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BLUFFTON, INDIANA · Wells County's Hometown Connection

# **Southern Wells OK's Performance Services** for building project

**By HOLLY GASKILL** Performance Services of Indianapolis will act as Southern Wells' "qualified provider" for their bond

In October, the district approved a \$3 million bond to pursue multiple building repairs and renovations, including roof repairs to the Raider Dome and agriculture building, adding air conditioning in the Raider Dome, renovating locker rooms, and improving the sewer system. The board approved Performance Services to oversee the project during their meeting Tuesday; they also met with the construction company earlier this year while the board was considering a new auxiliary gym.

"And at this point, we have no financial obligation with them - they're going to manage (the bond)," Superintendent Trent Lehman said.

Lehman also advised that the bond sold on Tuesday.

Alongside this, David Paul on behalf of Astra Insurance presented the board with a plaque honoring Southern Wells Community Schools as "remarkable in their safety participation and programs." Paul said SWCS was chosen from 60 Indiana schools the company works with for the designation.

"We take into consideration a lot of things, but one of the things we really look at is how proactive is the school in safety, risk man-

agement, how are they approaching (things) to keep the not only the students safe, but the community and the staff safe as well," Paul said. "And I can tell you that Southern Wells is doing it better than anybody in the state right now ... the results speak for them-

Page 3

During public comment, Chris Elzey asked the board about starting a trap shooting team through the Indiana High School Clay Target League. Elzey said he and another leader would be certified instructors through the league and students would complete safety

The league is open for sixth through 12th grade, but Elzey said SWCS could consider opening to only older students. All club activities would take place off campus.

Board member Andrew Pursifull asked if any neighboring schools offered similar teams, and Elzey said both Bellmont and Adams Central schools have teams. Board member Todd Fiechter suggested the board take it under advisement, and encouraged Elzey to speak with Lehman about more specific details. No action was taken on Tuesday.

The board's "Spotlight on Raider Success" first recognized the junior high cross country teams, which received multiple firsts and second places in conferences this season. They also thanked the

(Continued on Page 2)



'Merry christmas' coming to town

Bluffton's "Merry Christmas" message was being hung at the Wells County Courthouse Tuesday morning by the city's "decorating" crew and their extra tall ladders. All the city's holiday decorations are going up in preparation for Parlor City Christmas on Dec. 14. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

# **Bluffton Common Council** tables Solid Rock Rentals zoning

By JONATHAN SNYDER

A petition to vacate and rezone lots of former Forget-Me-Not acres on the east end of Serenity Trail was tabled by the Common Council Tuesday.

Drew Gerber of Solid Rock Rentals plans to add 25 units of two-bedroom, one-bathroom rental housing east of Serenity Trail. Previous Wells County Area Plan Commission meetings have seen pushback on the potential design of the lots.

At their Nov. 7 meeting, the APC gave no recommendation for the rezoning but suggested that Gerber meet with concerned residents about the plans. That meet-

ing is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Nov. 26 at the Wells County annex, however, APC and city ordinance requirements forced the petition to be introduced at the first possible council meeting.

Ben Murray, a Memory Lane resident, and Gerber both amicably presented their sides regarding the petition on Tuesday. Murray cited concerns about the increase in traffic, the detention and drainage systems, and the size of the road for fire trucks.

Murray stated that school buses pick up kids at the corner of Lancaster Street and Memory Lane. With no sidewalks on Memory Lane and no other entry point, Murray said that the increased traffic from the cars coming from the planned development would be a

Gerber stated that he reached out to the KOA grounds to see if they were open to an easement that allows another exit point for the residents, but they had not responded.

Gerber also came up with a quote that would potentially add a sidewalk at Memory Lane, but Murray warned that different utilities near the proposed sidewalk area could make those plans nonviable. Gerber also mentioned the possibility of two additional

(Continued on Page 2)

# **Stabilization work** commences on new **Hoosier Highway**

By HOLLY GASKILL

Work may not be finished between county roads 200 S and 300 S for the new Hoosier Highway until early summer 2025, Highway Department Supervisor Shawn Bonar reported.

The Wells County Commissioners approved a change order for the project in a special meeting on Nov. 12. The soil failed testing for its sulfate content the contractor, Gradex, was ordered to remove the 14 inches of soil and replace it with stone.

During the commissioners' meeting Monday, Bonar said Gradex began the process on Nov. 15 and planned to complete the asphalt binder before Thanksgiving. Bonar was OK with this if the weather allowed it, but did not want traffic on the road breaking down the binder. Commissioner Jeff Stringer,

however, stated he wanted some-

thing in writing from the project engineer ensuring this was appropriate and it would be under warranty. "I don't want them to come back and say, 'Well, the county told us to do it, and then it fails, and then we're held liable for that," Stringer said.

The project will shift the Hoosier Highway west from the Bluffton Industrial Park to avoid three railroad crossings and allow continuous traffic between State Road 218 and the industrial park. It is being paid for in part by the county, the Indiana Department of Transportation and federal grants.

Also on Monday, Bonar stated the department is completing some mowing and work to prepare for winter weather. His crews will continue to pave gravel roads until the weather prevents them. They are currently working on C.R. 800 E between S.R. 224 and 750 N,

(Continued on Page 2)

# No update on remaining Wells **County Jail renovation work**

By HOLLY GASKILL

A representative from Ameresco, the project manager for the renovation of the Wells County Jail, is expected to attend the county commissioners' next meeting.

At the commissioners' Nov. 4 meeting, Commissioner Blake Gerber said the final renovation items — largely small finishing items — needed to be completed by Thanksgiving. Commissioner Jeff Stringer stated the county could handle the remaining work

if Ameresco did not and would bill the company accordingly.

The jail's renovation project began in 2021 and was largely completed in 2023.

There's been movement,' advised Sheriff Scott Holliday on Monday. Holliday also stated he told Ameresco about the commissioners' statements and a representative planned to attend the next meeting on Dec. 2. Holliday said he told Ameresco he felt like their secretary, relaying their informathan them providing updates.

"I've had plenty of correspondence with them, it's just trying to get this stuff scheduled, get it done," Holliday said.

"Ask them to bring some solutions, not just an update," Stringer added.

The county is withholding a final payment of \$40,000 for the \$8.275 million renovation.

Alongside this, Holliday has (Continued on Page 2)

# **Engineering contract approved for Roush Park improvements**

**By JONATHAN SNYDER** 

Following approval by the Bluffton Park Board on Nov. 14, the Board of Public Works and Safety approved an engineering contract on Tuesday with Engineering Resources for improvements at Roush Park.

The contract is set to design plans for a new overflow parking lot, resurfacing the basketball court and various ADA accessibility improvements. The cost to design the project totals \$24,300. Board Member Scott Mentzer noted that they need to officially

agree on a contract so ARPA funds can be used to pay for the project, which are set to expire at the end

"It's a definite need," said board member Josh Hunt. "I park in the grass most of the time to let everyone else park in the lots."

Parks Department Superintendent Brandy Fiechter also requested a \$5,338.57 transfer from the department's salaries line item to their medical insurance and Public Employees Retirement Fund line items. Fiechter said that this transfer should carry the department to

the end of the year.

Utility Director Jon Oman also requested that Wastewater Collection Supervisor Derrick Deininger and Assistant Supervisor Todd Durham be considered as Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (Continued on Page 2)

## Local/Area

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Also... Sports. . . . . . . . . . . . . 6 Classifieds . . . . . . . 8 



More showers and a chance of snow Thursday

Thursday Friday High 48 | High 38 | High 45 Low 30 | Low 30 | Low 38

More Weather on Page 2



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## **Southern Wells**

(Continued from Page 1) district's bus drivers, who elementary Principal Kristen Wall said carry a collective 250 years of experience driving for the district and have impacted thousands of students' lives.

Also during the meeting, the board:

- Approved a synchronous learning day for grades 6-10 and 12 on March 11 while the junior class takes the SAT.
- Accepted employment recommendations from Chris Furnish as a fulltime bus driver and Delaney Zigler as an instructional assistant. They also approved health insurance extension for Chris Hartman, who, though technically retired, has continued helping the district. Her health insurance will now continue through December 2025.
- Adopted a resolution adding an adjunct teaching position to the list of employees the district pays into the Public Employee Retirement Fund, as required by the state.
- Accepted donations from Southern Wells PIE for elementary STEM legos, an anonymous donor for preschool fees, and Whitetails Unlimited for the archery
- Approved fundraiser requests from the wrestling team to sell hog raffle tickets and the Business Professionals of America to sell Concanon's Popcorn and Pretzels in November and December.
  - Approved field trip





Pictured are the two groups recognized by the Southern Wells school board Tuesday night. At top are some of the district's bus drivers and above are the junior high cross country teams. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)

requests from cross country to go to the Nike Midwest Regional in Terre Haute from Nov. 16-17 (retroactively), BPA to go to the state contest in Indianapolis from March 9-11, sixth requests from Anthony

grade to go to McCormick's Creek April 30-May 2, and seventh and eighth grades to go to Washington D.C. from Oct. 15-19.

• Approved facility use

Wayne Area Council BSA for Cub Scout recruitment from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 30.

The next SWCS board meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 17.

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## Weather

Wednesday, November 20, 2024 (24-hour observations at 11:41 p.m. Tuesday) High: 67; Low: 50; Precipitation: 0.27 inches of rain Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.21 feet at 9:45 p.m. Tuesday

## Wells County forecast

Today: Showers likely, mainly before 2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 48. West wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

Tonight: A chance of rain showers before midnight, then a chance of rain and snow showers between midnight and 1 a.m., then a chance of snow showers after 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 30. West wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

Thursday: A chance of snow before 1 p.m., then rain and snow. High near 38. West wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New snow accumulation of less than one inch possible.

Thursday Night: Rain, possibly mixed with snow before 4 a.m., then a chance of rain. Low around 30. West wind 10 to 15 mph becoming north after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.

Friday: A 40% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 45.

Friday Night: A 40% chance of showers, mainly before

1am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 38. **Saturday:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 46.

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

**Sunday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 51.

Sunday Night: A 50% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 42.

# **Hoosier Highway**

(Continued from Page 1) 650 N between 750 E and 800 E, and 750 E between 650 N and 700 N.

The commissioners later approved the purchase of a 2015 Trail King trailer for \$17,000 from Ramseyer Excavating. They also approved a \$2,558.52 annual contract with Korsen Fire & Security for fire

alarm monitoring and prevention. An unofficial detour with

INDOT was also approved. Engineer Nate Whitacre said INDOT plans to complete a bridge deck overlay on S.R. 218, just over four miles west of S.R. 1, in April. He expects the work to last between 30-45 days.

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## **Bluffton Common Council**

(Continued from Page 1) concrete parking areas to help address added traffic.

During the Nov. 7 APC meeting, residents also stated that the road sometimes floods after heavy weather events and that the increase in residents could worsen drainage conditions. After discussing the item with the fire department, Murray said on Tuesday that Gerber's street design needs to change the fire hydrant locations for

fire safety. The council members chose to table the matter until further notice. They have 90 days to act on the matter

before it is denied due to inaction. Another petition to rezone 1590 and 1600 West Washington Street from residential to light industrial was continued by the council. BCG Capital and Minnich Industries bought the former Wells County Highway Department property to use as a supply and storage site for their materials and con-

The former government building did not need a specific designation, but the Highway Department's previous work would put it in light industrial zoning, according to APC Executive

Director Mike Lautzenheiser.

While the APC gave a do-pass recommendation to the council, the council's concern was that other industries could arrive later on and use it for intensive light manufacturing processes. Council members Scott Mentzer and Sarah Reed both cited concerns surrounding future tenants and the lack of consistency with the comprehensive plan. Council member Josh Hunt also noted that Lion's Park is nearby

Mentzer asked if the BCG's and Minnich's purposes could allow the building to be classified as a business three zone. Lautzenheiser said that more research would be needed.

Mentzer clarified that while he wants to see BCG and Minnich's storage purposes succeed, he believes that business zoning will allow a more appeasable area considering the comprehensive plan has the ideal purpose for the site as a business and residential zone

"By making a decision to zone this industrial, we now open that land up for a lot of additional uses down the road that may not be as residentially friendly as a business or commercial zoning," Mentzer said. "I understand

that the current occupants aren't occupying it in that manner, and I appreciate that ... Why wouldn't we just zone this commercial? What is the benefit to the neighborhood and to the community to zone this industrial?"

Brandon Gerber of BCG Capital stated that while he did not know if the storage plans would align with business zoning requirements, he would be willing to help look into the matter. Lautzenheiser stated that he would look into a potential business classification and would report back to the council soon.

Additionally, the council approved an amendment to the Fire Department Salary Ordinance that increases pay for the training officer position. Fire Chief Don Craig said that the salary will increase to \$77.77 bi-weekly, in addition to their traditional salary as a fulltime firefighter.

The council also introduced the trash fees for the next four years. Republic Services was the only company that bid for trash pickup. Republic's rates start at \$20.86 per month per household in 2025 and will rise yearly until it reaches \$24.15 in 2028.

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# **County jail**

(Continued from Page 1)

continued investigating some leaking cast iron pipes in the jail, which were not included in the renovation work. The issue has been repaired in the administrative portion, and Holliday initiated some testing throughout other areas. He said there was nothing noteworthy in a recent underground test.

As of Monday, there were 78 inmates in the jail

Roush Park

(Continued from Page 1)

coordinators, which was

approved. Oman said that

both employees have been

involved since the start of

the MS4 program and fulfill

all the requirements for the

position. This designation

comes with a raise for both

Tim Simpson also request-

General Dentistry

Street Commissioner

employees.

— 37 were pre-trial holds from the Circuit Court, 26 pre-trial holds from the Superior Court, 13 from the Department of Correction and two Level 6 felons.

Meanwhile, Highway Department Supervisor Shawn Bonar said he's monitoring recent roof leaks in the new highway building. The building also has issues with its HVAC, particularly in the IT room.

holly@news-banner.com

ed a \$5,000 transfer from

the department's Street

and Alley line item to their

Storm line item. Simpson

reported that there were

more storm repairs than

anticipated during Commu-

nity Crossings street proj-

ects. The transfer will help

cover those costs, according

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Removal

to Simpson.

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# 'Bomb cyclone' brings high winds and rain to Northern California and Pacific Northwest

SEATTLE (AP) — What was expected to be one of the strongest storms in the northwest U.S. in decades arrived Tuesday evening, knocking out power and downing trees across the region.

The Weather Prediction Center issued excessive rainfall risks beginning Tuesday and lasting through Friday as the strongest atmospheric river — a large plume of moisture — that California and the Pacific Northwest has seen this season bears down on the region. The storm system is considered a "bomb cyclone," which occurs when a cyclone intensifies rapidly.

The areas that could see particularly severe rainfall will likely reach from the south of Portland, Oregon,

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to the north of the San Francisco area, said Richard Bann, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service Weather Prediction

"Be aware of the risk of flash flooding at lower elevations and winter storms at higher elevations. This is going to be an impactful event," he said.

Hurricane-force winds, which are gusts above 75 mph, could be felt along the Oregon coast, according to the National Weather Service in Medford, Oregon. And near Seattle, conditions for a "mountain wave" were shaping up, bringing large, low elevation wind gusts that could cause widespread power outages and downed trees, said Larry O'Neill, director of the Oregon Climate Service and Oregon State University associate professor.

"This will be pretty strong in terms of the last 10 or 20 years," he said. "We've only seen a couple storms that have really been this strong.'

More than 106,000 customers had lost power in Washington as of Tuesday evening, according to poweroutage.us. More than 11,000 had lost power in Oregon and nearly 12,000 in California.

The National Weather Service in Seattle said a peak wind speed of 68 mph was recorded at Crystal Mountain near Mount Rainier. A wind speed of 53 mph was also recorded at Ediz Hook, a 3-mile-long sand spit northwest of Seattle that extends from the northern shore of the Olympic Peninsula at Port Angeles into the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Winds were expected to increase in western Washington throughout the evening, the weather service

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Bluffton, Indiana

#### **OBITUARIES**

#### Dr. Denise Downs, 72

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

Denise was born on April 30, 1952, in Washington D.C. and lost her battle with angiosarcoma but won the victory over death on Nov. 16, 2024.

Besides Washington D.C., being an Air Force dependent, she and

her family had lived many other places including Fleuryen-biere, France; Madison, Wisconsin; Colorado Springs, Colorado; Montgomery, Alabama; and Fairborn, Ohio.

She graduated from Sidney Lanier High School in Montgomery in 1970 and earned her B.A. in Latin and Braille in 1973 and a B.S. in education in 1975 from The Ohio State University. She taught Latin at Shaw High School in Cleveland, Ohio, for three years and then, after receiving a Summer Fulbright scholarship to study in Italy, decided to pursue a master's degree in Italian at the University of Perugia in Perugia, Italy.

She returned to the states in 1981, continuing her studies, this time in science courses at Northwestern Oklahoma State University near her parents' home in Buffalo, Oklahoma, where she also served as a volunteer EMT. She then decided to attend paramedic school in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She was accepted to the University of Oklahoma medical school and received her doctoral

Äfter her residency at Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis, she began her practice in Pediatrics at Caylor-Nickel Medical Clinic in Bluffton. She loved the community of Bluffton and especially loved the caring of her young patients and relationships she developed with them and their parents. They were "her children."

Denise was multi-talented and excelled in music violin, cello, piano and guitar - and also enjoyed singing and playing handbells.

She developed a passion for creative writing and had several stories published in medical journals.

Traveling with family and friends brought her much joy, including several summers studying French at Coeur de France in Sancerre, France, with her sister Danielle. In 2016, after choosing to finally retire from her lifelong career of caring for children to pursue a degree in music at IPFW, she developed breast cancer. Fighting hard and enduring all treatments, she was diagnosed with the very rare angiosarcoma in 2022.

Unwilling to allow this disease to overcome her, she prayed for peace and faced each day with the most amazing positive attitude and sense of humor! She chose to cherish every moment.

She was preceded in death by her older sister, DeAnne Mitchum, and her parents, Eldon and Elyn Downs. She is survived by her sisters, Danielle McKinley (Gene) and DeLys Wapaha (Wesley), four nieces and five nephews, 11 great-nieces and 15 great-nephews, and one greatgreat-niece and three great-great-nephews.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024, at the First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Sherrie Drake and Pastor Les Cantrell officiating. A special musical prelude tribute will begin around 10:40 a.m.

Memorials may be made to Angiosarcoma Awareness and can be sent to the funeral home or online at cureasc.org.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the family at www.thomarich.com.

## Law enforcement ramping up patrol during Thanksgiving travel

While people get their Thanksgiving travel plans ready, the Wells County Sheriff's Office is getting ready to increase patrol visibility as part of the annual Safe Family Travel campaign through the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

The campaign, which began Nov. 16, focuses on impaired driving, aggressive driving and proper use of seat belts. During the campaign, officers will perform saturation patrols designed to discourage impaired driving and promote seat belt use. The high-visibility enforcement campaign is funded with grants provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration through the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

Motorists are encouraged to call 911 if they encounter an impaired or unsafe driver on the road. More information on the program or for safety tips visit in.gov/cji/traffic-safety.

## Tax collections lag, bring revenues below projections

By WHITNEY DOWNARD, Indiana Capital Chronicle Indiana's revenues are down as tax collections continue to lag behind estimates, according to November's state revenue report. Projections are based on analysis from December 2023 and due for an update next month.

Last year, estimates put revenues at nearly \$6.6 billion, or \$243 million more than the actual year-to-date revenues, which totaled under \$6.4 billion. That number is also 3.1% less than what Indiana had in its coffers the year prior.

Collections have fallen nearly across the board, including sales taxes, individual income taxes and corporate taxes.

Sales taxes missed the mark by \$68 million, totaling \$3.5 billion, while individual income taxes came in \$121 million lower than expected at under \$2.2 billion. Corporate taxes totaled \$187 million, or \$124 million less than anticipated.

Sales taxes were still slightly higher — by \$41 million than the year before while individual and corporate income taxes were below 2023 totals by \$193 million and \$71 million, respectively.

In Fiscal Year 2023, there were more months with five Fridays, which can boost collections by 10-20% during that

One revenue source was unexpectedly high, offsetting the above numbers. High interest rates, which are controlled at the federal level, continued to boost Indiana's bottom line. Rather than the expected \$125 million return, Indiana received nearly \$204 million, or \$78 million more.





#### Vera cruz history lesson

Those interested in Wells county's history were among the members of the audience at the Wells County Public Library Tuesday evening as author Charles Joray told about his book about "The Early History of Vera Cruz Indiana 1838-1910." He grew up in the area, once called Newville, and shared many interesting facts about the area and the residents over the years as he shared photographs. Many of those attending the program had ties to the area and also shared information. Copies of the book are available for \$45 from Joray who can be reached at charles@iorav.org or by calling 765-210-0913. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri.)

# Police Notebook

#### **INCIDENTS**

Monday, 3:27 p.m., Silver and Williams streets. Report of a drunk man cursing and yelling at the caller. Unable to locate man.

Monday, 3:39 p.m., 300 block of Lancaster Street. Complaint about dirt bikes in the area. Officer advised the subjects they needed to be done for the evening.

Monday, 7:45 p.m., 200 block of Elm Grove Road. Report of fraud.

**County:** 

Monday, 3:03 p.m., Countryside Drive, Markle. Woman arrested on war-

Tuesday, 9:12 a.m., Western and Wiley avenues, Bluffton. Officer observed Matthew R. Banas, 35, Bluffton, walking with a

contact order. The woman \$1,500. claimed she was unaware of the order, but Banas confirmed had received the order. Banas arrested for invasion of privacy, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$25,000.

Ossian:

Monday, 3:48 p.m., 2400 E 700 N, Ossian. Report of

#### **ARRESTS**

Huntington; invasion of privacy, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$25,000.

Daniel D. Chillous, 43, Indianapolis; driving while suspended, a Class A misdemeanor. Booked and

Shakisha Monique Ford, 34, Bluffton; operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangerment, a Class A woman whom there is a no misdemeanor. Bond set at

Mikeion Dontrell Ewing, 36, Fort Wayne; possession of a legend drug or precursor, a Level 6 felony, possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$6,500.

Caleb Lee Tungate, 35, Bluffton; criminal trespassing, a Class A misdemeanor, Adam Lee Carew, 37, resisting law enforcement causing bodily injury, a Level 6 felony, and possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at

> Alejandro Jesus Mayor Moreno, 47, Bluffton; domestic battery, a Level 6 felony, and criminal mischief, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$26,000.

Alejandro Eli Mayor

Ruiz, 23, Bluffton; domestic battery and criminal mischief, both Class A misdemeanors. Bond set at

\$26,500.

Rebeca Escases Landaeta Yuce, 36, Fort Wayne; domestic battery, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at

Yefferson Rafael Villalobos, 23, Bluffton; operating with an ACE of 0.15 or higher, a Class C misdemeanor, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangerment, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

Darrell Leon Babbs, 33, Connersville; operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$500.

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

**Calling:** 2-5 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, November 19 and one hour prior to the service at the church. Service: 11 a.m. Wednesday, November 20 at Bethlehem Lutheran

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## **IEDC** head David Rosenberg withdraws 'premature' conflict of interest ask

By LESLIE **BONILLA MUÑIZ** 

**Indiana Capital Chronicle** Commerce Secretary David Rosenberg withdrew his request to waive job change conflict-of-interest requirements midway through a State Ethics Commission meeting Thursday. A spokeswoman for his agency acknowledged the commission found his ask "premature" in comments to the Capital Chronicle.

The commission separately approved two waivers for agency employees under outgoing Gov. Eric Holcomb's administration. U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, also a Republican, is governor-elect.

As the state's employees prepare for administrative turnover, many appointees and others are looking elsewhere for new jobs. New governors often swap out predecessors' appointees.

Rosenberg, whose position includes serving as president and CEO of the controversial Indiana Economic Development Corp., sought permission to take a vaguely defined executive role at Indiana University. It would relate to workforce and the economy, according to the application.

On the campaign trail, Braun was critical of the IEDC and its actions, specifically in netting large business commitments in which Rosenberg has played a prominent role.

Governor's Office General Counsel Joseph Heerens said Rosenberg submitted the application "out of an abundance of caution" -"just so that Indiana University and Secretary Rosenberg could move forward with high confidence that there would be no issues or



# **Legion Post III**

Tuesday - Friday

**Lunch Specials** Saturday

11 - 8 p.m.

11-4 p.m. 824-3815 questions about this move from IEDC to Indiana University."

Indiana conflict-of-interest law can limit employees' next moves. It can permanently block former state staffers from helping their new employers on "particular matters" related to past state work. Applications, claims, contracts, lawsuits and more count.

And it may mandate a yearlong ban on accepting a job or receiving compensation as a lobbyist; if the state employee negotiated or administered a contract with their prospective next employer while having discretionary decision-making power over negotiations or administration; or if the state employee made regulatory or licensing decisions that impacted their prospective next employer within the year before their departure.

Heerens said Rosenberg wouldn't trigger the "particular matters" restrictions because the potential job wouldn't involve "assisting' or "representing" anyone connected to work in which he "personally and substantially" participated while at **IEDC** 

He also argued that Rosenberg's new gig would involve no lobbying, that he wasn't involved in negotiating or administering IEDC's single contract with IU providing a state match to the university's successful federal microelectronics grant — and that he made no regulatory or licensing decisions related to IU.



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## Soldiering on with some post-election blues

Well, it is not like I can write and pretend the election did not take place. Obviously, I was disappointed (understatement) in the results, as were many in my circle of family and friends. With Wells County coming in at 77 plus percent for Donald Trump, I guess it makes my "circle" seem rather small. We shall soldier on.

With Harris' favorability rating among voters being much higher

than her opponent at the time of the election, it is clear to me that for many, choosing Trump was viewed as a financial decision. I understand that and I do not diminish the practicality of that vote even though I would strongly





disagree with it. I have neither the time nor space, nor quite possibly the ability, to hash out this issue here.

However, let's look at one commonly used financial metric referred to as Return on Investment (ROI), defined as the increase or decrease in value of an investment over a specified period. For example, one's home value (hopefully increase) from the time of purchase to the present. ROI is commonly used in measuring success or lack thereof regarding stock market investments that many hold.

As an aside, one should know that under President Obama, the stock market did very well. Under President Trump, the stock market did very well. And, under President Biden, the stock market has done very well.

A vote then may be legitimately used as hedge by the investor (voter) toward a better financial future. I get that. However, I wholeheartedly believe that a vote may be used to bolster hopes of other, equally important future variables. How about we measure the ROI of our vote in pursuit of honesty? How about we measure ROI of our vote in terms of loving one's neighbor. How about if we measure ROI of our vote in pursuit of truth? How about if we measure ROI of our vote in pursuit of helping the underprivileged? How about if we measure ROI of our vote in pursuit of science and taking care of our planet for the sake of all children and future generations? How about if we measure the ROI of our vote in pursuit of honor and dignity? How about if we use our vote so that we might one day be able to explain to our children that voting goes beyond self-interest? I wonder what the Good Book has to say about these issues.

Ah, Mr. Ballinger, "You are a dreamer," you may say. Possibly so, but to quote John Lennon, "Well, I'm not the only one." This election is over, but there will be another.

**Here's The Thing:** The day after the election my son in Australia called to say that our sensitive and knowledgeable 17-year-old granddaughter, finished with high school and on the precipice of enrolling in university to study political science was crying, and asking, "What is going on in America Dad? How can this be?"

Despite his self-congratulatory designation as one of the greatest presidents, if not the greatest in history, Donald Trump will not escape the weighty judgment of history. The free world, desperate for the United States to lead the fight for democracy, has shuddered with the election of Donald Trump. Now that America has made its choice, let us all hope that he accepts the challenge to lead honorably, "With malice toward none...charity for

ken.ballinger@yahoo.com

Editor's Note: This is one of a series of articles and opinions written by a group of retired and current teachers - Ken Ballinger, Billy Kreigh, Kathy Schwartz, and Anna Spalding. While the essays normally appear on Page 5, this one is on the Opinion Page due to its specific content regarding the election.

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

# Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 20, the 325th day of 2024. There are 41 days left in the year.

Today in history: On Nov. 20, 1910, Francisco Madero led a revolt against Mexican President Porfirio Díaz, marking the beginning of the decade-long Mexican Revolution. Also on this date:

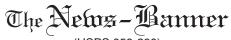
In 1945, 22 former Nazi officials went on trial before an international war crimes tribunal in Nuremberg, Ger-

1947, Britain's future queen, Princess Elizabeth, married Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, at Westminster Abbey.

In 1969. Native American activists began an occupation of Alcatraz Island that would last 19 months before they were forcibly removed by federal authorities.

In 1992, fire seriously damaged Windsor Castle, the favorite weekend home of Britain's Queen Elizabeth

In 2003, record producer Phil Spector was charged with murder in the shooting death of an actor, Lana Clarkson, at his home in Alhambra, California. (Spector's first trial ended with a hung jury in 2007; he was convicted of seconddegree murder in 2009.)



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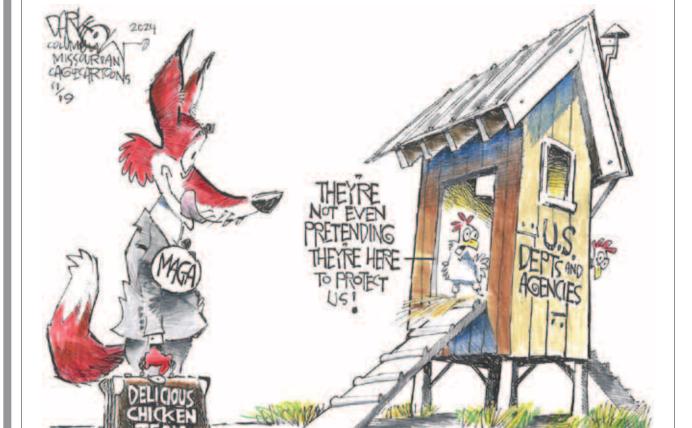
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Holly Gaskill, Editor

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

Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor



# Trimming obese government

Fifty years ago when Ron Paul (father of Sen. Rand Paul) was running for Congress from Texas, a billboard featured an obese Uncle Sam with the caption "let's put big government on a diet.'

Since then, the federal government has grown even more obese. To seriously address the problem, President-elect Trump has designated Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy to head a Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

The two will be up against a bureaucracy that has a history of protecting itself from reformers. As Ronald Reagan said, "No government ever voluntarily reduces itself in size. Government programs, once launched, never disappear. Actually, a government bureau is the nearest thing to eternal life we'll ever see on this earth!"

The battle can be won if Musk and Ramaswamy keep the public informed about each proposed reduction. Ridicule is one tool they might use, starting with the annual Pig Book published by Citizens Against Government Waste, which lists pork barrel spending and earmarks (something Republicans were once against) that are ripe for lambasting. Visit cagw.org and be shocked and outraged at how the government wastes our money.

Here's just one of scores of examples: "\$120,500,000 for 150 earmarks funding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Emergency Operations Center Grant Program, an 84 percent increase from the \$65.5 million provided for 91 earmarks in FY 2023, and a 12.3 percent increase from the \$107.3 million provided for 92 earmarks in FY 2022."

This was before we learned that at least one FEMA employee (since fired) instructed people helping victims of recent hurricanes not to assist anyone with Trump yard signs.

CAGW responded to the added spending at FEMA: "Since FY 2008, legislators have added 2,143 ear-



Cal **Thomas** 

marks costing taxpayers \$1.8 billion for emergency operations centers. Although earmarks for emergency operations centers are often among the most numerous in the appropriations bills, the program could be eliminated in favor of competitive or merit-based awards that could allow states to prioritize critical needs in each area.'

DOGE should favor elimination of these earmarks and scuttling the Department of Education (DOE), which educates no one. If it did, test scores and achievement levels would be far higher than the deplorable levels that find too many high school graduates are not proficient in reading and math.

Reagan tried to eliminate the DOE, but was opposed by Congress. With a government unified under Republican control, DOGE should have an easier time if Congress will put aside self-interest.

DOGE should establish a percentage of across-theboard spending cuts. Who believes the Department of Labor will suffer if it is forced to cut a minimum of its costs by 15 percent?

Every government agency or program has a charter or legislative authority that created it. People who run the cabinet departments and agencies should be brought before Congress and show evidence how they are living up to the purposes of the charters or legislation. If their work can be done at less cost and more efficiently by the private sector, they should be eliminated. That's the pattern most businesses follow, and it should be the pattern for government.

When it comes to health, the United States ranks 10th in the world among the most obese nations, according to the Global Obesity Observatory. It is first in debt at \$36 trillion and counting.

We can put big government on a diet if we have the will. If we don't, we only have to look at history to see what has happened to other nations that spent themselves into oblivion.

tcaeditors@tribpub.com

# Liberal media bias is hurting Democrats. Really.

I used to spend a lot of time complaining that liberal media bias hurt Republican politicians and conservative causes. I no longer make that argument.

Oh, I still agree with conservatives that the mainstream media is biased toward the left. It could hardly be otherwise, given the political leanings of journalists: A 2022 survey showed that fewer than 4 percent identified as Republicans. In the worst cases, this leads to reporting that treats "Republicans like a crime beat and Democrats like friends in need." More commonly, it subtly affects what stories journalists choose to cover, what angle they take, whose experts they give more credence and whose feelings they are careful not to hurt.

This effect has grown pronounced over the past decade, in part thanks to pressure from progressive staffers at media organizations. But along the way, something ironic happened: I started to believe that media bias had stopped helping Democrats. Instead, it started to hurt them, along with the institutions themselves.

During this election cycle, I watched in astonishment as left-wing critics complained that the mainstream media was botching this election by "sanewashing" Trump, failing in our duty to cover "not the odds, but the stakes" and trading in false equivalence. I was not astonished that progressives wanted us to spend more time criticizing Trump and less time pointing out the flaws of Joe Biden or Kamala Harris. I was amazed because they were talking as if this might affect the election's outcome.

This conversation seemed to be taking place in an alternate reality – or perhaps in 1976, when 72 percent of Americans reported in a Gallup poll that they had a "great deal" or a "fair amount" of trust in mass media. But that trust was purchased by precisely the "view from nowhere" coverage that progressives now decry, because that's what convinces audiences you'll give their own views a

As the news media moved left, we lost that trust. By 2024, less than



*McCardle* 

had a "great deal" or a "fair amount" of trust; another third said they had "not very much" trust, and the remainder said they had "none at all." The fact that there's a clear partisan skew suggests this is connected to our politics. In the latest Gallup survey, 54 percent of Democrats said they had high trust

one-third of the country

in the media, while only 27 percent of independents and 12 percent of Republicans did.

Given the lack of trust among people who don't already agree with us, there's little we could do to persuade them that Trump was a danger. Had we spent this past year standing with arms linked, chanting "Trump is a fascist and an enemy of democracy," Trump's vote share would have looked much the same. Trying to correct this problem by amping up the political outrage would have been like trying to cure your lung cancer by smoking an extra pack of cigarettes.

This was damaging for the news media that had already spent down the very reputational capital that progressive critics were begging us to use. But it was also bad for Democrats. By letting them win so many news cycles, we handed them a series of pyrrhic victories.

In fact, the stories that mattered the most during this year's campaign were the ones where we had given Democrats the most "help." In the 2020 election cycle, Democratic primary contenders counted on us to give them room to move well to the left, especially on social issues, which is how Harris created the fodder for this year's negative ads against her. This cycle, Democrats counted on us to downplay Biden's shocking and obvious decline. The issue was handled with kid gloves, under threat of blowback from campaign operatives, readers and even fellow journalists.

Even as the video evidence became clearer, anonymous Democrats airing concerns were often juxtaposed with quotes from his staff insisting he was still as sharp as a

tack. Meanwhile, many of the same outlets repeated the Democratic spin that accurate videos of his concerning behavior were "cheap fakes." This comforted liberal readers, who could dismiss the stories as nasty rumors swallowed by gullible voters. Judging by the catastrophic reaction to Biden's debate, much of the mainstream media's audience availed themselves of that comfort. The result was a disaster for their party.

Democrats got good at working friendly media refs in the era when most voters got their political news from three networks, one or two local papers and a handful of political magazines. But the old gatekeepers no longer have those monopolies; now they control access to a much smaller walled garden, full of nice liberals talking to each other. Outside, the messages they don't want to hear are racing through the untamed jungle of new media: podcasts, YouTube streams and social media sites.

The gatekeepers know this, hence all the complaints about "misinformation" and "disinformation." Unfortunately, the only people who can hear their denunciations are the folks at the garden party.

I can't guarantee that Democrats would have won this year if they'd gotten the message sooner and cut Biden loose in time to find a better candidate than Harris, or at least let her stand up a full campaign. But they certainly would have had a better shot than they gave themselves by trying to use the media as campaign surrogates. Until both Democrats and the media realize their mistake, this will keep happening.

In the age of the internet, it's no longer possible to win elections by working the refs, because the only decisions that matter are made by the folks in the stands. The refs can keep your coalition in line, but they can't help you expand it — indeed, they're likely to shrink it, as more people conclude that the game is rigged. Which means the more often your party wins the calls, the more frequently they will lose the game.

Follow Megan McCardle

on X @asymmetricinfo

## Swiss Stitchers to meet Monday

Swiss Stitchers will host Christmas in November during their Monday, Nov. 25 meeting at 7 p.m. at the Berne Fire Station.

Please bring one or more nonperishables to be given to a local food bank.

Also, bring a snack to share and the drink of your choice, if you would like one. Napkins will be provided but if you need anything else for

your shared snack, please bring it.

There will be a short business meeting to cover any business necessary plus a game or two.

Please bring a fat quarter that reminds you of spring.

Visitors are welcome for the final meeting of 2024. There will not be a December meeting.

Contact Vivian Lemmon at 692-6227 with any questions.

### **Master Gardeners meeting Thursday**

Jake Wyatt, formerly from Huntington Nursery & Florist, will speak to the Wells County Master Gardeners Thursday Nov. 21 at 6 p.m. at the Wells County 4H park. Jake has had an interest in native plants and heirloom gardening and established his own business with an emphasis on

native plants. His recent project has been designing a native plant garden for the Markle library. Please join us for this informative meeting on why native plants matter and how to grow them.

Contact Maureen Stettner at 260-820-1944 with any questions.

#### FW Children's Zoo Wonderland

Visits to the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo during December include story times, visits with Santa and favorite ani-

Visiting dates include go to kidszoo.org.

the weekends of: Nov. 29-Dec. 1, Dec. 6-8, 13-15, 20-23, 26-30, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day.

For more information

#### **Gingerbread fest at FW History Center**

This will be the 39th year for the Festival of Gingerbread at the Fort Wayne History Center, 302 East Berry St. from Nov. 29 to Dec. 22.

Hours Monday through Thursday are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday

sion is \$7 for adults, \$5 for youth and seniors and free to those under 2. There will be special

9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday

from noon to 5 p.m. Admis-

programming each weekend. More info at fwhistory-

#### 'Nutcracker' by the Fort Wayne Ballet

The Fort Wayne Ballet will be presenting "The Nutcracker" on Dec. 6, 7, 8, 10, At the Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center, 431 West Barry St.

There will be 7:30 p.m. performances on Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. ones on Saturday and Sunday, all with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic. A sensory performance will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 10.

Tickets starting at \$29 through fortwayneballet.org or ArtsTix Community Box Office at 260-422-4226.

# Chamber accepting nominations for citizen, business of the year

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

Citizen of the Year

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

• has given ongoing support to the community

 clearly demonstrates leadership and hard work

 makes Wells County a better place to live To submit a nomination,

please provide the following information: Your contact informa-

tion (name, phone number and email address), the name of the Wells County citizen you would like to nominate and why they are

worthy of this honor.

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

 has made an impact on you and many others in the community

• positively contributes to the quality of life in Wells County · goes above and

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

Support letters and other documents are also encour-

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

Mail: Attn: Erin Prible Wells County Chamber

211 Water Street Bluffton, IN 46714

Email: eprible@

#### **Area Things to See and Do** Public Notices NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

#### **ALL FOR ONE** PRODUCTIONS, FORT WAYNE

A Christmas Celebration: Dec. 6-7; www.allforonefw.

#### ARENA DINNER THEATER, FORT WAYNE

Christmas My Way: A Rat Pack Holiday Bash: Dec. 6-22; The Last Quiz Night on Earth: Jan. 17-Feb. 1; www.arenadinnertheatre.

#### CLYDE THEATRE, FORT WAYNE

ZOSO: Nov. 30; Sixteen Candles: Dec. 6; Jon McLauaghlin Hiliday Tour with Leo Sawikin: Dec. 13; Atmosphere Fun Tour: Feb. 1; ClydeTheatre.com or at 1-800-514-3849.

#### EMBASSY THEATER, FORT WAYNE

Nutcracker at the Embassy: Dec. 7-8; Cece Winans: Dec. 18; An Evening with Peter Billingsley: Dec. 19; Straight No Chaser: Dec. 20; http://fwembassytheatre.

#### FIRE AND LIGHT PRODUCTIONS, **FORT WAYNE**

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever: Dec. 5-7, 12-14: Godspell: Jan. 9-11, 16-18;

#### fireandlightproductions.com. HONEYWELL CENTER, WABASH

Midtown Men: Dec. 12; Oak Ridge Boys: Dec, 20; Hotel California: Jan. 18; Montgomery Gentry: March 15; Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles: March 20; MJ Live: May 1; HoneywellArts.org.

#### EAGLES THEATRE, **WABASH**

The Gambler Returns: Dec. 13; Faabulous Thunderbirds: March 21; Glenn Miller rchestra: May 23; https://www.boxofficeticketsales.com/honeywell-center

#### **BAKER STREET** CENTER, FORT WAYNE

Christmas at Baker Street: Dec. 14; Vanessa Collier: Feb. 7; www.bakerstreetcentre.com

#### WAGON WHEEL, **WARSAW**

Miracle on 34th Street: Dec. 6-22; wagonwheelcenter.org

## ABCINEMA, DECATUR

130 W. Monroe St., Decatur. Information: www. abcinemainc.com or 260-724-SHOW

#### **EMENS AUDITORIUM** MUNCIE

More information at 765-

285-1530; Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland: Dec. 8; Dear Evan Hanson: Dec. 13; Woakridge Boys: Dec. 21; KODO: Feb. 18; Groove: March 21-22;



Wicked

Thurs., Nov. 21st 6pm Fri., Nov. 22nd 5:40pm & 8:40pm Sat., Nov. 23rd 2:15pm, 5:15pm & 8:30pm 🖁 Sun., Nov. 24th 2pm & 5pm

Red One Thurs., Nov. 21st 6:20pm Fri., Nov. 22nd 6pm & 9pm Sat., Nov. 23rd 2:30pm, 5:40pm & 8:45pm Sun., Nov. 24th 2:20pm & 5:20pm The Church Thinks We're Dating

Mon., Nov. 25th 6pm www.abcinemainc.com

- Faith & Family Series

# of Commerce

wellscoc.com

ESTATE NO. 90C01-2410-EU-000037 IN THE WELLS CIRCUIT COURT

WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA Notice is hereby given that ALEXANDER D. HILL, was on the 22 day of October, 2024, appointed as Personal Representative of the ESTATE OF ALICIA M. KNE-USS., deceased, who died on the 28th day of September, 2024. The estate will be administered without Court supervision. All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the Office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier,

or the claims will be forever barred.

DATED THIS 22 DAY OF

October, 2024.

Beth Davis

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT

COURT FOR WELLS

COUNTY, INDIANA Anne M. Razo

Attorney No. 27301-01 DeVOSS, BAKER, AINSWORTH & A Professional Corporation 147 S. Second Street

P.O. Box 30 Decatur, IN 46733 Telephone: (260) 724-2129 nb 11/13, 11/20

Lancaster Township, Wells County Indiana

The Lancaster Township Board will be having a meeting on Monday, Nov. 25, 2024 at 6:00 PM at the Lancaster Township Office located at 915 N Main Street, Bluffton Indiana. Agenda: Approval of Minutes

Fire Territory Update Craigville Cemetery Update Township Financial Report Other Business Pertaining to Township

David Rigney Lancaster Township Trustee 915 N. Main Street Bluffton, In 46714 260-824 9501 Office 260-760-0501 Cell

nb 11/20 hspaxlp



# Tigers lean on their defense to rout Indians on the road

**By ANDREW FEEBACK**GAS CITY — After struggling to make shots in its previous two games, the Bluffton Tigers' basketball team decided to change its approach Tuesday night.

By holding the host Mississinewa Indians to 25% shooting and forcing 21 turnovers, the Tigers rolled to a 60-24 win for their third victory in four tries.

"We decided instead of barking on offense from Saturday, we were going to bark on defense," head coach Doug Curtis said. "We shot the ball poorly (on Saturday) and had that big drought, but if we don't give them 57 points and put them at the line 25 times, we're in a lot better shape. We didn't even have the ball in our hands after our shooting drills yesterday, all we did was work on defense."

It took Mississinewa nearly six minutes to get on the board, and even though the Tigers only made 5-14 shots in the first quarter, they still held a 14-4 lead.

The shots began to drop as the second quarter progressed, allowing Bluffton to go on a 12-2 run that got the lead up to 20.

Mississinewa made its first three-pointer of the game to open the second half, then the Tigers reached running clock territory by scoring the next 12 points to go up

50-15. Bluffton finished 22-47 overall, while Mississinewa was 9-36.

There were fewer possessions with the clock running, but the defensive intensity was still there for the Tigers the rest of the way.

You could definitely tell tonight that we had 32 minutes of intense defense," Curtis



said. "We weren't going to let up at halftime, we were going to play defense. Whatever happened on the offensive end, happened. That was our main goal tonight, not to focus on shooting the ball poorly, but focus on defense, get some more run-outs, get some easy shots, and throw the ball in the post a little bit more, which we did too.'

Maryn Schreiber led all scorers with 18 points, while Isabella Stout added 16. Khloe Dick scored nine and Konley Ault had seven.

Jaci Crick had eight for the Indians while Avery Wilson tallied seven.

Bluffton will host Huntington North Fri-

The Tigers took the junior varsity game 47-34. Grace Fry and Kamryn Ault both scored 10 points, while Bridget Steffen and Cora Kunkel each had six.

sports@news-banner.com

BLUFFTON 60, MISSISSINEWA 24 At Mississinewa BLUFFTON (3-1): Khloe Dick 3-6 1-4 9, Isabella Stout 7-14 2-2 16, Konley Ault 2-7 3-4 7, Marly Drayer 1-4 0-0 2, Maryn Schreiber 6-11 6-7 18, Tressa Renner 0-0 0-2 0, Madyson Sonnigsen 1-2 0-1 2, Madelyn Funk 0-1 0-0 0, Sophie Eisenhut 2-2 0-0 4, Isla Gibson 0-0 0-0 0, Kamryn Ault 0-0 2-2 2. TOTALS: 22-47 14-22 60. MISSISSINEWA (1-4): Josie Jones 0-0 0-0 0, Brook-Ivn Nash 1-1 0-0 3, Avery Wilson 3-5 0-0 7. Charleigh

In Nash 1-1 0-0 3, Avery Wilson 3-5 0-0 7, Charleigh Baledge 0-9 0-0 0, Ashlyn Baker 0-5 2-2 2, Lilah Greer 1-1 0-0 2, Jaci Crick 3-12 2-3 8, Trinity Haynes 0-0 0-0 0, Kiersten Planck 0-0 0-0 0, Emma Wakeman 1-3 0-0 2.

0, Klersten Planck 0-0 0-0 0, Emma Wakeman 1-3 0-0 2. TOTALS: 9-36 4-5 24.

Bluffton 14 24 16 6 — 60

Mississinewa 4 8 4 8 — 24

Three-point Shooting: Bluffton 2-10 (Dick 2-5, Stout 0-3, Drayer 0-2), Mississinewa 2-9 (Nash 1-1, Wilson 1-1, Crick 0-3, Baker 0-3, Baledge 0-1). Rebounds: Bluffton 32 (Sonnigsen 7, Schreiber 7, Stout 5, Renner 3, Ault 3, Eisenberg 2, Bide 2, Cibaca 1, Drawa Missingsward 1 32 (Soffingser 7, Schleiber 7, Stoffender 7, Stoffender 7, Stoffender 7, Stoffender 7, Stoffender 8, Malt 3, Eisenhut 3, Dick 2, Gibson 1, Drayer), Mississinewa 11 (Crick 5, Wilson 3, Nash 1, Baledge 1, Planck 1). Turnovers: Bluffton 13, Mississinewa 21. Fouls: Bluffton 9, Mississinewa 17. Fouled out: None. Technicals: None. JV: Bluffton 47, Mississinewa 34.

# Helsom's 34 points, No. 3 Spartans too much for Knights

**By RYAN WALKER** FORT WAYNE —

wasn't the result Norwell wanted, but it sure did prove that it belongs on the court with anyone.

The No. 8 Knights (3-3) went toe-to-toe with the No. 3 ranked team in 4A in the state. The Knights and Homestead Spartans (4-0) clashed in an offensive night in which both teams combined to shoot 53% from the floor. Norwell fell 76-66 to the hosts, but a good chunk of the game was in its favor.

The Spartans and Knights were coming off of semi-state appearances last season, but the difference this year is that Homestead

returned all of its talent. Junior Myah Epps has received Division I offers, including Michigan, Louisville, Purdue, Miami and Florida. Junior Gabby Helsom is bound to also commit to a Division I school, and both Carley Moellering and Whitney Ankenbruck are on their way to NAIA's No. 3 school Indiana Wesleyan. Norwell's team this year is mostly new to the varsity level, but that didn't scare the Knights whatsoever.

Norwell jumped right on the Spartans in the first quarter. Addison Norris lit up the scoreboard with a three-pointer early. For the next six and a half minutes, the Knights led until a Spartan's bucket with six seconds remaining in the quarter to make it a thin 21-20 margin.

That lead would not hold for long, as Macie Saalfrank got involved with a two and Ashley Waldman's big night began with the first of her five threes on the night.

The high-scoring affair continued with both schools firing and swishing from all over the floor. Not a single shot gave any reliable breathing room, but the Knights still

Norwell went up by six at the most in the second quarter, but that's when the Spartans began to find their groove.

For a six-minute span, Homestead went on a 17-10 run that began with a Whitney Ankenbruck three. Norwell's Alivia Green scored an easy two by the basket, but Epps and Helsom scored the next six points in the paint to get back down by one.

Waldman responded with her second three, which was answered by Helsom's three. Saalfrank then countered with one of her own. Back and forth they went, but Helsom got the last laugh and hit her third of the half with 18 seconds to go. That stole away a one-point lead at halftime. In the second quarter, it was an even-steven 17-17 and the Spartans remained on top by one point.

Both teams shot lights out, but Norwell hasn't done it this well all season.

The team's leading scorer, Vanessa Rosswurm, scored 14 points and hit one three, but it was the rest of the team that stepped up together. As a unit, Norwell shot 61% from downtown from five different players.

"For us to be able to get the quality of shots that we got against them, and then to not be afraid to take them, but also to be able to knock them down, that's really hard to do and to be able to do it for four quarters," head coach Eric Thornton said.

Rosswurm made the biggest individual contribution in the first half, scoring 14 points on six made shots. She was needed to counter the trio of Helsom, Moellering and Epps, who scored 28 points combined in the half.

The third and fourth quarters were where Homestead separated the talent and experience over Norwell.

Rosswurm was bottled up in the paint, and was reduced to just four points in the second half. Meanwhile, Helsom was on her way for a big night.

"Anytime you make a mistake against

a team like that, you pay for it every single time," head coach Eric Thornton said. "That happened tonight. A soft pass or a missed rebound — things like that. They just expose you on those types of things. So there's very, very little margin of error against a team at that scale."

Again, the Knights came out swinging.



Norwell's Macie Saalfrank (left) drive to the hoop over Homestead's Myah

For the third straight quarter, Norris hit a corner three and Rosswurm picked up a bucket that took the Knights' lead up to four points.

The pushback the young Knights gave was enough to wake up Helsom for perhaps the best two quarters in her

The 5'11" forward stretched the floor with deep shots, drove the lane to pick up fouls and hit her free throws on her way to a 34-point performance. From three, she was a stellar

She hit back-toback threes in the third to give her Spartans the advantage that never went away. Epps cleaned up another bucket and immediately, Thornton used a timeout to calm the storm.

An unexpected three and layup followed from Haley Williamson, who showed out for a much-needed eight-point game from her.

But the Spartans kept scratching. Their end-of-quarter run got to 7-0 and was capped off by a Helsom and-one conversion. Waldman did hit her third three of the night, but the five-point lead and momentum were on the side of the home team.

The fourth quarter wasn't a blowout by any means, but the Knights were just outplayed by what Thornton confirmed likely had to do with the talented roster Homestead has. The quarter was 21-16 in favor of the Spartans — the only quarter that gave any sort of seperation between the two teams.

The Knights refused to give up and even looked like the better team on the floor in stretches. The second half revealed that is wasn't just Rosswurm who needed to step up, but other players have shown a vast improvement just six games into the sea-

Waldman scored 15 points on the night with five threes, Williamson's two threes tai lied up eight points, Saalfrank dropped 13 and Norris 10. They combined together to shoot 13-21 from beyond the arc.

The players on this year's team have had a tall task of making up for the lost minutes from the state championship team. Tuesday night, they grew up before Thornton's eyes against their strongest opponent yet and gave the Spartans a run for their money.

"We have a very good team who's not going to back down to anybody, and we feel that right now," Thornton said. "I know they feel that about our team, and they understand what they have, and they want to do such a good job. They believe they can beat these teams. They don't want to just compete, and they want to win. And so in the locker room, when you come in (the locker room) after, you know, is it a moral victory? Yeah, I think so some, but it's still not a 'W' to them, and that's, that's okay if they can balance it with what we're trying to accomplish with this schedule."

Norwell will host Oak Hill at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23.

Homestead won the junior varsity contest 58-40. Mia Kurtz led the Knights with 10 points, followed by eight each from Carlee Strunk and Joycelynn Hogsett-Turner.

ryan@news-banner.com

HOMESTEAD 76, NORWELL 66 At Homestead NORWELL (3-3): Vanessa Rosswurm 7-16 3-6 18

Ashley Waldman 5-7 0-0 15, Macie Saalfrank 5-14 0-0 13, Addison Norris 4-7 0-0 10, Haley Williamson 3-3 0-0 8, Alivia Green 1-2 0-0 2, Ryland Graft 0-0 0-0 0, Larkin Smith 0-0 0-0 0, Mekynzi Beck 0-0 0-0 0, Jada Dale 0-0 0-0 0, Isabella wineford 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 25-49 3-6 66.

HOMESTEAD (4-0): Gabby Helsom 13-14 1-1 34, Carley Moellering 5-10 0-0 13, Myah Epps 5-14 1-3 11, Kendall McLaughlin 3-4 0-0 6, Delaney Noll 2-3 1-1 5, Whitney Ankenbruck 1-7 1-2 4, Liv Fry 0-0 1-2 1, Eva Scarbeary 0-0

Alikeribitok 1-7 1-2 4, Etv Fry 0-0 1-2 1, Eva Scalbeary 0-0 0. TOTALS: 30-53 5-11 76.

Norwell 20 17 13 16 — 66

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Three-Point Shooting: Norwell 13-21 (Waldman 5-7, Saalfrank 3-7, Williamson 2-2, Norms 2-4, Rosswurm 1-1), Homestead 11 23 (Helenom 7, 8, Modellering 3, 7, Apren brus Homestead 11-23 (Helsom 7-8, Moellering 3-7, Ankenbruck 1-5, Epps 0-2, Noll 0-1). Rebounds: Norwell 18 (Rosswurm 5, Waldman 3, Green 2, Saalfrank 2, Norris 1), Homestead 24 (Helsom 6, Noll 4, Epps 2, Fry 2, Moellering 2, Ankenbruck 2). Turnovers: Norwell 13, Homestead 12. Fouls: Norwell 15, Homestead 12. Fouled Out: None. Technicals: None JV: 58-40 Homestead.



Homestead's Gabby Helsom (front right) tries to slip a pass through the double team of Norwell's Larkin Smith (left) and Macie Saalfrank (back) at Spartan Arena Tuesday night. The Spartans topped the Knights 76-66 with Helsom's big 34-point day. (Photos by Ryan Walker)

# Knights sweep Jets, Braves in girls' swim regular season opener

Norwell opened its season by winning its own girls' swimming invitational, and Tuesday night's regular season opener went more of the same.

The Knights defeated Adams Central and Blackhawk Christian Tuesday night at home. On the scoreboard, the Knights defeated Blackhawk Christian 112-23 and Adams Central 108-37.

**Individual event winners were:** 

• Faith Grant in the 200-yard medley relay. • Molly Threewits in the 200-yard free-

• Cassie Coyne in the 200-yard IM.

• Emerson Meredith in the diving events and in the 100-yard butterfly.

• Marlee Meredith in the 100-yard free-• Emma Easley in the 500-yard freestyle.

· Grant, Threewits, Easley and Olivia

Daniel in the 200-yard freestyle relay. • Daniel in the 100-yard breaststroke.

 Vivian Reidenbach, Annalise Cornett, Rilynn Ervin and Coyne in the 400-yard

freestyle relay. Norwell will be at home again against Columbia City with the boys' joining at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26.

# Tigershark girls fall to Vikings

Bluffton fell 102-72 on its opening night for girls' swimming at home Tuesday night.

Despite the loss, it was a big win for sophomore Ellie Coyne, who took first in the 100-meter breaststroke and set the school record with a time of 1:20.67.

Coyne, Kiertynn Reed, Tess Frauhiger and Adalynn Fiechter won the 200-meter freestyle. Fiechter also won the diving competition.

Bluffton will host Jay County at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3.

# Knights win two in MS girls' hoops

The Norwell girls' basketball teams won both the eighth grade and the seventh grade matchups against Maple Creek Tuesday night.

The eighth graders won 39-0 with Kendall Fegley leading the team with 11 points. Hadley Meyer scored seven, Avery Thornton (6), and Leah Randol, Stella Tumbelson, Kynnlei Beste, Rilynn Hoopingarner and Elizabeth Mann scored two points each.

In the seventh grade game, Norwell won 49-19. Camryn McCartney scored 16 points to lead the team, followed by Piper Krumma (11), Paizley Price (8), Rylie Van't Hof (6), Ada Campbell (4) and Lydia Felton and Mercy Meyer (2).

# High School Calendai

WEDNESDAY, NOV 20 No events scheduled. **THURSDAY, NOV 21** No events scheduled. FRIDAY, NOV 22

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Huntington North at Bluffton, 7:30 p.m.

WRESTLING: Elwood at Southern Wells, 6

**SATURDAY, NOV 23** BOYS BASKETBALL: Bluffton at Whitko.

GIRLS BASKETBALL: North Miami at Bluffton, 7:30 p.m.; Oak Hill at Norwell, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Canterbury, 3:30 p.m.

WRESTLING: Bluffton Super Duals, 9 a.m.; Southern Wells at Bronco Super Duals (Wapahani & Daleville High School), 9 a.m.

# Marquette routs Purdue in hoops

By the Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Kam Jones had 17 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists as No. 15 Marquette defeated No. 6 Purdue 76-58 to snap the Boilermakers' 39-game regularseason nonconference winning streak. Purdue hadn't lost a regular-season nonconference game since falling 58-54 at Miami on Dec. 8, 2020, compiling the fourth-longest such streak in NCAA history. Jones' tripledouble was the third in school history and first since Dwyane Wade had 29 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists when Marquette beat Kentucky 83-69 in the 2003 Elite Eight.







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Emily Striker & Amanda Clark Owners

## Keeping family ties alive shouldn't be a solo effort

Dear Annie: As a wife, mother of countless famthree and a full-time program manager overseeing a crisis unit, I juggle a lot those struggling of responsibilities. Despite my busy schedule, I find myself having to be the one to initiate contact with my husband's side of the family. If I didn't, we would likely never see them. Maintaining family connections is important to can vent, relate, me, and I'm happy to make the effort, and share their but I feel it's a shared responsibility.

In today's fast-paced world, I understand that communication can be difficult. Some people are naturally good at staying in touch, while others think about reaching out but may forget with everything else going on. But when it comes to family, I believe that no one should assume the burden alone; communication is a two-way street, and phones work both ways.

So, to the grandparents with a similar issue: I urge you to pick up the phone and make a plan if you'd like to connect. We can't always know when you want to visit or talk, and none of us can read minds. Shouldn't the effort to stay connected be mutual and made together as a family? — It's a Two-Way Street

Dear Two-Way Street: Thank you for your thoughtful letter. Many readers have shared similar suggestions about the importance of grandparents taking the initiative in making plans with their families. I'm sharing your letter here as an encouraging reminder for grandparents to reach out and say that they want to get together.

to your column about the woman whose marriage had become strained due to her husband's drinking. Kudos for emphasizing that he needs Alcoholics Anonymous, but I'd like to encourage you to highlight the importance of Al-Anon for family members a bit more strongly than just one sentence.

Al-Anon has been a lifeline for







Al-Anon helps you realize that you're not to blame for your loved one's addiction. It teaches that the responsibility for change lies with the person struggling with alcoholism, and it gives family members the tools to navigate this challenging journey with compassion and strength.

ily members of

with alcohol-

I can vouch for this program 100 percent because it saved my life and even helped heal my marriage. The encouragement and insight I found through Al-Anon helped me set healthy boundaries and rebuild my sense of self during a very difficult time.

Thank you for considering this and for the compassionate advice you offer to your readers. — Power of Al-Anon

Dear Power of Al-Anon: Thank you for your letter and highlighting many of the insights that you learned in Al-Anon. I'm so glad that you found healing through this wonderful group.

"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Dear Annie: I'm writing in response Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit http://www.creatorspublishing.com for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.

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#### **BEETLE BAILEY**





#### **BLONDIE**







#### **ZITS**







#### **CRANKSHAFT**







## **My** Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham

Question: As a philosophy major, when I listen to lectures on the subject, I'm not sure I agree that philosophy is the study of wisdom and learning how to think. Why is it commonly thought that the study of philosophy produces wisdom, and is wisdom the power of living

the Christian life? – W.W. Answer: Humanity prefers to put confidence in its own ideas instead of in the authority of God's Word. The human race rejects God's wisdom because it rejects Him and, therefore, calls His message of truth foolish.

Mankind has attempted to explain truth away through philosophy, which is simply human wisdom that lacks author-

# No greater resource than God's Word

ity. This question is asked in the Bible: "So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the

world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. ... God in His wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom" (1 Corinthians 1:20–21, NLT).

The ancient scholars, philosophers, and debaters are dead. We now listen to new scholars, philosophers, and debaters through every communication mode; still, the world is in turmoil to discover peace and frantically searches for truth. The Bible says, "Be still, and know that I am God"

(Psalm 46:10, NKJV). Worldly wisdom has made us calloused and hard. Our natural wisdom, as the Scriptures teach, comes not from God, but is earthly and sensual. Where can we turn for wisdom? There is no greater resource than God's Word - the Bible. In His wisdom, God knows that an uncontrolled life is an unhappy life, so He puts reins on our wayward souls that they may be directed into the paths of righteousness. The secret of the power of Christianity is not in its ethics, Christian ideas, or philosophy. The secret of Christianity is found in the Lord Jesus Christ, who is Wisdom.

(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Graham.)

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#### THE FAMILY CIRCUS



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#### **Help Wanted**

## *NOW HIRING*

THE NEWS-BANNER IS looking to hire an individual for fast pace jobs including labeling, inserting and delivering bundles of newspapers. Must be willing to work from 4 a.m.-9 a.m. Monday-Saturday. Some heavy lifting, and an Indiana drivers license required. Mail resume, or fill out an application, to News-Banner, P.O. Box 436, 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton, IN 46714.

#### **COUNTY BUILDING INSPECTOR**

Wells County Government is accepting resumes for a County Building Inspector. The Wells County Commissioners as the county executive are seeking to employ a full-time county building inspector. This person is responsible for planning and overseeing county construc-tion and final inspection, under the direction of the county executive. The county building inspector shall, subject to the policies of the county executive, perform the following functions and have related experience:

Coordinates the preparation and presentation of an annual budget for the Building Dedirects implementation of the depart-ment's budget; plans for and reviews specifications for new or replaced equipment. Construct and establish a local building code based off state code requirements and needs of the county.

Controls the expenditure of departmental appropriations Receives complaints, investigates, and issues unsafe building violations, nuisance violations and housing standards violations, as appropriate.

Completes continuing education classes on building codes and practices, as needed

Reviews the building plan for

the County.
Approves the building permits, issues permits, and collects the fees for the permits, as necessary Issues certificates of occu-

pancy, as needed. Maintains an effective communication process with the

Commissioners. Bachelor's degree (B.A. /B.S.) from a four-year col-lege or university; and five years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. CBO Certification is required. Previous experience in building

construction or related field is

required. Previous superviso-

ry experience is required.

Starting salary for this position is up to \$70,000/yr. plus all county benefits. Interested applicants can send their resumes to Wells County Auditor, 102 W Market, Suite 205, Bluffton, IN 46714 auditor@wellscounty.org. Resumes will be accepted until |December 16, 2024.

#### **SALES & AUCTIONS Auctions**

414 N MERIDIAN ST. PORT-LAND, IN 47371 3 RING AUC-TION - BRICKER AUCTION HOUSE - PORTLAND, IN Ring 1 @ 9:00 AM - LIVE ON-LY - farm items, tools, garage items, household, cages, and

Ring 2 @ 10:00 AM - SIMUL-CAST! This ring will include a nice collection of St. Clair, Blenko, & Jim Davis paper weights, vintage radios, Black & Decker power tools & eleclawn mower, ceramic Christmas trees, Tupperware, jewelry, coins, nice electric fireplace, appliances such as fridge, freezer, gas stove & microwave, Husky tool chest, Craftsman tool chest, shelving units, primitive furniture, Toro snowblower, Lazy Boy recliner, tools of all sorts, saws, clamps, Christmas items, hutches & wash stand, marbles, hen on nest, collectible glassware such as jadeite, amber, blue hobnail, St. Clair, Fenton & more, Pyrex, musical instruments such as violin, mandolin,

accordion, & guitar, advertisements of all sorts, Roseville & Hull pottery, ammo, clocks, salt & pepper shakers, and much more!

Ring 3 @ 11:00 AM - SIMUL-CAST! Birds and Small Animals

Preview for the auction is Friday, November from 12-5. Go

brickerauctioncompany.com to bid!! Nov. 23 9:00 AM-4:30 PM Rain or Shine

This Week's Garage



DAY FAMILY WINTER sale heated garage, 1124 Elm Dr. Bluffton, Thurs. & Fri. 10 a.m. Bluffton, Thurs. & Fri. 10 a.m.-4p.m, half price Sat. 10 a.m.-1 Winter decor, clothing shoes, coats, bedding, more.

#### **VEHICLES**

#### Campers/RV's

**2018 THOR HURRICANE,** Model 31Z, Class A RV, \$79,000, 260-307-3225.

#### **SERVICES**

#### **Services**

CONSTRUCTION Room additions, fix old saggy floors, all types remodeling. Redo bathrooms, old foundation repairs. Marv Schwartz: 260-525-8877.

HANDYMAN SERVICES, **NO** job too big or too small, 260-353-9339.

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#### **ADVERTISE YOUR** SERVICES!

A 20 word, line classified in the Bluffton News-Banner for two months is \$97. Contact the office at 125 N. Johnson St., 260-824-0224 or submit online to www.news-banner.com and click on classifieds.

## **Mark your 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, vendor donated raffle items, free admission. 30+ direct sales vendors and hand made craft items. All money from raffles will be donated to Honor Flight of Northeast Indiana.

## SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

		4		9		6			
		3		1	7	4			
				3			7		
			1						],
6			5			1		9	]
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	7						8		
	2		3	8	1		8 5		
Diffic	ulty:	***						11/20	)

# **Lottery Numbers**

#### **Tuesday's Drawings** HOOSIER LOTTERY

**Cash4Life** — 21-23-30-33-47, Cash Ball: 04

**Quick Draw Midday** — 04-07-08-09-11-12-18-19-20-26-27-45-46-49-50-55-56-68-77-79, BE: 27

Daily Three-Midday — 00-05-04, SB: 00 Daily Three-Evening — 08-03-08, SB: 09 Daily Four-Midday — 05-03-02-00, SB: 00 Daily Four-Evening — 05-08-04-04, SB: 09

**Quick Draw Evening** — 07-10-13-24-25-27-28-30-34-36-37-38-44-47-64-70-74-77-80, BE: 33

**Hoosier Lotto** — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$29.7 million

**MEGA MILLIONS** 05-35-50-51-59; Mega Ball: 08; Megaplier: 4X. **POWERBALL** 

Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$155 million

# November / Paris | Par **GOODS & SERVICES** ECTO



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-OSSIAN-

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THE NEWS-BANNER 824-0224 or 622-4108 Every Day! Nov. deadline is Tues., Oct. 22!



**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 house 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., 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, Crafts-man 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-

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 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. Önline bidding available. 105+/- acres offered in 7 tracts or any combination. Currently a golf course, potential farmland, recreational land, development

potential, personal available, Blackford Co. Auction mgr. Al Pfister, 260-760-8922, Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc., schraderauction.com, 800-451-

DECEMBER 4 - 3 p.m. Online - Dusty Roach, Bankruptcy Trustee, sellers. 6,142 sq. ft. modern commercial building. Key features: 5 rental units w/4 office suites, 1 currently leased, 600 sq. ft. heated garage w/16'x12' overhead door, independently controlled heating and cooling for units, expansion potential w/additional land available for future. Open houses Nov. 20, 2-3 p.m., Nov. 27, 2-3 p.m., 2379 N. Main St., Bluffton, IN. Kurt Ness, auction mgr., 260-417-1545, Ness Bros. Realtors & Auctioness and November 1997. Auctioneers, www.NessBros.com, 260-459-3911. DECEMBER 5 & 6 - 9 a.m.

- Secured creditors & various consignors, owners. 815 Adams, St., Decatur. Day 1: Online bidding only. Over 300+ lots including skid loader attachments, tool boxes, work-benches, 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, seller. Property 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, 260-494-0992, Jason Johnloz, 260-273-9177, Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management, 800-424-2324, halderman.com. **DECEMBER 17 - 9 a.m** 

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-

## Public Notices

NOTICE

The City of Bluffton is accepting sealed bids for paving alleys. Bidding specifications may be obtained from the Clerk Trea-surer's Office, 128 East Market Street, Bluffton, IN, 46714, Mon-Fri, 8 am-4:30 pm. Bids must be returned to the Clerk Treasurer's Office by 4:30 pm Tues, December 17, 2024 to be opened and read aloud at the Board of Public Works and Safety.

nb 11/20, 11/27 hspaxlp

STATE OF INDIANA **COUNTY OF WELLS** IN THE WELLS COUNTY COURT CASE NO. 90C01-2410-MI-000025 IN RE THE MATTER OF Nicholas David Castator

ORDER SETTING HEARING
Comes now Nicholas David
Castator, having filed a Verified Petition for Change of Name, and

the Court finds that the matter should be set for hearing. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that this matter shall be heard on JANUARY 13, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. So ORDERED 10/18/2024

Kenton W. Kiracofe Judicial Officer nb 11/13, 11/20, 11/27

## **SUDOKU ANSWER**

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Board Appointments for 2025 The Wells County Board of Commissioners and/or the Wells County Council are accepting applications for Board Appoint-

Local Alcoholic Beverage Area Plan Commission Board

Board of Zoning Appeals Cemetery Board Community & Family Services Health Department Board Huntington City/Town Public

Library
Property Tax Board of Appeals
Regional Sewer District
Rockcreek Conservancy Dis-

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

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

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