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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2024

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## DNA evidence ties Castleman to murder victim

State continues argument in third day of Markle murder trial

By SYDNEY KENT & HOLLY GASKILL

During the third day of trial, testimony revealed that DNA evidence ties Anthony Castleman, 38, to the murder of his grandmother.

Castleman is charged with first-degree murder for the death of 72-year-old Bernice "Dianna" Eubank. Her body was found behind her rural Markle home on

Nov. 12, 2023.

Reviewing DNA evidence results took approximately two hours on Wednesday between analysis of the evidence and a lengthy cross-examination. The defense, mother-and-daughter team Kristina and Katrina Lynn, objected to the state using the results from the investigation as evidence, which Special Judge

Samuel Conrad overruled.

Dawn Combs, a forensic scientist with the Indiana State Police, presented a report of items submitted to her for DNA testing. Huntington County Prosecutor Jeremy Nix walked Combs through a series of questions intended to inform the jury of the many intricacies of DNA testing.

Combs said that in some cases, there is simply not enough DNA available to create a profile for comparison. This was the case for several pieces of evidence includ-

ing one hunting-style knife, a kitchen-style knife, a stained white shirt and two pairs of shorts.

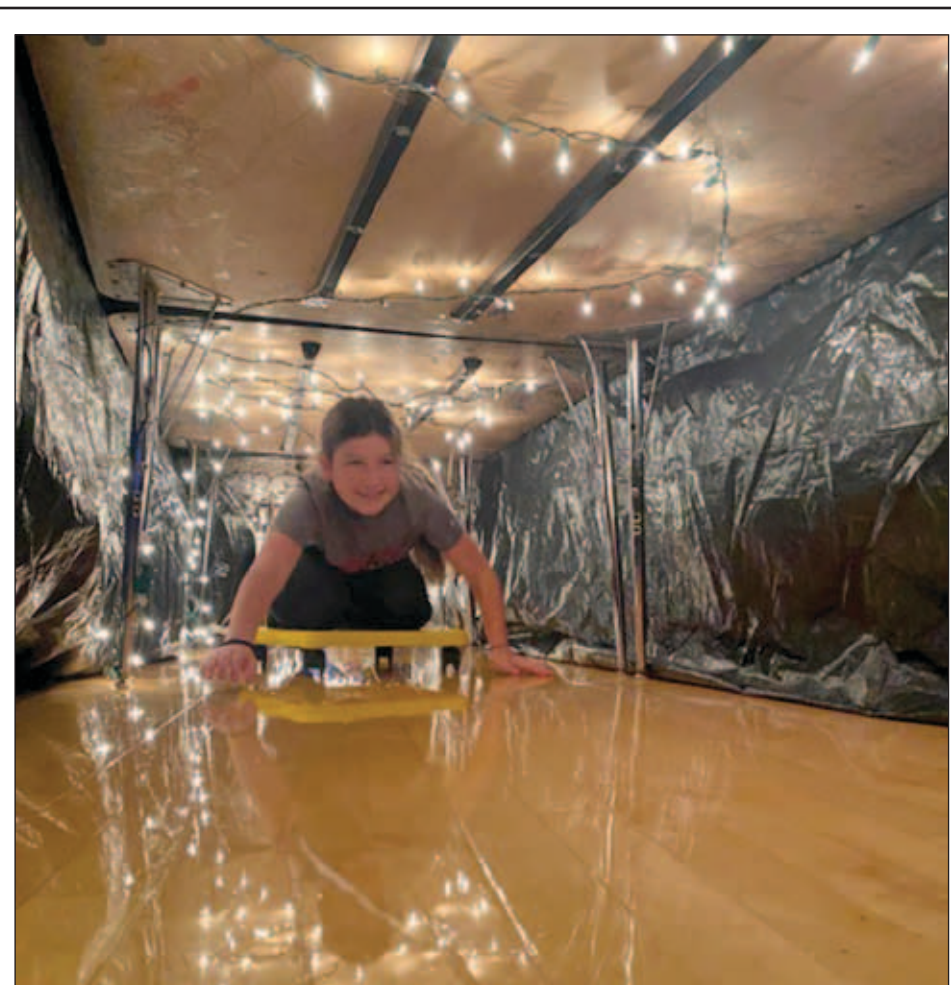
However, the following were interpreted to be positive results of both Castleman's DNA and Eubank's DNA: a swab from the inside of a pair of pants located in the debris pile where Eubank's body was located, a silver knife collected from the debris pile, an additional pair of jeans and a BIC lighter. Results for one chef's knife and an additional knife blade also strongly indicated the pres-

ence of Eubank's DNA.

Castleman's DNA, specifically sperm cells, were also reportedly located in the victim's cervical/vaginal swabs, in the internal and external genitalia, in vaginal scar tissue and on her lower back and inner thighs. Castleman's DNA was also located under Eubank's fingernails on her left hand.

Combs advised she received the items on July 31 and concluded the report on Aug. 30, a detail the defense mentioned several times.

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Southern Wells Fall Fitness Frenzy

During related arts classes at Southern Wells Elementary, students in kindergarten to sixth grade came to the gym to participate in the annual Fall Fitness Frenzy — used to practice sports and fitness skills that students have been learning during the first nine weeks of school. There were several different Halloween-themed stations such as the bat cave, haunted hula hooping, jack-o-lantern juggling, ghostly aerobics and others. At the end of the "Frenzy" each student received an apple. Pictured is fourth grader Zoey Boyer in the bat cave. (Photo submitted)

## Park Board requests pool funding from township

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Parks Department Superintendent Brandy Fiechter presented a request to the Harrison Township Advisory Board for help funding a new pool for Wells County.

During her proposal, Fiechter stated that the most pressing issue for the Parks Department is the community pool, clarifying that a recent survey showed a 98.96% of respondents supported the pool project. Fiechter stated that they are currently in the design process and that any funds from the township will be used as a local match for READI 2.0 grants, a program meant to focus on improvements to quality of place, life and opportunity. If accepted, the grant

will match 20% of the invested funds.

A recently signed interlocal agreement between the Parks Department and Harrison Township allows the township to invest funds at their choosing for certain projects.

Previous Park Board meetings mentioned that the pool attracted over 10,000 people during last year's season, despite major holidays being rained out. Fiechter also noted during budget meetings for Bluffton's Common Council, that the pool is nearing the end of its life cycle.

Harrison Township's board showed interest in helping fund the project. While the township board cautioned that interest does

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## Board of Works takes action on nuisance dog issues

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Significant action was taken by the Board of Public Works and Safety in two nuisance animal issues.

The first issue involved the Reynolds' residence in the 800 block on West Mulberry Street, where the board ultimately decided the dogs would be required to leave city limits within 30 days.

Animal Control Officer Kyle Morphew presented a shelter order for the dogs was required at the rental property, where the Reynolds family lives. While the shelter does meet compliance standards, the dogs continue to be cited for running at large. Morphew stated that multiple instances of running loose both inside and outside, with one as recently as Oct. 26, saw the need for action, plus statements, photos and video evidence from their neighbor.

"It would take someone opening it (the shelter) intentionally to let the dogs out from what I see," Morphew said. "They're still

getting loose (while) being in confinement."

The board found it difficult to believe that anyone outside of the Reynolds would be letting the dogs out of the area. While the Reynolds, who were not present, claim that their kids are letting them out of the shelter, Mayor John Whicker stated that the dogs are still their responsibility. Morphew additionally noted that the Reynolds have also had a track record of citations before coming to the city.

"I mean, you've got a video of the dog going right up to the window at their (the neighbor's) house," Board member Josh Hunt said. "I mean that's totally unacceptable. It's one thing if they are messing around in their own yard and running around, but when they're going to another property and being aggressive toward their house ... that would definitely be a nuisance. It's fine to blame the kids but it's still his responsibility."

(Continued on Page 2)

## State licensing program 'putting a dent' in shortage of special educators with 600 licensed

By ALEKSANDRA APPLETON  
Chalkbeat Indiana

This story was originally published by Chalkbeat. Sign up for their newsletters at [ckbe.at/newsletters](http://ckbe.at/newsletters).

After working at a summer camp for children with muscular dystrophy when he was 16, Andrew Bova knew he wanted to teach special education. But getting to the classroom would take some turns.

Bova enrolled at Ball State in 2012 to pursue an education major but did not pass a section of the PRAXIS test necessary to take upper-level courses. A retake led to similar results.

Taking the test a third time would mean delaying his graduation, so Bova chose a new major that led him to a career teaching preschool and then working with young adults and children in the Department of Child Services.

Still, Bova felt drawn to special education. That coincided with an urgent need for special education teachers after Indiana was found to be in violation of federal law for allowing teachers on emergency permits to teach special education.

The solution was I-SEAL, a program from the Center of Excellence in Leadership

of Learning at the University of Indianapolis that allows current teachers, including those on emergency permits, to get fully licensed in special education at no cost.

The program is funded by Indiana's federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief II funding and Part B of Indiana's Individuals with Disabilities Act funding, according to Indiana Department of Education spokesperson Courtney Crown.

And with the federal relief dollars expiring, the department plans to advocate for funding for teacher pipeline programs when the legislative session begins in January, Crown said in a statement.

More than 1,100 teachers have enrolled in the program, and nearly 600 have completed it since its inception in 2021.

That includes Bova, who had started teaching special education at Perry Meridian Middle School on an emergency permit.

The program allowed him to stay in the classroom while completing his licensing requirements — a major boon for school districts already struggling to hire special education teachers, said Dana Vittorio, director of special education at Perry Township schools.

(Continued on Page 8)

## U.S. economy grew at a solid 2.8% pace last quarter on strength of consumer spending

By PAUL WISEMAN  
AP Economics Writer  
WASHINGTON (AP) —

The U.S. economy grew at a healthy 2.8% annual rate from July through September, with consumers helping drive growth despite the weight of still-high interest rates.

Wednesday's report from the Commerce Department said the gross domestic product — the economy's total output of goods and services — did slow slightly from its 3% growth rate in

the April-June quarter. But the latest figures still reflect surprising durability just as Americans assess the state of the economy in the final stretch of the presidential race.

Consumer spending, which accounts for about 70% of U.S. economic activity, accelerated to a 3.7% annual pace last quarter, up from 2.8% in the April-June period. Exports also contributed to the third quarter's growth, increasing at an 8.9% rate.

On the other hand, growth in business investment slowed sharply on a drop in investment in housing and in nonresidential buildings such as offices and warehouses. But spending on equipment surged.

Wednesday's report also contained some encouraging news on inflation. The Federal Reserve's favored inflation gauge — called the personal consumption expenditures index, or PCE — rose at just a 1.5% annu-

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**Outside**

Thunder and lightning and rain, oh my

Today	Friday	Saturday
High 74	High 58	High 63
Low 38	Low 33	Low 42

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# DNA evidence

(Continued from Page 1)

Nix re-questioned the witness, clarifying that the time frame was sufficient for accurate work.

The state also called on eight law enforcement officers involved in the crime scene investigation — Detective Malcom Jones, Lt. David Jackson, Deputy Austin Smith and Deputy Tim Farthing from the Huntington County Sheriff's Department, Detective Matt Teusch, Sgt. John Petro and Forensic Scientist Sean Matusko with the Indiana State Police, and Huntington City Police Department Detective Darius Hillman.

Jackson said he was dispatched to the scene originally on a missing person and welfare check but called for backup due to the nature of the report. He said he attempted to handle it as he would those cases, addressing the family calmly and assessing the property. He then reportedly instructed people to the road to secure the crime scene.

Smith said he assisted in securing the scene and spoke with two elderly neighbors, who described "what they believed was a sighting of Castleman." Smith then secured the scene from the road until it was dismantled.

In cross-examination, the defense asked Jackson about the role of body cameras in the crime scene investigation. Jackson said body cameras were used unless muted while talking with other members of law enforcement. At a point where they "were standing around waiting for other resources to arrive," the cameras were turned off.

In describing the Markle property, Jones and Teusch noted the distinct bleach smell when they entered the house. Teusch also noted a broken urn near the backyard shed debris where the body was found. Teusch said the urn appeared to have ashes scattered in a tilled portion of land about 10-15 ft. from the body. Several members of Eubank's family identified this urn as her son's during testimony on Tuesday.

Teusch and Hillman also described speaking with David Watson, Castleman's cousin, on Nov. 12, who claimed Castleman had called 20 minutes earlier but Watson had deleted all call history. Hillman advised he did not

believe Watson was being truthful due to his manner of answering questions and mannerisms.

Watson was also brought into the courtroom in handcuffs to testify on behalf of the state. Nix immediately clarified with Watson that his charges were unrelated to the current case. Watson confirmed that he originally told police false information, including a detailed story about a vehicle that allegedly picked Castleman up from his home on Nov. 12.

Watson told the jury that Castleman drove to his house in an unknown car and asked him for bleach. Watson said Castleman then came with Watson and his teenage son on several errands before ultimately driving to Marion, Ohio, to visit a second cousin — Michael Chick. To Watson's knowledge, Castleman stayed in Ohio while Watson returned home later that evening.

The defense questioned why Watson was not initially honest with law enforcement, pointing out that he lied several times and indicating he was still being dishonest about knowing Castleman was driving his grandmother's car.

"I felt something was off and I didn't want to get in trouble," Watson said, also explaining that he knew his trip to Ohio was against the rules of his probation. One juror asked Watson if he and Castleman had any conversations about Eubank, which he denied.

Chick mainly corroborated the version of events told by Watson — the three traveled to McDonald's, Walmart, and back to Chick's house before Watson and his son left. From there, Chick said he took Castleman to a bus stop and purchased a ticket in Chick's name.

"I gave him the ticket," Chick recalled. "I told him I loved him and I hoped things worked out."

The two versions differed at one point — the defense asked Watson if he went to Chick's to purchase suboxone. Watson denied this, however, Chick confirmed the information. Chick also said that during this time, Castleman asked him what he would do if he "did something wrong." He reportedly responded that he would leave the area.

The defense used cross-examination

with Chick to prove to the jury that Watson knew Castleman was driving his grandmother's vehicle. In a statement to police, Chick advised that Watson said, "He just pulled up in his grandma's car." Chick denied saying this.

Natasha Harlamert also testified to seeing Castleman around 11:30 a.m. on Nov. 11, when he showed up at her home in Poneto. Castleman was reportedly smoking a cigarette on the porch, then stayed for approximately 15 minutes to catch up.

Harlamert said around 10:30 p.m. Nov. 11, Watson, also Harlamert's ex-brother-in-law, told her that Castleman had left a vehicle at his house nearby and Watson didn't know whose it was. Harlamert recalled seeing the vehicle earlier but thought it may have been Watson's mother. Watson reportedly told her he had called the Wells County Sheriff's Department who said it belonged to a "Bernice," and Harlamert didn't recognize the first name.

Harlamert said she called Tiffanee Cole, Castleman's mother and Eubank's daughter, that night to see if she knew about the vehicle, and Cole returned the call the following morning and told her it was Eubank's.

Multiple testimonies affirmed that Cole told law enforcement at the crime scene that Eubank's car had been seen in Poneto. Jackson reportedly called the Wells County Sheriff's Department to keep an eye on the vehicle, and the HCSD later searched it.

According to Teusch, two Nov. 11 receipts showed gas bought at a Shell gas station on Dupont Road in Fort Wayne and marijuana in Reading, Michigan. Photographs of Castleman at either location were later secured. Petro testified that he collected a pair of pants and Eubank's cell phone, case, and charger in a trash can, and a hunting knife beside Eubank's vehicle.

Before recessing Wednesday evening, Judge Samuel Conrad stated that the court intended to finish proceedings this week. Nix said he believed the state would conclude its witness testimony Thursday morning. The trial will reconvene today at 8:30 a.m.

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# Weather

Thursday, October 31, 2024

(24-hour observations at 11:31 p.m. Wednesday)  
**High:** 79; **Low:** 64; **Precipitation:** None  
**Wabash River Level** (at the Main Street bridge): 1.09 feet at 8:45 p.m. Wednesday

## Wells County forecast

**Today:** Showers and thunderstorms before 3 p.m., then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 5 p.m. High near 74. Breezy, with a south wind 20 to 25 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

**Tonight:** A 30% chance of showers, mainly before 7 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 38. West wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

**Friday:** Sunny, with a high near 58. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Friday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 33. Calm wind.

**Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 63.

**Saturday Night:** A 20% chance of showers after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 42.

**Sunday:** Showers likely, mainly after 2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 66. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

## Park Board

(Continued from Page 1)

not mean a commitment, they recognized the support for the pool and its benefits. With the current pool being 52 years old, some township board members recalled their experiences going to the pool as kids.

"Because you have fun amenities, it draws and attracts people to come to the facilities," Fiechter said. "Some of the other pools, even in smaller

communities, are maxing out within two hours of opening. If we have a lot more fun features we are going to definitely be a draw for economic development and community pride and activities for kids to do."

The township board will review the proposal and will send back their financial commitment, if any, at a later date.

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# Nuisance dog issues

(Continued from Page 1)

"He (Sawyer Reynolds) doesn't take responsibility for the dogs," Morphew added.

Since the dogs are already under nuisance orders, board member Scott Mentzer stated that the next level is to remove the dogs from the city limits. Morphew added that the board could further restrict the dog's ability to leave the property and could enforce a "beware of dog" sign. Hunt said that because of the multiple offenses and excuses, the dogs should leave.

"What else do we do?" Hunt asked. "If they can't even keep them in the house then that's probably where we need to go. If he's not willing to be accountable for the animals and all he has is excuses then I don't have an

issue with removing them. It sounds like he doesn't care either way, whatever happens he's always got a story. Meanwhile, the neighbors get terrorized. We have to let people know that if they don't care then we care and we're going to deal with that."

The second nuisance order involved Raven Haney's dog in the 700 block of Clark Street.

Morphew stated that Haney's dog was escalated to a nuisance animal on Sep. 19 after it attacked another dog and caused injury. On Oct. 9, Morphew reported that Haney's dog was picked up for running at large by animal control officers — it has been in the animal shelter's possession since.

Morphew added that he notified Haney on Oct. 15

that the dog was in their possession until Haney can comply with nuisance animal order standards. Additional phone calls on the Oct. 21 and 22 were left unanswered.

Morphew stated that the next step is an agreement to dispose of the dog because the shelter cannot continue to appropriate funds to feed it. Hunt and Morphew agreed that the dog would likely not be recommended for adoption, with Morphew adding that the dog is now attacking animals and is continually getting worse.

"This one's come up more than any other dog since I've been doing this," Hunt said. "Been going on three weeks now and no communication back."

The board made the decision to give Haney until

Nov. 15 to pick up the dog. If Haney does not pick up the dog it will be euthanized. Another letter will be sent to Haney to ensure that she understands the situation.

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# U.S. economy

(Continued from Page 1)

al pace last quarter, down from 2.5% in the second quarter and the lowest figure in more than four years. Excluding volatile food and energy prices, so-called core PCE inflation was 2.2%, down from 2.8% in the April-June quarter.

The report is the first of three estimates the government will make of GDP growth for the third quarter of the year. The U.S. economy has continued to expand in the face of the much higher borrowing rates the Fed imposed in 2022 and 2023 in its drive to curb the inflation that surged as the United States bounced back with unexpected strength from the brief but devastating COVID-19 recession of 2020. Despite widespread predictions that the economy would succumb to a recession, it has kept growing, with employers still hiring and consumers still spending. And with inflation steadily cooling, the Fed has begun to cut interest rates.

The report "sends a clear message that the economy is doing well, and inflation is moderating — good news for the Federal Reserve," said Ryan Sweet, chief U.S. economist at Oxford Economics.

Within the GDP data, a category that measures the economy's underlying strength rose at a solid 3.2% annual rate from

July through September, up from 2.7% in the April-June quarter. This category includes consumer spending and private investment but excludes volatile items like exports, inventories and government spending.

Other recent economic reports have also pointed to a still-healthy economy. In a sign that the nation's households, whose purchases

drive most of the economy, will continue spending, the Conference Board said Tuesday that its consumer confidence index posted its biggest monthly gain since March 2021. The proportion of consumers who expect a recession in the next 12 months dropped to its lowest point since the board first posed that question in July 2022.

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With the general election coming soon I thought it was a good time to share a little about myself.

I've been married to my high school sweetheart, Tim Andrews, for 48 years. We are blessed with 3 daughters & 7 grandkids. I was born & raised on a farm in Southern Wells County to Dean & Pat Mounsey. I previously worked in the Wells County Clerk and Treasurer's Office for 7.5 years and then 22 years at Southern Wells Community School as the Corporation Treasurer.

**Community engagement:** Southern Wells Community Church, CADA board, Solid Waste Board, Purdue Extension Board, SW Construction Trades board, Junior Achievement, Justice Reinvestment Advisory Board, Wells County Drug Task Force.

My expertise in government budgeting & finance makes me the right choice. Under my tenure, we've achieved significant milestones: new highway garage, jail renovations, and payroll matrix system implementation.

Firm believer in God, family, and country. Your support means the world to me. #Election2024



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OBITUARIES

Jack L. Decker, 93

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

He was born on April 20, 1931, in Wells County to Herman and Florene (Johnloz) Decker. On June 25, 1955, Jack and Mary Lou Williams were married in Bluffton.

Jack graduated from Lancaster High School in 1949. He was employed at Dana Corporation in Fort Wayne for 40 years, from where he retired in 1992 as a supervisor. He loved his farm and farmed for many years. He served as a Sergeant in the Marine Corp from 1950 to 1953. He was a member of the American Legion Post 111 in Bluffton for over 50 years. Jack attended Murray Missionary Church. He loved to golf and was a member of Green Valley Golf Club for many years. He coached little league and teen league baseball in Bluffton for many years. His family was his highlight and he was famous for his one-liners and his dry sense of humor, which kept everyone laughing.

Jack is survived by his wife of 69 years, Mary Lou of Bluffton; their daughters, Cara (Wes) Crickard of Markle and Sandy (Mike) Allred of Bluffton; and their sons, Dr. Jeffrey (Shuyan) Decker of Lincoln, California, and Timothy (Kathy) Decker of Fort Wayne; along with five grandchildren, Dr. Brooks (Dr. Heather) Crickard of Ithaca, New York, Tess (Bryan) Wight of Fort Wayne, Evan (fiancé Olivia Hoepfner) Decker of Fort Wayne and Jimmy and Ben Decker of Lincoln, California; and three great-grandchildren, Max Wight and twins, Charlotte and Elisabeth Wight of Fort Wayne. He will be remembered by his sister, Colleen (Al) Ringger of Bluffton; and a brother, Rex (Kris) Decker of Ossian.

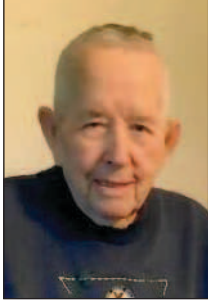
He is preceded in death by his parents and a twin brother, Jean Decker.

Visitation will take place from 10 a.m. to noon on Friday, Nov. 8, 2024, at the funeral home.

Funeral services will take place at noon on Friday, Nov. 8, 2024, at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton with Pastor Clark Stoller officiating. Military Honors will follow the service by the American Legion Post 111 Honor Guard and the United States Marine Corps Honor Guard.

Memorials 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 family at [www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com).



Sue A. McDonald, 82

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

Sue was born on Aug. 22, 1942, in Lebanon, Indiana, to Herman Edward and Martha Helen (Wickard) Antle. She graduated from Lebanon High School in 1960. She then went to Ball State Teachers College, graduating in 1964 with a B.S. degree in Business Education. She furthered her education and received her Master of Arts degree in 1986 from Ball State. She worked as a Business teacher at Larkin High School in Elgin, Illinois, from 1964 to 1968. She was a substitute teacher for Southern Wells High School and Bluffton-Harrison M.S.D. from 1978 to 1982, before teaching Business at Norwell High School, Bluffton High School and retiring from Bluffton Middle School in 2003.

On Aug. 15, 1965, Sue and John Steven McDonald were married. The celebrated 59 years of marriage together.

Sue was a past member of Indiana Business Education Association, working on the Business Education Task Forces for the state of Indiana. She was a member of First United Methodist Church in Bluffton and a past member of Psi Iota Xi. Sue loved to travel, visiting Europe three times with her husband. She enjoyed her time at the lake property and their Florida property, where they bought a new boat. She could often be heard saying "We sure do love our new boat!" She was an avid Bridge player and loved to dance and truly enjoyed the monthly dinner dances at Bay Side Estates, where they lived in Florida. Sue was very interested in her grandchildren and their achievements.

Survivors include her husband, John of Bluffton; their children, Kimberly Kay (Bryon) Mayer and Jennifer Jo McDonald all of Bluffton, and Steven Thomas (Margaret) McDonald of Fort Wayne. She was a loving grandma to her six grandchildren, Kaitlyn J. Schriver of Portland, Oregon, Bryson Mayer and Kiersten Mayer both of Bluffton, Madilyn, Aaron and Reid McDonald all of Fort Wayne. She will be fondly remembered by her sister, Mary Jolene "Jo" (William "Buck") Smith of Kokomo; a sister-in-law Joan Antle of Glenn Arbor, Michigan; and a cousin, Jim Antle of Cambridge City, Indiana.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Herman and Martha and her brother, Richard Antle.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, Nov. 3, 2024, from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton, and for one hour prior to the service on Monday.

Funeral services will be held on Monday at 10:30 a.m. at the funeral home with Pastor Cindy Osgood and Tony Garton officiating. Burial will follow at the Garden of the Chimes in Elm Grove Cemetery in Bluffton.

Memorials may be made to Special Olympics or St. Jude Children's Hospital and may be directed to the funeral home.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends may send online condolences to the family at [www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com).



Southern Wells FFA

On Oct. 12, Southern Wells FFA had six members compete at the state soils contest. Southern Wells FFA had two junior participants, David McMillan and John Schneider, compete as individuals. David McMillan placed 31st, and John Schneider placed 58th individually. The chapter also had one senior team competing: Jonathan McMillan, Bryce Kilander, John Osborn and Reagan Needler. The team placed 24th in the state competition out of 61 teams. Pictured (left to right) are Jonathan McMillan, John Osborn, Reagan Needler, Bryce Kilander, David McMillan, John Schneider and Damion Watters (coach and FFA Advisor). Not pictured is coach Andrew Pursifull. (Photo provided)

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:

Tuesday, 3:32 p.m., Silver and Bond streets. Child and adult reportedly climbing over train, and train couldn't move until area was checked. Area cleared and train was able to move on.

Tuesday, 4:14 p.m., Extreme Auto. Physical altercation. Parties separated.

Tuesday, 4:44 p.m., 1800 S Main Street. Report of a repeated problem with a homeless individual living in storage area.

Tuesday, 6:08 p.m., Kroger. Report of musicians playing loudly. Warned of noise ordinance.

Tuesday, 8:12 p.m., Wells County Food Bank. Caller reported individuals were walking around and pulling on door handles in parking lots. Subjects said they were getting an alignment on their vehicle and wanting to make their vehicle was locked.

Tuesday, 11:47 p.m., Airplane Express. Drunk driver.

Wednesday, 6:38 a.m., Wiley Avenue and Indiana Street. Citation issued for driving while suspended.

Wednesday, 6:55 a.m., Walmart. Semi parking issue. Driver said he would move.

Wednesday, 7:08 a.m., Taco Bell. Traffic stop. Driver arrested for driving while suspended and ticketed for distracted driving.

Wednesday, 11:46 a.m., Wells County Lockup. Abandoned vehicle.

County: Monday, 7:24 p.m., S.R. 1 and 400 N, Bluffton. Car vs. deer. Deer put down.

Tuesday, 5:50 a.m., S.R. 116 and 100 N, Bluffton. Car vs. coyote.

Tuesday, 9:21 p.m., S.R. 218 and 500 E, Bluffton. Deer reported in roadway. Deer moved.

Ossian: Tuesday, 8:42 p.m., 5000 block of 450 E, Ossian. Resident reported some juveniles had set off security alarm on Sunday.

Tuesday, 10:40 p.m., S.R. 1 and 700 N, Ossian. Two vehicle accident.

ACCIDENTS

County: Thursday, Oct. 24, 8:17 p.m., C.R. 600 W near Jeff Road, Poneto. Jackson D. Collins, 17, Bluffton, was driving a 2013 Dodge Durango north on 600 W and struck a deer. Vehicle towed. Damage exceeded \$2,500.

Friday, 7:29 p.m., S.R. 3, Jackson Township. Jerod A. Reynolds, 33, Hartford City, was driving a 2020 GMC Sierra northbound on S.R. 3 and struck a deer. Damage exceeded \$5,000.

Monday, 7:28 p.m., S.R. 1 in Bluffton. Marisol Nunez Polanco, 28, Bluffton, was driving a 2020 Chevrolet Equinox southbound on S.R. 1 and struck a deer. Damage exceeded \$2,500.

Ossian: Monday, 7:21 a.m., Jefferson Street near Davis Road, Ossian. Reann Fortney, 63, Ossian, was driving a 2020 Kia Forte north on Jefferson Street and failed to a 2004 Chevrolet Silverado driven by David Reschly, 64, Leo, which had slowed to turn left. The Forte rear-ended the Silverado. Both vehicles were towed. Damage exceeded \$5,000.

FIRES Tuesday, 2:57 p.m., 2355 S 500 W, Decatur. Grass fire. Bluffton Fire Department assist to Adams County.

Tuesday, 3:51 p.m., 817 S Main St., Bluffton. Wires down.

Tuesday, 5:11 p.m., 11436 N S.R. 1, Ossian. Grass fire. Property manager said it was a controlled burn.

Wednesday, 12:45 p.m., 200 N and 500 W, Bluffton. Wires down.

ARRESTS

Calvin Cresp, 25, Bluffton; criminal mischief, a Class A misdemeanor, pickpocketing, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$6,500.

Patrick Warren Kelley, 53, Ossian; operating while intoxicated, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

Froylan Perez Hernandez, 29, Bluffton; operating a vehicle without obtaining a license, a Class C misdemeanor, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated - endangerment, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$2,000.

Adrian Dean Holman, 34, Fort Wayne; driving while suspended - prior, a Class A misdemeanor. Booked and released.

VISITATION & SERVICES

**Dorothy Louise Ernst-Maxey**  
Calling: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Friday, November 1.  
Service: 12 p.m.  
Friday, November 1 at the funeral home.

**Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home**  
308 W. Washington St.  
824-3850  
[www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com)

**Richard L. Bumgarner**  
Calling: 2 - 7 p.m.  
Friday, November 1 and one hour prior to the service.  
Funeral: 10:30 a.m.  
Saturday, November 2 at the funeral home.

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**Time:** Doors open at 9 a.m.  
10 a.m. Games Start!  
Snacks and Lunch available for purchase on site.  
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Obituary Policy

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

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

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

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## What to expect in your Wednesday News-Banner

This time of year has been colloquially called “spooky season” in pop culture, but you may find the evening of Nov. 5 more frightening than Oct. 31 this year.

There’s undoubtedly high tension with Election Day, even in the apparent mad dash of endorsements, ads and reminders to vote early. While I may not be able to calm any anxieties on that front, I hope to give a peek into what you can expect from your local election coverage.

If you’ve missed our early voting coverage, there is one contest for county elections and two for local school boards.

For the Wells County Council, Republican incumbents Vicki Andrews, Scott Elzey and Seth Whicker are challenged by Democrat Brian Hollingsworth and Independent Scott Burke. Norwell and Bluffton schools each have contests for their board of trustees — incumbent Trent White is opposed by Chris Koiner for Bluffton’s District 3 seat, and Cathie Peterson and Jeremiah Tomlin are competing for Angie Topp’s Lancaster Township seat on Norwell’s board. Candidate profiles and coverage of their forums are all available on our website.

The News-Banner will also have local results on our website soon after we receive them from the Wells County Clerk’s Office on Tuesday evening. If you’re Facebook savvy, we’ll include a link to results there too.

Wednesday’s News-Banner will have full local results and coverage of the candidates and state results. We’d hope to have presidential election results as well, but, results will very likely not be ready by our press deadline. We’ll have the most up-to-date coverage we can, as well as how Wells County voted in the presidential race.

Last week, Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales announced that over half a million Hoosiers had already voted, signaling a potentially high turnout this election. I’ve viewed this firsthand the last several weeks between visits to the Wells and Huntington courthouses, where there always seems to be at least one person casting their ballot.

If you’re like me and want to skip Tuesday’s lines, early voting is open today and Friday at the courthouse during regular hours and Monday until noon. Early voting is also available from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. today and Friday at Lighted Gardens and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at Presbyterian Church.

Election day voting is from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday at the 4-H Park, Presbyterian Church, Lighted Gardens, Zanesville Tower Life Center and Southern Wells Community Church. You can view items on your ballot, including the five public questions for Indiana, at indianavoters.in.gov. We’ll also re-run that information in Monday’s News-Banner.

Whether you’re excited, nervous or ready to get “spooky season” over with, it’s here. And just like Halloween, candy helps. See you at the polls.

holly@news-banner.com



Holly Gaskill



## In the Michigan Senate race, progressive baggage may be decisive

HOWELL, Mich. — Late afternoon at American Legion Devereaux Post 141, an hour northwest of Detroit. Flannel shirts, denim trousers and long-neck beer bottles. The flat-screen televisions are muted, “Judge Judy” on some, taped Red Wings hockey on others. The Republican candidate for the state’s open U.S. Senate seat, a veteran whose post this is, arrives accompanied by two U.S. senators.

Two percent of the Senate will exhort 14 voters to help make Mike Rogers their colleague. This is retail politics where small margins matter: Michigan was the most closely divided state in 2016 when it favored Donald Trump by 0.23 percent. In 2020, it was the third-closest (behind Arizona and Georgia) when it favored Joe Biden by 2.8 percent.

Rogers, 61, served in the Army, then became an FBI agent before winning (by 111 votes) a seat in Congress. There he served 7 terms, rising to chair the House Intelligence Committee. His opponent this year, three-term congresswoman Elissa Slotkin, 48, also has a résumé suited to this moment of national security crises: She has held policymaking positions in the Defense and State departments and in President Barack Obama’s National Security Council.

But Michigananders, like most Americans, are less interested in the darkening world than in inflation and immigration. The price of eggs and the porous southern border are seen as symptoms of social fraying.

Michigan’s numerous and largely anti-Israel Muslims are, however, interested in foreign policy. And 145,000 of them voted in 2020, when Biden carried the state by 154,000 votes. This community harbors sympathy for Hamas and fury against the Biden administration. Biden’s vice president worries about this — and it might trickle down the ballot to other Democrats.

In the 1980s, when the domestic auto industry hit hard times, Texans spoke of many arriving “black tag people” — job-seeking migrants with black Michigan license plates. Dark memories make Michigan unhappy about Democrats’ adoration of electric vehicles. In a notably defensive and tendentious ad, Slotkin says: “I live on a dirt road, nowhere near a charging station. So, I don’t own an electric car. No one should tell us what to buy, and no one is going to mandate anything.”

Last month, Slotkin voted against overturning an Environmental Protection Administration mandate that auto manufacturers reduce their fleet emissions so much that EVs must replace ever-larger portions

of gasoline-burning vehicles. Progressive policy is to eliminate such vehicles, not candidly, with legislation passed by democratically accountable representatives after public debate, but by stealthy bureaucratic fiats.

Manufacturing EVs requires fewer autoworkers than manufacturing internal combustion engine vehicles. EVs’ share of Michigan’s car market is 4.7 percent, lower than in 30 other states.

The Rogers-Slotkin race is probably a dead heat (within the margin of polling error) despite Slotkin’s 5-to-1 spending advantage — until now. The national Republican funding apparatus, hitherto focused on other Senate races, recently gave Rogers’s campaign a \$30 million infusion. Some of this will finance an ad that will begin raising an issue that is helping Republicans in several Senate races.

The Biden-Harris administration has changed bureaucratic regulations that interpret statutory language forbidding discrimination on the basis of sex, creating a basis for a civil right for transgender women (biological men, born male) to compete in women’s sports. As with EVs, Slotkin has voted against blocking this instance of progressivism promoted by bureaucratic-legerdemain.

It is progressives’ turn to experience a discomfort conservatives know too well. For years, many conservatives placated right-to-life constituents by endorsing extreme antiabortion policies: outlaw abortion, no exceptions; legalize it only during the first six weeks of pregnancy. Then, in 2022, the Supreme Court spoiled the fun by restoring abortion as a state voting issue, and those conservatives found themselves impaled on positions unpopular with majorities.

Now, progressives are experiencing comparable discomfort as conservatives publicize progressives’ fingerprints on the oblique bureaucratic maneuvers used to promote policies unpopular with non-progressives. Furthermore, after the Supreme Court’s decision, Michigan embedded abortion rights in the state constitution, defusing the issue. Politico reports that a July poll of Michigan women “found that majorities across age and party affiliation viewed abortion rights in the state as ‘decided’ rather than ‘still being determined,’” and the issue was “a distant fourth” among Michigan women’s voting motivations.

georgewill@washpost.com.



George Will

## Who’s Who

A continuing series on how to contact government officials

Here’s how to contact local State Legislators:

**State Senator Travis Holdman (R).** He serves all of Wells County as part of the 19th Senate District. Toll-free: (800) 382-9467. Direct: (317) 232-9400. Web page: [www.in.gov/S19](http://www.in.gov/S19) E-mail: [Senator.Holdman@iga.in.gov](mailto:Senator.Holdman@iga.in.gov)

**Rep. Matt Lehman (R).** He represents the majority of Wells County as part of the 79th House District: Nottingham, Harrison, Lancaster townships and the portion of Jefferson Township east of Ind. 1, including all of incorporated Ossian. Toll free: (800) 382-9841, Direct: (317) 232-9677. Web page: [www.in.gov/H79](http://www.in.gov/H79). E-mail: [H79@in.gov](mailto:H79@in.gov)

**Rep. Lorissa Sweet (R).** She represents all of Liberty, Union and Rockcreek townships and the portion of Jefferson Township west of Ind. 1, excluding incorporated portions of Ossian, as part of House District 50. Toll free: (800) 382-9841. Direct line: (317) 232-9651. Web page: [www.in.gov/H50](http://www.in.gov/H50). E-mail: [H50@in.gov](mailto:H50@in.gov)

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Oct. 31, the 305th day of 2024. There are 61 days left in the year. This is Halloween.

Today in history: On Oct. 31, 1984, Indira Gandhi, India’s Prime Minister for more than 15 years, was assassinated by two of her own security guards.

Also on this date:

In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed a proclamation making Nevada the 36th state, eight days before the presidential election.

In 1913, the Lincoln Highway, the first automobile highway across the United States, was dedicated.

In 1941, work was completed on the Mount Rushmore National Memorial

in South Dakota, begun in 1927.

In 1950, Earl Lloyd of the Washington Capitols became the first African-American to play in an NBA game; Lloyd would go on to play for nine seasons, winning an NBA championship in 1955 with the Syracuse Nationals.

In 1961, the body of Josef Stalin was removed from Lenin’s Tomb as part of the Soviet Union’s “de-Stalinization” drive.

In 1999, EgyptAir Flight 990, bound from New York to Cairo, crashed off the Massachusetts coast, killing all 217 people aboard.

In 2005, President George W. Bush nominated Judge Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court.

## Wrapping up ‘The Goblins are Coming’

Today, as costumes of Cinderella, ghosts, clowns, super-heroes and — scariest of all — politicians (remember those Nixon masks) walk the streets carrying bags to be filled with trick-or-treat delights, Angelkeep brings to a close an Angelkeep record. October’s column series, “The Goblins are Coming,” a mix of nature and Halloween’s approach, was the only five-part series in the 18-plus-year history of Angelkeep Journals.

Angelkeep also saved a summer’s delight for this finale to be published on Halloween Day. What better animal from nature could be focused on Halloween Day than one having the holiday as its namesake?

To add proof that the orange and black colors associated with Halloween have a history, it was Dru Drury in 1773 that named a dragonfly Halloween pennant. As full disclosure, its colors are orange and deep brown, but the dark often looks to the eye like black. The pennant half of the name came from the fact that its genus perch at the tips of plants and appear to wave like a pennant in the wind. As full disclosure of the facts, Halloween pennant was the common name. Drury named it binomially, *Celithemis eponina*.

Only deceased Latin linguists know what that name means. Latin zombies aren’t speaking.

Halloween pennant was the largest dragonfly of this genus. It’s a little like going to the pumpkin patch to pick the largest pumpkin for a Halloween jack-o-lantern. Like the orange ribs of the pumpkin, the Halloween pennant’s wing veins grew

## Angelkeep Journals

orange.

As another full disclosure element, Angelkeep found Halloween pennant at Ouabache State Park. It waved like a pennant on the grasses of Kunkel Lake, not on the edge of Angelpond. Angelkeep had yet to discover this Halloween dragonfly around the pond. That would be a “treat” greater than a King Size Snickers candy bar which also closely matched the colors of this dragonfly. Especially the Snickers Orange Pumpkin variety, or the Snickers Spooky Fun Size Halloween Candy.

Full Halloween disclosure: I’d rather have a Dairy Queen Snickers Blizzard.

Silver-spotted skipper butterfly found at Angelkeep came in a distant third for this Halloween Day column’s focus. It had dark brown and orange, like the Halloween pennant dragonfly. It added the ghostly white spot on the wings, but the brilliance of the orange on the dragonfly won the day.

Halloween costume parties of olden days always picked winners for scariest, funniest, most beautiful, but never “orangeiest.” “Orangeiest” became a fresh Halloween costume category for Angelkeep’s selection of its winner.

Second place went to the orange-coated triplets of a doe from the past summer. Each came complete with



Alan Daugherty

hundreds of spots of white. Their backs looked like an orange sunset filled with an abundance of full moons.

The Halloween pennant dragonfly has an ability different than many of its dragonfly cousins. It can fly in a rainstorm. It can even fly through a stiff wind. Its larger size may be a factor. It also has the intelligence to use its long wings to cover and shade its thorax when it rests in the hot sun.

Another reason for Angelkeep’s selection of Halloween pennant for this column’s focus to be published on Halloween Day includes the fact that the bright orange of the wings of this dragonfly, and the thin crispness of those wings, remind Angelkeep of a favorite snack. Doritos.

If you place two Doritos triangles, overlapping at a point, between your index and middle (naughty) finger, you somewhat create an image of a Halloween pennant. If you’ve been eating your Doritos for a few minutes, your fingers have taken on orange powder from the chips. A chip sticking out of the fingers on either side resemble dragonfly wings. Well, sort of. Use some imagination.

If you tell the other Halloween party-attenders you are pretending to eat a Halloween pennant dragonfly, then they will only think you are a bit looney. Your sinful gluttony for Doritos can be hidden better than any ghost behind a tombstone.

From Angelkeep: Trick-or-Treat, Smell my feet, Give me something good to eat. Have a boo-ti-ful Halloween.

Mr. Daugherty is a Wells County resident who, along with his wife Gwen, enjoy their backyard and have named it “Angelkeep.”

The News-Banner

(USPS 059-200)

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Holly Gaskill, Editor  
Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor



Moving on from close friendship

Dear Annie: I felt something was wrong with my closest friend for a while. She was my maid of honor but didn't have a shower for me. She also showed up at the wedding venue fully dressed and made up, when we were supposed to get ready together.

Weeks later, I said it was hurtful that no one had a shower for me. I asked her how she would feel if everyone ignored her upcoming 50th birthday, and she said she wanted to forget she was turning 50. But on the day, she had a party at a restaurant, posting pictures on Facebook and declaring her "BFF" threw the party.

Cut to that summer. When her daughter (whom I've known since she was 7) got married, she asked my husband and me if we would video the wedding, and we readily agreed. Weeks went by, and we heard nothing. Then she posted the wedding photos on Facebook.

I was hurt and surprised. I expressed this and she said her daughter found a college friend to do it for free. I told her I was thinking that this was our gift to her daughter, as no one ever mentioned payment nor did we expect one. I also said I was hurt that we were disinvited and she said, "You weren't disinvited because you were never invited."

I can't remember the last time we saw each other, although she lives 15 minutes away. She texts me about once or twice a month.

I want to say something, but it feels like a waste of time.

Should I just stop responding to texts entirely or tell her she's off the hook and doesn't have to keep up this pretense? — Hurt and Unsure

Dear Hurt: Of course you're hurt; a friend who once meant a lot to you is now distancing herself without so much as an explanation. If you hope to get closure, send her a message explaining you've noticed the changes

in your relationship and it seems that she no longer values having you in her closest circle. But if that feels like more effort than it's worth, taking a step back and allowing the friendship to naturally fade is a perfectly healthy option.

Dear Annie: My wife recently received a dinner invitation from her former brother-in-law to "talk about the old days." She is planning on going. I have seen them together a couple of times at weddings/parties, and it's obvious he has feelings for her. When I had told her in the past what I'd observed, she confirmed it by saying "she already knew that because he had sent her some romantic messages."

I'm not a jealous guy. I trust my wife. But I believe it's improper for her to go because it potentially is leading him on. What do you think? — Dinner Invitation

Dear Dinner Invitation: What's improper about her going is that she is a married woman and she knows this man is interested in her. Either attend the dinner with her, or ask her to decline the invite.

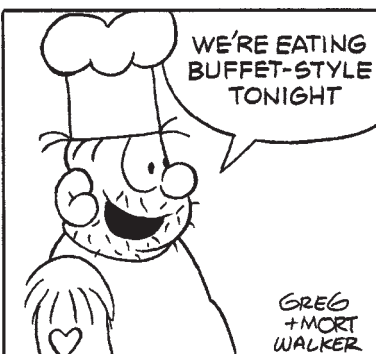
"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit http://www.creatorspublishing.com for more information. Send your questions for Annie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

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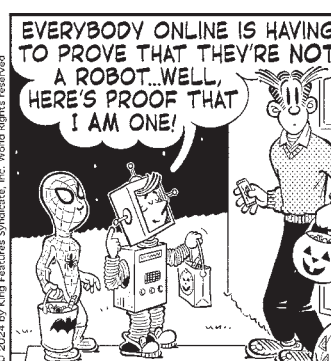
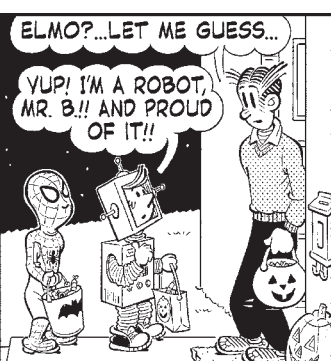
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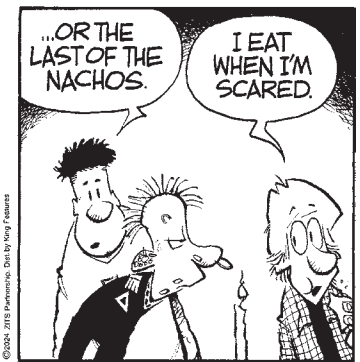
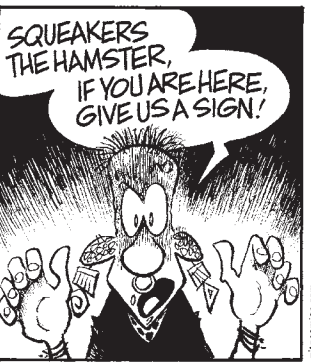
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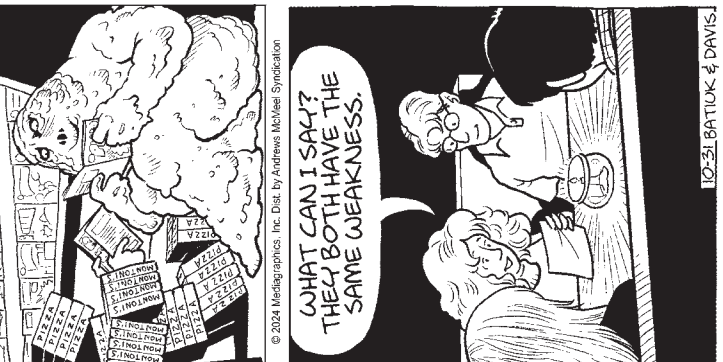
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My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



God wants to change us

Question: Technology is claiming the ability to read people's minds and it strikes fear. Yet the same people do not fear the absolute truth that God can and does read our minds, and most don't seem concerned at all. — F.E.

Answer: Our thoughts are the most reliable indication of what we are really like. And when we face our thoughts and our motives honestly, we have to admit we are not as good as we would like other people to believe.

One of the great truths in the Bible is that God wants to change us — not

only our outward actions but our innermost thoughts. He knows that when we do wrong it is because we have first allowed evil thoughts to control us. Jesus said that out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks, and the evil man brings evil things out of evil stored up inside of him (see Matthew 12:34-35). If we will ask the Lord to wash us clean of our sins, He will change us.

Imagine a bucket of stagnant water. The only solution is to empty it and clean it — and then fill it with fresh water. That is what Christ will do if we commit our lives to Him and let His Word, the Bible, fill our hearts with His truth.

"Let us draw near [to

God] with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water" (Hebrews 10:22, NKJV).

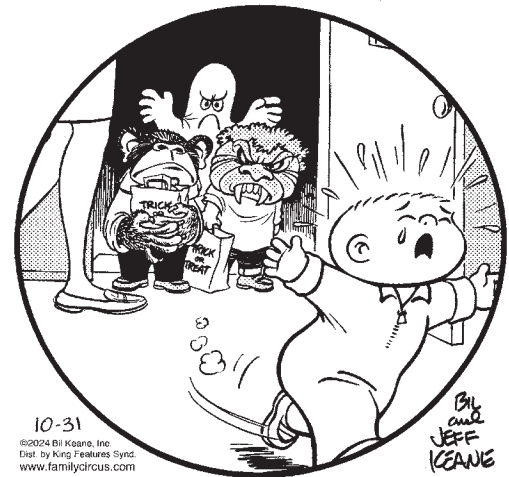
Two conflicting forces cannot exist in one human heart. When doubt reigns, faith cannot abide. Where hatred rules, love is crowded out. Where selfishness rules, there love cannot dwell. People's hearts, though small, are big enough for Christ to live in, if we will only make room for Him.

(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 24 columns (10:31 to 12:30) and 53 rows (WIMM to TMC) listing TV channels and programs.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Table with 11 columns and 53 rows showing crossword puzzle solutions.



# Dodgers win World Series in 5 games, overcome 5-run deficit to beat the Yankees

By RONALD BLUM  
AP Baseball Writer  
NEW YORK (AP) —

The Los Angeles Dodgers won their second World Series championship in five seasons, overcoming a five-run deficit with the help of three Yankees defensive miscues and rallying on sacrifice flies from Gavin Lux and Mookie Betts in the eighth inning to beat New York 7-6 in Game 5 on Wednesday night.



1960. With the Dodgers one out from losing Friday's opener, Freeman hit a game-ending grand slam reminiscent of Kirk Gibson's homer off Oakland's Dennis Eckersley in 1988's Game 1 that sparked Los Angeles to the title.

The Dodgers earned their eighth championship and seventh since leaving Brooklyn for Los Angeles — their first in a non-shortened season since 1988. They won a neutral-site World Series against Tampa Bay in 2020 after a 60-game regular season and couldn't have a parade because of the coronavirus pandemic.

These Dodgers of Ohtani, Freeman & Betts joined the 1955 Duke Snider and Roy Campanella Boys of Summer, the Sandy Koufax and Don Drysdale era that spanned the three titles from 1959-65, the Tommy Lasorda-led groups 1981 and '88 and the Betts and Clayton Kershaw champions of 2020.

Dave Roberts won his second championship in nine seasons as manager as the Dodgers, matching Lasorda and trailing the four of Walter Alston. The Dodgers won for the fourth time in 12 Series meetings with the Yankees.

New York remained without a title since winning its record 27th in 2009. The Yankees acquired Juan Soto from San Diego in December knowing he would be eligible for free agency after the 2024 Series. The 26-year-old star went 5 for 16 one RBI in the Series heading into intensely followed bidding on the open market.

Judge finished 4 for 18 with three RBIs. Cole didn't allow a hit until Kiké Hernández singled leading off the fifth. Judge, who an inning earlier made a leaping catch at the wall to deny Freeman an extra-base hit, dropped Tommy Edman's fly to center. Shortstop Anthony Volpe then bounced a throw to third on Will Smith's grounder, allowing the Dodgers to load the bases with no outs.

Cole struck out Lux and Ohtani, and Betts hit a grounder to Rizzo. Cole didn't cover first, pointing at Rizzo to run to the bag as Betts outraced the first baseman.

Freeman followed with a two-run single and Teoscar Hernández hit a tying two-run double. Max Muncy walked before Kiké Hernández grounded into a forceout on Cole's 48th pitch of the inning.

Stanton's sixth-inning sacrifice fly off Brusdar Graterol put the Yankees ahead 6-5, but the Dodgers rallied one last time in the eighth.

Aaron Judge and Jazz Chisholm Jr. hit back-to-back home runs in the first inning, Alex Verdugo's RBI single chased Jack Flaherty in the second and Giancarlo Stanton's third-inning homer against Ryan Brasier built a 5-0 Yankees lead.

But errors by Judge in center and Anthony Volpe at shortstop, combined with pitcher Gerrit Cole failing to cover first on Betts' grounder, helped Los Angeles score five unearned runs in the fifth.

After Stanton's sixth-inning sacrifice fly put the Yankees back ahead 6-5, the Dodgers loaded the bases against loser Tommy Kahnle in the eighth before the sacrifice flies off Luke Weaver.

Winner Blake Treinen escaped a two-on, one-out jam in the bottom half by retiring Stanton on a flyout and striking out Anthony Rizzo.

Walker Buehler, making his first relief appearance since his rookie season in 2018, pitched a perfect ninth for his first major league save.

"We're obviously resilient, but there's so much love in the clubhouse that won this game today," Betts said. "That's what it was. It was love, it was grit. I mean, it was just a beautiful thing. I'm just proud of us and I'm happy for us."

When Buehler struck out Verdugo to end the game, the Dodgers poured onto the field to celebrate between the mound and first base, capping a season in which they won 98 games and finished with the best regular-season record.

"There's just a lot of ways we can win baseball games," Buehler said. "Obviously the superstars we have on our team and the discipline, it just kind of all adds up."

Shohei Ohtani, the Dodgers' record-setting \$700 million signing and baseball's first 50-homer, 50-steal player, went 2 for 19 with no RBIs and had one single after separating his shoulder during a stolen base attempt in Game 2.

Freddie Freeman hit a two-run single to tie the Series record of 12 RBIs, set by Bobby Richardson over seven games in

# Police investigate traffic stop involving Lions' Jameson Williams

By LARRY LAGE and ED WHITE  
Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Police in Detroit are conducting an internal investigation after Lions wide receiver Jameson Williams was not locked up following a traffic stop despite the discovery of a gun under his seat that he didn't have a permit to carry, authorities said.

Chief James White was "very unhappy about the totality of the circumstances here," Commander Michael McGinnis told WXYZ-TV.

The gun was registered to Williams, but he does not have a concealed-carry permit, the TV station reported.

Without a permit in Michigan, a gun owner typically must place the weapon in a closed case while in a vehicle. A violation is a felony.

Williams was handcuffed and placed in a patrol car on Oct. 8. He was a passenger in a car driven by his brother, who had his own gun and a concealed-carry permit, WXYZ reported.

"I play for the Lions, bro. I'm Jameson Williams," Williams said, according to body-camera video obtained by the TV station.

He said he lives in Detroit and needs the gun for protection.

"I feel that there was probable cause to arrest, and he was under arrest by the patrol officer," McGinnis said. "And because of that, he should have been conveyed to the Detroit Detention Center and processed."

But Williams was released after a sergeant arrived and talked by phone with other

senior officers. The gun was also returned.

The traffic stop appeared to be closed until WXYZ began asking questions. The Wayne County prosecutor's office said it's now reviewing the case for possible charges.

"We just don't know at this point," prosecutor Kym Worthy said Wednesday at an unrelated news conference.

In a statement, the Detroit Police Department said: "Let it be clear: no one in the city of Detroit is above the law. Anyone who commits a crime will be held accountable, regardless of their position or status."

Williams' attorney, Todd Flood, suggested that no law was broken because Williams' brother had a concealed-carry permit that could cover both guns.

"We have cooperated with law enforcement and will continue to do so," Flood said.

Williams, a first-round draft pick in 2022, will miss this week's game against Green Bay as part of a two-game suspension for violating the NFL's performance-enhancing substance policy. He missed four games in 2023 for violating the league's gambling policy.

The team said it was immediately informed about the traffic stop.

"It certainly doesn't look good," coach Dan Campbell said when asked about Williams' latest off-the-field problem.

But Campbell also said he knows "what this kid is made of. He's worth hanging with."

"He's going to learn from this," the coach said, "and he's going to grow and he's going to be better for all this."

# Green Valley Golf League hosts Florida Scramble

The Green Valley Golf League participated in a Florida Scramble on Tuesday, taking advantage of a rare, high 70s weather in late October.

Steve Folk, Ron Blevins, Doug

Scher and Tom Nahlwold were on the winning team. The group shot a -5 on the day.

Rick Murphy had the closest to pin and the longest putt.

# High School Calendar

**THURSDAY, OCT 31**  
No events scheduled.  
**FRIDAY, NOV 1**  
FOOTBALL: (Sectional) Southern Wells at Triton, 7:30 p.m.  
**SATURDAY, NOV 2**  
CROSS COUNTRY (co-ed): (state finals) TBD at LaVern Gibson Championship Cross

Country Course, 12 p.m. for girls, 2:30 p.m. for boys.  
**MONDAY, NOV 4**  
No events scheduled.  
**TUESDAY, NOV 5**  
GIRLS BASKETBALL: Norwell at Tippecanoe Valley, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Northfield, 7:30 p.m.

# Fans interfering with Betts' catch banned from Game 5

NEW YORK (AP) — Two New York Yankees fans who were ejected from Game 4 of the World Series for interfering with Los Angeles Dodgers right fielder Mookie Betts have been banned from Game 5 on Wednesday night.

Betts leaped at the retaining wall in foul territory and caught Gleyber Torres' pop fly in the first inning Tuesday night, but a fan

in the first row with a gray Yankees road jersey grabbed Betts' glove with both hands and pulled the ball out. Another fan grabbed Betts' bare hand.

"Not good. There's no place for that. It's as simple as that," New York manager Aaron Boone said Wednesday. "Come here, cheer, root for your team, whatever. No place for that. Should never have hands on anyone."

# Chicago White Sox hire Will Venable as their manager

By JAY COHEN  
AP Baseball Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago White Sox have hired Will Venable to take over as manager, turning to the former big league outfielder to help turn around the team after a miserable season.

Two people with direct knowledge of the decision confirmed the choice to The Associated Press on Wednesday on condition of anonymity because the franchise hadn't announced the move.

Venable, who turned 42 on Tuesday, is stepping in for Pedro Grifol, who was fired in August with the White Sox on their way to breaking the modern major league record for most losses in a season. With Grady Sizemore serving as interim manager, the club finished with a 41-121 record.

Venable was an associate manager for



Will Venable

Texas for the past two years. He handled daily schedule items and outfield instruction as part of his duties with the Rangers, who won the World Series in 2023.

Venable played baseball and basketball while studying anthropology at Princeton. He was an all-Ivy League performer in each sport.

He was selected by San Diego in the seventh round of the 2005 amateur draft. The outfielder played for the Padres, Rangers and Dodgers in nine years in the majors, hitting .249 with 81 homers, 307 RBIs and 135 steals in 967 games.

After his playing career ended, Venable joined the Cubs' front office in September 2017 as a special assistant to baseball operations. He also was on the team's major league staff for three years, spending two seasons as the first base coach and one as the third base coach.



## NASCAR Cup Series Xfinity 500

**Site:** Martinsville, Virginia.  
**Schedule:** Saturday, practice, 1 p.m.; qualifying, 2:05 p.m.; Sunday, race, 2 p.m. (NBC).  
**Track:** Martinsville Speedway.  
**Last race:** Regular-season champion Tyler Reddick powered past Blaney on the final lap to win at Homestead-Miami and advance to the championship four.  
**Next race:** Nov. 10, Phoenix.

## NASCAR Xfinity Series National Debt Relief 250

**Site:** Martinsville, Virginia.  
**Schedule:** Friday, practice, 3:35 p.m.; qualifying 4:10 p.m.; Saturday, race, 4 p.m. (CW).  
**Last race:** Austin Hill grabbed the second spot in the Xfinity Series championship finale, racing to his fourth victory of the season.  
**Next race:** Nov. 9, Phoenix.

## NASCAR Truck Series Zip Buy Now, Pay Later 200

**Site:** Martinsville, Virginia.  
**Schedule:** Friday, practice, 1:35 p.m.; qualifying, 2:10 p.m.; race, 6 p.m. (FS1).  
**Track:** Martinsville Speedway.  
**Last race:** Grant Emfinger won his second straight race, this one coming in the round of eight at Homestead-Miami.  
**Next race:** Nov. 8, Phoenix.

## Formula 1 Brazilian Grand Prix

**Site:** Sao Paulo.  
**Schedule:** Friday, practice, 10:30 a.m.; Saturday, qualifying, 2:30 p.m.; Sunday, race, noon (ESPN).  
**Track:** Autodromo Jose Carlos Pace.  
**Last race:** Carlos Sainz Jr. won the Mexico City Grand Prix and Lando Norris closed the gap on Max Verstappen after another furious fight that cost the reigning three-time series champion three penalties and shaved 10 points off Verstappen's lead in the standings.  
**Next race:** Nov. 23, Las Vegas.

## IndyCar

**Last race:** Alex Palou claimed his second consecutive IndyCar championship and third in four years at Nashville Superspeedway.  
**Next race:** March 2, 2025, St. Petersburg, Florida.

## NHRA Drag Racing

**Last event:** Justin Ashley took the Top Fuel points lead, holding off Clay Millican in the final round to win the Texas NHRA Fall Nationals three weeks ago. Matt Hagan took the Funny Car title in Texas for a second straight year.  
**Next event:** Oct. 31-Nov. 3, Las Vegas.

## World of Outlaws Sprint Cars

**Last event:** Carson Macedo won in West Memphis, Arkansas, last Friday, taking the pole and then driving away after a late dustup with a lapped car. It was Macedo's 11th win of the season. David Gravel has a 74-point lead over Macedo. The Saturday event was canceled.  
**Next race:** Nov. 6-9, Concord, North Carolina.

# News-Banner Scoreboard

## FOOTBALL

### NFL

**Thursday, Oct. 31**  
Houston at N.Y. Jets, 8:15 p.m.  
**Sunday, Nov. 3**  
Dallas at Atlanta, 1 p.m.  
Denver at Baltimore, 1 p.m.  
L.A. Chargers at Cleveland, 1 p.m.  
Las Vegas at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.  
Miami at Buffalo, 1 p.m.  
New England at Tennessee, 1 p.m.  
New Orleans at Carolina, 1 p.m.  
Washington at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.  
Chicago at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.  
Jacksonville at Philadelphia, 4:05 p.m.  
Detroit at Green Bay, 4:25 p.m.  
L.A. Rams at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.  
Indianapolis at Minnesota, 8:20 p.m.  
Open: Pittsburgh, San Francisco  
**Monday, Nov. 4**  
Tampa Bay at Kansas City, 8:15 p.m.

## BASEBALL

### MLB

## WORLD SERIES

(Best-of-7)  
Los Angeles Dodgers win the series 4-1 over the New York Yankees  
Friday, Oct. 25 Los Angeles Dodgers 6, New York Yankees 3 (10 innings)  
Saturday, Oct. 26: Los Angeles Dodgers 4, New York Yankees 2  
Monday, Oct. 28: Los Angeles Dodgers 4, New York Yankees 2  
Tuesday, Oct. 29: New York Yankees 11, Los Angeles Dodgers 4  
Wednesday, Oct. 30: Los Angeles Dodgers 7, New York Yankees 6

## BASKETBALL

### NBA

**Tuesday's Games**  
Dallas 120, Minnesota 114  
Denver 144, Brooklyn 139, OT  
Sacramento 113, Utah 96  
Golden State 124, New Orleans 106  
**Wednesday's Games**  
Cleveland 134, L.A. Lakers 110  
Detroit 105, Philadelphia 95  
Charlotte 138, Toronto 133  
Washington 133, Atlanta 120

Indiana 135, Boston 132, OT  
New York 116, Miami 107  
Chicago 102, Orlando 99  
Brooklyn 119, Memphis 106  
San Antonio at Oklahoma City, late  
New Orleans at Golden State, late  
Portland at L.A. Clippers, late  
**Thursday's Games**  
Milwaukee at Memphis, 8 p.m.  
Houston at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.  
San Antonio at Utah, 9 p.m.  
Phoenix at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

## HOCKEY

### NHL

**Tuesday's Games**  
Anaheim 3, N.Y. Islanders 1  
Minnesota 5, Pittsburgh 3  
Philadelphia 2, Boston 0  
Seattle 8, Montreal 2  
Ottawa 8, St. Louis 1  
Washington 5, N.Y. Rangers 3  
San Jose 4, Los Angeles 2  
**Wednesday's Games**  
Columbus 2, N.Y. Islanders 0  
Winnipeg 6, Detroit 2  
Tampa Bay 5, Colorado 2



# The Classifieds

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**EARLY MORNING DRIVER** needed to deliver papers to post offices and stores in southern part of county. Must have reliable transportation. Call Natasha or Doug, (260) 824-0224, for more information.

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## Lottery Numbers

**Wednesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY**  
Cash 5 — 05-07-13-35-40

**Lotto Plus** — 05-06-09-10-11-33

**Cash4Life** — 09-16-38-42-55, Cash Ball: 03

**Quick Draw Midday** — 04-05-10-15-17-19-27-30-38-44-46-52-54-66-67-70-72-73-77-78, BE: 44

**Daily Three-Midday** — 09-04-07, SB: 07

**Daily Three-Evening** — 02-04-07, SB: 06

**Daily Four-Midday** — 08-04-03-05, SB: 07

**Daily Four-Evening** — 03-08-04-05, SB: 06

**Quick Draw Evening** — 07-12-13-14-15-23-31-34-35-37-39-42-44-45-48-53-63-66-78-79, BE: 78

**Hoosier Lotto** — 11-14-17-29-40-44

**MEGA MILLIONS**  
Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$281 million

**POWERBALL**  
13-22-29-43-58 Powerball: 22; Power Play: 3X

## SUDOKU

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

### King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★

10/31

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## Public Notices

### NOTICE

The Wells County Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals (PTABOA) will hold a meeting on Monday November 18, 2024. It will be in the Commissioner's room in the Courthouse Annex at 223 W Washington St. Bluffton, Indiana beginning at 9:00 am. The Board will consider appealed properties that have been filed and scheduled for this date.

Upon completion of the business at hand, the Board will recess sine die until the next scheduled meeting.

This is an open meeting unless private financial information of the appellant is being presented.  
oj, nb 10/24, 10/31  
hspaxlp

### NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION TO CREDITORS

**ESTATE NO. 90C01-2410-EU-000035**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WELLS COUNTY

Notice is hereby given that **SARA L. FIECHTER and MEGAN N. NUSBAUMER** were on the 16th day of October, 2024, appointed as Personal Representatives of the **ESTATE OF SHELLY L. REINHARD**, deceased, who died on the 16th day of September, 2024.

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

**DATED AT BLUFFTON, INDIANA, THIS 16th DAY OF October, 2024.**

Beth Davis  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA  
nb 10/24, 10/31  
hspaxlp

### NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

**DOCKET NO. 90C01-2410-EU-000039**  
OF WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA

Notice is hereby given that **MICHAEL D. GRAHAM and PATRICK W. GRAHAM** were on the 21st day of October, 2024, appointed co-personal representatives of the estate of **CAROLYN J. GRAHAM**, deceased, who died on the 27th day of September, 2024, and were authorized to administer her estate without Court supervision.

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

**Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, this 21st day of October, 2024.**

Beth Davis  
Clerk, Wells Circuit Court  
Matthew P. Hayes  
Attorney for Co-Personal Representatives  
Attorney No. 32002-02  
**GORDON & ASSOCIATES**  
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION  
119 East Oak Forest Drive  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
(260) 824-9377  
nb 10/24, 10/31  
hspaxlp

### 90C01-2410-EU-000036

STATE OF INDIANA )  
WELLS COUNTY )  
IN THE WELLS )  
CIRCUIT COURT )  
IN THE MATTER OF THE )  
ESTATE OF )  
CLARENCE G. COTTRELL, JR. )  
Deceased )

### NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that **KATHY JO GEISEL (f/k/a KATHY JO SCHRIVER)** was, on the 18th day of October, 2024, appointed personal representative of the estate of **CLARENCE G. COTTRELL, JR.**, deceased, who died on June 7, 2024, and was authorized to administer said estate without court supervision.

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

**Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, this 18th day of October, 2024.**

Beth Davis  
Clerk, Wells Circuit Court  
Timothy K. Babcock  
Attorney No. 21526-90  
**DALE, HUFFMAN & BABCOCK**  
30 Premier Avenue  
Bluffton, Indiana 46714  
(260) 824-5566  
Attorney for Estate  
nb 10/24, 10/31  
hspaxlp

### SUDOKU ANSWER

15/01						***	14/01	
8	7	8	9	7	6	8	1	9
8	7	6	7	9	1	9	8	7
9	1	9	8	7	8	7	6	7
8	6	7	9	9	7	8	1	
2	8	9	1	6	7	8	9	7
9	7	1	8	7	8	6	7	9
1	9	7	6	8	7	9	8	
7	8	9	8	9	1	7	6	
6	9	8	7	1	7	9	7	8

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Nov. deadline is Tues, Oct. 22!





Pictured from left are Lillian Norris and Youth As Resources Coordinator Courtney Ginter. (Photo submitted)

## YAR coordinator presents check to Itown Foster Ministry

Lillian Norris with the Itown Foster Ministry was recently awarded a \$500 Youth As Resources grant to carry out their project entitled "Foster Closet Fill Up". This project provides clothes, diapers and necessities to foster parents when they receive their foster kid placements at anytime during the day or night. Throughout the process, the group learned how to keep a budget, communicating as a group and the importance of getting involved in their community.

YAR is a program that recognizes youth as a valuable community resource. The program is governed by a youth/adult partnership responsible for awarding grants up to \$500 to other local youth organizations to design and carry out community service projects. To receive a grant proposal, contact Courtney Ginter at Family Centered Services (260-824-8574 or WellsYAR@yahoo.com) or visit www.fcs-inc.net.

## Special educators

(Continued from Page 1)

After completing his education through the University of Indianapolis in 2023, Bova expects to be a fully licensed special education teacher beginning next semester.

"I wanted to be a teacher to influence and make an impact. I'm finally here — it took a long round-about way to get to where I'm at," Bova said.

### 'Putting a dent' in teacher shortage

The I-SEAL program offers three tracks for individuals who are already in the classroom. They must have a teaching job at a district and agree to teach in Indiana for at least two years to enroll in the program.

Licensed teachers can add a special education endorsement through fully funded tracks at University of Indianapolis, Taylor University, or Indiana Wesleyan University. Individuals with bachelor's degrees can receive a full scholarship to a Transition to Teaching program, and other scholarships are available for students enrolled in a special education teacher preparation program.

The program is not currently open to people who don't have bachelor's degrees. But CELL Executive Director Carey Dahncke said developing a path to teaching for people who earned some college credits may be another way to fill teaching vacancies in the state.

"There's still a great need in Indiana," said Dahncke. "We're putting a dent in it, but we've still got a ways to go."

A recent presentation from the department said there hasn't been an "alarming" number of individuals leaving the education profession, but there are fewer aspiring teachers entering into and completing teacher prep programs.

At Perry, hiring has been getting incrementally better every year since the

pandemic, said Vittorio, the director of special education. This year, the district's special education teaching roles are 100% fully staffed — a first since before the pandemic, when many teachers chose to retire.

Still, she said it's a far cry from years that schools would receive 30 applications for every teaching position, she said. Statewide, there are 287 open special education teaching positions as of late October on Indiana's teaching jobs board.

Vittorio said the I-SEAL program has been critical to staffing; Perry schools has had eight teachers enroll in or complete the program. She encourages teachers to consider the program and earn their special education teaching licenses for free.

"Now we're a little more creative. We can find really talented people and help them get their licenses," she said. "It's not just benefitting the district but benefitting our kids, because those teachers help our kids meet their goals."

### Inside Bova's class at Perry Meridian Middle School

In Bova's self-contained classroom, he teaches students with disabilities such as autism and Down syndrome. On some days he helps them use wooden blocks, magnetic tiles, or shaving cream to write letters and words.

On Tuesday, he led them through a lesson on adjectives and inferences using mystery objects in four paper bags. The students reached in and offered descriptive words to help their peers figure out what was inside.

The lesson isn't just fun — students chanted "Dump it out!" as Bova prepared to reveal pumpkin seeds and paper clips — but serves a practical purpose for when the class

starts writing sentences next week.

Bova said that to this day, he applies lessons he learned through the I-SEAL program, like strategies to teach his students phonics and literacy. He also values the support of other educators in his cohort, who still talk and exchange ideas via group chat, he said.

Though it took him longer than expected to land a job teaching special education, he said all his previous experience helped him learn to advocate for his students, beginning with that first camp counselor role.

"It opened my eyes to what the day-to-day looks like for these kids and their parents, how vulnerable they can be, but what opportunities are available to them," he said. "It's about what they can do, not what they can't do."

Chalkbeat (chalkbeat.org) is a nonprofit news site covering educational change in public schools.

# Supreme Court's conservative justices leave in place Virginia's purge of voter registrations

By MARK SHERMAN and DENISE LAVOIE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)

— The Supreme Court's conservative majority on Wednesday left in place Virginia's purge of voter registrations that the state says is aimed at stopping people who are not U.S. citizens from voting.

One Virginian, whose registration was canceled despite living in the state her entire life, called the purge "a very bad October surprise."

The high court, over the dissents of the three liberal justices, granted an emergency appeal from Virginia's Republican administration led by Gov. Glenn Youngkin. The court provided no rationale for its action, which is typical in emergency appeals.

The justices acted on Virginia's appeal after a federal judge found that the state illegally purged more than 1,600 voter registrations in the past two months. A federal appeals court had previously allowed the judge's order to remain in effect.

The specter of immigrants voting illegally has been a main part of the political messaging this year from former President Donald Trump and other Republicans, even though such voting is rare in American elections.

Trump had criticized the earlier ruling, calling it "a totally unacceptable travesty" on social media. "Only U.S. Citizens should be allowed to vote," Trump wrote.

Youngkin said voters who believe they were improperly removed from the rolls can still vote in the election because Virginia has same-day registration.

"And so there is the ultimate, ultimate safeguard in Virginia, no one is being precluded from voting, and therefore, I encourage every single citizen go vote," Youngkin told reporters.

That option was noted also by the campaign of Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee for the White House.

"Every eligible voter has

a right to cast their ballot and have their vote counted, and this ruling does not change that," campaign spokesman Charles Lutvak said in a statement. "Our campaign is going to make sure every eligible voter is able to vote. Voting by noncitizens remains illegal under federal law."

Rina Shaw, 22, of Chesterfield, Virginia, said she was born in Virginia, has lived in the state her whole life and has never left the U.S.

Shaw thinks she may have forgotten to check a citizenship box on a form when she was updating her voter registration at the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles while getting her learner's permit.

"My first reaction was that that was just ridiculous and it shouldn't have been allowed in October, of all months. It should have been something that happened six months before the election rather than right on the eve of it," Shaw said.

She planned to cast her ballot during early voting on Wednesday and said she still found the error troubling. Shaw said her voter registration has now been restored.

The Justice Department and a coalition of private groups sued the state ear-

lier in October, arguing that Virginia election officials, acting on an executive order issued in August by Youngkin, were striking names from voter rolls in violation of federal election law.

The National Voter Registration Act requires a 90-day "quiet period" ahead of elections for the maintenance of voter rolls so that legitimate voters are not removed from the rolls by bureaucratic errors or last-minute mistakes that cannot be quickly corrected.

Youngkin issued his order on Aug. 7, the 90th day before the Nov. 5 election. It required daily checks of data from the state Department of Motor Vehicles against voter rolls to identify people who are not U.S. citizens.

Protect Democracy, one of the groups that brought the lawsuit, cited media interviews with other voters as showing that the Youngkin administration's purge has removed U.S. citizens from the voter rolls.

One example is Nadra Wilson, who lives in Lynchburg, Virginia, and told NPR she got swept up in the purge. "I was born in Brooklyn, New York. I'm a citizen," Wilson said, before showing her American passport as proof of her citizenship.

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