

# The News - Banner

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2024 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00

## 'Good for Your Heart'

### First Reformed Church prepares for 19th-annual Thanksgiving meal

**By HOLLY GASKILL**  
Preparing Thanksgiving dinner is no small feat for any cook, but it takes a small army to assemble First Reformed Church of Bluffton's annual community meal. Last year, the group served 868 meals. Mara Jo Williams, who helps lead the annual effort, said the group begins food prep several weeks before Thanksgiving, pre-cooking and freezing batches of turkey. On Saturday morning, roughly 20 volunteers gathered at the church to decorate, bake another batch of turkeys, and assemble other parts of the meal. The group doesn't shortchange any of

the traditional fixings — in addition to turkey, they make stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans and more. Williams said her team makes gravy with the turkey stock and dries 80 loaves of bread for stuffing. "We want to make it a homemade meal," Williams said. "Something good for your heart." Williams' grocery list includes 250 lbs. of potatoes, 80 dozen rolls, 32 gallons of green beans, 25 lbs. of sour cream, 24 lbs. of cream cheese, 10 lbs. of butter and 15 dozen eggs — all of which were made possible (Continued on Page 2)



Jen Sturgeon, Bryan Smith and Rodger Popplewell prepare turkey for First Reformed Church of Bluffton's annual Thanksgiving meal. The group have been cooking and freezing turkeys for three weeks to prepare for the big day. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)



### Satisfying Saturday

Southern Wells sophomore Erika Beavans fist bumps the referees before Saturday's girls' basketball contest against Canterbury in Fort Wayne. The Raiders gradually pulled away from the Cavaliers 69-26 to claim their sixth straight victory. **Story on Page 6.** (Photo by Glen Werling)

## Fundraising for S.R. 124 trail project begins

**By JONATHAN SNYDER**  
A fundraiser has begun to conduct an engineering study for a trail alongside State Road 124. The trail looks to connect the Bluffton Woods Home Community and Elm Grove Road to the existing Interurban Trail network. Wells County Trails, the group leading the efforts, intends to raise \$25,000 for the project. According to Wells County Trails Board President Mike Lautzenheiser, the trail has been a top priority for the organization since its founding in 2019. The traffic in the area, along with the amount of people walking and biking along the side of the road, has led to a "desperate" need, Lautzenheiser said. At a Bluffton Common Council meeting in early August, council members Chandler Gerber and Josh Hunt commented on their surprise that, to their knowledge, no one has gotten injured in the area. "We have marked this trail as the highest priority within the City of Bluffton in regards to something that isn't existing right now," Lautzenheiser said. "We have people that are using mobility scooters, bicycles, kids coming and going from school that use the ... gravel side of S.R. 124 there. This (area) desperately needs something for them to go on that is much safer and will then get

them to the existing trails and sidewalks. It is something that the community asked for over and over again because of the concern for people's safety" Lautzenheiser stated that he was cleared to hire an engineering firm to do a study on how to accomplish the trail. Road grade issues, impacts to various floodplains in the area, rivers, other utility pipelines and cemeteries near the proposed site have been historical roadblocks to getting a trail planned out and engineered. Lautzenheiser hopes that the firm's study will help find a way around those issues. The trail is expected to be approximately 4,000 feet, similar to the section of the Interurban Trail between Walmart and Lancaster park. While no official plans are in place for amenities such as benches, Lautzenheiser stated that there would be a possibility for a bus stop location along the trail. Any conversations about those amenities would take place during the design phase of the project. The Wells County Foundation has awarded a \$25,000 matching grant for the project, along with a \$50,000 contribution from Bluffton. Various sponsorship levels will be awarded for sizable donations, which should be marked towards the Wells County Foundation. (Continued on Page 2)

## Forecasts warn of possible winter storms across U.S. during Thanksgiving week

WINDSOR, Calif. (AP) — Another round of wintry weather could complicate travel leading up to the Thanksgiving holiday, according to forecasts across the U.S., while California and Washington state continue to recover from storm damage and power outages. In California, where two people were found dead in floodwaters on Saturday, authorities braced for more rain while grappling with flooding and small landslides from a previous storm. The National Weather Service office in Sacramento, California, issued a winter storm warning for the Sierra Nevada through Tuesday, with heavy snow expected at higher elevations and wind gusts potentially reaching 55 mph. Total snowfall of roughly 4 feet was forecast, with the heaviest accumulations expected Monday and Tuesday. The Midwest and Great Lakes regions will see rain and snow Monday and the East Coast will be the most impacted on Thanksgiving and Black Friday, forecasters said. A low pressure system is forecast to bring rain to the Southeast early Thursday before heading to the Northeast. Areas from Boston to New York could see rain and breezy conditions, with snowfall possible in parts of northern New Hampshire, northern Maine and the Adirondacks. If the system tracks further inland, there could be less snow and more rain in the mountains, forecasters said. "The system doesn't look like a powerhouse right now," Hayden Frank, a meteorologist with the weather service in Massachusetts, said Sunday. "Basically, this is going to bring rain to the I-95 corridor so travelers should prepare for wet weather. Unless the system trends a lot colder, it looks like rain." Frank said he isn't seeing any major storm systems arriving for the weekend anywhere in the country so travelers heading home Sunday can expect good driving conditions. Temperatures, however, will get colder in the East while warming up out West. **More rain expected after deadly 'bomb cyclone' on West Coast** Two people died in the Pacific Northwest after a rapidly intensifying "bomb cyclone" hit the West Coast last Tuesday, bringing fierce winds that toppled trees and power lines and damaged homes and cars. Hundreds of thousands lost electricity in Washington state before powerful gusts and record rains moved into Northern California. Fewer than 25,000 people in the Seattle area were still without power Sunday evening. Two bodies were found Saturday in Sonoma County wine country, north of San Francisco, authorities said. Someone walking on a trail near Santa Rosa found the body of a man in a swollen creek, according to the sheriff's department. Hours later, rescue crews recovered a body inside a vehicle bobbing in floodwaters in nearby Guerneville, Deputy (Continued on Page 2)

## Hezbollah fires 250 rockets, other projectiles into Israel in heaviest barrage in weeks

**By KAREEM C. HEHAYEB and TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press**  
BEIRUT (AP) — Hezbollah fired about 250 rockets and other projectiles into Israel on Sunday, wounding seven people in one of the militant group's heaviest barrages in months, in response to deadly Israeli strikes in Beirut while negotiators pressed on with cease-fire efforts to halt the all-out war. Some of the rockets reached the Tel Aviv area in the heart of Israel. Meanwhile, an Israeli strike on an army center killed a Lebanese soldier and wounded 18 others in the southwest between Tyre and Naqoura, Lebanon's military said. The Israeli military expressed regret, saying that the strike occurred in an area of combat against Hezbollah and that the military's operations are directed solely against the militants. Israeli strikes have killed over 40 Lebanese troops since the start of the war between Israel and Hezbollah, even as Lebanon's military has largely kept to the sidelines. Lebanon's caretaker prime minister, Najib Mikati, condemned the latest strike as an assault on U.S.-led cease-fire efforts, calling it a "direct, bloody message rejecting all efforts and ongoing contacts" to end the war. **Hezbollah fires rockets after strikes on Beirut**

Hezbollah began firing rockets, missiles and drones into Israel after Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack out of the Gaza Strip ignited the war there. Hezbollah has portrayed the attacks as an act of solidarity with the Palestinians and Hamas. Iran supports both armed groups. Israel launched retaliatory airstrikes in Hezbollah, and in September the low-level conflict erupted into all-out war as Israel launched airstrikes across large parts of Lebanon and killed Hezbollah's top leader, Hassan Nasrallah. The Israeli military said about 250 projectiles were fired Sunday, with some intercepted. **Israel's Magen David** (Continued on Page 2)

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**Outside**  
  
**Showers and wind gusts today and tonight**  

Today	Tuesday	Wed.
High 56	High 40	High 43
Low 32	Low 29	Low 29

  
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# Annual Thanksgiving meal

(Continued from Page 1)

through community donations. Church members have also donated 130 pies for the meal.

It's a far bigger operation than its beginning 19 years ago when Williams and her sister-in-law, Judy Maxwell, decided they wanted to do "something for the community." They served 87 meals in that first year — just a tenth of what they expect now.

Williams also expects to have about 60 volunteers on Thanksgiving Day, including church members and non-members alike. In 2023, the group delivered roughly 500 meals — along with those to the fire department and local businesses — throughout Wells County.

The free dinner is open to the community at the church, 301 W Cherry St. in



Committed to serving homemade food, volunteers arranged 80 loaves of bread across church tables to dry out for turkey stuffing. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

Bluffton. Drive-thru pick-up is available from 11 a.m. to noon and dine-in is available by reservation from 12:30

p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Delivery is also available for those who need it.

Contact the church office,

260-824-3161, for reservations by Wednesday, Nov. 27.

[holly@news-banner.com](mailto:holly@news-banner.com)

# Possible winter storms

(Continued from Page 1)

Rob Dillion said. Investigators are trying to determine if the deaths were storm-related.

Santa Rosa saw its wettest three-day period on record with about 12.5 inches of rain by Friday evening, the National Weather Service in the San Francisco Bay Area reported. Vineyards in nearby Windsor were flooded.

Forecasters said the risk of flooding and mudslides remained as the region gets more rain starting Sunday. But the latest storm won't be as intense as last week's atmospheric river, a long plume of moisture that forms over an ocean and flows over land.

"However, there's still

threats, smaller threats, and not as significant in terms of magnitude, that are still going to exist across the West Coast for the next two or three days," weather service forecaster Rich Otto said.

As the rain moves east throughout the week, Otto said, there's a potential for heavy snowfall at higher elevations of the Sierra Nevada, as well as portions of Utah and Colorado.

California's Mammoth Mountain, which received 2 feet of fresh snow in the recent storm, could get another 4 feet before the newest system clears out Wednesday, the resort said.

**Northeast gets needed precipitation**  
Into Thanksgiving,

parts of the Midwest and East Coast can expect to see heavy rain, and there's potential for snow in Northeastern states.

A storm last week brought rain to New York and New Jersey, where wildfires have raged in recent weeks, and heavy snow to northeastern Pennsylvania. The precipitation was expected to help ease drought conditions after an exceptionally dry fall.

"It's not going to be a drought buster, but it's definitely going to help," said Bryan Greenblatt, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Binghamton, New York.

Heavy snow fell in northeastern Pennsylvania,

including the Pocono Mountains. Higher elevations reported up to 17 inches, with lesser accumulations in valley cities including Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. Around 35,000 customers in 10 counties were still without power, down from 80,000 a day ago.

In the Catskills region of New York, nearly 10,000 people remained without power Sunday morning, two days after a storm dumped heavy snow on parts of the region.

Precipitation in West Virginia helped put a dent in the state's worst drought in at least two decades and boosted ski resorts as they prepare to open in the weeks ahead.

# Hezbollah fires rockets

(Continued from Page 1)

Adom rescue service said it treated seven people, including a 60-year-old man in severe condition from rocket fire on northern Israel, a 23-year-old man who was lightly wounded by a blast in the central city of Petah Tikva, near Tel Aviv, and a 70-year-old woman who suffered smoke inhalation from a car that caught fire there. In Haifa, a rocket hit a residential building that police said was in danger of collapsing.

The Palestine Red Crescent reported 13 injuries it said were caused by an interceptor missile that struck several homes in Tulkarem in the West Bank. It was unclear whether injuries and damage were caused by rockets or interceptors.

Sirens wailed again in central and northern Israel hours later.

Israeli airstrikes without warning on Saturday pounded central Beirut, killing at least 29 people and wounding 67, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry.

Smoke billowed above Beirut again Sunday with new strikes. Israel's military said it targeted command centers for Hezbollah and its intelligence unit in the southern suburbs of Dahiyeh, where the militants have a strong presence.

Israeli attacks have killed more than 3,700 people in Lebanon, according to the Health Ministry. The fighting has displaced about 1.2 million people, or a quarter of Lebanon's population.

On the Israeli side, about 90 soldiers and nearly 50 civilians have been killed by bombardment in northern Israel and in battle following Israel's ground invasion in early October. Around 60,000 Israelis have been displaced from the country's north.

**EU envoy calls for pressure to reach a truce**

The European Union's top diplomat called Sunday for more pressure on Israel and Hezbollah to reach a deal, saying one was "pending with a final agreement from the Israeli government." U.S. envoy Amos Hochstein was in the region last week.

Josep Borrell spoke after meeting with Mikati and Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, a Hezbollah ally who has been mediating with the group. Borrell said the EU is ready to allocate \$208 million to assist the Lebanese military.

But Borrell later said that he did not "see the Israeli government interested clearly in reaching an agreement for a cease-fire" and that it seemed Israel was seeking new conditions. He pointed to Israel's refusal to accept France as a member of the international committee that would oversee the cease-fire's implementation.

The emerging agreement would pave the way for the withdrawal of Hezbollah militants and Israeli troops from southern Lebanon below the Litani River in accordance with the U.N. Security Council resolution that ended the month-

long 2006 war. Lebanese troops would patrol with the presence of U.N. peacekeepers.

**One year since the only hostage-release deal**

With talks for a cease-fire and hostage release deal in Gaza stalled, freed hostages and families of those held marked a year since the war's only hostage-release deal.

"It's hard to hold on to hope, certainly after so long and as another winter is about to begin," said Yifat Zailier, cousin of Shiri Bibas, who is held along with her husband and two young sons.

Around 100 hostages are still in Gaza, at least a third believed to be dead. Most of the rest of the 250 who were abducted in the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attack were released in last year's cease-fire.

Talks for another deal recently had several setbacks, including the firing of Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, who pushed for a deal, and Qatar's decision to suspend its mediation. Hamas wants Israel to end the war and withdraw all troops from Gaza. Israel has offered only to pause its offensive.

The Palestinian death toll from the war surpassed 44,000 this week, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between civilians and combatants in its count.

On Sunday, six people were killed in strikes in central Gaza, according to AP journalists at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah.

# Weather

Monday, November 25, 2024

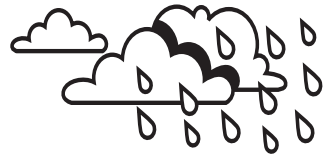
(24-hour observations at 11:06 p.m. Sunday)

High: 52; Low: 37; Precipitation: None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.21 feet at 8:45 p.m. Sunday

## Wells County forecast

**Today:** Showers likely, mainly between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Cloudy, with a high near 56. South wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

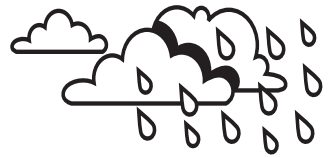


**Tonight:** A 30% chance of showers before 1 a.m. Cloudy, with a low around 32. West wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 40. West wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**Tuesday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 29. West wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.

**Wednesday:** A 30% chance of rain after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 43.



**Wednesday Night:** A chance of rain before 1 a.m., then a chance of rain and snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 29. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

**Thanksgiving Day:** A slight chance of rain and snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 39. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

**Thursday Night:** A 30% chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 23.



**Friday:** A 20% chance of snow showers before 1 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 31.

**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 17.

**Saturday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 29.

**Saturday Night:** A chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 16.

**Sunday:** A slight chance of snow showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 27.

# Fundraising

(Continued from Page 1)

"I think as trails became more prevalent in Bluffton, it's become even more of a need," Lautzenheiser said. "People have seen the solution — especially as the Interurban Trail was built along S.R. 1 — people started to see that there are solutions out there to solve this other issue, and it's just

a natural connection. The goal is that people would be able to use the trails from anywhere in Bluffton. Any chance that we get to bring a group of people through so (residents) can walk, run or bike safely in the trail network, and it all connects together, the better for the community."

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OBITUARIES

Gloria Lillian Keller, 96

Gloria Lillian Keller, 96, of Ossian, passed away on Saturday, Nov. 23, 2024.

Gloria was born in Blackford County, on June 18, 1928, to Earl and Helen (Hart) Garrett. She graduated from high school in 1946, and married Ralph Keller on April 10, 1947, in Indianapolis. Ralph preceded her in death on November 11, 2017.

Gloria was preceded in death by her parents; husband; and brother, Charles Garrett.

Loving survivors include her children, Karen (Jon) Walker of Fort Wayne, Carl (Tina) Keller of Decatur, David (Laura) Keller of Huntington, and Barbara Keller of Fort Wayne; seven grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren; and siblings, Gail Rhoton of Montpelier, and Dean Garrett of Montpelier.

Friends and family may gather to share and remember on Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2024, at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home located at 109 W Windsor St. Montpelier, IN 47359, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. A funeral service will follow at 2:00 p.m. with Pastor Steve Rogers officiating. Burial will follow at the I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Montpelier, Indiana.

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

## Dems decline to pursue a recount in a tight central Indiana race

By WHITNEY DOWNARD, Indiana Capital Chronicle

Despite losing a central Indiana seat by just 64 votes — and potentially hundreds of ballots left uncounted due to “irregularities” — the Indiana Democratic Party announced it wouldn’t push for a recount or contest the results in House District 25.

Incumbent Republican Rep. Becky Cash, of Zionsville, barely kept her seat earlier this month, losing Boone County by 419 votes but winning Hendricks County by 483 votes over Democrat challenger Tiffany Stoner.

Since that time, an election board meeting in Hendricks County on Nov. 15 apparently released information about irregularities in the voting process, according to Democrats. The Indiana Capital Chronicle couldn’t confirm the claims from an independent news source, though a left-leaning blog posted similar allegations on Nov. 18.

A call to Hendricks County Circuit Court Clerk Marjorie Pike to discuss the claims went to voicemail on Friday. Hendricks County was previously at the center of another recount, when a commission took three months to certify victories in two races without thin margins of victory.

“Our intent since polls closed on Election Day was to investigate systemic and widespread issues with the administration of early, vote-by-mail, and Election Day voting in Hendricks County. They were not alone in having challenges with getting people to staff the polls, but they stand very much alone in some of the egregious errors committed,” said Mike Schmuhl, the Democrat’s party chair.

“Our candidate, Tiffany Stoner, ran a fantastic campaign that was centered on the good people in Boone and Hendricks counties. While we will not seek a recount in this election, we do believe the public deserves more transparency so we ensure that every vote is counted accurately and every Hoosier’s voice is heard in every election,” Schmuhl continued.

### Alleged irregularities

Errors in Hendricks County reported by the Democrats included the decision to reject roughly 280 absentee mail-in ballots, some of which were apparently sent to voters without the required security initial from the clerk’s office.

“After the error was discovered, the clerk knowingly chose not to inform voters that their ballots would be rejected due to the office’s mistake,” the Democrat’s press release said. “... the affected voters remain unaware of this issue.”

Other ballots were rejected due to mismatched signatures — a method of verification that has repeatedly been questioned by voting rights activists who say signatures vary too much. Some note that younger generations who weren’t taught cursive may be especially vulnerable to disenfranchisement because of mismatched signatures.

Voters who fall in these category are supposed to receive a notice offering them a chance to correct their ballot. The release claims those notices were mailed on Nov. 7 but voters were only given until noon on Nov. 13 to submit a signed affidavit verifying their signature. However, the release goes on to claim that an overseas Indiana voter in the military couldn’t fix their signature and thus didn’t have their vote count.

Additionally, some voting machines were allegedly left unattended at a polling location overnight and the state agencies were accused of making mistakes in transferring voter registrations to the county. Lastly, statutorily required inspectors weren’t present at “any” early voting site, according to the party.

“Let us be very clear: these errors in the administration of the election disenfranchised voters. The Republican Party in Indiana is constantly talking about election integrity, but stands by while dozens of voters in the suburbs of Indianapolis aren’t able to vote. In addition, Hendricks County voters consistently faced 3-plus hour wait times,” said Schmuhl.

He concluded by calling for the General Assembly to enshrine protections for early voting in the next session, which is due to start in January.

## Two-year tax task force releases property, income and business recommendations

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

A two-year task force on Wednesday released broad suggestions for property and income tax changes, but left the specifics to business tax recommendations.

Lawmakers created the State and Local Tax Review Task Force last year in hopes of ditching the state’s individual income tax. That’s now off the table.

“In 35 or 40 years, perhaps, but not in the foreseeable future,” quipped Sen. Travis Holdman, the group’s typically stern co-leader, in remarks to reporters.

Holdman heads the Senate’s tax-focused committee during legislative sessions and authored the legislation creating the task force.

He still hopes to knock the income tax rate lower. But he has repeatedly pushed observers to moderate their expectations.

“Since its inception ... my concerns were that the expectations for the results of our work would far exceed our product,” he told the task force Wednesday.

Democrats assailed the recommendations as not providing enough relief to Hoosier taxpayers, and for giving “handouts” to businesses.

The final report was approved in a 9-1 vote, with two absences. It was edited slightly from the draft.

### Focus on residential property taxes

The group’s draft recommendations began with a vague directive: “Enact more effective controls on property tax bills.”

Rep. Ed DeLaney, D-Indianapolis, said 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 even though it’s the only property type that doesn’t produce income for owners — unlike apartments, farms or others.

“We could deal with that,” he told task force co-leader Rep. Jeff Thompson, R-Lizton, who also heads the House’s powerful Ways and Means Committee.

“Yes, and I hope to,” Thompson replied.

“We’re not dealing with it in this proposal,” DeLaney countered.

“That’s correct,” came the answer.

The task force added more specific language to the first recommendation during the meeting. Sen. Fady Qaddoura, D-Indianapolis, suggested affixing “particularly for homesteads” to the end. It was approved by consent.

The final report also 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.

During the meeting, Thompson noted that local units can raise property tax

rates without taxpayers seeing a difference in their bills — but that the reverse is also true.

“If a local unit, (like) a local school, cuts the rate, the winner are the other units of government that it’s spread to,” he said.

“I have counties that have asked to have a way to get rid of property taxes at the county level. They can’t do it. They can’t do it,” Thompson continued. “Because all the money just goes to other units, the taxpayer doesn’t see a penny change. That’s the fundamental problem in my opinion.”

It’s up to individual lawmakers on what bills addressing these objectives might look like, Thompson said.

Asked if it wasn’t possible for the 12-man group to reach agreement on more specific proposals, Thompson said, “some of that’s in the weeds.”

“To get into a, you know, a 200-page report, to get into the weeds, (that’s) probably not wise,” he continued. “It’s just to give a general direction we want to go and leave it there and then let the bill-drafting process get us to the right spot.”

Benefits for businesses The report also urged an increase in the de minimis business personal property tax exemption. Right now, businesses with less than \$80,000 worth of property qualify for it.

Rep. Greg Porter, D-Indianapolis, attacked that possibility in a letter; he was absent Wednesday.

He noted that de minimis is a Latin phrase that typically means something is trivial, writing, “I do not think anyone would say that the current exemption of \$80,000 is a negligible amount.”

Finally, the task force recommended reducing the 30% floor for all business personal property, positing that this would “spur” economic development.

“Republicans will give big businesses even more handouts,” Porter said in a written statement. Although the task force’s report didn’t include parameters for its suggested changes, Porter said local units would take a \$300 million hit.

DeLaney echoed that accusation in his own statement.

“We’ve gouged the homeowners,” he said. “This report prefers business interests over our homeowners who continue to lose. Ordinary Hoosiers are paying for complex maneuvers that allow businesses to pay less.”

He added that the property tax caps enshrined in Indiana’s Constitution may be worsening the increasing burden on homeowners, describing them as “failed.”

Holdman said the system could use “tweaks” but didn’t agree it has failed.

Farmland could also see changes.

The report also urged “refine(ment)” of the base rate formula used to value agricultural land but didn’t suggest how.

Right now, the base rate is a rolling average with

six years of capitalized net cash rent and net operating income. The Department of Local Government Finance drops the highest value of the six and averages the remaining five years.

### Stricter limits on local units

The task force recommended that lawmakers phase in reductions to the overall local income tax (LIT) rate cap to match the state’s income tax rate. Larger municipalities could be permitted to adopt their own LIT rates under the cap.

Right now, counties have three categories of LIT to use, according to the Department of Revenue’s (DOR) most recent bulletin: an expenditure rate of up to 2.5% (2.75% for Marion County), a property tax relief rate of 1.25% and some county-specific special-purpose rates.

The state’s income tax is 3.05% for 2024, according to DOR. It’s scheduled to keep ticking down and hit 2.9% in 2027.

Holdman said Indiana’s local units have \$4.8 billion in untapped LIT capacity.

“Local income tax is the backfill,” he told reporters. “... If we do provide relief on the property tax side, if it’s not shifted to other taxpayers, the only other option is to go to local income tax.”

The report also recommended using geographic information systems to improve collection and distribution of LIT revenue. Thompson said the technology is “coming along.”

### Task force’s trajectory

Indiana lawmakers entered the last legislative session hoping to ditch the income tax, which supplies about a third of the state’s revenue; they aimed to pay off the state’s biggest unfunded liability — a public teacher pension fund — and use freed-up dollars to plug the hole.

Holdman, in an early 2023 missive, described authoring the task force to “plan for the future and explore our options.”

Indiana’s budget chiefs offered a measured sense of optimism on the state’s finances at the group’s first meeting that August, but former lawmakers and outside experts seemed skeptical Indiana could or should get rid of the income tax the next month, in September.

Filling the income tax revenue gap with a higher sales tax would cost poor Hoosiers more, a liberal-leaning think tank told the group in October. Also at that meeting, conservative think tanks recommended that lawmakers keep to a recently approved schedule of gradual cuts and go further with “caution” — telling the group that totally replacing \$8 billion is “definitely not possible,” at least in the short term.

In November, another conservative think tank described how other states had gotten “on the path to zero” income tax, according to presentation notes, and gave the task force 10 “traps to avoid” in tax reform, like offsetting cuts with new

impositions. The group also heard from a property tax expert.

But by December, Indiana’s Family and Social Services Agency delivered news of a major financial blow: a nearly \$1 billion projected Medicaid shortfall. The state pulled from its reserves to cover the error.

In its next meetings, the task force continued shifting its focus to property tax reform for schools and farmers, and examined taxes on sales and businesses.

Now, as the group’s activities draw to a close, the state faces sobering tax revenue news: collections have lagged projections from late last year by \$243 million.

### Looking toward session

Legislative leaders attempted to temper expectations on Monday, describing the upcoming budget-building session as a “challenge” featuring less money than in previous years to solve intractable issues.

Still, Republican House Speaker Todd Huston highlighted “significant” property tax relief as a goal during session’s ceremonial start on Tuesday, while GOP Senate President Pro Tempore Rodric Bray said he expected “more than tweaks.”

Indiana will build its budget — and its tax changes — under Gov.-elect Mike Braun. Holdman said he’s had numerous conversations with Braun’s team.

Braun has pushed to return property taxes to 2021 levels, but Holdman warned reporters that there’s no messing around with assessed value, citing a court order.

Braun also proposed capping bills to 3% increases annually, which Holdman said could be “possible,” especially elderly or low-income Hoosiers.

## Financial Focus

### PSA: Consider tax-smart charitable gifts

In this holiday season and beyond, you might be thinking of making charitable gifts. But can you still get some tax benefits with the standard deduction being so high that you may not be able to itemize?

Here are a few suggestions for tax-smart giving: First, if you combine a few years’ worth of charitable gifts in a single year, you could surpass the standard deduction amount and then itemize deductions for that year.

And if you’re 70 ½ or older, you can transfer up to \$105,000 from your traditional IRA to a qualified charitable organization, keeping this money out of your taxable income. This could prove valuable once you are required to take withdrawals from your IRA when you turn 73, or 75 if you were born in 1960 or later.

Another possibility is to establish a donor-advised fund, which you can direct to make periodic grants to selected charities. You get an immediate tax deduction for your contribution, and if you donate appreciated assets, you’ll avoid capital gains taxes.

Consult with your tax advisor before taking action on these strategies. If they’re appropriate for your situation, you and your favorite charities could benefit.

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## Farewell to a helpful colleague and mentor

When I first started at The News-Banner a year ago, reporter Sydney Kent was a beacon of light, coming in with a smile or joke to lighten the mood despite what problems she may have with her own beat. As she departs from our team to pursue avenues closer to her home, I wanted to share a few words about working alongside her.



Jonathan Snyder

Sydney was a “fire starter” for me. She’s the kind of person who challenges others to be better versions of themselves through her own example. Sydney’s always willing to lend a hand and ready to stand up for what’s just. We didn’t have much overlap in our areas of reporting, but she helped me get through those initial “teething troubles,” so to speak.

Moreover, in her area of “cops and courts,” she has walked into some of the worst situations in the county and kept a level head. Sydney also wrote about non-profits and other fundraising ventures for the disadvantaged, painting an accurate picture of any situation while also remaining hopeful for the future.

In covering a Board of Public Works and Safety meeting earlier this year, I wrote 75-100 words about a fundraiser for a little girl with cancer. My heart bled the whole time. Sydney handled similar situations all the time, and always found a way to keep smiling.

Most recently, with the week-long murder trial in Huntington County, she went in and covered every single day in great detail. It is not an easy feat to go through all those courtroom hours with nothing but a pen and paper to write notes. Sydney never faltered, even with the long hours of that trial combined with the tight time frame in writing 1,000-word stories or longer.

In addition to her jovial personality, Sydney was also incredibly skilled as a writer. She has won multiple writing and photojournalism awards throughout her career. Her ideas and story writing methods have worked their way into some of my articles as well.

Sydney’s been an incredible mentor, alongside the rest of the N-B staff who’ve been invaluable as I’ve learned the ropes of reporting. I’m deeply thankful for her encouragement and guidance and wish her the best in this next chapter.

jonathan@news-banner.com

## Who’s Who

A continuing series on how to contact government officials

### BLUFFTON CITY ELECTED OFFICIALS

**Mayor:** John Whicker (R), City Hall, 128 E. Market St., 824-1520. Home address: 510 Channing Way; phone 820-2399; john.whicker@blufftonindiana.gov

**Clerk-Treasurer:** Bri Lautzenheiser (R), City Hall, 128 E. Market St.; 824-0612. bri@blufftonindiana.gov

**Council:** Chandler Gerber (R), 1st District. Home address: 411 Stillwater Dr., 273-8792; chandler.gerber@blufftonindiana.gov

Josh Hunt (R), 2nd District. Home address: 734 N. Main St., 417-1024; josh.hunt@blufftonindiana.gov

Janelle Stronczek (R), 3rd District. Home address: 802 S. Main St., 273-1539; janelle.stronczek@blufftonindiana.gov

Scott Mentzer (R), 4th District and council president. Home address: 628 E. South St., 615-1566; scott.mentzer@blufftonindiana.gov

Susan Reed (R), 5th District. Home address: 1703 Western Ave., 830-1609; sarah.reed@blufftonindiana.gov

Blake Fiechter (R), At-large, 333 Crestwood Ct., 827-8755; blake.fiechter@blufftonindiana.gov

Rick Elwell (R), At-large. Home address: 704 W. Dustman Rd., 827-8216; rick.elwell@blufftonindiana.gov

**City Court Judge:** Robert Bate (R), Police-Fire Building, 200 E. Market St., 824-3392; court@blufftonindiana.gov

## Today in History

### By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Nov. 25, the 330th day of 2024. There are 36 days left in the year.

Today in history: On Nov. 25, 1963, the body of President John F. Kennedy was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery after a funeral procession through Washington; an estimated 1 million people lined the procession route.

### Also on this date:

In 1783, following the conclusion of the Revolutionary War, the last remaining British troops in the United States were evacuated from New York City.

In 1961, the USS Enterprise was commissioned; it was the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier and

remains the longest naval vessel ever built, at 1,123 feet (342 meters).

In 1986, the Iran-Contra affair erupted as President Ronald Reagan and Attorney General Edwin Meese revealed that profits from secret arms sales to Iran had been diverted to Nicaraguan rebels.

In 1999, Elian Gonzalez, a 5-year-old Cuban boy, was rescued by a pair of sport fishermen off the coast of Florida, setting off an international custody battle.

In 2001, as the war in Afghanistan entered its eighth week, CIA officer Johnny “Mike” Spann was killed during a prison uprising in Mazar-e-Sharif, becoming America’s first combat casualty of the conflict.

Submit your Letters to the Editor via:

- Our website link (Submit your Letter)
- E-Mail: email@news-banner.com
- Mail: PO Box 436, Bluffton IN 46714
- Drop-off: 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton

All letters must be signed and must include a phone number or address in case verification is desired. Letters are edited for brevity and clarity. Letters must be no more than 500 words. Please mark your correspondence as a “Letter to the Editor,” or if you wish to express an opinion to us but do not want it published, please mark as “Not for Publication.”

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## Intractable problems and great Hoosier leadership

BLOOMINGTON – Hoosiers have had many great leaders emerge from their midst or seen them move here to instill success. Abraham Lincoln is regarded as our greatest president, having saved the Union while forging emancipation. Johnny Wooden followed a path from Martinsville to Purdue, South Bend and Indiana State before winning 10 national titles at UCLA. Knute Rockne presided over a Notre Dame football team that, armed with potatoes and gumption, embarrassed the invading Ku Klux Klan while instilling the nickname “Fighting Irish.”

Indiana University football coach Curt Cignetti has become the latest example of good and potentially brilliant leadership. After the defending Big 10 and national champion Michigan Wolverines — the winningest program in NCAA history — scored with 5:30 left in the game earlier this month, drawing to within 17-15 against the undefeated Indiana Hoosiers — the losingest program in history — I turned to a friend: “This is going to be the most important five minutes in IU history.”

Many of the 50,000 Hoosiers fans had been down this treacherous road before, but fear not. A long kick return by a reserve player, a huge 20-yard pass for a first down and a field goal, followed by suffocating defense, preserved a 20-15 victory, setting up this weekend’s showdown with No. 2-ranked Ohio State.

Coach Cignetti is undaunted. When he was hired last December, he told fans, “I win. Google me.” After he described his “gutty” win over Michigan, he said of the awaiting Buckeyes: “We’re going into this next game confident, believing.”

Why is Coach Cig a good leader and potentially a great one?

He began by believing in himself, leaving national champion Alabama as an assistant to become head coach at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He has maintained a core of coaches who have followed him to Elon and then James Madison, where they’ve compiled a dozen winning seasons. When IU hired him, most of his coaches and 13 players moved with him to Bloomington.

He has been adept at finding talented players who fit his system. He is a great communicator. He has established a retinue of hard work, accountability and a focus on detail. He has what “Sports Illustrated” called an “uncanny knack to pass that belief on to others.”

While covering Indiana politics for more than 40 years, I’ve long been fascinated by the art of leadership. Several pillars have become evident. A good leader never forgets where he or she came from. Wooden would spend time with Martinsville Artesians players each summer almost until his death.

Great leaders get buy-in to seemingly intractable problems. President Dwight D. Eisenhower orchestrated the D-Day invasion and defeated Nazi Germany. But he faced the persistent problem of segregation in America. In 1957, he appointed Notre Dame President Theodore Hesburgh to head the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

Father Ted decided to move a commission meeting

from a military base in steamy Shreveport, Louisiana, to Notre Dame’s research site at Land O’Lakes, Wisconsin. He took the commissioners fishing. When the boat returned to the dock, Father Ted had his staff hand out 12 recommendations. These six commissioners, several from the southland, passed 11 of them unanimously and the 12th with a 5-1 vote.

In his book “Father Theodore Hesburgh: He Coached Me,” Notre Dame basketball coach Digger Phelps described how Hesburgh presented the 12 recommendations to President Eisenhower.



Brian Howe

Ike leaned over and asked, “Were they fishing?”

“Yes, Mr. President.”

“Do you think I can come up and go fishing sometime?” Ike asked.

Phelps added of Father Hesburgh: “He coached me. When I first met Father Hesburgh, he gave me my job description, which consisted of three rules: Graduate your players, don’t break any NCAA rules and be competitive. I was expected to have my players ready, mentally, spiritually and physically.”

In 2005, Gov. Mitch Daniels solved the Indianapolis Colts stadium dilemma after the mayor and General Assembly had essentially punted. He proposed a tax increase in seven counties surrounding Indy and brought the 21 Republican county commissioners to the Governor’s Residence. It was astounding in its audacity.

“We showed them a lot of data, how many people from their counties worked downtown, worked in hospitality, how many hotel rooms in their county filled up during conventions or even games,” Daniels told me in a 2022 interview. “And then we said, ‘Go to separate corners here and tell us whether you can help us with this.’”

“All but one county did,” Daniels explained, “without that process, that doesn’t happen” and the Colts and Peyton Manning would have fled to Los Angeles.

Hoosiers and Americans are now watching two incoming administrations build their governorship, their presidency. How they do so matters. Leadership matters. Deeply.

Do they have a vision? Are they resilient? Does character count? Do they possess integrity? Is there a mentality to tear down instead of build up? Do these leaders care about the people? Or are they in it for themselves? Are they empathetic? Self-aware? Do they listen? Do they have an open-door policy? Are they open to feedback? Do they take responsibility when things go awry? Do they have a Plan B or C? How do they respond to criticism? Are they organized? Do they instill clarity under pressure? Are they transparent? Do they have courage?

As for Cignetti’s Hoosiers venturing into the Buckeye valley of death on Saturday, Coach Wooden would have instilled this advice: “Make each day your masterpiece.”

Howey is a senior writer for Howey Politics Indiana and State Affairs. He is a 1978 graduate of IU-Bloomington with a degree in history. This was written prior to Saturday’s game. Find Howey on X @hwypol.

## To vet or not to vet



Cal Thomas

There is a reason the Founders wrote Article 2, section 2 and clause 2 into the U.S. Constitution. They gave power to the president to nominate people to high office, but that power was not absolute. It limited a president’s authority by giving the Senate the power to advise and consent to those nominations.

Conservatives have rightly criticized the Biden administration for not properly vetting migrants who have entered the country illegally, and in a few cases committed crimes, including murder and rape while here. If vetting is important when it comes to people crossing our border — and it is — it is equally important when it comes to those who would have power and authority over us in some of our most important cabinet positions.

The definition of “vetting” ought to be helpful to senators: “The act or process of appraising or checking a person or thing for suitability.” Just because someone may present themselves as having good ideas does not necessarily make them suitable for the job.

Suggestions that the Senate and House should adjourn for 10 days to allow president-elect Trump’s nominees to sail through without hearings is a bad idea that could come back to

haunt Trump, his administration and the public.

All the president’s nominees should be vetted, but four deserve more extensive examinations to determine their suitability for the offices they seek. They include Pete Hegseth for secretary of Defense (no experience and charges of sexual assault, which his attorney has denied); Robert F. Kennedy Jr., whose radical ideas about vaccinations and other

things need more probing; Tulsi Gabbard for director of National Intelligence. Her ties to a radical cult and her favorable comments about Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad and Russia must be explained; and Matt Gaetz for attorney general, whose legal experience is minimal at best. The House Ethics Committee should release its investigation of Gaetz and what it found concerning charges of sex with a minor and obstruction. Gaetz has denied the charges and the Justice Department declined to prosecute him. This should not be partisan. Senators need to hear from each of these nominees and under oath.

Yes, Washington is ripe for change and the bureaucracy needs to be shaken up, but it must be done the right way, for the right reasons and with the right people.

Incoming Senate Majority Leader

John Thune (R-SD) should resist pressure to rush through these nominations without hearings and a vote. Several Republican senators have already expressed misgivings about these four. They should be allowed to voice their concerns and to ask questions and vote according to how comfortable they are with their answers. The nominees ought to be able to explain why they are the best people Trump could choose to run these agencies and what they intend to do if confirmed. Call it a type of “why do you want to be president?” question.

If senators need wisdom in doing the jobs they are elected and expected to do, they might consider the Book of Proverbs, which contains many instructions concerning wisdom and foolishness. Here are two of my favorites: “Get all the advice you can, and you will succeed; without it you will fail.” (Proverbs 15:22). And then there is this one which should apply not only to senators, but also to nominees: “If you refuse good advice, you are asking for trouble; follow it and you are safe.” (Proverbs 13:13)

Holding hearings on Trump’s nominees does not mean they can’t be quickly confirmed. But a rush to judgment can lead to disaster: “Fools will believe anything, but the wise think about what they do.” (Proverbs 14:15)

tcaeditors@tribpub.com



# Events at the Creative Arts Council of Wells County

428 S. Oak Street in Bluffton  
260-824-5222  
www.wellscreativearts.com  
creativeartscouncil@gmail.com  
Facebook: www.facebook.com/wellscreativearts  
Instagram: @creativeartscouncil  
Creative Arts office hours — Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday (by appointment only).

**Creative Arts Dance Academy Excerpts from "The Nutcracker"**  
Creative Arts Youth Dance Company proudly present excerpts from "The Nutcracker"  
Admission: \$5 at the door  
Performances:  
Dec. 6 at 7:00 p.m.  
Dec. 7 at 3:00 p.m.

**Creative Arts Theater Creative Arts 24/25 Theater season has been announced:**  
"The BEST Christmas Pageant Ever" — Dec. 12-14  
"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" — March 6-8, 2025

Disney Newsies JR — June 13-14, 2025  
Disney Artistocats Kids — June 27-28, 2025  
Admission: \$15 per person sold through ArtsTix — (260) 422-4226  
Auditorium: 428 S Oak Street in Bluffton

**New Adult Acting class this January/February 2025**  
Acting 101/102  
Mondays, 6-9 p.m. a 6-week session: Jan. 6 through Feb. 10 at the Creative Arts Council of Wells County, 428 S Oak St in Bluffton Enter Door 10  
Age 16+  
Cost: \$100 per student  
Instructor: Meagan VandeLaar  
Whether you are completely new to the acting world, have done some plays but want to dive deeper and grow your craft, or you are an experienced actor that could use a refresher course, Acting 101/102 will give you the basic (and not so basic) tools you need to take the next step in your acting journey in an engaging and empowering atmosphere. Participants will be introduced to several acting and movement techniques, learn the basics of scene study and characterization, and learn to follow their impulses and work collaboratively with their scene partners.

Registration: <https://form.jotform.com/243045826666160>  
**"The BEST Christmas Pageant Ever" presented by Creative Arts Theater**  
In this hilarious Christmas classic, a couple struggling to put on a church Christmas pageant is faced



with casting the Herdman kids—probably the most inventively awful kids in history. You won't believe the mayhem-and the fun-when the Herdmans collide head-on with the story of Christmas! A great show for all ages! Run time — 1 hour 15 minutes  
Performances (4):  
Thursday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m.  
Friday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m.  
Saturday, Dec. 14 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.  
Tickets (\$15) on sale through ArtsTix at <https://tickets.artstix.org/TheatreManager/1/tmEvent/tmEvent4203.html> or by calling (260) 422-4226, Monday through Friday; 12-6 p.m. or Saturday; 12-4 p.m.  
Auditorium, 428 S Oak St in Bluffton

**"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" presented by Creative Arts Theater**  
One of the most enduring shows of all time, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat is a reimagining of the Biblical story of Joseph, his father Jacob, eleven brothers and the coat of many colors. Told entirely through song with the help of a main character Narrator, the musical follows preferred son Joseph. After being sold into slavery by his brothers, he ingratiates himself with Egyptian noble Potiphar, but ends up in jail after refusing the amorous advances of Potiphar's wife. While imprisoned, Joseph discovers his ability to interpret dreams, and he soon finds himself in front of the mighty but troubled, Elvis-inspired, Pharaoh. Joseph's solution to Egypt's famine elevates him to Pharaoh's right-hand man and reunites him with his family. Run Time: 2 hours and 15 minutes  
Appropriate for all audiences.  
Performances: March 6-8, 2025  
Tickets \$15 go on sale through Artstix on Dec. 18  
Auditorium, 428 S Oak St in Bluffton  
**Creative Arts School of Music**  
• Voice Lessons with Lynne Niermeyer, Tuesday afternoon/

evenings, \$30/half hour lesson  
• Guitar Lessons with Mike Needler, Tuesday afternoon/evenings, \$35/half hour lessons  
For more information regarding the music lessons above, please call the office at (260) 824-5222 for lesson times/availability.  
**Ongoing Activities**  
**Creative Crew:** Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: All forms of creativity welcome: painting, drawing, needlework and more... spend the morning working on your craft and socialize with other artists. Enter Door 1 or Door 10 at Life Community Church, the creative crew meets in the cafe  
**Readers' Brown Bag Luncheon:** Meeting the last Tuesday of the month at noon at Life Community Church, enter door 10. All readers are welcome. Feel free to call the office for more information.  
\*\*\*Important Scheduling Note: Changes can occur after the Creative Happenings column has been published. Please confirm dates and times before planning to participate in programs and activities\*\*\*  
Creative Arts Council activities are supported by memberships, sponsors and grants from funders including Arts United, a regional agency; the Indiana Arts Commission, a state agency; and the National Endowment for the Arts, a national agency.



**Five generations of Yerglers**  
Claire Yergler's family recently celebrated a major milestone by welcoming a 5th generation family member. Seated is Claire Yergler holding his great-great granddaughter Clara Jane Isch. Standing, from left are daughter Renee Reinhard, granddaughter Katie Isch and great-grandson Calvin Isch. (Photo submitted)

## Holiday window displays in downtown Fort Wayne

Another way to check out holiday lights and displays would be to drive around downtown Fort Wayne and check out window displays along Harrison Street and at the corner of Jefferson St. at the Embassy. These displays will be on view from Nov. 27 to Dec. 31.  
Some of the windows feature window items from original Wold & Dessauer displays.  
The lighting locations include: Santa on the side of PNC Bank, History Center, Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Community Center, Ash Brokerage, Indiana Michigan Power Center, Trinity English Lutheran Church, Botanical Conservatory and the windows at the Embassy Theatre.  
The walk through "Holiday Lights" event will be open at Parkview Field through Jan. 4th. Admission is \$10 (through November) and \$12 (December & January).  
The box office opens at 5:30 p.m. and walk through begin at 6 p.m. Some parking in the area is free.

## Community Harvest Farm Wagon

The Community Harvest Farm Wagon visits Life Community Church every Tuesday at 9 a.m. to give FREE fresh food to needy families. The church address is 428 S. Oak St. in Bluffton. Enter the parking lot at the south entrance off of Oak Street and park facing North.

**Shop Local this Christmas**

November 30th  
Shop Small Business Saturday

December 5th  
Ossian Hometown Christmas

December 7th  
Christmas in Our Town (Markle)

December 14th  
Parlor City Christmas (Bluffton)

[www.visitwellscounty.com](http://www.visitwellscounty.com)

## First Reformed Church hosts free Thanksgiving Meal

Members of the First Reformed Church of Bluffton will hold their 19th Annual Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 28.  
The free turkey dinner is open to church members and the community.  
The meal will be available at the church, 301 West Cherry Street in Bluffton.  
A drive through will be available from 11 a.m. to noon only, dine in will be from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. by reservations only. Delivery available to those who need it.  
Please contact the church office at 824-3161 by Wednesday, Nov. 27, for reservations.

## Zanesville News

I cannot believe that Christmas is only about a month away and I have so much to do before that.  
In Zanesville the Tower Life Center Church is getting things ready for the opening of their Living Lights Show that will be held Nov. 27 through Jan. 1. The lights and narrative with great music will begin at 6 p.m. and end at 10 p.m. Their Cocoa Corner will be open for a free sip from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. each Friday and Saturday evening. Arrive anytime as the program is available from you car and if you miss the beginning just stay and you will be able to watch it in a few minutes.  
As a special the Tower Life Center will be the site for a Community Christmas Celebration on Friday, Dec. 6, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The party is free with food and hot cocoa, a Christmas Cinema, coloring station, Christmas face art station, and of course you can view the Living Lights Show that is known to be the best around. There will also be a couple of bounce houses, an ornament decorating spot, and a build your own cookie and more.

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Join us in a fun and safe yet recreational environment to hone your basketball skills and then compete against your friends. League games are on Saturdays and practices starting January 6 thru Feb 21. Registration opens November 1 and runs through December 19th.  
Late registration will be open 2-3 days later with limited spots open.

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Bluffton, Indiana



# Balanced attack leads Raiders past Cavs for 6th straight win

**By ANDREW FEEBACK**  
**FORT WAYNE** — Ten different players scored for the Southern Wells Raiders girls' basketball team in Saturday's 69-26 win over the host Fort Wayne Canterbury Cavaliers.

The Raiders (6-1) picked up their sixth win in a row even though they didn't shoot particularly well, going 28-73 overall.

"Always good to get a win — you can't ever be dissatisfied with that," coach Kyle Penrod said. "We missed a few easy ones early on, but we started putting them in as the game went on."

Ashlie Needler scored 17 points, while Kenzie Paxson had 11. Kaylea Coffel and Erika Beavans both added eight.

Southern Wells never trailed but struggled to make shots and take care of the ball

early. The Raiders had seven turnovers in the opening quarter but finished the game with only 13.

Canterbury (0-7) had trouble even getting into its half-court sets most of the time, and the Cavaliers finished the game with half as many shot attempts as the Raiders.

The Raiders were up 39-11 at halftime thanks to a 15-0 surge in the final minutes.

It wasn't the Raiders' best day shooting from long range, as they were just 1-22 beyond the arc and didn't make one until their final attempt late in the game.

The inside play of Needler proved to be a decisive edge, as the Raiders repeatedly went to her underneath and finished with a 40-27 advantage on the boards.

No Cavaliers reached double figures and

were led by Grace Chaille's eight points. Canterbury finished with 34 turnovers — 24 of them coming before halftime.

The Raiders were a bit slow out of the gate but seemed to settle in as the game progressed.

"Just got to focus at the beginning of games, and not blow easy ones when you get them," Penrod said. "As the game went on, we did a good job of that."

No junior varsity game was played.

Southern Wells will return to action with its seventh road trip in eight games when the Raiders head to Adams Central on Saturday night.

*sports@news-banner.com*

**SOUTHERN WELLS (6-1):** Erika Beavans 2-8 4-4 8, Kaylea Coffel 4-10 0-0 8, Cadence Watkins 1-2 0-0 2, Kaylee Davis 2-10 0-0 4, Aubree Meyer 1-2 0-0 2, Colleen Reeves 2-9 2-4 6, Gracie Reeves 0-0 0-0 0, Kenzie Paxson 4-8 3-4 11, Remi Holmes 2-6 0-0 5, Callie Ripperger 2-3 2-3 6, Kyah Thomas 0-4 0-0 0, Ashlie Needler 8-11 1-4 17. **TOTALS:** 28-73 12-19 69.

**CANTERBURY (0-7):** Manhattan Morrisey 2-4 0-0 4, Grace Chaille 3-12 2-4 8, Johanna Kostopoulou 0-0 0-0 0, Sydney Coley 1-5 0-4 3, Victoria Kim 0-0 0-0 0, Jazmyne Justice 1-3 0-0 3, Maryn Minnick 0-0 0-0 0, Malika Ahmad 2-6 0-0 5, Simone Dikeolokos 0-1 1-2 1, Alexa Coble 0-1 0-0 0, Jocelyn Roth 1-4 0-0 2, Kate Laurie 0-0 0-0 0. **TOTALS:** 10-36 3-10 26.

**Southern Wells 15 24 17 13 — 69**  
**Canterbury 5 6 8 7 — 26**

Three-Point Goals: Southern Wells 1-22 (Holmes 1-3, Beavans 0-4, Davis 0-5, Coffel 0-2, Thomas 0-3, Reeves 0-3, Ripperger 0-1, Meyer 0-1), Fort Wayne Canterbury 3-10 (Ahmad 1-3, Justice 1-3, Coley 1-4). Rebounds: Southern Wells 40 (Paxson 9, Needler 7, Coffel 4, Reeves 4, Beavans 3, Watkins 3, Davis 3, Ripperger 3, Holmes 2, Meyer 1, Thomas 1), Fort Wayne Canterbury 27 (Roth 7, Justice 5, Ahmad 5, Coley 3, Morrisey 3, Dikeolokos 2, Chaille 1, Coble 1). Turnovers: Southern Wells 12, Fort Wayne Canterbury 33. Fouls: Southern Wells 10, Canterbury 13. Fouled out: None. Technicals: None.

**SOUTHERN WELLS 69, CANTERBURY 26**  
**At Canterbury**

# Knights' patience pays off, tops previously unbeaten Golden Eagles by 20 points

**By RYAN WALKER**  
**NORWELL** — It wasn't a pretty one by Norwell's standards, but the Knights still came away with a 20-point victory over Oak Hill.

On paper, it's a 20-point win over a previously unbeaten Oak Hill (4-1) squad. But what head coach Eric Thornton sees in his Knights (4-3) is likely due to a 26% shooting night, 26% from three and 17 turnovers.

"It was just a little bit clunky tonight," Norwell head coach Thornton said.

The Golden Eagles' zone defense stifled the Knights, who rushed shots and took many of them in the first half and weren't hitting. Norwell attempted 60 shots to Oak Hill's 38 in the contest. That held the score close and never gave Norwell the big lead it desired over a less inferior Oak Hill team until late in the fourth quarter.

Part of the reason could have been that guard Addison Norris was injured in the last game against Homestead on Wednesday. It was a tough blow for the team as she was coming off of a strong 10-point performance and has started to find her role. She is expected to return by the end of next week.

Ashley Waldman was the only Knight to hit a three in the first quarter but altogether, Norwell struggled with what makes them lethal on offense.

The low-scoring affair continued into the second quarter when just five baskets were made between the teams. The separator from Norwell's 11 points and Oak Hill's six points were Vanessa Rosswurm's two threes on the night (she finished 2-9 overall from deep) and Waldman's triple. The Eagles got two buckets from Brianna Dailey and some free throws.

"Oak Hill was a strong competitor tonight — (it was a) very physical game, especially on the ball," Thornton said. "And you just got to play through that stuff and get what you want. So that gives us something to continue to work on."

The third quarter was still a little stagnant for the Knights. Again, they hit just three shots — a three from Macie Saalfrank, a two from Rosswurm and a converted three-point play from Haley Williamson.

The score differential was still at double-digits at the end of the third, but still something missing from the offense. But then, the Knights started to play with more patience and the Eagles' defense grew tired by their style of play.

Saalfrank got the Knights' scoring started with back-to-back threes. Waldman's third of the game came shortly after, followed by another from Saalfrank. The four triples came within 2:30 of each other and were relatively wide open.

Oak Hill didn't have an answer, and the Knights were able to come away with a better final quarter it hoped for.

"I think we missed Addie tonight at times," Thornton said. "But again, what a great opportunity for some of our other kids. And we were able to utilize that depth, and I thought our bench did a great job."

Saalfrank's team-high 18 points is the second night during the week in double figures, scoring 13 against Homestead. Waldman has also taken the next step in her game, hitting 8-14 from downtown in her past two games. Those two, along with Norris against Homestead, have started to bud in their first varsity seasons after leading the



Norwell's Vanessa Rosswurm (middle) tries to slice through Oak Hill defenders Erika Newhouse (left) and Lydia Trexler during the girls' basketball game at The Castle. The Knights defeated the former unbeaten Golden Eagles 54-34 Saturday night. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

junior varsity squad for the past two seasons.

"Being comfortable with who they are out there on the floor is exactly what we need from them," Thornton said. "I think their growth is a lot from their confidence."

Norwell won the junior varsity contest 47-17. Mia Kurtz led the Knights with 14 points, Daisy Swineford 10 and Eden Nash 8.

Norwell will host Concordia at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26.

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man 2-14 2-4 7, Brianna Dailey 3-4 1-2 7, Lydia Trexler 2-3 0-1 4, Erika Newhouse 1-3 1-2 3, Morgan Cates 1-3 0-0 2, Alexa Myers 0-3 0-0 0, Lilly Edwards 0-0 0-0 0. **TOTALS:** 13-38 4-9 34.

**NORWELL (4-3):** Macie Saalfrank 6-18 2-4 18, Vanessa Rosswurm 4-23 6-7 16, Ashley Waldman 3-8 0-0 9, Haley Williamson 1-2 1-1 3, Mia Kurtz 1-1 0-0 2, Larkin Smith 0-1 2-2 2, Isabella Swineford 1-1 0-0 2, Jada Dale 0-3 2-2 2, Ryland Graft 0-2 0-0 0, Alivia Green 0-0 0-0 0, Mekynzi Beck 0-0 0-0 0. **TOTALS:** 16-60 13-18 54.

**Oak Hill 8 6 11 9 — 34**  
**Norwell 13 11 13 17 — 54**

Three-Point Shooting: Oak Hill 4-12 (Godfrey 3-6, Hardman 1-4, Newhouse 0-1, Myers 0-1), Norwell 9-34 (Saalfrank 4-11, Waldman 3-7, Rosswurm 2-9, Graft 0-2, Smith 0-1, Williamson 0-1, Dale 0-2). Rebounds: Oak Hill 22 (Cates 6, Trexler 4, Hardman 3, Newhouse 2, Myers 2, Godfrey 1, Dailey 1), Norwell 43 (Rosswurm 9, Green 5, Smith 4, Saalfrank 3, Waldman 3, Dale 2, Kurtz 1, Swineford 1). Turnovers: Oak Hill 23, Norwell 17. Fouls: Oak Hill 20, Norwell 11. Fouled out: Oak Hill Newhouse. Technicals: None.

# Tigers finish 4-1 at Bluffton Super Duals to begin season



Bluffton's Connor Landis (top) wrestles Wes Del's Owen Lamb to a 9-3 decision win in the 285-pound match during the Bluffton Super Duals in Bluffton on Saturday. The Tigers went on to be Wes Del 53-24 to finish 4-1 at the meet. (Photo by Chad Kline)

Bluffton finished its season opener at its own Bluffton Super Duals 4-1 to tie with Central Noble on Saturday.

The six-team round-robin featured Bluffton (4-1), Central Noble (4-1), Fremont (1-2), Leo (1-1), Heritage (0-3) and Wes-Del (0-3). There is no official winner of the duals, but the Tigers defeated all schools except for Central Noble.

Below are the scores. Full individual matches will be published in Tuesday's News-Banner.

Bluffton 54-27 win over Leo; Bluffton 57-24 win over Fremont; Bluffton 53-24 win over Wes-Del; Bluffton 60-21 win over Heritage; Central Noble win 45-35 over Bluffton.

Bluffton will be at Eastside at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3.

# Tigers continue hot start to season with win over Indians

**By RICK SPRUNGER**  
**BLUFFTON** — Bluffton Tigers continued their hot start Saturday night, racking up their fifth win in six games with an easy 77-43 walk in the park over North Miami on the home hardwood.

The Tigers burst out to a 17-2 lead late in the first quarter and got good scoring balance with five players either in or near double figures.

Maryn Schreiber paced the home team with 19 points on perfect shooting from everywhere (7-for-7 from the field, 5-for-5 from the line), while Isabella Stout and Konley Ault each added 16.

Madyson Sonnigsen and Tressa Renner just missed double digits with each of them scoring nine points in the blowout win.

"I thought it was interesting to see how we would come out," said a very pleased Bluffton coach Doug Curtis after it was over. "We had focused so much on the big Huntington North game last night (a 66-45 win), and we wanted to see how they would respond to playing on a Friday-Saturday."

It didn't take him long to find out.

Bluffton raced to an early 8-0 advantage and forced four North Miami turnovers before the Warriors were finally able to get on the board. By the time they scored again, they had three more turnovers and were in a 17-2 hole.

"We try to be relentless on defense," said

Curtis of his charges. "At this point, we are pretty even production-wise from whoever we put out there, so they're willing to gamble a little bit more and be more aggressive when they're in there. We have depth, height, and scoring options. Tonight, (North Miami) was better on defense inside than we thought they would be. But we had some girls come off the bench and do a good job of creating space and getting on the three-point line. Madyson knocked down a couple of threes, Tressa came in and did a really nice job, Konley took over the game, and Bella did her usual."

North Miami didn't go down without a fight, however.

Riding three second-quarter three-pointers by Laney Musall, the Warriors twice fought their way back to within four points, the latter time at 23-19 midway through the period.

But Khloe Dick canned a 17-footer from the right baseline, Schreiber knocked down a jumper from the free throw line, Renner took a pretty pass from Stout for an easy bunny and Stout herself nailed a three from the left wing to make it 32-19 and rescue the Tigers from danger.

North Miami was never closer than nine points after that.

"We let No. 10 (Musall) get loose a little bit in the second quarter, and we talked about her at halftime," said Curtis of his defensive adjustments at the break.

Sure enough, she didn't score at all in the second half until managing a consolation basket midway through the fourth quarter with the score 72-40.

Musall finished with a team-high 15 points, and Grace Sailors added 10 with eight of them coming on free throws.

Bluffton connected on 29-60 shots for the game for a solid 48% shooting percentage while outrebounding the Warriors, 38-26, and committing just 12 turnovers.

North Miami was 12-40 from the field for a 30% accuracy rate.

But not only did the Warriors shoot poorly from the field, they also took 20 fewer shots than the Tigers — thanks to 25 turnovers against suffocating defensive pressure and that crippling Bluffton edge on the boards.

Bluffton also won the junior varsity contest by a score of 49-41.

Kamryn Ault finished with 17 points and Grace Fry 10 to lead the Tigers.

Bridget Steffen added six points, Krista

Blair five, Isla Gibson four, Madelyn Funk three, and Piper Morgan and Cora Kunkel two apiece.

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**BLUFFTON 77, NORTH MIAMI 43**  
**At Bluffton**

**NORTH MIAMI (2-3):** Victoria Masters 1-5 0-0 3, Jordyn Hackworth 2-3 1-2 5, Grace Sailors 1-8 8-12 10, Laney Musall 6-13 0-0 15, Kayden Donaldson 1-2 0-0 2, Layla Hampton 0-2 4-4 4, Jlynn Ptery 1-2 2-2 4, Porscha Pickett 0-2 0-0 0, Laina King 0-1 0-0 0, Audi Medina 0-2 0-0 0. **TOTAL:** 12-40 15-20 43.

**BLUFFTON (5-1):** Isabella Stout 5-10 5-6 16, Konley Ault 7-15 2-4 16, Marly Drayer 1-2 1-2 3, Maryn Schreiber 6-6 5-5 17, Sophie Eisenhut 1-2 0-0 2, Khloe Dick 2-6 0-0 5, Madyson Sonnigsen 3-7 0-0 9, Tressa Renner 4-7 1-4 9, Kamryn Ault 0-3 0-0 0, Madelyn Funk 0-0 0-0 0, Isla Gibson 0-2 0-0 0, Grace Fry 0-0 0-0 0. **TOTAL:** 29-60 14-23 77.

**North Miami 4 19 12 8 — 43**  
**Bluffton 17 18 26 16 — 77**

Three-point shooting: North Miami 4-14 (Masters 1-4, Musall 3-7, Pickett 0-1, Medina 0-2), Bluffton 5-17 (Stout 1-2, Kon. Ault 0-1, Dick 1-3, Sonnigsen 3-7, Renner 0-1, Kam. Ault 0-3). Rebounds: North Miami 26 (Musall 6, Masters 5), Bluffton 38 (Kon. Ault 8, Stout). Turnovers: North Miami 25, Bluffton 12. Personal fouls: North Miami 16, Bluffton 22. Fouled Out: None. Technical fouls: None. Junior Varsity: Bluffton 49, North Miami 41.

## High School Calendar

**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 Norwell, 7:30 p.m.; New Haven at Bluffton, 7:30 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, NOV 27**  
 BOYS BASKETBALL: Norwell at Carroll, 7:30 p.m.

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A sister's betrayal and a brother's blame

Dear Annie by Annie Lane



Dear Annie: My brother regularly calls to blame me for my strained relationship with our sister...

together for over a year, and he's brought so much joy into my life. The only challenge is that he's severely allergic to cats...

My sister is a school counselor, and she seems to know exactly what she's doing. What my brother doesn't know are the betrayals I've endured from her...

We've talked about the future, and while I want to build a life with him, I'm torn about how to manage this. Rehoming my cats feels unthinkable...

Dear Love and Fur This is a tricky predicament you're in, but it's not an impossible one. The first step could be to find an allergist. Modern treatments like allergy shots...

Despite all this, she has perfected the role of the innocent victim, and my brother is completely taken in by it. They're very close, which makes it easy for him to see me as the one causing the rift.

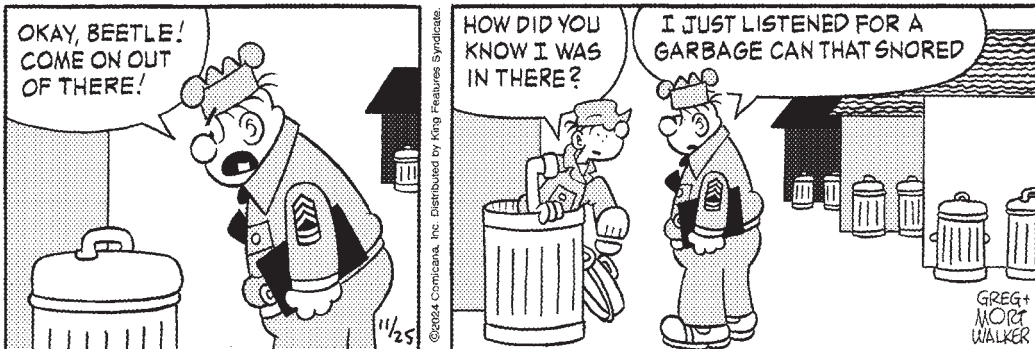
We're all senior citizens now, and his constant blaming has become a real source of stress for me. How should I handle this? — Left Out Sister by Choice

Dear Left-Out Sister: It might be time to have an honest conversation with your brother in which you set clear boundaries. Let him know that you won't tolerate him speaking to you that way...

If your relationship progresses to the point of living together, creating cat-free zones, particularly in the bedroom, can help protect his health. Ultimately, this is about compromise and open communication.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. © 2024 CREATORS.COM

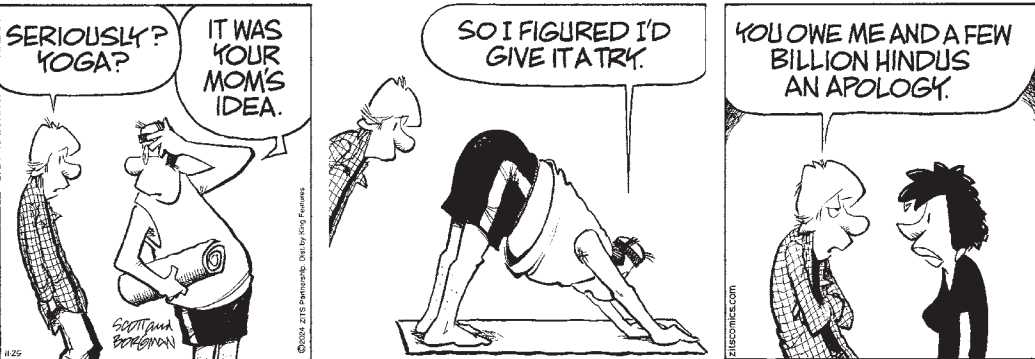
BEETLE BAILEY



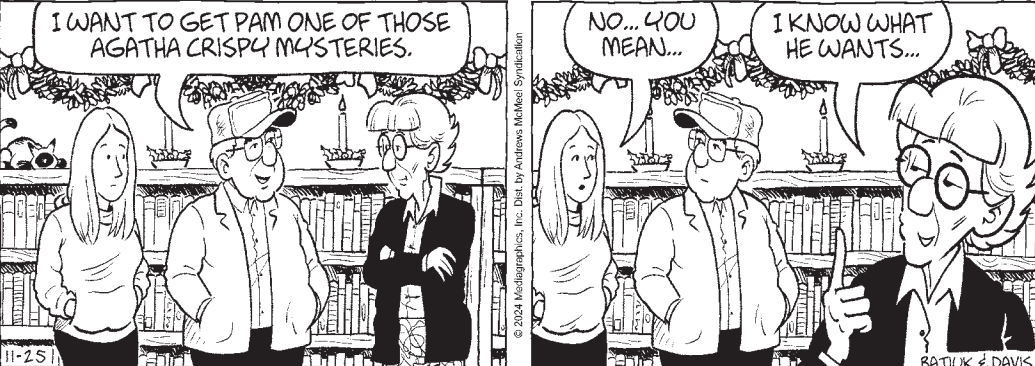
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS

My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



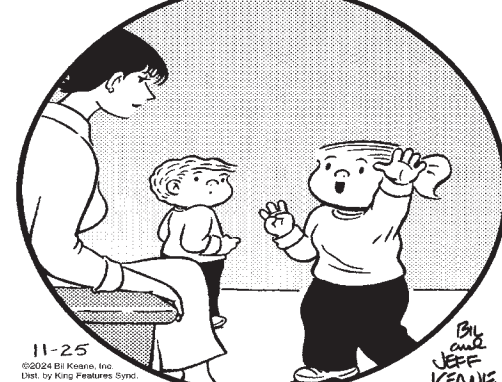
Greed never satisfies

(Isaiah 56:11, NIV). Another test is that the greedy person has little or no regard for the needs of others...

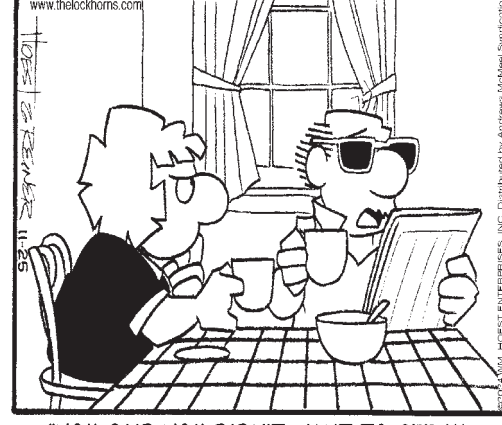
you and say, 'Who is the Lord?' (Proverbs 30:8-9, NLT). It is not wrong to want to work and earn a decent living; in fact, God has given work to us...

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

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"Jeffy's only three fingers old, but I'm five! So I'm a whole handful."



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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Saturday's answer 11-25.

Table with columns for channel, time, and program name (e.g., WINM, CBS WANE, Antenna WANE-2).

Table with columns for channel, time, and program name (e.g., HBO, MAX, PARSHO, TMC).



# The Classifieds

## SUDOKU

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

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	3		5	7				9
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			9		8		2	
4		3	7				9	
6			2	9				4
9	2		8		4		7	6
		1		5	7	9		2
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Difficulty: ★

11/25

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Husqvarna garden tractor, 2 table saws, hand tools, power tools, building supplies, TV, modern furniture, much more! Preview Dec. 4, 5-6 p.m., Dec. 7, 9-10 a.m., 5388 SW. State Road 116-1, Bluffton, IN. Pick up Dec. 17, 12-6 p.m. Full list at Towncountryauctions.com, click Fliers. **Town and Country Auctioneers/Realtors**, 260-223-7352, **Shaw Real Estate & Auction, Inc.**, 260-824-2116.

**DECEMBER 17 - 9 a.m.-6 p.m. - (Online Only) - Thomas B. & Mary Lou Woodward, seller.** One of a kind picturesque real estate offering. Outstanding 4,014 SF

on 8.45 acres, 4 bedroom, 3 bath home w/2 car detached garage. Scenic backyard w/ multiple utility sheds and gazebo, Wells County. Open houses Dec. 1, 8 from 2-5 p.m., Dec. 12 from 3-6 p.m., 301 N. Highland Ave., Ossian, IN. Pat Carter, sale manager, 260-273-8294, **The Steffen Group Inc.**, www.steffengrp.com, 260-426-0633.

**STATE OF INDIANA } WELLS COUNTY } IN THE WELLS CIRCUIT COURT CAUSE NO. 90C01-2411-EU-000044**

**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION TO CREDITORS**  
 ESTATE NO. 90C01-2411-EU-000042  
 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WELLS COUNTY

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

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

**DATED AT BLUFFTON, INDIANA, THIS 8th DAY OF November, 2024.**

Beth Davis  
 CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA  
 nb 11/18, 11/25 hspaxlp

**SUDOKU ANSWER**

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

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

**NOVEMBER 26 - 6 p.m. - (Live Auction) - The Estate of Jimmy L. Thompson, seller.** Auction location: 1245 4-H Park Rd., Bluffton, IN. 96.89+/- acres, Liberty Township, Section 18, southern Wells County farmland. Highly productive farmland with approximately 76+/- acres tillable land, road frontage along 500 W. and 200 S, approximately 15.5+/- acres in woods/classified forest. Nick Huffman, 260-827-8255, sale manager, **The Steffen Group Inc.**, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

**BIDDING ENDS 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. 29, 10 a.m.-noon, 1910 N Meridian St., Marion, IN. Brandon Steffen, sale manager, 260-710-5684, **The Steffen Group Inc.**, 260-426-0633, www.steffengrp.com.

**BIDDING 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. **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC**, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com.

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

**DECEMBER 4 - 3 p.m. - Online - Dusty Roach, Bankruptcy Trustee, sellers.** 6,142 sq. ft. modern commercial building. Key features: 5 rental units w/4 office suites, 1 currently leased, 600 sq. ft. heated garage w/16'x12' overhead

door, independently controlled heating and cooling for units, expansion potential w/additional land available for future. Open house Nov. 27, 2-3 p.m., 2379 N. Main St., Bluffton, IN. Kurt Ness, auction mgr., 260-417-1545, **Ness Bros. Realtors & Auctioneers**, www.NessBros.com, 260-459-3911.

**DECEMBER 5 & 6 - 9 a.m. - Secured creditors & various consignors, owners.** 815 Adams St., Decatur. Day 1: Online bidding only. Over 300+ lots including skid loader attachments, tool boxes, workbenches, iron gates, chains & binders, 1 trip 40' high side shipping container w/side doors, dome shelter containers, much more! Day 2 truck & equipment auction! Onsite and online bidding offering 600+ lots! Cars, SUV, 1/2 ton & 3/4 ton pickup trucks, cargo & passenger vans, dump trucks, large group of box trucks, day cabs, sleepers, utility trucks, bucket trucks, utility & semi trailers, SUV's pickup trucks, various skid steer attachments, much more! Accepting consignments! **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC**, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com.

**DECEMBER 8-15 - 2 p.m. - (Online only personal property) - Thomas B. & Mary Lou Woodward, seller.** 2016 JD 1025R diesel utility tractor, Frontier RT1149 tiller, 2016 Grasshopper zero turn mower, 2020 Club Car Carryall 1700, mowers, lawn & garden, patio furniture, antique & modern 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.,

## Public Sale Calendar