

# The News - Banner

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2024

BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

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## Final jail renovations items remain unfinished

**By HOLLY GASKILL**  
Well over a year after Ameresco reported the Wells County Jail renovation was nearly complete, several "punch list" items have remained unfinished. Many of the final repairs are small, like a gap in the floor. However, there continue to be issues with HVAC. Sheriff Scott Holliday told the commissioners Monday that representatives

from Ameresco had said they were "working behind the scenes." The county is withholding the final payment of \$40,000 until work is completed. Holliday reported Ameresco said they "just needed a little more time" and understood that payment would be withheld. The warranty period on the renovation, excluding equipment, will not begin until final payment.

Meanwhile, the jail has also continued to work through issues with leaking pipes. Earlier this year, Holliday identified cracked cast iron pipes in the administrative portion of the building. He later discovered the issue was throughout the building. He requested an additional appropriation of \$10,000 for the repairs from the Wells County Council on Tuesday.

In a quarterly report to the council, Holliday said that K-9 Letty's handler resigned and the department was forced to sell the dog. The force is currently understaffed due to two resignations, a new hire being trained, and a deputy on medical leave, and Holliday could not find another deputy who wanted to be a K-9 handler. He said the department recouped the cost of purchasing and training the dog.

K-9 Letty started working with the Sheriff's Department earlier this year, shortly before K-9 Leo's retirement. Neither the Bluffton Police Department nor WCSD has a K-9, but Holliday said an area state officer does. While the department is hiring, Holliday hopes to recruit someone with an interest in becoming a K-9 handler. Holliday also stated he  
*(Continued on Page 2)*

## Commissioners pledge \$15K to Markle park

**By HOLLY GASKILL**  
Wells County Commissioners have contributed \$15,000 toward a new playground at a Markle park. John Markley, representing the Markle Park Board, spoke with the commissioners Monday about the \$120,000 project at Walk Way Park, which is on the Wells County side of the town. The board plans to add a playground for older children since the current playground is geared toward

children under five. In addition to funding from the commissioners, the town of Markle has already received \$65,000 in grant funding. Markley said the board plans to request funding from the town of Markle, as well as seek other grants and fundraising. After Markley's presentation, Commissioner Jeff Stringer said he would also personally contribute \$1,000 toward the playground. The 9.5-acre park,



Pictured is a digital rendering of the playground the Markle Park Board plans to add to Walk Way Park, located on the Wells County portion of town.

located behind the Markle Church of Christ, also includes a walking path.

Markley highlighted the park's proximity to area housing and the Commu-

nity Harvest Food Wagon and said the board hopes to  
*(Continued on Page 2)*

## Law office gets OK for new sidewalk mailbox

**By JONATHAN SNYDER**  
A black, weather-resistant, locking mailbox will be installed on the sidewalk near the entryway offices of Sprunger and Sprunger Attorneys at Law at 105 North Main St. Sprunger's Director of IT and Facilities Grant Meyer requested to put the mailbox in the city's right-of-way because of previous struggles with mounting a mailbox on the glass panes of their building, which nearly extend to the ground. Meyer also stated that the narrow entry leaves no room to place the box, which will be secured into the concrete sidewalk.

The sensitive documents in the mailbox disqualifies a traditional post office box from being installed. Board of Public Works and Safety member Josh Hunt stated that the style of business justifies Sprunger's request, which was unanimously approved. Meyer and Street Commissioner Tim Simpson will ensure the mailbox is still ADA compliant. Additionally, the Board of Works did not approve a request from Bluffton NOW! to use downtown maintenance funds to repair the sidewalk on the south side of Perry street. While the board admitted that the sidewalk is in poor condition, previous decisions have seen that money used for residences, not for-profit entities according to Board member Scott Mentzer.

"We've been pretty consistent that we weren't going to use sidewalk replacement funds for for-profit entities," Mentzer said. "Even though this is a different fund, it would run a little bit afoul with where we've landed on that. Here we would be paying for the full repair out of a budgeted item that wasn't originally defined for this purpose." Bluffton NOW! President Mike Lautzenheiser  
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## Residents flee as Hurricane Milton takes aim

**By TERRY SPENCER and HAVEN DALEY**  
**Associated Press**  
TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Fearful Florida residents streamed out of the Tampa Bay region Tuesday ahead of what could be a once-in-a-century direct hit from Hurricane Milton, as crews worked furiously to prevent furniture, appliances and other waterlogged wreckage from the last big storm from becoming deadly projectiles in this one. Tuesday marked the last chance for millions of people in the Tampa metro area to prepare for lethal storm surges, ferocious winds and possible tornadoes in a place that has narrowly avoided a head-on blow from a major storm for generations. "Today's the last day

to get ready," said Craig Fugate, a former FEMA director who previously ran the state's emergency operation division. "This is bringing everything." Gov. Ron DeSantis said the state deployed over 300 dump trucks that had removed 1,300 loads of debris left behind by Hurricane Helene by Tuesday afternoon. In Clearwater Beach, Nick Szabo spent a second long day hauling away 3-foot piles of soggy mattresses, couches and drywall after being hired by a local resident who was eager to help clear the roads and unwilling to wait for overwhelmed city contractors. "All this crap is going to be missiles," he said. "It's like a spear coming at you."

Residents evacuate as Milton regains strength After weakening slightly, Milton regained strength Tuesday afternoon and became a Category 5 storm again, with winds of 165 mph. It could make landfall Wednesday night in the Tampa Bay area, which has a population of more than 3.3 million people. The 11 Florida counties under mandatory evacuation orders are home to about 5.9 million people, according to estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. Fluctuations in the storm's intensity are likely while Milton moves across the Gulf of Mexico, the National Hurricane Center said, but it is expected to be a dangerous storm when it reaches Florida.

Milton's forecasted trajectory also wobbled slightly Tuesday, which means it could make landfall Wednesday in the less populated areas a bit south of Tampa Bay, according to the center. Still, the whole region is expected to get slammed by the storm. It is difficult to predict an exact landfall location even about a day before it's expected to come ashore. Predictions can be off by a little over 60 miles, the hurricane center said. Those who defy evacuations orders are on their own, and first responders are not expected to risk their lives to rescue them at the height of the storm. "You do not have to get on the interstate and go far

away," DeSantis told a news conference, assuring residents there would be enough gasoline to fuel their cars for the trip. "You can evacuate tens of miles. You do not have to evacuate hundreds of miles away." Milton is forecast to cross central Florida and to dump as much as 18 inches of rain while heading toward the Atlantic Ocean, according to the hurricane center. That path would largely spare other states ravaged by Helene, which killed at least 230 people on its path from Florida to the Carolinas. **Tampa prepares for possible historic storm fueled by warming waters** The arrival of back-to-back hurricanes that rap-  
*(Continued on Page 2)*

## FBI arrests man who planned U.S. Election Day attack

**By ERIC TUCKER**  
**Associated Press**  
WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI has arrested an Afghan man who officials say was inspired by the Islamic State militant organization and was plotting an Election Day attack targeting large crowds in the U.S., the Justice Department said Tuesday. Nasir Ahmad Tawhedi, 27, of Oklahoma City told investigators after his arrest Monday that he had planned his attack to coincide with Election Day next month and that he and a co-conspirator expected to die as

martyrs, according to charging documents. Tawhedi, who arrived in the U.S. in September 2021, had taken steps in recent weeks to advance his attack plans, including by ordering AK-47 rifles, liquidating his family's assets and buying one-way tickets for his wife and child to travel home to Afghanistan, officials said. The arrest comes as the FBI confronts heightened concerns over the possibility of extremist violence on U.S. soil, with Director Christopher Wray telling The Associated Press in August that he was "hard

pressed to think of a time in my career where so many different kinds of threats are all elevated at once." "Terrorism is still the FBI's number one priority, and we will use every resource to protect the American people," Wray said in a statement Tuesday. An FBI affidavit does not reveal precisely how Tawhedi came onto investigators' radar, but cites what it says is evidence from recent months showing his determination in planning an attack. A photograph from July included in the affidavit depicts a

man investigators identified as Tawhedi reading to two young children, including his daughter, "a text that describes the rewards a martyr receives in the afterlife." Officials say Tawhedi also consumed Islamic State propaganda, contributed to a charity that functions as a front for the militant group and communicated with a person who the FBI determined from a prior investigation was involved in recruitment and indoctrination of people interested in extremism. He also viewed webcams for the White House and the Washington

Monument in July. Tawhedi's alleged co-conspirator was not identified by the Justice Department, which described him only as a juvenile, a fellow Afghan national and the brother of Tawhedi's wife. After the two advertised the sale of personal property on Facebook, the FBI enlisted an informant last month to respond to the offer and strike up a relationship. The informant later invited them to a gun range, where they ordered weapons from an undercover FBI official who was posing as a business  
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**Outside**  
  
The beautiful weather continues this week  
Today Thursday Friday  
High 72 High 69 High 77  
Low 40 Low 44 Low 53  
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**The Wells County Foundation is accepting nominations for the 2024 Volunteer of the Year**  
Nominate any Wells County resident who has made a significant contribution to Wells County through volunteerism. The recipient of this award will be honored at a luncheon on November 14th. Forms can be found on the Foundation website or by calling the office. Please submit nominations by October 23rd.  
260-824-8620

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# Final jail renovations

(Continued from Page 1)  
would approach the council with a request to pay out vacation time at the end of the year since the department staff is stretched thin.

At both county meetings, Holliday shared concerns about the resignation of David Teeple from the county's IT Department. Teeple worked two half-days a week at the jail due to the significant technology support needed.

According to Holliday, Teeple will work as an independent contractor and part-time for Reliance, the city of Bluffton's IT provider. Holliday proposed the county work out a contract with

Reliance and Teeple — at least until someone is hired and trained for the role. Teeple will continue working for the jail through Nov. 8, Holliday said.

On Monday, Holliday reported 75 inmates housed in the Wells County Jail — 40 were pre-trial holds from the Circuit Court, 21 from the Superior Court, five for the Department of Correction and three Level 6 felons.

The Wells County Council also adopted their 2025 budgets on Tuesday 5-0; members Scott Elzey, Todd Mahnensmith, Brandon Harnish, Steve Huggins and Brian Lambert were in favor, and Vicki Andrews

and Seth Whicker were absent.

However, Harnish added a caveat before the vote, saying, "We discussed the Community Corrections budget during the (budget) hearings. This will be the last time I vote for a budget with a Community Corrections budget that looks the way that one does — \$136,000 for the county contribution to Community Corrections. There are other models."

Harnish joined the Community Corrections Advisory Board this year, and in August budget hearings, voiced frustration that the department wasn't self-

funded with its relatively low numbers. On Tuesday, he suggested the department be absorbed by probation.

He continued, "We'll be looking into this, but I want to bring this body something better than what we currently have — whether that is putting Community Corrections under probation, whether that is a model that I'm aware of at this point. Next year at this time, I intend to bring something back to council."

"I think it'll be a good discussion over time, especially coming up before next year's budget," Huggins concluded.

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# New mail box

(Continued from Page 1)  
originally made the request due to the sidewalk connecting to one of the newly renovated alleys. Lautzenheiser admitted that the sidewalk replacement should have been a part of the project itself, with Hunt agreeing that partnership between the city and Bluffton NOW! for sidewalk issues as part of larger projects is much more palatable.

Clerk Treasurer Bri Lautzenheiser also presented an amendment for wages in the Utility Department. Bri Lautzenheiser is adding a utility office manager position, which is yet to be filled, to the ordinance. The position minimum is advertised at \$30 an hour.

Additionally, the board approved raises for Wastewater Treatment Plant Lab Technician Chuck Michael, Chief

Utility Clerk Kim Okey and Sewer Collections Operator Mike Gillespie. The board also paid SRF claims totaling \$763,094 to James S. Jackson for work on the wastewater treatment plant, \$105,656 to Inliner Solutions for work on lining sewers and \$7,350 to Kleinpeter Consulting for ensuring project payroll meets federal and state criteria.

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# Residents flee

(Continued from Page 1)  
idly intensified into mighty storms comes as climate change exacerbates conditions that are allowing them to thrive in warming waters. Milton is the 13th named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, which started June 1.

Most of Florida's west coast was under a hurricane or tropical storm warning as the system spun just off Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, creeping toward shore and sucking energy from the Gulf of Mexico's warm waters. Hurricane warnings were extended early Tuesday to parts of the state's east coast.

Tampa Bay has not been hit directly by a major hurricane since 1921, and authorities fear its luck is about to run out. Tampa Mayor Jane Castor issued increasingly dire warnings, noting that a 15-foot surge could swallow an entire house.

"So if you're in it, basically that's the coffin that you're in," she said.

There's no good recent example of how bad it could be because even historic hurricanes such as Andrew,

Harvey and Katrina did not actually directly hit a major metropolitan area. They were all to the side, said University of Miami hurricane researcher Brian McNoldy.

"It's hard to see places coming out of this very well," McNoldy said. "If it's not the worst case ... even the next worst case is very bad."

### Fuel lines, missed flights and heavy traffic

In Riverview, south of Tampa, several drivers waiting in a long line for fuel Tuesday morning said they had no plans to evacuate.

"I think we'll just hang, you know — tough it out," said Martin Oakes, of nearby Apollo Beach. "We got shutters up. The house is all ready. So this is sort of the last piece of the puzzle."

Ralph Douglas, who lives in neighboring Ruskin, said he, too, will stay put, in part because he worries about running out of gas trying to return after the storm or getting blocked by debris.

"Where I'm at right now,

I don't think I need to evacuate," he said.

At the Tampa airport, John Fedor and his wife were trying to catch a cab to a storm shelter after missing multiple flights home to Philadelphia. They had hoped taking a Caribbean cruise would bring them closer, but tensions were rising after they spent nearly \$1,000 on unplanned transportation and hotel rooms due to travel delays. After a 2-mile walk to the airport, Fedor's suitcase cracked open and the wheels broke. They considered driving home or taking a train, but nothing worked out.

"We're kind of like stranded here," Fedor said.

President Joe Biden approved an emergency declaration for Florida, and the White House announced Tuesday that he would postpone a trip to Germany and Angola to monitor the storm.

"This could be the worst storm to hit Florida in over a century," Biden told reporters. "God willing it won't be. But that's what it's looking like right now."

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has almost 900 staff members in the region and has stocked two staging areas with 20 million meals and 40 million liters of water, the White House said.

Stragglers were a problem during Helene and Ian in 2022. Many residents said they evacuated during previous storms only to have major surges not materialize. But there was evidence Tuesday that people were heeding the warnings to get out before Milton arrives.

The Florida Highway Patrol reported heavy traffic northbound and eastbound on all roadways and said state troopers were escorting fuel tankers to assist with gasoline delivery.

About 150 miles south of Tampa, Fort Myers Beach was nearly a ghost town. Ian devastated the community two years ago with its 15-foot storm surge. Fourteen people died there. On Tuesday, the nearby Callosahatchee River was already choppy, slapping hard against the sea wall.

# U.S. Election Day attack

(Continued from Page 1)  
partner of the informant, according to court papers.

Tawhedi was arrested Monday after taking possession of two AK-47 rifles and ammunition he had ordered, officials said. The unidentified co-conspirator was also arrested but the Justice Department did not provide details because he is a juvenile.

After he was arrested, the Justice Department said, Tawhedi told investigators he had planned an attack for Election Day that would target large gatherings of people.

Tawhedi was charged with conspiring and attempting to provide material support to the Islamic State, which is designated by the U.S. as a foreign terrorist organization. The charge is punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

He appeared in court Tuesday and was ordered detained. An email to an attorney listed as representing him did not immediately return an email seek-

ing comment. It was not immediately clear if he had a lawyer who could speak on his behalf.

A for-sale sign stood in the yard outside a modest, two-story brick home listed as being connected to Tawhedi's family in the Oklahoma City suburb of Moore.

A woman who identified herself as Tawhedi's wife declined to discuss the case.

"We don't want to talk in the media," said the woman, who did not give her name.

Tawhedi entered the U.S. on a special immigrant visa in 2021 and has been on parole status pending the conclusion of his immigration proceedings, the Justice Department said. The program permits eligible Afghans who helped Americans, despite great personal risk to themselves and their loved ones, to apply for entry into America with their families.

Eligible Afghans include interpret-

ers for the U.S. military as well as individuals integral to the U.S. Embassy in Kabul. While the program has existed since 2009, the number of applicants skyrocketed after the chaotic U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan in August 2021.

Shawn VanDiver, the president of #AfghanEvac, a coalition of organizations dedicated to helping Afghans trying to leave Afghanistan, said that though the charges are serious, "it's critical that we do not assign blame to an entire community for the actions of one individual. Thousands of Afghans who resettled in the United States are working to build new lives and contribute to our shared future."

"These are the same individuals who stood shoulder to shoulder with us in Afghanistan for over two decades, defending the values we hold dear," he said in a statement. "Now, they are our neighbors, and we must support them as they seek safety and stability in their new home."

# Weather

Wednesday, October 9, 2024  
(24-hour observations at 10:19 p.m. Tuesday)  
High: 71; Low: 39; Precipitation: None  
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.04 feet at 8:45 p.m. Tuesday

# Wells County forecast

**Today:** Sunny, with a high near 72. Calm wind becoming northwest around 5 mph in the afternoon.

**Tonight:** Clear, with a low around 40. Northeast wind around 5 mph.

**Thursday:** Sunny, with a high near 69. Calm wind becoming east around 5 mph.

**Thursday Night:** Clear, with a low around 44. Calm wind.

**Friday:** Sunny, with a high near 77.

**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 53.

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 75.

**Saturday Night:** A 20% chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 53.

**Sunday:** A 20% chance of showers before 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 68.

**Sunday Night:** A 20% chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 41.

**Columbus Day:** A 20% chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 57.

**Monday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 35.

**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 56.

# Markle park

(Continued from Page 1)  
eventually add adult exercise equipment.

Also during the meeting, the commissioners approved an amendment to the county's zoning ordinance on industrial zoning. The Area Plan Commission unanimously recommended the removal of punch presses as a automatic qualifier for heavy industrial zoning, which the commissioners accepted.

The amendment was suggested by the Bluffton Common Council after Almo Steel petitioned for the zoning for their pending expansion. The council felt that a better qualifier for heavy industrial zoning was the

volume level, not just having punch presses at the facility. Area residents were also in favor of this solution, which protected the area from heavy industrial businesses in the future.

The commissioners also permitted the Wells County Health Department to seek a \$25,000 reimbursable Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant. Public Health Nurse Lynn Blevins said the department could purchase a variety of materials, including inclement weather gear, tents or safety cones. He also wants to review the department's list of emergency volunteers, which he said is out-of-date.

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OBITUARIES

Ann Schnerre, 64

Ann Cecile Schnerre passed away on Aug. 3, 2024.

Born in Fort Wayne on May 17, 1960, Ann lived a life full of adventure. She was an avid lover of German Shepherds, Equestrian Sports, and loved working with animals. She received her bachelor degrees in animal science and animal production from Purdue University. "Hoosier by birth, Boilermaker by the grace of God" was a phrase often heard by her.



Ann was loved by many, and was able to capture the attention and hearts of those she came in contact with. After a short battle with cancer, she was received into the arms of the Lord.

Ann is survived by her children, Jesse (Megan) Mahon of Tyndall, South Dakota, and Caitlin Mahon of Neligh, Nebraska; grandchildren, Ezarae and Ezekiel; siblings, Susan (John) Schnerre, Janet (Marc) Ziems, Barbara (Mark) Dulworth, Carol (David) Butler, Marion Grace and Bob (Mary) Schnerre.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Phyllis Schnerre, and sister, Laura Schnerre.

Funeral will be Saturday Oct. 12, 2024 at 1 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bluffton. Visitation will be from noon until 1 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church.

Roger Wilson, 82

Roger E. Wilson, 82, of Bluffton, passed away Tuesday morning, Oct. 8, 2024, at Markle Health & Rehabilitation Center in Markle.



Roger was born on June 23, 1942, in Bluffton to Leon Wilson and Margaret (McFarren) Hughes. Roger graduated from Bluffton High School in 1960. He honorably served our county in the U.S. Marine Corps. during Vietnam.

He retired from Fleetwood in Decatur. Roger enjoyed wood-working and was a member of the First Church of Christ in Bluffton.

On Jan. 21, 1967, Roger and Markeeta Myers were married at the Poneto United Methodist Church. They have shared 57 years of marriage.

Survivors include his wife, Markeeta of Bluffton, their sons, Darren E. Wilson of Bluffton, Daniel L. Wilson of Washington, Indiana. and David M. (Amanda) Wilson of Crown Point, Indiana; along with four grandchildren, Colin, Connor and Claire Wilson, and Hartley Wilson.

He is preceded in death by his parents and his siblings, Ruth (Sam) Arnold, Mary Jane Falk, Helen (Jack) Meyer, Doris (Gerald) Lucas, Mona (Mick) Boyle and Janet Fahl.

Visitation will be held from noon to 7 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 13, 2024, at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton, and for one hour prior to the service at the church.

Funeral services will be at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 14, 2024, at the First Church of Christ in Bluffton with Pastor Mike Jefferson officiating. Burial will follow at Stahl Cemetery with full military honors by the U.S. Marine Honor Guard and American Legion Post #111 Honor Guard.

Memorials may be made to First Church of Christ of Bluffton and directed to the funeral home.

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

BHS art students complete murals at Grace & Mercy

Students from Bluffton High School have spent the first quarter of the school year planning, designing and creating murals for residents of Grace & Mercy Transitional Housing.

Ms. Vicki Van Matre's first period art class visited the facility on Bluffton's west side this fall to create murals in the residential wing of the facility. Their work will be featured during Grace & Mercy's "Desserts 'N Dreams" open house event on Tuesday, Oct. 8, from 5 to 8 p.m. The facility, part of Community Care of Northeast Indiana, is located at 1001 Clark Ave. in Bluffton.

The students have visited Grace & Mercy almost daily since early September. Some students say the time has passed quickly and they've enjoyed getting to know their classmates outside of the classroom and in this unique, relaxed setting. Students have a variety of prior art experience, and the projects have a variety of meanings. The murals have uplifting, hopeful messages or just express fun, whimsical themes.

Ms. Van Matre says the idea came from BHMSD Assistant Superintendent Julie Meitzler and was funded through the district's homeless grant funding. From the onset Ms. Van Matre knew it would be a big undertaking, but when she walked into the facility she knew it was a project they had to tackle.

"The students have stepped up and have done a great job," Ms. Van Matre



Two Bluffton High School students work on the mural at Grace & Mercy. (Photo submitted)

says, adding she is appreciative of the administration for allowing her to lead this project. "This isn't something you normally let a lot of kids or classes do. We've been able to come over every day for almost three weeks to work on this project."

After students viewed and measured their wall spaces, they went to the drawing board to mock up potential designs. Once they presented their ideas at Grace & Mercy, they got started painting with a deadline in mind to be done in time for the open house. Supplies were purchased through grant funds.

"BHMSD and Grace & Mercy have a successful partnership with a recent grant through the Indiana Department of Education," says Mrs. Meitzler. "We have been able to provide bunk beds, bedding, clothing, an outdoor basketball goal, tutoring and other necessities for students living at Grace & Mercy. The mural project was something we brainstormed together and it is exciting to see the completed projects by our high school art students. They have exceeded my expectations with a lasting creative mark on the walls of Grace & Mercy that will be enjoyed by residents and their children for years to come."

Students had to overcome challenges, such as ensuring the small-scale draft translated well onto the large wall surface, mastering paint techniques and working together as a team to see the job through.

"Bringing so many different mindsets together has definitely been a challenge but I think also one of our greatest benefits," says junior Makena DeRoo.

The teamwork was evident and will continue to impact the families who reside at Grace & Mercy.

"The outreach of community involvement is truly humbling, and is inspiring to witness students rise by sharing their creativity with others," says Community Care of Northeast Indiana Executive Director Christine Walker. "We would like to extend our gratitude to the Bluffton-Harrison

staff and students for their efforts in creating such beautiful works of art. These contributions have not only showcased your talent, but have also built a lasting legacy for the families of Grace & Mercy."

The project has also made a lasting impression on the student artists.

"It's honestly probably one of the best experiences I'll ever have," sophomore Zada Ford says. "It's just a really fun thing and I'm super glad we get to do it."

VISITATION & SERVICES

Carolyn J. Graham

Calling: 4-7 p.m. Friday, October 11 and one hour prior to the service. Service: 10:30 p.m. Saturday, October 12 at the funeral home.

Thoma/Rich, Lemler

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

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Chester Center Church

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Friday Oct. 11th, 9-5  
Saturday Oct. 12th, 9-?  
A variety of vendors outside

NEW HOURS!

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Friday 8-3 (Closed every other week)  
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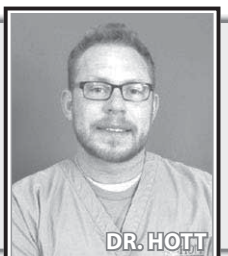
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Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:

Monday, 3:09 p.m., First Bank of Berne. Report of dog locked in vehicle.

Monday, 3:32 p.m., 100 block of North Oak Street. Report of subject tattooing children.

Monday, 6:06 p.m., 2100 Fieldcrest Drive. Report of theft of electrical wire.

Monday, 10:49 p.m., 60 block of Westgate Road. Report of death threats over social media.

Monday, 11:38 p.m., 1200 Lancaster Street. Report of domestic abuse.

Tuesday, 12:16 p.m., 900 block of Main Street. Report of busted windshield, likely from temperature changes.

Tuesday, 1:35 p.m., Walmart. Report of dog in car for over hour and a half.

County:

Monday, 12:19 p.m., 3800 E.S.R. 218, Bluffton. Report of theft.

Monday, 2:05 p.m., 3400 E 500 S, Bluffton. Report of civil issue.

Monday, 2:10 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served to Matthew Banks.

Monday, 3:16 p.m., 1700 E 250 N, Bluffton. Caller reported suspicious vehicles in driveway.

Monday, 5:27 p.m., 4900 N 100 W, Uniondale. Caller complained about dog on property.

Monday, 7:50 p.m., S.R. 1 and East 750 S, Bluffton.

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.

Car vs. deer.

Monday, 8:25 p.m., 1300 E.S.R. 218, Poneto. Report of semi truck driver ignoring barricades and causing damage to callers property.

Monday, 8:32 p.m., 5100 W 1200 N, Roanoke. Report of domestic violence.

Tuesday, 6:36 a.m., S.R. 116 and East 300 N, Bluffton. Car vs. deer, caller unsure what happened to deer.

Tuesday, 8:28 a.m., S.R. 116 and East 300 N, Bluffton. Found the deer. Put out of its misery.

Ossian:

Monday, 10:54 p.m., S.R. 1 and East 1100 N, Ossian. Driver detained for driving while intoxicated.

ACCIDENTS

County:

Monday, 8:01 a.m., C.R. 800 North and 600 East, Ossian. Christian Ladig, 29, Ossian, was driving East bound when her Hum-

mer H2 was struck in the rear by a gold Ford Ranger. The driver of the Ranger reportedly did not stop after the collision, however, left a portion of their vehicle behind. Damages did not exceed \$10,000.

Friday, 8:55 p.m., 224 and C.R. 300 West, Uniondale. Michael Narhwold, 67, Coldwater, Michigan, was driving through the intersection when his Chevrolet Equinox struck the rear passenger side of a Jeep Grand Cherokee driven by Valencia Fatima, 32, Yakima, Washington. Norhwold had the right of way. Damages did not exceed \$10,000.

FIRES

Monday, 5:22 p.m., East 500 North and North 450 East, Craigville. Report of a vehicle on fire in field.

ARRESTS

Joshua Isaiah Krider, 31, Anderson; possession of

marijuana, a Class A misdemeanor, criminal mischief and interfering with public safety, both Class B misdemeanors, and possession of paraphernalia and operating a vehicle while intoxicated, both Class C misdemeanors. Bond set at \$5,500.

John Robert Stiles, 18, Ossian; battery — aggravated, a Level 3 felony, and battery, a Level 5 felony, criminal recklessness with a deadly weapon, a Level 6 felony, and child in possession of firearm, a Class A misdemeanor. No bond set.

Matthew R. Banas, 35, Bluffton; theft of a vehicle, a Level 6 felony. No bond set.

Jason Oliver Juilerat, 44, Ossian; intimidation, a Level 6 felony, and invasion of privacy, a Class A misdemeanor. No bond set.

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## Law and order seems to be losing the battle

Now, I'm all for a little civil disobedience from time to time. Think of Henry David Thoreau being thrown in jail for refusing to pay a poll tax — his way of speaking out against government complicity in slavery.



Niki Kelly

That's taking a stand. "Unjust laws exist: shall we be content to obey them, or shall we endeavor to amend them, and obey them until we have succeeded, or shall we transgress them at once? Men generally, under such a government as this, think that they ought to wait until they have persuaded the majority to alter them," he opined in 1849.

### Hoosier Opinions

But lately, it seems like people have zero regard for law and order. First, we ran a Stateline story about state and local legislators in Tennessee and Pennsylvania cracking down on the use of "license plate flippers" — devices that allow drivers to obscure or conceal their license plates at the press of a button. It's very James Bond, I guess.

Police say they are being used to avoid tickets and tolls. It's generally illegal across the United States to alter or obstruct a license plate, no matter the method, but this takes it to a whole other level.

Then, an Indiana legislative panel heard scary testimony from the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office about alleged criminals using signal jammers.

When deputies pulled up to investigate a burglary, their radios and computers stopped working.

Signal jammers can block Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, GPS, and more — impacting devices like phones, doorbell cameras and wireless alarm systems. Sheriff Noah Robinson said one his office discovered had a mile range.

"One doesn't have to take this too much further to see this has other uses as well, particularly from the terrorism aspect," he warned.

The jammers are illegal on the federal level but state lawmakers might pass a state law as well, making it easier for local police to enforce a ban.

I realize people will always break laws, but it seems society has tipped more that way in recent years. Scrolling through social media is full of videos where people are beating each other up and bystanders cheer. And, often, the comments are encouraging the vigilante behavior.

Shouldn't they be calling the police instead of taking a video?

And that brings me to Election Day on Nov. 5. I fear that some people will resort to violence, and I am pleading for civil discourse instead.

Facing increased threats to election workers and superheated political rhetoric, more states are considering banning firearms at polling places and ballot drop boxes. New Mexico became the latest state to restrict guns where people vote or hand in ballots, joining at least 21 other states with similar laws — some banning either open or concealed carry but most banning both. Indiana doesn't ban firearms at polling places.

We should all be highly aware that we won't have complete election results the night of — or even the morning after — Election Day. Mail-in ballots take longer to count, and more Americans are using that method than ever before.

It doesn't make the election suspect. It simply means it takes a while to count ballots and all 50 states have different processes. Some jurisdictions even require hand counts of ballots.

One thing I think would help the situation is if major news outlets would stop calling races based on exit polling. Let the election officials do their job. Calling a race moments after a poll closes makes people feel like their votes don't count.

After seeing frustration boil over Jan. 6, 2021, I can only hope that cooler heads prevail this year and violence doesn't occur.

Niki Kelly is the editor of the Indiana Capital Chronicle, a non-profit newsroom. [nkelly@indianacapitalchronicle.com](mailto:nkelly@indianacapitalchronicle.com)

#### Election Letters Policy

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

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

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

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Oct. 9, the 283rd day of 2024. There are 83 days left in the year.

Today in history: On Oct. 9, 2009, President Barack Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize for what the Norwegian Nobel Committee called "his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples."

Also on this date:

In 1910, a coal dust explosion at the Starkville Mine in Colorado left 56 miners dead.

In 1962, Uganda won autonomy from British rule.

In 1963, a mega-tsunami triggered by a landslide at Vajont Dam in northern Italy destroyed villages and caused approximately 2,000 deaths.

In 1967, Marxist revolu-

tionary guerrilla leader Che Guevara, 39, was executed by the Bolivian army a day after his capture.

In 1985, Strawberry Fields in New York's Central Park, a memorial to former Beatle John Lennon, was dedicated.

In 2010, a drill broke through into an underground chamber where 33 Chilean miners had been trapped for more than two months.

In 2012, former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky was sentenced in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, to 30 to 60 years in prison following his conviction on 45 counts of sexual abuse of boys.

Today's Birthdays: Musician Nona Hendryx is 80. Musician Jackson Browne is 76. TV personality Sharon Osbourne is 72.



## Dockworkers for economic stagnation

It's the processing gate that roared. APM Terminals at the Port of Mobile in Alabama uses a semi-automated gate to process trucks without union labor, and this supposed outrage is one of the reasons the International Longshoremen's Association went on strike. Never mind that the gate has been in operation for years, and is a more efficient and safer way to check and admit trucks.

The strike, affecting ports on the East Coast and in the Gulf, is off for now with a tentative deal on wages. But the larger issue of automation, wholly opposed by the union, is unresolved; it's been put off until an extension of the current contract expires on Jan. 15.

"Machines don't pay taxes," the president of the union local in Mobile complained. Yeah, well, neither do wheelbarrows or iPhones, yet we still use them as tools to make any number of tasks easier and less time-consuming.

Harold Daggett, the president of the union, has pledged an unceasing war on automation. He famously makes nearly a million dollars a year and lives in a New Jersey mansion. No word on whether he insists that he and his family hand-wash their clothes and dishes — or employ a laundress and personal dishwasher — in order to forswear reliance on labor-saving devices.

Technological advance is necessary to economic advance. It would be disastrous if the longshoremen's union successfully blocked it at our ports, or, even worse, an alarmist view of automation were to prevail in our society at large.

We may think that we live in a time of revolutionary technological change, but we aren't seeing big productivity gains. This is important because higher wages (and lower prices) ultimately depend on increased productivity — or being able to do more with equal or fewer inputs. Robert Atkinson of the Information Technology & Innovation Foundation points out that much of our new technology has been poured into the consumer market — smart phones, social media, online retail and the like. The key is applying technology to other sectors of the economy.

Which brings us back to the ports. The productivity benefits of technology — automated gates, cranes

and cargo-handling, among other things — are obvious.

Yet, China, the Netherlands and Singapore are outpacing us. Rotterdam began automating in the early 1990s. In contrast, we have fully automated only three terminals at our ports, with another three considered semi-automated. We don't have a port that cracks the World Bank's list of the top 50 around the globe.

Depending on the circumstances, automation does eliminate some jobs, but it creates others. If the catastrophic warnings about the job-destroying effects of technology were accurate, we'd all be unemployed farmers. Recently, we've seen how the disruptive innovation of the likes of Amazon and FedEx has led to huge increases in warehouse and storage jobs, and in trucking as well.

In the maritime sector, union officials hated the shipping container revolution of the 1960s, too. The containers did reduce port jobs, but brought a nearly miraculous boost to efficiency. Would anyone really want to go back to taking days to load and unload ships, or workers trying to figure out how to fit random stuff on a vessel?

The longshoremen's union on the West Coast accepted fully automated machinery in a 2008 contract, and hasn't been devastated. It has added jobs since 2020, and got a generous wage increase in its latest contract.

Thriving ports capable of handling larger ships and more cargo are a national economic asset. An analysis for the Pacific Maritime Association, representing shipping companies and port and terminal operators, noted of the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, "These economic engines anchor a network of 29 West Coast ports that supports 12.5 million jobs and generates nearly 9% of U.S. Gross Domestic Product."

Our ports should be run for the benefit of all of us, and the wider economy, not for a union advancing a worldview that can only bring stagnation and mediocrity.

Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry



Rich Lowry

## Why isn't Trump deploying Nikki Haley on the campaign trail?

With a month to go before Election Day, the presidential race is effectively tied. Neither Vice President Kamala Harris nor former president Donald Trump has opened a convincing lead outside the margin of error in any of the key battleground states, according to the RealClearPolitics average.

There are plenty of persuadable voters in those states. According to the most recent New York Times-Siena College poll, about 18 percent of likely voters in several key swing states say they haven't yet made a firm decision. (Some are undecided, while others say they are leaning toward Trump or Harris but could still change their minds.)

Many of these voters don't like the direction of the country under the Biden-Harris administration but are hesitant about Trump. Their concerns about him have little to do with issues such as abortion (only 3 percent say this is their biggest concern). They're also not terribly concerned about the criminal charges against him (3 percent) or whether he poses a threat to democracy (7 percent).

Rather, an overwhelming 43 percent say it is Trump's temperament and trustworthiness — his character — that make them reluctant to put him back in the Oval Office. They might feel that their lives were better under Trump. They might even like his policies. They just don't like him. They don't like the things he says. They don't like the way he acts. But they also have deep concerns about



Marc Thiessen

Harris, including her temperament, ideology, honesty and experience level. And so they are struggling with their vote.

What if there was someone who shares their concerns about Trump but is supporting him anyway — and might be able to help persuade them to do the same?

There is. Her name is Nikki Haley. The former U.N. ambassador is the very model of a reluctant Trump voter who has put aside her reservations and decided to pull the lever for the former president.

So, why is Trump not deploying her on the campaign trail?

Haley spoke at the Republican National Convention this summer, where she delivered a powerful case for why reluctant swing voters should support Trump: "We should acknowledge that there are some Americans who don't agree with Donald Trump 100 percent of the time. I happen to know some of them, and I want to speak to them tonight," she said. "Take it from me. I haven't always agreed with President Trump, but we agree more often than we disagree. We agree on keeping America strong. We agree on keeping America safe. And we agree that Democrats have moved so far to the left that they're putting our freedoms in danger. I'm here tonight because we have a country to save."

This is precisely the message swing voters need to hear every day between now and Election Day. But, since the convention, Trump has

not asked Haley to join him on the campaign trail. Last month, Haley reiterated her willingness to help. On CBS's "Face the Nation," she was asked if she planned to campaign for the former president. "He knows I'm on standby," Haley said. "I talked to him back in June and he's aware that I'm ready if he ever needs me to do that ... but there hasn't been an ask as of yet."

So, ask! I get that Trump considers her disloyal for having run against him. But who cares? Like it or not, Haley got over 4,415,000 votes in the Republican primaries this year — including a whopping 972,343 in the key battleground states that will decide the next president (110,966 in Arizona; 77,902 in Georgia; 297,124 in Michigan; 250,838 in North Carolina; 158,672 in Pennsylvania; and 76,841 in Wisconsin). Trump lost four years ago by just 42,918 votes in three battleground states. In other words, her supporters could very well determine whether he wins or loses this election.

Haley voters are precisely the swing voters Trump should be targeting — Americans who are willing to vote for a Republican but are hesitant to do so for Trump. He should be appearing with her at rallies and basking in her endorsement. He should deploy her to key battleground states for the next four weeks to convince the reluctant but persuadable 18 percent of the electorate to cast their ballots for him. Failure to do so would be sheer political malpractice.

It could very well cost him the presidency.

Follow Marc A. Thiessen @marcthiessen on X

# Time is a constant – don't waste a single moment

These last few days I have heard several people say, "How can it be October?" and "What happened to September?" and a lot of "I thought time would slow down when I got old!" My science-based mind is perplexed. Time is a measurement which is constant, formulated, and does not speed up or slow down. Only our perception of time does that. There are always 60 seconds in a minute and 60 minutes in an hour and 24 hours in a day.

Hearing these statements got me thinking. The statements that I heard were very truthful and said in earnest for us that are beyond the age of 65. If you are fortunate not to punch a time clock, your day is not run by the hours that you work, minutes that you have for lunch, or days until the weekend. At least that is what you are told when you retire.

I decided to look at the month

of September because I too am wondering where did it go.

There comes a time in your life that you may be retired but again work around a schedule, not a work schedule but an appointment schedule that looms on the horizon. Those are special days that you spend most of your time waiting in a doctor's waiting room waiting on the doctor to find time to see you. AND it is not just one doctor but a group of doctors, each specializing in fixing and repairing various zones of your body. I personally rarely miss a week that I am not visiting one office or the other. This is very time consuming. Perhaps that is where time goes.

As I scan my monthly calendar, I note that I have several days that I haven't felt well. In my youth, I blissfully ignored illness and trudged ahead. Now when illness comes upon me it takes several days if not weeks to recover. I have learned to stay home and recuperate. I no longer see the



value of sacrificing my body to accomplish things that I deemed more important in my youth. My body is also telling me that perhaps if I had taken better care of myself when I was younger my body would not be so susceptible to the attack of viruses and bacteria or be deemed a wreck. Now there is some of that lost time.

As you know I am a retired teacher. Every morning, I wrote on the board what day of the month it was. Now that practice is far behind me, I often don't know what day it is, not just the number but the actual day of the week. The only thing that has kept me grounded is Sunday means NFL games are on. Now they, meaning the masterminds of the networks, have football on almost every day. Thank goodness for the clever jingles at the beginning that reminds me what day it is. I must admit a lot of my time is watching sports on television. It may be that I wish to live vicariously because my mobility

has narrowed my participation in the sports I loved. More time accounted for.

Something that eats a lot of my time is reading. In the past, I was too busy doing all the things I had to do to survive to read. Now I can snuggle up in my way-too-soft blanket, water jug by my side, and delve into my latest fantasy novel with no regards to the passing hours. The only thing that stops my adventure is the blurring of my focus and perhaps my husband loudly declaring that a meal should be prepared. I have found myself looking up from my latest book and declaring, "I didn't realize it's that late!" I have found some more of that lost time.

I have figured out where September went. I didn't mention family gatherings and group meetings. I didn't account for the time spent watching the weather. How did I ever get any work done before I was retired?

**Here's the thing:** As I grow older, it becomes abundantly clear that my time on earth is drawing to a close, and the days that have been spent is larger in number than the ones that lie ahead. I have realized that every

tick of the clock, every hour that passes, is heading to the end of my adventure here. We older folks cherish the time we have left. We mark birthdays and anniversaries with gratitude. We bid farewell to others that have meant something to us and often pause when yet another person in our sphere of reality takes leave. Time isn't going faster. We just notice it more and its value increases with each setting of the sun.

As time moves forward, it does not slow down or speed up. We do not lose it. We do waste it. We must learn to value it and as with all things that are valuable, we need to treat it with respect and reverence. A person is allotted only so many ticks of the clock. Don't count them. Make them count.

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



Kathy Schwartz

## Norwell ICE Spotlight award Cassie Coyne



Norwell senior Cassie Coyne has been selected to receive the Norwell High School Internship Spotlight award. Cassie is doing her experience at the Bluffton Elementary School in the Tiger Cub Latchkey Program and in the Pre-school area. Her mentors are Jaci Moser and Angie Lough. Cassie is the daughter of Kerry and Tracy Coyne of Bluffton.



Cassie Coyne

In the latchkey area, Cassie ensures that the children have a safe environment before school begins each day. She gets to lead activities at the playground and in the gymnasium. As a pre-school assistant, Cassie ensures safety and monitors the student behavior while they play and do crafts. She also observes teacher strategies for lesson planning and classroom management. Upon graduation, Cassie plans to attend Midway University in Kentucky to study elementary education and also participate on the college swim team.

## Gendreau named to SNHU Summer 2024 Dean's List

Emily Gendreau of Bluffton has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Summer 2024 Dean's List. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired

8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 92-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH.

## The Church at McNatt to host pork chop supper on Oct. 12

The 'McMen' of McNatt Church will host a pork chop supper on Saturday, Oct. 12 from 4:30-7 p.m.

The menu includes pork chop, cheesy potatoes, green

beans, a variety of desserts and a drink. A free-will offering will be taken.

The Church is located 1 mile west of SR 3 on 800 S in Wells County.

## Art exhibits at Rolland Gallery at USF

Exhibits at the Rolland Gallery at the University of Saint Francis over the next few months will include the following:

Stanton Clark: Astro Botanicals: Oct. 21-27 with a reception on Friday, Oct. 24 from 6-8 p.m.

D. Elizabeth Kuebler Lecture: Highlights from the Roebel Collection: Wednesday, Oct. 30, noon.

USF Creative Arts Alumni Exhibition: Nov. 2-Dec. 13 with a reception on Saturday, Nov. 2, from 6-8 p.m.

From the Artist's Hand: Nov. 2-Dec. 13, a legacy of works from the Collection of William and Mary Ann Roebel. A reception on Saturday, Nov. 2, 6-8 p.m.

Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibition: Millicent Young '24: Nov. 21-Dec. 13 with a Thursday, Nov. 2 reception from noon to 1 p.m.

Other hours for the Rol-

land Gallery, 1014 Leesburg Rd., Fort Wayne are Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. (Gallery closed Thanksgiving Nov. 27-Dec. 1.

## Submissions open for Women of Wells magazine

The News-Banner is seeking community submissions for its second-annual publication, Women of Wells. The magazine offers a special spotlight to share women's stories, hobbies, advice and more — all written by and about local women.

"Let's hear about all the Women of Wells, this is about you and your story," said Brandi Freeman of The News-Banner. "This is about any and everything. We want to hear your voices."

Submission topics could discuss careers, recipes, adoptions, crafts, military service, recovery, finance, gardening, canning, motherhood, teachers and more.

The deadline for submission is Oct. 17. Please send your story and photos to [jimc@news-banner.com](mailto:jimc@news-banner.com) or mail them to The News-Banner, P.O. Box 436, Bluffton, IN 46714. Contact with any further questions.

## Events at Fort Wayne's historic fort

Fall events at the Old Fort Wayne, 1201 Spy Run Ave. will include the following.

### Indiana Territorial Rangers Garrison

On the weekend of Oct. 12-13, the Old Fort in Fort Wayne will host the Indiana Territorial Rangers Garrison from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

The era portrayed will be the War of 1812 and the daily activities of rangers as they attend to their garrison duties. A free event.

### Fright Night Lantern Tour

Tour the Old Fort at Night on Saturday, Oct. 19,

from 6 to 10 p.m., guided by a historic interpreter who will present the fort as it was in the early 1800's. Learn about the fort's resident ghost, purchase a sweet treat and enjoy stories by a campfire. Admission is \$5 (age 9 and under free) with the proceeds to benefit the fort. (Ticket sales begin at 5:30 p.m. and no tickets will be sold after 9 p.m.)

A restoration project of the fort is underway and a "Ground Up Reconstruction" campaign has started. More information at [oldfortwayne.org](http://oldfortwayne.org).

Parking is available across from the fort.

## Zanesville News

by Melba Edwards

Robin and I are about recovered from a very busy four days at the Huntington Pioneer Festival. It was a great time seeing old friends and meeting new ones. We did not do as well in our booths as last year as it seems money is a little tight for most families as prices of all things are going up. There was a little rain but we were inside. Thanks to all of you who helped with our set up and to our grandkids Noah and Bella and our friend Steve Kumfer for tearing down.

Life goes on as we look forward to the first birthday of a great-grandson who is the eighth generation of our family to reside on the

Allen County side of town. Johnathan Michael was the first to come in 1865 and he bought the house I live in that was the Zanesville House Hotel just about two years after that. He had five children when his wife died and he sent for his father John Michael and his stepmother to come from Clear Spring, Maryland, to help out with the hotel and the kids.

Next to the youngest was my grandmother Alm-issa who was a great help at taking care of "Nettie" who later was the grandmother of John Waid the Mayor of Bluffton. Alm-issa married Dr. J.L. McBride, who was the father of my

father Don. When grandma died my sister Mary Lou (Mc Bride) Burkhardt was the owner of the house for 10 years and in 1973 she sold it to us (Kenny and Melba (McBride) Edwards.

In 1977 the twins, Jonathan and Jeremiah were born and Jeremiah's daughter Emma now lives in town with her husband and her son who is the eighth generation of the family.



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**Joker: Folie à Deux**  
Thursday, October 10th 6pm  
Friday, October 11th 7pm  
Saturday, October 12th 3pm, 7:30pm  
Sunday, October 13th 3pm

**The Wild Robot**  
Thursday, October 10th 6:20pm  
Friday, October 11th 6pm & 8:20pm  
Saturday, October 12th 2:30pm, 5:30pm, & 8:15pm  
Sunday, October 13th 2pm & 4:20pm

**Average Joe**  
Monday, October 14th 6pm

[www.abcinomainc.com](http://www.abcinomainc.com)

## Tourist walks in FW's Promenade Park

"Be a Tourist in Your Own Hometown" hikes are being offered by the Fort Wayne Park's Department at Promenade Park and are free.

On Friday, Oct. 18 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. there will be a walking tour of Promenade Park starting from

the Wells Street Bridge telling of the history of the area. Free and for ages 13+.

For information about the Wild Walkers who hike the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month to parks, wetlands and nature preserves go to [fortwayneparks.org](http://fortwayneparks.org).

## Online Directory

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

 STEFFEN Financial Group <a href="http://steffinancial.com">steffinancial.com</a>	 Genesis Pest Services <a href="http://genesispestservices.com">genesispestservices.com</a>	 Daniel's JEWELERS <a href="http://daniels-jewelers.net">daniels-jewelers.net</a>	 ABOVE & BEYOND Vehicle Reconditioning <a href="http://abovebeyondrecon.com">abovebeyondrecon.com</a>
 INDIANA FARM BUREAU INSURANCE Bluffton Office   (260) 824-2234 <a href="http://infarmbureau.com">infarmbureau.com</a>	 JC'S GARAGE DOOR SALES & SERVICE <a href="http://jcsgaragedoor.com">jcsgaragedoor.com</a>	 Myers FUNERAL HOMES <a href="http://myersfuneralhomes.com">myersfuneralhomes.com</a>	 KELLY'S COLLISION CENTER, INC. Owners: Dustin Kelly 820 W. Washington Street, Bluffton <a href="http://kellysautocollision.com">kellysautocollision.com</a>
 WELLS COUNTY 4-H GROWS HERE <a href="http://extension.purdue.edu/wells">extension.purdue.edu/wells</a>	 3 RIVERS <a href="http://3riversfcu.org">3riversfcu.org</a>	 Bluffton Tire <a href="http://blufftontire.com">blufftontire.com</a>	 MOSER & SON Heating & Air 824-0228 219 E. Perry St. Bluffton <a href="http://moserandsonheatingandair.com">moserandsonheatingandair.com</a>
 Thegmcfamily.com	 Riverstone DENTAL <a href="http://riverstonedental.net">riverstonedental.net</a>	 Edward Jones <a href="http://EdwardJones.com">EdwardJones.com</a>	 State Farm Erin Daugherty 260.827.0527 <a href="http://www.MyBlufftonAgent.com">www.MyBlufftonAgent.com</a>
 iCav.us	 Jerry Flack & Associates <a href="http://jerryflackinsuranceandinvestments.com">jerryflackinsuranceandinvestments.com</a>	 La Fontaine Center A RHF Community <a href="http://lafontainecenter.org">lafontainecenter.org</a>	 HOME COURT HOME CARE <a href="http://homecourthomecare.com">homecourthomecare.com</a>
 Lengerich MEATS <a href="http://lengerichmeats.com">lengerichmeats.com</a>	 Still Waters FAMILY DENTISTRY <a href="http://stillwatersfamilydentistry.com">stillwatersfamilydentistry.com</a>	 Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home <a href="http://thomarich.com">thomarich.com</a>	 NBDigital <a href="http://nb-digital.com">nb-digital.com</a>

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