

# The News - Banner

www.News-Banner.com

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2024

BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

\$1.00

## A 'jolly good' teacher

### Kylie Heckber is Norwell Educator of the Year

By SYDNEY KENT

Before the 2025 Norwell Educator of the Year was officially announced, tears were already falling on faces throughout the room.



Heckber (pictured) learns she is the 2024 Norwell Educator of the Year.

"I've got a bit of a surprise," Erin Prible with Wells County Chamber of Commerce began. "There are some people here to celebrate with me today. Lancaster Elementary School Special Education teacher Kylie Heckber put both hands in front of her.

"Okay ... you're going to make me cry," Prible laughed with tear-filled eyes.

"Wait, wait," Heckber paused as she looked to the door. Her young daughters walked in the room carrying balloons and flowers. Several Norwell staff members followed behind with more treats and flowers.

"I am thrilled to announce today that we are here to recognize a remarkable individual, Mrs. Kylie Heckber, as the 2025 Norwell Educator of the Year," Prible said. "Mrs. Heckber, one of the things that makes you stand out is your dedication to each and every one of your students. You are known for spending time with them one-on-one, in small groups, meeting wherever there is a need — whether in the hallway, under a table I am told as well, or right by their side



Kylie Heckber, middle, welcomes her daughters into her arms. (Photos by Sydney Kent)

when things get rough."

"You stepped up when needed leaving your fourth grade classroom mid-year to lead special education training and establish new district-wide programs. You collaborate with teachers to make sure all students succeed, and, of course, you make learning meaningful and fun for your students."

Heckber held tightly to her daughters as Prible spoke. Afterward, she gave a round of hugs and thanks to her fellow friends and colleagues. The group collectively laughed as Butcher explained the many steps and people involved in keeping the surprise a secret from her.

For example, LES Principal Ginger Butcher asked Assistant Principal Adam

McAfee to perform an "evaluation" with Heckber to keep her contained to her classroom.

At this, Heckber laughed loudly. "Was I doing a good job so far?" she joked. McAfee nodded his head laughing.

"Thank you for believing in me," Heckber told Butcher.

"Everyone needs a Kylie in their life," Butcher said wholeheartedly. "You make people better, 100% you make people better, whether at home or school."

"And thank you for trusting I could do this," Heckber told Norwell Education Services Director Mindy Scheumann.

At seven years teaching in the district, (Continued on Page 2)

## Harrison Township donates \$250K for pool

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Parks Department Superintendent Brandy Fiechter reported that the Harrison Township board has donated \$250,000 toward the construction of a new pool for Bluffton.

This donation comes after an interlocal agreement was signed between the Parks Department and Harrison Township board, which allows the township to donate funds for parks initiatives inside township borders. Fiechter described the donation to the Bluffton Park Board Thursday as a "huge upstart" for the pool, which is expected to

cost approximately \$6 million. Fiechter also said that she has visited different pools around the area for advice about materials and design suggestions for the new pool, including New Haven, Portland and Napoleon.

Jennifer Brink, Bluffton resident, recommended that Fiechter visit Columbus, Indiana's pool. Brink reported that Columbus's pool has hosted state competitions for U.S. swim meets, and recommended their adjustable grade at the pool's floor, which allows for

(Continued on Page 2)

## Indiana colleges, universities outline big capital requests

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

The day after Indiana's higher education agency recommended limiting capital projects in the next two-year budget, colleges and universities told lawmakers they want more.

Higher Education Commissioner Chris Lowery on Tuesday recommended that the General Assembly fund each institution's single-biggest capital priority, for a total of \$464 million.

He pushed for greater focus on renovat-

ing or maintaining existing facilities, noting the "significant" operating cost savings that work brings.

But Ivy Tech Community College and Indiana University pointed out their numerous campuses as they unveiled price tags for multiple desired capital projects, while Purdue University asked for more attention on semiconductors alongside its capital ask.

Some institutions pulled back on operations requests, noting the state's fiscal position. Education traditionally eats up half of (Continued on Page 2)

### Quilts for Vets

The Bee Happy Quilters' annual tradition of giving quilts to veterans happened Thursday evening. Veterans received various patriotic quilts in recognition of their service. Above, Molly Bauer presents the quilt she is giving away. At right, Veteran Richard Bremer takes some refreshments offered by the organization. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)



## Fed will likely cut rates cautiously given inflation pressures

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER  
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Chair Jerome Powell said Thursday that the Federal Reserve will likely cut its key interest rate slowly and deliberately in the coming months, in part because inflation has shown signs of persistence and the Fed's officials want to see where it

heads next.

Powell, speaking in Dallas, said that inflation is edging closer to the central bank's 2% target, "but it is not there yet."

At the same time, he said, the economy is strong, and the policymakers can take time to monitor the path of inflation.

"The economy is not sending any signals that we need to be in a

hurry to lower rates," the Fed chair said. "The strength we are currently seeing in the economy gives us the ability to approach our decisions carefully."

Economists expect the Fed to announce another quarter-point rate cut in December, after a quarter-point reduction last week and half-point cut in September.

But the Fed's steps after that are

much less clear. In September, the central bank's officials collectively signaled that they envisioned cutting their key rate four times in 2025. Wall Street traders, though, now expect just two rate reductions, according to futures pricing tracked by CME FedWatch. And after Powell's cautious remarks Thursday, traders estimated the likelihood of a Fed rate cut in

December at just below 59%, down from 83% a day earlier.

The Fed's benchmark interest rate tends to influence borrowing rates across the economy, including for mortgages, auto loans and credit cards. Other factors, though, can also push up longer-term rates, notably expectations for inflation and economic growth. (Continued on Page 2)

**Inside**

Local/Area

- Obituaries . . . . . 3
- Police Notebook . . . 3

Opinion

- Byron York . . . . . 4

Also...

- Sports . . . . . 6-7
- Classifieds . . . . . 7
- Diversions . . . . . 5

**Outside**

A gloomy November day; sunshine tomorrow

Today	Saturday	Sunday
High 53	High 55	High 61
Low 42	Low 42	Low 46

More Weather on Page 2

**Online**

Follow us on Facebook!  
Go to [www.facebook.com/newsbanner](http://www.facebook.com/newsbanner)

Place Your Classified Ads 24/7

Vol. 96 No. 12

**FRIDAY**  
November 15, 2024

**We Specialize in TOTAL CAR CARE**  
with FULL SERVICE & TRANSMISSION EXPERTS

2883 E.S.R. 124 • Bluffton | 104 Belmont Rd. • Decatur  
260-824-4929 • 260-724-2434 • [www.experttrans.com](http://www.experttrans.com)

**How to contact us:**

Call us: 824-0224  
or 1-800-579-7476  
email@news-banner.com

On the Web:  
[www.news-banner.com](http://www.news-banner.com)

Follow us at:  
[twitter.com/newsbanner](https://twitter.com/newsbanner)

## Norwell Educator of the Year

(Continued from Page 1)

Heckber is already well on her way to holding a permanent residence in the hearts of her students.

This was evident as Kyler Everett, a student at LES, excitedly burst into the room on Thursday afternoon. He requested to personally hand Heckber her “paperwork” for educator of the year.

“I now announce you teacher of the year!” Everett exclaimed. “Congratulations, Mrs. Heckber. This reminds me of a song — ‘For she’s a jolly good fellow, for she’s a jolly good fellow...’”

Everett thanked Heckber for her great ideas and making an impact in his life.

“This is well deserved,” Heckber’s husband, Bradley Heckber, said. “She works her butt off at home, at work, everywhere. She is a great mother and makes sure the kids and I are always taken care of. When I’m out in the fields for 18 hours, she has the house clean and a hot supper on the table.” Heckber earned her bach-

elor’s degree in elementary education in 2017 at IPFW and earned mild and intense intervention endorsements in 2024. Butcher explained that Heckber chose to leave the comforts of her classroom mid-year in order to pursue additional training and fill the special education position.

“Teaching runs through Kylie’s body,” Butcher said. “Helping students be successful and reach their potential is what fuels Kylie each and every day.”

Heckber said one of her favorite parts of the transition to special education has been the ability to spend more personal time with students and their parents in small groups.

“Some kids have extra needs because of their home lives,” Heckber paused to collect her tears. “Getting to help kids, whether with access to hygiene or extra love, I get to fill them up here. I always want to be the teacher that they remember forever.”

*sydney@news-banner.com*



Kylie Heckber holds her daughter closely as she listens to the Prible speak. (Photo by Sydney Kent)

## Harrison Township donation

(Continued from Page 1)

both ease of entry for smaller kids and competitive student meets. Fiechter said she would call Columbus’s pool and ask for other suggestions from them.

Additionally, the Park Board approved Isch Excavating’s bid for riverbank stabilization, directing them to stabilize a 1,100-foot area starting at Wayne Street to the Howard Rich Pavilion. Isch’s bid totaled \$145,000, with a \$100,000 Lake and River Enhancement grant helping fund the project alongside grants from the Wells County Foundation.

Fiechter said that Isch is looking to slope the bank by taking natural materials, such as root wads, and putting them into the base of the water. Fiechter mentioned that the reinforcement should build up the shoreline at an angle that will not undercut the trail near the area.

The board also approved a \$24,300 initiative for Engineering Resources to complete repairs of the basketball court and parking lot at Roush park. Fiechter stated that ARPA funds will pay for the repairs, which will include repairing broken up concrete and asphalt around the pavilion, resurfacing the basketball court and adding a parking lot to help with overflow. The proposal will now head to the Board of Public Works and Safety for final approval.

Fiechter reported that 1,888 people attended the Boo in Bluffton event on Halloween, which impressed the board members John Gerber, Christine Zady-lak, Rick McEvoy and Susan Campbell. Pavilion rentals also look to be steadily increasing during November, according to Fiechter.

A transfer of \$5,338.57 from the department’s salaries line item was also approved by the board, with \$4,979.90

going to the medical insurance and \$358.67 going to the public employees retirement fund line items.

Two Indiana Parks and Recreation Association awards were also recognized by the board. Rock Steady Boxing received an award in the Inclusion Program of Excellence category and Campbell won the Distinguished Citizen of the Year award for her 22 years of service.

Additional donations accepted by the Park Board are as follows:

- \$510 from the Lion’s Club for new door locks at Lancaster Park.
- Four new benches for Lancaster Park totaling \$2,933.98, with Dale and Pat Drummen, Buckets for Santa, Bluffton Sandy Koufax League and the Gene Donaghy family making a donation for one bench.
- \$775 for Rock Steady Boxing.

*jonathan@news-banner.com*

## Indiana colleges

(Continued from Page 1)

Indiana’s budget, and lawmakers have grown more anxious about fast-growing Medicaid spending following a \$1 billion shortfall last year.

**Ivy Tech makes its case**

Outgoing Ivy Tech President Sue Ellspermann said the system’s 19 campuses provide accessible, affordable and effective education to low-income, first-generation and older students, including those caring for dependent family members.

“At a time when Hoosiers are increasingly skeptical about the value of a college education or degree, Ivy Tech stands out,” she said. “Because, simply put, Ivy Tech delivers.”

Ivy Tech is Indiana’s largest post-secondary institution, according to Ellspermann. But, she contended, the state has offered a larger proportion of funds to other institutions.

**Ivy Tech President Sue Ellspermann presents**

“Ivy Tech needs a bigger piece of the pie to deliver for Indiana, for employers and for Hoosiers,” she said. “Despite the fact that Ivy Tech produced nearly half of post-secondary credentials last year, the college received 18% of higher education operating appropriations. Wouldn’t it be rational for most investors to invest more in entities which deliver more?”

Ellspermann noted the system is self-funding a capital project at a Fort Wayne campus, but needs state support for three other projects totaling nearly \$120 million. The campuses would raise and pay for the remaining 10% of costs for their projects.

She outlined a \$67 mil-

lion ask in Terre Haute, noting the campus’ original 60-year-old building lacks a fire suppression system and has outdated labs. A \$35 million request for the “landlocked” Evansville campus would replace a partially used strip mall with more room for health care, automotive technology and Industry 4.0 efforts. And \$15 million would take down the Michigan City campus’ current facility, an old hospital, and build an advanced manufacturing facility.

Ellspermann also asked lawmakers to keep a \$9 million line item aimed at graduating more nurses — it was initially approved during the pandemic’s severe nursing crunch — and to add \$5 million so that Ivy Tech can keep offering high school students free summertime classes.

**IU takes some heat**

IU President Pamela Whitten says the university system has already made some progress on its recently adopted strategic plan to support students, foster research and serve the state.

The university has expanded its use of student success coaches to all of its campuses, spent more on research, launched entrepreneurship support program IU Innovates, invested in microelectronics and biosciences, grown nursing enrollment and more.

Whitten asked lawmakers to boost current line items — \$2.5 million more annually for a clinical sciences institute and \$3.1 million more for the state’s geological and water survey — while adding two more line items: \$1.3 million annually for IU Innovates and \$5 million annually to support the

university’s police.

The university’s top capital priority is a \$96 million science building renovation and upgrade project. But Whitten discussed five other priorities worth \$334 million.

When Rep. Greg Porter, D-Indianapolis, emphasized the Commission on Higher Education’s one-each recommendation, Whitten countered that IU’s footprint is broad.

“That’s something that we grumble about at IU,” Whitten said of the traditional limit. “We have the Bloomington campus. We have five regional campuses, two sub-regional campuses, large medical school campuses, and yet we are held to the same expectation of one project, as one campus with 8,000 students (would be).”

“If you guys want to consider the size and scope of IU, we would be very pleased to have other projects considered as well,” she added.

Democrats also went after Whitten’s handling of campus protests of Israel’s actions in Palestine. The university changed protest policies shortly beforehand, allowed police snipers on its buildings and arrested dozens.

“How can you stand up, as the leadership of the university, against the pressure of politicians and the pressure of donors (and) do what is right?” asked Sen. Fady Qaddoura, D-Indianapolis. He emphasized freedom of speech rights for conservatives and liberals.

Whitten prioritized safety in her response and “would stand by that.” She said IU privileges freedom of speech but that “it needs to be done in ways that aren’t disruptive.” She rejected Qaddoura’s

assertion that outside forces influenced the university’s decisions.

**Purdue talks ambitions**

Purdue President Mung Chiang highlighted his university’s successes in growing in-state student admissions, keeping tuition flat for over a decade, graduating students with high earnings and low student debt loads, and so on.

He said Purdue will focus on developing its new Indianapolis location, its recent Purdue Computes initiative, the One Health Innovation District and its business school.

Chiang asked for no increases in the university’s technology, agriculture, paralysis research and manufacturing competitiveness line item appropriations. He cited economic conditions.

“We received increases on these items just (recently), and we want to make sure that we first spend and invest those resources in the most impactful way with return on those investments,” he said.

He spotlighted one capital project: \$90 million for a new life sciences research building to support One Health; Chiang said the university would kick in \$70 million.

“The impact will be a 140,000-square-foot project that will put Hoosiers’ human, animal and plant health together,” Chiang said. (We) would invent even more drugs than before, and we will have even more workforce developed out of this facility, and we’ll be able to attract even more talent to come to Indiana, stay in Indiana, and contribute to the One Health initiative.”

## Weather

Friday, November 15, 2024

(24-hour observations at 9:44 p.m. Thursday)

High: 56; Low: 48; Precipitation: 0.51 inches of rain

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.30 feet at 9:45 p.m. Thursday

## Wells County forecast

**Today:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 53. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Tonight:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 42. Northwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.

**Saturday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 55. Calm wind becoming southeast around 5 mph in the afternoon.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 42. Southeast wind around 5 mph.

**Sunday:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 61.

**Sunday Night:** A 20% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 46.

**Monday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 61.

**Monday Night:** Showers likely, mainly after 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 48. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

**Tuesday:** A 50% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 64.

**Tuesday Night:** A 40% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 48.

**Wednesday:** A 40% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 56.

## Inflation

(Continued from Page 1)

For example, Donald Trump’s presidential election victory has sent yields on Treasury securities higher. It is a sign that investors expect faster growth next year as well as potentially larger budget deficits and even higher inflation should Trump impose widespread tariffs and mass deportations of migrants as he has promised.

In his remarks Thursday, Powell suggested that inflation may remain stuck somewhat above the Fed’s target in the coming months. But he reiterated that inflation should eventually decline further. “albeit on a sometimes bumpy path.”

Under questioning, Powell also explained why he considers the Fed’s role as an independent federal agency to be crucial to its ability to fight inflation. During his first term, Trump threatened to try to fire Powell for not cutting interest rates. And during this year’s election campaign, Trump asserted that as president, he should have a “say” on the Fed’s rate policies.

Powell said Thursday that the Fed’s independence from political concerns has made the public confident that the policymakers will keep inflation low over time. That confidence, in turn, has helped reduce inflation after it had spiked

in the wake of the pandemic. When consumers and businesses expect inflation to slow, they act in ways that help hold it down — by, for example, not demanding high cost-of-living raises.

“The public,” Powell said, “believed that we would get inflation down, that we would restore price stability. And that’s ultimately the key to it.”

Powell declined to comment on other political topics, including the potential impacts of Trump’s proposals to impose sweeping tariffs and implement mass deport

Other Fed officials have also recently expressed uncertainty about how much more they can cut rates, given the economy’s steady growth and the apparent stickiness of inflation.

As measured by the central bank’s preferred inflation gauge, so-called core prices, which exclude volatile food and energy costs, have been stuck in the high 2% range for five months.

On Wednesday, Lorie Logan, president of the Fed’s Dallas branch, said it was not clear how much more the Fed should cut its key short-term rate.

“If we cut too far ... inflation could reaccelerate and the (Fed) could need to reverse direction,” Logan said. “I believe it’s best to proceed with caution.”

## The Leonid meteor shower peaks as the supermoon wanes

WASHINGTON (AP) — It’s a treat to see a supermoon. But that bright glowing orb will still be almost full when the Leonid meteor shower peaks this weekend, likely obscuring all but the brightest meteors in most locations.

The Leonids are known for their high-speed meteors, which can travel at up to 44 miles per second (70 kilometers per second).

“Unfortunately this year, the viewing conditions will be affected” by a nearly full moon, said Shyam Balaji of King’s College London. “Watching during the early morning hours, when the moon is lower in the sky, can improve your chances of seeing more meteors.”

This shower may result in around 15 visible meteors per hour under ideal viewing conditions.

This year’s peak activity on Sunday will happen when the moon is 98% full. The shower lasts through Dec. 2.

When rocks from space enter Earth’s atmosphere, the resistance from the air makes them very hot. This causes the air to glow around them and briefly leaves a fiery tail behind them — the end of a “shooting star.”

The glowing pockets of air around fast-moving space rocks, ranging from the size of a dust particle to a boulder, may be visible in the night sky.

Meteor showers are usually most visible between midnight and predawn hours.

It’s easier to see shooting stars under dark skies, away from city lights. Meteor showers also appear brightest on cloudless nights when the moon wanes smallest.

And your eyes will better adapted to seeing meteors if you aren’t checking your phone.

The meteor society keeps an updated list of upcoming large meteor showers, including the peak viewing days and moonlight conditions.



Ossian  
Health Communities



close to  
home; far  
from  
ordinary



215 DAVIS RD. OSSIAN, IN  
PH: 260-622-7821  
WWW.OSSIANHEALTHANDREHAB.COM

OBITUARIES

**Jerry Ickes, 82**

Jerry E. Ickes, 82, of Montpelier, passed away at 7:51 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024, at his home in Montpelier.



He was born on Saturday, Nov. 14, 1942, in Hartford City. He married Evelyn L. (Bailey) Ickes on Saturday, April 14, 1962, at the Chester Center Christian Church. Jerry was a 1960 graduate of Chester Center High School. He was a member of the First Baptist Church, Montpelier. Jerry worked at Borg Warner in Muncie before retiring in 1997 after 36 years of service. In 2003, he became president at Ickes RV. Jerry was a member of the Masonic Lodge 600 F&AM, Charter member of the Sons of the Legion, 5 Points School, Chamber of Commerce, and was past president of the Board of Directors for Big Long Lake where he and Evelyn spent most of their summers. Jerry was known as Santa Clause in the community for many years.

He will be forever missed by his wife of 62 years, Evelyn L. (Bailey) Ickes of Montpelier; children, Brian E. (Teresa) Ickes of Montpelier and Michele (Randy) Amstutz of Berne; grandchildren, Tiffany Ickes Pauley of Montpelier, Brittnay (Josh) Clark of Knob Noster, Missouri, Jennifer Amstutz of Berne and Bethany "Buffy" (Michael) Ross of Cincinnati; five great-grandchildren; and sister, Diana J. Odom of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Raymond E. Ickes and Mildred (Medler) Ickes.

Family and friends may gather to share and remember from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024, at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St. in Montpelier.

A service to celebrate Jerry's life will follow at 4 p.m. with Pastor Les Bantz officiating. Masonic ceremonies will begin the service. Inurnment will follow at a later date in the Hartford City Cemetery.

Memorial Contributions may be made to Five Points School c/o Wells Co. Historical Society PO Box 143 Bluffton, IN. 46714

Arrangements are being handled by Walker & Glancy Funeral Home in Montpelier.

Online condolences may be made at [www.glancyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.glancyfuneralhomes.com)

**Patricia "Patty" Nelson, 82**

Patricia "Patty" Ann Nelson, 82, of Bluffton and formerly of Markle, passed away Wednesday morning Nov. 13, 2024, at her residence.



Patty was a former member of the Zanesville United Methodist Church. She loved cats and animals of all kinds. Patty enjoyed looking at her memory books, stuffed animals, Diet Pepsi, chocolate, mashed potatoes and she especially loved collecting jewelry.

She was born on April 15, 1942 in Fort Wayne, a daughter of the late Byron and Roberta "Payne" Nelson.

Patty is survived by her housemates and close friends.

She was preceded in death by two sisters, Theresa Nelson and Kathleen Nelson; and two brothers, Gerald Nelson and Byron Nelson.

A Gathering and Celebration of Life will take place from 1-3 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024 at the Myers Funeral Home, Markle Chapel, 415 N. Lee St. in Markle.

Burial will take place at a later date at the Prairie Grove Cemetery in Fort Wayne.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made out to the Cat Tales Pet Adoption Center, sent in care to Myers Funeral Homes, 415 N. Lee St., Markle, IN 46770.

To sign Patty's online guest registry log onto our website at [www.myersfuneralhomes.com](http://www.myersfuneralhomes.com) and scroll down to obituaries.

**Ralph W. Schumm, 89**

Ralph W. Schumm, 89, of Bluffton passed away on Thursday morning, Nov. 14, 2024, at River Terrace Estates.



Ralph was born on Sept. 9, 1935, in Van Wert to Arthur and Erna (Klenk) Schumm. He graduated from Crestview High School in 1953. Ralph grew up in Convoy before moving to Roanoke and finally settling in Bluffton. He was an innovative farmer, removing fence rows, installing tile ditches, and soil sampling his farms. He was a Pioneer Seed dealer and worked for E & B Landscaping. Ralph enjoyed volunteering at the Food Bank and attending his grandchildren and great-grandchildren's events. Music was very important to Ralph, he was able to share his love of music when he would sing with various groups, such as Edelweiss Choir, Bethlehem Lutheran Church Choir, Lutheran Corral and Lutheran Men of Song. Ralph grew up in the Lutheran church and he was a member of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Ossian.

On June 17, 1956, Ralph married NaDonna Ruth Baer in Van Wert. Together they celebrated 68 years of marriage.

Survivors include his wife, Donna of Bluffton, and their three children, Debra Kay Schumm Hillger of Decatur, Michael E. (Kay) Schumm of Bluffton and Beth A. Schumm of Clermont, Florida. He was a loving grandpa to six grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. He will be remembered by his brother, Ronald Schumm of Van Wert, and his sister, Mary Van Fleet of Columbus, Ohio.

He is preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Richard Schumm and David Schumm.

Visitation will be held from 2-5 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Ossian, and for one hour prior to the service on Wednesday.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Ossian. Burial will follow at Bethlehem Lutheran Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers memorials be made to Worship Anew or Bethlehem Lutheran Scholarship Fund.

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

**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.

**Braun taps 12 transition councils to evaluate key areas**

By NIKI KELLY  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Gov.-elect Mike Braun on Wednesday announced the formation of 12 transition councils to guide state agency reviews and policy development across Indiana's government.

The councils are in addition to a transition team announced last week.

The leaders and members bring expertise from diverse sectors, including business, public service, education, healthcare, natural resources, and constituent services. Each council will play a central role in creating streamlined, effective solutions that elevate state government's impact on the lives of Hoosiers.

Many of the appointees have previously served in state government or are leaders in the private sector.

"To build an effective government that serves all Hoosier residents, we need the best minds and most experienced leaders at the table," Braun said in a news release. "These distinguished individuals bring decades of public and private sector expertise to ensure a smooth and impactful transition."

The councils are listed below:

**Business Affairs Transition Council** is focused on strengthening Indiana's reputation as a business-friendly environment by streamlining bureaucracy, cutting red tape, and enhancing customer service interactions between business owners and state regulators. The council aims to support Indiana's businesses by reducing obstacles and improving the efficiency and responsiveness of state services.

**The Commerce Transition Council** is focused on driving economic growth across Indiana by fostering entrepreneurship and identifying opportunities to support geographically diverse communities. The council aims to expand economic opportunity in every corner of the state by cultivating a thriving environment for Hoosier entrepreneurs and encouraging community-level development.

**The Constituent Services Transition Council** is focused on improving interactions between Hoosiers and their state government by conducting a comprehensive review of constituent services across state agencies. The council will work to establish clear customer service standards for each agency, identify areas for improvement, and enhance the overall experience for Hoosiers engaging with state government.

**The Education Transition Council** is dedicated to ensuring a high-quality education for all Hoosiers by raising standards in K-12 and higher education, expanding school choice, keeping curriculum focused on core education rather than political indoctrination, and enhancing college and career readiness for high school graduates.

**The Efficiency and Modernization Transition Council** is dedicated to conducting a comprehensive review of Indiana's state government to ensure Hoosiers' tax dollars are used efficiently and effectively. The council will work to streamline bureaucracy, reduce regulatory burdens, embrace emerging technology, and foster a business-friendly environment that drives economic growth and makes Indiana an even better place to do business.

**The Energy and Natural Resources Transition Council** is committed to developing Indiana's abundant energy and recreational resources to lower utility costs and enhance Hoosiers' quality of life. The council will focus on leveraging Indiana's natural assets

to promote sustainable resource management and cost-effective energy solutions.

The Health and Family Services Transition Council is dedicated to ensuring affordable, transparent, and high-quality healthcare for all Hoosiers, developing pro-family policies, faithfully implementing SEA 1 (P.L. 179-2022, Special Session), and improving program delivery at the Family and Social Services Agency, Department of Child Services, and Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Lieutenant Governor-Elect Transition Council is focused on growing Indiana's agriculture industry by supporting producers, expanding markets, and helping farmers pass their way of life to the next generation. The council is also committed to strengthening rural communities by reducing regulatory burdens and streamlining the grant application process through the Office of Community and Rural Development.

The Local and Municipal Affairs Transition Council is focused on building a strong partnership between state and local governments in Indiana. By giving local leaders a seat at the table in the incoming Braun administration, the council aims to address key issues, including local tax and financing, and improve communities across the state.

The Management and Budget Transition Council is dedicated to securing Indiana's financial future by developing a balanced budget, enhancing efficiency through shared services, and implementing best-value procurement practices. The council will focus on ensuring the State is on sound financial footing, driving whole-of-government efficiencies through shared services, and establishing best practices for effective fiscal management.

The Public Safety Transition Council is focused on protecting every Hoosier, with priorities including school safety, support for law enforcement, crime prevention, and federal partnerships on immigration enforcement to protect Indiana communities.

The Transportation and Infrastructure Transition Council is focused on strengthening Indiana as the Crossroads of America by identifying sustainable funding to maintain, improve, and expand the state's infrastructure without raising taxes. The council's work includes investing in broadband solutions for all regions of Indiana and enhancing customer service at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.



**Kemba Credit Union donates to FCS**

Kemba Credit Union recently donated \$2,000 to Family Centered Services, Inc. The credit union, located in the Peyton's Northern Distribution Center, has been giving to local organizations for several years to strengthen their mission of "People Helping People." Pictured from left are FCS Administrative Assistant Emily Wyatt and Kemba Credit Union Member Service Representative Lisa Small. (Photo submitted)

**Police Notebook**

**INCIDENTS**

**City:**

Wednesday, 4:11 p.m., 450 E and 300 N. Citation issued for 64 in a 45 mph zone.

Wednesday, 4:20 p.m., Main Street and Hillcrest Road. Citation issued for 50 in a 30 mph zone.

Wednesday, 4:48 p.m., 400 block of Cedar Road. Verbal domestic dispute.

Wednesday, 4:57 p.m., Wendy's. Traffic stop. Driver arrested for operating without insurance with a prior. Also cited for driving while suspended.

Wednesday, 10:30 p.m., Peyton's Northern Distribution Center. Semi backed into dock.

Thursday, 6:28 a.m., 1041 E 100 N. Two vehicle accident.

Thursday, 10:17 a.m., Spring and Liberty streets. Traffic offense. Driver arrested for operating a vehicle without ever receiving a license. Vehicle towed.

**ACCIDENTS**

**County:**

Wednesday, Nov. 6, S.R. 116 at C.R. 600 E, Bluffton. Draven Russell, 21, Berne, was driving a 2006 Chevrolet Cobalt northwest on S.R. 116 when a deer ran into the side of the vehicle. Damage exceeded \$1,000.

Thursday, Nov. 7, C.R. 1000 S at Jeff Road. Kash Vanover, 86, Montpelier, was driving a 2014 Ford Explorer eastbound on 1000 S and struck a deer. Damage exceeded \$2,500.

Sunday, 6:34 p.m., S.R. 218, Poneto. Luke A. Roberts, 43, Wabash, was driving a 2024 Hyundai Palisade

westbound on S.R. 218 in the area of C.R. 100 E and struck two deer. Vehicle towed. Damage exceeded \$10,000.

Sunday, 8 p.m., S.R. 116 at C.R. 150 N, Bluffton. Landon Wolf, 40, Bluffton, was driving a 2018 Chevrolet Silverado and struck a deer. Damage exceeded \$2,500.

Monday, 7:17 a.m., C.R. 800 S near 1000 W, Dillman. Alysha Conwell, 38, Van Buren, was driving a 2018 Chrysler Pacifica eastbound on C.R. 800 S and struck a deer. Damage exceeded \$2,500.

Monday, 6:56 p.m., S.R. 218, Poneto. Kaitlin E. Litwiller, 38, Berne, was driving a 2014 Chrysler Town and Country westbound on S.R. 218 in the area of C.R. 100 E and a struck a deer. Damage exceeded \$1,000.

Tuesday, 12:59 p.m., C.R. 300 W at 800 S. Todd Roy, 45, Montpelier, was driving a 2013 Toyota Camry southbound on C.R. 300 W and struck a deer. Damage exceeded \$10,000.

Tuesday, 11:47 p.m., River Road at C.R. 450 E. Abigail Kaehr, 24, Bluffton, was driving a 2014 Kia Optima and went off the north side of the road, striking a traffic sign. Damage exceeded \$2,500.

**Ossian:**  
Tuesday, 7:49 a.m., 11080 S.R. 1, Ossian. Ian Williams, 20, Fort Wayne, was turning a 2011 Ford Flex into Silo Farm and lost control of the vehicle due to speed, running into the landscaping and sign. Damage exceeded \$1,000.

**FAST, RELIABLE FIBER INTERNET**

SOLUTIONS FOR HOME AND BUSINESS

UNLIMITED DATA | UP TO 1\* GBPS | 24/7 SUPPORT

**SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE IN MANY AREAS.**

Sign up today or get fiber-ready by signing the underground agreement.

Call for more details!

833.727.5563

[twncomm.com/heartland](http://twncomm.com/heartland)

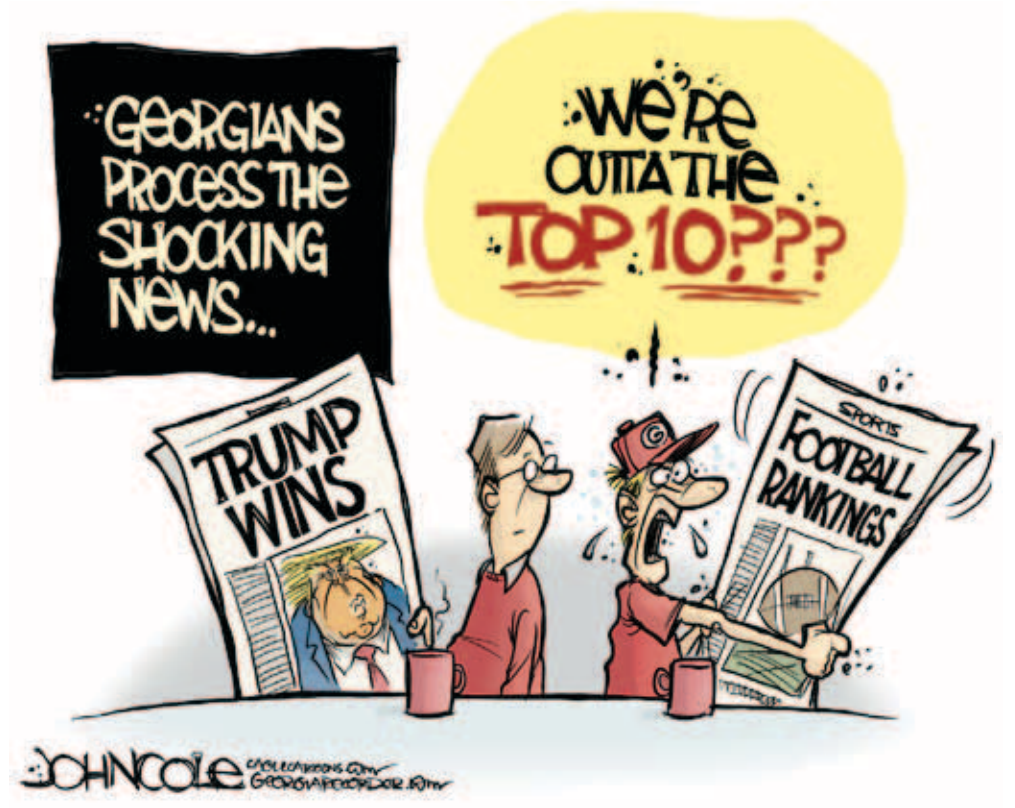
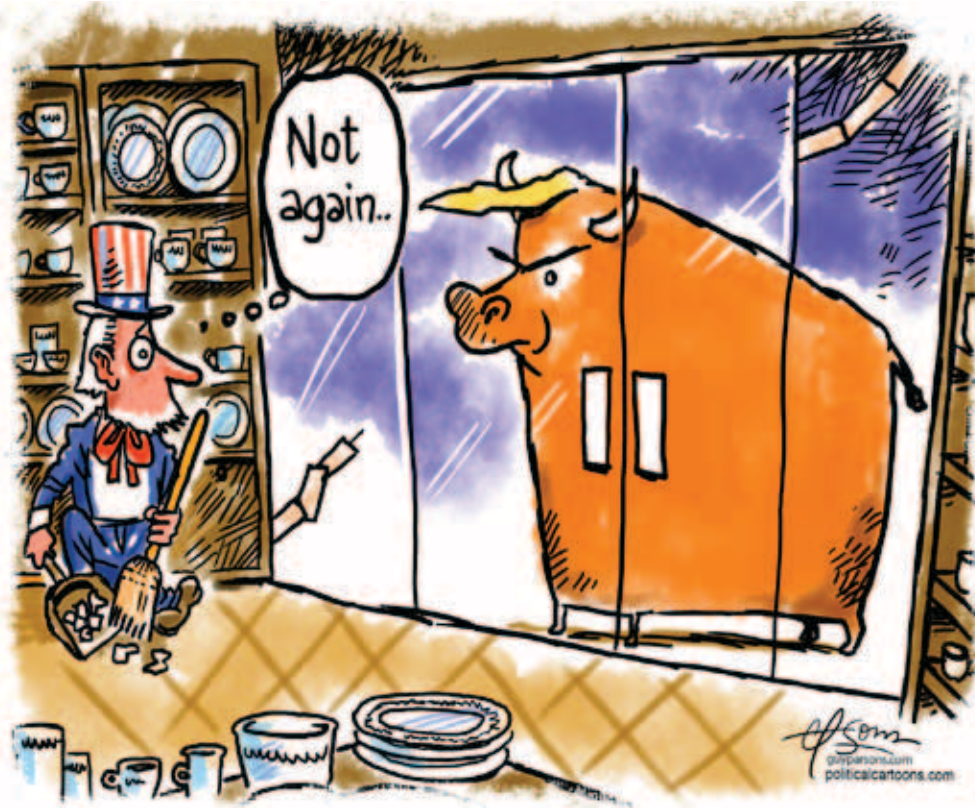
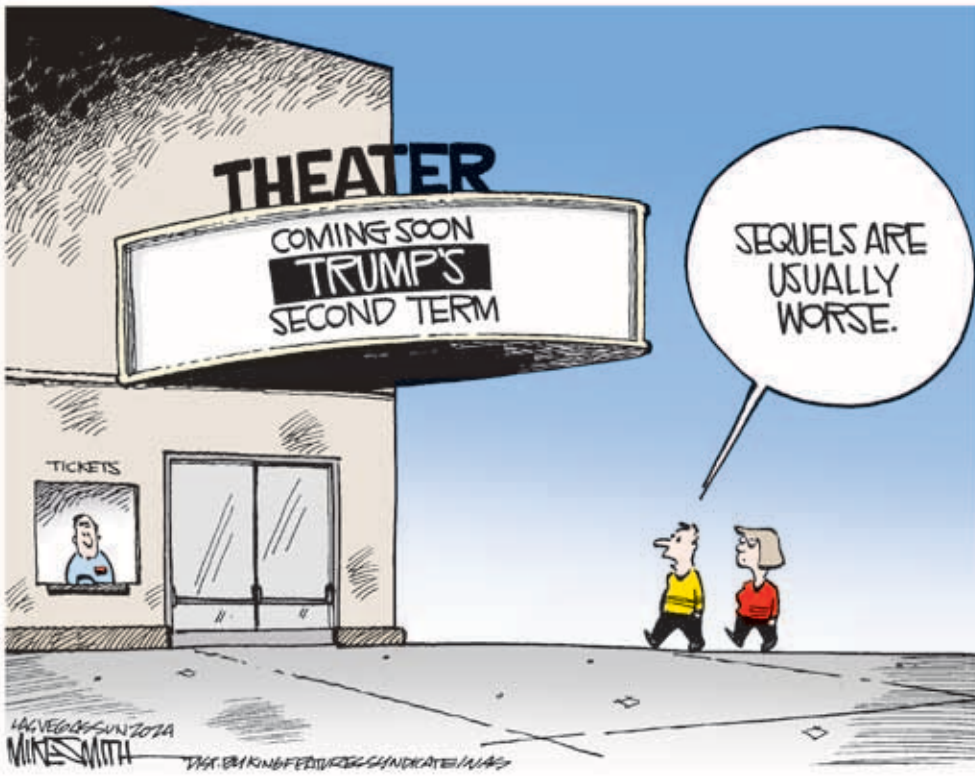


\*Services provided by TWN Communications. Not available in all areas. Restrictions, terms and conditions apply. Taxes, regulatory, surcharges and other charges are applicable. A line connection fee may be applicable. Call for details or visit [twncomm.com/terms-conditions](http://twncomm.com/terms-conditions) for additional information and terms and conditions of services. Residential customers on qualifying internet plans will receive download/upload speeds of 25.0 Mbps to 1.0 Gbps, per respective plan. A 30-day notice is required to cancel service.

**TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!**

[www.news-banner.com](http://www.news-banner.com) or [www.facebook.com/news-banner](http://www.facebook.com/news-banner)

The 2024 Election, cont. - cartoonists continue to take their shots ...



Letters to the Editor

In defense of Norwell NHS

Those that read the November 5th edition of the News-Banner may have read an article slamming the induction ceremony of the Norwell chapter of National Honor Society; and condemning the effort put forth by the chapter's sponsors and officers. As an officer, I am sorely disappointed in the individual who wrote this article. Their gross misdirection of anger and lack of appropriate investigation is disgraceful.

The author complained that the speeches at the event were "scripted, prepared words." This is absolutely true, the speeches we gave were indeed scripted and prepared... by us... as they should be... as all good speeches are.

I think that perhaps the author was trying to suggest we used pre-written speeches provided to us by our sponsors or the National Honor Society. This is simply false. We spent many hours writing and preparing to give our speeches. Considering we were writing these speeches whilst also balancing extracurriculars, school, and college applications, I believe we did a fantastic job. Criticism of our speeches is simply unwarranted as the level of preparation and commitment we gave was exemplary.

At an almost completely student-run banquet, a staff speaker would be unnecessary. The National Honor Society prioritizes student leadership, therefore our induction ceremony was student led. The lack of staff speakers should showcase the high levels of integrity and responsibility of National Honor Society members.

The technical difficulties experienced during the ceremony were certainly unfortunate, however they could not have been predicted and suggesting that they were the result of administrative

oversight would be unfair.

While I do not believe that Norwell High School is perfect, no place is, I do feel as though it has equipped me to succeed in my next step in life. To suggest that Norwell has an "academics problem" is absurd. The author of the letter brought up a fantastic point that completely disproves their own argument. There were 49 students inducted into the National Honor Society, this means that 49 students maintained a GPA of 3.8 or higher. In a graduating class of around 200 this number of students pursuing such a high level of academic achievement is not indicative of a school with an "academics problem."

I and my fellow officers take offense to such a flagrant lack of follow-through from the author. No negative comment was made of our performance until the publishing of this article. The author clearly has prior frustrations with Norwell's administration. However, instead of taking appropriate action and discussing these issues with the appropriate audience the author took aim at the hard work of 17- and 18-year-old high school students.

The author proclaimed in their article "Yes, to say the NHS induction left something to be desired is a gross understatement — the words "appalling and embarrassing" would seem more appropriate." I think that the more appropriate use of the words appalling and embarrassing would be in reference to the author's decision to write and send out this imprudent article.

On behalf of my fellow officers, Gavin Threewits, Ethan Williamson and Shae Brooks,

WILL GERBER  
President, Norwell  
Chapter of the  
National Honor Society

The case for mass criminal deportations

President-elect Donald Trump has pledged to "launch the largest deportation of criminals in American history." That is a quote from a Nov. 2 rally in Salem, Virginia, but Trump has said precisely the same thing dozens of times. Still, through the course of a long campaign, with his improvisational style, Trump has occasionally worded his pledge differently. For example, at his Madison Square Garden rally, Trump said, "On day one, I will launch the largest deportation program in American history to get the criminals out." Back on May 24, at his rally in the South Bronx, Trump pledged to "immediately begin the largest criminal deportation operation in our country's history." So variations in wording aside, when Trump talks about mass deportation, he is talking about the mass deportation of criminals.

It's hard to imagine opposing Trump's proposal. Who would want to help murderers and drug dealers who entered the country illegally remain in the United States? Yet we have seen much talk that Trump deportation plans go far, far beyond criminals and will ultimately lead to 10, 15 or perhaps even 20 million people being removed from the country. Part of this is media hysteria. But part of it comes from loose talk by Trump and his advisers.

But the Trump plan has been visible in plain sight for quite a while. First, the new administration will seek to quickly deport those illegal immigrants who are deemed national security threats. At the same time, it will pursue illegal immigrants with criminal records, either in the United States or some other country. And all the while it will assign priority to the illegal migrants whose cases have already been adjudicated and ordered removed.

"You concentrate on the public safety threats and the national security threats first because those are the worst of the worst," Tom Homan, recently named as Trump's "border czar," said over the weekend on Fox News. "So it's going to be the worst first. That's how it has to be done. We know a record number of people on the terrorist watch list have crossed this border. We know a record number of terrorists have been released in this country. We have already arrested some [who were] planning attacks. So look, the president is dead-on when he said criminal threats, national security threats are going to be prioritized. And that's the way it's going to be."

There is a clear guide for doing this. Last year, Immigrations and Customs Enforcement reported that as of September 30, 2023, there were 1,292,830 people in the United States illegally who have had full legal due process and have received a final deportation order from an immigration judge. In the ensuing year, there are estimates that number has grown to somewhere between 1.35 million and 1.6 million.

The vast majority of those people are not in detention. But they have had final orders of deportation, so they are subject to removal at any time. It's just that the Biden administration has not removed them.

Would Trump deportations go beyond that group of 1.35 million to 1.6 million already ordered removed? Remember that many more millions crossed illegally into the United States during the Biden years. What to do with them? The vast majority do not have valid claims of asylum or any legal right to remain in the United States.

In an ironic twist, it is possible that the second Trump administration will rely on a document known as the Mayorkas Memorandum to decide those cases. On Sept. 30, 2021, as the border incursion was moving into high gear, Biden Department of Homeland Security head Alejandro Mayorkas sent the administration's top immigration officials a set of guidelines for enforcing immigration law. In the memo, Mayorkas laid out rules for deporting illegal immigrants.

"We will prioritize for apprehension and removal noncitizens who are a threat to our national security, public safety, and border security," Mayorkas wrote. The first group was terrorists and spies. The second was criminals. And then there was the third group, the threats to border security. "A noncitizen who poses a threat to border security is a priority for apprehension and removal," Mayorkas wrote. "A noncitizen is a threat to border security if (a) they are apprehended at the border or port of entry while attempting to unlawfully enter the United States; or (b) they are apprehended in the United States after unlawfully entering after November 1, 2020."

If Trump were to apply the Nov. 1, 2020, standard — the Mayorkas standard — to removals, deporting those who had most recently crossed illegally into the U.S., he would have a basis to reverse a significant part of the Biden border rush.

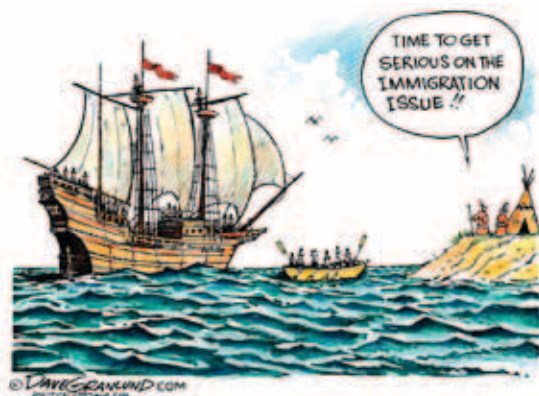
If Trump actually does any of this — that is, if he increases deportations with an emphasis on national security threats, criminal, and recent entrants — it will have a powerful deterrent effect on people in foreign nations considering illegal entry into the United States. It will also likely motivate recent illegal arrivals into the U.S., the ones with the fewest connections to this country, to leave on their own.

Trump's actions, if he takes them, could certainly be characterized as "mass deportations," since they would involve the removal of perhaps one million people. It would certainly be "the largest deportation of criminals in American history." On one hand, it would not please the Trump supporters who want to deport every single person in the United States illegally; after all, every illegal border crosser has violated U.S. law by unlawfully entering the country. On the other hand, prioritized deportations would be a significant restoration of the rule of law as it applies to the U.S. border, and that would be a very good thing.

byork@washingtonexaminer.com



Byron York



- 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."

The News-Banner  
(USPS 059-200)

Periodicals Postage Paid at Bluffton, IN 46714.  
Published every day except Sundays and principal holidays at 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton IN 46714, Post Office Box 436

Evening News est. 1892 • Evening Banner est. 1899 • Consolidated 1929  
**News-Banner Publications, Inc.**  
George B. Witwer, Chairman of the Board  
Doug Brown, President, Publisher  
Dianne Witwer, Secretary/Treasurer  
Holly Gaskill, Editor  
Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor

Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.

# Balancing passion and practicality

Dear Annie: I'm a high school senior worried about my future. I still haven't found a major I really want to do, and I'm running out of time. Animation/art is my passion, but I don't want to get my degree in it. I haven't found anything else I'm interested in pursuing. I want to make money without selling my soul to do something I'd hate. How can I find something useful to get my degree in? — Stressed

Dear Stressed: As a high school senior, you're definitely not running out of time. It's great that you have a passion — many people have to work for years before finding theirs — but you probably have a host of other interests that you haven't even discovered yet.

There is a Japanese concept called "ikigai": the intersection of what you love, what you're good at, what the world needs and what you can get paid for. Keep this principle in mind as you continue on in your academic career and, eventually, enter the workforce.

College is a time to experiment; you should take classes you never thought you would in disciplines you didn't think you'd be "good" at. You'll be surprised at what you find.

Dear Annie: My father died from suicide in 2021. My sister, initially supportive, later drunk-dialed my mother and said a bunch of nasty things about both me and my mother. For some reason, my mother didn't cut the conversation short and later told me what my sister said, which included that my father had killed himself because our other sister and I are "unstable" and couldn't look after him.

I haven't talked to my overly drinking sister for a few years now. She previously ruined a family Thanksgiving with a different drunk outburst and also squandered some money I gave her for a car. I want to confront her, but I know she will deny and deflect it to try to insult me. I have no time for this; I am disabled with severe recurring depres-

sion and anxiety. I found my dad, which was really hard on me, and I'm flooded that not only would my sister not understand this but also press ahead with backbiting me.

Should I reach out and begrudgingly TEXT her, explaining why I haven't answered her messages since I learned what she had said to our mother while drunk again? This is only because she won't talk to me on the phone, only through text. Or should I just go my own way? — Still Hurting

Dear Still Hurting: It sounds like a confrontation will end with your sister, once again, passing the buck on your family's hardships, which will only be frustrating and hurtful for you.

While I'm sure she is still grieving the loss of your father in her own way, as long as your sister continues to drink, it's not likely there will be any productive change. Protecting your own peace seems like a far better use of your time, until your sister is ready to listen and take responsibility for the pain she has contributed to your life. You might find comfort in your local Al-Anon chapter, connecting with others who understand this struggle well.

"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.creatorspublishing.com> for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com).

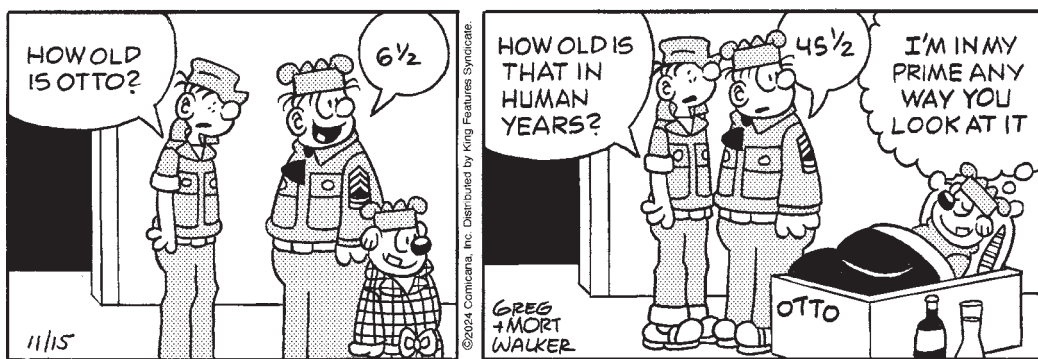
© 2024 CREATORS.COM

## Dear Annie

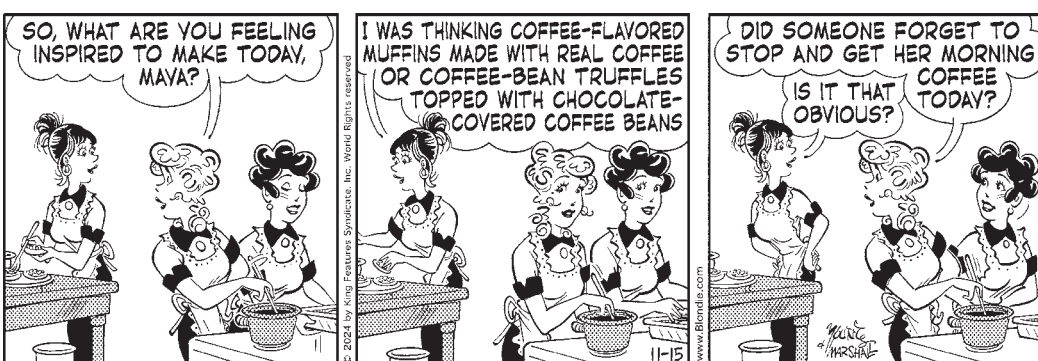
by Annie Lane



## BEETLE BAILEY



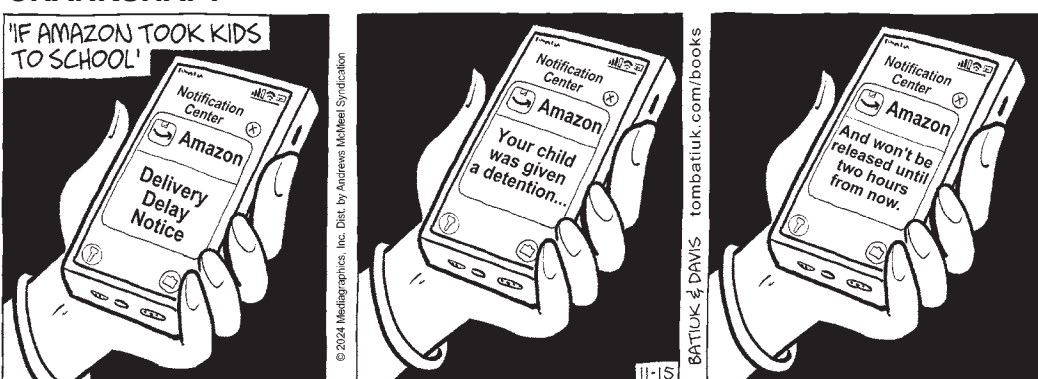
## BLONDIE




## ZITS



## CRANKSHAFT



**My Answer**  
By Dr. Billy Graham



# Christ can help us overcome the sin of prejudice

Question: America is a very prejudiced nation and it's embarrassing to listen to the hatred that pours forth. I know that it isn't right to be prejudiced against something or someone, but is being prejudiced an actual sin? — S.P.

Answer: Prejudice stalks many countries. It would be hard to find a nation that did not have some problem with prejudice. It may be racial or religious prejudice, or perhaps prejudice between nations. Prejudice can be manifested in the rich versus the poor. Whatever the case, prejudice is a universal problem. Why? Prejudice has its roots in pride — and pride is at the heart of sin. Just as sin is

universal, so prejudice is universal as long as our hearts are touched by God's regenerating power. The word prejudice means "prejudging" or "making an estimate of others without knowing the facts." Prejudice is a mark of weakness, not of strength; it is a tool of the bigot, but never a device of the true Christian.

Mankind has forsaken the pathway of Christian mercy and understanding and has chosen to walk the road of intolerance and intrigue. Someone has said, "Prejudice is being down on what you're not up on." Lack of awareness along with prejudice stifles mercy.

Prejudice is measured by computing the dis-

tance between our own biased opinions and the real truth. If we would all be perfectly honest before God, there would be no prejudice. But since most of us by nature are possessed of biased minds and perverted hearts, prejudice is widespread in the world.

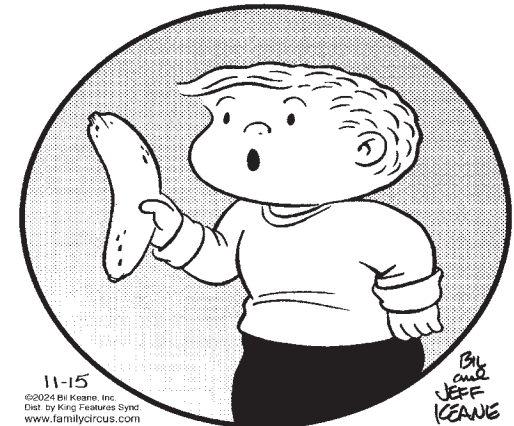
Christ can help us overcome this sin. Let's remember that we must show mercy to others as God has been so merciful toward us.

(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.

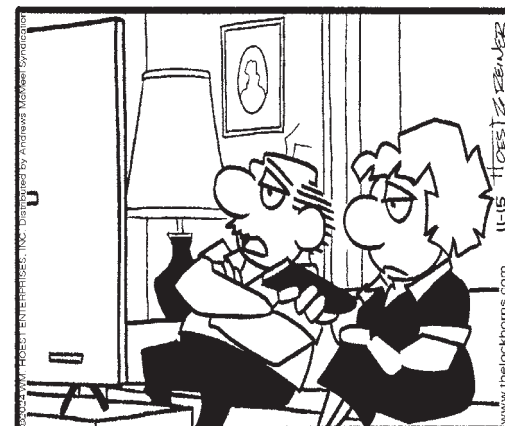
## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Will somebody show me how to unzip a banana?"

## The LOCKHORNS



"WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BINGE-WATCH AFTER 'SUCCESSION'?"

11/15	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	
WINM (12)	11	26	63		Washington Watch With Tony Perkins	News-at-5	News-at-6	CBS News (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	S.W.A.T. (N)	Fire "Edgewater's About to Get Real Cozy" (N)	Blue Bloods "No Good Deed" (N)	Nightcast (N)	(35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert	(35) After Midnight	(35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert	(35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert	(35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert	(35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert	(35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert
CBS WANE (15)	2	2	15	15	News (N)	Inside Edition (N)	News at 6 (N)	CBS News (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	S.W.A.T. (N)	Fire "Edgewater's About to Get Real Cozy" (N)	Blue Bloods "No Good Deed" (N)	Nightcast (N)	(35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert	(35) After Midnight	(35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert	(35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert	(35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert	(35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert	(35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert
Antenna WANE-2 (152)	106	20			Hawaii Five-0 "Na Ki Pili"	Hawaii Five-0 "Hooa"	Magnum "Island Vibes"	Magnum P.I. "The Harder They Fall"	Magnum P.I. "Texas Wedge"	Magnum P.I. "Those We Leave Behind"	Magnum P.I. "Those We Leave Behind"	Magnum P.I. "Those We Leave Behind"	Magnum P.I. "Those We Leave Behind"	Magnum P.I. "Those We Leave Behind"	Magnum P.I. "Those We Leave Behind"	Magnum P.I. "Those We Leave Behind"	Magnum P.I. "Those We Leave Behind"	Magnum P.I. "Those We Leave Behind"	Magnum P.I. "Those We Leave Behind"	Magnum P.I. "Those We Leave Behind"	Magnum P.I. "Those We Leave Behind"
ABC WPTA-2 (21)	4	3	21	21	ABC21 News at 5 (N)	ABC21 (N)	ABC World News (N)	ABC21 News (N)	ABC21 News (N)	ABC21 News (N)	ABC21 News (N)	ABC21 News (N)	ABC21 News (N)	ABC21 News (N)	ABC21 News (N)	ABC21 News (N)	ABC21 News (N)	ABC21 News (N)	ABC21 News (N)	ABC21 News (N)	ABC21 News (N)
NBC WPTA-2 (212)	7	8	14	14	Family Feud (N)	25 Words or Less (N)	News (N)	NBC News (N)	Family Feud (N)	Family Feud (N)	Happy's Place (N)	Lopez vs Lopez (N)	Dateline NBC Compelling mysteries, powerful documentaries, in-depth investigations.	News (N)	(35) Tonight Show (N)	(35) Seth Meyers (N)	(35) Seth Meyers (N)	(35) Seth Meyers (N)	(35) Seth Meyers (N)	(35) Seth Meyers (N)	(35) Seth Meyers (N)
MNT WPTA-3 (213)	10	9	56	34	Bob Hearts Abishola (N)	Bob Hearts Abishola (N)	Modern Family (N)	News (N)	Last Man "The Fixer"	Last Man "The Force"	Chicago Fire "Carry Me"	Chicago Fire "Sixty Days"	Seinfeld "The Deal"	Seinfeld "The Deal"	The Conners (N)	The Conners (N)	The Goldbergs (N)	The Goldbergs (N)	The Goldbergs (N)	The Goldbergs (N)	The Goldbergs (N)
CW WISE (38)	8	4	33	33	The Steve Wilkos Show	TMZ Live (N)	TMZ (N)	True Crime News (N)	Bob Hearts Abishola (N)	Bob Hearts Abishola (N)	Bob Hearts Abishola (N)	Bob Hearts Abishola (N)	Bob Hearts Abishola (N)	Bob Hearts Abishola (N)	Bob Hearts Abishola (N)	Bob Hearts Abishola (N)	Bob Hearts Abishola (N)	Bob Hearts Abishola (N)	Bob Hearts Abishola (N)	Bob Hearts Abishola (N)	Bob Hearts Abishola (N)
PBS WFWA (39)	13	5	39	39	My Grandparents' War "Keira Knightley"	PBS News Hour (N)	BBC News (N)	PrimeTime Live (N)	Washington WK (N)	Firing-Range (N)	Perform. Aaron Tveit, Patrick Wilson & more perform songs from musicals by Rodgers & Hammerstein.	Amanpour and Company (N)	Washington WK (N)	Firing-Range (N)	Perform. Aaron Tveit, Patrick Wilson & more perform songs from musicals by Rodgers & Hammerstein.	Amanpour and Company (N)	Washington WK (N)	Firing-Range (N)	Perform. Aaron Tveit, Patrick Wilson & more perform songs from musicals by Rodgers & Hammerstein.	Amanpour and Company (N)	Washington WK (N)
PBS WFPB (48)	3	6			My Grandparents' War "Keira Knightley"	Context (N)	The Day (N)	PBS News Hour (N)	Washington WK (N)	Firing-Range (N)	Perform. Aaron Tveit, Patrick Wilson & more perform songs from musicals by Rodgers & Hammerstein.	Amanpour and Company (N)	Washington WK (N)	Firing-Range (N)	Perform. Aaron Tveit, Patrick Wilson & more perform songs from musicals by Rodgers & Hammerstein.	Amanpour and Company (N)	Washington WK (N)	Firing-Range (N)	Perform. Aaron Tveit, Patrick Wilson & more perform songs from musicals by Rodgers & Hammerstein.	Amanpour and Company (N)	Washington WK (N)
FOX WFTF (55)	6	6	55	55	WFF Fox News at 5 (N)	WFF Fox News at 6 (N)	To Be Announced	Rescue: Hi-Surf (N)	College Football UCLA at Washington Husky Stadium in Seattle. (L) (N)												

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

41 Pac. counter-part

1 Pizzazz

6 Slump

9 Govt. lender for a start-up

12 — Lumpur

13 Tax prep pro

14 Mangy mutt

15 Scatter about

16 "Otello" composer

18 Start, as a hobby

20 Musical finale

21 Avril follower

23 Santa's helper

24 Trousers

25 Terse warning

27 Pursuing

29 Vail feature

31 French tower designer

35 Tennis great

37 Ward of Agassi

38 Mirror's offering

**DOWN**

21 ER workers

22 Fine, at NASA

24 JFK Library architect

26 Very sad

28 Gear parts

30 French article

32 "La Dolce Vita" director

33 "Evil Woman" gp.

34 Science room

36 More risqué

38 Spur on Zealand native

40 Concur

42 Ransacks

45 Lose it

46 Bassoon relative

48 Hostel

50 X, at times

51 Away from NNW

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

Yesterday's answer 11-15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13				14	
15					16				17	
18					19				20	
21	22			23				24		
25			26		27			28		
29			30				31		32	33
34			35				36		37	
38	39	40					41		42	43
44					45				46	
47				48					49	50
51				52					53	54
55				56					57	

# Colts-Jets matchup will have NFL's youth in Richardson vs. experience in Rodgers

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr.  
AP Pro Football Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — This is one quarterback matchup for the ages.

When 22-year-old Anthony Richardson takes the field for the Indianapolis Colts on Sunday, he'll square off against 40-year-old Aaron Rodgers of the New York Jets in a showdown between the NFL's second-youngest starting QB and the league's oldest.

Colts coach Shane Steichen made the move this week to return Richardson, the fourth overall pick last year, after a two-game benching. Otherwise, the game at MetLife Stadium would've featured the league's two oldest quarterbacks in Rodgers, who turns 41 next month, and 39-year-old Joe Flacco.

"I have to make sure I'm doing the right thing and keep showcasing to Shane that I can be the guy and that I am the guy for this team," said Richardson, who's three months older than New England's Drake Maye. "So, it's not really up to him. I felt like the past couple of weeks was up to me as well. I just have to showcase the work and just keep showing them that I'm willing to be the quarterback for this franchise."

Richardson has struggled in his second season, completing 44% of his passes and throwing seven interceptions with just four touchdown passes in six games. He started the first four games, missed two with a hip injury and then started two more before being benched.

"Sometimes it gets overlooked on how young he is," Colts defensive tackle DeForest Buckner said, "and the grace you have to give some of these young quarterbacks coming into the league."

It was hoped Flacco would provide a spark, but the Colts (4-6) enter the game against the Jets (3-7) having lost three straight and are falling behind in the AFC playoff race.

Rodgers and the Jets have had an even worse go of it with losses in six of their last seven. They're also 1-4 under interim coach Jeff Ulbrich, who took over for the fired



Anthony Richardson



Aaron Rodgers

Robert Saleh on Oct. 8.

"This is a chance for us to go into the bye week feeling good about ourselves, getting everybody back healthy and then looking realistically at the last six games," Rodgers said. "There's, I think, a lot of things to be hopeful for, but we've got to win this

weekend."

A lot will depend on how Rodgers plays. He threw three second-half TD passes in a win over Houston, but then struggled to get anything going in a 31-6 loss at Arizona, going 22 of 35 for 151 yards.

"The verdict's still not out on this season yet, but I think it's always a challenge when they're singing your praises or tearing it down outside the building," Rodgers said. "It's an important challenge."

### Tackling the problem

After the Jets missed 20 tackles against the Cardinals, according to Next Gen Stats, Ulbrich showed the entire team a tackling presentation. He also had them work on tackling in a few padded practices this week.

Ulbrich said his team had an "egregious, criminal amount of missed tackles" and the players agreed it was a pitiful performance.

"As a defense, you never want to be that and you never want to see that," said defensive lineman Solomon Thomas, who missed the game with a knee injury. "You need to make corrections off that and it's definitely something we take personal. It's our job, our livelihood, so we have to take it personal in a non-judgmental way to fix it."

### More from Moore

Colts cornerback Kenny Moore II provided a blunt assessment following Indy's third straight loss last weekend.

He said the Colts were "not working as hard as possible" and he didn't believe the "urgency" existed. On Thursday, he didn't apologize for anything.

"I think it was appreciated. I think it was respected, and we move forward," said Moore, a team captain. "I think everything is being watched, so you want to make sure teammates are serious about the job and serious about the team."

# Mike Tyson-Jake Paul: How to watch the fight, time, odds

By The Associated Press

YouTube-turned-boxer Jake Paul had to wait an extra four months for his high-profile match with 58-year-old former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson.

The delay from the original plan for July was caused by Tyson having a medical episode on a plane and needing time to recover from a stomach ulcer.

The rescheduled bout is set for Friday night at the \$1.2 billion retractable-roof home of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys in Arlington, Texas. The state has sanctioned it as a pro fight with some modifications.

### Here's a guide for watching the fight:

When is the Mike Tyson-Jake Paul fight? It's hard to give an exact time for the main event Friday night, but it could approach midnight EST. The telecast starts at 8 p.m. EST.

### Is the Tyson-Paul fight free on Netflix?

While this isn't the more common, and more expensive, pay-per-view format followed by most major boxing events, it does require a Netflix subscription. Netflix reported more than 280 million subscribers worldwide at the end of the third quarter in 2024.

### What are the odds on the Tyson-Paul fight?

Paul is a minus-200 betting favorite, according to BetMGM Sportsbook. That means the payout for a Paul victory would be about half the amount of any bet. The most bet prop is for Tyson to win by KO/TKO or DQ (+275), followed by Tyson to win on points (+1000) and Tyson to win in the first round (+1400).

### What's the age difference between the fighters?

It's 31 years. Paul is 27.

When was Tyson's last sanctioned fight?

Tyson retired in 2005 with a record of 50-6, with 44 knockouts, after losing to Kevin McBride. He fought Roy Jones Jr. in an exhibition four years ago. Paul is 10-1 with seven knockouts against mostly undistinguished opponents. His loss was to Tommy Fury, the less-accomplished half-brother of former heavyweight champion Tyson Fury.

### How many rounds are scheduled for the Tyson-Paul fight?

The fight is scheduled for eight two-minute rounds, as opposed to the normal three minutes and 10 or 12 rounds for most pro fights. Tyson and Paul also will use heavier gloves with the idea of decreasing the power of punches. The gloves will be 14 ounces instead of 10. The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation has said Tyson's physical condition met the criteria for the fight to proceed.

### What are the purses?

According to reports, Paul will make \$40 million and Tyson about \$20 million. Paul did mention his number at a news conference in August.

### What about the undercard?

The most legitimate pro fight of the night is being pitched as the co-main event. It's a super lightweight championship bout between Katie Taylor and Amanda Serrano.

Taylor won a disputed split decision over Serrano in a slugfest at sold-out Madison Square Garden in 2022. It was the first time women headlined a fight at the storied venue.

There are five other fights on the undercard.

# Tampa Bay to play 2025 season at Yankees' spring training field

By CURT ANDERSON  
Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — The Tampa Bay Rays will play their 2025 home games at the New York Yankees' nearby spring training ballpark amid uncertainty about the future of hurricane-damaged Tropicana Field, Rays executives told The Associated Press.

Stuart Sternberg, the Rays' principal owner, said in an interview that Steinbrenner Field in Tampa is the best fit for the team and its fanbase. At about 11,000 seats, it's also the largest of the spring training sites in

Florida.

"It is singularly the best opportunity for our fans to experience 81 games of major league Rays baseball," Sternberg said. "As difficult as it is to get any of these stadiums up to major league standards, it was the least difficult. You're going to see Major League Baseball in a small environment."

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said the Rays-Yankees deal is good for the sport and the Tampa Bay region.

"This outcome meets Major League Baseball's goals that Rays fans will see

their team play next season in their home market and that their players can remain home without disruption to their families," Manfred said in a news release.

The Rays' home since 1998, the domed Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg was hit hard by Hurricane Milton on Oct. 9, with most of its fabric roof shredded and water damage inside. The city of St. Petersburg, which owns the Trop, released an assessment of the damage and repair needs that estimated the cost at \$55.7 million if it is to be ready for the start of the 2026 season.

# High School Calendar

**FRIDAY, NOV 15**  
GIRLS BASKETBALL: Southern Wells at Lakeland Christian, 7:30 p.m.  
**SATURDAY, NOV 16**  
GIRLS BASKETBALL: Bluffton at East Noble, 7:30 p.m.; Norwell at Northridge, 2:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Eastbrook, 7:30 p.m.  
SWIMMING: (Girls only) Norwell Invitational, 9 a.m.  
**MONDAY, NOV 18**

No events scheduled.  
**TUESDAY, NOV 19**  
GIRLS BASKETBALL: Bluffton at Mississinewa 7:30 p.m.; Norwell at Homestead, 7:30 p.m.  
SWIMMING: (Girls only) Huntington North at Bluffton, 5:30 p.m.; Adams Central at Norwell, 5:30 p.m.  
**WEDNESDAY, NOV 20**  
No events scheduled.

# At Wrigley Field, No. 2 Ohio State looks to stay on playoff path against Northwestern

By ANDREW SELIGMAN  
AP Sports Writer

No one needs to remind coach Ryan Day what's at stake for No. 2 Ohio State.

The Buckeyes probably have to win their remaining games to keep their national championship hopes alive, and they sure can't afford a letdown against Northwestern at Wrigley Field on Saturday.

"Every week for us is like the playoffs right now," Day said. "We're fighting for a chance to get to Indianapolis (for the Big Ten championship game). It's always a topic of conversation, and it's going to come down to our seniors and leaders and how they echo that message."

Ohio State (8-1, 5-1 Big Ten, No. 2 CFP) is in a good spot, though with little margin for error. That all but disappeared last month with a 32-31 loss at Oregon, which was ranked No. 3 at the time and now sits atop the AP poll.

Though that stung, the Buckeyes' path to a national championship didn't disappear. It just got narrower. One more loss could keep the Buckeyes out of the 12-team playoff field.

They bounced back from that Oregon game with a sloppy and narrow win over Nebraska two weeks later. Ohio State followed that up by beating then-No. 3 Penn State 20-13 in Happy Valley and shellacking Purdue 45-0 last week.

# MLB to air local games for the Cincinnati Reds next season

CINCINNATI (AP) — Major League Baseball will produce and distribute local broadcasts for the Cincinnati Reds next season.

The announcement was made on Thursday after a judge in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Houston approved the Reds and Diamond Sports Group ending their joint venture.

The Reds had a 20% stake in what is now FanDuel Sports Network Ohio. Diamond bought back the team's stake for \$1.

The addition of the Reds means MLB will be handling the production and distribution of at least seven teams going into 2025.

MLB took over broadcasts of the San Diego Padres and Arizona Diamondbacks during the 2023 season and the Colorado Rockies this year. It also is adding the Cleveland Guardians, Milwaukee Brewers and the Minnesota Twins next season.

The Kansas City Royals and Texas Rangers still are assessing their plans.



# Race director Wittich to be replaced in a surprise move

By JAMES ELLINGWORTH  
AP Sports Writer

Formula 1 race director Niels Wittich will be replaced in a surprise move with three races to go and the title yet to be decided.

The series' governing body, the FIA, said on Tuesday that Wittich had "stepped down" and would be replaced starting from next week's Las Vegas Grand Prix by Rui Marques, who had been race director for Formula 2 and 3.

However, German publication motorsport-magazin.com quoted Wittich, who is German, as saying: "I did not resign." The FIA did not immediately comment on that report.

"The FIA can confirm that Niels Wittich has stepped down from his position as F1 race director to pursue new opportunities," the FIA said in a statement, without explaining the timing of his departure.

"Niels has fulfilled his numerous responsibilities as race director with professionalism and dedication. We thank him for his commitment and we wish him the best for the future."

The FIA added that Marques "brings a wealth of experience" to the role.

Wittich's departure signifies more upheaval at the FIA, which has already seen other senior officials leave over the last year. Drivers also last week criticized the FIA and President Mohammed Ben Sulayem over decisions that punished top drivers for swearing.

Marques' first event as race director could decide the drivers' title if Max Verstappen finishes ahead of his nearest challenger Lando Norris in Las Vegas on Nov. 23.

The role of race director focuses largely on safety and discussing any concerns with the drivers, though it became the focus of controversy in 2021.

Then-race director Michael Masi's decision to resume racing on the last lap of the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix after a safety car period allowed Verstappen to overtake Lewis Hamilton and win his first world title.

It sparked protests from Hamilton's Mercedes team, which were denied, and long-running debate over how F1 races should be overseen.

The FIA later ruled that Masi made a "human error" in overseeing the restart and that radio calls from team leaders at Mercedes and Verstappen's Red Bull placed Masi under pressure. The FIA ended direct radio communication between the race director and teams.

Masi was replaced ahead of the 2022 season, initially by Wittich and Eduardo Freitas sharing the race director role, before Wittich took over sole responsibility.



## Be Summer Ready

**The Best On The Water. Loud & Clear!**  
• Sound Systems for boats

**Powerful Sound For OFF-Road Adventure**  
• RV's • Golf Carts • ATV's



**(260) 724-2276**  
1421 Manchester St., Decatur  
½ block west of U.S. 27 North  
**www.icav.us**

## PRECISION SERVICE

Family, Farm and Fleet Vehicle Repair  
FLEET ACCOUNTS AVAILABLE  
0520 S. Decker Dr.  
Bluffton  
"The Quality Service You Deserve!"  
260-824-9149

## Bluffton Tire Inc.

1308 S. Main St.  
Bluffton  
**10% OFF** Discontinued Closeout Tires  
**1-260-824-0418**

**FREEDOM**  
Chevrolet, Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, RAM  
FORMALLY HIDAAY AUTOMOTIVE  
NEW NAME,  
SAME GREAT SERVICE!  
Chevrolet 260-824-0900  
Chrysler, Dodge Jeep, RAM 260-824-1931  
WWW.FREEDOMCHEVROLETBLUFFTON.COM  
WWW.FREEDOMCHRYSLERDODGEJEEPBLUFFTON.COM

# News-Banner Scoreboard

## FOOTBALL

### NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE					
East					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	8	2	0	800	290 193
Miami	3	6	0	333	147 202
N.Y. Jets	3	7	0	300	177 214
New England	3	7	0	300	168 220
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	222	148 213
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	8	0	222	168 213

### NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	8	2	0	800	259 179
Washington	7	4	0	636	308 243
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	284 171
Minnesota	7	2	0	778	221 157
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**  
 Philadelphia 26, Washington 18  
**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

**Thursday Girls' Scores**  
 Bloomfield 43, Shoals 34  
 Clinton Prairie 53, Southmont 43  
 Evansville Christian 56, Vincennes  
 Rivet 50  
 Floyd Central 45, Charlestown 29  
 Forest Park 35, Springs Valley 30  
 Glenn 50, Knox 24  
 Heritage Christian 58, Eastbrook 19  
 Kokomo 72, Peru 26  
 Madison Shawe 42, Oldenburg 40  
 Morristown 51, S. Decatur 47  
 N. Knox 51, Linton 39  
 N. Montgomery 51, Frontier 36  
 Shakamak 58, Cloverdale 16  
 South Bend Career Academy 58,  
 Lakeland Christian (IN) 29  
 Tell City 47, Mt. Vernon (Posey) 19  
 Tri-Central 60, Tipton 27  
 Union (Dugger) 63, Bloomington  
 Lighthouse 24  
 Valparaiso 77, S. Bend Washington  
 70  
 Wabash 55, Mississinewa 40  
 White River Valley 58, W. Vigo 30  
 Banks of Wabash Tournament=  
 First Round=  
 Parke Heritage 69, S. Vermillion 7

## College

**Men's Scores**  
**Thursday, Nov. 14**  
**EAST**  
 Bryant 87, Buffalo 64  
 Robert Morris 63, Stonehill 51  
 UMBC 92, Coppin St. 67  
**SOUTH**  
 FIU 110, Florida National 55  
 Jacksonville 71, SC State 62  
 Louisiana-Monroe 110, Ecclesia 48  
 The Citadel 79, North Greenville  
 54  
**MIDWEST**  
 E. Michigan 74, IUPUI 71  
 Missouri 111, MVSU 39  
 North Dakota 77, Utah Valley St.  
 71  
 South Dakota 92, Tigers 69  
 Wichita St. 79, N. Iowa 73  
**SOUTHWEST**  
 Oklahoma St. 85, S. Illinois 78  
 Tarleton St. 88, Tabor 57

### Women's Scores

**Thursday, Nov. 14**  
**EAST**  
 Cornell 68, Binghamton 51  
 Harvard 78, Boston College 70  
 Manhattan 73, LIU Brooklyn 50  
 Mississippi 80, Delaware St. 42  
 Navy 79, Wagner 46  
 Penn St. 101, Niagara 45  
**SOUTH**  
 Alabama 88, Alcorn St. 59  
 Auburn 82, UALR 48  
 Belmont 75, Kennesaw St. 47  
 Campbell 60, High Point 47  
 Duke 84, Dayton 49  
 East Carolina 67, Furman 51  
 Florida St. 101, Samford 68  
 Georgia St. 66, Georgia 60  
 Georgia Tech 88, West Georgia 53  
 NC State 79, Kent St. 51  
 South Carolina 92, Coppin St. 60  
 Vanderbilt 62, South Florida 49  
**MIDWEST**  
 Evansville 70, SE Missouri 55  
 Illinois 84, E. Illinois 37  
 Iowa St. 80, St. Thomas (MN) 47  
 Kansas 75, Omaha 56  
 Kansas St. 86, Creighton 68  
 Miami (Ohio) 84, Tiffin 53  
 Michigan 99, Cent. Michigan 62  
 Michigan St. 96, E. Kentucky 54  
 Milwaukee 90, Valparaiso 79  
 Northwestern 71, Utah 69  
 Purdue 83, IUPUI 64  
**SOUTHWEST**  
 Arkansas 93, Texas-Arlington 65  
 Baylor 104, Texas A&M Commerce  
 55  
 Rice 60, Houston 48

## FAR WEST

Boise St. 72, UC Riverside 57  
 Grand Canyon 70, Arizona St. 69  
 Saint Mary's (Cal) 74, UC San  
 Diego 65, 2OT  
 UTSA 75, New Mexico St. 61  
 Utah St. 67, CS Bakersfield 51

## NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE					
Atlantic Division					
W	L	Pct	GB		
Boston	10	3	.769	—	
New York	5	6	.455	4	
Brooklyn	5	7	.417	4½	
Philadelphia	2	9	.182	7	
Toronto	2	10	.167	7½	
Southeast Division					
W	L	Pct	GB		
Orlando	7	6	.538	—	
Atlanta	5	7	.417	1½	
Miami	4	6	.400	1½	
Charlotte	4	7	.364	2	
Washington	2	8	.200	3½	
Central Division					
W	L	Pct	GB		
Cleveland	13	0	1.000	—	
Indiana	5	6	.455	7	
Chicago	5	7	.417	7½	
Detroit	5	8	.385	8	
Milwaukee	4	8	.333	8½	
WESTERN CONFERENCE					
Southwest Division					
W	L	Pct	GB		
Houston	8	4	.667	—	
Memphis	7	5	.583	1	
San Antonio	6	6	.500	2	
Dallas	5	6	.455	2½	
New Orleans	3	9	.250	5	
Northwest Division					
W	L	Pct	GB		
Oklahoma City	10	2	.833	—	
Denver	7	3	.700	2	
Minnesota	6	6	.500	4	
Portland	5	8	.385	5½	
Utah	2	8	.200	7	
Pacific Division					
W	L	Pct	GB		
Golden State	9	2	.818	—	
Phoenix	9	3	.750	½	
L.A. Lakers	7	4	.636	2	
Sacramento	7	5	.583	2½	
L.A. Clippers	6	6	.500	3½	
Wednesday's Games					
Orlando 94, Indiana 90					
Cleveland 114, Philadelphia 106					
Boston 139, Brooklyn 114					
Oklahoma City 106, New Orleans					
88					
Chicago 124, New York 123					
Houston 111, L.A. Clippers 103					
San Antonio 139, Washington 130					
Milwaukee 127, Detroit 120, OT					
Sacramento 127, Phoenix 104					

## Portland 106, Minnesota 98

L.A. Lakers 128, Memphis 123  
**Thursday's Games**  
 Dallas at Utah, late  
**Friday's Games**  
 Detroit at Toronto, 7 p.m.  
 Miami at Indiana, 7 p.m.  
 Philadelphia at Orlando, 7 p.m.  
 Brooklyn at New York, 7:30 p.m.  
 Chicago at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.  
 L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, 7:30  
 p.m.  
 Washington at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.  
 Denver at New Orleans, 8 p.m.  
 L.A. Clippers at Houston, 8 p.m.  
 Phoenix at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.  
 Memphis at Golden State, 10  
 p.m.  
 Minnesota at Sacramento, 10  
 p.m.  
**Saturday's Games**  
 Milwaukee at Charlotte, 3 p.m.  
 L.A. Lakers at New Orleans, 8 p.m.  
 Toronto at Boston, 8 p.m.  
 San Antonio at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.  
 Utah at Sacramento, 10 p.m.  
**Sunday's Games**  
 Phoenix at Minnesota, 3:30 p.m.  
 Miami at Indiana, 5 p.m.  
 Atlanta at Portland, 6 p.m.  
 Charlotte at Cleveland, 6 p.m.  
 Denver at Memphis, 6 p.m.  
 Detroit at Washington, 6 p.m.  
 Brooklyn at New York, 7 p.m.  
 Dallas at Oklahoma City, 7 p.m.  
 Houston at Chicago, 7 p.m.  
 Utah at L.A. Clippers, 9 p.m.

## Central Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Winnipeg	17	15	2	0	30	74
Minnesota	16	11	2	3	25	56
Dallas	14	9	5	0	18	46
Colorado	17	9	8	0	18	59
Utah	16	7	6	3	17	45
St. Louis	17	7	9	1	15	43
Chicago	16	6	9	1	13	41
Nashville	16	5	9	2	12	39

## Pacific Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	16	10	4	2	22	66
Los Angeles	18	9	6	3	21	57
Vancouver	14	8	3	3	19	45
Calgary	17	8	6	3	19	44
Edmonton	16	8	7	1	17	44
Seattle	16	7	8	1	15	49
San Jose	18	5	10	3	13	42
Anaheim	15	5	8	2	12	33

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

**Wednesday's Games**  
 Detroit 3, Pittsburgh 2, OT  
 Toronto 4, Washington 3, OT  
 Utah 4, Carolina 1  
 Tampa Bay 4, Winnipeg 2  
 Colorado 4, Los Angeles 2  
**Thursday's Games**  
 N.Y. Rangers 3, San Jose 2  
 Philadelphia 5, Ottawa 4, OT  
 Buffalo 4, St. Louis 3, OT  
 Minnesota 3, Montreal 0  
 Boston at Dallas, late  
 Nashville at Edmonton, late  
 Chicago at Seattle, late  
 N.Y. Islanders at Vancouver, late  
**Friday's Games**  
 Pittsburgh at Columbus, 7 p.m.  
 Nashville at Calgary, 9 p.m.  
 Vegas at Utah, 9 p.m.  
 Washington at Colorado, 9 p.m.  
 Detroit at Anaheim, 10 p.m.  
**Saturday's Games**  
 St. Louis at Boston, 1 p.m.  
 N.Y. Islanders at Seattle, 4 p.m.  
 Buffalo at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.  
 Columbus at Montreal, 7 p.m.  
 Edmonton at Toronto, 7 p.m.  
 New Jersey at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.  
 Ottawa at Carolina, 7 p.m.  
 San Jose at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.  
 Winnipeg at Florida, 7 p.m.  
 Dallas at Minnesota, 8 p.m.  
 Detroit at Los Angeles, 8 p.m.  
 Chicago at Vancouver, 10 p.m.  
**Sunday's Games**  
 St. Louis at Carolina, 5 p.m.  
 Washington at Vegas, 8 p.m.  
 N.Y. Rangers at Seattle, 9 p.m.  
 Nashville at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

## HOCKEY

### NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE						
Atlantic Division						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	17	11	5	1	23	61
Toronto	18	10	6	2	22	54
Boston	17	8	7	2	18	43
Tampa Bay	15	8	6	1	17	53
Ottawa	16	8	7	1	17	55
Buffalo	17	8	1	17	59	56
Detroit	15	7	7	1	15	37
Montreal	17	5	10	2	12	46
Metropolitan Division						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	20	12	6	2	26	72
Carolina	15	11	4	0	22	60
N.Y. Rangers	15	10	4	1	21	55
Washington	15	10	4	1	21	62
N.Y. Islanders	16	6	4	16	42	50
Philadelphia	17	7	8	2	16	49
Pittsburgh	18	9	3	15	49	71
Columbus	15	5	8	2	12	46

## WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific Division						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Golden State	9	2	8	18	52	38
Phoenix	9	3	7	18	50	38
L.A. Lakers	7	4	3	16	46	32
Sacramento	7	5	2	16	42	32
L.A. Clippers	6	6	0	12	36	34

# The Classifieds

Place Your Ad 24/7: GO TO [www.news-banner.com](http://www.news-banner.com) AND CLICK ON "Classifieds"  
 OR CALL 824-0224 MON-FRI 8-5 • TOLLFREE 800-579-7476 • FAX 824-0700

**Plus!** SEE your ad published every day in Wells County homes ...  
 All ads are searchable at [classifieds.news-banner.com](http://classifieds.news-banner.com)...

## SUDOKU

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

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

# Suicides in U.S. military increased in 2023, continuing long-term trend

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR**  
**Associated Press**  
 WASHINGTON (AP) — Suicides in the U.S. military increased in 2023, continuing a long-term trend that the Pentagon has struggled to abate, according to a Defense Department report released on Thursday. The increase is a bit of a setback after the deaths dipped slightly the previous year.

The number of suicides and the rate per 100,000 active-duty service members went up, but that the rise was not statistically significant. The number also went up among members of the Reserves, while it decreased a bit for the National Guard.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has declared the issue a priority, and top leaders in the Defense Department and across the services have worked to develop programs both to increase mental health assistance for troops and bolster education on gun safety, locks and storage. Many of the programs, however, have not

been fully implemented yet, and the moves fall short of more drastic gun safety measures recommended by an independent commission.

In a statement Thursday, Austin said the new figures “urgently demonstrate the need for the Department to redouble its work in the complex fields of suicide prevention and postvention.” He said the department is moving urgently to put changes in place, adding, “There’s still much more work to do, and we won’t let up.”

The increase was fueled by spikes in the number of Army and Air Force deaths, while the Marine Corps and Navy saw a very small dip.

Overall, there were 523 reported suicides in 2023, compared with 493 in 2022. The number of active-duty troops who died by suicide increased to 363 from 331.

Officials have said that due to the decreasing size of the active-duty force in recent years, they believe the rate of suicides, rather

than the number, is a more accurate measure. The suicide rate is calculated based on an active-duty force of about 1.28 million, about 330,000 Reserves and nearly 430,000 in the Guard. The rate for active-duty service members and Reserves went up, while the Guard was lower.

More broadly, however, the trend since 2011 has been an increase in suicides among active-duty service members, while the Guard and Reserve have stayed largely stable. Officials said the statistics generally reflect suicide rates for society as a whole, when adjusted for age and gender, because a majority of those in the military are young and male.

The analysis in the annual report also shows continuing trends for those who die by suicide and how they do it. The report shows that young, male enlisted troops still make up the vast majority of the suicides, and that the bulk of the deaths involve the use of a firearm.

Suicide data for troops’ family members lags by a year. But it shows that fewer family members died by suicide in 2022 than the previous year, with a 9% decrease in the rate. While there are far fewer male spouses, they make up nearly half of the suicide deaths.

An independent committee recommended early last year that the department put in place a series of gun safety measures to reduce suicides in the force, including waiting periods for the purchase of firearms and ammunition by service members on military property.

The commission said the department should raise the minimum age for service members to buy guns and ammunition to 25 and require anyone living in military housing to register all privately owned firearms. In addition, it said the department should restrict the possession and storage of privately owned firearms in military barracks and dorms.

In response to that report, Aus-

tin released a new campaign to address suicides in the force, but the department chose not to implement the key firearm changes suggested by the commission. Instead, the Pentagon said it would “incentivize” secure firearm storage, provide more storage locations and do more public education on how to safely store guns — similar to steps that officials have talked about in the past.

Defense officials said that those changes, which could include providing troops with a voucher to defray some costs of gun locks and storage, are in the works but have not been finalized. They are still working on modernizing the training programs to better instruct troops on the safe storage and use of guns and to reduce the stigma of seeking mental health support.

In addition, the military services are hiring personnel to staff prevention programs and, as of this summer, about 1,000 professionals have been hired with a goal of 2,500 by 2028.

# Israeli strikes kill at least 12 Lebanese rescuers and 15 people in Syria

BEIRUT (AP) — An Israeli airstrike killed at least 12 Lebanese rescue workers on Thursday inside a civil defense center in the eastern city of Baalbek, according to health and rescue officials, hours after state media in Syria said Israeli strikes in and around the capital killed at least 15 people.

Lebanese emergency workers were digging through the rubble Thursday evening to search for more of their colleagues still trapped under the destroyed rescue center, the group said in a statement. At least three civil defense members were wounded.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military. Lebanon’s civil defense forces have no affiliation with the militant group Hezbollah, and they provide crucial rescue and medical services in one of the world’s most war-torn nations.

The Health Ministry condemned what it called a “barbaric attack on a Lebanese state-run health center,” adding that “it is the second Israeli attack on a health emergency facility in less than two hours.”

In southern Lebanon, an Israeli strike on Arabsalim village targeted the Health Authority Association, a civil defense and rescue group linked to Hezbollah,

killing six people, including four paramedics, the Health Ministry said.

Earlier, Israel carried out at least two airstrikes on the western Mazzeh neighborhood of Damascus and one of the suburbs of Syria’s capital, Qudsaya, killing at least 15 and wounding another 16, Syria’s state news agency said. An Associated Press journalist at the scene in Mazzeh said a five-story building was damaged by a missile that hit the basement.

The Israeli military said it hit infrastructure sites and command centers of the Islamic Jihad militant group.

In Syria, an official with Palestinian Islamic Jihad said the strike in Mazzeh targeted one of their offices, and several members were killed. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn’t authorized to speak to the media.

The airstrikes came shortly before Ali Larijani, an adviser to Iran’s supreme leader Ali Khamenei, was scheduled to meet in Syria’s capital with representatives of Palestinian factions at the Iranian Embassy in Mazzeh.

Israel’s military says Islamic Jihad participated alongside the Palestinian militant group Hamas in the Oct. 7, 2023 attacks from Gaza into Israel that killed some 1,200 people — most-

ly civilians — and saw 250 others abducted.

The ensuing Israel-Hamas war has spilled into the wider region, affecting Lebanon, Syria and leading to strikes between Israel and Iran. The war has left much of Gaza in ruins and has killed over 43,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to local health authorities who do not distinguish between civilians and combatants.

Israeli warplanes intensified airstrikes in Lebanon on Thursday, targeting various areas in southern and eastern Lebanon, including the outskirts of the port city of Tyre and the Nabatieh province, the National News Agency said.

Throughout the day, sporadic airstrikes targeted Beirut’s southern suburbs in a clear uptick in attacks on the district over the past two days, with the Israeli military issuing evacuation warnings for several locations and buildings in the suburbs.

The Israeli military said it struck Hezbollah targets in the Dahiyeh area, including weapons storage facilities and command centers. Military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said that over the past week, Israel had “struck more than 300 targets from the air across Lebanon, including

about 40 targets in the heart of the Dahiyeh in Beirut.”

Lebanon’s state media said an earlier Israeli airstrike hit a building in Baalbek, killing at least nine people and wounding five others. The strike came without warning. The Israeli military did not immediately comment and the target was unclear.

A report by the World Bank on Thursday estimated that Lebanon has suffered \$8.5 billion in physical damages and economic losses from 13 months of war.

Hezbollah began firing into Israel on Oct. 8, 2023, in solidarity with Hamas in Gaza. Since then, Israeli strikes and bombardment in Lebanon have killed at least 3,380 people while the number of wounded has surpassed 14,400, the Health Ministry said Thursday. Among the dead were 658 women and 220 children.

In Israel, 76 people have been killed, including 31 soldiers.

Before the war intensified on Sept. 23, Hezbollah

said that it had lost nearly 500 members but the group has stopped releasing statements about their killed fighters since.

United Nations peacekeeping chief Jean-Pierre Lacroix, speaking during a visit to Lebanon, said the U.N. remains committed to keeping its peacekeeping force, known as UNIFIL, in place in all of its positions in southern Lebanon, despite intense ongoing battles between Israeli forces and Hezbollah militants.

## November

# GOODS & SERVICES DIRECTORY

**Jerry Flack & Associates**  
**Jerry Flack & Julie Myers**  
 Retirement Advisors  
 A Senior Citizen Answers Our Phone!  
 OFFICE 260-824-1618 • Corner of Main & Market • Bluffton, IN

ASSISTING IN:  
 • FREE Medicare Supplement Comparison  
 • Life Planning  
 • Safe Money Ideas  
 • Dental - Vision - Hearing

**STOR-N-GO**  
**STORAGE UNITS**  
 2740 E. 200 N. • Bluffton, IN • 260.273.8345  
 with Security Cameras

As a resident of the Wells County community for decades, Attorney, Gerret J. Swearingen, has devoted his legal practice to assisting clients in preserving the family assets from the high cost of Nursing Home and In-Home Healthcare.

As your guide through the “Medicaid Planning” process, Swearingen Elder Law will provide the right path to both protect your life savings and receive the quality of care we all deserve.

**-OSSIAN-**  
 1645 Hillcrest Dr., Suite 2A  
 Ossian, IN 46777

Attorney  
 Gerret J. Swearingen

**SWEARINGEN**  
**ELDER LAW**

- Medicaid Planning
- Durable Power of Attorney
- Estate Planning & Deeds
- Special Needs Trusts
- Long Term Care Planning
- In-Home Healthcare Planning
- Wills, Living Wills, & Advance Healthcare Directives

(260) 888-9256  
 FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION!

**Home Remodel and Repair**  
 Locally Owned

Repair Bowled Basement Walls  
 Foundations repaired  
 Floor joist repair or replaced  
 Concrete • Doors  
 Windows • Painting  
 Tile • Small Jobs Welcome

Text me at 260-301-1269  
 Jim Baker

**AMISH CREW**  
 will do roofing, siding, remodeling, pole barns. Specializing in redoing old barns. Free estimates.  
 Call 260-438-2508

**JC'S GARAGE DOOR SALES & SERVICE**  
 All makes & models • broken springs & cables  
 Owner: James Fisher • Sales: Carl Fisher  
 “50 Years of Combined Experience”  
 Call us at 824-3262

**The HIDEAWAY BEER & BOURBON**  
**THURSDAY - Dollar Off Drinks (Excludes Pop)**  
**WEDNESDAY - KARAOKE**  
**FRI. & SAT. - Live Music**  
 Follow us on Facebook for our Events.  
 123 S JOHNSON ST. • 824-0455

**Primary Contracting, LLC**  
 Specializing in Building & Remodeling  
 OWNER: Edwin Wickey  
 Call for Spring Scheduling Today!  
 Free Estimates - 260-223-4276

- Pole Barns
- Garages
- Vinyl Siding
- Metal Roofing
- Poly Decks
- Storm Damage

**LAWN CARE**

- MOWING
- YARD CLEANUP
- LANDSCAPING
- STONE / GRAVEL
- WEED CONTROL

**SCHEDULE TODAY!**

FREE ESTIMATES  
 260-223-5884

**Zap Electric, Inc.**  
 260-824-2927  
 Commercial-Industrial-Residential  
**24 Hr. Emergency Service**  
 Charles Miller-Electrician  
 1233 W. Cherry St., Bluffton  
 FREE Estimates

**Sure-Flo Seamless Gutters**  
 5" & 6" Continuous Gutters  
 Leaf Protection Systems  
 Large Color Selection - FREE Estimates  
**260-888-5062**  
 www.seamlessgutter.net

**LANCASTER Senior Apartments**  
 1800 S. Wayne St. | Bluffton

- 1 & 2 Bedrooms
- Maintenance Free
- All Ground-level
- Private Entrances
- Water Included

260 824-5280  
 TDD: 7-11  
 For those 62+ or disabled, regardless of age.

**A-1 U-Stor**  
**Safe & Secure Self Storage**  
**824-1846**  
 • Safety Lighting • Clean Units  
 • 24 Hr. Access  
 • Video Cameras  
 www.a1-ustor.com  
**After hours & Saturdays**  
 Call 273-9678 or 824-4782  
 In Monroe at corner of U.S. 27 and S.R. 124  
 Office at 1180 N. Main, Bluffton

**We Carry Prevagen and CBD Oil!**

**R Warren Pharmacy**  
 (260)375-2135  
**Nature's Sunshine Distributor**  
 222 N. Wayne St., Warren • 1-800-895-7035  
 Terry Daniels, Pharmacist • Melinda Daniels, RN

**Online Directory**

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

<b>MR. KOOL</b> HEATING AND COOLING mrkoolheatingandair.com	<b>DAZEYS SUPPLY</b> dazeys.com/bluffton-in
<b>STEFFEN</b> Financial Group stefffinancial.com	<b>Genesis Pest Services</b> genesispestservices.com
<b>Daniel's JEWELERS</b> daniels-jewelers.net	<b>ABOVE &amp; BEYOND</b> Vehicle Reconditioning abovebeyondrecon.com
<b>INDIANA FARM BUREAU INSURANCE</b> Bluffton Office   (260) 824-2234 infarmbureau.com	<b>JC'S GARAGE DOOR SALES &amp; SERVICE</b> jcsgaragedoor.com
<b>Myers FUNERAL HOMES</b> myersfuneralhomes.com	<b>KELLYS COLLISION CENTER, INC.</b> 820 W. Washington Street, Bluffton kellysautocollision.com
<b>WELLS COUNTY 4-H GROWS HERE</b> extension.purdue.edu/wells	<b>3 RIVERS</b> 3riversfcu.org
<b>Bluffton Tire</b> blufftontire.com	<b>MOSER &amp; SON</b> Heating & Air Conditioning 219 E. Perry St. Bluffton moserandsonheatingandair.com
<b>Frederick Cole &amp; Harold MEMORIAL CHAPEL</b> thegmcfamily.com	<b>RiverStone DENTAL</b> riverstonedental.net
<b>Edward Jones</b> EdwardJones.com	<b>Erin Daugherty</b> 260.827.0527 www.MyBlufftonSFAgent.com
<b>INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS</b> icav.us	<b>Jerry Flack &amp; Associates</b> jerryflackinsuranceandinvestments.com
<b>La Fontaine Center</b> A RHF Community lafontainecenter.org	<b>HOMECOURT HOME CARE</b> homecourthomecare.com
<b>Lengerich MEATS</b> lengerichmeats.com	<b>Still Waters FAMILY DENTISTRY</b> stillwatersfamilydentistry.com
<b>Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home</b> thomarich.com	<b>NBDigital</b> nb-digital.com

**Have a Website? Tell the World!**

Ask for our latest Website visitor statistics!  
 The power of print and the Internet, working for you! Call 824-0224 for more information.