

The News - Banner

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2024

BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

\$1.00



"Fire" up the griddles

A special breakfast for the police and fire departments was prepared Saturday morning. Above, firefighter Adam Hannie flips a pancake. At right, firefighter Kadin Gerber cooks up some sausage while Battalion Fire Chief Brandon Mechling oversees. Below, firefighter Landon Eads, right, talks with Isaac, left, and Niles Stoller about his experiences as a fireman. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)



Township waits on Ossian Town Council meeting for fire agreement

By HOLLY GASKILL

A contract for fire protection in Jefferson Township remains unsigned, but the township advisory board intends to meet with the Ossian Town Council later this month.

The board and town of Ossian have engaged in negotiations for 2025 fire coverage from the Ossian Fire Department since April, originally stemming from the town's desire for the township and town to pay proportionally for services. The board recently moved forward with a 2025 budget with roughly \$122,000 in the agreement.

However, the Jefferson Township Advisory Board did not discuss signing the agreement during their meeting Thursday, because board member David Haiflich said a resident had asked if "the town could cut us (Jefferson Township) a check and (us) pay it (the fire department)." Haiflich said

that Ossian Fire Department Chief Ben Fenstermaker would discuss it with the town, and, therefore, Haiflich wanted to wait on voting. The Ossian Town Council's next meeting is Oct. 14.

Haiflich claimed the town council has been delaying this process and has been unable to work to meet with the township board. "It's not this board who has waited to the last second," he said.

"My concern is that we're playing this big game of chicken, and all of us in the township ... won't have fire coverage," an audience member interjected. "We're the ones that are going to have to pay."

"So let me explain one thing to you about that," Haiflich responded. "So, you're a fireman, correct? So you're going to say to all these people out here if on (Dec.) 31st we

(Continued on Page 2)

Stuck caucused for County Recorder after Bertsch announces retirement

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Rina Stuck (R) was elected as the replacement County Recorder in a Wells County Republican caucus election Saturday.

Stuck was selected after Carolyn Bertsch was elected to replace Ossian Clerk-Treasurer Angie Ealing, effective Dec. 1. Stuck was unopposed and elected unanimously by the electoral board. Stuck is also the only candidate running for the position in the general election.

State Representative Matt Lehman nominated Stuck for the role. Lehman cited Stuck's honesty and commitment to serving as reasons to nominate her for the role. Stuck also addressed the caucus, stating her excitement at returning to Wells after previously working in the Recorder's Office in Adams County.

"I'm excited to come back to Wells County and implement what I've learned being in Adams County," Stuck said. "To come back and serve again in the county that I've lived in 34 years ago is exciting."
jonathan@news-banner.com



Rina Stuck thanks the caucus board for electing her as County Recorder. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

Hurricane Milton is growing stronger as it blows toward Florida's Tampa Bay region

By FREIDA FRISARO, Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Hurricane Milton quickly intensified Sunday and is on track to become a major hurricane with the Tampa Bay area in its sights, putting Florida on edge and triggering evacuation orders along a coast still reeling from Helene's devastation.

While forecast models vary, the most likely path suggests Milton could make landfall Wednesday in the Tampa Bay area and remain a hurricane as it moves across central Florida into the Atlantic Ocean, forecasters said. That would largely spare other southeastern states ravaged by Hurricane Helene, which caused catastrophic damage from Florida into the Appalachian Mountains and a death toll that rose Sunday to at least 230 people.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said Sunday that it's clear that Florida is going to be hit hard by Milton — "I don't think there's any scenario where we don't have major impacts at this point."

Hurricane Milton was centered about 815 miles west-southwest of Tampa on Sunday afternoon, with maximum sustained winds of 80 mph, the National Hurricane Center said.

"You have time to prepare — all day today, all day Monday, probably all day Tuesday to be sure your hurricane preparedness plan is in place," the governor said. "If you're on that west coast of Florida, barrier islands, just assume you'll be asked to leave."

In Pinellas County, home to St. Petersburg, officials issued voluntary evacuation orders for people along the barrier island beaches and mobile home parks. Mandatory evacuations are likely to follow.

With Milton achieving hurricane status, this is the first time the Atlantic has had three simultaneous hurricanes after September, said Colorado State University hurricane scientist Phil Klotzbach. There have been four simultaneous hurricanes in August

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Pictured left to right at the 50th CAC anniversary gala are Creative Arts Executive Director Jeniece Lipsey and board members Meagan VandelLaar, Natasha Gilgen, Ted Smith, Jeanette Lundeen, Eric Blessing and Julie Harvey. (Photos by Barbara Barbieri)

Creative Arts celebrated past, present and future plans at anniversary gala

By BARBARA BARBIERI

The 50th anniversary of the Creative Arts Council of Wells County was celebrated Saturday evening with a dinner held at the Wells County Commerce & Visitors Center. Plans for a building project that would include a theater near Bluffton High School were discussed.

CAC's Executive Director Janiece Lipsey welcomed those attending and offered a brief history of the council's pro-

grams and sites over the years, beginning in 1974 when the activities were offered from the former Dr. Mead home in the 200 block of West Washington St. (now a parking lot), directly across from the current Wells County Public Library.

As the council and the activities have moved sites, all of the moves were prompted by the need for more space. And so the council is on the look out to move again as the current space at the Life Community
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Outside		
Sunny, cool and breezy today		
Today	Tuesday	Wed.
High 67	High 70	High 70
Low 40	Low 40	Low 39
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Fire agreement

(Continued from Page 1)

don't have an agreement out here, and when they dial 911, the 911 services are not going to send fire services to you?"

Multiple audience members responded that the statement was correct, but Haiflich disagreed. "They're not going to say, 'You're in Jefferson Township, you can't' — no, I'm not saying we want it (fire protection) for free. We will get it straightened out, depending on which way we've got to go here. But we can't get anywhere with this."

Several audience members then questioned if there was an alternate plan, and board member Tim Baker said Township Trustee Larry Heckber had been unwilling to work with the board to discuss one.

"A board member did start trying to come up with a plan," Haiflich added, referring to Baker's discussions with the Preble Fire Department, "and you guys (the Ossian Fire Department) attacked him at several meetings for what he did ... As it stands right now, none of us up here are willing to give out a plan because we will be attacked for anything we might come up with."

An audience member discussed creating a fire territory, which was met with mixed responses from both audience members and the board. The board agreed to schedule an executive session with the township attorney before meeting with the Ossian Town

Council.

Baker also reported that Heckber had purchased stamps for the Ossian Fire Department, which falls outside the current agreement. He motioned that the board president, Haiflich, oversee all checks to the first department. Haiflich said he should oversee all checks, not just those for the fire department.

"David, why don't you run to be trustee?" Heckber responded.

Baker said he didn't want to tie Heckber down for all payments, but felt it had been an issue. Baker retained his motion, which passed 2-1; Baker and Haiflich were in favor and board member A.J. Springer was against.

Also during the meeting, the board and Heckber disputed the 2025 budget format for the township's fire protection.

Heckber refused to reformat the township's budget for fire protection with specific line items as all three board members requested. There was some confusion about why this was, as Heckber originally claimed he didn't want to approve every payment on every invoice. Springer said this was inaccurate, and that the drafted agreement outlines the township paying a biannual invoice.

However, the board members were not discussing the invoicing — they wanted specific line items for the fire department in the budget. Heckber asserted that the unapproved fire agreement does not say he has to include the

line items in the township budget and that the current version was appropriate according to the Department of Local Government Finance. He had provided a line item breakdown separately, but not in the budget.

Subsequently, Springer said they could amend the agreement to include the formatting if Heckber was unwilling.

"The town is not going to change the agreement, I'll tell you that right now," Heckber said.

"That's fine if they don't want to change it," Springer said.

"If you don't want fire protection, then that's up to you also," Heckber responded.

The board also rejected Heckber's proposal for a rate increase for the board members due to the other increasing costs.

"It's not fair to the public that we accept a raise for all this crap," Haiflich said. "It's not right, Larry. Give the public back the raises that we got."

Heckber declined to omit his own raise, which he said was due to inflation. When an audience member questioned why Heckber should get a raise, Heckber responded, "Because I do a heck of a lot more than most trustees, I'll tell you that. If they (the board) want to refuse their increase, that's fine." The proposed increase was from \$12,000 to \$13,000 annually.

holly@news-banner.com

Weather

Monday, October 7, 2024
(24-hour observations at 10:41 p.m. Sunday)

High: 80; Low: 59; Precipitation: None
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.07 feet at 8:45 p.m. Sunday

Wells County forecast

Today: Sunny, with a high near 67. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Tonight: Clear, with a low around 40. Northwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 70. Light west wind increasing to 5 to 10 mph in the afternoon.

Tuesday Night: Clear, with a low around 40. Northwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 70.

Wednesday Night: Clear, with a low around 39.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 71.

Thursday Night: Clear, with a low around 44.

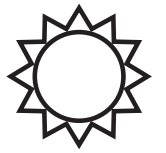
Friday: Sunny, with a high near 77.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 52.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 79.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 53.

Sunday: A slight chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 75.



At left, from left to right, Jen Whicker and Jan and Dr. George Babcock look at plans for the new theater. At right, Doug Routh of Elevatus Architecture presented the plans for the new theater and art magnet school building that could be located near Bluffton High School. (Photos by Barbara Barbieri)

Creative Arts gala

(Continued from Page 1)

Church, 428 South Oak St. in Bluffton, has reached the limit.

To this end, the council members have been in conversations with the Bluffton-Harrison MSD school board and Superintendent Brad

Yates to build a theater and create an arts magnet school beside the current high school.

Discussions have been going on for several years and Architect Doug Routh of Elevatus Architecture was hired to create a visual ren-

dering of what that building might look like.

Those attending the event were invited to ask questions about the project and inspect the poster boards displaying a possible theater, surrounded by classrooms, gallery space and a black box.

Sponsors of the evening included Elevatus Architecture, Emshwiller & Emshwiller, FCI Construction, Eric and Pam Blessing, A Perfect Blend and Welches All Vehicle Repair.

barb@news-banner.com

Hurricane Milton

(Continued from Page 1)

and September.

The St. Petersburg-Tampa Bay area is still cleaning up extensive damage from Helene. Twelve people perished as storm surge swamped the coast, with the worst damage along the narrow, 20-mile string of barrier islands that stretch from St. Petersburg to Clearwater.

DeSantis expanded his state of emergency declaration Sunday to 51 of the state's 67 counties — home to more than 90% of the state's nearly 23 million residents. The state's Panhandle, which continues to recover from other recent storms, is expected to be mostly spared.

Floridians should prepare for more power outages and disruption, making sure they have a week's worth of food and water and are ready to hit the road, DeSantis said. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, meanwhile, coordinated with the governor and briefed President Joe Biden Sunday on how it has staged lifesaving resources.

"We are preparing ... for the largest evacuation that we have seen, most likely since 2017, Hurricane Irma," said Kevin Guthrie, executive director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

The state has prepared emergency fuel sources and electric vehicle charging stations along evacuation routes, and "identified every possible location that can possibly house someone along those routes," Guthrie said. People who live in homes built after Florida

strengthened its codes in 2004, who don't depend on constant electricity and who aren't in evacuation zones, should probably avoid the roads, he said.

All classes and school activities in St. Petersburg's Pinellas County preemptively closed Monday through Wednesday as Milton approached, and officials in Tampa opened all city garages free of charge to residents hoping to protect their cars from floodwaters, including electric vehicles.

As many as 4,000 National Guard troops are helping state crews to remove the tons of debris left behind by Helene, DeSantis said, and he directed that Florida crews dispatched to North Carolina in Helene's aftermath return to the state to prepare for Milton. The Florida Department of Emergency Management is establishing a base camp at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, where the Tampa Bay Rays play baseball, to support the operations to remove debris ahead of Milton's arrival, the governor said.

"All available state assets ... are being marshaled to help remove debris," DeSantis said. "We're going 24-7."

Air search and rescue teams on Saturday found 39 more storm survivors who were still stranded in western North Carolina, state Gov. Roy Cooper's office said. So far, almost 6,600 people have been rescued, evacuated or assisted by search-and-rescue teams since the storm hit, the office said.

FEMA Administrator

Deanne Criswell defended her agency's response to the hurricane's destruction after Republicans' false claims, amplified by former President Donald Trump, created a frenzy of misinformation across devastated communities.

"This kind of rhetoric is not helpful to people and it's really a shame we're putting politics ahead of helping people," Criswell told ABC's George Stephanopoulos, adding that it's created fear and mistrust among residents against the thousands of FEMA employees and volunteers on the ground across the southeast.

Criswell said the agency is already preparing for Milton.

"We're working with the state there to understand what their requirements are going to be, so we can have those in place before it makes landfall," she said.

Federal disaster assistance for survivors has surpassed \$137 million since Helene struck more than a week ago, one of the largest mobilizations of personnel and resources in recent history, FEMA said Sunday.

Some 1,500 active-duty troops, more than 6,100 National Guardsmen and nearly 7,000 federal workers have been deployed, shipping more than 14.9 million meals, 13.9 million liters of water, 157 generators and 505,000 tarps, along with approving more than \$30 million in housing and other types of assistance for over 27,000 households, according to FEMA, the White House and the Department of Defense.

More than 800 people unable to return home are staying in lodging provided through FEMA, and 22 shelters are still housing nearly 1,000 people as mobile feeding operations continue to help survivors. The response to Helene won't let up during Milton and its aftermath, because FEMA has the capacity to address multiple disasters simultaneously, the agency said.

"My Administration is sparing no resource to support families as they begin their road to rebuilding," Biden said. "We will continue working hand-in-hand with local and state leaders — regardless of political party and no matter how long it takes."

The hurricane center said Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, the Florida Peninsula, the Florida Keys and the northwestern Bahamas should monitor the system's progress. Heavy rainfall was expected Sunday ahead of the storm itself and will likely then combine with Milton's rainfall to flood waterways and streets in Florida, where forecasters said up to a foot of rain could fall in places through Wednesday night.

Meanwhile in the open Atlantic, Hurricane Kirk diminished to a Category 2 hurricane on Sunday, with top winds of 105 mph (165 kph), sending large swells and "life-threatening surf and rip current conditions" to Bermuda and northward along the U.S. and Canadian coasts, the center said. Hurricane Leslie was also moving over the Atlantic Ocean, well away from land, with top winds of 85 mph.

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OBITUARIES

James Reef, 87

James Reef, 87, quickly passed away at his home in Ossian on Oct. 3, just twenty-seven days shy of his 88th birthday. Jim, the third of Dan and Mabel Reef's three sons, was born on Oct. 30, 1936, in Flint, Michigan. He grew up on the family farm in Adams County, Indiana, and graduated from Jefferson High School.



When his draft number came up, he joined the United States Army and liked to say he followed Elvis' path from Fort Hood to Germany. After his government-sponsored European vacation, he returned home to the farm and embraced his role as the fun uncle to his growing tribe of nieces and nephews.

He then met and married the love of his life Jean. Together, they moved to Wells County and raised their children, Scott, Karen, and Martin. Jim worked at Corning Glass Works and PHD, driven by a passion for making sure his family was well taken care of plus a little bit more. From attending every school event, pulling the band trailer, embarking on the epic family plus in-laws California RV trip, getting each kid their first car, and sending them all off to college, Jim ensured his family got what they needed all wrapped up with a cheering section, common sense advice and a whole lot of love.

After retirement, Jim and Jean did some traveling but you could find him most often around home. He was making sure Jean got where she wanted to go, fixing something, helping his neighbors (whether they asked or not), tending to his remarkable garden, keeping an eye on gas prices and plotting ways to make his grandsons just a little ornerier. Jim will be remembered as a storyteller, sometimes prankster, a pro-tip guy, and always a helper, the person you could go to get the job done or ask to borrow the tool you needed.

His memory will be carried forward by his beloved wife, Jean; sons, Scott (Girish Vitalpur) and Martin; daughter, Karen (Chris Hupe); grandsons, Alex and Jack Hupe; as well as many in-laws, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Jim is preceded in death by his daughter, Janice; his parents; and his brothers, Bill and Don Reef.

A military service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024, at Daugherty Cemetery 5501 East 1200 South Bryant, Indiana 47326. Visitation will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2024, at Elzey-Patterson-Rodak Funeral Home 120 W. Mill Street Ossian, Indiana 46777, with a time of sharing beginning at 4:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family wishes you to make a memorial contribution to the charity of your choice.

Condolences can be left online at www.elzey-patterson-rodak.com.

Terry Lee Fulkerson, 79

Terry Lee Fulkerson, 79, formally of Bluffton, passed away Thursday, Oct. 3, 2024, at his residence in Fort Wayne.

Terry was born in Fort Wayne on Oct. 27, 1944, to Sylvester R. and Velma E. (Steffen) Fulkerson, both parents preceded him in death.

He is survived by two daughters, Sherry and Shelly; a brother, Ron (Suzy) Fulkerson of Bloomington; and a sister, Kay (Warren) Rauhe of Hastings, Michigan.

Per Terry's wishes, private burial will be held at Apostolic Christian Cemetery in Bluffton.

Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton has been entrusted with the arrangements



This year the Wells County Historical Society and Genealogical Society chose the town of Murray as the focus for both the Cemetery Walk and Small Town Series. Taking the roles of people buried in the Murray Cemetery were, left to right, in the front row, Alan Daugherty, Connie Brubaker, Marcia Hotopp and Cindy Hedges while behind them are Ben Jones, Richard Blanton, Larry McAfee, Dawn Musselman and Dennis Dailey. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

County's history comes alive at Historical Society's cemetery walk

By BARBARA BARBIERI

Murray was selected for the Wells County Historical Society's My Town and Cemetery Walk this year. The program was presented Sunday afternoon at the Historical Museum's annex, with the welcome given by Larry McAfee, president of the Genealogy Society.

Connie Brubaker, vice president of the Historical Society told the history of the cemetery and then enactors told about some of the people buried in the cemetery.

The enactors and their roles were:

- Marsha Hotopp as Elizabeth Miller.
- Richard Blanton as Adam Hatfield, who was a resident of Murray in 1838.
- Dennis Dailey as Lewis Dailey, who was a Civil War veteran who had a bullet wound to his foot on his way to battle at Pea

Ridge.

- Larry McAfee as James McAfee, who came from Ireland and bought land near Kingsland in 1853.

- Ben Jones as Stephen Parkison, who had the dubious honor of being the next to last Union soldier who died in the Civil War.

- Cindy Hedges as Hannah Shady, representing the second and fourth generations of Jones-Shady pioneer family women buried in the cemetery.

- Alan Daugherty as Allan Norcross, who led a secluded frugal life in Murray and was quite a character.

After the walk through the cemetery, Dawn Musselman narrated a slide presentation, prepared by Ben Jones, of scenes from Murray over the years. The conclusion of the program members of the audience were encouraged to share stories of former resident of Murray.

The Murray Cemetery is

located at C.R. 400 N and east of 100 E in Lancaster Township. The land was

donated by Oscar and Rev. Elijah Sutton.

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Obituary Policy

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

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

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



Chili Walk

Local businesses and non-profits served their own special chili as part of the Chili Walk downtown on Saturday.

Above, Kim Hunt, left, and Blessing Fuchs serve up their chili to Kim Goodman and Bryan Mock, right. At right, Beth Tonner, left, and Javon Steffen catch up while enjoying their chili. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)



Indiana Debate Commission announces U.S. Senate candidate debate, asks voters to send questions

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Two of Indiana's U.S. Senate hopefuls will face off in a debate later this month, although the third candidate — Republican Congressman Jim Banks — is not expected to participate.

The Indiana Debate Commission will host a U.S. Senate debate from 7 to 8 p.m. Oct. 29, one week before the Nov. 5 general election.

Democrat Valerie McCray and Libertarian Andy Horning accepted the invitation to debate, IDC officials said. Along with Banks, the trio are vying to succeed Republican U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, who is seeking Indiana's gubernatorial seat.

Banks' campaign sent a statement in August to the ICC saying "Congressman Banks is focused on representing northeast Indiana in Congress, spending time with his family, and running a statewide campaign to be the next conservative U.S. Senator for Indiana. He will entertain debate options as we get closer to Election Day."

Voters are invited to send in questions ahead of the debate, by Oct. 17, according to an IDC news release. They can do so on the commission's website, www.indianadebatecommission.com, using the "Ask Your Question" link at the top of the homepage.

Hoosiers whose questions are selected also may be offered the opportunity to ask their questions on pre-taped video to be broadcast during the hour-long debate, according to the IDC. Candidates do not receive the questions in advance from the commission, however.

The debate will stream live on the commission's website. Local television stations may additionally air the feed. Viewers should check their local listing closer to debate night, the IDC advised.

Commission member Laura Merrifield Wilson, a political science professor at the University of Indianapolis, will moderate.

The IDC is additionally seeking Hoosiers' questions for the final gubernatorial debate of the election cycle, scheduled for Oct. 24.

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A constitutional amendment is on the ballot this year.

This one's simple but sometimes they aren't.

Remember the 1990 movie, King Ralph, where the entire royal family is wiped out in a freak accident, leaving only a distant relative to become King of England?

Hoosier Opinions

Or the 2016 television series, Designated Survivor, where an attack on the Capitol during the State of the Union eliminates everyone in the statutory line of succession except Kiefer Sutherland, an obscure cabinet official who had been pre-selected as the official who would not attend in case of just such a catastrophe?

After 9/11 many states, including Indiana, moved to formally establish a list of officials who would succeed the Governor and Lieutenant Governor in the event of a mass tragedy. Article 5, Section 10 of the Indiana Constitution was ratified in 2004 to designate a list of state officers who would temporarily "discharge the powers and duties of the governor if the office of governor and the office of lieutenant governor are both vacant, in the order listed." The sixth and last office on the list, following the House speaker, Senate president pro tempore, state treasurer, state auditor, and secretary of state, was the state superintendent of public instruction.

There has been no need to resort to this list in the two decades since its adoption. However, in 2021 the office of state superintendent was abolished by the General Assembly, replaced by a secretary of education appointed by the governor.

Line of succession

In 2022, the General Assembly initiated a process to remove the state superintendent position from the list of potential successors. The resolution to amend the Constitution passed the second time in 2023 and now will be Public Question #1 on the ballot in this November's general election:

"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?"

Currently no formal process exists to inform voters of constitutional questions before they arrive in the election booth. As I wrote in the introduction to Volume VIII of Constitution Making in Indiana (2001-2020), there have been several efforts over the past 60 years to provide educational material to the voters in advance of an election, but efforts at instituting a formal system by statute have failed.

The Constitutional Revision Commission, a two-year endeavor, issued lengthy reports detailing its recommended changes, such as annual sessions, prior to the 1970 general election, as detailed in Volume V (1961-1970).

Explaining the amendments

During the period covered by Volume VI (1971-1980), a series of reports set a high standard in voter education. Prior to the 1972 general election, the Indiana Legislative Council published a 17-page paper titled "Five Questions for Hoosier Voters." Each of the five proposals up for ratification was discussed in turn, comparing the existing and proposed changes, and setting out the arguments pro and con. This seems to represent the high point in legislative efforts to educate the voter.

Beginning in the 1980s, such educational efforts became sparse, so much so that in 1987 a House bill, which died in committee, proposed the temporary establishment of a constitutional amendment commission six months before any future constitutional amendment were to be presented to the voters for ratification, and specifying that the commission's duty would be to explain to the voters the reasons for voting for and against the ratification of the amendment.

Finally, from 2006 through 2011, legislation was introduced in the Senate to require, prior to any general election where a constitutional question was to be submitted to the voters, the preparation of a neutral summary of the proposed constitutional amendment. It also would have required a posting on a designated state web site at least 60 days prior to the election, and in each polling place. The proposal passed the Senate four of the six times it was introduced, but never moved out of committee in the House.

Maybe it's time to give the matter another look?

MARCIA J. ODDI

Attorney Marcia J. Oddi was one of the initial staffers at what later became the Legislative Services Agency. In the 1960s she staffed the Constitutional Review Commission, and has served as counsel to the State Budget Agency and Indiana Senate. This year she has concluded a project to update the series, "Constitution Making in Indiana."

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Oct. 7, the 281st day of 2024. There are 85 days left in the year.

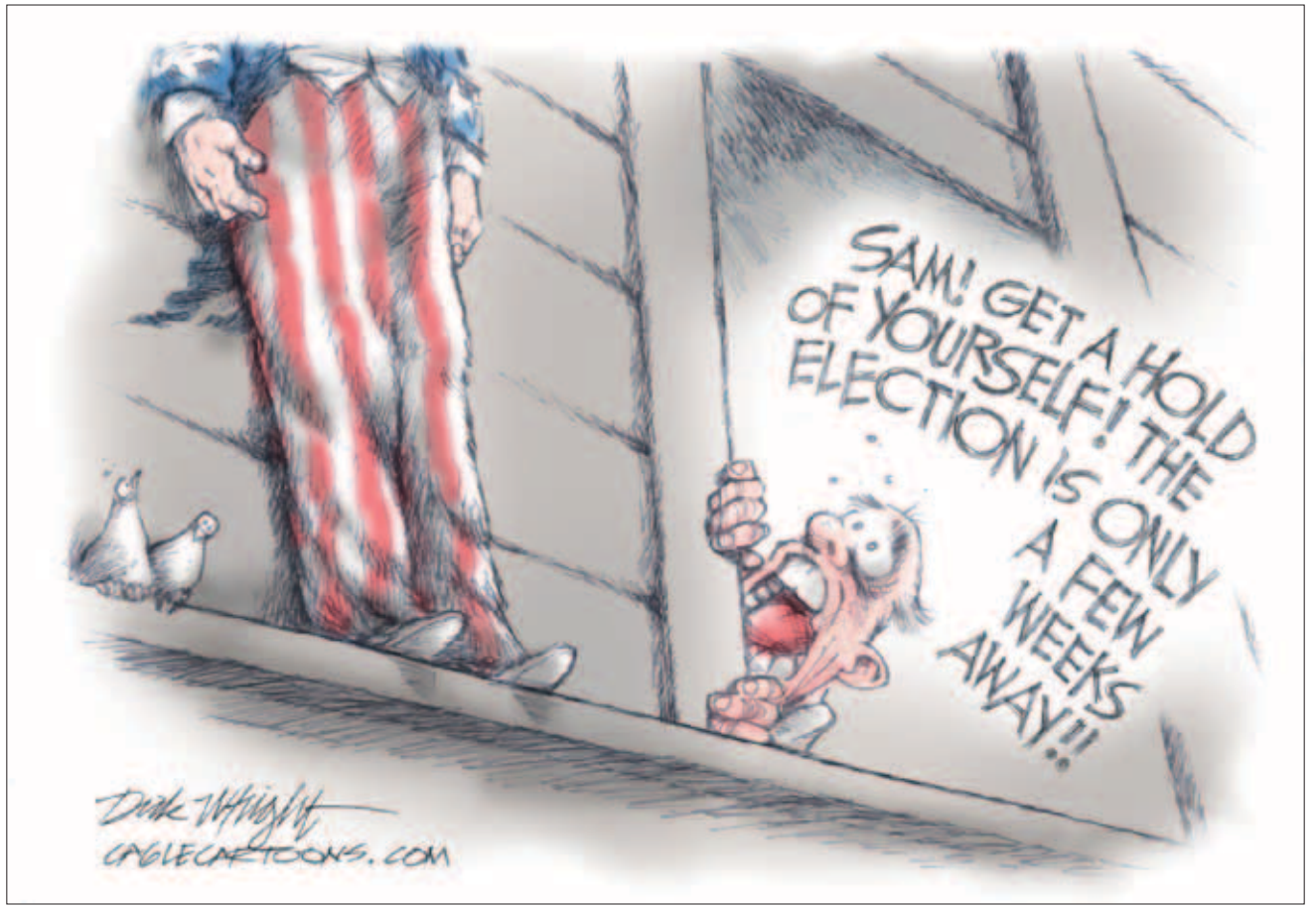
Today's highlight in history: On Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas-led militants launched air and ground attacks on Israel, killing nearly 1,200 and taking more than 250 hostages. The attacks, followed hours later by Israeli counterattacks, marked the beginning of the current Israel-Hamas

War.

Also on this date: In 1765, the Stamp Act Congress convened in New York to draw up colonial grievances against England.

In 1913, the first moving assembly line began operation at the Ford Motor Company factory in Highland Park, Michigan.

In 1916, in the most lopsided victory in college football history, Georgia Tech defeated Cumberland University 222-0 in Atlanta.



Braun, McCormick spar over TV ads, abortion

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana's marquee political matchup — the Republican and Democratic nominees for governor — finally were on the same stage Wednesday night.

Republican Mike Braun (a former Democrat) and Democrat Jennifer McCormick (who was once a Republican) were expected to debate on abortion, property taxes, cannabis reform and utility rates.

But the "amplifying" moment came about halfway through their encounter when they sparred over an artificially altered TV ad. The Braun TV ad portrays McCormick as a "liberal" who voted for Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden. But the ad sparked controversy when the original version of a campaign event had her supporters holding placards saying, "No gas stoves" instead of her campaign logo.

The General Assembly passed a law last winter making it illegal to artificially change political advertising.

Braun said, "The only misstep there was [I] didn't disclaim it. That's a recent law that just passed. When I saw that, I immediately corrected it. That ad was to point out that my opponent is embracing some of the liberal policies. When you recommend joining an environmental alliance that espouses these things, you need to say you're either for it or against it."

McCormick responded, "That response was just so rich, when you're blaming someone else for not having a disclaimer on an ad that is clearly from your campaign. First of all it is disheartening to see something misleading Hoosiers. We deserve better than that from our elected officials, particularly from a sitting senator. I have never mentioned stoves and he knows that. And it didn't get taken down immediately."

When Fox59 broke away from the debate for a commercial break, that very same Braun ad popped up on the broadcast.

Although this first fall debate was mostly civil, McCormick also brought up the fact that Republican lieutenant governor nominee Micah Beckwith called the Democrat a "Jezebel spirit."

"The same week I was called a 'Jezebel spirit' by his ticket," McCormick said. "When I was an elementary principal I learned what you do is you admit when you get something wrong. You own it and you apologize. We deserve better than that. That's why Hoosiers are so exhausted by extremism."

Braun retorted, "My opponent was the first one to put contrast advertising out there on the subject of abortion. That had manipulation to it as well."

That comment referred to a McCormick TV ad that ran in September using Braun's own words in Congress and during TV interviews talking about his position on abortion.

"We didn't manipulate anything," McCormick said. "We used his voice and message. It was not manipulated in any way. Using artificial intelligence to put other words on and purposely mislead is a

whole other ballgame."

The two nominees sparred over the abortion issue when they were asked if they'd back any changes to Indiana's abortion law passed by wide partisan Republican supermajority margins during a 2022 special session.

"We're a right-to-life state, backing the sanctity of life," Braun said. "When our Legislature took it on they talked to their constituents, to Hoosiers. It has withstood the courts weighing in. So it is a bill that sanctifies life —

Politicking

we're a state that does that, with reasonable exceptions. The people have spoken. Legislators have listened, and we

got a bill that seems to be working for Hoosiers."

McCormick responded, "I don't see how any elected official can say it's working. We already have women dying in Indiana."

"I'm the only person onstage who has been pregnant. I'm the only person on this stage who has given birth," McCormick continued. "I'm the only person on this stage who is a mom. I understand firsthand the complexities associated with pregnancy. I trust women; I trust health care providers. I believe in the standards set by Roe. It's time we return to that. There's too much at stake."

"I know my opponent has said that he thought we got it right," McCormick said. "When you make comments like that, you put a lot of women's lives at risk. I trust women, and there are a lot of Hoosiers with me on this issue."

Asked how she would deal with the issue of probable GOP majorities in the General Assembly if she were elected governor, McCormick said, "Anything we can do with our boards and commissions and agencies. I will work with the General Assembly as well. We will look at every step under our authority to do that."

A Ball State Bowen Center Hoosier survey released last January noted that 59% of Hoosiers back abortion access and a clear majority want cannabis reform. The two candidates were asked if Indiana should have a citizen-generated ballot referendum process. Currently the General Assembly can initiate a referendum, though in recent times it has been reserved mostly for taxation issues.

McCormick said that her ethics plan would "ensure Hoosiers have a voice" and that citizen-generated referendums are "absolutely a part of it."

Braun, who said during the debate that teacher pay could be increased via local referendums, responded to the notion of citizen statewide versions, "We currently don't have that. In the legislature, if there was an upswell for it, I would not rule it out."

Howey is a senior reporter and columnist for State Affairs/Howey Politics Indiana. Find him on X at @hwypol.



Brian Howey

How we cope shows men and women are different

I reported last week about the decided move of young women to the political left and away from the religious affiliation of their childhood. But these measures, at least in the short run, do not appear to be relevant to the success young women are having in day-to-day living in America.

By measures such as work and academic achievement, young women are doing much better than young men.

Regarding work, as recently reported in The Wall Street Journal, more young women are now working than ever. The workforce participation rate of women ages 25-34, the percentage working or actively seeking work, stood at 78.5%, up nearly 6 percentage points from where it stood 10 years ago.

The picture regarding young men in this age range is far different. The workforce participation rate of young men ages 25-34 stood at 89.1%, down several points from where it stood 20 years ago. At the rate of 2004, another 700,000 men in this age range today would be working.

The article reports that, per the Census Bureau, 20% of these young men are living with their parents, compared to 12% of women.

If we look at education, we get a similar picture.

As reported recently in Forbes Magazine, per data from the Chronicle of Higher Education, the gap



Star Parker

between the number of women and the number of men enrolled in college has grown markedly over the years.

In 2021, there were 3.1 million more women enrolled in college than men. In 1979, this gap stood at 200,000.

Regarding high school graduation rates, in 2021, for 30 states that break out their data by gender, the graduation rate of women exceeded that of men by 6.2 percentage points.

Among those ages 16-24 who graduated high school from January to October 2023, the percentage of girls going on to enroll in college was 8 points higher than the percentage of boys. Graduation rates of women from college exceeded that of men in 2022 by 6 percentage points.

Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the suicide rate in the United States increased almost 37% from 2000 to 2022. However, in 2022, the suicide rate among men was four times higher than among women. However, an apparent counterfactual to all this is the rate of incidence of depression, as reported by Gallup.

Per Gallup, the incidence of reported depression in the United States is at an all-time high. In 2023, 17.8% of Americans reported currently being depressed or being

treated for depression. This compared to 10.5% in 2015. Twenty-nine percent reported having been treated for depression at some time in their life. This compared to 19.6% in 2015.

However, the percentage of women reporting in 2023 to be depressed or being treated for depression, 23.8%, is double that of men, 11.3%. Further, the percent of women reporting depression or being treated for depression was 6.2 points higher in 2023 than in 2017, compared to an increase among men of 2 points.

What conclusions might be drawn from all of this?

Americans, overall, are stressed out in increasing numbers. Even though women are doing better than men coping materially in our country's increasingly hedonistic society, it's not working for them spiritually.

Women are hard-wired, at least in the short run, to materially cope better than men in a spiritual vacuum.

Men need the responsibility that comes with meaning, and most often, the source of meaning is marriage, family and religion. The declining appreciation for the importance of faith is taking a disproportionate toll among men.

But beyond all this, the data points to one important conclusion, simple and obvious, but increasingly obfuscated in our very confused, politically correct society of today.

Men and woman are different.

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Sports Roundup

Knights finish 2nd in girls, 3rd in boys' NE8 cross country championships

The Norwell boys and the Norwell girls ran solid races at the Northeast 8 Conference meet at Columbia City on Saturday.

The girls finished in second place behind the hosting Eagles, while the boys finished third behind Columbia City and Belmont.

The Knights' top runners for the girls were Mia Kurtz in seventh place, Ashley Tucker ninth (20:38.50), Macy Oatess 10th (20:44.70), Mya Oatess 18th (21:28.50), Ashley Waldman 19th (21:29.30), Brooklyn Meyer 20th (21:29.70) and Addison Meyer 31st (23:43.60)

Individual results

Boys: Gavin Threewits finished in sixth with a time of 17:01.10, Gage Reinhard eighth (17:04.70), Caiden Petrie 18th (17:58.40), John Baxter 29th (18:37.30), Elijah Jacob 35th (18:52.90), Zathan Westfall 42nd (19:17.00) and James Springer 48th (19:39.80).

Girls: Mia Kurtz finished in seventh place with a time of 20:28.80, Ashley Tucker ninth (20:38.50), Macy Oatess 10th (20:44.70), Mya Oatess 18th (21:28.50), Ashley Waldman 19th (21:29.30), Brooklyn Meyer 20th (21:29.70) and Addison Meyer 31st (23:43.60)

Team scores

Boys: 1. Columbia City (48 team score), 2. Belmont (79), 3. Norwell (96), 4. East Noble (100), 5. New Haven (104), 6. Leo (130), 7. DeKalb (155) and Huntington North 8. (171).

Girls: 1. Columbia City (31 team points), 2. Norwell (63), 3. Huntington North (76), 4. East Noble (101), 5. Leo (116), 6. Belmont (136), 7. DeKalb (187) and 8. New Haven Incomplete.

Norwell will be at the Delta Eagle Invitational at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 12.

Volleyball pairings released

The IHSAA released its pairings for the volleyball sectional brackets on Sunday night.

Below are the dates and times.
3A at Norwell: The Knights (14-10) drew the semifinal match with New Haven (12-13) set for 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 19. Norwell defeated New Haven in its previous match in straight sets.

On the other side of the bracket, Heritage will face Mississinewa in the quarterfinal round on Thursday. The winner gets Marion in the semis.

2A at Woodlan: The Tigers (8-16) picked up Whitko (7-16) for the second straight season in the first round. Bluffton beat them in that sectional last year 3-1.

Bluffton drew the first match at 6 p.m. Thursday night and will play the winner of the South Adams and Adams Central match on Saturday at 12:30 p.m.

Blackhawk Christian and Bishop Luers will square off with the winner playing the hosting Woodlan Warriors.

1A Daleville: Southern Wells (11-13) drew Daleville (20-4) in the first round and will play at 7:30 p.m., or following the first match between Northfield and Wes-Del.

Cowan drew Tri-Central and the winner will face North Miami.

Knights place second in the freshman volleyball tournament at Norwell

Norwell hosted the freshman volleyball tournament for the Northeast 8 Conference on Saturday.

The Knights finished the day with a 3-1 record, defeating East Noble in the consolation match.

Norwell won the first match over New Haven 25-15, 25-8. Lost the second to Columbia City 25-20, 25-20. Won the third over Leo 25-13, 25-15. Won the consolation match for third over East Noble 25-11, 23-25 and 15-8.

High School Calendar

- MONDAY, OCT 7**
VOLLEYBALL: Norwell at Bluffton, 7 p.m.
- TUESDAY, OCT 8**
BOYS TENNIS: (Regional) Peru at Bluffton, 5 p.m.
BOYS SOCCER: (Sectional) Norwell vs. Woodlan at Concordia, 7 p.m.
- WEDNESDAY, OCT 9**
VOLLEYBALL: East Noble at Norwell, 7 p.m.; Anderson Prep at Southern Wells, 7 p.m.
- THURSDAY, OCT 10**
VOLLEYBALL: North Side at Bluffton, 7 p.m.; Wes-Del at Southern Wells, 7 p.m.
- FRIDAY, OCT 11**
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.
- SUNDAY, OCT 13**
VOLLEYBALL: Norwell at Maconaquah Invitational, 9 a.m.

Scoreboard

FOOTBALL		WNBA	
College		Semifinals	
Penn St. 27, UCLA 11		No. 1 New York 3, No. 4 Las Vegas 1	
Clemson 29, Florida St. 13		Friday, Oct. 4: Las Vegas 95, New York 81	
Florida 24, UCF 13		Sunday, Oct. 6: New York 76, Las Vegas 62	
Georgia 31, Auburn 13		No. 2 Minnesota 2, No. 3 Connecticut 2	
Mississippi 27, South Carolina 3		Friday, Oct. 4: Minnesota 90, Connecticut 81	
Pittsburgh 34, North Carolina 24		Sunday, Oct. 6: Connecticut 92, Minnesota 82	
Vanderbilt 40, Alabama 35		Tuesday, Oct. 8: Connecticut at Minnesota 82	
Virginia 24, Boston College 14		WNBA Finals	
Indiana 41, Northwestern 24		(Best-of-5)	
Iowa St. 43, Baylor 21		Thursday, Oct. 10: Minnesota/Connecticut winner at New York, 8 p.m.	
Minnesota 24, Southern Cal 17			
Nebraska 14, Rutgers 7			
Ohio St. 35, Iowa 7			
W. Michigan 45, Ball St. 42			
Wisconsin 52, Purdue 6			
Youngstown St. 21, Indiana St. 14			
Arkansas 19, Tennessee 14			
Texas A&M 41, Missouri 10			
Texas 32, Utah St. 30			
Boise St. 62, Utah St. 30			
Miami 39, Oklahoma 38			
Texas Tech 28, Arizona 22			
Dallas at Pittsburgh, late			
Virginia Tech 31, Stanford 7			
Washington 27, Michigan 17			
NFL			
Thursday's Games			
Atlanta 36, Tampa Bay 30, OT			
Sunday's Games			
Minnesota 23, N.Y. Jets 17, London, GBR			
Baltimore 41, Cincinnati 38, OT			
Chicago 36, Carolina 10			
Houston 23, Buffalo 20			
Jacksonville 37, Indianapolis 34			
Miami 15, New England 10			
Washington 34, Cleveland 13			
Arizona 24, San Francisco 23			
Denver 34, Las Vegas 18			
Green Bay 24, L.A. Rams 19			
N.Y. Giants 29, Seattle 20			
Dallas at Pittsburgh, late			
Open: L.A. Chargers, Tennessee, Detroit, Philadelphia			
Monday's Games			
New Orleans at Kansas City, 8:15 p.m.			
BASKETBALL			



Stan Gilbert's legacy cemented

Bluffton's cross country invitational had a little more meaning than just a regular old meet. It was the first Stan Gilbert Invitational, a meet honoring the former coach and teacher at Bluffton High School, who made an impact on athletes and students for 35 years. At top, Gilbert (left in the truck) sits with his family, who showed up to the meet to celebrate. Above left, Bluffton's Levi Johns races toward the finish line to become the boys' overall winner with a crowd watching behind him. Above right, Jude Baumgartner points to the sky upon crossing the finish line right behind Johns. (Photos by Ryan Walker)

Tigers earn their stripes in the first Stan Gilbert Invitational XC race

By RYAN WALKER

Stan Gilbert's first cross country invitational with his name on it went pretty well for his Bluffton Tigers.

The 35-year girls' head coach watched on as the boys finished in first place and the girls second at the first-ever Stan Gilbert Invitational on Saturday morning.

Gilbert and his family were in attendance along with a large Bluffton crowd of supporters to celebrate a coach's legacy that impacted lives of runners and students for years.

One of his students and now head coach of both the boys and the girls, Michael Vanderkolk, decided it was time to stamp Gilbert's name into a home invitational.

In Gilbert's 35 years, he won three ACAC titles and qualified for nine regionals, including eight in a row from 1991-1999. Two times his Tigers went to the semi-state, and his most successful runner, Susan Barth, finished top 10 in the state twice.

But to receive the honor, Vanderkolk was quick to highlight Gilbert as a person, then a coach.

"His optimism shone a light through the school," Vanderkolk said. "He was a Bluffton Tiger through and through. When I spoke to him this summer, he lit up while reminiscing over stories throughout the years, so I knew it was the right call."

The current Tigers showed out on Gilbert's watch on Saturday.

Levi Johns and Jude Baumgartner finished 1-2 overall to lead Bluffton to first. Aidan Graves wasn't far behind in seventh. All

three hit personal records.

For the girls, Cora Kunke and Abigail Ramseyer continued to impress as freshmen and finished third and fifth overall. Those two along with five other runners hit personal bests.

Southern Wells also competed, and although the boys and the girls didn't have their best days, the coaches aren't worried.

"I had some disappointed boys," Raiders' head coach Monica Edgeman said. "They thought it would be better today, but we keep telling them, 'Today isn't your tournament. Today is not what we've been training since June for. We didn't want you to PR today and not do well the next two weeks.'"

Jarin Frauhiger finished in 15th overall in the race with .01 seconds to spare over teammate Kelton Barr in 16th place. Colter Kiel finished 23rd overall. The team placed fifth overall.

For the girls, the team grew in numbers this off-season, and the results are starting to show.

Sarah McFarren finished in 13th followed by Marianne Pease in 15th. The team placed fifth overall.

Edgeman's looking forward to seeing all of the hard work pay off at the end, but admits her girls have been banged up at the end of the season. Her balance between keeping the girls conditioned but not overworking them will be a challenge as the ACAC and sectional meets will happen over the next two weeks.

But, unlike last season, the girls will have a team score with more than four runners are on the roster and ready

to roll.

"Our girls last year — we were lucky to have five (runners) and we had eight most of this season. So that's a blessing because sometimes it was a different (runner) pulling in at No. 5. Today, we're still just battling some injuries with our No. 1 and No. 4 girl and just trying to get healthy for the next two weeks."

In the middle school races, the Raiders swept the invitational.

The boys' team had a team score of 17 points, defeating Adams Central with 40 and Bluffton 76.

The girls finished with a score of 38 points, beating the hosting Tigers.

As individuals, Southern Wells' boys had the top three places. Logan Leas in first, Chase Kirkwood second and Rylan Leas third. Colten Fiechter placed fifth and Logan Rogers seventh.

For the girls, Aubree Neuenschwander and Tenly Fiechter went 1-2. Parker Bryant finished seventh and Paisley Neuenschwander 10th.

Erin Ramseyer of Bluffton was third in the girls' race and Sophia Robles eighth.

The Tigers' top runner was Hudson Withers in 13th.

Both will compete in the ACAC meet next week at South Adams beginning at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 12.

ryan@news-banner.com

Individuals

Boys
Bluffton: Levi Johns finished first with a time of 16:21.7, Jude Baumgartner second (16:33.2), Aidan Graves seventh

(17:34.7), Jackson Rockwell 12th (17:57.2), Griffin Linderwell 13th (18:00.8), Ryan Schlagenhauf 19th (18:25.0), Manning Nash 21st (18:43.4), Owen Lesh 25th (19:07.1), Andy Baumgartner 27th (19:12.2), Brett Kuhlenbeck 31st (19:47.5), Clayton Brubaker 32nd (19:51.8) and Azimjon Bahronov 45th (21:16.6).

Southern Wells: Jarin Frauhiger finished 15th with a time of 18:15.8, Kelton Barr 16th (18:15.9), Colter Kiel 23rd (18:53.8), Daniel Isasi Escudero 29th (19:59.3), Peyton Ellis 30th (20:01.4), Kane Jenkins 34th (21:12.9) and Braden Yencer 35th (21:31.3).

Girls
Bluffton: Cora Kunke third with a time of 20:03.3, Abigail Ramseyer fifth (20:17.3), Reagan Harris 10th (23:17.2), Amarah Robles 12th (23:48.9), Dakota Lee 19th (24:50.2), Addison Sonnigen 20th (24:55.2), and Namine VanHyfte 29th (26:56.8).

Southern Wells: Sarah McFarren finished 13th with a time of 24:04.5, Marianne Pease 15th (24:25.4), Keely Miller 24th (25:40.7), Kameron Hawkins 26th (26:38.6), Gracie Reeves 28th (27:17.2) and Chanie Mounsey 29th (29:01.2).

Team Scores
Boys: 1. Bluffton (35 team points), 2. Hamilton Heights (46), 3. South Adams (66), 4. Heritage (99), 5. Southern Wells (113) and 6. Blackhawk Christian (170).

Girls: 1. Hamilton Heights (26 team points), 2. Bluffton (43), 3. South Adams (81), 4. Heritage (85) and 5. Southern Wells (106)

Vanderbilt takes down No. 1 Alabama

By TERESA M. WALKER

AP Sports Writer
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Fans of the Vanderbilt Commodores danced onto the field, jumping up and down as they tore down a goal post, carried it

out of the stadium. Then they toted the goal post just over a couple miles and tossed it into the Cumberland River.

Vanderbilt (3-2, 1-1 SEC) defeated No. 1 Alabama 40-35 and had lost all 60 games against AP top-five teams,

according to SportRadar.

"This is the dream, right here," Lea said. "And for the next 12 hours, I'm going to enjoy the dream. We've got more ahead of us, but this is what Vanderbilt football needs to be about.

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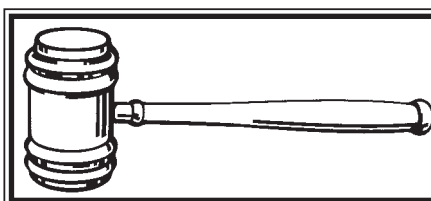
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Public Sale Calendar

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 12 - 9 a.m.-6 p.m. - (Online Only) - The Estate of Robert McNabb, seller. Spectacular 7,700 SF 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.steffengrp.com.

BIDDING ENDS 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 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, collectible 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.

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

NOVEMBER 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.*, heartlandauctionrealty.com, 260-724-3499.

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

TOWN OF WARREN, Indiana Hiring Utility Manager. An application period for the position of full time Utility 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, Utility Manager, at 260-375-3424 or utility1@citiznet.com or Clerk Treasurer Marilyn Morrison at townofwarrenin@gmail.com at 260-375-2656. Application form can be found at warrenindiana.us or by requesting through above contacts. Please include resume.

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

LOOKING TO HIRE full or part time for general carpenter. Must have reliable transportation, general construction knowledge, and own tools. Call Scott at 260-353-9339.

SALES & AUCTIONS

Auctions

414 N MERIDIAN ST. AMAZON 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 - SIMULCAST! This ring will be NEW Amazon overstock and Home Depot items along with a small estate. New, New, New! Furniture, Flooring, Rugs, Ceramic Tiling, Solo Stove Ranger, Mirrors, Huskey Tool Cabinets, Power 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 Animals - Chickens of all kinds, peafowl of all kinds, pheasants, pigeons, house birds, lizards, ducks, geese, gunnies, quail, rabbits, and much more. Bid live or online! Preview for the auction is Friday, October 11th from 12-5. Go to bidbricker.com to bid! Oct. 12 9:00 AM-5:30 PM Rain or Shine

Auctions

SPORTSMAN CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

SATURDAY, October 26th 11:00 AM
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Chad Bricker: 260-703-0839
Chad Bricker Auctions: AH0000077

414 N MERIDIAN ST. SPORTSMAN AUCTION CONSIGNMENT AUCTION Taking consignment now! This auction will include firearms, fishing supplies, reloading equipment, knives, military, and other outdoor items. Call Chad Bricker for any question at 260-703-0839. Oct. 26 11:00 AM-5:30 PM Rain or Shine

Lottery Numbers

Saturday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 09-13-20-23-39
Cash4Life — 20-27-28-35-38, Cash Ball: 02
Lotto Plus — 06-11-12-15-19-23
Quick Draw Midday — 06-16-18-21-23-24-24-26-29-30-31-32-40-49-53-59-62-63-69-71-72, BE: 26
Daily Three-Midday — 06-07-04, SB: 08
Daily Three-Evening — 08-02-09, SB: 06
Daily Four-Midday — 05-04-00-07, SB: 08
Daily Four-Evening — 03-06-04-09, SB: 06
Quick Draw Evening — 01-02-03-04-05-09-12-14-15-20-22-25-28-34-36-43-44-49-65-77, BE: 43
Hoosier Lotto — 05-15-19-23-25-26
POWERBALL
02-12-46-52-65; Powerball: 03; Power Play: 2X

Sunday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 23-30-33-38-44
Cash4Life — 23-26-31-46-57, Cash Ball: 02
Quick Draw Midday — 02-05-06-08-09-12-17-22-23-27-28-31-32-43-44-53-56-57-63-78, BE: 12
Daily Three-Midday — 07-06-05, SB: 00
Daily Three-Evening — 05-03-08, SB: 02
Daily Four-Midday — 03-05-08-01, SB: 00
Daily Four-Evening — 07-08-07-01, SB: 02
Quick Draw Evening — 05-06-12-15-16-21-22-32-33-34-39-42-44-47-48-51-58-59-68-75, BE: 32
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$24.3 million
MEGA MILLIONS
Estimated jackpot (for Tuesday): \$129 million
POWERBALL
Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$315 million

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Public Notice

NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
IN THE WELLS CIRCUIT COURT DOCKET NO. 90C01-2409-EU-000031 OF WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA

Notice is hereby given that GEORGIA ANN WHINERY AKA ANN WHINERY and CHRIS D. SWANSON were on the 23rd day of September, 2024, appointed co-personal representatives of the estate of ROBERT D. BARTON, deceased, who died on the 26th day of August, 2024, and were authorized to administer his estate without Court supervision.

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

Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, this 23rd day of September, 2024.
Beth Davis
Clerk, Wells Circuit Court

Matthew P. Hayes
Attorney for Co-Personal Representatives
Attorney No. 32002-02
GORDON & ASSOCIATES
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
119 East Oak Forest Drive
Bluffton, IN 46714
(260) 824-9377

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What's happening at the Wells County Public Library

The Wells County Public Library takes its mission to "provide the community with access, knowledge and growth" very seriously and offers a variety of events each week for kids, teens and adults. Registration is preferred at most events. To sign up, go to www.wellscollibrary.org, click on the Library Event Calendar, navigate to the date of the event, and view more to get to the registration screen. Alternatively, call 824-1612 (Bluffton) or 260-622-4691 (Ossian) to register.

One Book One County
One Book One County is a community read program for Wells County held in September and October every year. The program is designed to create a county-wide discussion by encouraging all residents to read the same book. This year's title is "Frog and Toad Together" by Arnold Lobel.

Calming Coloring At Ossian
At the Ossian Branch Library: Every Tuesday from 1 to 3 p.m.
Adults. Stress busting afternoon featuring coloring in a restful setting with soft music and snacks. Drop-in program.

Bingo with Jason
At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, Oct. 7 from 3-4:30 p.m.
Adults. Enjoy a lively game of Bingo for a chance to win a candy bar with everyone's favorite librarian named Jason! Registration

required.

Teen Gaming Club
At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, Oct. 7 from 6 to 7 p.m.
Grades 6-12. Enjoy a variety of different games each month, including video games, trading card games, and board games. No registration needed.

Computer and iPad Club
At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, Oct. 8 from 1 to 3 p.m.
Adults. Start with Computer Club and then go or stay for iPad Club. Each month has a different tech focus and there is plenty of time for questions. All skill levels are welcome. Registration appreciated your first visit.

Cook, Talk, Taste
At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, Oct. 8 from 6 to 7 p.m.
Adults. Join the tastiest club at the library. The group will enjoy delicious recipes from the featured hosts. Registration appreciated.

Children's Book Clubs
At the Main Library (Bluffton)
Grades 3-4 Book Club: Tuesday, Oct. 8 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Grades 5-6 Book Club: Thursday, Oct. 10 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Pick up a copy of the book-of-the-month when you sign up at the library. Talk about the book and enjoy an activity or craft based on the book.

Friendship Bracelet Bar
At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, Oct. 10 from 2 to 7 p.m.
All ages. Celebrate the themes of friendship in our One Book One County Title, "Frog and Toad Together" by making a friendship bracelet. No registration needed.

Teen Book Club
At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, Oct. 10 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Grades 6-12. Pick up the book-of-the-month when you sign up at the library. Discuss "Gregor the Overlander" by Suzanne Collins, make spider web slime and have a chance to win prizes.

Book Discussion: "Frog and Toad Together"
At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, Oct. 10 at 6:30 p.m.
Adults. Join us for a chat about the One Book One County title "Frog and Toad Together" by Arnold Lobel. Registration appreciated.

Brown Bag Book Club
At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, Oct. 14 at 1:30 p.m.
Adults. This month read a book about friendship to share with the group in celebrate our One Book One County title. Registration appreciated.

Crafty Kids At Ossian
At the Ossian Branch: Monday, Oct. 14 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

School-age kids. Drop-in for a different craft each month. No registration needed.

Floral Tea Sipping
At the Main Library: Tuesday, Oct. 15 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Adults. Help us celebrate the One Book One County title "Frog and Toad Together" by enjoying a sampling of a variety of floral teas. Master Gardener Melanie Gerber will give a short presentation and discuss tips on planting a cut flower garden. Registration required.

Theater Thursday
At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, Oct. 17 at 10 a.m.
Adults. Join us for a movie, popcorn, and snacks. This month is a "Haunting in Venice" (PG-13). Sponsored by the Bluffton Parks & Recreation and the Friends of the Library. No registration needed.

Board Game Night At Ossian
At the Ossian Branch Library: Thursday, Oct. 17 from 6 to 8 p.m.
Adults (18+). Join us for a night of tabletop games at the Ossian Branch. Registration appreciated.

Saturday Movies
At the Main Library (Bluffton): Saturday, Oct. 19 at 11 a.m.
All ages. Drop-in for a family-friendly movie under the stars in the Story Hour Room. This month is "The Book of Life" (PG).

Trivia Night At The Parlor City Brewing Company
Sunday, Oct. 20 from 5-6:30 p.m.
Adults (21+). Grab a team of up to four people and test your knowledge on a variety of subjects, from pop culture, sports, local history, and other trivia categories. Prizes awarded; space is limited. Sign up at the library or online at wellscollibrary.org.

True Crime Author Talk: "The Madness of John Terrell"
At the Main Library: Tuesday, Oct. 29 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Adults. Stephen Terrell will be giving a talk about his newly released book "The Madness of John Terrell: Revenge and Insanity on Trial in the Heartland," which will be out from Kent State University Press in October. This presentation is perfect for those who enjoy true crime or Wells County history. Registration appreciated.

Library Hours
At the main library in Bluffton — Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
At the Ossian branch — Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon.
Access the library online at www.wellscollibrary.org for digital books, magazines, online databases, event info, and more.

The history of the 4-H cabin dates back to 1855

By BARBARA BARBIERI
Folks attending the first gathering for the Historical Society's program presented for the Bluffton Parks Departments Senior Snippets series were able to hear all about the history of the little cabin located at the Wells County 4-H Park.
Program presenter was Roger Sherer, who as a former Purdue Extension Educator, had been involved in the most recent restoration of the cabin. With the help of slide photos he told about the cabin's history.
Originally it was built by homesteader George Bennet, who was from England, and his wife Emily Lafferty on land south west of Bluffton in 1855. The Bennet's raised seven children in the two story cabin.

When the cabin was acquired in the '60s by the members of the Bluffton JayCees and moved to the 4-H Park there were only enough usable logs to construct a one story cabin. The JayCees, once an active civic group, used the building for their meetings and constructed the fireplace.
In the '90s, when the JayCees no longer met and the cabin was in need of extensive repairs the 4-H Junior Leaders stepped up and began some repairs such as re-chinking between the logs and the adding of a new shaker roof in 1996. Inside the cabin the walls were braced up to keep from falling.
In 2000, the cabin was in need of more work as the lower logs were rotting out and a fund drive secured the funds for a full restoration. The

fund raising was done jointly with the Friends of Ouabache State Park as they were looking for funds to re-hab the Firetower.
Specialty Woodworker Jarod Studebaker was hired to restore the cabin, which required it to be completely taken apart. Studebaker and his crew carefully numbered each log and replaced ones too rotten to be re-used.
When it was discovered there were not enough logs to restore the cabin, it was decided to make it look like a cabin and construction continued.
The cabin received a new cement foundation and a framework for the cabin was erected. The logs that were usable were split and re-used on the inside while the outside split logs were all new. The cabin also was

insulated and had a new plank floor. A new chinking mixture was also used. In 2018 the ribbon was cut on the completed re-constructed project.
Currently the cabin is used for Mini 4-H Camp projects, workshops, pioneer programs and is a popular place for families to take photographs. It can be rented for events and often hosts children's birthday parties.
Sherer announced that a coming event will be the Haunted Cabin on Saturday, Oct. 26, with more information to be announced.
Next program presenters in the Snippets series will be on Oct. 2: Jim Sturgeon; Oct. 9: Ben Jones; and Oct. 16. The programs are presented at the Wells County Historical Museum at 10 a.m.



Roger Sherer was the program presenter for the Wells County Historical Society as they hosted the Bluffton Parks Department's first fall Senior Snippets class at the Historical Museum. Sherer shared the history of the 4-H cabin that its beginning in 1855. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

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