

# The News - Banner

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2024

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## Challenge renewed, needs continue

Holiday food bank campaign gets another \$20,000 match

By MARK MILLER

Activity at the Wells County Food Bank "has been ramping back up this fall," said Connie Kaehr, who along with Amy Moser coordinate the work of the all-volunteer crew.

It was another busy Tuesday afternoon, as clients completed orders to be filled by volunteers in one room while another group of volunteers worked with the clients in a second room where some fresh produce, frozen meats and personal items are available.

The traffic had been "settling down some this summer," Kaehr said, although she did not have any specific numbers at hand. But it's been ramping back up, "we never really know why."

"And there are always more needs as Christmas approaches," she added, "so we're gearing up for the usual rush." In addition to regular food items, the holidays also see increased needs for meats, such as hams, along with personal items such as hats, gloves and scarves.

Hence, it was another relief for Mick Cupp, who has overseen the food bank's finances for many years to get confirmation that, for the 39th consecutive year, an anonymous local donor will again make a "challenge," matching donations made to the cause between now and Christmas up to \$20,000.

"I say this every year," Cupp said, "we do not take this for granted, and we count on this fund drive

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Volunteers Genny Isch (in background) and Kara Frank were busy filling client requests at the Wells County Food Bank on a recent Tuesday afternoon. The bulk of the food bank's annual budget for purchasing food and other items comes from the annual holiday campaign and matching grant. (Photo by Mark Miller)

## On last overseas trip, Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb boasts partnership with Saudi Arabia

Indiana's top National Guard official also says Hoosier soldiers are prepared to assist with mass deportations if called upon

By CASEY SMITH

Indiana Capital Chronicle

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb is wrapping up his last international economic development trip — which included stops in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait — as part of an ongoing effort to target partnerships in both the life sciences and defense sectors.

The international trip was Holcomb's 27th since he took office in 2017 and marks his last foreign jaunt before he passes the baton in January to his predecessor, Mike Braun.

The cost of the travel was paid through private donations to the Indiana Economic Development Foundation. The same funding scheme has sponsored Hol-

comb's other trips, too. "A lot of good things tend to happen when you show up," Holcomb said of his global travels, speaking from Kuwait during a Wednesday Zoom call with reporters.

"Quite frankly, showing up is obviously the bare minimum to developing relationships, but it's so appreciated," he continued. "And in this neck of the woods, so to speak, and in this region, and for a state like Indiana that has such a good reputation in terms of advanced manufacturing and life sciences and ag biotech, we have a huge upside to developing relationships in the business community."

In Saudi Arabia, Holcomb and other Indiana offi-

cialists discussed opportunities to grow cultural and economic relationships between the two regions, according to the governor's office.

The group left Indianapolis last week and arrived in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Saturday. There, the delegation met with U.S. Ambassador Michael Ratney and Hoosier families who are part of the U.S. Embassy community.

Company visits included Zimmer Biomet's Riyadh facility, a medical technology corporation, as well as a stop in the town of Diriyah to discuss tourism and cultural development.

Saudi Arabia and Indiana exchanged \$418 million worth of goods in

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## Storm hits California with rain, heavy snow: Thousands remain in the dark in Seattle

By NOAH BERGER and OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ  
Associated Press

HEALDSBURG, Calif. (AP) — Heavy downpours fell over much of Northern California on Friday, causing small landslides, overflowing a river and flooding some streets, including in parts of San Francisco. Meanwhile tens of thousands of people were still without power in the Seattle area after several days in the dark.

The storm arrived in the Pacific Northwest earlier this week, killing two people and knocking out power to hundreds of thousands, mostly in the Seattle area, before moving through Northern California, where several roads were closed due to flooding and strong winds toppled trees.

Forecasters warned about the risk of flash flooding and rockslides in areas north of San Francisco from this season's strongest atmospheric river — a long plume of moisture that forms over an ocean and flows through the sky over land.

On the East Coast, another storm brought much-needed rain to New York and New Jersey, where rare wildfires have raged in recent weeks. The rain eased the fire danger for the rest of the year was a boost for ski resorts preparing to open in the weeks ahead. Parts of West Virginia were under a blizzard warning through Saturday morning, with up to 2 feet of snow and high winds making travel treacherous.

In California's Humboldt County, the sheriff's office downgraded evacuation orders to warnings for people near the Eel River after forecasters said the waterway would see moderate but not major flooding. Officials urged residents to prepare for storm impacts throughout the week.

Flooding closed scenic Highway 1, also known as the Pacific Coast Highway, in neighboring Mendocino County north of Point Arena near the Garcia River, and there was no estimate for when it would reopen, according to the California Department of Transportation.

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## NATO, Ukraine to hold talks after Russia's hypersonic missile attack

By ILLIA NOVIKOV and VOLODYMYR YURCHUK  
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — NATO and Ukraine will hold emergency talks Tuesday after Russia attacked a central city with an experimental, hypersonic ballistic missile that escalated the nearly 33-month-old war.

The conflict is "entering a decisive phase," Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk said Friday, and "taking on very dramatic dimensions."

Ukraine's parliament canceled a session as security was tightened following Thursday's Russian strike on a military facility in the city of Dnipro.

In a stark warning to the West, President Vladimir Putin said in a nationally televised speech that the attack with the intermediate-range Oreshnik missile was in retaliation for Kyiv's use of U.S. and British

longer-range missiles capable of striking deeper into Russian territory.

Putin said Western air defense systems would be powerless to stop the new missile.

Ukrainian military officials said the missile that hit Dnipro had reached a speed of Mach 11 and carried six nonnuclear warheads each releasing six submunitions.

Speaking Friday to military and weapons industries officials, Putin said Russia is launching production of the Oreshnik.

"No one in the world has such weapons," he said with a thin smile. "Sooner or later other leading countries will also get them. We are aware that they are under development."

But he added, "we have this system now. And this is important."

Testing the missile will continue, "including in combat, depending on the situation and the character of

security threats created for Russia," Putin said, noting there is "a stockpile of such systems ready for use."

Putin said that while it isn't an intercontinental missile, it's so powerful that the use of several of them fitted with conventional warheads in one attack could be as devastating as a strike with strategic — or nuclear — weapons.

Gen. Sergei Karakayev, head of Russia's Strategic Missile Forces, said the Oreshnik could reach targets across Europe and be fitted with nuclear or conventional warheads, echoing Putin's claim that even with conventional warheads, "the massive use of the weapon would be comparable in effect to the use of nuclear weapons."

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov kept up Russia's bellicose tone on Friday, blaming "the reckless decisions and actions of Western countries" in supplying weapons to

(Continued on Page 2)

## South Korea says Russia supplied air defense missiles to North Korea in return for troops

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Russia has supplied air defense missile systems to North Korea in exchange for sending its troops to support Russia's war efforts against Ukraine, a top South Korean official said Friday.

The U.S., South Korea and Ukraine say North Korea sent more than 10,000 troops to Russia in October, some recently engaging in combat on the front lines. North Korea's troop deployment threatens to escalate the war, and what Russia could give to the North in return

has been a source of rampant international speculation.

The most alarming development for South Korea and the U.S. would be Russia transferring sophisticated weapons technology that can enhance North Korea's nuclear-capable missiles targeting its rivals. Many experts say, though, that it is unlikely Russia would do this in the initial stage of the North's troop deployment.

Shin Wonsik, national security adviser for South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, told

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### Outside



Cloudy this weekend, rain moves in Sunday night

Today	Sunday	Monday
High 45	High 51	High 57
Low 33	Low 43	Low 32

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SATURDAY  
November 23, 2024



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solar project

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## Holiday food bank

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very much.”

While many grocery items and clothing items are donated by local individuals, churches and schools, the food bank must purchase the bulk of what they give away.

“I remember when we used to spend maybe three of 4,000 per month on buying what we need,” Cupp

explained. “Now it’s not unusual for that monthly bill to top \$6,000, and a good share of the increase comes from inflation. Everybody understands that.”

The purchases are made primarily from Krogers and Troyers in Berne, both of which “give us very nice discounts,” Cupp said.

“We continue to see some new faces each

week,” Kaehr noted. Clients must have a referral from the welfare office in order to receive food and clothing items.

Other than liability insurance, all other operating costs are donated, including the building and its utilities.

“And we have such a wonderful crew,” Kaehr said, “and this community

comes through every year.

“We are so thankful for what we get,” she continued. “The schools, the churches — it’s pretty amazing.”

Donations can be sent to the Wells County Food Bank, P.O. Box 186, Bluffton IN 46714. The food bank is located at 1254 S. Main St. in Bluffton.

miller@news-banner.com

## Weather

Saturday, November 23, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:45 p.m. Friday)

High: 46; Low: 31; Precipitation: 0.02 inches of rain  
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.18 feet at 9:45 p.m. Friday

### Wells County forecast

**Today:** Cloudy, with a high near 45. West wind around 10 mph.

**Tonight:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 33. Southwest wind around 5 mph.

**Sunday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 51. South wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Sunday Night:** A 30% chance of showers after 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 43. South wind around 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**Monday:** Showers likely, mainly after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 57. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

**Monday Night:** A 40% chance of showers before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 32.

**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 39.

**Tuesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 24.

**Wednesday:** A slight chance of rain and snow showers after 1 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 40. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

**Wednesday Night:** A chance of rain and snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 28. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

**Thanksgiving Day:** A chance of rain and snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 39. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

**Thursday Night:** A chance of rain and snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 24.

## Holcomb boasts partnership

(Continued from Page 1)

2023. The Hoosier State is home to three businesses owned by Saudi Arabians, including Gas Equipment Co. and SABIC Innovative Plastics. Three Hoosier corporations also operate in Saudi Arabia.

“We were able to sit down with the (Saudi Arabian) minister of defense, and to have the appreciation shared really meant the world to me, and it was touching,” Holcomb said. “And then to think about all the other business that we were able to do in Saudi Arabia — meeting with the minister of investment, and with their version of the FDA, and of health, and of sports — we were able to make introductions, and now we have a to-do list when we get back.”

When asked if he had any reservations about partnering with the Middle Eastern nation, Holcomb kept a positive outlook. Saudi Arabia has been accused of many human rights violations.

“Saudi Arabia is very welcoming and an ally and a friend to America,” he said. “They shared with us that they were blessed with oil, and blessed with the sun, and also blessed to be in a dangerous neighborhood. We have had relations with them, working on national security issues, for as long as I’ve been around.”

### Hoosier soldiers in Kuwait

In Kuwait, Hoosier representatives also traveled to a military base where Indiana soldiers are currently deployed. Holcomb additionally met with Kuwait officials to discuss opportunities to “deepen ties between the state of Indiana and Kuwait.”

The government of Kuwait built and funded the military installation, which also hosts the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Coast Guard.

## Missile attack

(Continued from Page 1)

Ukraine to strike Russia.

“The Russian side has clearly demonstrated its capabilities, and the contours of further retaliatory actions in the event that our concerns were not taken into account have also been quite clearly outlined,” he said.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, widely seen as having the warmest relations with the Kremlin in the European Union, echoed Moscow’s talking points, suggesting the use of U.S.-supplied weapons in Ukraine likely requires direct American involvement.

“These are rockets that are fired and then guided to a target via an electronic system, which requires the world’s most advanced technology and satellite communications capability,” Orbán said on state radio. “There is a strong assumption ... that these missiles cannot be guided without the assistance of American personnel.”

Orbán cautioned against underestimating Russia’s responses, emphasizing that the country’s recent modifi-

cations to its nuclear deployment doctrine should not be dismissed as a “bluff.” “It’s not a trick... there will be consequences,” he said.

Separately in Kyiv, Czech Foreign Minister Jan Lipavský called Thursday’s missile strike an “escalatory step and an attempt of the Russian dictator to scare the population of Ukraine and to scare the population of Europe.”

At a news conference with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha, Lipavský also expressed his full support for delivering the necessary additional air defense systems to protect Ukrainian civilians from the “heinous attacks.”

He underlined that the Czech Republic will impose no limits on the use of its weapons and equipment given to Ukraine.

Three lawmakers from Ukraine’s parliament, the Verkhovna Rada, confirmed that Friday’s previously scheduled session was called off due to the ongoing threat of Russian missiles targeting government buildings in central Kyiv.

In addition, there also was a recommendation to limit the work of all commercial offices and non-governmental organizations “in that perimeter, and local residents were warned of the increased threat,” said lawmaker Mykyta Poturaiev, who added this is not the first time such a threat has been received.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s office continued to work in compliance with standard security measures, a spokesperson said.

Ukraine’s Main Intelligence Directorate said the Oreshnik missile, whose name in Russian means “hazelnut tree,” was fired from the Kapustin Yar 4th Missile Test Range in Russia’s Astrakhan region, and flew 15 minutes before striking Dnipro.

Test launches of a similar missile were conducted in October 2023 and June 2024, the directorate said. The Pentagon confirmed the missile was a new, experimental type of intermediate-range missile based on its RS-26 Rubzh interconti-

governor said, acknowledging that “this very well could be my last trip.”

“But that doesn’t mean it’s the last work I’m going to do before I leave,” he noted. “We’ll be working until the last hour, the last day — and some of that is on deals that I hope are getting teed up right now, from over these last few days.”

### Holcomb weighs in on mass deportations

Gen. R. Dale Lyles, head of the Indiana National Guard, further indicated on the conference call that — if called upon by U.S. officials — Hoosier soldiers are prepared to assist with mass deportations.

Such marching orders could come from president-elect Donald Trump, who on Monday confirmed that he would declare a national emergency to carry out his campaign promise of mass deportations of migrants living in the U.S. without legal permission.

Trump has pledged to get started on mass deportations as soon as he enters office.

“The Indiana National Guard, first and foremost, works for the governor, and so we answer to the governor, but we also have a dual mission, a federal mission,” Lyles said when asked about the Hoosier Guard’s ability to answer a federal call for assistance. “The executive branch that we would potentially work for is something that we would just have to stand by and see where that mission comes from.”

Lyles said further the Indiana National Guard “is indeed trained for domestic operations,” as well as international ones.

“We follow the orders given by the executive branch after we follow the orders given by our governor,” Lyles added. “We are well-manned and well-equipped and well-trained to execute missions that are given to us.”

mental ballistic missile.

Thursday’s attack struck the Pivdenmash plant that built ICBMs when Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union. The military facility is located about 4 miles southwest of the center of Dnipro, a city of about 1 million that is Ukraine’s fourth-largest and a key hub for military supplies and humanitarian aid, and is home to one of the country’s largest hospitals for treating wounded soldiers from the front before their transfer to Kyiv or abroad.

Elsewhere in Ukraine, Russia struck a residential district of Sumy overnight with Iranian-designed Shahed drones, killing two people and injuring 13, the regional administration said.

Ukraine’s Suspilne media, quoting Sumy regional head Volodymyr Artiukh, said the drones were stuffed with shrapnel elements. “These weapons are used to destroy people, not to destroy objects,” said Artiukh, according to Suspilne.

## Storm

(Continued from Page 1)

Santa Rosa saw its wettest three-day period on record with about 12.5 inches of rain, according to the National Weather Service in the Bay Area.

A small mudslide threatened a home in the community of Fitch Mountain, near Healdsburg, nestled in hills along the Russian River in Sonoma County. Moderate rain was falling, and officials worried the slide could grow and hit several homes downhill.

“Our concern is while this property may be OK, the earth between it and the road below is slipping, and the mudslide is affecting downhill properties,” said Tennis Wick, permits and resource director for Sonoma County.

Dana Eaton, who lives in one of the downhill properties and was clad in a yellow rain slicker and hat, said she was worried, too. In 2019, mud cascaded into a neighbor’s garage.

Asked what the last few days have been like, she laughed: “Wet. Constant rain. It’s like everywhere else in the county, but so far nothing major, just concerns.”

In Washington state nearly 127,000 people were still without electricity, mostly in the Seattle area’s King County, as crews worked to clear streets of downed lines, branches and other debris. Utility officials said the outages, which began Tuesday, could last into Saturday.

People flocked to a suburban senior center in Issaquah to get warm food and plug in their cellphones and other devices. One of them, Melissa Tryon, said she had been unable to charge her electric motorized wheelchair and had to throw out all the food in her refrigerator after it went bad.

Gale warnings were issued off Washington, Oregon and California, and high wind warnings were in

effect across parts of Northern California and Oregon. There were winter storm warnings for parts of the California Cascades and the Sierra Nevada.

The National Weather Service in Reno, Nevada, reported a 128-mph gust of wind in the morning at the top of Palisades Tahoe ski resort, about 10 miles northwest of Lake Tahoe, where some runs were open. Gusts up to 86 mph were recorded at Mt. Rose, which closed due to the weather.

The system roared ashore on the West Coast on Tuesday as a “bomb cyclone,” which occurs when a cyclone intensifies rapidly. It unleashed fierce winds that toppled trees onto roads, vehicles and homes.

Officials warned of the risk of flash flooding, rockslides and debris flows, especially where hillsides were loosened by recent wildfires.

In the Northeast, which has been hit by drought, more than 2 inches of rain was expected by Saturday morning north of New York City, with snow mixed in at higher elevations.

Despite the mess, the precipitation was expected to help ease drought conditions in a state that has seen an exceptionally dry fall.

“It’s not going to be a drought buster, but it’s definitely going to help when all this melts,” said Bryan Greenblatt, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Binghamton, New York.

Heavy snow fell in northeastern Pennsylvania, including the Pocono Mountains, prompting a raft of school closures. Higher elevations reported up to 17 inches, with lesser accumulations in valley cities like Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. More than 100,000 customers in 10 counties lost power, and the state transportation department imposed speed restrictions on some highways.

## South Korea

(Continued from Page 1)

an SBS TV program Friday that South Korea has found Russia provided missiles and other equipment to help it reinforce its air defense network for Pyongyang, the capital. Shin didn’t say what specific missiles Russia gave to North Korea.

Lee Illwoo, an expert with the Korea Defense Network in South Korea, said that Russia has likely sent S-400 long-range surface-to-air missiles, launchers and ground-based radar systems. He said that North Korea is capable of building shorter-range surface-to-air missiles on its own.

The S-400 missile, with a range of 250 miles, is considered one of Russia’s most advanced anti-aircraft weapons. But Lee questioned how significantly it can boost Pyongyang’s air defense, saying Russian air defense systems have failed to effectively deal with Ukrainian drone assaults.

Many observers say North Korea has likely felt the urgent need to boost its air defense capabilities after it last month accused South Korea of flying drones to scatter propaganda leaflets over Pyongyang. North Korea threatened to take military action if leaflets were again dropped. South Korea’s military has refused to confirm whether or not it was behind the alleged

drone flights.

Kim Dae Young, a military expert at the Korea Research Institute for National Strategy, said it’s possible that the air defense systems North Korea acquired from Russia could include counter-drone equipment.

Kim said that Pyongyang’s outdated air defense system would need years of improvement and potentially huge external help to cope with the superior air forces of South Korea and the United States.

Shin said Russia has also appeared to have given economic assistance to North Korea and various military technologies, including those needed for the North’s efforts to build a reliable space-based surveillance system. Shin didn’t say whether Russia has already transferred sensitive nuclear and missile technologies to North Korea.

During a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un last year, Russian President Vladimir Putin already said that Moscow was willing to help the North build satellites. North Korea put its first spy satellite into orbit in November last year, but foreign experts question whether that satellite can produce militarily meaningful imagery. The North’s attempt to launch a second spy satellite failed in May.

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OBITUARIES

Lana Kay Shoaf, 47

Lana Kay Shoaf, 47, of Bluffton, passed away on Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024, at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio. Lana was born in Bluffton on June 14, 1977, to David J. and Loretta K. (Aschliman) Smith. Lana married Timothy J. Shoaf on Dec. 14, 1996.

She is survived by her husband of 27 years, Timothy J. Shoaf of Bluffton; her father, David (Lori) Smith of Bluffton; her children, Althea Joy Shoaf, Grace Aschli Shoaf, Jackson Timothy Shoaf, Josie Kay Shoaf and Godfrey K. Shoaf; siblings, Austin (Rachel) Smith of Decatur, Lisa (Jona-

than) Ringger of South East Asia, Jason (Julie) Smith of Boswell, Pennsylvania, and Joshua (Tricia) Smith of Fort Wayne.

Visitation will be on Monday, Nov. 25, 2024, from 1:00-8:00 p.m. at First Mennonite Church, Berne.

A Funeral Service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2024, also at the First Mennonite Church, with visitation 1 hour prior to the service. Pastor Jeff Linthicum will be officiating and burial will follow in M.R.E. Cemetery.

Arrangements were entrusted to Haggard-Hirschy & Zelt Funeral Home.

Bluffton Parks & Rec News & Notes



By Brandy Fiechter

Destination Recreation

I can't believe we're at the end of November already. Our office has been busy gearing up for a fun-filled December, and we hope to see you at our exciting holiday events!

Join the **Search for Santa's Helper** Dec. 2-18. Children ages 12 and under, get ready for a festive adventure. Peppermint the Elf is hiding in the parks around Bluffton, and it's your job to find him. Here's how to play: Keep your eyes peeled for a photo of Peppermint hidden in one of the Bluffton parks. Once you find the photo, take a selfie with it and post it to the Bluffton Parks Facebook Page for a chance to win a special prize. Winners will be randomly selected and notified via Facebook.

Get ready for a paws-itively festive event for your pup. You and your furry friends are invited to our annual **Paws & Claus** celebration on Wednesday, Dec. 11, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Bluffton City Gym. Bring your camera and capture the perfect holiday moment as your pet meets Santa Claus. All pets will receive FREE treats, so bring your clean, leashed companion to join in the fun. Pet-friendly businesses and organizations are welcome to participate as vendors. Contact us at [events@blufftonindiana.gov](mailto:events@blufftonindiana.gov) for free table space. We can't wait to celebrate the holiday season with you and your pets.

A special **Toddler Story Time** with Mrs. Claus will be held on Dec. 12 at 11 a.m. in the Bluffton City Gym. Toddlers are invited to listen to Mrs. Claus read stories, participate in fun winter crafts, and burn off some energy in a bounce house. This is a free drop-in event.

Santa is coming to town and making a special stop at the Bluffton City Gym. Join us for a magical evening at **Winter Wonderland** on Thursday, Dec. 12,

from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Bring the whole family to enjoy fun games and activities, a bounce house, and a chance to meet Santa and share your Christmas wish list. This is a free drop-in event.

The Parks Department was happy to be on the **Parlor City Christmas** Planning Committee again this year. Join us for a fun, family-friendly festival throughout downtown Bluffton on Saturday, Dec. 14. Enjoy carriage and trolley rides, a shopping fair featuring more than 35 vendors, musical entertainment, a goodie walk throughout downtown, reindeer visits, a NEW trampoline show and more. Thanks to our great sponsors, most events are FREE.

Start the new year strong with the **Wells Winter Fitness Challenge** — now with even more ways to stay active this winter. Pick your challenge, log your progress, and let's tackle those winter goals together:

**Wells Winter 100 Mile Challenge:** Walk or run 100 miles by March 21. That's just 10 miles a week — are you ready to go the distance?

**Wells Winter Fitness Minutes Challenge:** Stay active with 1,800 minutes of any activity this winter (indoor/outdoor biking, walking, yoga, pickleball, etc.). Aim for 150 minutes a week (30 minutes five times a week), and you'll be on track.

**Kids 50 Mile Challenge:** For kids 12 and under — run or walk 50 miles and join in the fun.

All participants receive a Wells Winter Challenge T-shirt, a medal for crossing the finish line by spring, and access to our Strava group. Plus, earn chances for prizes by sharing your journey on Strava or Facebook. Let's make this winter one to remember. Sign up online at <https://tinyurl.com/yx9u7hkf>.

Have a great week!

Local Roundup

Norwell school board will meet Tuesday evening

The board of the Norwell Community Schools will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, at the school district's central office, 312 N. Jefferson St. in Ossian.

- Items on the agenda include:
- Personnel and financial matters.
- Superintendent's report.
- Recommendation to purchase transfer bus routing system.
- Recommendation to upgrade Board-Docs to Diligent Community.
- Department updates.
- Construction updates.

Bluffton Board of Works to meet Tuesday afternoon

The Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26, in the meeting room on the first floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Wells County BZA will meet Tuesday evening

The Wells County Board of Zoning Appeals will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26, in Room 214 on the ground floor of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St. in Bluffton.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

**City:**  
Thursday, 5:49 p.m., 320 W Dustman Rd. Physical altercation between two men.

Thursday, 6:28 p.m., 400 block of Cedar Road. Report of trespassing.

Thursday, 7:04 p.m., 300 block Main Street. White van with two men parked in lot. Officer provided escort for employees to their vehicles.

Friday, 1:04 a.m., Wabash and Indiana streets. Traffic stop. Vehicle towed.

Friday, 10:34 a.m., Walmart. Report of vehicle harassing people in parking lot, asking for money. Unable to locate.

**County:**  
Friday, 7:34 a.m., S.R.

116 and C.R. 600 E, Bluffton. Injured deer. Issued tag.

**Ossian:**  
Friday, 12:22 a.m., Silo Farms. Noise complaint. Unable to locate.

ACCIDENTS

**County:**  
Friday, 6:06 a.m., C.R. 100 E at 400 N, Bluffton. Hope Myers, 46, Bluffton, was driving a 2015 Nissan Altima northbound on C.R. 100 E and struck a deer. Vehicle towed. Property owner issued deer tag. Damage exceeded \$5,000.

Friday, 7:01 a.m., C.R. 100 E and 350 N, Murray. Johnny Wells, 69, Ossian, was driving a 2015 GMC Sierra south on C.R. 100 E and struck a deer. Damage exceeded \$2,500.

FIRES

Thursday, 2:44 a.m., 6443 S 100 W, Poneto. Structure fire. Montpelier, Markle, Nottingham Township, Liberty Township, Poneto and Chester Township fire departments responded. Fire under control at 4:23 a.m. Response returned at 10:35 a.m. Fire under control at 10:50 a.m.

ARRESTS

Matthew R. Banas, 35, Bluffton; probation violation, a Level 6 felony. No bond set.

Sebastian Leonel Rivera Morales, 20, Bluffton; false reporting, a Class B misdemeanor, and minor in possession of alcohol, a Class C misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Indiana receives \$196 million loan to improve drinking water

By NIKI KELLY  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

The head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Water Office, Bruno Pigott, joined Indiana Finance Authority's Jim McGoff on Friday to announce a \$196 million loan to improve drinking water and wastewater systems statewide. This funding will help address the demands of a growing population.

The State of Indiana intends to use this loan to finance drinking water and wastewater infrastructure improvement projects to better serve Indiana communities. This investment will help address aging infrastructure and expand services in communities experiencing growing needs. Projects that will receive funding are located throughout the state and are expected to benefit 134,000 Indiana residents.

EPA's State Infrastructure Financing Authority Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program provides loans exclusively to state financing authorities, also known as state revolving fund programs. This SWIFIA loan offers additional low-cost financing to Indiana's Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, that will help implement critical water infrastructure projects in the state.

"I want to congratulate the State of

Indiana for securing a \$196 million loan from EPA. Through our partnership, we will upgrade water infrastructure across the state to keep residents healthy, protect water resources, and create good-paying jobs while keeping water bills affordable," Pigott said. "The State of Indiana is ahead of the curve in securing EPA financing to advance water infrastructure goals and benefit 134,000 people across the state."

"The IFA is continually searching for alternative funding sources to keep pace with Indiana's increasing water-infrastructure needs," said McGoff. "EPA's SWIFIA program provides that additional source of funding, which will help communities across Indiana invest more than \$400 million in their local water systems."

This loan will be Indiana Finance Authority's first SWIFIA loan and third loan through the EPA's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program, totaling more than \$630 million in WIFIA financing to advance water infrastructure projects in Indiana. The SWIFIA loan will offer the authority further flexibilities by allowing deferment of principal payments for 20 years and substantial savings for Indiana residents. Savings from Indiana's first WIFIA loan totaled more than \$130 million.

Gov.-elect Braun unveils streamlined cabinet plan with eight policy focuses

By WHITNEY DOWARD  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Indiana's next governor has big plans for the executive office, as shared with the Indiana Capital Chronicle on Thursday, a proposal that would trim his cabinet to include eight policy secretaries aligned with core governing areas. Governor-elect Mike Braun's new cabinet will seek to model "efficiency, accountability and communication in state government," according to the release.

Cabinet members will include Braun, incoming Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith, Braun's chief of staff, the superintendent of state police, the adjutant general of the Indiana National Guard and secretaries over eight policy areas or "verticals." Secretaries could also serve as agency heads, meaning not every role will need to be filled by

a new hire, but each will be "empower(ed) ... to drive progress within their vertical."

Related agencies will be grouped together into their policy areas, which include topics such as commerce, education, and health and family services. Earlier this month, Braun tapped his transition team and announced he would have 12 councils evaluating key areas.

"This new cabinet model will allow us to be laser-focused on delivering results for Hoosiers," Braun said in the release. "By aligning agencies and reorganizing the executive branch, we can drive accountability for leaders and agencies, promote better coordination and communication between our administration and the Indiana General Assembly, and create efficiency across state government."

Cabinet positions will include:

- A Secretary of Management and Budget will be responsible for developing a budget aligned with the governor's vision and serving as operational oversight for other secretaries.

- Eighteen agencies and departments will report to this person, including the Inspector General, the Public Retirement System and the State Budget Agency.

- A Secretary of Commerce will oversee the state's economic development plan.

- Eight agencies and departments will report to this person, including the Indiana Economic Development Corp. the Department of Workforce Development, the Hoosier Lottery and the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority.

(Continued on Page 10)

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From our family to you ...

The Reimschisel family at Family Ford of Bluffton hope that you will take a few moments at least once each week to spend some time with what really matters during these "interesting times."

This short essay is from **Our Daily Bread**

— a free publication we would love to share with you. Stop in anytime. There is no cost or obligation.



970 N. Main St., Bluffton 824-2300

JEREMIAH 29:1-7 SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 23  
Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. [JEREMIAH 29:7]

**AGENTS OF SHALOM**

In 2015, local ministries in Colorado Springs, Colorado, teamed up to serve the city, and COSILoveYou was born. Each fall, in an event called CityServe, the group sends believers out to serve the community.

Several years ago, my children and I were assigned to a downtown elementary school during CityServe. We cleaned. We pulled weeds. And we worked on an art project, lacing colored plastic tape through a chain-link fence in a way that approximated mountains. Simple, but surprisingly beautiful.

Whenever I drive past the school, our humble art project reminds me of Jeremiah 29. There, God instructed His people to settle down and serve the city they were in. He commanded this even though they were in exile and didn't want to be there.

The prophet said, "Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper" (v. 7). The word *shalom* here is the Hebrew word *shalom*. And it encompasses the idea of the wholeness and flourishing that only God's goodness and redemption can bring. Amazingly, God invites each of us to be His agents of *shalom*—right where we are. We're invited to create beauty and practice redemption in simple, concrete ways in the spaces He's placed us.

ADAM R. HOLZ

When have you seen shalom restored? How might you use your time, talents, and resources to help your community?

Father, thank You for inviting me to be an agent of Your blessing. Please help me to see how I can serve my community.

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# Brace yourself. Property taxes are back in the news.

As you've likely noticed, property taxes were back in the news this week as the State and Local Tax Review task force wrapped up their efforts with a set of recommendations to be forwarded to the upcoming 2025 session of the Indiana Legislature. Our local connection, besides our fixation on how our local residential property taxes have been an increasing share of the total pie, is, as reported, our state Sen. Travis Holdman's involvement in the task force.



Mark Miller

There have also been some other new news, which can be summarized by two statements (with some expounding of course):

- Hoosiers are not alone in their frustrations with property taxes.

There were ballot measures in eight states Nov. 5, "a sign of mounting frustration with tax bills that have soared alongside big increases in home values," the Wall Street Journal reported. Florida and Georgia were among the states that voted for certain limits, but North Dakota rejected a proposal of a complete ban.

Georgia approved a plan that would limit property assessment increases for current homeowners to an annual inflation rate rather than the real market value. Exactly how that would work and what impact it might have is, of course, complicated. New Mexico, Colorado and Virginia each voted to expand property tax exemptions for veterans or their families.

Perhaps the most unusual property tax-related measure to pass came in Arizona and from the conservative Goldwater Institute. The think tank devised the proposal that allows real estate owners to apply for property tax refunds when they spend money to protect their properties from homeless individuals, or to repair damage allegedly caused by them.

- But the experts say we've got it pretty good.

Meanwhile, the Tax Foundation, a conservative-leaning but highly respected think tank based, of course, in Washington D.C., has released its most recent study of tax policies across the nation. Indiana has consistently been among the most "tax friendly" states in their analyses — ranking as the 9th best for a number of years before recently slipping back to 10th place in their overall ratings.

They also break down their rankings in the different tax categories, such as income taxes, corporate taxes, sales taxes and of course, property taxes. The irony here is that these independent analysts have determined that

we Hoosiers enjoy the fifth-best-rated property tax system in the nation.

The exact criteria on which this is based is not as clear as I'd like, but it is certainly largely based on the property taxes paid as a percentage of property values — both residential and business. Our research has shown that not only are Hoosier averages below the national average, but Wells County's are below the Hoosier average.

So, what are we complaining about? Well, it depends on whom you ask. Businesses? Farmers? Landlords? Homeowners? There's been a definite "tax shift" and as you may recall, our research in local residential owner-occupied properties have found increases in annual property tax bills since 2018 all across the board — from single digit increases to more than doubling over those six years. And that inconsistency in assessments has been at the core of many complaints.

I will add to this entry a few thoughts on two bullet points of the task force's final report, which said that all "eligible taxpayers older than 65 should receive a credit" to ensure bill reductions, and that Indiana "make progress toward" a transparent and accountable property tax system in which taxpayers see bills drop when rates drop.

"Eligible" is an important word regarding us senior citizens. It at least implies that not all homeowners over 65 should get an automatic reduction just because they're old, which I totally agree. I do think the existing income threshold for older-homeowner credits needs to be raised. As to where that lands, we will leave that to those who get paid the big bucks to make those decisions.

As for more simplicity, I think we need to wish our legislators good luck. In his closing remarks, co-chair Rep. Jeff Thompson, R-Lizton, urged his fellow legislators to keep that in mind as they craft and vet any legislation regarding property and local income taxes.

When anyone has made any reference that I might know enough about property taxes to be some kind of "expert," I have replied that "the more I've learned about property taxes, the more I don't know." But I think I know enough to recognize that crafting a system "in which taxpayers see bills drop when rates drop" may be impossible. It's just not that simple. Can it be? We will see, I guess.

Meanwhile, I found it interesting why one of the House members on the SALTR task force, Edward DeLaney, D-Indianapolis, was the lone dissenter in approving the formal report, noting he saw "no focused relief" for homeowners. He argued that homeowners

have gradually shouldered a higher share of the state's overall property tax burden.

"We could deal with that," he addressed Thompson, who chaired Wednesday's meeting and also heads the House Ways and Means Committee.

"Yes, and I hope to," Thompson replied.

"We're not dealing with it in this proposal," DeLaney said.

"That's correct," Thompson replied.

The task force subsequently added more specific language to the first recommendation during the meeting after Sen. Fady Qaddoura, D-Indianapolis, suggested adding "particularly for homesteads" to the end of the first recommendation. It was approved by consent.

That was not enough to appease DeLaney, who also made an observation that I'd neither thought about nor heard anyone else previously share. He noted "the critical distinction" between homeowner property and any other form of property.

"My house is only a source of expense. It does not generate any income for me, it only generates expense" in the form of mortgage payments, insurance, and property taxes, he explained. "All these other forms of property, where we've shifted the tax away from them, all have income attached to them. This is where we've gotten away from understanding the concerns of citizens." Particularly senior citizens on fixed incomes, he continued, but he also cited statistics that show younger people are not buying homes, he feels in large part due to higher property taxes.

Interesting. But there are some wrinkles to this. Commercial real estate, particularly industrial properties, provide the jobs that drives the incomes for people to afford those homes. Rental properties provide income for the owners but also are a key part of the economy in — theoretically at least — providing lower-cost housing options. Higher property taxes for rentals are ultimately passed along to the renter.

However, DeLaney's observation is also consistent with Holdman's oft-repeated observation that the property tax "is a wealth tax," as opposed to a tax based on ability to pay. However, DeLaney also made a point that the current Homestead deductions and tax credits disproportionately favor the wealthier, giving some meat to an argument that this wealth tax is harder on the least wealthy homeowners, not to mention renters.

All of which again displays the complexity of property taxes, not only in mechanics but also in theory. Which guarantees that "fixing" all of this, despite Hoosiers having a relatively favorable system, will continue to be in the news.

miller@news-banner.com

## Europe comes to terms with the Trump restoration

PARIS — When I traveled to France and Germany this week, I expected to find Europeans aghast at President-elect Donald Trump's decisive victory. But sitting in a glittering, pink-wallpapered conference room at the Quai d'Orsay during a gathering of security experts, I heard a pragmatic recognition that, as one diplomat put it, "the American voters have spoken."



David Ignatius

Europeans are still quite nervous about Trump, based on his "America First" campaign rhetoric and his first-term record as a NATO basher. But I found a surprising mood of acceptance in four separate meetings in Paris and Berlin. It was summed up at the Quai, gilded headquarters of the French foreign ministry, by Benjamin Haddad, France's minister for European affairs.

"We worked with the first Trump administration, and we will work with the second. . . . You have to be emotionally neutral about what's out of your control," Haddad told a gathering of French, German and Polish experts. I didn't hear a dissenting voice around the table. The big concern at this meeting, as all the others, was Trump's position on Ukraine, for which Haddad warned that a U.S. "capitulation" to Russian President Vladimir Putin would be "disastrous" for Europe.

The meeting at the Quai and the other gatherings were organized by the German Marshall Fund, a U.S.-based think tank. (Disclosure: I'm a former GMF trustee.) European leaders have been contacting Trump since his victory on Nov. 5. What they've encountered is a president-elect posing questions about Ukraine, rather than making demands. An example was the call by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz the weekend after Trump's election. "What do you think of [Ukrainian President Volody-

myr] Zelensky's victory plan? What do you think of Putin?" Trump asked, according to a senior German official familiar with the call.

Europeans have gathered notes about similar calls by leaders of France, Poland, Denmark, the Czech Republic and other countries. "The calls were friendlier than expected, and Trump was more in a listening mode — well prepared and not rambling," said the German

official.

These upbeat comments surely reflect Europe's desire to develop a good working relationship with Trump at a time of crisis and confusion.

As one former foreign minister put it grimly during a conversation on Thursday in Berlin: "It's the worst nightmare from a European perspective: In the East, an imperial aggressor; in the West, an America that is no longer transatlantic; and in the middle, a Europe that is weak."

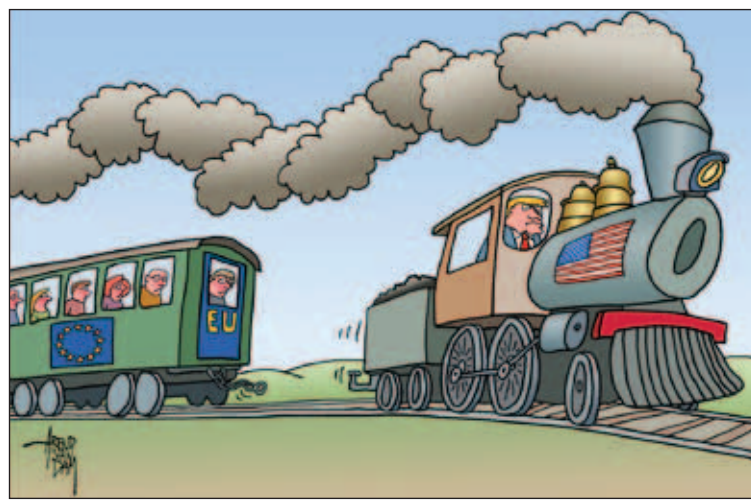
Europe's leading spokesman in discussions with Trump, several officials told me, is likely to be Mark Rutte, a former Dutch prime minister who is the new secretary general of NATO. Rutte has been described as a "Trump whisperer," in part because he assuaged the then-president after a 2018 tirade about NATO by agreeing that Trump was right to demand that alliance members spend more on defense.

Rutte is expected to travel to Mar-a-Lago soon to discuss strategy for the Ukraine peace negotiations that Trump has said he wants, officials told me. Rutte's message will be that Trump's

interests and Europe's are both served by a "just and lasting peace," one that doesn't reward Russian aggression and can provide durable security guarantees for Ukraine, the senior German predicted.

A bad deal would hurt Trump as much as Europe, Rutte and others are likely to advise: "Be aware that you have to solve Ukraine in a way that doesn't come back to haunt you during your term," is how the German official described the message to Trump. A condition of any successful peace agreement is that "this war will never happen again," because Ukraine's security will be protected, Europeans will argue.

During a private meeting in Brussels



this week with NATO defense ministers, Rutte urged European leaders to engage Trump. "Don't gossip about Trump. Call him and get him on board," Rutte advised, according to one European official who was present. "Make sure that America stays on our side."

Rutte also urged the European defense ministers to increase their defense spending well above the target of two percent of gross domestic product. "If this war

ends with Russia winning, we'll have an emboldened Russia on our border, and the cost of driving Putin back won't be 3 percent of GDP, but 4 or 5 percent," Rutte told the group, according to the official.

Europeans asked dozens of questions about Trump during my meetings. At an elegant dinner in an 18th-century mansion in Paris, with frescoes on the ceiling above us, several guests asked about the role of Elon Musk in the new administration. Another wondered whether Pete Hegseth, Trump's nominee for defense secretary, would destabilize the U.S. military, on which NATO depends. One wanted to know whether Trump would try to seek a third term.

The same anxious curiosity was evident at a gathering of German security experts in Berlin. Guests wondered whether Trump, the great "dealmaker," would attempt a normalization deal between Saudi Arabia and Israel (yes, I answered), or engage China's President Xi Jinping (maybe, if the China hawks in his Cabinet allow him). One offered a chilling prediction that a European war with Russia will happen in four years if Putin isn't stopped in Ukraine.

My takeaway from these conversations was that Europe knows it needs Trump. France and Germany, the traditional anchors of the European Union, are weak politically and financially. A menacing Russia is at the door. Trump is the leader of a frazzled transatlantic Western alliance, whether he likes it or not. The gut-check question is how he will work with Europe to stop the current conflict in Ukraine — and avoid another round.

Follow David Ignatius on X: @ignatiuspost

Submit your Letters to the Editor via: • Our website link (Submit your Letter) • E-Mail: email@news-banner.com • Mail: PO Box 436, Bluffton IN 46714 • Drop-off: 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton. All letters must be signed and must include a phone number or address in case verification is desired. Letters are edited for brevity and clarity. Letters must be no more than 500 words.

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Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor

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

## Today in History

### By The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, Nov. 23, the 328th day of 2024. There are 38 days left in the year.

Today in history: On Nov. 23, 1984, Boston College quarterback Doug Flutie completed one of the most famous passes in college football history, connecting with Gerald Phelan for a 48-yard touchdown with no time left on the clock as Boston College defeated the Miami Hurricanes 47-45.

Also on this date:

In 1963, President Lyndon B. Johnson proclaimed Nov. 25 a day of national mourning following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

In 1971, the People's Republic of China was seated in the United Nations Security Council.

In 1980, an estimated 2,500-3,000 people were killed by a series of earthquakes in southern Italy.

In 1996, a commandeered Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 767 crashed into the water off the Comoro Islands, killing 125 of the 175 people on board, including all three hijackers.

In 2005, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was elected president of Liberia, becoming the first woman to lead an African country.

In 2006, former KGB spy Alexander Litvinenko died in London from radiation poisoning after making a deathbed statement blaming Russian

President Vladimir Putin.

In 2008, the U.S. government unveiled a bold plan to rescue Citigroup, injecting a fresh \$20 billion into the troubled firm as well as guaranteeing hundreds of billions of dollars in risky assets.

In 2011, Yemen's authoritarian President Ali Abdullah Saleh agreed to step down amid a fierce uprising to oust him after 33 years in power.

Today's Birthdays: Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., is 74. Singer Bruce Hornsby is 70. TV journalist Robin Roberts ("Good Morning America") is 64. Olympic gold medal sprinter Asafa Powell is 42. NHL center Nicklas Bäckström is 37. Singer-actor Miley Cyrus is 32.





# Call to Worship

This page is dedicated to the building of a more spiritual and greater church-going people and is made possible by the Advertisers on this page who want as their return to see more people go to church.



**A CITY ON A HILL CHURCH**  
705 W.-900 N., Uniondale  
9 a.m. - First Service.  
10:45 - Second Service.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH - NORTH**  
630 E. Dustman Rd.  
9:45 & 11:45 a.m. - Worship.

**ASBURY CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST**  
8013 W.-1100S-90, Montpelier  
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

**BETHEL**  
(Independent Bible)  
4500E-300S, Bluffton  
9 a.m. - Sunday School.  
10 a.m. - Worship.

**BETHEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS**  
6114E-750N, Ossian  
blcssossian.org  
9 a.m. - Divine Service.  
10:15 - Adult Bible Class, Youth Bible Class & Sunday School. 11:30 - Voice of Bethlehem on 92.7 FM.

**BLUFFTON CHURCH OF GOD**  
327 W. Cherry St.  
10 a.m. - Sunday School.  
11 a.m. - Worship. 6 p.m. - Service.

**BLUFFTON WESLEYAN CHAPEL**  
(Independent Holiness Church)  
1309 W. Washington St.  
blufftonwesleyan.net  
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 & 6:30 p.m. - Worship.

**BOEHMER UNITED METHODIST**  
3467 S 600 W, Liberty Center  
boehmerumc.org  
9:30 a.m. - Worship.  
10:45 - Sunday School.

**CALVARY LUTHERAN, ELCA**  
1532 N. Main St.  
9 a.m. - Worship.

**CHESTER CENTER**  
900S-300W, Poneto  
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH - COUNTRY**  
1970 S.-800E., Bluffton  
9:45 & 11:45 a.m. - Worship.

**CHRISTIAN NEW LIGHT**  
1011 W. Washington St.  
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship. 6 p.m. - Praise & worship.

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
735 S. Marion St.  
10 a.m. - Bible Study.  
10:45 - Worship.

**COVENANT CHAPEL**  
3550 S. SR 1  
mycovenantchapel.org  
9:15 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:15 - Worship. (Children's Church for ages 6-12).

**DILLMAN UNITED BRETHREN**  
8888S-1100W-90, Warren  
9 a.m. - Worship. 10 a.m. - Sunday School.

**DOMESTIC CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
9 a.m. - Sunday school.  
10 a.m. - Church service.

**EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST**  
1204 W. Cherry St.  
9:30 a.m. - Worship.  
10:40 a.m. - Sunday School.

**FAIRVIEW CHURCH OF GOD**  
5511 W. Yoder Rd., Yoder  
fairviewlife.com  
9 a.m. - Sunday School.  
10 a.m. - Worship.

**FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST**  
210 W. Townley  
fbc-bluffton.com  
10 a.m. - Worship. 11 a.m. - Discipleship.

**FIRST BAPTIST**  
202 W. Cherry St.  
fbcbluffton.com  
10:15 - Worship.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OSSIAN**  
1001 Dehner Dr.  
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. - Worship. 6:30 - Service.

**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
909 W. Spring St.  
FCCfamily.com  
9:30 & 11 a.m. - Worship.

**FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
1515 Clark Ave.  
blufftonnazarene.org  
9 a.m. - Sunday School.  
9-10 a.m. - Free ESL classes. 10:15 - Worship. 6 p.m. - Service.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**  
215 E. Dustman Rd.  
firstpcbluffton.org  
9:30 a.m. - Children/youth & Adult Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN (EVANGELICAL)**  
123 S. Jefferson St., Ossian  
www.ossianfp.church  
8:45 a.m. - Sunday school. 10 a.m. - Worship.

**FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF BLUFFTON**  
301 W. Cherry St.  
9:15 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST**  
325 W. Washington St.  
blufftonfirstumc.com  
9:30 a.m. - Worship.  
10:45 - Sunday School.

**FORGIVEN CHURCH**  
1409 S. Main St.  
forgivenonline.org  
9 a.m. - Worship.

**GRACE BAPTIST**  
1621 S. 350 E. Stogdill Rd. Ext.  
gbcbluffton.com  
9 a.m. - Sunday School.  
10 a.m. & 6 p.m. - Worship.

**KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES**  
2803 N. Main St.  
jw.org  
10 a.m. - Worship.

## A Joyful Noise ...



**A TALE OF TWO KITTIES**  
“Daddy, how do you catch a cat?”

Lenny stopped typing. “Say what, buddy?” he called from the study. But Rusty didn’t respond. He wasn’t paying attention anymore. He was reaching for the milk in the fridge. His fingers couldn’t quite reach high enough to pick it up.

But they could reach high enough to knock it off.

But right before it toppled and burst onto the hardwood, cherry floors, Lenny pushed it back, closed the fridge, and looked down at his son.

“Why do you have my fishing pole?”

“And why do you want to catch a cat?”

“Because he’s mean,” Rusty said as he tugged his father toward the patio door opening onto the new deck — and the new home of two friendly-but-stray cats, Lenny noted.

The yellow one, one puff ball of fur, stretched lazily by the deck chair, his white belly turned toward the sun and his front paws stretched out, like he was doing aerobics.

The calico, a little fatter and without the fluff to hide its belly, buried its snout in a bowl of food.

“Which one’s the mean one, pal?” Lenny finally asked.

“That one,” Rusty said, specifically pointing to the calico with his 8-year-old finger.

“And why is it mean?”

“Because I just put food in the dish, but before the yellow one had one bite, the mean cat...” the accusatory finger pointing at the calico shook a little, “... came, pushed the yellow out of the way, and started eating all the food.”

“Ah. Gotcha,” Lenny said. “And now you want to catch it so the yellow one can eat?”

“Yeah. If I pretend to be nice and give it some milk, it will stay still long enough for me to catch it with the fishing pole.”

(Lenny didn’t know — and didn’t ask — how his son would catch a cat using a fishing pole with a tangled line and no hook.)

“And then I would make him sit in the corner until the yellow one could eat.”

Smiling and kneeling down, Lenny slowly unwrapped Rusty’s fingers off the pole and sat him down on his lap on the recliner.

“Listen, buddy,” Lenny said as the two sat and rocked. “The calico is just a cat. He doesn’t know that he should share.”

“But why not?” Rusty interjected, his 8-year-old sense of justice far from placated. “Why won’t he share? Why does he think he should

have all the food? “He’s just mean.” “Well, God didn’t create cats with consciences,”

Lenny said. “Animals can’t tell the difference between right and wrong. If you poured out all that bag of cat food, he wouldn’t think that you wanted him to share it. He wouldn’t ask himself if he needs it all.

“Cats ... well ... they’re not humans.”

“Well, I hope God tells him,” Rusty said, refusing to acknowledge his father’s theological perspective. “He should share. That’s why I gave them so much food.”

“Well, maybe he should, buddy. Now, get ready for supper.”

“Mmmmm ...” Lenny moaned in delight about 45 minutes later. He knew he ate too much; he couldn’t help it though, he told himself.

“All right, time for devotionals,” he said as opened the Bible.

“I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound,” Lenny started reading. “Every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

“Daddy, what does it mean to abound?” Rusty interrupted.

“Well, I think it means to have more than enough, more than you need.”

“And why did Paul need Jesus to help him abound?”

“What do you mean, pal?”

“Well, he says he can abound because Jesus gives him strength? But why is it so hard to have more than enough? We have more than enough, and that’s not hard, is it daddy?”

But Lenny didn’t respond. He was looking at the mail he had absent-mindedly flopped down on the table earlier.

One letter asked for funds to help translate the Bible into a language that had no translation.

Another wanted to purchase firewood for widows in Ukraine, who would otherwise have to choose between heating their homes or buying food.

Lenny looked at them, remembering that he intended to throw them away.

After all, he had told himself, he couldn’t afford to help now.

“I know,” Rusty said, his excitement interrupting Lenny’s justifications. “The mean cat can’t abound good. He didn’t share, even when I gave him more than he needed.”

“Maybe if he was a human like us, daddy, he would know how to abound.”

“I hope God tells him.”

*baumofchet@gmail.com*



by Chet Baumgartner

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9 a.m. - Sunday classes.  
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9:10 a.m. - Prayer. 10 a.m. - Worship.

**HOPE MISSIONARY**  
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hope4thefamily.com  
8 a.m., 9:30 & 11 a.m. - Service at Main Campus.  
9:30 & 11 a.m. - Service, north campus, Ossian.

**KEYSTONE CHURCH**  
10556S-200W  
9:30 a.m. - Worship.  
10:30 - Sunday School.

**LANCASTER CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST**  
4510 E 400N, Craigville  
9 a.m. - Sunday School.  
9:40 - Fellowship. 10 a.m. - Worship.

**LIFE COMMUNITY**  
428 S. Oak St.  
lifecommunity.net  
10:30 a.m. - Service (Children's programs available).

**LIBERTY CENTER BAPTIST**  
3071 W. Cherry St.  
8:30 a.m. - Pastor/Deacon's Prayer. 9 - Sunday School. 9:55 - Fellowship. 10:15 - Worship.

**LIBERTY CENTER COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
8:45 a.m. - Choir practice. 9 a.m. - Coffee, donuts, conversation. 9:30 - Worship w/infant nursery & children's church. 10:45 - Sunday School.

**LIVING FAITH MISSIONARY**  
17718 Bluffton Rd., Yoder  
10 a.m. - Worship. 11:30 - Sunday School.

**LIVING WATER UNITED CHURCH**  
6486 S 700E, Bluffton  
8:45-9 a.m. - Prayer. 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

**MARKLE CHAPEL HILL SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST**  
470 E. Morse St.  
Saturday: 9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:45 - Sabbath School (Bible study).

**MARKLE CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
455 E. Morse St.  
marklechurch.org  
9 a.m. - Adult Bible study groups. 10:30 - Worship. Children's & student programming both hours.

**MURRAY MISSIONARY**  
1117 N. Washington St., Murray  
murraymc.org  
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 11 a.m. - Sunday School.

**NEW BEGINNING**  
2187 W. SR 218  
10 a.m. - Sunday School.  
10:30 - Worship.

**NEW HOPE LUTHERAN**  
(Missouri Synod)  
8824 N. SR 1, Ossian  
newhopelutheran-ossian.webs.com  
9 a.m. - Sunday School & Adult Bible study. 10 a.m. - Worship.

**OSSIAN CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
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ossiannaz.org  
9:15 a.m. - Bible study.  
10:30 - Service.

**OSSIAN UNITED METHODIST**  
201 W. Mill St.  
ossianumc.org  
9 a.m. - Worship, Worship child care nurse. 10 a.m. - Fellowship. 10:15 - Adult Sunday School.

**PARK COMMUNITY**  
617 S. Bennett St.  
parkccbluffton.org  
10 a.m. - Connection. 11 a.m. - Worship.

**PETROLEUM COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
3625 E. 2nd St.  
9 a.m. - Worship. 10:30 - Sunday School.

**PONETO BAPTIST**  
Grape Street  
8:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 9 a.m. - Worship.

**PONETO FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
36 E. Walnut St.  
9 a.m. - Worship. 10 a.m. - Fellowship. 10:15 - Sunday School.

**RIVER OF HOPE**  
1224 W. Central  
11 a.m. - Worship & the Word.

**RIVER OF LIFE**  
122 Lamar St.  
Suite 108, 110  
riveroflifebluffton.com  
10:30 a.m. - Worship.

**SIX MILE**  
4790 SE SR 116  
9 a.m. - Sunday School.  
10 a.m. - Worship.

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9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship. Nursery & Children's classes available during Sunday School & Worship.

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9 & 10:45 a.m. - Worship.

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**ST. LUKE CHURCH**  
4960W-100N, Decatur  
stlukechurch.in  
9 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Sunday School.

**ST. MARK EV. LUTHERAN**  
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8:45 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

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10 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Children's Sunday School.

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10 a.m. - Worship.

**THE CHURCH AT MCNATT**  
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8:30 a.m. - Coffee fellowship. 9:15 - Worship.

**THE MEETING PLACE**  
115 E. Market St.  
6:30 p.m. - Bible study.

**TOWER LIFE CENTER**  
11811 N. Wayne St., Zanesville  
towerlifecenter.com  
9:30 a.m. - TLC Groups. 10:30 - Worship.

**TURNPOINTE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN**  
500 W. Logan, Markle  
turnpointchurch.com  
9:30 a.m. - Fellowship. 10 a.m. - Adult & Children's Worship.

**UNIONDALE COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
5867 N. Main St.  
9 a.m. - Worship.

**UNIONTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
11419 N-200W, Ossian  
9 a.m. - Sunday School.  
10 a.m. - Worship.

**VERA CRUZ FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER CCCU**  
2771 SE Mulberry St., Vera Cruz  
9-10 a.m. - Sunday School. 10-10:30 - Fellowship. 10:30 - Worship.

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
205 S. Adams St., Monroe  
9 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Discipleship for adults & children.

**ZANESVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GOD**  
11984 N. Marzane Rd.  
10 a.m. - Worship.

**ZANESVILLE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST**  
3092 W. Broadway  
9 a.m. - Sunday School.  
10 a.m. - Worship.

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# Tigers rout Vikings at home, Stout adds fourth 20-point game of the season

The Bluffton Tigers beat Huntington North by 20 points in The Tiger Den Friday night.

The 64-44 Tigers' victory improved them to 4-1 on the season. The Vikings fell to 0-4.

Isabella Stout dropped 25 points in the contest, which totals four of the five games with 20 points or more on the season. Maryn Schreiber was next with eight points, Sophie Eisenhut and Khloe Dick (4), Madyson Sonnigsen and Tressa Renner (3) and Marly Drayer (2).

Bluffton will host North Miami at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23.

The Tigers won the junior varsity match-up 37-23. Madelyn Funk led the way with 11 points, Kamryn Ault and Piper Morgan

(8), Grace Fry (6) and both Krista Blair and Bridget Steffen (2).

**BLUFFTON 66, HUNTINGTON NORTH 46**  
At Bluffton  
**HUNTINGTON NORTH (0-4):** Haiden Bailey 15 points, Marissa Trout, Luci Reich 6, Grace Michel 5, Faith Minton 3, Riley Wilson 2. **TOTALS:** 46, 7-12 free throws.  
**BLUFFTON (3-1):** Isabella Stout 8-18 8-12 25, Konley Ault 7-13 3-4 17, Maryn Schreiber 4-7 0-2 8, Sophie Eisenhut 2-3 0-0 4, Khloe Dick 1-5 1-2 4, Madyson Sonnigsen 1-3 0-0 3, Tressa Renner 1-3 0-0 3, Marly Drayer 1-4 0-0 2, Kamryn Ault 0-0 0-0 0, Grace Fry 0-1 0-0 0, Madelyn Funk 0-1 0-0 0. **TOTALS:** 25-58 12-20 66.  
**H. North 13 7 12 13 — 45**  
**Bluffton 22 19 12 13 — 66**  
Three-Point Shooting: Huntington 6 made (Bailey 3, Reich 2, Minton 1), Bluffton 4-15 (Sonnigsen 1-3, Dick 1-3, Stout 1-5, Renner 1-2, Funk 0-1, Konley Ault 0-1). Rebounds: Huntington 29 (Reich 6, Trout 6, Michel 5, Bailey 5, Minton 3, Ellet 1, Degitz 1), Bluffton 29 (Stout 6, Eisenhut 5, Sonnigsen 4, Drayer 4, Schreiber 3, Renner 2, Dick 1). Turnovers: Huntington 21, Bluffton 9. Fouls: Huntington 16, Bluffton 17.



Bluffton's Marly Drayer (right) dribbles to her left away from at Huntington North defender during the home game at The Tiger Den Friday night. The Tigers topped the Vikings 64-44 to improve to 4-1 on the season. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

# Bluffton City Gym men's basketball league results

This past Monday was week two of the Men's Basketball League at the Bluffton City Gym.

## Below are the results:

• Inteva Panels defeated Inteva Doors 46-44 in overtime. Tyler Jones scored 22 points for the Panels, while Rodney Pearson scored 10. Darrion Holloway scored 12 points, while Angel Alonzo scored 10.

• The Flint Tropics won 56-50 over Peytons Northern 56-50. Drew Federspiel scored 19 points for the Flint Tropics, while Clayton Vachon scored 13. Tyrone McKin-

ney scored 15 points for Peytons Northern, while Avery Scott scored 14.

• Helena Agri Enterprises defeated The Irish 85-50. Marcus Teeter scored 21 points for Agri Enterprises, while Konner Platt and Luke Reust scored 16 each. Luke Steiner scored 17 points for the Irish, while Jensen Nusbaumer scored 11.

• Boleas Farms won 85-52 over Craigville Appliance 82-52. Grant Prippe scored 30 points for Farms, while Tanner Prippe scored 17. Lucas Hunt scored 14 points for Craigville, while Everett Johnson scored 13.

## High School Calendar

### SATURDAY, NOV 23

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

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

### MONDAY, NOV 25

No events scheduled.

### TUESDAY, NOV 26

**BOYS BASKETBALL:** Lakewood Park Christian at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m.  
**GIRLS BASKETBALL:** Concordia at Nor-

well, 7:30 p.m.

**SWIMMING (Co-ed):** Columbia City at Norwell, 5:30 p.m.

### FRIDAY, NOV 29

**GIRLS BASKETBALL:** Bluffton at South Adams, 7:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, NOV 30

**BOYS BASKETBALL:** Blackford at Bluffton, 7:30 p.m.; Southwood at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m.

**GIRLS BASKETBALL:** Norwell at Angola, 12:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Adams Central, 7:30 p.m.

# Raiders drop opening night wrestling match with visiting Panthers

By RYAN WALKER

PONETO — Elwood took down Southern Wells 60-23 on the opening night for wrestling Friday night.

Friday's quick home match that lasted about 35 minutes was certainly a tune-up for the Raiders, who have the Bronco Duals the next morning at Daleville.

Head coach Jacob Duncan's squad is still in the learning phase of wrestling, as the team had just four members come out two seasons ago. That number has jumped to 17, nearly a full lineup on a nightly basis, but are growing.

"Young team," the third-year head coach said. "Not a whole lot of experience yet. We've got to build that up and get some more mat time. Obviously, it's not the way we want them all to go, but a lot of things were taken away from it, and a lot of things we know we need to work on. It's just lighting a fire under these kids to get them ready to go."

Southern Wells forfeited just two weights for a total of 12 points and also picked up 12 points via Elwood's forfeit. The rest were scored by fall outside of those forfeits, Raiders' points were tallied by a technical fall from Jarin Frauhiger at 144, and a pin from Malaki Capper at 165. Those two for the Raiders will be key to their success in 2024-25.

Despite a rough outing for some of the first-time and young wrestlers, Duncan said it was very important for his team to get out and get on the mat against an opponent — especially with a tournament the next day.

"A lot of it just comes from being out here and actually doing it," Duncan said. "If you're coming out in your first year, I'll teach you all the basics, different feels, different positions, knowing when to hit a move, knowing when not to. It just comes with time and experience and working hard and practicing."

sports@news-banner.com

## Full results

- Briggs Fiechter (SW) won by forfeit at 106.
- Laydon Morgan (E) defeated Kaleb Boots by fall at 103.



Southern Wells' Jarin Frauhiger (top, left) topples over Elwood's Kaci McCray during the 144 bout at the Raider Dome Friday evening. The Panthers defeated the Raiders 60-23 to open the wrestling season. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

- Aiden Carroll (SW) won by forfeit at 120.
- Jayden McPhearson (E) defeated Kelton Barr by fall at 126.
- Kayden Simpson (E) won by forfeit at 132.
- Deacon Gregg (E) defeated Lane Dollar by fall at 138.
- Jarin Frauhiger (SW) won by tech fall over Kaci McCray 144.
- Abe Gallegos (E) defeated Lyrik Maddox by fall at 150.
- Elijah Small (E) won by forfeit at 157.

- Malaki Capper (SW) defeated Ryan Munoz by fall at 165.
- Marcus Rivera (E) defeated Bryson Williams by fall at 175.
- Jonny Neese (E) defeated Kaden Bercot by fall at 215.
- Miles Laub (E) defeated Cale Craig by fall at heavy-weight.
- Ryker Dollar (SW) won the lone exhibition match by fall.

# Michigan State tops Purdue, win away from being bowl eligible in Jonathan Smith's 1st season

By LARRY LAGE  
AP Sports Writer

EAST LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Aidan Chiles threw for two scores in the first half to build a three-touchdown lead and Michigan State held on to beat Purdue 24-17 on Friday night.

The Spartans (5-6, 3-5 Big Ten) are a win away from being eligible for a bowl with first-year coach Jonathan Smith and they play Rutgers at home in the final regular-season game.

"It means a lot," Chiles said. "We should've been in this place a long time ago."

The Boilermakers (1-10, 0-8) have dropped 10 straight games and will have to pull off a stunning upset against rival and fifth-ranked Indiana on the road to avoid matching a school record with an 11th loss under second-year coach Ryan Walters.

Pressure to perform is expected, Walter acknowledged.

"It comes with the territory and sitting in the chair I'm sitting in," he said.

Michigan State scored three touchdowns and a field goal on its four drives in the first half to take a 24-3 lead, then struggled to move the ball in the second half and Purdue almost took advantage.

"It's kind of disappointing to come out hot and the next half look like we never played football before," Chiles said.

With a chance to drive for a game-tying touchdown midway through the

fourth quarter, Hudson Card threw a pass toward Max Klare that caromed around and was picked off by linebacker Jordan Turner at the Michigan State 31.

Card gave the Boilermakers a chance to tie the game on their next drive, but Jahmal Edrine dropped a long pass while running all alone behind the secondary and they ended up turning it over on downs at midfield with 3:05 left.

Chiles missed his first chance to seal the victory on a third-down run when he went out of bounds instead of cutting back to likely get a first down and keep the clock running.

"I was supposed to get a first down and I thought I did," he said.

On fourth-and-1, Chiles' sneak was spotted just past the stick and he was able to kneel to run off the remaining time.

Chiles finished 15 of 31 for 159 yards and threw multiple touchdown passes for the third time this season.

He threw a go-ahead, 7-yard touchdown pass to Montorie Foster midway through the first quarter and a 20-yard touchdown pass to Nate Carter with 41 seconds left in the first half. Carter also had a 2-yard touchdown run in the second quarter.

Card was 26 of 47 for a career-high 342 yards with a touchdown and an interception. Klare had seven receptions for 83 yards and a 7-yard touchdown reception early in the fourth quarter to bring the Boilermakers within a touchdown.

# UFC fighter Conor McGregor must pay \$250K to woman who says he raped her, civil jury rules

By BRIAN MELLEY

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A woman who claimed mixed martial arts fighter Conor McGregor "brutally raped and battered" her in a Dublin hotel penthouse was awarded nearly 250,000 Euros (\$257,000) on Friday by a civil court jury in Ireland.

Nikita Hand said the Dec. 9, 2018, assault after a night of partying left her heavily bruised and suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

McGregor testified that he never forced the woman to do anything against her will and said she fabricated the allegations after the two had consensual sex. His lawyer had called Hand a gold digger.

The fighter, once the face of the Ultimate Fighting Championship but now past his prime, shook his head as the jury of eight women and four men found him liable for assault after deliberating about six hours in the High Court in Dublin.

He was mobbed by cameras as he left court but did not comment. He later said on the social platform X that he would appeal the verdict and the "modest award."

Hand's voice cracked and her hands trembled as she read a statement outside the courthouse, saying she would never forget what happened to her but would now be able to move on with her life. She thanked her family, partner, friends, jurors, the judge and all the supporters that had reached out to her online, but particularly her daughter.

"She has given me so much strength and courage over the last six years throughout this nightmare to keep on pushing forward for justice," she said. "I want to show (her)

and every other girl and boy that you can stand up for yourself if something happens to you, no matter who the person is, and justice will be served."

The Associated Press generally does not name alleged victims of sexual violence unless they come forward publicly, as Hand has done. Under Irish law, she did not have the anonymity she would have been granted in a criminal proceeding and was named publicly throughout the trial.

Her lawyer told jurors that McGregor was angry about a fight he had lost in Las Vegas two months earlier and took it out on his client.

"He's not a man, he's a coward," attorney John Gordon said in his closing speech. "A devious coward and you should treat him for what he is."

Gordon said his client never pretended to be a saint and was only looking to have fun when she sent McGregor a message through Instagram after attending a Christmas party. He said Hand knew McGregor socially and that they had grown up in the same area.

She said he picked her and a friend up in a car and shared cocaine with them, which McGregor admitted in court, on the way to the Beacon Hotel.

Hand said she told McGregor she didn't want to have sex with him and that she was menstruating. She said she told him "no" as he started kissing her but he eventually pinned her to a bed and she couldn't move.

McGregor put her in a chokehold and later told her, "You know how I felt in the octagon where I tapped out three times," referring to a UFC match when he had to

(Continued on Page 7)











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- Completes continuing education classes on building codes and practices, as needed.
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- 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](mailto:auditor@wellscounty.org). Resumes will be accepted until December 16, 2024.

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1	2	8	1	9	9	7	8	6
1	7	8	6	2	8	9	1	9
9	8	1	2	8	9	6	1	7
8	9	7	9	1	6	8	2	1
2	6	1	1	7	8	9	9	9
8	1	6	8	9	1	9	7	2
9	8	7	6	1	1	9	8	8
7	1	9	8	2	1	6	8	8

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

Difficulty: ★★ ★★

11/23

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## Lottery Numbers

### Friday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY

**Cash 5** — 02-15-40-43-44  
**Cash4Life** — 04-05-12-15-37, Cash Ball: 01  
**Quick Draw Midday** — 04-05-07-08-11-13-24-26-31-34-36-46-58-65-66-67-68-74-76-79, BE: 05  
**Daily Three-Midday** — 08-02-02, SB: 09  
**Daily Three-Evening** — 06-06-07, SB: 04  
**Daily Four-Midday** — 08-09-04-02, SB: 09  
**Daily Four-Evening** — 04-01-00-00, SB: 04  
**Quick Draw Evening** — 03-12-16-17-19-20-26-35-39-45-48-50-52-55-57-60-68-71-73-78, BE: 68  
**Hoosier Lotto** — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$30 million

### MEGA MILLIONS

13-20-26-32-65, Mega Ball: 02, Megaplier: 2X  
**POWERBALL**  
 Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$171 million

## 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.](http://TheSteffenGroup.com), 260-824-3006, [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com).

**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.](http://TheSteffenGroup.com), [www.steffengrp.com](http://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](http://KrueckbergAuction.com), 260-724-7402, [Kjauction.com](http://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.](http://TheSteffenGroup.com), [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com), 260-824-3006.

**BIDDING NOW OPEN AND STARTS CLOSING DECEMBER 1 STARTING AT 4 p.m. EST - Various consignors, owners.** Online only Elm Street consignment auction! Name brand woodworking tools, camping supplies, like new 24" Craftsman lawn vac, lawn & garden tools, weight lifting equipment, household furniture, Craftsman snow blower, antiques, collectibles, kitchen items, and much more! Preview Nov. 27, 3-5 p.m., 812 Elm Street, Decatur, IN. Pick up Dec. 2, 2-6 p.m., Dec. 3, 9 am.-noon. [Krueckberg Auction & Realty LLC](http://KrueckbergAuction.com), 260-724-7402, [Kjauction.com](http://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.](http://SchraderRealEstate.com), 800-451-2709, [schraderauction.com](http://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](http://NessBros.com), [www.NessBros.com](http://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](http://KrueckbergAuction.com), 260-724-7402, [Kjauction.com](http://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.](http://TheSteffenGroup.com), [www.steffengrp.com](http://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](http://HaldermanRealEstate.com), 800-424-2324, [halderman.com](http://halderman.com).

**BIDDING CLOSES 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, handmade 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](http://Towncountryauctions.com), click Fliers. [Town and Country Auctioneers/Realtors](http://TownandCountryAuctioneers.com), 260-223-7352, [Shaw Real Estate & Auction, Inc.](http://ShawRealEstate.com), 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.](http://TheSteffenGroup.com), [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com), 260-426-0633.

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# Braun unveils plan

(Continued from Page 3)

- A Secretary of Health and Family Services will coordinate “constituent-facing health and well-being services” and oversee public health programs.
- The four reporting agencies include the Department of Health, the Family and Social Services Administration, the Department of Child Services and the Department of Veteran Affairs.
- A Secretary of Public Safety will oversee law enforcement, emergency preparedness and public safety.
- Eight agencies and departments will report to this role, including the Department of Correction, Homeland Security and the Office of School Safety.
- A Secretary of Energy and Natural Resources will be responsible for energy and recreation policy as well as “sustainable economic development.”
- Seven agencies and departments will report

to this role, including the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Environmental Management and the Utility Regulatory Commission.

A Secretary of Education will oversee programming from pre-K to college.

The seven reporting agencies and departments include the Department of Education, the Commission for Higher Education and the Charter School Board.

A Secretary of Transportation and Infrastructure, which also includes oversight of broadband and other quality of life measures.

Four agencies will report to this role, including the Department of Transportation, the Northwest IN Regional Development Authority, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and the Broadband Office.

A Secretary of Business Affairs who will manage Indiana’s regulatory framework to ensure “businesses and industries operate safe-

ly, ethically and efficiently.”

Eleven agencies and departments will report to this position, including the Department of Insurance, the Department of Labor, the Professional Licensing Agency and the Gaming Commission.

Both the Indiana State Department of Agriculture and the Office of Community and Rural Affairs will continue to be led by the lieutenant governor, as outlined by statute. Braun’s chief of staff will set the agenda for the cabinet, which will meet “frequently.”

Gov. Eric Holcomb’s Cabinet, in contrast, has more traditionally included major agency heads rather than policy-aligned “verticals.” A two-year-old post on the state’s website includes more than two dozen agencies, keeping departments like the Family and Social Services Administration separate from the Department of Health, for example.

# Matt Gaetz says he won’t return to Congress after withdrawing name for attorney general

By FARNOUSH AMIRI  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Rep. Matt Gaetz said Friday that he will not be returning to Congress after withdrawing his name from consideration to be attorney general under President-elect Donald Trump amid growing allegations of sexual misconduct.

“I’m still going to be in the fight, but it’s going to be from a new perch. I do not intend to join the 119th Congress,” Gaetz told conservative commentator Charlie Kirk, adding that he has “some other goals in life that I’m eager to pursue with my wife and my family.”

The announcement comes a day after Gaetz, a Florida Republican, stepped aside from the Cabinet nomination process amid growing fallout from federal and House Ethics investigations that cast doubt on his ability to be confirmed as the nation’s chief federal law enforcement officer. The 42-year-old has vehemently denied the allegations against him.

Gaetz’s nomination as attorney gen-

eral had stunned many career lawyers inside the Justice Department, but reflected Trump’s desire to place a loyalist in a department he has marked for retribution following the criminal cases against him.

Hours after Gaetz withdrew, Trump nominated Pam Bondi, the former Florida attorney general, who would come to the job with years of legal work under her belt and that other trait Trump prizes above all: loyalty.

It’s unclear what’s next for Gaetz, who is no longer a member of the House. He surprised colleagues by resigning from Congress the same day that Trump nominated him for attorney general. Some speculated he could still be sworn into office for another two-year term on Jan. 3, given that he had just won reelection earlier this month.

But Gaetz, who has been in state and national politics for 14 years, said he’s done with Congress.

“I think that eight years is probably enough time in the United States Congress,” he said.

# Trump chooses Bessent as treasury secretary, Vought as budget chief

Chavez-DeRemer is also picked for Labor

By FATIMA HUSSEIN,  
CHRIS RUGABER,  
JOSH BOAK  
and CHRIS MEGERIAN  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump announced Friday that he’ll nominate hedge fund manager Scott Bessent, an advocate for deficit reduction, to serve as his next treasury secretary.

Trump also said he would nominate Russell Vought to lead the Office of Management and Budget, a position Vought held during Trump’s first presidency. Vought was closely involved with Project 2025, a conservative blueprint for Trump’s second term that he tried to distance himself from during the campaign.

The announcements showed how Trump was fleshing out the financial side of his new administration. Although Bessent is closely aligned with Wall Street and could earn bipartisan support, Vought is known as a Republican hardliner.

Trump said Bessent would “help me usher in a new Golden Age for the United States,” while Vought “knows exactly how to dismantle the Deep State and end Weaponized Government.”

Bessent and Vought were only two of several personnel decisions that Trump disclosed Friday evening.

Trump said he chose Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer, an Oregon Republican, as his labor secretary, and

Scott Turner, a former football player who worked in Trump’s first administration, as his housing secretary.

In addition, Trump rounded out his health team. He chose Dr. Janette Nesheiwat, a general practitioner and Fox News contributor, to be surgeon general; Dr. Dave Weldon, a former Republican congressman from Florida, to lead the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and Dr. Marty Makary, a Johns Hopkins surgeon, as head of the Food and Drug Administration. Trump previously said he would nominate Robert F. Kennedy Jr., a longtime spreader of conspiracy theories about vaccines, as health secretary.

Alex Wong was named as principal deputy national security adviser, while Sebastian Gorka will serve as senior director for counterterrorism. Wong worked on issues involving Asia during Trump’s first term, and Gorka is a conservative commentator who spent less than a year in Trump’s White House.

Bessent, 62, is the founder of hedge fund Key Square Capital Management, after having worked on-and-off for Soros Fund Management since 1991. If confirmed by the Senate, he would be the nation’s first openly gay treasury secretary.

He told Bloomberg in August that attacking the U.S. national debt should be a priority, which includes slashing government pro-

grams and other spending.

“This election cycle is the last chance for the U.S. to grow our way out of this mountain of debt without becoming a sort of European-style socialist democracy,” he said then.

As of Nov. 8, the national debt stands at \$35.94 trillion, with both the Trump and Biden administrations having added to it. Trump’s policies added \$8.4 trillion to the national debt, while the Biden administration increased the national debt by \$4.3 trillion, according to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, a fiscal watchdog.

Even as he pushes to lower the national debt by stopping spending, Bessent has backed extending provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, which Trump signed into law in his first year in office. Estimates from various economic analyses of the costs of the various tax cuts range between nearly \$6 trillion and \$10 trillion over 10 years. Nearly all of the law’s provisions are set to expire at the end of 2025.

Before becoming a Trump donor and adviser, Bessent donated to various Democratic causes in the early 2000s, notably Al Gore’s presidential run. He also worked for George Soros, a major supporter of Democrats. Bessent had an influential role in Soros’ London operations, including his famous 1992 bet against the pound, which generated huge profits on “Black Wednesday,” when the pound was de-linked

from European currencies.

Bessent’s selection wasn’t surprising; he had been among the names floated for the treasury secretary role. At an October Detroit Economic Club event, Trump called Bessent “one of the top analysts on Wall Street.”

Bessent told Bloomberg in August that he views tariffs as a “one time price adjustment” and “not inflationary,” and tariffs imposed during a second Trump administration would be directed primarily at China. And he wrote in a Fox News op-ed this week that tariffs are “a useful tool for achieving the president’s foreign policy objectives,” such as encouraging allies to spend more on defense or deterring military aggression.

Bessent has also floated ideas for how the Trump administration could put pressure on Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, whose term expires in May 2026. Last month, Bessent suggested Trump could name a replacement chair early, and let that person function as a “shadow” chair, with the goal of essentially sidelining Powell.

But after the election, Bessent reportedly backed away from that plan. Powell, for his part, has said he wouldn’t step down if Trump asked him to do so, and added that Trump, as president, doesn’t have the authority to fire him.

Trump repeatedly attacked Powell during his first term as president for raising the Fed’s key rate in 2017 and 2018. During the

2024 campaign, he said that as president he should have a “say” in the central bank’s interest rate decisions. Presidents traditionally avoid commenting on the Fed’s policies.

Vought, 48, was the head of the Office of Management and Budget from mid-2020 to the end of Trump’s first term in 2021, having previously served as the acting director and deputy director. A graduate of Wheaton College and George Washington University Law School, he had a deep knowledge of government finances that has been paired with his own Christian faith.

After Trump’s initial term ended, Vought founded the Center for Renewing America, a think tank that describes its mission as renewing “a consensus of America as a nation under God.”

The Center for Renewing America released its own 2023 budget proposal entitled “A Commitment to End Work and Weaponized Government.” The proposal envisioned \$11.3 trillion worth of spending reductions over 10 years and about \$2 trillion in income tax cuts in order to bring the budget into surplus by 2032.

“The immediate threat facing the nation is the fact that the people no longer govern the country; instead, the government itself is increasingly weaponized against the people it is meant to serve,” Vought wrote in the introduction.

Vought’s proposed budget plan would cut spending on food aid through the

Agriculture Department. There would be \$3.3 trillion in spending reductions in the Health and Human Services Department in large part through how Medicaid and Medicare funds are distributed. It also contains about \$642 billion in cuts to Affordable Care Act. The budgets for the Housing and Urban Development and Education departments would also be cut.

Vought’s budget ideas were independent of Trump, who has not entirely spelled out the details of his economic plans, other than to campaign on income tax cuts and tariff hikes.

Trump’s choice for labor secretary, Chavez-DeRemer, 56, narrowly lost her reelection bid earlier this month. She received strong backing from union members in her district.

Chavez-DeRemer is one of a few House Republicans to endorse the “Protecting the Right to Organize” or PRO Act that would allow more workers to conduct organizing campaigns and would add penalties for companies that violate workers’ rights. The act would also weaken “right-to-work” laws that allow employees in more than half the states to avoid participating in or paying dues to unions that represent workers at their places of employment.

Trump said in a statement that she would help “ensure that the Labor Department can unite Americans of all backgrounds behind our Agenda for Unprecedented National Success.”

# Archaeologists discover 4,000-year-old canals used to fish by predecessors of ancient Maya

WASHINGTON (AP) — Long before the ancient Maya built temples, their predecessors were already altering the landscape of Central America’s Yucatan peninsula.

Using drones and Google Earth imagery, archaeologists have discovered a 4,000-year-old network of earthen canals in what’s now Belize. The findings were published Friday in Science Advances.

“The aerial imagery was crucial to identify this really distinctive pattern of zigzag linear canals” running for several miles through wetlands, said study co-author

Eleanor Harrison-Buck of the University of New Hampshire.

The team then conducted digs in Belize’s Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary. The ancient fish canals, paired with holding ponds, were used to channel and catch freshwater species such as catfish.

“Barbed spearpoints” found nearby may have been tied to sticks and used to spear fish, said study co-author Mariëka Brouwer Burg of the University of Vermont.

The canal networks were built as early as 4,000 years ago by semi-nomadic people

in the Yucatan coastal plain. According to the study, the canals were used for around 1,000 years or longer, including during the “formative” period when the Maya began to settle in permanent farming villages and a distinctive culture started to emerge.

“It’s really interesting to see such large-scale modifications of the landscape so early — it shows people were already build-

ing things,” said University of Pittsburgh archaeologist Claire Ebert, who was not involved in the study.

At the height of Maya civilization, people in this region built temples, roads, pyramids and other monuments. They also developed complex systems of writing, mathematics and astronomy. Scientists know far more about this era because there are many more significant

archaeological sites, said Ebert.

But this new study reveals a link between the earlier people on the landscape and the later emergence of Maya culture. These ancient channels

for catching fish may have played a role in helping later Maya pyramids rise above the Yucatan rainforest.

“This shows continuity,” said University of Pennsylvania archaeologist Jeremy Sabloff.

## Public Notice

**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.

General Fund	APPROPRIATE TO:	\$16,500
Animal Shelter Budget		
411.010 Salaries		\$6,000
412.010 Medical Insurance		\$4,500
436.010 Repairs and Maintenance		\$6,000

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 11/23  
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