

# The News - Banner

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2024

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## Lautzenheiser honored as Volunteer of the Year

By HOLLY GASKILL

Michael Lautzenheiser Jr. is the recipient of this year's Bette A. Erxleben Volunteer of the Year award.

His commitment to the community was honored during a luncheon Thursday after-

noon, during which Bluffton Parks Superintendent Brandy Fiechter spoke about her experience working alongside Lautzenheiser.

"During the time I have known Michael, I have been most impressed by his 'never quit' attitude," said Fiechter during the Thursday luncheon. "He tackles challenges and fundraising obstacles head-on with the kind of determination that inspires me to believe that anything is possible. He has dedicated countless hours to often unseen, thankless tasks to make our community thrive ... His commitment to the community is nothing short of extraordinary, and he never seeks recognition for it. He is without a doubt one of the hardest-working volunteers I know."

Lautzenheiser, a Bluffton native, graduated from Bluffton High School and studied urban planning and development at Ball State University. He returned to Wells County to reinvest his skills into the community, and serves as the executive director of the Wells County Area Plan Commission.

Lautzenheiser has also volunteered as the president of Bluffton NOW! for nine years, playing an instrumental role in revitalizing downtown Bluffton and projects like the Downtown Pathways. He also serves as president of Wells County Trails, paving the way toward greater access to the communi-



Michael Lautzenheiser Jr. (middle) and his son, Reece (left); wife, Bri, and daughter, Harper. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)

ty's natural resources. He has been involved with numerous boards and task forces.

Moreover, Lautzenheiser has volunteered with Forgotten Children Worldwide for 11

years. As an active member of Hope Missionary Church, he leads a recreational athletic league, serves as an usher, and helps

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Michael Lautzenheiser Jr. accepts the 2024 Bette A. Erxleben Volunteer of the Year award during a Wells County Foundation luncheon on Thursday.

## Hahn selected for state drainage committee

By HOLLY GASKILL

Wells County Surveyor Jarrod Hahn was recently selected to serve on the Indiana Drainage Handbook Advisory Committee.

Hahn told the Wells County Drainage Board on Monday that he received notice of the appointment from Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch's office. The Department of Agriculture board will advise updates to the drainage handbook, which Hahn said has not been updated in roughly two decades.

Hahn is one of two county surveyors on the board. According to a release from the ISDA, other appointments include Allen County Surveyor Mike Fruchey, ISDA Deputy Director Katie Nelson; Tippecanoe County Commissioner David Byers; Hendricks County Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor Jeff Healy; David Knipe, representing the Department of Natural Resources; IDEM

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## U.S. regulators seek to break up Google

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE, AP Technology Writer

U.S. regulators want a federal judge to break up Google to prevent the company from continuing to squash competition through its dominant search engine after a court found it had maintained an abusive monopoly over the past decade.

The proposed breakup floated in a 23-page document filed late Wednesday by the U.S. Department of Justice calls for sweeping punishments that would include a sale of Google's industry-leading Chrome web browser and impose restrictions to prevent Android from favoring its own search engine.

A sale of Chrome "will permanently stop Google's control of this critical search access point and allow rival search engines the ability to access the browser that for many users is a gateway to the internet," Justice Department lawyers argued in their filing.

Although regulators stopped short of demanding Google sell Android too, they asserted the judge should make it clear the company could still be required to divest its smartphone operating system if its oversight committee continues to see evidence of misconduct.

The broad scope of the recommended penalties underscores how severely regulators operating under President Joe Biden's administration believe Google should be punished following an August ruling by U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta that branded the company as a monopolist.

The Justice Department decision-makers who will inherit

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## Providers, seniors continue to have challenges under PathWays program

"We definitely aren't where we need to be and we know this."

By WHITNEY DOWNARD  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

The providers and seniors interacting with the PathWays Medicaid program continue to encounter hurdles related to their health care, as documented in a two-hour Wednesday meeting of the Medicaid Advisory Committee.

To contact Member Support Services for PathWays, operated by third-party contractor Maximus, members may call (877) 738-3511 or email indianapathwaysmss@maximus.com.

PathWays to Aging launched in July, introducing managed care entities into the health care services of Hoosiers ages 60 and older who are enrolled in Medicaid. One of the touted benefits of managed care was supposed to be its reliance on service and care coordinators to navigate obstacles to care for beneficiaries — but not everyone knows who is supposed to help them, according to some.

Indianapolis Rep. Robin Shackleford, a Democrat, shared the issues and confusion she heard from both constituents and clients. In her professional life, Shackleford works as an insurance broker.

"When (seniors) call into the PathWays number, they're not getting the information that they need.

They're being sent or redirected or the agent just doesn't know who their (managed care entity) is," Shackleford said. "It's very frustrating."

Representatives from each MCE — Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Humana Healthy Horizons in Indiana and United Healthcare Community Plan — each assured Shackleford that members had been assigned to coordinators, but she had concerns about whether enrollees knew who to contact.

"Being assigned is one thing, but then it being communicated to the actual senior so they know who their person is? That's a different story," Shackleford said. "... They're asking me coordinator questions; they don't understand their benefits."

For example, 80% of those enrolled in PathWays under Medicaid also qualify for Medicare, a separate program overseen by the federal government with a different set of benefits. Beneficiaries may accidentally use Medicare benefits for transportation when their Medicaid benefits have more options and greater flexibility. MCE coordinators are supposed to help users navigate these two systems.

The state hired Maximus, a familiar contractor for the Family and Social Services Administration, for ombudsman and member support services. That call center reported that questions related to an enrollee's care or service coordination were one of the top reasons why seniors called.

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## Federal Reserve's likely slowdown in rate cuts could disappoint borrowers

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER  
APEconomics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Just a few weeks ago, the path ahead for the Federal Reserve looked straightforward: With inflation cooling and the job market slowing, the Fed appeared on track to steadily cut interest rates.

In September, its officials predicted that they would reduce their benchmark rate four times next year, on top of three rate cuts this year.

Yet that outlook has swiftly changed. Several surprisingly strong economic reports, combined with President-elect Donald Trump's policy pro-

posals, have led to a decidedly more cautious tone from the Fed that could mean fewer cuts and higher interest rates than had been expected.

Fewer rate cuts would likely mean continued high mortgage rates and other borrowing costs for consumers and businesses. Auto loans would remain expensive. Small businesses would still face high loan rates.

In a speech last week in Dallas, Chair Jerome Powell made clear that the Fed isn't necessarily inclined to cut rates each time it meets every six weeks.

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

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

His comments were widely seen as signaling potentially fewer rate cuts in 2025, a view that sent stock prices falling after they had surged with Trump's election.

Trump has proposed higher tariffs on all imports as well as mass deportations of undocumented immigrants — steps that economists say would worsen inflation. The president-elect has also proposed a menu of tax cuts and

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### Outside



A wintry mix of snow and rain today and tonight

Today	Saturday	Sunday
High 45	High 46	High 51
Low 38	Low 33	Low 36

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Vol. 96 No. 18

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# Pathways program

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 Members also called for more basic information, such as asking which insurer oversaw their coverage.  
**Delays in payments to providers**  
 Providers, such as nursing home operators or adult day centers, have repeatedly shared problems getting reimbursed for the care they provide to PathWays members.  
 Holly Cunningham Piggot, the director of care programs overseeing the managed care transition, detailed various ways FSSA monitored provider claims submitted to MCEs. The insurers are required to submit reports on a weekly basis including timeliness, payment and denial rates and reasons for denials.  
 Additionally, a workgroup and advisory committee staffed by members from both MCEs and provider associations meet regularly to discuss ongoing issues.

“They’re able to hear real time, real life issues that the providers are experiencing — because we know providers are experiencing it — and probably the provider world as a whole is experiencing it,” Cunningham Piggot said. “So they’re able to take that feedback back to their team and work on correcting those issues.”  
 Still, MCEs have been sluggish to adjudicate, or process, claims.  
 “We definitely aren’t where we need to be and we know this,” Cunningham Piggot said. “We’re really working tirelessly to get these things corrected.”  
 In an example shared with the group, Anthem had missed the mark for paying claims in a timely manner between Aug. 19 and Nov. 1 — specifically to facility providers, of which just 78% were paid within three weeks. Because of those delays, Anthem had paid nearly \$11,000 in interest on

top of base payments.  
 Cunningham Piggot also noted that the Temporary Emergency Financial Assistance Program for providers would close on Jan. 31 but had received at least 275 applications so far. She added that not every applicant qualified for relief — though she didn’t specify the number — and may have received assistance directly from an MCE.  
**Update to Medicaid waiver waitlists**  
 In April, FSSA announced that it would implement a waitlist for waiver services related to PathWays as well as the Health and Wellness waiver — the latter of which would include Hoosiers with disabilities.  
 Initially, the state committed to inviting 925 Hoosiers off of the waitlist each month, 800 from PathWays and 125 from Health and Wellness. In October and November, the state more

than doubled the number of applicants invited off of the waitlist for both waivers.  
 As of November 18, 8,923 seniors were waiting for additional PathWays services while, as of Nov. 13, 4,709 individuals were waiting for waiver services under Health and Wellness.  
 To give applicants a rough estimated waiting time, the state started reporting the “Original Level of Care date,” essentially an application date, this month. For Hoosiers accessing the Health and Wellness waiver, they’re working on applications submitted in mid-February. For PathWays applicants, processing is up to April 1.  
 However, the agency may face legal repercussions due to the length of the waitlist, which is still months long. Five seniors filed a class action lawsuit against FSSA in October, arguing that the state’s actions violated federal law, as reported by the IndyStar.

# U.S. regulators

(Continued from Page 1)  
 the case after President-elect Donald Trump takes office next year might not be as strident. The Washington, D.C. court hearings on Google’s punishment are scheduled to begin in April and Mehta is aiming to issue his final decision before Labor Day.  
 If Mehta embraces the government’s recommendations, Google would be forced to sell its 16-year-old Chrome browser within six months of the final ruling. But the company certainly would appeal any punishment, potentially prolonging a legal tussle that has dragged on for more than four years.  
 Besides seeking a Chrome spinoff and a corraling of the Android software, the Justice Department wants the judge to ban Google from forging multibillion-dollar deals to lock in its dominant search engine as the default option on Apple’s iPhone and other devices. It would also ban Google from favoring its own services, such as YouTube or its recently-launched artificial intelligence platform, Gemini.  
 Regulators also want Google to license the search index data it collects from

people’s queries to its rivals, giving them a better chance at competing with the tech giant. On the commercial side of its search engine, Google would be required to provide more transparency into how it sets the prices that advertisers pay to be listed near the top of some targeted search results.  
 Kent Walker, Google’s chief legal officer, lashed out at the Justice Department for pursuing “a radical interventionist agenda that would harm Americans and America’s global technology.” In a blog post, Walker warned the “overly broad proposal” would threaten personal privacy while undermining Google’s early leadership in artificial intelligence, “perhaps the most important innovation of our time.”  
 Wary of Google’s increasing use of artificial intelligence in its search results, regulators also advised Mehta to ensure websites will be able to shield their content from Google’s AI training techniques.  
 The measures, if they are ordered, threaten to upend a business expected to generate more than \$300 billion in revenue this year.  
 “The playing field is not

level because of Google’s conduct, and Google’s quality reflects the ill-gotten gains of an advantage illegally acquired,” the Justice Department asserted in its recommendations. “The remedy must close this gap and deprive Google of these advantages.”  
 It’s still possible that the Justice Department could ease off attempts to break up Google, especially if Trump takes the widely expected step of replacing Assistant Attorney General Jonathan Kanter, who was appointed by Biden to oversee the agency’s antitrust division.  
 Although the case targeting Google was originally filed during the final months of Trump’s first term in office, Kanter oversaw the high-profile trial that culminated in Mehta’s ruling against Google. Working in tandem with Federal Trade Commission Chair Lina Khan, Kanter took a get-tough stance against Big Tech that triggered other attempted crackdowns on industry powerhouses such as Apple and discouraged many business deals from getting done during the past four years.  
 Trump recently expressed concerns that

a breakup might destroy Google but didn’t elaborate on alternative penalties he might have in mind. “What you can do without breaking it up is make sure it’s more fair,” Trump said last month. Matt Gaetz, the former Republican congressman that Trump nominated to be the next U.S. Attorney General, has previously called for the breakup of Big Tech companies.  
 Gaetz faces a tough confirmation hearing.  
 This latest filing gave Kanter and his team a final chance to spell out measures that they believe are needed to restore competition in search. It comes six weeks after Justice first floated the idea of a breakup in a preliminary outline of potential penalties.  
 But Kanter’s proposal is already raising questions about whether regulators seek to impose controls that extend beyond the issues covered in last year’s trial, and — by extension — Mehta’s ruling.  
 Banning the default search deals that Google now pays more than \$26 billion annually to maintain was one of the main practices that troubled Mehta in his ruling.

# Weather

Friday, November 22, 2024  
 (24-hour observations at 8:54 p.m. Thursday at Fort Wayne International Airport)  
**High:** 34; **Low:** 30; **Precipitation:** 0.07 inches of snow  
**Wabash River Level** (at the Main Street bridge): 1.20 feet at 9:45 p.m. Thursday

## Wells County forecast

**Today:** A slight chance of rain and snow showers before 7 a.m., then a chance of snow showers between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m., then a chance of rain showers after 8 a.m. Cloudy, with a high near 45. Northwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.  
**Tonight:** A 30% chance of showers before 1 a.m. Cloudy, with a low around 38. Northwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.  
**Saturday:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 46. West wind around 10 mph.  
**Saturday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 33. West wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.  
**Sunday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 51.  
**Sunday Night:** A 30% chance of showers after 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 43.  
**Monday:** Showers likely, mainly after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 56. Chance of precipitation is 60%.  
**Monday Night:** A 30% chance of showers before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 30.  
**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 40.  
**Tuesday Night:** A 20% chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 27.  
**Wednesday:** A 20% chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 40.  
**Wednesday Night:** A chance of rain and snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 28.  
**Thanksgiving Day:** A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 39.

# Lautzenheiser

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 in the preschool Sunday School class.  
 He and his wife, Bri, have two children, Reece and Harper.  
 “It’s been an honor being part of the community,” Lautzenheiser said Thursday. “It’s been an honor playing the roles that I’ve been able and blessed to do.”  
 Lautzenheiser added, noting the presence of the award’s namesake Bette Erleben, “And it’s a great honor to have someone I

greatly respect in the community, to be named in the list of an award that was named after you (Erleben). So, thank you so much.”  
 Lautzenheiser also expressed gratitude for those who played a part in the award, his family and his faith.  
 Foundation Director Tammy Slater stated that the \$1,000 award to Lautzenheiser will be split between Bluffton NOW! and Wells County Trails.  
 holly@news-banner.com

# Drainage

(Continued from Page 1)  
 Assistant Commissioner Martha Clark Mettler; Cina Brant, Lis McDonnell, Mike Koehne, each a farmer from a different region; construction representative Brian McMorrow; Scott Fetters, representing the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; State Agriculture Engineer Scott Wagner; and President of the Indiana

Water Monitoring Council Matt Meersman.  
 Further information about the board and its meetings has not yet been released.  
 In other updates, Hahn said the Peter Gaskill Tile Drain project was finished and trees had been removed from the Bills Creek Watershed. The board will meet next at 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 2.  
 holly@news-banner.com

# Federal Reserve

(Continued from Page 1)  
 deregulation, which might help spur economic growth but would also fan inflation if businesses couldn’t find enough workers to meet increased consumer demand.  
 And recent economic data suggests that inflation pressures could prove more persistent and economic growth more resilient than was thought just a few months ago. At his most recent news conference, Powell suggested that the economy could even accelerate in 2025.  
 Wall Street traders and some economists now envision just two, rather than four, rate cuts next year. And while the Fed will likely cut its key rate when it meets in mid-December, traders foresee a nearly even likelihood that the central bank could leave the rate unchanged.  
 “I absolutely would anticipate that they’ll ease up on the pace of cuts,” said Jim Baird, chief investment officer at Plante Moran Financial Advisors.  
 Economists at Bank of America expect annual inflation to remain “stuck” above 2.5%, higher than the Fed’s 2% target level, in part given the likelihood that Trump’s economic proposals, if carried out, would fuel price pressures. The economists now foresee just three rate reductions in the coming months, in December, March and June. And they expect the Fed to stop easing credit once its benchmark rate, now at 4.6%, reaches 3.9%.  
 Krishna Guha, an analyst at investment bank Evercore ISI, wrote last week that, “We think the looming Trump presidency is helping to drive a change in tone from the Fed — including Powell — towards a warier and more hedged posture on the pace and extent of further cuts.”  
 Trump has vowed to impose a 60% tariff on all Chinese goods and a “universal” tariff of 10% or 20% on everything else that enters the United States. On Wednesday, a top executive at Walmart, the world’s largest retailer, warned that Trump’s tariff proposals could force the company to raise prices on imported goods.  
 “Tariffs will be inflationary for customers,” John David Rainey, Walmart’s chief financial officer, told The Associated Press. Other consumer goods and retail companies, including Lowe’s, Stanley Black & Decker, and Columbia Sportswear, have issued similar warnings.  
 In trying to gauge the right level for interest rates, the Fed’s policymakers face a significant obstacle: They don’t know how

much further they can reduce rates before reaching a level that neither stimulates nor restrains the economy — what’s called the “neutral rate.” The officials don’t want to cut rates so low as overheat the economy and reignite inflation. Nor do they want to keep rates so high as to damage the job market and the economy and risk a recession.  
 An unusually wide divergence has developed among the 19 officials on the Fed’s rate-setting committee as to where the neutral rate is. In September, the officials collectively projected that the neutral rate lies between 2.4% and 3.8%. Lorie Logan, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, has noted that that range is twice as large as it was two years ago.  
 In a recent speech, Logan suggested that the Fed’s benchmark rate might be only slightly above the neutral level now. If so, that would mean few additional rate cuts are needed.  
 Other officials disagree. In a recent interview with The Associated Press, Austan Goolsbee, president of the Fed’s Chicago branch, said he thought the neutral rate is much lower than the Fed’s current rate. If so, many more rate cuts would likely be appropriate.  
 Perhaps the biggest unknown is how Trump’s proposals on tariffs, deportations and tax cuts will shape the Fed’s rate decisions. Powell has stressed that the Fed won’t change its policymaking until it’s clear what changes the new administration will actually implement.  
 As is customary for the Fed, though, Powell avoided commenting directly on presidential policies. But he did acknowledge that the Fed’s economists are assessing the potential effects of a Trump presidency.  
 “We don’t actually really know what policies will be put in place,” Powell said.  
 Another factor is that the economy is much different now than when Trump first took office in January 2017. With unemployment lower than it was then, economists say, additional stimulus through tax cuts might create more demand than the economy can handle, possibly fueling inflation.  
 Tax cuts, “starting from an economy close to full employment, will lead to inflation and, by implication, higher Fed policy rates and a stronger dollar,” Olivier Blanchard, a former top economist at the International Monetary Fund and senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, wrote in a recent commentary.

## Online Directory

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

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**OBITUARIES**

**Vance Eversole, 71**

Vance Dean Eversole, 71, of Southlake Texas, passed away on Nov. 9, 2024.

Vance was born to Claris (Buskirk) and Kedrick Eversole on Aug. 21, 1953 at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

After graduating from Norwell High School in Ossian, he joined the Air Force and completed technical studies in computer science.

In 1975, Vance met Terrie (Theresa) Taylor at Lincoln, Nebraska. They married on June 5, 1976 and later moved to the Dallas, Texas area. Vance and Terrie went on to have one daughter, Taylor Nicole Eversole.

Those who knew Vance, respected his servant's heart and love for rescued animals in his work at Ranch Hand Rescue in Argyle, Texas.

Vance is preceded in death by his wife, Terrie; his sister, Lynette Moran; father, Kedrick Eversole; and his mother-in-law, Marjorie Taylor.

He is survived by his daughter, Taylor (Jeff) Edwards of North Richland Hills, Texas; mother, Claris Eversole of Roysie City, Texas; brother, Gail (Deb) of South Whitley; sister, Twylla (Mike) Bell of Roysie City, Texas; sister, Clarene (Jim) Benton of Plant City, Florida; father-in-law, James Taylor of Longview, Texas; brother-in-law, James (Gabrielle) Taylor of Firestone, Colorado; sister-in-law Rachel (Jerry) Chesney of Longview, Texas; multiple nieces and nephews; and three grandchildren.

Private services will be held for close family and friends at the Dallas-Ft Worth National Cemetery.

**Phyllis Ghlee McVickier, 96**

Phyllis Ghlee McVicker, 96, passed away on Friday, Nov. 15, 2024 at Heritage Pointe of Warren.



She was born in Hartford City on Sept. 5, 1928 to James H. Fear and Alice May (Enochs) Fear-Barr. Her parents precede her in death.

Phyllis graduated from Hartford City High School in 1946. She married Homer Francis McVicker on June 1, 1946 at the Hartford City Wesleyan Church. He passed away on July 3, 2010.

She was the oldest member of the Hartford City Wesleyan Church. She played the organ at the Hartford City Wesleyan Church for 45 years and when she moved to Bluffton to be closer to her daughter, she played the organ at Liberty Center Community Church. She had started when she was a young lady helping out the Country Church because they did not have a piano or organ player. She knew music by heart. Not only did she play the organ on Sundays at church but also played for numerous funerals throughout the years.

Phyllis retired from 3M Company in 1990 after 30 years of service.

She enjoyed traveling and took many bus trips with a group. She loved to cook and made the best pie and apple dumplings. She also enjoyed knitting and playing games. Time with her family was precious to her and she loved making memories together.

Phyllis will sadly missed by her daughter, Kathleen "Kathy" A. (John W.) Miller of Bluffton; son, David E. (Patti) McVicker of Hartford City; grandchildren, Melissa A. (Juan) Lozoya of Bluffton, Casey L. McVicker of Lafayette and Sarah L. (Kyle) Swift of Muncie; step-grandchildren, Bryan (Lynette) Miller of Bremen, Indiana, and Jana (Nick) Bishop of South Bend; great-grandchildren, Nathan Lozoya, Nicholas Lozoya, Silas McVicker, Levi McVicker, Elsie Swift, Maleah McVicker, Marrah McVicker and Josie Swift; step-great-grandchildren, Keely Miller, Keegan Miller, Sawyer Miller, Bryce Bishop and Lilly Bishop; and several nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband, sisters, Crystal Broadwater and Delialah Yencer.

Funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22, 2024, at Keplinger Funeral Home, 509 N. High St. in Hartford City. Burial will follow at Twin Hill Cemetery in Pennville. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22, 2024, at the funeral home.

Memorial may be made to Hartford City Wesleyan Church, 1301 S. Walnut St., Hartford City, IN 47348

Online condolences may be sent to [www.keplingerfuneralhome.com](http://www.keplingerfuneralhome.com) or utilize our Keplinger Funeral Home Facebook page.

**Parkview hospitals earn performance awards**

Five Parkview hospitals have earned a 2024 Performance Leadership Award for excellent quality and outcomes from The Chartis Center for Rural Health.

Three hospitals — Parkview Bryan Hospital, Parkview LaGrange Hospital and Parkview Whitley Hospital — were recognized in the quality category, while Parkview DeKalb Hospital and Parkview Huntington Hospital were awarded in the outcomes category.

The Performance Leadership Awards recognize top quartile performance among rural hospitals in three categories: quality, outcomes and/or patient perspective. All five hospitals recognized by The Chartis Center this year have previously been awarded Performance Leadership Awards, extending a streak of top performance among Parkview's community hospitals.

Parkview Bryan Hospital has been recognized for two consecutive years and, in February, was named to The Chartis Center's Top 100 rural hospital list. Parkview Huntington Hospital has received six Performance Leadership Awards since 2016; Parkview LaGrange Hospital is on a three-year streak; Parkview DeKalb Hospital was recognized in back-to-back years; and Parkview Whitley Hospital has been awarded three times since 2016.

The Performance Leadership Awards are based on the results of the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX®, a comprehensive and objective framework for assessing how rural hospitals are performing. INDEX benchmarks are relied upon by rural hospitals, health systems with rural footprints, hospital associations, and state offices of rural health to measure performance across multiple areas impacting hospital operations and finance.

**Obituary Policy**

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

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

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

**Police Notebook**

**INCIDENTS**

**City:**

Wednesday, 2:54 p.m., 328 S Merchant St. Report of a hit and run. Report to follow.

Wednesday, 6:40 p.m., 200 block of Capri Court. Report of a scream and possible gunshots. Shots were from gun range.

Wednesday, 7:01 p.m., 600 block of Eastmoor Drive. Report of gunshots. Shots were from gun range.

Wednesday, 9:39 p.m., Lions Park. Report of suspicious behavior. Subjects were playing Pokemon Go.

Wednesday, 10:24 p.m., 1200 block of Lancaster Street. Noise complaint. Subject agreed to turn TV

down.

Thursday, 4:59 a.m., Bennett and Market streets. Crash. Report to follow.

Thursday, 8:14 a.m., Peyton's Northern Distribution Center. Report of theft.

Thursday, 1:16 p.m., Mercy Seat Dentistry. Report of items left behind, possibly by group camping out.

**County:**  
Wednesday, 12:22 p.m., 100 E and 400 N, Bluffton. Sign in roadway removed.

Wednesday, 12:45 p.m., Wells County Jail. Report of a no contact order violation.

Wednesday, 1:51 p.m., 400 S and Meridian Road, Bluffton. Caller reported a vehicle parked alongside the road, worried a hunter is

having car trouble. Hunter advised he's hunting.

Wednesday, 5:28 p.m., 5810 W 900 N, Markle. Resident reported a group of women came to property saying they were looking for a chicken and possibly attempted to take one from the property. The women then left. As the resident was speaking with an officer, a rooster ran past that did not belong to the resident. The rooster was captured, but the women, found via their license plate number, denied owning a rooster or an involvement on the property.

Wednesday, 9:30 p.m., 300 S and 200 W, Bluffton. Trailer unhooked from semi,

blocking roadway.

Thursday, 8:43 p.m., 1505 W 300 S, Bluffton. Resident reported large ruts in grass believed to be caused by a semi.

**Ossian:**  
Wednesday, 8:26 p.m., 200 block of Ironwood Lane, Ossian. Report of fighting.

Wednesday, 9:08 p.m., 5000 N 400 E, Ossian. Caller reported their neighbor's dog came onto their property. Neighbor advised the dogs were contained via electric collar and there had been arguments between the two parties.

**ARRESTS**

Isham Clayton Peace, 45, Redkey; theft of vehicle, a Level 5 felony. No bond set.

**Incoming Indiana Gov. Mike Braun admonished by GOP colleagues for missed U.S. Senate votes**

*The outgoing senator was missing from several confirmation votes earlier in the week.*

**By CASEY SMITH  
Indiana Capital Chronicle**

Indiana U.S. Sen. Mike Braun is facing criticism from Republican colleagues and President-elect Donald Trump after his recent absences from Capitol Hill helped Democrats secure their picks for multiple lifetime federal judges.

The outgoing senator won his bid to be Indiana's next governor earlier this month. For now, however, he's still an active member of Congress.

"Senator Braun returned to D.C. yesterday and is there today," his office said in a statement. "He continues to balance his Senate responsibilities with his Transition responsibilities."

GOP senators from other states — now fuming on social media and in the halls of the capitol building — maintain that Braun's work in Washington, D.C. should be prioritized until his tenure there is officially complete. They said the same applies to a handful of other outgoing senators who haven't shown up for key votes, as well.

Although Republicans in the U.S. Senate have tried to delay the confirmation process by slow-rolling procedural votes, they haven't been able to block the nominees outright due to missing caucus members.

Senate Republicans gained enough seats during the 2024 elections to win a majority, but Democrats still control the chamber until January's swearing-in ceremony for new members.

Braun was absent from key Senate floor votes on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, according to voting records, though a spokesperson for his office said he made it to some votes late Wednesday after attending the Republican Governors Association's annual conference in Florida.

Braun's absence from the Senate,

for example, helped Amir Ali, a Democrat-supported judicial nominee for the District of Columbia, get confirmed on Wednesday by a 50-49 margin, largely along party lines.

Before that, on Monday, senators approved Embry Kidd for the 11th Circuit, an appeals court overseeing the southeast where GOP appointees make up a narrow majority of the judges. The 49-45 tally was missing votes from five Republicans, including Braun.

Other caucus members not present for that vote were Vice President-elect JD Vance — a senator from Ohio — and Sen. Bill Hagerty of Tennessee.

Even so, full Republican attendance on Monday might not have guaranteed blocked confirmations. Vice President Kamala Harris could have cast a tie-breaking vote in Democrats' favor. Democrats separately had the option to reschedule votes until next week to ensure all members of their caucus were present.

On Tuesday, the Senate additionally approved two district court nominees who faced united Republican opposition.

One of those, Sarah Russell, was selected for Connecticut's federal trial court with just 50 votes. Had the six absent Republicans — including Braun — been present and voted no, the nomination would have likely failed.

Hours before the vote, Harris departed Washington, D.C. for a week-long trip to Hawaii, leaving Democrats without a tiebreaker.

Two of the other missing Republicans, Sens. Hagerty and Ted Cruz of Texas, were with Trump and Elon Musk in Texas to watch a SpaceX rocket launch.

Senate records show Indiana U.S. Sen. Todd Young voted against all four

judges that were ultimately confirmed this week.

Senate Republicans have since lashed out at their missing colleagues and emphasized that perfect attendance will be needed moving forward in order to block additional nominees.

Trump — who earlier this month urged GOP senators not to allow any judicial confirmations in the final weeks of President Joe Biden's administration — called on absent officials to "show up."

"The Democrats are trying to stack the Courts with Radical Left Judges on their way out the door," Trump said in a Wednesday post on X, formerly Twitter. "Republican Senators need to Show Up and Hold the Line — No more judges confirmed before Inauguration Day!"

West Virginia Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, a member of Republican leadership, further said that under full attendance, "we would be able to at least make a shot" at preventing some of the pending Democrat picks from getting confirmed.

"If we don't show up, we lose," added North Carolina GOP Sen. Thom Tillis, speaking to national reporters on Tuesday. "I don't care what the reasons were. We have fewer than 15 scheduled legislative days. You have to show up. Period. End of story. There's nothing more important."

When asked about obligations that senators like Braun have had outside Capitol Hill Tillis said, "I don't care."

"They're U.S. senators today," Tillis continued, adding that he's "very angry" about the latest votes. "I don't think it's unreasonable to make damn sure we're all there at the strike of the gavel."

Axios reported Wednesday that Republican senators have discussed whether Braun should resign, allowing someone else to fill his seat. Indiana GOP U.S. Rep. Jim Banks is on deck, elected earlier this month to take Braun's place.

**Report: State's HIV criminalization laws 'outdated'**

**By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ  
Indiana Capital Chronicle**

Indiana laws criminalizing human immunodeficiency virus transmission are "outdated" and largely unnecessary, asserts a Thursday report from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law.

"Scientifically outdated laws work against public health goals regarding HIV testing, prevention, and treatment," lead author Nathan Cisneros said in a news release. He directs an HIV criminalization project at the school's Williams Institute, which researches sexual orientation and gender identity public policy.

Also among the authors was a Hoosier: Carrie Foote, a sociology professor at Indiana University Indianapolis and a leader of Indiana's

HIV Modernization Movement.

The report examined laws outlawing the transfer of contaminated bodily fluids and HIV-infected semen, establishing a duty to inform "persons at risk" of one's HIV status, punishing the failure to inform, and criminalizing battery or malicious mischief by bodily fluid or waste.

Four were enacted between 1988 and 1995, before the advent of effective HIV treatments, the report notes. Two became law in 1998 and 2002, prior to proof that treatment prevents sexual transmission.

Nearly all are felonies punishable by years-long imprisonments and fines of up to \$10,000 — and half include enhancements for actual transmission. None require intent to transmit.

Indiana's contaminated bodily fluids and semen donations bans are the state's oldest HIV criminal laws, per the report, which found that current U.S. Food and Drug Administration practices are "highly effective" at keeping the blood and plasma supply, as well as semen donations or transfers, safe.

The laws, according to the report, "provide no added protection to blood and semen donor supply safety above those already in place under state and federal regulations."

In a separate report, the institute found that Indiana has arrested 18 Hoosiers with HIV on charges of donating plasma since 2000 — but not under provisions penalizing actual transmission. Nearly all were convicted of at least one HIV-related crime.

**Pak-a-Sak to fundraise for the Salvation Army**

Monday kicks off a five-week Paper Kettle drive at 31 Indiana Pak-a-Sak retail locations.

The annual campaign benefits The Salvation Army's Christmas assistance and emergency assistance programs in 14 counties in northern and northeastern Indiana. Paper Kettles can be purchased for \$1 at the register and will be displayed in the stores though the holiday season. Donations will be accepted from Nov. 25 to Dec. 29 at each Pak-a-Sak location in the state.

Throughout the year, thousands of Hoosier families turn to The Salvation Army for emergency rent and utility assistance, access to food pantries and feeding programs, and safe community programs for people of all ages. In 2023, The Salvation Army Indiana Division provided almost 2.8 million meals to the hungry and 89,000 nights of shelter to those experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Many Salvation Army corps also provide special assistance during Christmas, ensuring that struggling households can still put gifts under the tree and food on the table during our most special celebrations. The Paper Kettle program provides the funding necessary to meet the needs of the community, especially during challenging economic times.

**County Briefs**

**County considers unsold tax sale properties**

The Wells County Commissioners plan to review multiple properties that were not sold at a tax sale to determine the next best course of action. There was reportedly one property in Poneto, two in Keystone and one in Ossian that the commissioners will review.

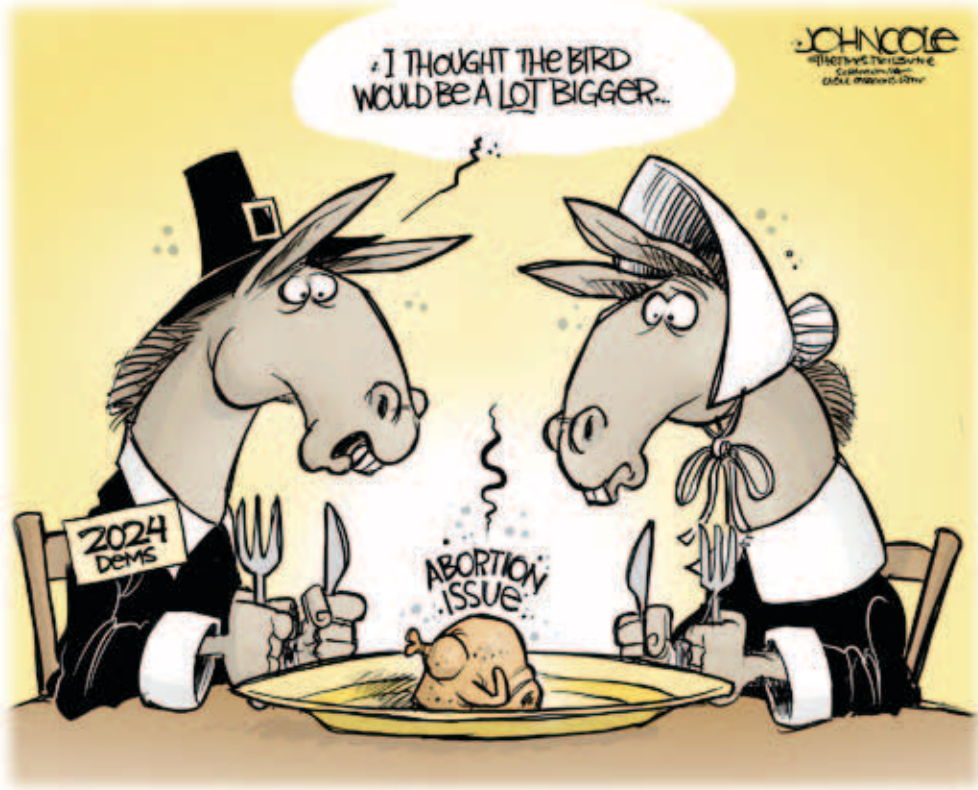
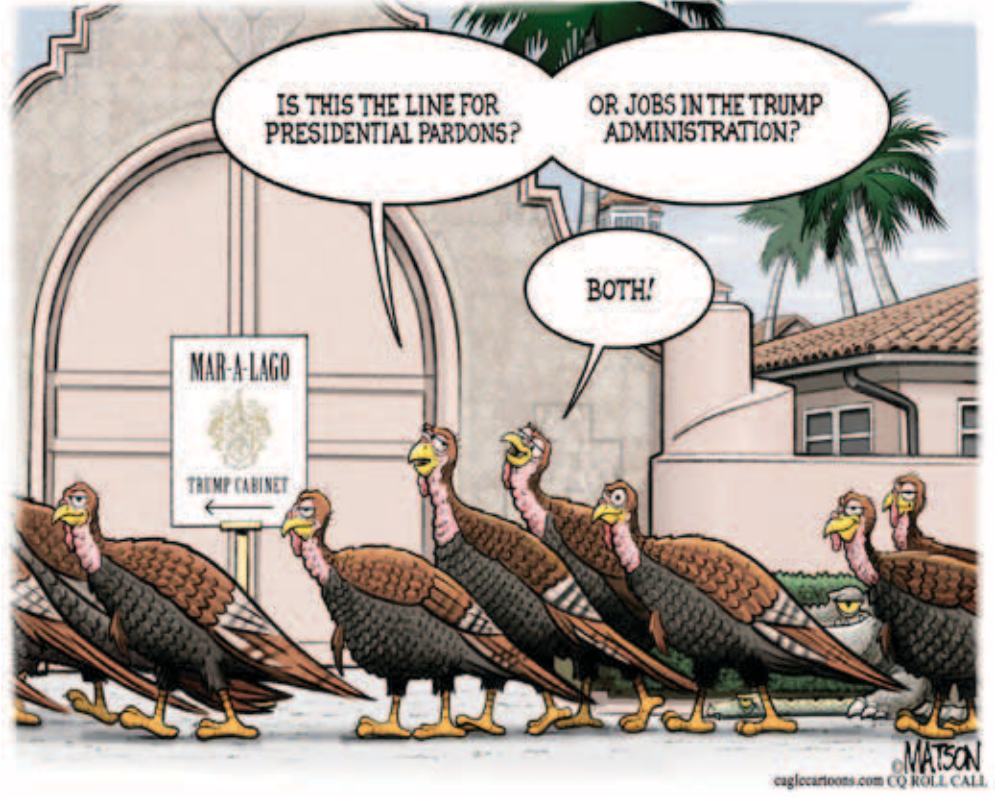
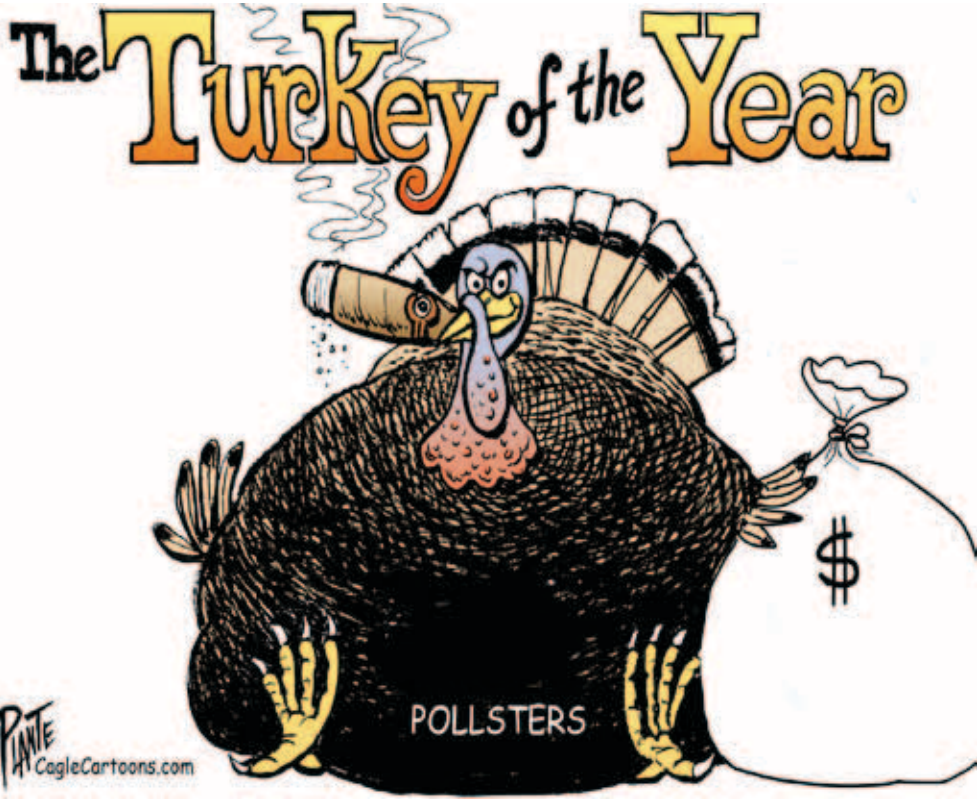
Commissioner Blake Gerber initially said the county should turn over the properties to each town jurisdiction, but the commissioners then agreed they needed to review each property first. They plan to return to the topic at their next meeting on Dec. 2.

Also Monday, the commissioners approved a resolution allowing county employees to receive their regular compensation for Nov. 13, when the courthouse closed at noon due to a water issue.

— Compiled by Holly Gaskill

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Thanksgiving Cometh - a look through cartoonists' eyes...



Other Opinions

Economic disruption is bad policy for Donald Trump

Donald Trump's cabinet nominees so far reveal a desire to disrupt Washington, and disruption is needed in many places. But as he mulls his choices for Treasury and the economic-policy posts, the question markets will ask is whether he will disrupt the policy mix that was successful in his first term.

The voter election surveys make clear that Mr. Trump won his second term above all else on the economy. Voters rejected the results of Bidenomics, especially inflation and a decline in real incomes. They recalled the strong investment and job market and rising wages across all income levels of the pre-Covid economy. Mr. Trump's second term success or failure will depend on restoring those results.

That's the hope behind the market's bullish initial response to Mr. Trump's re-election. Investors anticipate a return of animal spirits as the pall of Democratic tax increases and regulatory coercion is lifted. But economic and financial risks remain, and they'll require careful judgment, not blow-it-all-up rhetoric.

That's why it's strange to hear Elon Musk lobby Mr. Trump that the next Treasury secretary shouldn't be someone who favors "business as usual." What he means by that isn't clear beyond favoring one personality over another, and Mr. Musk may not know. Fiscal and monetary policy aren't his specialty.

Our concern isn't personalities so much as Mr. Musk's apparent belief in economic-policy disruption for its own sake. Treasury isn't the Education Department, or Defense, and financial markets don't want to trade one form of policy uncertainty for another. Steady and knowledgeable economic policy hands are needed if Mr. Trump wants to succeed.

One risk ahead is the tax bill that needs to pass next year to extend the 2017 tax reform. With narrow GOP majorities in Congress, that won't be easy. All the more so because Mr. Trump campaigned on new tax cuts (on tips, overtime, Social Security benefits) that will be impossible to afford unless Republicans want to sign up for an even larger deficit blowout than under President Biden.

Extending the 2017 reform more or less intact might be the best policy. That reform has recouped more tax revenue than the critics and Congressional scorekeepers claimed, and it will continue to do so if the economy keeps growing. But piling on too many tax giveaways that won't improve the incentive to work and invest could make tax reform difficult to pass and spook the bond markets. The U.S. deficit as a share of GDP in the last fiscal year was 6.4%, which is unheard of in a growing economy without a war or pandemic.

Unlike other policy positions, the Treasury Secretary needs an understanding of financial markets, which nowadays are global. A blowup in the foreign-exchange markets somewhere can affect the U.S. economy, and new financial investments like crypto need careful watching. Mr. Trump has promised to ease political control over these markets, but no one should think they are risk free. Blowups somewhere are inevitable, and a Treasury secretary needs the experience to deal with the fallout in a way that reassures markets.

Mr. Trump's first term until Covid was an overall economic success, as his tax reform and deregulation overcame the drag from tariffs. Markets responded well to his victory because they hope for a repeat. But that requires sound policy, not willy-nilly disruption.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

**THE NEWS-BANNER**  
 (USPS 059-200)  
 Evening News est. 1892 • Evening Banner est. 1899 • Consolidated 1929  
 Telephone Number 260-824-0224  
 George B. Wilwer, Chairman of the Board  
 Doug Brown, President, Publisher  
 Dianne Wilwer, Secretary/Treasurer  
 Holly Gaskill, Editor  
 Fax Number 260-824-0700  
 Periodicals Postage Paid at Bluffton, IN. Published every day except Sundays and Principal Holidays at 125 N. Johnson Street, Bluffton, IN. 46714. Post Office Box 436.

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

'Fixing' property taxes will take some time. But we're working on it.

A few comments which are not necessarily the views of Chairman Thompson or any other member of the Senate Majority Caucus or member of this task force. These are my observations and points I feel need addressed.

While it has been demonstrated that Indiana has a competitive and taxpayer friendly system, help for the taxpayer is on the way. However, it may take some time to work its way through the established system as well as the General Assembly.

We will likely begin to see a leveling off of market value in use of real properties as the economy begins to stabilize. There are likely to be some pockets of growth around the state that will be less effected by a bit of a slow down. The legislation you will see introduced this session will take time to fully implement. Tax bills for 2025 cannot be "fixed" this session further beyond what the Indiana General Assembly has done the last couple of sessions like capping general fund local levy growth. Moving forward, legislation this next session can result in tighter property tax controls for local units of government.

There are two solutions to lowering property tax: less local spending and borrowing and (more) reliance on Local Income Tax (LIT) levies.

1. The overall tax policy in the State of Indiana is one of the best in the nation. The Tax Foundation ranks Indiana No. 10 in overall best tax policy, and 5th for property tax. Indiana has cut income tax rates 25 times since 2012. We are working with Governor-elect Mike Braun on these tax proposals.

2. Indiana's tax structure is the result of 50 years of patchwork in the search of a fair and equitable tax system for property, sales, individual and corporate constituencies.

3. There will always seem to be the need for adjustments in process and rates with changing demographics and increased digital integration.

4. With regards to property taxes. The State of Indiana does not levy property taxes from any classification of property taxpayers. The property tax is an entirely local tax.

5. The formula for arriving at the amount owed to local units of government is simple: Assessed Value times the Rate equals the Levy (the net tax bill). However, each of the components of the formula is very complex within its own definition and inner workings.

6. In Indiana, a property's assessed value should reflect market value in use. The phenomenon of increased property values is directly related to the market and assessed value with a constant tax rate in many cases resulting in higher levies. Indiana is not unique. Inflation and increased property values has affected all 50 states and legislators across the country are grappling with the impact to the taxpayer.

7. Regardless of the legislature's efforts to provide more information on the process of how property tax bills are calculated, property tax bills remain complicated, confusing and complex and difficult for the taxpayer to understand.

8. The General Assembly, more than a decade ago put in place the one-, two- and three-percent property tax caps which limit taxpayer's liability based on their "market value in use." Voters ultimately voted to make this regime part of our constitution.

Accordingly, the homestead property at 1%, other residential and farm property at 2% and commercial property at 3% of the market value in use would be the maximum amount a taxpayer would pay. However, there are local unit work-arounds to the caps with referenda that allow



Travis Holdman

for the local unit to go beyond the one-, two-, three-percent caps.

9. To address spending from one year to the next by local units of government there are statutory limits on annual increases for operating levies. Two years ago, the General Assembly lowered the limit to 4% for a two-year period. Had we not done so, the calculation of the limit for 2024 would have allowed it to be raised to 5.16% (a 29% increase).

However, once again there are work-arounds to the levy limits we have imposed on local units. Levies to pay debt, referenda, something called excess levy appeals and local units' cumulative funds are outside of the limits we have imposed resulting in an effective annual limit in 2024 of 5.3% not just 4%.

10. Property tax calculations include in many cases deductions and credits to ease the tax burden for the property taxpayers. Deductions for homestead properties merely shift the burden to taxpayers within the two- and three-percent classification. This is the general rule unless it pushes the levies for the two- and three-percent payer to the cap. "Credits" on the other hand reduce the amount of tax liability and results in a complete loss of revenue for the local unit.

11. The complexity of the system cannot be "fixed" to provide overnight relief to any one classification of taxpayer. This process requires a multi-year effort to ease into a reform.

12. Local units of government generally operate with a majority of revenues from local property taxes and local income taxes.

13. Current Local Income Tax rates are set at a maximum of 2.5% with additional 1.25% if used for property tax relief for a total of 3.75%. However, Marion County is an exception with a maximum of 2.75% and 1.25% for property tax relief or a total of 4%.

14. There is currently \$4.8 billion in LIT capacity statewide

15. In general, I have a concern for the amount of debt our schools and other units of government are accumulating. We have got to control local spending and the same goes for state government.

We as a state cannot expect our local units of government to be more nimble, more frugal, more out-of-the-box champions and implementers if we are not willing to do so ourselves. The state's average increase in revenue for the 10 years prior to the years of Covid is roughly 3.24%. That should be the high-water mark for spending from one year to the next. If we have excess revenue, in my opinion, we should cut the state's individual income tax rate.

Since its inception, as the author of SB3 two years ago that formed this Task Force, my concerns were that the expectations for the results of our work would far exceed the product.

We have been diligent in collecting more data than you will ever know. My deepest gratitude to Krista Ricci, Ben Tooley, and other members of the House and Senate fiscal teams. Thanks goes as well for the yeoman's job our LSA staff has done to provide research for us. Thank you to a working group of House and Senate members that have been diligent and thoughtful offline to respond to concerns of our constituents. To fellow members of this Task Force, thank you for your input and being patient with the process. And, Chairman Thompson, thank you for making the team work better.

Holdman represents District 19, which includes Wells County, in the Indiana State Senate. He was recently re-elected as the Majority Caucus Chair.

Editor's note: As co-chair and "creator" — for lack of a better term — of the State and Local Tax Review task force, local Sen. Travis Holdman delivered these remarks at the joint-study committee's final meeting Wednesday. I felt them worthy of our readers' review for several reasons, not the least of which is to demonstrate that our sometimes lengthy attempts at discussing property taxes, for which I have often been (jokingly I think) berated, is not unique. Travis' attempt to encapsulate the issues the SALTR task force faced demonstrates why brevity is difficult when discussing property taxes.  
 —Mark Miller

# Best friend feels betrayed by my new relationship with his ex

Dear Annie: My best friend's ex-wife and I have found each other after decades and fallen in love. The whole situation is really complicated. She left their marriage over 30 years ago and recently divorced another man — the one she left my friend for. She left my friend bitter and broken and he's never really forgiven her. I can't blame him.

But she recently reached out to me, and I've grown very fond of her. I've asked him repeatedly if my connection is upsetting to him. He's said he doesn't care but does not want to know details. Well, I mentioned her the other day and he exploded, saying I had betrayed him and how could I? He is angry, hurt and refuses to speak to me. He is my best life-long friend! What can I do? — Stuck Between Love and Friendship

Dear Stuck: The truth is that you knew your friend's emotions were at risk when you started dating the woman who broke his heart. I am not sure why you brought her up after he requested you keep the relationship to yourself, but here we are.

Your relationship with his ex is clearly painful to him, so I would respect his space while he takes time to cool off. I would then reach out expressing how much you value his friendship and want to keep it in your life.

I can only assume you see a serious future with this woman, otherwise you wouldn't have gone down this road. So talk to her about potential boundaries you can set to make your friend feel more at ease about your relationship.

Dear Annie: I am a retired psycho-therapist and read your column every day. I'm writing in response to "Torn and Tired," the person whose mother wants to downsize but struggles to

part with the clutter in her overflowing house. I think you missed an important issue in your response, which is that I suspect the mother may have hoarding disorder. The daughter alludes to this in her letter, and if it's true, this changes things beyond decluttering. It is important that this family understands what hoarding disorder entails.

There are professionals who can help people with hoarding disorder if that person is willing to get and accept the help. Understanding the illness can also be very helpful to family members. — Compassionate Clinician

Dear Compassionate: Thank you — and the handful of other readers! — for pointing out this very important distinction. Hoarding is recognized as a legitimate mental health diagnosis in the DSM-5 (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders), and it should absolutely be treated as such. This mother would benefit greatly from professional help, as you mention, in addition to the support of her loving and patient family.

"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" features favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation. It is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit <http://www.creatorspublishing.com> for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com).

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## My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



## The devil and his demons know God exists

Question: If the devil believes in the true God, what makes him go on in his evil ways? If he really believes that God is all-powerful, surely he must know that he is going to lose in the end. What motivates him? — D.E.

Answer: The devil and his demons know God exists. The demon world also believes in the facts of Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection. But their belief is not a saving belief because it does not lead them to turn to God in repentance.

A saving belief in God is what happens when sinners turn from

sin to Christ and put their trust and faith in Him. It involves not only an intellectual acceptance of certain facts about God and Jesus. It involves complete surrender and committing to living an obedient life according to God's Word. This means to turn away from the former life and walk in new life with Him. Jesus Christ gives us this ability, but we must follow.

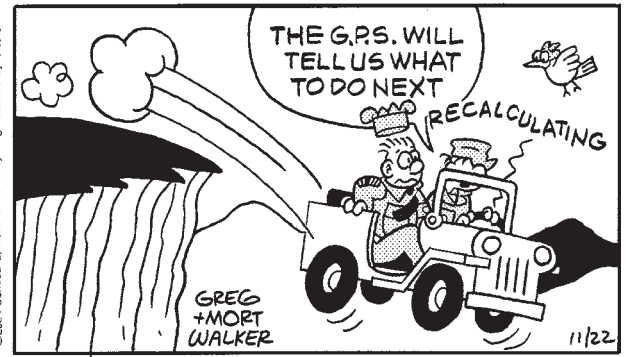
The Bible tells us over and over again of God's love and warns us constantly of the devil who wants to come between us and God. Satan is ever waiting to ensnare our souls. But when our minds are on the things of God, Satan has little room to maneuver.

Satan does not care how much we theorize about Christianity or how much we profess to know about Christ. What he opposes vigorously is the way we live for Christ. It is Satan's purpose to create the seed of truth from our hearts by sending distracting thoughts. He will do everything he can to divide Christians and destroy our witness. We must not give Satan a foothold but discipline ourselves to stay close to God. He alone is our security.

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

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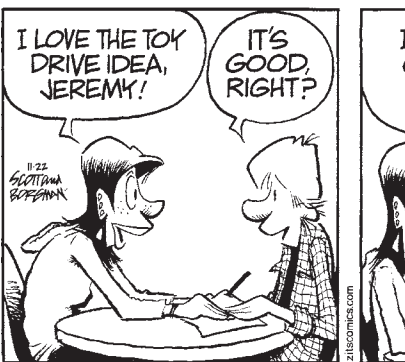
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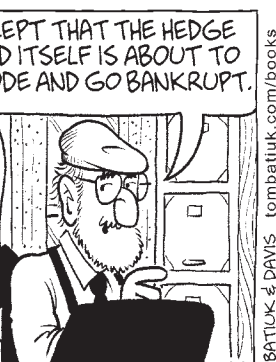
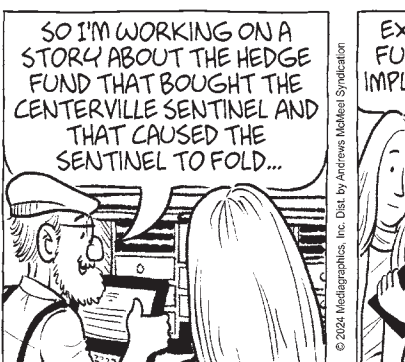
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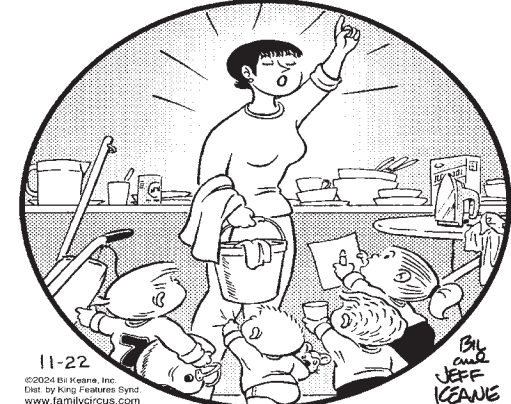


## CRANKSHAFT



## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"ASK NOT what your mother can do for you! Ask what you can do for your mother!"

## The LOCKHORNS



"IT'S LIKE A VILLAGE IDIOTS' CONVENTION."

11/22	M	A	D1	D2	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM	12:30	
WINM (12)	11	26	63		Washington Watch With Tony Perkins	News-at-5	News-at-6	CBS News (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	S.W.A.T. (N)	Joyce Meyer	Jewish Jesus	Life Today with Stephen Colbert	Robert Jeffress	Truths That Andrew Womack	Ask the Pastor			Prop. Com	
CBS WANE (15)	2	2	15	15	News (N)	Inside Edition (N)	News at 6 (N)	CBS News (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	S.W.A.T. (N)	Joyce Meyer	Jewish Jesus	Life Today with Stephen Colbert	Robert Jeffress	Truths That Andrew Womack	Ask the Pastor			Prop. Com	
Antenna WANE-2 (15)	106	20			Hawaii Five-0 'Ka'oi 'o ma loko"	Hawaii Five-0 'A ia la Aha"															
ABC WPTA (21)	4	3	21	21	ABC21 News at 5 (N)	ABC21 (N)	ABC World News (N)	ABC21 (N)	Ent. Tonight (N)	Shark Tank (N)	20/20 Unforgettable true crime mysteries, exclusive newsmaker interviews and investigative reports. (N)	Magnum "Dream Lover"	Magnum "If I Should Die Before I Wake"	Magnum P.I. "Angels Sometimes Kill"	Magnum P.I. "Judge Me Not"						
NBC WPTA-2 (21)	7	8	14	14	Family Feud 25 Words or Less	News (N)	NBC News (N)	Family Feud (N)	Family Feud (N)	Happy's Place (N)	Lopez vs Lopez (N)	Dateline NBC Compelling mysteries, powerful documentaries, in-depth investigations.	Chicago Fire "It Wasn't Enough"	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	The Conners	The Conners	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs		
MNT WPTA-3 (21)	10	9	56	34	Bob Hearts Abishola	Bob Heart "Black Ice"	Modern Family	News (N)	Last Man Standing	Chicago Fire "My Miracle"	Chicago Fire "It Wasn't Enough"	Friends	Friends	TMZ (N)	Dish Nation (N)	The Goldbergs	True Crime News (N)	Chicago "A Night Owl"	Chicago "A Night Owl"		
CV WISE (33)	8	4	33	33	The Steve Wilkos Show	TMZ Live (N)			TMZ (N)	True Crime News (N)	PrimeTime Live (N)	Washington WK (N)	Firing- Hoover (N)	Great Performances "Patsy Cline: Walkin' After Midnight" (N)	American Anthems	Amanpour and Company (N)	Washington WK	Firing-Hoover	Firing-Hoover		
PBS WFVA (39)	13	5	39	39	My Grandparents' War "Toby Jones"	PBS News Hour (N)			BBC News America	PrimeTime Live (N)	Washington WK (N)	Firing- Hoover (N)	Great Performances "Patsy Cline: Walkin' After Midnight" (N)	American Anthems	Amanpour and Company (N)	Washington WK	Firing-Hoover	Firing-Hoover	Neighbor		
PBS WFPB (49)	3	6			My Grandparents' War "Toby Jones"	Context	Cardinal Compass		PBS News Hour (N)	Washington WK (N)	Firing- Hoover (N)	Great Performances "Patsy Cline: Walkin' After Midnight" (N)	American Anthems	Amanpour and Company (N)	Washington WK	Firing-Hoover	Firing-Hoover	Neighbor	Neighbor		
FOX WFTT (55)	6	6	55	55	WFTT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFTT Fox News at 6 (N)			To Be Announced	College Football Purdue at Michigan State From Spartan Stadium in East Lansing, Mich. (L) (N)											
<b>CABLE CHANNELS</b>																					
LIFE	23	113	108	252	4:00 Scentsational Christmas	4:00 Christmas a la Mode (2019, Drama) Ryan Cooper, Caroline Portu, Katie Lopez.	5:00 Steppin' Into the Holiday (2022, Romance) Jana Kramer, Cheri Oteri, Mario Lopez.	5:05 Welcome to the Christmas Family Reunion (21) Alonzo B. Slater, Michelle Argyris.	5:05 Steppin' Into the Holiday (2022, Romance) Jana Kramer, Cheri Oteri, Mario Lopez.	5:05 New York "The Weight of the World" New York "The Weight of the World"	5:05 New York "The Weight of the World" New York "The Weight of the World"	5:05 New York "The Weight of the World" New York "The Weight of the World"	5:05 New York "The Weight of the World" New York "The Weight of the World"	5:05 New York "The Weight of the World" New York "The Weight of the World"	5:05 New York "The Weight of the World" New York "The Weight of the World"	5:05 New York "The Weight of the World" New York "The Weight of the World"	5:05 New York "The Weight of the World" New York "The Weight of the World"	5:05 New York "The Weight of the World" New York "The Weight of the World"	5:05 New York "The Weight of the World" New York "The Weight of the World"	5:05 New York "The Weight of the World" New York "The Weight of the World"	5:05 New York "The Weight of the World" New York "The Weight of the World"

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## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Online guffaw

4 Late-night host Meyers

8 Spanish custard

12 Greek vowel

13 Ticklish Muppet

14 Carry on

15 Shrink

17 Pundit's piece

18 Dido's lover

19 Calendar box

21 Soul, to Camul

22 Woodwind player

26 Strictly — nous

29 Pained sounds

30 "Evita" role

31 God, in Granada

32 Press for payment

33 Adolescent

34 Raggedy doll

35 Parking place

**DOWN**

1 Spartan queen

3 Grassy area

4 Bagel choice

5 "Beloved" actress Kimberly

6 Celeb gossip source

7 Square-dance party

8 Ice cream alter-native, for short

9 Pool unit

10 "Hail, Caesar!" neighbor

16 Draws close

20 Tummy muscles

23 Slurpee alter-native

24 The Mets' old home

25 See to

26 Dutch export

27 Baja boy

28 Oodles

29 "Shoo!"

32 "— Abbey"

33 Base before home

35 Bathroom, to a Brit

36 Warnings

38 Rowing team's cry

39 Sailor's cry

42 "Gee whiz!"

43 Barnyard females

44 Tizzy

45 Bit of moisturizer

46 "— had it!"

47 Silent assent

49 — de cologne

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

AMAS SHEA CAB  
BONK WAVE OLE  
CAKESALES LEA  
STATIN OLDER  
CD COPES  
ARCH HUR GOH  
IOU ERE URI  
DEER RVS SPAT  
SORRY BE  
BETTE STROKE  
EMI CALLS IGS  
LUC ASEALTS  
ASK PLOW LETO

Yesterday's answer 11-22

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

# Tigers sweep in MS basketball

All four of the Bluffton-Harrison Middle School basketball teams won their games over St. Joseph Thursday night.

The eighth grade boys' team won 38-10. Wyatt Holmes led the way with 13 points and eight rebounds, Chase Kistler (8), Vince Lambert and Maddox White (5), Braxton Bebout (4), Ethan Ribbich (2) and Jabrylon Hamon (1).

The eighth grade girls' team won 32-21. Audrey Mechling led the way with eight points, followed by Gracie Jellison (6), Josie Nash (5), Luci Jenkins (3) and Anna Hart-

man, Averie Patton, Khloe Gehrett, Madelyn Narvaez and Audrey McMillian (2).

The seventh grade boys' team won 34-21. Riker Beste led the way with 10 points, followed by Davin Drayer (8) with 12 rebounds, Kreigh Ault (6), Easton Schipper (6), Clive Gerber (3) and Simeon Terry (1).

The seventh grade girls' team won 26-19. Adrienne Smallman led the way with nine points, followed by Averie Pearson (8), Alaya Reinhard (4), Olivia Brown (3) and Abby Garrett (2).

# Ohtani wins third MVP award, first in NL; Judge earns second AL MVP honor in 3 seasons

By RONALD BLUM  
AP Baseball Writer  
NEW YORK (AP) — Shohei Ohtani keeps setting records, even after the season is over.



Shohei Ohtani



Aaron Judge

The Los Angeles Dodgers star added his third Most Valuable Player award to his collection and first in the National League when he was chosen unanimously by the Baseball Writers' Association of America on Thursday. Aaron Judge of the New York Yankees won the American League award for the second time, also unanimously.

Ohtani last year became the first two-time unanimous MVP. He won the AL award in 2021 and 2023 as a two-way star for the Los Angeles Angels and finished second to Judge in 2022 voting.

He didn't pitch in 2024 following elbow surgery and signed a record \$700 million, 10-year contract with the Los Angeles Dodgers last December. Ohtani became the first player to reach 50 home runs and 50 stolen bases in a season, then helped the Dodgers beat the Yankees in the World Series.

"The fact that I knew I wasn't going to be able to pitch this season just made me focus more on my offensive game and fortunately I was able to produce and get this award," Ohtani said through a translator.

Ohtani sat on a red sofa with his wife and dog Decoy as teammate Clayton Kershaw announced the award on the MLB Network.

The Nederlandse kooikerhondje immediately jumped away.

Ohtani received all 30 first-place votes and 420 points. New York Mets shortstop Francisco Lindor was second with 263 points and Arizona second baseman Ketel Marte third with 229.

Judge was a unanimous pick for the first time. Kansas City shortstop Bobby Witt Jr. got all 30 second-place votes for 270 points, and Yankees outfielder Juan Soto was third with 21 third-place votes and 229 points.

Ohtani hit .310, stole 59 bases and led the NL with 54 homers and 130 RBIs exclusively as a designated hitter, becoming the first player with 50 or more homers and 50 or more stolen bases in a season.

A highlight of the season was during the dog days. Ball in mouth, Decoy delivered the ceremonial first pitch to his owner at Dodger Stadium's home plate before an Aug. 28 game against Baltimore.

"The most nerve-wracking game that I had, the most nervous I was when we had that Decoy throw out the first pitch," he said.

Ohtani played the final three games of the World Series with a torn labrum in his left shoulder. Still recovering from right elbow surgery in September 2023, Ohtani had another operation on Nov. 5 to repair the shoulder and has been working on range of motion and started Thursday on core and lower body work.

# Dominated by Ohio State for years, surprising Indiana has a chance for the big payback

By MITCH STACY  
AP Sports Writer  
COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Looking at Ohio State's schedule at the start of the season, the game against Indiana in late November didn't stand out.

The Hoosiers haven't been a contender in the Big Ten for decades and were terrible last year, so it was logical to think about this game as a throwaway, one that wouldn't require a lot of heavy lifting for the Buckeyes as they schemed for revenge against Michigan the following week.

Instead, the college football world will get a treat instead of a dud on Saturday when undefeated No. 5 Indiana plays No. 2 Ohio State at the Horseshoe, a place where the Hoosiers haven't won a game since Ronald Reagan was president.

Indiana (10-0, 7-0 Big Ten, No. 5 CFP) is one of the most uplifting stories of the season. Behind Ohio University transfer quarterback Kurtis Rourke, the Hoosiers are enjoying their best season since 1967 when they finished 9-2 and shared the Big Ten title with Purdue and Minnesota.

They haven't even sniffed a conference crown since.

The Buckeyes (9-1, 6-1, No. 2 CFP) are doing what they were expected to do. Their only stumble this season was a nail-biter of a 32-31 loss to now-No. 1 Oregon. Ohio State hasn't dropped below No. 4 in the AP Top 25 all season.

"We saw Indiana becoming a big game, now a Top 5 matchup," Ohio State coach Ryan Day said this week. "Our guys are fired up for this one and know this is a must-win for us. We've got to go win this game to play in Indianapolis (in the Big Ten championship). I know the team, the coaches, everybody in this building, the fans know what kind of game this is, and we've got to bring it on Saturday."

Oregon has already clinched one of the spots in the conference title game.

If Indiana beats Ohio State — the only nationally ranked team on its schedule this year — and closes out the season with a win over Purdue, the Hoosiers will be in the Big Ten championship for the first time since the inception of the game in 2011.

If Ohio State wins out, it will return to the conference title game for the first time since the pandemic-shortened 2020 season — and get a rematch with the Ducks.

## High School Calendar

**FRIDAY, NOV 22**  
GIRLS BASKETBALL: Huntington North at Bluffton, 7:30 p.m.  
WRESTLING: Elwood at Southern Wells, 6 p.m.

**SATURDAY, NOV 23**  
GIRLS BASKETBALL: North Miami at Bluff-

ton, 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.

**MONDAY, NOV 25**  
No events scheduled.

# No. 16 Indiana remains unbeaten with win over UNC Greensboro

By MICHAEL MAROT  
AP Sports Writer  
BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP) — Myles Rice scored 14 of his 20 points in the first half, freshman Bryson Tucker finished with a season-high 14 and No. 16 Indiana got past UNC Greensboro 69-58 on Thursday night.

Mackenzie Mgbako, Malik Reneau and Omar Ballo each scored nine points as the Hoosiers (4-0) won their fourth straight by double digits. Ballo added 11 rebounds and Reneau had 10.

Ronald Polite III led the Spartans with a season-best 17 points, and Donovan Atwell added 10 for UNC Greensboro (2-2).

Indiana never trailed, but the Spartans made it interesting when they tied it at 40 on Malik Henry's three-point play 4:03 into the second half. Tucker answered with five straight points, and the Hoosiers kept UNC Greensboro at arm's length the rest of the

game.

**Takeaways**  
Indiana: The Hoosiers had plenty of opportunities to seal this game but struggled to put it away. As the schedule becomes tougher, Indiana needs to find some rhythm quickly.

**Key moment**  
Tucker's five-point flurry got the struggling Hoosiers going. After allowing the Spartans to score on a layup, Indiana went on a 9-0 run to make it 54-42, and UNC Greensboro never recovered.

**Key stat**  
While Indiana's 14 turnovers helped the Spartans, UNC Greensboro's 9-of-32 shooting from beyond the arc didn't allow it to capitalize.

**Up next**  
The Hoosiers are off until Wednesday when they'll face nearby Louisville in the Bahamas.



Bluffton finishes second in conference

Bluffton's victory over Jay County placed them second in the Hoosier Conference Thursday night. Miken Habegger had himself a season, earning the triple crown for the second season in a row for the highest game, average and series for the boys' side. (Photo submitted)

# Richardson looks to prove himself yet again as he takes on Lions

By MICHAEL MAROT  
AP Sports Writer  
INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Anthony Richardson looked like a different quarterback when he returned to the Indianapolis Colts' starting lineup last week.

He consistently connected with open receivers. He appeared to be in command and he ran with authority.

Now, last year's No. 4 overall draft pick wants to show doubters the best game of his pro career was no fluke with an encore performance he hopes will change his long-term image.

"The main thing is just being consistent, just trusting my guys each and every play, trusting the play call each and every play, and then just trusting the preparation," Richardson said. "It's just putting in the work throughout the week and letting it show out on the field on Sundays."

That formula worked perfectly against the reeling New York Jets when the NFL's least accurate starting quarterback completed 20 of 30 passes, threw for one touchdown and ran for two more including the decisive score on Indy's final possession.

It was a major change from the guy who had completed just 44.4% of his passes while throwing four TD passes and seven interceptions.

This week, the stakes get higher and the challenge tougher with Detroit.

The Lions (9-1) are off to their best start since 1934, own the NFC's best record, have a league-high eight-game winning streak and the league's highest-scoring team has topped the 40-point mark in half of those eight wins.

All of it would seem to put the Colts

(5-6) under pressure to score points by the dozens. But the unflappable Richardson dismisses such a notion.

"If you see it like that, there's definitely an edge of you trying to push and do a little bit more," Richardson said. "But I think that's a negative, honestly. You're trying to play up to their standards."

The new and improved Richardson also poses new problems for Detroit's defense, especially if coach Shane Steichen reverts again to a strategy that takes greater advantage of the 6-foot-4, 244-pound Richardson's strong legs.

Colts receiver Michael Pittman Jr. said he thought the game plan and the play calling allowed Richardson to settle into the game against the Jets while boosting Richardson's confidence.

On tape, Lions coach Dan Campbell viewed Richardson's re-emergence another way.

"I think what you saw was, last week (was Richardson) really, at his best," Campbell said. "I'm not even sure you can go back to earlier in the year because I feel like they've taken the handcuffs off of him and allowed him to just go."

Could the changed strategy help Richardson improve on his 6-5 record as a starter while becoming a more consistent thrower? Of course, that's what the Colts hope to see again this week when he faces one of the NFL's Super Bowl favorites.

"I'm still putting the work in every day," he said. "Trying not to focus on everything good I did last week, just trying to keep it going and just keep stacking up the days."



# Drama filled final 3 races of F1 season as drivers are upset with recent FIA decisions

By JENNA FRYER  
AP Auto Racing Writer  
LAS VEGAS (AP) — There are three races remaining in the Formula 1 season and Max Verstappen of Red Bull is close to a fourth consecutive world championship, which can wrap up Saturday night at the Las Vegas Grand Prix.

All is not smooth sailing headed into this final month of racing:

— There's a new race director following the firing of Niels Wittich that blindsided the Grand Prix Drivers' Association so badly that it created an Instagram account to rebuke the lack of FIA transparency.

"It was a bit of a surprise, I think, for everybody," said Mercedes driver George Russell, a GPDA director. "It's a hell of a lot of pressure now onto the new race director (with) just three races left. Often, as drivers, we probably feel like we're the last to find out this sort of information."

— Greg Maffei, the CEO of Liberty Media, the company that holds the commercial rights to F1, said last week he was stepping down from his position. This followed months of speculation that owner John Malone was displeased with Liberty landing in two different Justice Department investigations, one surrounding F1's refusal to allow Andretti Global into the series and the other over allegations of a Live Nation concert ticket monopoly.

The Andretti team is expected to receive F1 approval to join the grid, albeit without Michael Andretti, who has scaled back his role dramatically since the IndyCar season ended in September.

— F1 denied over the weekend that Stefano Domenicali, CEO of Formula One Management, was also on the move amid rumors that the Italian would take over MotoGP if Liberty's purchase of the series is approved.

— Renee Wilm, a longtime Liberty Media employee, CEO of the Las Vegas Grand Prix and potentially Domenicali's successor, told The Associated Press she will fulfill any role Malone tasks her with but has little desire to move from Colorado to London to replace Domenicali. Maffei's newly opened job? Who knows.

Many drivers, particularly seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton, have been at odds with FIA President Mohammed Ben Sulayem since his election following the 2021 season finale. In the GPDA statement, they reminded the sanctioning body "our members are adults" who don't need lectures and fines on foul language or jewelry bans, and simply want fair and consistent race control.

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# News-Banner Scoreboard

## FOOTBALL

### NFL

#### AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	9	2	0	818	320 214
Miami	4	6	0	400	181 221
N.Y. Jets	3	8	0	273	204 242
New England	3	8	0	273	182 248

South					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	7	4	0	636	258 236
Indianapolis	5	6	0	455	236 250
Tennessee	2	8	0	200	170 263
Jacksonville	2	9	0	182	208 316

North					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	8	3	0	727	252 186
Baltimore	7	4	0	636	334 271
Cincinnati	4	7	0	364	297 296
Cleveland	3	8	0	273	186 267

West					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	9	1	0	900	240 191
L.A. Chargers	7	3	0	700	220 145
Denver	6	5	0	545	235 183
Las Vegas	2	8	0	200	187 285

Tampa Bay at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.  
Tennessee at Houston, 1 p.m.  
Denver at Las Vegas, 4:05 p.m.  
Arizona at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.  
San Francisco at Green Bay, 4:25 p.m.  
Sunday Night Football: Philadelphia at L.A. Rams, 8:20 p.m.  
Open: Buffalo, Cincinnati, Jacksonville, N.Y. Jets, Atlanta, New Orleans  
**Monday, Nov. 25**  
Monday Night Football: Baltimore at L.A. Chargers, 8:15 p.m.

Chattanooga 72, Johnson U. 52  
Clemson 79, Radford 51  
Drake 80, Miami 69  
FAU 86, Oklahoma St. 78  
Middle Tennessee 83, Ohio 81, OT  
Mississippi 100, Oral Roberts 68  
Seton Hall 69, VCU 66, OT  
South Carolina 84, Mercer 72  
South Florida 74, Portland 68  
Toledo 103, Stetson 78  
Vanderbilt 73, Nevada 71  
Wright St. 80, Princeton 62

## Drama filled F1

(Continued from Page 6)

There's been no response from Ben Sulayem, and won't be this weekend since he does not attend the LVGP. He will be at Qatar and the finale in Abu Dhabi next month.

Hamilton doesn't think all the behind-the-scenes changes will be a fan topic as the season comes to a close. But he noted that consistency from race control is all the drivers have asked for, while throwing his support behind Domenicali and the job Maffei has done in growing F1 since Liberty took over.

"I really hope Stefano is not leaving because he's been so instrumental in changes and progress to this whole thing," Hamilton said. "And he knows the sport as well as anyone. But all good things do come to an end, and whoever they put into place, I just hope they are like-minded. But sometimes you have to shake the trees."

That's just what happened with the surprise departure of race director Wittich. Although drivers have been unhappy with race officiating this season and held a private GPDA meeting in Mexico City, Russell said they had no prior warning Wittich was out.

The race director is the referee each weekend and Wittich has been in charge since 2022, when Michael Masi was fired following the controversial 2021 season-ending, championship-altering finale at Abu Dhabi. Now the man in charge for the final three races is Rui Marques, the Formula 2 and Formula 3 race director.

Las Vegas, which overcame multiple stumbling blocks in last year's debut before putting on one of the best races of the season, is a difficult place to start. Verstappen can win his fourth title by simply scoring three points more than Lando Norris of McLaren.

"It's a bit weird with three races to go to do that," Verstappen said. "It doesn't matter if you're positive or negative about certain things. I thought in Brazil there was definitely room for improvement, for example. It's still a bit weird having to now then deal with a different race director."

Charles Leclerc of Ferrari wondered why the move was made with only three races to go.

"To do it so late in the season, at such a crucial moment of the season, it could have probably been managed in a better way," he said.

The drivers have consistently asked for clearer guidelines in the officiating of races, specifically regarding track limits and racing rules. The drivers have no idea how Marques will officiate, highlighting a disconnect between the competitors and Ben Sulayem's FIA.

"We just want to be transparent with the FIA and have this dialogue that is happening," Russell said. "And I think the departure of Niels is also a prime example of not being a part of these conversations."

The GPDA statement made clear the drivers do not think their voice is being heard.

"If we feel we're being listened to, and some of the changes that we are requesting are implemented, because ultimately we're only doing it for the benefit of the sport, then maybe our confidence will increase," Russell said. "But I think there's a number of drivers who feel a bit fed up with the whole situation. It only seems to be going in the wrong direction."

He also said the relationship between the drivers and the FIA seems fractured.

"Sometimes just hiring and firing is not the solution," he said. "You need to work together to improve the problem."

## BASKETBALL

### High School

**Thursday Girls' Scores**  
Alexandria 54, Yorktown 43  
Dubois 32, Orleans 25  
Evansville Christian 45, Barr-Reeve 38

Floyd Central 57, Scottsburg 33  
Goshen 42, Westview 30  
Indpls Roncalli 55, Beech Grove 32  
Lanesville 50, Central Christian 25  
Loogootee 61, Shoals 27  
N. Central (Farmersburg) 49, Linton 44, 2OT

N. Vermillion 54, Westville, Ill. 21  
Owen Valley 66, Eminence 32  
Perry Central 47, Forest Park 36  
Plainfield 59, Indpls Ben Davis 36  
Riverton Parke 61, Union (Dugger) 29  
Rochester 44, Peru 33  
Sheridan 36, Covenant Christian High School 28

South Bend Career Academy 34, Morgan Twp. 11  
South Knox 63, Evansville Mater Dei 30  
Tecumseh 69, Evansville Harrison 50  
W. Vigo 48, Clay City 38  
Washington Twp. 44, Victory Christian Academy 22

Johnson County Tournament Semifinal  
Franklin 53, Whiteland 42  
Putnam County Tournament First Round  
S. Putnam 36, N. Putnam 31

**NBA**  
**Wednesday's Games**  
Cleveland 128, New Orleans 100  
Milwaukee 122, Chicago 106  
Houston 130, Indiana 113

**Women's Scores**  
**Thursday, Nov. 21**  
**EAST**  
Penn St. 74, Marshall 59  
St. John's 69, Marist 49

**SOUTH**  
Duke 79, Belmont 47  
Georgia 60, Tulsa 44  
Louisville 107, Morehead St. 70  
NC State 89, Coastal Carolina 68

**MIDWEST**  
Bellarmine 79, Wright St. 71  
Bradley 72, IUPUI 47  
Dayton 65, Providence 61  
Fort Wayne 94, E. Michigan 49  
St. Thomas (MN) 73, Oakland 62  
Wisconsin 61, Ill. Chicago 57

**SOUTHWEST**  
Houston 73, Alcorn St. 48  
Oral Roberts 94, Arkansas 73  
TCU 81, Incarnate Word 43

**FAR WEST**  
Boise St. 59, San Francisco 57  
Gonzaga 72, Rice 69  
Washington 62, Cal St.-Fullerton 58

**College**  
**Men's Scores**  
**Thursday, Nov. 21**  
**EAST**  
Baylor 99, St. John's 98, 2OT  
**SOUTH**  
Bradley 82, Texas St. 68

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★ 11/22

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## Lottery Numbers

**Thursday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY**  
Cash 5 — 03-07-09-12-33  
Cash4Life — 30-35-47-50-57, Cash Ball: 01  
Quick Draw Midday — 12-14-15-24-26-28-33-35-45-53-54-56-60-61-68-72-73-74-78-79, BE: 60  
Daily Three-Midday — 03-02-05, SB:03  
Daily Three-Evening — 07-05-03, SB: 04  
Daily Four-Midday — 08-08-04-03, SB: 03  
Daily Four-Evening — 00-04-05-00, SB: 04  
Quick Draw Evening — 08-09-10-18-30-35-40-43-44-46-52-56-58-60-63-65-69-73-76-77, BE: 77  
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$30 million  
MEGA MILLIONS  
Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$453 million  
POWERBALL  
Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$171 million

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**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.

## Help Wanted

**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 construction 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 Department; directs the implementation of the department'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 minimum 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 occupancy, as needed. Maintains an effective communication process with the Commissioners. Bachelor's degree (B.A./B.S.) from a four-year college 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 supervisory 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 or auditor@wellscounty.org. Resumes will be accepted until December 16, 2024.

## SERVICES

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

## Services

**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](http://www.news-banner.com) and click on classifieds.

**REPLACE YOUR ROOF** with the best looking and longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-866-781-6023 (I)

## ATTENTION

Pursuant to IC 4-32.3-4-13, the **American Legion Post 111** is publishing notice that an application for annual bingo activities has been filed by:  
**American Legion Post III 111 West Washington Street Bluffton, Indiana 46714**  
Location of Bingo Activities: **111 West Washington Street Bluffton, Indiana 46714**  
Operators:  
**George Thomas, Brenda Thomas, Michelle Paxton, Jeremy Beck, Ronald Marshall, Jeffrey Pond, Kenneth West, Patricia Holley, Vicky Chambers, Richard Smith, Jeffrey Moss, Rick Silis, Robert Buehl, Danielle Chilcote-Beeson, Craig Mann, Cheryl Mann, Kathleen Marshall, Delmar Jackson, Donna Nunley, Melissa King, Marilyn Meshberger, Richard Murphy.**

Officers of Organization:  
**George Thomas, Post Commander; Craig Mann, 1st Vice Commander; Jeffrey Moss, Adjutant; Daniel LaVine, 2nd Vice Commander; Richard Smith, Finance Officer; Robert Buehl, 3rd Vice Commander, Michelle Paxton, Bookkeeper.**  
Any person may protest the proposed issuance of the annual activity license. Protest letters must be postmarked within fifteen (15) days from the date the posting appears. The Commission shall hold a public hearing if ten (10) written and signed protest letters are received.  
Protest letters should be sent: INDIANA GAMING COMMISSION  
Attention: Mark Mason  
Charity Gaming Division  
East Tower Suite 1600  
101 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
nb 11/22 hspaxlp

## SUDOKU ANSWER

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

## Services

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

## Public Notices

**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION TO CREDITORS**  
ESTATE NO. 90C01-2411-EU-000043  
THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WELLS COUNTY

Notice is hereby given that **JASON C. MUSSELMAN** was on the 8th day of November, 2024, appointed as Personal Representative of the ESTATE OF **JUDITH A. MUSSELMAN**, deceased, who died on the 4th day of August, 2024.

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

**DATED AT BLUFFTON, INDIANA, THIS 8TH DAY OF November, 2024.**  
Beth Davis  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA  
nb 11/15, 11/22 hspaxlp

## NOTICE OF HEARING ON PROPOSED RATES AND CHARGES

Property owners and other interested parties in the City of Bluffton, Indiana, are hereby notified that Ordinance No. 1641 establishing rates and charges for services to be rendered by the City for the collection of Rubbish, Garbage, and recyclable materials within the City was introduced at a meeting of the Common Council of the City of Bluffton held on November 19, 2024. At a meeting of the Bluffton Common Council to be held at 5:30 p.m. (Bluffton time) on December 3, 2024, in the Council Chambers, 128 E. Market St., Bluffton, IN 46714, Second Floor, there will be a public hearing on the matter of rates and charges and consideration of the adoption of Ordinance No. 1641 which provides in part as follows:  
An amendment to Bluffton Code 8.24.160 Service Charges.  
The addition of 8.24.160 Service Charges: to establish a residential monthly fee for the collection of Garbage, Rubbish and recyclable materials for the next four years.  
**Year 2025** \$20.86  
**2026** \$21.90  
**2027** \$22.99  
**2028** \$24.15  
At the hearing and prior to final adoption of the Ordinance, all interested parties may appear and be heard. A copy of Ordinance No. 1641 may be examined at the office of the Clerk-Treasurer, 128 E. Market St., Bluffton, IN 46714.  
Dated this 19th day of November, 2024.

Clerk-Treasurer nb 11/22 hspaxlp

## NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Notice is hereby given to the Taxpayers of the City of Bluffton, Wells County, Indiana, that the Common Council of said City will, at the Council Chambers, 128 East Market Street, Bluffton, Indiana, meet on December 3, 2024 at 5:30 o'clock P.M., to consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the 2024 budget.

TIF Midland 2 Fund	APPROPRIATE TO:	\$1,000
TIF Midland 2 Budget		
438.020 RTT Economic Dev Bond		\$1,000
General Fund		\$3,000
	APPROPRIATE TO:	
Animal Shelter Budget		
435.010 Utilities Animal Shelter		\$3,000

Taxpayers appearing at said meeting shall have the right to be heard. The additional appropriations as finally made will be automatically referred to the Department of Local Government Finance. The Department will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a Certified Copy of the action taken.  
Bri Lautzenheiser  
City Clerk Treasurer  
nb 11/22 hspaxlp

# Putin: Russia attacked Ukraine with missile that the West can't stop

By HANNA ARHIROVA, ILLIA NOVIKOV, AAMER MADHANI and TARA COPP Associated Press

The Kremlin fired a new intermediate-range ballistic missile at Ukraine on Thursday in response to Kyiv's use this week of American and British missiles capable of striking deeper into Russia, President Vladimir Putin said.

In a televised address to the country, the Russian president warned that U.S. air defense systems would be powerless to stop the new missile, which he said flies at ten times the speed of sound and which he called the Oreshnik — Russian for hazelnut tree. He also said it could be used to attack any Ukrainian ally whose missiles are used to attack Russia.

"We believe that we have the right to use our weapons against military facilities of the countries that allow to use their weapons against our facilities," Putin said in his first comments since President Joe Biden gave Ukraine the green light this month to use U.S. ATACMS missiles to strike at limited targets inside Russia.

Pentagon deputy press secretary Sabrina Singh confirmed that Russia's missile was a new, experimental type of intermediate range missile based on its RS-26 Rubezh intercontinental ballistic missile.

"This was new type of lethal capability that was deployed on the battlefield, so that was certainly of concern," Singh said, noting that the missile could carry either conventional or nuclear warheads. The U.S. was notified ahead of the launch through nuclear risk reduction channels, she said.

The attack on the central Ukrainian city of Dnipro came in response to Kyiv's use of longer-range U.S. and British missiles in strikes Tuesday and Wednesday on southern Russia, Putin said. Those strikes caused a fire at an ammunition depot in Russia's Bryansk region and killed and wounded some security services personnel in the Kursk region, he said.

"In the event of an escalation of aggressive actions, we will respond decisively and in kind," the Russian president said, adding that Western leaders who are hatching plans to use their forces against Moscow should "seriously think about this."

Putin said the Oreshnik fired Thursday struck a well-known missile factory in Dnipro. He also said Russia would issue advance warnings if it launches more strikes with the Oreshnik against Ukraine to allow civilians to evacuate to safety — something Moscow hasn't done before previous aerial attacks.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov initially said Russia hadn't warned the U.S. about the coming launch of the new missile, noting that it wasn't obligated to do so. But he later changed tack and said Moscow did issue a warning 30 minutes before the launch.

Putin's announcement came hours after Ukraine claimed that Russia had used an intercontinental ballistic missile in the Dnipro attack, which wounded two people and damaged an industrial facility and rehabilitation center for people with disabilities, according to local officials. But American officials said an initial U.S. assessment indicated the strike was carried out with an intermediate-range ballistic missile.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a Telegram post

that the use of the missile was an "obvious and serious escalation in the scale and brutality of this war, a cynical violation of the UN Charter."

He also said there had been "no strong global reaction" to the use of the missile, which he said could threaten other countries.

"Putin is very sensitive to this. He is testing you, dear partners," Zelenskyy wrote. "If there is no tough response to Russia's actions, it means they see that such actions are possible."

The attack comes during a week of escalating tensions, as the U.S. eased restrictions on Ukraine's use of American-made longer-range missiles inside Russia and Putin lowered the threshold for launching nuclear weapons.

The Ukrainian air force said in a statement that the Dnipro attack was launched from Russia's Astrakhan region, on the Caspian Sea.

"Today, our crazy neighbor once again showed what he really is," Zelenskyy said hours before Putin's address. "And how afraid he is."

Russia was sending a message by attacking Ukraine with an intermediate-range ballistic missile

capable of releasing multiple warheads at extremely high speeds, even if they are less accurate than cruise missiles or short-range ballistic missiles, said Matthew Savill, director of military sciences at the Royal United Services Institute, a London-based think tank.

"Why might you use it therefore?" Savill said. "Signaling — signaling to the Ukrainians. We've got stuff that outrages you. But really signaling to the West 'We're happy to enter into a competition around intermediate range ballistic missiles. P.S.: These could be nuclear tipped. Do you really want to take that risk?'"

Military experts say that modern ICBMs and IRBMs are extremely difficult to intercept, although Ukraine has previously claimed to have stopped some other weapons that Russia described as "unstoppable," including the air-launched Kinzhal hypersonic missile.

David Albright, of the Washington-based think tank the Institute for Science and International Security, said he was "skeptical" of Putin's claim, adding that Russian technology sometimes "falls short."

# Trump chooses loyalist Bondi for attorney general after Gaetz withdraws

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump said Thursday he will nominate former Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi to lead the Justice Department, turning to a longtime ally after his first choice, Matt Gaetz, withdrew his name from consideration amid scrutiny over sex trafficking allegations.

Bondi has been an outspoken defender of Trump. She was one of his lawyers during his first impeachment trial, when he was accused — but not convicted — of abusing his power as he tried to condition U.S. military assistance to Ukraine on that country investigating then-former Vice President Joe Biden. And she was among a group of Republicans who showed up to support Trump at his New York hush money criminal trial that ended in May with a conviction on 34 felony counts.

"For too long, the partisan Department of Justice has been weaponized against me and other Republicans - Not anymore," Trump said in a social media post. "Pam will refocus the DOJ to its intended purpose of fighting Crime, and Making America Safe Again."

Gaetz stepped aside amid continued fallout over a federal sex trafficking investigation that cast doubt on his ability to be confirmed as the nation's chief federal law enforcement officer. Gaetz's vehemently denied the allegations, but his nomination stunned many career lawyers inside the Justice Department. Gaetz, who passed the bar but barely worked as a lawyer, had very little relevant experience for the job. Bondi comes with years of legal work under her belt and that other trait Trump prizes above all: loyalty.

The hasty withdrawal

by Gaetz and quick pivot to Bondi were the latest examples of Trump's tumultuous decision-making as he rushes out nominations — some of questionable character and credentials — at a breakneck pace without the government vetting that is typical of presidential transitions. It's an omen that despite running his most organized campaign for the White House this year, his return to the Oval Office might feature the same sort of drama that permeated his first term.

Trump's son Donald Trump Jr. told Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures" that the transition team had backups in mind for his controversial nominees should they fail to get confirmed.

Still, even in Trump's world, things moved fast. Trump had been seeking to capitalize on his decisive election win to force Senate Republicans to accept

provocative selections like Gaetz. The decision could heighten scrutiny on other controversial Trump nominees, including Pentagon pick Pete Hegseth, who faces sexual assault allegations that he denies.

"While the momentum was strong, it is clear that my confirmation was unfairly becoming a distraction to the critical work of the Trump/

Vance Transition," Gaetz said in a statement one day after meeting with senators in an effort to win their support.

"There is no time to waste on a needlessly protracted Washington scuffle, thus I'll be withdrawing my name from consideration to serve as Attorney General. Trump's DOJ must be in place and ready on Day 1," he added.

Trump, in a social media

post, said: "I greatly appreciate the recent efforts of Matt Gaetz in seeking approval to be Attorney General. He was doing very well but, at the same time, did not want to be a distraction for the Administration, for which he has much respect. Matt has a wonderful future, and I look forward to watching all of the great things he will do!"

## Public Sale Calendar

**BIDDING ENDS NOVEMBER 24 - (Online Only) - Various consignors and antique dealers, seller.** Christmas decor blow ups, vintage Christmas decor, vintage toys, antiques, primitives, vintage collectibles, costume jewelry, tools, modern and antique furniture, hardware, appliances, TVs, sports collectibles, dolls, glassware, Early Featherweight sewing machine, rare primitive mud sled, sporting goods, much more. Sale manager Rod Fetters, 260-557-8451, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

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

**NOVEMBER 25 - 6 p.m. - Christopher & Kellie Pierce, owner.** Held at Krueckberg 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. *Krueckberg 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.*, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

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

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

**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 house Nov. 27, 2-3 p.m., 2379 N. Main St., Bluffton, IN. Kurt Ness, auction mgr., 260-417-1545, *Ness Bros. Realtors & Auctioneers*, www.NessBros.com, 260-459-3911.

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

**BIDDING CLOSING DECEMBER 15 - 6 p.m. - Online Only - Jim Baker, owner.** AIRPLACO Pumpmaster MJ-16 concrete slab jacking pump system including pump, mixer and tandem trailer, concrete hole drill, Campbell Hausfeld stationary air compressor, smoker grill, hand-made rustic furniture, beautiful antique furniture, Husqvarna garden tractor, 2 table saws, hand tools, power tools, building supplies, TV, modern furniture and much more! Preview Dec. 4, 5-6 p.m. & Dec. 7, 9-10 a.m., 5388 SW. State Road 116-1, Bluffton, IN. Pick up Dec. 17, 12-6 p.m. Full list at Towncountryauctions.com, click Filers. *Town and Country Auctioneers/Realtors*, 260-223-7352, *Shaw Real Estate & Auction, Inc.*, 260-824-2116.

**DECEMBER 17 - 9 a.m.-6 p.m. - (Online Only) - Thomas B. & Mary Lou Woodward, seller.** One of a kind picturesque real estate offering. Outstanding 4,014 SF on 8.45 acres, 4 bedroom, 3 bath home with a 2 car detached garage. Scenic backyard with multiple utility sheds and gazebo, Wells County. Open houses Dec. 1 and 8 from 2-5 p.m., and Dec. 12 from 3-6 p.m., 301 N. Highland Ave., Ossian, IN. Pat Carter, sale manager, 260-273-8294, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-426-0633.

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