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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2024 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00

## Norwell considers turf, lighting for softball field

**By HOLLY GASKILL**  
 In the next phase of projects for Norwell Community Schools, board members discussed a \$1.2 million proposal to rebuild Norwell High School's softball field. The project would include a complete turf field and new dugouts, batting cages, bullpens, elevated bleachers and a fence. Maintenance director Adam Heckber said field lights, which were not included in the proposal, would be an additional \$350,000.

The board has recently approved two bonds for general facility improvements — \$6.1 million in June 2023 and \$3.3 million this last August. Thus far, the district has carried out renovation projects at Ossian Elementary School and NHS football and baseball fields.

During its meeting Tuesday, the board was generally positive about the softball field proposal, but expressed some hesitation about lighting, which had been included in initial discussions. However, softball coach Kevin Baird stressed that turf was a far more important issue for the field.

Athletic Director Kelby Weybright said at least eight games were

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## Norwell schools will use new bus routing software

**By HOLLY GASKILL**  
 Norwell Community Schools will soon implement a new routing system to their buses, tracking students on board.

The school board unanimously approved a software contract for the service with Transfinder during their meeting Tuesday. Norwell will pay \$76,753 upfront for start-up costs and the software license, \$29,244 next year, and \$30,706 the third year. Superintendent Mike Springer said these funds will come from the district's recent \$3.3 million bond.

Using the software, students will check onto buses and a route with all the necessary stops will be generated for the driver. Parents will also be able to track their students or let bus drivers know if a student will not need to be picked up.

Transportation coordinator Jenny Nes showed the board how routes and student information are handwritten by drivers, making it difficult to track information. Springer said these tools would help the department be more efficient, particularly when different routes have substitute drivers. The software will also track usage, route history and more.

Additionally, Springer said the software may also replace the district's need for a transportation director. Springer said Norwell had interviewed five candidates for the role but he was a "little bit hesitant" to move forward with a hire while he and Nes determine the use of Transfinder.

Board member Corey Krug expressed hesitation with this fix, emphasizing that it still involved Springer being more involved with transportation than his job description included. Springer agreed with the sentiment, but said it was not atypical for a superintendent nor a large part of his work.

Meanwhile, the board approved a title change and raise for Nes, who moved into the role of transportation secretary in July. As the role has taken on more administrative work, the board felt "coordinator" was more appropriate than "secretary."

The board similarly approved an increase in responsibilities and contracted pay for District Data Coordinator Krista Eisberg; Technology Director Byron Gerber said the need for that role has increased. The administrative benefits manual was changed accordingly for either role.

Meanwhile, the board unanimously approved the district to hire a part-time high ability coordinator at \$23,000 annually. The new role would work identify and work with students identified as "high ability" to develop an individualized learning plan that meets their needs.

Assistant Superintendent Anna Murphy

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## Two water bills adjusted for Union Street leak

**By JONATHAN SNYDER**  
 Two leak adjustments for adjacent properties in the 300 block of South Union Street were approved by the Board of Public Works and Safety on Tuesday.

The singular leak affected two of Drew Gerber's tenants, explaining the adjustment for both. Utility Director Jon Oman stated that he personally witnessed the leak occurring outside while it was active, so the board granted the adjustment for both properties.

Police Chief Kyle Randall also requested the purchase of two police pursuit vehicles from Freedom Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, formerly Hiday Motors. Randall said that Freedom's bid price totaled \$41,949 for each vehicle, about \$5,000 lower than the manufacturer's suggested price. Randall also notified the board that a third vehicle

may be requested for lease or purchase in the near future.

Randall also stated that current Sergeant Josh Smith requested to move to day shift and willingly stepped down from the role. Smith will return to patrol duties and a promotional board recommended Ethan Daggett be promoted to the Sergeant position, which the board approved.

Additionally, the board approved Nathaniel Fiechter's hire as a paid on call firefighter. Fire Chief Don Craig said that Fiechter passed both a written and agility test. Craig requested the hire soon due to training classes starting soon, which Fiechter will attend.

The board also approved two SRF claims, with \$30,682 going to DLZ Engineering and \$646,500 to James S. Jackson.

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## Trump signs agreement to begin formal transition handoff

**By ZEKE MILLER**  
**AP White House Correspondent**  
 WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump on Tuesday reached a required agreement with President Joe Biden's White House to allow his transition staff to coordinate with the existing federal workforce before taking office on Jan. 20.

The congressionally mandated agreement allows transition aides to work with federal agencies and access non-public information and gives a green light to government workers to talk to the transition team.

But Trump has declined to sign a separate agreement with the General Services Administration that would have given his team access to secure government offices and email accounts, in part because it would require that the president-elect limit contributions to \$5,000 and reveal who is donating to his transition effort.

The White House agreement was supposed to have been signed by Oct. 1, according to the Presidential Transition Act, and the Biden White House had issued both public and private appeals for Trump's team to sign on.

The agreement is a critical

(Continued on Page 3)



After students wrote what they're thankful on a piece of paper, teacher Zella Walborn's classroom made a paper chain to decorate the room. Pictured are Olivia Shelton, Axel Davis, Zi Chatman and Walborn. (Photo provided)

## 'An attitude of gratitude'

**BHES students learn thankfulness as a tool**

**By HOLLY GASKILL**  
 For the youngest minds at Bluffton-Harrison Elementary School, teacher Zella Walborn is helping students to understand the importance of thankfulness this season.

Walborn leads a special rotation class teaching social skills and character education. "An attitude of gratitude," as Walborn calls it, helps students regulate their emotions and work through difficult situations.

"One of the things that I do is I give students tools to help them regulate — gratitude is one of the tools," Walborn said.

She's led her students through 30 days of gratitude, working with each group of students at their level. They began by discussing what they're thankful for, what makes them happy and



Kindergartener Addilyn Carr (left) talks about her thankfulness book with fourth grade student Adalynn Dunlap (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

what makes them smile — the youngest students drew pictures, second grade

(Continued on Page 6a)

## Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah start a ceasefire

**By JOSEF FEDERMAN, KAREEM CHEHAYEB and BASSEM MROUE**  
**Associated Press**  
 JERUSALEM (AP) — The ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah militants began early Wednesday as a region on edge wondered whether it will hold.

The ceasefire announced Tuesday is a major step toward ending nearly 14 months of fighting sparked by the ongoing war in Gaza between Israel and Hamas.

Israel has said it will attack if Hezbollah breaks the ceasefire agreement.

The ceasefire calls for an initial two-month halt to fighting and requires Hezbollah to end its armed presence in southern Lebanon, while Israeli troops are to return to their side of the border. An international panel led by the United States will monitor compliance.

The ceasefire began at 4 a.m. Wednesday, a day after Israel carried out its most intense wave of airstrikes in Beirut since the start of the conflict that in recent weeks turned into

all-out war. At least 42 people were killed in strikes across the country, according to local authorities.

The ceasefire does not address the devastating war in Gaza, where Hamas is still holding dozens of hostages and the conflict is more intractable.

There appeared to be lingering disagreement over whether Israel would have the right to strike Hezbollah if it believed the militants had violated the agreement, something Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insisted was part of the deal but which Lebanese and Hezbollah officials have rejected.

Israel's security Cabinet approved the U.S.-France-brokered ceasefire agreement after Netanyahu presented it, his office said. U.S. President Joe Biden, speaking in Washington, called the agreement "good news" and said his administration would make a renewed push for a ceasefire in Gaza.

The Biden administration spent much of this year trying to broker a ceasefire and hostage release in Gaza but the talks repeat-

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**Outside**

Showers today, sunshine on Thanksgiving

Today	Thursday	Friday
High 43	High 42	High 29
Low 32	Low 24	Low 14

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**WEDNESDAY**  
 November 27, 2024

**HAPPY Thanksgiving**

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# Norwell considers turf

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canceled last season because of field drainage. "If we have lights, we're still going to cancel 12 games (because of drainage)," Springer said. "If we have turf, we're not going to cancel 12 games. I think that's the difference."

Springer added that the district could always add lighting to the field in the

future, but the district needed to prioritize its projects.

Board member Chad Kline also questioned if turf softball fields were linked to increased injuries, particularly in reference to nearby Oak Hill High School's field. Weybright said he had heard no complaints from Oak Hill about their softball field but there could be issues with the

cushioning on football fields.

It was also noted that the batting cages will block where people have often liked to bring lawn chairs. Springer hoped that the better bleachers would outweigh this downside. Hecker said there will be 150 more seats and accessible seating will be available in front of the bleachers, simi-

lar to the baseball field.

Engineering Resources, Inc. estimated the project cost — roughly \$17,000 of which would be site demolition, \$17,000 general costs, \$912,000 for field, fencing, and bleachers, and \$32,000 for earthwork. The board did not make a decision on the project.

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# Closures listed for Thanksgiving holiday

Thanksgiving on Thursday brings with it a host of closures.

The offices of the City of Bluffton and Wells County governments will be closed. The Ossian and Bluffton locations of the Wells County Public Library are closed Thursday, Nov. 28, and Friday, Nov. 29.

There is no mail delivery and The News-Banner does not publish Thursday. The office will not be open. Normal publication and office hours will resume Friday.

# Norwell buses

(Continued from Page 1)  
stated that the position is possible through a grant from the Indiana Department of Education. The coordinator will carry all the regular teaching certifications and a high ability coordinator certification. Springer said a candidate would likely be a retired teacher, and he and Murphy said they were "not concerned" with finding an applicant who met those specifications.

The board also approved an annual contract with Diligent Community to host board information online. Springer said BoardDocs, which the district currently uses, was bought by Diligent Community and may eventually be unavailable.

The \$5,400 contract with

Diligent Community is a \$2,400 increase, but Gerber said it was much more user-friendly and offers more features. Gerber anticipates the new program will be implemented by Jan. 1.

Lastly, the board approved moving its banking from MetLife to Lincoln Financial. Financial Services Director Deb Adams said Lincoln Financial has more user-friendly services, more options for 401a and health savings accounts, and a local representative for questions. Board member Angie Topp asked who would bear the hassle of transitioning things, and Adams said Lincoln Financial would take the bulk of the work.

"I think it's just a good move for employees,"

Adams summarized.

Also during the meeting, the board celebrated Norwell High School's cheer team, which competed at the state finals on Nov. 9 and finished seventh of 18 teams. The team was just four-tenths away from the top 5.

The cheer team will also host an NE8 conference showcase at 10 a.m. Dec. 14.

In other updates, the board:

- Accepted resignations from Bryan Swineford, NHS assistant wrestling coach; Rosemary Jones, Ossian Elementary School special education teaching assistant; and Makayla Study, Norwell Middle School assistant swim coach.
- Approved employment recommendations for Mat-

thew Krinn as NHS volunteer wrestling coach, Michael Scott as Academic Team activity sponsor, Alicia Lewis for Lancaster Elementary School food service, Carolyn Grover and Destiny Dalberg as full-time bus drivers, and Stephanie Bixler as NMS assistant swim coach.

- Approved the high school show choirs to travel to Solon, Ohio, on March 1 for an invitational competition.

The board will meet for the last time this year at 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 10 at Norwell High School. A reception for outgoing board members, Topp and Gene Donaghy, will follow the meeting. There will be no strategic planning meeting.

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# Weather

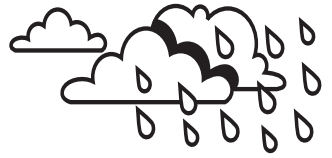
Wednesday, November 27, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:17 p.m. Tuesday)

High: 44; Low: 32; Precipitation: 0.01 inches of rain  
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.27 feet at 8:45 p.m. Tuesday

## Wells County forecast

**Today:** A 40% chance of showers, mainly after 1 p.m. Cloudy, with a high near 43. South wind 5 to 10 mph.



**Tonight:** Rain showers likely before 11 p.m., then rain and snow showers likely. Cloudy, with a low around 32. Southeast wind around 5 mph becoming north after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.

**Thanksgiving Day:** Partly sunny, with a high near 42. North wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Thursday Night:** A slight chance of rain and snow showers before 10 p.m., then a slight chance of snow showers between 10 p.m. and 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 24. West wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.



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

**Friday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 14.



**Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 27.

**Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 15.

**Sunday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 28.

**Sunday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 15.

**Monday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 29.

**Monday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 14.



**Tuesday:** A slight chance of snow showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 30.

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# Israel, Hezbollah ceasefire

(Continued from Page 1)  
edly sputtered to a halt. President-elect Donald Trump has vowed to bring peace to the Middle East without saying how.

Still, any halt to the fighting in Lebanon is expected to reduce the likelihood of war between Israel and Iran, which backs both Hezbollah and Hamas and exchanged direct fire with Israel on two occasions earlier this year.

Netanyahu presented the ceasefire proposal to Cabinet ministers after a televised address in which he listed accomplishments against Israel's enemies across the region. He said a ceasefire with Hezbollah would further isolate Hamas in Gaza and allow Israel to focus on its main enemy, Iran.

"If Hezbollah breaks the agreement and tries to rearm, we will attack," he said. "For every violation, we will

attack with might."

The ceasefire deal calls for a two-month initial halt in fighting and would require Hezbollah to end its armed presence in a broad swath of southern Lebanon, while Israeli troops would return to their side of the border. Thousands of additional Lebanese troop-squad U.N. peacekeepers would deploy in the south, and an international panel headed by the United States would monitor compliance.

Biden said Israel reserved the right to quickly resume operations in Lebanon if Hezbollah breaks the terms of the truce, but that the deal "was designed to be a permanent cessation of hostilities."

Netanyahu's office said Israel appreciated the U.S. efforts in securing the deal but "reserves the right to act against every threat to its security."

Lebanon's caretaker Prime Minis-

ter Najib Mikati welcomed the ceasefire and described it as a crucial step toward stability and the return of displaced people.

Hezbollah has said it accepts the proposal, but a senior official with the group said Tuesday it had not seen the agreement in its final form.

"After reviewing the agreement signed by the enemy government, we will see if there is a match between what we stated and what was agreed upon by the Lebanese officials," Mahmoud Qamati, deputy chair of Hezbollah's political council, told the Al Jazeera news network.

"We want an end to the aggression, of course, but not at the expense of the sovereignty of the state," he said, referring to Israel's demand for freedom of action. "Any violation of sovereignty is refused."

# SHOP LOCAL

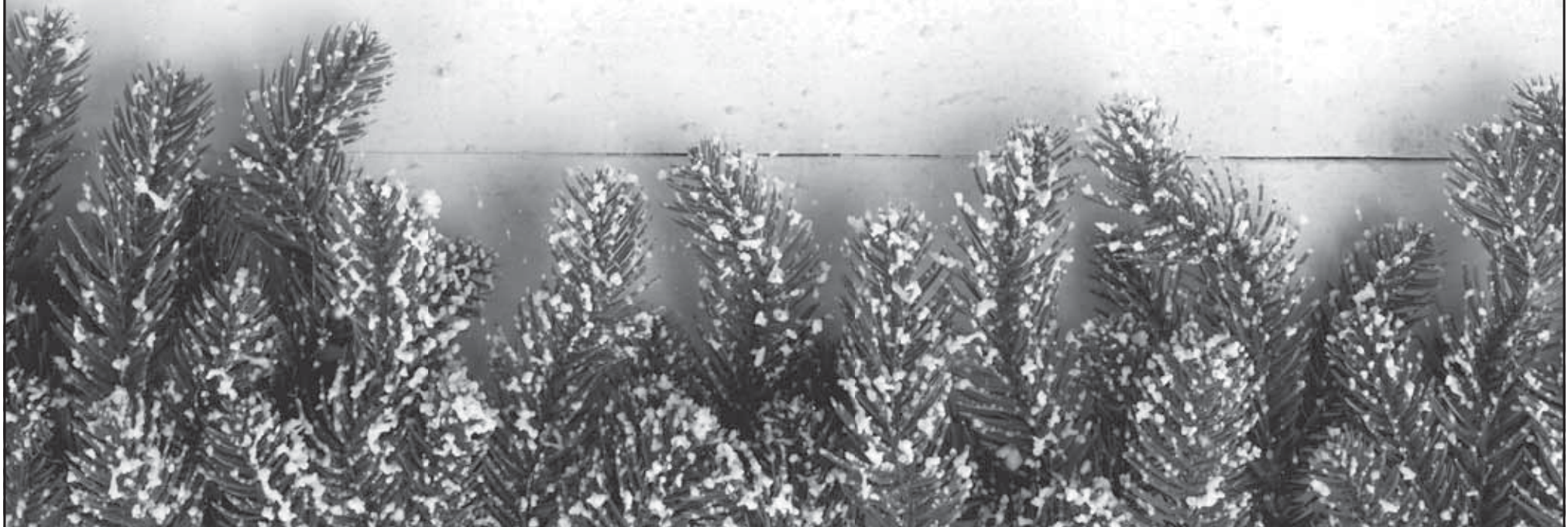


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# Transition handoff

(Continued from Page 1)

cal step in ensuring an orderly transfer of power at noon on Inauguration Day, and lays the groundwork for the White House and government agencies to begin to share details on ongoing programs, operations and threats. It limits the risk that the Trump team could find itself taking control of the massive federal government without briefings and documents from the outgoing administration.

As part of the agreement with the White House, Trump's team will have to publicly disclose its ethics plan for the transition operation and make a commitment to uphold it, the White House said. Transition aides must sign statements that they have no financial positions that could pose a conflict of interest before they receive access to non-public federal information.

Biden himself raised the agreement with Trump when they met in the Oval Office on Nov. 13, according to the White House, and Trump indicated that his team was working to get it signed.

Trump chief of staff-designate Susie Wiles met with Biden's chief of staff Jeff Zients at the White House on Nov. 19 and other senior officials in part to discuss remaining holdups, while lawyers for the two sides have spoken more than a half-dozen times in recent days to finalize the agreement.

"Like President Biden said to the American people from the Rose Garden and directly to President-elect Trump, he is

committed to an orderly transition," said White House spokesperson Saloni Sharma. "President-elect Trump and his team will be in seat on January 20 at 12 pm — and they will immediately be responsible for a range of domestic and global challenges, foreseen and unforeseen. A smooth transition is critical to the safety and security of the American people who are counting on their leaders to be responsible and prepared."

Without the signed agreement, Biden administration officials were restricted in what they could share with the incoming team. Trump national security adviser-designate Rep. Mike Waltz met recently with Biden national security adviser Jake Sullivan, but the outgoing team was limited in what it could discuss.

"We are doing everything that we can to effect a professional and an orderly transition," White House national security spokesman John Kirby told reporters on Monday. "And we continue to urge the incoming team to take the steps that are necessary to be able to facilitate that on their end as well."

"This engagement allows our intended Cabinet nominees to begin critical preparations, including the deployment of landing teams to every department and agency, and complete the orderly transition of power," said Wiles in a statement.

The Trump transition team says it would disclose its donors to the public and would not take foreign donations.

# Police Notebook

## INCIDENTS

**City:**  
 Monday, 3:58 p.m., Washington and Scott streets. Water access cover flipped up, fixed.  
 Monday, 7:44 p.m., Kroger. Subject in red Jeep reportedly asking for money. Unable to locate upon arrival.  
 Monday, 8:09 p.m., Johnson and Market streets. Report of verbal dispute.  
 Tuesday, 7:29 a.m., EZ Bowl. Crash. Vehicle towed. Report to follow.  
 Tuesday, 11:06 a.m., Police Department. Report of blackmail.  
 Tuesday, 11:28 a.m., Lowe's. Woman arrested on warrant.  
**County:**  
 Monday, 1:16 p.m., Wells County Jail. Justin Allen

Troop, 36, Poneto, arrested on warrant for possession of a syringe, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$6,000.  
 Monday, 7:53 p.m., S.R. 124 and C.R. 450 E, Bluffton. Report of a vehicle crossing over center line, stopping in roadway. Elderly driver told deputy he was having a hard time seeing in the dark rain.  
**ACCIDENTS**  
**County:**  
 Tuesday, 12:31 a.m., Peyton's Northern Distribution Center, Bluffton. Daniel Cabrales-Vasquez, 30, Chicago, was driving a 2004 Volvo VLN, attempting to back the vehicle into a docking area. In an attempt to avoid another semi, Cabrales-Vasquez ran the rear portion of the vehicle over the hood of a parked 2011 Ford Explorer.

Damage exceeded \$2,500.  
 Tuesday, 1:02 a.m., S.R. 1 at Yoder Road, Yoder. Williams Scott, 64, Markle, was driving a 2004 Toyota Echo southbound on S.R. 1 and struck a deer. Damage exceeded \$5,000.  
**FIRES**  
 Tuesday, 11 a.m., 200 block of North Oak Street. Report of burning smell. Bluffton Fire Department responded. Smell likely from sewage work at Wabash and Oak streets.  
**ARRESTS**  
 Lauren Elizabeth Markley, 38, Bluffton; disorderly conduct, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,000. Bonded.  
 Seth Aaron Markley, 36, Bluffton; disorderly conduct, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,000. Bonded.

# 'Christmas in the Mansion' weekends begin Nov. 30

Wells County's Historical Society will once again host the annual "Christmas in the Mansion" at the Historical Museum on the weekends of Nov. 30-Dec. 1, Dec. 7-9, 15-16, 21-22, from 2 to 5:30 p.m. each day.  
 Visitors will be able to view 29 Christmas trees that have been decorated by various businesses and organizations, each to a different theme. Visitors will be able to enter a vote for their favorite tree.  
 On Saturday, Dec. 14, the museum will have special hours for Bluffton's Parlor City Christmas and be open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
 On Sunday, Dec. 15, from 2 to 4 p.m. Santa Claus will be on hand for visits and photographs.  
 Holiday piano music will be offered on Sundays with the line-up to be: Dec. 8: Arlene Stoller (2-5 p.m.); Dec. 15: Kenny Steffen (2-4 p.m.) and Dec. 22: Karen Carpenter (2:30-5 p.m.).  
 The museum will have various history books and Williamson ceramics and cards available for sale.  
 All dates are open free to the public with more information at (260)438-5603 or at <https://wchs-museum.org>.

Niche to basement: Revive Beauty Lounge  
 Post office safe: Markle Antique Mall (Carol Hohe)  
 Back hallway: Jen Sturgeon  
 Basement landing: Becky Behning  
 Basement: Kroger's (Robin Lane) and 4-H (Pat Wall), Genealogy Society  
 2nd Floor top of stairs: Wells County Public Library (Dawn Miller)  
 2nd Floor: Teresa Beck, Hope Myers; Myers Kids; Celia Behning; Family Farm & Home; Family Centered Services (Mentor Moms)



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**Lunch Specials**  
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Teeple receives Stogdill award

The Doctor Tom Stogdill Community Service Award was established in 2006 by Dr. Tom Stogdill. Tom was born in Bluffton, graduating from Bluffton High School in 1953. He graduated from DePauw University and following his one-year internship, began his career as a physician specializing in family medicine. Tom practiced in Arizona, Southern California, and Utah before returning to Bluffton in 1986 to practice medicine at Caylor-Nickel Clinic. The award annually recognizes a Bluffton High School junior or senior for outstanding contributions to community service. Recipients of the award have the honor of selecting a local non-profit organization to receive a \$1,000 grant from Dr. Tom's Fund.

Ayden Teeple was selected as the 2024 recipient and recommended that the \$1,000 award be made to Family Centered Services for the Youth As Resources Program. Pictured from left to right are Tammy Slater, foundation CEO, Ayden Teeple and Courtney Ginter, Youth As Resources coordinator. (Photo submitted)

# Small Business Saturday to hold passport stamp event with prizes

Several businesses in Bluffton will be observing Small Business Saturday on Nov. 30, with shopping hours from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Shoppers should pick up a passport and have it stamped as they visit the open shops. Drop off your passport at your final shop to visit and be eligible for prizes provided by the Wells County of Commerce.

Stores to be open for the event will include: Farmhouse Merc, Parlor City Cabinetry, Parlor City Trophy, Toppings, Broken Vessel Sign Co., Fraction Apparel & Home, Old Ways Book & Curio, Magnolia Grace Boutique, Resource Maintenance, Hughes Bakery & Coffee house, Premier Clock & Vacuum Services, and Tienda Mexicana La Katty.

Prize winners will be selected after 3 p.m. No purchase is necessary to be entered into the drawings.

In addition, the Wells County Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a "Love Where You Live" shop local passport program from Nov. 25 to Nov. 30 with passports available at participating chamber member businesses. Check out which businesses at [www.welc.coc.com/shop-local-passport-program/](http://www.welc.coc.com/shop-local-passport-program/). Completed passports may be dropped off at the Chamber office at 2111 Water St. in Bluffton no later than Dec. 3 to win \$100 in Chamber Bucks and drawing for over 40 gifts.

Organizers for the event is Bluffton NOW.

**Tree Decorators**  
 Front window: The Rustic Trunk (Lisa Satterfield)  
 Grand stairway & lobby: Cindy Hedges  
 Medical room window: Cody Turner  
 Medical room table top: Antique Engineering Rebuilding (Missy Behning)  
 West room trees: 20/20 Custom Molded Plastics; Hadley Davis, Lori Davis & Kendra Davis, The Broken Vessel (Missy Yergler), Family Centered Services (The Closet)  
 Parlour: Bargain Hut  
 Dining room: Posy Pot (Donna Anderson)  
 Deam room: Hott Family Dentistry (Amanda); Carolina Style (Samantha Acosta); Let's Get Lit (Brenda Schrier)  
 Back hallway: Lynn Elliott

**Small Business Saturday**  
**November 30 • 9am-2pm**

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- The Farmhouse Merch
- The Broken Vessel Sign Co.
- Toppings
- Magnolia Grace
- Tienda Mexicana La Katty
- Hugh's Bakery & Coffeehouse
- Fraction Apparel & Home
- Parlor City Trophy & Apparel
- Resource Maintenance
- Premier Clock and Vacuum Services
- Old Ways Books & Curio

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## Be warned: the 2025 legislative session has a heavy agenda

As I head into covering my 26th regular legislative session, I have never seen such a behemoth load of major issues on the agenda.

The number of fiscal decisions to be made is staggering. Then add in major topics such as health care costs, child care needs and utility proposals and it could be one of the more momentous I have covered in my career. Let's break down the big topics.



Niki Kelly

### Hoosier Opinions

**The Budget**  
Every two years, the General Assembly crafts a biennial budget. The \$44.5 billion spending plan covers everything from public safety and education funding to Medicaid and public health.

A revenue forecast is set for Dec. 18, but Indiana's economy has cooled since its pandemic days. That means not a lot of new money will be available.

The biggest budget discussion this year will likely be on Medicaid, which provides health care for the poor. Its explosive growth is eating up the rest of the state budget. In fact, education is no longer more than half of state spending because of the growth in that sector. Lawmakers are looking for ways to curb the increases.

Education funding will likely hinge partially on the Medicaid issue, but if I were traditional Indiana public schools, I wouldn't expect more than a small increase each year. Lawmakers could also authorize universal private school vouchers, which sounds more expansive than it really is. That's because last year they increased the income guidelines so high that the program already reaches more than 95% of the population. The growing cost of the voucher program — expected to be about \$600 million in fiscal year 2025 — will likely continue its ascent.

Lawmakers will also decide what happens to major public health investments from two years ago. All 92 counties signed on to the initiative, which started with \$75 million and then rose to \$150 million in fiscal year 2025. Will they keep that number the same, reduce it or increase it?

Two years ago, the Legislature gave an unprecedented amount of money to the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. It went beyond its typical budget and incentive programs and received a \$500 million deal-closing fund, a \$500 million round of regional development grants and a \$150 million land acquisition fund. But there has been pushback against IEDC's focus on large corporations and wild spending on the Boone County innovation park, which still has only one tenant.

#### Tax discussions

Just outside the budget discussion, property taxes will be a point of focus.

Incoming Gov. Mike Braun made a major property tax cut a priority of his campaign. And while lawmakers have been considering possible tax changes they don't seem as excited for a massive overhaul.

Property taxes provide local government funding, and any large cuts will also mean reduced services. Two years ago, lawmakers seemed set on cutting state taxes but that talk has cooled. A two-year task force on tax reform is meeting next week to finalize recommendations.

#### Health care

Braun has also championed a bold agenda to control health care costs. But many of the items on his wish list have struggled in earlier sessions.

In the past, GOP lawmakers have been content with transparency efforts. But there isn't much left on that front and it remains to be seen if the General Assembly is willing to be more aggressive with insurance companies, hospitals, pharmacy benefit managers and more.

#### Utilities

If you have been reading our content, you won't be surprised to know the issue of utility costs will also be addressed. Many Republicans — including Braun — believe the effort by companies to move away from coal and toward renewables has spiked costs for ratepayers. A recent attorney general opinion pressured the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission to block these changes. And lawmakers are crafting bills behind the scenes to do so themselves.

#### Roads

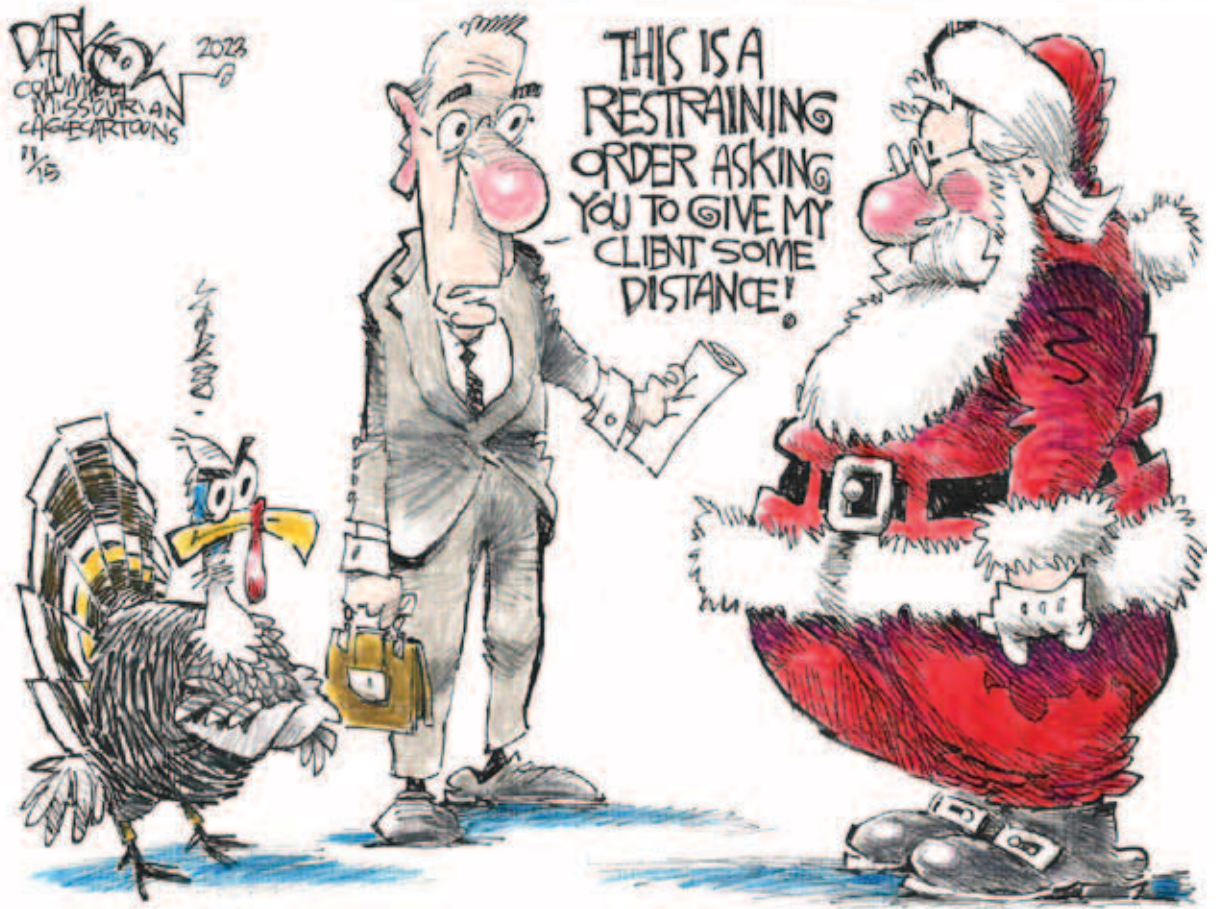
Indiana's road funding plan instituted in 2018 has been hit by inflation and fuel mileage improvement, which means both the state and local governments have far more needs than revenue. A two-year study of road funding needs is expected to have recommendations soon.

#### Child care

Child care costs are hurting families and keeping workers out of the workforce. The state has a shortage of seats, and infant care in Indiana costs 40% more per year on average than in-state tuition for a four-year public college. Last year lawmakers tweaked some regulations to try to make it easier for centers to open up seats. But the cost is still prohibitively high and turnover in staff complicates the situation. Democrats have pushed a child care tax subsidy for years and it will likely come up again.

If reading all that tired you out, imagine how lawmakers are feeling coming into this session. And I didn't even include at least five other topics that will take time and effort. I guess we should sleep now, because the 2025 session will be one for the ages.

Niki Kelly is the editor of the Indiana Capital Chronicle, a non-profit newsroom. [nkelly@indianacapitalchronicle.com](mailto:nkelly@indianacapitalchronicle.com)



## The evolution of Thanksgiving

The annual American holiday called Thanksgiving formally began with a 1863 proclamation from Abraham Lincoln declaring the last Thursday in November a day of "thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens," as well as "humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience."

The thought behind Thanksgiving is outward toward God and his blessings and not inward, which suggests gratitude to no one in particular for whatever positives might have occurred in one's life. In the more secular view these positives are not blessings, but are to be chalked up to luck, or "good fortune." May "The Force" be with you.

Most presidents after Lincoln generally followed the pattern of giving thanks to the Deity, even and especially during wars and economic downturns.

In 1939, in the midst of The Great Depression and a looming World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was still able to proclaim: "Let us, on the day set aside for this purpose, give thanks to the Ruler of the Universe for the strength which He has vouchsafed us to carry on our daily labors and for the hope that lives within us of the coming of a day when peace and the productive activities of peace shall reign on every continent."

That optimistic sentiment was reinforced in the Vera Lynn song "The White Cliffs of Dover," which contained this lyric:

"There'll be love and laughter  
And peace ever after  
Tomorrow  
When the world is free"  
If only.

Roosevelt also declared Thanksgiving to be on the fourth Thursday of the month in years when the calendar contained five Thursdays to allow more time for Christmas shopping which he thought would help boost the economy.



Cal Thomas

Even in this month when Thanksgiving comes naturally late on the calendar, advertisers have been declaring "Black Friday" sales beginning in October.

As noted by The American Presidency Project, beginning in the early 1940s, "the language of Thanksgiving Day Proclamations changed to emphasize American values and ideas, and to assert the event's direct link to the 'first Thanksgiving' of Plymouth Colony."

Many myths have grown around Thanksgiving, The Mayflower, and other historical events. The Museum Gallery Archive reports: "Four hundred years ago, Thanksgiving was

a religious event, and marked by fasting not feasting. Recent research suggests that the first Thanksgiving of this kind was celebrated by new English settlers at Berkeley, Virginia, in 1619. They were Puritans giving thanks for their safe arrival on the banks of the James River."

Today, Thanksgiving is nearly a blur in the rush toward Christmas and the conspicuous consumption merchants promote to pad their bottom lines. It's too bad because pausing to reflect amid the toxic political environment we have experienced this year — and are likely to continue to experience in at least the near future — is a way to cleanse us from the poison that has infected so many. It is also a way to turn our attention from things on Earth that must pass away to the One who is eternal and in control of all things.

After one of the most divisive presidential campaigns in modern history, dividing friends, family members and even members of some churches, this Thanksgiving offers an opportunity to put bitterness aside, attempt to heal wounds, and focus on what unites us more than our political divisions. Let that process begin with humility, forgiveness and confession to the One who ought to be the object of our gratitude.

[tcaeditors@tribpub.com](mailto:tcaeditors@tribpub.com)

## A columnist's first 50 years

It is tempting but mistaken to say that the current administration of the universe is defective because people are not required to read op-ed columns. That thought is too adjacent to progressivism, which, a critic has said, does not care what people do as long as it is compulsory. Besides, a smaller readership can be superior to a bigger one.

Most people do not read newspapers; most who do skip the op-ed page. This means that the few, the happy few, who do read columns do so because their mental pantries are stocked with curiosity, information and opinions. So, the columnist can assume the readers' foundation of knowledge, which enables large arguments in small spaces.

The 15th century produced what remains the most consequential communication technology ever: Johannes Gutenberg's movable type. Glassy-eyed Americans squinting at their smartphones for videos of kittens might consider it quaint to ascribe history-shaping potency to mere print, especially during today's digital typhoon. Media constantly clamor for Americans' attention, which is increasingly elusive and of decreasing duration.

A newspaper column — one musty option on a rapidly expanding menu of distractions — requires reading, which, unlike passive grazing at an endless buffet of graphic distractions, is an activity. It demands one's mental engagement. So, a column had better be pleasurable from the start, even if its subject is not pleasant. Here is Murray Kempton (1917-1997), in a column on President Dwight D. Eisenhower campaigning in Florida in 1956:

"In Miami he had walked carefully by the harsher realities, speaking some 20 feet from an airport drinking

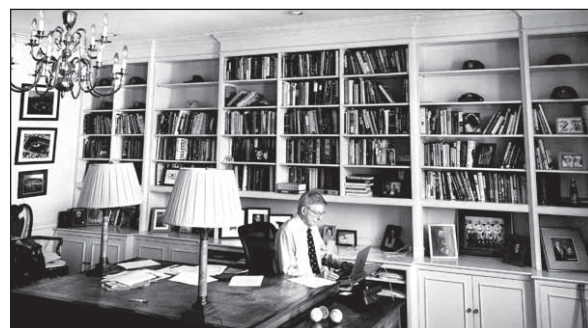


George Will

fountain labeled 'Colored' and saying that the condition it represented was more amenable to solution by the hearts of men than by laws, and complimenting Florida as 'typical today of what is best in America,' a verdict which might seem to some contingent on finding out what happened to the Negro snatched from the Wildwood jail Sunday."

That sinuous 75-word sentence, although stiletto-sharp, deployed Kempton's pointed judgments obliquely. His demanding syntax drew readers into participating in his searing perception. His style, suited to concision, enabled him to make arguments by intimation — arguments that readers internalized almost without noticing.

Do notice Kempton's desert-dry wit: "... which might seem to some contingent on ..." A spoonful of



George F. Will, photographed in his Georgetown office in September 2021. (Photo by Jesse Dittmar for The Washington Post)

humor helps the medicine (information, argument) go down.

An enchanting idea of heaven is this: endless learning. For the self-selected cohort of op-ed readers, learning is treasured as fun. Columns are properly quarantined on "opinion" pages, but a columnist's opinions will lack momentum for respect unless they are accompanied by platoons of facts that give readers the delight of discovery: "I didn't know that."

It has been said that a deadline is a writer's best friend. But if writing is a chore — a painful duty — for

a columnist, he or she should find another vocation. Enjoyment is infectious, and readers will only value, over time, the company of a columnist who clearly enjoys the craft of assembling sentences, paragraphs and arguments.

This columnist is caught in a contradiction: He believes that in our market society, prices are rational. Yet he would pay for the pleasure of doing what he is paid to do. He is in the right city.

John F. Kennedy once drolly characterized Washington as a city of Southern efficiency and Northern charm. The city he knew was, however, a caterpillar becoming a butterfly. It was acquiring a physical and cultural infrastructure worthy of a great metropolis. The Beltway opened in 1964, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 1971, the subway in 1976.

This columnist is, in a sense, doing what he was doing before he came to Washington. Until then, he had taught political philosophy at the University of Toronto. Since then, he has been working to discern the small kernels of large philosophical principles lurking in the welter of events.

Amid today's rancorousness, it is difficult to remember when America's consensus was considered suffocatingly bland. This columnist, now 83, remembers when, as he became politically sentient in the 1950s, many intellectuals lamented the absence of scalding treatises about burning questions: too much Locke, not enough Lenin.

Actually, however, in the unending American dialectic between legislatures and courts — between majorities and restraints thereon — the perennial subjects of Western political argument are constantly contested: the concepts of freedom, equality, consent, representation and justice. Americans are permanently enrolled in this seminar. And being a columnist is as much fun as can be had away from a ballpark.

[georgewill@washpost.com](mailto:georgewill@washpost.com)

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# Life is funny...until it isn't...so pivot instead of panic

Life is many things – funny, exciting, appreciated, often good, sometimes surprising, patently painful, occasionally confusing, extremely long and extremely short, breakable, fixable, troubling, comforting... .a continuous flow of change. What's a person to do in the face of such uncontrollable and unpredictable reality? Well, appears that in almost every circumstance, we have some form of choice. The choices may not be inherently obvious at first glance, they may not seem doable, they often are not even choices that we want. Sometimes the choices strike us between "bad and really bad." What to do?

If you have experienced walking on this planet for more than seven years, then you know that whenever you plan something, whenever you count on someone or something, whenever you just know how everything is going to turn out, whenever you think you can safely say, "Yep, just take that to the bank," well, it can be hazardous. Life does not always follow the path we thought we designed so painstakingly. Now the real kicker for me is when I think that my point is so succinct,

comprehensible, logical, supported, and so transparently obvious that absolutely no one can find a point of disagreement... and then someone does. What the hey, I say! What's wrong with you? How in the heck can you not get it?

My initial response in these cases that occur with some frequency is that it must be "them" 'cause it sure as the dickens cannot be me! I rail against the very idea that maybe I could have been more clear or (and this one really slaps the crap out of me) that maybe I could be wrong. Gasp! Yes, that does happen and even after a million times, I still find it difficult to admit that I am incorrect, mistaken, erroneous... .Ok, Ok...wrong. I am working on that unique flaw in my basic character. I must realistically deal with eliminating the thought that being always right is just in my DNA. I said I am working on it.

Now here's the rub, sometimes I am not wrong. I have the receipts, I know the facts. I have considered other views, I have done my due diligence, and I have reached a decision and I am pretty dang sure that I am right. Yet still, I face staunch disagreement. I ask again, what's a person to do? I have numerous options; some are more appropriate and



socially acceptable than others. Generally, I lean toward the inappropriate. I am working on it.

My flipping someone off or suggesting that they "bite me" may not be conducive to civilized conversation and discussion. Well, there is that. But when I believe with every fiber of my being that I am right, I have choices and how I choose can make all the difference to how I can continue. We all grasp the concept of disagreement. It happens, frequently. I do not find compromise and that give and take of life among other humans abhorrent or even disagreeable. I prefer that outcome, but I do not and will not compromise on those things that serve as the very basis of what I hold worthwhile, even sacred.

I had this very scenario occur during this latest election cycle. Disagreement was rampant throughout the country and friends and family were not immune to the consequences of serious disagreement. This was beyond the usual arguments of policies, taxes, and philosophy of governing. The election of 2024 dealt with the very most basic vision and the essence of what it means to be the United States of American, to be American. I found it disturbing that my vision of my country and the part I hold in it was so dis-

tinctly dissimilar to a good many people. Not just any people either, but people I have known, admired, respected, and even loved for much of my entire life.

I relish a good, solid, and loud discussion and debate. I have always enjoyed and often greatly benefited from listening to other's thoughts, opinions, and beliefs. I do not run from verbal encounters as a general principle. Also, in most situations, I am relatively confident in my ability to hear, discern, and express my own thoughts and opinions.

And therein was one of the most distressing aspects of my disagreements leading up to the most recent election. It was like I was not even hearing or speaking the same language. Even when the people who thought and fought for the exact opposite ideas and proposals than I did used the very same words, we were not speaking the same language. How could that be? In some discussions I could not locate even one common denominator between our points. On occasion I felt as if I had been transported to another universe where not much was recognizable to me. Usually in a discussion or debate, there can be a few basic tenets that all parties can come to some place of agreement, some point of consensus. Not this time.

In the not so distant past, most Americans knew who we were, what we valued, how we wanted to interact with each other and with the world. We knew how

we wanted to be viewed by other countries. We knew that no matter what, our esteemed ideals of democracy, freedom, truth, and integrity would always hold strong. We knew that no matter what, in the end, our elected officials, our courts, our citizens would choose to do right over their own personal wants or desires. There was a some sense of commonality.

**Here's the thing:** Everyone in this country has the privilege to hold his own view of what is important, what has value, what is right. That is exactly how it should be, no misunderstanding there. No one knows everything. No one is privy to all of the answers. Everyone can be wrong. Nothing remains stagnant. Change is inevitable. My choice right now in light of where I find myself as an American is this: I will pivot, but I will not panic. I will continue to listen, but I will not sacrifice my voice. I will work toward compromise whenever it is feasible, but I will not forfeit my values. I like to think that these commitments serve for just about all of us. Well, I am working on it.

bkreigh@adamswells.com

*Editor's Note: This is one of a series of articles and opinions written by a group of retired and current teachers — Ken Ballinger, Billy Kreigh, Kathy Schwartz, and Anna Spalding. Their intent is to spur discussions at the dinner table and elsewhere. You may also voice your thoughts and reactions via The News-Banner's letters to editor.*

## History of a sensational murder case revisited in the Wells Circuit Court

By BARBARA BARBIERI

Author Stephen Terrell retold the tale of the murder of Melvin Wolfe by John Terrell in the same courtroom where the original 1903 trial was held — Wells County's Circuit Court — on Thursday evening.

The event was reported by newspapers all over the world as one of "revenge and insanity on trial in the heartland" as John Terrell was accused of murdering his son-in-law Melvin Wolfe over the mistreatment of his daughter Lucy Terrell Wolfe.

The original trial took place in Bluffton in 1903 over a period of three weeks with a sequestered jury of 12 men, all farmers, housed over night on cots in the courtroom. Members of the jury were selected from over 97 men called with many excused it they could not support giving the death penalty. Closing arguments took over 16 hours with each side giving eight hours. It took one ballot to vote life imprisonment.

Also reported was that during time served in the Wells County jail, Terrell conducted business from a desk in the cell and even was able attend the ground breaking for the Bluffton Grand Opera House, his project, being built across from the jail.

Those who helped explained the differences in what a trial might look like now included Wells County Sheriff Scott Holliday, attorneys Tim Sipes and Larry Mock (his relative Levi Mock was one of the original lawyers for



Thursday evening author/attorney Stephen Terrell, at right, and Wells County's Judge Kenton Kiracofe, left, presented a program in Wells County's Circuit Courtroom about how the over 100-year-old case of the murder of Melvin Wolfe by John Terrell would have been handled had it been in court currently. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

Terrell) and Judge Kenton Kiracofe.

Among the differences pointed out by the four — some would have included having women on the jury, not allowing Terrell to have a desk in his jail cell and being let out for the ground-breaking, not calling more than 30 or so person to a jury selection, and not spending so much time on closing arguments (usually 30 or 40 minutes).

Program presenter Stephen Terrell explained that the history of the trial gave a small look into what life was like at the time of the murder and being able to tell about it in the original courtroom was very special for

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

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Sunday, December 1st 2:20pm & 5:30pm

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## Jefferson Homemakers meeting notes

Meeting was called to order by Mary Ann Ripberger, president.

Thought of the Month: Smile? A smile is a curve that sets everything straight by Phyllis Diller.

Inspiration was given by Sharon Snow on Autumn Misty Mornings.

Roll Call was answered by 11 members with "What is your favorite vegetable?"

Mary Ann read "I am a Veteran" by Andrea Brett in honor of Veterans Day.

Secretary's Minutes were read and approved except for one correction of date of meeting.

Club collection was based on the word pumpkin and Coins for Friendship/Nickels for Leadership was collected.

Carol Baker gave a report on the crafts that were given at the Home-maker's Camp in Septem-

ber. Mary Ann reported that we had two full time campers and three one day campers from our club to attend.

Mary Ann gave a report on the Fort Wayne District Meeting held at Sweetwater in Fort Wayne. The guest speaker was an author and her speech was on the different chapters of your life. 110 ladies attended the meeting from 9 counties in NE Indiana.

\$10 in coins was collected for the annual county fundraiser. Many items for the Mental Health for State Hospital in Logansport were also collected along with items for the backpack program in Wells County.

Money for the County Holiday Luncheon to be held on Dec. 3 was collected along with the money for the Club Christmas Party at Lighted Gardens

on Dec. 11.

Discussion was then made of the importance of keeping track of your volunteer hours and donations in the name of Indiana Extension Homemakers.

The project for the County was then discussed. It was decided at the President's Board meeting that we would make these care boxes (that is a state project) and would place one in each of the backpacks in March. Each club would be responsible for 50 bags making a total of 200. In these boxes were to have bandaids, toothpaste, tooth brush, thread and needle, two buttons, safety pins, soap and wash cloth.

Volunteer Support Day has been rescheduled for Jan. 30 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at the Extension Office. We will be making blankets for Riley and finish care boxes if needed.

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# Thanksgiving Family FUN PAGES

## TURKEY TALK

Minnesota ranks as the “turkey capital” of the United States. Annually raising **40 to 42 million turkeys**, it is the No. 1 state in turkey production, according to the Minnesota Turkey Growers Association.

The heaviest turkey on record came in at a whopping **86 pounds!** According to Guinness World Records, the turkey, named Tyson, was sold at a charity auction in London in 1989 for \$6,692.

Guinness states that the heaviest pumpkin pie, made in 2010 by New Bremen Giant Pumpkin Growers in Ohio, weighed **3,699 pounds** and was 20 feet in diameter. To make this gargantuan dessert, it took 197 cans of pumpkin, more than 200 dozen eggs, 100 gallons of evaporated milk, 525 pounds of sugar, 3 pounds of pumpkin-pie spice, 7 pounds of salt and 12.4 pounds of cinnamon.

We all know about the famous Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City, but which Thanksgiving parade is the oldest in the country — and the inspiration for Macy’s? That would be Philadelphia’s. The Philadelphia Gimbel Brothers Department Store parade in 1920 consisted of only 50 people, 15 cars and a fireman dressed as Santa Claus.



## CROSSWORD | by Thomas Joseph

### ACROSS

- 1 Uneven hairdo
- 5 Deadly
- 10 Go it alone
- 11 Gourmet’s sense
- 12 Hammer
- 13 Destroyed
- 14 Thanksgiving dinner offering
- 16 Thanksgiving dinner offering
- 17 Component
- 20 Arc unit
- 23 Nabokov novel
- 24 “Cats” poet
- 25 Arsonists, in slang
- 27 Print units
- 28 Scarab, e.g.
- 29 Thanksgiving dinner offering
- 32 Thanksgiving dinner offering
- 36 Con quest?
- 39 Clip contents
- 40 Wed in secret
- 41 Grace finish
- 42 Salamanders
- 43 Physics amount

### DOWN

- 1 Swift jets
- 2 Owl comment
- 3 Baseball’s Moises
- 4 Course coach
- 5 Animal life
- 6 Put in a row
- 7 Almond
- 8 Had dinner
- 9 Went ahead
- 11 Tag info
- 15 Yard
- 18 Fan’s favorite
- 19 Facility
- 20 Profound
- 21 Sailors’ saint
- 22 Basic idea
- 25 Quick look

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
10					11				
12					13				
14				15					
			16				17	18	19
20	21	22					23		
24					25	26			
27					28				
29			30	31					
			32				33	34	35
36	37	38					39		
40							41		
42							43		

- 26 Polite agreement
- 28 Yawning, perhaps
- 30 Take as one’s own
- 31 Yarns
- 33 Jane Austen book

- 34 Iowa city
- 35 Massive amounts
- 36 Signing need
- 37 Hearty brew
- 38 Squabble

## MAZETOONS | by Joe Wos



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## SPROUTS | by Michael McLinden

To play: Each clue’s solution is a scramble of the answer above it with one letter added or a scramble of the answer below with one letter removed, so you can work it in both directions. Placement of the single letter is given throughout. Sprouts will grow on you!

It always comes at the beginning of Thanksgiving:

Half a cartoon giggle:

Gel:

Persistent annoyance:

Ancient grain:

Crusher:

Letter:

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# Thanksgiving Family FUN PAGES



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## WORD SEARCH

- |             |               |           |           |
|-------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| Acorn       | Cranberries   | Gratitude | Recipes   |
| Autumn      | Decorations   | Harvest   | Relax     |
| Bake        | Delicious     | Leaves    | Roast ham |
| Bounty      | Desserts      | November  | Stuffing  |
| Bread       | Family        | Parades   | Thankful  |
| Celebration | Friendsgiving | Pecan pie | Turkey    |
| Centerpiece | Gather        | Platter   | Yams      |
| Cooking     | Gobble        | Potatoes  |           |
| Cornucopia  | Gourd         | Pumpkin   |           |

D	E	S	S	E	R	T	S	T	U	F	F	I	N	G	S	Z
E	L	A	V	D	C	O	R	N	U	C	O	P	I	A	N	C
M	B	S	R	E	C	I	P	E	S	P	A	R	A	D	E	S
C	B	U	E	B	P	E	C	A	N	P	I	E	X	A	P	R
Y	O	R	R	I	J	P	O	T	A	T	O	E	S	W	N	R
G	G	E	E	K	R	K	N	M	C	G	N	I	K	O	O	C
H	A	O	M	T	G	R	A	T	I	T	U	D	E	Q	I	E
D	C	H	K	K	T	D	E	L	I	C	I	O	U	S	T	C
S	M	A	Y	L	Q	A	V	B	Z	Z	L	G	Y	R	A	E
T	H	A	N	K	F	U	L	H	N	X	B	E	T	E	R	I
J	I	N	I	K	P	M	U	P	A	A	K	A	N	B	B	P
A	H	A	R	V	E	S	T	L	K	R	R	N	U	M	E	R
C	R	E	H	T	A	G	E	E	U	M	I	C	O	E	L	E
O	J	D	E	C	O	R	A	T	I	O	N	S	B	V	E	T
R	O	A	S	T	H	A	M	S	E	V	A	E	L	O	C	N
N	G	F	A	M	I	L	Y	C	A	U	T	U	M	N	F	E
V	G	N	I	V	I	G	S	D	N	E	I	R	F	H	K	C

## WUZZLES®

WORD PUZZLES BY WOOD  
TOM

Each Wuzzle is a word riddle which creates a disguised word, phrase, name, place, saying, etc. For example, NOON GOOD = GOOD AFTERNOON

1.

turkey  
-----  
cooked

2.

nom  
8

Print Your Answers Here:

1.

2.

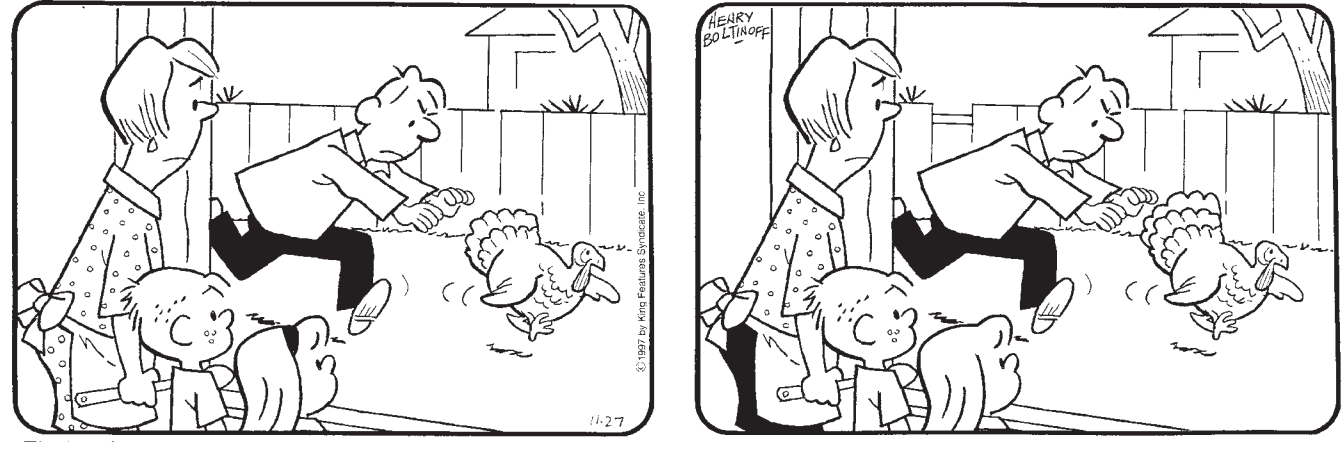
Today's Answers:

2. Nominate  
1. Overcooked turkey

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## HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.




**Answers on  
Page A6 of  
today's edition**

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# Tigers torch Bulldogs for fourth straight victory

By RYAN WALKER

It was difficult to find an area that Bluffton didn't play well in Tuesday night, destroying the New Haven Bulldogs 84-16 at The Tiger Den.

The Tigers (6-1) picked up their four straight victory since a tough loss to East Noble earlier in the year. It didn't allow for virtually anything, including just one point and zero baskets in the second half against a not-so-good Bulldog (1-5) team.

Bluffton shot 50% from three on 20 shots, 53% from the floor, turned the ball over only four times while forcing 20 and outrebounded New Haven by 14.

Konley Ault scored a game-high 15 points, Isabella Stout 14 and Madyson Sonnigsen splashed three triples for 13 points.

It's been a common theme to beat down opponents this year for the Tigers, and the last four-game stretch has been the perfect example. In those four games, they've won by an average margin of 40 points per game. The opponents were against Huntington North, Mississinewa, North Miami.

So, how does head coach Doug Curtis keep his team focused on improving during the blowouts?

"We've preached for this year, and at times last year, that we want to not even talk about the other team that we're playing," Curtis said. "We want to worry about what we do and control what we do. This is that type of stretch that you do that."

The Tigers controlled every aspect of their defense.

A'lanah Webb contributed 11 points to tie Stout at halftime for a game-high. But Curtis called for a 1-2-2 matchup and a 2-3 matchup defense that stalled her and the rest of the team without a basket for the third and fourth quarters.

"I liked what we got out of that today,"

Curtis said.

Another controllable was the three-pointers, an aspect Bluffton has desperately needed under the Curtis regime. Tuesday night, they hit 10-20 and every player that attempted one eventually made one. Sonnigsen went 3-5 and has been perhaps the best deep shooter on the team for the past two seasons. Stout made 2-4, while freshmen Khloe Dick went 2-6.

When not taking threes, Bluffton still went to its bread and butter — transition scoring. The 20-36 from two wasn't just any one scorer in particular, but eight different players made at least one bucket in the first quarter. Maryn Schreiber contributed nine points, Tressa Renner eight and Dick finished with nine. Marly Drayer hit a three and scored five on the night.

When Bluffton gets their three-point scoring to combine with their transition game, its resulted in the win column more often than not.

"They played a little zone today for probably two-thirds of the game or so," Curtis said. "So it gives us an opportunity to pass around the perimeter, get the ball in the high post, kick it back out, some things like that. Last year we drove it almost every time we threw it in the high post. But this year, we're confident enough in our shooting that we were doing that."

Bluffton won the junior varsity contest 63-24. Kamryn Ault led the team with 16 points. Madelyn Funk, Krista Blair and Grace Fry added 10 each.

Bluffton will travel to South Adams starting at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 29.

ryan@news-banner.com

## BLUFFTON 84, NEW HAVEN 16

At Bluffton

NEW HAVEN (1-5): Alanah Webb 11 points, Mayzon Win 4, Monty Stewart-King 1, Ja'Anah Ware 0, Kalease Shurelds 0, Landry Gault 0. Uniyah Potter 0, Olivia Rush 0, Sophia



Bluffton's Madyson Sonnigsen drives the lane and puts up a layup during the home game against New Haven Tuesday night. Sonnigsen scored 13 points in the contest to aid the Tigers to an 84-16 win over the Bulldogs. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

DuBose 0, Hannah Goodrich 0. TOTALS: 7-47 1-4 16.  
**BLUFFTON (6-1):** Konley Ault 6-8 4-5 15, Isabella Stout 3-11 4-5 14, Madyson Sonnigsen 5-7 0-0 13, Maryn Schreiber 4-8 1-2 9, Khloe Dick 3-9 1-2 9, Tressa Renner 3-5 1-2 8, Marly Drayer 1-3 2-2 5, Grace Fry 2-2 0-0 4, Kamryn Ault 1-1 1-1 3, Madelyn Funk 1-1 0-0 2, Bridget Steffen 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 30-56 14-20 84.  
**New Haven 9 6 1 0 - 16**  
**Bluffton 30 17 17 20 - 84**

Three-point Shooting: New Haven 1-23 (Webb 1), Bluffton 10-20 (Sonnigsen 3-5, Stout 2-4, Dick 2-6, Ko. Ault 1-2, Drayer 1-2, Renner 1-1). Rebounds: New Haven 16 (Webb 5, Shurelds 3, Stewart-King 2, Potter 2, Goodrich 2, Win 1, Rush 1), Bluffton 34 (Drayer 7, Sonnigsen 7, Ko. Ault 5, Schreiber 4, Stout 3, Dick 2, Eisenhut 2, Steffen 1, Funk 1, Ka. Ault 1, Renner 1). Turnovers: New Haven 20, Bluffton 4. Fouls: New Haven 14, Bluffton 5. Technicals: None. Fouled out: None.

# Panther press flusters Raiders in boys' basketball season opener

By ANDREW FEEBACK

The season got off to a bumpy start for the Southern Wells boys basketball team Tuesday night as they fell to the visiting Lakewood Park Christian Panthers 72-48.

A private school located near Auburn, the Panthers made the long trek south and brought with them a vicious full-court press that had Southern Wells out of sorts from the opening tip.

"We had known we would face a press in our next game, but we weren't expecting so much this game," coach Doug Smith said. "We had been working on a press-break, and honestly, our guys just didn't execute."

The Panthers were up 7-0 before the Raiders even got a shot off. Wyatt Yoder's three-pointer broke the ice for Southern Wells nearly four minutes into the game, at which point the Raiders trailed 13-3.

Southern Wells had 10 turnovers in the first quarter as Lakewood Park relentlessly pressured and trapped. When the Raiders managed to get the ball beyond half-court, there were usually still multiple defenders

waiting to swarm the ball.

"Our team is really inexperienced, and they experienced some panic at times," Smith said. "We're only going to get better."

The Panthers' Davi Freitas led all scorers with 25 points while big man Avery MacFarlane added 17. The combination of Freitas's outside shooting and MacFarlane's inside play was too much for the Raiders. Freitas made five triples on the night while MacFarlane grabbed 15 rebounds.

Southern Wells trailed 43-21 at the half, but the third quarter was probably the Raiders' best stretch in this game. They connected on 8-14 from the field and put together an 8-0 run early in the second half.

But a lengthy scoring drought to start the fourth allowed the Panthers to stretch their lead to 67-41.

Landon Johnson led the Raiders with 23 points, while Wyatt Yoder had eight and CJ Reber added seven.

Although it was a rough game, Smith wants his team to learn and grow from it.

(Continued on Page A3)

# Knights sweep Eagles in swim

Norwell swept Columbia City to open up the boys' swim season and to make the girls' team 2-0 Tuesday night.

The Knights hosted the Eagles and defeated them 115-60 in the boys' meet and 111-57 in the girls.

## Individual winners:

### Boys

- Braden Hoag, Colten Strunk, Kale Meredith and Gage Reinhard in the 200-yard medley relay.

- Rylan Heyerly in the 200-yard freestyle.

- Meredith in the 200-yard IM and in the 100-yard breaststroke.

- Grayson Chavis in the diving events.

- Strunk in the 100-yard butterfly.

- Reinhard in the 100-yard freestyle.

- Strunk, Meredith, Reinhard and Heyerly in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

- Ethan Williamson, Hoag, Evan Swallow and Heyerly in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

### Girls

- Rilynn Ervin, Karrigan Melcher, Marlee Meredith and Ryleigh Huffman in the 200-yard medley relay.

- Marlee Meredith in the 200-yard IM.

- Emerson Meredith in the diving events.

- Ryleigh Huffman in the 100-yard butterfly.

- Melcher, Cassie Coyne, Olivia Caniel and Emerson Meredith in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

- Annalise Cornett in the 100-yard backstroke.

- Melcher in the 100-yard breaststroke.

- Cornett, Coyne and the Meredith's in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

Norwell will host Concordia next at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3.



Norwell's Vanessa Rosswurm (middle) poses with former teammates Makenzie Fuess (left) and Kennedy Fuelling after breaking Fuelling's single-game record of 40 points with 43 points Tuesday night against Concordia. Fuess held the record two years ago for just two days before Fuelling broke it. (Photo provided)

# Rosswurm breaks Norwell girls' school record with 43 points

Vanessa Rosswurm broke Norwell High School's record with 43 points in a 80-48 win over Concordia Tuesday night.

Rosswurm topped Kennedy Fuelling's previous record at 40 points from two seasons ago. Fuelling broke teammate Makenzie Fuess' record at 37 set three days prior. Both Fuelling and Fuess, who began Thanksgiving break in college now, were in attendance to watch Rosswurm score 43.

Rosswurm shot 16-28 on the night, hitting 4-9 from deep and adding 10 rebounds. She also was a perfect 7-7 from the charity stripe.

The Knights improved to 5-3 on the year, while the Cadets fell to 3-4.

NORWELL 80, CONCORDIA 48

At Norwell  
**CONCORDIA (3-4):** Alivia Bolinger 6-18 1-1 16, Jenna Akey 2-2 1-1 7, Lauren Goodman 2-7 1-3 6, Cella Kaiser 2-9 2-3 6, Sydney Blackwell 1-4 4-4 6, Nysia Walker 1-4 1-4 3, Jen Dressler 0-0 2-2 2, Reagan Metel 0-0 0-0 0, Stase Pietrowski 0-1 0-0 0, Joy Hedtke 0-1 0-0 0. TOTALS: 15-47 12-18 48.

**NORWELL (5-3):** Vanessa Rosswurm 16-28 7-7 43, Jada Dale 2-6 4-4 10, Macie Saalfrank 3-10 0-0 8, Ashley Waldman 2-10 0-0 6, Ryland Graft 2-2 0-0 6, Isabella Swineford 1-2 2-2 4, Haley Williamson 0-2 2-2 2, Alivia Green 0-3 1-4 1, Larkin Smith 0-1 0-0 0, Carlee Strunk 0-1 0-0 0, Mekynzi Beck 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 22-66 16-19 80.

Concordia 13 10 9 16 — 48  
 Norwell 24 13 19 24 — 80

Three-point Shooting: Concordia 6-15 (Bolinger 3-9, Akey 2-2, Goodman 1-3, Pietrowski 0-1), Norwell 12-33 (Rosswurm 4-9, Graft 2-2, Waldman 2-8, Saalfrank 2-8, Dale 2-4, Williamson 0-1, Strunk 0-1). Rebounds: Concordia 30 (Bolinger 8, Kaiser 4, Walker 2, Goodman 2, Akey 1, Blackwell 1), Norwell 36 (Rosswurm 10, Green 8, Saalfrank 3, Dale 3, Waldman 2, Graft 1, Smith 1). Turnovers: Concordia 25, Norwell 12. Fouls: Concordia 17, Norwell 17. Fouled out: Concordia Bolinger, Norwell none. Technicals: None.

# High School Calendar

WEDNESDAY, NOV 27  
 BOYS BASKETBALL: Norwell at Carroll, 7:30 p.m.  
 THURSDAY, NOV 28  
 No events scheduled.  
 FRIDAY, NOV 29

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Bluffton at South Adams, 7:30 p.m.  
 SATURDAY, NOV 30  
 BOYS BASKETBALL: Blackford at Bluffton, 7:30 p.m.; Southwood at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m.

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# Norwell's Eddy Archbold signs with Huntington for tennis

By RYAN WALKER

Norwell's Eddy Archbold inked the next four years of tennis with Huntington University Thursday afternoon.

The senior doubles player just wrapped up his second season on varsity as an all-conference honorable mention in the North-east 8 and was a sectional champion in 2023.

"It means a lot," Archbold said. "I've been playing since nine years old. I've just been developing my game for a long time and I was really excited to extend that and play for as long as I can."

Archbold won't be traveling too far to Huntington but said he is excited to join the faith-based institution and small community. On his visit, it felt like home and that he

could get connected.

The Foresters play in the Crossroads League, and finished the fall season at 9-2 in hopes to continue its winning ways to the springtime. The team has enjoyed five straight seasons of winning under now fifth-year head coach Ignacio Poncio. Assistant coach Franco Minoldo Garcia was in attendance for the signing.

Archbold plans to study business management at Huntington, where he would like to potentially extend his tennis passion even further.

"Maybe, I want to work with tennis in the future," Archbold said. "Not just in college but make a business out of it."

ryan@news-banner.com



Norwell tennis player Eddy Archbold (middle) smiles with coaches and family during his signing with Huntington University Tuesday afternoon. Pictured from left to right are: front row, Brent Archbold, Eddy Archbold and Danielle Archbold; back, Norwell head coach Noah Tobias and Huntington assistant coach Franco Minoldo Garcia. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

## News-Banner Scoreboard

### FOOTBALL

#### NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE					
East					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	9	2	0	.818	320 214
Miami	5	6	0	.455	215 236
N.Y. Jets	3	8	0	.273	204 242
New England	3	9	0	.250	197 282

South					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	7	5	0	.583	285 268
Indianapolis	5	7	0	.417	242 274
Tennessee	3	8	0	.273	202 290
Jacksonville	2	9	0	.182	208 316

North					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	8	3	0	.727	252 186
Baltimore	8	4	0	.667	364 294
Cincinnati	4	7	0	.364	297 296
Cleveland	3	8	0	.273	186 287

West					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	10	1	0	.909	270 214
L.A. Chargers	4	0	0	.636	243 175
Denver	7	5	0	.583	264 202
Las Vegas	2	9	0	.182	206 314

NATIONAL CONFERENCE					
East					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	9	2	0	.818	286 199
Washington	7	5	0	.583	334 277
Dallas	4	7	0	.364	221 319
N.Y. Giants	2	9	0	.182	163 252

South					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	6	5	0	.545	244 274
Tampa Bay	5	6	0	.455	309 273
New Orleans	4	5	0	.364	262 260
Carolina	3	8	0	.273	194 340

North					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Detroit	10	1	0	.909	360 183
Minnesota	9	2	0	.818	274 197
Green Bay	8	3	0	.727	288 223
Chicago	4	7	0	.364	221 217

West					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Arizona	6	5	0	.545	244 236
Seattle	6	5	0	.545	246 244
L.A. Rams	5	6	0	.455	233 276
San Francisco	5	6	0	.455	260 260

#### 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, Jacksonville, N.Y. Jets, Atlanta, New Orleans

#### Monday's Games

Baltimore 30, L.A. Chargers 23

### BASKETBALL

#### High School

##### Tuesday Boys' Scores

Anderson 66, Pendleton Hts. 52  
Anderson Prep Academy 65, Alexandria 62  
Bedford N. Lawrence 49, Bloomington North 38  
Benton Central 74, Frontier 63  
Bethesda Christian 88, Purdue Poly North 36  
Boonville 55, Jasper 45  
Borden 69, Eastern (Pekin) 30  
Carmel 54, Zionsville 43  
Carroll (Flora) 44, Cass 33  
Caston 85, Lakeland Christian (IN) 48  
Charlestown 76, New Washington 34  
Columbus North 63, Heritage Christian 60  
Concord 68, Elkhart Christian 36  
Covenant Christian High School 73, Speedway 65  
Decatur Central 66, Christel House Manual 60  
Dubois 61, Evansville Christian 32  
Edinburgh 45, Southwestern (Shelby) 37  
Ev. Day 75, Cannelton 21  
Evansville Central 56, N. Posey 33  
Fairfield 46, Wawasee 43  
Fishers 71, Indpls Ben Davis 36  
Franklin 58, Indian Creek 57  
Franklin Co. 65, Hagerstown 55  
Ft. Wayne Blackhawk 51, Mishawaka Marian 38  
Gibson Southern 65, Evansville Bosse 61  
Greencastle 65, Crawfordsville 36  
Greenfield 62, Beech Grove 38  
Greensburg 54, N. Decatur 47  
Greenwood 73, Center Grove 70  
Hauser 62, Brown Co. 41  
Homewood-Flossmoor, Ill. 78, Hammond Central 31  
Illiana Christian High School 65, Kouts 63  
Indpls Pike 69, Franklin Central 53  
Indpls Tindley 77, Indpls Washington 75  
Jay Co. 42, Elwood 23  
Jintown 62, Prairie Heights 42  
Kankakee Valley 69, Rensselaer 60  
Kokomo 98, Western 56  
Lake Station 57, N. Newton 35  
Lakewood Park 74, Southern Wells 48  
Liberty Christian 92, Phalen 77  
Lowell 47, Morgan Twp. 33  
McCUTCHEON 82, W. Lafayette 61  
Mitchell 62, Springs Valley 57  
Monroe Central 73, Winchester 58  
Mt. Vernon (Fortville) 61, Lawrence Central 46  
Mt. Vernon (Posey) 66, Vincennes Rivet 39  
N. Central (Farmersburg) 53, Eastern (Greene) 42  
N. Daviess 42, Loogootee 36  
N. Harrison 54, S. Central (Elizabeth) 53  
N. Montgomery 44, Fountain Central 21  
N. Vermillion 78, Westville, Ill. 63  
New Castle 74, Blue River Valley 35  
Northridge 81, Elkhart 41  
Northwestern 38, Pioneer 32  
Parke Heritage 67, W. Vigo 49  
Princeton 79, Wood Memorial 46  
Providence Cristo Rey 38, Traders Point Christian 30  
Riverton 30, S. Newton 39  
Rock Creek Academy 85, Henryville 43  
S. Bend 175, LaPorte 59  
S. Dearborn 53, Rising Sun 34  
S. Ripley 72, Jac-Cen-Del 23  
Seymour 42, Corydon 33  
Sheridan 89, Cowan 47  
Shoals 67, Union (Dugger) 15  
Silver Creek 79, Floyd Central 46  
Southmont 79, N. Putnam 48

#### Southport 67, Indpls Perry Meridian 43

Switzerland Co. 65, Oldenburg 46  
Tipton 64, Tri-Central 40  
Trinity Lutheran High School 77, S. Decatur 64  
Twin Lakes 60, Winamac 45  
W. Central 77, Oregon-Davis 45  
Wapahani 51, Muncie Central 27  
Westview 76, Bethany Christian 55  
Wheeler 53, S. Central (Union Mills) 50  
POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS  
Brownsburg vs. Indpls N. Central, ppd.

#### Tuesday Girls' Scores

Alexandria 76, Anderson Prep Academy 12  
Angola 64, Garrett 40  
Austin 62, Scottsburg 50  
Barr-Reeve 51, Vincennes Rivet 38  
Batesville 46, Seymour 38  
Beech Grove 31, Shelbyville 30  
Bellmont 73, Adams Central 23  
Bloomington North 47, New Albany 33  
Bluffton 84, New Haven 16  
Carroll (Ft. Wayne) 71, E. Noble 64  
Cascade 40, Tri-West 37  
Center Grove 45, Indpls Roncalli 33  
Centerville 56, Cambridge City Lincoln 27  
Central Noble 55, Lakeland (IN) 28  
Charlestown 70, New Washington 23  
Churubusco 38, Lakeland Christian (IN) 36  
Columbia City 68, Goshen 14  
Columbus North 57, Terre Haute North 30  
Covenant Christian High School 49, Speedway 40  
Crown Point 75, LaPorte 44  
Culver 51, Argos 19  
Delphi 45, Clinton Central 32  
Eastside 54, Ft. Wayne Luers 27  
Evansville Mater Dei 43, Forest Park 40  
Evansville North 57, Castle Creek 32  
Fishers 72, Zionsville 57  
Fountain Central 37, N. Montgomery 31  
Franklin 59, Indian Creek 45  
Ft. Wayne Dwenger 64, Ft. Wayne Blackhawk 48  
Ft. Wayne Wayne 49, Fremont 46  
Greencastle 36, Crawfordsville 29  
Hamilton Southeastern 66, Brownsburg 60  
Hammond Central 71, Gary West 22  
Hammond Morton 82, Hillcrest, Ill. 66  
Huntington North 69, Ft. Wayne South 43  
Indpls Ben Davis 64, Indpls Attucks 40  
Indpls Pike 43, Westfield 42  
Indpls Riverside 36, Christel House Manual 19  
Indpls Shortridge 39, Indpls Park Tudor 37  
Indpls Tindley 39, Indpls Washington 6  
Jeffersonville 66, Jennings Co. 55  
LaVille 52, S. Bend Adams 34  
Lafayette Jeff 59, Seeger 21  
Lakewood Park 45, Ft. Wayne North 25  
Lapel 69, Guerin Catholic High School 54  
Lawrence North 72, Avon 54  
Lebanon 55, W. Lafayette 43  
Leo 47, S. Adams 30  
Marion 57, Elwood 37  
Mooreville 60, Martinsville 58  
Munster 51, Hobart 18  
N. Central (Farmersburg) 65, Eastern (Greene) 24  
N. Daviess 42, Loogootee 34  
N. Knox 58, Evansville Christian 43  
N. Posey 62, Evansville Central 59  
N. Putnam 66, Southmont 41  
New Palestine 53, Rushville 43  
Noblesville 61, Carmel 49  
NorthWood 56, Triton 15  
Northeastern 64, Connersville 54  
Northridge 35, Elkhart 28  
Norwell 80, Ft. Wayne Concordia 48  
Oak Hill 60, Southwood 37

#### Owen Valley 38, Terre Haute South 26

Plymouth 46, Logansport 19  
Randolph Southern 45, Union (Modoc) 34  
Rossville 43, Clinton Prairie 30  
S. Spencer 63, Mt. Vernon (Posey) 24  
Shakamak 45, Bloomfield 33  
Sheridan 59, Western Boone 15  
South Knox 82, Linton 35  
Southport 57, Indpls Perry Meridian 41  
Southridge 44, Boonville 42, OT  
Springs Valley 43, Mitchell 12  
Tell City 39, Pike Central 20  
Tippecanoe Valley 40, Rochester 33  
University 45, Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory Academy 39  
W. Washington 65, Salem 17  
Wabash 60, Pioneer 38  
Warsaw 66, Penn 46  
Washington 45, Vincennes 24  
Westview 56, Bethany Christian 31  
Westville 59, Glenn 35  
White River Valley 48, Cloverdale 22  
Winamac 46, N. White 36  
Yorktown 47, Delta 46

#### College

##### Men's Scores Tuesday, Nov. 26

Army 91, SUNY Maritime 52  
Boston College 63, Boise St. 61  
Drexel 83, Chicago St. 71  
Georgetown 66, Wagner 41  
St. Peter's 78, Fairleigh Dickinson 76

##### Women's Scores Tuesday, Nov. 26

Alabama 85, Houston 80, OT  
Clemson 75, Penn St. 67  
Florida St. 91, W. Carolina 57  
Kentucky 87, W. Kentucky 68  
Miami (Ohio) 75, Mercer 72  
Virginia 74, Manhattan 63  
Wyoming 64, Tulane 63

##### Monday's Games

Indiana 114, New Orleans 110  
Orlando 95, Charlotte 84  
Detroit 102, Toronto 100  
Boston 126, L.A. Clippers 94  
Dallas 129, Atlanta 119  
Memphis 123, Portland 98  
Oklahoma City 130, Sacramento 109  
Brooklyn 128, Golden State 120  
New York 145, Denver 118

##### Tuesday's Games

Chicago 127, Washington 108  
Milwaukee 106, Miami 103  
Houston 117, Minnesota 111, OT  
San Antonio at Utah, late

##### Monday's Games

San Antonio 9, Houston 3  
Minnesota 8, 9 471 5  
Sacramento 8, 10 444 5 1/2  
Portland 7, 11 389 6 1/2  
Utah 4, 12 250 8 1/2  
New Orleans 4, 14 222 9 1/2

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## SW boys' opener

(Continued from Page A2)

"My biggest takeaway is that we just need to take a deep breath, look at what we did, and see the little things we can do to improve," he said.

Southern Wells will host Southwood Saturday night.

Lakewood Park took the junior varsity game 46-43. For the Raiders, Hunter Durham scored 15 points, Adam Aulbach added 12 and Joshua Aulbach chipped in eight.

sports@news-banner.com

#### LAKWOOD PARK 72, SOUTHERN WELLS 48

At Southern Wells  
LAKWOOD PARK (1-0): Madden Knox 0-1 0-0 0, Curtis Born 0-0 0-0 0, Davi Freitas 9-21 2-2 25, Caleb

W	L	Pct	GB	
Chicago	8	11	.421	9 1/2
Detroit	8	11	.421	9 1/2
Atlanta	7	11	.389	10
Charlotte	6	11	.353	10 1/2
Toronto	4	14	.222	13
Philadelphia	3	13	.188	13
Washington	2	14	.125	14

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

W	L	Pct	GB	
Oklahoma City	13	4	.765	—
Golden State	12	5	.706	1
Houston	13	6	.684	1
L.A. Lakers	10	6	.625	2 1/2
Memphis	11	7	.611	2 1/2
L.A. Clippers	11	8	.579	3
Phoenix	9	7	.563	3 1/2
Denver	9	7	.563	3 1/2
Dallas	10	8	.556	3 1/2
San Antonio	9	8	.529	4
Minnesota	8	9	.471	5
Sacramento	8	10	.444	5 1/2
Portland	7	11	.389	6 1/2
Utah	4	12	.250	8 1/2
New Orleans	4	14	.222	9 1/2

#### Monday's Games

Atlanta at Cleveland, 7 p.m.  
Chicago at Orlando, 7 p.m.  
Houston at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.  
L.A. Clippers at Washington, 7 p.m.  
Miami at Charlotte, 7 p.m.  
Portland at Indiana, 7 p.m.  
New York at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.  
Detroit at Memphis, 8 p.m.  
Sacramento at Minnesota, 8 p.m.  
Toronto at New Orleans, 8 p.m.  
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.

#### Tuesday's Games

Brooklyn at Phoenix, 9 p.m.  
Denver at Utah, 9 p.m.  
Oklahoma City at Golden State, 10 p.m.

#### Wednesday's Games

Atlanta at Cleveland, 7 p.m.  
Chicago at Orlando, 7 p.m.  
Houston at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.  
L.A. Clippers at Washington, 7 p.m.  
Miami at Charlotte, 7 p.m.  
Portland at Indiana, 7 p.m.  
New York at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.  
Detroit at Memphis, 8 p.m.  
Sacramento at Minnesota, 8 p.m.  
Toronto at New Orleans, 8 p.m.  
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.

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# The Classifieds

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OR CALL 824-0224 MON-FRI 8-5 • TOLLFREE 800-579-7476 • FAX 824-0700

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## EMPLOYMENT

### Help Wanted

#### NOW HIRING

**THE NEWS-BANNER IS** looking to hire an individual for fast pace jobs including labeling, inserting and delivering bundles of newspapers. Must be willing to work from 4 a.m.-9 a.m. Monday-Saturday. Some heavy lifting, and an Indiana drivers license required. Mail resume, or fill out an application, to News-Banner, P.O. Box 436, 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton, IN 46714.

#### COUNTY BUILDING INSPECTOR

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

- Coordinates the preparation and presentation of an annual budget for the Building Department; directs the implementation of the department's budget; plans for and reviews specifications for new or replaced equipment. Construct and establish a local building code based off state code requirements and needs of the county. Controls the expenditure of departmental appropriations. Receives complaints, investigates, and issues unsafe building violations, nuisance violations and minimum housing standards violations, as appropriate. Completes continuing education classes on building codes and practices, as needed. Reviews the building plan for the County. Approves the building permits, issues permits, and collects the fees for the permits, as necessary. Issues certificates of occupancy, as needed. Maintains an effective communication process with the Commissioners. Bachelor's degree (B.A./B.S.) from a four-year college or university; and five years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. CBO Certification is required. Previous experience in building construction or related field is required. Previous supervisory experience is required.
- Starting salary for this position is up to \$70,000/yr. plus all county benefits. Interested applicants can send their resumes to Wells County Auditor, 102 W Market, Suite 205, Bluffton, IN 46714 or [auditor@wellscounty.org](mailto:auditor@wellscounty.org). Resumes will be accepted until December 16, 2024.

## VEHICLES

### Campers/RV's

2018 THOR HURRICANE, Model 31Z, Class A RV, \$79,000, 260-307-3225.

## FOR SALE

### Business for Sale

TURNKEY DOWNTOWN BLUFFTON business for sale. Call 260-273-2224 for details.

## Lottery Numbers

**Tuesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY**  
Cash 5 — 07-15-24-36-45  
Cash4Life — 04-11-13-30-39, Cash Ball: 02  
Quick Draw Midday — 02-04-08-12-22-23-25-26-36-37-47-52-53-55-57-59-63-72-74-76, BE: 37  
Daily Three-Midday — 03-07-09, SB: 08  
Daily Three-Evening — 08-01-00, SB: 02  
Daily Four-Midday — 01-00-02-09, SB: 08  
Daily Four-Evening — 02-02-08-09, SB: 02  
Quick Draw Evening — 02-08-09-12-13-14-16-39-41-47-49-51-53-65-66-68-72-74-75-78, BE: 51  
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$30.2 million  
MEGA MILLIONS  
05-22-24-39-42; Mega Ball: 03; Megaplier: 3X.  
POWERBALL  
Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$196 million

## Miscellaneous

### THIS OUT!

**MICHIGAN CHRISTMAS TREES!** Tim Murray's Fresh Cut Christmas Trees, Wreaths, Grave Blankets and Boughs! Also Michigan Maple Syrup. Located at Bummies Root Beer Stand, 1263 S. Main Street., Bluffton. Open Daily at 10am beginning Saturday, Nov. 30. Phone: 231-920-6194.

## SERVICES

### Services

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

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

### ADVERTISE YOUR SERVICES!

A 20 word, line classified in the Bluffton News-Banner for two months is \$97. Contact the office at 125 N. Johnson St., 260-824-0224 or submit online to [www.news-banner.com](http://www.news-banner.com) and click on classifieds.

Read & recycle this newspaper

## SUDOKU

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

### King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★

11/27

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## Services

**PORTABLE OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR** May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 877-930-3271 (I)

## Services

**DONATE YOUR CAR,** truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-877-414-2352 today! (I)

## November GOODS & SERVICES DIRECTORY



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Jerry Flack & Julie Myers  
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- Estate Planning & Deeds
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Charles Miller-Electrician  
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Call 273-9678 or 824-4782  
In Monroe at corner of U.S. 27 and S.R. 124  
Office at 1180 N. Main, Bluffton

For as little as ... \$187 PER ISSUE  
Call 824-0224 or 622-4108  
Non-deadline is Tues, Oct. 22

YOUR BUSINESS IN THE NEWS-BANNER Every Day!

## Public Sale Calendar

**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, live-stock 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, [TheSteffenGroupInc.com](http://TheSteffenGroupInc.com), 260-426-0633, [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com).

**BIDDING NOW OPEN AND STARTS CLOSING DECEMBER 1 STARTING AT 4 p.m. EST - Various consignors, owners.** Online only Elm Street consignment auction! Name brand wood-working 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](http://KrueckebergAuction.com), 260-724-7402, [Kjauction.com](http://Kjauction.com).

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

**DECEMBER 4 - 3 p.m. - Online - Dusty Roach, Bankruptcy Trustee, sellers.** 6,142 sq. ft. modern commercial building. Key features: 5 rental units w/4 office suites, 1 currently leased, 600 sq. ft. heated garage w/16'x12' overhead door, independently controlled heating and cooling for units, expansion potential w/ additional land available for future. Open house Nov. 27, 2-3 p.m., 2379 N. Main St., Bluffton, IN. Kurt Ness, auction mgr., 260-417-1545, [Ness Bros. Realtors & Auctioneers](http://NessBros.com), [www.NessBros.com](http://www.NessBros.com), 260-459-3911.

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

**DECEMBER 8-15 - 2 p.m. - (Online only personal property) - Thomas B. & Mary Lou Woodward, seller.** 2016 JD 1025R diesel utility tractor, Frontier RT1149 tiller, 2016 Grasshopper zero turn mower, 2020 Club Car Carryall 1700, mowers, lawn & garden, patio furniture, antique & modern furniture, vintage framed art work, lithograph prints, vintage pickle castors, glassware, collectibles, more. Preview Dec. 1, 8, 2-5 p.m., Dec. 12, 3-6 p.m., 301 N. Highland Ave., Ossian. Patrick Carter, sale manager, 260-824-3006, [The Steffen Group Inc.](http://TheSteffenGroupInc.com), [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com), 260-824-3006.

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

**DECEMBER 14-DECEMBER 21 - Bidding starts closing at 1 p.m. - Private collection, 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.](http://TheSteffenGroupInc.com), [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com), 260-824-3006.

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

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

**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.](http://TheSteffenGroupInc.com), [steffengrp.com](http://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.](http://TheSteffenGroupInc.com), [steffengrp.com](http://steffengrp.com), 260-824-3006.

## Public Notices

**NOTICE**  
The City of Bluffton is accepting sealed bids for paving alleys. Bidding specifications may be obtained from the Clerk Treasurer's Office, 128 East Market Street, Bluffton, IN, 46714, Mon-Fri, 8 am-4:30 pm. Bids must be returned to the Clerk Treasurer's Office by 4:30 pm Tues, December 17, 2024 to be opened and read aloud at the Board of Public Works and Safety.  
nb 11/20, 11/27  
hspaxlp

**NOTICE**  
Wells County Community Corrections will hold the next Advisory Board Meeting on December 10, 2024 at 11:30 am in the Wells County Community Corrections Training Room: 102 W Market Street, Suite 107, Bluffton, IN 46714  
nb 11/27  
hspaxlp

## SUDOKU ANSWER

8	9	9	2	1	7	3	8	6
2	7	6	9	9	8	1	8	6
8	2	1	6	8	2	9	7	9
7	6	8	1	2	9	2	9	8
2	1	8	8	7	9	6	2	9
9	9	2	8	6	2	7	1	8
1	8	2	7	8	6	9	9	2
6	2	7	9	9	8	8	2	1
9	8	2	9	2	1	8	6	7

**STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF WELLS IN THE WELLS COUNTY COURT CASE NO. 90C01-2410-MI-000025 IN RE THE MATTER OF: Nicholas David Castator Petitioner**  
**ORDER SETTING HEARING**  
Comes now Nicholas David Castator, having filed a Verified Petition for Change of Name, and the Court finds that the matter should be set for hearing.  
**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that this matter shall be heard on **JANUARY 13, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.**  
So ORDERED 10/18/2024  
Kenton W. Kiracofe  
Judicial Officer  
nb 11/13, 11/20, 11/27  
hspaxlp



Disciplinary divide

Dear Annie: My husband and I have a 6-year-old daughter, "Eliza," and we recently have not been seeing eye to eye in terms of how to handle discipline. For example, last week, when she refused to put her toys away after playing with them, I told her she couldn't watch TV until it was done. She threw a fit, and instead of backing me up, my husband told her it was OK and helped her put the toys away himself. Another time, when she talked back to me at the dinner table, I asked her to apologize, but he interrupted and said she was just expressing herself.

These situations leave me feeling undermined and like I'm the only one enforcing rules. I don't want her to feel she can pit us against each other, and I have also noticed myself getting more and more resentful when he takes her side over mine. I just think we need to be consistent, but I don't know if it's possible when our views on discipline seem fundamentally different. — Feeling Like the Bad Cop

Dear Bad Cop: Try talking to your husband during a calm moment when your daughter isn't around, and make sure you start the conversation by acknowledging you both want what's best for her. Then, work together to create a basic set of rules you both agree to follow. Consistency is key.

Parenting is a team sport, and when kids see their parents supporting each other, they feel more secure — and more likely to cooperate.

Dear Annie: My sister "Kate" and I were close growing up, but as adults, somehow, things seem to have gotten more competitive and hostile. For instance, at my son's birthday party last week, she made a point to tell everyone that her daughter was reading at a higher grade level and has started extra tutoring because she's "so advanced." It felt like she was trying to one-up me, and it kind of ruined my day.

It's not just about the kids, though. When I mentioned that my husband and I are looking at homes to buy, she

quickly jumped in to say they're planning on upgrading to a bigger house in a "nicer" neighborhood soon. She does this all the time, turning every conversation into a competition. They're always small things, but my resentment has built up over time.

I've tried ignoring it, but her comments make me feel small in front of our family. I don't know how to address this without making it sound like I'm overreacting. Help! — Tired of Competing

Dear Tired: It's hard to feel good about your own achievements when someone is always jumping in to overshadow them. Addressing this doesn't have to lead to a big confrontation, though.

Try not to let her comments take up too much time or attention. If you brush them off and shift the focus to other family members, she may eventually notice that the competitive comments don't get much traction and start to ease up.

If that doesn't work, address things one on one, explaining that you'd like to be able to celebrate each other's accomplishments without feeling like it's a competition.

"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit http://www.creatorspublishing.com for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

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Dear Annie

by Annie Lane



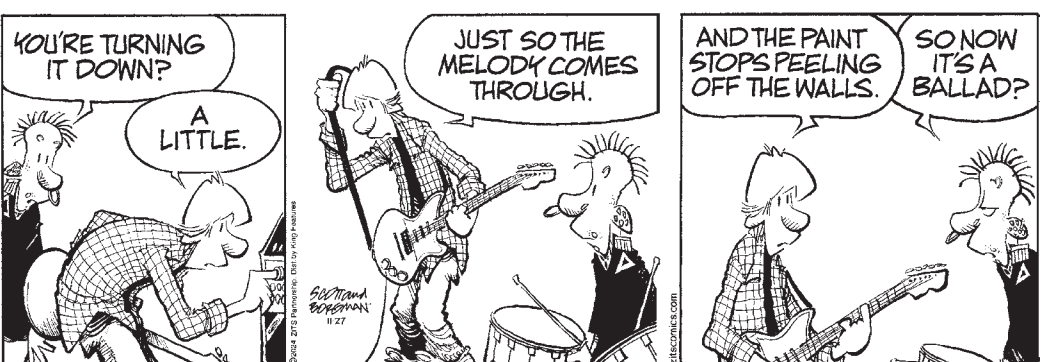
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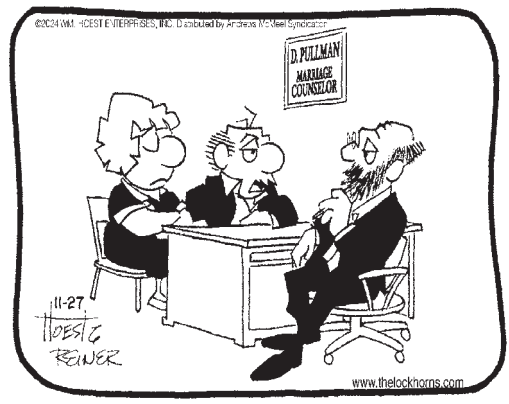
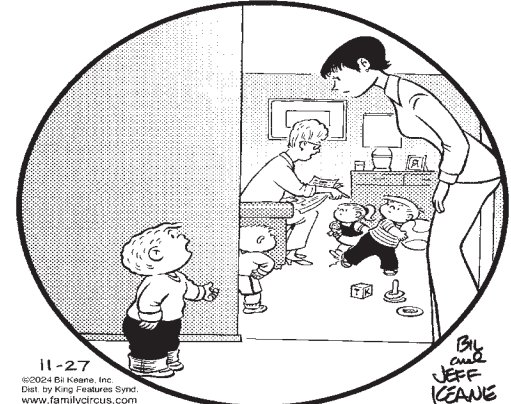
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



The Bible has a lot to say about moral and spiritual dimensions

Question: Should churches get involved in political issues? That seems to be all preachers talk about these days. On the other hand, in reading the history of our nation, I've been shocked to learn how pastors of the day were involved in community affairs pertaining to various issues of education and social issues. Have we become too oversensitive to speaking out on what the Bible condemns? — P.C.

Answer: The church of Jesus Christ has been given a distinctive and unique task in our world by God, and that is to proclaim the gospel of Christ. When we fail to do that,

we are not doing what God has commanded, to "make disciples of all the nations, ... teaching them" (Matthew 28:19-20, NKJV).

But we must be careful in discerning what is being preached. The Bible has a lot to say about moral and spiritual dimensions; we have a responsibility to speak for God's truth. We may miss the fact that politicians have taken many subjects taught in the Scripture and made them political. Christians must take a stand on matters that are clearly taught in the Bible, without compromising the clear presentation of God's message to lost souls.

When Christians bring the standards of Jesus Christ to bear upon life in a secular world, it is often resented. Our nation grew strong in an era when moral standards were emphasized, and it will grow weak when we condone that which we once condemned. Christians — not just pastors — need to take our place in society with moral courage to stand up for that which is right, just, and honorable.

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

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"Why does Grandma always call us by three or four different names before she gets it right?"

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions. Clues include: 1 Unpaid TV spot, 4 Snooze, 7 Towering, 8 Lite, 10 Yule tune, 11 Parka, 13 Holiday, 16 Pigs' digs, 17 Invitee, 18 Sign, 19 Pleads, 20 Contain, 21 Aspic, 23 Dubai, 25 Retained, 26 Swab, 27 Chemical, 28 Ridicule, 2 Mailbox, 3 Purported, 4 Taboos, 5 In, 6 Picnic, 7 Lacking, 8 Shoe, 9 Alterations, 10 "NCIS", 11 Bash, 14 Carpets, 15 Lay down, 19 Diner, 20 Trendy, 21 Army doc, 22 Gift-giver's, 23 Suggestion, 24 Hand warmers, 25 Actress, 26 Cheese, 28 Haute, 29 Tickle, 30 Journal, 31 Bigfoot's kin, 32 Jargon suffix, 34 Cornfield intruder, 35 Kerplunk!

Table with 12 columns (Time slots) and 12 rows (Channels). Lists TV programs and their corresponding channels.

Yesterday's answer crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-41.



# Attitude of gratitude

(Continued from Page 1)  
students made a gratefulness chain, and older students added items to a gratitude jar.

Each final product is on display in Walborn's classroom. While some items are simple and sweet, like family or Coke Zero, Walborn also sees how students dig deeper to consider their blessings.

Cassie Schoonbeck noticed a similar pattern as she challenged her fourth grade classroom to "Thankful Thursday." Every week the group fills a board with what they're grateful for.

"It's been cool to see the conversation switch from just friends, family (and) food, to having a student say she was thankful for honesty," Schoonbeck said. "Recognizing that you can be thankful for more than the tangible things has been really cool ... or to be able to put words to why they're thankful for air, because then (they) can breathe like — things like that. Another (student said) she's thankful for happiness, just the ability to be happy."

As their classrooms have been practicing thankfulness, both Walborn and Schoonbeck have then tasked their students with projects to share their thankfulness with others.

In the week leading up to Thanksgiving break, Schoonbeck's students worked with Sara Runyon's kindergarten class to put together a thankfulness book. They drew pictures of what they were thankful for, swapping ideas and uploading them to iPad Creator to make a book. The students will then share the book with their parents.

"It's been good to see them step up, and they get



Both Zella Walborn and Cassie Schoonbeck's classes partnered with others to practice thankfulness and service hand in hand. Above, fourth grade students Isaih Wilson (left) and Hudson Crull (right) help as kindergartner Hendrix Gonzalez (middle) draws a picture for his thankfulness book. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

At left, kindergartner Harlow Tierney colors in a card for a veteran with Honor Flight Northeast Indiana. (Photo provided)

really excited to work with the kids," Schoonbeck said. "I think it gives them more of an understanding that they are the leaders in the school."

Walborn has similarly encouraged her students to help others with a thankful heart. Most recently, her students put together cards for veterans with Honor Flight Northeast Indiana, inspired by a recent honor flight Wal-

born took with her dad.

In practicing thankfulness with her students, Walborn recognized that even young children are often processing tough situations and difficult emotions. Some have difficult home lives, while others are experiencing grief and loss for the first time. Whatever the situation, Walborn hopes gratitude and service become tools to overcome

hard things.

"We're all going to go through hard things," Walborn said. "And the feelings that come are OK. It can be hard, but we can choose to be positive even when bad things happen. That doesn't take away the bad things, it just helps us to have a better perspective and to be able to choose joy."

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# What does Trump's tariff plan mean for the U.S.?

By **PAUL WISEMAN AP Economics Writer**  
WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump has identified what he sees as an all-purpose fix for what ails America: Slap new tariffs on foreign goods entering the United States.

On Monday, Trump sent shockwaves across the nation's northern and southern borders, vowing sweeping new tariffs on Mexico, Canada, as well as China, as soon as he takes office as part of his effort to crack down on illegal immigration and drugs.

In a pair of posts on his Truth Social site Trump railed against an influx of immigrants lacking permanent legal status, even though southern border apprehensions have been hovering near four-year lows.

He said he would impose a 25% tax on all products entering the country from Canada and Mexico, and an additional 10% tariff on goods from China, as one of his first executive orders.

He said the new tariffs would remain in place "until such time as Drugs, in particular Fentanyl, and all Illegal Aliens stop this Invasion of our Country!"

The president-elect asserts that tariffs — basically import taxes — will create more factory jobs, shrink the federal deficit, lower food prices and allow the government to subsidize childcare.

Economists are generally skeptical, considering tariffs to be a mostly inefficient way for governments to raise money. They are especially alarmed by Trump's latest proposed tariffs.

Carl B. Weinberg and Rubeeela Farooqi, economists with High Frequency Economics said Tuesday that energy, automobiles and food supplies will be particularly hit hard.

"Imposing tariffs on trade flows into the United States without first preparing alternative sources for the goods and services affected will raise the price of imported items at once," Weinberg and Farooqi wrote. "Since many of these goods are consumer goods, households will be made poorer."

High Frequency Economics believes the threats are not meant to support new trade policy and are

instead a tool to elicit some changes along the borders and for imports from Canada, Mexico and China.

Though Vice President Kamala Harris criticized Trump's tariff threats as unserious during her failed bid for the presidency, the Biden-Harris administration retained the taxes the Trump administration imposed on \$360 billion in Chinese goods. And it imposed a 100% tariff on Chinese electric vehicles.

Indeed, the United States in recent years has gradually retreated from its post-World War II role of promoting global free trade and lower tariffs. That shift has been a response to the loss of U.S. manufacturing jobs, widely attributed to unfettered trade and an increasingly aggressive China.

### Tariffs are a tax on imports

They are typically charged as a percentage of the price a buyer pays a foreign seller. In the United States, tariffs are collected by Customs and Border Protection agents at 328 ports of entry across the country.

The tariff rates range from passenger cars (2.5%) to golf shoes (6%). Tariffs can be lower for countries with which the United States has trade agreements. For example, most goods can move among the United States, Mexico and Canada tariff-free because of Trump's US-Mexico-Canada trade agreement.

### Misinformation about who pays tariffs

Trump insists that tariffs are paid for by foreign countries. In fact, its is importers — American companies — that pay tariffs, and the money goes to U.S. Treasury. Those companies, in turn,

typically pass their higher costs on to their customers in the form of higher prices. That's why economists say consumers usually end up footing the bill for tariffs.

Still, tariffs can hurt foreign countries by making their products pricier and harder to sell abroad. Yang Zhou, an economist at Shanghai's Fudan University, concluded in a study that Trump's tariffs on Chinese goods inflicted more than three times as much damage to the Chinese economy as they did to the U.S. economy.

### Tariffs are intended mainly to protect domestic industries

By raising the price of imports, tariffs can protect home-grown manufacturers. They may also serve to punish foreign countries for committing unfair trade practices, like subsidizing their exporters or dumping products at unfairly low prices.

Before the federal income tax was established in 1913, tariffs were a major revenue driver for the government. From 1790 to 1860, tariffs accounted for 90% of federal revenue, according to Douglas Irwin, a Dartmouth College economist who has studied the history of trade policy.

Tariffs fell out of favor as global trade grew after World War II. The government needed vastly bigger revenue streams to finance its operations.

In the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, the government is expected to collect \$81.4 billion in tariffs and fees. That's a trifle next to the \$2.5 trillion that's expected to come from individual income taxes and the \$1.7 trillion from Social Security and Medicare taxes. Still, Trump wants to

enact a budget policy that resembles what was in place in the 19th century.

He has argued that tariffs on farm imports could lower food prices by aiding America's farmers. In fact, tariffs on imported food products would almost certainly send grocery prices up by reducing choices for consumers and competition for American producers.

Tariffs can also be used to pressure other countries on issues that may or may not be related to trade. In 2019, for example, Trump used the threat of tariffs as leverage to persuade Mexico to crack down on waves of Central American migrants crossing Mexican territory on their way to the United States.

### Economists consider tariffs self-defeating

Tariffs raise costs for companies and consumers that rely on imports. They're also likely to provoke retaliation.

The European Union, for example, punched back against Trump's tariffs on steel and aluminum by taxing U.S. products, from bourbon to Harley-Davidson motorcycles. Likewise, China responded to Trump's trade war by slapping tariffs on American goods, including soybeans and pork in a calculated drive to hurt his supporters in farm country.

A study by economists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Zurich, Harvard and the World Bank concluded that Trump's tariffs failed to restore jobs to the American heartland. The tariffs "neither raised nor lowered U.S. employment" where they were supposed to protect jobs, the study found.

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