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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024

BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

\$1.00

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 project.

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 themselves."

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 training.

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)

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,

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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 danger.

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 non-viable. Gerber also mentioned the possibility of two additional

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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 informa-

tion to the commissioners rather than 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

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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 of the year.

"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

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Outside

More showers and a chance of snow Thursday

Today	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 full-time 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 club.

- 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

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 requests from Anthony

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.

holly@news-banner.com

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 containers.

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 appealing 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 full-time 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.

jonathan@news-banner.com

'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,

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

"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 said.

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 1 a.m. 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 Korse 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.

holly@news-banner.com

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

— 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

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 employees.

Street Commissioner Tim Simpson also request-

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 Community Crossings street projects. The transfer will help cover those costs, according to Simpson.

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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 Fleury-en-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 degree in 1994.

After 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 great-great-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.



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@joray.org or by calling 765-210-0913. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri.)

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:
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 warrant.

Tuesday, 9:12 a.m., Western and Wiley avenues, Bluffton. Officer observed Matthew R. Banas, 35, Bluffton, walking with a woman whom there is a no

contact order. The woman 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 fraud.

ARRESTS

Adam Lee Carew, 37, 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 released.

Shakisha Monique Ford, 34, Bluffton; operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangerment, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at

\$1,500.
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, resisting law enforcement causing bodily injury, a Level 6 felony, and possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$6,000.

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 \$25,000.

Yefferson Rafael Vilalobos, 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

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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 Church in Ossian.

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

By LESLIE BONILLA MUNIZ
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

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 negotiat-

ing 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.

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 month.

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.

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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.



Ken Ballinger

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 all."

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 Publication."

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, Germany.

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 II.

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 second-degree murder in 2009.)

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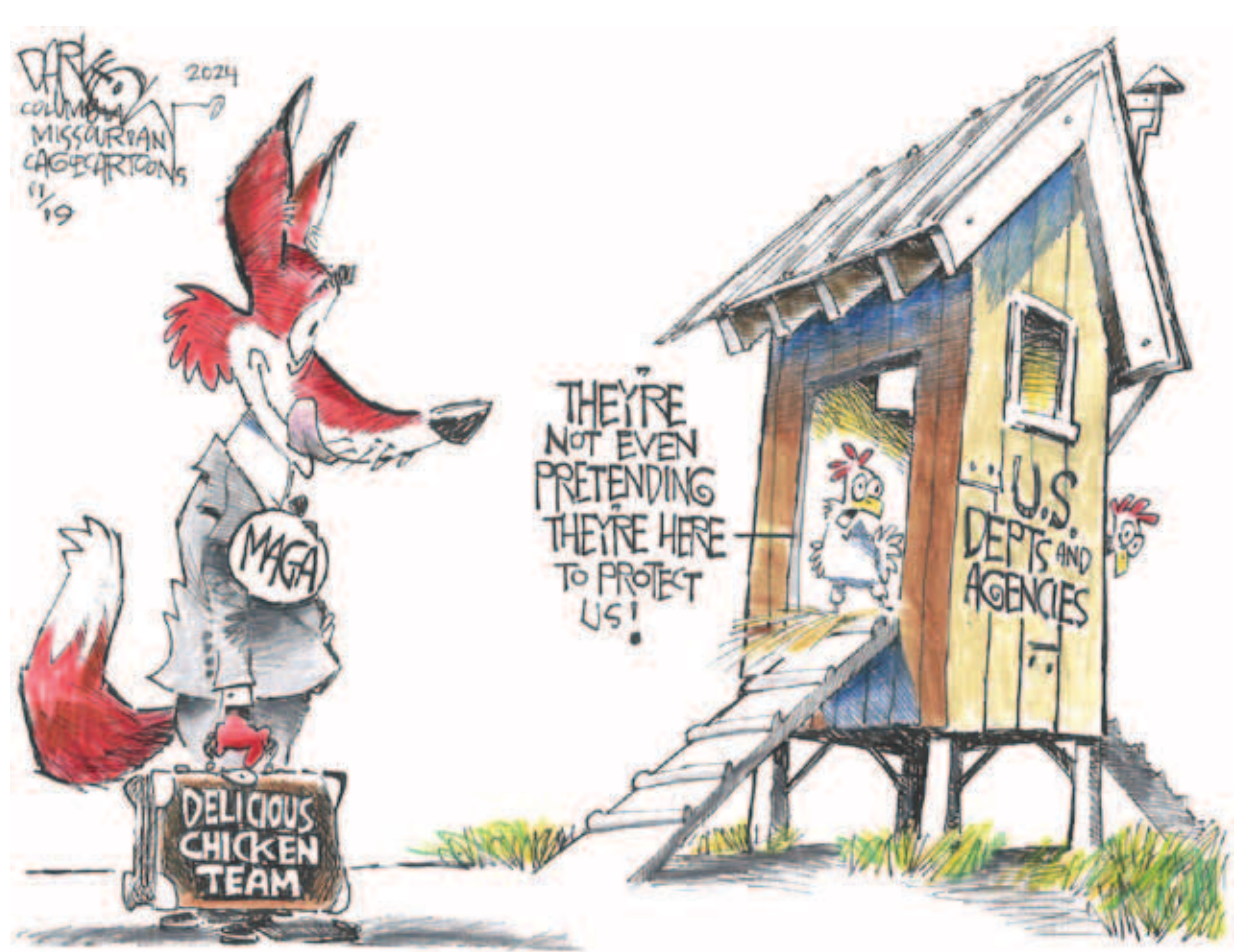
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Trimming obese government

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-the-board 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 fair shake.

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



Megan McCardle

one-third of the country 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 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

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.

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

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

To submit a nomination, please provide the following information:

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

worthy of this honor.

Business of the Year

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

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

To submit a nomination for either award, please provide the following information: Your contact information (name,

phone number and email address), the name of the Wells County citizen or business you would like to nominate and why they are worthy of this honor.

Support letters and other documents are also encouraged.

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

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

Swiss Stitches to meet Monday

Swiss Stitches 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 Lemon 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 animals.

Visiting dates include

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 go to kidszoo.org.

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

9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for youth and seniors and free to those under 2.

There will be special programming each weekend. More info at fwhistorycenter.org.

'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.

Area Things to See and Do

ALL FOR ONE PRODUCTIONS, FORT WAYNE
A Christmas Celebration: Dec. 6-7; www.allforonefw.org

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.org

CLYDE THEATRE, FORT WAYNE
ZOSO: Nov. 30; Sixteen Candles: Dec. 6; Jon McLoughlin Holiday 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.org/events>

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 Orchestra: May 23; <https://www.boxofficeticket-sales.com/honeywell-center>

BAKER STREET CENTER, FORT WAYNE
Christmas at Baker Street: Dec. 14; Vanessa Collier: Feb. 7; www.bakerstreetcenter.com

WAGON WHEEL, WARSAW
Miracle on 34th Street: Dec. 6-22; wagonwheelcenter.org

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

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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;

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Wicked

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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 - Faith & Family Series

Mon., Nov. 25th 6pm

www.abcinemainc.com

Public Notices

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION ESTATE NO. 90C01-2410-EU-000037 IN THE 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. KNEUSS**, 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 & RAZO
A Professional Corporation
147 S. Second Street
P.O. Box 30
Decatur, IN 46733
Telephone: (260) 724-2129
nb 11/13, 11/20
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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

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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 Friday night.

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, Maryn Drayer 1-4 0-0 2, Maryn Schreiber 6-11 6-7 18, Tressa Renner 0-0 0-0 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, Brooklyn 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 Plank 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, Eisenhut 3, Dick 2, Gibson 1, Drayer), Mississinewa 11 (Crick 5, Wilson 3, Nash 1, Baledge 1, Plank 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 — It 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



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

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 career.

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 7-8.

She hit back-to-back 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 separation 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 it wasn't just Rosswurm who needed to step up, but other players have shown a vast improvement just six games into the season.

Waldman scored 15 points on the night with five threes, Williamson's two threes tallied 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'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 freestyle.
- 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 freestyle.
 - 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 Hoopingartner 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 Calendar

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 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOV 23

BOYS BASKETBALL: Bluffton at Whitko, 11 a.m.

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 regular-season nonconference winning streak. Purdue hadn't lost a regular-season nonconfer-

ence game since falling 58-54 at Miami on Dec. 8, 2020, compiling the fourth-longest such streak in NCAA history. Jones' triple-double 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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Keeping family ties alive shouldn't be a solo effort

Dear Annie: As a wife, mother of three and a full-time program manager overseeing a crisis unit, I juggle a lot 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 me, and I'm happy to make the effort, 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.

Dear Annie: I'm writing in response 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

countless family members of those struggling with alcoholism. It's not just a place to heal; it's a community where people can vent, relate, and share their struggles and solutions. The support offered in 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.

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

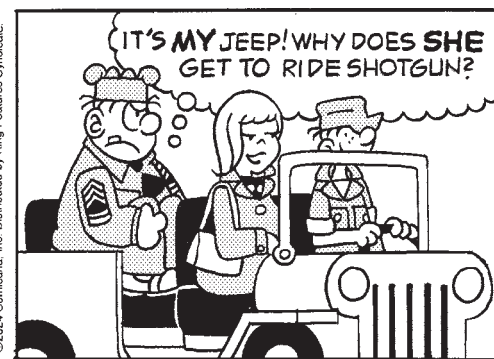
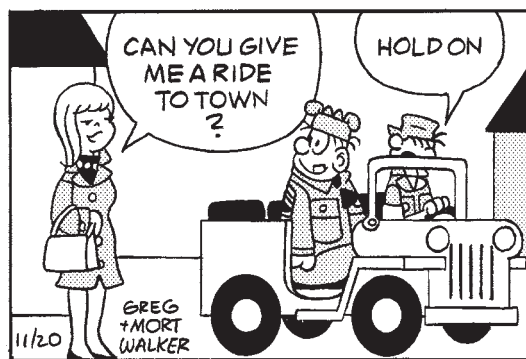
Dear Power of Al-Anon: Thank you for your letter and highlighting many of the insights that you learned in Al-Anon. I'm so glad that you found healing through this wonderful group.

"How Can I Forgive My Cheating 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 dearnie@creators.com. © 2024 CREATORS.COM

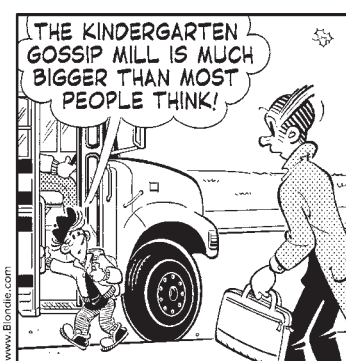
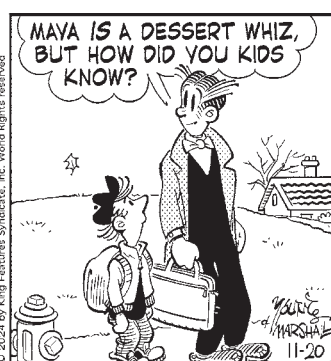
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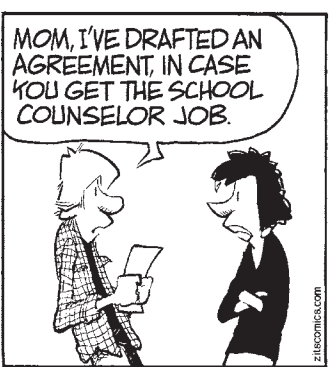
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My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



No greater resource than God's Word

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-

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 wis-

dom, 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

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



"I had to get out of my bed, Mommy. There wasn't any sleep left in me."

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 11-20 crossword puzzle grid with filled-in letters.

Television schedule table with columns for time slots (11:20, M, A, D1, D2, 5 PM, 5:30, 6 PM, 6:30, 7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30, 12 AM, 12:30) and rows for various channels (WINM, CBS, Antenna, ABC, NBC, MNT, CW, PBS, FOX, etc.) listing programs and their descriptions.

Grid for the crossword puzzle solution from the previous day, showing filled-in letters in a 11x11 format.

