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Trail running at Ouabache

Ouabache State Park hosted the Wells Outrageous Ouabache Fifteen Trail Run races Saturday morning. Five, 10 and 15 mile races were available for runners. At right, Dustin Schrader makes a final push as he crosses the finish line. Below, Chris Leas makes the final turn and heads for the finish. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)



Trial in 2017 killings of 2 teen girls in Delphi reaches midway as prosecution rests

By RICK CALLAHAN
Associated Press

DELPHI, Ind. (AP) — The trial of a man accused of killing two teenage girls in a small Indiana community has passed its midway point following more than two weeks of testimony about the 2017 killings. Prosecutors rested their case Thursday against Richard Allen after jurors heard recorded phone calls in which he told his wife that he killed Abigail Williams, 13, and Liberty German, 14.

Allen's trial began Oct. 18 at the Carroll County Courthouse in Delphi, the girls' hometown. Jurors have been sequestered since the beginning of the trial, which is scheduled to run through Nov. 15.

The defense began calling its first witnesses Thursday. A psychologist for the

Indiana Department of Correction told jurors Friday that Allen was seriously mentally ill when he began confessing to the killings while housed at the Westville Correctional Facility.

Allen, 52, faces up to 130 years in prison if he is convicted on two counts of murder and two additional counts of murder while committing or attempting to commit kidnapping.

Here are some key moments in the trial so far:

Opening statements

Carroll County Prosecutor Nicholas McLeland opened the trial by telling jurors they would see and hear evidence, including incriminating statements Allen has made, that will convince them he forced the

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Voting opens on Tuesday; Here's what you should know

Voting for the 2024 election begins tomorrow, with polls opening at 6 a.m. and closing at 6 p.m. To check voter registration status and polling locations, visit indianavoters.in.gov.

Local Elections

There is only one contested race at the county level, where incumbents Vicki Andrews, Scott Elzey and Seth Whicker, all Republicans, are challenged by Scott Burke (I) and Brian Hollingsworth (D).

There are two contested races in Wells County school boards.

For Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan Schools, Peter (Chris) Koiner challenges

incumbent Trent White for the board's District 3 seat.

Cathie Peterson and Jeremiah Tomlin are both running for the open Lancaster Township seat on the board of trustees for Norwell Community Schools. Todd Nash is unopposed for the Jefferson Township seat.

Voter Information

Election Day voting will be available from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Nov. 5 at the 4-H Park, Presbyterian Church, Lighted Gardens, Zanesville Tower Life Center and Southern Wells Community Church.

Ballot Information

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Federal Reserve set to cut rates again while facing a hazy post-election outlook

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — No one knows how Tuesday's presidential election will turn out, but the Federal Reserve's move two days later is much easier to predict: With inflation continuing to cool, the Fed is set to cut interest rates for a second time this year.

The presidential contest might still be unresolved when the Fed ends its two-day meeting Thursday afternoon, yet that uncertainty would have no effect on its decision to further reduce its benchmark rate. The Fed's

future actions, though, will become more unsettled once a new president and Congress take office in January, particularly if Donald Trump were to win the White House again.

Trump's proposals to impose high tariffs on all imports and launch mass deportations of unauthorized immigrants and his threat to intrude on the Fed's normally independent rate decisions could send inflation surging, economists have said. Higher inflation would, in turn, compel the Fed to slow or stop its rate cuts.

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True crime's popularity brings real change for defendants and society; It's not all good

By TRAVIS LOLLER, Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — In 1989, Americans were riveted by the shotgun murders of Jose and Kitty Menendez in their Beverly Hills mansion by their own children. Lyle and Erik Menendez were sentenced to life in prison and lost all subsequent appeals. But today, more than three decades later, they unexpectedly have a chance of getting out.

Not because of the workings of the legal system. Because of entertainment.

After two recent documentaries and a scripted drama on the pair brought new attention to the 35-year-old case, the Los Angeles

district attorney has recommended they be resentenced.

The popularity and proliferation of true crime entertainment like Netflix's docudrama "Monsters: The Lyle and Erik Menendez Story" is effecting real life changes for their subjects and in society more broadly. At their best, true crime podcasts, streaming series and social media content can help expose injustices and right wrongs.

But because many of these products prioritize entertainment and profit, they also can have serious negative consequences.

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Invasive weed lesson at Ouabache

At the start of the Weed Wrangle at Ouabache State Park Saturday morning, David Lefforge, pictured above at right, gave a lesson in what types of invasive weeds to look for near the park's entrance. In addition to friends of Ouabache, the weed wranglers included young men from the Trial Life group from Decatur's Troop 7121. The group composed of those aged 7 to 14, also were weekend campers at the park. Top left, for larger brush a Forest Mulcher was operated by Roger Harder of the Ouabache Park staff. At bottom left, To destroy the roots of an invasive plant, first the plant must be cut off and then the remainder of the plant sprayed as David Lefforge and two volunteers were doing in this photo. (Photos by Barbara Barbieri)



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Outside



Small chance of showers through Election Day

Today	Tuesday	Wed.
High 74	High 76	High 63
Low 62	Low 49	Low 41

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Delphi murder trial

(Continued from Page 1)

girls off a hiking trail into a secluded area while armed with a gun and cut their throats.

Allen was the person seen on cellphone video German recorded on the day the girls disappeared and an unspent bullet found between their bodies came from Allen's gun, McLeland said.

Defense attorney Andrew Baldwin told jurors Allen is innocent. Baldwin said the jury would hear witness statements and forensic evidence that would raise "reasonable doubt" that Allen is not the killer and said the state's timeline does not match the evidence in the case.

Someone else may have kidnapped the teens and returned them early the next day to the scene where they were found dead, Baldwin said.

Jurors see photos and video from the murder scene

In the first full week of the trial, jurors were shown photographs of the area where the teens' bodies were found in a wooded area off the hiking trail. The girls, known as Abby and Libby, had crossed an abandoned railroad trestle called the Monon High Bridge during their hike.

Some jurors and others in the courtroom gasped or turned away when gruesome images of their bloody bodies were shown, and the girls' mothers wept.

Jurors also viewed cellphone video that German recorded just before the youths vanished showing a man wearing a blue jacket and jeans following Williams as she crosses the Monon High Bridge.

In an enhanced version of the video shown to jurors, one of the girls says, "There's no path so we have to go down here." Just before the video ends, prosecutors said, the man seen

in the video tells the teens, "Down the hill."

How Allen became a suspect

Investigators said in an affidavit released about a month after Allen's October 2022 arrest that he became a suspect after they went back and reviewed "prior tips" and found that he had been interviewed by an officer in 2017.

Trial testimony has revealed more details about how they zeroed in on the former pharmacy worker.

A retired state government worker who volunteered in March 2017 to help police with the investigation told jurors that in September 2022 she found paperwork that caught her eye.

Kathy Shank testified she found a "lead sheet" saying that two days after German and Williams' bodies were found, a man contacted authorities and said he had been on the trail the afternoon the girls went missing. His name was listed incorrectly as Richard Allen Whiteman and marked "cleared," Shank said.

She determined the man's name was actually Richard Allen and recalled that a young girl had been on the trail at the same location and time and had seen a man.

"I thought there could be a correlation," Shank testified, adding that she notified officers of her find.

What Allen told investigators in 2017

The girls' bodies were found Feb. 14, 2017, the day after they went missing.

Two days later, Allen contacted authorities and told them he was on the hiking trail the afternoon of Feb. 13, during the time period when the girls disappeared, according to testimony.

Dan Dulin, an Indiana Department of Natural Resources captain, told the court he spoke to Allen, who said he was on the hik-

ing trail between 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. and remembered seeing three girls.

What Allen told investigators in 2022

After Shank brought Allen to investigators' attention, they interviewed him in October 2022. Allen told investigators he arrived at the trail around noon and left no later than 2 p.m., not 3:30 p.m. as he told Dulin in 2017.

Steve Mullin, who was Delphi's police chief when the girls were killed and later became an investigator at the county prosecutor's office, said Allen told him and another officer that he was wearing a blue or black Carhartt jacket, jeans and a beanie on the day the teens vanished.

Mullin said he asked Allen if he was the similarly dressed person seen in German's cellphone video.

"His response was if the picture was taken with the girls' camera, there was no way it was him," Mullin testified.

Prosecutors also showed jurors police interviews with Allen videotaped before his arrest in which he repeatedly professed his innocence.

Allen's alleged confessions
On Thursday the jury heard several recorded phone calls of Allen speaking with his wife from prison in which he told her that he killed German and Williams. In one of the calls, he said, "I did it. I killed Abby and Libby."

The jury heard testimony earlier from the former warden of the Westville Correctional Facility, where Allen was previously held, who said Allen claimed to have killed the girls with a box cutter that he later discarded.

Dr. Monica Wala, Allen's prison psychologist during his time at Westville, testified Allen began confessing to killing the girls in early 2023 during his sessions

with her. She said he provided details of the crime in some of the confessions, including telling her he slashed the girls' throats and put tree branches over their bodies.

A report written by Wala and presented to the jury as an exhibit states Allen also told her he had planned to rape the teens but did not do so after he saw a van traveling nearby.

A state trooper testified Thursday that Allen's remark corroborated a statement by a man whose driveway passes under the Monon High Bridge and who said he was driving home in his van around that time.

Allen's attorneys have said their client made the incriminating statements while under the pressure and mental stress of being locked up and watched 24 hours a day and being taunted by people incarcerated with him.

During cross-examination, Wala acknowledged she followed Allen's case with interest during her personal time even while she was treating him and that she was a fan of the true crime genre.

An unspent bullet and Allen's gun

Court documents released weeks after Allen's arrest state that testing determined an unspent bullet found between the girls' bodies "had been cycled through" a pistol Allen owned.

Melissa Oberg, an Indiana State Police firearms expert, told the jury her analysis tied the round to Allen's Sig Sauer, a .40-caliber handgun.

Allen's attorney tried to cast doubt on the accuracy of firearms testing during cross-examination. Oberg said she is not aware of making any identification mistakes in her more than 17 years of analyzing firearms.

Weather

Monday, November 4, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:14 p.m. Sunday)

High: 68; Low: 38; Precipitation: Race of rain
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.05 feet at 9:45 p.m. Sunday

Wells County forecast

Today: A 20% chance of showers after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 74. South wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 62. South wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Tuesday: A 40% chance of showers after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 76. Breezy, with a south wind 20 to 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Tuesday Night: Showers, mainly before 1 a.m. Low around 49. Southwest wind 5 to 15 mph becoming west after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 63.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 41.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 63.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 39.

Federal Reserve

(Continued from Page 1)

On Thursday, the Fed's policymakers, led by Chair Jerome Powell, are on track to cut their benchmark rate by a quarter-point, to about 4.6%, after having implemented a half-point reduction in September. Economists expect another quarter-point rate cut in December and possibly additional such moves next year. Over time, rate cuts tend to lower the costs of borrowing for consumers and businesses.

The Fed is reducing its rate for a different reason than it usually does: It often cuts rates to boost a sluggish economy and a weak job market by encouraging more borrowing and spending. But the economy is growing briskly, and the unemployment rate is a low 4.1%, the government reported Friday, even with hurricanes and a strike at Boeing having sharply depressed net job growth last month.

Instead, the central bank is lowering rates as part of what Powell has called "a recalibration" to a lower-inflation environment. When inflation spiked to a four-decade high of 9.1% in June 2022, the Fed proceeded to raise rates 11 times — ultimately sending its key rate to about 5.3%, also the highest in four decades.

But in September, year-over-year inflation dropped to 2.4%, barely above the Fed's 2% target and equal to its level in 2018. With inflation having fallen so far, Powell and other Fed officials have said they think high borrowing rates are no longer necessary. High borrowing rates

typically restrict growth, particularly in interest-rate-sensitive sectors such as housing and auto sales.

"The restriction was in place because inflation was elevated," said Claudia Sahm, chief economist at New Century Advisors and a former Fed economist. "Inflation is no longer elevated. The reason for the restriction is gone."

Fed officials have suggested that their rate cuts would be gradual. But nearly all of them have expressed support for some further reductions.

"For me, the central question is how much and how fast to reduce the target for the (Fed's key) rate, which I believe is currently set at a restrictive level," Christopher Waller, an influential member of the Fed's Board of Directors, said in a speech last month.

Jonathan Pingle, an economist at Swiss bank UBS, said that Waller's phrasing reflected "unusual confidence and conviction that rates were headed lower."

Next year, the Fed will likely start to wrestle with the question of just how low their benchmark rate should go. Eventually, they may want to set it at a level that neither restricts nor stimulates growth — "neutral" in Fed parlance.

Powell and other Fed officials acknowledge that they don't know exactly where the neutral rate is. In September, the Fed's rate-setting committee estimated that it was 2.9%. Most economists think it's closer to 3% to 3.5%.

Voting information

(Continued from Page 1)

County

• Commissioner, District 2: Blake Gerber (R).

• Commissioner, District 3: Jeff Stringer (R).

• Coroner: Cliff Thomas (R).

• Council, 3 At-Large: Vicki Andrews (R), Scott Burke (I), Scott Elzey (R), Brian Hollingsworth (D) and Seth Whicker (R).

• Recorder: Rina Stuck (R).

• Surveyor: Jarrod Hahn (R).

• Treasurer: Pam Gregory (R).

• Circuit Court Judge: Kenton Kira-cofe (R)

School Boards

• Bluffton-Harrison MSD, At-Large: Preston Kaehr.

• Bluffton-Harrison MSD, District 3: Peter (Chris) Koiner and Trent White.

• Norwell, Jefferson Township: Todd Nash.

• Norwell, Lancaster Township:

Cathie Peterson and Jeremiah Tomlin.

• Southern Wells, Jackson Township: Gregory Vanover.

• Southern Wells, Nottingham Township: Todd Fiechter.

State

• State Representative, District 50: Lorissa Sweet (R) and Joseph Swisher (D).

• State Representative, District 79: Matt Lehman (R).

• U.S. Representative: Kiley Adolph (D), Jarrad Lancaster (L) and Marlin Stutzman (R).

• U.S. Senator: Jim Banks (R), Andrew Hoving (L) and Valerie McCray (D).

• Attorney General: Todd Rokita (R) and Destiny Wells (D).

• Governor: Mike Braun (R), Jennifer McCormick (D) and Donald Rainwater (L).

National

• President: Kamala Harris (D), Robert Kennedy (WTP) and Donald

Trump (R).

Public Questions

• Public Question #1: Shall the constitution of the State of Indiana be amended to remove the state superintendent of public instruction from the list of officeholders who shall discharge the powers and duties of the governor if the office of the governor and lieutenant governor are both vacant?

• Retention of Justice of the Supreme Court of Indiana: Shall Justice Mark S. Massa be retained in office?

• Retention of the Justice of the Supreme Court of Indiana: Shall Justice Derek Read Molter be retained in office?

• Retention of Justice in the Supreme Court of Indiana: Shall Justice Loretta H. Rush be retained in office?

• Court of Appeals Judicial Retention – Fourth District: Shall Judge Rudolph Reginald Pyle III be retained in office?

True crime

(Continued from Page 1)

The rise of the antihero is at play

Much true crime of the past takes particularly shocking crimes and explores them in depth, generally with the assumption that those convicted of the crime were actually guilty and deserved to be punished.

The success of the podcast "Serial," which cast doubt on the murder conviction of Adnan Syed, has given birth to a newer genre that often assumes (and intends to prove) the opposite. The protagonists are innocent, or — as in the case of the Menendez brothers — guilty but sympathetic, and thus not deserving of their harsh sentences.

"There is an old tradition of journalists picking apart criminal cases and showing that people are potentially innocent," says Maurice Chamamah, a staff writer at The Marshall Project and author of "Let the Lord Sort Them: The Rise and Fall of the Death Penalty."

"But I think that the curve kind of goes up exponentially in the wake of 'Serial,' which was 2014 and obviously changed the entire landscape economically and culturally of podcasts," Chamamah says.

Roughly during the same

time period, the innocence movement gained traction along with the Black Lives Matter movement and greater attention on police custody deaths. And in popular culture, both fiction and non-fiction, the trend is to mine a villainous character's backstory.

Banner often represents some of the least sympathetic defendants imaginable, including those accused of child sexual abuse. He says the effects of these cultural trends are real. Juries today are more likely to give his clients the benefit of the doubt and are more skeptical of police and prosecutors. But he also worries about the intense focus in current true crime on cases where things went wrong, which he says are the outliers.

"You don't want to take away the positive ramifications that putting that spotlight on a case can bring. But you also don't want to give off the impression that this is how our justice system works. That if we can get enough cameras and microphones on a case, then that's how we're going to save somebody off of death row or that's how we're going to get a life sentence overturned."

Adds Chamamah: "If you open up sentencing decisions

and second looks and criminal justice policy to pop culture — in the sense of who gets a podcast made about them, who gets Kim Kardashian talking about them — the risk of extreme arbitrariness is really great. ... It feels like it's only a matter of time before the wealthy family of some defendant basically funds a podcast that tries to make a viral case for their innocence."

The audience is a factor, too

Whitney Phillips, who teaches a class on true crime and media ethics at the University of Oregon, says the popularity of the genre on social media adds another layer of complications, often encouraging active participation of viewer and listeners.

"Because these are not trained detectives or people who have any actual subject area expertise in forensics or even criminal law, then there's this really common outcome of the wrong people being implicated or floated as suspects," she says. "Also, the victims' families now are part of the discourse. They might be accused of this, that, or the other, or at the very least, you have your loved one's murder, violent death, being entertainment for millions of strangers."

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OBITUARIES

James A. Lantz, 74

James A. "Jim" Lantz, 74, of Decatur, passed away Sunday afternoon, Nov. 3, 2024, at his residence. Funeral arrangements are pending with Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel 3220 East SR 124 Bluffton, IN.

Mary Ann Monce, 86

Mary Ann Monce, 86, of McNatt, Jackson Township, Wells County, passed away on Nov. 2, 2024, at 7:03 a.m. at Parkview Hospital in Huntington. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Glancy Funeral Homes, Warren.

Industry experts defend carbon dioxide storage, discuss report

Indiana University Indianapolis hosted a traveling symposium examining ways to remove carbon dioxide

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Carbon removal was the focus of a two-day, national symposium held at Indiana University Indianapolis, including one controversial state project.

A mile underground, much of Indiana's rock is porous — and great for safely storing carbon dioxide, industry experts said Tuesday.

Carbon dioxide is captured, then pressurized and cooled. The resulting liquid is injected deep into the earth's subsurface.

Steve Whittaker, a subsurface executive at Vault 44.01., said his carbon capture and storage company was "bullish on Indiana" because its geology comes with "great storage capabilities."

He spoke on a lengthy 2023 report about ways to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

"We're going to have to relocate billions of tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to protect ... ourselves and future generations from the worst effects of climate change," said Peter Psarras, a chemical and biomolecular engineering professor at the University of Pennsylvania. "... We really need to look, legitimately, at putting this in the subsurface to make sure that it's stored durably and safely."

University of Texas at Austin Professor Susan Hovorka, who's worked on CCS for 25 years, said she started as a skeptic. But, Hovorka said, "It works."

She noted — with visual aids in tow — that suitable rock is porous and absorbs liquids. It's usually between half a mile and 3 miles underground.

Hovorka sought to address opposition about potential water contamination, earthquakes and explosions.

She told the audience that the industry is highly regulated to protect the water supply — although she said carbon dioxide is "not harmful" to water.

Those same regulations require project operators to prove their injections won't cause seisms.

To that end, an earlier panelist noted that his company avoids faults, fractures and existing wells. Hugh Caperton II, a development executive at Vault 44.01, said Indiana generally has a "quiet" and "non-complex" subsurface.

Finally, Hovorka said, carbon dioxide doesn't explode from damaged pipes. It comes out "with energy," she said, spreading on the ground and mixing with the air. It's still cold.

"We put on monitors to make sure we're safe, but it's not as dangerous as people think," Hovorka said.

Agribusiness company Archer-Daniels-Midland made headlines this month after discovering a potential underground leak at its Illinois CCS facility, Reuters reported. It paused injections.

Panelists said the facility was unique because it began as a research project and housed multiple functions in the same well.

"Nobody would do those kinds of wells again," Whittaker said. He said his company would dedicate wells to certain uses, without extra perforations that could lead to leaks.

Indiana is home to four U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Class VI permits for CCS projects.

Wabash Valley Resources External Affairs Vice President Greg Zoeller told the panel that his company has filed two. It plans to produce ammonia for fertilizer at a former gasifier in West Terre Haute and would sequester the resulting carbon dioxide underground.

The company hopes to provide farmers with low-cost fertilizer but has faced local opposition.

Zoeller asked panelists about how they've built trust. They emphasized community engagement, and said as more projects progress, there'll be more concrete examples to point out.

Government Affairs Vice President Pete Rimsans told the Capital Chronicle that the company has met with about 80% of the 200 area organizations it's identified, and holds weekly meetings with such stakeholders. There are still skeptics, he said, but, "If they don't engage in the conversation, there's not much we can do about it."

The plant is inching closer to reality. It's expecting to close on a federal loan in the coming months, and begin construction after, according to Rimsans.

Indiana inspector general dismisses group's ethics complaint against state elections chief

The response says current law is narrow and suggested going to the Legislature for changes

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Indiana Inspector General David Cook has dismissed an ethics complaint lodged by the League of Women Voters in Indiana against Secretary of State Diego Morales — but suggested the group go to lawmakers for changes.

League President Linda Hanson accused Morales of using his position for self-promotion, pointing to pricey election security printings and poll signs that prominently bear his name.

"The message itself is overpowered by the Secretary's name," her letter alleged.

The complaint was based on a 2010 law barring state elected officials from using their names and likenesses in "communications" that are paid with money appropriated by the General Assembly, with some limited exceptions.

Cook declined to investigate Hanson's allegations, and closed the complaint, because he "found no allegations of criminal wrongdoing" in the letter. His response, obtained by the Capital Chronicle, came just two days after the league filed its complaint on Oct. 20.

And, Cook added, proving an ethics code violation would be hard.

That's because the law defines "communications" as being in audio or video



Secretary of State Diego Morales holds a Hoosier-themed coloring book at one of his Indiana State Fair booths, in a photo uploaded Friday, Aug. 2, 2024. (Photo from official X account)

format, or being printed in a newspaper. Morales' election guides and signs don't appear to fit in those categories.

"We are concerned that even if we investigated your complaint, our office would not be able to prove to the State Ethics Commission that the communications you attached to your letter fall within one of these three definitions," Cook wrote.

Hanson said the league "had anticipated that problem" but said she believed taxpayers should be aware.

Cook also observed that the inspector general only investigates use of taxpayer

funds that "fall clearly outside" of a state officer's official duties, but that Morales' communications "appear to be related" to his office's duties.

"As such, we believe the voters are in the best position to determine the appropriateness of these communications," he said.

Cook concluded by noting the law is "narrowly drafted" and "limits the cases we investigate," and said that if the league is concerned about the law, it should "share those concerns" with the Indiana General Assembly.

Hanson said she still disagreed with Morales'

actions, and hoped to speak with lawmakers about edits.

"While the publications may not strictly violate the law, they are clearly paid for by taxpayer money that is keeping Secretary of State Morales' name front and center before the public," she wrote to the Capital Chronicle. "We believe the office, which is not partisan, rather than the officeholder, who is partisan, should be credited with publications from the office in question. And we believe the public should be aware of how their tax money is being spent."

Ethics commission weighs in on whiskey barrel employment

By NIKI KELLY
Indiana Capital Chronicle

The State Ethics Commission has blocked an outside employment opportunity for a state employee involving whiskey barrels.

The chief operating officer and chief of staff for the Indiana Destination Development Corporation requested a formal ethics opinion involving a new job. His name is not in the opinion, but is on IDDC's website. He is David Holt.

"I just wanted to do what was right. I had an opportunity, and so I asked," Holt told the Indiana Capital Chronicle. "I kind of knew the opportunity would be turned down and so I moved on."

IDDC is the state's marketing arm. It helps promote destination assets around Indiana, from sports facilities and music venues to zoos and amusement parks.

The opinion was crafted by Regan Perrodin, director of the State Ethics Commission. It explained the Holt regularly meets with venues and others to discuss how IDDC can help with promotions to attract out-of-state visitors.

The tourism agency often offers two meth-

ods of assistance to these venues: a calendar of events and ticket giveaways.

The opinion said while meeting with distilleries, Holt learned they are having trouble getting whiskey barrels at a good price as many larger distilleries in Tennessee and Kentucky buy them up.

Holt casually mentioned this to a family friend while outside work. The friend said the hardwood company he worked for had a relationship with companies that make barrels in Kentucky. The company proposed that Holt could work on his own time to help the distilleries with this problem.

In this potential role, Holt would get the distilleries or the distillery guild a locked-in price for each barrel if they have enough volume for the barrels. He would act as a "middleman" between the distillery or guild and his friend's hardwood company. The company was already picking up goods from the co-opage company in Kentucky, so it would bring the barrels to Indiana and deliver them to the distilleries.

Holt would be paid by the friend's hardwood company, according to the

opinion.

The commission found the arrangement would constitute a conflict of interest.

It specified that Holt would be using information that he learned during his state duties to make a profit. It also found he would be using his official position to secure unwarranted privileges or exemptions of substantial value that are not available to similarly situated

individuals outside state government.

Steven W. Shoup
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Trick or treating, politics style

I have always admired the Halloween decorations in people's yards and the costumes Hoosiers come up with. I guess I missed the dressing-up gene, but I did love trick-or-treating when I was young.

My family and I live in a rural area and we don't get any kids ringing the bell. So, I thought I'd come up with my own trick or treat this year — election style. Trick or treat!



Niki Kelly

Trick
— Indiana had an open U.S. Senate seat and it was decided before it really began. That's a bit of sorcery for sure. Third District Republican Congressman Jim Banks jumped in the race for Braun's open seat early and never looked back.

Hoosier Opinions

His close relationship with Club for Growth resulted in a devastating hit against former GOP governor Mitch Daniels, who decided to pass up a primary bid. And Indiana's two-primary rule knocked another candidate off the ballot. So, Banks has been on cruise control. He's been up double digits in every poll taken this year and even skipped the one statewide debate held for this race.

Treat
— A substantive governor's race has been a welcome surprise. Both major-party campaigns have put out proposals on a host of topics, from property taxes and marijuana to education and health care. I applaud them for not taking the easy way out with red meat to both their bases. Property taxes, for instance, are complicated and initiatives are hard to explain to voters. Same with health care costs and education. All three candidates have been open and available to talk about issues, participated in multiple debates and largely stayed above the fray.

Trick
— U.S. Sen. Mike Braun had the biggest trick this year when he put out an ad that had been photoshopped, and without the required legal disclaimer. Even after he added the disclaimer it became clear the ad was problematic. It changed the signs supporters were holding at opponent Jennifer McCormick's rally from "McCormick" to "No Gas Stoves" signs. The Braun campaign later pivoted again, to the original signs — but the ad ran for weeks, saying McCormick wanted to ban gas stoves when she had said no such thing.

Treat
— An engaged electorate. On one hand, seeing reports of long lines while early voting is frustrating. Some counties apparently didn't plan properly by increasing the number of polling locations and machines. But I'll take long lines over no lines. That means voters are engaged and want to make their voice heard. Now, venomous rhetoric from voters is sometimes too much. But they are doing their civic duty, and I thank them.

Trick
— Micah Beckwith pulled off a first when he defeated the GOP nominee's choice for his running mate at the summer state convention. Instead of safe Rep. Julie McGuire, the more conservative-leaning delegates selected self-proclaimed Christian nationalist Beckwith as the nominee for lieutenant governor. He had been campaigning for the position for a year. After his shocking win, a well-known GOP lawyer sent a memo saying Beckwith could be a vulnerability for Braun. And as that race has tightened, he's repeatedly become a distraction for the Braun campaign.

And one last treat
— Gov. Eric Holcomb dressed up as Abraham Lincoln for Halloween and it was pretty perfect. He is definitely tall enough to pull off the former president. First Lady Janet Holcomb joined in as Indiana Fever star Caitlin Clark. The theme this year was characters representing historic figures that represent Indiana.

Niki Kelly is the editor of the Indiana Capital Chronicle, a non-profit newsroom. nkelly@indianacapitalchronicle.com

Submit your Letters to the Editor via: • Our website link (Submit your Letter) • E-Mail: email@news-banner.com • Mail: PO Box 436, Bluffton IN 46714 • Drop-off: 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton. All letters must be signed and must include a phone number or address in case verification is desired. Letters are edited for brevity and clarity. Letters must be no more than 500 words. Please mark your correspondence as a "Letter to the Editor," or if you wish to express an opinion to us but do not want it published, please mark as "Not for Publication."

Today in History

By The Associated Press
Today is Monday, Nov. 4, the 309th day of 2024. There are 57 days left in the year.

Today in history: On Nov. 4, 2008, Democratic Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois was elected the first Black president of the United States, defeating the Republican candidate, Sen. John McCain of Arizona.

Also on this date:
In 1922, the entrance to King Tutankhamen's tomb was discovered in Egypt.

In 1979, the Iran hostage crisis began as militants stormed the United States Embassy in Tehran, seizing its occupants; for some of the hostages, it was the start of 444 days of captivity.

In 1980, Republican

Ronald Reagan won election to the White House for the first time as he trounced President Jimmy Carter.

In 1991, Ronald Reagan opened his presidential library in Simi Valley, Calif.; attending were President George H.W. Bush and former Presidents Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford and Richard Nixon — the first-ever gathering of five past and present U.S. chief executives.

In 1995, Yitzhak Rabin, prime minister of Israel, was assassinated by a right-wing Israeli minutes after attending a peace rally.

In 2007, King Tutankhamen's face was unveiled for the first time to the public more than 3,000 years after the pharaoh was buried in his Egyptian tomb.



Republican irrational exuberance?

You can feel it — Republican confidence in victory is growing. Many in the GOP, from elected officials to pundits on the social platform X, believe former President Donald Trump is headed to victory, perhaps even a big victory, on Nov. 5. For weeks, Vice President Kamala Harris' lead in national polls has been shrinking, a little bit each day, until now the two are basically tied, which some experts believe will mean a Trump win. Of the five most recent polls in the RealClearPolitics average of polls, one has Harris leading by a single point, another has Trump leading by a single point, and three have the two candidates exactly tied. You can't get closer than that.

If you are a Trump supporter, it appears the national polls are lining up. The same with the swing state polls. Early voting looks better for Republicans than it ever has. Trump is running a smart race. Harris has failed to offer a compelling picture of what she would do were she elected president of the United States. So the Republican optimists are not making this up.

At the same time, the polls are really, really close. Why such a high level of confidence? The reason is that recent experience suggests the Democratic candidate has to win the popular vote by a certain margin — say, 3 percentage points — in order to win the Electoral College. They can win by, say, 5 million votes in California, which juices up the national popular vote, but they'll take home the same 54 electoral votes they would have captured if they won the state by, say, 5,000 votes.

Hillary Clinton won the popular vote by 2.1 percentage points in 2016 — and lost in the Electoral College. Joe Biden won the popular vote by 4.5 points in 2020 — and won. Now, although it's hard to pinpoint a precise figure, Harris probably needs to win the popular vote by some margin, a point or 2, or maybe 3, to win the Electoral College, and thus the presidency.

That's what makes the current Harris-Trump popular vote polling tie so encouraging to Trump supporters. They have a pretty simple view of it: If we tie, we win.

Trump supporters also know that many polls in

2016 and 2020 undercounted Trump voters. When the final election results came in, Trump outperformed the polls. So some Trump people look at today's polls and say, OK, add 2 points, and that's what Trump will get. Thus, if the polls say the race is tied, they think they're really 2 points ahead.

But there's another thing to consider. Pollsters are well aware that they did a poor job in 2016. They tried to fix things in 2020 and did not succeed. Now, they have tried new methods to make their 2024 polls more accurate. The question is whether they have succeeded this time. If they have, the race is really tied. If they haven't, you can add a couple of points to Trump's total.

Finally, there is the margin of error. The polls never claim to be right on the money. And the Harris-Trump margin has always been within the margin of error of each individual poll. If, in fact, they are wrong, will they all be wrong in the same direction, as they mostly were in the past? Not clear.

So here's the thing: Yes, the polls have shown real movement toward Trump in the last few weeks. Yes, there are certain factors favoring Trump. But the polls are not frozen at this moment. There are still several days left in the campaign for people to vote. The polls could shift a bit. They could move back toward Harris. And we know Democrats, whatever they think of Harris, hate Trump with a passion, which will motivate them to vote. Plus, if the pollsters have fixed some of their Trump undercount problem, the final result could be very, very close — certainly not a good reason for Republicans to be highly confident today.

You know the phrase "irrational exuberance"? For Trump supporters, the situation is somewhere between rational and irrational exuberance. Yes, optimism makes sense given where things are at this very moment. But it would be foolish to start assuming that there's now a smooth ride toward a Trump victory. Something that you don't expect can always happen.

byork@washingtonexaminer.com



Byron York

The Harris campaign is testament to the toxicity of woke politics

We've passed the peak of woke politics in the U.S., and the Harris for president campaign is the leading indicator.

Of all the things that Kamala Harris wants you to know about her — that she grew up in a middle-class family, that she's not Joe Biden, that she has a "to-do list" for the American people — perhaps foremost among them is that she's not woke.

She doesn't have any rote line asserting this, but achieving distance from the fashionable left-wing politics that defined the Trump years and their immediate aftermath motivates much of what she says and does.

That Harris now feels compelled to disavow so many of the ideas that she once embraced is powerful testament to their political toxicity. An idea has won or lost in American politics when both parties favor or oppose it, or simply don't want to fight over it anymore. Ronald Reagan's economics truly prevailed when the Democratic Party, via Bill Clinton in the early 1990s, accepted his basic approach.

Gay marriage won politically when Republicans decided to stop talking about the issue.

By this standard, woke attitudes and policies are in marked decline, and Kamala Harris is Exhibit A.

Except for her abortion radicalism, she's turned her back on much of what she once professed to believe or sympathize with.

Defund the police? Absolutely not. Abolish ICE? No way. DEI? Haven't heard of it.



Rich Lowry

Medicare for All? That was a long time ago.

The Green New Deal? Let's not get carried away.

She has backed off her extravagant positions on the trans issue and the border. She now insists that rather than pushing the envelope on either, she simply wants to follow the law. You could be forgiven for thinking the only pronouns she knows are she/her and he/him.

Harris doesn't bring up identity politics at all. Not only does she not talk about the once-ubiquitous concepts of white privilege or "equity,"

only person in the race who has prosecuted transnational gangs.

This is as complete a volte-face as we've seen in recent American politics.

In French Revolution terms, Harris once was a fellow traveler with Robespierre, the famous radical, but now is happy to go along with the Thermidorian Reaction that toppled him.

It's as if William Jennings Bryan decided, after inveighing against them so famously, that the gold standard and Eastern financial interests weren't so bad after all.

What happened is that many Democratic politicians believed that the reaction to Trump and the revulsion over the killing of George

Floyd had fundamentally reoriented American politics and the hothouse leftism of college campus could be exported to the country at large. In reality, most people were never on board. Joe Biden wouldn't have won the presidency in 2020 if he'd been woke, and Kamala Harris wouldn't be locked in a tight race now if she were still running on her erstwhile causes.

By no means does this suggest that woke priorities are on their way out. They are still dominant in academia and in other elite institutions, and if she wins, Harris could still pursue them.

Her sincerity is neither here nor there, though. That a politician who marinated for decades in progressive California and who once espoused or sounded favorable to every single woke priority realizes that she can't do so and appeal to a majority of Americans speaks volumes. Harris doesn't have great political instincts, yet even she gets this.

Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry



The News-Banner

(USPS 059-200)

Evening News est. 1892 • Evening Banner est. 1899 • Consolidated 1929

News-Banner Publications, Inc.

George B. Witwer, Chairman of the Board
Doug Brown, President, Publisher
Dianne Witwer, Secretary/Treasurer

Periodicals Postage Paid at Bluffton, IN 46714. Published every day except Sundays and principal holidays at 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton IN 46714, Post Office Box 436

Holly Gaskill, Editor
Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor

What's happening at the Wells County Public Library

The Wells County Public Library takes its mission to "provide the community with access, knowledge and growth" very seriously and offers a variety of events each week for kids, teens and adults. Registration is preferred at most events. To sign up, go to www.wellscollibrary.org, click on the Library Event Calendar, navigate to the date of the event, and view more to get to the registration screen. Alternatively, call 824-1612 (Bluffton) or 260-622-4691 (Ossian) to register.

Bingo with Jason

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, Nov. 4 from 3 to 4 p.m.
Adults. Enjoy a lively game of Bingo for a chance to win a candy bar with everyone's favorite librarian named Jason! Registration required.

Teen Gaming Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, Nov. 4 from 6 to 7 p.m.
Grades 6-12. Enjoy a variety of different games each month, including video games, trading card games, and board games. No registration needed.

Children's Book Clubs

At the Main Library (Bluffton)
Grades 1-2 Book Club: Tuesday, Nov. 5 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Grades 3-4 Book Club: Tuesday, Nov. 12 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Grades 5-6 Book Club: Thursday, Nov. 14 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Pick up a copy of the book-of-the-month when you sign up at the library. Talk about the book and enjoy an activity or craft based on the book.

Teen Food Fun At Ossian

At the Ossian Branch Library: Thursday, Nov. 7 from 3 to 4 p.m.
Grades 6-12. Have fun creating different varieties of fruit sushi. Drop-in event. No registration needed.

Genealogy/Local History Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, Nov. 7 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.
Ages 12+. Members help each other learn new things and obtain a greater appreciation for local history and genealogy research. Bring your own laptop or share one of ours. Registration appreciated.

Brown Bag Book Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, Nov. 11 at 1:30 p.m.
Adults. Read a book that a friend or relative has recommended or try recommend-meabook.com and then come to share about your book with the group. Registration appreciated.

Crafty Kids At Ossian

At the Ossian Branch Library: Monday, Nov. 11 from 3:30-5:30 p.m.
School-age kids. Drop-in for a different craft each month. No registration needed.

Computer and iPad Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, Nov. 12 from 1-3 p.m.
Adults. Each month has a different tech focus and there is plenty of time for questions. All skill levels are welcome. Registration appreciated your first visit.

Cook, Talk, Taste

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, Nov. 12 from 6-7 p.m.

Adults. Join the tastiest club at the library. This month the group will enjoy delicious recipes from the featured hosts. Registration appreciated.

Teen Book Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, Nov. 14 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Grades 6-12. Discuss the book "The Invention of Hugo Cabret" by Brian Selznick. Registration required.

Book Discussion: "The Cuckoo's Calling"

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, Nov. 14 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Adults. Discuss the book "The Cuckoo's Calling" by Robert Galbraith. Registration required.

Saturday Movies

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Saturday, Nov. 16 at 11 am
All ages. Drop-in for a family-friendly movie under the stars in the Story Hour Room. This month is "We Bought a Zoo" (PG).

Vera Cruz History: Author Talk

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, Nov. 19 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Adults. Charles Joray will be speaking about the history of Vera Cruz, Indiana, and his recently released book "The Early History of Vera Cruz Indiana: 1838-1910." He will have his books for sale at the end of the program. Registration is appreciated, but not required. About the Book:
"Drawing on his extensive research and interviews of residents and descendants, author and historian Charles Joray explores the challenges and triumphs of the families



who settled Vera Cruz and whose intertwined stories make up much of its history during the last half of 19th century. There's also no shortage of colorful characters, tragic accidents, and even unsolved murders. Whether you're a history enthusiast, a native Hoosier, or simply curious about small-town America, this book offers a captivating journey through the past of Vera Cruz, Indiana" – book jacket.

Library Hours

At the main library in Bluffton — Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
At the Ossian branch — Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon.
Access the library online at www.wellscollibrary.org for digital books, magazines, online databases, event info, and more.

Murder of Leo Melvin Wolfe by his father-in-law John Terrell put Wells County in the spotlight

By BARBARA BARBIERI

Crime author Stephen Terrell unveiled his just off the press book "The Madness of John Terrell" at a recent "meet the author" evening at the Wells County Public Library.

The book tells the tale of the murder of Leo Melvin Wolfe by his father-in-law John Terrell over the treatment of Terrell's 19-year-old daughter Lucy Terrell Wolfe and her baby daughter on July 12, 1903.

At the time Wells County was experiencing an oil boom and John Terrell's wealth included at least six producing oil wells in southern Wells County. His daughter Lucy became pregnant by oil field worker Leo Melvin Wolfe and was forced into a marriage with him.

He treated both her and the baby badly and she returned to live with her family. Wolfe continued to harass Lucy and her family and one day as he rode past the Terrell home (which is still on State Road 1 south) John followed him and shot him.

He continued to follow him to a doctor's office in Petroleum where he entered the doctor's office and shot

Wolfe in the head.

Stephen Terrell's book tells all about the trial that took place in the Wells County Courthouse with John Terrell incarcerated in the Wells County jail, which was located on West Washington St. where the Wells County Public Library is now.

While John was jailed he watched the building of the Bluffton Opera House directly across the street from the jail (now a parking lot), as he was the architect.

It took three weeks for jurors (no women) hearing 150 witnesses to deliberate for 16 hours to declare John Terrell guilty and give him life imprisonment. As experts had testified that he was insane he was sent to the East Haven Asylum (now Richmond) after the trial.

Because of an incorrect date in the trial recordings and a decision by the United States Supreme Court he was released in 1908 after his family paid a \$15,000 bond. He returned to Wells County and lived out his life here and in Randolph county.

Lucy remarried to a Johnson and continued to live in Wells County. All three — John Terrell, Lucy and Wolfe are buried in area



Wells County was in the news on July 12, 1903 as 600 newspapers around the world headlined the murder story of Leo Melvin Wolfe by John Terrell, father of Lucy Terrell Wolfe. On Tuesday evening author Stephen Terrell (the grandson of John), at left, shared his just off the press book "The Madness of John Terrell" with folks at the Wells County Public Library. Getting a copy of the book autographed were Camela and Tony Robles, at right. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

cemeteries.

Author Terrell showed photos along with his talk and offered the book for sale to those interested.

On Thursday, Nov. 21, at 6 p.m. author Stephen Terrell will be back in Wells county for a presentation at the Wells County Courthouse as he and Wells county Circuit Court Judge Kenton Kiracofe compare how

the trial might have gone down in a present day courtroom.

barb@news-banner.com

Norwell Internship Spotlight award Austin Renninger

Senior Austin Renninger has been selected to receive the Norwell High School Internship Spotlight award. He has been employed at Rethceif Company of Ossian for nearly two years with supervisor and shop manager Travis Bussel. Austin is the son of Mark and Melissa Renninger of Ossian.

Rethceif is in business to manufacture machines that will bag various materials such as insulation, fertilizer, animal bedding, mulch, and wood pellets. Austin is heavy in to the assembly of these machines. This



Austin Renninger

involves the use of tools, equipment, and engineering specifications. Upon graduation, Austin plans to study architectural engineering in college.

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Honeywell music series continues

The schedule for the Wabash Valley Music Series 2023-25 has been announced.

"Mean Girls" the musical: Nov. 25

The Barricade Boys' "Broadway Party": Feb. 20

Botti Performance: March 9

Individual tickets on sale at 260-563-1102 or HoneywellArts.org/WTMA.

Holiday author fair in Indy

On Saturday, Dec. 7, from noon to 4 p.m. the Indiana Historical Society will host a Holiday Author Fair at the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center where 60 authors will showcase their current books.

This year's book topics range from sports and biographies to fiction and youth titles—in addition to lots of Indiana history. General admission also give access to other exhibits and the Festival of Trees.

The History Center is located at 450 West Ohio St. in downtown Indianapolis.

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The Taurid meteor showers peak a week apart in November

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two sister meteor showers are already flashing across night skies — and will peak a week apart.

The Southern Taurids will reach their zenith early Tuesday morning and the Northern Taurids on Nov. 12.

While the two showers only produce around five visible meteors per hour under ideal viewing conditions, they are often very bright fireballs, said Sally Brummel, planetarium manager at the University of Minnesota's Bell Museum.

"What's notable is that they're likely to produce brighter and longer-lasting meteors than some other showers, even if there aren't as many" at a time, she said.

The Southern Taurids will peak on an evening with only a slim crescent moon just 11% full. The Northern Taurids may be more obstructed by moonlight since the moon will be 79% full.

Viewing of both showers will last into December.

Most meteor showers originate from the debris of comets. Both showers share the same parent source — originating from the debris of comet Encke.

The two showers share similar names because, when seen in the night sky, they appear to originate from different points in the constellation Taurus.

Meteor showers are usually most visible between midnight and predawn hours.

Not long after the Taurids, the next big meteor shower, the Leonids, will peak on the early morning of Nov. 17.

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4 signs it's time to replace your tires

Inflation has been a hot topic for several years, as the cost of everything from groceries to gas to housing has increased considerably since 2019. Cars are no exception to that phenomenon, and anyone who has purchased a new car over the last half decade likely experienced some sticker shock when they started their search for a new vehicle. Data from Kelley Blue Book indicates the average cost of a new car was \$37,590 in 2019. By 2023, the average cost had risen to \$47,899. That marks an increase of more than 27 percent in a four-year period.

Cars are indeed a significant investment, which underscores the importance of vehicle maintenance. Maintenance is more than just tending to what's under the hood. Tires also require drivers' attention, as aging, damaged tires pose a safety risk that also compromise vehicle performance. Tires are easily overlooked, but the following are four signs tires need to be replaced.

1. Worn tread: The automotive experts at AutoZone® note that tread depth is the most prevalent indicator that a tire needs to be



replaced. AutoZone® notes that tread depth should always be at least 2/32 of an inch throughout the tire. Depth should be measured across the tread and around the circumference. If the tread is at or below 2/32 of an inch, the tire should be replaced.

2. Bulges, gouges or cracks: Geico® notes that a deflated tire bulges at the sides, and that can compromise the safety of everyone in the vehicle. AutoZone® says bulges occur when air gets between the inner liner and outer rubber layers, which can happen after hitting a curb or driving over a sizable pothole. A gouge or cut that is deeper than the outer

layer of the tire also necessitates replacement.

3. Poor grip: Drivers may be able to feel certain tire problems, including poor grip, while driving. In such instances, tires may feel as though they are slipping. The tire experts at Firestone note that low tread can reduce tire traction and cause wheels to slip, which may be more noticeable when accelerating from a stop or driving on wet roads. Drivers who feel their tires are slipping can test the tread and replace tires that are low.

4. Vibration: Vibration is another issue drivers may feel rather than see. And identifying the cause requires

noting where the vibrations are felt. Geico® notes that a feeling of vibration or thumping that feels like it's coming from under the seats may indicate the tires are not balanced. A suspension issue could be to blame if the steering wheel feels like it's vibrating. Either feeling should be brought to the attention of a mechanic immediately.

Tire issues affect vehicle performance and compromise the safety of drivers, their passengers and fellow motorists. When vehicles are not performing at peak capacity, drivers should not overlook various tire issues as a potential cause of such troubles.

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Ramseyer, Baumgartner take on state

One boy and one girl from Wells County wore the Bluffton uniforms at the IHSAA's state cross country meet at LaVern Gibson on Saturday. Jude Baumgartner and Abigail Ramseyer took on the course in Terre Haute. Ramseyer finished in 126th place with a time of 19:44.9. Baumgartner finished 144th with a time of 16:36.3. At left, Ramseyer runs side by side with other contestants. At right, Baumgartner turns the corner during the race. (Photos submitted)

Rourke throws 4 TDs, No. 13 Hoosiers beat Spartans for first 9-0 start in school history

By BOB TRIPI
Associated Press
EAST LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Kurtis Rourke threw for 263 yards and four touchdowns, including two to Elijah Sarratt, and Amare Ferrell had two interceptions Saturday to lead No. 13 Indiana to a 47-10 victory over Michigan State and its first 9-0 start in school history.



Rourke, who missed last week's game against Washington following surgery on an injured right thumb, showed no ill effects and completed 19 of 29 passes.

The Hoosiers (9-0, 6-0 Big Ten) fell behind 10-0 in the first quarter before scoring 47 consecutive points to claim their ninth straight win by double digits. This is only the third season in Indiana history — dating back to the 1800s — in which the Hoosiers have won nine games.

"It's awesome," Rourke said about starting 9-0. "It's just a great feeling. We've prepared for this moment since January, getting to know all the new guys, and really just start feeling everything out. We knew we had a special team, but it's just great to see it play out the way it is. And hopefully, we keep rolling."

Rourke, who was injured in the first half against Nebraska two weeks ago, played with a splint over his thumb nail with a glove to cover it.

"I had some things that minimized the pain starting the game," Rourke said. "It was definitely a little bit sore with every throw. But something that I knew was going to come

(Continued on Page A2)

Will Howard throws for 2 touchdowns and No. 4 Ohio State fends off No. 3 Penn State

By WILL GRAVES
AP Sports Writer

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — Will Howard popped up, victory in hand and the homecoming the Ohio State quarterback longed for complete.

The Pennsylvania native who has long felt Penn State didn't think he was good enough to play there signaled first down with his hand.

Once. Twice. Three times.

Howard might as well have kept going all the way to eight, the number of consecutive wins the fourth-ranked Buckeyes have over the third-ranked Nittany Lions after a 20-13 victory on Saturday that ended with a late goal-line defensive stand followed by Howard and Ohio State's offense draining the clock with a drive that made up for in physicality what it lacked in precision.

"We willed ourselves to win that game," said Howard, who grew up in the Philadelphia suburbs waiting for a scholarship offer from Penn State that never came.

Revenge was sweet, if a little sloppy. Howard threw a pick-6 on his first pass to put Ohio State in an early 10-point hole and later fumbled before crossing the goal line to cost the Buckeyes (7-1, 4-1 Big Ten) another score.

The Kansas State transfer atoned by throwing for 182 yards and touchdowns to Emeka Egbuka and Brandon Inness. Howard added another 24 on the ground, the last seven of consequence coming on an option that sealed the game and led a not insignificant portion of the largest crowd in Beaver Stadium history (111,030) to

send Penn State coach James Franklin into the tunnel under a chorus of boos, though not before a tense exchange with one fan.

"I own it all," Franklin said after falling to 1-10 against a program that has treated Penn State more as a little brother than a rival.

The Nittany Lions (7-1, 4-1) saw their hopes of reaching the Big Ten Championship take a serious hit. And while it remains on relatively solid ground for the 12-team College Football Playoff, Penn State missed a chance to give its CFP resume some needed polish.

"We did some things that were good enough to win, other things we did not," Franklin said. "You can't have the ball inside the 5-yard line twice and

(Continued on Page A2)

Darnold throws 3 TDs as the Vikings beat Flacco and the Colts

By DAVE CAMPBELL
AP Pro Football Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Sam Darnold overcame four sacks and three turnovers by throwing three second-half touchdown passes, and the Minnesota defense made Indianapolis quarterback Joe Flacco's return to the starting role a rough one as the Vikings beat the Colts 21-13 on Sunday night.

Justin Jefferson had 137 receiving yards, Jordan Addison made a one-handed diving grab in the back corner of the end zone to get Minnesota on the board after a sloppy and scoreless first half, and Jalen Nailor had the tiebreaking touchdown reception to help the Vikings (6-2) stop a two-game skid.

Kenny Moore II had a 38-yard fumble return in the second quarter, the only touchdown for the Colts (4-5) in their first game all season that wasn't decided by six points or fewer.

Flacco replaced Anthony Richardson, with the 2023 fourth overall NFL draft pick struggling badly and becoming the self-created subject of a week of hot takes after taking himself out for a play last week because he was tired.

He moved the Colts to the Minnesota 40 midway through the fourth quarter facing a 14-10 deficit, but Harrison Smith, who recovered an opening-drive fumble by Jonathan Taylor, broke up consecutive passes to force a turnover on downs.

Darnold, who finished 28 for 34 for 290 yards, hit Josh Oliver for the game-sealing score with 2:05 left.

Blaney gets shot at back-to-back NASCAR titles after controversial finish at Martinsville

By JENNA FRYER
AP Auto Racing Writer

Ryan Blaney celebrated his victory at Martinsville Speedway, a win that launched NASCAR's defending champion into the title-deciding season finale.

Meanwhile, Christopher Bell and William Byron waited awkwardly alongside their parked cars for a ruling from NASCAR on who would be the fourth and final driver in the winner-take-all decider at Phoenix Raceway.

The issue was whether Bell had smashed into wall on the final lap and rode along it for momentum to give him the final pass he needed to move past Byron for the last spot in the championship. The move was quite similar to one used two years ago at

Martinsville by Ross Chastain — it was dubbed the "Hail Melon" — and subsequently banned the ensuing off-season.

Blaney was headed back to the championship finale for the right to defend his title against Team Penske teammate Joey Logano and Tyler Reddick of 23XI Racing. The fourth finalist just waited for what seemed an eternity for a NASCAR ruling.

Bell riding the wall was ultimately deemed illegal and Byron saved Hendrick Motorsports from a humiliating third round of the playoffs. Three Hendrick drivers were vying for the four spots in the finale and only Byron qualified — and only because Bell was deemed to have committed a safety violation.

"We had the situation with Ross here, we went to Phoenix, there was a lot of dialog with the drivers that that's not a move (they) want to have to make," said Elton Sawyer, NASCAR's senior vice president of competition. "In the offseason, meeting with the industry, meeting with our drivers, to a man, that was not a move they wanted to make."

So it was outlawed.

Bell argued he didn't have a choice as he hit the wall trying to avoid fellow Toyota driver Bubba Wallace, who claimed he had a tire going down. Bell rode a portion of it for momentum and it got him the pass he needed to tie Byron in points for the final spot next week at Phoenix Raceway.

(Continued on Page A2)

High School Calendar

MONDAY, NOV 4

No events scheduled.

TUESDAY, NOV 5

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Norwell at Tippecanoe Valley, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Northfield, 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOV 6

No events scheduled.

THURSDAY, NOV 7

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Southern Wells at Cowan, 7:30 p.m.

I AM RUNNING FOR NORWELL SCHOOL BOARD IN LANCASTER TOWNSHIP FOR OUR COMMUNITY'S CHILDREN.

My name is Jeremiah Tomlin, and I am running for Norwell School Board. Our children are so important to each of us. With your vote, I promise to be accountable and accessible to this community. More than that, I promise to lead with integrity. With Christian values at the forefront of my decisions, I will use common sense, be a good steward of tax dollars, and will work tirelessly to incorporate your good ideas to make Norwell the best version of itself.

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News-Banner Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE East table with columns W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA

South table with columns W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA

North table with columns W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA

West table with columns W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA

NATIONAL CONFERENCE East table with columns W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA

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North table with columns W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA

West table with columns W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA

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Monday's Games table with columns W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA

Thursday, Nov. 7 table with columns W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA

Sunday, Nov. 10 table with columns W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA

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Southeast Division table with columns W, L, Pct, GB

Central Division table with columns W, L, Pct, GB

WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division table with columns W, L, Pct, GB

Northwest Division table with columns W, L, Pct, GB

Pacific Division table with columns W, L, Pct, GB

Saturday's Games table with columns W, L, Pct, GB

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Monday's Games table with columns W, L, Pct, GB

L.A. Lakers at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.

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Wednesday's Games table with columns W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA

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Wednesday's Games table with columns W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA

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Pacific Division table with columns W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA

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Wednesday's Games table with columns W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA

NASCAR Controversy

(Continued from Page A1) "I understand that the rule is made to prevent people from riding the wall, but my move was completely different from what Ross did," said Bell, who was denied a third consecutive trip to the championship race.

do and it's been so much fun to get to run with them and share wins and championships. "It's super strong right now in our organization and hopefully it carries over."

Kerby Joseph's pick-6 helps Lions defeat the Packers



By STEVE MEGARGEE AP Sports Writer

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — In their first outdoor game of the season, the Detroit Lions showed they could thrive even in lousy conditions as they took command of the NFC North.

pleted his first 11 passes and finished 18 of 22 for 145 yards and a touchdown. "I heard it all. Our fans are awesome. They came out and showed out again. It's a lot of fun to play for a team that has a fan base that travels."

Ohio State beats Penn State

(Continued from Page A1) come out with no points." No, you can't. Penn State had the ball deep in Ohio State territory late in the first half when Buckeyes defensive back Davison Igbinosun outwrestled Nittany Lions wide receiver Harrison Wallace III for a pass from Drew Allar to end one scoring drive.

of the season, and the Buckeyes are hardly getting ahead of themselves. Still, three weeks removed from a tough one-point loss at Oregon in which Howard slid too late for the Buckeyes to attempt a last-gasp field goal, the vibe walking off the field this time was far different.

Hoosiers beat Spartans

(Continued from Page A1)

to play football a lot." Michigan State (4-5, 2-4 Big Ten) jumped in front in the first quarter off a 47-yard field goal by Jonathan Kim and an 18-yard touchdown pass from Aidan Chiles to Nick Marsh. Indiana hadn't trailed this season prior to Kim's field goal.

and Sarratt, a 29-yard field goal by Nicolas Radicic and a 16-yard scoring run by Omar Cooper Jr. "Michigan State came out and really made some impressive plays on offense, throwing and catching, and we responded with a nice touchdown drive," Indiana coach Curt Cignetti said.

Ossian Health Communities advertisement featuring a living room scene and contact information: 215 DAVIS RD. OSSIAN, PH: 260-622-7821

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

King Classic Sudoku

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

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Lottery Numbers

Saturday's Drawings
HOOSIER LOTTERY
 Cash 5 — 05-13-16-19-29

Cash4Life — 15-20-27-30-48, Cash Ball: 03
 Lotto Plus — 07-18-22-35-41-42

Quick Draw Midday — 01-05-13-14-21-22-25-27-33-36-40-44-46-49-63-66-69-72-77-78, BE: 72
 Daily Three-Midday — 00-01-05, SB: 01
 Daily Three-Evening — 06-07-00, SB: 01

Daily Four-Midday — 01-03-02-00, SB: 01
 Daily Four-Evening — 01-01-00-00, SB: 01

Quick Draw Evening — 05-14-18-25-27-28-30-32-37-43-45-46-56-58-61-66-70-72-74-78, BE: 27
 Hoosier Lotto — 06-08-11-12-21-23

POWERBALL

10-45-48-58-61; Powerball: 02; Power Play: 3X

Sunday's Drawings

HOOSIER LOTTERY
 Cash 5 — 04-08-14-35-41
 Cash4Life — 09-13-14-36-57, Cash Ball: 02
 Quick Draw Midday — 04-07-11-12-13-14-16-22-23-34-39-40-46-47-52-66-67-68-71-79, BE: 23
 Daily Three-Midday — 09-03-05, SB: 01
 Daily Three-Evening — 09-05-09, SB: 04
 Daily Four-Midday — 08-02-04-06, SB: 01
 Daily Four-Evening — 08-06-01-04, SB: 04
 Quick Draw Evening — 03-06-07-11-20-24-27-28-35-37-42-44-45-52-53-62-64-76, BE: 62
 Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$27.7 million
MEGA MILLIONS
 Estimated jackpot (for Tuesday): \$303 million
POWERBALL
 Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$63 million

SUDOKU ANSWER

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

This Week's Garage Sales

Clip & Save

GIGANTIC GARAGE SALE
 November 7 & 8, 9-5, November 9, 9-2, sack sale, Forgotten Children Worldwide, 650 N. Main Street, Bluffton. Last sale in 2024. Everything must go to make room for March 2025 "new" sale items. Gift with purchase/donation of \$20. Curio cabinets, like-new wicker chairs, winter coats, "new" Christmas decor, DVDs 10/\$1, plus much more. Follow Us on Facebook.

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Public Sale Calendar

BIDDING ENDS NOVEMBER 10 - (Online Only) - Estate of Elizabeth (Carter) Aeschliman & others, seller. Ladies diamond wedding ring, ladies diamond cluster fashion ring, ladies diamond earrings, Sapphire necklace w/matching earrings, costume jewelry, Howard Miller china cabinet, quality cherry finish china cabinet, 2019 GE window style air conditioner, collectibles, glassware, vintage silverplate flatware sets, numerous collections of marbles, Anri Italy wood carved figurines, home decor, holiday decorations, household. Open house Nov. 7, 3-6 p.m., 117 W. Craig St., Ossian. Sale managers Bobby Perry, 260-273-7260, Patrick Carter, 260-273-8294, *The Steffen Group*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

BIDDING CLOSURES NOVEMBER 12 - 6 p.m. Al Grieg's Custom Exhaust Shop, seller. Harley Davidson fully custom Roadster, dirt track race car, paved track race car, Lingenfelter 9:1 racing engine, race car parts, tool cabinets, racing suspension parts, engines, quick change rear end, fuel cells, Snap-On collector clocks, frame straightener, Simplicity 7117 tractor w/snow blower and weights, Simplicity 4211 hydrostatic, valve grinder, 3 wheel electric convalescent trike (nearly new), tools, vintage auto scanners, oscilloscope, radio and TV signal generators, engine hoists, box grader, race car frame, boat trailer, commemorative clocks, torch sets, more. Full list at Town-countryauctions.com, click Fliers. Preview 1441 W. Lancaster St., Bluffton, daily until auction closes, Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday 9 a.m.-noon, or by appointment, 260-824-4835. Pick up noon-7 p.m. Nov. 14. *Town and Country Auctioneers/Realtors*, 260-223-7352, *Shaw Real Estate & Auction, Inc.*, 260-824-2116.

NOVEMBER 13 - 6:30 p.m. ET - (Live and online) - Gary and Jennifer Weilbaker, farm. American Legion, 118 N. Broadway Street, Butler. Property location: Along and/or near CR 26 and CR 79 in Troy Twp. (Tract 1, North Part Tract 2) and Stafford Twp. (Tracts 2-4). Tracts 5-6 located near CR 20 and CR 27 in Smithfield Township. Adjoining tracts, road access, tile outlets, 264.651+/- acres, 6 tracts, DeKalb Co. Jon Rosen, 260-740-1846, Neal Wolhuter, 260-336-2219, *Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management*, halderman.com, 800-424-2324.

NOVEMBER 14 - 6 p.m. - Becher Family Farms LLC, sellers. Auction location: Adams Co. 4H Expo Hall, 160 W. Washington St., Monroe, IN. Four tracts, Washington Township, Adams County. Tract 1: 82.88 acres, County Rd. 200 West, Sec 18. Tract 2: 80.2 acres, County Rd. 450 North, Sec 8. Tract 3: 35.05 acres, County Rd. 450 North, Sec 9. Tract 4: 39.97 acres, County Rd. 400 North, Sec 9. *Heartland Auction & Realty, Inc.*, 260-724-3499, heartlandauuctionrealty.com.

SOFT CLOSET STARTS NOVEMBER 17 - 6 p.m. - Herman Family farm & Elite Tooling, owner. Online real estate auction. 47+/- acres, log home, machine shop, dog kennel, 2 ponds, CNC lathes, mill, machinist tools, Ferris mower, mowers, skid loader, 1960 Harley Davidson toppler. Open house Nov. 9, 10 a.m.-noon, Nov. 12, 4-6 p.m. *Green Auction*, 260-589-8474, *Soldon-Green.com*.

NOVEMBER 25 - 6 p.m. - Christopher & Kellie Pierce, owner. Held at Krueckeberg Auction Complex, 815 Adams Street, Decatur. Real estate & land auction! Tract 1: 2 bed, 1 bath, 948 sq. foot home, full basement, 40'x90' bank barn, 30'x20' barn, grain bin, wooded, tillable, 6.5+/- acres. Tract 2: 4+/- acres tillable frontage on Hoagland Rd. Tract 3: 4+/- acres tillable frontage on SR 101 & Hoagland Rd. Tract 4: 42.5+/- acres tillable frontage on SR 101 & Hoagland Rd. To be sold in individual tracts or any combinations. Open House Nov. 11, 5-6 p.m., 21015 Hoagland Rd., Monroeville, IN. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, Kjauction.com.

DECEMBER 3 - Starts at 6 p.m. - Blackford Golf Club (Lort Services, Inc.), owner. Held at Blackford County Fairgrounds, Hartford City, IN. Online bidding available. 105+/- acres offered in 7 tracts or any combination. Currently a golf course, potential farmland, recreational land, development potential, personal property available, Blackford Co. Inspections Nov. 16, 10 a.m.-noon, Nov. 19, 3 p.m.-5 p.m., 1605 W. Water St., Hartford City. Auction mgr. Al Pfister, 260-760-8922, *Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc.*, schraderauction.com, 800-451-2709.

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

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 HOUSE on Sunday, November 10th. from 1-3 pm. Lovely well maintained 1 and 1/2 story 3-bedroom and 2-bath home with an attached 2-car garage located in the heart of Bluffton. This home has a newer furnace, heat pump, water heater, and garage doors, and some new windows, clean and freshly painted. Come and make it yours today!
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Mark your Calendar for this event

COMMUNITY SOUP & sandwich meal Sat., Nov. 9, 4:30-7 p.m., Ossian United Methodist Church, 201 W. Mill Street. Menu: chili soup, potato soup, vegetable soup, hot dog, sloppy Joe, sweet treat. Free will offering. Proceeds to women's missions.

Having an upcoming event?

A 20 word, line classified in the Bluffton News-Banner for six days is \$24.50. Contact the office at 125 N. Johnson St., 260-824-0224, or classifieds.news-banner.com.

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