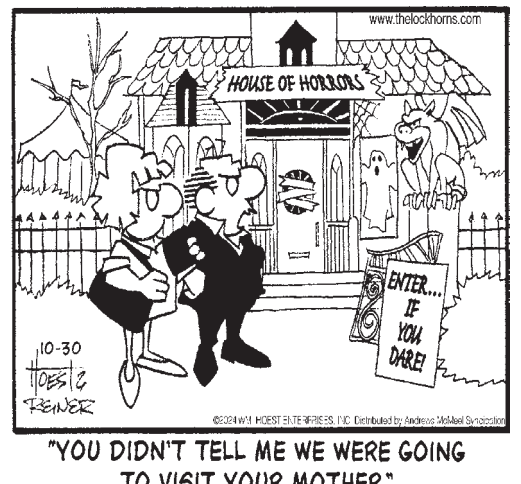


Table with columns for time slots (10:30, 11 AM, 12:30, etc.) and rows for various TV channels (WJLA, CBS, ABC, etc.) listing programs and their descriptions.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes a solution for 'Yesterday's answer 10-30'.

Grid for 'Yesterday's answer 10-30' crossword puzzle.

