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Creative Arts Theatre to put on 'Tom Sawyer'

Entertainment Guide

Sports

County teams fall in football action

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The Hemz-Battler www.News-Banner.com

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2024

BLUFFTON, INDIANA · Wells County's Hometown Connection

\$1.00

Commissioners receive death threats with decisions on solar

By HOLLY GASKILL

According to multiple reports, Wells County Commissioners have received threats of violence regarding how they vote on solar energy issues.

Commissioners Jeff Stringer and Mike Vanover declined to comment on the specific claim. Asked directly if he had received death threats, Vanover replied, "I have received every kind of communication that you can imagine and they were all handled with the attention they deserved."

Paul Mills, Bluffton, told The News-Banner that in a group conversa-

tion in early September, Stringer stated he had received death threats regarding solar energy development in Wells County.

The group had reportedly met to discuss solar issues — Mills has signed a solar land lease for approximately 330 acres in northern Wells County with AES Solar. Also present were Mills' son, Tony Mills, who lives on the family farm, Don Avey of Ossian, who has leased about 1,300 acres, and Ben Vollmer, representing AES. Tony Mills and Don Avey both recounted the same details of the conversation.

The three men independently recalled Stringer mentioning a phone call in which his life had been threatened. He reportedly did not identify the caller but said it was someone the men wouldn't have expected.

"We all (were) surprised and astonished, and he really didn't go on any more," Tony Mills recalled. "We asked if he pursued it as far as with the authorities. And no. That's about all that was said."

Paul and Tony Mills stated that Vollmer reported having a similar (Continued on Page 2)

Is there a future for solar energy in Wells County?

By HOLLY GASKILL

Immense public opposition prompted the rejection of a zoning petition from Paddlefish Solar in March, effectively stopping the project from moving forward.

Since then, the Wells County Council unanimously approved a moratorium on property tax abatements, explicitly hoping to dissuade future projects.

"It'd be safe to speculate that there isn't a path forward," Area Plan Commission Executive Director
(Continued on Page 2)



The city of Bluffton celebrated the completion of Lancaster Park Friday morning along with many of its community partners. Pictured, Mayor John Whicker cuts the ceremonial ribbon with the group in front of the park pavilion. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

Bluffton celebrates Lancaster Park with official ribbon cutting

By HOLLY GASKILL

After years of work and planning from the city of Bluffton and its partners, the new Lancaster Park was celebrated with an official ribbon cutting on Friday.

The park, located across from Lancaster Elementary School, features many amenities, including a pavilion and restrooms, pickleball courts, a football and soccer field, a lighted basketball court, a playground, a giant human foosball court, Gaga ball court, sand volleyball courts, disc golf/foot golf course and more.

A half-mile walking path around the park extends 1.06 miles to the Interurban Trail, connecting the Rivergreenway

and Ouabache State Park to the new park.

The park itself was made possible through an over \$600,000 grant from the Land Water Conservation Fund, land donation from Norwell Community Schools, and numerous community partners. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources also awarded a \$408,035 Next Level Trails grant for the trail extension, which will eventually be a part of the greater Poka-Bache Trail connecting Ouabache to Pokagon State Park.

"Overall, \$2.156 million in value was added to our community as local donors joined in the excitement of the (Continued on Page 2)

U.S. adds 254K jobs, and unemployment drops down to 4.1%

By PAUL WISEMAN, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's employers added a surprisingly strong 254,000 jobs in September, easing concerns about a weakening labor market and suggesting that the pace of hiring is still solid enough to support a growing economy.

Last month's gain was far more than economists had expected, and it was up sharply from the 159,000 jobs that were added in August. And after rising for most of 2024, the unemployment rate dropped for a second straight month, from 4.2% in August to 4.1% in September, the Labor Department said Friday.

The latest figures suggest that many companies are still confident enough to fill jobs despite the continued pressure of high interest rates.

In an encouraging sign, the Labor Department also revised up its estimate of job growth in July and August by a combined 72,000. Including those revisions, September's job gain — forecasters had predicted only around 140,000 — means that job growth has averaged a solid 186,000 over the past three months. In August, the three-month average was only 140,000.

"There's still more momentum than we had given it credit for," Stephen Stanley, chief economist at the banking company Santander, said of the job market. "I would call it (Continued on Page 6)

Monday is last day to register to vote and early voting begins Tuesday

Citizens must register to vote by the end of the Monday, Oct. 7, to vote in the November election. To register or check voter registration status, visit indianavoters. in.gov.

Local Elections

There is only one contested race at the county level, where incuments Vicki Andrews, Scott Elzey and Seth Whicker, all Republicans, are challenged by Scott Burke (I) and Brian Hollingsworth (D). A "Meet the Candidate" forum for the race will be 7 p.m. Oct. 7 at the Wells County Chamber of Commerce, 211 Water St. in Bluffton.

There are two contested races in Wells

County school boards.

For Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan Schools, Peter (Chris) Koiner challenges incumbent Trent White for the board's District 3 seat.

Cathie Peterson and Jeremiah Tomlin are both running for the open Lancaster Township seat on the board of trustees for Norwell Community Schools. Todd Nash is unopposed for the Jefferson Township seat. All candidates are expected to share their views in a forum, at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 15 in the Norwell High School auditorium.

Voter InformationEarly voting begins on Oct. 8 at the Wells

County Clerk's Office, and is available from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays through Nov. 1, as well as 8 a.m. to noon on Nov. 4. Absentee or early voting is also available 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 26 and Nov. 2 at the Clerk's Office, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 26 and Nov. 2 at Presbyterian Church, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 28 and 29 at the Wells County 4-H Park, and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 at Lighted Gardens.

Applications for absentee ballots must be received by the Wells County Clerk's Office by Oct. 24.

Election Day voting will be available from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Nov. 5 at the 4-H Park, Presbyterian Church, Lighted Gardens, Zanesville Tower Life Center and Southern Wells Community Church.

Ballot Information

• Comm

• Commissioner, District 2: Blake Gerber R).

- Commissioner, District 3: Jeff Stringer
 - Coroner: Cliff Thomas (R).
- Council, 3 At-Large: Vicki Andrews (R), Scott Burke (I), Scott Elzey (R), Brian Hollingsworth (D) and Seth Whicker (R).

• Recorder: Rina Stuck (R). (Continued on Page 2)



Norwell royalty

Norwell seniors Max Babcock, left, and Karrigan Melcher were crowned the 2024 Homecoming King and Queen at halftime of the football game against DeKalb. The Barons spoiled the win for the Knights 47-21. (Photo by Chad Kline)

nside Outside

Local/Area

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Also...
Sports...... 1a-2a
Classifieds......4a
Diversions......3a

Outside



Clear nights ahead to see the Northern Lights

Today	Sunday	Monday
	•	
High 77	High 79	High 68
Low 62	Low 45	Low 42

More Weather on Page 2

Online

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Vol. 95 No. 286

SATURDAY October 5, 2024



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Solar energy

Mike Lautzenheiser said. "Because why would one project get approved differently than another?

Even so, it doesn't appear to have discouraged Paddlefish or the multiple other companies with recorded land leases. "Paddlefish is trying to gear up to better explain their project - the other ones (solar companies)

are trying to gear up to show why they're different than Paddlefish, Lautzenheiser said. Lautzenheiser referred to it as a

"gold rush" of sorts. The area can accommodate two industrial solar developments, Lautzenheiser said. The first company there will likely reap the largest profits, with potentially fewer costs associated with upgrading substations. "And part of it is, that if there

is no demand after the first project, then the rest of the projects go away," Lautzenheiser said.

Solar panels are currently seen as the most cost-effective way to produce electricity as there continues to be a growing need for energy, Lautzenheiser explained. Indiana also has the grid capacity for increased energy production, as well as the relatively flat land and temperate climate desired for industrial solar production.

Currently, five companies have submitted leases to the Recorder's Office — ACE Development Company, Chester Solar Energy, Clean Footprint, Lightsource Renewable Energy Development and Paddlefish Solar. Most of these companies are a known subsidiary of a larger company ACE is reportedly owned by AES

Solar, Chester and Lightsource by BP, and Paddlefish by EDF Renewables. Paddlefish is considered the furthest along in the process of development, having reached agreements for economic development, tax abatements, road use and project decommissioning. The project sought an overlay district for its over 3,000 acres in Wells and Huntington counties in March, which received a unanimous "do not pass" recommendation from the APC. The

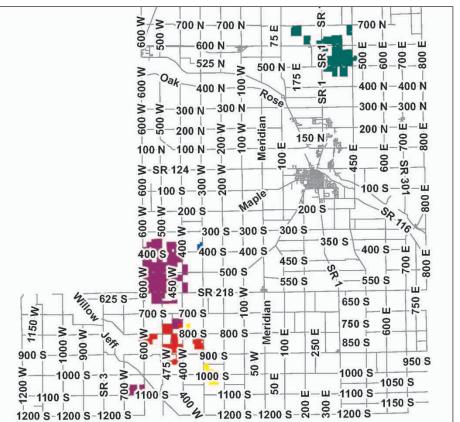
request was "withdrawn" by Paddle-

fish before the commissioners voted on

the matter, but was officially rejected

after the consideration window closed. On Sept. 5, representatives from Paddlefish approached the Wells County APC with digital renderings of the project and said they would soon present a new zoning petition. Trena Roudebush, director of community relations, later told The News-Banner the timing for the resubmission was "fluid."

'We've been working hard over the past several months to meet with project neighbors, as well as members



Shown above are Wells County land leases acquired by solar developments, as documented in the Recorder's Office. According to the Area Plan Commission, the northern highlighted portion is ACE Development Company. The northern most and largest highlighted grouping in southern Wells County is Paddlefish Solar; Clean Footprint has a small area to the east of Paddlefish, just north of the intersection of C.R. 400 S and 300 W. Chester Solar Energy is south of Paddlefish, who also have another group of parcels to the southwest of Chester. Lightsource Renewable Energy Development has leases for a few parcels southeast of Chester Solar Energy.

of the broader Wells and Huntington County communities to listen to questions, address concerns and enhance our forthcoming application to reflect input as we are able," said Roudebush.

Furthermore, Lautzenheiser and the APC have been tracking solar leases through the Wells County Recorder's Office, but it isn't a true representation of the number of land leases secured for solar energy development. At the time, Lautzenheiser said the most recent lease was from Paddlefish, initially signed two years ago.

Lautzenheiser also said he's aware of at least two other companies approaching land owners in southeast and northwest Wells County.

"I mean, their (solar companies') biggest thing is they have a signed lease,' Lautzenheiser said. "The memorialization of it? It's only really important when they start going through processes like public processes, then they do all that stuff to prove that they complied."

Regulation of renewable energy development is also a local decision, but the Indiana General Assembly has previously considered establishing state guidelines. In 2021, Edmond Solidav (R-Valparaiso) authored House Bill 1381 for statewide standards for renewable energy, which ultimately died on the Senate floor after significant pushback. Bill sponsor Sen. Mark Messmer (R-Jasper) told The Indianapolis Star that handling the bill was like a "hostage negotiation with a schizophrenic."

Even so, the Indiana legislature did adopt a list of voluntary guidelines that communities can adopt regarding renewable energy in 2023.

From Lautzenheiser's perspective, Paddlefish is the front-runner in the rush, but ACE and Chester may not be far from their own zoning applications. Although solar companies are unable to pursue local tax abatements, they may still approach the county with an economic development agreement, road use and decommissioning agreements, zoning for electrical development, and development proposals all of which are extensive processes.

Since public opposition to solar increased exponentially earlier this year, no county officials have spoken publicly in favor of any utility-scale solar development.

Lautzenheiser concluded, "I would say that 2025 is probably going to be the pivotal year whether or not stuff happens here (in Wells County).'

holly@news-banner.com

Weather

Saturday, October 5, 2024 (24-hour observations at 10:23 p.m. Friday) High: 78; Low: 50; Precipitation: None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.14 feet at 7:45 p.m. Friday

Wells County forecast

Today: Sunny, with a high near 77. East wind 5 to 10

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 62. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 79. West wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Sunday Night: Clear, with a low around 45. Northwest

wind 5 to 10 mph. **Monday:** Sunny, with a high near 68. **Monday Night:** Clear, with a low around 42.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 69. **Tuesday Night:** Clear, with a low around 40. Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 69.

Commissioners

conversation with Vanover about threats of violence regarding the solar issues. Vollmer did not respond for comment at the time of pub-

"I wish I had been more specific about asking him (Stringer) about the particulars," Paul Mills said. "Because this affects me greatly. He and the two others (commissioners) are going to decide on a project I'm involved in, and they both (Stringer and Vanover) have death threats."

"I'm sort of torn between this," Avey said. "I don't want anybody to get death threats over this stuff. It makes me wonder, what kind of world are we living in now?"

The Wells County Commissioners have not voted on any items specific to the AES

project, but received a significant public response on a zoning petition from Paddlefish Solar, a project in southern Wells County. They did not vote on the matter before it was informally withdrawn by Paddlefish representatives, and formally rejected in June due to inaction.

Sheriff Scott Holliday said he had not heard of any recent death threats to the commissioners, but was aware Stringer had received threats earlier this year around the Paddlefish zoning decision. Holliday said in an unrelated incident two years ago, Stringer's mailbox had been "blown up" and the culprit was not found.

Commissioner Blake Gerber was not mentioned regarding threats and did not respond for comment.

holly@news-banner.com



Whitley County, IN . Southwest of South Whitley

Takeout and Dine in available Meals Available · Pork Chop (about 1 lb.) Meal · Potato Salad Chicken Leg Quarter Meal Chicken Breast Meal Bratwurst Sandwich Meal · Soft Drink or Bottled Water Thursday October 10th, and Friday October 11th from 10:30am to 7:00pm at Troyer's Market, 891 W 300 S, Berne, IN All funds will go towards the mission fund of Berne Christian Fellowship. We support a mission outreach in Bolivia as well as various projects in the states

Lancaster Park

(Continued from Page 1) investment in high-quality recreational trails and facilities that will benefit Bluffton

for generations to come," Parks Department Superindentent Brandy Fiechter said during the ribbon cutting Friday.

And while construction

broke ground just 1.5 years ago, the park was nearly 20 years in the making. Longtime Norwell school board member Gene Donaghy said the district began leasing the land to the city for \$1 per year in 2006 with plans to build the park.

Mayor John Whicker thanked the community members and gave special appreciation to Fiechter, saying, "We are so lucky to have Brandy.

Fiechter also credited former Bluffton Common Council member Roger Thornton, who she said was an instrumental part of the



A group from Bi-County Services played on the pickleball courts Friday morning before the ribbon cutting. Above, employee Derek Macon leaps to return the ball, while Nathan Carper (left) laughs and Gary Amburgey and Jeff Andrews (at right) watch the game. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

park coming to fruition.

"His desire to see the space transformed into a premier outdoor recreational destination was second to none," Fiechter said. "He played a vital role in both projects by

writing letters of support, finding donations, and assisting with easements. He did a lot of behind-thescenes tasks that helped me immensely. And for that, I'm truly thankful."

The park was designed

by ERI and construction was managed by the James S. Jackson Company. Weger Excavating, Brooks Construction and Wayne Asphalt were local contractors for the project.

holly@news-banner.com

Voting registration

(Continued from Page 1)

- Surveyor: Jarrod Hahn (R). • Treasurer: Pam Gregory (R).
- **School Boards**

• Circuit Court Judge: Kenton Kiracofe

- Bluffton-Harrison MSD, At-Large: Preston Kaehr. • Bluffton-Harrison MSD, District 3:
- Peter (Chris) Koiner and Trent White. • Norwell, Jefferson Township: Todd
- Nash.
- Norwell, Lancaster Township: Cathie Peterson and Jeremiah Tomlin.
- Southern Wells, Jackson Township: Greggory Vanover.

• Southern Wells, Nottingham Township: Todd Fiechter.

State

- State Representative, District 50: Lorissa Sweet (R) and Joseph Swisher (D).
- State Representative, District 79: Matt Lehman (R).
- U.S. Representative: Kiley Adolph (D), Jarrad Lancaster (L) and Marlin Stutzman
- U.S. Senator: Jim Banks (R), Andrew Homing (L) and Valerie McCray (D).

- Attorney General: Todd Rokita (R) and Destiny Wells (D).
- Governor: Mike Braun (R), Jennifer McCormick (D) and Donald Rainwater (L). **National**
- President: Kamala Harris (D), Robert Kennedy (WTP) and Donald Trump (R). **Public Questions**
- Public Question #1: Shall the constitution of the State of Indiana be amended to remove the state superintendent of public instruction from the list of officeholders who shall discharge the powers and duties of the governor if the office of the governor and lieutenant governor are both vacant?
- Retention of Justice of the Supreme Court of Indiana: Shall Justice Mark S. Massa be retained in office?
- Retention of the Justice of the Supreme Court of Indiana: Shall Justice Derek Read Molter be retained in office?
- Retention of Justice in the Supreme Court of Indiana: Shall Justice Loretta H. Rush be retained in office?
- Court of Appeals Judicial Retention Fourth District: Shall Judge Rudolph Reginald Pyle III be retained in office?



OBITUARIES

Terry L. Fulkerson, 79

Terry L. Fulkerson, 79, passed away Thursday afternoon, Oct. 3, 2024, at his residence in Fort Wayne.

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

Local Roundup

County Drainage Board will meet Monday afternoon

The Wells County Drainage Board will meet at 4:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 7, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

County Commissioners will meet Monday evening

The Wells County Commissioners will meet at 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 7, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

Items on the agenda include:

- · Regular appointments with Sheriff Scott Holliday, Highway Supervisor Shawn Bonar and County Engineer Nate Whitacre. Discussion of the Business Advocacy
- Committee with Erin Prible. · Review of a Rock Creek Stone Quarry
- Vacation Ordinance. A request grant application request from
- the Health Department.
- A part funding request for Markle.
- Rezoning request and ordinance amendment from Area Plan Commission Executive Director Mike Lautzenheiser.
- Update on transitioning county ADA from coordinator Bobbie Studebaker.
- Monthly reports and miscellaneous business.
- Approval of the 2024 Northeast Indiana Partnership Agreement.
- Review of 2025 meeting dates and wellness plan.

County Council candidate forum is Monday evening

A forum for the candidates running for Wells County Council in the November election will be 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 7, in the lower level of the Wells County Chamber of Commerce, 211 Water St. in Bluffton.

Incumbents Vicki Andrews, Scott Elzey and Seth Whicker, all Republicans, are challenged by Scott Burke (I) and Brian Hollingsworth (D). Andrews will be absent from the forum due to a prior planned mis-

Wells County SWCD board will meet Tuesday evening

The board of the Wells County Soil and

Water Conservation District will meet at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 8, in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Service Center at 117 W. Harvest Road in Bluffton.

Bluffton Board of Works to meet Tuesday afternoon

The Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 8, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Wells County Public Library board will meet Tuesday

The board of the Wells County Public Library will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 8, in the meeting room of the main library, 200 W. Washington St.

Items on the agenda include:

- Regular reports from the staff, board and committees, and director.
- Resolution 24-04 Indiana Internet Consortium Commitment
- Resolution 24-05 Appropriation Reduction for Rainy Day and LIRF
- Adoption of 2025 budget

Wells County Council will meet Tuesday evening

The Wells County Council will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 8, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

- Items of the agenda include: Consideration of additional appropriations and transfers.
- · Quarterly report from Sheriff Scott Hol-
 - 2025 budget adoption.
- Ordinance for the Recorder's Perpetuation Fund.
 - Miscellaneous business.
- Consideration of 2025 meeting dates.

Bluffton parks board will meet Thursday evening

The Bluffton parks board will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 10, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Items on the agenda include:

- Regular reports.
- Discussion of 2025 rental fees.
- Discussion of an interlocal agreement.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

Walmart. Note left of vehicle saying they had hit the car.

Thursday, 5 p.m., 800 block of Avondale Drive. Report of verbal domestic dispute.

Thursday, 6:45 p.m., Lions Park. ER staff advised a child had found bottle of pills somewhere at Lions Park and left it behind. Later ER advised they weren't sure the story was true. Unable to locate pills at the park.

Thursday, 6:51 p.m., 800 block of South Johnson Street. Man assaulted.

Friday, 3:43 a.m., Main Intoxicated driver.

Friday, 7:45 a.m., Valley Park Apartments. Trisha Humphrey arrested on war-

Friday, 8:20 a.m., 11420 N S.R. 1. Vehicle ran off road.

Preston Kaehr - Julie Myers - Connie Vangelakos

Folks on Medicare A and B and Diabetic can get

FREE Nice Looking Diabetic Shoes Every Year from Us

Friday, 9:09 a.m., St. Joseph Catholic Church. Thursday, 2:03 p.m., Property damage accident.

block of East Horton Street. left in roadway. Parking issue.

County:

Craigville. Report of a suspicious package.

Thursday, 6:06 p.m., East 100 N and North 100 E, Bluffton. Driver cited for failure to stop at sign.

Thursday, 7:15 p.m., 700 E 350 S, Bluffton. Report of horse potentially stuck in fence. All horses appeared

Thursday, 9:26 p.m., 4500 Street and Forest Drive. E 100 N, Bluffton. Report of threatening phone call.

Friday, 4:59 a.m., Six Mile Cemetery. Car versus

Friday, 7:45 a.m., Valley Park Apartments. Trisha Humphrey arrested on war-

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Life Insurance - Long Term Care Insurance - Investments - Individual

and Small Group Health - Dental - Vision - Hearing - Cancer Insurance

Thursday, 4:23 p.m., S.R. 1 and East 1100 N, Ossian. Friday, 1:04 p.m., 400 Report of pieces of small car

County:

Thursday, 4:00 p.m., Friday, 4:49 a.m., S.R. 2400 North West Street, 116 at C.R. 450 E, Bluffton. Jackson A. Werst, 33, Berne, was driving a 2014 Ford F-150 northbound on S.R. 116 and struck a deer. Damage exceeded \$5,000.

FIRES

Thursday, 2:30 p.m., 200 S and Meridian Road. Grass

ARRESTS

Maranda Marie Reaser, 40, Bluffton; driving while suspended, a Class A misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Amber Lynn Williams, 35, Fort Wayne; possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor, operating with controlled substance in body, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

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ACCIDENTS

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

Bluffton Parks Rec

Yesterday was a wonderful day for the

News Notes

Destination Recreation

ribbon cutting ceremony for Lancaster

Park and phase two of the interurban

trail. Momentum and support for these

projects soared in our community thanks

to the Land Water Conservation Fund

grant opportunities and the Next Level

Trails Initiative. Overall, \$2,156,000.00

in value was added to our community as

local donors joined in the excitement to

invest in high-quality recreational trails

and facilities that will benefit Bluffton for

include a half-mile walking trail with

benches, a pavilion with restrooms, a

water fountain, a dual-use football/soc-

cer field, a playground, a Gaga ball pit,

two sand volleyball courts, two cornhole

games, a giant foosball court, a solar

charging station, a fire pit, a bike repair

a dual-use 9-hole disc golf/foot golf

course, which was made possible by a

grant from the Wells County Foundation.

bike air pump, and the Optimist Club pur-

chased a Buddy Bench for the playground.

the-line, lighted, six-goal basketball court

named the Dick and Dave Troxel Bas-

ketball Court. We give special thanks to

Patti Troxel, who is honoring the memory

of her husband, Dick Troxel, and to Dave

and Kris Troxel for their generous dona-

The set of three dedicated Pickleball

courts has been used daily the second the

paint dried, thanks to Chip and Kim Mann

and Diane Humphrey, who is honoring

sible without Northern Wells Community

School, which, since 2006, has leased this

space to our department until we could

take ownership, leveraging the land's value

lor Nickel Foundation for being a major

contributor and to the following business-

es and families who made sizeable dona-

tions to this project. They include Indiana

Physical Therapy, Andy and Ginny Vogel,

National Oil & Gas, Greg and Rachel

Roembke and family, and Roger and

ing for their financial contributions to the

park. Dr. George and Jan Babcock, Rich-

ard and Marilyn Kleinknight, Robert and

Ann Meyer, Jeff and Linda McAfee, Blair

and Deborah Brown, Danny and Rose

Ann Bebout, Mark and Barbara Gerber,

and Rick King with the Sandy Koufax

ERI designed the park, thanks to

We also want to recognize the follow-

Marge Thornton and family.

We are immensely grateful to the Cay-

towards our portion of the LWCF match.

None of this would have been pos-

the memory of her father, E.J. Schaefer.

tion that made these courts possible.

Additional features of this park include

Walmart kindly donated a heavy-duty

We were very excited about the top-of-

station and a new parking lot.

Amenities from the LWCF grant

generations to come.

efforts from Ethan Yoder and Mark Reinhard. James S. Jackson's

Fiechter

Company Scott Krill and Conor Jackson were the CMAs who also donated their time to install the giant Foosball court. Lori Shipman, our grant writer for both projects, was tremendously helpful in navigating all the document requirements, and Erica Gummere was great at guiding us through the grant process.

The hard working crews that performed the physical labor for this park include Brooks Construction, Coblentz Construction, Frauhiger Excavating, Wayne Asphalt and Mid States Recreation. Outdoor Concepts volunteered to plant 10 new trees and donated two more. All of the city departments stepped up to help by installing equipment and connecting utilities. Their hard work saved us tens of thousands of dollars.

We're grateful to Governor Eric Holcomb for supporting our quality-of-life goals to connect the beautiful Rivergreenway to Lancaster Park through Bluffton's historic downtown.

We want to thank Erika Siebenthal at the DNR for helping with the grant process. Jocelyn Connelley did a great job leading the Brooks Construction team and Bunn Excavating to develop the final mile of the trail to the park.

Walking trails are by far the most used park amenities, and we are very grateful to Mayor John Whicker and the City Council, who got the ball rolling by hiring Engineering Resources to design the trail. Mark Reinhard and Adam Grabill did an amazing job developing the trail's layout.

Major donors include the Wells County Foundation and the Caylor-Nickel The Wells County Foundation, Inc.

Donors: Éverwise Credit Union; Steve and Yvette Huggins; Dave and Kris Troxel; and Patti Troxel

Contributors: Robert Troxel Premier Truck Rental; First Bank of Berne; Wells County Trails; Adams Wells Internet Telecom TV; Honegger, Ringger & Company Inc; Bluffton Animal Clinic; Family Ford of Bluffton; General Manufacturing; Coldwell Banker Holloway; Moose Lodge Bluffton 242; Brad and Molly Hoag; Gerald and Diann Tonner; and James and Audrey Almdale.

Land easement donors include Lowe's Home Center, S & G Rentals – Outdoor Concepts, Bluffton Acres, Mick Cupp, Jerry and Jane Case, Thomas and Margaret Antrim, Philip and Alice Grogg, iTown Church and INDOT.

This project has been a long journey and wouldn't have been possible without the support of our community amazing grant opportunities, and generous donors and landowners, so from the bottom of our hearts, the Park Board and I thank you.

Have a great week!

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.

publication.

RE*ELECT **Scott Elzey Wells County Council** Republican

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SATURDAY OCTOBER 5



to you ...

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

— a free publication we would love to share with you. Stop in anytime. There is no cost or obligation.



This short essay is from

Our Daily Bread



GOD USES OUR STORIES

opened the memory box and pulled out a small, silver lapel pin, the exact size and shape of a ten-week unborn baby's feet. Caressing the ten tiny toes, I remembered the loss of my first pregnancy and those who said I was "lucky" I wasn't "that far along." I grieved, knowing that my baby's feet were as real as the heart that once beat inside my womb. I thanked God for freeing me from depression and using my story to comfort others who were grieving after losing a child. More than two decades after my miscarriage, my husband and I named the child we lost Kai, which in some languages means "rejoice." Though I still ache from my loss, I thank God for healing my heart and using my story to help others.

The writer of Psalm 107 rejoiced in God's established character and sang: "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever" (V. 1). He urged "the redeemed of the LORD" to "tell their story" (V. 2), to "give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind" (v. 8). He offered hope with a promise that God alone "satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things" (v. 9).

No one can escape grief or affliction, even those who've been redeemed through Christ's sacrifice on the cross. We can, however, experience God's mercy as He uses our stories to point others to His redeeming love. XOCHITL DIXON

How has God healed your heartbreaks? How has He used someone else's story to comfort you?

Dear Jesus, thank You for healing me and using my story to point others to Your redeeming love.

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

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WE CAN MEET: IN OUR OFFICE - IN YOUR HOME - IN A FAVORED LOCATION

Byron

York

Getting property taxes down to the basics

Rinnngggg. OK, class, if I can have your attention.

Saturday's Sub

As you know, we've been delving into the intricacies of the state's property tax system as part of our studies in Indiana Civic Government. But I feel the need to kind of circle back to the very basics since it appears some have not been listening or paying attention.

As we have seen, the property tax



Mark Miller

system is very complex. The crafting of county, city, school and other taxing unit budgets and the often confusing process of assessing property values is only the beginning. How state limitations are applied, and the impact of tax credits and deductions and tax caps can be mind-boggling. It is all interrelated. There is no one single controlling element that determines what a property owner's property tax bill will be, whether they be a homeowner or commercial property or a farm.

However, there are two basic elements:

1) The budget. This is how much a government unit wants or needs to spend in a given year, which ultimately translates into how much they will need to raise in property taxes. Complications begin already as budgets draw revenue from different sources. The state — specifically the Department of Local Government Finance sets the portion of each unit's budget that will be covered by property taxes for most categories. Their determinations apply to General or Operations Funds, for example. Meanwhile, Debt Service and Cumulative Funds are exempt from DLGF controls but are subject to other limitations. In the end, each unit arrives at how much will need to be raised via property taxes across all fund categories, which becomes its "tax levy."

2) Your property's assessed value. The county assessor has set procedures to follow. There is certainly room for some subjectivity and how regulations are applied — thus an appeal process — but for the most part, the procedure is established by state law.

Now, once the assessment process is complete, the government computes the total assessed value of the county and for each individual taxing unit — schools, cities, townships, etc. Then each taxing unit's tax levy is divided by the total assessed value of all the properties within its boundaries which results in a tax rate that is then applied to each individual property, which results in the property tax bill you get in the mail.

I have to tell you that accurately boiling it down to the basics was surprisingly difficult. So it comes as no surprise that we've spent pages of newsprint on the details.

But pay attention to the basics: The government unit establishes a budget. Property has value. While individual results will vary (undoubtedly the understatement of the year), the tax rate is a result of those two factors. Or should be.

I read an article last week that re-asserts the notion that by keeping their tax rate the same, a governing unit

should be held blameless if your taxes go up.
"The only thing we control is the tax rate," one of the decision makers of that unit said. Technically true, but it bypasses the indisputable fact that a tax rate is the result of decisions made on how much will be spent. The insinuation was that the cause rests solely with assessments.

Further evidence that our lessons are not being heard is seen in the results of a poll taken by another decision maker of that unit. Of 37 people questioned, 35 agreed with him that keeping the tax rate the same is a good thing. Which it would be if the taxing unit's Total Assessed Value stays the same or rises modestly. In this case, the TAV had increased by 11.5% in 2024 and will increase another 14% in 2025.

A curious thing: When I ask 10 people about this

issue, 9.5 agree with me. But I digress.

Class, I am not arguing that this taxing unit is acting irresponsibly in their spending decisions. Frankly, there is evidence to argue they are making sound and necessary decisions. However, by placing all of the blame of rising property taxes on the assessor is simply not fair nor is it right. It muddies the already muddy waters of how property taxes work.

May I remind you, class, we have seen in our studies that other taxing units have made decisions that have also increased — and will increase in 2025 — their patrons' property taxes. Some of that has been accomplished as the rate was actually lowered and indeed, some have increased their rate in order to meet their stated needs or wants. However, they have argued their cases on merit or have put their decisions into an historical perspective, rather than blaming the assessor.

To repeat: There is no one single element in this complex process that determines what your property tax will be. It is all interrelated.

That interrelationship was on no better display than at the budget meeting for the Town of Markle just a few days ago. The council had managed to reduce their budget, which resulted in a \$2,000 drop in their tax levy. Hence, they were rightly puzzled to find that their proposed tax rate would increase from this past year's 1.10 to 1.29 - a 17% increase. Diving into their numbers, one of the council members discovered that the town's Total Assessed Value had somehow been reduced from a reported \$52 million to \$44 million — a decrease of about 15%. Assuming there has to be a calculation error somewhere in the process, the council will be getting updated numbers before finalizing their budget.

(Wells County Assessor Laura Roberts reported Friday morning that apparently the mistake occurred on the Huntington County side of Markle or in the compilation of the two, since her numbers show a modest increase in the Wells County portion.)

So you can see how this is all interrelated. It is interesting to note that a government unit can manage the process to arrive at a targeted rate. It would also be interesting to delve into which element of all the factors that go into the formula has the most impact. And whether that would be one of the two basics — the budget or the property value. Which brings in what we have concluded to be a definitive "tax shift" in which homeowners have come to pay an increasingly larger piece of the total property tax pie and what the legislature might do about that and how the inconsistencies of home assessments have seemingly unfairly impacted certain homes and certain neighborhoods and how something called the MLGQ comes into play and ...

Rinnngggg!

Well, perhaps we'll discuss that during our next class. miller@news-banner.com

Trump numbers show how GOP went wrong on immigration

The Republican Party had something of a nervous breakdown after the 2012 election, when GOP challenger Mitt Romney lost to incumbent President Barack Obama. Some Republicans had convinced themselves that the multitude of polls showing Obama ahead were "skewed." Many actually expected a Romney victory. When that didn't happen, they looked for reasons.

They could have looked at Obama's job approval rating — 52% in Gallup on Election Day — or the power of incumbency that Obama used to its fullest extent. Instead, Republicans focused on the Hispanic vote. Romney lost it big time, winning just 27% of Latino voters to Obama's 71%. GOP strategists were deeply affected by Democrats' predictions that Hispanic Americans — the only voting group actually growing by significant amounts — would give the Democratic Party a lock on the presidency in the future. So, after Romney's defeat, they set themselves to the task of winning more Latino voters.

The Republican National Committee did a study of Romney's defeat. The resulting report was called the Growth and Opportunity Project — G-O-P, right? – but was universally known as the autopsy. Going in, Republican officials said the autopsy would not make recommendations on policy but rather explore GOP deficiencies in things like voter contact, outreach, turnout, advertising and the like. Then they decided to make one exception to the no-policy rule.

We are not a policy committee, but among the steps Republicans take in the Hispanic community and beyond, we must embrace and champion comprehensive immigration reform," the report said. "If we do not, our party's appeal will continue to shrink to its core constituencies only." And thus, the RNC, the Republican Party establishment, hoping to improve its appeal to Hispanic voters, dedicated itself to passing comprehensive immigration reform.

In the year after the election, 2013, the GOP establishment supported a major effort to pass a sprawling immigration reform bill known by the name of the group that drafted it, the Gang of Eight. It passed the Democratic-controlled Senate but died in the Republican-controlled House.

That is where things stood when Donald Trump entered the presidential scene in 2015, pushing the absolute opposite of comprehensive immigration reform. Trump's best-known position on immigration, indeed his best-known position overall, was his proposal to build a border wall. Beyond that, Trump sought to use the powers of the executive branch to stem the flow of illegal crossers over the U.S.-Mexico border. Taken together, his actions created a powerful disincentive for people to attempt to enter the U.S. illegally, and the numbers of illegal crossers went

Here's the thing: Trump's support among Hispanic voters went up. Just a little bit in the 2016 election Trump received 28% of the Latino vote to Romney's

27%. But then, in 2020, after President Trump had been in office four years, he won 38% of the Hispanic vote in his reelection attempt.

Now, with another election approaching, there is a new NBC/Telemundo poll showing Trump at 40% with Latino voters to 54% for Vice President Kamala Harris. If the election were held today, and if the poll is accurate, Trump is headed toward the best Republican performance among Latino voters in more than four decades. It would be equaled only by George W. Bush's winning 40% of the Hispanic vote in 2004, which has stood as the Republican high mark of Latino support going back at least as far as 1980.

How did Trump increase Latino support when the Republican Party failed for so many years? The biggest reason is that he treated Hispanic voters like other voters. In general, they're worried about the same issues everyone else is. The new poll shows that Latino voters listed the cost of living as the most important issue facing the country. And those same voters said Trump would better handle the cost-ofliving issue than Harris by a margin of 46% to 37%. Latino voters listed jobs and the economy, separate from inflation, as their next-most important issue. And they thought Trump would better handle that, too, by 45% to 41%.

Not far away was the issue of immigration and the situation at the border. Hispanic voters rated it among their top issues, and they thought Trump would better handle it by a 47% to 34% margin. It was Trump's biggest margin on any issue. Some, perhaps consumers of pro-Democratic news outlets, might find that surprising. But it should not surprise anyone to find that Hispanic voters support a secure border just like other Americans, and, also like everyone else, that they have seen what the Biden-Harris administration has done on the border in the last four years.

The NBC/Telemundo poll showed Trump particularly strong with Hispanic voters under 50 years of age. Among men in that group, Trump actually leads Harris. He's also strong with Latino men in general and voters without college degrees. These are the kind of divides we see in the electorate at large.

Of course, it's important to remember that Harris still leads Trump among Hispanic voters, just as earlier Democrats led in past campaigns. But if she is to win, Harris will need high levels of support from minority voters. Right now, she doesn't appear to be getting it from Hispanic voters.

It's a long way from 2012 and the GOP autopsy. If Trump does indeed perform well with Latino voters in the final election results, it would be worthwhile for some Republican Party leaders, past and present, to ask themselves: What did he get right in appealing to Latino voters that we got so wrong?

byork@washingtonexaminer.com

Kamala Harris, faux border hawk

Kamala Harris desperately needs to deflect responsibility for the ongoing debacle at the border, and she thinks she knows just how to do it.

Whenever addressing the issue, she's sure to accuse Donald Trump of killing the Senate border bill that, in her account, would have locked down the border and thrown away the key.

"It was the strongest border security bill we've seen in decades," Harris intoned during her visit to the border late last week. "It was endorsed by the border patrol union, and it should be in effect today, producing results in real time

 right now for our country."
 Alas, according to Harris: "Donald Trump tanked it. He picked up the phone and called some friends in Congress and said stop the bill because, you see, he prefers to run on a problem instead of fixing a prob-

She made much the same case during the debate. This line of argument, meant to mitigate a key weakness, is shameless on multiple levels.

There's no doubt that Trump vociferously opposed the Senate bill. But it's not as though he swooped in and tanked legislation that most Republicans were inclined to support. Pretty much every border hawk blasted the bill as a travesty on the merits. By the way, a handful of Senate Democrats opposed it, too.

The basic flaw in the Senate bill

is that it would have done nothing to reverse, and much to further entrench, the lawless Biden-Harris policy of waving migrants into the United States, never to be seen again. The law currently says

that aliens who demonstrate "credible fear" are **Rich** supposed to be detained pending their proceedings, Lowry whereas aliens who don't demonstrate such a fear should be detained until

they are removed. The Biden-Harris administration has ignored this statuary scheme as it has engaged in a mass release of illegal immigrants into the United States.

The lack of interest in enforcing the law raised the question of why the administration could be trusted to abide by any enforcement provisions in the Senate bill, not that the legislation had much teeth.

It said that if encounters at the Southern border averaged 5,000 a day over the course of seven days, then the president would have to expel new illegal immigrants. The implicit message of this provision was that daily encounters up to 5,000, an astonishingly high number in historic terms, would somehow be acceptable. Since the administration already had more authority to secure the border than it was using, this trigger was unnecessary. The bill also would have loosened

the asylum process to give asylum

officers, rather than immigration judges, the ability to grant asylum, and would have written into law the authority to release aliens

Harris makes much of how the Senate bill would have hired more border patrol agents, but more manpower or resources easily could have been passed on their own, without the baggage of the rest of the bill.

The fact is that the Biden-Harris administration, with malice aforethought, tore up a border system that was working under Donald Trump, despite being warned of the consequences. The administration kept the floodgates open for years, even when Big City mayors were begging for relief. Only when the Biden team realized the magnitude of the political gift it was creating for Donald Trump did it pivot to a tougher posture and support the Senate bill.

Apprehensions have declined at the Southern border, but the administration has connived to get otherwise inadmissible aliens into the country through various parole programs, which are essentially an accounting gimmick to make the border numbers look better.

This is an artifice, and so is the latest tack from Kamala Harris. She spoke out forcefully against immigration enforcement just a few years ago, and sponsored numerous bills as a senator to make the system more lax. On immigration, as so much else, she wants to be something she's not. She's a faux border hawk touting a faux border-enforcement bill.



Today in History

By The Associated Press Today is Saturday, Oct. 5,

the 279th day of 2024. There are 87 days left in the year. Today in history: On Oct.

5, 2011, Steve Jobs, the Apple founder and former chief executive who invented and master-marketed ever-sleeker gadgets that transformed everyday technology, died in Palo Alto, California, at age

Also on this date: In 1892, the Dalton Gang, notorious for its train robberies, was practically wiped out while attempting to rob a pair of banks in Coffeyville, Kan.

The News-Banner

Periodicals Postage Paid at Bluffton, IN 46714. Published every day except Sundays and principal holidays at 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton IN 46714, Post Office Box 436

News-Banner Publications, Inc. Evening News est. 1892 • Evening Banner est. 1899 • Consolidated 1929

Dianne Witwer, Secretary/Treasurer. Holly Gaskill, Editor. Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor. George B. Witwer, Chairman of the Board; Doug Brown, President, Publisher;

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by the Advertisers on this page who want as their return to see more people go to church.

NEW BEGINNING

2187 W. SR 218

School. 10:30 - Worship.

NEW HOPE

LUTHERAN

(Missouri Synod) 8824 N. SR 1, Ossian

newhopelutheran-ossian.

webs.com

9 a.m. - Sunday School

NOTTINGHAM

1100 S. SR 1

10:30 & 6 p.m. - Worship.

9:30 - Sunday School.

& Adult Bible study. 10

a.m. - Worship.

10 a.m. - Sunday



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH - NORTH 630 E. Dustman Rd.

9:45 & 11:45 a.m. - Worship.

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

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

> **BETHLEHEM** LUTHERAN **CHURCH LCMS**

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

> **BLUFFTON CHURCH OF GOD**

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

BLUFFTON WESLEYAN CHAPEL (Independent Holiness

Church) 1309 W. Washington St. blufftonwesleyan.net 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 & 6:30 p.m. - Worship.

BOEHMER UNITED METHODIST

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

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

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

Thoma/Rich,

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705 W.-900 N., Uniondale 9 a.m. & 10:45 - Worship.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN **CHURCH - COUNTRY**

1970 S.-800E., Bluffton 9:45 & 11:45 a.m. - Wor-

> **CHRISTIAN NEW LIGHT**

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

COVENANT CHAPEL

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

> **DILLMAN UNITED BRETHREN**

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

DOMESTIC CHURCH OF CHRIST

9 a.m. - Sunday school. 10 a.m. - Church service.

EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST 1204 W. Cherry St.

9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:40 a.m. - Sunday School.

> **FAIRVIEW CHURCH** OF GOD

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

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST

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

a.m. - Discipleship. **FIRST BAPTIST**

202 W. Cherry St. fbcbluffton.com

10:15 - Worship. FIRST BAPTIST

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

> **FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 1515 Clark Ave.

blufftonnazarene.org 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 9-10 a.m. - Free ESL classes. 10:15 - Worship. 6 p.m. - Service.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

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

> **FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF BLUFFTON**

301 W. Cherry St. 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

> **FIRST UNITED METHODIST**

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

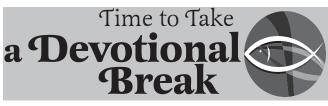
FORGIVEN CHURCH

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

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This page is dedicated to the building of a more spiritual and greater church-going people and is made possible

WHAT GOD **DIDN'T SAY**

You've probably heard them before. You might have even SHARED them without fully realizing what you were saying. "God quotes."

Those seemingly harmless, well-intentioned phrases passed on by religious

people, sometimes even true believers, who want to be encouraging during difficult times. Have you heard these? "God

helps those who help themselves.'

'God gives His hardest battles to His strongest soldiers."

"Follow your heart."

"Money is the root of all evil."

These are only a few lines repeated when discussing wealth, decisionmaking, or life's challenges. Have you ever wondered at their origin? Are they really included in Scripture? Let's

The misquoted phrase, "money is the root of all evil," is actually, "the love of money is the root of all evil." (1 Timothy 6:6-10) Paul wrote to Timothy, encouraging him to find contentment no matter the circumstances. Jesus also exhorted His followers to realize that their relationship with and service to God comes before everything

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GRACE BAPTIST

1621 S. 350 E.

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9 a.m. - Sunday School.

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6626 Village Way, Berne

gracebibleberne.com

HARVEST TIME BIBLE

11015S-600E, Keystone

HOPE MISSIONARY

429 E. Dustman Rd.

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Service at Main Campus.

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LANCASTER CHAPEL

UNITED METHODIST

4510 E 400N, Craigville

9 a.m. - Sunday School.

LIBERTY CENTER

BAPTIST 3071 W. Cherry St.

8:30 a.m. - Pastor/Dea-

con's Prayer. 9 - Sunday School. 9:55 - Fellow-

ship. 10:15 - Worship.

9:40 - Fellowship. 10

a.m. - Worship.

10 a.m. - Worship.

9:30 & 11 a.m. - Service,

north campus, Ossian.

9:30 a.m. - Worship.

10:30 - Sunday School.

9:10 a.m. - Prayer. 10

a.m. - Worship.

9 a.m. - Sunday class-

es. 10 a.m. - Collective

10 a.m. & 6 p.m. - Wor-

8:45 a.m. - Sunday

ship.

ship.

Worship.

school. 10 a.m. - Wor-

else - including wealth (Luke 12:13-15 & 32-34; 16:13; Mark 12:41-44).

"Follow your heart" is found nowhere in the Bible. Instead, Jesus reminded His listeners that a man's heart hosts the very things that defile him (Mark 7:14, 15). Jeremiah 17:9 cautioned that the human heart is deceit-

ful, while James said that our deepest longings will never be wiser than the counsel of God (James 1:5-"God gives His

hardest battles to

His strongest soldiers" appeared by Martha in the last few Paxson years, possibly to encourage those discouraged by

life's overwhelming circumstances. The Bible explains that only through human weakness and obedience can Christ's power be revealed (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

Finally, "God helps those who help themselves" is one of the most misguided pieces of advice circulated. The Bible clearly says that only by believing in the sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ will we be saved (John 3:16; Acts 4:12; Romans 10:9). We cannot save ourselves.

In sharing words of advice, hope, or encouragement, God's Word alone stands the test of time. It is clear, precise, and eternal. Nothing else will do. mpaxson99@yahoo.com



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

LIFE COMMUNITY

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

> **LIVING FAITH MISSIONARY**

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

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

> **MARKLE CHAPEL HILL SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST** 470 E. Morse St.

Saturday: 9:30 a.m. -Worship. 10:45 - Sabbath School (Bible study).

MARKLE CHURCH OF CHRIST 455 E. Morse St.

marklechurch.org 9 a.m. - Adult Bible study groups. 10:30 -Worship. Children's & student programming both hours.

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

MURRAY MISSIONARY 1117 N. Washington St., Murray

murraymc.org 9:30 a.m. - Worship. 11 a.m. - Sunday School.

THE MEETING PLACE 115 E. Market St. 6:30 p.m. - Bible study.

OSSIAN CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 302 N. Metts St. ossiannaz.org

9:15 a.m. - Bible study. 10:30 - Service.

OSSIAN UNITED METHODIST 201 W. Mill St. ossianumc.org 9 a.m. - Worship, Wor-

ship child care nurse. 10

a.m. - Fellowship. 10:15 -Adult Sunday School. **PARK COMMUNITY** 617 S. Bennett St. parkccbluffton.org

10 a.m. - Connection. 11

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

a.m. - Worship.

- Sunday School.

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

School. 9 a.m. - Worship. **PONETO FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH**

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

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

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

SIX MILE 4790 SE SR 116 9 a.m. - Sunday School.

10 a.m. - Worship. SONLIGHT WESLEYAN

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

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

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC

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

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

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

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

ST. MARK'S **LUTHERAN (NALC)** 5912 N. Sugar St.,

Uniondale 10 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Children's Sunday School.

> THE CHURCH AT **MCNATT**

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

TOWER LIFE CENTER 11811 N. Wayne St.,

Zanesville towerlifecenter.com 9:30 a.m. - TLC Groups. 10:30 - Worship.

TURNPOINTE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN 500 W. Logan, Markle turnpointechurch.com 9:30 a.m. - Fellowship. 10 a.m. - Adult & Chil-

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dren's Worship.

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

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH 205 S. Adams St., Monroe

9 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 Discipleship for adults & children.

ZANESVILLE COMMUNITY **CHURCH OF GOD** 11984 N. Marzane Rd.

9 a.m. - Bible Class. 10

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a.m. - Worship.

3092 W. Broadway 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

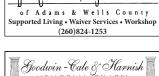


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U.S. adds jobs, unemployment dips

(Continued from Page 1)

— certainly not as explosive as what we were seeing last year or the year before, when we were catching up from the pandemic. But the pace of job growth overall is very healthy."

The September job gains were fairly broad-based, a good trend if it continues. Restaurants and bars added 69,000 jobs. Healthcare companies gained 45,000, government agencies 31,000, social assistance employers 27,000 and construction companies 25,000. A category that includes professional and business services added 17,000 after having lost jobs for three straight months.

Average hourly raises were solid, too. They rose by a higher-than-expected 0.4% from August, slightly less than the 0.5% gain the month before. Measured from a year earlier, hourly wages climbed 4% in September, up a tick from a 3.9% year-over-year gain in August.

The economy's progress in taming inflation led the Federal Reserve last month to cut its benchmark interest rate by a sizable half-point, its first rate cut in more than four years, and said further cuts were likely in the coming months. The Fed said it wanted to ease the cost of borrowing to help bolster the job market. In light of Friday's strong jobs report, the Fed is now likely to reduce its key rate by more typical quarter-point increments

"The September jobs report shows a nice bump in labor demand at the beginning of the fall," said Bill Adams, chief economist at Comerica Bank. "The U.S. economy is growing solidly in 2024 even as inflation slows to near the Fed's target."

The resilience of the economy has come as a relief. Economists had long expected that the Fed's aggressive campaign to subdue inflation — it jacked up interest rates 11 times in 2022 and 2023 — would cause a recession. It didn't. The economy kept growing even in the face of ever-higher borrowing costs for consumers and businesses.

Most economists say the Fed appears to have achieved the once-unlikely prospect of a "soft landing," in which high interest

rates help vanquish inflation without triggering a recession

The economy is weighing heavily on voters as the Nov. 5 presidential election nears. Many Americans are unimpressed by the job market's durability and are still frustrated by high prices, which remain on average 19% above where they were in February 2021. That was when inflation began surging as the economy rebounded with unexpected speed and strength from the pandemic recession, causing severe shortages of goods and labor.

The public's discontent with inflation and the economy under President Joe Biden has been a political burden for Vice President Kamala Harris in her race for the White House against former President Donald Trump.

The jobs report for October, which the government will issue four days before Election Day, will likely be muddied by the effects of Hurricane Helene and a strike by Boeing machinists.

Across the economy, though, most indicators look solid. The U.S. economy, the world's largest, grew at a vigorous 3% annual pace from April through June, boosted by consumer spending and business investment. A forecasting tool from the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta points to slower but still healthy 2.5% annual growth in the just-ended July September quoter

July-September quarter.
While most U.S. companies are still cautious about hiring, some say they're struggling to find workers. At Overthrow Hospitality, which operates 11 vegan restaurants in New York, Drew Brady, the chief operating officer, has stopped requiring job applicants to have restaurant experience.

Brady is seeking applicants who have a passion for food and a sense of the theatrical. His hourly staff now includes actors, students and foodies.

It's difficult, he said, to find experienced restaurant managers. His latest crop includes a former school principal and a server who had no management experience.

"I can teach you how to manage a restaurant, but I can't teach you how to care," said Brady, whose restaurants employ between 100 and 150 workers. The new approach, he said, appears to be succeeding, and he plans to maintain it even if more experienced applicants become available.

"The circumstances pushed us here," Brady said. "But because of them, the light bulb went off. It's a lesson in adaptation."

Given Friday's robust hiring report, economists say the Fed will almost certainly cut its benchmark rate in November by a modest quarter-point, after its larger-thanusual half-point reduction in September. The healthier the job market appears, the less aggressive the Fed would need to be in easing borrowing costs. The policymakers would want to avoid easing credit so fast as to reignite inflation pressures.

"The bottom does not appear to be falling out of the labor market," said Jason Pride, chief of investment strategy at Glenmede.

After Friday's jobs report was released, Wall Street traders priced in a sharply higher likelihood of a quarter-point, rather than a half-point, rate cut at the Fed's November meeting: 93%, up from 68% on Thursday.

At Otis AI in New York, founder Miguel Guerrero said he's optimistic that Fed rate cuts, which should lead to lower borrowing costs across the economy, will make it easier for startups like his to obtain financing to expand and hire.

"There's a lot more optimism in the startup ecosystem for getting more funding," he said. Otis AI helps companies advertise online.

After a round of tech industry layoffs last year, Guerrero said, "It's easy for companies to find top-level talent right now."

Yet the availability of experienced tech workers can make it difficult for younger applicants to find work. For a startup, Guerrero said, "it doesn't make sense to put an entry-level person in there. You're not going to have time to bring them up to speed."

Israeli airstrikes rock southern suburbs of Beirut, cut off a key crossing into Syria

By BASSEM MROUE Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Israel carried out another series of punishing airstrikes Friday, hitting suburban Beirut and cutting off the main border crossing between Lebanon and Syria for tens of thousands of people fleeing the Israeli bombardment of the Hezbollah militant group.

The overnight blasts in Beirut's southern suburbs sent huge plumes of smoke and flames into the night sky and shook buildings miles away in the Lebanese capital. Additional strikes sent people running for cover in streets littered with rubble in the Dahiyeh neighborhood, where at least one building was leveled and cars were burned out.

The Israeli military said it targeted Hezbollah's central intelligence headquarters around midnight. It did not say who it was aiming for or if any militants were killed in that strike, but it claimed to have killed 100 Hezbollah fighters in the last 24 hours.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported more than 10 consecutive airstrikes in the area. Some 1,400 Lebanese, including Hezbollah fighters and civilians, have been killed and some 1.2 million driven from their homes since Israel escalated its strikes in late September aiming to cripple Hezbollah and push it away from the countries' shared border.

And a hospital in southern Lebanon said it was shelled Friday evening after being warned to evacuate. The Salah Ghandour Hospital in the city of Bint Jbeil said in a statement that the shelling "resulted in nine members of the medical and nursing staff being injured, most of them seriously," while most of the medical staff were evacuated. A day earlier, the World Health Organization said 28 health workers in Lebanon had been killed in the past 24 hours.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah launched about 100 rockets into Israel on Friday, the Israel military said.

The Israeli military also said that a strike in Beirut the day before killed Mohammed Rashid Skafi, the head of Hezbollah's communications division. The military said in a statement that Skafi was "a senior Hezbollah terrorist who was responsible for the communications unit since 2000" and was "closely affiliated" with high-up Hezbollah officials.

Thursday's strike along the Lebanon-Syria border, about 30 miles east of Beirut, led to the closure of the road near the busy Masnaa Border Crossing — the first time it has been cut off since Hezbollah and Israel began trading fire almost a year ago.

Israel said it targeted the crossing because it was being used by Hezbollah to transport military equipment across the border. It said fighter jets had struck a tunnel used to smuggle weapons from Iran and other proxies into Lebanon.

Hezbollah is believed to have received much of its weaponry through Syria from Iran, its main backer.

Associated Press video footage showed two huge craters on each side of the road. People got out of cars, unable to pass, carrying bags of their possessions as they crossed on foot. More than 250,000 Syrians and 82,000 Lebanese have fled across the border into Syria during the escalation of the past two weeks. There are a halfdozen crossings between the two countries, and most remain open.

Israel launched its ground escalation in Lebanon on Tuesday, and its forces have been clashing with Hezbollah militants in a narrow strip along the border. Israel has vowed to put an end to Hezbollah fire into northern Israel, after nearly a year of exchanges between the two sides that drove tens of thousands of people from their homes on both sides of the border. Israeli strikes over the past two weeks killed some of Hezbollah's key members, including longtime leader Hassan Nasrallah.

On Thursday, Israel warned people to evacuate communities in southern Lebanon, including areas beyond the buffer zone declared by the United Nations after Israel and Hezbollah fought a monthlong war in 2006.

Israeli Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani told reporters Friday that the ground operations were limited, aimed at rooting out Hezbollah militants and making the border safe for northern residents of Israel to return to their

"First of all, our mission is to make sure they're (Hezbollah) not there," Shoshani said. "Afterwards we will talk about how we make sure they don't come back."

Nine Israeli troops have been killed in close fighting in the area, which is saturated with arms and explosives, the military said.

Two more soldiers were killed and two were severely wounded by a drone attack in northern Israel, military officials said.

An umbrella group of Iranian-backed militias in Iraq calling itself the Islamic Resistance in Iraq said it carried out three drone strikes Friday in northern Israel. In recent months, the group has regularly claimed drone strikes launched at Israel, but the strikes have rarely landed.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who was in Beirut on Friday to meet Lebanese officials, warned that if Israel carries out an attack on Iran, Tehran would retaliate more powerfully than it did this week when it launched at least 180 missiles into Israel in retaliation for Israeli strikes on Hezbollah.

The missile barrage amid a series of rapidly escalating attacks has threatened to push the Middle East closer to a regionwide war.

"If the Israeli entity takes any step or measure against us, our retaliation will be stronger than the previous one," Araghchi said after meeting Lebanon's parliament speaker, Nabih Berri.

In the Iranian capital, Tehran, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei led Friday prayers and delivered a speech in which he praised the country's missile strikes on Israel and said Iran was prepared to conduct more strikes if needed.

He spoke to thousands of people at Tehran's main prayer site, the Mosalla mosque, which was decorated with a huge Palestinian flag.

Hezbollah began firing into Israel the day after Hamas' attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, in which the militants killed 1,200 people and took 250 others hostage. Since then, Israel's campaign in Gaza in retaliation has killed more than 41,000 Palestinians, just over half them women and children, according to local health officials.





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ORTHOPEDICS



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Tigers get gut-punched by Patriots in ACAC contest

By RYAN WALKER

Heritage came into Bluffton with something to prove, and it did.

The Patriots (6-1, 3-1 ACAC) demolished the hosting Tigers (6-1, 4-1 ACAC) 51-20 with conference complications on the line. Bluffton was seeking a chance at a winner-take-all ACAC showdown at Adams Central next week, but that won't be the case any lon-

Right from the start, Heritage used its lethal weapons on offense and shut down Bluffton's on the other end.

Four different names were called on the five touchdowns scored by the Patriots in the first half. Eli Tigulis quarterbacked three of them — one was for 34 yards with a Tigers' defensive hand in his face, and miraculously dropping a dime to tight end Zeke Litchfield in the endzone. Then, Tigulis threw a 27-yarder to backup runningback Lucas Weber for 27 yards. The third connected to Braden Walter on a screen for 13 yards.

Weber ran for two yards and Walter for 60 to finish the scoring drives in the first half. It was a rude awaken-

The Tigers tried to respond, as Eli Bertsch returned a 75-yard kickoff to the six-yard line and quarterback Axton Beste snuck in on a run to pick up six points. Toward the end of the half, Beste scrambled for a 16-yard score and eased the blow to a 14-point deficit hopefully into halftime. But that was when Walter scorched the Tigers' defense for 60 yards to the house.

"All credit in the world goes to heritage coach (Jeremy) Hullinger, his staff, their players," Bluffton head coach Brent Kunkel said. "They came out and they were highly motivated. They were sharp, they were fast, they were physical. They punched us in the gut repeatedly."

Heritage scored twice more and began a shocking running clock against the fifth-ranked team in 2A in the recent poll by the Associated Press.

Cooper Craig found the end zone on a six-yard carry late in the fourth quarter, but other than that, the Tigers were stalled out in the second half.

Total yardage favored

ing for the packed Bluffton Heritage with 462 total yards to Bluffton's 183 and 354 of those were credited to the run game behind by a strong offensive line. Up front, the line is headlined by Charlie Riddle, who has Division I interest, that helps the ACAC's leading rusher Nasir Martin and Weber.

Beste, the Tigers' leading passer and rusher, was forced to make plays with his arm all night. The strong Patriots' defense contained his legs in the pocket and the secondary held A.J. Streveler, Bertsch and Trey Bustos. Beste finished with just 145 total yards and was picked off three times.

"I will ride or die with Axton Beste for the next two and a half years, but this was a 3A defense that he saw tonight," Kunkel said. "There's a difference in the level of competition, and he'll learn from it. He'll probably watch this film more than I will tonight to get better. We'll study and get back, we'll both get bet-

On the ground, Bluffton has averaged 192 yards. It had 100 yards less than that Friday night, and held Craig

(Continued on Page A2)



Bluffton quarterback Axton Beste slips the tackle of Heritage's Greyson Mullins and tries to use the block of teammate Easton Blair to pick up yardage in the third quarter Friday night at Fred F. Park Field. (Photo by Glen Werling)



ence game at Norwell. The Barons knocked off the Knight's 47-21. (Photo by Chad Kline)

Knights fall to Barons in long, sloppy game

By ANDREW FEEBACK

Penalties and special teams plays were the difference in Friday night's game between the Norwell Knights and the visiting DeKalb Barons.

The Knights lost 47-21 largely due to some costly mistakes on special teams and a barrage of penalties throughout

DeKalb (3-4, 2-3 NE8) scored four touchdowns on special teams: two punt returns, a kickoff return and another touchdown on a fake punt.

Norwell (2-5, 2-3 NE8) also fumbled two punt returns that both resulted in touchdowns for DeKalb

"I've never seen a game with four special teams touchdowns," coach Josh Gerber said. "That stuff killed, and penalty yards were awful. We've got to be more disciplined with what we're doing.

The Barons got on the board just two plays into the game when Xavier Bell eluded two tacklers in the backfield and sprinted 39 yards for a score.

The Knights took a 7-6 lead when Drew Graft threw a halfback pass to Brady Smith for a 39-yard touchdown.

Norwell seemed to have some momentum when the defense forced a three-and-out, but the first of two fumbled punt returns gave the ball right back to DeKalb, and a

54-yard run by Caiden Hinkle had the Barons up 12-7. DeKalb took control with four second quarter touchdowns, the first of which came when Bell returned a punt 89 yards.

Norwell's second fumbled punt return later resulted in a 12-yard score from Brady Culler.

Connor Schmidt took a punt 65 yards for a Baron touchdown, and it was 33-7.

Then, seemingly just for fun at that point, DeKalb ran a fake punt with only seconds left in the first half. The punter pretended the snap was high and over his head, while it actually went to Drake Hall, whose 58 yard touchdown run (Continued on Page A2)

No. 7 Jets flex over Raiders in an ACAC battle

By RICK SPRUNGER MONROE — It was all

Adams Central at Monroe Friday night.

The Class 2A No. 7 Jets scored early and often in running up a 55-0 win over Southern Wells in an Allen County Athletic Conference tussle on the winners' home

Adams Central improved to 6-1 in all games and a perfect 4-0 in the conference with Bluffton and Woodlan left. Southern Wells fell to

Adams Central took charge early.

The Jets rolled up a staggering 48-0 lead after one quarter, and the teams agreed to start the running clock with still 10:09 left in the second period.

Adams Central ran nine offensive plays in the first quarter and scored touchdowns on six of them, including five in a row at one point.

In fact, it scored a remarkable three touchdowns in the span of just 1:12 of game clock.

On Southern Wells' first yards to the house.

said a disgusted Southern Wells coach Blake Blaker after the game. "Don't get me wrong. They've got a really good team and a lot of good players. They have a system in place. And you've got to remember that we only have two returning starters; no one else on our team has ever played varsity football before. But on their first five touchdowns, we had kids in position to make a tackle,

That flurry of three Adams Central scores built

The Jets got a 43-yard touchdown run on a keeper by quarterback Jamison Roach on a one-play drive. They then recovered a Southern Wells fumble on the Raider six on the ensuing kickoff and again scored on just one play, a six-yard dash up the middle by Joey Everett.

play after that, Adams Central's Jaret Smith picked off a pass and returned it 44 "We gave them a lot,"

and we just didn't."



Southern Wells quarterback Trey Slusher (middle) keeps the ball for a three-yard gain in the first quarter Friday night at Adams Central. (Photo by Glen Werling)

the margin to 28-0 with still 7:54 left in the first quarter.

And the Jets still had time left in the period to put up two more one-play scoring drives and a two-play score, getting a 53-yard run by Aaron Hirschy, a 33-yard pass from Roach to Braylend Reber, and a 19-yard run by Matt Heiser.

Following a Southern Wells three-and-out to start the second quarter, the coaches held a brief conference in the center of the field and decided to run the clock earlier than the customary halftime.

"You're not actually supposed to do that," conceded Blaker later, "but it was a situation where no one was going to object, and no one wanted to see them put up a hundred."

Adams Central got its

final score on a 38-yard run by Heiser moments later, and it very nearly scored again on the final play of the first half.

Southern Wells had reached the Jet 41 and called timeout with 0:01 left to

(Continued on Page A2)

Bluffton Tigers

(Continued from Page A1)

prior, he had 100 or more at least.

The loss will put Kunkel and his Tigers on a sevenday recovery plan, as they'll make the trip down to Adams Central next Friday.

The Jets lost early in the season to Garrett, but the multi-time ACAC champ and three straight 1A state runner-ups will take its sixgame win streak and look to cement the conference yet again at home against the

"We needed a game like this," Kunkel said. "We needed to be humbled a little bit. We needed to get punched. My money's on our kids responding — I really think we will. So it sucks right now. We'll sit in it, but sometimes you got to take your medicine and move on."

ryan@news-banner.com

HERITAGE 51, BLUFFTON 20 At Bluffton **Score By Quarters** Heritage 21 8 0 6 — 20 Scoring Summary

H-Eli Tigulis 34-vard pass to Zeke Litchfield (Cam Rauner kick), 7:55. –Axton Beste 6-yard run (kick H-Lucas Weber 2-yard run (Rauner

kick), 6:30.
H—Tigulis 27-yard pass to Weber (Rauner kick), 4:26. Second Quarter H—Tigulis 13-yard pass to Braden

Walter (Rauner kick), 9:14. B—Beste 16-yard run (2-pt good), H-Braden Walter 6-yard run (Raun-

H—Brauen ... er kick), 1:51. Third Quarter H—Rauner 32-yard field goal, 7:20. H—Walter 28-yard touchdown (2-pt failed), 1:30.

Fourth Quarter H-Weber 65-yard run (Rauner kick), B—Cooper Craig 4-yard run (kick

failed), 4:24. **Team Statistics**

BLU HER 8 20 25-92 36-354 First Downs Rushes-Yards Yards Passing 10-19-3 9-13-0 Passing (C-A-I) Penalties-Yards 4-20 Fumbles-Lost 1-0 0-0 3-20 Punts-Average Time of Possession 25:17 22:43

Individual Statistics Rushing: Heritage: Braden Walter 9-139, Lucas Weber 5-118, Nasir Martin 13-75, Bryson Berg 3-21, Killian McBride 1-16, Zeke Litchfield 1-(-6, Eli Tigulis 3-(-8). Bluffton: Axton Beste 14-54, Cooper Craig 11-38. Passing: Heritage: Eli Tigulis 9-13-0 108. Bluffton: Axton Beste 10-19-3

91. Receiving: Heritage: Lucas Weber 2-42, Zeke Litchfield 2-38, Braden Walter 3-21, Greyson Mullins 2-7. Bluffton: A.J. Streveler 2-51, Eli Bertsch 2-23, Trey Bustos 4-20, Cooper Craig 2-(-3).

Norwell Knights

(Continued from Page A1) was the coup de grâce in a

first half to forget for the Knights. Norwell scored twice in

the second half: an eightyard run from Adam Mahnensmith and a 52-yard burst from EJ Morgan.

But after Mahnensmith's touchdown, DeKalb got a 95-yard kickoff return when Drew Dahlberg fielded it and then threw a lateral to Schmidt.

There were plenty of statistical anomalies in this one. DeKalb had only two first downs, both of which came in the fourth quarter. The Knights out-gained the Barons by 150 yards, but that was more than offset by turnovers and an absurd amount of penalties.

The Knights were penalized 16 times for 85 yards, including nine false starts.

The Barons somehow committed even more, flagged 17 times for 130 yards.

"Those are pre-snap penalties that we just should not be committing," Gerber said. "It's stuff that's just got to get cleaned up and get better. I thought we showed some signs tonight, but then we'd shoot ourselves in the foot. I don't know if we have any toes left on either foot right now. Just selfinflicted wounds; we've got to continue to work and get

better."

Norwell will travel to Huntington North Friday night.

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DEKALB 47, NORWELL 21 At Norwell Score By Quarters 0 7 — 4 0 14 — 21 DeKalb 12 28 7 0 Scoring Summary

First Quarter -Xavier Bell 39 run (kick blocked), N—Brady Smith 39 pass from Drew

Graft (Graft kick), 3:38. D—Caiden Hinkle 54 run (kick failed), Second Quarter

D—Bell 89 punt return (Dawson Cleverly kick), 11:04.

D—Brady Culler 12 run (Cleverly kick), 7:52. D—Connor Schmidt 65 punt return (Cleverly kick), 6:52. D—Drake Hall 58 run (Cleverly kick)

Second Quarter

N-Adam Mahnensmith 8 run (Graft kick), 11:15.

D—Schmidt 95 kickoff return (Cleverly kick), 10:58. N—EJ Morgan 52 run (Graft kick),

Fourth Quarter

Team Statistics NOR DEK

First Downs 28-158 41-240 Rushes-Yards 9-20-1 Passing (C-A-I) Penalties-Yards Fumbles-Lost 17-130 4-1 16-85 5-3 5-29 Punts-Average 7-36 Time of Possession 20:08 27:52

Rushing: DeKalb, Brady Culler 5-27, Xavier Bell 1-39, Will Weber 6-(minus 34), Caiden Hinkle 9-60, Drake Hall 1-58, Eli McCormick 1-5, Ashdan Chittenden 2-1, Brayden Newell 3-2. Norwell, EJ Morgan 16-96, Adam Mahnensmith 23-153, Drew Graft

Individual Statistics

Passing: DeKalb, Weber 1-5-0-6. Passing: DeRaib, Weber 1-5-U-6, McCormick 3-9-0-55. Norwell, Morgan 8-19-1-100, Graft 1-1-0-39. Receiving: DeKalb, Noah Spears 2-46, Culler 1-6, Bell 1-9, Norwell, Graft 4-43, Drew Jolley 2-28, Garry Riley 1-24, Brady Smith 2-44.

Southern Wells Raiders

(Continued from Page A1)

zone

But Adams Central's Carson Schnitz picked off the pass at his own 25 and set

sail down the left sideline before being dragged down from behind at the 9. "The problem is, we

showed up and saw 'Jets' on the front of the uniform, and we didn't want any part of that," said Blaker. "We have to be ready to play regardless of who we're playing. And that takes leadership. That sort of leadership has

to come from someone other than myself and my coaches. We need guys to step up and say, 'What does it mean to play football at Southern Wells?' Are we good with losing, 55-0, every week? It's going to have to be up to the kids, and it's going to

take some time." Southern Wells will next travel to Heritage.

The Patriots are 6-1 after last night's 51-20 win over Bluffton.

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ADAMS CENTRAL 55, SOUTHERN

WELLS 0 at Adams Central Southern Wells 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 Adams Central 48 7 0 0 0 -55

First Quarter

AC—Aaron Hirschy 40 run (Braylen Cowans kick), 10:52. AC—Jamison Roach 43 run (Cowans AC—Joey Everett 6 run (Cowans kick), 8:55.

AC—Jaret Smith 44 interception return (Cowans kick), 7:54. AC—Hirschy 53 run (Cowans kick),

-Braylend Reber 33 pass from Roach (Cowans kick) -Matt Heiser 19 run (kick failed),

Second Quarter –Heiser 38 run (Cowans kick) **Third Quarter**

No scoring.

Fourth Quarter No scoring.

Miami 1 3 New England1 3

Team Statistics First Downs 31-325 42 27-65

Passing Yards Passing (C-A-I) Penalties-Yards 2-10-2 2-2-0 5-25 Fumbles-Lost 0-0 Punts-Average 4-28.8 Time of Possession 28:50 19:10

Individual Statistics
Rushing: Southern Wells: Trey Slusher 15-22, Alden Dollar 10-42, Lyric
Maddox 1-1, Robbie Freimuth 1-0; Adams Central: Max Nussbaum 7-50. Matt Heiser 6-80, Vance Miller 5-13, Thomas Laughlin 3-21, Aaron Hirschy 2-93, Reece Hammond 2-3, Barret Collier 2-(-11), Jamison Roach 1-43, Drew Kaehr 1-27, Joey Everett 1-6. Passing: Southern Wells: Trey Slush-er 2-10-2 7; Adams Central: Jamison Roach 2-2-0 42 Receiving: Southern Wells: Lyric

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Maddox 1-5, Leeland Goodnight 1-2; Adams Central: Braylend Reber 2-42.

News-Banner Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

High School Friday's Scores Adams Central 55, Southern Wells 0

Carroll (Ft. Wayne) 31, Homestead

Centerville 61. Union Co. 8 Churubusco 34, Central Noble 0 DeKalb 47 Norwell 21 Delta 27, Pendleton Hts. 26 E. Noble 35, Columbia City 14 Eastside 38, Fremont 7 Franklin Co. 41, S. Dearborn 7 Ft. Wayne Dwenger 8, Ft. Wayne

Ft. Wayne North 6, Ft. Wayne South

Ft. Wayne Snider 49, Ft. Wayne Northrop 14 Ft. Wayne Wayne 44, Ft. Wayne

Concordia 20 Garrett 42, Fairfield 12 Heritage 51, Bluffton 20 Heritage Christian 40, Lapel 21 Leo 34, Huntington North 20 Logansport 28, W. Lafayette 14 Maconaquah 42, Cass 21 Madison-Grant 20, Eastbrook 14 Manchester 35, Whitko 14

Mississinewa 58, Elwood 0 N. Miami 63, S. Central (Union Mills)

Oak Hill 52. Blackford 6 Peru 28, Southwood 14 Rochester 42 Northfield 7 Warsaw 21, Mishawaka 13

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Wilkes 54, Juniata 7 Jacksonville St. 63, Kennesaw

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Gettysburg 20, McDaniel 7 Harvard 28, New Hampshire 23 Johns Hopkins 20, Rowan 13 Mass.-Dartmouth 34, Mass. Mari-

Ursinus 53, Muhlenberg 50 Houston 30, TCU 19

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South **PF PA**79 94
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79 90 Houston 2 2 1 3 .500 .250 Indianapolis 2 Tennessee Jacksonville 0 4 0 North **W** L T 3 1 0 **PF** 75 Pct Pittsburgh .750 Baltimore 500 106 88 Cincinnati West W L T Pct PF Kansas City 4 0 0 Denver 2 2 0 1.000 92 .500 62 L.A. Chargers2 2 0 .500 68 Las Vegas 2 2 0 .500 78 NATIONAL CONFERENCE Washington 3 Dallas 2 Dallas

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New Orleans2 2 0

Carolina 1 3 0 Pct PF PA .600 127 114 .600 111 115 .500 127 .250 73 129

Pct PF 1.000 116 **L** 0 1 Minnesota 0 .750 104 .500 77 82 Detroit Chicago Green Bay .500 104 89 Pct PF PA Seattle 3 1 San Francisco2 2 .750 102 85 .500 103 82 0 .250 96 106 75 115 0 L.A. Rams Thursday, Oct. 3 Atlanta 36, Tampa Bay 30

Sunday, Oct. 6 N.Y. Jets vs Minnesota at London, GBR, 9:30 a.m. Baltimore at Cincinnati, 1 p.m. Buffalo at Houston, 1 p.m. Carolina at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Washington, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Miami at New England, 1 p.m. Arizona at San Francisco, 4:05

Las Vegas at Denver, 4:05 p.m. Green Bay at L.A. Rams, 4:25 p.m. N.Y. Giants at Seattle, 4:25 p.m. Dallas at Pittsburgh, 8:20 p.m. Open: L.A. Chargers, Tennessee, Detroit, Philadelphia

Monday, Oct. 7
New Orleans at Kansas City, 8:15

High School Calendar

SATURDAY, OCT 5

CROSS COUNTRY (co-ed): Bluffton at the Bluffton Invitational, 10 a.m.; Norwell NE8 meet at Huntington North, 10 a.m. MONDAY, OCT 7

VOLLEYBALL: Norwell at Bluffton, 7

TUESDAY, OCT 8

BOYS SOCCER: (Sectional) Norwell vs. Woodlan at Concordia, 7 p.m. GIRLS SOCCER: (Sectional) Norwell at home vs. Canterbury/Heritage.

VOLLEYBALL: East Noble at Norwell, 7 p.m.; Anderson Prep at Southern

WEDNESDAY, OCT 9

VOLLEYBALL: North Side at Bluffton, 7 p.m.; Wes-Del at Southern Wells, 7

THURSDAY, OCT 10 GIRLS SOCCER: (Sectional) Canter-

bury/Heritage at Norwell, 5 p.m. VOLLEYBALL: Huntington North at Norwell, 7 p.m.; Southern Wells at Adams Central, 7 p.m. FRIDAY, OCT 11

FOOTBALL: Bluffton at Adams Central, 7 p.m.; Norwell at Huntington North, 7 p.m.; Southern Wells at Heritage, 7 p.m. SATURDAY, OCT 12

CROSS COUNTRY (co-ed): Bluffton, Southern Wells ACAC meet at South Adams, 11 a.m.; Norwell at Delta Eagle Invitational, 10:30 a.m.

VOLLEYBALL: Norwell at Maconaquah Invitational, 9 a.m.

Augie Mann, left, won the OUAZ Invitational Tuesday to claim his first collegiate golf victory. With him is teammate Weston Ogden who placed third; the two led their 9th-ranked Marian University squad to notch its first win of the 2024 fall golf season. (Photo provided)

Augie Mann leads Marian to victory

Norwell High School graduate Augie Mann won his first individual title in collegiate golf, taking medalist honors at the OUAZ Invitational this past Tuesday in Surprise, Arizona.

The now-junior at Marian University led his team to its first victory of the 2024 fall season, defeating No. 13-ranked Ottawa (OUAZ) and six other teams that received votes in the NAIA preseason rankings. Marian is No. 9 in that ranking.

Mann, a 2022 Norwell grad, finished four under par over three rounds at the Sterling Grove Country Club. He opened the 11-team tournament with a 68 and finished with a total score of 212. Teammate Weston Ogden placed third in the tourna-

Mann's high school career was capped by claiming the individual sectional medalist before narrowly missing qualifying for the state finals at regionals.

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

WEEKLY DOW JONES AND S&P 500 17.15 -173.18 39.55 -184.93 341.16 **Dow Jones industrials** Close: 42.352.75 1-week change: 39.75 (0.1%) MON TUES WED THUR 43,000 42.000 41,000 40,000 39,000 38,000 37,000



		STOCK MARK	CET INC	EXES			
52-1 High	Week Low	Name	Last	Wk Chg	Wk %Chg	YTD %Chg	12-mo %Chg
42,628.32	32,327.20	Dow Jones Industrials	42,352.75	+39.75	+.09	+12.37	+26.78
16,413.23	13,471.47	Dow Jones Transportation	15,814.11	-371.79	-2.30	53	+6.80
1,070.03	765.47	Dow Jones Utilities	1,051.42	-3.64	34	+19.25	+31.40
19,597.32	14,638.37	NYSE Composite	19,541.03	+39.81	+.20	+15.95	+28.44
18,671.07	12,543.86	Nasdaq Composite	18,137.85	+18.26	+.10	+20.83	+35.04
5,767.37	4,103.78	S&P 500	5,751.07	+12.90	+.22	+20.57	+33.48
3,145.54	2,322.38	S&P MidCap	3,118.26	98	03	+12.11	+26.99
1,464.59	1,065.49	S&P SmallCap	1,407.46	-10.68	75	+6.77	+25.22
57,673.22	41,178.32	Wilshire 5000	57,538.28	+119.58	+.21	+19.14	+32.78
2,300.00	1,633.67	Russell 2000	2,212.80	-11.91	54	+9.16	+26.77
	-						

STOCK EXCHANGE HIGHLIGHTS NYSE GAINERS (\$2 OR MORE) NYSE LOSERS (\$2 OR MORE) NYSE ACTIVES (\$1 OR MORE)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
YirenDig	7.45	+2.46	+49.3	SiteCtr rs	17.39	-42.56	-71.0	NIO	6842761	6.77	+.25
Nabors	81.30	+19.35	+31.2	SunnovEn	7.44	-2.95	-28.4	FordM	2699216	10.57	21
W&T Off	2.68	+.61	+29.5	Humana	240.03	-78.65	-24.7	Ambev	2656587	2.47	+.07
X Finl	7.34	+1.67	+29.5	akaBrnd	18.44	-5.66	-23.5	Palantir	2491749	40.01	+3.17
ChinGrn	2.31	+.52	+29.1	ZIM Intg	18.95	-5.29	-21.8	Alibaba	2179532	114.53	+7.20
JinkoSolar	29.94	+6.73	+29.0	HeritageIn	s 12.19	-3.32	-21.4	Carnival	2079683	18.02	52
KE Hldg	25.80	+5.80	+29.0	GCT Semi	2.60	63	-19.5	KE Hldg	2079107	25.80	+5.80
DagoNEn	24.48	+4.87	+24.8	ContainSt	rs 7.69	-1.65	-17.7	BcoBrad	1627566	2.73	+.07
EmergBio	9.35	+1.86	+24.8	Stellantis	13.32	-2.74	-17.1	Vale SA	1623650	11.45	34
Zhihu s	4.80	+.90	+23.1	Offerpad	3.39	69	-16.9	Pfizer	1528780	28.58	51
NASDAQ C	AINER	s (\$2 o	R MORE)	NASDAQ	Losers	(\$2 OF	MORE)	NASDAQ	ACTIVES	(\$1 or	MORE)
Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Chanson A	14.81	+11.96	+419.6	SonnetB rs	5.15	-32.21	-86.2	Nvidia s	12675391	124.92	+3.52
UP Fint	12.39	+7.81	+170.5	Cemtrex rs	2.01	-5.37	-72.8	Fangdd A	4842136	2.53	+1.27
Capricr h	21.65	+11.70	+117.6	SOBR Sfe	rs 3.80	-5.22	-57.9	Tesla	4286158	250.08	-10.38
Emcore rs	2.45	+1.24	+102.5	GuardH	3.30	-2.48	-42.9	Intel	3175812	22.59	-1.32
QuantaSng	3.72	+1.88	+102.2	Galmed rs	4.20	-2.89	-40.8	PhnxMtr	2493710	1.07	+.69
Fangdd A	2.53	+1.27	+100.8	AmRebl rs	2.62	-1.75	-40.0	UP Fint	2443893	12.39	+7.81
Agora	4.71	+2.30	+95.4	Banzai rs	3.56	-2.17	-37.9	IQIYI	2231175	3.10	+.27
Zhongcha i	s 2.47	+1.12	+83.3	GoldSunA	rs 4.39	-2.45	-35.8	Apple Inc	s 2217995	226.80	99
USGoldMin	10.35	+4.63	+80.9	Primega n	11.99	-6.56	-35.4	JD.com	2064656	46.97	+7.07
bioAffnty w	t 2.00	+.89	+80.2	LakeShr rs	5.45	-2.92	-34.9	RiviaAu A	2051458	10.44	-1.16

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST Div Last Chg %Chg %Chg Div Last Chg %Chg %Chg 2.00 115.26 +4.67 +4.2 +39.7 6.64 226.00 +5.16 +2.3 +38.2 1.11 21.9110 +.01 1.26 46.97 +7.07 +17.7 +30.6 JD com -63.9 .17 25.80 +5.80 +29.0 +59.2 -95.4 KE Hldg KaixinHld

AgEagle rs 2.66 114.53 +7.20 +6.7 .05 2.47 +.07 +2.9 +47.835 2.58 38.41 Alibaba +.26+284.4 +2.9 KrS ChIn +4.48 +13.2 Ambev 3.52 100.28 -1.56 +23.5 -.99 -0.4 +.42 +1.3 +18.1 Apple Inc s 1.00 226.80 +17.8 LincNat 1.80 31.84 1.60 201.97 -2.95 owes -7.1 +5.2 BP PLC 1.74 32.88 +1.46 +4.6 Mangoceu -.02 -8.8 2.40 53.96 +7.3 7.08 303.76 BrMySq +.09 +37.5 -.03 -11.7 -1.64 -.52 -3.3 -2.8 +9.5 -2.8 1.48 47.35 MicrAlgo rs .32 .25 18.02 MicCloud rs Carnival +1.5 +3.6 5.64 397.09 Caterpilla +6.01 Microsoft 3.32 416.06 -11.96 -2.8 6.52 150.74 +5.25 6.77 7.35 +.25 +3.8 Chevron +1.1 NIO .32 +4.4 +21.8 1.60 52.75 +.13 +0.2 NL Inds -.03 -0.4 +31.0 1.06 34.64 +.26 +0.8 +30.5 Citigroup 2.24 62.64 +.77 +1.2 NiSource -1.62 -2.3 NorflkSo 5.40 247.92 +1.45 DxSOXBr rs 20.02 +.32 +1.6 Nucor 2.16 151.44 +1.31 +0.9 -13.0 -42.0 -.03 -0.4 Nvidia s .04 124.92 +3.52 ... 40.01 +3.17 +8.6 +133.0 5.42 167.97 -2.03 -1.2 -1.1 -2.6 +16.8 -0.9 +5.4 **DxSOXBI** 36 68 -.98 Palantir .30 95.15 -.86 PepsiCo Disney 3.76 333.05 +4.60 +38.3 1.68 28.58 +.02 +17.4 -94.1 Elevai n +.69+183.8 5.20 887.16 +9.37 EliLilly - 03 -34 7 71.97 Expion360 .05 -99.1 **PrUltPQ** 3.80 124.83 +9.01 +7.8 +24.9 ... 2.53 +1.27+100.8 +275.9 .60 10.57 -.21 -1.9 -13.3 Fangdd A FordM SpdrDJIA 3.98 423.41 +.46 +0.1 +12.3 S&P500ETF 4.13 572.98 +1.51 -1.9 -13.3 .90 103.74 -1.28 -1.2 +7.3 .30 50.55 -.79 -1.5 +18.7 1.84 128.22 +2.70 +2.2 +8.698 +.01 +0.8 +29.4 FrankFlec StlDynam FrptMcM Tellurian GE Aero 1.12 187.08 +1.70 +0.9 +83.8 Tesla ... 250.08 -10.38 +.58 +1.6 +19.6 1.02 35.99 **UP Fint** 12.39 +7.81+170.5 +180.3 HP Inc 2.71 44.18 -.71 -1.6 +17.2 .83 80.94 +1.16 +1.5 +54.0 HomeDp 9.00 408.36 +8.83 +2.2 +17.8 VerizonCm 2.71 44.18 IQIYI 3.10 +.27 +9.5 -36.5 WalMart s 1.00 8.72 -.34 -3.8 -66.6 3.00 208.09 +2.58 +1.3 +16.2 ShChinaLC .87 35.71 +3.54 +11.0 +48.6 WalgBoots .59 46.97 +.36 +0.8 +16.8 3.05 95.55 -3.02 -3.1 -3.4 ShEMkts WsteMInc

-3.4

-5.5 -55.0 WellsFargo

XChange

Money	RATES	S
	Last	Pvs Day
Prime Rate	8.00	8.00
Discount Rate	5.50	5.50
Federal Funds Rate	4.83	4.83
Treasuries		_
1-year	4.20	4.02
2-year	3.92	3.71
5-year	3.81	3.62
10-year	3.97	3.85
30-year	4.25	4.18

.50 22.59 -1.32

CURR	ENCIES	
	Last	Pvs Day
Australia	1.4707	1.4618
Britain	1.3122	1.3114
Canada	1.3575	1.3548
Euro	.9114	.9069
Japan	148.86	146.86
Mexico	19.2753	19.3343
SwitzerInd	.8584	.8529
British pound expressorthers show dollar in f	sed in U.S. oreign curre	dollars. All ncy.

.26

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-.72 -73.3 -87.0

	Mυ	TUAL	FUND	S			
		otal Asse			tal Return		Pct
Name	Obj	(\$MIns)	NAV	4-wk	12-mo	5-year	Loa
American Funds AmrcnBalA m	MA	110,677	36.31	+3.1	+27.3/A	+9.3/A	5.75
American Funds CptlIncBldrA m	ΙH	64,865	73.29	+1.4	+25.6/A	+7.5/B	5.75
American Funds EuroPacGrA m	FG	20,953	59.60	+3.0		+7.1/C	5.75
American Funds FdmtllnvsA m	LB	75,832	85.74	+5.4			5.75
American Funds GrfAmrcA m		147,463	77.88	+6.4	+42.3/B		5.75
American Funds IncAmrcA m	ΑL	79,649	25.92	+2.3	+25.0/D	+8.3/D	5.75
American Funds InvCAmrcA m	LB	93,130		+4.6	+40.6/A	+16.0/B	5.75
American Funds NwPrspctvA m		62,933	65.73	+4.4	+32.5/C		5.75
American Funds WAMtInvsA m	LB	89,085	64.47	+3.2	+33.9/D	+13.9/D	5.75
Davis NYVentureA m	LB	4,797	29.30	+4.1	+37.4/B	+12.1/E	4.75
Dodge & Cox Incl	PΙ	70,324	12.82	-0.5	+13.5/A	+1.8/A	NI
Dodge & Cox Stkl	LV	68,924	273.89	+1.7	+30.3/B	+15.1/A	NI
Fidelity 500ldxlnsPrm x	LB	599,394	199.75	+4.3	+36.9/B	+16.1/A	NI
Fidelity Contrafund	LG	136,794	21.28	+6.0	+47.9/A	+19.1/A	NI
Fidelity TtlMktldxInsPrm	LB	100,705	158.36	+4.4	+36.2/C	+15.3/C	NI
Fidelity Advisor EquityGrowthA m	ı LG	2,563	21.64	+4.8	+44.2/A	+20.3/A	5.75
Fidelity Advisor GrowthOppsA m	LG	4,648	167.00	+9.1	+50.7/A	+20.1/A	5.75
George Putnam BalA m	MA	1,454	26.42	+3.2	+29.2/A	+10.4/A	5.75
INVESCO MnStrA m	LB	9,496	60.60	+4.0	+36.4/B	+13.7/D	5.50
Putnam DiversIncA m	NT	528	5.57	+0.2	+14.4/A	+0.6/D	4.00
Putnam SustLeadersA m	LG	6,130	134.23	+4.2	+42.0/B	+16.0/C	5.75
Putnam TEIncA m	ML	531	7.96	+0.9	+13.5/B	+1.2/B	4.00
Schwab SP500ldx	LB	104,575	89.06	+4.3	+36.8/B	+16.1/B	NI
Thornburg IntermMnA m	MI	260	13.37	+0.7	+9.1/D	+1.3/B	2.00
Thornburg LtdTrmUSGvtA m	GS	38	12.09	-0.2	+8.8/A	+0.1/E	2.25
Vanguard 500ldxAdmrl	LB	552,765	530.82	+4.3	+36.8/B	+16.1/B	NI
Vanguard GrldxAdmrl	LG	84,020	197.32	+5.6	+41.1/C	+19.0/A	NI
Vanguard InTrTEAdmrl	MI	73,965	13.79	+0.8	+10.0/C	+1.6/A	NI
Vanguard PrmCpAdmrl	LB	73,257	180.97	+2.0	+28.4/E	+15.4/B	NI
Vanguard TrgtRtr2025Fd	TG	78,754	20.35	+2.2	+21.9/B	+7.1/B	NI
Vanguard TrgtRtr2030Fd	TH	99,058	39.75	+2.6	+24.2/B	+8.0/B	NI
Vanguard TrgtRtr2035Fd	TI	104,179	25.03	+2.9	+25.9/C	+9.0/C	NI
Vanguard TrgtRtr2040Fd	TJ	93,114		+3.3	+27.6/D		NI
Vanguard TrgtRtr2045Fd	TK	91,013		+3.6	+29.2/D		NI
Vanguard TrgtRtr2050Fd	TN	77,440		+3.9			NI
Vanguard TtBMIdxAdmrl	CI	102,378	9.77	-0.6	+11.3/D	0.0/D	NI
Vanguard TtlSMldxAdmrl		401,694		+4.3	+36.2/C	+15.3/C	NI
			=		05.0/5	0.0/0	

CA -Conservative Allocation, CI -Intermediate-Term Bond, FB -Foreign Large Blend, GS -Short Government, B -World Bond, IH -World Allocation, LB -Large Blend, LG -Large Growth, LV -Large Value, MA -Moderate Allocation, MI, Muni National Intermediate, ML, Muni National Long, NT -Nontraditional Bond, WS -World Stock, Total Return: Chng in NAV with dividends reinvested. Rank: How fund performed vs. others with same objective: A is in top 20%, E in bottom 20%. **Source:** Morningstar.

MA 100.407 79.69 +2.3 +25.3/B +9.2/B

Vanguard WingtnAdmrl

Stock Footnotes: g = Dividends and earnings in Canadian dollars. h = Does not meet continued-listing standards. If = Late filing with SEC. n = New in past 52 weeks. pf = Preferred. rs = Stock has undergone a reverse stock split of at least 50 percent within the past year. rt = Right to buy security at a specified price. s = Stock has split by at least 20 percent within the last year. un = Light to the process of the proces Units. vj e in bankruptcy or receivership. wd e When distributed. wi e When issued. wt e Warrants.

Mutual Fund Footnotes: b = Fee covering market costs is paid from fund assets. d = Deferred sales charge, or redemption fee. f = front load (sales charges). m = Multiple fees are charged. NA = not available. p = previous day's net asset value. s = fund split shares during the week. x = fund paid a distribution during the week. Source: The Associated Press. Sales figures are unofficial.

My husband won't respect my privacy

Dear Annie: I have had a few health don't have it in issues recently. During tests, my doctor me to include him incidentally found a mass on my spleen. I asked my husband not to tell anyone, except our kids who are 24 and 33.

I found out he told the neighbor and needed to down the street. I am upset. I haven't said anything yet to the rest of my family or friends. He argued (yes, argued) that I didn't say that and that I had said not to tell the family. I explained to him that he betrayed my trust. It was my story to tell when I was ready. He became belligerent and argued with me some more. I was still keeping my composure and said, "Even if I said I don't want you saying anything to our families about it, wouldn't it be implied that I certainly didn't want my neighbors knowing?"

At this point, we are in a big argument. I told him I was going to remove him from my next of kin and anything else that would allow him to know my business since he has some issues with keeping my business out of his mouth (and I did, by the way). He told me I was the untrustworthy one. Again, still trying to have an adult conversation, I asked him to give me examples. He couldn't and was deflecting.

We've had similar issues in the past where I think, "Gee, we are having an adult conversation — a give-and-take, compromising, coming-to-an-agreement conversation" — only to find out I was the only one present in the adult conversation and he's gone against everything we agreed to. I am married to a man-child. He literally argues, "I know you are, but what am I?"

As of now, I have decided to keep my health issues to myself. Apparently, I am in this by myself, and his intentions are to seek sympathy for himself (I have suspected for some time he has narcissistic tendencies). I have so much going on, on top of everyday life. I just

Dear Annie by Annie Lane



We are not speaking, and I am OK with that. It's less to deal with. I think for the time being, I need to take care of myself and just let the chips fall where they may with him. Any advice? — Husband Has a Big

anymore. I get

that he may have

been frustrated

vent. I offered to

ask my doctor for

a support group

he could attend if

he needed to vent.

Dear Big Mouth: Your frustration with your husband is completely valid. Patterns of behavior like his — being careless with information, argumentative and immature — are exhausting and unacceptable.

Your decision to protect your peace and maintain your boundaries was the right one. But you two clearly need to put some serious work into your marriage if anything is to improve (after all, what does it say about your relationship that you can't lean on your own husband while you're battling health issues?). Couples therapy should be your next stop, both to work through this incident and to tackle the underlying issue of feeling like you can't trust your husband.

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

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BEETLE BAILEY





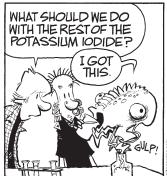
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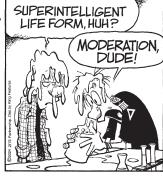




ZITS







CRANKSHAFT







My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham

Question: We're taught that reaching our goals is what life is all about and that if we don't check off our wish list, we haven't been successful. I've done everything I set out to do - and I'm in great despair. I have a lot of money, and even after retirement I'm young enough to do whatever I want. But my wife divorced me, my children rebelled and left home as teenagers, and my friends don't really include me in anything. I have reason to believe instead of being successful, I've become a total failure. Where is the truth? - S.L.

Answer: Greed seeks more than its own in life. It cheats, robs, and slan-

We are born with the sin of covetousness

The Bible teaches that we are born with the sin of covetousness (see Jeremiah 6:13).

Greed is an intense and selfish desire for something, often something belonging to another. The Bible speaks of greed as covetousness, as in the Ten Commandments (see Exodus 20:17).

Charles Kingsley, a historian, once said, "If you wish to be miserable, think about yourself: about what you want, what you like, what respect people ought to pay you – and then to you, nothing will be pure. You will spoil everything you touch. You will make misery for yourself out of everything good. You will be as wretched as you choose."

Greed is rated with

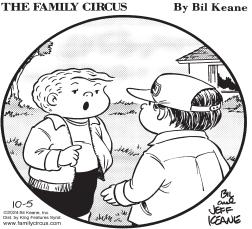
ness and maliciousness in Romans 1:29. Greed is idolatry and not to be confused with riches, if riches have been earned honestly. But if riches choke out spiritual life, then it is sin.

Many people have been blessed by the story of Zacchaeus and challenged to turn from a life of greed to a life of giving and God's blessing falls on them when they live according to the attributes of Christ. Everything that we see about us that we count as our possessions only comprises a loan from God.

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

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"I think my daddy's 14 years old. That's as high as I can count.

The LOCKHORNS



"I TRIED WORKING FROM HOME, BUT LORETTA FIRED ME."

DOWN

1 Lure

star

spool

4 Seaside

furniture 5 Smooth,

musically

6 — Grey

7 Italian

brandy

8 007, for

one

10 Love

9 Kvetch

3 Film

2 "M*A*S*H"

22 Greetings

at sea

24 Worship

25 Computer

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26 Ruckus **27** Eg. and

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29 Part of

30 Before

31 Sun. talk

35 Newscast segment

36 Ostrich

feathers

39 Promises 40 Israeli

airline 41 Whirlpool

43 Appease 45 Un-

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BUY IT	
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ing to hire an individual for fast

pace jobs including labeling,

inserting and delivering bun-

dles of newspapers. Must be

willing to work from 4 a.m.-9

a.m. Monday-Saturday. Some

heavy lifting, and an Indiana drivers license required. Mail

resume, or fill out an application, to News-Banner, P.O.

Box 436, 125 N. Johnson St.,

VEHICLES

Auto/Trucks

INDIANA AUTO AUCTION,

INC. Huge Repo Sale October 10, 2024. Over 100 repos-

sessed units for sale. Money

order or cashier's check only.

\$500 cashier's check or mon-

ey order deposit per person re-

quired. Register 8 am-9:30

am. No public entry after 9:30

am. All vehicles sold AS IS! 4425 W. Washington Center

Road, Fort Wayne. (A)

Bluffton, IN 46714.

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

TOWN OF WARREN, Indiana Hiring Utility Manager. An application period for the position of full time Utility is now Manager is now open through October 15, 2024, due to retirement. Departments to oversee include water, sewer, electric, parks and streets. Duties include employee management, project planning, maintenance of positive relationships with the public, all employees and officers of the Town, representation at workshops and meetings, scheduling of regular day to day and long term operations. The position is a mix of office and field work. Must hold at least a WT3 or DSM license, have at least eight years experience with managerial a plus. Knowledge of Electric Utility also a plus. Base pay of \$28.50 per hour adjusted upward based on experience. Benefit Package available. For information contact Lee Poulson, Manager, utility1@citznet.com or Clerk

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

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

Public Notice

90C01-2409-EU-000034

STATE OF INDIANA WELLS COUNTY IN THE WELLS
CIRCUIT COURT IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF KEVIN L. OKEY,

NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED <u>ADMINISTRATION</u>

Notice is hereby given that **TARA L. KAHN** was, on the 27th day of September, 2024, appointed personal representative of the estate of **KEVIN L. OKEY**, deceased, who died on August 27, 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 with-in 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

Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, this 27th day of September, 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

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Campers/RV's

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

SALES & AUCTIONS

Auctions

414 N MERIDIAN ST. AMA-ZON OVERSTOCK, HOME DEPOT, & SMALL ESTATE Ring 1 @ 9:00 AM - LIVE ONLY - farm items, tools, garage items, household cages, and misc.

Ring 2 @ 10:00 AM - SIMUL-CAST! This ring will be NEW Amazon overstock and Home Home Depot items along with a small estate. New, New a small estate. New! Furniture, Flooring, Rugs, Ceramic Tiling, Solo Ranger, Mirrors, Stove Ranger, Mirrors, Huskey Tool Cabinets, Pow-er Tools, Etc. The estate will include jewelry, coins, fishing items, antique lunch boxes Barbies, Hot Wheels, bee signs, radio scanners, coffee grinders, salt & pepper shakers, Nascar, collectible bobble heads. furniture collectible glassware, cigar boxes, cereal boxes, and

more! Ring 3 @ 11:00 AM - Simulcast! Birds and Small Ani mals - Chickens of all kinds peafowl of all kinds, pheasants, pigeons, house birds, lizards, ducks, geese, gunnies, quail, rabbits,

and much more. Bid live or Preview for the auction is Fri-

day, October 11th from 12-5. Go to bidbricker.com to bid!! Oct. 12 9:00 AM-5:30 PM Rain or Shine

RENTALS

Office Space Rental

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

Dublic

BIDDING ENDS OCTOBER 6 - (Online Only) - The Estate of Wayne E. Penrod, seller. Artifacts, art, antiques, collectibles, home goods & decor, electronics, tools, furniture, lawn & garden, sports goods, household, & more! Open house Oct. 5 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 69 W 1st St., Poneto, IN. Sale manager, Isaac Stoller, 260-413-3515, The Steffen Group Inc., www.steffengrp.com. 260-824-3006.

BIDDING ENDS OCTOBER 12 - Private Family Collection, seller. Fine art work including five original pieces by William P. Silva, other quality artwork, 2006 Pontiac Torrent, 2005 Toyota Highlander, outstanding sterling silver, pewter and other serving pieces, early American primitives, unique furniture, antiques, glassware, early collectibles, taxidermy mounts, household, more! Open houses Oct. 8 and Oct. 10 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 102 S. Jefferson St., Ossian, IN. Sale manager Rod Fetters, 260-557-8451, The Steffen Group Inc., www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

OCTOBER 6-OCTOBER 13 (Online Only) - Boots Estate, seller. 1993 Ford F150, boat mini bike, wagons, Pyrex, Corningware, antiques, collectibles, glassware, jewelry, advertising, furniture, toys, household, electronics, board games, much more. Open house Oct. 10 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 366 W 300 N., Bluffton. Sale manager Bobby Perry, 260-273-7260, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

OCTOBER 12 - 9 a.m.-6 p.m. - (Online Only) - The Estate of

Robert McNabb, seller. Spectacular 7,700 ŠF lake front home on 1.23 acres w/200' of lake frontage on Hamilton Lake. Luxury home features 6 bedrooms, 7 baths, expansive entertaining space, 4-car attached garage. Selling absolute at or above 1.4 million dollars. Seller's have over 4.7 million invested in this one of kind lake property. Open house Oct. 12, 9 a.m.-noon, 1180 LN 150 Hamilton Lake, Hamilton, IN. Brandon Steffen, sale manager, 260-426-0633, The Steffen Group Inc., 260-426-0633, www.

OCTOBÉR 13 - 3 p.m. - Multiple consignors, owners. Online only bidding only. 700+ lots! Furniture, Craftsman band saw and radial arm saw, ice maker, banjo, baseball cards, 100+ Pfaltzgraff, tools, pet doors, live traps, collectable glass, Detecto scales, Generac edger, tiller, yard cart, washer, Dryer 50 pc. Ruby Flash & Kings Crown glass and much more! Preview Oct. 10, 3-5 p.m., 812 Elm Street, Decatur, IN. Pick up Oct. 14, 1-6 p.m. & Oct. 15, 9 a.m.-noon. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

OCTOBER 13-OCTOBER 20 - (Online Only) - Estate of Larry N. Curry, seller. 1997 Chevy Express Conversion van, 2013 Chevy Impala LTZ w/73,000 miles, John Deere LA115 riding lawn mower, rare vintage Schwinn bikes, large quantity of hand and power tools, lawn and garden, modern and vintage furniture, household, games, toys, flat screen TV & home decor. Open houses Oct. 15 and Oct. 17 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 419 W. Roe St., Ossian. Sale manager Rod Fetters, 260-557-8451, The Steffen Group, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

OCTOBER 24 - 9 a.m.-6 p.m. - (Online Only) - Estate of Larry Curry, seller. Excellent 1,398 SF, 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch home in Rose Ann Heights neighborhood on .52 acre lot, 2 car attached garage. Home has a ton of potential. "Explore the Possibilities. Open houses: Oct. 15, Oct. 17 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., Oct. 22 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., 419 W. Roe St., Ossian. Sale managers, Brandon Steffen, 260-710-5684, Rod Fetters, 260-557-8451, *The* Steffen Group Inc., 824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.
NOVEMBER 14 - 6 p.m. - Becher Family Farms LLC, sellers.

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

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This Week's Garage Sales Clip & Save

1115 SOUTH MORGAN STREET, BLUFFTON ESTATE SALE. Furniture, including cabinets, couch dressers, chair, etc) tv, glass-ware, heaters, misc. tools, cookie jars, chest freezer, ai conditioners and collectables. Saturday, Oct. 05, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM, In garage, behind the house. Rain or Shine

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

Lottery Numbers

Friday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY Cash 5 — 02-09-20-25-

Cash4Life — 12-13-31-46-54, Cash Ball: 02

Quick Draw Midday — 04-12-15-18-20-21-25-26-27-33-37-45-53-58-63-64--69-72-77-79, BE: 77

Daily Three-Midday — 06-00-00. SB: 02

Daily Three-Evening — 01-04-02, SB: 02

Daily Four-Midday — 03-05-07-04, SB: 02

Daily Four-Evening — 09-00-08-09, SB: 02

Quick Draw Evening - 03-08-10-13-15-16-18-25-29-34-35-37-39-41-44-58-59-62-74-78, BE: 59

Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$24.1 million **MEGA MILLIONS** 21-39-42-43-45, Mega

Ball: 03, Megaplier: 2X **POWERBALL** Estimated jackpot (for

Saturday): \$295 million



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As a resident of the Wells County community for decades, Attorney, Gerret J. Swearingen, has devoted his legal practice to assisting clients in preserving the family assets from the high cost of Nursing Home and In-Home Healthcare. IIIIIIII NAELA

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