

The News - Banner

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00



Chief Master Sergeant Joe Lewis



Master Sergeant Ashley Harmon



Tom Baker



Bluffton High School and Norwell High School, which were both recently designation as Purple Star schools, honored Veterans Day with programs on Monday. BHS students heard from Tom Baker, Army veteran and brother of Principal Steve Baker. At right, junior Owen Lesh thanks Tom Baker and other visiting veterans for their service. Above, director Holden Berlin leads the BHS band and choir through a medley during the school's program.



Norwell High School heard from Chief Master Sergeant Joe Lewis and Master Sergeant Ashley Harmon, the parents of senior Jase Harmon. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)

Bluffton, Norwell receive Purple Star designation

Schools make commitment, honor Veterans Day

By HOLLY GASKILL

Bluffton and Norwell high schools have both recently received designations as an Indiana Purple Star School, signifying their commitment to honoring and serving veterans. To receive this designation, a school must appoint a point of contact for military families, host programs to honor veterans, commit to interviewing and hiring qualified veterans, and adopt a district resolution of support for military families and service members, among other items. In a press release Friday, the Indiana Department

of Education announced that 131 Indiana schools received this designation this year. The Purple Star designation is valid for three years. "At Bluffton High School, and throughout our district, we strive to create a welcoming and supportive environment for our military families, acknowledging the unique experiences and sacrifices they bring to our school community," said Brad Yates, superintendent of Bluffton-Harrison schools, in a press release. "This recognition is a testam-

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Honoring Veterans

Southern Wells schools hosted a veterans program and breakfast on Friday. The high school band, second and third grade students, and fifth and sixth grade presented songs as well as In Harmony and the high school choir. The Bluffton American Legion Color Guard presented the colors and Mike Haigh and Lydia Baumgartner played Taps. The program speaker was Tyler Hoffacker, who talked about his time in the Marines before and after 9-11. (Photo provided)

Indiana man is found guilty of murder in the 2017 killings of teen girls

By The Associated Press

DELPHI, Ind. (AP) — A former drug-store worker in the small Indiana community of Delphi was found guilty of murder on Monday in the killings of two teenage girls who vanished during an afternoon hike. Jurors convicted Richard Allen of two counts of murder and two additional counts of murder while committing or attempting to commit kidnapping in the 2017 killings of Abigail Williams, 13, and Liberty German, 14. Allen wasn't arrested for five more years, while the case drew outsized attention from true-crime enthusiasts. His trial followed repeated delays, a leak of evidence, the withdrawal of Allen's public defenders and their reinstatement by the Indiana Supreme Court. Reporters inside the courtroom said Allen, 52, showed no reaction as the verdict was delivered, but he looked back at his family at one point. Allen is scheduled to be sentenced on Dec. 20. He could face up to 130 years in prison. Outside the courthouse, people on the sidewalk began to cheer as word of the verdict spread. Indiana State Police spokesman Capt.

Ron Galaviz told The Associated Press that the judge's gag order remains in place and he believes it will until Allen is sentenced. Allen's lawyers left the courthouse Monday without making statements. A special judge oversaw the case — Superior Court Judge Fran Gull who along with the jurors, came from northeastern Indiana's Allen County. The seven women and five men were sequestered throughout the trial, which began Oct. 18 in the Carroll County seat of Delphi, the girls' hometown of about 3,000 residents in northwest Indiana where Allen also lived and worked. Carroll County Prosecutor Nicholas McLeland noted in his closing argument that Allen had repeatedly confessed to the killings — in person, on the phone and in writing. In one of the recordings he replayed for the jury, Allen could be heard telling his wife, "I did it. I killed Abby and Libby." McLeland also said Allen is the man seen following the teens in a grainy cell phone video recorded by one of the girls as they crossed an abandoned railroad trestle called the Monon High Bridge. "Richard Allen is Bridge Guy," McLeland told jurors. "He kidnapped them and

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Fire crews on both U.S. coasts battle raging wildfires

By CEDAR ATTANASIO Associated Press

RINGWOOD, N.J. (AP) — Fire crews battled small wildfires across the Northeast U.S. on Monday, including a blaze in New York and New Jersey that killed a parks employee over the weekend and postponed Veterans Day plans. A quarter-inch of rain fell overnight from Sunday into Monday in a forest area straddling the border between the two states, giving a slight respite to firefighters. The fire is one of several burning on the East Coast

amid a lack of much rainfall since September. An employee of the New York State Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Department who was assisting firefighting crews died Saturday when he was hit by a falling tree. The East Coast fires were burning as much larger wildfires raged in California. Firefighters continued making progress against a wildfire northwest of Los Angeles in Ventura County that broke out Wednesday and quickly exploded in size due to dry, warm and gusty

Santa Ana winds. The Mountain Fire in Ventura County prompted thousands of residents to flee their homes and was 36% contained as of Monday. The fire's size remains around 32 square miles. The Mountain Fire has destroyed more than 170 structures, most of them homes, officials said. The cause is under investigation. In neighboring Nevada, authorities ordered the evacuation of hundreds of homes southwest of Reno and closed the main highway to Lake Tahoe after a wind-

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Israeli strikes kill dozens in Lebanon, isolated northern Gaza

By WAFAA SHURAF, SAMY MAGDY and KAREEM CHEHAYEB Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli strikes killed dozens of people including children on Sunday in Lebanon and isolated northern Gaza, as the world watched for signs of how the U.S. election might affect the wars between Israel and Iranian-backed militant groups Hamas and Hezbollah. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that he has spoken three times

with Donald Trump since Tuesday's election and they "see eye-to-eye regarding the Iranian threat and all of its components." Israeli President Isaac Herzog is scheduled to meet with U.S. President Joe Biden on Tuesday. The Israeli airstrike in Lebanon killed at least 23 people, including seven children, in Aalmat village north of Beirut, far from the areas in the east and south where Hezbollah has a major presence. There was no Israeli evacuation warning. Israel's military said

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Outside

It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood

Today	Wed.	Thursday
High 50	High 56	High 55
Low 31	Low 47	Low 41

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Online

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TUESDAY

November 12, 2024

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Purple Star designation

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ment to the dedication of our faculty, staff, and students, who work to ensure that those who serve our country — and their families — feel valued and supported.”

Assistant Principal Stacy Morrison serves as the point of contact for BHS military families and Herb Bergman, industrial technology teacher and military veteran, for NHS. Each school also has a veteran resource page on its website.

“We are honored to host these heroes who have served to protect our great nation,” said Norwell Middle School Principal Andrew Enderle on Monday. “We will be forever indebted to you, others who have served, and those who have



Pictured at left, Grant Tudor plays Taps at NHS. At right, the Baker brothers after share a hug after Tom's speech. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)

paid the ultimate sacrifice laying down their lives for us here at home.”

Both districts also honored Veterans Day with programs on Monday.

BHS students heard from

Tom Baker, who served in the Army in Vietnam and Europe. He is also the brother of Principal Steve Baker.

The parents of senior Jase Harmon spoke to NHS students — Chief Master

Sergeant Joe Lewis, a Norwell graduate, and Master Sergeant Ashley Harmon, who grew up in Ossian; Both serve in the Indiana Air National Guard.

holly@news-banner.com

Weather

Thursday, November 12, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:02 p.m. Monday)

High: 61; Low: 42; Precipitation: None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.17 feet at 8:45 p.m. Monday

Wells County forecast

Today: Sunny, with a high near 50. Northeast wind around 10 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 31. East wind around 5 mph.

Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 56. East wind 5 to 10 mph.

Wednesday Night: Showers. Low around 47. South wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New precipitation amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

Thursday: Showers likely, mainly before 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 55. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 41.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 54.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 34.

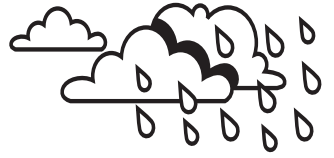
Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 57.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 41.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 61.

Sunday Night: A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 44.

Monday: A chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 57.



Indiana man found guilty

(Continued from Page 1)

later murdered them.”

McLeland said it was Allen's voice that could be heard on the video telling the teens, “Down the hill” after they crossed the bridge on Feb. 13, 2017. Their bodies were found the next day, their throats cut, in a nearby wooded area.

An investigator testified that Allen told him and another officer that on the day the teens vanished, he was wearing a blue or black Carhart jacket, jeans and a beanie — clothing similar to what the man recorded on the bridge wore.

McLeland said an unspent bullet found between the teens' bodies “had been cycled through” Allen's 40-caliber Sig Sauer handgun. An Indiana State Police firearms expert told the jury her analysis tied the round to Allen's handgun.

But a firearms expert

called by the defense questioned the analysis, and attorney Bradley Rozzi dismissed it as a “magic bullet,” saying investigators had made an “apples to oranges” comparison of the unspent round to one fired from Allen's gun.

Allen was arrested in October 2022. He had become a suspect after a retired state government worker who volunteered to help police in the case found paperwork in September 2022 showing that Allen had contacted authorities two days after the girls' bodies were found. That paperwork indicated that Allen had told an officer he had been on the hiking trail the afternoon the girls went missing, according to testimony.

Allen's defense argued that his confessions are unreliable because he was facing a severe mental health crisis while under the pressure and stress of being locked

up in isolation, watched 24 hours a day and taunted by people incarcerated with him. A psychiatrist called by the defense testified that months in solitary confinement could make a person delirious and psychotic.

But Dr. Monica Wala, Allen's psychologist at the Westville Correctional Facility, said Allen shared details of the crime in some of the confessions, including telling her he slashed the girls' throats and put tree branches over their bodies. She wrote in a report that Allen told her he abandoned his plans to rape the teens when a van passed nearby. A man whose driveway passes under the Monon High Bridge testified that he was driving home from work in his van around that time.

That van, McLeland told jurors in his closing, was a detail “only the killer would know.”

During cross-examina-

tion, Wala acknowledged that she had followed Allen's case with interest during her personal time even while treating him and that she was a fan of the true-crime genre.

Rozzi said in his closing arguments that Allen is innocent. He said no witness explicitly identified Allen as the man seen on the hiking trail or the bridge the afternoon the girls went missing. And he said no fingerprint, DNA or forensic evidence links Allen to the murder scene.

Allen's lawyers had sought to argue before the trial that the girls were killed in a ritual sacrifice by members of a white nationalist group known as the Odinists who follow a pagan Norse religion, but the judge ruled against that, saying the defense “failed to produce admissible evidence” of such a connection.

Fire crews battle blazes

(Continued from Page 1)

whipped wildfire erupted Monday and spread quickly through mountainside vegetation.

About 3,000 people were told to leave, said Adam Mayberry, spokesperson for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District. Rain began to fall as local, state and federal crews arrived to battle the blaze, Mayberry said.

Across the country on the New Jersey and New York border, crews worked to contain the 4.7-square-mile fire dubbed the Jennings Creek Wildfire, although no evacuations had been ordered, according to the New Jersey Forest Fire Service.

Officials said the overnight rainfall was far less than what was needed to extinguish numerous brush fires that have broken out around New Jersey since the middle of last week. At least four other wildfires in central to northern New Jersey were mostly or completely contained as of Monday.

In order to find and fight the fires, crews are navigating a maze of country roads, lakes and steep hills amid dense forests. Trees there

have dropped most of their leaves onto parched ground, masking a potential danger.

“Beneath the surface leaf litter that falls off the trees, that stuff is bone dry,” Bryan Gallagher, a forest ranger with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, said at a media briefing. “So right now you get a little bit of rain that puts that surface fire out. But if it's in the duff it's going to stay there. It's going to smolder like a cigar until it gets dry enough and then that fire can pop up again.”

A firefighting helicopter capable of dropping 350 gallons at a time was being used to help combat the Jennings Creek fire. The National Guard deployed two Black Hawk helicopters for water drops, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said.

In West Milford, New Jersey, a Veterans Day ceremony was postponed to later in the month because of the firefighting effort, said Rudy Hass, the local Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. commander.

“Many of those personnel currently engaged with the fires are veterans themselves, and right now we

need to keep them in our thoughts as they spend many hours, day and night, doing all they can in order to protect our great communities in that area,” he posted online.

Meanwhile, New York State Police said they were investigating the death of Dariel Vasquez, the 18-year-old state parks employee killed Saturday while fighting a fire near New York state's Greenwood Lake.

Health advisories were issued over the weekend for parts of New York, including New York City, and northeastern New Jersey due to unhealthy air quality produced by smoke from the fires, but conditions improved after the rainfall and changes in wind direction.

Dana Van Allen, of Ringwood, New Jersey, said she awoke early Saturday to what smelled like a burning campfire. She realized the fires were close enough to leave ashes on her deck.

In Massachusetts, one wildfire among several fueled by powerful wind gusts and dry leaves has burned around 400 acres in the Lynn Woods Reservation, a municipal park extending across about 3.4

square miles in the city some 10 miles north of Boston.

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OBITUARIES

John Meyer, 91

John Alden Meyer, 91, of Bluffton peacefully passed away at Christian Care Retirement Community on Nov. 9, 2024.

John was born in Craigville on Dec. 20, 1932, to Joe and Josephine (Kipfer) Meyer; he was the second of three children. John was preceded in death by his parents and younger brother, Vernon Meyer, and is survived by his older sister, Delores Heyerly.



John graduated from Bluffton High School in 1951 and worked as a milk hauler for Gerber Dairy, delivering milk house to house. Subsequently, he was drafted into the U.S. Army. John spent part of his basic training at Camp Pickett in Virginia, then was transferred to Fort Sam Houston in Texas for further medical training. He was sent to South Korea where he served honorably as a medic in that country at various locations. He was discharged in April 1955, returning to Bluffton, where he lived the remainder of his life. John worked primarily in sales; he finally retired in his mid- 80s after working nineteen years at Master-son's Clothing Store in Bluffton.

John and Carolyn Irene Neuenschwander were married on Nov. 11, 1956; John passed away just two days shy of their 68th anniversary. For many years, John and Carolyn were the hub of their extended family, including hosting large family gatherings in their home for holidays. He was a member of the Apostolic Christian Church in Bluffton and lived out his faith by his daily walk in the Lord.

John enjoyed being around people. He met regularly with friends and acquaintances for coffee and conversation at local restaurants in Bluffton and always seemed to be shaking the hand of someone he recognized.

In addition to his wife, Carolyn, and sister, Delores, John is survived by four children, Mark (Inger) Meyer of McKinney, Texas, Lora (Dan) Kieser of Bluffton, Lona (Doug) Grover of Hometown, Indiana, and Michelle (Tim) Gorman, of Fremont, Indiana. He is also survived by 10 grandchildren, Jonathan (Jen) Meyer, Cecily (Jesse) Russell, Stephanie (Zachery) Brown, Jerod (Jennifer) Kieser, Michael (Jodi) Grover, Anyssa (Adrian) Adams, Alyssa (Matthew) Shultz, Dayna (Evan) Turner, Clare (Derek) Van Prooyen, Reeves Johnson, and 13 great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 1-8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024, at Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton. A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 15, 2024, at the Bluffton North Apostolic Christian Church, with visitation from 9-9:45 a.m. prior to the service. Jeff Lehman and Dan Pfister will officiate. Burial will follow at the Apostolic Christian Cemetery in Adams County, with military graveside rites conducted by the United States honor guard in conjunction with the American Legion Post 111 of Bluffton.

The family requests that memorial contributions be made to Christian Care Retirement Community. Online condolences may be made at www.goodwin-cale-harnish.com.

Patty Boots, 72

Patty J. Boots, 72 of Bluffton, passed away on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 10, 2024, at Bluffton Regional Medical Center.

Visitation will be held from 4-8 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 15, 2024, at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home and for one hour prior to the service.

Funeral Services will take place at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024, at the funeral home with Jeff Lemler officiating. Burial will follow at Elm Grove Cemetery in Bluffton.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the Boots family at www.thomarich.com. A complete obituary will be printed in Wednesday's edition of The News-Banner.

Fort Wayne man sentenced to eight years in prison for possessing firearm

Jasper L. Williams, 36, of Fort Wayne, was sentenced by United States District Court Chief Judge Holly A. Brady after pleading guilty to being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm, announced United States Attorney Clifford D. Johnson.

Williams was sentenced to 96 months in prison followed by 3 years of supervised release.

According to documents in the case, during a February 2023 traffic stop, officers recovered a semi-automatic pistol along with an AK-style pistol from Williams' vehicle. Both firearms were loaded. Williams had previously been convicted of felony offenses for aiding robbery, possessing with intent to distribute a controlled substance, and possessing a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime, any one of which prohibited him from possessing the firearms in this case.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives with the assistance of the Fort Wayne Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Stacey R. Speith.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:
Friday, 7:03 p.m., Wabash and Johnson streets. Citation issued for driving without insurance.
Friday, 9:19 p.m., Kroger. Report of driver doing donuts in parking lot. Those belong in the bakery.
Saturday, 3:11 a.m., Main Street and Dustman Road. Drunk driver arrested. Citation issued for 60 in a 40 mph zone.
Saturday, 6:09 a.m., 300 block of West South Street. Report of domestic assault.
Saturday, 8 a.m., Walmart. Report of verbal dispute.
Saturday, 8:31 a.m., 400 block of North Marion

Street. Report of an aggressive dog. Shelter captured dog.
Saturday, 9:58 a.m., 400 block of South Johnson Street. Report of verbal dispute.
Saturday, 11:38 a.m., Unique Blue. Report of a stolen phone. Phone pinged and recovered.
Saturday, 6:29 p.m., 800 block of Avondale Drive. Report of a runaway juvenile. Juvenile located and returned.
Saturday, 7:52 p.m., 200 block of West South Street. Report of ongoing ding dong ditching issue. Caller said the juveniles were kicking front door and lit a firework on the porch.
Saturday, 7:54 p.m., 100

block of West South Street. Second call on ding dong ditching.
Sunday, 12:01 a.m., 300 block of Arrowhead Trail. Large party. Warned for loud music.
Sunday, 12:30 a.m., Taco Bell. Possible intoxicated driver. One juvenile detained.
Sunday, 2:20 a.m., Main and Riley streets. Citation issued for driving while suspended.
Sunday, 2:21 a.m., Main Street and 300 N. Traffic stop. One detained. Vehicle towed.
Sunday, 6:26 a.m., 300 block of Arrowhead Trail. Noise complaint. Party ended.
Sunday, 8:24 a.m.,

Walmart. Vehicle parked in handicap spot.
Sunday, 2:26 p.m., 400 block of Cedar Road. Man warned for trespassing.
Sunday, 8:28 p.m., Taco Bell. Report of domestic assault.
Monday, 1:32 a.m., Cherry and Merchant streets. Traffic stop. Juvenile detained for driving without a license.
FIRES
Friday, 3:34 p.m., 505 S Main St., Bluffton. Report of gas leak. NIPSCO on scene.
Saturday, 4:52 p.m., 400 W and 200 N, Bluffton. Grass fire. Liberty Township and Markle fire departments responded. Under control at 5:17 p.m.

Chamber seeks nominations for citizen, business of the year

The Wells County Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for Citizen of the Year and Business of the Year to be awarded at the Annual Dinner & Awards Ceremony on February 24, 2024. These awards recognize the activities of an exceptional individual and business, whose outstanding service to the community and determination to do over and above what is expected of them positively contributes to the quality of life in Wells County.

Citizen of the Year

When choosing a citizen of the year nominee, think about how the individual:

- has given ongoing support to the community
- clearly demonstrates leadership and hard work
- makes Wells County a better place to live

To submit a nomination, please provide the following information:

Your contact information (name, phone number and email address), the name of the Wells County citizen you would like to nominate and why they are worthy of this

honor.

Business of the Year

When choosing a business of the year nominee, think about how the business:

- has made an impact on you and many others in the community
- positively contributes to the quality of life in Wells County
- goes above and beyond for their customers

To submit a nomination for either award, please provide the following information: Your contact information (name, phone number and email address), the name of the Wells County citizen or business you would like to nominate and why they are worthy of this honor.

Support letters and other documents are also encouraged.

Nomination are due by Nov. 27 by mail or email.

Mail: Attn: Erin Prible
Wells County Chamber of Commerce
211 Water Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
Email: eprible@wellsoc.com

State records lowest-ever nonfatal occupational injury and illness rate

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑOZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Fewer than three out of 100 full-time Hoosier workers got hurt or sick on the job last year, according to a federal survey released Friday. It's Indiana's lowest rate since data collection began in the early '90s.

The 2.6 nonfatal occupational injury and illness rate is down from 2022's rate of 2.9. But it is slightly above the national average of 2.4, according to a U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics news release.

Indiana leaders celebrated, ascribing the drop to safety protocols.

"These decreasing rates show how employers across the Hoosier state realize the importance of safety training and its impact in the workplace," Indiana Department of Labor Commissioner David Redden said in a Monday news release. "We encourage all businesses to continue to follow (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) safety standards and take advantage of continual safety education for all workers."

Nine industries recorded decreased nonfatal injury and illness rates compared to 2022, according to the state agency's website. Among them were health care and social assistance, manufacturing, transportation and warehousing, and utilities.

Seven industries had higher rates than in 2022, like agriculture, arts and entertainment, education, local government and state government.

Indiana's lower injury and illness rate was part of a national trend downward.

The BLS said the country's decreases were driven by a 57% drop in illnesses: from 45.2 per 100 workers in 2022 (and higher rates in the previous two years) down to 19 per 100 workers in 2023. States recorded high illness levels during the onslaught of the Covid-19 pandemic.

But Hoosier workplace injuries and illnesses have also been on a downward trend since the '90s.

When the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics began its survey in 1992, Indiana's rate was 11 injuries or illnesses per 100 full-time workers. The state reached a high of 11.3 in 1994. Since then, the rate has decreased by 77%.

Public Notice

NOTICE

Uniontown Cemetery Association will be meeting at Uniontown Church of Christ, 11419 N. 200 W., Ossian, IN for its annual meeting at 10 a.m. Dec. 7, 2024.

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Financial Focus

PSA: What will rate cuts mean for you?

The Federal Reserve has cut short-term interest rates, and this rate cut may be followed by several others. What will these lower rates mean for you?

As a consumer, you should find that lower interest rates are helpful. But you won't see the benefits all at once. For example, you might start seeing lower rates on car loans more quickly than on credit cards.

And if you took out a mortgage at a higher rate in the past few years, you may be able to save some money by refinancing.

As an investor, you might find the new, lower rates provide you with some opportunities. Lower interest rates are generally good for the stock market. And if you own bonds, you may see their value increase as interest rates fall.

On the other hand, certificates of deposit may no longer pay the relatively high rates of recent years. But if you have longer-term CDs, your higher rates will continue until your CDs mature.

In any case, you'll always want your investment mix to reflect your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon - and that's true no matter what's happening with interest rates.

This content was provided by Edward Jones for use by Jeremy Todd, your Edward Jones financial advisor at 260-824-0686.

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Some calming thoughts on Nov. 5

I'm not a fan of either Trump or Harris — and whoever won, I had big worries about the country's future, especially on government spending and debt. But I was thankful for a decisive outcome on Tuesday. I prayed for a large enough victory to avoid inflaming at least one set of partisans — and to give a better opportunity for the losers to reconsider their approach in the future.

To the GOP: Congratulations! You got what you wanted short-term. But now, it's more likely that you'll lose in 2026 and 2028. Trump is a lame duck and will be a mishmash on policy, so I'd lower your expectations. You might hope

for a vigorous debate between your various factions: the populists, small-L libertarians, fiscal conservatives and social conservatives. But your future is now more likely to be populist until current events or a charismatic candidate pushes you somewhere else.

Did Trump get a "mandate" with his victory? The surprising win in the popular vote certainly points that direction. But a mandate on what? Going a different direction? Sure. But specifically? Inflation is already under control (unless Trump's spending and tariffs bring it back). Immigration? That's easy to reduce going forward. But what to do with those already here? Good luck getting the toothpaste back in the tube.

To the Dems: It can be hoped that your fears of Trump and "democracy" will not be validated. The good news is that you can start over, shedding Hillary, Biden and Harris. What's the future of your party? Get ready for blame-shifting between the power-brokers, the Progressives, and the Identity Politics folks. And who's on your bench? Maybe Biden and Harris really were your best (ouch). Since you've ironically had only one robust and fair democratic primary since 2008, it's difficult to know. But a handful of governors or a smooth speaker will probably emerge for 2028.

On election night, there was statistical analysis claiming that "Harris under-performed Biden." But Harris was largely a proxy for Biden's administration. Really, it was the Biden record that was under-performing. Biden was largely ineffective as president — and painfully so, on inflation, immigration and international issues. And then Harris and others gaslighted those who were concerned about Biden's mental competence.

Related: the vote was not anti-woman, but a referendum on Biden and Harris. She was dealt a bad hand, ran a middling campaign, and looked unimpressive along the way. Even though Trump is a hot mess, he was able to soundly beat the bigger mess on the other side. Pick better people next time and do better when you're in charge.

Harris was chosen in 2020 explicitly because of her race and gender. A necessary problem with "DEI" and "Affirmative Action" is the reality or at least the perception that one is not (as) qualified. Given this, it was that much more important to see competence or ideally, excellence. Unfortunately, that was not the case this time.

While I was watching election returns, I bounced through the four legacy networks. (I forgot to check out CNN or MSNBC.) I was pleasantly surprised that they were somewhere between balanced and friendly with Trump. The mainstream media has shredded its credibility in the last decade. Was this an effort to rehabilitate their reputation? Did they have inside information, despite supposedly-even polling data—a strong sense that Trump was going to win?

Trump's election elicited everything from fear and anger to relief and messianic expectations. For all of us, this is an opportunity to take stock of our faith in (and potentially idolatry toward) politics and government. Politics and public policy matter, but they often disappoint. In particular, a suggestion for the most passionate Trump supporters and the most fearful anti-Trumpers: Write down what you think will/could happen over the next year or throughout Trump's term — and save it to read in the future. It'll be helpful for you as you reassess your beliefs down the road.

Finally, one of the most unfortunate things about democracy: many people imagine that 51 percent jamming their preferred vision of society down the throats of the other 49 percent is somehow glorious. For one thing, 51-49 is not impressive. For another, whoever wins, it's generally better to leave it out of government's hands when you can.

To use a silly example, we wouldn't want pizza toppings decided by majority rule; we leave it to the market. Sure, use democracy when you must. But promote choice, competition and decentralization of government to the state and local level — and leave it to markets and personal decisions — as much as possible.

Eric Schansberg, Ph.D., an adjunct scholar of the Indiana Policy Review Foundation, is Professor of Economics at Indiana University Southeast.

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. All letters must be signed and must include a phone number or address in case verification is desired. Letters are edited for brevity and clarity. Letters must be no more than 500 words. Please mark your correspondence as a "Letter to the Editor," or if you wish to express an opinion to us but do not want it published, please mark as "Not for Publication."

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How will Mike Braun govern?

JASPER, Ind. — Mike Braun's election as the state's 52nd governor came because of his small town roots as a businessman. Last Tuesday, Braun mowed through rural Indiana like a Pentagon daisy cutter on his way to notching a decisive 54.5%-40% victory over Democrat Jennifer McCormick while Libertarian Donald Rainwater came in at 4.5%.

Braun's win will bring the current and historic GOP gubernatorial dynasty to five terms. He told Republicans gathered at the JW Marriott, "I know our state has four corners. I come from one of them. And I'm going to make sure that all of us as Hoosiers prosper. I'm so anxious to hit the ground running."

After graduating from Wabash College and Harvard, he and his wife Maureen rejected the notion of heading to Wall Street or Silicon Valley and returned to this bustling city of 16,000 people. He took a small family-owned business — Meyer Distributing — and turned it into one of the city's largest employers.

His small Hoosier town origins gave him the bearings to win a U.S. Senate seat in 2018 and now the governor's office. He defeated two congressmen in the Senate primary, then U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly. This year, he topped a sitting lieutenant governor, a former attorney general, two self-funding former Commerce secretaries in the primary and then the former superintendent of public instruction.

While Braun did well in GOP strongholds in Fort Wayne and the Indianapolis doughnut counties, he mauled the Democrats in rural areas, following the same national trend that brought Donald Trump a second presidential victory. Braun won Rush County with 66.9%, Noble with 67.7%, Miami with 65.7% and Steuben with 66.2%.

Braun won McCormick's home county of Henry with 63% and lieutenant governor nominee Terry Goodin's home county of Scott with 56.9%. In counties where McCormick and Goodin served as local school superintendents and voters would know them intricately, Braun carried Delaware 49.9%-45.7% (where McCormick headed Yorktown schools) and Jackson with 69.4% (where Goodin led Crothersville schools).

Throughout Hoosier history, past governors ranging from Oliver P. Morton to Evan Bayh have gone from the governor's office to the U.S. Senate. Braun has twisted that, heading back to Indiana after six years in D.C. "You know why?" he asks. "Because they're from the farm system of politics." Braun's identity is that of a businessman and he intends to run the state like a business.

"I fixed health care in my own business, have healthier employees, cut costs 15 years ago, created health care consumers out of my employees, and know some of the things I can do for coverage of our own state employees," he said.

Braun has said that he will spend his Fridays in Jasper, inviting folks down to talk. I found Sen. Braun in



Brian Howey

Politicking

his office in the "old building" when I paid such a visit. The cramped office had the trappings of an industrial middle manager, except there is a U.S. Senate logo on the wall behind his desk, which features a tripod and a camera for making videos. There are three chairs in front of his desk.

This sprawling company was a beehive of activity, with beeping forklifts and transporters shifting product on to tractor-trailers, while Aerosmith rock music blared in the background. He appeared to be on a first-name basis with his employees. "There's no substitute about seeing the context of where you're coming from," Braun said during a walking

tour last year of this 270,000 square foot complex. "My major piece of work, you're looking at it right here."

He has promised to be "transparent and accessible." Throughout the campaign, Braun regularly availed himself to Statehouse reporters. He is not a flashy guy; he's friendly, frank and to the point.

What's a typical Mike Braun work day? "Go to bed late, get up early," he said. "I'm lucky I can thrive on that." When I asked him what would a Gov. Braun's administration look like, he described how new 8th District congressman Mark Meissner suggested he run for the Indiana House in 2013.

"That's how I became a legislator," Braun said. "I got some novel legislation done. I was honored when Ed Soliday asked me to be co-author of the road bill. I found out you can get stuff done through the legislative process. So what I'll bring to bear as the governor will be someone who will be entrepreneurial politically. To me if you're a good entrepreneur, politics is easier than building a business."

Gov.-elect Braun will begin to take a "critical look" at the state's 80 agencies. "It's not going to be hard for me and my team to discern whether it needs major overhaul, minor tune-up or it's working well," he said. He wants the General Assembly to take up his property tax reforms first. "That has been by far the thing I've heard the most about over the last two years," Braun said. He has proposed a 3% annual cap on property tax increases and a "reset" to 2021 tax levels.

Lowering the cost of health care will also be a top priority. "It's one of the biggest sectors of our economy," he said. "It's got political risk to it. I'll size up all that, and I'll put a team together."

He called the state's infant and maternal mortality rates "shameful." He will seek to remove income requirements for private school vouchers.

"I come from the real world of building a business," Braun told me last year. "That was my life's work. I was always interested that if that window opened, to jump through it."

Howey is a senior writer for Howey Politics Indiana and State Affairs. State Affairs reporters Tom Davies and Rory Appleton contributed to this column. Find Howey on X @hwypol.

8 Democratic choices that paved the way for Trump's comeback

Donald Trump deserves enormous credit for his historic victory, in which he increased his support among almost every demographic group in the country. But Democrats made it possible with several catastrophic choices over the past four years. Here are the eight key blunders that paved the way for Trump's comeback:

1. They ignored warnings from liberal economists that their massive new spending would unleash disastrous inflation. Democrats should have listened to former Clinton treasury secretary Lawrence H. Summers, who cautioned in 2021 that the American Rescue Plan would "set off inflationary pressures of a kind we have not seen in a generation." They should have heeded Obama economic adviser Jason Furman, who warned that "pouring roughly half trillion dollars of gasoline on the inflationary fire that is already burning is reckless." They were right. By the time Joe Biden and Kamala Harris took office, the economy had turned the corner and was growing at 6.5 percent. But they wanted credit for the post-covid recovery. Instead, they got the blame for unleashing the worst inflation in four decades.

2. They created a border disaster. Democrats knew that illegal immigration propelled Trump into the White House in 2016. So why, on winning back the presidency in 2020, did they immediately unleash the worst peacetime border crisis in U.S. history? The crisis cost taxpayers \$150 billion in 2023 alone, according to an analysis by the Federation for American Immigration Reform - forcing inundated communities to cut police, fire and other services to support illegal migrants. Did they think voters would reward them?

3. Their catastrophic withdrawal from Afghanistan convinced Americans they were incompetent. Most were not thinking of Afghanistan in the voting booth, but the horrific images of Afghans falling from



Marc Thiessen

departing U.S. military aircraft, Taliban forces riding abandoned U.S. military vehicles, and 13 Americans killed by a suicide bomber at the Kabul airport's Abbey Gate indelibly changed opinions of Biden's presidency. Before Kabul fell in August 2021, his approval rating had never dipped below 50 percent. After, the floor fell out. Harris proudly declared she was the last one in the room before Biden made the fateful decision to pull out - which sent a message of weakness that clearly emboldened Russia to invade Ukraine, and Hamas, an Iranian proxy, to launch the worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust. Democrats promised to end the chaos of the Trump era, but instead unleashed chaos on the world stage.

4. They broke their promise to unite the country. Biden pledged in his inaugural address to put his "whole soul" into "bringing America



together." Instead, he compared Republicans to racists and traitors, accusing them of standing with George Wallace, Bull Connor and Jefferson Davis for opposing his partisan election bill, and declaring right before the election that "the only garbage I see floating out there is [Trump's] supporters" (he later claimed, implausibly, that he had mis-spoken). Harris went further, calling Trump "a fascist," a "wannabe dictator" and a "petty tyrant." This not only reeked of desperation, it violated the very reason voters elected them.

5. They covered up Biden's cognitive decline. Democrats misled the American people about Biden's men-

tal fitness - assuring them, as Harris did, that the president was "vibrant," "tireless" and "absolutely authoritative in rooms around the globe" - only to have those falsehoods exposed by Biden's disastrous debate performance. Americans don't like being lied to. And if they had been honest sooner, Democrats could have held a competitive primary and picked a more capable and appealing nominee.

6. They didn't give voters a benign alternative. Unlike Biden, who at least had the veneer of moderation, Democrats nominated the most radical Democratic ticket in the history of the country. Harris was on record as having supported the Democratic socialist agenda, from the Green New Deal to Medicare-for-all. In her 2019 campaign, she had pledged to ban fracking and the sale of gas-powered cars, decriminalize illegal border crossings and provide taxpayer-funded health care for illegal migrants, including gender transition surgery. Repudiating so much of her 2019 platform came across as both inauthentic and implausible. Polls showed nearly half the country thought Harris was too far left.

7. They offered Americans continuity when they wanted change. In an election when 95 percent of Americans sought change, nominating the sitting vice president of one of the most unpopular administrations since World War II was a mistake. Only once in the last 188 years has a sitting vice president been elected president, and that was in 1988 when George H.W. Bush was elected because Americans wanted another Reagan term. No one wanted another Biden term.

8. Their campaign of lawfare locked in Trump's nomination. Indicting Trump caused many Republicans, including some who had been open to a different nominee, to rally around the former president. And that was exactly what many Democrats wanted. They thought Trump would be easier to beat. They were wrong.

Any one of these mistakes might have been survivable, but together they created a perfect catastrophic storm that Trump rode back into the White House.

Follow Marc A. Thiessen @marcthiessen on X

Events at the Creative Arts Council of Wells County

428 S. Oak Street in Bluffton
260-824-5222
www.wellscocreativearts.com
creativeartscouncil@gmail.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/wellscocreativearts
Instagram: @creativeartscouncil
Creative Arts office hours — Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday (by appointment only).
Creative Arts Dance Academy Excerpts from “The Nutcracker”
Creative Arts Youth Dance Company proudly present excerpts from “The Nutcracker”
Admission: \$5 at the door
Performances:
Dec. 6 at 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 7 at 3:00 p.m.

Creative Arts Theater
Creative Arts 24/25 Theater season has been announced:
• “The BEST Christmas Pageant Ever” — Dec. 12 – 14, 2024
• “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” — March 6 – 8, 2025
• Disney Newsies JR — June 13 – 14, 2025
• Disney Artistocats Kids — June 27 – 28, 2025
Admission: \$15 per person sold through ArtsTix — (260) 422-4226
Auditorium: 428 S Oak Street, Bluffton, IN 46714

New Adult Acting class this Winter Acting 101/102
• Mondays from 6 to 9 p.m. 6 week session: Jan. 6-Feb. 10
• Creative Arts Council of Wells County, 428 S Oak St, Bluffton / Enter Door 10
• Age 16+
• Cost: \$100 per student
• Instructor: Meagan VandeLaar
Whether you are completely new to the acting world, have done some plays but want to dive deeper and grow your craft, or you are an experienced actor that could use a refresher course, Acting 101/102 will give you the basic (and not so basic) tools you need to take the next step in your acting journey in an engaging and empowering atmosphere. Participants will be introduced to several acting and movement techniques, learn the basics of scene study and characterization, and learn to follow their

impulses and work collaboratively with their scene partners.
• Registration: <https://form.jotform.com/243045826666160>
Auditions for “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat”
• Friday, Nov. 15 from 6 to 9 p.m.
• Saturday, Nov. 16 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Callbacks, if needed, will be Tuesday, Nov. 19.
• Where: Lounge and Cafeteria at Creative Arts Council at 428 S Oak St, Bluffton, IN.
Please enter through entrance 10 (the Creative Arts entrance) and follow the signs to the audition area.
• Who: There will be an adult chorus as well as a children’s choir as part of the production. Anyone age 8 years old and up can audition for the show.

• What to prepare: As there is no actual dialog in this musical, there will be no reading done during the audition. Please prepare a short song for the audition that highlights your vocal range and personality. A CD/MP3 player will be provided. However, NO ACCOMPANIST WILL BE PROVIDED. Please plan on providing your own accompaniment (CD/MP3, etc.) or even an unaccompanied solo. Also, if interested, please be prepared to learn a short group choreography segment to give an idea of your abilities in that area which will also be reviewed. The brothers and wives (along with some of the leads) will be performing choreography during the show.
• Registration: Please register prior to attending auditions on our website at: <https://www.wellscocreativearts.com/other-yearly-productions>

“The BEST Christmas Pageant Ever” presented by Creative Arts Theater
In this hilarious Christmas classic, a couple struggling to put on a church Christmas pageant is faced with casting the Herdman kids— probably the most inventively awful kids in history. You won’t believe the mayhem and the fun— when the Herdmans collide head-on with the story of Christmas! A great show for all ages! Run time — 1 hour 15 minutes
• Performances (4):
Thursday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m.



Friday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 14 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.
• Tickets (\$15) on sale through ArtsTix at <https://tickets.artstix.org/TheatreManager/1/tmEvent/tmEvent4203.html> or by calling (260) 422-4226, Monday – Friday from 12 to 6 p.m. or Saturday from 12 to 4 p.m.
Auditorium, 428 S Oak St, Bluffton

Creative Arts School of Music
• Voice Lessons with Lynne Niermeyer, Tuesday afternoon/evenings, \$30/half hour lesson
• Guitar Lessons with Mike Needler, Tuesday afternoon/evenings, \$35/half hour lessons
For more information regarding the music lessons above, please call the office at (260) 824-5222 for lesson times/availability.

Ongoing Activities
Creative Crew: Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All forms of creativity welcome: painting, drawing, needlework and more... spend the morning working on your craft and socialize with other artists. Enter Door 1 or Door 10 at Life Community Church, the creative crew meets in the cafe.

Readers’ Brown Bag Luncheon: Meeting the last Tuesday of the month at noon at Life Community Church, enter door 10. All readers are welcome. Feel free to call the office for more information.

****Important Scheduling Note: Changes can occur after the Creative Happenings column has been published. Please confirm dates and times before planning to participate in programs and activities****
Creative Arts Council activities are supported by memberships, sponsors and grants from funders including Arts United, a regional agency; the Indiana Arts Commission, a state agency; and the National Endowment for the Arts, a national agency.

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Norwell Internship Spotlight award
Emmerson Delaney
Senior Emmerson Delaney has been selected to receive the Norwell High School Internship Spotlight award. She has been doing her experience with Norwell Middle School Social Studies teacher Carey Smith. Emmerson is the daughter of Amy Marshall of Markle and Allan Delaney of Zanesville.
In the 8th grade U.S. History classes, Emmerson has been doing a great deal of observation. She has been learning how the teacher manages her classroom with teaching styles and student behavioral skills. Emmerson has also helped create lesson plans, grade assignments, do attendance, make copies, and run errands. She periodically assists students one on one with classroom work.
Upon graduation, Emmerson plans to study at the Salon Professional Academy in Fort Wayne. Her focus will be on facials.

Kitco reunion this Saturday
A reunion for former Kitco employees will be held this Saturday, Nov. 16 from 1-3 p.m. at First Reformed Church at 301 W. Cherry St.
Park on the west side and enter at the north door. Refreshments will be served.

Adams and Wells LifeWise presents interactive update
Adams and Wells LifeWise will host an informational event Sunday, Nov. 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the Apostolic Christian Fellowship Hall.
The public is invited to learn more about local efforts to provide Bible education with an emphasis on character qualities during school hours.
Discussion topics will include current activities, future goals, a mock classroom led by South Adams’ LifeWise teacher Brooke Schwartz, student stories and how to get involved. Snacks will be provided.
The church is located at 1970 S 800 E in Bluffton.

Zanesville News
by Melba Edwards
As I write this column, the first week of November, the weather is mild and the trees have mostly shed their leaves as the wind for a few days took care of that. Now they are on the ground and need to be raked up.
Halloween is over and despite the horrible (but much needed) rain most of the evening, the trick-or-treaters still survived and gathered lots of treats.
Our family had to go several places to place their vote. My granddaughter and I went to Indiana Wesleyan on Oct. 24. My daughter went to Lighted Gardens where we saw other family members in line. We saw many long lines everywhere we went. Afternoon voters seem to have been over the age of 40 and evening voters were mostly young ones.
Issac Zent, president of the Zanesville Town Council, and his children were working hard the other Saturday getting a spot ready for the Allen County Sculpture. Tell them thanks when you see them.
Our condolences to the family of Richard Bumgarner who passed away at the age of 94 on Oct. 25. He was a member of the 1947 East Union Center graduating class.

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Christmas Caboose Train rides in New Haven
Rides on the Christmas Caboose Train will depart from the Santa’s Workshop in New Haven at 1580 Edgerton Rd. on the weekends of Nov. 15, 16, 17, 22, 23 & 24.
Santa will be on board for the 20 minute rides and tickets must be purchased in advance. The cars are heated and Travelin’ Tom’s Coffee will be offering warm beverages and baked goods for purchase.
Trains run rain or shine and with restrooms available. For more information go to <http://www.indianarailexperience.org/christmas-cabooses/>

A Talk with Tego
Chase is a four-month-old, domestic short hair, neutered male.
Taylor is a six-month-old, domestic short hair, spayed female.
Tego’s Tips: All adoption fees are waived on any cat/kitten that is already spayed/neutered until the end of the year. This will still include their dewormer, flea treatment and Distemper series vaccine.
These are just a few pets available for adoption at the Wells County Animal Shelter, 1613 W. Cherry St., Bluffton. For more information call 824-6063.
Ringo is a five-month-old, domestic short hair, neutered male.
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Israeli strikes kill dozens

(Continued from Page 1)
 that it hit a Hezbollah site used to store weapons, and the strike was under review. Hezbollah began firing rockets, drones and missiles into Israel after war broke out in Gaza, in solidarity with the Palestinians and Hamas. Israel retaliated, and a series of escalations have led to all-out war. In northern Gaza, an Israeli strike on a home sheltering displaced people in the urban refugee camp of Jabaliya killed at least 17 people, including nine women, according to Dr. Fadel Naim, director of Al-Ahly Hospital in Gaza City. Israel's military said that it targeted a site where militants were operating, without providing evidence. It said the details of the strike were under review. A separate strike hit a house in Gaza City, killing Wael al-Khour, a minister in

the Hamas-run government, as well as his wife and three children, according to the Civil Defense first responders who operate under the government. **Israel strikes deeper into Lebanon** Israel has struck deeper inside Lebanon since September, when it killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and most of his top commanders. Hezbollah has expanded its rocket fire from northern to central Israel. The fighting has killed more than 3,100 people in Lebanon, according to the Health Ministry, and more than 70 people in Israel. After Israel's strike in Aal-mat, around 25 miles north of Beirut, legislator Raed Berro denied that any Hezbollah personnel or assets were in the building hit. "Everyone can see, in front of cameras, that what

is being pulled from under the rubble are women, children and elderly people who have nothing to do with weapons or rocket warehouses," Berro said. Hassan Ghaddaf, who lived next door and was slightly wounded while heading to his balcony with morning coffee, said displaced people were in the building. "I had seen them and got to know them the other day," Ghaddaf said. "They were peaceful. On the contrary, they had someone from the Lebanese Internal Security Forces that works for the state, and we saw their garb and clothes in the rubble." In Syria, an Israeli airstrike hit a residential building in the Damascus suburb of Sayyida Zeinab, and the Defense Ministry said that seven civilians were killed, state news agency SANA reported. Britain-based

opposition war monitor The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights suggested that Hezbollah was targeted. Israel didn't immediately comment. **Fears of famine in northern Gaza** The mid-month deadline is approaching for the Biden administration's ultimatum for Israel: Allow more aid into Gaza or risk possible restrictions on U.S. military funding. Israeli forces have encircled and largely isolated Jabaliya and the nearby northern Gaza towns of Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun for the past month, allowing only a trickle of humanitarian aid. Experts from a panel that monitors food security say famine is imminent or may already be happening. The northern third of Gaza, including Gaza City, has suffered the heaviest destruction of the 13-month

war. Israel has sent forces back in, saying Hamas has regrouped. Israeli strikes often kill women and children. The military says it only targets militants, whom it accuses of hiding among civilians. Also on Sunday, Israel's military released what it called footage of Hamas abusing detainees. The soundless footage, dated from 2018 to 2020, appears to show hooded detainees chained in stress positions. In some clips, men beat or poke them with batons. It wasn't possible to indepen-

dently verify the videos, which the military said that it recovered during operations in Gaza. Rights groups have long accused the Hamas-run government in Gaza and the Western-backed Palestinian Authority in the occupied West Bank of abusing detainees and violently quashing dissent. Israel has been accused of similar abuses, especially since the start of the war. Israeli prison authorities say they follow relevant laws and investigate allegations of wrongdoing.

Russian strikes kill 6 and injure 30 in Ukraine

By HANNA ARHIROVA
Associated Press
 KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian glide bombs, drones and a ballistic missile smashed into cities in southern and eastern Ukraine on Monday, officials said, killing at least six civilians and injuring about 30 others. Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that Russia has recently intensified strikes that have long tormented civilian areas, in an apparent effort to unnerve Ukrainians and wear down their willingness to keep up a war that is approaching its 1,000-day milestone. "Every day, every night, Russia commits the same terror," Zelenskyy said in a post on the Telegram messaging app. "Except that an increasing number of civilian objects are becoming targets." Both Russia and Ukraine are waiting to see how Washington will change its policy on the

war after Donald Trump takes office as the U.S. president in January. The U.S. is the biggest provider of military help to Ukraine, but Trump has chided the Biden administration for giving Kyiv tens of billions of dollars of aid. The Ukrainian army intends to expand its mobile units, which are primarily tasked with shooting down drones, in the regions most frequently targeted by Russian strikes, Zelenskyy said on Telegram. He also said that Ukraine is working on producing its own glide bombs as part of a domestic missile program. Russian glide bombs have significantly impacted the battlefield, as their destructive power reduces settlements to rubble and makes it increasingly difficult for Ukrainian forces to hold their defensive fortifications. Ukrainian forces are being slowly pushed backward in the eastern Donetsk

region, where Russia is bringing its greater military might to bear. Zelenskyy said Ukraine would conduct a "substantial reinforcement" in areas near the Donetsk settlements of Kurakhove and Pokrovsk, where Ukraine's army is in danger of being overrun.

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Tigers hang nearly 100 points in girls' basketball opener

By RYAN WALKER

Bluffton nearly dropped 100 points on Canterbury on opening night.

The Tigers' 99-16 victory over the Cavaliers (0-3) is what Bluffton fans hope is foreshadowing for the season to come with several of its key returning players.

Bluffton blitzed its opponent from the opening tip, scoring 15 seconds in and like an assembly line, forced turnovers and scored layups one after another. By the end of the quarter, it was 31-0.

Canterbury, who did not have a varsity team last year, struggled on both ends of the floor with its revamped roster. It coughed up 33 turnovers in the game and failed to score until the 4:19 mark in the second quarter. The singular point was on the first shot of two free throws by Grace Chaille, but the score was 51-1 by that point.

Bluffton head coach Doug Curtis placed his bench and junior varsity members onto the floor for parts of the second quarter and most of the second half. The Tigers shot 66% (44-66) from the floor and called off the dogs when they reached 99. For just over a minute, the team played keep-away to push away 100 points.

"A couple of things we can take from tonight is No. 1, we know we have a chance to be a really good basketball team," Curtis said. "Really good basketball teams should do what they did tonight. That's what should happen. It shouldn't be a 45-20 game, it should be what happened ... The second thing is that we were really efficient. We want to be really efficient when you have the opportunity to be."

Seniors Isabella Stout and Maryn Schreiber scored 25 and 14 of the team's 99 points, while junior Konley Ault tallied 16. The Tigers' freshman also got into double figures with Khloe Dick dropping 15 in her first varsity contest and Kamryn Ault with 11 in hers.

Dick did not start the game but was the first option off the bench to start the season. She picked off a few passes and transitioned them for easy points, but also made a jump shot and a three-point bucket to flash a promising addition to an already fierce Tigers squad.

"I think she's going to step right in and play for us - that's not going to be an issue," Curtis said. "The key for her is to keep learning as we're going."

There was no junior varsity contest.

Bluffton will host Northfield at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 11.

ryan@news-banner.com

BLUFFTON 99, CANTERBURY 16

At Bluffton

CANTERBURY (0-3): Grace Chaille 12 points, Jazmyne Justice 2, Kate Laurie 2, Manhattan Morrissey 0, Sydney Cooley 0, Victoria Kim 0, Maryn Minnick



Bluffton's Isabella Stout (right) fades away from two Canterbury defenders during Saturday's opener for the Tigers. Stout led all scorers with 25 points in a 99-16 rout over the Cavaliers. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

0, Malika Ahmad 0, Alexa Coble 0. TOTAL: 16.
BLUFFTON (1-0): Isabella Stout 11-19 0-0 25, Konley Ault 7-9 1-1 16, Khloe Dick 7-9 0-0 15, Maryn Schreiber 7-11 0-0 14, Kamryn Ault 5-5 0-0 11, Tressa Renner 1-2 4-4 6, Madyson Sonnigen 2-2 0-0 4, Sophie Eisenhut 2-2 0-2 4, Isla Gibson 2-5 0-0 4, Marly Drayer 0-1 0-0 0, Madelyn Funk 0-0 0-0 0.
TOTALS: 44-66 5-7 99.
Canterbury 0 3 9 4 — 16
Bluffton 31 33 24 11 — 99

Three-Point FG: Canterbury 1 (Chaille 1), Bluffton: 6-13 (Stout 3-6, Konley Ault 1-1, Dick 1-2, Kamryn Ault 1-1, Renner 0-1, Funk 0-1, Gibson 0-1). Rebounds: Canterbury: 16 (Coley 3, Laurie 3, Ahmad 2, Chaille 1, Coble 1), Bluffton: 32 (Schreiber 9, Stout 5, Konley Ault 4, Drayer 4, Kamryn Ault 2, Sonnigen 2, Eisenhut 2, Dick 1, Renner 1, Funk 1, Gibson 1). Turnovers: Canterbury: 33, Bluffton: 7. Fouls: Canterbury: 9, Bluffton 9. Fouled out: None. Technicals: None.
JV: No game.



Norwell's Macie Saalfrank (left) drives the ball toward the basket against a tight Warsaw defense in the first half of Saturday night's game at Norwell. The Knights dropped the non-conference meeting to the Tigers 74-50. (Photo by Chad Kline)

Turnovers too much for Knights in loss to IBCA's No. 8 Warsaw Tigers

By ANDREW FEEBACK

It was a rough night at the Castle for the Norwell girls basketball team as they fell to the visiting Warsaw Tigers 74-50.

Warsaw (2-0) used its size, length and speed to force Norwell into 22 turnovers.

"They're just long and so athletic," coach Eric Thornton said. "They're strong too, and they've got a lot of upperclassmen who have been playing since their freshman year. I think they're a top five team in the state overall regardless of class. You have to play four really good quarters against them, and the turnovers just became too much to overcome."

The Knights (2-1) traded blows with the Tigers early on, with the lead changing hands nine times in the first quarter.

Warsaw reeled off 12 straight points to go up 29-17, a lead the Tigers wouldn't relinquish. They used the three-point shooting of Brooke Zartman and the inside play of Brooke Winchester while keeping Norwell scoreless for more than five minutes.

Foul trouble to Vanessa Rosswurm was a culprit during that stretch. After picking up her second foul moments into the second quarter, she had to take a seat. Norwell failed to score before she re-entered, and she got her third foul with more than three minutes to go in the half.

"We need V out there," Thornton said. "I thought she really continued to try to lead through that foul trouble. She's growing along with our entire team. Vanessa competed to the end, and I would say that about our team as well."

It was an eight-point game at the half, and Norwell still trailed by just eight midway through the third, which drew a Warsaw timeout.

But a three-pointer from Zartman and back to back buckets from Joslyn Bricker and Alexis Neely suddenly had the Tigers up 48-33.

"I thought our kids really came out of the locker room well, and we just kind of

(Continued on Page A2)

Raiders improve to 2-1 with road victory over Indians in girls' hoops

Southern Wells left Union City with a victory in girls' basketball Saturday night.

The Raiders (2-1) picked up a 56-41 win over the Indians (1-1) to gain their second win of the season and improving to a winning record.

Collena Reeves had a career-high 21 points to lead the Raiders, followed by an 18-point night from Ashlie Needler. Erika Beavans had seven and Kaylee Davis five.

Southern Wells will face Union Modoc at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 12.

Knights' Mann picks up all-state second team award in soccer

Norwell's Grace Mann received a second-team all-state girls' soccer honor over the weekend.

The high school girls' soccer weekend included an award ceremony and a showcase game in Indianapolis. There, Mann received her award for being among one of the best players in the state of Indiana regardless of class affiliation.

The junior Creighton Blue Jay commit

scored 41 goals in 16 games and assisted on seven goals. Her 41 goals placed her seventh in the state of Indiana via Max-Preps stats.

She also participated in the showcase games, in which head coach Dan Batdorff attended and said, "Grace displayed her skills well and stood out as one of the best players representing District 1."

High School Calendar

TUESDAY, NOV 12
GIRLS BASKETBALL: Northfield at Bluffton, 7:30 p.m.; Northrop at Norwell, 7:30 p.m.; Union Modoc at Southern Wells, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOV 12
No events scheduled.
THURSDAY, NOV 14
No events scheduled.

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Turnovers too much

(Continued from Page A1)

locker room well, and we just kind of chipped away," he said. "But after the timeout, we made several mistakes offensively that led to us not being able to get back in transition. You have to have good possessions. You can't come out and make turnovers when you have it down to eight. The game is in the balance at that point, and pretty soon it was out of reach."

Norwell then went through another long dry spell, failing to make a field goal over the next 10 minutes. Warsaw took control with a 16-1 run to take a 57-34 lead.

Warsaw finished 10 of 25 beyond the arc, while Norwell was 6 of 20.

Rosswurm topped the Knights with 19 points, while Macie Saalfrank added 12.

Zartman led a balanced Warsaw

attack with 24, while Neely and Bricker both had 15 and Winchester added 14.

Although the game was far from pretty, winning two out of three this week was a good start for the Knights.

"This stretch we're in right now, there's a purpose for it," Thornton said. "Our kids understand the big picture. That doesn't mean it's easy, but we'll come back next week and get ready for the next one."

That will be Tuesday night when the Knights host Fort Wayne Northrop, another Class 4A team.

Norwell took the junior varsity game 63-50. Leading the Knights was Mia Kurtz with 29 points. Carlee Strunk added 13 and Eden Nash had eight.

Warsaw won the freshmen contest 36-31. Miyah Foss led the Knights with 16 points and Ava Mason tallied eight.

sports@news-banner.com

WARSAW 74, NORWELL 50 At Norwell

WARSAW (2-0): Reagan Robinson 0-0 0-0 0, Lucy Andrew 1-1 0-0 2, Brooke Zartman 8-16 2-2 24, Abbey Peterson 0-0 0-0 0, Alexis Neely 6-9 1-1 15, Madison Branam 0-0 0-0 0, Joslyn Bricker 7-13 0-0 15, Kyra Kiser 0-1 0-0 0, Brooke Winchester 5-11 3-4 14, Leila Knepp 0-0 0-0 0, Kelsey Wrenn 0-0 0-0 0, Braylie Chastain 2-2 0-0 4, Cayleigh Goheen 0-0 0-0 0, Erin McManus 0-0 0-0 0. **TOTALS:** 29-53 6-7 74.

NORWELL (2-1): Addison Norris 3-7 1-1 9, Ashley Waldman 2-8 1-2 6, Ryland Graft 1-6 0-0 2, Alivia Green 1-1 0-0 2, Larkin Smith 0-0 0-0 0, Haley Williamson 0-0 0-0 0, Macie Saalfrank 4-6 2-2 12, Mekynzi Beck 0-0 0-0 0, Vanessa Rosswurm 9-16 0-0 19, Jada Dale 0-1 0-0 0, Isabela Swineford 0-0 0-0 0. **TOTALS:** 20-45 4-5 50.

Warsaw 20 11 19 24 — 74
Norwell 17 6 11 16 — 50
Three-point Goals: Warsaw 10-25 (Zartman 6-10, Neely 2-4, Bricker 1-5, Winchester 1-5, Kiser 0-1), Norwell 6-20 (Norris 2-4, Saalfrank 2-3, Waldman 1-6, Rosswurm 1-4, Graft 0-3). Rebounds: Warsaw 24 (Winchester 10, Neely 7, Bricker 4, Zartman 2, Chastain 1), Norwell 14 (Rosswurm 5, Waldman 3, Norris 2, Green 2, Smith 1, Beck 1). Turnovers: Warsaw 15, Norwell 22. Fouls: Warsaw 7, Norwell 11. Fouled out: None. Technicals: None.

Five Knights selected to Northeast 8 football awards; Cotton placed on first-team as guard

The Northeast 8 Conference released its selections for the all-conference football season.

Norwell had five selections on the list, including first-team choice Logan Cotton as a guard.

On the second team were wide receiver Drew Graft and tackle Will Gerber. Cornerback Garry Riley and special teamer Max Babcock were honorable mentions. All selections for the Knights were seniors.

East Noble was a perfect 7-0 in the conference to win the NE8. Norwell finished sixth at 2-5.

Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

NFL

Thursday's Games
Baltimore 35, Cincinnati 34
Sunday's Games
Carolina 20, N.Y. Giants 17, OT, Munich, DEU
Buffalo 30, Indianapolis 20
Kansas City 16, Denver 14
Minnesota 12, Jacksonville 7
New England 19, Chicago 3
New Orleans 20, Atlanta 17
Pittsburgh 28, Washington 27
San Francisco 23, Tampa Bay 20
L.A. Chargers 27, Tennessee 17
Arizona 31, N.Y. Jets 6
Philadelphia 34, Dallas 6
Detroit 26, Houston 23
Open: Cleveland, Las Vegas, Green Bay, Seattle
Monday's Games
Miami 23, L.A. Rams 15
Thursday, Nov. 14
Thursday Night Football: Washington at Philadelphia, 8:15 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 17
Baltimore at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Detroit, 1 p.m.
L.A. Rams at New England, 1 p.m.
Las Vegas at Miami, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Sunday Night Football: Indianapolis at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at Denver, 4:05 p.m.
Seattle at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.
Kansas City at Buffalo, 4:25 p.m.
Cincinnati at L.A. Chargers, 8:20 p.m.
Open: Arizona, Carolina, N.Y. Giants, Tampa Bay
Monday, Nov. 18
Monday Night Football: Houston at Dallas, 8:15 p.m.

College

Ohio State 45, Purdue 0
Texas 49, Florida 17
Ole Miss 28, Georgia 10
Indiana 20, Michigan 15
Colorado 41, Texas Tech 27
Oregon 39, Maryland 18
Notre Dame 52, Florida State 3
Alabama 42, LSU 13
Penn State 35, Washington 6BYE
22, Utah 21

BASKETBALL

High School

Saturday Girls' Scores
Bluffton 99, Ft. Wayne Canterbury 16
Center Grove 43, Fishers 22
Charlestown 47, Madison Shawe 32
Churubusco 65, Hamilton 9
Daleville 62, Anderson Prep Academy 20
Delta 69, Madison-Grant 12
E. Noble 67, Westview 32
Eastbrook 61, S. Adams 45
Forest Park 45, Tell City 37
Ft. Wayne Blackhawk 49, W. Noble 35
Ft. Wayne Concordia 57, New Haven 23
Ft. Wayne Luers 55, Central Noble 40
Ft. Wayne Northrop 61, Elkhart 40
Gibson Southern 52, Mt. Vernon (Posey) 5
Goshen 58, LaPorte 20
Hamilton Southeastern 54, Indpls Ben Davis 33
Lakewood Park 68, Adams Central 54
Maconaquah 40, Tipton 15
Marion 56, Logansport 51
Monroe Central 47, Frankton 41
Noblesville 66, Avon 61
Peru 45, Mississinewa 44
Southern Wells 56, Union City 41
Union (Modoc) 44, Phalen 12
Warren Central 56, Ft. Wayne South 23
Warsaw 74, Norwell 50
Ft. Wayne Snider 40, Lake Central 33

College

Men's Scores (Saturday)
Tennessee 77, Louisville 55
Baylor 72, Arkansas 67
Auburn 74, Houston 69
Men's Scores (Sunday)
Indiana 90, E. Illinois 55
Wake Forest 72, Michigan 70
Men's Scores (Monday)
Purdue 92, Yale 84
Ohio State 81, Youngstown State 47
Women's Scores (Saturday)
USC 90, Cal Poly 35
Women's Scores (Sunday)
Maryland 85, Duke 80
Iowa 71, Virginia Tech 52
Notre Dame 102, Purdue 58
South Carolina 71, NC State 57
Uconn 86, South Florida 49
Women's Scores (Monday)
Michigan State 95, Eastern Michigan 49



Miken Habegger holds his certificate for finishing third place at the BowlIndy Tournament on Sunday. (Photo submitted)

Habegger finishes 3rd in BowlIndy tourney

Bluffton High School's Miken Habbeger competed in the BowlIndy in Indianapolis on Sunday.

His total series of 859 in four games got him to a third-place finish. He was also recognized as one of the top three boys' bowlers with the highest score in one of the games.

Agriculture

Joe Ricker to receive inaugural Veteran Farmer Award from American Farm Bureau

By HOOSIER AG TODAY

Retired Army Col. Joe Ricker, who operates At Ease Orchard near Wilkinson, Indiana in Hancock County, is the first recipient of the Veteran Farmer Award of Excellence presented by the American Farm Bureau Federation with support from Farm Credit.

The newly established award recognizes veterans or service members for excellence in farming or agriculture and positively impacting local communities.

Ricker served 30 years in the Army before retiring from a logistics post at the Pentagon in 2022. His service also included tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since leaving the Army, his commitment to excellence in farming and enriching the lives of veterans has blossomed in a myriad of ways in both his local community of Wilkinson, Indiana, and across the country.

Ricker started At Ease Orchard, a nonprofit that introduces veterans, first responders and their family members to beekeeping and other farm activities. Ricker says he trains veterans to become beekeepers and start their own honey production.

He says beekeeping and working on a farm can be therapeutic for many veterans—not only for those who suffer from post-traumatic stress syndrome, but also those veterans who may return home with a physical disability.

"I think it helps veterans. It gives them a mission and gives them a reason to wake up because beekeeping and farming, in general, is a little bit like the military—there's always danger in it."

He says he also under-

stands the struggles that many veterans face and uses to farm to help connect with them.

"We've been in different environments that most people who aren't veterans sometimes don't understand. But it's a difficult environment to try to adjust to when you return home from serving. With that said, being among other veterans helps you open up a little more. You can say, 'Hey do you remember this?' You kind of have that camaraderie where people understand what you're going through," says Ricker.

He also founded Veterans IN Farming, which provides veterans in Indiana with training and support to succeed in farming. He's involved with Heroes to Hives through Michigan Food & Farming Systems, which uses beekeeping to help veterans achieve financial and personal wellness. For the last several years,

he has served as veteran outreach coordinator for the National AgrAbility Project, which helps farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers with disabilities remain in the workforce.

"We're proud to elevate and celebrate Col. Joe Ricker for his past service to our country and current involvement in agriculture and local communities," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "We greatly appreciate the sacrifices of veterans and active service members so we can enjoy the freedoms we have in our country, and I'm delighted to highlight their contributions to agriculture, too."

Ability to assess risk, aptitude for planning and patience are among the skills gained from military service that Ricker has found transition well to agriculture. Through the training classes he conducts in beekeeping and other types of agriculture for vet-

erans, he offers an ear and more formally, referrals for mental health support and resources.

"I feel successful and worth my time if I save one [person] from hurting themselves," Ricker said. He's excited about using the \$10,000 cash prize for the award to train additional veterans in beekeeping and also improve outreach and national networking.

AFBF will present Ricker with the Veteran Farmer Award of Excellence at the organization's 2025 Convention in January, in San Antonio.

To learn more about At Ease Orchard and how Ricker and his team how are helping veterans in need, visit AtEaseOrchard.com.

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Recovery turns to screen addiction

Dear Annie: Several years ago, my wife suffered a stroke. As part of her recovery, her doctor recommended a video game to help improve her hand-eye coordination. At first, it seemed like a great idea; it gave her a sense of accomplishment and helped in her healing. But over time, this once-helpful activity has grown into a serious phone addiction.

stroke. It must have been incredibly scary and challenging for both of you. Now that she is in the healing process, it seems she has become addicted to a video game on her screen. She's not alone in this; it's well-known that video game designers often make these games intentionally addictive to keep people playing.

Dear Annie



She now spends close to eight hours a day on her phone, playing games and scrolling endlessly. She eats her meals with the phone right in front of her, hardly noticing me or anything else around her. I try to engage her in conversation, but it's as if I don't exist. She no longer contributes to any household chores, cooking or activities. Most days, she just sits in the kitchen watching TV with her phone in hand, totally immersed in her games.

Try to channel your understandable anger and frustration into a constructive solution to help your wife break this habit. Have an open conversation with her. She might not even be fully aware of how much time she's spending on the game. Limit her time that she spends gaming, and call her doctor to ask for more healthy pastimes to reduce stress and help her recover from her stroke.

What's even harder to deal with is that she's using her phone to text family members, expressing how unhappy she is and implying that I'm somehow to blame. Now her relatives are rallying against me, believing her portrayal of our situation without knowing the full story.

"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit <http://www.creator-publishing.com> for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. © 2024 CREATORS.COM

I'm at my wits' end. I want to support her recovery, but her phone has taken over our lives, and it feels like I'm losing my partner to a screen. I'm genuinely considering shutting down her phone as a last resort. What should I do? — At My Wits' End

Dear Wits' End: First off, I am very sorry that your wife suffered a

My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



Christians are not to be conformed to this world

Question: What is the world coming to when even Christians seem to conform to the ways of the world? Isn't this against what the Bible says? — C.W.

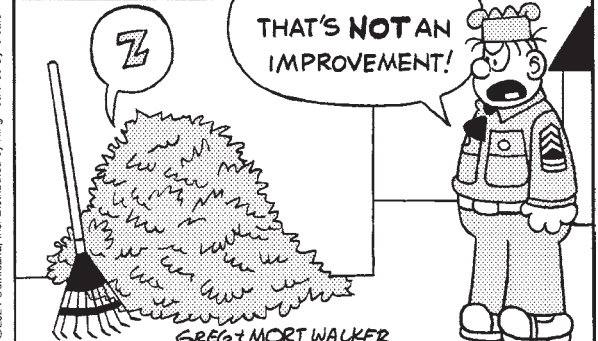
Answer: Christians are not to be conformed to this world. The world by its advertisements, its conversation, and its philosophy is engaged in a gigantic brainwashing task. Not always consciously but sometimes unconsciously, the Christian is beset by secular and worldly propaganda. Ads that proclaim that "the man of distinction" prefers a certain brand of whiskey imply that abstainers are not people of distinction. Much entertainment is slanted to those who feed on violence, sex, and lawlessness.

It would seem that some diabolic mastermind is running the affairs of this world and that his chief objective is to brainwash Christians and get them to conform to this world. The world's sewage system threatens to contaminate the stream of Christian thought. Satan will contest every hour Christians spend in Bible reading or prayer. However, above the din we can hear the voice of Scripture: "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5, NKJV), and, "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2, NKJV). Christians are not

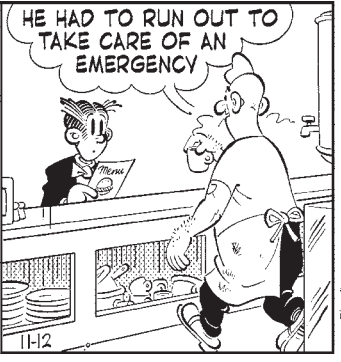
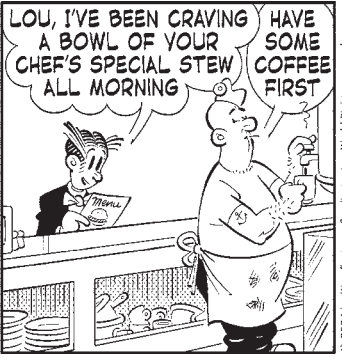
even to be conformed to the world's anxieties. Many Christians are wringing their hands and saying, "What's the world coming to?" The Bible has already told us that "the world and the lust thereof" are going to pass away. We have already been told in Scripture that the world is coming to a cataclysmic judgment. Christians are to be lights in the midst of darkness, and our lives should exemplify joy in the midst of frustration, confusion, and despair.

(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Graham.) ©2024 Billy Graham Literary Trust. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

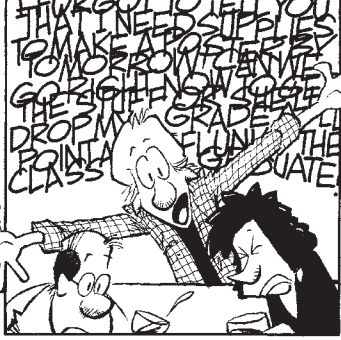
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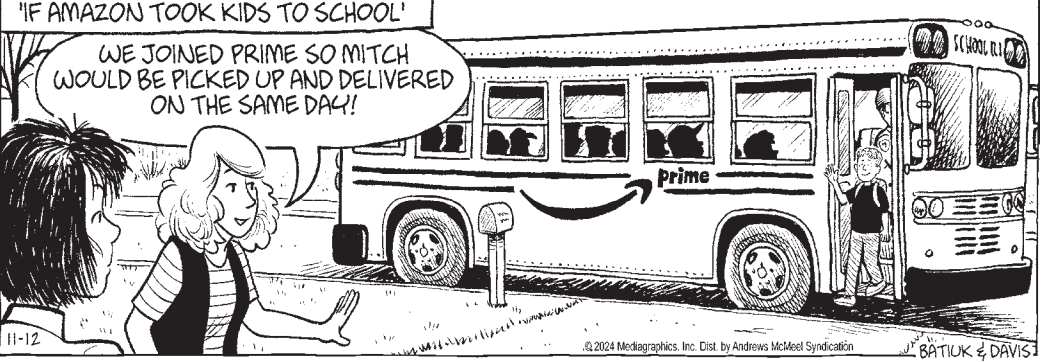
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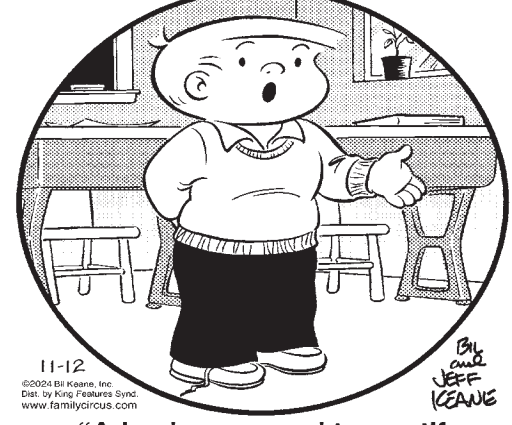


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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



The LOCKHORNS



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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solution time: 22 mins. Includes clues for Across and Down words.

Yesterday's answer grid for crossword puzzle.

TV schedule grid with columns for time slots (11:12, M, A, D1, D2, 5 PM, 5:30, 6 PM, 6:30, 7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30, 12 AM, 12:30) and rows for various channels (WINM, CBS, ANA2, ABC, etc.).