Tigers, Raiders wrestling results

Page 1a

LUFFTON, INDIANA · Wells County's Hometown Connection

Wells County begins new chapter for economic development

Beste excited to serve as director, lead efforts in community

By HOLLY GASKILL

Jessica Beste has hit the ground running as Wells County's economic development director.

The role is not new, but is new to the local government. Consequently, Beste's navigating both carried-over responsibilities and the weight of leading an entirely new government department.

While no small task, Beste finds herself well-suited for all that entails.

"I'm a problem solver, so I definitely want to sit down and figure out some things that have and haven't worked really well in the past, and I want to find out why," Beste said.

Beste, originally from Los Angeles, attended college at Indiana State University. She then married classmate and Uniondale native Matt Beste, and the couple moved home to Wells County to raise their family in 2007. They now have three boys, Axton, Riker and Cade, who attend Bluffton-Harrison schools.

With a degree in business administration, Beste started as a loan officer with Markle State Bank before transitioning to work as a mortgage loan officer. She most recently worked as a broker for Stockton Mortgage in Bluff-

In addition to working with businesses through her previous vocation, Beste has worked closely with the Wells County Chamber of Commerce, which used to partner with the county, city and the county's incoporated towns to oversee the county's Economic Development Commission. Wells County has been without a director of economic development since Chad Kline's resignation from the Chamber in April.

Because of her experience, Beste said elected officials who thought she could be a good fit approached her about the role.

"I looked at that job description and just saw the possibilities," Beste said. "And we had a pretty big hole here without somebody filling that position. I just thought this might be a sign, this might be something that I need to do. I do have a lot of connections with people, (and I) have a good business background. That's really where my heart is."

She began as director in late October, kicking off with a con-

ference in Indianapolis that provided a wealth of onboarding information for the role. Since then, she's begun tackling introductions with local businesses, re-evaluating potential sites and rebuilding local economic development efforts.

Beste said one of her biggest priorities is to "rebuild" the connection with the Chamber. "Business retention is critical," she said. "And I think our collaboration efforts will be massive ... They are the retention arm of economic development. They're a huge factor in how successful a county is.'

Although Beste also finds a "growth mindset" in the community, she hopes to help unify efforts for that growth. As part of this, Beste has initiated efforts



Jessica Beste, formerly a broker for Stockton Mortgage, began working as Wells County's economic development director in October. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

> to make sure "shovel-ready" sites are advertised for prospective develop-

> Beste plans to leverage the county's existing partnerships — like those with the Chamber, Ivy Tech Community College and Make My Move — in attracting new businesses. Beste also wants to continue support for local amenities, particularly the construction of a new Wells Community Pool.

> Meanwhile, Beste finds retaining Wells County youth is one of the biggest threats to the community. She plans to involve students in economic development, intending to assess their wants and involve them in community efforts. Beste said "we owe our youth" the (Continued on Page 2)

Student mental health needs are growing

Indiana school counselors are overworked; Will the legislature help?

This story was originally published by Chalkbeat. Sign up for their newsletters at ckbe.at/newsletters

By ALEKSANDRA APPLETON **Chalkbeat Indiana**

Doreen Waldbieser, a school counselor in Vigo County, stepped to the microphone Nov. 8 at a Department of Education hearing on diplomas and began alphabetically listing her counseling duties:

Attend active shooter training. Analyze transcripts. Answer emails and phone calls.

Change schedules. Conduct screenings. Connect students to assistance.

She didn't get past the M's before her speaking time ran out.

Her point to policymakers was that even before the state's new graduation requirements take effect, Indiana's school counselors are already stretched too thin.

A new report on the profession in Indiana found that many counselors agree.

Student mental health needs are consistently higher since the pandemic and school counselors say they have less time to spend with students, according to the 2024-25 Indiana School Counselor Survey. To blame, they said, are growing lists of tasks like test and attendance monitoring and higher-than-average caseloads Indiana has one counselor for every 351 students, higher than the recommended ratio of 1-to-250.

As lawmakers prepare to meet for the 2025 legislative session, they're poised to again consider a proposal requiring counselors spend at least 60% of their time working with students. Other suggestions from counselors include putting the nationally rec-

(Continued on Page 2)



Making repairs

Utility workers moved into Bell Brook Estates Monday as repairs were made to a storm pipe in the area. T-E Incorporated of Fort Wayne performed the work. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

Survey finds number of Hoosiers support cannabis regulations

By WHITNEY DOWNARD

Indiana Capital Chronicle

A coalition pushing for "safe and regulated" cannabis reform published survey findings from a conservative-linked pollster in which an "overwhelming" number

of Hoosiers supported legalization. Seventy percent of registered voters surveyed, or 871 responses out of 1,252 Hoosiers, either strongly or somewhat supported legalization for Hoosiers over the age of 21, compared to 27% who opposed the idea. Safe and Regulated Indiana, a new Republicanbacked group, released the results Monday.

'This survey confirms what we already know. Hoosiers are overwhelmingly united behind safe and

regulated marijuana policy," said Joe Elsener, spokesperson for Safe and Regulated Indiana, in a release. "Indiana voters strongly support legalization for adults 21+ and taxing and regulating marijuana just like alcohol. They want responsible legalization because they know it means safer streets, shutting down drug dealers, and keeping tax rev-

enue here in our state. Lawmakers have long resisted the idea of legalizing marijuana use statewide, even with a growing bipartisan push to reconsider the drug. Gov. Eric Holcomb has pointed to the need for reform at the federal level, where it's categorized alongside heroin and ecstasy, while Gov.-elect Mike Braun has said he supports access for medi-

(Continued on Page 2)

Israel launches airstrikes on Lebanon as ceasefire draws closer

By SALLY ABOU ALJOUD, **JOSEF FEDERMAN SAM METZ**

Associated Press BEIRUT (AP) — Israel's military launched airstrikes across Lebanon on Monday, unleashing explosions throughout the country and killing at least 31 while Israeli leaders appeared to be closing in on a negotiated ceasefire with the Hezbollah militant group.

Israeli strikes hit commercial and residential buildings in Beirut as well as in the port city of Tyre. Military officials said they targeted areas known as Hezbollah strongholds. They issued evacuation orders for Beirut's southern suburbs, and strikes landed across the city, including meters from a Lebanese police base and the city's largest public park.

The barrage came as officials

indicated they were nearing agreement on a ceasefire, while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu 's Security Cabinet prepared to discuss an offer on the table. Airstrikes kill at least 31

Massive explosions lit up Lebanon's skies with flashes of orange, sending towering plumes of smoke into the air as Israeli airstrikes pounded Beirut's southern suburbs. The blasts damaged

buildings and left shattered glass and debris scattered across nearby streets. No casualties were reported after many residents fled the targeted sites.

Some of the strikes landed close to central Beirut and near Christian neighborhoods and other targets where Israel had issued evacuation warnings, including in Tyre and Nabatiyeh province. Israeli airstrikes also hit the northeast Baalbek-Hermel region without warning.

Lebanon's Health Ministry said that 26 people were killed in southern Lebanon, four in the eastern Baalbek-Hermel province and one in Choueifat, a neighborhood in Beirut's southern suburbs that was not subjected to evacuation warnings on Monday.

The deaths brought the total (Continued on Page 2)

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Sunny, cold and windy; rain, snow mix tomorrow

Wed. Thursday Today High 43 | High 40 High 40 Low 29 | Low 31 | Low 21

More Weather on Page 2



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Economic development

opportunity to get involved in the community and show them a future here.

With this, Beste wants to continue to assess area housing and utility needs. While The Veridus Group conducted a housing study in 2023, Beste questioned whether the sample was representative of the community's desires, particularly among younger people.

In economic development efforts at large, Beste finds a gap between what the community wants and the decisions made. Beste

hopes to stir more public engagement through surveys, forums and relationships with community stakeholders.

"They (the public) have opinions, and we just don't get to hear them until a decision has been made," Beste said. "And then, usually you don't hear all the best (feedback) upfront. I've been a part of that where I'm like, 'Wait. What's happening?' So the challenge is getting the right people in the right room at the right time."

Above all, Beste is excit-

ed to impact and serve a community she loves.

"People really are a community here, really, truly," Beste said. "I know that sounds a little bit cheesy, but it just is. Everyone knows you and they care about you, and they find a way to help you when you need it ... That's not something I grew up with. I did not know it existed until I moved to Wells ... and honestly, it's the right place to be."

The new economic development initiative is a combined effort of Wells County, the city of Bluffton,

board.

and the town of Ossian governments, but Beste's role is technically housed under the office of Bluffton's mayor. There is no interlocal agreement outlining the partnership yet; the county commissioners have reported that the county's and Bluffton's attorneys have been working on a draft.

Commissioner Jeff Stringer said the initial agreement will be "short term," with a long-term agreement for the structure of economic efforts to fol-

holly@news-banner.com

Weather

Tuesday, November 26, 2024 (24-hour observations at 10:01 p.m. Monday) **High:** 59; Low: 47; **Precipitation:** 0.05 inches of rain Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.18 feet at 8:45 p.m. Monday

Wells County forecast

Today: Sunny, with a high near 40. West wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 29. West wind 5 to 10 mph. Wednesday: A slight chance of rain and snow showers

before 10 a.m., then rain showers likely. Cloudy, with a high near 43. South wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. Little or no snow accumulation expected. Wednesday Night: Rain showers likely before 1 a.m., then a chance of rain and snow showers. Cloudy, with a low

around 31. Southeast wind around 5 mph becoming north after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible. Thanksgiving Day: A chance of rain and snow show-

ers, mainly before 7 a.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 40. Chance of precipitation is 30%. Thursday Night: A 20% chance of snow showers.

Mostly cloudy, with a low around 21.

Friday: Partly sunny, with a high near 28. Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 15.

Saturday: A 20% chance of snow showers after 1 p.m.

Mostly sunny, with a high near 28.





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Student mental health needs

(Continued from Page 1)

ommended ratio into law, or funding more pipeline programs for teachers to earn counseling degrees. In a budget year, lawmakers could consider funding proposals, but already face a laundry list of K-12 education priori-

Senate Bill 141, sponsored by Oldenburg Republican Sen. Jean Leising in 2024, set a threshold of 60% and then 85% the year after, but the bill didn't make it through the House. Leising said she intends to bring the proposal forward again next year.

Counselors in the survey said it's critical that their roles and responsibilities are defined so that they are not "on call for just about anything that needs to be done.'

"Administrators are protective of teacher time and focus on teaching students, but no one is protective of the school counselor role," one counselor said. "We are expected to be masters of all areas and it just isn't possible."

More counselor tasks means less time with students

Today's high schoolers were in middle school when the pandemic closed school buildings, and they spent a pivotal time in their development in isolation, said Ryan Preci, board chair for the Indiana School Counselors Association and high school counselor coordinator with Indianapolis Public

The result is an ongoing increase in student mental health needs as noted in the last several years of the counseling survey. This year, more than half of all counselors said that students' socialemotional needs are higher this school year than last.

"COVID did increase mental health needs but it also shone a light on what was always there," Preci said.

Simultaneously, counselors' perception that they have enough time to meet with students has dropped to its lowest level since the survey began in 2011.

On average, counselors this year spent around 69% of their time providing a mix of direct services, like meeting face-to-face with students, and indirect counseling services, like parent and teacher conferences. Another 16% was spent on program management, and 15% was spent on non-counseling duties, which include test proctoring and arrival and dismissal duties.

Preci said counselors' focus should be in three domains: Academics, social-emotional support, and college and career readiness. National recommendations say counselors should spend around 80% of their time on direct and indirect counseling services.

The upcoming changes to Indiana's graduation requirements could place even more clerical work on counselors' plates, Waldbieser, the Vigo schools seals, each with two levels, counselors

counselor, told the state education

With three new proposed diploma will be responsible for individualizing graduation plans, along with verifying students' work hours and college-level courses, and facilitating the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery

It's not yet clear what other changes lawmakers may make. A bill last year would have allowed chaplains to work as school counselors in public schools, providing only secular guidance unless the student's parent gave permission for nonsecular guidance. The proposal was dropped in Indiana, but has passed in states like Texas.

School leaders' support for counselors has grown significantly, according to the report, after hitting a low in

Preci said he'd like to see lawmakers put the recommended counselorto-student ratio into law. Also helpful would be more programs to help teachers earn master's degrees in counseling in order to make the switch from teaching to counseling.

'We need to fully fund public education in order to do that, in order to provide those services," Preci said.

Chalkbeat.otg is a nonprofit news site covering educational change in public schools.

Cannabis regulations

(Continued from Page 1) cal cannabis users.

All of Indiana's neighbors — Illinois, Michigan, Ohio - have legalized recreational marijuana for adults. Kentucky legalized medical cannabis.

However, the survey identified few drawbacks

for politicians who support legalization, finding that just 16% of respondents were less likely to politically support someone who voted to legalize the drug. In contrast, 58% of survey takers said they were more likely to support a politician if they supported legalization.

"This survey shows that there is a clear political benefit for supporting marijuana legalization, regardless of party affiliation," Elsener continued. "This issue will continue to gain momentum as more and more everyday Hoosiers unite around thoughtful, safe and regulated policy."

Louisiana-based Causeway Solutions conducted the survey between Oct. 30 and Nov. 3, combining live dial and text-to-web surveys. The identified margin of error is +/- 2.8%, according to the company, which has Republican ties.

Israel launches airstrikes

(Continued from Page 1) toll to 3,768 killed in Lebanon throughout 13 months of war between Israel and Hezbollah and nearly two months since Israel launched its ground invasion. Many of those killed since the start of the war between Israel and Hezbollah have been civilians, and health officials said some of the recovered bodies were so severely damaged that DNA testing would be required to confirm their identities.

Israel says it has killed more than 2,000 Hezbollah members. Lebanon's Health Ministry says the war has displaced 1.2 million peo-

Israeli ground forces invaded southern Lebanon in early October, meeting heavy resistance in a narrow strip of land along the border. The military had previously exchanged attacks across the border with Hezbollah, an Iran-backed mili-

tant group that began firing rockets into Israel the day after the war in Gaza began last year.

Lebanese politicians have decried the ongoing airstrikes and said they are impeding U.S.-led ceasefire negotiations. The country's deputy parliament speaker accused Israel of ramping up its bombardment in order to pressure Lebanon to make concessions in indirect ceasefire negotiations with Hezbollah.

Elias Bousaab, an ally of the militant group, said the pressure has increased because "we are close to the hour that is decisive regarding reaching a ceasefire."

Hopes grow for a ceasefire

Israeli officials voiced similar optimism about prospects for a ceasefire. Mike Herzog, the country's ambassador to Washington, earlier in the day told Israeli Army Radio that several points had yet to be finalized. Though any deal would require agreement from the government, Herzog said Israel and Hezbollah were "close to a deal."

"It can happen within days," he said.

Israeli officials have said the sides are close to an agreement that would include withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon and a pullback of Hezbollah fighters from the Israeli border. But several sticking points

Two Israeli officials told The Associated Press that Netanyahu's security Cabinet had scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, but they said it remained unclear whether the Cabinet would vote to approve the deal. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were discussing internal deliberations.

Danny Danon, Israel's U.N. ambassador, told reporters that he expected a ceasefire agreement with Hezbollah to have stages and to be discussed by leaders Monday or Tuesday. Still, he warned, "it's not going to happen overnight."

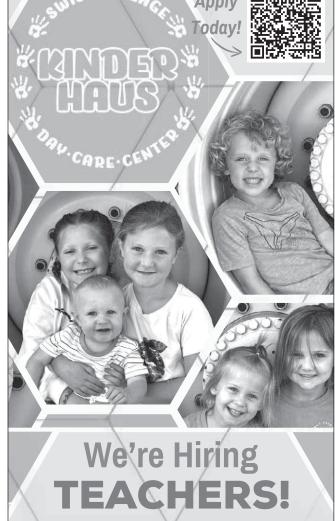
After previous hopes for a ceasefire were dashed, U.S. officials cautioned that negotiations were not yet complete and noted that there could be last-minute hitches that either delay or destroy an agreement.

"Nothing is done until everything is done," White House national security spokesman John Kirby said.



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OBITUARIES

V. Marcile King, 88

V. Marcile King, 88, of Decatur passed away surrounded by her family Saturday evening, Nov. 23, 2024, at Adams Woodcrest in

She was born on Feb. 15, 1936, in Bluecreek Township in Adams County to the late Chauncey O. and Mary Mae (Julian) Manley. She was united in marriage to Leonard J. King on Aug. 21, 1954, at the Church of God in Willshire, Ohio, and he preceded her in death on Dec. 2, 2018.



Marcile graduated from Pleasant Mills High School. Marcile attended Monroe Lighthouse Church.

She retired from CTS in Berne in 1999, after 34.5

Marcile loved baking and was well known for her pie and sugar cookies. She hosted the King family Thanksgiving for many years and spent countless hours planning well in advance for it.

She is survived by her daughter, Karen (Roger) Everett of Berne; daughter, Sheryl (Jim) Rauch of Decatur; three grandchildren, Kristy Everett, Amy Rauch and Lori (Derick) Bailey; eight great-grandchildren, Anthony (Ruth) Rauch, Cayden Rauch, Tristan (Esmee) Bailey, Gabe Bailey, Zain Bailey, Niah Bailey, Isaiah Deathe and Grace Deathe; two great-great-grandchildren, Will Rauch and Brynn Bailey; and her fur buddy, Hank.

Marcile was preceded in death by a grandson, Bill Rauch; eight sisters, Violet Roe, Jean Cook, Esther Cook, Edna H. Manley, Mildred M. Wolfe, Mable E. Miller, Velma E. Penrod and Lois E. Kaufman; four brothers, Richard O. Manley, H. Glen Manley, Kenneth Manley and Lester E. Manley.

A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2024, at the Zwick & Jahn Funeral Home in Decatur, with Pastor David Myers officiating, Burial will follow at Decatur Cemetery in Decatur.

The family will receive friends from 1-2 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2024, at Adams Woodcrest in Decatur, and from 3-7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2024, at the Zwick & Jahn Funeral Home in Decatur, and one hour prior to the service on Wednesday.

Preferred memorials can be given to Monroe Lighthouse Church or PAWS of Adams County.

Arrangements by Zwick & Jahn Funeral Homes of

Has a Frederic Chopin waltz been discovered in an NYC museum?

NEW YORK (AP) -The brooding waltz was carefully composed on a sheet of music roughly the size of an index card. The brief, moody number also bore an intriguing name, written at the top in cursive: "Chopin."

A previously unknown work of music penned by the European master Frederic Chopin appears to have been found at the Morgan Library & Museum in Manhattan.

The untitled and unsigned piece is on display this month at the to be consistent with opulently appointed insti- what Chopin favored tution, which had once been the private library of financier J. P. Morgan.

Robinson McClellan, the museum curator who uncovered the manuscript, said it's the first new work associated with the Romantic era composer to be discovered in nearly a century.

But McClellan concedes that it may never be known whether it is an original Chopin work or merely one written in his hand.

The piece, set in the key of A minor, stands out for its "very stormy, brooding opening section" before transitioning to a melancholy melody more characteristic of Chopin, McClellan explained.

"This is his style. This is his essence," he said during a recent visit to the

museum. "It really feels like him."

McClellan said he came across the work in May as he was going through a collection from the late Arthur Satz, a former president of the New York School of Interior Design. Satz had acquired it from A. Sherrill Whiton Jr., an avid autograph collector who had been director of the school.

McClellan then worked with experts to verify its authenticity.

The paper was found for manuscripts, and the ink matched a kind typical in the early 19th century when Chopin lived, according to the museum. But a handwriting analysis determined the name "Chopin" written at the top of the sheet was penned by someone else.

Born in Poland, Chopin was considered a musical genius from an early age. He lived in Warsaw and Vienna before settling in Paris, where he died in 1849 at the age of 39, likely of tuberculosis.

He's buried among a pantheon of artists at the city's famed Père Lachaise Cemetery, but his heart, pickled in a jar of alcohol, is housed in a church in Warsaw, in keeping with his deathbed wish for the organ to return to his homeland.

City:

Friday 8:56 p.m., 1100 N and S.R. 1, Ossian. Vehicle struck a police car, pinning the door closed. Markle Police Department respond-

Sunday 2:54 p.m., Dollar General. Report of stolen

Sunday 5:09 p.m., Dollar General. Wallet found.

Sunday 5:56 p.m., 101 S warrant.

Sunday 9:52 p.m., Main and Riley streets. Citation issued for driving without a

N Main St. Caller reported workplace harassment. Incident reportedly captured by video cameras.

Friday, 12:56 p.m., Pretzels. Report of stolen semi trailer. Employee stated the business had hired someone to remove the trailer, who was now refusing to return it without payment. The

UWRBC to hold seminar Dec. 3

The Upper Wabash River Basin Commission will host a public seminar at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3, at the Wells County Commerce and Visitors Centre, 211 W Water St. in Bluffton.

The seminar will discuss water quality, soil conservation, regional water systems and the legislative process to oversight. Speakers will be John Ketzenberger, director of government relations for The Nature Conservancy of Indiana, and Les Zimmerman, legislative affairs manager for the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Obituary Policy

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

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

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

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

Friday 11:33 p.m., Main Street and Dustman Road Intoxicated driver.

Saturday 2:31 p.m., Washington Commons. Blue and White Ford reported stolen from antique engine

Sunday 5:41 a.m., Willowbrook Trail and Briarcrest Place. Possible water main leak reported. Unable

Main St. Report of male in the road and seemingly disoriented. Man arrested on

Sunday 8:15 p.m., 2100

Monday 10:30 a.m., Bluffton U Store. Locks were cut from several units. Monday 10:37 a.m.,

Wells County Jail. Woman arrested on warrant.

County:

employee stated the semi trailer was moved without authorization, and wanted it

marked as stolen. Friday, 2:10 p.m., 3024 S Main St., Liberty Center. Report of an unwanted party at this location. Caller

location secured. Friday, 7:41 p.m., Oak Road and 500 W, Markle. Report of harassing messages.

appeared highly intoxicated,

Saturday, 4:43 p.m., 6456 E U.S. 224, Craigville. Semi vs. utility pole. Report handled by Indiana State Police.

Sunday, 1:25 a.m., 6000 S 100 E, Poneto. Report of a domestic altercation. Parties separated.

Sunday, 2:08 p.m., River Terrace Estates. Caller reported seeing a hawk shot out of a tree. The witness did not see anyone after hearing

Sunday, 6:33 p.m., 4090 S 700 E, Bluffton. Vehicle drove through field.

Monday, 7:52 a.m., 2383 W S.R. 124, Bluffton. Abandoned vehicle.

Sunday, 9:11 a.m., 888 W Railroad St., Uniondale. Recovered stolen semi trail-

Ossian:

Friday, 2:28 p.m., 300 W and U.S. 224, Uniondale. Semi and truck crash. Report to follow.

Friday, 6:26 p.m., 1100 N and 600 E, Ossian. Report of road rage. Parties separated. Sunday, 7:20 a.m., S.R. 1

and 700 E, Ossian. Vehicle off roadway, out of fuel. Provided two gallons of gas.

between two men. Parties separated.

ACCIDENTS

City: Friday, 5:44 p.m., S.R. 1 and Walnut Street. Kevin Kerner, 53, Winchester, Virginia, was attempting to merge a 2016 Ram 1500 and sideswiped a 2019 Ford Fusion driven by Leah Zachary, 29, Bluffton. Damage exceeded \$1,000.

Saturday, 11:37 a.m. Wiley Avenue and Morgan Street. Spencer Schwartz, 23, Bluffton was driving a 2010 Ford Fusion, traveling westbound on Wiley and struck a gray Ford Focus, which had attempted to turn left onto Wiley and failed to yield the right of way. The Ford Focus fled the scene and was unable to be located. The Fusion was towed. Damage exceeded \$2,500.

Saturday, 7:16 p.m., S.R. 1 and Dustman Road. Matthew Morris, 35, Fort Wayne, was driving a 2008 GMC Sierra westbound on Dustman turning left, failing to yield the right of way, and struck a 2017 Toyota RAV4, driven by Ava Troxel, 17, Bluffton, head on. Morris transported to Bluffton Regional Medical Center. Both vehicles towed. Damage exceeded \$25,000.

County:

Santa says ... Support your ho-ho-hometown!

Monday, 7:32 a.m., C.R. 200 E near 700 S, Reiffsburg. Angela Irelan, 39, Keystone, was driving a northbound on C.R. 200 E meanor. Bond set at \$3,000.

Sunday, 7:47 p.m., Silo and struck a deer. Vehicle Farms. Verbal altercation towed from scene. Damage exceeded \$5,000.

Ossian:

Friday, 7:48 p.m. S.R. 1 at C.R. 1050 N, Ossian. Patrick D. Moriarity, 39, Bluffton was driving a 2014 Ram 1500 southbound on S.R. 1 and reportedly suddenly traveled across the northbound lane into a ditch on the east side of the roadway, striking a utility pole. A witness stated the vehicle came to rest on the driver's side facing east. The pole was heavily damaged as well as a nearby pole due to tension in the utility lines. Moriarity was trapped in the vehicle and transported to Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne from the scene. The vehicle was towed. Damage exceeded \$10,000.

ARRESTS

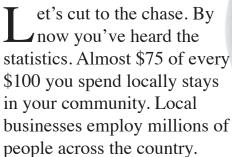
Jose Carlos Martinez Tapia, 24, Fort Wayne; operating without ever receiving a license, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$500.

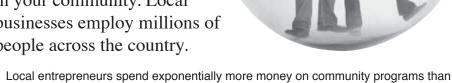
Allison Danielle Tungate, 19, Bluffton; minor in possession of an alcoholic beverage, a Class C misdemeanor, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated and operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangerment, both Class A misdemeanors. Bond set at \$2,000.

Emily Diane Dixon, 25, Fort Wayne; probation violation, a Class B misdemeanor. No bond set.

Nicholas Wayne Miller, 40, Bluffton; shoplifting, more than \$750 and less than 2018 Chevrolet Silverado \$50,000, a Class A misde-







their larger counterparts.

All impressive, indeed. So then why are millions of Americans driving away or logging on to their computers for their Christmas shopping this holiday season? Some cite convenience or busy schedules without realizing just how much impact they can have on their local community by spending a few dollars locally.

Buy Every Other Product Locally

Breaking the habit can be tough, so start small. Challenge yourself to buy one locally sold product for every other gift you purchase. And try to make the prices comparable so about half of your total holiday budget is spent locally.

Encourage your friends to do the same and you could be making a monumental difference in your community. If 10 of you spend \$300 on local gifts this year, about \$2,250 of that \$3,000 would be pumped right back into your local community. Comparably, your community will see \$0 of your online spending at retail giants.

Buy All Gifts Cards Locally

Gift cards are becoming an increasingly massive portion of holiday spending. More than 80 percent of holiday shoppers will buy at least one. More than \$28 billion will be shelled out on gift cards this year, according to the National Retail Federation. Many people will spend their gift cards on food or everyday items if you buy them for

traditional retailers. Don't you want your present to be more meaningful? A gift card to a local specialty shop or boutique will ensue that your gift card is spent on exactly what it is intended to - a gift. Try to personalize each gift card by choosing a local business that has special mean-

ing to the recipient, or maybe one that you have shopped at before with that person.

Santa says ... Be sure to shop these businesses:

- ** Above & Beyond Vehicle Reconditioning ₩ Balance Massage Therapy & Body Works
- **₩** Bluffton Tire
- **X** Daniel's Jewelers
- ****** Gerber Furniture
- **₩** Habegger's ACE **X** Lengerich Meats
- **₩** Moser & Son **₩** Mr Kool **X** Northwood Computer ■
- ** Paddlefish ****** Parlor City Cabinetry
- **₩** Wells County Chamber of Commerce **₩** Wells County Foundation

Gift "Chamber Bucks" ... available at the **Wells County Chamber of Commerce**



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A holly, jolly getaway to Christmastide in Holland

My wife and I start to go a little stir-crazy when too much time passes without traveling.

We try to get away even for just a day or two every few months to either visit a new place or return to an old haunt. Our last weekend getaway was almost three months ago, and we were really looking forward to a trip to the Great Lakes State that had been on our calendar for several months.

The trip combined both returning to an old haunt but also a new experience

We love traveling to Holland, Mich., at least once every summer to visit the Saturday farmer's market, to walk around the downtown stores, and to visit some of the surrounding produce farms. We always take a cooler with us, as coming home empty handed from the farmer's market has never happened.

Several times in the past, my wife's family would make a weekend road trip to Holland around Thanksgiving time to visit a Christmas market and to experience downtown Holland at night.

We've talked about going up as a family for several years, as I had never been to Holland during the holiday season. We finally made it there this past weekend and had such a good time that I'm hoping we can return next year.

Our first stop was at Holland's Kerstmarkt — an outdoor European-style market where you can buy holiday gifts, arts and crafts, food and more.

Kerstmarkt is a Dutch word that means "Christmas market." These type of small markets are located across the Netherlands during the Christmas holiday, I learned last weekend.

It reminded me of the Carmel Christkindlmarkt that we visited a couple of winters ago when we were in Indianapolis — also an outdoor market in which you can buy Christmas gifts, food and more.

After grabbing a quick dinner, we returned to downtown Holland where more than 50 stores and restaurants were open from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. during the annual Downtown Holland Holiday Open House.

The city's beautiful lights and decorations immediately gave it a Christmas ambience and put you in the Christmas spirit. We had only walked a few feet when we saw two reindeer that children were gathering

A few minutes later, we heard carolers clad in Charles-Dickens-era clothing singing Christmas music. A block later, we stopped to sample some chestnuts that had been roasting on an open fire as Santa Claus walked past us and stopped to take pictures with some children who were in awe as soon as they saw him.

And who can forget the larger-than-life elf we saw walking down the heated sidewalk on stilts.

In between enjoying the sights, sounds and smells of the Downtown Holland Holiday Open House, we entered a myriad of stores and did our first Christmas shopping of the year.

All of the stores had treats out for guests — everything from cookies and candy to popcorn and gourmet cherry salsa with chips. It was like a Saturday afternoon visit to Costco on steroids, as there were more snacks and samples than you can imagine.

The only thing missing was a soft snowfall gently coming down from the sky.

There's always next year.

Our 24-hour getaway to lovely Holland was the perfect way to start the holiday season. If you're looking for a beautiful place to visit that's not too far from home, consider a trip to this charming city on the shore of Lake Macatawa.

You'll come home very much in the Christmas spirit.

Who's Who

A continuing series on how to contact government officials

Zanesville.

The three **Town Council members** are: • John Schuhmacher, phone 260-602-2391.

- Barb O'Connor, phone 260-403-6184.
- Isaac Zent, phone 260-251-1353

The Town Clerk-Treasurer is Tera Bowersock. The Town Hall is at 17736 Wayne St., phone 638-0051.

Carl Collins is the **Zanesville Town Marshal**. The police non-emergency number is 638-4080. Zanesville Sewage: customer service, 427-1234; repair, 427-8311.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 26, the 331st day of 2024. There are 35 days left in the

Today in history: On Nov. 26, 2008, teams of heavily armed militants from the terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba stormed luxury hotels, a popular restaurant and a crowded train station in Mumbai, India, leaving at least 175 people dead (including nine of the attackers) in a rampage spanning four days.

Also on this date: In 1864, English math-

ematician and writer Charles Dodgson presented a handwritten and illustrated manuscript, "Alice's Adventures Under Ground,' to his 12-year-old friend Alice Pleasance Liddell; the book was later turned into "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," published under Dodgson's pen name, Lewis Carroll.

In 1917, the National Hockey League was founded in Montreal.

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> Holly Gaskill, Editor Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor







Why DOGE is an essential and important idea

Fareed

Zakaria

Of Donald Trump's recent announcements, the one that intrigues — even excites me the most is the establishment of DOGE, the misnamed "Department of Government Efficiency" (misnamed because it is really a nongovernmental advisory body that will work with the White House, not any kind of "department" inside government).

Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy, who will be in charge of DOGE, are both brilliant, and the federal government has clearly become too expansive and its writ too cumbersome. There are more than 180,000 pages of federal regulations. Surely it's worth taking a close look at them and retiring many.

Observers have pointed out that the duo's goals will be much harder to achieve than they imagine. Washington is quite inefficient, but most of what it does is write checks — with great efficiency. Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, unemployment insurance and other mandatory programs make up about 60 percent of the federal budget. Trump has often said that he would protect most of this spending.

Next is the Defense Department, at more than \$800 billion, which has generally been considered untouchable for political reasons — though it is probably the department that most desperately needs to be streamlined. (For example, America has four air forces, the Air Force itself, the Army's air force, the Navy's air force and that of the Marines.)

Then comes interest on the debt, also untouchable, which is almost as large as the Pentagon's budget.

What is left is about 15 percent of the federal budget, which includes certain veterans' benefits, agricultural subsidies, spending on roads and highways, etc. To achieve the \$2 trillion spending cuts that Musk has often talked about, he would need to eliminate all this spending and all defense spending. And then he'd still have work to do.

But I support the impulse to reform — and not just because I think it will force greater scrutiny and efficiency on government, which needs it. The duo will also force the country and especially the Republican Party to confront a reality it has danced around for decades. The modern Republican Party was forged in opposition to Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. Ever since the 1930s, the party's strongest ideologues have promised to repeal the New Deal and dismantle the architecture of the federal government that was largely constructed by FDR. But they never did.

The first Republican president to occupy the White House after FDR was Dwight D. Eisenhower, who largely accepted Roosevelt's legacy. Next came Richard M. Nixon, who actually expanded it, establishing bureaucracies such as the Environmental Protection Agency and proposing a version of universal health care. All this infuriated conservatives,

who kept urging rollback. Ronald Reagan came to political prominence in a nationally televised speech he made on Barry Goldwater's behalf — against a growing government and deeply skeptical of farm subsidies and programs such as Medicare and Social Security, warning of socialism that would doom the American republic to a future of unfreedom.

But of course, during his two terms in office, Reagan never seriously tried to repeal Social Security or Medicare. In fact, federal debt held by the public as a percentage of GDP grew under Reagan. It's worth noting

that the only president to oversee a balanced budget since 1969 was Bill Clinton.

Ramaswamy and Musk have both taken to posting a clip of economist Milton Friedman on their social media in which he argues for a very limited role for the federal government. (Ironically, this role would not seem to envisage any support for, say, electric vehicles and civilian space programs, which have helped create the bulk of Musk's fortune.) But what decades of public policy have revealed is that Friedman's vision has little support in the United States. We are where we are because the American public has voted for Republican levels of taxation and Democratic levels of spending — which leaves a gap that can be filled only by borrowing.

There is a strong argument that U.S. debt is on an unsustainable path, especially considering the rising costs that will come as more and more baby boomers retire. But slashing federal spending will almost certainly cause an economic downturn — recall Europe's experience with austerity in the 2010s. The central lesson of macroeconomic policy in recent decades has been that government spending now constitutes so large a part of the economy that drastically cutting it can lead to a downward spiral of reduced consumer spending and declining confidence. Your expenditure is my income.

The U.S. federal government is smaller than others in much of the industrial world in terms of spending as a percentage of GDP. It is still desperately in need of reform and streamlining. But conservatives have argued that it needs to be much, much smaller for a long time. In fact, much of the rage that has built up among parts of the Republican base over decades has been centered on the notion that party leaders have promised a massive downsizing of the state but never delivered.

With DOGE, we might finally get an effort to actually deliver on the central Republican promise of the past 90 years. And we will find out what America thinks of it.

Fareed Zakaria writes a foreign affairs column for The Washington Post. @FareedZakaria

Why we love rockets

At his Madison Square Garden event a week before the election, Donald Trump went on an extended riff about the famous "chopstick" maneuver of Elon Musk's Space X.

In describing his slackjawed amazement at watching the feat — the first stage of a Starship rocket returning to the launch tower upon coming back to Earth — Trump spoke for all us.

The various videos of the operation that witnesses have posted online never get old. It's not just the technical achievement — the joyous awe of spectators is itself wonderful to

The other day, President-elect Trump took time off from forming his new administration to travel to South Texas with Musk to observe another test launch of Starship, and why not? Rockets are an enduring object of human fascination, and Space X is bringing an appropriate sense of brio to one of mankind's coolest ventures.

Modern rocketry is the product of a couple of centuries of human thought and ingenuity, from the 13th century when the Chinese used "arrows of flying fire" to fight the Mongols, to Newton's 16th century work on laws of motion, to the experiments of Robert Goddard early in the 20th century, to the advances driven



Lowry

War, to, of course, the Apollo missions to the moon.

A rocket launch is literally spectacular. It is a feast for the eyes and an assault on the ears, as a tall, thin projectile is, after a controlled explosion, propelled upward on a raging plume of fire.

The iconic 1969 launch of Apollo 11 on the sleek, instantly recognizable Saturn V rocket emblazoned with the words "United States" in

red lettering remains a thing of beauty, and an unmatched symbol of 20th century technological achievement.

A rocket is otherworldly in more than one sense. A car can be analogized to a horse. A plane can be analogized to a bird. A rocket is like nothing in nature. And it promises to take us to worlds beyond our own, whether outer space, or the moon, or, if Musk can achieve his ambitions, Mars.

There is an inherent risk to the enterprise, making it even more compelling. The countdown of mission control always holds a certain drama, and the announcement of "liftoff!" always carries a justified tone of tri-

Space X's chopstick operation had a little of all of this. The returning rocket stage looked like a Roman candle flying in reverse, and it created visible — and then audible — sonic booms as it descended. It represented

a new frontier in human achievement. since such a thing had never been done before. And, as it hovered above the tower, the success of the test remained in doubt, until it nestled in the metal arms of the tower.

In engineering terms, it was a virtuoso performance — like watching a skater land a quadruple axle.

It looked and felt like the future. When Musk was with Trump in Texas and demonstrated how the latest Starship test would work with a model in his hand, he looked every bit a boy smitten with the adventure of rocketry and eager to share his enthusiasm.

That, in large part, is what Musk is, but no one should mistake the seriousness of his achievements. For all that rockets are supposed to be cutting edge, there was a decadeslong period of stagnation in launch costs until Musk came along and revolutionized the business with his entrepreneurial mindset. Now, launch costs have radically diminished and Musk alone operates 10 times more satellites than any other country or company, according to Ars Technica.

The tests of Starship, the world's largest and most powerful rocket, are the latest iteration of Musk's approach of rapid innovation toward the goal of sending men to the moon again, and then Mars. It is an expression of a basic human instinct for exploration and adventure, with the rocket as its symbol and vehicle.

Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry

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

Gloria continues her marital advice from last week

The question came up whether there would be part two to the last column on what a wife can do to be an asset in helping her husband grow to be who God made him to be. My mind again went back to those days when Daniel walked through life hand in hand with me. Life was good; we were in love. Yet, there were days life was more intense. There were those times I wanted to feel those warm fuzzy feelings in our marriage, but I came up with the weariness of life.

Yes, we loved each other, but there were also situations when we didn't know how to move forward; it felt like there were minimal options to fix our dilemma of conflicting ideas. And if we were to ask for advice, where would we go? Someone who would understand where I was coming from or what he was sensing? Raising voices or pushing a point were tools we knew would never get us where we wanted to go, but what tools were there to use?

At one point, Daniel suggested we quit focusing on what we were both experiencing or feeling and just let go and let God be God in the situation. It was a huge step in the direction that would take us than myself through. Bit by bit, we were able to

The Amish Cook

receive each other more fully and love the other for who they were rather than devaluing the other for what was not understood. Months and even years later, we reflected on the reality that the issue had never really changed, but love had

slipped in to cover it as we set our

sights on the Lover of our souls.

Along with it came the reality of what happens when, as a wife, I let go of what I would have longed for. Not only was my man allowed to lead, but I also received from his strength in a new way. He, in turn, protected me and led off a platform of stability founded on the reality of who he was made to be in

Sometimes, simple things helped me understand what I could do for him. Once, I took a sheet of paper and listed numerous ways I could show reverence to him. Here are several of them:

1. Prefer- to consider him better

2. Admire- to stop and behold in honored for who he is?

wonder, and

by Gloria Yoder

3 Love- ardent fellowship, springing from high esteem.

Though I wasn't living for perfection, it gave me goals as I read over them occasionally and claimed them for our marriage, even when my feelings didn't all

Other scenarios of reverence or honor also helped get a better glimpse of the subject. Take a police officer for example. If the officer stops me on the road, not for a moment will I think of first asking if he's doing all he should to fill his role; I simply honor him for who he is. Now, what happens when my husband and I are talking? Will I claim the right to evaluate whether or not he understands me or perhaps shut down to where I quit really listening to his heart? Does his oversight in a particular area disqualify him from being

A couple of weeks after Daniel's death, I came across a paper written by one of our young children prior to his death. The words had been penned, "Daddy loves Mom. Mom adores Daddy." My heart overflowed.

I wondered if I ever even expressed to the children how I adored their dad. I don't know. Children seem to have a way of picking up the unspoken things. As Daniel would say, they seem to understand what we adults feel even before we know ourselves.

Ultimately, wherever we are, may we keep opening our hearts to the Father who deserves all honor, and may He, in turn, empower us to live out his calling in our daily

This week I'll wrap up with a yummy pumpkin torte recipe similar to what I had for my birthday supper this last week, thanks to my cousins from Ohio. Stay tuned next week for a report on this rare event.

24 graham crackers, crushed 1/3 cup sugar

1 cup butter Cream Cheese Layer:

Pumpkin Torte

8 ounces cream cheese

34 cup sugar

2 eggs Pumpkin Layer: 1/2 cup sugar

1/2 teaspoon salt 3 eggs, separated

1/2 cup milk 1 teaspoon cinnamon

2 cups pumpkin 1 tablespoon gelatin

1/4 cup cold water

Mix crackers, sugar, and butter and put in a 9 x 13 inch pan. Cream Cheese Layer:

Bake at 350 for 20 minutes.

Mix all together and pour over

Pumpkin Layer:

Stir gelatin in cool water, set

Mix sugar, salt, egg yolks, milk, cinnamon, and pumpkin in a kettle. Cook, stirring constantly until

Remove from heat and add gelatin, soaked in water.

thickened.

When cooled, beat the egg whites and add to pumpkin mix-

Pour this on top of cooled crust. Let stand in refrigerator a few hours and top with whipped topping and if desired, sprinkle with

Outdoor Concepts sponsoring holiday window decorating contest

Sixteen businesses in Bluffton will be decorating their windows to the holiday theme of "Candy Cane Wonderland," as they seek your votes for being your favorite.

QR codes posted in the decorated windows will lead to the survey to vote for your favorite from Nov. 29 to Dec. 14.

The windows to check out include:

Achieva: 107 N. Main St. Beauty from Ashes Hair Studio: 122 N. Johnson St. Flagstar Bank: 101 S.

Fraction Apparel & Home: 124 W. Market St. Wells County Historical

Society: 420 W. Market St. Market Street Flooring:

126 W. Market St. Metropolitan Title: 117 S. Johnson St.

Old Ways Books & Curio: 110 S. Johnson St. Parlor City Cabinetry:

118 N. Main St. Pizza King: 114 Water St. The Broken Vessel: 127 W. Market St.

The Farmhouse Merc: 110 N. Main St.

The Garage: 126 N. Main

The Meeting Place: 115 E. Market St.

Toppings: 135 W. Market

Wells County Public Library: 200 West Washing-

Entering the contest is free and prizes are being sponsored by Outdoor Concepts. 1st place: \$75 Chamber Bucks and window cling; 2nd Place: \$50 Chamber Bucks and window cling and 3rd Place \$25 Chamber Bucks and window cling.



The Wells County Historical Society's window, located at 200 West Market St. in downtown Bluffton. Votes will be accepted from Nov. 29 to Dec. 14th. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

STEAMsgiving at **Science Central**

Fort Wayne's Science Central will be hosting STEAMsgiving as a three day event, Nov. 29-Dec. 1, celebrating science, technology, engineering, art and math.

Event hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

All activities included with general admis-

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5-8 PM

Holiday Marketplace - Shop for Christmas with Local Makers and Creators for Ossian and Wells County! Located in the Marketplace Tent on Craig St.

Live Amimals of the Nativity - Experience the Animals of the first Nativity Sponsored by Caleb & Sarah Bertsch

Horse and Carriage Rides - Take a Festive Ride about town in a Horse Drawn Wagon. Donated by Hope Missionary Church - North Campus

5:30 PM

Helen's Chili - Get a Hot Cup of Helen Witte's Famous Kettle Cooked Christmas Chili! Located in the United Methodist Gymnasium.

6-8 PM

Welcome Santa to Town - Welcome Santa to Town and Help Him Light the Christmas Tree at the Ossian Library! Then Join Santa in the United Methodist Gym for Pictures.



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YAR packs bags for the 4-H Backpack Program

YAR board members volunteered packing bags of food for the 4-H Backpack Program as their November outreach project. The YAR members were able to pack 175 bags of food to be distributed to Wells County schools. They had a lot of fun packing bags, using their mathematical skills, and working together. YAR is a program that recognizes youth as a valuable community resource. The program is governed by a youth/ adult partnership responsible for awarding grants up to \$500 to other local youth organizations to design and carry out community service projects. To receive a grant proposal, contact Courtney Ginter at Family Centered Services 260-824-8574, WellsYAR@vahoo. com) or visit www.fcs-inc.net. Pictured from left, Avery Gaskill, Naomi Dailey, Abigail Ramseyer, Otto Fiechter, Erin Ramseyer, and Cora Kunkel. (Photo submitted)

PARKE COUNTY

Nov 29-Dec 1, Dec 6-8 Bridgeton Country Christmes

Dec 7 Covered Bridge Christmas Market Dec 7 Rosedale Christmas Bazaar

Dec 7 Rocky lie Great Santa 5K Fun Run Dec 7 Rockville Hometown Holidays Dec 7 Hometown Holidays Parade of Lights

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Counsel moves to abandon election interference and classified documents cases against Trump WASHINGTON (AP) ecutors said in one of their Trump, on his social

Special counsel Jack Smith moved to abandon two criminal cases against Donald Trump on Monday, acknowledging that Trump's return to the White House will preclude attempts to federally prosecute him for retaining classified documents or trying to overturn his 2020 election defeat.

The decision was inevitable, since longstanding Justice Department policy says sitting presidents cannot face criminal prosecution. Yet it was still a momentous finale to an unprecedented chapter in political and law enforcement history, as federal officials attempted to hold accountable a former president while he was simultaneously running for another term.

Trump emerges indisputably victorious, having successfully delayed the investigations through legal maneuvers and then winning reelection despite indictments that described his actions as a threat to the country's constitutional foundations.

media site Truth Social, said that "these cases, like all of the other cases I have been forced to go through, are empty and lawless, and should never have been brought."

The judge in the election case granted prosecutors' dismissal request. A decision in the documents case was still pending on Monday evening.

The outcome makes it clear that, when it comes to a president and criminal accusations, nothing supersedes the voters' own verdict. In court filings, Smith's team emphasized that the move to end their prosecutions was not a reflection of the merit of the cases but a recognition of the legal shield that surrounds any commander in chief.

"That prohibition is categorical and does not turn on the gravity of the crimes charged, the strength of the Government's proof, or the merits of the prosecution, which the Government stands fully behind," pros-

11.61 11

filings.

They wrote that Trump's return to the White House "sets at odds two fundamental and compelling national interests: on the one hand, the Constitution's requirement that the President must not be unduly encumbered in fulfilling his weighty responsibilities . . . and on the other hand, the Nation's commitment to the rule of law."



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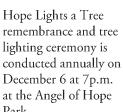


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Bluffton Super Duals results

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 Central Noble.

Below are the results:

- Bluffton 54-27 win over Leo • Will Frettinger (B) won by forfeit at
- Christian Herrada (B) won by forfeit at
- 113. • Levi Johns (B) won by fall over Caden
- Waggoner at 120.
- Orein Kahn (B) won by fall over Trent Long at 126.
- Asher Kinsey (B) won over Cooper Jones by fall at 132.
- Parker Barnes (B) won by fall over
- Nolan Butcher at 138. • Daniel Espinosa (L) won by technical fall 15-0 over Parker Nash at 144.
- Greysen Holocomb (L) won over Logan Johnson by fall at 150.
- Zeeland Zehr (L) won by forfeit at 157. • Bryce Patrick (B) won by fall over Colton Foor at 165.
- Paul Woods (L) won by major decision 11-1 over Pierceton Morgan at 175.
- Tavin Frees (B) won by fall over Abram Renninger at 190.
- Jake Boots (B) won by fall over Jason Chen at 215.
- Isaiah Coolman (L) won by forfeit at 285.
- **Bluffton 57-24 win over Fremont**
- Will Frettinger (B) won by forfeit at 106.
- Christian Herrada (B) won by forfeit at 113.
- Levi Johns (B) won by fall over Korlyn Haifley at 120.
- Ian Hawkin (F) won by fall over Orein
- Kahn at 126. • Grant Nunley (B) won by forfeit at 132.
- Parker Barnes (B) won by fall over Hayden McNeelry at 138.
- Parker Nash (B) won by fall over Colton Smith at 144.
- Jacob Fosher (F) won by fall over Logan Johnson at 150.
- Dominic Crai (F) won over Brockton Osborne by fall at 157.
- Bryce Patrick (B) won by technical fall 16-0 over Jace Workman at 165.
- Corbin Book (F) won by fall over Pierceton Morgan at 175.
- Tavin Frees (B) won by technical fall
- 18-3 over Silas Porter at 190. • Jake Books (B) won by technical fall 18-1 over Lucas Campbell at 215.
- Connor Landis (B) won by fall over
- Jose Sanchez at 285. Bluffton 60-21 win over Heritage

• Will Frettinger (B) won by forfeit at

- Christian Herrada (B) won by forfeit at 113.
- Levi Johns (B) won by fall over Cade Foster at 120.
- Orein Kahn (B) won by forfeit at 126.

- Asher Kinsey (B) won by forfeit at 132.
- Parker Barnes (B) won by fall over Max Mirelez at 138.
- Parker Nash (B) won by fall over Con-
- ner Dalman at 144. • Dominic Ferguson (H) won by fall over Loga Johnson at 150.
- Gino Gasparini (H) won by injury for-
- feit over Brockton Osborne at 157. • Bryce Patrick (B) won by forfeit at 165.
- Jaxton Litchfield (H) won by technical
- fall 17-0 over Pierceton Morgan at 175. • Tavin Frees (B) won by forfeit at 190.
- Jake Boots (B) won by fall over Hunter
- Dekoninick by fall at 215. • Jesus Vallejo (H) won by major deci-
- sion 10-2 over Connor Landis at 285. Bluffton 53-24 win over Wes-Del
- Will Frettinger (B) won by forfeit at
- Christian Herrada (B) won by forfeit at
- Levi Johns (B) won by technical call
- 23-3 over Zac Reno at 120. • Orein Kahn (B) won by forfeit at 126. • Leo Davis (WD) won by fall over Grant
- Nunley at 132. • Parker Barnes (B) won by fall over Jon
- Cook at 138.
- Parker Nash (B) won by forfeit at 144.
- Kaidyn Duke (WD) won by fall over Logan Johnson at 150.
- Ranen DeBiois (WD) won by fall over Brockton Osborne at 157.
- Bryce Patrick (B) won over by fall Noah Losey at 165. • Pierceton Morgan (B) won by fall over
- Malachi DeBois at 175. • Tavin Frees (B) won by fall over Dallas
- Godby at 175.
- Luke Powers (WD) won by fall over Jake Boots at 215.
- Connor Landis (B) won by decision 9-3 over Owen Lamb at 285.
- Central Noble win 45-35 over Bluffton. Will Frettinger (B) won by forfeit at
- Charlie Fleshman (CN) won by fall over Christian Herrada at 113.
 - Levi Johns (B) won by forfeit at 120.
- Orein Kahn (B) won by fall over Aidean Sparks at 126.
- Jaxon Kitchen (CN) won by decision 14-7 over Grant Nunley at 132.
- Parker Barnes (B) won by fall over Tyler Broom at 138.
- Parker Nash (B) won by fall over Matt Rockey at 144.
- Derick Kerin (CN) won by fall over Logan Johnson at 150.
- Kyle Warrix (CN) won by fall over Brockton Osborne at 157.
- Porter Kleeberg (CN) won by fall over
- Bryce Patrick at 165. • Damyan Duncan (CN) won by fall over
- Pierceton Morgan at 175.
- Tavin Frees (B) won by forfeit at 190. • J Boots (CN) won by fall over Jake
- oots at 215
- Jonny Vanhaist (CN) won by fall over Connor Landis at 285.

Bluffton will be at Eastside at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 3. Michigan State used bench to top

LAHAINA, Hawaii (AP) — Jase Richardson came off the bench to score 13 points as Michigan State beat Colorado 72-56 Monday in its first appearance in the Maui

Colorado at Maui Invitational

Invitational since 2019. The Spartans (5-1) are playing in their sixth Maui Invitational, the fifth under coach Tom Izzo.

Colorado (4-1), playing its first game away from home in Boulder, got off to a strong start, taking an early lead, 16-13, with a 6-2 run, capped by a dunk from Bangot Dak with under 14 minutes left in the first half. Julian Hammond III hit a jumper to get Colorado within two, 25-23 with 7:42 left but Michigan State pulled

Jase Richardson hit a jumper with 6:06 left, Tre Holloman turned a three-point play and Xavier Booker followed his jumper with a pair of free throws a minute later to push the Spartans' lead to 11 points. Trevor

Baskin ended the 9-0 run with a jumper at 2:14 but Szymon Zapala answered with a dunk and his two free throws gave the Spartans a 38-25 lead at the break.

Michigan State led by as many as 19 in the second half.

The only Spartan to reach double-figure scoring, Richardson hit 6 of 8 from the field, knocking down one of his two 3-point attempts, to lead a 40-point effort by Michigan State's reserves. The Spartans hit 30 of 61 from the field but were just 2 of 21 from beyond the arc.

Hammond hit 3 of 7 from behind the arc to lead Colorado with 15 points and four assists. Elijah Malone added 14 points. The Buffaloes were just 20 of 54 from the field (37%), including 4 of 19 from deep.

Michigan State will play Memphis, an upset winner over No. 2 UConn, Tuesday. Colorado takes on the Huskies in Tuesday's opening game.

Raiders go 3-2 at Bronco Duals

Southern Wells had a nice day on the vided to the News-Banner. wrestling mat at the Bronco Super Duals over the weekend.

The Raiders went 3-2 in their five matches, defeating Blackford, Wapahani and Union City. Below are the scores. Individual results were not pro-

Results:

- Win vs. Blackford 48-24.
- Win vs. Wapahani 60-18. • Loss vs. Frankfort 64-12.
- Win vs. Union City 40-30.
- Loss vs. Daleville 54-30.

High School Calendar

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

WEDNESDAY, NOV 27

BOYS BASKÉTBALL: Norwell at Carroll,

THURSDAY, NOV 28 No events scheduled.

FRIDAY, NOV 29 GIRLS BASKETBALL: Bluffton at South SATURDAY, NOV 30

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

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

WRESTLING: Southern Wells at Super Duals (Homestead High School), 9 a.m.

Bluffton-Harrison basketball teams square off in ACAC conference play

Bluffton-Harrison's Middle School basketball teams began conference play against Adams Central Monday night.

Of the four teams, the Tigers went 3-1. The eighth grade girls' team defeated the Jets 50-16, improving to 3-0 on the year. Josie Nash scored a team-high 19 points, followed by Averie Patton (8), Audrey Mechling (6), Luci Jenkins and Khloe Gehrett (4), Maddy Narvaez (3) and Alanna Croft and Audrey McMillan (2).

The eighth grade team won 44-17 and improved to 3-0 on the season. Chase Kistler led the team with 12 points, followed by Maddox White (11), Wyatt Holmes (7), Kamdyn Shuman (5), Ethan Ribich (4), Vince Lambert (3) and Braxton Bebout (2).

The seventh grade boys' team won 30-19 and improved to 2-1 on the season. Riker Beste led the way with 16 points, followed by Simeon Terry (9), Easton Schipper (3) and Kreigh Ault (2).

The seventh grade girls fell 43-33. Adrienna Smallman scored a team-high with 16 points, followed by Averie Pearson (8), Olivia Brown (6) and Cheyenne Sonnigsen (3).

Most drivers eager for changes to NASCAR's current playoff format

By STEVE REED **AP Sports Writer**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — It seems everyone except champion Joey Logano is eager to see to a change to the NASCAR playoff format.

How to fix it remains up for debate.

Logano won his third Cup Series championship earlier this month, re-igniting the conversation about whether the current playoff format is the best way to determine a worthy champion. Logano wound up winning four races this season, but only had 13 top 10 finishes in 37 races and clearly didn't have one of the best cars over the course of

Logano, it seemed, did just enough to get

He got his share of breaks, too, using what amounted to a Hail Mary win in Nashville — stretching his empty fuel tank through five overtimes — to qualify for the postseason. He was actually eliminated from playoff contention in the second round, only to be reinstated after a competitor's car was ruled to be illegal.

Logano's run to the title has left some drivers wanting to see the system altered, with suggestions ranging from minor tweaks to major changes.

"I think the message we are trying to send is: Make the regular season matter more," said Denny Hamlin, driver of the No. 11 car for Joe Gibbs Racing and a coowner of the 23XI Racing team. He suggested increasing the bonus points a driver gets during the regular season.

"The (Christopher) Bells, (Kyle) Larsons, they deserve to have a really good buffer there to make it through the (playoff) rounds," Hamlin said. "We're in a sport where you can get caught up in so many wrecks and different things that can happen. ... There are 26 (regular season) races and they are proving to be not that substantial to winning a championship and that's not something you want."

Hamlin suggested that over the past three years the Team Penske champions — Logano twice and Ryan Blaney once - "didn't have to do much" during the regular season.

"And that's probably not good," Hamlin

NASCAR likes the current playoff system because of the emphasis it places on each race heading down the final stretch of the season in its never-ending quest for Game 7 moments. Stock car racing's governing body remains open to tweaking the format — it if it improves the sport.

"I love that aspect of it," Bell said of the emphasis on the playoff races, "but maybe adjusting the points systems to make sure we get the right cars into the championship event would be awesome.

Blaney said it's up to drivers to adapt the rules in place. But he said in his "ideal world" he'd like to see the top 16 drivers on points in the regular season qualify for the playoffs. He said race winners should get 10 or 15 points instead of five, and that the regular-se champion should get an additional 30 points.

Blaney's final suggestion involves less elimination races.

He suggested the 16-car field should be cut to eight after five playoff races, with the remaining eight drivers competing over the final five races for the championship.

"I would like to see a group of races to end the year where you are not going to have anyone run away with it and you're going to have three to five races and you're still going to have some really good competition going on," Blaney said.

Logano just shakes his head and offers a

sarcastic smile at all the tweak talk. He was emphatic about the system not needing to be changed after his clinching win at Phoenix and didn't stray from that conviction at Friday's annual awards cer-

emony in Charlotte. When asked if there are any changes that need to be made, Logano replied, "Nothing, personally. I wouldn't change a thing," adding that he thinks the format is "super enter-

taining." Of course, if you've won three championships since 2018, why would you want to

change? "I think we all need to understand why we changed it in the first place, it's because the fans said they didn't like the way it was, so we changed it," Logano said. "And then everybody loved it. And it was great. And now, oh, we're going to complain about it again? C'mon, guys. Geez.'







News-Banner Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

College

EASTBoston College 41, North Carolina

21 Illinois 38, Rutgers 31 Iowa 29, Maryland 13 Syracuse 31, Uconn 24 West Virginia 31, UCF 21

Yale 34, Harvard 29 SOUTH Auburn 43, Texas A&M 41, 4OT Charlotte 39, FAU 27 Clemson 51, The Citadel 14 Duke 31, Virginia Tech 28 Florida 24, Mississippi 17 Florida St. 41, Charleston Southern

Georgia 59, Umass 21 LSU 24, Vanderbilt 17 Liberty 38, W. Kentucky 21 Louisville 37, Pittsburgh 9 Miami 42, Wake Forest 14 Missouri 39, Mississippi St. 20 SMU 33, Virginia 7 South Carolina 56, Wofford 12 Tennessee 56, UTEP 0 MIDWEST

Bowling Green 38, Ball St. 13 Illinois St. 35, North Dakota 13 Kansas 37, Colorado 21 Kansas St. 41, Cincinnati 15 Michigan 50, Northwestern 6 N. Iowa 41, Indiana St. 34 Nebraska 44, Wisconsin 25 Notre Dame 49, Army 14 Ohio St. 38, Indiana 15 Penn St. 26, Minnesota 25 South Dakota 29, N. Dakota St. 28 St. Thomas (Minn.) 32, Dayton 9 Valparaiso 18, Davidson 17

SOUTHWEST
Arkansas 35, Louisiana Tech 14
Baylor 20, Houston 10 Oklahoma 24, Alabama 3 TCU 49, Arizona 28

TCU 49, Arizona 28
Texas 31, Kentucky 14
Texas Tech 56, Oklahoma St. 48
FAR WEST
Air Force 22, Nevada 19
Arizona St. 28, BYU 23
Boise St. 17, Wyoming 13
California 24, Stanford 21
Freena \$28, Calarda \$1, 22 Fresno St. 28, Colorado St. 22 Idaho 40, Idaho St. 17 Iowa St. 31, Utah 28 Oregon St. 41, Washington St. 38 Southern Cal 19, UCLA 13

NFL

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| Miami 5 | 6 | 0 | .455 215 236 | | | | | | | | | | | |
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.909 270 218 0.700 220 .583 264 202 .182 206 314 Denver 7 5 0 .583 264 Las Vegas 2 9 0 .182 206 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

W L a9 2 Pct PF PA Philadelphia 9 Washington 7 .818 296 199 .583 334 277 .364 221 319 0 5 7 Dallas N.Y. Giants 2 .182 163 252 South W L T 6 5 0 Pct PF PA .545 244 274 Atlanta Tampa Bay 5 6 New Orleans4 7 .455 309 273 .364 262 260

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Thursday's Games Cleveland 24, Pittsburgh 19 Sunday's Games Dallas 34, Washington 26 Detroit 24, Indianapolis 6

Kansas City 30, Carolina 27 Miami 34, New England 15 Minnesota 30, Chicago 27, OT Tampa Bay 30, N.Y. Giants 7 Tennessee 32, Houston 27 Denver 29, Las Vegas 19 Green Bay 38, San Francisco 10 Seattle 16, Arizona 6 Philadelphia 37, L.A. Rams 20 Open: Buffalo, Cincinnati, Jackson-ville, N.Y. Jets, Atlanta, New Orleans

Monday's Games
Monday Night Football: Baltimore at
L.A. Chargers, late

BASKETBALL

High School

Saturday Girls' Scores Anderson Prep Academy 53, Eastern (Greentown) 43 Angola 49, W. Noble 23 Barr-Reeve 57, Mitchell 21 Batesville 42, S. Ripley 27 Beech Grove 41, Covenant Christian

High School 38 Bellmont 78, Heritage 18 Bloomington South 68, Southport 30 Bluffton 77, N. Miami 43 Brownstown 46, Borden 36 Calumet Christian 45, Faith Christian

Carmel 54, Carroll (Ft. Wayne) 48 Chesterton 62, Plymouth 38 Clarksville 61, Bloomington Light-

house 21 Columbia City 64, Valparaiso 45 Concord 49, S. Bend Riley 37 Culver 37, Pioneer 33 DeKalb 49, Central Noble 43 DeMotte Christian 41, Washington

Decatur Central 64, Hope Academy, Delphi 45. Frontier 31

Delphi 45, Frontier 31 E. Noble 62, Ft. Wayne North 33 Eastbrook 62, Taylor 28 Edgewood 57, Sullivan 55 Elkhart 56, Mishawaka 21 Evansville Central 68, Princeton 44 Evansville Christian 47, Tell City 41 Evansville Memorial 58, Jasper 46 Evansville Reitz 70, New Albany 54 Fairfield 49. Jimtown 23 Floyd Central 66, Purdue Poly

(Englewood) 37 Forest Park 46, S. Central (Elizabeth)

Frankton 47, New Castle 44
Ft. Wayne Luers 40, Mississinewa 23 Ft. Wayne Northrop 85, Whitko 60 Ft. Wayne Snider 42, Indpls N. Central 36

tral 36
Guerin Catholic High School 48, Heritage Christian 43
Homestead 66, Noblesville 49
Jay Co. 42, Winchester 30
Kokomo 63, Ft. Wayne South 23
Lakeland Christian (IN) 41, Champainn St. Thomas More III 29 paign St. Thomas More, III. 29 Lawrence Central 72, S. Bend Wash-

ington 63 Lawrence North 80, Anderson 59 Linton 46, N. Daviess 39 Lowell 49, Griffith 19 Madison Shawe 55, Franklin Co. 52 Michigan City Marquette 48, Michigan

City 12 Morgan Twp. 68, Boone Grove 19 Morristown 57, Edinburgh 21 Mt. Vernon (Fortville) 32, E. Central

Muncie Central 49, Blackford 8
N. Decatur 41, S. Decatur 39
N. Harrison 70, Scottsburg 59
N. Knox 61, Bloomfield 13 New Prairie 48, LaPorte 40 Norwell 54, Oak Hill 34 Oregon-Davis 43, Knox 37 Portage 48, Kouts 31 Randolph Southern 50, Hagerstown

Rochester 35, Maconaquah 28 Rushville 42, Tri 32 Shenandoah 67, Cambridge City

Lincoln 19
South Bend Career Academy 24, Hamilton 19 Southridge 37, Perry Central 21 Springs Valley 58, Rock Creek Acad-

emy 18 Tri-County 65, Tri-Central 30 Triton Central 74, Indpls Lutheran 17 Union City 43, S. Adams 41 Vincennes 67, Eastern (Greene) 22 Wabash 64, Logansport 26 Wapahani 48, Daleville 40

Warren Central 77, Southfield-lathrup, Mich. 28 Washington 67, Tecumseh 24 Washington Catholic 36, S. Vermil-

Wawasee 52, Triton 40 White River Valley 44, Shakamak 39 Winamac 61, Manchester 45 Duneland-NLC Classic Northridge 77, Crown Point 36 Northridge 84, Merrillville 50 Warsaw 70, Merrillville 41 Warsaw 74, Crown Point 52 Johnson County Tournament Championship Championship Center Grove 57, Franklin 29 Lafayette Tournament Seventh Place W. Lafayette 42, Twin Lakes 22 Fifth Place Lafayette Jeff 51, Benton Central 39

Third Place Lafayette Central Catholic High School 52, Lafayette Harrison 40 Championship McCutcheon 62, Rensselaer 52 Paris (III.) Tournament

Terre Haute South 43, Champaign Central, III. 35 Orange Terre Haute North 37, Danville, III. 18

Fifth Place Terre Haute South 37, Danville, III. 28 Third Place Terre Haute North 54, Olney, III. 41 Putnam County Tournament Third Place N. Putnam 47, Cloverdale 24 Championship
S. Putnam 55, Greencastle 33
Sugar Creek Tournament

Western Boone 51, Crawfordsville 35 Championship N. Montgomery 48, Southmont 34

Monday Girls' Scores Caston 49, Oregon-Davis 45 Donovan, Ill. 33, S. Newton 28 Dubois 40, Wood Memorial 39 Elwood 37, Cowan 24
Fountain Central 50, Frontier 22
Ft. Wayne Wayne 77, Ft. Wayne
Canterbury 21
Greenfield 55, Heritage Christian 38

Haviland Wayne Trace, Ohio 53, Ft. Wayne Blackhawk 40 Indiana Christian 15, Evansville North 4

Indpls Herron 57, East Dayton Christian School, Ohio 17
Lafayette Central Catholic High School 67, Kankakee Valley 43

Madison Shawe 64, Christian Academy 53 Pendleton Hts. 79, Indpls Chatard 50 Plainfield 73, Greenwood 27 S. Bend St. Joseph's 50, Elkhart

Christian 39 Southmont 36, S. Putnam 29 Taylor 42, Crosspointe Christian Wapahani 83, Wes-Del 10

Warren Central 67, Indpls Tech 15 Monday Boys' Scores Austin 85, Crothersville 72 Cascade 72, Faith Christian 43

Highland 73, Westville 53 Indpls Attucks 84, Indpls Tech 49 Marian Catholic (Chicago Heights), III. 70, Hammond Central 69, OT Marquette Manor Baptist, III. 78, Fairhaven Christian 16 Valparaiso 72, Goshen 41

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Agriculture

Trump nominates Brooke Rollins as ag secretary

By AGDAILY

Pct PF PA

Brooke Rollins, president and CEO of the nonprofit America First Policy Institute and a native of Texas, has been nominated by President-elect Donald Trump to be the next U.S. secretary of agriculture.

As ag secretary in the second Trump administration, Rollins would lead a U.S. Department of Agriculture that has more that 100,000 employees across the nation. In addition to connections to FFA and 4-H, Rollins has a long history of Trump's trust. During his first term, Rollins was an assistant to the president for intergovernmental and technology initiatives. She then went on to become acting director of the U.S. Domestic Policy Council, whose stated goal is to drive "the development and implementation of the President's domestic policy agenda in the White House and across the Federal government."

"As our next Secretary of Agriculture, Brooke will spearhead the effort to protect American Farmers, who are truly the backbone of our Country,' Trump said in a statement.

In a social media post after the announcement, Rollins said, "Thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to serve as the next U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. It will be the honor of my life to fight for America's farmers and our Nation's agricultural communities. This is big stuff for a small-town ag girl from Glen Rose, TX — truly the American Dream at its greatest."

Rollins is somewhat a surprise choice for this role. While she's been a vital component of Trump's transition team, mainstream media has somewhat derisively labeled her as "one of the most important Republican operatives you've probably never heard of."

And as recently as last week, farm industry media had been zeroing on the likes of Texas Ag Commissioner Sid Miller, House Ag Chairman Glenn "GT" Thompson, and American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall to be the next ag secretary. CNN, meanwhile, reported as recently as Friday that U.S. Senator Kelly Loeffler was the top contender.

None of them had Rollins on their

"Brooke's commitment to support the American Farmer, defense of American Food Self-Sufficiency, and the restoration of Agriculture-dependent American Small Towns is second to none," Trump said.

The job of agriculture secretary has massive implications in a variety of ways for the country, not the least of which is having a role in how food is produced and how resources are developed for those in the agriculture industry. That position further includes nutrition programs, farm lending, rural development, agriculture research, forestry, and trade leadership.

As NBC News describes it, a new ag secretary would "guide next year's renegotiation of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade deal, in the shadow of disputes over Mexico's attempt to bar imports of genetically modified corn and Canada's dairy import quotas." Notably, the nomination of Rol-

lins comes as Congress continues to have unfinished farm bill policy hanging over its shoulders. Already a year overdue and currently living on life support via an extension, the farm bill is expected to be punted yet again by a Congress that doesn't have an appetite for the relatively small measure intro duced by Michigan Democratic Sen. Debbie Stabenow just last week.

This means that Rollins could play a significant role in helping to guide whatever measure would hopefully be drafted in 2025.

The role of agriculture secretary was one of the most consistent points of Trump's first term, with his selection at the time, Sonny Perdue from Georgia, serving for the duration of Trump's presidency.

Rollins earned an undergraduate degree from Texas Tech and a law degree at the University of Texas School of Law. If confirmed, she would be only the second woman in history to ever serve in the role of U.S. secretary of agriculture. The first was Ann Veneman during George W. Bush's administration.

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NFU releases Farmer's Share of Thanksgiving food dollar cessing and distribution to • Cranberries: Signature National Agricultural Statis-

By AGDAILY

As Americans prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving with family gatherings, National Farmers Union released the updated "Farmer's Share of the Food Dollar" for items typically enjoyed during a Thanksgiving meal. These figures reveal how much family farmers earn compared to the amount consumers pay at the grocery

"Consumers may notice higher prices this year for many of the ingredients used in their Thanksgiving meals as they prepare to gather around tables filled with cherished holiday dishes. These rising costs, however, often don't translate to fair compensation for America's family farmers and ranchers," said Rob Larew, NFU President.

Larew blames corporate consolidation within the food system.

"Over the years, corporate consolidation has left our agriculture and food systems fragile and uncompetitive. Today, monopolies dominate everything from food pro-

the markets for seeds and farm equipment, leaving farmers at a disadvantage, he said. "This Thanksgiving, as we celebrate with friends and family, we must also acknowledge the challenges our food producers face. Family farmers and ranchers deserve a fair share of the consumer dollar.'

Farmer's **Share Breakdown**

The report included the following items from a traditional Thanksgiving dinner, with their retail prices and what farmers earn per

- item: • Turkey: Butterball Frozen Turkey, 16-20 lb. (price per lb.) — Retail: \$2.42, Farmer's Share: \$0.06
- Mashed Potatoes: Signature SELECT Farms Russet Potatoes, 10 lbs. Retail: \$6.99, Farmer's Share: \$1.22
- oz. Retail: \$4.39, Farmer's Share: \$0.07 • Pumpkin Pie: Signature SELECT 100% Pure Pump-

kin, 15 oz. — Retail: \$4.29,

Farmer's Share: \$0.14

son's Seasoned Stuffing, 12

• Stuffing: Mrs. Cubbi-

Fresh Cranberries, 12 oz. Retail: \$2.99, Farmer's Share: \$0.86

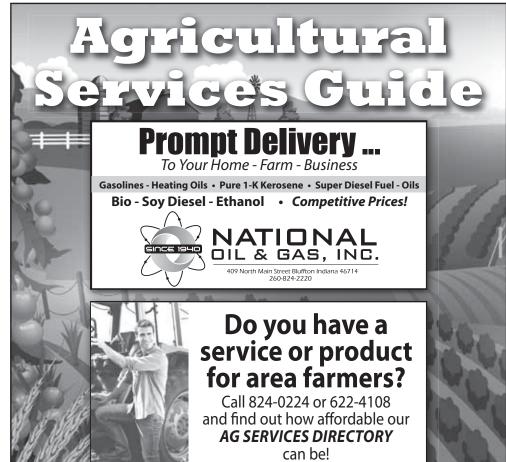
- Boneless Ham: Signature SELECT Smoked Boneless Ham (half), 2 lb. - Retail: \$15.98, Farmer's Share: \$1.28
- Sweet Corn: Signature SELECT Sweet White Corn, 16 oz. — Retail: \$2.99, Farmer's Share: \$0.34
- Dinner Rolls: Signature SELECT Artisan White Dinner Rolls, 18 oz. Retail: \$3.99, Farmer's Share: \$0.10

• Green Beans: Signature SELECT Farms Green Beans, 20 oz. — Retail: \$5.00, Farmer's Share: \$0.98 NFU's Fairness for

Farmers campaign is working to solve the monopoly crisis in food and agriculture. Through stronger antitrust enforcement and greater transparency, we can increase the farmer's share of the food dollar and bring fairness for farmers and

consumers alike. NFU says the data was sourced from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's

tics Service and other industry sources.



Am I the problem?

Dear Annie: I work at a school as a teacher and have struggled over the years with how cliquey the other teachers have been. Shortly after I started there, the pandemic happened, and many people friended each other on Facebook. Because that was the only source for a sense of community as we went through those first few dark months, I accepted many of the friend requests, and that felt good. However, a couple of years later I couldn't help but notice how people commented on each other's posts and tagged each other like they were friends in real life but never with me.

I had gone through cancer during the pandemic, which few people know about, and I missed out on many of the social events that solidified those friendships. So I had some understanding, but I figured after a while I would be invited in. That never happened, and I felt excluded by the number of posts that would show up in my feed between co-workers. I made the decision after a couple of years to unfriend/block many people on Facebook from my work so I didn't have to see that and feel bad.

When staff functions or happy hours are advertised, I go and socialize and ask questions of others and show that I am interested in what they have to say and in them as people. However, people generally do not seem interested in me in any way, and I often leave feeling dissed. Over the years, I have invited people who I have gotten to know from work over for dinner at my home with my husband (and even to our wedding), and although the couples gladly accepted our invitations and we had a pleasant and fun time, a return invitation has never occurred.

This week I found out that there was a celebration for one of the teacher's birthdays last weekend, and many other teachers were invited, but I was not. I sit near this teacher at lunch at the break table most days and converse pleasantly with him and listen to his stories, so it stung a bit that I wasn't invited. The office staff is no better. They don't smile or say hello to me except for one of the women. I am beginning to think I am some sort of pariah at my work, and I don't know why. I have made friends through other avenues, hobbies and organizations, and have other long-lasting friendships and have a happy and healthy home life, but it is troubling that my workplace feels so cold and exclusive.

I am considering looking for a job else-





therapy for other reasons but plan to discuss this as well and am wondering what advice you have for how I might go about understanding how to perceive this feedback at work. — Not Welcome in Washington

school, the leader-

ship and the stu-

dents, so I would

like to stay. But

deep down, I am

also wondering if

I am the problem

and have some sort of off-putting

characteristic or

some reputation

that drives would-

be-work-friends

away. I have started

Dear Not Welcome: It's completely understandable that you feel hurt by the way your co-workers have treated you. My guess is that this may have more to do with the fact that you're new and joined during a challenging time, making it harder to integrate yourself. Building relationships takes time, and it's natural for people to need a while to get to know one another.

If you love the school, the leadership and the students, that's a great reason to stay. Faculty dynamics can change, and you may meet new colleagues or form connections with the existing ones over time.

Remember, we can't control other people's actions — only how we react to them. Sometimes, what feels like rejection is actually redirection. Perhaps you weren't meant to be part of that group or party, and that's

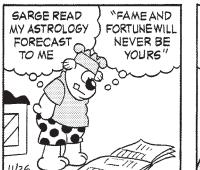
Congratulations on taking the step to go to therapy and staying curious about yourself! By continuing this journey of selfgrowth, you'll likely find that meaningful friendships will naturally come into your life. Try not to get too fixated on how those friendships should look or where they need to come from. You don't have to be friends with your coworkers; you can build connections outside of work.

For now, focus on what you enjoy about your job: the students, the leadership and the school itself. Those are excellent reasons to stay and thrive in your role.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

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By Bil Keane

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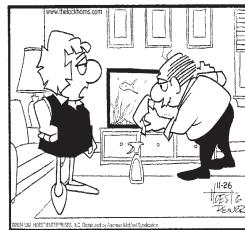
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The LOCKHORNS



"He's mad because he got bumped from his seat by the groceries.'



"AND YET YOU REFUSE TO WASH THE WINDOWS."

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My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham

Question: My college professor claims that science has disproved much of the Bible – and the Gospel – and if I expect to have any faith at all, my faith should be placed in mankind because of the incredible success in education, medicine, science, and technology. My faith in God is certain, but how does one *debate this?* – F.U.

Answer: When we are confronted with someone who claims that the Bible has been proven a fraud, we should always ask where such is the case. True science and true understanding of the Bible are never at

The Bible is the true Word of God variance. If the person

making such a claim is antagonistic to the Christian faith and God's Word, he or she is prone to back the position by supposed inaccuracies in the Bible. But the best answer to such people is to insist on the statement, on their part, of just what the inaccuracies are. Most of the time they are not forthcoming and don't really expect anyone to doubt them because of their credentials. If we are uncertain of what the Bible teaches on the subject, we should also do our part in seeking others' wisdom and answers from the Word of God.

When people doubt that the Bible is the true Word of God, they are often

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unwilling to ascribe to God anything they cannot themselves achieve. Above all, let's remember that Satan exalted himself above God and endeavored to get man to doubt the reliability of God's Word. The gospel of Jesus Christ is not anti-intellectual. It demands the use of the mind along with faith in the authoritative Word of God and what Jesus did on the cross, making salvation possible. The Bible is God's message to us. It is the infallible Book.

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

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COUNTY BUILDING INSPECTOR

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

Coordinates the preparation and presentation of an annual budget for the Building Department; directs implementation of the department's budget; plans for and reviews specifications for new or replaced equipment. Construct and establish a local building code based off state code requirements and

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

needs of the county.

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

Reviews the building plan for the County.

Approves the building permits, issues permits, and collects the fees for the permits.

as necessary Issues certificates of occupancy, as needed.

Maintains an effective communication process with the Commissioners. Bachelor's

degree /B.S.) from a four-year college or university; and five experience years related and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. CBO Certification is required. Previous experience building in construction or related field is required. Previous supervisory experience is required.

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

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Monday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY Cash 5 — 01-16-23-30-

Cash4Life — 01-08-15-31-59, Cash Ball: 01

Quick Draw Midday -01-06-13-14-16-21-23-26-37-38-39-40-41-42-47-51-55-59-61-71, BE: 38

Daily Three-Midday — 05-04-03, SB: 03

Daily Three-Evening — 08-01-03, SB: 02

Daily Four-Midday —

06-03-09-08, SB: 03

Daily Four-Evening 07-06-05-02, SB: 02 **Quick Draw Evening**

03-05-06-09-13-14-16-19-24-25-33-40-45-57-60-61-67-72-73-74, BE: 03

Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$30.2 million

MEGA MILLIONS Estimated jackpot (for Tuesday): \$489 million

PÓWERBALL 05-35-45-60-63 Powerball: 12; Power Play: 2X

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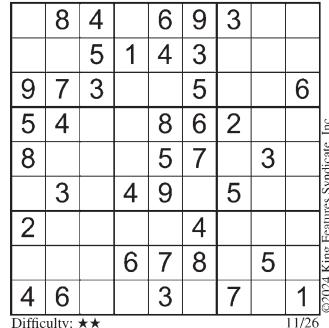
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Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

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November



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NOVEMBER 26 - 6 p.m. -

Public

WE ACCEPT

(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 NOW OPEN AND
STARTS CLOSING DECEM-BER 1 STARTING AT 4 p.m. EST - Various consignors, owners. Online only Elm Street consignment auction! Name brand woodworking tools, camping supplies, like new 24" Craftsman lawn vac, lawn & garden tools, weight lifting equipment, household 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, potential, personal property available, Blackford Co. Auction mgr. Al Pfister, 260-760-8922 Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc., schraderauction.com, 800-451-

DECEMBER 4 - 3 p.m. Online - Dusty Roach, Bankruptcy Trustee, sellers. 6,142 sq. ft. modern commercial building. Key features: 5 rental units w/4 office suites, 1 currently leased, 600 sq. ft. heated garage w/16'x12' overhead door, independently controlled heating and cooling for units, expansion potential w/additional land available for future. Open 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 furniture, vintage framed art work, lithograph prints, vintage pickle castors, glassware, collectibles, more. Preview Dec. 1, 8, 2-5 p.m., Dec. 12, 3-6 p.m., 301 N. Highland Ave., Ossian. Patrick Carter, sale manager, 260-824-3006, The Steffen Group Inc., www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

DECEMBER 9 - 4 p.m.- 6 p.m. ET - (Online) - Crandall Farm, seller. Property location: Two miles northeast of Gas, IN, near intersection of E 300 S and S 550 E, Mill Township, Grant County. 81.59+/- total acres, tillable, woods, recreational land, potential building sites. Tract 1: 27.59+/- acres, 18.4+/- tillable, 8+/- woods, 1.19+/- non-tillable. Tract 2: 54+/- acres, 28.91+/- tillable, 23.34+/- woods, 1.75+/- nontillable. Rick Johnloz, 260-827-8181, Emma Barr, 260-494-0992. Jason Johnloz. 260-273-9177, Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management, 800-424-2324, halderman.com

DECEMBER 14-DECEMBER 21 - Bidding starts closing at 1 p.m. - Private collec-tion, seller. 20 Marolf Ct., Fremont, IN. Extensive collection of exotic mounts (over 140) including zebras, black bears, antelope, water buffalo and more, antique boat motors, bows, hunting equipment, vintage fishing lures, watches and fine jewelry, tools, vintage nautical items, much more. The Steffen Group Inc., 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

BIDDING CLOSES DECEM-BER 15 - 6 p.m. - Online Only - Jim Baker, owner. AIR-PLACO 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, modem furniture and much more! Preview Dec. 4, 5-6 p.m. & Dec. 7, 9-10 a.m., 5388 SW. State Road 116-1, Bluffton, IN. Pick up Dec. 17, 12-6 p.m. Full list at Towncountryauctions. com., click Fliers. Town and Country Auctioneers/Realtors, Estate & Auction, Inc., 260-

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. and 8 from 2-5 p.m., and Dec. 12 from 3-6 p.m., 301 N. Highland Ave., Ossian, IN. Pat Carter, sale manager, 260-273-8294. The Steffen Group Inc. www.steffengrp.com, 260-426-

DECEMBER 17 - 9 a.m.-6

DECEMBER 22-DECEMBER 31 - Bidding starts closing at 2 p.m. - Estate of Richard Gerken and others, sellers. "Outstanding year end auction." Very high quality art deco, mid century modern and Art Nouveau home furnishings, International Harvester collection, 2011 Platinum Ford F150 in pristine condition, 3,500 record albums, vintage Schwinn bicycles, advertising memorabilia, antique gas pump, country primitives and more. Open house Dec. 26 and Dec. 30 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 102 S. Jefferson St., Ossian, IN. The Steffen Group *Inc.*, steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

DECEMBER 29-JANUARY 5 - Bidding starts closing at 2 p.m. - The Estate of Eldrid Tinkel, seller. Large antique and collectible auction including country primitives, vintage farm toys, vintage toy trucks, early cast iron, brass cash register, large antique and rare collection of vintage graniteware, Fenton, Marion advertising, vintage beer signs, long guns, coins. Open house Dec. 29 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Jan. 4 from 10 a.m. to noon, 1910 N Meridian St., Marion, IN. The Steffen Group Inc., Steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

Line Classified Ad Deadlines:

Monday editions: Friday by 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday editions:

day-before by 3:30 p.m. Saturdays: Friday by 11:30 a.m.

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