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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2024

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## Jefferson Township board votes to sign fire contract

By SYDNEY KENT

Jefferson Township board members have approved a new contract with the Ossian Fire Department, marking a temporary end to the ongoing issue of fire protection in the township.

The contract was approved 2-1, with board members AJ Springer and Tim Baker in favor and David Haiflich opposed. The board's meeting Tuesday evening was a continuation of their two-and-a-half-hour meeting last Thursday.

During last week's meeting, Baker and Haiflich announced their intention to depart from the Ossian Fire Department in favor of beginning their own before January 1. They were prompted by the public to reconsider the decision after immediate backlash, and agreed to potentially sign the new contract with the OFD with modifications.

On Tuesday, the contract passed with understanding that the conversation was not over.

"There's stuff in there I don't like," Baker said, referring to the contract. "But to get by one year —"

"That's correct," Springer affirmed. "All we're doing is trying to go through 2025 so that we can figure out if we can create our fire department properly and how to do that. We're looking for coverage for everyone in Jefferson Township and we're going one year at a time right now. It may take years to get a (new Jefferson Township) department started."

The contract requires the township to pay half of the operating budget for the OFD, meaning the township will pay approximately \$122,000. However, at last week's

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Pictured from left to right are AJ Springer, David Haiflich and Tim Baker. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

## BOW hears bids for three projects, snow removal quotes

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Bids for pathway maintenance, snow removal and river-bank stabilization were heard by the Board of Public Works and Safety Tuesday.

Minnich Lawn Service had the low bid for pathway maintenance, consisting of trash removal, snow removal and all other maintenance needs for the new alleyways downtown. Minnich bid \$37,900 per year for the alleys and Ethan's Outdoor Services bid \$100,000. Bluffton NOW! President Mike Lautzenheiser will review the bids and recommend one to the board.

Snow removal quotes for parking lots downtown were also heard. Minnich had the low bid again, bidding \$85 and \$150 to clear five or less inches of snow from lots, depending on their size, and a \$100 hourly rate. Minnich's prices rose to \$110 and \$225 for five or more inches of snow. Ethan's bid \$200, \$225 and \$250 for five or less inches of snow and a \$110 hourly rate. Ethan's price rose to \$300, \$325 and \$375 for five or more inches of snow. Street Commissioner Tim Simpson will review those bids.

The final project was for the stabilization of the River-greenway. Isch Excavating had the low bid at \$145,000. Stantec, located in Indianapolis, bid \$148,957.50. Other bids from The Stanger Group, KBL Transport and Wil-

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## Israel says it killed potential leader of Hezbollah

By SARAH EL DEEB, FARNOUSH AMIRI, and TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Israel said Tuesday that one of its airstrikes outside Beirut earlier this month killed a Hezbollah official widely expected to replace the militant group's longtime leader, who was killed by an Israeli airstrike last month.

There was no immediate confirmation from Hezbollah about the fate of Hashem Safieddine, a powerful cleric who was expected to succeed Hassan Nasrallah, one of the group's founders.

Safieddine was killed in early October in a strike that also killed 25 other Hezbollah leaders, according to Israel, whose airstrikes in southern Lebanon in recent months have killed many of Hezbollah's top leaders, leaving the group in disarray.

Last week, Israel killed the top leader of Hamas,

Yahya Sinwar, during a battle in Gaza.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Tuesday during a trip to Israel that leaders there should "capitalize" on Sinwar's death as an opportunity to end the war in Gaza and secure the release of hostages taken as part of the deadly Hamas attack that started the war. Blinken also stressed the need for Israel to do more to help increase the flow of humanitarian aid to Palestinians.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office called his meeting with Blinken, which lasted more than two hours, "friendly and productive."

The Beirut suburb where Safieddine was killed was pummeled by a series of fresh airstrikes on Tuesday, including one that leveled a building Israel said housed Hezbollah facilities. The collapse sent smoke and

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### Story time at the library

Books about frogs and toads were read to kids at the Wells County Public Library Tuesday as part of One Book One Country. Above, storyteller Cindy Burchell fist bumps Kylie Mayer while Jeremy Mayer, second from right, Alice Mayer, right, and Cooper Malone look on. At right, Lacey Rinkenberger listens attentively with Elly Rinkenberger. Below, Elliana Sommerfeld roars at her stuffed frog, while Ethan Sommerfeld holds the frog in place. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)



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### Outside



Wind gusts will blow in some cooler weather

Today	Thursday	Friday
High 71	High 62	High 74
Low 33	Low 43	Low 44

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# Jefferson Township

(Continued from Page 1)  
meeting, Haiflich and Baker passed a new budget with less money allocated to the fire department than initially proposed.

Baker said the reason for this was that the maximum amount of income received from the max levy would total \$115,000. Springer insisted the township would be able to offset the amount needed for the OFD with unused funds from the year prior.

“Even if that agreement is signed, I am not going

to pay for (the contract),” Baker said to Springer. “I told you we could only raise \$115,000 by the max levy plus the little pieces they’ll let us put into fire fund without going into the general fund, which belongs to all people from the township.”

Springer reiterated that the township could use leftover funds to pay the difference in the fire agreement. Jefferson Township Trustee Larry Heckber said that the additional funds would be appropriated from the fire

fund. Springer also made a motion to move forward with the initial budget that was passed weeks ago, to which both board members agreed. Heckber agreed to acquire the finalized corrected paperwork needed for the board to sign the fire agreement.

A resident asked the board if there was anything that would prevent the board from addressing the issue of fire protection next year.

“What’s to stop it from getting dragged out like it

has all year?” the resident asked.

Springer said the matter would be revisited in January, but expressed his commitment to working with the town of Ossian and the people in all of Jefferson Township for sustainable resolutions for fire protection.

The board will reconvene to finalize paperwork for the 2025 budget at 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 28 at the central office building for Norwell Community Schools.

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# Board of Works

(Continued from Page 1)  
Iiams Creek Management Corporation ranged from \$15,000 to \$190,000 greater than Isch’s bid. Parks Department Superintendent Brandy Fiechter will review the bids.

Additionally, the Board of Works approved a water bill adjustment for Trudy Murray’s residence in the 1000 block of Stogdill Road. Murray presented that a leak was discovered in late August and the city had replaced the line and moved a water meter closer to her residence. Murray added that the bill totaled \$125 greater than her normal usage. The board agreed to reimburse her half of the increased water difference between her normal bill and the increased one, which Murray accepted.

Bri Lautzenheiser also requested two fund transfers. The first transfer is \$5,000 from the Adams Street

TIF District’s paving line item to the professional services. Lautzenheiser stated that TIF training done in February could have been paid out of that budget, but to do that the transfer was necessary. Lautzenheiser also requested \$9,600 be transferred to the Clerk-Treasurer Department’s other services line item, coming from a combination of the copier Rental, travel, repair/maintenance and professional meetings line items. Lautzenheiser’s transition into the clerk-treasurer role has seen some additional costs, which Baker Tilly is helping to navigate.

The board also approved a raise for 911 Dispatcher Jayme Miller who completed her state mandated training hours. This brings the department up to nine fully-trained staff and the 10th is expected within the week.

Additionally, the board renewed

their contract with Reliance I/O, the city’s IT Support group, for \$9,200.

The board also approved an easement agreement with American Electric Power for a piece of land located at the water tower on State Road 1. AEP plans to upgrade their electric poles in the area, and as such will need an easement to operate within the State Road 1 Right of Way.

Furthermore, the board approved a request to close the 100 and 200 block of Market Street and Johnson Street from Toppings to Washington Street to accommodate Parlor City Christmas on Dec. 14. The roads will be closed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

They also agreed to close Spring Street from Jersey to Clark from 5-8 p.m. on Oct. 31 for First Church of Christ to host their trunk or treat event on Oct. 31.

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# Israel kills Hezbollah official

(Continued from Page 1)  
debris flying into the air a few hundred meters from where a spokesperson for Hezbollah had just briefed journalists about a weekend drone attack that damaged Netanyahu’s house.

Tuesday’s airstrikes came 40 minutes after Israel issued an evacuation warning for two buildings in the area that it said were used by Hezbollah. The Hezbollah press conference nearby was cut short, and an Associated Press photographer captured an image of a missile heading towards the building moments before it was destroyed. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Hezbollah’s chief spokesman, Mohammed Afif, said the group was behind the Saturday drone attack on Netanyahu’s home in the coastal town of Caesarea. Israel has said neither the prime minister nor his wife were home at the time of the attack.

Blinken’s meetings with Netanyahu and other Israeli leaders was part of his 11th visit to the region since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war. He landed hours after Hezbollah launched a barrage of rockets into central Israel, setting off air raid sirens in populated areas and at its international airport, but causing no apparent damage or injuries.

**Hospitals in Lebanon fear being targeted by Israel**

An Israeli airstrike late Monday in Beirut night destroyed several buildings across the street from the country’s largest public hospital, killing 18 people and wounding at least 60 others. The Israeli military said it struck a Hezbollah target, without elaborating, and said that it hadn’t targeted the hospital itself.

AP reporters visited the Rafik Hariri University Hos-

pital on Tuesday. They saw broken windows in the hospital’s pharmacy and dialysis center, which was full of patients at the time.

Staff at another Beirut hospital feared it would be targeted after Israel alleged that Hezbollah had stashed hundreds of millions of dollars in cash and gold in its basement, without providing evidence.

The director of the Sahel General Hospital denied the allegations and invited journalists to visit the hospital and its two underground floors on Tuesday. AP reporters saw no sign of militants or anything out of the ordinary.

The few remaining patients had been evacuated after the Israeli military’s announcement the night before.

“We have been living in terror for the last 24 hours,” hospital director Mazen Alame said. “There is nothing under the hospital.”

Many in Lebanon fear Israel could target its hospitals in the same way it has raided medical facilities across Gaza. The Israeli military has accused Hamas and other militants of using hospitals for military purposes, allegations denied by medical staff.

Lebanon’s Health Ministry said Tuesday that 63 people have been killed over the past 24 hours, raising the death toll over the past year of conflict between Israel and Hezbollah to 2,546. Three Israeli soldiers were killed on Tuesday, one in Gaza, one in Lebanon, and one in a rocket attack in northern Israel, according to the military.

**Blinken trying to restart efforts to reach a cease-fire in Gaza**

During his meeting with Netanyahu and other Israeli leaders, Blinken underscored the need for a dra-

# UN: It could take 350 years for Gaza to rebuild if it remains under a blockade

By JOSEPH KRAUSS, Associated Press

U.N. agencies have long warned that it could take decades to rebuild Gaza after Israel’s offensive against Hamas, one of the deadliest and most destructive military campaigns since World War II.

Now, more than a year into the war, a new report speaks in terms of centuries.

The U.N. Conference on Trade and Development said in a report released Monday that if the war ends tomorrow and Gaza returns to the status quo before Hamas’ Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel, it could take 350 years for its battered economy to return to its precarious prewar level.

Before the war, Gaza was under an Israeli and Egyptian blockade imposed after Hamas seized power in 2007. Four previous wars and divisions between Hamas and the Western-backed Palestinian Authority in the West Bank also took a toll on Gaza’s economy.

The current war has caused staggering destruction across the territory, with entire neighborhoods obliterated and roads and critical infrastructure in ruins. Mountains of rubble laced with decomposing bodies and unexploded ordnance would have to be cleared before rebuilding could begin.

“Once a ceasefire is reached, a return to the pre-October 2023 status quo would not put Gaza on the path needed for recovery and sustainable development,” the report said. “If the 2007–2022 growth trend returns, with an average growth rate of 0.4 percent, it will take Gaza 350 years just to restore the GDP levels of 2022.”

matic increase in the amount of humanitarian aid reaching Gaza, according to U.S. State Department spokesman Matthew Miller. The need for more aid in Gaza is something Blinken and U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin made clear in a letter to Israeli officials last week.

Miller said Blinken also stressed the importance of ending the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah, which

escalated earlier this month when Israel launched a ground invasion of southern Lebanon.

The United States, Egypt and Qatar have brokered months of talks between Israel and Hamas, trying to strike a deal in which the militants would release dozens of hostages in return for an end to the war, a lasting cease-fire and the release of Palestinian prisoners.

# Weather

**Wednesday, October 23, 2024**  
**(24-hour observations at 10:49 p.m. Tuesday)**  
**High: 79; Low: 48; Precipitation: Trace of Rain**  
**Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.10 feet at 9:45 p.m. Tuesday**

# Wells County forecast

**Today:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 71. Northwest wind 10 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Tonight:** Mostly clear, with a low around 33. North wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Thursday:** Sunny, with a high near 62. Calm wind.

**Thursday Night:** A 30% chance of showers after 2 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 43. Calm wind becoming south around 5 mph after midnight.

**Friday:** A 40% chance of showers, mainly before 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 74.

**Friday Night:** A 10% chance of showers before 8 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 44.

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

**Saturday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 33.

**Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 59.

**Sunday Night:** Clear, with a low around 36.

**Monday:** Sunny, with a high near 68.

# More Republicans are voting early, with 19M ballots cast so far

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI, Associated Press

With former President Donald Trump’s encouragement, Republicans are voting early again, flocking to the polls for in-person voting ahead of Election Day and helping push the national number to nearly 19 million.

The early turnout is breaking records in swing states such as Georgia and North Carolina.

The GOP hopes this surge of early votes will fix a mechanical problem that some in the party blame for costing it the 2020 presidential election and key races in 2022. Campaigns usually want their voters to cast ballots ahead of Election Day so they can focus their resources on getting more marginal supporters to the polls at the last minute.

Republicans excelled at that before Trump turned against early in-person and mail voting in 2020, as he spun wild conspiracies about the process and convinced his supporters to wait until Election Day to cast their ballots. But the party is again pushing its voters to cast their ballots early, and the former president is largely encouraging the change.

“I am telling everyone to vote early,” Trump said on a podcast last week hosted by conservative Dan Bongino, who has widely spread false information about early voting and the 2020 election.

Republicans seem to be responding. In Nevada, where Democrats for decades relied on a robust early vote to counter the GOP on Election Day, about

6,000 more Republicans than Democrats had actually cast early ballots this year as of Tuesday, according to Associated Press research.

It’s unclear what this means for the election, however. The early vote data only reveals whether voters are registered with a party, not who they are voting for, and the early electorate can change from day to day as more people vote early.

The surge in 2020 Democratic early voting was largely a reaction to a pandemic that no longer exists, skewing historic comparisons. And what might seem like demographic trends in the early vote can suddenly disappear once Election Day votes are factored in.

It also is still very early in the voting process. The last of the seven swing states, Wisconsin, kicked off its early voting Tuesday morning, and the 17.4 million voters who already have cast ballots this year represent only about 11% of the number of total ballots in the 2020 presidential election. Parties can run up leads in the early vote and then see them vanish on Election Day because all their supporters have already cast ballots and the other side has not.

“The Democrats are still, as far as I can tell, banking more early votes. It’s just less of a disadvantage for Republicans,” said Michael McDonald, a political scientist at the University of Florida who carefully tracks the early vote. But, McDonald cautioned, “we don’t know if this is a shifting of furniture yet or an added strength for Republicans.”

*Julie Myers*  
*Jerry Flack*  
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# Southern Wells Elementary School announces first quarter honor roll students

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

## 2nd Grade High Honor

Emma Baumgartner, Brogan Bennett, Kodi Craig, Macklin Fiechter, Roxanne Frauhiger, Summer Hamilton, Lillian Hartman, Emma Huffman, Emma Maxwell, Hadley Miller, Hazel Palmer, Zoe Robles, Mallory Roe, Trace Schneider, Laithen Smith, Matthew Smith, Scarlett Striker and Paxtyn Sunderman.

## Honor

Destiny Alig, Lee Baumgartner, Kellan Bennett, Briella Boone, Charlee Bower, Zoie Fate, Jerit Franklin, Ivy Frauhiger, Presley Gearheart, Nathan Gentis, Beau Gibbons, Ruby Gilbert, Anthony Grover, Emily Meek, James Miller, Andi Prible, Empryss Ramsey, Ryder Satterfield, Logan Schwartz, Holden Simpson, Brayden Slusher, Reagan Slusher, Laney Thompson, Kayla White and Makenzi Wyatt.

## 3rd Grade High Honor

Preston Barnes, Rhett Bower, Finley Emerick, Bristol Fiechter, Selah Fisher, Austin Hamilton, Wesson Laurence, Khushi Patel, Calen Paxson, Grant Penrod, Eli Swartz, Brant Tucker,

Aubrey VanGordon, Tristan White and Jaelyn Wickey.

## Honor

Nery Benavidez Molina, Rhider Bennett, Brynnley Caldwell, Riggs Frauhiger, Ty Frauhiger, Kitt Freiburg-er, Cierra Hamilton, Emmalyn Higgins, Draxton Jackson, Gavin Jennings, Brooklynn Kinnett, Madison Malott, Avery Morgan, Alexis Nusbaumer, Charlotte Pursifull, Kaylynn Scheerer, Jack Slusher, Mackenzie Townsend, Titus Truez, LaRose Wengerd and Hannah Wyatt.

## 4th Grade High Honor

Zoey Boyer, Ava Fiechter, Gretchen Prible and Braxleigh Sunderman.

## Honor

Jalynn Biberstine, Joseph Bircker, Addison Cassiday, Kaitlyn Edmonds, Aaylah Guhl, Jacob Hoffacker, Sadie Johnson, Eva Laurence, Amelia Mills, Andre Neuschwander, Avery Neuschwander, Jaxson Nusbaumer, Jace Ross, Graceyn Schortgen, Marissa Schwartz, Hayden Slusher and Brantley Steffen.

## 5th Grade High Honor

Adrian Boxell, Katy Goodnight, Avy Kirkwood, Raven Mounsey, Lindsay Penrod, Naomi Shirar, Talia Smith, Liam Thompson, Lily Townsend, Trace Tucker and Levi VanDeman.

## Honor

Emmabelle Baumgart-

ner, Sutton Bennett, Carter Blinn, Blakely Bower, Caroline Brown, Makenna Dowell, Mason Edmonds, AnnaLynn Felger, Royal Frauhiger, Quinn Harker, Annie Herr, Granger Higgins, Cash Jenkins, Layne Koroncevicius, Cooper McNally, Kayci Needler, Noah Neuschwander, Eliza Peterson, Peyton Slusher, Tucker Trosper, McKenna Twibell, Brayden Wickey and Lexi Zavattaro.

## 6th Grade High Honor

Raelin Bower, Owen Boxell, Braelyn Boyer, Jaycee Carroll, Jay Carter, Charlene Felger, Cora Freiburger, Zane Gates, Sophia Kahn, Karla Martinez-Cano, Anna McFarren, Allie Miller, Stanley Needler, Tyler Nichols, Cooper Reeves, McKenna Rittenhouse, Elise Schneider, Blakely Schortgen, Ethan Swartz and Samantha Zavattaro.

## Honor

Bricen Alig, Kole Allred, Melanie Barr, Charlie Benedict, Reagan Bennett, Gavin Biberstine, Kaden Boxell, Keeton Carroll, Paisley Chandler, Elliot Farichild, Cash Frauhiger, Russell Frauhiger, Zeke Gilbert, Zayne Harker, Olivia Hoffacker, Vada Palmer, Rowen Quickery, Jacinda Robison, Logan Rogers, Layla Shelley, McKenzie Striker and Alexis Sunderman.



Pictured cutting the ribbon are Dylan Felger, Tanner Felger, Jim Felger, Tom Felger, PJ Felger, and Chad McCall, along with family, friends, staff and Chamber Ambassadors. (Photo submitted)

# Felger Hart Residential Services celebrates ribbon cutting with Wells County Chamber

Felger Hart Residential Services marked a significant milestone, hosting a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Wells County Chamber of Commerce and its ambassadors. The event celebrated the company's expansion into Bluffton, showcasing its newly remodeled facility and enhanced services for the local community.

The Felger name is deeply rooted in tradition. Co-owner Tom Felger shared the company's origins, which date back to 1983 when his father, Jim Felger, and his partner, Doug Hart, founded the business, initially focusing on commercial work in the Fort Wayne area. Tom and his brother PJ, who both began as apprentices, took over the family business in 2008. "For years, the office operated out of the basement of our parents' Wells County home," Tom recalled. "PJ and I bought out Doug in 2008, and over the next decade, our father gradually retired. By 2018, we fully purchased his shares, though he remained a silent partner during those years."

During the ceremony, Tom discussed the journey that led to this new venture. "About four years ago, we expanded by acquiring Wheeler Mechanical in Columbia City, which primarily focused on residential work," Tom explained. "Felger Hart had always been a commercial company, but this acquisition helped us understand the residential market better and inspired us to create distinct identities for both sectors." This shift paved the way for the relocation of their residential services division from Columbia City to Bluffton in May 2024. The newly remodeled residential services office, located at 2095 Commerce Drive, is just a few miles from their commercial headquarters north of Bluffton on Highway 1.

The decision to expand into residential services was driven by years of community requests. "We've had so many people ask us over the years, 'Can you work on my

house?' Now, we can finally say yes," Felger said. Felger Hart Residential Services now offers a full range of residential services, including plumbing, heating, air conditioning, electrical work and generator installations. Despite their expansion into Bluffton, the company maintains a strong presence in Columbia City, Fort Wayne, and the surrounding areas.

With over four decades of experience in the trades industry, Felger Hart Residential Services prides itself on a foundation of honesty and integrity. "The Felger name has built a solid reputation that speaks for itself, and we're committed to continuing that legacy here in Wells County," Felger added.

Chad McCall, General Manager of Felger Hart Residential Services, spoke about the company's focus on customer service. "It's incredibly rewarding to help someone, whether it's getting their furnace running in the dead of winter or improving the air quality in their home," McCall shared. "We're committed to delivering a top-tier customer service experience, and this is just the beginning of something great for our residential team."

Beyond residential services, the company is com-

mitted to giving back to the community. Felger Hart recently launched a new preventative maintenance program, where \$100 from every new maintenance contract is donated to a local mission partner. Loving Shepherd Ministries, their current partner, is the first beneficiary of this initiative.

Looking ahead, Tom emphasized the company's vision for growth. "As we plan for the next five years, we're excited about the potential for expansion and continued success," he said. "With the next generation of leadership already involved, we're confident Felger Hart will continue to grow and serve the community for many years to come."

Felger Hart Residential Services employs 14 staff members specifically for residential work, with a total workforce of 65 employees across all branches. The company is actively seeking skilled technicians and plumbers to meet the growing service demand.

To learn more about Felger Hart Residential Services, visit their website at [www.felgerresidential.com](http://www.felgerresidential.com), call 260-244-6328, or stop by their office at 2095 Commerce Dr., Bluffton, IN 46714.

# Ossian Rotary to host the CEO of the Wells County Foundation

At its regular weekly meeting on Thursday, Oct. 24, Ossian Rotary will hear from Tammy L. Slater, CEO of The Wells County Foundation. Tammy is a native of Bluffton and a graduate of Bluffton High School. She received her certification in paralegal sciences from Indiana Vocational Technical College. She has been with the Foundation for 25 years, serving as the Foundation's CEO since 2006.

Tammy is a member of the Wells County Leadership Academy steering committee, a Board member of Wells County Revitalization, Inc., Bluffton NOW, the Kehoe Park Summer Concert Series committee, Wells County Trails, and Wells County Women in

Leadership.

Tammy and her husband of 36 years live in rural northern Wells County. They have two adult children and one grandson. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, traveling and spending time with family.

Tammy will share information regarding the Foundation, LiGHT and the Wells County Prom Dress Exchange.

Anyone is welcome to attend Ossian Rotary this Thursday morning, at 7:30 at First Baptist Church of Ossian, 1001 Dehner Drive, for this program. For more information, please contact Matthew Gullion, Ossian Rotary President, at [mwgullion@gmail.com](mailto:mwgullion@gmail.com).



Books ready to be read again!

Used books for both adults and children will be offered at the Book Sale, hosted by the Friends of the Wells County Public Library during regular library hours Wednesday through Saturday of this week at the Bluffton site. Members of the set-up crew left to right included Lowell Tillman, Barb Oswalt, Pam Tuttle, Audrey Alm-dale, Missi Clark, Alan Daugherty, Ginger Bollinger and Leslie Tillman. (Photo provided)

# Wells County Women in Leadership conference will be held Nov. 12

Wells County Women in Leadership will host its third-annual EmpowerHER conference on Tuesday, Nov. 12.

The all-day conference features a variety of events and speakers, including talks from Rachel Rauch of Eiro Wellness, Melahni Ake of Everyday Leaders LLC, and Courtney Delks of Compete Training Academy.

Learn and discuss rest and growth, everyday techniques to managing life, and how to lead with authenticity.

The conference is from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Timber Ridge in Bluffton. Registration costs \$50 and includes breakfast and lunch. RSVP at [wellscoc.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register/2687](http://wellscoc.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register/2687).

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## It's not just about party, it's also about skills

Back in early October, as parts of the South were still reeling from Hurricane Helene's impact and Hurricane Milton had begun its run toward Florida, House Speaker Mike Johnson gave an interview to Fox News. Even though the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, was facing possible staffing and funding shortages as it prepared to deal with both the short-term and long-term aftermath of the crises, Johnson said extra funding would have to wait until after the election.



Lee Hamilton

### Comments on Congress

In the midst of one of the most closely fought, tensest elections I can remember, it's hardly surprising that a House speaker would take politics into consideration — even as ordinary Americans faced real hardship. But that moment also served as a potent reminder that in our system, the federal government's ability to respond to everything from immediate crises to the country's long-term needs rests in multiple hands — Congress's just as much as the President's.

Put another way, our nation's ability to get things done depends in no small part on Congress's ability to get things done. And with the elections approaching, that's something to keep in mind as you look at the candidates. I've no doubt that this year in particular, you'll be thinking about party and ideology. But I also hope you'll look closely at temperament and political skills.

What do I mean by this? Skills include things like the ability to communicate — not just to speak persuasively, but to listen to and understand what others are trying to say. They include an ability to forge consensus among constituencies with different viewpoints. And they include the capacity to pull a diverse group of people together to focus on key problems, one of the most difficult tasks in politics. These aren't just nice-to-haves. They're vital to the functioning of our representative democracy. It takes true skill to create a functioning government that reflects the will of the people.

But temperament matters, too, because perhaps more than anything, I put the willingness and ability to forge compromise at the top of what Congress needs from its members. This has been true for our entire history. In the very first session of Congress, our forebears were confronted not just with a new form of government, but with the challenging question of how to make it work. The stakes were high, and members back then carried political agendas that were just as sharply divided and keenly felt as on Capitol Hill today. Yet even so, the historian Robert Remini once wrote, "The members disagreed at times, and even quarreled, but never to the point of creating irreconcilable factions within the House. This cooperation and harmony...was essential in the beginning."

To my mind, it's essential today, too. It may be too much to expect harmony, of course, but cooperation and compromise are part and parcel of making this country work. For years now, politicians have tended to sneer at compromise, at least in public. But for just as long, the reality on Capitol Hill has been narrowly divided chambers: Whichever party's been in the majority, it's had to take the other party into account. It may be fine to rally the base when you're campaigning, but when you actually have to legislate, scorched-earth tactics just alienate the people you need to work with.

We've seen where that gets us. Congress's historically low standing in the polls stems from the widespread perception that it's unable to act, even in the face of immense challenges at home and abroad. Fixing this will require electing politicians who know how to build rapport with people of different political persuasions, who treat political adversaries with respect, and above all, who aren't afraid to compromise and who know how to do it. We all have an interest in addressing our nation's challenges, whether it's unemployment, crime, immigration, or natural disasters. We need members of Congress who are willing to roll up their sleeves and show that they do, too.

*Lee Hamilton is a distinguished scholar with the IU School of Global and International Studies. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.*

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### 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 • Mail: PO Box 436, Bluffton IN 46714 • Drop-off: 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton. (There is a 24-hour drop-slot available.)

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## Why we need age limits for presidential candidates

Given our rapid demographic shifts, I suppose the problems of an aging society would be embodied in a presidential election eventually. Now they have.

First, we witnessed a president's dramatic decline in a prime-time presidential debate. And now Donald Trump might be poised to succeed that man as America's oldest president ever.

After what happened with President Joe Biden, it's no surprise that folks on the left have been speculating about Trump's mental acuity every time he does something weird. Following Monday's town hall in Pennsylvania, I wondered if they didn't have a point. After two attendees required medical attention, the former president jokingly asked whether anyone else wanted to faint, then abruptly stopped taking questions and converted the event into a literal listening session, asking for music to be played in lieu of the planned question-and-answer forum.

I won't try to diagnose Trump's mental state from afar (and for what it's worth, at Wednesday's town hall in Georgia, he seemed no more unhinged than usual). But regardless of whether Trump suffers from age-related cognitive decline now, there's a high risk that sometime in the next four years, he will. Which is why we need a constitutional amendment to prevent someone so old from ever running for president again.

Even when you're not doing the most stressful job in the world, age can be brutal on the brain. A 2022 study found that roughly one-third of Americans over age 65 have some form of cognitive impairment, and the older you get, the bigger the risk that your mind will start to go. Anyone who has cared for an aging parent or grandparent knows how suddenly that can happen: a stroke, a heart attack or an illness can impact a senior's cognitive capacity, even if they don't develop dementia.

The president is doing the most stressful job in the world, and that job has visibly aged every president in modern history. That toll seems likely to be heavier on older presidents — and if you doubt that, just watch Biden's debate performance in 2020, then compare it with this summer's performance. The president appeared a trifle slow four years ago, but it was nothing like the disastrous decline on display in June. When Biden visibly lost his train of thought and then helplessly muttered, "We finally beat Medicare," I actually dove onto my couch in vicarious humiliation and covered my head with a pillow.

Trump won't necessarily follow the same path if he's reelected. But even a 5 or 10 percent chance that he might is unacceptable. In a nuclear-armed world where the fate of human civilization might hang on a president's decisions, we can't afford to have a commander in chief whose mind is no longer fully capable of rapid assessment and instant action.

Unfortunately, the 25th Amendment, which allows the vice president to temporarily assume power from an incapacitated president, offers no good way to remove a president who is lucid but no longer men-

tally sharp. It should function well enough in the situations for which it was designed, such as a president in a coma. However, if the president retains enough of his wits to contest the transfer of authority, we face a potential power struggle and a constitutional crisis.

That's an argument for fixing the 25th Amendment, creating a clearer procedure for handling less-than-total impairment. But no such fix will ever work perfectly because we don't want to make it too easy for the vice president to seize power. So we should also pass an amendment to screen out the candidates at the highest risk of such problems — which is to say, those in their 70s and 80s. Exactly what that age limit should be, and how to handle candidates who might exceed it in office, will need to be hashed out in the drafting process, with input from experts on cognitive science. I would set it at 72.

The obvious rejoinder is that passing a constitutional amendment is incredibly hard, and the voters can eliminate those candidates. But while it is hard, it's not impossible — and unlike many other amendments, this one wouldn't be attempting to settle a hot-button political issue that will mobilize fierce opposition. Nearly 8 in 10 voters support imposing an age limit on federal officials.

Those voters probably understand why it's better to handle this through the amendment process than by expecting voters to provide a mental health check on the candidates. If a candidate does have cognitive problems, staffers and party insiders will try to hide that, as happened with Biden. So we can't count on citizens having an accurate picture of a future president's capabilities. Nor can they predict whether those capabilities will suddenly diminish.

There's also a political problem with leaving it to the voters. The structure of our electoral system strongly favors two major parties rather than many smaller ones. Americans can only really choose between two candidates, selected by a small group of primary voters that doesn't much resemble the broader electorate.

Moreover, incumbents have so many advantages — money, name recognition, their party's fear of an internal civil war — that it's nearly impossible for primary voters to replace an incumbent, even when it's clear that person has lost a step. Which is how we almost ended up having the third-oldest president in history face off against the oldest.

It's too late to fix that problem for this election.

If Trump wins, we must hope he remains healthy throughout his term, or that if something happens, JD Vance can smoothly assume power before a crisis occurs. But we should act now to protect future Americans from the possibility of a president who cannot do the job and cannot be forced out of it, either.

Follow Megan McCardle on X @asymmetricinfo



Megan McCardle

## Harris appeals for the anti-Catholic vote

A political rule of thumb is that candidates should never offend a large group of voters, especially close to an election.

Harris ignored that rule, not once, but twice last week.

First, she disrespected the annual Al Smith dinner in New York, which raises money for Catholic charities and has been attended by every modern presidential candidate with one exception — Walter Mondale in 1984. We saw how that worked out when Mondale lost 49 states to Ronald Reagan.

Harris sent a video to the dinner which many people found unfunny. Comedian Jim Gaffigan roasted Harris for not showing up. Former president Donald Trump attended and even though his remarks might have forced him to confess if he were Catholic, Trump may get some points among Catholic voters for being there.

In the video, Harris was joined by Molly Shannon, a former cast member on "Saturday Night Live," who played Mary Katherine Gallagher, a hyperactive, egotistical Catholic school girl, a character who might be considered stereotypical and unfunny by some Catholics.

In the clip, Harris asks Gallagher for advice on what to speak about at the dinner. She replies: "Don't say anything negative about Catholics,"



Cal Thomas

to which Harris responds: "I would never do that no matter where I was — that would be like criticizing Detroit in Detroit," a reference to a recent speech Trump delivered in Detroit during which he criticized the condition of the city.

The second violation of the thumb rule was her comments about abortion hours before the Smith dinner. In Wisconsin, she mocked pro-life hecklers who shouted at her during her speech, telling them "Oh, you're at the wrong rally. You want the smaller one down the street."

It is no secret that Catholic doctrine regards life beginning at conception and having value until natural death. For Harris to openly promote abortion on the same day as the Al Smith dinner and after declining an invitation to attend will not sit well with some Catholic voters.

"We will move forward because ours is a fight for the future," said Harris, "and it is a fight for freedom — for freedom. Like the fundamental freedom of a woman to make decisions about her own body and not have her government tell her what to do."

Catholics and pro-lifers of other faiths argue that the unborn child is only a temporary resident of the female body and not a part of it, like an arm or leg.

The way Harris aggressively promotes abortion on demand for any reason and at any time is reminiscent of what some ancient Israelites did as recorded in the Old Testament. Some sacrificed their children on altars to false gods, earning the anger and punishment of the God they were supposed to be serving.

As I have argued for years abortion will not end the attacks on human life. Already we are reading about pods that have been created to help people commit suicide. As people live longer the pressure on the elderly to "die and get out of the way" will grow.

If life's value is determined by government and not "endowed by our Creator," there can be no constraints on humans to do whatever they wish to other humans. Today's horrors become normal in a short space of time. It's just a matter of conditioning.

The one thing Harris and other "pro-choice" advocates never mention is self-control. Is anyone ignorant about what causes a pregnancy? Are not contraceptives for men and women readily available? The age when a woman's attitude about sex was "not until we are married" is long gone and society continues to suffer from casting off of all restraints while wishing to avoid consequences of bad decisions.

Not only Catholics may be influenced by Harris' abortion views in the coming election.

tcaeditors@tribpub.com

# Much depends on how we think of ourselves and of others

So much depends on compassion. In a world where indifference seems to be the norm, where the common denominator is "us vs them," where empathy is viewed as a character weakness, and where common civility and decency have evaporated into the very atmosphere surrounding us, there remains



**Billy Kreigh**

hope. There must be hope that the country we leave for our children and grandchildren is nurturing and positive, not torn asunder by those who refuse to think of others in terms other than vermin or poison or the enemy.

This may sound utterly altruistic and optimistic, a Pollyanna walking through life with rose-colored shades, a perpetual smile, and bounce in her step that defies everything swirling around her. I assure you, I am not a Pollyanna. The Dalai Lama said, "A person who practices compassion and forgiveness has great inner strength, whereas aggression is usually a sign of weakness." The willingness to practice compassion demands a great deal of strength, mental acuity, and personal fortitude because there are many who will decry compassion as the position of submission.

As we peruse the world around us at this moment, we can readily identify aggression in thought, word, and deed. Aggression is praised as the means to our intended goals. "Strong" leaders, who are quick to imprison, nullify, silence, and eliminate those who speak with a conflicting voice, are held up by some as leaders worthy of emulation.

The opposite is the truth. The "strongest" people who come to mind who throughout history exhibited characteristics that make humans most proud, are people such as Jesus Christ, Mother Teresa, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., Abraham Lincoln, Margaret Thatcher, and Nelson Mandela among countless others. A main characteristic shared by these leaders is their ability to feel compassion, empathy for their fellow inhabitants of this planet. If indeed we view "all men as created equal," if indeed we "love our neighbors as ourselves," if indeed we can "walk in another man's shoes," then certainly we can view the world and its residents with compassion.

Compassion does not mean to feel sorry for another or to feel pity for a person or an entire group of people. Feeling sorry for someone does not require action



from us. Pity can allow us to view ourselves as somehow superior or more "deserving" than another, and therefore can make us less "liable" in our own eyes. Neither of these is compassion.

Compassion requires that we refuse to idly and silently stand aside or turn away from injustice, harm, vilification, the attempts of invalidation that one person or group of people use against another person or group. We can make a difference. We have voices that yearn to be heard. We must utilize our backbones, minds, and common sense to boldly and consistently proclaim what is right. It has been said in various ways that those who do nothing to stop or prevent injustice share a complicity within that injustice.

Compassion must not be limited to writing a check, or volunteering for a few hours a week, or praying on any day of the week, or tsking our tongues against the roofs of our mouths while watching the evening news saying, "My, those poor people." Compassion is a full-out commitment that necessitates that we ask ourselves, what are we willing and able to do to actually make things right, to make things better...and then proceed to do exactly that.

It is not an easy decision to be

undertaken lightly. You may be called a "bleeding heart" - which I put forth as preferred over a non-bleeding heart - or a liberal, or some other identifying designation that is intended to be derogatory. No, the decision to practice compassion compels each of us to call upon "the better angels of our nature," to quote Abraham Lincoln.

As the important election date rises in our near future, as the name-calling and hate fueled divisive rhetoric slams us from many tv and radio stations, from pundits who promote lies and misinformation, it is imperative that we filter the disparaging "dialogue." We need to redirect our focus on how we identify truth, honor, integrity, moral turpitude, and unjust behavior. Identification is the beginning, not the end.

I would love to have a dollar for every time I said that I would never ever even attempt tell another person what to think. Heck, I could be one wealthy, albeit still elderly, woman. None of us need someone to tell us what to think, but all of us need to remind ourselves to think. Topics of import rarely just flutter from the skies fully formed with complete understanding. Nope, we have to think, and then think again. It is up to us to discern the measure, weight, and significance of topics which can alter our lives or the lives of others.

These topics include such matters as democracy, immigration,

abortion, education, religion, what is and what is not an entitlement, what is fair and just, for whom do we cast our vote, gun violence, protection of the environment, the list is truly never ending. Even a most superficial appraisal of these topics demands of us the utmost careful and in-depth thinking. Critical thinking should never be underrated or disparaged.

Bertrand Russell, regarded by many as a thinker and speaker of truth, said, "The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, and wise people so full of doubts." How do we obliterate those doubts? We know what is right. We cannot continue to allow the man-made differences, destructive lies, and distorted perceptions to separate us from our fellow human beings.

**Here's the thing:** We can learn to value compassion; it is within our capabilities. We learn to talk by speaking; we learn to write by writing; we learn to think by thinking; likewise, we learn compassion by practicing compassion. It really is that simple.

*bkreigh@adamswells.com*

*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.*

## True crime author talk: "The Madness of John Terrell" at WCPL Oct. 29

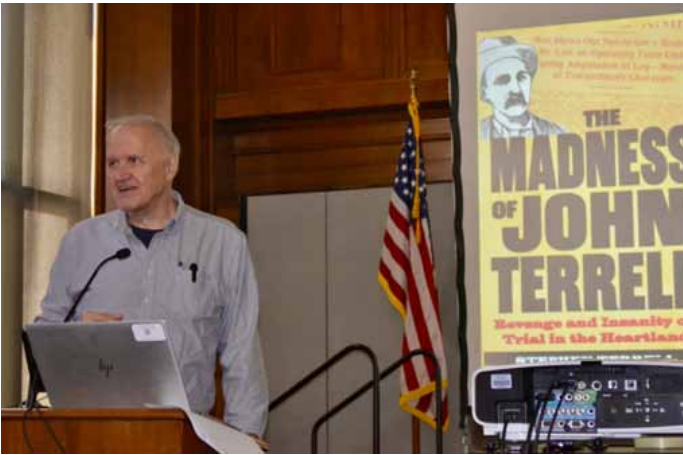
The Wells County Public Library will be hosting Indiana author, Stephen Terrell, at the Main Library in Bluffton on Tuesday, October 29 from 6:30-7:30 pm. Terrell will be discussing his newly released book "The Madness of John Terrell: Revenge and Insanity on Trial in the Heartland," from Kent State University Press.

Terrell learned about the case when digging into his own family history when he had some down time during the pandemic. He discovered his great-grandfather's eldest son from his first marriage, John Wesley Terrell, committed a shocking murder of his estranged son-in-law in 1903 and made headlines in hundreds of newspapers across the country, including the front page of the New York Times. What followed for Stephen Terrell after this discovery was more than three years of research to unravel the story of John Terrell that is told in the book.

This presentation is perfect for those who enjoy true crime or Wells County history. Registration is appreciated, but not required. To sign-up, call the library at 260-824-1612 or go to [www.wellsco-library.org](http://www.wellsco-library.org), click on the Library Event Calendar, navigate to the date of the event, and view more to get to the registration screen.

**About the Book:**  
In early 1900s Indiana, John Terrell was the wealthiest man in Wells County, thanks to oil discovered on his farm. But when his youngest daughter, Lucy, became pregnant and entered into a forced marriage to abusive Melvin Wolfe, Terrell's life and fortune unraveled in a tumultuous spiral of murder, a dramatic trial, and a descent into madness.

Wolfe's abuse of Lucy eventually drove her back to her parents' home. His continued harassment of the entire family became too much for John Terrell.



Indiana author Stephen Terrell will be discussing his book at the Wells County Public Library in Bluffton on Tuesday, October 29. (Photo submitted)

He shot Wolfe in a roadside ambush, followed the wounded man to the doctor, broke into the operating room, and put a shotgun to the injured man's head before pulling the trigger. The murder made sensational headlines across the country. Terrell, a polarizing figure in the community due to his wealth and atheism, went on trial and faced the death penalty. His lawyer presented an insanity defense; over 150 witnesses testified, including a dozen high-paid experts for the defense.

Yet Terrell was convicted in just 15 minutes. While awaiting sentence, his men-

tal condition rapidly deteriorated; transferred to an asylum, he was ultimately proclaimed "insane."

Until his death, the fierce debate raged: Had Terrell truly lost his mind? Or did he simply scam his way out of prison?

**About the Author:**  
Stephen Terrell is a novelist and retired Indiana attorney with decades of experience in trials and appeals at the state and federal levels. He has been a frequent speaker at legal conferences and seminars and was selected to the Indiana State Bar Association's General Practice Hall of Fame.

## Performers sought for 'Joyful Sounds of Christmas'

Otto "Tank" Lowe, Director of "Joyful Sounds of Christmas" has put out a call for singers, dancers, performers and anyone who would like to be involved in the coming event to be held on Sunday, Dec. 8th.

Needed are elves, a Santa, Santa's

helpers, Frosty, reindeer and other Christmas related characters. Anyone who wishes to be part of the action should contact Lowe at [tanklowe1@gmail.com](mailto:tanklowe1@gmail.com).

There will be only one show this year at the Auditorium at 428 South Oak St. in Bluffton.

## Spirit Sponsors wanted for Wonderland of Lights

This will be the 11th year for the Wonderland of Lights at Ouabache State Park (December 6 -31) and the Friends of Ouabache State park are inviting folks to become Spirit Sponsors.

Because the weather takes a toll on the strands of lights a large number are in need of replacement this year—all of the ones on the fire tower. The cost of replacement also has taken a substantial rise in prices.

As a Spirit Sponsor, your \$20 will help

purchase one strand of LED commercial grade lights. Your name will be listed in the event section of the online publication Discover Ouabache.

Checks made out to Friends of Ouabache may be sent to Friends of Ouabache State Park, 4930 E State Road 201, Bluffton, IN 46714. Indicate how many strands you wish to sponsor and how you wish your names to be printed in Discover Ouabache. Add Attn.: Spirit Sponsor on the envelope.

## Pumpkin path at Botanical Conservatory

Throughout the month of October the Fort Wayne Botanical Conservatory will open their outdoor display of pumpkins during regular hours.

The site offers a variety of pumpkin dis-

plays as well as photo opportunities.

Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for those 3-17 and free to those 2 and under. Regular hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

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# On Lake Erie, getting rid of problem algae starts with giving it less food

By JOSHUA A. BICKEL and PATRICK AFTOORA-ORSAGOS  
Associated Press

OREGON, Ohio (AP) — On a warm late-summer evening, a small speedboat motored across a pea-green stretch of Lake Erie past a beach where a child sat splashing and a pair of newlyweds waded for a portrait photographer. On the sand, unseen or ignored, bright red signs warned people to stay out of the water due to dangerous algae toxins.

Some 70 miles away, farmer Bill Kellogg is trying to do something about the chronic algae blooms in America's southernmost Great Lake. Instead of scattering fertilizer atop his fields, Kellogg now uses a strip till machine that knifes fertilizer pellets 8 inches into the soil — deep enough that heavy rains won't wash it away.

He plants cover crops that strengthen the soil so it can absorb more nutrients. In other fields, he's replaced some crops with buffer strips of grasses and other plants that can absorb nutrient runoff before it shoots into streams bound for Erie, where the runoff would be potent fuel for the algae.

Bacteria commonly called blue-green algae are often present in bodies of water throughout the world, but if fed too much of the phosphorus and nitrogen in farm fertilizers, they can turn into harmful algae blooms that can affect drinking water, create oxygen-starved dead zones that kill marine life, spoil swimming, boating and tourism and endanger human health.

Western Lake Erie is an ideal environment for the bacteria to thrive: It's about 30 feet deep, the shallowest part of the shallowest Great Lake, and it heats up faster when temperatures are warm. And it's where nutrients from farm fields along streams and creeks throughout the basin eventually drain into the Maumee River, which dumps into Erie at Toledo.

Nutrient runoff from agricultural fields, mostly fertilizer, accounts for about 80% of the nutrients that flow into Lake Erie, and half of the nutrients reaching the lake arrive via the Maumee.

Reducing the amount of nutrients — specifically phosphorus — was one focus of a 2015 agreement between the United States and Canada to cut the phosphorus going into Erie by 40% by 2025. Researchers say progress has been made — the latest figure is that phosphorus is down about 32% — but the target likely won't be met.

This year's algae bloom in western Lake Erie was moderate compared to previous years. It appeared June 24, its earliest since monitoring began, and its late-summer peak covered about 660 square miles — larger than some previous years, but not nearly as thick as some other blooms.

Warming temperatures are expected to make algae blooms start earlier, last longer and potentially become more toxic as more intense rainstorms drive nutrients through waterways and higher temperatures warm the lake.

"If all things stay the same and the climate changes in the way we sort of expect it to over the coming decades, then things will get worse," said Nate Manning, the interim director of the National Center for Water Quality Research.

For Kellogg, who farms 7,400 acres of corn and soybeans in Forest, Ohio, conservation efforts on his farm have long been a personal priority; he regularly visits Lake Erie with his family to fish and swim. But he became even more committed after a 2014 bloom that led to a temporary shutoff of drinking water for more than 400,000 people in Toledo and southern Michigan.

Kellogg spent more than \$1 million for the strip-till machine and the tractor to pull it that lets him tuck the solid fertilizer several inches below ground. It was a big outlay, but he said he's now spending about \$300,000 less on fertilizer as less of it runs off. The liquid fertilizer he sometimes uses is stored in tanks that sit in a concrete basin to contain any leaks.

"Our yields have increased. Our fertilizer cost has dropped. Once you get hooked on something and you've proven it to yourself that it works, nobody has to pay us anything now to do it," Kellogg said.

Near Sandusky Bay on the southwestern part of Lake Erie, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources is working with other conservation groups to restore wetlands that filter nutrient runoff before it gets into the bay. At one site, engineers reconnected water channels through areas of former farmland to return the area to a wetland state. At another, island barriers are being built near the shoreline in addition to wetland restoration to aid filtration.

As part of the H2Ohio program begun in 2019, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and its conservation partners have completed 23 wetland restoration projects in the western Lake Erie Basin, with another 49 ongoing. These help, but they're only one part of the solution, said Mary Mertz, the director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

"You can't just do wetlands and that's going to clean up Lake Erie," she said.

Researchers at the National Center for Water Quality Research in Tiffin constantly monitor phosphorus in the water. Their data show that the phosphorus load into western Lake Erie is trending downward, but the 40% reduction target hasn't been met consistently.

"There's a lot to be positive about," Manning said.



Wells County Historical Society officers Connie Brubaker (left) and Jim Sturgeon (right) receive the Caparne Welch Medal award from iris hybridizer Lynda Miller (center). (Photo provided)

## Wells County's iris legacy continues

Wells County Historical Society officers Connie Brubaker and Jim Sturgeon received the Caparne Welch Medal award from iris hybridizer Lynda Miller.

The plaque will be included alongside other iris awards displayed. This 2002 award was won for the iris named "Scruples" hybridized in Wells County. Miller started hybridizing irises in her garden near the King-land crossroads of US 224 and Ind. 1.

Scruples 1993 introduction came after its creation occurring in her Wells County garden. The Miniature Dwarf Bearded (MDB) iris grows to a height of only six inches. It became an early award winner for Miller. She produced "Football Hero" which achieved the highest American iris award possible, the Dykes Award, in 2022. Many additional new iris hybrids have been introduced by Miller. She admitted some of their early starter irises had been obtained from Williamson's Longfield Iris Farm in Bluffton, and Paul Cook's

irises grown in north Bluffton for many years.

Miller's iris hybridizing start in Wells County moved to Noblesville, Indiana, and then to her current hybridizing garden in Oregon. Due to space limitations, and need of beds for producing new varieties, Miller discontinued her own flower bed of Scruples. After ending the growth of Scruples iris beds, she joked about it by stating, "I lost my Scruples."

Rhizome starts of Scruples can sometimes yet be found available from online nurseries during the growing season. She has already introduced over 260 new

iris hybrids. Miller has won over a dozen iris awards.

The time from pollination to a new hybrid can be achieved in two years in Canby, Oregon. In Indiana it required three years. "That's a huge advantage in producing new varieties," stated Miller.

Lynda Miller's award joins the Historical Museum display based on local iris hybridizers who excelled throughout the United States. Other awards displayed at the museum include those won by E. B. Williamson, Mary Williamson, and Paul Cook. More about Miller's work can be

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## What are the soft-shell helmet Guardian Caps that Tagovailoa says he will not wear?

Learn about the new form of protective helmet that lessens the risk of concussions in the NFL

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — Guardian Caps are soft, protective helmet covers that the NFL authorized players to wear during games this season in an effort to reduce head injuries.

Several players have worn them over the first seven weeks, though Trea Turner, like most NFL players, said Monday he won't wear the headgear when he returns from his latest concussion.

Players have cited various reasons, including comfort and aesthetics, for not wearing them.

The NFL has mandated the caps' use at contact practices for most players since 2022. Quarterbacks, kickers and punters are the only position groups not required to wear the caps during practices that involve contact.

There are six types of helmet the league has approved that players can wear during contact practices that don't require the Guardian Caps.

Tagovailoa has been cleared by medical experts to return to play for the Miami Dolphins after he sustained his latest concussion during a collision with Bills defensive back Damar Hamlin in Week 2.

If Tagovailoa clears the NFL's concussion protocol after he practices on Wednesday, he is expected to start against the Arizona Cardinals on Sunday.

Here's a look at the Guardian Caps and how they are used in the NFL:

### WHAT ARE GUARDIAN CAPS?

The 12-ounce padded shells are affixed to the top of a player's helmet. The NFL has said studies indicate that when one player wears the protective gear, it results in at least a 10% reduction in severity of impact. That num-



Trea Turner

ber increases to at least 20% if both players involved in a collision are wearing them.

There is no 100% concussion-proof headgear for NFL players

The league introduced this season eight position-specific helmets for quarterbacks and linemen. The position-specific helmets aren't concussion-proof but are designed to limit head trauma.

"Anyone can have a concussion in any helmet with the right blow," NFL chief medical officer Dr. Allen Sills told The Associated Press. "What we're always looking at is relative risk reduction. And so by wearing one of the best-performing helmets, a player definitely lowers their risk of concussion. And again, that's what our lab data and our on-field data have shown over the past eight years."

The NFL says the Guardian Caps have been effective

The NFL last week said it saw its fewest concussions in the preseason since tracking started in 2015. There were 44 concussions in practices and games, a decrease of about 24% from last year. Use of the Guardian Caps was among the reasons league executive Jeff Miller cited for the reduction.

### WHO ELSE USES THE CAPS BESIDES NFL PLAYERS?

More than 300 college programs, 3,000 high school and 750 youth programs across the country use the caps.

### WHEN WERE THE CAPS CREATED?

Guardian was founded in 2010 by Erin and Lee Hanson. The Guardian Cap launched in 2011 and became available in 2012 after successful biomechanical testing and field testing.

## High School Calendar

**WEDNESDAY, OCT 23**  
No events scheduled.  
**THURSDAY, OCT 24**  
No events scheduled.  
**FRIDAY, OCT 25**

**FOOTBALL:** (Sectional) Adams Central at Bluffton, 7 p.m.; Norwell at Bishop Luers, 7 p.m.  
**SATURDAY, OCT 26**  
**CROSS COUNTRY** (co-ed): Regional at Huntington University, 10 a.m.

## MLB wants the Tampa Bay Rays to play in the area if Tropicana Field is unfit due to hurricane damage

By CURT ANDERSON  
Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Major League Baseball hopes to find the Tampa Bay Rays a temporary home near their fanbase at least for the start of the 2025 season if the damage to Tropicana Field from Hurricane Milton cannot be repaired in time.

The translucent fiberglass dome at the ballpark in St. Petersburg was shredded by Milton's winds, leaving its immediate future in doubt. A number of spring training sites around the Tampa Bay area have been suggested as temporary homes, and MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred said the league wants a location in the region if possible.

"We're hopeful that we can figure out something in (the Tampa Bay area) for them and that the repairs can be done in a way that allows them to resume playing," Manfred said on a recent episode of The Varsity podcast.

"The easiest thing is always to stay in the market where the clubs are anchored, if we can manage it," he said.

The Rays have played at Tropicana Field since their inaugural 1998 season, although the building was constructed in 1990. The hurricane damage comes a few months after the city of St. Petersburg and Pinellas County approved a new \$1.3 billion ballpark in an adjacent location that would open in the 2028 season, part of a much larger downtown revitalization project.

The city has hired the Hennessy/AECOM firm to do a complete analysis of the Tropicana Field damage and contracted with another company to remove the remaining roof material, said St. Petersburg spokeswoman Alizza Punzalan-Randle. The city has also filed a claim with its insurance carrier, she said.

"We will have more information on next steps once the analyses have been completed and the remaining roof has been removed," Punzalan-Randle said.

City Council member Brandi Gabbard said she expected the analysis by the first

week of November.

"At that point we will have a better picture of the path forward," Gabbard said.

So, where would the Rays go if the Trop isn't ready on opening day of 2025?

Suggestions have included local-area spring training sites used by the Phillies, Blue Jays, Yankees, Pirates and Tigers. A bit further away is the Rays' own spring training complex in Port Charlotte, about 85 miles (136 kilometers) south of St. Petersburg. Another option may be the ballpark at Disney's ESPN Wide World of Sports complex near Orlando.

Most of those ballpark options host minor league teams after spring training ends, which could prompt significant adjustments to minor league team schedules. One way around that would be to play at the Orioles' spring training site in Sarasota, which does not have a minor league team.

There has also been talk of the Rays sharing the Miami Marlins' stadium, but that would be a major scheduling challenge and about a four-hour drive from St. Petersburg. A previous proposal to have the Rays play some home games in Montreal resurfaced, but the stadium there is undergoing renovation and would not be ready for next season.

The Rays declined comment Tuesday and have had said only that it could take weeks "to assess the true condition of Tropicana Field." Playing there without a roof is another idea, but the Trop doesn't have the drainage systems necessary in such a rain-prone location.

Another factor to consider is how much money should be spent to repair a facility that will be torn down for the new ballpark in a few years.

The Rays' opening "home" game against the Colorado Rockies is scheduled for March 27, 2025, and Manfred said MLB, the team and other entities will come up with a solution.

"The one thing I can tell you for sure, they're playing next year. We're going to find them someplace to do it," Manfred said on the podcast.

## Browns place Watson on IR, sign QB Bailey Zappe off practice squad

By TOM WITHERS  
AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Cleveland Browns' ever-changing quarterback situation is in motion again.

With starter Deshaun Watson out for the season because of a ruptured Achilles tendon and backup Dorian Thompson-Robinson dealing with a finger injury on his throwing hand, Cleveland signed QB Bailey Zappe off Kansas City's practice squad on Tuesday.

The team also placed Watson on injured reserve, a procedural but necessary move for the Browns, who have lost five straight in what has quickly gone from a promising

season to a problematic one.

Watson is scheduled to have surgery this week after rupturing the tendon on a draw play in Sunday's 21-14 loss to the Bengals. It's the second straight season he has suffered a major injury after breaking his right shoulder after six starts a year ago.

Watson's injury late in the first half was followed by some Browns fans cheering when the QB went down, a reaction that incensed many of his teammates.

He was replaced by Thompson-Robinson, who hurt a finger on his throwing hand in the second half and had to be replaced by Jameis Winston. It was the first time this season Thompson Robinson was Watson's backup.

Coach Kevin Stefanski said Monday he was awaiting more medical information on Thompson-Robinson. He completed 11 of 24 passes for 82 yards and two interceptions before getting hurt.

Thompson-Robinson made three starts last season and played in eight games as a rookie when Watson dealt with a shoulder strain before being knocked out in Week 11. The Browns wound up starting five quarterbacks, with Joe Flacco leading them to the playoffs after signing as a free agent.

For the time being, Zappe gives the Browns some protection behind Thompson-Robinson and Winston, who could start this week against Baltimore.

Zappe started eight games for New England over the past two seasons, going 4-4. The 25-year-old signed with the Chiefs after being released by the Patriots this summer.

He had his best game against the Browns, completing 24 of 34 passes for 309 yards in a 38-15 win in 2022.

Watson's career in Cleveland is at another crossroads. The Browns signed him to a \$230 million contract in 2022 and he's scheduled to make \$46 million in each of the next two seasons.

But Watson hasn't lived up to his contract or expectations and is now dealing with a significant injury that will require months of recovery time.

## Lyon pitches shut out, Kane scores as Red Wings edge Islanders



By ALLAN KREDA  
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Patrick Kane scored a first-period goal, Alex Lyon made 29 saves and the Detroit Red Wings held on to edge the New York Islanders 1-0 on Tuesday night.

Kane scored his first goal of the season at 8:54 of the period with assists to Vladimir Tarasenko and J.T. Compher.

The 31-year-old Lyon made eight saves in the first, 14 stops in the second and seven more in the third for his fourth career shutout.

The Red Wings won their second straight, coming off a 5-2 win at Nashville last Saturday.

The Islanders were shut out for the third time in six games this season.

Ilya Sorokin made 10

stops for the Islanders.

### TAKEAWAYS

The Islanders continued their inconsistent play. They lost their home opener 5-4 to Utah in overtime, and beat Montreal 4-3 in a shootout at home on Saturday. They were shut out at Dallas on Oct. 12, downed Colorado 6-2 on the road Oct. 14, then were blanked 1-0 in overtime at St. Louis on last Thursday.

### KEY MOMENT

Lyon denied Islanders captain Anders Lee with just over nine minutes left in the second period to keep it a 1-0 game. Brock Nelson hit the crossbar behind Lyon two minutes later. Lyon also stopped Islanders forward Simon Holmstrom midway through the third period on a point-blank high shot.

### KEY STATS

Kane's goal was 472nd of his career — fifth-most among active NHL players behind Alex Ovechkin, Sidney Crosby, Steven Stamkos and Evgeni Malkin. The 35-year-old forward is in his second season with Detroit. His 1,287 points are fourth among active players.

### UP NEXT

Islanders: Visit New Jersey on Friday night.

Red Wings: Host New Jersey on Thursday night.

## Heinen scores twice as the Canucks beat the Blackhawks

By JAY COHEN  
AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Danton Heinen scored two of Vancouver's four first-period goals, and the Canucks beat the Chicago Blackhawks 6-3 on Tuesday night for their third straight win.

J.T. Miller had a goal and two assists for the Canucks, who closed out a 3-1 trip. Brock Boeser, Conor Garland and Pius Suter also scored, and Kevin Lankinen made 31 saves against his first NHL team.

Heinen finished a pretty passing sequence 21 seconds into the game. He picked up his second goal of the season at 10:46, giving Vancouver a 3-1 lead.

Taylor Hall, Ryan Donato and Tyler

Bertuzzi scored for Chicago in its third loss in four games. Petr Mrazek made 24 stops.

Hall's goal with 6:31 left in the first was his second of the season and his 700th career point.

The Blackhawks went 1 for 5 on the power play, and the Canucks were 2 for 3 with the man advantage.

### TAKEAWAYS

Canucks: Boeser scored for the second straight game. He is off to a solid start with four goals and two assists in six games.

Blackhawks: It was a rough night for the team's defensemen, who were out of position on a couple of prime scoring opportunities in front.

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News-Banner Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

NFL

Table with columns: AMERICAN CONFERENCE, East, South, North, West, NATIONAL CONFERENCE, East, South, North, West. Rows list teams like Buffalo, Miami, N.Y. Jets, etc. with columns for W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA.

Table with columns: Cincinnati 21, Cleveland 14, Detroit 31, Minnesota 29, Green Bay 24, Houston 22, Indianapolis 16, Miami 10, Philadelphia 28, N.Y. Giants 3, Seattle 34, Atlanta 14, L.A. Rams 20, Las Vegas 15, Washington 40, Carolina 7, Kansas City 28, San Francisco 18, Pittsburgh 37, N.Y. Jets 15, Open: Chicago, Dallas. Includes Monday's Games, Thursday, Oct. 24, Sunday, Oct. 27, and Monday's Games.

Others receiving votes: 11, Pioneer 2, 12, Tri-County 2, 13, Riverton Parke 2.

BASEBALL

MLB

WORLD SERIES

Table for MLB World Series between New York Yankees and Los Angeles Dodgers, listing game dates, times, and broadcast networks (Fox).

BASKETBALL

NBA

Table for NBA games, including Tuesday's Games, Wednesday's Games, Thursday's Games, and Friday's Games, listing teams and times.

Monday's Games: Toronto 5, Tampa Bay 2, Tuesday's Games: Washington 4, Philadelphia 1, Minnesota 5, Florida 1, Buffalo 4, Dallas 2, Tampa Bay 8, New Jersey 5, N.Y. Rangers 7, Montreal 2, Columbus 6, Toronto 2, Detroit 1, N.Y. Islanders 0, Vancouver 3, St. Louis 2, Philadelphia 3, Seattle 2, Nashville 4, Boston 0, Carolina 3, Edmonton 2, OT, Ottawa at Utah, late, Pittsburgh at Calgary, late, San Jose at Anaheim, late, Los Angeles at Vegas, late.

HOCKEY

NHL

Table for NHL Eastern Conference (Atlantic, Metropolitan) and Western Conference (Central) divisions, listing teams and their records (GP, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA).

TRANSACTIONS

Tuesday's Transactions: BASEBALL National League: ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Named Robert Cerfolio assistant general manager, Brant Brown hitting coach and Willie McGee special assistant to president of baseball operations. Added Jon Jay to the coaching staff. BASKETBALL National Basketball Association: DETROIT PISTONS — Signed G Alondes Williams to a two-way contract. FOOTBALL National Football League: CINCINNATI BENGALS — Signed OT Andrew Coker to the practice squad. Waived DT Dominique Davis from the practice squad.

Oregon is flying high, but the other former Pac-12 teams are off to a rocky Big Ten start

By ANNE M. PETERSON AP Sports Writer

Oregon has made a splash in its first Big Ten season but the other former Pac-12 teams are finding the transition far more difficult.

UCLA, USC and Washington are all sitting in the bottom half of their new conference's standings midway through the season and are collectively 4-10 in Big Ten play.

The Trojans and the Bruins, who were the first Pac-12 teams to announce they were leaving the conference before it fell apart in realignment in the summer of 2023, have just one Big Ten win apiece this season.

USC (3-4, 1-4) has dropped three straight, including last Saturday's 29-28 loss at Maryland. The Trojans have led in the fourth quarter of all seven of their games this season.

"We've had a myriad of different issues," coach Lincoln Riley said this week. "I think the reality is we've been in a lot of really close games, we've had some opportunities to separate in several of these games and we haven't. We've had some opportunities to close them. We've had some unfortunate breaks, we'll call them, in several of these games, but we haven't been good enough to overcome those."

The Trojans, who opened the season with a win against LSU in Las Vegas and were ranked as high as No. 11 earlier in the season, have a chance

to get back on track at home against Rutgers on Friday night.

Overall, the Big Ten's teams are 5-11 when traveling over multiple time zones. Collectively, USC, UCLA and Washington have just one conference win on the road.

The Huskies (4-3, 2-2) will play at No. 13 Indiana on Saturday in their second road game played at 9 a.m. back home.

Washington won the Pac-12 championship and went on to play in the national championship game last season but subsequent turnover meant this was essentially a rebuilding year for the Huskies. Coach Jedd Fisch, in his first year with the Huskies, knew there would be highs and lows.

"There are so many new faces, new bodies, new people playing positions they've never played before, in atmospheres they've never played, in a conference we've never played in. There was going to be so much new that it was going to be impossible to suggest that it was going to look too different than it is right now," Fisch said.

UCLA (2-5, 1-4) snapped a five-game losing streak with a 35-32 victory at Rutgers last weekend, for the Bruins' first win in the new conference.

Interestingly, Oregon State and Washington State, the lone two remaining teams in the Pac-12 after realignment, have both defeated Big

Ten opponents this season. The Beavers beat Purdue and the Cougars beat Washington.

The outlier for the Pac-12-to-Big Ten teams is the Ducks, ranked No. 1 in the nation for the first time since 2012, and boosted by a victory two weeks ago at home over then-No. 2 Ohio State.

"Entering this conference, there's some new challenges that are presented. Going through the summer scouting reports, you realize that some of these teams that we are going to get to play, and it's really exciting. But I'll tell you here at Oregon, we chase and attack those challenges," Dan Lanning predicted before the season kicked off.

Oregon (7-0, 4-0) got off to a shaky start in lackluster nonconference wins against Idaho and Boise State that now seem like anomalies. Last weekend on the road the Ducks shutout the Boiler-makers 35-0. This week they host No. 20 Illinois.

It's likely Oregon will figure into the expanded College Football Play-offs field barring disaster.

"You don't sit halfway through a meal and say you're done eating when there's still a lot of food left on the plate. That's where we're at; we're at the midpoint of the season. We're not done yet," Lanning said on Monday. "There's a lot of things that we still want to accomplish. So (the ranking) doesn't really matter for us."

Guardians' Vogt confident team can make strong title run after coming up short in '24

By TOM WITHERS AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — Stephen Vogt lingered in Cleveland's dugout after the season's final out, letting the moment fill him with both pain and purpose.

As the New York Yankees embraced on the field following their Game 5 win that clinched their first AL pennant since 2009 on Saturday night, Vogt, who in his first season as a major league manager took the Guardians deeper into the postseason than anyone thought possible, watched. He made himself a promise.

"I want it next year and it's never going to stop driving me," Vogt said.

With the ALCS loss still stinging three days afterward, Vogt and Cleveland's top front office executives met media members on Tuesday to rehash the club's remarkable run in 2024 and discuss their plans to try and do it again.

This was supposed to be a rebuilding year. It was so much more.

Forecast to go .500 with one of baseball's youngest rosters, the Guardians took over first place in April and took off.

They won 92 games to capture the AL Central, suddenly MLB's most

competitive division. The Guardians then rallied from a 2-1 deficit in the Division Series to advance past Detroit before pushing the star-studded Yankees as hard as they could — winning a magical Game 3 at home on a walk-off homer — before falling three wins shy of the World Series.

While the disappointment is real, so is the fact that Guardians grew.

"We know we have areas to improve, and we learned a lot about our players," Vogt said. "We learned a lot about our staff. I learned a lot about how to do this job and navigating through the first season the way we did. We checked about every box you could other than winning the last game of the year and that's what the goal is."

At this time a year ago, the club was headed into a frightening unknown. Terry Francona, the winningest manager in club history and a certain Hall of Famer, had stepped down after 11 seasons, leaving a massive void.

Enter Vogt, who more than filled it. The journeyman catcher was hired by the Guardians despite not having ever managed a game — at any level. He arrived with a reputation for being studious, hard-working and a great teammate known for his hilarious

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Blackhawks activate Levshunov and assign the No. 2 overall pick to the minor leagues CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Blackhawks have activated defenseman Artyom Levshunov and assigned the No. 2 overall pick in this year's NHL draft to the minors. Levshunov, 18, hurt his right foot when he blocked a shot during an offseason 3-on-3 tournament. His foot continued to bother him during his training, so he had an MRI that revealed a fracture. Levshunov participated in Chicago's morning skate on Tuesday before he was sent to Rockford of the AHL. He said it was tough being out. "It was a little boring, skating by myself and the skills coach," Levshunov said. "Today, I'm excited to get back with the team." Levshunov, a Belarus native, had nine goals and 26 assists in his only season at Michigan State. He was the Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year and Freshman of the Year. He signed an entry-level contract with Chicago in July. The three-year deal carries a \$975,000 cap hit.

Cardinals hire Brown and Jay as coaches, lure Cerfolio away from Guardians

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The St. Louis Cardinals continued their offseason makeover on Tuesday, hiring Brant Brown and former outfielder Jon Jay as coaches and luring Robert Cerfolio away from the Guardians to be their assistant general manager for player development and performance.

Brown, who was the Mariners' bench coach and offensive coordinator last season, will take over as the St. Louis hitting coach. He spent the 2023 season in that role with the Marlins and has spent time with the Dodgers and Rangers organizations.

Jay played 12 seasons in the big leagues, including a stint from 2010-15 with the Cardinals that included a World Series title in 2011. He spent the past two seasons as the first base and hitting coach with the Marlins.

Willie McGee, who has been a Cardinals coach since 2018, will transition into a role as special assistant to John Mozeliak, the president of baseball operations. The team said other changes to the coaching staff will be announced soon.

Last month, the Cardinals announced that Chaim Bloom would replace Mozeliak after the 2025 season as the head of their baseball operations. The expectation is that Bloom would spend the upcoming offseason and season overseeing a reset of the Cardinals' player development program after they missed the playoffs for the second consecutive year.

Mozeliak has been general manager in St. Louis since 2007. He was elevated to president of baseball operations in 2017.

The Cardinals said that Cerfolio would hire a farm director and director of performance while announcing several in-house promotions. Matt Bayer will become senior director of baseball development, Kevin Seats the senior director of analytics, DC MacLea the manager of video technology and Brady Hall the player development video and tech coordinator.

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### Lottery Numbers

**Tuesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY**  
Cash 5 — 07-12-21-28-31  
Cash4Life — 04-06-22-43-59, Cash Ball: 03  
Quick Draw Middy — 05-07-12-14-17-20-25-28-32-38-40-44-47-54-62-63-69-70-75-78, BE: 25  
Daily Three-Middy — 05-00-05, SB: 07  
Daily Three-Evening — 03-04-04, SB: 01  
Daily Four-Middy — 07-01-09-01, SB: 07  
Daily Four-Evening — 04-05-08-00, SB: 01  
Quick Draw Evening — 03-09-10-13-14-17-21-23-29-40-43-47-50-59-60-61-67-74-76-80, BE: 43  
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$26 million  
MEGA MILLIONS — 08-43-48-58-60; Mega Ball: 04; Megaplier: 3X.  
POWERBALL — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$478 million



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#### Services

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## This Week's Garage Sales



**ESTATE SALE AT 222 W.** Wiley from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday.

**YARD SALE: 1003 S. Oak St.,** Bluffton, Wed., Oct. 23, through Sat. Oct. 26, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Halloween items, camping items, and much more.

**BIG BLUFFTON GARAGE SALE Big Bluffton Garage** Sale, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. October 25 and 26, Friday and Saturday, 1690 East 250 North, Bluffton, —Lots of Toys, Women's clothing, Gardening Equipment, Books, Items for kitchen and Decorating, Much more! [debbieelkins@me.com](mailto:debbieelkins@me.com)

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

### Public Notice

90C01-2410-EU-000038 STATE OF INDIANA )  
WELLS COUNTY )  
IN THE WELLS )  
CIRCUIT COURT )  
IN THE MATTER OF THE )  
ESTATE OF )  
MAX WAYNE CAYLOR, )  
Deceased )  
NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED )  
ADMINISTRATION )

Notice is hereby given that **ALICIA WILLIAMS** was, on the 18th day of October, 2024, appointed personal representative of the estate of **MAX WAYNE CAYLOR**, deceased, who died on October 10, 2024, and was authorized to administer said estate without court supervision.

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

Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, this 18th day of October, 2024.  
Beth Davis  
Clerk, Wells Circuit Court  
Timothy K. Babcock  
Attorney No. 21526-90  
DALE HUFFMAN & BABCOCK  
30 Premier Avenue  
Bluffton, Indiana 46714  
(260) 824-5566  
Attorney for Estate

nb 10/23, 10/30 hspaxlp

### SUDOKU ANSWER

2	7	8	7	9	1	6	8	9
1	9	8	2	6	9	8	7	1
6	9	7	8	8	2	7	1	9
7	8	6	9	1	2	1	9	8
9	8	9	6	1	7	1	2	8
1	2	1	9	8	8	9	6	7
9	1	2	1	7	9	8	8	6
8	7	1	8	2	6	9	9	1
8	6	9	1	9	8	7	1	2

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Unfulfilled by long-distance relationship

Dear Annie: I've been in a long-distance relationship with my girlfriend for almost a year and a half. While it's been good for the most part, I feel like it might be time to call it quits...

I work, too, but I would love for us to text more often or, at the very least, have a third video chat every once in a while. What frustrates me most is that even though we've been together for a year and a half, we still haven't met in person...

I feel like I'm spinning my wheels in this relationship. I don't want to end things because I care for her deeply and wonder if I'm overreacting. But lately, the thought of breaking up has been crossing my

mind more often. She tells me she loves me, and I believe her, but our relationship isn't making me happy anymore. I don't want to continue dating someone I only see twice a week for an hour-long video call...

When I've asked her what's holding her back from meeting, she's never given me a clear answer. I'm left questioning whether I'm being unreasonable or if my feelings are valid...

Dear Hater of the Distance: Of course you hate the long-distance nature of this relationship. Your feelings are completely justified. A relationship where you can't meet in person isn't fulfilling...

"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book...

Dear Annie by Annie Lane



BEETLE BAILEY

