

# The News - Banner

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2024 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00

## New buildings, new opportunities for Norwell Middle School students

Board tours school, hears updates from administration

By HOLLY GASKILL

As construction continues in a portion of the new Norwell Middle School building, students are utilizing the new resources and classrooms this fall semester.

Teachers moved into the new classrooms over the summer, and Weigand Construction is currently working on the cafetorium area, counseling center, and connection between the middle school and high school, among other items. During a special Norwell board meeting on Tuesday, project manager Dylan Markley said the construction continues on schedule, with demolition work "pretty much completely done" and the cafetorium stage installed.

The special meeting took place during the school day, allowing board members to view active instruction and hear a more in-depth report from the school administration.

At that time, NMS Principal Andrew Enderle noted that the new building mitigates a lot of factors associated with disciplinary matters — there are more open spaces, the hallways provide a clear view, and grades have separate wings.

Even so, Enderle indicated there have been more disciplinary matters as the school has more strongly enforced tardiness and dress code. According to Enderle, there were 791 disciplinary issues in the 2023-24 school year, compared to just 264 in the



The board of trustees for Norwell Community Schools toured the new portion of the building during the school day, and the ongoing construction of the cafetorium and counseling center. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

2022-23 school year and 221 in the 2021-22 school year. Of the 791 incidents, 310 were related to the dress code. Enderle reported 222 incidents thus far in the school year.

Alongside this, Enderle shared his desire to continue the momentum of a positive student culture. He has spearheaded a peer-

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In a special board meeting at the middle school on Tuesday, Norwell High School Principal Kam Meyer recognized the 26 high school students who received National Honors from the College Board. (Photo provided)

## College Board honors Norwell students

By HOLLY GASKILL

Twenty-six Norwell High School students have been recognized by the College Board with National Honors.

Recipients meet three criteria: at least a B+ grade point average; PSAT scores within the top 10% in the state of Indiana or at least a passing score on two or more Advance Placement exams at the end of their sophomore year; and come from a rural area, are a first-generation college student, or identify as Black,

Latino or Native American.

Recipients were Shae Brooks, Madeline Dean, Jasmine Donaldson, Cohen Garrett, Delaney Hoover, Jasper Huneycutt, Jasper Kreigh, Teagan Lesley, Parker McCartney, Emerson Meredith, Kale Meredith, Emma Miller, Hannah Rusu, Rebecca Settle, Ridley Sheets, Lora Smith, Gavin Threewits, Noah Turk, Robert White, Ethan Williamson, Mason Wills, Colby Winkler, Kinsley Young and Dalton Young.

Norwell's board of trustees recog-

nized the students during their meeting Tuesday.

"This is something that's super special," Norwell High School Principal Kam Meyer said. "Normally, (NHS) has anywhere from five to 10 national award winners ... This gives students the opportunity to put this on their college scholarship applications. It's a great resume builder. It's a great testament to all of the hours of hard work that they put into the classroom."

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## Ossian discusses easement, town employee PTO

By SYDNEY KENT

Several residents were met with temporary roadblocks in their endeavors to fill ditches, pour concrete and access town water during the Ossian Town Council meeting on Tuesday.

Pastor Matthew Gullion with the First Baptist Church requested approval to cross a portion of a utility easement to add a parking lot, particularly for elderly parishioners. At the advice of Jim Breckler with Engineering Resources, board President Josh Barkley advised Gullion to seek an analysis regarding stormwater drainage before approving the request.

Ron Todd attended the meeting on behalf of several residents in the Clark housing addition who were hoping to access water from the town. Todd requested annexation to achieve this goal, advising that approximately 80% of the residents also wanted the change. He ultimately received confirmation that the council would be willing to entertain the request; however, more information is needed from several parties.

Town Manager Crystal Chapman proposed changes to the paid time off for town employees, particularly regarding the number of days. Currently, town employees have three days of PTO per year. Chapman suggested double the number of days to align with the standards Bluffton has set for their employees.

"We're barely hanging onto our employees as it is," Crystal added. "I don't want to lose the ones we have. I want to keep them happy."

Town council member Stephanie Tucker added that town employees lose their accumulated vacation time at the end of the year if it has not been used. She also suggested a potential system similar to Bluffton's. Tucker said employees "earn" half a day of PTO every month they do not use

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## Hoosier Highway project requires change order after failed soil test

By HOLLY GASKILL

Work between county roads 200 S and 300 S for the new Hoosier Highway may be delayed after the soil failed tests for sulfate content.

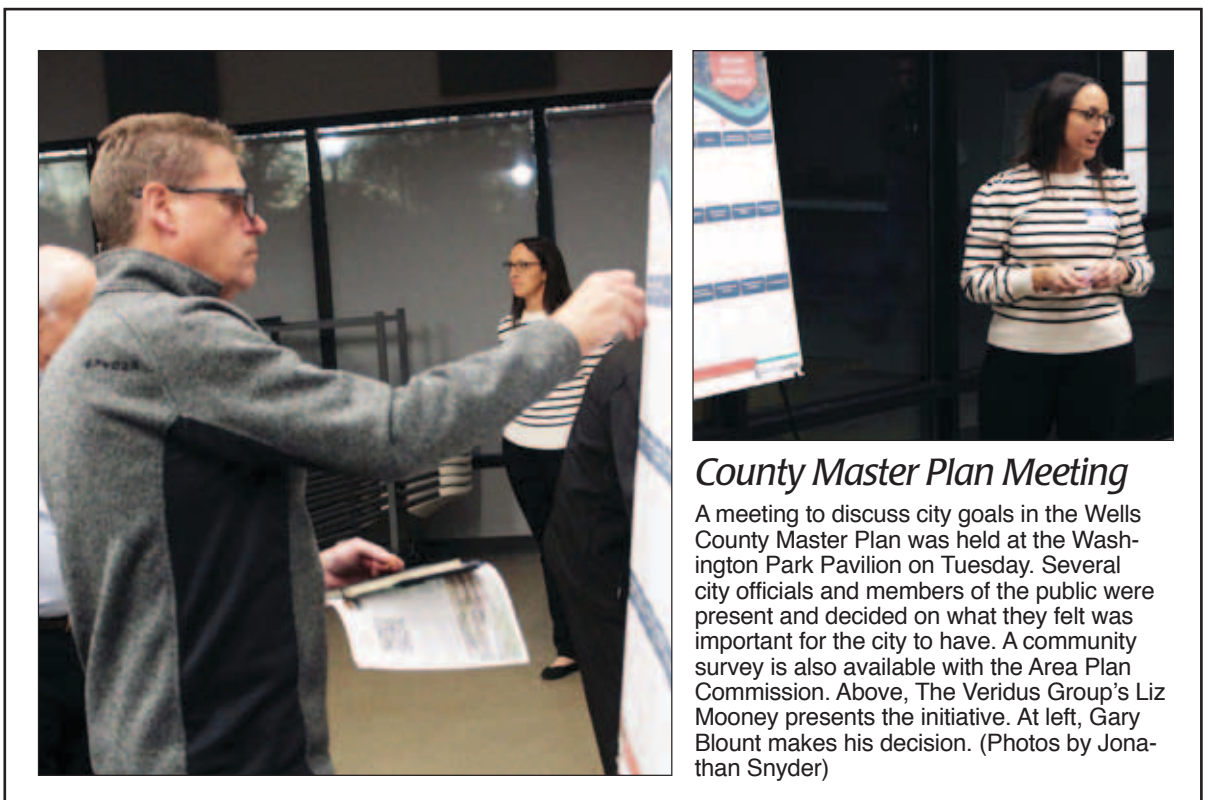
In a special meeting Tuesday morning, Commissioner Jeff Stringer stated soil samples had returned as "unstable" in testing for sulfate. Soil with high sulfates is known to swell with moisture and is therefore unsuitable for construction. The contractor, Gradex, treated the soil with lime, and it again failed tests.

The Wells County Commissioners approved a change order for the construction, per-

mitting Gradex to remove 14 inches of soil and replace it with stone. This change is billed at \$410,915.58. In a letter provided to The News-Banner, INDOT engineer Dustin Meyer notified Gradex that INDOT won't pay for the failed treatment and "any additional monies above what would have normally occurred if this product was placed per (INDOT's) specification. That is \$262,653.66."

This road is part of the new Hoosier Highway project, which will shift the highway west from the Bluffton Industrial Park to avoid three railroad cross-

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### County Master Plan Meeting

A meeting to discuss city goals in the Wells County Master Plan was held at the Washington Park Pavilion on Tuesday. Several city officials and members of the public were present and decided on what they felt was important for the city to have. A community survey is also available with the Area Plan Commission. Above, The Veridus Group's Liz Mooney presents the initiative. At left, Gary Blount makes his decision. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)

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**Outside**

Sunny and breezy with showers tonight

Today	Thursday	Friday
High 56	High 55	High 54
Low 47	Low 45	Low 39

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**Online**

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WEDNESDAY  
November 13, 2024

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# Norwell Middle School

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nominated leadership group, "Knight Student Leaders," who meet regularly to discuss how they can influence and encourage their peers in inclusivity, kindness and respect.

"I think what it comes really down to is creating and continuing with a positive culture," Enderle said. "We have that foundation prior to me being here. Walking into this place, this culture is special — but it is fragile as well."

NMS Athletic Director Jamie Feldheiser said the school continues to encourage extracurricular involvement, which gives students other reasons to care about school and keep out of trouble. Fall athletics have 134 total participants, winter athletics have 70 participants, and other extracurriculars have 188 participants.

Feldheiser reported a 96.91% average daily attendance, with expected dips around spring break, fall break and the Bluffton Free Street Fair. There has been only one mandatory conference for attendance issues this year.

The counseling center also discussed their multi-tiered approach to supporting students according to their specific needs. In the 2023-24 school year, the counseling department offered 1,131 individual sessions, 95 small groups,



Pictured is a class in the new band room at Norwell Middle School. Director Stephanie DePauw uses an infrared microphone on a lanyard to project throughout the classroom — a feature which has been incorporated throughout the school to assist teachers and students. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

27 crisis assessments and five classroom lessons — they are on track to meet or exceed similar numbers this year.

During its regular agenda, the board:

- Accepted resignations from Sarah Dilly, Ossian Elementary School special education teacher; Charlotte Rex, Norwell High School custodian; Thomas Walker and Michael Zadyak, NHS assistant wrestling coaches; Michael Niermeyer, NHS girls' golf head coach; and Lane Harkless, NMS assistant track coach.

- Approved employment recommendations for Jer-

emy Davis as NMS health teacher, Crystal Payton as a NHS building technology assistant, Connie Clark as extracurricular activities bus route coordinator, Destiny Swenson and Andrea Bergman as OES teaching assistants, Hollie Inostroza as a short-term Lancaster Elementary School teaching assistant, Karmin Adams as a NHS intense intervention teaching assistant, Jasmine Hooker as OES latchkey assistant, Nichole Smithley as a full-time bus driver and Travis Tackett as a full-time bus aide. They also approved the winter sports coaching line-up.

- Recognized donations of \$1,596.33 from an anonymous donor for the volleyball program, \$1,000 from an anonymous donor for the basketball programs and \$200 from Sycamore Specialized Carriers, Inc. for the NMS robotics club.
- Approved a field trip request for the NHS German class to visit Chicago Christkindlmarkt and the Museum of Science and Industry on Dec. 6.

All board members were present on Tuesday. Their next meeting is at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 26 at the administration building.

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# Employee PTO

(Continued from Page 1)  
PTO.

"If someone gets a severe diagnosis," Tucker suggested. "Other employees could donate sick time to that employee."

Board member Jeff Kemper stated it would be simpler to allot six days without the stipulations, to which member Glen Werling agreed.

Kemper added that employees at his business are given three weeks of vacation time after three years of employment, which does not include holidays.

Police Commissioner President Caleb Chichester chimed into the conversation, offering that new police officers have complained about the low PTO offered compared to surrounding areas.

Chichester also told the council that a 2008 police vehicle is no longer working, and requested funds for

outfitting for a new vehicle expected to arrive by next month. The cruiser is being outfitted as a K-9 vehicle, with a large portion of the costs covered by donations. The council approved the request, as well as a request to pay \$490 to Valor Signs for signage on the car.

Three new vacancies are open for the Ossian Parks Department. The council accepted the resignation of board president Jeff Osborn, effective immediately. Jay Esparza and Jared Kurtz are both up for expiration and do not intend to fill the position again next year.

Tucker announced vacancies on the storm water drainage board as well, with applications due the day of the Ossian Town Council meeting on Dec. 9.

The council also:

- Approved an easement request involving a removable fence.
- Denied an easement request

involving a house, with the homeowner advised that the situation could be addressed next month with a different form of request.

- Approved payment to VTF Excavation for work on Baker Drive for \$142,718.81.

- Approved an additional payment of \$20,714.02 for remediation work on Melching Court and Millside Court.

- Approved payment to Wayne Asphalt for \$43,383.70.

- Approved payment to Wayne Asphalt for \$38,436.20.

- Approved payment of a two-month invoice to Fleming Excavating for \$756,386.04 for the north collection system improvement on Davis Road.

- Approved the transfer of a police dog from Noble County.

- Approved a 3% salary increase for town employees.

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# RSD discusses Tocsin project application plan

By JONATHAN SNYDER

A need to "change the paradigm" for the proposed Tocsin Project was discussed by the Wells County Regional Sewer District Tuesday.

RSD board member Andy Stoller said that something new needs to be added to the Tocsin project proposal before the SRF application cycle in March of next year. Various methods were put on the table, from sending residual funds from past projects back to SRF to clean out their accounts, a search for new data to incorporate into their project proposal and even new funding avenues apart from SRF. RSD board members Jon Oman, Bruce Stinson, Leon Berning and Jon Shady all agreed with Stoller's notion that something needs to be added.

RSD Attorney Mark Burry stated concern with two of the methods. According to Burry, removing residual funds could still lead to an SRF denial. Other application processes for funding are also long and complex compared to SRF funding, leading to longer wait times for approval. Burry said, however, that he would talk to SRF representatives about scheduling a conference call where they could ask how to improve their chances.

Burry noted that the call would likely be sometime in January, since the end of the year is filled with SRF representatives receiving calls about projects they approved last cycle. Stoller

noted that the sewer systems in place are designed with the proposed Tocsin project in mind, and that some properties in Tocsin are still on pump and haul systems. No official plans were made outside contacting SRF representatives for a meeting.

"We've gotta think outside the box," Stoller said. "I'm not surprised by the results we are getting, because we are doing the same thing over and over again. To be honest, we need the system to expand a plan for septic elimination ... We've gotta break through the gridlock somehow. Unless something changes dramatically I am less than optimistic about what we plan to apply for."

"We have to start making some noise before the next round of funding," Burry said. "Instead of just applying again and sitting back and hoping."

"It (Tocsin) is a problem and people out there know it's a problem," RSD Superintendent Lewis Brown said.

The RSD also created an additional maintenance account to plan for future

expenses. Originally, the operational budget and maintenance account were part of the same account, but a review of ordinance law required that those accounts be separated. Stoller noted that the future expenses are why the RSD needs to be so careful with spending, despite having over \$400,000 in their overall balance.

"When we report in the general ledger ... people look at that and say 'Why are you sitting on half a million dollars?' We are not," Stoller said. "What we are sitting on is millions of dollars in future liabilities as an operational sewer district and that message gets obscured with everything in one account."

Additionally, Brown reported that the RSD's generators have switched to their winter fuel blend and have been topped off. Brown also said that there are eight properties that still need to connect in Kingsland and six connections are left in Craigville. Brown also noted that 22 liens will be filed against properties today for delinquent pay-

ments. A dropbox has also been ordered and will be located outside the RSD's office.

"We say this over and over — it seems like it's the same people we file liens on every time," Brown said.

Furthermore, a \$155,620 SRF Disbursement request was paid to VTF. This is the final retainage payment for the Kingsland project, which was already approved earlier, but the request never got to the state level and therefore was not paid out. The RSD also paid \$13,405.99 in monthly bills and learned that approximately \$20,000 in ARPA fund interest still needs to be spent.

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# Weather

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:00 p.m. Tuesday)

High: 48; Low: 38; Precipitation: None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.14 feet at 8:45 p.m. Tuesday

## Wells County forecast

**Today:** Partly sunny, with a high near 56. Southeast wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**Tonight:** Rain. Low around 47. Southeast wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.

**Thursday:** Rain, mainly before 1 p.m. High near 55. South wind 10 to 15 mph becoming west in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.

**Thursday Night:** A 20% chance of showers before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 45. West wind around 5 mph.

**Friday:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 54.

**Friday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 39.

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 54.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 39.

**Sunday:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 59.

**Sunday Night:** A 40% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 43.

**Monday:** A 20% chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 58.

**Monday Night:** A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 42.

**Tuesday:** A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 57.

# Hoosier Highway

(Continued from Page 1)

ings and allow continuous traffic between State Road 218 and the industrial park. It is being paid for in part by the county, the Indiana Department of Transportation and federal grants. Stringer said

the county would only pay 20% of the total cost.

Stringer also advised that the change order could be completed in the next week, but due to seasonal delays, the road may not be finished until June.

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## NEW HOURS!

Monday - Thursday 8-3  
Friday 8-3 (Closed every other week)  
Saturday & Sunday Closed

### DETAILED DENTAL CARE

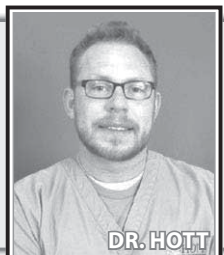
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ADAMS WELLS CRISIS CENTER

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Saturday, November 16, 2024 | 4H Expo Hall in Monroe  
VIP AREA 5:30-6:30 | GENERAL ADMISSION 6:30-9:30

**\$35 General Admission**  
Includes: 10 punches & \$1000 Crisis Cash

**VIP \$50**  
Includes: 10 punches, 4 VIP punches & \$1000 Crisis Cash

Punches include: Hors D'oeuvres, Brew Samples & Bourbon Samples

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ADAMS WELLS CRISIS CENTER

OBITUARIES

Patty Boots, 72

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



Patty was a caring wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She treasured spending time with loved ones and friends creating lasting memories.

Patty was also known for her artistic side, finding joy in drawing and painting. She also enjoyed crafting and attending local craft shows. Alongside her husband, Ken, they enjoyed camping with family most weekends, and spent summers on family vacations to explore new places and visit friends and family.

Patty was a dedicated and hardworking individual. For over 20 years, she served delicious meals at the Dutch Mill Restaurant. Her culinary talents continued to bless the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District for another 20 years, where she worked as a cook.

Patty was born on Nov. 11, 1951, in Bluffton, to L. Wayne Welches and Mary E. (Blair) Welches. She found her forever love in Kenneth E. Boots, marrying him on Sept. 4, 1970.

Patty leaves behind a legacy of love and laughter. Her husband, Ken Boots, will deeply miss her. She is also survived by a daughter, Angie (Jason) Worman of Edmond, Oklahoma; grandchildren, Nathan (Courtney) Worman, Hannah (Christian) Holcomb and Hunter Purdue; great-grandchildren, Carson Holcomb, Olivia Holcomb, and Lucas Worman; and a sister, Phyllis Rittenhouse of Markle.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Wayne and Mary Welches, and her daughter, Tina K. Purdue.

Visitation will be held from 4-8 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 15, 2024, at the funeral home and for one hour prior to the service on Saturday, Nov. 16.

The funeral service will be at 10:30 a.m. at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home, officiated by Jeff Lemler. Patty will be laid to rest at Elm Grove Cemetery in Bluffton.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Patty's memory to the First Baptist Church of Bluffton, Indiana.

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

Rev. Gerald Lee Hewson, 82

Rev. Gerald Lee Hewson, 82, of Huntington, passed away at 4:41 a.m. Monday, Nov. 11, 2024, at his residence.

Gerald was born June 21, 1942, to Doris Letson Hewson and Howard Hewson of Grand Ledge, Michigan.

Gerald married Jane Fulks of Lynn, Indiana on Aug. 21, 1965.

Survivors are his sons, Kyle (Sherina) Hewson, James (Yazmin) Hewson, and Ryan (Brandi) Hewson; 10 grandchildren and one great-grandson.

He is preceded in death by his loving wife, Jane Hewson; and his parents, Howard and Doris Hewson.

Visitation will be from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 18, 2024, at Bailey-Love Mortuary, 35 West Park Drive, Huntington, IN. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024, at Bailey-Love Mortuary with Pastor Mike Smith officiating. There will be one hour of visitation prior to the service. Burial will be in Mt. Hope Cemetery in Huntington.

Please sign the online guest book at [www.baileylove.com](http://www.baileylove.com).

Bailey-Love Mortuary is honored to serve the family of Gerald Lee Hewson.

Adopt a display for 'Wonderland of Lights'

A new way to be a part of Ouabache State Park's Wonderland of Lights has been announced by Kathy Schwartz, director of the project. And the concept is simple — choose a display and adopt it by donating the cost of the display to the Friends of Ouabache.

In turn, the Friends will assemble, maintain and store the display from year to year. The adopter may choose the site for the display and an adoption sign will be placed beside it.

Cost of displays vary greatly depending in size and range from \$600 up. Individuals or groups may adopt and use the display as a recognition or memorial. The cost of the display is also tax deductible.

This year's **Wonderland of Lights** has four adopted displays — Lowe's, Truland Equipment, in memory of Karen Dunn Reynolds and one anonymous. The anonymous display is being built for next year.

Anyone interested should contact the Ouabache State Park office at (260) 824-0926 or email to [friendsofouabache@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofouabache@gmail.com).

This year Wonderland of Lights will be open from Dec. 6-Dec. 31. Admission is \$5 per car and hours are from 6 to 9 p.m. A special synchronized light and musical show will be located by the Fire Tower, as prepared by Kraig Schwartz.

Santa will be visiting the first three weekends at the Elf Cocoa Cafe located at the Trails End Shelter. Santa will answer letters if dropped off before Dec. 18, along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope and put in his mail box by the gate house.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

**City:**

Monday, 2:56 p.m., Main Street and Dustman Road. Several reports of individuals in the road asking for money and causing traffic hazard. Church collecting money for homeless advised to stay off the road.

Monday, 7:14 p.m., 200 block of East Townley Street. Report of a domestic altercation. Parties separated.

Tuesday, 7:40 a.m., Main Street and S.R. 124. Glass in roadway.

**County:**

Friday, 1:10 p.m., 4400 N 100 E, Bluffton. Caller reported his dog got loose and returned home with a wound.

Friday, 1:47 p.m., S.R. 218 and 400 W, Poneto. Driver cited for speeding.

Friday, 3:55 p.m., 150 West Main Street, Poneto. Report of fraud.

Friday, 4:40 p.m., Wells County Jail. Report of theft.

Friday, 4:43 p.m., 2800 South Main Street, Liberty Center. Subject requested information regarding trespassing order.

Friday, 7:31 p.m., South 100 W and 200 S, Bluffton. Report of laser being pointed at aircrafts. Unable to locate source.

Friday, 10:51 p.m., 800 block of West Railroad Street, Uniondale. Report of

property damage.

Saturday, 3:11 a.m., Main Street and Dustman Road, Bluffton. Driver arrested for operating while intoxicated.

Saturday, 8:36 a.m., S.R. 116 and Meridian Road, Bluffton. Report of trespassing, subject was looking for his dog.

Saturday, 2:29 p.m., 3900 W 1100 N, Markle. Caller reported neighbor's dog killed their chickens.

Saturday, 2:53 p.m., U.S. 224 and 300 W, Uniondale. Driver cited for speeding.

Sunday, 9:47 a.m., S.R. 14 and 600 E, Bluffton. Driver cited for speeding.

Sunday, 1:03 p.m., 5900 North Miller Street, Uniondale. Complaint of dog running in area. Officer contained dog and let owner know.

Sunday, 8:06 p.m., S.R. 116 and 150 N, Bluffton. Car versus deer.

Monday, 4:17 a.m., Wells County Jail. Officer transported Zackery McDowell from the Fort Wayne Airport to the Wells County Jail.

Monday, 7:14 a.m., 1100 W and 800 S, Warren. Car versus deer.

Monday, 6:51 p.m., 100 East and S.R. 218, Bluffton. Car versus deer.

Monday, 8:16 p.m., 6300 N 75 E, Uniondale. Caller reported people with flashlights in woods behind

house. Subjects advised they were on their own property.

Monday, 10:19 p.m., S.R. 116 and 200 W, Markle. Driver arrested for driving without U.S. license.

Tuesday, 12:59 a.m., Southern Wells Church, Poneto. Car versus deer.

Tuesday, 6:24 a.m., Country Corner Deli, Liberty Center. Report of armed robbery.

Tuesday, 9:06 a.m., 1944 East South Timberidge Road, Bluffton. Report of fraudulent bank charges.

**Ossian:**

Friday, 6:43 p.m., 300 block of West LaFever Street, Ossian. No contact order served to Noah Cook.

Saturday, 4:06 p.m., Silo Farms. Caller complained about loud kids. Subject asked the kids to be quiet. They responded by playing ding dong ditch at her door.

Sunday, 10:22 a.m., 8700 East Diane Drive, Ossian. Complaint of dogs barking.

Monday, 4:48 p.m., U.S. 224 and 100 E, Ossian. Driver cited for driving while suspended, officer gave subject a ride home.

Monday, 11:41 p.m., S.R. 1 and 1200 N, Ossian. Driver arrested for driving while suspended.

Tuesday, 7:46 a.m., Silo Farms. Subject warned for

trespassing.

FIRES

Monday, 6:44 p.m., ADM Alliance Nutrition, Bluffton. Structure fire, out but still smoldering. Nottingham Township, Ossian, Liberty Township and Bluffton fire departments responded. Incident terminated at 7:31 p.m.

ARRESTS

Jared Thomas Hogan, 25, Fort Wayne; operating a vehicle while intoxicated — endangerment, a Class A misdemeanor, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

Giancarlo Magana Beltran, 22, Fort Wayne; operating without financial responsibility, a Class C misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Zackery Allen McDowell, 29, Bluffton; sex offender registration violation, a Level 5 felony and failure to possess ID as a sex offender, a Level 6 felony. No bond set.

Jean Carlos Valdiviesco Catano, 30, Huntington; operating without ever obtaining license, a Class C misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Derek Allen Beaty, 32, Connersville; driving while suspended — prior, a Class A misdemeanor. Booked and released.

City to purchase new internal software

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Tyler Technologies will supply the city with new internal software for payroll, budgets and other city functions.

The Board of Public Works and Safety approved the purchase on Tuesday after a description of services from IT Director Karen Morris. Implementing the software will cost \$145,050, which will be spread out over the next two years. It will cost \$41,677 annually.

Morris stated that the new software will track city spending and available funds, streamline budgeting and data entry processes, collect timesheets electronically, offer an online training program and be accessible from anywhere.

"This is more what drives the city's functions internally," Morris said. "This is all of our software that we (use to) track all of our finances through the city, all the invoices we have to pay ... this is our finance system, it's our payroll and HR system, it's also the system that tracks all the utility billing."

Board member Scott Mentzer said that this can be paid for without any changes to the 2025 budget, with Morris adding that some unused 2024 funds can be encumbered into next year to ease the burden. Improvements to financial reporting were a major factor in the change, with board member Josh Hunt commenting that the board has struggled at times with the original providers due to the type of software provided.

Mentzer, Hunt and Mayor John Whicker all

acknowledged that implementing the new software will come with its own challenges, but expressed excitement over the new systems.

Water Distribution Supervisor Dave Hendricks also asked the city to consider another brand of water meters, as he's currently waiting as long as nine months to receive meters for new homes. Hendricks reported that other brand-sled times are as low as one month, but will review other brands before making a decision.

Additionally, the board approved an encroachment agreement for Ben Burman. Burman's business sign currently encroaches on a city utility easement. Utility Director Jon Oman stated that Burman will be responsible for taking down the sign at 1796 South Main St. should the city work south of that location. City Attorney Tony Crowell will draft an agreement to be signed at a later date.

John Lee of Bill's Roofing and Siding also requested the closure of two alleys near First Baptist Church on Cherry Street. Lee said that they plan to replace the roof of the church's schoolhouse on the southwest side of their location. The Nov. 18 closure is expect to last until 5 p.m.

The board also approved Christine Bennett's transfer from the 911 Dispatch Department to fill the ordinance compliance officer vacancy. Hendricks also received a raise. Additionally, a \$53,328 SRF Claim was paid to Inliner Solutions.

[jonathan@news-banner.com](mailto:jonathan@news-banner.com)



Members of the First Presbyterian Mission committee presented a check for \$500 to Roger Sherer, left, to be used for the 4-H Backpack program. Left to right are Sherer, Sandy Garcia, Jan Babcock and Sue Smith. The committee members were recent packers for the weekly backbacks sent home with county children who would not otherwise have food over a weekend. (Photo provided)

Backpackers in need of some volunteers

Roger Sherer, from the 4-H Backpack Program, has explained that currently there are enough packers for the rest of the year, however there are other needs for the program.

One volunteer is needed to pick up bread at the Ossian Pantry on Wednesdays or Thursdays and transfer it to the 4-H Park.

Another is needed to pick up the weekly fresh fruit order from Ginger Fresh in Ossian and bring to the 4-H Park.

Other volunteers could be used to pick-up the recycled bags from the schools involved in the program.

Anyone wishing to assist with the program should contact Sherer through the 4-H office at 824-6412.

Obituary Policy

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

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

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

**John Meyer**  
 Calling: 1 - 8 p.m.  
 Thursday, November 14 at the funeral home.  
**Funeral:** 10 a.m.  
 Friday, November 15 at Bluffton North Apostolic Christian Church.  
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## The three I's that dominated election results

As the results rolled in last Tuesday night it became clear the 2024 general election was about the Three I's: inflation, immigration and independents.

And all three favored Republicans in what can only be called a trouncing nationally and in Indiana.

President-elect Donald Trump's victory was larger than expected, and the Senate also flipped to the GOP. Control of the U.S. House has not been finalized but also is trending Republican.

In Indiana, voters chose their fourth consecutive Republican governor. And despite some intrigue in the final weeks, it wasn't even close. Neither was the attorney general or U.S. Senate races.

And while Democrats had hoped to put a dent in legislative GOP supermajorities, at this point, not a single seat has changed hands. A few remain close with final ballots being counted.

Which brings me back to the Three I's.

### Inflation

Inflation is something hard for any candidate to overcome. It's in every gallon of milk or carton of eggs people buy. It's there every time they write a check for their rent or mortgage. And it's in the shrinking pot of discretionary money for vacations or home improvements.

Conservative pollster Christine Matthews noted on X that high inflation produces one-term presidencies. The highest rates were under former Presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter, and the outgoing President Joe Biden.

Some thought this election would be a referendum on abortion and reproductive rights. But after two cycles it is clear the issue doesn't swing elections — especially here in Indiana.

When given the opportunity to vote directly on abortion access, many Americans support such freedoms. But Hoosiers have limited access to ballot measures. And when stacked next to wages and the economy, voters — especially those in the working class — place those issues higher.

### Immigration

Next up is immigration. Even those supportive and welcoming of immigrants coming to the United States were bothered by the pace and scope of the border crossings. And Republicans did a masterful job of ramping up the fear around crime and illegal voting.

Democrats, meanwhile, underestimated its impact from early on in President Joe Biden's term.

Exit polling showed immigration was not the primary issue for voters but regularly ranked in the top five.

About 57% of voters in an October New York Times/Siena College poll said they supported deporting immigrants living in the country illegally, including about 30% of Democrats and 58% of independents. (About 85% of Republicans supported deportation.)

### Independents

And speaking of independents, with Republicans and Democrats entrenched on either side, the voters in the middle had their say.

Self-identified independents accounted for a larger share of voters in Tuesday's U.S. presidential election than Democrats and were tied with Republicans, Reuters reported. The independent share stood at 34% in the latest update of the Edison Research exit poll, compared with 34% for Republicans and 32% for Democrats.

Republicans on the state and national levels now have mandates — and it's time to govern.

On the state level, I expect complex discussions on helping poor residents with medical care, cutting taxes while maintaining services and improving Indiana's economy.

Hopefully, our leaders will use that mandate judiciously and responsibly, and treat all Hoosiers with respect and empathy.

*Niki Kelly is the editor of the Indiana Capital Chronicle, a non-profit newsroom. nkelly@indianacapitalchronicle.com*

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."

## Today in History

**By The Associated Press**  
Today is Wednesday, Nov. 13, the 318th day of 2024. There are 48 days left in the year.

Today in history: On Nov. 13, 2015, Islamic State militants carried out a set of coordinated attacks in Paris at the national stadium, in restaurants and on streets, killing 130 people in the worst attack on French soil since World War II.

Also on this date: In 1775, during the Revolutionary War, American

troops captured Montreal under the command of Continental Army Gen. Richard Montgomery.

In 1909, 259 men and boys were killed when fire erupted inside a coal mine in Cherry, Illinois.

In 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed a lower court ruling which found Alabama bus segregation laws were illegal.

In 1971, the U.S. space probe Mariner 9 went into orbit around Mars, becoming the first spacecraft to orbit another planet.

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## Trans moralism is killing the Democrats

"How dare you say that" isn't a persuasive political argument.

Yet the side that has believed it can bully its way to victory on cultural issues by policing the debate in its favor continues to act as if it is one, even after getting soundly beaten in the election.

The Left's game has been to insist that everyone adopt its tendentious vocabulary, to call opponents bigots and to use moral blackmail — and the threat of punishment — to keep any left-of-center doubters in line.

This model, which has been quite successful over the years, has a flaw, though. If a given cause is exotic and unpopular enough, and if it becomes subject to a political debate where the broader public can weigh in, the attempt to define common sense as a thought crime is doomed to fail.

This is what happened on trans issues in the election. Donald Trump's "she's for they/them" attack ad was the most effective and consequential political spot of this century.

How is the Left taking it? By clinging to the old rules.

In an exchange on CNN that's gotten attention, the Republican strategist Shermichael Singleton said a lot of families don't think that boys should play girls' sports, eliciting an outraged reaction from progressive panelist Jay Michaelson.

Interrupting, Michaelson said heatedly that he wasn't going to listen to such "transphobia" and maintained with great vehemence that it is "a slur" to describe "trans girls" as "boys."

Notably, the anchor Abby Phillip — the moderator on what is supposed to be a straight-down-the-line news network — intervened, not to say that Singleton was free to use whatever term he thinks is most appropriate, but to rebuke him and ask him "to try to talk about this in a way that is respectful."

The Left's attitude on this issue is not, "You may disagree, but I believe trans girls are indeed girls," but rather, "They are girls and you have absolutely no moral right to say or think otherwise."

It adds a spirit of hectoring intolerance to the underlying absurdity of the position on the merits —

making it all even more off-putting.

The problem is that progressives consider whatever new boutique obsession they've come up with at any given moment to be the great moral issue of our time, indeed always to be the moral equivalent of the fight for civil rights.

So, someone who doesn't want to see boys competing in girls' sports, and simply rejects the fashionable terminology, is viewed as a modern-day Bull Connor.

This means no compromise is acceptable, even on the most pragmatic political grounds.

The longtime chairman of the Texas Democratic Party, Gilberto Hinojosa, just got defenestrated, at least in part for daring to say the obvious on the trans issues.

"You can support transgender rights up and down all the categories where the issue comes up, or you can understand that there's certain things that we just go too far on, that a big bulk of our population does not support," he said in an election postmortem.

He'd have been better off saying that the party should in the future call for the official end of the gender binary, by violence if necessary.

After getting slammed by his own side, Hinojosa groveled: "I extend my sincerest apologies to those I hurt with my comments today." And now he's gone anyway.

A top aide to Democratic representative Seth Moulton resigned after the congressman had the temerity to say that he doesn't want his daughters "getting run over on a playing field by a male or formerly male athlete, but as a Democrat I'm supposed to be afraid to say that."

Well, he's supposed to be afraid for a reason. He, too, was fiercely denounced by left-wing groups.

The Left's moralistic browbeating may succeed in reinforcing the trans-orthodoxy among its own. As we learned on Nov. 5, though, the rest of the country won't play by these poisonously stupid and illiberal rules.

*Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry*



**Rich Lowry**

## Steely patience underpins Mitch McConnell's unrivaled reign

Afflicted by polio in July 1944 at age 2, Mitch McConnell was for several years an outpatient at the Warm Springs, Georgia, polio recuperation facility an hour's drive from his home in Five Points, Alabama. One visit occurred nine days before another polio victim, Franklin D. Roosevelt, died there of a cerebral hemorrhage.

Steel entered FDR's temperament after steel braces became necessary when he began to lose the use of his legs at age 39. Now, Michael Tackett, deputy Washington bureau chief for the Associated Press, in his fine, evenhanded McConnell biography, "The Price of Power," describes polio's contribution to the making of McConnell's "indefatigable" patience (former House speaker Paul Ryan's words). McConnell has become the second-most consequential conservative — after Ronald Reagan — in national politics in his lifetime.

Forbidden from walking for two years, McConnell made up for lost time. At 42, he was elected to the Senate 40 November ago. Of the 2,004 people who have been senators, none has led their party's caucus longer than McConnell's 17 years, a tenure that ends this week, when Senate Republicans will select his replacement.

Democracy, which is institutionalized persuasion, requires patience, which sometimes requires ignoring public opinion that can be — that real leaders can make — malleable. Although democracy is government by talk, McConnell, "saying little, revealing less," has, Tackett writes, an "inexhaustible capacity to listen." Said Sam Rayburn, who served as House speaker intermittently for 17 years: "No one has a finer command of language than the person who keeps his mouth shut."

Tackett says McConnell's colleagues "think he has another super-



**George Will**

power: he does not care what people think about him. ... He is not weakened by temporary needs like getting applause." Research has shown some common personality traits of polio survivors, particularly self-denial and competitiveness. And in McConnell's case, knowledge that private challenges, such as polio, can be far more fearsome than public disapproval.

Henry Clay, now Kentucky's second-most accomplished senator, was, like McConnell, averse to articulating political philosophy. McConnell's accomplishments are his philosophy distilled. They include, inter alia:

Protecting free speech from attacks from left and right. Using the legislature to make federal courts more judicial and less legislative. And demonstrating that what the Declaration of Independence calls "a decent respect to the opinions of mankind" implies that there can be indecent truckling to opinion.

McConnell has implacably opposed campaign spending restrictions because all political spending supports, directly or indirectly, political speech, the proper amount of which should not be determined by the government. McConnell's vote prevented cluttering the Constitution with an amendment banning the expressive act of burning the flag. For these positions, he was denounced. He did not care.

Philosopher Michael Polanyi (1891-1976) defined "tacit knowing" as knowledge that can be transmitted only by example, not words. He cited mankind's subsequent inability to produce violins of the quality Stradivarius routinely made 200 years ago. McConnell, treating politics as a vocation, has acquired "tacit knowing" of legislative politics by having no goal beyond the Senate. He never had presidential aspirations, the ruin

of many senators.

McConnell was a Senate Judiciary Committee staffer in 1969 when he experienced rehearsals for future fights: Two Nixon Supreme Court nominees were rejected. Decades later, McConnell blocked confirmation of Merrick Garland during the 2016 presidential campaign but permitted the confirmation of Amy Coney Barrett during the 2020 presidential campaign. McConnell's two rationales were statements by Democratic Sens. Joe Biden and Charles E. Schumer indicating that Democrats, in similar situations, might behave as McConnell was doing. Tackett considers McConnell's rationales pretextual. McConnell was, however, correct about Democrats' future ruthlessness regarding judicial confirmations.

When Republicans had a slender Senate majority during Donald Trump's first administration, the president demanded that McConnell do what Democrats today promise to do when next they have a Senate majority: transform the Senate by abolishing the legislative filibuster. McConnell ignored Trump, refusing to bend to the man he despises as "not very smart, irascible, nasty."

Plutarch said politics, unlike an ocean voyage, has no finality: "It is not a public chore, to be got over with. It is a way of life." Today, Americans say they hate politics. Actually, what they hate is its opposite: the performative preening that has displaced politics, which is the patient bargaining that has defined McConnell's life.

In 2022, while running to be Ohio's senator, JD Vance denounced McConnell, who did not care: Vance's narrow victory was secured by \$32 million from McConnell's political action committees. McConnell means that being in the majority can mean associating with unpleasant, insubstantial people. This, too, is the price of power.

*georgewill@washpost.com*



# Tigers top Norsemen, notch second win with another strong offensive output

By ANDREW FEEBACK

Statistically speaking, it wasn't the prettiest of wins for the Bluffton Tiger basketball team Tuesday night.

The final score was much more to their liking, however, as they defeated the visiting Northfield Norsemen by the score of 76-42.

"When everybody asked me today, I didn't really say what we were going to get offensively, because I didn't really know how that would go," coach Doug Curtis said. "We were going to try and push tempo and do what we always do, but I knew it wouldn't be like Saturday. That was a team we didn't have to worry about, and this was a team we did have to worry about. What I was telling them was what I thought the difference in the game should be, and I was pretty happy with the point spread."

The Tigers (2-0) were fresh off a 99-point outburst three nights earlier against Fort Wayne Canterbury, though as Curtis mentioned, this game was against a tougher opponent.

Bluffton was never really threatened in this one, but Northfield (1-2) stayed close for a while, drawing within 25-18 midway through the second frame. The Tigers gradually began to pull away from that point, leading 42-23 at halftime and eventually pushing the lead over 30 points in the fourth.

Isabella Stout topped the Tigers with 23 points, while freshman Khloe Dick added 21. Konley Ault chipped in 10 in spite of what felt like an off-game for her.

"Konley struggled a bit tonight, so Khloe Dick stepped up and had a big night," Curtis said. "That's what's going to happen for us. We've got three really good, driving perimeter players between Bella, Konley and Khloe. If we can get two of those going, and we did tonight, we'll be fine."

Northfield didn't get much outside of Elliott Baker, who led all scorers with 24 points.

Bluffton was 26-65 from the field for 40%, including 6-19 from beyond the arc.

Northfield was 13-8 overall and 1-12 from deep.

A textbook early-season basketball game will often have a lot of whistles and very little flow. That was certainly the case in this one, with the teams combining for 39 fouls and 53 free throws attempts.

While Curtis was glad to see his team get to the free throw line 28 times, he wants to see them cut back on the fouls.

"We have to continue to work on our defense," he said. "One thing I wasn't happy with tonight, we reached too much. That might be the only thing I was really disappointed in. We didn't shoot the three very well, but we're not going to shoot it great every game."

"We've just got to continue to improve at the little things," he continued. "It's only the second game, and we didn't get much of a challenge in the first game. This was better, a step up, and then Saturday is going to be a big step up."

The Tigers will travel to East Noble Saturday night.

Bluffton also won the junior varsity game 43-27. Kamryn Ault had 15 points. Madelyn Funk added seven, while Isla Gibson, Grace Fry, Addison Kauffman and Krista Blair each had four.

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## BLUFFTON 76, NORTHFIELD 42

At Bluffton  
**NORTHFIELD (1-2):** Elliott Baker 8-15 7-8 24, Camryn Kuhn 0-7 0-0 0, Callie Hoffman 0-3 1-4 1, Laney Hauptert 1-13 2-4 4, Ayla Dale 0-1 0-0 0, Teagan Baer 3-6 3-5 9, Emma Wilson 0-0 0-0 0, Emily Miller 0-0 2-2 2, Millie Higgins 0-1 0-0 0, Faith Krom 1-1 0-0 2, Ali Copeland 0-1 0-0 0. TOTALS: 13-48 15-25 42.

**BLUFFTON (1-3):** Khloe Dick 8-16 2-2 21, Isabella Stout 7-18 8-12 23, Konley Ault 3-10 4-6 10, Marly Drayer 0-0 0-0 0, Maryn Schreiber 2-7 0-0 4, Tressa Renner 1-5 1-2 3, Madyson Sonnigsen 2-4 2-4 8, Madelyn Funk 0-0 0-0 0, Sophie Eisenhut 1-3 1-2 3, Isla Gibson 1-1 0-0 2, Kamryn Ault 1-1 0-0 2. TOTALS: 26-65 18-28 76.  
 Northfield 13 10 12 7 — 42  
 Bluffton 19 23 14 20 — 76

Three-point Field Goals: Northfield 1-12 (Baker 1-3, Hauptert 0-5, Kuhn 0-4), Bluffton 6-19 (Dick 3-9, Sonnigsen 2-4, Stout 1-3, Renner 0-2, Ault 0-1). Rebounds: Northfield 29 (Baer 7, Baker 5, Hoffman 5, Hauptert 3, Kuhn 3, Miller 2, Krom 2, Higgins 1, Copeland 1), Bluffton 43 (Schreiber 11, Stout 8, Sonnigsen 6, Eisenhut 6, Ault 4, Dick 3, Renner 3, Drayer 2). Turnovers: Northfield 24, Bluffton 13. Fouls: Northfield 18, Bluffton 21. Fouled out: None. Technicals: None.  
 JV: Bluffton 43, Northfield 27.



Bluffton's Konley Ault (right) hustles to a loose ball to gain possession ahead of a Northfield defender during the first half of Tuesday night's non-conference game in Bluffton. The Tigers improved to 2-0 on the season with a 76-42 win. (Photo by Chad Kline)

# Raiders reach three-game win streak, crushes Rockets

By RYAN WALKER

PONETO — The Raiders just keep on winning.

For the third straight game, Southern Wells picked up a girls' basketball victory, defeating the visiting Union Modoc Rockets (1-2) 54-31 improving to 3-1 on the season.

The Raiders dominated the second half, and it was much needed. They struggled out to a 23-14 advantage to the locker room at the break with issues turning the ball over. The team made nine shots but several miscues that kept the Rockets in the contest.

"I feel like the first half was probably the worst half of basketball we've played, to be honest," Southern Wells head coach Kyle Penrod admitted. "I don't have turnover numbers, but we probably had 15 in the first half, it felt like. We were generating those turnovers with our defense, but we were giving it right back instead of converting. We went in at halftime with 23 points and I felt like we could have 35 points."

But while the Raiders were giving the ball away, their opponent would give it right back. They created 31 total turnovers in the game, and the Rockets struggled to keep the ball on their side of the court.

The only buckets in the first half for Southern Wells were two-point buckets and free throws. As rough as the opening half was though, the Raiders took care of the ball much better in the second.

The Raiders scored three straight layups to begin the third quarter from Ashlie Needler, Collena Reeves and Kaylee Davis. Then, Erika Beavans nailed the team's first three. She followed that with another one toward the end of the quarter, and that gave them a 17-point edge and sparked a 12-4 run.

"Those two shots (by Beavans), whatever the cushion was, it extended it to where it was out off reach," Penrod said.

The offensive turnovers became points, and the defensive side never let up to cruise away with the 23-point win.

Beavans led the Raiders with 12 points and also got help from guards Davis (nine) and Kaylea Coffel (eight), who took a few steals of their own for points.

Penrod's quick and scrappy defense is taken advantage of mostly by the guards, and his focus has been on Coffel hustling to the rim. Before the game, he told his sophomore to run the floor with more intent and create some easy points. In the second half, she scored eight times on such plays and tallied her eight points.

"Coffel had a good game," Penrod said. "I was really happy with her because the first two games, she had been maybe a little hesitant to run and make plays. I told her today, 'Get out and run, and we're going to get it to you. Go score.' That's the best thing she brings to the team."

Southern Wells outscored Union Modoc 33-17 in the second half.

The Raiders will visit Lakeland Christian at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15.

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## SOUTHERN WELLS 54, UNION MODOC 31

At Southern Wells  
**UNION Modoc (1-2):** Kenzy Ogden 6-10 2-3 13, Glory Ellis 5-15 1-6 11, 2-5 0-0 4, Addie Farmer 0-3 0-0 0, Gracie French 0-5 0-0 0, Leah Schmucker 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 12-38 3-9 54.

**SOUTHERN WELLS (3-1):** Erika Beavans 5-8 0-0 12, Kaylea Davis 4-8 1-1 9, Kaylea Coffel 4-7 0-0 8, Aubree Meyer 2-3 0-0 4, Gracie Reeves 1-6 2-3 4, Collena Reeves 1-2 1-1 3, Kenzie Paxson 1-5 2-2 3, Kyah Thomas 1-3 0-0 2, Cadence Watkins 0-1 1-2 1, Callie Ripberger 0-4 0-0 0, Remi Holmes 0-1 0-0 0. TOTALS: 21-58 8-12 54.  
 Union 6 8 11 6 — 31  
 So. Wells 11 12 20 11 — 54

Three-point FG: Union Modoc: 1-9 (Ogden 1-2, Ellis 0-3, Farmer 0-2, French 0-1, Schmucker 0-1), Southern Wells: 2-13 (Beavans 2-2, Davis 0-3, Meyer 0-1, Gracie Reeves 0-3, Thomas 0-1, Ripberger 0-1, Holmes 0-1). Rebounds: Union Modoc: 29 (Ellis 12, French 6, Ogden 5, Schmucker 3, Farmer 2, Schwartz 1), Southern Wells: 26 (Needler 10, Collena Reeves 4, Davis 3, Coffel 2, Ripberger 2, Paxson 2, Gracie Reeves 1, Watkins 1, Holmes 1). Turnovers: Union Modoc: 31, Southern Wells: 21. Fouls: Union Modoc: 7, Southern Wells: 11. Fouled Out: None. Technicals: None.  
 JV: No game.



Southern Wells defenders Kyah Thomas (right) and Kenzie Paxson (middle) get in the face of Union Modoc's Glory Ellis on a floater during a game at the Raider Dome. The Raiders defeated the Rockets 54-31 in the nonconference matchup. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

# Knights get bounce back victory, take down Bruins at The Castle

Norwell snuck past Northrop 62-57 in girls' basketball at The Castle Tuesday night.

The Knights improved to 3-1 on the season, while the Bruins, who picked up receiving votes in the most recent IFBA Poll, fell to 1-1.

This was a big bounce back for Norwell, who recently fell to Warsaw at home over the weekend.

Vanessa Rosswurm scored 23 points and tallied five rebounds, four assists and three steals. Macie Saalfrank dropped 16 points, and Addison Norris went 4-7 from downtown for 14 points.

Norwell's next game will be at Northridge starting at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16.

0, Miracle O'Neal 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 19-55 8-15 57.

**NORWELL (3-1):** Vanessa Rosswurm 10-22 2-3 23, Macie Saalfrank 5-16 2-3 16, Addison Norris 5-10 0-0 14, Ashley Waldman 1-3 2-2 5, Alivia Green 1-2 2-2 4, Ryland Graft 0-1 0-0 0, Haley Williams 0-0 0-0 0, Mekynzi Beck 0-0 0-0 0, Jada Dale 0-2 0-0 0, Isabella Swineford 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 22-56 8-10 62.

**Northrop 22 15 10 10 — 57**  
**Norwell 17 17 16 12 — 62**  
 Three-point FG: Northrop: 11-28 (Jackson 6-9, Wyss 3-6, Rice 1-3, Day 1-6, William-Thomas 0-4), Norwell 10-30 (Norris 4-7, Saalfrank 4-12, Rosswurm 1-5, Waldman 1-3, Graft 0-1, Dale 0-2). Rebounds: Northrop: 49 (Rice 11, William-Thomas 10, Jackson 5, Day 4, Wyss 2, Webb 1, O'Neal 1), Norwell 25 (Rosswurm 5, Green 4, Norris 2, Waldman 2, Saalfrank 2, Beck 2). Turnovers: Northrop: 25, Norwell 14. Fouls: Northrop: 13, Norwell 16. Fouled Out: None. Technicals: None.  
 JV: Not sent.  
 Freshman: 41-37 Norwell.



## NORWELL 62, NORTHROP 57

At Norwell  
**NORTHROP (1-1):** Swynn Jackson 8-13 2-4 24, Hala William-Thomas 5-20 3-5 13, Marion Wyss 3-8 0-0 9, Brilee Day 2-9 2-4 7, Alivia Rice 1-5 1-2 4, Jersey Webb 0-0 0-0 0

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# Kansas Jayhawks beat Michigan State in Champions Classic

By PAUL NEWBERRY  
AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Hunter Dickinson scored 28 points and Bill Self became the winningest coach in Kansas history as the top-ranked Jayhawks pulled away from Michigan State for a 77-69 victory in the Champions Classic on Tuesday night.

Spartans forward Jaxon Kohler hit a 3-pointer to tie the game at 52 with just under nine minutes remaining. KJ Adams Jr. hit a pair of free throws to put Kansas (3-0) ahead to stay.

Self improved to 591-143 in his 22nd season coaching the Jayhawks, pushing him past Phog Allen's mark of 590-219 in 39 seasons on the Kansas sideline.

Frankie Fidler led Michigan State (2-1) with 15 points.

The Jayhawks posted their second straight win over one of the nation's prominent programs, following up a 92-89 win over No. 10 North Carolina.

### Takeaways

Kansas: After missing 15 straight shots from the field, Kansas ripped off a 14-2

run that turned an 18-16 deficit into a 30-20 lead.

Michigan State: The Spartans couldn't overcome a tough shooting night, especially from beyond the arc. They made just 3 of 24 from 3-point range.

### Key moment

Dajuan Harris Jr. gave the Jayhawks some breathing room when he laid one in off a fast break, drew a foul and completed the three-point play for a 68-59 lead with 4:25 to go. After tumbling to the court, Harris remained on his back for a few seconds, clapping furiously. He finished with 11 points and six assists.

### Key stats

The 7-foot-2 Dickinson made 13 of 21 shots from the field, including his only 3-point attempt, and grabbed 12 rebounds. He also had three steals and a block at the defensive end.

### Up next

Kansas returns home Saturday to face Oakland. Michigan State hosts Bowling Green on Saturday.

# Oregon tops Week 2 College Football Playoff rankings and Georgia drops out of the bracket

By EDDIE PELLIS  
AP National Writer

Undeclared Oregon stayed on top in the second batch of College Football Playoff rankings, while Tuesday's poll shoved Georgia completely out of the bracket after its lopsided loss to Mississippi.

Led by the Ducks, then Ohio State, the Big Ten captured four of the top five spots — a string interrupted only by Texas of the Southeastern Conference, which was slotted in at No. 3 and would receive a first-round bye.

Georgia's 28-10 loss to Ole Miss dropped the Bulldogs from third to all the way to 12th, but they would be the first team out because No. 13 Boise State of the Mountain West would receive an automatic bid and the final spot in the 12-team bracket as the fifth-best conference champion.

BYU was ranked sixth, but would receive a first-round bye as the Big 12's champion if it wins out.

Those byes go to the four highest-ranked conference champions, meaning Miami of the Atlantic Coast Conference would get a pass into the quarterfinals per this week's version of the bracket despite a loss to Georgia Tech that dropped the Hurricanes five spots to No. 9.

The other ranked teams: No. 4 Penn State, No. 5 Indiana, No. 7 Tennessee, No. 8 Notre Dame, No. 10 Alabama and No. 11 Ole Miss.

The CFP committee releases rankings every week, closing on Dec. 8 with the final poll that will determine the official pairings. College football's first 12-team playoff begins with first-round games Dec. 20-21 and concludes with the title game on Jan. 20.

Much of the hand-wringing this week had to do with Georgia's nine-spot drop in

the rankings and its ouster from the bracket. Yes, the Bulldogs have two losses, but they also have what is widely regarded as the toughest schedule in the country. It wouldn't seem right, though, if they were ranked ahead of Ole Miss after last Saturday's beat-down.

"Both Alabama and Ole Miss beat them head-to-head," said Michigan athletic director Warde Manuel, who chairs the selection committee. "As we went through the rankings and looked at everyone, they obviously fell to 12, but it's based on who won in front of them, head-to-head and everything we look at in terms of body of work."

Both the SEC and Big Ten placed four teams in the projected Week 2 bracket.

Undeclared Army of the American Athletic Conference moved up one spot to No. 24 — still behind three teams with three losses — while Colorado came in at No. 17. Coach Deion Sanders' Buffaloes can earn a spot in the Big 12 title game by winning their next two games.

### Projected first-round matchups

First-round games will take place on the campus of the better-seeded team. Here's what the matchups would look like based on this week's rankings (teams listed by seed, not ranking):

No. 12 Boise State at No. 5 Ohio State: The Buckeyes could still get a chance to avenge their one-point loss to Oregon in the Big Ten title game.

No. 11 Ole Miss at No. 6 Penn State: Rivalry brewing? The Rebels beat the Nittany Lions 38-25 in the 2023 Peach Bowl.

No. 10 Alabama at No. 7 Indiana: Alabama has 77 bowl appearances; Indiana has 13.

No. 9 Notre Dame at No. 8 Tennessee: The programs have split eight meetings. Notre Dame won the last one in 2005.

# Free-falling Bears fire offensive coordinator Shane Waldron

By ANDREW SELIGMAN  
AP Sports Writer

The Chicago Bears fired offensive coordinator Shane Waldron on Tuesday, hoping to shake up a unit that ranks among the worst in the NFL.

Offensive passing game coordinator Thomas Brown was promoted to offensive coordinator.

The moves come with the Bears (4-5) mired in a three-game losing streak and the offense in a free fall after an offseason overhaul highlighted by the arrival of Caleb Williams with the No. 1 overall draft pick.

Coach Matt Eberflus said Monday that changes were coming in the wake of a 19-3 loss to New England at Soldier Field, though he wasn't ready yet to announce them. He said the decision on whether to retain his offensive coordinator would be "mine alone."

"After evaluating our entire operation, I decided that it is in the best interest of our team to move in a different direction with the leadership of our offense. This decision

was well-thought-out, one that was conducted deliberately and respectfully," Eberflus said Tuesday in a statement. "I would like to thank Shane for his efforts and wish him the best moving forward."

"Thomas is a bright offensive mind who has experience calling plays with a collaborative mindset. I look forward to his leadership over our offensive coaching staff and his plan for our players," Eberflus said.

Waldron lasted just nine games. He was hired in January to replace Luke Getsy, who was let go after two seasons. Getsy was subsequently hired as the Las Vegas Raiders' offensive coordinator and fired in November.

The Bears rank 30th in the NFL in total offense and 24th in scoring. Chicago has gone without a touchdown in back-to-back games for the first time since 2004. It's been 23 consecutive possessions without a TD for the Bears since they scored in the final minute at Washington in Week 8, when they lost on a Hail Mary pass by Jayden Daniels.

# News-Banner Scoreboard

## FOOTBALL

### NFL

#### AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Buffalo	6	4	0	800	224	226
Miami	3	6	0	333	147	202
N.Y. Jets	3	7	0	300	177	214
New England	3	7	0	300	160	220

South						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Houston	6	4	0	600	224	226
Indianapolis	4	6	0	400	208	223
Tennessee	2	7	0	222	157	240
Jacksonville	2	8	0	200	202	264

North						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Pittsburgh	7	2	0	778	215	146
Baltimore	7	3	0	700	318	253
Cincinnati	4	6	0	400	270	262
Cleveland	2	7	0	222	148	213

West						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Kansas City	9	0	0	1000	219	161
L.A. Chargers	6	3	0	667	186	118
Denver	5	5	0	500	197	177
Las Vegas	2	7	0	222	168	251

#### NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Philadelphia	7	2	0	778	233	161
Washington	7	3	0	700	290	217
Dallas	3	6	0	333	177	259
N.Y. Giants	2	8	0	200	156	222

South						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Atlanta	6	4	0	600	238	236
Tampa Bay	4	6	0	400	279	266
Carolina	3	7	0	300	167	310
New Orleans	3	7	0	300	227	246

North						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Detroit	8	1	0	889	284	157
Minnesota	7	2	0	778	221	171
Green Bay	6	3	0	667	230	194
Chicago	4	5	0	444	175	167

West						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Arizona	6	4	0	600	238	220
San Francisco	5	4	0	556	233	202
L.A. Rams	4	5	0	444	185	217
Seattle	4	5	0	444	210	221

### 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.

## BASKETBALL

### High School

#### Tuesday Girls' Scores

Alexandria 65, Delta 45

Anderson Prep Academy 49, Muncie Burris 47

Andrean 49, Portage 27

Argos 40, Triton 38

Attica 47, Frontier 19

Avon 80, Terre Haute North 32

Bedford N. Lawrence 57, Bloomington North 42

Bellmont 71, Ft. Wayne Concordia 44

Bloomington Home 41, Washington Catholic 28

Bloomington South 60, Edgewood 35

Bluffton 76, Northfield 42

Borden 58, Christian Academy 26

Cascade 74, Speedway 48

Cass 33, Manchester 30

Castle 58, Gibson Southern 32

Center Grove 54, Greenfield 37

Centerville 54, Blue River Valley 46

Central Christian 61, Horizon Christian 31

Clarksville 56, Crothersville 22

Clay City 42, Cloverdale 25

Columbia City 54, W. Noble 7

Columbia North 50, Mooresville 31

Corydon 63, S. Central (Elizabeth) 40

Covenant Christian High School 49, Indpls Shortridge 40

Crawford Co. 64, Salem 20

Culver Academy 41, Tippecanoe Valley 34

DeKalb 61, Ft. Wayne North 47

DeMotte Christian 46, Whiting 32

E. Central 52, Franklin Co. 26

E. Noble 47, Ft. Wayne Dwenger 40

Eastside 62, Ft. Wayne Blackhawk 42

Elkhart 57, Concord 28

Elwood 53, Frankfort 18

Evansville Christian 57, Evansville 10

Evansville Reitz 78, Evansville Bosse 9

Fairfield 45, Wawasee 40

Faith Christian 68, Traders Point Christian 18

Fountain Central 32, Clinton Central 26

Frankton 51, Hamilton Hts. 37

Fremont 62, Lakewood Park 44

### Tuesday, Nov. 12

#### EAST

Ft. Wayne Snider 51, Huntington North 40

Ft. Wayne Wayne 77, Blackford 8

Garrett 65, Heritage 35

Glenn 52, New Prairie 14

Greensburg 68, N. Decatur 36

Henryville 55, Rock Creek Academy 10

Heritage Hills 60, Evansville Mater Dei 30

Illiana Christian High School 41, Morgan Twp. 26

Indpls Cathedral 55, Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory Academy 32

Indpls Herron 57, Indpls Tindley 43

Indpls Park Tudor 55, Monrovia 50

Indpls Pike 78, Lafayette Harrison 26

Indpls Tech 48, Indpls Washington 13

Jay Co. 60, Ft. Wayne South 40

Jeffersonville 71, Jasper 55

Jimtown 40, Bethany Christian 39

Kokomo 54, W. Lafayette 31

Kouts 46, Hobart 42

Lafayette Central Catholic High School 59, Logansport 32

Lakeland (IN) 36, Goshen 22

Leo 43, Churubusco 39

Loogootee 55, Eastern (Greene) 29

Lowell 50, River Forest 18

Madison Shawe 68, Jac-Cen-Del 41

McCutcheon 66, Clinton Prairie 25

Monroe Central 51, Daleville 35

N. Central (Farmersburg) 58, N. Davises 31

N. Judson 70, S. Central (Union Mills) 32

N. Knox 46, Dubois 38

N. Montgomery 48, Eminence 27

N. Putnam 59, Crawfordsville 35

N. Vermillion 60, Southmont 59

Noblesville 56, Indpls Chatard 45

NorthWood 54, S. Bend Adams 47

Northeastern 57, Muncie Central 37





# SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

## King Classic Sudoku

		3	6	9		8		
	9		3	7				
		6	8			2		9
1		9						8
	6							7
		7				6		
	5					7		
6			4	2		8		5
9			3	1	6			

Difficulty: ★★★

11/13

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## SERVICES

### Services

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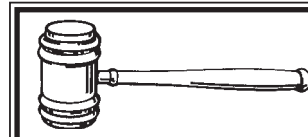
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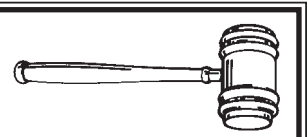
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# Public Sale Calendar



**NOVEMBER 13 - 6:30 p.m. ET - (Live and online) - Gary and Jennifer Weibaker, farm.** American Legion, 118 N. Broadway Street, Butler. Property location: Along and/or near CR 26 and CR 79 in Troy Twp. (Tract 1, North Part Tract 2) and Stafford Twp. (Tracts 2-4). Tracts 5-6 located near CR 20 and CR 27 in Smithfield Township. Adjoining tracts, road access, tile outlets, 264.651+/- acres, 6 tracts, DeKalb Co. Jon Rosen, 260-740-1846, Neal Wolhuter, 260-336-2219, Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management, halderman.com, 800-424-2324.

**NOVEMBER 14 - 6 p.m. - Becher Family Farms LLC, sellers.** Auction location: Adams Co. 4H Expo Hall, 160 W. Washington St., Monroe, IN. Four tracts, Washington Township, Adams County. Tract 1: 82.88 acres, County Rd. 200 West, Sec 18. Tract 2: 80.2 acres, County Rd. 450 North, Sec 8. Tract 3: 35.05 acres, County Rd. 450 North, Sec 9. Tract 4: 39.97 acres, County Rd. 400 North, Sec 9. Heartland Auction & Realty, Inc., heartlandauctionrealty.com, 260-724-3499.

**BIDDING ENDS NOVEMBER 17 - (Online only firearm) - McNamara, owners.** Rifles,

shotguns, handguns, ammunition, archery. Auction preview & online bidding assistance Nov. 16, 9 a.m.-11 a.m., 215 E. Market St., Bluffton, IN. Sale manager Isaac Stoller, 260-413-3515. Please review all registration information before bidding. The Steffen Group, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

**SOFT CLOSE STARTS NOVEMBER 17 - 6 p.m. - Herman Family farm & Elite Tooling, owner.** Online real estate auction. 47+/- acres, log home, machine shop, dog kennel, 2 ponds, CNC lathes, mill, machinist tools, Ferris mower, mowers, skid loader, 1960 Harley Davidson toppler. Green Auction, SoldonGreen.com, 260-589-8474.

**NOVEMBER 17-NOVEMBER 24 - (Online Only) - Various consignors, seller.** Large quantity of Christmas decorations, vintage toys, antiques, Early Featherweight sewing machine, rare primitive mud sled, modern and antique furniture, sporting goods, much more. Open houses Nov. 19 and Nov. 21 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 102 S. Jefferson St., Ossian. The Steffen Group Inc., www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

**NOVEMBER 24-DECEMBER 1 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of Eldrid Tinkel.** Major personal property auction. 1995 Ford XLT 1/2 ton pickup truck, Komatsu PC 10-6 backhoe mini excavator, antique tractors, horse equipment and horse drawn buggies, horse drawn covered wagon, horse drawn sled, farm implements, tremendous amount of tools, antiques, farm related items. Open house Nov. 24 from 2-4 p.m. and Nov. 29 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m., 1910 N Meridian St., Marion, IN. Brandon Steffen, sale manager, 260-710-5684, The Steffen Group Inc., www.steffengrp.com.

**NOVEMBER 25 - 6 p.m. - Christopher & Kellie Pierce, owner.** Held at Krueckeberg Auction Complex, 815 Adams Street, Decatur. Real estate & land auction! Tract 1: 2 bed, 1 bath, 948 sq. foot home, full basement, 40'x90' bank barn, 30'x20' barn, grain bin, wood-tilled, 6.5+/- acres. Tract 2: 4+/- acres tillable frontage on Hoagland Rd. Tract 3: 4+/- acres tillable frontage on SR 101 & Hoagland Rd. Tract 4: 42.5+/- acres tillable frontage on SR 101 & Hoagland Rd. To be sold in individual tracts or any combinations. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com.

**NOVEMBER 26 - 6 p.m. - (Live Auction) - The Estate of Jimmy L. Thompson, seller.** Auction location: 1245 4-H Park Rd., Bluffton, IN. 96.89+/- acres, Liberty Township, Section 18, southern Wells County farmland. Highly productive farmland with approximately 76+/- acres tillable land, road frontage along 500 W. and 200 S, approximately 15.5+/- acres in woods/classified forest. Nick Huffman, 260-827-8255, sale

manager, The Steffen Group Inc., www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

**BIDDING NOW OPEN AND STARTS CLOSING DECEMBER 1 STARTING AT 4 p.m. EST - Various consignors, owners.** Online only Elm Street consignment auction! Name brand woodworking tools, camping supplies, like new 24" Craftsman lawn vac, lawn & garden tools, weight lifting equipment, household furniture, Craftsman snow blower, antiques, collectibles, kitchen items, and much more! Preview Nov. 27, 3-5 p.m., 812 Elm Street, Decatur, IN. Pick up Dec. 2, 2-6 p.m., Dec. 3, 9 am.-noon. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com.

**DECEMBER 3 - Starts at 6 p.m. - Blackford Golf Club (Lort Services, Inc.), owner.** Held at Blackford County Fairgrounds, Hartford City, IN. Online bidding available. 105+/- acres offered in 7 tracts or any combination. Currently a golf course, potential farmland, recreational land, development potential, personal property available, Blackford Co. Inspections Nov. 16, 10 a.m.-noon, Nov. 19, 3 p.m.-5 p.m., 1605 W. Water St., Hartford City. Auction mgr. Al Pfister, 260-760-8922, Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc., schraderauction.com, 800-451-2709.

**DECEMBER 4 - 3 p.m. - Online - Dusty Roach, Bankruptcy Trustee, sellers.** 6,142 sq. ft. modern commercial building. Key features: 5 rental units w/4 office suites, 1 currently leased, 600 sq. ft. heated garage w/16'x12' overhead door, independently controlled heating and cooling for units, expansion potential w/additional land available for future. Open houses Nov. 20, 2-3 p.m., Nov. 27, 2-3 p.m., 2379 N. Main St., Bluffton, IN. Kurt Ness, auction mgr., 260-417-1545, Ness Bros. Realtors & Auctioneers, www.NessBros.com, 260-459-3911.

**DECEMBER 5 & 6 - 9 a.m. - Secured creditors & various consignors, owners.** 815 Adams, St., Decatur. Day 1: Online bidding only. Over 300+ lots including skid loader attachments, tool boxes, workbenches, iron gates, chains & binders, 1 trip 40' high side shipping container w/side doors, dome shelter containers, much more! Day 2 truck & equipment auction! Onsite and online bidding offering 600+ lots! Cars, SUV, 1/2 ton & 3/4 ton pickup trucks, cargo & passenger vans, dump trucks, large group of box trucks, day cabs, sleepers, utility trucks, bucket trucks, utility & semi trailers, SUV's pickup trucks, various skid steer attachments, much more! Accepting consignments! Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com.

**DECEMBER 8-15 - 2 p.m. - (Online only personal property) - Thomas B. & Mary**

### Board Appointments for 2025

The Wells County Board of Commissioners and/or the Wells County Council are accepting applications for Board Appointments to:

- Local Alcoholic Beverage Board
- Area Plan Commission Board
- Board of Zoning Appeals
- Cemetery Board
- Community & Family Services
- Health Department Board
- Huntington City/Town Public Library
- Property Tax Board of Appeals
- Regional Sewer District
- Rockcreek Conservancy District
- Tourism Commission

The appointments to these boards vary from annual appointments to 5-year appointments. All appointments are effective on January 1, 2025. Some qualifications may apply for certain boards. If you are interested in serving on any of these boards, please contact the Wells County Auditor's Office at 260-824-6470 for an application. Applications can also be downloaded by going to the Commissioner or County Council page of the County Website at [www.wellscounty.org](http://www.wellscounty.org). Send completed applications to Wells County Auditor, 102 W Market St., Suite 205, Bluffton, IN 46714 or email to [auditor@wellscounty.org](mailto:auditor@wellscounty.org). Applications will be accepted through November 27, 2024.

**Wells County, Indiana** prohibits discrimination and/or the exclusion of individuals from its governmental facilities, programs, activities, and services based on the individual person's race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, low-income status, sexual orientation or limited English proficiency. **Wells County, Indiana** affirms its commitment to providing meaningful opportunities and access to government facilities, programs, activities and services in an effort to comply with all laws including: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended.

## Public Notices

STATE OF INDIANA  
COUNTY OF WELLS  
IN THE WELLS  
COUNTY COURT  
CASE NO.  
90C01-2410-MI-000025

IN RE THE MATTER OF:  
Nicholas David Castator  
Petitioner

**ORDER SETTING HEARING**  
Comes now Nicholas David Castator, having filed a Verified Petition for Change of Name, and the Court finds that the matter should be set for hearing.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that this matter shall be heard on **JANUARY 13, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.** So ORDERED 10/18/2024  
Kenton W. Kiracofe  
Judicial Officer  
nb 11/13, 11/20, 11/27 hspaxlp

nb 11/6, 11/13, 11/20 hspaxlp

### NOTICE OF PETITION FOR TAX DEED FOR PROPERTY SOLD AT TAX SALE - OCTOBER 31, 2023

To: The Heirs of:  
**Glenn D. Masterson, deceased, & Ruby Lois Masterson, deceased**  
Subject Real Estate: **Murry South Addition 0.21 A & 0.92 ac East Side of SR 116, Bluffton, IN 46714 and south of 1153 N. Washington Street (Murray), Bluffton, Indiana 46714**  
Key Parcel No. 010-03631-00

You are hereby notified of the following:  
1. Darrell K. Lambert and Cynthia L. Lambert did on November 8, 2024, file a petition in the Wells Circuit Court, Cause No. 90C01-2310-TP-00001, requesting an order to the Wells County Auditor to issue a tax deed for the above identified real estate to Darrell K. Lambert and Cynthia L. Lambert, husband and wife.  
2. The street address, key parcel number and description for the real estate as shown on the certificate of sale is as follows:

**Murry South Addition 0.21 A & 0.92 ac East Side of SR 116, Bluffton, IN 46714**  
Key Parcel No. 010-03631-00

3. If a written objection to the Petition is not filed within 30-days from the date the Petition was filed, the Court may consider the Petition without a hearing.  
4. Not later than 61 days after the filing date of the Petition, the Court shall enter an order directing the County Auditor to issue to the Petitioners a tax deed if all requirements of IC 6-1-1-25.4.5(f) have been satisfied.  
Anthony O. Crowell  
Gordon & Associates, P.C.  
119 East Oak Forest Drive  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
Attorneys for Petitioners

nb 11/13 hspaxlp

# November GOODS & SERVICES DIRECTORY

**Jerry Flack & Associates**  
Jerry Flack & Julie Myers  
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Ossian, IN 46777  
Attorney  
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9	6	8	7	2	1	7	1	9
8	7	1	8	6	9	7	9	2
1	9	7	2	9	6	7	8	8
7	2	6	8	1	9	9	7	
8	9	8	9	7	7	6	2	1
6	8	2	9	1	8	9	7	7
9	1	9	7	7	8	2	6	8
7	8	7	6	9	2	8	1	9

# U.S. says it will not limit Israel arms transfers after some improvements in aid to Gaza

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration said Tuesday that Israel has made some good but limited progress in increasing the flow of humanitarian aid to Gaza and will not limit arms transfers to Israel as it had threatened to a month ago if the situation had not improved. Relief groups say conditions are worse than at any point in the 13-month-old war.

State Department spokesman Vedant Patel told reporters the progress to date must be supplemented and sustained but “we, at this time, have not made an assessment that the Israelis are in violation of U.S. law.” It requires recipients of military assistance to adhere to international humanitarian law and not impede the provision of such aid.

“We are not giving Israel a pass,” Patel said, adding that the steps Israel has taken have not yet made a significant enough difference. “We want to see the totality of the humanitarian situation improve, and we think some of these steps will allow the conditions for that to continue to progress.”

The decision from the U.S. — Israel’s key ally and largest provider of arms — comes despite international aid organizations declaring that Israel has failed to meet U.S. demands to allow greater humanitarian access to the Gaza Strip. Hunger experts have warned that the north may already be experiencing famine.

The Biden administration last month set a deadline expiring Tuesday for Israel to “surge” more food and other emergency aid into the Palestinian territory or risk the possibility of scaled-back military support as Israel wages offensives against Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The obstacles facing aid distribution were on this display this week. Even after the Israeli military gave permission for a delivery to the northernmost part of Gaza — virtually cut off from food for more than a month by an Israeli siege — the United Nations said it couldn’t deliver most of it because of turmoil and restrictions from Israeli troops on the ground.

In the south, hundreds of truckloads of aid are sitting on the Gaza side of the border because the U.N. says it cannot reach them to distribute the aid — again because of the threat of lawlessness, theft and Israeli military restrictions.

Dozens of people stood in long lines Tuesday waiting to receive food packages distributed by U.N. agencies in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis.

“We hope that the world would sympathize with us because of this affliction we are in,” Salim Abu Mansi said. “Life is poverty, and the country is getting worse every day.”

### Israel announces aid steps

It opened a new crossing in central Gaza, outside the city of Deir al-Balah, for aid to enter. It also announced a small expansion of its coastal “humanitarian zone,” where hundreds of thousands of Palestinians are sheltering in tent camps. It connected electricity for a desalination plant in Deir al-Balah. But the effect was unclear.

Israel’s new foreign minister, Gideon Saar, appeared to downplay the deadline, telling reporters Monday he was confident “the issue would be solved.” The Biden administration may have less leverage after Donald Trump — a staunch supporter of Israel — won the presidential election.

Secretary of State Anto-

ny Blinken met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s closest aide, Ron Dermer, in Washington on Monday about the steps Israel has taken and stressed “the importance of ensuring those changes lead to an actual improvement in the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza,” the State Department said Tuesday.

President Joe Biden met Tuesday at the White House with Israeli President Isaac Herzog, but they didn’t speak publicly about the aid issue. White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said the U.S. knew how dire the conditions were and would keep discussing with Israel the extra steps it needs to take.

### Aid organizations say Israel fails U.S. criteria

Eight international groups said in a report that the country also took actions “that dramatically worsened the situation on the ground, particularly in Northern Gaza. ... That situation is in an even more dire state today than a month ago.”

The report listed 19 measures of compliance with the U.S. demands, saying Israel had failed to comply with 15 and only partially complied with four. It was co-signed by Anera, Care, MedGlobal, Mercy Corps, the Norwegian Refugee Council, Oxfam, Refugees International and Save the Children.

In an Oct. 13 letter, the U.S. gave Israel 30 days, among other things, to allow a minimum of 350 truckloads of goods into Gaza each day; open a fifth crossing; allow people in coastal tent camps to move inland before the winter; and ensure access for aid groups to northern Gaza. It also called on Israel to halt legislation that would hinder operations of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA.

### Southern Wells hosts career expo

Students from across schools in Adams and Wells Counties arrived at Southern Wells Jr.-Sr. High School for a career expo Tuesday. The expo showcased different universities and organizations that students could choose for their next step. Above right, Cash Gilbert, right, talks with Kara Smith about university options. Bottom right, Ellie Dewese, left, and Hallie Frauhiger, middle, talk with Erica Bennett about opportunities for work out of high school. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)



# Pentagon secrets leaker Jack Teixeira sentenced to 15 years in prison

BOSTON (AP) — A federal judge sentenced a Massachusetts Air National Guard member to 15 years in prison Tuesday for leaking classified military documents about the war in Ukraine, actions prosecutors said put the country’s national security at risk, endangered other military members and damaged U.S. relationships with its allies.

Jack Teixeira had pleaded guilty in March to six counts of willful retention and transmission of national defense information under the Espionage Act, nearly a year after his arrest in the most consequential national security breach in years. Wearing an orange jumpsuit in court, he showed no reaction as he was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Indira Talwani.

“Today, Mr. Teixeira has paid a very heavy price for laws he broke, for the incredible damage that he caused,” Acting Massachusetts U.S. Attorney Josh Levy said afterward. “This significant sentence sends a powerful message to every individual who holds a top secret clearance. Anyone who willfully threatens our national security by illegally disseminating classified information will face very serious repercussions.”

Jodi Cohen, special agent in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Boston Division, told reporters the sentence held Teixeira accountable for “being one of the most prolific leakers of classified information in American history.”

“This former Air National Guardsman grossly betrayed our country and the oath he took to safeguard its secrets in order to boost his ego and impress his friends,” Cohen said. “This was not a victimless crime. The exceptionally grave damage he caused will impact our national security for decades to come.”

The leaks exposed to the world unvarnished secret assessments of Russia’s war in Ukraine, including information about troop movements in Ukraine, and the provision of supplies and equipment to Ukrainian troops. Teixeira also admitted posting information about a U.S. adversary’s plans to harm U.S. forces serving overseas.

Outside court, Teixeira’s attorney Michael Bachrach called it a “very difficult day” for his client and said Talwani imposed a “very severe punishment.” Still, he said, it was better than taking the case to trial.

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