BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

## Critical needs for infrastructure at heart of county pool project

By JONATHAN SNYDER
Multiple infrastructure issues with the Wells Community Pool have the Bluffton Parks Department looking to build some-

This replacement comes after a master plan survey was conducted in 2022, with swimming voted as the top recreational activity in the area. A liner was installed years ago after there were leaks in the foundation and walls, but Parks Department Superintendent Brandy Fiechter stated that the liner is beyond its life cycle.

New lining would cost the department approximately \$200,000 by itself. Fiechter said the patch work needed would become financial unsustainable — there are issues with exposed joints around the pool deck, difficulty in getting replacement parts for the slides, rust and metal flakes in the pumping system, cracked masonry in the pool house, and problems with the baby pool's filter system.

"These aren't little fixes," Fiechter said. "We have to consider how many times we are dumping money into a facility that is going to fail at some point. I've gone around touring other communities, and it (failure) will just come as a surprise. A lot of it's under the ground, so you don't know. You can have massive leaks, and you won't know until you get your water bill.'

In response to the need, Fiechter has

toured different pools in the area, including New Haven, Portland and Columbia City. This tour included getting advice from different pools about additional amenities and build materials.

While nothing on the design of the pool is official, discussions with local swim teams have led to a desire for a 25-meter pool with eight lanes, instead of the current 50-meter size with six lanes. Fiechter said that the other 25 meters will be used for unique shapes and extra amenities. Fiechter noted that she wanted something unique that is not found in pools near the area.

"If it all works out ... we're looking at an eight lane, 25-meter pool," Fiechter said. "Currently we have six lanes, so we're hoping to add eight so we can host some bigger conferences. (Currently) we can only host the local meets. There's conferences that we could go into if we were 25-meter instead of

With the pool approaching its 53rd birthday, ideas for procuring funds are still being worked out. Fiechter has submitted a request for READI 2.0 grant funding, which will match 20% of any committed funds from the city. Fundraising efforts are dependent on if the grant is awarded, but Fiechter mentioned she's submitted for other local grants and will plan on a fundraising drive once READI funding is secured.

(Continued on Page 2)



Saturday morning along the greenway

Hikers and drivers along Bluffton's Rivergreenway Saturday morning were able to catch a tree trimming crew in action as they attended to a tree beside the Wabash River. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

## Wildfire threat continues in much of the U.S. Northeast as dry conditions persist

**By SUSAN HAIGH** and PATRICK WHITTLE **Associated Press** 

Firefighters in New York said Sunday that a voluntary evacuation overnight helped them protect more than 160 homes from a stubborn wildfire near the New Jersey border as officials in much of the Northeast coped with hundreds of brush fires in tinderdry and windy conditions.

Communities in New England dealt with a similar surge in late fall fires, and many parts of the Northeast remained under red flag alerts this weekend. Across the country, California made good progress against a 32-square-mile fire in Ventura County that has destroyed more than 245 structures. most of them houses. The Mountain fire was 95% contained.

Windy conditions renewed a wildfire Saturday that escaped a containment line and prompted emergency officials to enact the voluntary evacuation plan affecting about 165 houses in Warwick, New York, near the New Jersey border. No structures were in danger as of Sunday afternoon as firefighters worked to tame the Jennings Creek blaze, New York Parks Department spokesman Jeff Wernick said. The voluntary evacuation will remain in place at least until Monday, Wernick said.

The wildfire had burned 7 1/2 square miles across the two states as of Friday and was burning primarily in New York's Sterling Forest State Park, where the visitor center, the lakefront area at Greenwood Lake and a historic furnace area remained open. Woodland activities including hunting were halted, Wernick said.

It was 90% contained on the Passaic County, New Jersey, side of the border, and about 88% contained in Orange County, New York, where a state of emergency was extended on Sunday, officials said. New York Army National Guard and state police helicopters dropped water on the blaze to support ground crews' efforts.

"Residents in the voluntary evacuation area are asked to continue sheltering so that crews can effectively suppress the fire," according to a statement posted on Facebook by village officials in Greenwood Lake, New York, where schools will be closed on Monday. "There is currently no threat to structures but crews are actively working to ensure structure protection."

The blaze claimed the life of an 18-yearold New York parks employee who died when a tree fell on him as he helped fight the fire in Sterling Forest on Nov. 9. The fire's cause remains under investigation.

New York City's Fire Department is creating its first-ever brush fire task force to respond to what officials say is a historic increase in brush fires throughout the city's five boroughs, Commissioner Robert S. Tucker announced Sunday. From Nov. 1 to Nov. 14, the FDNY responded to 271 brush fires, marking the highest two-week period in New York's history.

The task force will be made up of fire marshals, fire inspectors and tactical drone units in an effort to ensure rapid responses to brush fires and to help with investigations to determine their cause.

"Due to a significant lack of rainfall, the threat of fast-spreading brush fires fueled by (Continued on Page 2)

## **U.S.-supplied long-range missiles** for deeper strikes inside Russia By AAMER MADHANI, border to try to reclaim hun-address. "Such things are

Biden authorizes Ukraine to use

COLLEEN LONG, ZEKE MILLER, **MATTHEW LEE and ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press** 

MANAUS, Brazil (AP) President Joe Biden has authorized Ukraine to use U.S.-supplied long-range missiles to strike deeper inside Russia, easing limitations on the weapons as Russia deploys thousands of North Korean troops to reinforce its war, according to a U.S. official and three other people familiar with

The decision allowing Kviv to use the Army Tactical Missile System, or ATACMs, for attacks farther inside Russia comes as President Vladimir Putin positions North Korean troops along Ukraine's northern

the matter.

dreds of miles of territory not announced. The missiles seized by Ukrainian forces.

Biden's move also follows the presidential election victory of Donald Trump, who has said he would bring about a swift end to the war and raised uncertainty about whether his administration would continue the United States' vital military support for Ukraine.

The official and the others knowledgeable about the matter were not authorized to discuss the U.S. decision publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's reaction Sunday was notably restrained.

"Strikes are not made with words," he said during his nightly video will speak for themselves."

Zelenskyy and many of his Western supporters have been pressing Biden for months to allow Ukraine to strike military targets deeper inside Russia with Westernsupplied missiles, saying the U.S. ban had made it impossible for Ukraine to try to stop Russian attacks on its cities and electrical grids.

Zelenskyy's statement came shortly after he posted a message of condolence on Telegram following a Russian attack on a nine-story building that killed at least eight people in the northern city of Sumy, 24 miles from the border with Russia.

Russia also launched a massive drone and missile attack, described by offi-(Continued on Page 2)

## Israeli strike in Beirut kills Hezbollah's spokesman, Gaza strike kills 30

By FADI TAWIL, **BASSEM MROUE and** WAFAA SHURAFA **Associated Press** 

BEIRUT (AP) — A rare Israeli strike in central Beirut killed the Hezbollah militant group's chief spokesman on Sunday, while an Israeli strike in northern Gaza 's Beit Lahiya killed at least 30 people, a hospital director there told The Associated Press.

Mohammed Afif al-Naboulsi was killed in a strike on the Arab

socialist Baath party's office in Beirut, Hezbollah confirmed in a statement. He had been especially visible after all-out war erupted between Israel and Hezbollah in September.

Israel's military in a statement said he "wielded significant influence over Hezbollah's military operations" and "glorified and incited" attacks on Israel.

It was the latest targeted killing of a senior Hezbollah official. On Sunday night, another strike in central Beirut hit a computer shop, killing two people and wounding 22, Lebanon's Health Ministry said. There was no immediate comment from Israel's military.

The strikes happened as Lebanese officials considered a United States-led cease-fire proposal. "This confirms the crimes of the Israeli enemy, and that it wants to negotiate under fire and is expanding and targeting safe and safer areas," said a Lebanese member of parliament, Faisal Al Sayegh.

Israel also bombed several buildings in Beirut's southern suburbs, where Hezbollah has long been headquartered, after warning people to evacuate.

Screams in central Beirut

There was no Israeli evacuation warning before the strike near a busy intersection that killed Afif. Four people were killed and 14 wounded including two children, the Health Ministry said.

"I was asleep and awoke from the sound of the strike, and people screaming, and cars and gunfire." said witness Suheil Halabi.

After the second strike in central Beirut, firefighters struggled to control the blaze in the busy residential neighborhood of Mar Elias. Bystanders said they heard a second explosion and a car nearby appeared to be hit.

Hezbollah began firing rockets, missiles and drones into Israel the day after Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023 attack ignited the war in Gaza.

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### Local/Area

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**Chance of showers** and storms move in

Today	Tuesday	Wed.
High 62	High 68	High 50
Low 55	Low 43	Low 32

More Weather on Page 2



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## **County pool project**

(Continued from Page 1)

"The city has secured a match for me currently where we have general fund dollars, CEDIT and Adams Street TIF, so I know that I can at least apply for this grant to make it work out,' Fiechter said.

Initial projections show the pool costing approximately \$6 million.

over 1,200 responses on the survey, over 98% of people supported building a new pool. This last summer, over 10,000 people visited the pool.

'Because you have fun amenities, it draws and attracts people to come to the facilities," Fiechter said in an Oct. 28 Harrison Township board

Fiechter reported that out of the meeting. "Some of the other pools, even in smaller communities, are maxing out within two hours of opening. If we have a lot more fun features we are going to definitely be a draw for economic development and community pride and activities for kids to

jonathan@news-banner.com

(Continued from Page 1)

In Massachusetts, which

Service in Boston warned Sunday that elevated fire risk continued across southern New England, given gusty winds and dry conditions. In Connecticut, a portion of Interstate 84 in Plainville was closed briefly Sunday because of a brush

A volunteer firefighter in Haddam, Connecticut, was injured Saturday while fighting a fast-spreading brush

The National Weather fire sparked by downed power lines. The firefighter was treated at a hospital and released, according to a Facebook post by the Haddam Volunteer Fire Com-

Much-needed rain was

In southern New Hampshire, the fire danger risk was "very high," state offivice said the southern part of the state also faced high fire danger. Most of the state was abnormally dry or facing moderate drought conditions.

Some relief could be

## Wildfire threat continues

dry vegetation and windy conditions have resulted in an historic increase of brush fires throughout New York City," Tucker said in a state-

typically has about 15 wildland fires every October, there have been about 200 this year. State officials said more fires were expected because of weather conditions and dry surface fuels.

predicted for Thursday in the region.

cials said.

The Maine Forest Ser-

in sight in New York. The National Weather Service in Albany said Sunday that most of the region could see a "widespread soaking rain" of 0.5 to 1.5 inches beginning Wednesday

## **Long-range missiles**

(Continued from Page 1)

cials as the largest in recent months, targeting energy infrastructure and killing civilians. The attack came as fears are mounting about Moscow's intentions to devastate Ukraine's power generation capacity before the

"And this is the answer to everyone who tried to achieve something with Putin through talks, phone calls, hugs and appeasement," Zelenskyy said.

The comment appeared to be a dig at German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who spoke Friday with Putin in the first such call with a sitting head of a major Western power in nearly two years.

Some supporters have argued that the limitation and other U.S. constraints could cost Ukraine the war. The debate has become a source of disagreement among Ukraine's NATO allies.

Biden had remained opposed, determined to hold the line against any escalation that he felt could draw the U.S. and other NATO members into direct conflict with nuclear-armed

Putin has warned that Moscow could provide long-range weapons to others to strike Western targets if NATO allies allow Ukraine to use their arms to attack Russian territory.

News of Biden's decision followed meetings over the last two days with the leaders of South Korea, Japan and China. The addition of North Korean troops was central to the talks, which took place on the sidelines of the Asia-

Pacific Economic Cooperation summit

Biden did not mention the decision during a speech at a stop in the Amazon rainforest in Brazil on his way to the Group of 20 summit.

Asked about the decision, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told reporters that the U.N. position is "to avoid a permanent deterioration of the war in Ukraine."

"We want peace, we want fair peace," Guterres said Sunday before the summit in Rio de Janeiro. He didn't elaborate.

The longer-range missiles are likely to be used in response to North Korea's decision to support Putin's invasion of Ukraine, according to one of the people familiar with the development.

The overall supply of ATACMS missiles is short, so U.S. officials in the past have questioned whether they could give Ukraine enough to make a difference. Some supporters of Ukraine say that even a few long-range strikes deeper inside Russia would force its military to change deployments and expend more of its resources.

North Korea has provided thousands of troops to Russia to help Moscow try to claw back land in the Kursk border region that Ukraine seized this year. The introduction of North Korean troops to the conflict comes as Moscow has seen a favorable shift in momentum. Trump has signaled that he could push Ukraine to agree to give up some land seized by Russia to find an end to the conflict.

As many as 12,000 North Korean troops have been sent to Russia, according to U.S., South Korean and Ukrainian assessments. U.S. and South Korean intelligence officials say North Korea also has provided Russia with significant amounts of munitions to replenish its dwindling weapons stockpiles.

Trump, who takes office in January, spoke for months as a candidate about wanting Russia's war in Ukraine to be over, but he mostly ducked questions about whether he wanted U.S. ally Ukraine to win.

He also repeatedly slammed the Biden administration for giving Kyiv tens of billions of dollars in aid. His victory has Ukraine's international backers worrying that any rushed settlement would mostly benefit Putin.

America is Ukraine's most valuable ally in the war, providing more than \$56.2 billion in security assistance since Russian forces invaded in February 2022.

Worried about Russia's response, however, the Biden administration repeatedly has delayed providing some specific advanced weapons sought by Ukraine, agreeing only under pressure from Kyiv, its supporters and in consultation with allies.

That includes initially refusing Zelenskyy's pleas for advanced tanks, Patriot air defense systems and F-16 fighter jets, among other systems.

The White House agreed in May to allow Ukraine to use U.S.-provided weaponry for limited strikes just across the border with Russia.

they were away.

of Netanyahu.

tages.

Hezbollah struck the resi-

dence last month, also when

vide details about the sus-

pects, but officials pointed

to domestic political critics

faced months of mass pro-

tests. Critics blame him

for security and intelli-

gence failures that allowed

the Oct. 7 attack to happen

and for not reaching a deal

with Hamas to release hos-

faces anger from the ultra-

Orthodox community over

military draft notices. Some

protested Sunday in the

ultra-Orthodox city of Bnei

Brak near Tel Aviv after the

government said 7,000 new

notices would be issued.

His government also

The prime minister has

The police did not pro-

### Weather

Monday, November 18, 2024 (24-hour observations at 10:39 p.m. Sunday) **High:** 59; **Low:** 40; **Precipitation:** None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.21 feet at 9:45 p.m. Sunday

### Wells County forecast

Today: A 20% chance of showers after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 62. Calm wind becoming southeast around 5 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight: Showers after 1 a.m. Low around 55. Southeast wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.

**Tuesday:** A 50% chance of showers, mainly before 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 68. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Tuesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 43. West wind around 5 mph.

Wednesday: A 30% chance of showers, mainly after 1 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 50.

Wednesday Night: A chance of rain showers before 1 a.m., then a chance of rain and snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 32. Chance of precipitation is

Thursday: Rain likely, possibly mixed with snow showers, mainly after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 40. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Thursday Night: A chance of rain and snow showers before 1 a.m., then a chance of rain showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 34. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

Friday: A 30% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 44. Friday Night: A 30% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy,

with a low around 33. **Saturday:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 42.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 29. **Sunday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 45.

### Third November storm, Sara, serves notice that hurricane season isn't over

By RUSS BYNUM, Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — As the third named storm to emerge during November, Tropical Storm Sara serves as a reminder that the Atlantic hurricane season hasn't quite

Sara formed in the western Caribbean Sea before making landfall Thursday on the northern coast of Honduras, dumping torrential rains in a slow weekend crawl across parts of Central America. The National Hurricane Center in Miami said the storm could dump up to 40 inches of rain in some areas and is expected to move over Belize Sunday before dissipating over the Yucatan Peninsula early Monday. Sara follows two other named storms so far this month.

Tropical Storm Patty brought heavy rain to the Azores and dissipated without striking land. Then Hurricane Rafael struck Jamaica and the Cayman Islands before tearing across Cuba as a Category 3 storm. That has made for an unusually active final month for

the hurricane season, when forecasters typically see a single named storm every year or two. And the 2024 season still has two weeks to go.

The hurricane season for storms in the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico officially runs from June 1 to Nov. 30. Though named storms have been known to form before

d after that six-month period, hurricane season reflects the months when weather conditions are more favorable for producing tropical storms and hurricanes.

Ocean temperatures must reach at least 79 degrees Fahrenheit to fuel hurricanes. Hurricane season is also when the upper atmosphere tends to have reduced wind shear, or changes in wind speed and direction that tear hurricanes

Those hostile winds tend to ramp up later into the fall, making it more difficult for November storms to form, said Levi Silvers, a hurricane researcher at Colorado State Uni-

Based on the 30-year period from 1991 to 2020, November typically sees one tropical storm every year or two. Storms that strengthen into hurricanes are rarer during the season's final month, with one occurring generally every two years, according to the hurricane center.

Since 1851, a total of 125 tropical storms have been recorded during November, said Brian McNoldy, a hurricane researcher at the University of Miami. About half of those storms, 63, went on to become hurricanes. And 12 strengthened into major hurricanes with winds above 110

Rafael earlier this month forced the evacuation of 283,000 people in Cuba and destroyed 460 homes. It was the Atlantic basin's first November hurricane since 2022, when the season wrapped up with three storms. One of them, Hurricane Nicole, became the first November hurricane to make landfall in Florida since 1985.

## Israeli strikes

(Continued from Page 1)

Israel launched retaliatory airstrikes in Lebanon and the conflict steadily escalated.

Israeli forces invaded Lebanon on Oct. 1. On Sunday, Israel's military said mobile artillery batteries had crossed into Lebanon and began attacking Hezbollah targets, the first time artillery was launched within Lebanese territory.

More than 3,400 people have been killed in Lebanon, according to the Health Ministry, and over 1.2 million driven from their homes. It is not known how many of the dead are Hezbollah fighters.

Hezbollah has fired dozens of projectiles into Israel daily. The attacks have killed at least 76 people, including 31 soldiers, and caused some 60,000 people to flee. Israel's Magen David Adom emergency service said a teenager suffered blast injuries Sunday in Upper Galilee.

Lebanon's army, largely on the sidelines, said an Israeli strike on Sunday hit a military center in southeastern Al-Mari, killing two soldiers and wounding two others. There was no imme-

### diate Israeli comment. In Gaza, an escalation

The director of the Kamal Adwan hospital in Beit Lahiya, Hosam Abu Safiya, said dozens were wounded in the Israeli strike and other people likely were under the rubble.

Fleeing residents told the AP that houses were hit. An Israeli military statement earlier said it conducted several strikes on "terrorist targets" in Beit Lahiya, and that efforts to evacuate civilians from the "active war zone" continued.

Israeli forces have again been on the offensive in northern Gaza, saying Hamas militants have regrouped.

Tonight we did not sleep at all," said one fleeing Beit Lahiya resident, Dalal al-Bakri. "They destroyed all the houses around us. ... There are many martyrs.

Earlier, officials said Israeli strikes killed six people in Nuseirat and four in Bureij, two built-up refugee camps in central Gaza dating back to the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation.

Two people were killed in a strike on Gaza's main north-south highway, according to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in the central city of Deir al-Balah.

Israel's military said two soldiers were killed in northern Gaza on Sunday.

The war between Israel and Hamas began after Palestinian militants stormed into Israel on Oct. 7. last year, killing about 1,200 people — mostly civilians and abducting around 250 others. Around 100 hostages remain in Gaza, about

a third believed to be dead. On Sunday, Israel's Shin Bet internal security agency said it met with the heads of the army and intelligence to discuss mediation efforts to release the hostages. It

was the first public word of any such effort since Qatar announced earlier this month it was suspending its mediation work.

Gaza's Health Ministry says around 43,800 Palestinians have been killed in the war. It does not distinguish between civilians and combatants but has said women and children make up more

than half the dead. Around 90% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million Palestinians have been displaced, and large areas have been flattened by Israeli bombardment and ground

Pope Francis has called for an investigation to determine if Israel's attacks in Gaza constitute genocide, according to excerpts released Sunday from an upcoming book.

### 3 arrested after flares fired at Netanyahu's home

Israeli police arrested three suspects after two flares were fired overnight at Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's private residence in the coastal city of Caesarea.

Netanyahu and his family were not there, authorities said. A drone launched by Hello, Bluffton / Ossian—there's a new Medicare Advantage plan in town

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### **OBITUARIES**

### Stella M. Earhart, 92

Stella M. Earhart, 92, of Montpelier, passed away on Friday, Nov. 15, 2024 at Bluffton Regional Hospital in Bluffton, Indiana.

Stella was born on Feb. 12, 1932, in Montpelier, to Herbert and Mable (Ramseyer) King. She graduated from Montpelier High School and then continued her education at Ball State University to become a Certified Public Accountant. Stella married Earl

Earhart on June 24, 1960, in Markle. He preceded her in death on March 7, 2012.

Stella was preceded in death by her parents, Herbert and Mable King; husband, Earl Earhart; and siblings, Udella McFarren, Areta Warner, Herman King, Marion King and Carl King.

Loving survivors include her siblings, Treva King and Harvey (Deanie) King,



both of Montpelier; and several nieces and nephews.

Friends and family may gather to share and remember at Walker and Glancy Funeral Home located at 109 W. Windsor St. Montpelier, IN 47359, on Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A funeral service will begin at 1 p.m. with Pastor Les Bantz officiating. Stella will be laid to rest alongside her husband at Stahl

Cemetery in Bluffton, Indiana.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to: Blackford County Community Foundation

Arrangements have been entrusted to Walker and Glancy Funeral Home in Montpelier, Indiana

Online condolences can be made at glancyfuneralhomes.com

### Sharon K. Lautzenheiser, 83

Sharon K. Lautzenheiser, 83, passed away Friday morning, Nov. 15, 2024, at Christian Care Retirement Community in Bluff-

Sharon was born in Huntington on July 22, 1941, to Porter L. and Viola M. (Bailey) Haneline, both parents preceded her in death. She married Richard "Dick" Lautzenheiser on Oct. 26, 1957, in Huntington, he preceded her in death on Feb. 18, 2024.

Sharon retired from the Bluffton K-Mart store, where she served as the assistant store manager for over 15 years. She was a member of the First Church of Christ in Bluffton, Red Hat's and Women's Hospitality group with the church. Sharon enjoyed scrapbooking, sewing and crocheting blankets for her family, candy making, photography, traveling and was a big supporter of wildlife organizations.

Sharon is survived by her children, Rick (Ventura) Lautzenheiser of Pearland,

Texas, Cynthia (Jeff) Brown of Arcadia, Indiana, Lorie (Tom) Baumgartner and Peggy (Mario Perez) Lautzenheiser, both of Bluffton; twelve grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren; and a brother, Leroy (Teresa) Haneline of Pleasant Lake, Indiana; and her beloved dog Gracie.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a sister, Marga-

ret Thoma in 2022. Receiving of friends will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024, from 1:00 until 4:00 p.m., at Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton, followed by a memorial service at 4:00 p.m., with Pastor Mike Jefferson officiating. Burial will take place at Hoverstock Cemetery,

Memorials can be made in Sharon's memory to Friends Who Care Cancer Relief, Christian Care Retirement Community or Heartland Hospice.

Joyce was preceded in death by her

husband, Thomas Eugene Wilkins; father,

Curtis Wulliman; mother, Gertrude (Sprun-

ger) Wulliman; sister, Roberta Bertsch;

brother, Clyde Wulliman; brother-in-law,

Rick Wilkins; and sisters-in-law, Lois Wul-

Family and friends may gather to share

and remember at Downing and Glancy

Funeral Home, Geneva, for viewing on

Friday, November 22 from 3:00 p.m. until

A service to celebrate her life will also

be at Downing and Glancy Funeral Home

in Geneva, on Saturday at 11:00 a.m.,

with viewing one hour prior, with Pastor

Joe Lampton officiating. Interment will fol-

low in the M.R.E. Cemetery in Berne.

liman and Connie Wulliman.

### Riginia Joyce Wilkins, 83

Riginia Joyce Wilkins, 83, of Berne, passed away at 11:11 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 14, 2024, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She was born on Jan. 10, 1941, in Berne. She married Thomas Eugene Wilkins on June 30, 1960, in the Mennonite Church

Loving survivors include her sons Scott Wilkins, Geneva, Troy (Tanya) Wilkins, Berne, and Tim Wilkins, Berne; daughter, Teresa (Cory) Reckard, Poneto; brothers, Van (Sharon) Wulliman, Berne, and Roscoe Wulliman, Berne; sisters, Grace (Ron) Claghorn, Berne, and Gyneth (Mike) Sutton, Berne; and sisters-in-law, Marge Wulliman, Berne, and Jayne Wilkins, Fort Wayne. She is also survived by nine grandchildren and 11 great-grandchil-

### Dr. Denise Downs, 72

Dr. Denise Downs, 72, of Bluffton, passed away early Saturday morning, Nov. 16, 2024, at her residence.

### Regina M. Huffman, 79

Regina M. Huffman, 79, passed away Saturday morning, November 16, 2024, at IU University Hospital in Indianapo-

Goodwin-Cale & Harnish MC.

Funeral arrangements are currently pending with the Thoma/Rich, Lemler

Funeral Home in Bluffton.

### Donna Marie Kammerer, 60

Donna Marie Kammerer, 60, of Bluffton, passed away on Saturday afternoon, Nov. 16, 2024, at her residence.

Funeral arrangements are currently pending with the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

Funeral arrangements are pending with

### **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 pub-

## **Commission for Higher Education recommends** cutting financial aid awards

By NIKI KELLY **Indiana Capital Chronicle** 

Thousands of Hoosier students could see lower state college financial aid under a recommendation approved by the Commission for Higher Education Thursday.

The panel approved reduced awards for the Frank O'Bannon grant after changes to the Free Application for Student Financial Aid caused more students to become eligible.

The cuts ranged from between 14% and 86% depending on where a student goes to college and their specific financial needs.

"It feels like we're put in a position to do the least harm. You know, we were trying to do the greatest good, but this is do the least harm," said commission member Nancy Jordan.

She said she is concerned about optics after celebrating enrollment in other financial aid programs "and now we're having to cut. It's just it kind of goes counter to that.'

The recommendation now moves to the State Budget Committee, where it could change. Theoretically, lawmakers can add to the funding pot during the legislative session — though staff said not to expect that.

'So, we never like reducing awards, but ... it is still one of the most generous programs in the nation," said Josh Garrison, chief of

staff for the commission. The Frank O'Bannon Grant is designed to provide access for Hoosier students to attend eligible public, private and proprietary postsecondary institutions. Eligibility for the grant is based on financial need as determined by the FAFSA. The grant may be used toward tuition and regularly assessed fees.

To be eligible, students must be full-time and earn at least 24 credit hours; their award goes up if they earn 30 or more credit hours.

Federal changes to the FAFSA means more students are qualifying for federal, state and institutional aid.

According to the approved draft, the maximum award for a student with the highest need attending a public institution would drop from \$6,200 a year to \$5,300. Similarly, the maximum award for a highneed student attending a private institution would drop from \$12,400 to \$10,600.

The last category is those attending Ivy Tech Community College or a proprietary institution dropping from \$4,700 to \$4,050.

Mary Jane Michalak, senior vice president for legal and public affairs at Ivy Tech, said a preliminary analysis suggests that Ivy Tech students will lose \$6 million, with 7,200 students impacted and 400 a total

loss of eligibility. Current award levels for the Frank O'Bannon grant

can be found here. Commission staff said they will still issue the same number of awards — around 30,000 — at a total cost of roughly \$175 million.

The cost for this year jumped to about \$225 million because data was unavailable during a botched FAFSA rollout last year, so commission members kept the awards at the same amount. The state is covering the increased costs with a reserve surplus.

Commission member Molly Kitchell said she was kind of terrified as she began crunching numbers on the draft provided.

Garrison noted several times that, even with reductions, the amounts are higher than they were in 2022-23 schedule, and overall the program is spending \$44 million more than two years ago.

That was when the commission increased awards by

"If we find a pot of money we will increase it again at that point in time,"

### **VISITATION & SERVICES** Ralph W. Schumm

Calling: 2-5 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Friday, November 15 and one hour prior to the service at the church. Service: 11 a.m. Saturday, November 16 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Ossian.

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www.thomarich.com

### **Governor Holcomb takes last** international economic development trip to Middle East

**DOWNARD Indiana Capital Chronicle** 

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb will make one more international economic development trip before leaving office in January stopping in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to target partnerships in both the life sciences and defense sectors.

The trip will be his 27th as governor and the final stop abroad for his administration. Travel expenses are paid for by the Indiana Economic Development Foundation, which doesn't disclose its funders.

"Indiana's reputation as a central player in the global economy continues to grow, yielding real results for Hoosier industries, innovation and residents alike," Holcomb said in a news release.

The trip to the Middle East will include Maj. Gen. Dale Lyles - who announced earlier this month he would retire as the leader of the Indiana National Guard — and representatives from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation.

Saudi Arabia and Indiana exchanged \$418 million worth of goods in 2023. The Hoosier State is home

STEFFEN GROUP REAL ESTATE & AUCTIONS **RESIDENTIAL** 

to three businesses owned

by Saudi Arabians, includ-

ing Gas Equipment Co. and

SABIC Innovative Plastics.

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## Reflections on voting

Now that election day is almost two weeks into the past, almost an epoch in the American attention span, some retrospection is in order.

I stayed true to my election day ritual. At 5:35 a.m. I followed a neighbor out of our addition to the precinct polling place to stand in line waiting for the doors to open. After hearing friends complain about two and three hour waits to vote early because apparently everyone had the same idea, I expected things to be rather deserted at the

polls. Not so. There were about 50 people already lined up ahead of me, the most I have experienced in my 25 years of voting there.



Mark Franke

## Hoosier **Opinions**

Even more surprising was the 50 or more behind me by the time the doors opened at 6:00. I had a flight out of Fort Wayne at 9:00 so I wondered if I could make it, given the reports from early voting times.

I was out the door at 6:15 a.m. The efficiency of the precinct poll workers was truly impressive.

There were a lot of people I couldn't recall seeing in previous elections. Clearly there was a heightened interest level in this election. Voting data for my home county of Allen don't reflect a higher interest, though; fewer votes were cast in 2024 than in 2020 but more than in 2016. I will let the data wonks sort that one out, and I am sure they will try. I can add only one datapoint: I didn't see many yard signs in my addition this year.

And did I mention that it was drizzling as we stood outside waiting for the doors to open? November rain is never fun but people didn't seem to mind. The conversations were cheerful and strictly non-political. We were neighbors, after all, and a little rain wasn't going to spoil the experience. We all understood the importance of what we were doing.

Even though I claim to despise politics in its current debased form, I still stay up on election night until a winner is announced. This year it was until Pennsylvania was called, well after midnight. Between the election and the World Series, I have experienced some serious sleep deprivation the past several weeks.

My first experience with pulling an all-nighter was in 1960. I listened to the radio most of the night while the commentators were trying to figure out why no results were being reported from Chicago. My fourth-grade teacher forgave my drowsiness the next day and I eventually learned about the Daley machine's creative vote

The mists of memory about 1960 drew me back into previous presidential elections and how successful I have been in voting for the winner. My record is 7-6-1: seven winning candidates, six losers and one tie, the tie being a protest vote for a third-party candidate who obviously lost. Full disclosure demands I admit to being 7-7, not bowl-eligible.

Two things can be learned from my record. First, don't ask me for advice on voting. Flipping a coin gives you the same odds as my opinion.

More important is the validation of the resilience of our democratic polity. Stable democracies can tolerate and even strengthen themselves with frequent government changes. It is one more defense against both despotism and anarchy. Even the rash of sore losers who refuse to concede or who question the legitimacy of election results can't breach our constitutional founds tions. No thinking person in America wants one-party rule, and our system looks to the voters to prevent that.

Does the voting public still hold sovereignty in America? Reviewing my adulthood's 14 elections suggests a positive answer to that question.

• In eight of the 14, the incumbent party lost to the challenger party. What happened to the proverbial home field advantage?

• Four sitting presidents lost their reelection bids, although five prevailed.

• Vice presidents were able to succeed to the White House only once in four attempts. If we include all the presidential elections in my lifetime, two more vice

Perhaps the most memorable thing of that morning was standing in line with a college student who came home to vote in her first election. She was excited about being able to cast her vote alongside her parents and neighbors. The only downer for her was having to listen to me drone on about my first election, which was probably back in the stone age for her. Still, she was polite about it.

When she checked in, the poll worker asked if this was her first election. She responded affirmatively and the poll work announced loudly that we had a first-time voter. People applauded.

That's American democracy in action. I think we can feel confident that our democracy will survive despite the "sky is falling" predictions of the doomsayers. Just listen to that applause instead.

Mark Franke, an adjunct scholar of the Indiana Policy Review, is formerly an associate vice chancellor at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.

Submit your Letters to the Editor via: • Our website link (Submit your Letter) •E-Mail: email@news-banner. com • Mail: PO Box 436, Bluffton IN 46714 • Drop-off: 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton. All letters must be signed and must include a phone number or address in case verification is desired. Letters are edited for brevity and clarity. Letters must be no more than 500 words. Please mark your correspondence as a "Letter to the Editor," or if you wish to express an opinion to us but do not want it published, please mark as "Not for Publication."

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

## Indiana Democrats didn't fully embrace McCormick

In October 1984, Evan Bayh showed up at The Elkhart Truth to go before its editorial board. He was there stumping for the Democratic gubernatorial nominee, state Sen. Wayne Townsend, who was running an uphill and ultimately unsuccessful challenge to Gov. Robert

That was four years after he had managed his father's U.S. Senate reelection bid, one that saw Sen. Birch Bayh lose to Rep. Dan Quayle. "Evan, what are you running for?" Truth reporter Phil Schermerhorn asked.

Two years later, Evan Bayh ran and won the secretary of state office. In 1988, he ended what was then the longest GOP gubernatorial dynasty at five terms, defeating Lt.

Gov. John Mutz, 53%-47%, and setting off 16 consecutive years of Democratic gubernatorial rule.

Hoosier Democrats are staring into a similar abyss. Republican Mike Braun defeated Democrat Jennifer McCormick in a novel experiment, extending the current GOP dynasty to five terms. McCormick, a former Republican state school superintendent, had switched parties two years before running unopposed for the Democratic nomination, essentially becoming the first swing voter to seek the state's highest office.

But Democrats did not fully embrace McCormick.

She carried only five counties, compared with 12 for John Gregg in 2016 and three for Woody Myers in 2020. She did not carry her home county of Henry or Delaware, where she served as superintendent of Yorktown schools. In the counties she did carry, there was a significant drop-off. While Gregg carried Lake County with 64.7% — or 127,491 votes — in 2016, McCormick won it with only 53.7% — or 107,320 votes on Nov. 5.

Gregg outperformed McCormick by about 3,000 votes in St. Joseph County and polled about the same in the university counties of Tippecanoe and Monroe. Gregg won Indianapolis with 226,116 votes, compared with 222,148 for McCormick.

Braun wiped out McCormick in rural Indiana, winning with over 70% of the vote in 20 counties and with 60% of the vote or more in another 44 counties. In 2016, Republican Eric Holcomb carried more than 60% of the vote in 44 counties, but had none over 70%.

While Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear and Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly held fundraisers for McCormick and stumped with her on the trail, few Hoosier Democrats did the same. Former first lady Judy O'Bannon appeared with McCormick during the final week of the campaign, but no Bayhs or Greggs joined her on the

Fundraising was a persistent problem for McCormick. She had a mere \$170,000 in cash on hand at the midyear filing. It was a late \$2 million from the Democratic Governors Association that fueled most of her homestretch TV advertising.



Howey

## **Politicking**

By the time the homestretch had arrived, Braun had a \$12 million-to-\$2 million funding advantage over McCormick. There would be no big fundraisers featuring former South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg to help fill her coffers.

As for what it will take for Indiana Democrats to become competitive again, Shaw Friedman, a LaPorte attorney who served as treasurer of the Indiana Democratic Party, said it must come after the national party rebrands.

"I firmly believe that until we can restore our national brand with blue collar, working class voters as the only party truly standing up for the little guy,

there is little that can be done at the state or county level to increase the electability of our candidates, particularly in a state that is one of only seven states in the union to still allow straight ticket voting," Friedman

"Both Trump's and Sanders' best applause lines in 2016 and 2020 came by inveighing against unfair trade agreements like NAFTA that have hollowed out whole Midwestern communities," Friedman said.

I asked Ambassador Joe Donnelly at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in August what

it would take to make his state party relevant. He suggested it would have to be after the Donald Trump era ends. "President Trump has been a unique figure in that he's created so much dedication and support for himself, especially in Indiana," said Donnelly, who served three terms in the U.S. House and one in the Senate before losing to Sen. Braun

"I think when President Trump's time has concluded, I think people

will go, 'Let me see what else is out there.' Because so much of it is a personal devotion to President Trump," Donnelly continued. "They care about him and he certainly has worked hard to create that connection. So I think that changes a little bit."

Trump saw his Indiana pluralities go from 57% in 2016 to 59% last week, winning 1.711 million votes.

As far as who might bear the party standard in 2028, any list would include Donnelly or one of its young mayors.

Then there's 29-year-old Beau Bayh, one of Evan Bayh's twin sons, who is a Marine veteran and a judicial law clerk for the U.S. Court of Appeals Seventh Circuit. He joined statewide Democratic candidates on the campaign trail in 2020. There is speculation he will challenge Republican Secretary of State Diego Morales in 2026, carving a similar path that his father carved a generation ago.

"His dad took us out of the wilderness in 1986," Friedman said. "I think it would be appropriate for him to take that role.'

Howey is a senior writer for Howey Politics Indiana and State Affairs. Find Howey on X @hwypol.

## Trump's national security wrecking crew

Loose talk about court-

martialing retired Gen. Mark

of the Joint Chiefs of Staff,

adds to the poisonous atmo-

because he stood up to bul-

Hegseth talks as if he's

sphere. Milley is a target

lying from Trump and his

supporters.

American voters gave Donald Trump a solid win on Election Day. But they didn't give him a wrecking ball to destroy the country's military and intelligence agencies.

That's what's so scary about Trump's nominations of Pete Hegseth and Tulsi Gabbard as secretary of defense and director of national intelligence, respectively. Neither is remotely qualified for two of the most important management jobs in government. They're polemicists and ideologues — wreckers, to be blunt, rather than builders. If confirmed, they would do more to doom Trump's presidency than Democrats ever

Trump is a disrupter, and this latest set of nominations (including Matt Gaetz for attorney general) has shown that he hopes to overturn what he imagines as the "deep state." Trump's bark was worse than his bite during his first term. But now he is gathering a war cabinet for what seems to be a serious assault on the leadership of the military

and the intelligence community. Hegseth's nomination is especially dangerous. On Fox News, he has made a career out of denouncing the senior military leaders he would direct as defense secretary. His recent book, "The War on Warriors," includes personal attacks on Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr., chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Adm. Lisa Franchetti, chief of naval operations. He smears them, in effect, as diversity hires.

The Left captured the military quickly, and we must reclaim it at a faster pace. We must wage a frontal assault," Hegseth writes. He describes what he regards as the current military ethos with an imaginary call to arms, "We will not stop until trans-lesbian black females run everything!" This is crazy nonsense.

Hegseth won't be running a Fox talk show if he's confirmed. He will have absolute power to fire any general officer who doesn't meet Trump's political standards. The Wall Street Journal reports that the transition team is already drafting an executive order for a "warrior board" to recommend generals and admirals for dismissal. A Journal editorial Thursday sounded the right warning: "The military isn't Mr. Trump's enemy, and a purge mentality will court political trouble and demoralize the ranks."



David just campaigning against Biden-era "woke" military Ignatius leaders. But he began hammering at the military chain of command when Trump was president. He crusaded on Fox News for Navy SEAL Eddie Gallagher, who has been convicted for improper behavior in Afghanistan, and helped persuade Trump to rescue Gallagher. It was a bad omen, driven by con-

issues. Trump started off with reasonable enough nominees for his national security team. Sen. Marco Rubio and Rep. Michael Waltz, both of Florida, are solid choices for secretary of state and national security adviser. Both have worked with Democrats on defense and intelligence issues, and neither would send America's allies and partners rushing for the exits.

tempt for military leaders, not DEI

Rubio, like most Republicans, has been swept up in the Trump tornado. But he worked effectively as vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee with Chairman Mark R. Warner (D-Virginia) And in private, he's said to be a solid supporter of Ukraine's struggle to resist Russia's invasion. It's a mark of Rubio's good sense that the MAGA right reportedly wants to derail his nomination.

Waltz is a surprise choice but not a terrible one. With his service as an Army Green Beret in Iraq and Afghanistan and four Bronze Stars, he has "a high degree of respect within the SOF community," a former head of Special Operations Command told me. During three terms as a Florida congressman, he was more than a MAGA mouthpiece, working across the aisle on some issues.

But as national security adviser, Waltz will have a vastly greater challenge. This job involves coordinating the immense overt and covert powers of the U.S. government — the "interagency" — to frame and achieve our foreign policy goals. The people who have succeeded in this job — think Henry Kissinger, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Brent Scowcroft, Steve Hadley, Jake Sullivan — served years of

apprenticeship. Let's hope Waltz is a fast learner, with a good staff.

A. Milley, former chairman John Ratcliffe, Trump's choice for CIA director, won't arrive with a meat cleaver, either. He was deferential to Trump when he served as director of national intelligence in 2020, but he didn't undermine the 18 agencies he supervised. Ratcliffe's biggest problem will be stemming a rush to the exits of senior CIA officers who are telling colleagues they can't stomach four more years of serving Trump and sustaining liaison relationships with foreign intelligence partners who are wondering whether America is a trustworthy ally.

> But Gabbard is a bizarre choice for DNI. This ought to be a job for an intelligence professional with enough experience to review the budgets and priorities of an intelligence community that, frankly, is too big and barely manageable. At a minimum, you'd expect any prospective DNI to have a record of standing firm against America's adversaries.

> Not Gabbard. She visited Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in 2017, said she was "skeptical" of the deeply documented evidence that Assad used chemical weapons on his people, and later claimed it was an "undeniable fact" that America funded biological weapons labs in Ukraine, even though critics said she was parroting Kremlin propaganda.

Gabbard's appeal for Trump, it seems, is that she shares his view that the United States has been fighting too many wars. During her unsuccessful run for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020, she denounced an "ongoing Bush-Clinton-Trump foreign policy doctrine of regime change wars, overthrowing dictators in other countries, needlessly sending my brothers and sisters in uniform into harm's way to fight in wars that actually undermine our national security and have cost us thousands of American lives." That's Trump's view, too.

Trump doesn't want war except, perhaps, when it comes to China and Iran. Most of his appointees, the good, bad and ugly, have hawkish views about Beijing and Tehran. Those countries are in the firing line. But tragically, so are U.S. military and intelligence officers. That can't be what voters wanted on Nov. 5. It's up to the Senate to prevent it by denying confirmation of Hegseth and Gabbard.

Follow David Ignatius on X:@ignatiuspost

## What's happening at the Wells County Public Library

its mission to "provide the community with access, knowledge and growth" very seriously and offers a variety of events each week for kids, teens, and adults. Registration is preferred at most events. To signup, go to www.wellscolibrary.org, click on the Library Event Calendar, navigate to the date of the event, and view more to get to the registration screen. Alternatively, call 260-824-1612 (Bluffton) or 260-622-4691 (Ossian) to register.

### Vera Cruz History: Author Talk

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, Nov. 19 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Adults. Charles Joray will be speaking about the history of Vera Cruz, Indiana, and his recently released book "The Early History of Vera Cruz Indiana: 1838-1910." He will have his books for sale at the end of the program. Registration is appreciated, but not required. About the Book:

'Drawing on his extensive research and interviews of residents and descendants, author and historian Charles Joray explores the challenges and triumphs of the families who settled Vera Cruz and whose intertwined stories make up much of its history during the last half of 19th century. There's also no shortage of colorful characters, tragic accidents, and even unsolved murders. Whether you're a history enthusiast,

The Wells County Public Library takes a native Hoosier, or simply curious about small-town America, this book offers a captivating journey through the past of Vera Cruz, Indiana" – book jacket.

### Kids' Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, Nov. 19 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Grades K-3. Join us for book-related crafts, stories, games, and a chance to make new friends at the library. Registration appreciated.

### **Club 456**

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, Nov. 21 from 6 to 7 p.m.

Grades 4-6. Join us as we travel the world! Explore different countries! Learn about different cultures! Taste traditional foods! And learn to dance or celebrate in different ways! This month...Australia! Registration appreciated.

### **Amazing Race Around the World**

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, Nov. 21 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Grades 6-12. In two-person teams, race across the continents while completing challenges! Maybe you'll need to make a quick craft, maybe you'll need to learn a new language, who knows what your roadblock will be. Registration required. You can register with a partner or be assigned one at the pro-

### **Board Game Night**

At the Ossian Branch Library: Thursday, Nov. 21 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Adults (18+). Join us for a night of tabletop games at the Ossian Branch. Registration appreciated.

### **Try It Night: Coffee Filter Trees**

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, Nov. 25 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Adults. Create or try out a new craft each month. This month you will use coffee filters and a variety of supplies to make a cute holiday decoration. All supplies provided. Registration required.

### **Golden Gamers**

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, Nov. 26 from 3 to 5 p.m.

Adults. Adults. Are you bored? Do you need some social interaction? Come and enjoy two hours of socializing, games, and snacks. Registration appreciated.

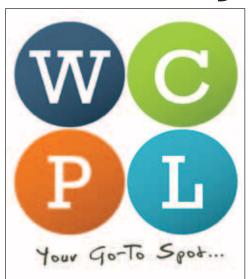
### **LEGO Drop-in At Ossian**

At the Ossian Branch Library: Tuesday, Nov. 26 from 4 to 7 p.m.

Grade K-6. Create LEGO masterpieces using the library's blocks during this drop-in event. No registration needed.

### **Library Closing for Thanksgiving** The Main Library and the Ossian Branch

will close at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 27 and be closed on Thursday, Nov. 28 and



Friday, Nov. 29 for Thanksgiving..

### **Library Hours**

At the main library in Bluffton — Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

At the Ossian branch library — Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon.

Access the library online at www. wellscolibrary.org for digital books, magazines, online databases, event info, and

## Holiday Craft & Vendor Show in Bluffton

A Holiday Craft and Vendor Show will be held at the National Guard Armory in Bluffton on Saturday, Nov. 23, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Over 30 direct sales and

hand craft vendors will be on hand. There will be vendor donated raffle items. All money raised from the raffles will be donated to Honor Flight of Northeast Indiana. Admission is free.

For more information, contact Deb Carson at 260-273-7950 or doodlebug\_63@yahoo.com

The National Guard Armory is located at 500 E. Spring St. in Bluffton.

## 1.000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN



Several children recently completed the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program at the Wells County Public Library by reading and listening to 1,000 books with the help of family members.

At left, Andrew Anderson (holding his prize book "Color Zoo") is pictured with his mom, Amanda.



his prize book "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?) is pictured with his mother, Kayla



At left, Crew Kauffman (holding his prize book "Animals Depending on Other Animals") is pictured with his dad, Brandon, and his sister, Saylor.

The 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program is sponsored by the United Way of Wells County, the Wells County Foundation, and the Friends of the Library. The program not only helps prepare children for school, but instills the value of reading and life-long learning. For more infor-mation visit the Wells County Public Library's website at www. wellscolibrary.org and click on the "Children" section.

### A Talk with Tego



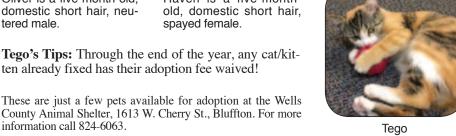
Oliver is a five-month-old, domestic short hair, neutered male.

information call 824-6063.



Raven is a five-monthold, domestic short hair, spayed female.

Tego's Tips: Through the end of the year, any cat/kitten already fixed has their adoption fee waived!



spayed female.

Sassy is a four-month-

old, domestic short hair,

### **Al-Anon support** group meetings in Bluffton

Support for friends and family who have a problem drinker in their lives. The support group meets every Monday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Caylor-Nickel Foundation Family YMCA, located at 550 W. Dustman

Rd in Bluffton.

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## **Zanesville News**

Thanks to my readers who reported to me that East Union Center graduate, in the Class of 1946, Peggy Bushee McKeeman passed away on May 23 just a few days after the alumni meeting. She was the wife of John McKeeman. Now Annette Wall Best is the last remaining of that class!

The Neighbor Coffee Cafe continues at the Zanesville Church of God on the corner of Marzane and South County Line

### Fort Wayne's **Cinema Center and** YWCA team up

On Friday, Nov. 22, Fort Wayne's Cinema Center and the YWCA will combine forces to host a "Holiday Slipper & Clothing Drive, during the screening of WICKED at 4 and 7:30

Those attending the screening are asked to bring either new-with-tag slippers (bonus if they're ruby) or other article of clothing in exchange for pop corn. For more information check out Road. It is open week days from 7:30 to 10 a.m. and all are welcome to come in.

You are welcome to attend the Town of Zanesville's monthly board meeting that will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 19, at 6:30 p.m. These meeting take place at the Municipal Building on Wayne Street.

Mark your calendars for Sunday evening, Nov. 24, as the area churches combine for a pre Thanksgiving service that will be held at the Tower Life Center Church on Wavne Street. The time if 7 p.m. This service is our looking forward to celebrating Thanksgiving on Thursday, Nov. 28.

by Melba Edwards



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## Raiders win 5th straight game; first time since '13

By RICK SPRUNGER

MARION — Southern Wells ran away with the game and never looked back Saturday night at Eastbrook.

The Raiders were all over the homestanding Panthers right from the opening tip, and the result was a 34-19 victory that was easier than even the score suggests.

It was Southern Wells' fifth straight victory, the school's longest such streak for a girls' basketball team since its 16-7 sectional championship-winning team of 2013 won eight straight to start the season.

It was also the Raiders' first victory over Eastbrook in 13 tries, the last being a 50-37 win also in 2013.

This one was all Southern Wells.

The Raiders surprised Eastbrook with an up-tempo offense that seemed to leave the home team looking at taillights and gasping

The Panthers missed their first 11 shots of the contest and hit just two of their first 23 (8%) stretching more than halfway into the third quarter.

Southern Wells shut them out, 9-0, in the first stanza on its way to leads of 12-0, 18-3 and 29-6 early in the third period.

"They like it," said first-year Southern Wells coach Kyle Penrod after the game. "It messed us up in the second half, though, when we needed to take care of the ball and not be too risky.'

Southern Wells aggressive style caused Eastbrook to be caught out of position on numerous instances in the first half, and the Raiders took advantage in bursting out to the big lead.

Colleena Reeves got things started with a three-pointer just over a minute into the contest. Ashlee Needler fol-

lowed with a shot from the lane and a pair of free throws, and Reeves canned a baseline jumper at the buzzer for that 9-0 spread at the quarter-break.

Gracie Reeves followed her older sister's example with a three to start the second quarter, Colleena rebounded a Needler miss and put it back, and Needler herself scored from underneath twice, the second time on the Raiders' fourth shot of the possession.

That made it 18-3, and the possession pointed to another quality aspect of the Southern Wells style of play.

The Raiders owned a crippling 28-11 advantage on the boards at halftime. While the final rebounding number of 44-32 was less dominant than the halftime statistic, it was more than enough to easily get the job done. This, against a 23-3, sectional-winning team of a year ago that drilled the Raiders by 44 points.

"Not the same team," Penrod was very quick to point out. "They graduated four starters, and they have a new coach."

After A.J. Renner got a little five-footer in the lane to drop for her (and her team's) second basket of the game, a

bucket by Aubree Meyer, a layup by Kenzie Paxson and a three-pointer by Kaylea Coffel made it a 20-point lead.

Colleena Reeves then closed out the first half with a rebound basket and opened the second half with a shot from underneath to make it 29-6, Southern Wells' biggest lead of the game.

After that, it was merely a matter of playing out the string, and things turned pretty

Colleena Reeves led Southern Wells in scoring with 11 points, and Needler added

Reeves and Davis each had eight rebounds, and Needler had seven to pace the Raiders on the boards.

"To think the girls are having fun," said Penrod. "We're trying to get everyone

involved in the flow of the game and make everyone feel important so that each of them can say they contributed in some way.'

Then, following a tug on his sleeve, Pen-

rod rejoined his team. "I told them we'd go to McDonald's if we won," he explained as he was spirited away by a happy bunch of teenage girls.

Southern Wells also won the junior varsity contest, 17-13, in a game shortened to two quarters due to Eastbrook only having 12 girls out to play.

Remi Holmes scored 10 points, Cadence Watkins five, and Lexi Pennington two for the Raiders.

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**SOUTHERN WELLS 34, EASTBROOK 19** 

At Eastbrook SOUTHERN WELLS (5-1): Erika Beavans 0-7 0-0 0, Kay lee Davis 1-5 0-0 2, Collena Reeves 5-11 0-0 11, Gracie Reeves 1-8 0-0 3, Ashlie Needler 4-10 2-2 10, Kaylea Coffel 1-5 0-0 3, Aubree Meyer 1-4 0-0 2, Kenzie Paxson 1-2 0-0 2, Kyah Thomas 0-2 0-0 0, Callie Ripperger 0-0 0-0 0, Cadence Watkins 0-0 1-2 1, Remi Holmes 0-0 0-0

0. TOTAL: 14-54 3-4 34. **EASTBROOK (1-2)**: Addison McVicker 1-9 0-0 2, Makayla Fox 2-8 0-0 5, A.J. Brenner 2-10 0-2 4, Mia Bustos 2-7 0-2 4, Jazmine Plummer 0-4 0-0 0, Kayla Cochran 1-3 0-0 3, Adree Payton 0-1 1-2 1. TOTAL: 8-42 1-6 19. Southern Wells 9 18 2 5 — 34 Eastbrook 0 6 6 7 — 19

Three-point shooting: Southern Wells 3-15 (Beavans 0-4, Davis 0-1, C. Reeves 1-3, G. Reeves 1-2, Coffel 1-1, Meyer 0-2, Thomas 0-2), Eastbrook 2-17 (McVicker 0-3, Fox 1-7, Brenner 0-5, Cochran 1-2. Rebounds: Southern Wells 44 (Davis 8, C. Reeves 8, Needler 7), Eastbrook 32 (Bustos 9, Brenner 7). Turnovers: Southern Wells 20, Eastbrook 22. Personal fouls: Southern Wells 13, Eastbrook 9. Fouled Out: None. Technical fouls: None. Junior Varsity: Southern Wells 17, Eastbrook 13.



Norwell's Ryleigh Huffman emerges from the water and takes a deep breath during the butterfly at the Norwell Invitational on Saturday. The Knights won the event with 307 points. (Photo by

## Knights open the girls' swim season by winning own invite

The girls' swimming season began over the weekend with the annual Norwell Invitational.

The girls' only event was topped by the host school Norwell, who took home first place with 307 points — 121 points higher than second place Angola.

Norwell had a total of three events capture first place: Emerson Meredith in the 100-yard freestyle, Marlee Meredith in the 100-yard breaststroke and the 200-yard freestyle relay team with Annalise Cornett, Ryleigh Huffman and

The Knight girls' next meet will be at home against Adams Central at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 19.

**Point scorers for Norwell were:** 

• The 200-yard medley relay third place of Rilynn Ervin, Huffman, Marlee and Emerson Meredith. The second team finished sixth with Faith Grant, Emma Easley, Ellie Bales and Molly

 Cassie Coyne fourth in the 200-yard freestyle and Olivia Daniel ninth.

• Ervin fifth in the 200-yard IM and Karrigan Melcher seventh.

• Marlee Meredith first in the 50-yard freestyle and Easley seventh.

• Huffman fifth in the 100-yard butterfly, Threewits seventh and Easley

• Emerson Meredith first in the 100yard freestyle and Kylee Hannie ninth.

• Coyne second in the 500-yard freestyle, Melcher fifth and Daniel seventh.

• The 200-yard freestyle relay team first with Cornett, Huffman and the Meredith's. Kennady Bixler, Ellie Bales, Dessie Fritts and Hannie 11th.

 Cornett third in the 100-yard backstroke, Ervin fourth and Grant eighth. • Marlee Meredith first in the 100-

yard breaststroke Emerson Meredith second and Bales 10th. • The 400-yard freestyle relay team

third of Melcher, Ervin, Cornett and Coyne. Hannie, Daniel, Easley and Huffman sixth. Team scores: 1. Norwell with 307

points, 2. Angola (186), 3. Huntington North (163), 4. Bishop Dwenger (142), 5. Oak Hill (141), 6. Columbia City (129), 7. South Adams (98), 8. Bellmont (71), 9. Leo (46) and 10. Adams Central (19).

## Poor fourth quarter spoils Tigers' hid for road win

By ANDREW FEEBACK

KENDALLVILLE — For three quarters, the Bluffton Tigers gave themselves a chance to pick up a quality road win.

Then, the fourth quarter happened, and they left with a 57-47 loss to the host East Noble Knights.

The Tigers (2-1) shot poorly from all over the floor, making only 1 three-pointer in 11 attempts and struggling to finish under the basket as well. "A combination of both of those," coach

Doug Curtis said. "I didn't think we shot the ball very well against Northfield, and the first game was not even a game, so you can't really look at that. We shot it worse today, and for as much time as we put in shooting the ball, you'd think we'd shoot the ball a little bit better. (It's) definitely a struggle for us."

Isabella Stout led the Tigers with 20 points, while Maryn Schreiber scored 11 and Konley Ault added nine.

Ault made the Tigers' only three-point shot of the game in the first quarter.

In spite of its poor shooting, Bluffton led 19-14 when the first quarter ended and led by as many as seven in the first half, largely due to playing under control and taking care of the ball.

That began to change as the first half wore on with six second quarter miscues allowing the Knights (2-1) to ease their way back in front.

A solid stretch late in the third quarter put the Tigers up 42-37. Back-to-back buckets from Stout and three free throws between Stout and Tressa Renner capped off a 7-0 run for the visitors.

Then, the Tigers went cold again, and this time they didn't recover. East Noble's Rian David closed the third

quarter with a triple, and the Knights ran in eight straight points to begin the fourth. Bluffton missed its next seven shots, and by the time they got one to finally drop, it was too late.

One free throw from Khloe Dick brought Bluffton within 48-43 at the 3:16 mark, but East Noble had the ball for well over a minute before David's three-point play stretched their lead to eight. There was little the Tigers could do by then, as they watched the Knights make 16-17 free throws for the game.

Bluffton finished 15-47 from the field, while East Noble was 18-33.

"We played them last year, and we played them this summer, and that was the best job they've done offensively to get us moving and out of our deflection spots and trapping spots," Curtis said. "We had to play three defenses, and none of them were really

Curtis also felt his team's poor shooting had a mental effect as the game pro-

"As they were making shots and we were missing, we're seeing that lead change and we start thinking," he said. "I felt very limited substituting today because we had so many people not have a great game.

"The good thing is, that was probably one of the top two or three teams we're going to play, and it was on the road," he continued.

Averi Amstutz led all scorers with 24 points while David added 12.

Bluffton will travel to Mississinewa

The Tiger's junior varsity team fell to East Noble 48-36. Grace Fry scored 10 points, while Kamryn Ault and Addison Kauffman both had six.

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### EAST NOBLE 57, **BLUFFTON 47**

At East Noble

BLUFFTON (2-1): Khloe Dick 0-6 1-4 1, Isabella Stout
7-14 6-7 20, Konley Ault 2-8 4-6 9, Marly Drayer 0-2 0-0
0, Maryn Schreiber 5-11 1-2 11, Tressa Renner 1-2 4-4 6, Madyson Sonnigsen 0-4 0-0 0, Madelyn Funk 0-0 0-0 0, Sophie Eisenhut 0-0 0-0 0, Isla Gibson 0-0 0-0 0

EAST NOBLE (2-1): Averi Amstutz 6-9 12-12 24, Brooklyn Arnold 0-0 0-0 0, Hailey Molargik 0-0 0-0 0, Kate David 3-5 0-0 8, Makenna Strohm 2-4 3-4 7, Shaye Ritchie 0-1 0-0 0, Elli Will 0-0 0-0 0, Rian David 4-7 1-1 12, Avalynn Schache 0-3 0-0 0, Addison Deming 3-4 0-0 6, Carys Shire 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 18-33 16-17 57.

Bluffton 19 8 15 5 — 47

East Noble 14 12 14 17 — 57

Three-point Field Goals: Bluffton 1-11 (Ault 1-2, Dick 0-3,

Sonnigsen 0-3, Stout 0-2, Renner 0-1), East Noble 5-12 (Rian David 3-5, Kate David 2-3, Amstutz 0-2, Strohm 0-1, Schache 0-1). Rebounds: Bluffton 21 (Schreiber 10, Stout 5, Renner 2, Ault 2, Dick 1, Drayer 1), East Noble 18 (Strohm 5, Deming 4, Kate David 3, Rian David 2, Ritchie Amstutz 1, Schache 1). Turnovers: Bluffton 14, East Noble 20. Fouls: Bluffton 16, East Noble 20. Fouled out: Ritchie. Technicals: None. JV: East Noble 48, Bluffton 36.

## **High School Calendar**

**MONDAY, NOV 18** No events scheduled. **TUESDAY, NOV 19** 

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.



Khloe Dick launches a shot over East Noble's Shaye Ritchie in the fourth quarter Saturday night at Kendallville. (Photo by Glen Werling)

## Knights fall at No. 7 Raiders

Norwell lost by just three points in a tough road match with No. 7 Northridge in girls' basketball on Saturday.

The Knights (3-2) dropped by three points in a 57-54 game against the now 2-1 Raiders.

Norwell fell behind 38-23 at halftime, but rebounded back by scoring 20 points in the fourth quarter, but the margin was too steep to climb.

Vanessa Rosswurm led the Knights with 20 points and five rebounds. Ashley Waldman hit two three-pointers to score 12, while Addison Norris scored nine, going 3-5 from deep and grabbing four steals.

Norwell will be at Homestead at 7:30

p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 19.

### NORTHRIDGE 57, NORWELL 54 At Northridge

NORWELL (3-2): Vanessa Rosswurm 8-26 3-7 20, Ashley Waldman 5-11 0-0 12, Addison Norris 3-5 0-0 9, Macie Saalfrank 3-13 1-2 9, Jada Dale 1-2 1-2 3, Alivia Green 0-1 1-2 1, Ryland Graft 0-2 0-0 0, Larkin Smith 0-0 0-0 0, 0-1 1-2 1, Ryland Glaft 0-2 0-0 0, Lakini Shilin 0-0 0-0 0, Isa-halley Williamson 0-2 0-0 0, Mekynzi Beck 0-0 0-0 0, Isa-bella Swineford 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 20-62 6-13 54. Norwell 15. 8. 11. 20 — 54 Northridge. 17. 21. 7. 12 Three-point shooting: Norwell 8-25 (Norris 3-5, Waldman 2-5, Saalfrank 2-8, Rosswurm 1-3, Graft 0-1, Williamson 2. Dale 0.1) Northridge 6.16 (Mehamed 4.7 Huss 1.2

2-5, Saalfrank 2-8, Rosswurm 1-3, Graft 0-1, Williamson 0-2, Dale 0-1), Northridge 6-16 (Mohamed 4-7, Huss 1-2, Conley 1-3, Goodwin 0-4). Rebounding: Norwell 22 (Rosswurm 5, Saalfrank 4, Green 3, Waldman 2, Dale 2, Swineford 1, Smith 1), Northridge 36 (Mohamed 7, Goodwin 5, Conley 4, Reigsecker 3, Yeater 3, Baugh 3, Scholl 2, Huss 1). Turnovers: Norwell 10, Northridge 15. Fouls: Norwell 13, Northridge 15. Fouled out: None. Technicals: None.

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Bluffton at Mississinewa 7:30 p.m.; Norwell at Homestead, 7:30 p.m.

### Am I setting the wrong boundaries?

Dear Annie: I have complex feelings about my family, which may come across as harsh, but I feel it's important to explain. They exhibit behaviors that I find troubling, such as a tendency to rely on the more successful members of the family for support without taking accountability for their own circumstances. In their numbers — they view, refusing to help is seen as a deep disrespect.

My mother and I have worked diligently to achieve our successes, often without support from the family. Despite our requests for help during challenging times, we were met with excuses. Now it seems that my achievements are viewed as a burden, as if I should forgo my success simply because other family members are struggling with self-inflicted challenges.

The expectation that "family takes care of family" can sometimes be They probably miss you, which is why taken too far. For example, my brother has asked me to cover the cost of his engagement ring, and my grandmother has insisted that I purchase alcohol for her when she cannot afford it. While I believe in supporting those who face genuine hardship, it is disheartening to see my family ridicule those of us who choose not to enable a cycle of dependency, especially when we are unable to assist.

I have attempted to maintain a relationship with my family that does not revolve around financial support, but this has led to feelings of being an outcast for my success and my refusal Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's to conform to their expectations. This situation has persisted for so long that I have grown weary and indifferent.

Ultimately, I have come to the realization that our relationship is strained. I feel that we do not genuinely like each other. Some days, I accept this reality, while other days, I grapple with feelings of guilt for

making my own well-being my top priority. Despite my efforts to distance myself such as avoiding social media and blocking phone still find ways to reach out, often reinforcing their disappointment

through veiled

comments and

negative atti-



Dear

Annie

by Annie Lane

tudes. This ongoing conflict leaves me questioning my decision to step back. Am I in the wrong for prioritizing my own needs? — Conflicted Black Sheep

Dear Conflicted Black Sheep: they're trying to get in touch. That doesn't mean you made the wrong decision, though. You have to make choices that are best for where you are in life right now. Remember, people can change, so it's good to check in with your family periodically to see if they may be more open to change as well. But you are 100 percent correct that you don't have to buy your brother's engagement ring or booze for your grandma. Those are pretty outrageous requests.

"How Can I Forgive My Cheating 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.

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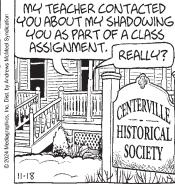






### CRANKSHAFT







### **My** Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham

Question: When I tell my friends I wish I could know God the way they do, they tell me that I should listen for the voice of the Lord. This seems impossible that God would call out to me – it seems more like a fairytale, yet I don't believe my friends would lie to me. How is this really possible? – G.C.

Answer: God is a personal God. He is not lofty nor hard to find. His Word tells us that He calls out to sinners – that is, anyone ever born.

God makes three calls. He calls us to the Person of Jesus Christ. "Come now, and let us reason together,' says the Lord,

### God is a personal God

'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow" (Isaiah 1:18, NKJV). They can

be made as white as snow because of the cross where Jesus died to cleanse us and save us for eternity. Imagine, the God of Heaven calling out to us!

God also calls us to consecration. This word scares a lot of people; it isn't a word used much anymore. It means "set apart." The Bible says, "Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God" (Romans 12:1, NKJV). It means we no longer belong to the crowd, but to God!

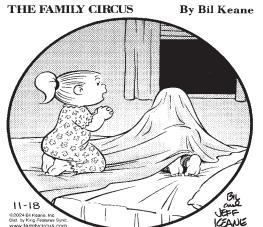
God also calls us to serve Him. Many people have the wrong idea of what this means. Put simply, it means to acknowledge Him and obey Him according to His Word.

Whatever we do in life, we should get to know the Word of God and apply it daily to every phase of life. We must not wait for a wind to come along and blow us in any direction. We must make it our purpose to do the will of God, which is revealed in Scripture. It will change us in remarkable ways that cannot be imagined. When we surrender everything to the Lord, we will be expecting Him to guide 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

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"God can't hear you from under there, Jeffy.'

## The LOCKHORNS



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SYFY	41	1 13	5 122		(3:45) <b>਼*★★★ The Matrix</b> ('03) Keanu Reeves.	Reloaded		<b>he Matrix Re</b> Keanu Reeve		003, Sci-Fi) L	aurence Fishb	urne, Carrie-	F*★★ F9 Th Brewster, Vii		(2021, Action	n) Michelle Ro	driguez, Jorda	ana	(:25) <b>%</b> Happy <b>□</b>
TBS	43	3 13	0 139	247	Big Bang Big Bang		Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang		Big Bang		Big Bang	American			American		America
TNT	44	4 13	1 138		(4:45) ♥★★ Black Adam Brosnan, Dwayne Johnsor		) Aldis Hodge	, Pierce	Pregame (L) (N)		Nations Lea Quarterfinal, 2			Postgame (L) (N)			, Action) Aldi	is Hodge, Pier	ce Brosna
4146	1	_	436	-	(3:00) F		010, Adventu	re) Gary Oldr			nbstone (199						Marshals (19	98, Action) W	esley Snip
AMC	45		131	'	Colombiana Kunis, Denze			The Off:	The Off:	The Off:	The Off: -	The Offi-	The Offi-	The Offi	The Offi-		ney Jr., Tomm		Eam: !!
COM	47			-	The Office The Office Speak Joy Taylor, Keysha				ns League S				ns League S					Family Guy NFL Films	
FS1	48			219	Pierce discuss the biggest	sports topics	of the day.	League A, G	roup 2.	•		League A, G	roup 1.			Matchnight		Presents	Footbal
WGN WE	53	_			Vargas Report (L) (N) Bones	The Hill (L)	N)	On Balance Bones	(L) (N)	Cuomo (L) ( Bones	N)	Dan Abram Bones	s Live (L) (N)	Banfield (L)	(N)	Cuomo Bones		Dan Abram Bones	s Live
FOOD					(4:00) Harry Potter	5065	ing Champi				king Champi			Wars "Winte	er Workout"	Beat Bobby	Flay	Holiday Ba	king
BRAVO	60	0 14	0 129	237	Below Deck	Below Deck		Below Decl		Below Deck	(N)	Below Decl	Sailing Yac	ht (N)	Below Deck		Real House		Housewi
NICK DISN	68	_	170 172		Rock Paper Loud House Bluey Bluey		SpongeBob Bluey	SpongeBob Wonderful		SpongeBob Primos	Primos	Friends Place	Friends Place	Jessie	Friends Jessie	Friends Kiff	Friends Kiff	Friends Bluey	Friends Bluey
		+			F*★★ Jumanji: The Nex		,		,		e Cruise (202					The 700 Clu		਼*** Dr. S	
EEFORM	70	0 32	180	311	Dwayne Johnson.					Johnson.								Grinch	Tret
НВО	30	1	300	501	(:10) Dune: Prophecy			e (2010, Action nzel Washing		Dune: Prop	песу	(:10) The Franchise	(:40) Dune: P	ropnecy	(:50) Somebody	(:20) Dune: F	ropnecy		ıτ
MAX	32	:5	310	515	(4:45) ♥★★★ Mid90s	(:10) ♀★★★	Forgetting S	Sarah Marsh	all (2008,		Switch ('14)		unter			n 👺★★ Sisters (2015, Comedy		nedy) Tina Fey	, Maya
	-	-		-	('18) Sunny Suljic. (4:00) <b>਼*★★★ My Cousin</b>			la Kunis, Jaso le Story) Robe		Cope, Nicho		Lioness (N)	Lane, Megar (:45) Killing I		# The Dear	Rudolph, An	ny Poehler. (2023, Drama	a) Viggo	(:45) <b>% Z</b> a
ARSHO	35	1 85	1 318	545	Vinny ('92) Joe Pesci.		, .	•					Baby"		Mortensen,	Solly McLeod	Vicky Krieps.	. 33	& Miri N
	- 1 -	1	9 327	[	(:10) ♥★★★ The Curious	Case of Ber	jamin Butto	n (2008, Fan	asy) Cate	★★ Dying of Yelchin, Nico	of the Light (	'14) Anton	(:35) **★★ Patricia Arqu				(:40) <b>%★ Sna</b> John Heard,	ake Eyes ('98	) Gary Sin

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### Services

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**Calendar for** 

this event

HOLIDAY CRAFT & vendor show Nov. 23, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.,

National Guard Armory, 500 E.

Spring St., Bluffton. Food, ven-

dor donated raffle items, free admission. 30+ direct sales

vendors and hand made craft

items. All money from raffles will be donated to Honor Flight

Having an upcoming event?

A 20 word, line classified in the

Bluffton News-Banner for six days

is \$24.50. Contact the office at

125 N. Johnson St., 260-824-0224,

or classifieds.news-banner.com.

**Lottery Numbers** 

Saturday's Drawings

HOOSIER LOTTERY

38

26-32-39

Cash 5 - 15-21-30-31-

**Cash4Life** — 16-17-23-

**Lotto Plus** — 02-18-22-

Quick Draw Midday —

Daily Three-Midday -

Daily Three-Evening —

Daily Four-Midday —

Daily Four-Evening —

**Quick Draw Evening** 

01-04-05-09-10-18-20-

**Hoosier Lotto** — 05-15-

21-22-25-32-38; Power-

22-24-25-29-38-39-40-47-

**POWERBALL** 

**Sunday's Drawings** 

HOOSIËR LOTTERY

Cash 5 - 12-16-36-37-

**Cash4Life** — 10-17-30-

Quick Draw Midday -

01-05-17-19-23-27-33-34-

45-47-50-52-57-58-60-65-

Daily Three-Midday —

Daily Three-Evening —

Daily Four-Midday —

Daily Four-Evening —

**Quick Draw Evening** 

**Hoosier Lotto** — Esti-

- 02-03-04-11-18-21-24-

26-27-36-37-39-42-46-52-

mated jackpot (for Wednes-

**MEGA MILLIONS** 

**POWERBALL** 

Wednesday): \$144 million

Estimated jackpot (for

Estimated jackpot (for

58-62-65-66-75, BE: 65

Tuesday): \$420 million

day): \$29.7 million

37-47, Cash Ball: 01

68-69-70-71 BE: 27

02-09-08, SB: 06

00-04-04, SB: 04

04-05-00-08, SB: 06

01-03-03-07, SB: 04

ball: 16; Power Play: 5X

51-53-57-60-74, BE: 57

16-28-29-41

02-07-23-25-27-28-29-37-

42-43-44-45-49-55-56-60-

39-60, Cash Ball: 03

62-71-72-74, BE: 37

06-07-05, SB: 00

02-07-04, SB: 01

05-07-04-00, SB: 00

04-03-00-04, SB: 01

of Northeast Indiana.

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

King Classic Sudoku

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

### Services

Difficulty: ★

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### Services

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11/18

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## **Public Sale** Calendar

**BIDDING ENDS NOVEMBER** 24 - (Online Only) - Various consignors and antique dealers, seller. Christmas decor blow ups, vintage Christmas decor, vintage toys, antiques, primitives, vintage collectibles, costume jewelry, tools, modern and antique furniture, hardware, appliances, TVs, sports collectibles, dolls, glassware, Early Featherweight sewing machine, rare primitive mud sled, sporting goods, much more. Open houses Nov. 19 and Nov. 21 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 102 S. Jefferson St., Ossian, IN. Sale manager Rod Fetters, 260-557-8451, The Steffen Group Inc., 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.
BIDDING ENDS NOVEMBER

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

**NOVEMBER 24-DECEMBER** 1 - (Online Only) - Estate of Eldrid Tinkel. 1995 Ford XLT 1/2 ton pickup truck, Komatsu PC10-6 mini excavator, antique tractors, farm implements, livestock feeder and waters, Amish buggy, horse drawn sleighs, pioneer covered wagon, horse driving equipment, farm primitives, power and hand tools, garden equipment, engine stand, Craftsman snowblower, chain saws, scrap metal, vintage Coleman lanterns, vintage stop sign, antiques. Open house Nov. 24, 2-4 p.m., Nov. 29, 10 a.m.-noon, 1910 N Meridian St., Marion, IN. Brandon Steffen, sale manager, 260-710-5684, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-426-0633.

NOVEMBER 25 - 6 p.m. -Christopher & Kellie Pierce, owner. Held at Krueckeberg Auction Complex, 815 Adams Street, Decatur. Real estate & land auction! Tract 1: 2 bed. 1 bath, 948 sq. foot home, full basement, 40'x90' bank barn, 30'x20' barn, grain bin, wooded, tillable, 6.5+/- acres. Tract 2: 4+/- acres tillable frontage on Hoagland Rd. Tract 3: 4+/acres tillable frontage on SR 101 & Hoagland Rd. Tract 4: 42.5+/- acres tillable frontage on SR 101 & Hoagland Rd. To be sold in individual tracts or any combinations. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com. NOVEMBER 26 - 6 p.m.

(Live Auction) - The Estate of Jimmy L. Thompson, seller. Auction location: 1245 4-H Park Rd., Bluffton, IN. 96.89+/acres, Liberty Township, Section 18, southern Wells County farmland. Highly productive farmland with approximately 76+/- acres tillable land, road frontage along 500 W. and 200 S, approximately 15.5+/- acres in woods/classified forest. Nick Huffman, 260-827-8255, sale manager, The Steffen Group *Inc.*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

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

7402, Kjauction.com. DECEMBER 3 - Starts at 6 p.m. - Blackford Golf Club (Lort Services, Inc.), owner. Held at Blackford County Fairgrounds, Hartford City, IN. Online bidding available. 105+/- acres offered in 7 tracts or any combination. Currently a golf course, potential farmland, recreational land, development potential, personal property available, Blackford Co. Inspections Nov. 19, 3 p.m.-5 p.m., 1605 W. Water St., Hartford City. Auction mgr. Al Pfister, 260-760-8922, Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc., schraderauction. com, 800-451-2709.

DECEMBER 4 - 3 p.m. -Online - Dusty Roach, Bankruptcy Trustee, sellers. 6,142 sq. ft. modern commercial building. Key features: 5 rental units w/4 office suites, 1 currently leased, 600 sq. ft. heated garage w/16'x12' overhead door, independently controlled heating and cooling for units, expansion potential w/additional land available for future.

Public Notices

IN THE WELLS

CAUSE NO 90C01-2411-EU-000044 IN THE MATTER OF THE )

NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that
KRISS A. WALTON was, on the
13th day of November, 2024,

appointed personal representative

of the estate of THOMAS F. WAL-

TON, deceased, who died on October 20, 2024, and was authorized

STATE OF INDIANA

THOMAS F. WALTON,

Deceased

WELLS COUNTY

### Open houses Nov. 20, 2-3 p.m., Nov. 27, 2-3 p.m., 2379 N. Main St., Bluffton, IN. Kurt Ness, auction mgr., 260-417-1545, Ness Bros. Realtors & Auctioneers, www.NessBros. com, 260-459-3911. DECEMBER 5 & 6 - 9 a.m. Secured creditors & vari-

ous consignors, owners. 815 Adams, St., Decatur. Day 1: Online bidding only. Over 300+ lots including skid loader attachments, tool boxes, workbenches, iron gates, chains & binders, 1 trip 40' high side shipping container w/side doors, dome shelter containers, much more! Day 2 truck & equipment auction! Onsite and online bidding offering 600+ lots! Cars, SUV, 1/2 ton & 3/4 ton pickup trucks, cargo & passenger vans, dump trucks, large group of box trucks, day cabs, sleepers, utility trucks, bucket trucks, utility & semi trailers, SUV's pickup trucks, various skid steer attachments, much more! Accepting consignments! Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com. DECEMBER 8-15 - 2 p.m. -

(Online only personal property) - Thomas B. & Mary Lou Woodward, seller. 2016 JD 1025R diesel utility tractor, Frontier RT1149 tiller, 2016 Grasshopper zero turn mower, 2020 Club Car Carryall 1700, mowers, lawn & garden, patio furniture, antique & modern furniture, vintage framed art work, lithograph prints, vintage pickle castors, glassware, collectibles, more. Preview Dec. 1, 8, 2-5 p.m., Dec. 12, 3-6 p.m., 301 N. Highland Ave., Ossian. Patrick Carter, sale manager, 260-824-3006, The Steffen Group Inc., www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.
DECEMBER 9 - 4 p.m.- 6

p.m. ET - (Online) - Crandall Farm, sellèr. Propérty location: Two miles northeast of Gas, IN, near intersection of E 300 S and S 550 E, Mill Township, Grant County. 81.59+/- total acres, tillable, woods, recreational land, potential building sites. Tract 1: 27.59+/- acres, 18.4+/- tillable, 8+/- woods, 1.19+/- non-tillable. Tract 2: 54+/- acres, 28.91+/- tillable, 23.34+/- woods, 1.75+/- nontillable. Rick Johnloz, 260-827-8181, Emma Barr, 260-494-Jason Johnloz, 260-273-0992. 9177. Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management, 800-

naiderman.com.

**DECEMBER 17 - 9 a.m.-6** p.m. - (Online Only) - Thomas B. & Mary Lou Woodward, seller. One of a kind picturesque real estate offering. Outstanding 4,014 SF on 8.45 acres, 4 bedroom, 3 bath home with a 2 car detached garage. Scenic backyard with multiple utility sheds and gazebo, Wells County. Open houses Dec. 1 and 8 from 2-5 p.m., and Dec. 12 from 3-6 p.m., 301 N. Highland Ave., Ossian, IN. Pat Carter, sale manager, 260-273-8294, The Steffen Group Inc., www.steffengrp.com, 260-426-

### TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

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### **NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION** TO CREDITORS

ESTATE NO. 90C01-2411-EU-000042 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WELLS COUNTY

Notice is hereby given that EDWARD E. THOMPSON AND ROBERT L. THOMPSON were on the 8th day of November, 2024, appointed as Personal Representatives of the ESTATE OF JOYCE P. WEEKLEY, deceased, who died on the 29th day of September,

2024.
All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the Office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be for-

ever barred DATED AT BLUFFTON, INDI-ANA, THIS 8th DAY OF Novem-

ber, 2024.
Beth Davis
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT
COURT FOR WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA

nb 11/18, 11/25

### **SUDOKU ANSWER**

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

8 2 9 1 8 6 7 9 7

## November DS & S



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Office at 1180 N. Main, Bluffton

Bluffton, Indiana 46714 (260) 824-5566 Attorney for Estate

### to administer said estate without court supervision. All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the

office of the clerk of this court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, this

13th day of November, 2024. Clerk, Wells Circuit Court Clerk, Wells Circuit Co Timothy K. Babcock Attorney No. 21526-90 DALE, HUFFMAN & BABCOCK 30 Premier Avenue

nb 11/18, 11/25

1 8 6 7 9 7 8 8

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