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BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

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## Republicans re-elected to Wells County Council

By HOLLY GASKILL

All three Republican incumbents have secured re-election to the Wells County Council.

Incumbents Vicki Andrews, Scott Elzey and Seth Whicker each received more than double the votes of their challengers, Democrat Brian Hollingsworth and Independent Scott Burke. The three celebrated their victories at the Wells County Republican Party Headquarters Tuesday night, thanking their constituents.

"We've had so much support, financially and prayerfully," Andrews said. "Because I think God has shown us where we should be, and here's where we need to be. I thank you all for your support."

Whicker also celebrated recent accomplishments in Wells County, and a vision

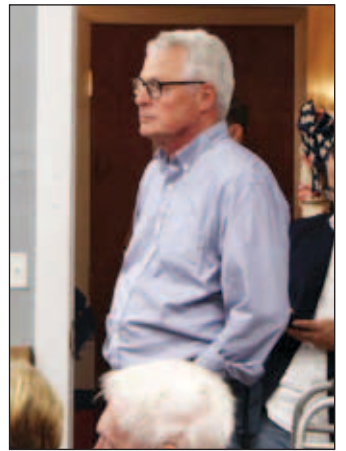
forward among the council, commissioners, and others. "It's an exciting time to get involved in county politics, when you actually have a county where everybody's getting along, everybody's moving in the same direction, everybody's a lot of fun to work with," he said.

Unofficial results show Andrews with the most votes, 8,197 (28.88%), Elzey follows with 7,635 (26.9%) and Whicker in third with 7,064 (24.89%). Burke had 3,065 votes (10.8%) and Hollingsworth 2,419 (8.52%).

### Voter Turnout

Of 19,603 registered voters in Wells County, 14,302 voted in the 2024 General Election, marking a 72.96% turnout. This is a slight decrease from the last presidential race when 74.8% of Wells County

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Republican incumbents Seth Whicker (left), Vicki Andrews (middle) and Scott Elzey (right) spoke about their re-election to the County Council at the Wells County Republican Headquarters Tuesday evening. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

## Peterson wins contested race for Norwell board

By HOLLY GASKILL

Two new board members were elected to seats on the Norwell Community Schools board on Tuesday evening.

Cathie Peterson will represent Lancaster Township on the board. Unofficial election results show Peterson beating opponent Jeremiah Tomlin by nearly 2,000 votes — 4,316 (64.27%) to 2,399 (35.73%). Peterson will succeed Angie Topp in the position.

In celebrating the victory at the Wells County Republican Party Headquarters, Peterson said she was humbled by the community's support for her cam-



Cathie Peterson speaks following the announcement of her victory. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

paign. She also referenced her campaign message of accessibility, transparency, and accountability within the school district.

"Within the last year, the current school board members referred to a group of us as the 'loud minority,' with some concerns that we were sharing," Peterson said. "And I think our numbers tonight showed that we might not be such a minority."

Todd Nash ran unopposed for the Jefferson Township seat which Gene Donaghy has held since 1997. Nash received 5,433

votes.

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## Incumbent White secures second term on BHMSD board

By HOLLY GASKILL

Incumbent Trent White secured a second term on the board for Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan Schools with over two-thirds of the vote Tuesday evening.

In unofficial results from the Wells County Clerk's Office, White received 2,064 votes (67.98%) and challenger Chris Koiner received 972 votes (32.02%).

Preston Kaehr ran unopposed for an At-

Large seat and received 2,723 votes. He has served on the board since July, when At-Large board member Angie Sheets was appointed to fill the District 2 seat after Bruce Holland's resignation.

No one ran for Mike Murray's District 1 seat, but Murray announced his plans to continue in the role during the district's candidate forum in October.

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Trent White

## Braun comfortably takes Indiana governor's seat

By WHITNEY DOWNARD

### Indiana Capital Chronicle

The Indiana Republican Party's dominance in the state's highest elected office remains intact following the election of Mike Braun as governor and his running mate Micah Beckwith as lieutenant governor.

"I'm going to make sure that all of us, as Hoosiers, prosper; I'm going to do it with everything I've learned in the real world," Braun told an enthusiastic crowd at the JW Marriott in downtown Indianapolis just before 9 p.m.

"We're going to take Indiana to places we've never seen before," he vowed.

Associated Press called the race early. As of about 9:45 p.m., Braun had 55% of the vote. His opponents, Democrat Jennifer McCormick and Libertarian Donald Rainwater, had roughly

40% and 5% votes, respectively.

McCormick encouraged supporters to stay positive even though the results weren't what they wanted.

"And although we're small, we're mighty. And we gave Sen. Braun a run that not many people thought we could do," McCormick said. "... And so tonight, we congratulate Sen. Braun and a lot of other Republicans who won this evening. We will go into tomorrow knowing we still have work to do."

Throughout the race, Braun relied on his business background as the owner of Meyer Distributing in Jasper, Indiana.

"I've always said, politics and government are a lot easier than running a business," Braun said Tuesday night. "Hell, in government you just got to be smart enough to not spend more than you take in. In

business, you're signing the note (and) your livelihood is on the line."

Braun, McCormick and Rainwater grew increasingly competitive as Election Day neared, battling it out in campaign mailers and warring attack advertisements. However, the business community rallied behind the Republican team, which saw a surge in contributions, while small donors flocked to Democrats.

The Republican Governors Association also gave Braun \$2 million, which the Democratic counterpart nearly matched.

Beckwith encountered a fair number of controversies in recent weeks, making national headlines for saying he'd fire state employees using pronouns in their signatures and saying the Democratic ticket invoked a "Jezebel spirit," a derogatory term used against

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## Secondary section of homes is approved for Parlor Bluffs

By JONATHAN SNYDER

During Tuesday's Bluffton Common Council meeting, Wells County Area Plan Commission Executive Director Mike Lautzenheiser reported that a second section of homes at Parlor Bluffs has been completed.

The secondary plat was approved by the council, which allows fully built homes to be sold. Lautzenheiser stated that the city has inspected and reviewed the houses, and has sent a list of completion items left for the contractors. Lautzenheiser stated that the punch list will cover some concerns regarding storm drainage and erosion control.

"I drove out there the other day into that development," Council member Chandler Gerber said. "It's exciting, there's lots of activity there."

Furthermore, the council approved a maintenance bond for the utilities for those homes. The bond is valued at 25% of the

cost of the insulation of public utilities and the road inside Parlor Bluffs. Lautzenheiser stated that this bond will give additional protections in regards to insulating the utilities and fixing any potential product defects. The houses in the second stage include a mix of similar homes to phase one of the project and single family villa style houses.

An official collaboration fund between Harrison Township and the city of Bluffton for park initiatives was also approved by the council. This fund is the byproduct of an interlocal agreement signed between Harrison Township and Bluffton, with a major focus on funds for a potential new pool. Council member Scott Mentzer stated that Harrison Township is ready to commit \$250,000 towards the new pool, and that this document will give them the legal means to do so.

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## Trump wins North Carolina, holding off Harris challenge

• Below is the most recent update at time of publication. By ZEKE MILLER, MICHELLE L. PRICE and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump won the battleground state of North Carolina on Tuesday, fending off a challenge from Kamala Harris, who was looking to flip the state and expand her

pathways to 270 electoral votes.

The former Republican president had made stops to the state in each of the last three days of the campaign to deprive Harris of the pickup.

The Democratic vice president's campaign chair, Jen O'Malley Dillon, told staff in a memo after polls closed that the "blue wall" of Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin was now the

Democrat's "clearest path" to victory, according to a copy obtained by The Associated Press.

Polls were closed in additional battlegrounds — Georgia, Arizona and Nevada — but the results in all remaining swing states were too early to call.

A divided America was faced with a stark choice for the nation's future Tuesday. Tens of millions of Americans added their ballots

to the 84 million cast early as they chose between two candidates with drastically different temperaments and visions for the country.

Trump won Florida, a one-time battleground that has shifted heavily to Republicans in recent elections. He also notched early wins in reliably Republican states such as Texas, South Carolina and Indiana. Harris won Virginia, a state Trump visited in the final days of

the campaign, and took Democratic strongholds like New York, New Mexico and California.

The Trump campaign bet that it would cut into Democrats' traditional strength with Black and Latino voters, with the former president going on male-centric podcasts and making explicit racial appeals to both groups. Nationally, Black and Latino voters appeared slightly less

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**Outside**

**Sunny and cool today, cloudy and cold tonight**

Today	Thursday	Friday
High 65	High 58	High 61
Low 41	Low 37	Low 39

More Weather on Page 2

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## Republicans re-elected

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voters participated, but a slight increase from 2016's 69.98% turnout.

Over half of Wells County voters did so by voting early or through an absentee ballot — 8,637 voted early or absentee and 5,665 voted in person on Election Day. In 2020, 4,505 voted on Election Day and 9,715 voted early or by mail.

Wells County also had 3,804 straight-ticket votes — 3,272 Republican, 526 Democrat and six Libertarian.

### Uncontested County Races

In uncontested county races, Circuit Court Judge Kenton Kiracofe (R) received the most votes for his re-election, 11,938. Cliff Thomas (R) followed shortly behind with 11,747; he will succeed Coroner Hillarie Gaskill, who has reached her term limit.

Pam Gregory (R), who received 11,586 votes, will succeed Kathy Peeper as treasurer. Rina Stuck (R), 11,582, will succeed Carolyn Bertsch as recorder; Stuck will actually transition into the role on Dec. 2, having been caucused into the role while Bertsch steps in as Ossian's clerk-treasurer. Both Peeper and Bertsch have reached their term limits.

Incumbents Jarrod Hahn (R) received 11,658 votes for surveyor, Blake Gerber (R) 11,251 votes for District 2 Commissioner and Jeff Stringer (R) 11,125 votes for District 3 Commissioner.

### Southern Wells school board

Both board candidates for Southern Wells Community Schools were unopposed. Gregory Vanover received 1,391 votes for the board's Jackson Township seat; current board member Chad Roush did not run for re-election. Incumbent Todd Fiechter, representing Nottingham Township, received 1,571



Above are Republican winners celebrating at the Wells County party headquarters. Pictured from left to right is Pam Gregory (treasurer), Circuit Court Judge Kenton Kiracofe, Rina Stuck (recorder), Commissioner Jeff Stringer, County Council member Vicki Andrews, Commissioner Blake Gerber, County Council member Seth Whicker and Cliff Thomas (coroner).

At right, Zachary Rodgers addresses the room in his final election as Republican Party chairman. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)

votes.

### Indiana Races

Wells County voters in District 50 sided with incumbent Republican Lorissa Sweet (386 votes), who was challenged by Democrat Joseph Swisher (55 votes). Matt Lehman (R-Berne) was unopposed in his re-election and received 11,243 votes.

For U.S. representative, Marlin Schwartz (R) received 10,516 votes in Wells County, Kiley Adolph (D) 2,510, and Jarrad Lancaster (L) 500. Republican Jim Banks secured 10,133 Wells County votes for U.S. senator, Valerie McCray (D) 2,379, and Andrew Homing (L) 370. Wells County gave Todd Rokita (R) 9,891 votes for Attorney General and Destiny Wells (D) 2,876

votes.

In the gubernatorial race, Republican Mike Braun secured 9,976 votes in Wells County, Democrat Jennifer McCormick 2,983, and Libertarian Donald Rainwater 879.

### Presidential Race

Republican Donald Trump received 77.85% of votes in Wells County, 11,004 in total. Kamala Harris (D) followed with 20.16%, Robert Kennedy (WTP) 0.93%, Chase Oliver (L) 0.79%, and write-in 0.25%.

### Public Questions

Indiana voters were asked five public questions at the polls. Wells County voted the following:

- Removing the state superintendent of public instruction from the line of

succession for the governor: 6,927 (55.16%) voted yes and 5,631 (44.84%) voted no.

- Retaining Justice Loretta Rush in the Supreme Court of Indiana: 8,704 (76.97%) voted yes and 2,605 (23.03%) voted no.

- Retaining Justice Derek Molter in the Supreme Court of Indiana: 8,683 (77.81%) voted yes and 2,476 (22.19%) voted no.

- Retaining Justice Mark Massa in the Supreme Court of Indiana: 8,635 (77.34%) yes and 2,530 (22.66%) voted no.

- Retaining Judge Rudolph Reginald Pyle III in the Fourth District Court of Appeals: 8,623 (77.38%) voted yes and 2,520 (22.62%) voted no.

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## Parlor Bluffs

(Continued from Page 1)

The council also approved a temporary loan resolution for the Bluffton Fire Protection Territory. The city will loan the territory \$750,000 to keep the territory operational. Mentzer mentioned that the council will probably have to go through the process of loaning money for several years until the territory can start generating savings itself. Mentzer said that the territory does not get revenue until property taxes get paid, so the loans are needed until the territory has enough cash flow to cover six months of operating costs. Mentzer added that the loan amount is

expected to drop over the years.

"Until the fire territory has \$1 million in cash at the start of a year, we're going to need some loan from the city to bridge until they get to the first property tax payment," Mentzer said.

The council also approved a \$20,000 appropriation from the Capital Cumulative Development fund to police cars. Chief Kyle Randall said that recent insurance payouts from accidents are not enough to cover the cost of replacing police cars, causing the need for additional funds.

An additional transfer resolution will send \$119,900 from various line items

in the miscellaneous general fund to the other services line item. Mentzer stated that future software payments for the utility and financial department, as well as Baker Tilly expenses for additional accounting services saw the need to move money into that line item. Furthermore, \$1,300 was transferred from the animal shelter's equipment line item to their repair and maintenance line item.

Salary ordinance amendments for 2024 and 2025 were also updated, with additional compensation for the ordinance compliance officer position being written into the amendments.

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## Trump takes North Carolina

(Continued from Page 1)

likely to support Harris than they were to back Joe Biden four years ago, and Trump's support among those voters appeared to rise slightly compared to 2020, according to AP VoteCast.

The fate of democracy appeared to be a primary driver for Harris' supporters, a sign that the Democratic nominee's persistent messaging in her campaign's closing days accusing Trump of being a fascist may have broken through, according to the expansive survey of more than 110,000 voters nationwide. It also found a country mired in negativity and desperate for change. Trump's supporters were largely focused on immigration and inflation — two issues that the former Republican president has been hammering since the start of his campaign.

In his recent visits to North Carolina, Trump seized on the heavy damage caused Hurricane Helene, spreading false claims about the federal government's response and using GoFundMe to

collect millions in donations for impacted residents. Trump initially trumpeted the Republican nominee for governor, Mark Robinson, and hailed him as "Martin Luther King on steroids," but distanced himself after a CNN report that alleged Robinson had made explicit racial and sexual posts on a pornography website's message board more than a decade ago.

Robinson, who lost his race Tuesday to Democratic Attorney General Josh Stein, denied writing the messages and sued CNN for defamation last month.

The GOP also edged closer to winning control of the Senate, with Trump-backed Bernie Moreno flipping a seat in Ohio held by Democrat Sherrod Brown since 2007. They picked up another when Republican Jim Justice won a West Virginia seat that opened up with Sen. Joe Manchin's retirement.

The closeness of the race and the number of states in play raised the likelihood that a victor might not be known right away.

Both sides have armies

## Harris wins Virginia, 2nd Congressional District in Nebraska

By The Associated Press

Vice President Kamala Harris won Virginia on Tuesday, adding 13 electoral votes to her tally. Harris' victory marks the third time Donald Trump has lost the Old Dominion state. The Democratic nominee for president has won Virginia in every election since 2008. The Associated Press declared Harris the winner at 11:42 p.m. EST.

Harris also won the electoral vote tied to Nebraska's 2nd Congressional District on Wednesday. The sitting vice president defeated Republican and former President Donald Trump in the district centered on Nebraska's largest city of Omaha and its surrounding suburbs. The district has earned the nickname of Nebraska's "blue dot" after having supported two other Democrats for president in the last 16 years — former President Barack Obama in 2008 and President Joe Biden in 2020. Nebraska and Maine are the only two states that split their Electoral College votes based on the popular votes in individual congressional districts. The Associated Press declared Harris the winner at 12:08 a.m. EST.

of lawyers in anticipation of legal challenges on and after Election Day. And law enforcement agencies nationwide are on high alert for potential violence.

## Weather

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:48 p.m. Tuesday)

High: 75; Low: 65; Precipitation: 0.19 inches of rain  
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.20 feet at 9:45 p.m. Tuesday

### Wells County forecast

**Today:** Partly sunny, with a high near 65. West wind around 5 mph.

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 41. Northwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

**Thursday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 58. Calm wind becoming north around 5 mph in the morning.

**Thursday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 37. North wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

**Friday:** Sunny, with a high near 61.

**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 39.

**Saturday:** A 40% chance of showers after 1 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 62.

**Saturday Night:** Showers. Low around 51. Chance of precipitation is 80%.

**Sunday:** Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before 1 p.m., then a chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 65. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

**Sunday Night:** A 40% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 46.

**Veterans Day:** Partly sunny, with a high near 61.

**Monday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 41.

## Braun takes state

(Continued from Page 1)

women.

Braun said, under his leadership, Indiana would become "a place ... where our kids and grandkids want to move back to" with Texas, Florida and Tennessee as the inspiration.

McCormick and her lieutenant governor nominee focused on a "commonsense" campaign, releasing several proposals across dozens of topics.

The Braun campaign's foundation arm pitched its own ideas, wading into brewing health care fights in the Legislature and vowing to reform property taxes.

At 70, Braun is the oldest

person ever to be elected as governor of Indiana.

Braun will still return to Washington D.C. to finish out his term in Congress, where he serves as a U.S. senator.

"I promised all of you, when I ran for Senate, I'd be the most accessible Senator we've ever had. I'm going to be the most entrepreneurial ... and we've proven that in just six years," Braun said. "Imagine what you can do when you set the agenda. When you get along with a legislature that believes in freedom and opportunity, faith, family and community."

He is scheduled to be sworn into office as governor in January.

## Two CRP requests OK'd by BOW

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Two Community Reinvestment Program requests to Bluffton NOW! were approved by the Board of Public Works and Safety Tuesday.

Market Street Development LLC requested funds for improvements on an upstairs apartment unit at 204 West Market St., including flooring, cabinet, dry-wall and window updates. Thomas Liby also requested a grant for a roof replacement on the back section of the building at 213 West Market St.

The project at 204 West Market St. is estimated at \$45,000, while 213 West Market St. is estimated at \$24,175. Bluffton NOW! President Mike Lautzenheiser stated that these expenses will not deplete the CRP fund.

The board accepted Republic Services' bid for trash pickup for the city. Republic's bid was the only one the city received. Their rates start at \$20.22 per household in 2025 and will rise to \$23.41 per household in 2028.

A transfer of funds within the Adams Street TIF Fund was also approved. Clerk-Treasurer Bri Lautzenheiser requested \$20,000 be trans-

ferred from the Paving/Repairs line item to the Professional Services line item. Bri stated that this will pay an invoice for Baker Tilly's work in discussing TIF options with the city and their help with the TIF project.

The board also approved raises for four Paid-On-Call firefighters. Gage Diffe, George Springer, Kirk Bear and Kain Garza were all given raises, as they have completed all requirements for a one year probationary firefighter. Paid-On-Call Firefighter Alex Augsburger resigned from the department and Lieutenant Training Operations Officer Dane Zoda will step down from his role. Zoda will remain in the department as a full time engineer and firefighter, but Augsburger will be leaving entirely.

"He (Zoda) did a fabulous job," Fire Chief Don Craig said. "Every training officer that was in our organization has done good, but Dane took it to a new level."

Michelle Collins was also hired as a Utility Office Manager for the city. Utility Director Jon Oman stated that over 14 applicants were reviewed, with six of them being interviewed.

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# Bluffton Fire Protection Territory accepting applications

The Bluffton Fire Protection Territory is now accepting applications part-time and paid-on-call firefighters. Applications must be obtained and returned to the Bluffton Clerk-Treasurer's office by 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 8.

Job posting and additional information for part-time roles bit.ly/BFD-PT-24. Job posting and additional information for paid-on-call roles: bit.ly/BFD-POC-24.

Call the Bluffton Fire Protection Territory at 260-824-6050 with additional questions.

# Indiana GOP on track to maintain legislative supermajorities

By WHITNEY DOWNARD  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Republicans appeared poised to maintain their longstanding supermajorities in Indiana's House of Representatives and its Senate on Tuesday, despite several races with razor-thin margins.

Going into Election Day, Democrats held 30 seats in the 100-person House and needed four more to break the Republican supermajority. Only 10 Democrats serve in the 50-member Senate, meaning they'd need seven more to gain power.

Close races in the House

Several seats in the House remained too close to call as of 11 p.m., according to AP vote counts — including House District 61, which includes portions of Brown, Jackson and Monroe counties.

Incumbent Dave Hall, a Republican, held a slim lead over Democrat Thomas Horrocks, with 51.5% of the vote compared to Horrocks' 48.5%. Hall won the seat with less than 100 votes in 2022.

Republicans were also leading in House District 10, held by Democrat Rep. Chuck Moseley. Republican challenger Jeff Larson had 50.9% of the vote while Moseley had 49.1%.

In one closely watched central Indiana race, Republican Hunter Smith — a former Colts player — was declared the victor over Democrat Josh Lowry. Smith succeeds Rep. Donna Schaibley, also a Republican, who retired earlier this year.

Another open seat in Hamilton County — formerly held by GOP Rep. Jerry Torr — showed Republicans with a slim lead. With over 39,000 votes counted, Republican Daniel Lopez had 53.7% compared to 46.3% for Democrat Matt McNally.

Also in central Indiana, incumbent Rep. Becky Cash, a Republican, led by just over 300 votes over Democrat challenger Tiffany Stoner at 11 p.m. Voters in Boone and Hendricks counties favored Cash with 50.4% over Stoner's 49.6%.

House District 71 had barely any votes counted by 11 p.m., which is likely to be another close race. Democrat incumbent Wendy Dant Chesser won a caucus vote for the seat after former Rep. Rita Fleming, also a Democrat, retired earlier this year. Republican Scott Hawkins is running for the seat a second time after losing narrowly to Fleming in 2022.

In the House, nearly two dozen Republicans ran unopposed, as did a dozen Democrats.

Wider margins in the Senate

A last-minute funding push from Republicans appeared to have paid off, with Republican Sens. Scott Baldwin, Cyndi Carrasco and Aaron Freeman all appearing to keep their seats.

In Hamilton County, Baldwin had 59.9% of the vote while Democrat Joel Levi had 40.1%.

With just under two-thirds of votes counted, Carrasco led with 63.3% of the vote compared to Democrat Suzanne Fortenberry's 36.7%. Fellow southern Marion County lawmaker Freeman had 61.9% of the vote over Democrat Katrina Owens' 38.1%.

Also in Marion County, incumbent Republican Sen. Mike Young led with 58.4% of the vote while Democrat Jessica McCormick had 41.6%.

Incumbent Republicans in five other seats, along with one Democrat, were also favored to win their races as of 10:30 p.m., with larger projected margins of victory.

A dozen legislators, four Democrats and eight Republicans, didn't have any competition and were declared winners shortly after polls closed.

However, the chamber will have at least two new faces in January, including Republican Brett Clark. At 10:30 p.m., Clark led with 67.4% of the vote over Democrat Veronica Pejril, who had 32.6%. Sen. John Crane announced he would retire earlier this year, creating an opening in the west central seat that includes parts of Hendricks and Putnam counties.

Mark Spencer, a Democrat, will also join the Statehouse in January. According to The Associated Press, he had 70.9% of the vote compared to the 29.1% held by Republican Will Miller, as of 10:30 p.m.

# Police Notebook

## INCIDENTS

**City:**  
Monday, 2:06 p.m., Budget Inn. Report of drugs.  
Monday, 10:42 p.m., 400 block of West Wabash Street. Report of male possibly drunk in a parked vehicle. Man told officer he was waiting for friends he had dropped off earlier, no signs of intoxication.

Monday, 11:01 p.m., Parlor City Oil Shop. Report of drugs.  
Monday, 11:29 p.m., 1500 block of West Central Avenue. Verbal domestic dispute.  
Tuesday, 6:59 a.m., S.R. 1 and Industrial Parkway. Report of barriers blocking the roadway. Advised it was intentional and there are

detour signs.  
Tuesday, 7:24 a.m., 1000 block of South Oak Street. Physical domestic altercation.  
Tuesday, 8:57 a.m., Nicholson Family Dental. Two vehicle crash. Report to follow.  
Tuesday, 11:35 a.m., Comfort Inn & Suites. Tenant refusing to check out.

One in custody.  
**FIRES**  
Tuesday, 7:39 a.m., Bluffton-Harrison Elementary School. Fire alarm. Accidental.  
Tuesday, 11:58 a.m., 45 Pine Grove Ct., Bluffton. Report of gas smell.  
Tuesday, 1:54 p.m., 11436 N S.R. 1, Ossian. Report of smoke.

# Banks breezes to win in U.S. Senate race

By CASEY SMITH  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Republican Congressman Jim Banks easily earned a promotion to the U.S. Senate Tuesday night after unofficial results showed he secured 57.7% of votes in the race for Indiana's open seat, overcoming Democratic competitor Valerie McCray and Libertarian Andrew Horning.

With 43% of the vote counted, McCray had received 39.6% and Horning about 2.7%.

The Associated Press called the race at 7 p.m. Eastern.

Banks, the GOP favorite, had a multimillion-dollar campaign war chest and an endorsement from former President Donald Trump. He currently represents the state's 3rd Congressional District, centered around Fort Wayne — a seat he has held since 2017.

"I am grateful for the support of my family and the support I've had from Hoosiers across the state. I owe this victory to all who contributed to it," Banks said Tuesday evening.

He spent Election Day in Columbia City, his hometown. And while most other statewide Republican candidates gathered Tuesday evening in Indianapolis, Banks opted for the Allen County GOP Watch Party in Fort Wayne.

"I've got to tell you, I wasn't nervous about the election. I felt good about it. I mean, Indiana is a conservative state. Indiana deserves a conservative senator fighting for us, and that was what I was running to be," Banks told a crowd of supporters after securing his win.

"This is the greatest country in the history of the world, and I refuse to be a part of the first generation in American history that will pass this country off to

our kids in worse shape than we found it, and that's my pledge to all of you tonight," he continued. "When I get to the United States Senate in a matter of weeks, I'm going to fight to make sure that (my daughters), your kids and your grandkids, have a country that they can be proud of, too, for the rest of their lives."

Banks — who has working-class roots — additionally pointed to his childhood growing up in a trailer park. He emphasized that help from his home district aided his latest win. Support from "the best community in the world" dates back to 2008, when he was elected to the Whitley County Council, Banks said. It was his first go at political office.

"I didn't come from a rich family. I didn't come from a powerful family. My dad is a retired factory worker. My mom is a former cook in a nursing home. We sort of grew up on the other side of the tracks. We didn't come from a lot," Banks added. "I am blessed — very blessed — and proud of where I came from, and I want all of you to know, especially my mom and dad, that I am so proud of where I came from, and you have instilled in me the principles that is what this country is all about. A great country, a country where you can come from somewhere and end up something better. That's the American dream."

Banks ran a mostly quiet campaign leading up to Election Day, even skipping the only statewide debate in the race.

In Congress, Banks has focused on veterans issues and holding China accountable. He served in Afghanistan for parts of 2014 and 2015 while serving in the state senate.

Top-of-list issues for Banks include border secu-

ity, veteran support, national defense and "opposing wokeness" in schools.

His campaign website cites support for numerous Trump administration priorities and points to "pro-growth" economic policies — like tax cuts — as well as decreased government spending and "conservative" election integrity reforms like "voter ID, fair poll watching, and swift counting of ballots."

"Senator-elect Jim Banks has represented the 3rd Congressional District for the last eight years as a true fighter for Indiana! As Indiana's next senator, we can count on Jim Banks to continue fighting for us and make sure our voice is represented in Congress," Indiana Republican Chairman Randy Head said in a congratulatory statement. "We look forward to watching Senator-elect Banks help lead our country into a future with secure borders, low inflation, and safer communities."

**McCray concedes**  
McCray, a clinical psychologist, earned roughly 33% of votes, according to preliminary voter returns. She was the first Black woman to become a nominee for the U.S. Senate in Indiana. Her grassroots campaign focused on reinstating abortion rights, tackling ongoing immigration issues and finding solutions to the "Israeli-Palestine issue."

"I want to thank my supporters, volunteers, and team for their tireless efforts throughout this campaign. Although we did not achieve the outcome we had hoped for, I am proud of the movement we built and the conversations we started about the issues that matter most to Hoosiers," McCray said in a concession statement issued shortly before 10 p.m.

"Jim Banks' victory is a reminder that our work is far from over. As a MAGA Republican, he does not share the values of most Hoosiers, who believe in equality, justice, and opportunity for all. I will continue to advocate for policies that benefit working-class families, protect women's rights, and promote affordable healthcare," she continued. "We may not have won this battle, but we will not lose sight of our vision for a better Indiana."

Horning, who previously ran for a myriad of other offices, including several other statewide positions, received almost 3% of votes.

Horning's campaign hadn't officially conceded or released statements as of 10 p.m. Tuesday.

The trio vied to fill the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Mike Braun, who separately won his bid for the Indiana governorship on Election Day.

In the U.S. Senate, Banks will be junior to sitting Indiana Sen. Todd Young, also a Republican. Hoosier voters sent Young to Washington, D.C. during the 2016 election cycle and was reelected in 2022.

In a Tuesday evening post on X, formerly Twitter, Young congratulated Banks, saying he "looks(s) forward to working together in the years ahead on issues important to Hoosiers and our national security."

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# Spartz easily wins Indiana congressional seat after nearly retiring

By NIKI KELLY, Indiana Capital Chronicle

Republican Rep. Victoria Spartz, the first Ukrainian-born member of Congress, easily won reelection to a seat she almost gave up.

The Associated Press called the race when she had a 55.8% lead in Indiana's 5th Congressional District north of Indianapolis.

Spartz initially said she wouldn't run again but changed her mind days before the filing deadline. She faced off against Democrat Deborah Pickett, a resident of Carmel who served in the U.S. Army Reserve. She focused on fighting for personal rights and liberties, and received 39% of the vote.

Also running were Libertarian Lauri Shillings and Independent Robby Slaughter.

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## The 'Housing Governor' Hoosiers have been waiting for

With the past decade marked by decreasing homeownership, spiraling costs, and increasingly unstable homes, Indiana's next Governor has the critical opportunity to become the 'Housing Governor' and help increase the supply and affordability of homes for all Hoosiers. Prosperity Indiana's policy brief Housing Hoosiers, created for the Indiana University Public Policy Institute's 2024 Gubernatorial Forum series, offers a guide for Indiana's next governor to repair the state's ladder to homeownership and housing security.

The brief conceives of a 'housing ladder' for Indiana that would allow Hoosiers to build assets and climb to larger homes as families grow and choose to step up from renting to homeownership. When structurally sound, each rung of the housing ladder would provide Hoosiers with a safe, stable, and affordable place to live without spending more than 30% of their income on housing costs. Investment in the preservation and rehabilitation of existing homes and in the enforcement of health and safety standards would keep each rung strong so homeowners and renters could enjoy stability wherever they choose to live.

However, the brief demonstrates that Indiana's current housing ladder is missing rungs and is in dire need of reinforcement and repair. For example, homeownership rates in Indiana have fallen from 70.6% in 2012 to 70.1% in 2022, a decline driven almost exclusively by the decrease in Black homeownership. Reasons include the increased costs of home repair and property taxes, structural issues such as the legacy of redlining and discriminatory lending, and an underproduction rate that now stands at 40,000 homes.

Hoosiers who cannot climb to — or stay on — the rung of homeownership face a rental housing environment that is among the most deteriorated in the Midwest, if not the nation. With only 34 homes for every 100 extremely low-income Hoosier renter households, Indiana now has a lower rate of affordable and available housing than the national average. 76% of those Hoosiers spend more than half of their income on housing costs, the single-highest rate of severe housing cost burden in the Midwest. It now takes \$22.07 an hour to afford a modest, two-bedroom apartment at fair market rent in Indiana. However, the average Hoosier renter's wage is only \$17.92 per hour. In addition, 14 of Indiana's 20 largest occupations pay median wages that are less than what a full-time worker needs to afford that two-bedroom rental — up from 9 of the top 20 occupations in 2022.

Indiana's refusal to enforce housing health and safety standards has made life more dangerous for the 30% of Hoosiers who rent their homes and has seriously impaired the ability to climb to better housing and economic opportunities. Indiana is one of only six states without effective public and private enforcement of habitability standards such as court-based rent escrow. In most states, if tenants are current on rent and all obligations of a lease but their units fail to meet health and safety standards, they can ask a judge to allow them to continue to pay rent into court-based escrow accounts until the judge is satisfied that the proper repairs have been made. The combination of low supply, increased housing costs, and poor conditions contributes to a rate of Hoosiers experiencing homelessness that has increased by 11% since 2017 while the state's population increased only 3%.

Despite these daunting facts, Indiana's next governor has an opportunity to help fix the housing ladder and create stronger communities for all. Housing Hoosiers recommends that the next Governor appoint a commission on housing safety, stability, and affordability, to align resources and stakeholders and to get more out of proven investments like the state's Housing Trust Fund and Housing First programs. The next Governor can also adopt innovative approaches like Ohio's Single Family Tax Credit program, adapted from U.S. Senator Todd Young's Neighborhood Homes Investment Act, which provides gap financing for developers to build or renovate homes that are affordable to low- and moderate-income homebuyers. And without spending a dime, the next Governor could increase enforcement of existing habitability code standards and strengthen fair housing standards and zoning reform to increase affordability.

By tackling the state's housing crisis head-on, our next chief executive could become the Housing Governor that Hoosiers have been waiting for.

ANDREW BRADLEY

Andrew Bradley is Senior Director for Policy and Strategy for Prosperity Indiana, a statewide membership organization for individuals and organizations strengthening Hoosier communities. Distributed by the Indiana Capital Chronicle

Submit your Letters to the Editor via:

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

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

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## A mountain of government payments buries the myth of American self-reliance

Most Americans' understanding of their nation's past is notoriously sketchy. Now, at the end of an election season ostensibly about the nation's future, most Americans surely are uncomprehending about the present.

They fancy this a nation of independent, self-reliant strivers, wary of government and disdainful of Europeans contentedly dependent on governments' providing for their well-being by redistributing wealth. Most Americans probably would recoil from living in a hypothetical country where:

Payments from government entitlement programs — transfer payments — are the fastest-growing major component of citizens' personal income. Such transfers are the third-largest source of personal income: In 2022, the average citizen received almost as much from government transfers (\$11,500) as from investments (\$12,900), and more than one-quarter as much money as was obtained from work. This average citizen received six times more (adjusted for inflation) in government transfer payments than in 1970, during which span income from other sources increased less than half as much. Transfers' share of total (inflation-adjusted) personal income has more than doubled since 1970, from 8.2 percent to 17.6 percent in 2022.

Actually, this is not a hypothetical country. It is the United States.

The Washington-based Economic Innovation Group, which promotes economic dynamism, has released a report, "The Great 'Transfer'-mation," explaining how swiftly U.S. communities became dependent on government transfer payments. In 2022, Americans received \$3.8 trillion in government transfers, 18 percent of all personal income. In 1970, not even 1 percent of counties received one-quarter or more of personal income from transfers. By 2000, 10 percent did; in 2022, it was 53 percent. This is certain to increase as the population ages.

The primary explanation: the aging U.S. population. The portion of the population age 65 and older has increased from 9.8 percent in 1970 to 17.3 percent in 2022. The 65-and-over portion of the population rose as much in between 2010 and 2020 as it did between 1960 and 2010. The elderly are living longer, hence are susceptible to increasing ailments treated by increasingly competent, increasingly life-extending and increasingly expensive medical care.

Between 1970 and 2022, total Medicare and Medicaid spending (which 30 years ago overtook Social Security as the largest source of transfer spending) grew more than three times faster than total Social Security spending. Medicare spending, adjusted for

inflation, rose from \$7,000 for every person 65 and older in 1970 to \$16,000 in 2022.

Poverty-alleviation programs constitute only 11.4 percent of the 1970-to-2022 increase in transfers. In fact, their share of transfers has declined from 14.1 percent to 11.7 percent.

Today, most counties depend on a level of transfers that previously was reserved for especially distressed places. The Economic Innovation Group's stark warning is:

By 2040, the working-age population is projected to grow by 6 million, the over-65 population by 20 million. The increased taxes necessary to finance entitlement transfers could make impossible the faster economic growth that will be indispensable for funding the transfers. The "fading importance of work and productive activity" in generating Americans' incomes surely matters. Spending on transfers can "crowd out" growth-enhancing investments. And economic stagnation is the result when policy favors present economic security over future prosperity, running gargantuan deficits throughout the business cycle.

Where does the great "transfer"-mation lead? In "Democracy in America," Alexis de Tocqueville, after traveling the country in 1830s, wondered: What would become of people in a democracy whose solicited government's power is gentle, like a parent's — except it "tries to keep them in perpetual childhood":

"It provides for their security, foresees and supplies their necessities, facilitates their pleasures, manages their principal concerns, directs their industry. ... It covers the whole of life with a network of petty, complicated rules that are both minute and uniform, through which even men of the greatest originality and the most vigorous temperament cannot force their heads above the crowd. It does not break men's will but softens, bends, and guides it; it seldom enjoins, but often inhibits, action."

This year, a woman at a Michigan fair approached a carnival-style stand where she could win some gimcrack prize by skillfully throwing darts to pop balloons. She was, however, vexed when handed darts that did not have what define darts: sharp points. The man operating the stand, sharing her exasperation, explained: "The [expletive]" — here he named members of a particular political party — "are afraid people will hurt themselves."

Government acting in loco parentis, protecting people from cradle to grave. This mentality comes with the great "transfer"-mation.

georgewill@washpost.com.



George Will

## MIT begins to discriminate less

The indications are that a historically oppressed minority group in America is finally going to get discriminated against less.

Cue the rejoicing?

No, because the group is Asian-Americans and the discrimination has happened in the realm of college admissions.

MIT has released its first post-affirmative action admissions numbers for the incoming class of 2028, and the percentage of Asian-American students increased markedly from 40 percent to 47%. Black students dropped from 15 to 5%, and Hispanic students from 16 to 11%, while the percentage of white students stayed roughly the same, dropping one percentage point.

There are two possible interpretations of these numbers. Either the MIT admissions office has been somehow infiltrated by racists who want to exclude as many black and Hispanic students as possible (while, bizarrely, boosting Asian-Americans), or the affirmative-action regime that the Supreme Court ruled against last year was working to keep out meritorious Asian-American applicants.

It's the latter, of course. Although we still need to see the returns from other top schools, the MIT numbers are the first hard post-Supreme Court evidence that the critics were — unsurprisingly — right that affirmative action was a form of systemic discrimination against high-achieving Asian Americans.

The president of MIT, Sally Kornbluth, basically admitted as much when she said the changed



Rich Lowry

composition of the school's entering class is "a consequence of last year's Supreme Court decision."

The MIT figures aren't so different from Duke scholar Peter Arcidiacono's estimate of what Harvard's admissions would look like without affirmative action. Arcidiacono, an expert witness for Students for Fair Admissions in its case against Harvard and the University of North Carolina that went to the Supreme Court, forecast a big increase in Asian-American students, a moderate gain for white students, and a substantial drop in Black and Hispanic admissions.

This was the experience in California when the state passed the anti-affirmative Proposition 209 in 1996. Asian-Americans went from 37% of freshmen at U.C. Berkeley in 1995 to 43% in 2022. (White students declined from 30% to 20.)

Supporters of affirmative action consider this kind of change a blow against "diversity," although this is a superficial, racially reductive perspective.

There isn't a giant factory somewhere that is manufacturing generic "Asian-Americans" who all have the same backgrounds and attitudes. The category of Asian-American, like other big racial classifications, does more to obscure than illuminate.

The category includes people from countries that have ancient enmities, and people from countries that have little to do with one another (China,

India or the Philippines, for instance). Chinese and Japanese students might come from families that have been here since the 19th century, while others are immigrants. Some Asian-Americans are affluent, others working class, some woke, some conservative, and so on.

What unites all of them is that they have convincingly demonstrated that they belong at MIT.

Rather than regretting that there are now "too many" of them, we should be proud of what they have achieved, and recognize that they are individuals who, as a matter of basic fairness and American ideals, should be treated as such.

One of the problems with affirmative action is that, in its obsession with racial categories, it might perversely give preferential treatment to an African-American kid whose father is a prominent lawyer and whose mother is a college professor over an Asian-American applicant whose parents were refugees from Burma.

No one is reducible to race. The new MIT admissions regime should also remove any doubt that Black and Hispanic students are there based solely on merit, too. As for the students who would have been admitted under the old highly racialized system, it's not as though they will have no future if they end up at a good state school somewhere.

One would think that less discrimination would be considered ipso facto a good thing, but for supporters of affirmative action, it's all about who is being discriminated against, and in what cause.

Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry

# Another look back at 1974: The economy, politics, and weather

Last month, following my 50th year class reunion, I wrote about 1974, the year 200 other seniors and I were graduated from Norwell High School. To keep the length of that piece manageable, I temporarily put aside much of my research. Here's more.

The word "stagflation" became a buzzword of the 1970s describing the economy. Stagflation, one of the major consequences of the 1973-75 recession, refers to an economy that is experiencing simultaneously an increase in inflation and the stagnation

of economic output. From 1973 to 1974 the inflation rate rose from 6.22% to 11.04%. And the GDP fell from an annual growth rate in 1973 of 10.38% to -.54% in 1974.

The 1973-75 recession resulted from a Wall Street stock crash in 1973-74, heavy government spending on the Vietnam War, an oil embargo, and climbing gasoline prices. Crude oil prices spiked in 1973 causing many developed economies to experience rapid inflation. In October 1973 the Organization of Arab

Petroleum Exporting Countries announced a total oil embargo against countries that supported Israel during the Yom Kippur War, the U.S. among them. In March 1974, OPEC lifted the oil embargo, but by that time the price of oil had risen from \$3 per barrel to \$12.

We saw the result of that high cost at the pump, prompting President Nixon to sign into law the Emergency Highway Energy Conservation Act in January 1974. Remember when highway speeds were 55 mph? The EHECA was an attempt to decrease gasoline use by decreasing speeds. States were required to abide by that 55 mph limit to continue receiving Federal highway monies.

My mom, possessor of a lead foot, struggled to maintain that 55 mph limit traveling on the recently constructed I-69. The 157-mile stretch from Indianapolis to Flint, MI, was completed in 1971, my freshman year.

By the way, in 1970 a gallon of gas cost 36 cents; in 1974, 59 cents (the equivalent of \$3.19 today). I remember Dad complaining about what it cost to fill the large gasoline tank on our



farm and how the cost of filling it would cut whatever profits we might see from grain sales.

According to dol.gov the minimum wage increased to \$2.00 an hour in 1974. Today the Federal minimum wage is \$7.25.

Currently 34 states, territories, and districts have minimum wages above the Federal minimum. Indiana is not one of those 34.

At the time as a babysitter, I didn't see minimum wage. I took care of the two daughters of one couple for 50 cents an hour and another couple's four children, ages 1 to 8, for a whopping \$1.00 an hour. I should have earned combat pay for that Saturday night job when the parents escaped their brood to go bowling. So what do babysitters make today?

More about economics. My freshman year gold averaged \$40.80 an ounce. By 1974 it increased to \$183.77. Today it's almost fifteen times that at \$2,735. But it wasn't until December 31, 1974 that private American citizens were allowed to buy and sell gold for the first time in over 40 years. The only gold I was familiar with then was the old gold and navy blue NHS

school colors.

Politics news rocked the U.S. when the Watergate scandal of 1972 dragged into 1974. On March 1, a grand jury concluded that President Nixon was involved in the cover-up. On August 5 he released a transcript referred to as the "smoking gun" tape. It clearly revealed his role in the cover-up. On August 8, Nixon announced he would resign the next day at noon. Vice President Gerald Ford then became our 38th president. On September 8, President Ford pardoned Nixon of all federal crimes.

My dad, a staunch democrat, had a lot to say about Nixon's crime, resignation, and pardon, often using the nickname "Slippery Dick" to refer to #37. I held the same opinion then and still do, that our president is not above the law. You do the crime; you pay the time.

Weather made the news April 3-4 as a series of 148 deadly tornadoes struck 13 states from the Great Lakes region to the deep South. Those tornadoes resulted in 335 deaths (47 in Indiana) and more than 6,000 injuries. You probably remember those twisters and knew someone affected by them. Monticello, IN, experienced an F-4 that killed 19; Depauw an F-5 that killed 6 and injured 86. I recall watching news coverage of the destruction on our

"Farmer Four" channels (ABC, CBS, NBC, and PBS). Nixon had established the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in 1970 and warnings were issued prior to and during the outbreak, but radar technologies have greatly enhanced warning systems today.

There were other notable events in 1974. On February 8 NASA returned to Earth the three-man crew of the Skylab space station; they had spent 84 days in space. Skyscraper news was made that year, too. On April 5, the World Trade Center at 110 stories, the tallest building in the world at the time, opened for business in New York.

**Here's the Thing:** We are never at a loss for news. And now that we have more networks than the Farmer Four we had in 1974, many of them "news" only, we can access that news 24/7. I'm not sure that's a good thing.

Let's talk.

[annaspalding1956@gmail.com](mailto:annaspalding1956@gmail.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.*

## Ossian United Methodist Church to host community meal

The Ossian United Methodist Church will host a Community Soup & Sandwich Meal on Saturday, Nov. 9 from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

A free will offering will be taken with the proceeds to

support women's missions.

The menu includes chili, potato soup, vegetable soup, hot dogs, sloppy Joe and a sweet treat.

The church is located at 201 W. Mill St. in Ossian.

## Pharaoh's Car Club to host Chili or Soup Cook Off fundraiser

Bluffton Pharaoh's Car Club will be hosting a Chili or Soup Cook Off on Saturday, Nov. 9. The event runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Christian New Light Church, 1011 W. Washington Street in Bluffton.

To enter, bring a large pot of your homemade chili or soup to the church on Satur-

day, Nov. 9.

Awards will be given for original, spicy and vegetarian recipes by guest judges.

Wristbands can be purchased for \$5.00 for tasting.

Proceeds Benefit Wreaths Across America.

For more information, call 260-388-7045 for more information.

## First Reformed Church offering free Thanksgiving Dinner

Members of the First Reformed Church of Bluffton will hold their 19th Annual Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 28.

The free turkey dinner is open to church members and the community.

The meal will be available at the church, 301 West

Cherry Street in Bluffton.

A drive through will be available from 11 a.m. to noon only, dine in will be from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. by reservations only. Delivery available to those who need it.

Please contact the church office at 824-3161 by Wednesday, Nov. 27, for reservations.

## Auditions for 'Joseph' by CAC Theater

Auditions will be held for the Creative Arts Theater production of "Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat: on Friday, Nov. 15, 6-9 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 16, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Creative Art site at 428 S. Oak St. in Bluffton.

Director Ralph Tuttle will be needing a large cast for the musical, which not speaking parts. Those auditioning should be prepared to sing a short selection. For more information call 260-824-4522.

## Art exhibits at Rolland Gallery at USF

Exhibits at the Rolland Gallery at the University of Saint Francis over the next few months will include the following:

USF Creative Arts Alumni Exhibition: Nov. 2-Dec. 13.  
Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibition: Millicent Young '24: Nov. 21-Dec. 13.

Other hours for the Rolland Gallery, 1014 Leesburg Rd., Fort Wayne are Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m.

## Fort Wayne's Christmas on Broadway

The annual Christmas on Boardway on Fort Wane will be held on Friday, Nov. 22, 5 p.m. with the Boys & Girls Clubs to be highlighted.

The Concordia Lutheran High School Band will lead the parade down Broadway from Broadway and Creighton to the Broadway Plaza. The Colorado blue spruce tree in front of the Shine & Harden office

building will be lit with 40,000 colored lights for the 20th year at 6 p.m., along with fireworks.

Other parade participants will include Icy, the Fort Wayne Komets mascot and hockey team, a sleigh, reindeer float and a vintage 1942 fire truck from the Firefighters Museum.

The event will be telecast over 21 Alive beginning at 4 p.m. on Nov. 22.

## Area Things to See and Do

**ALL FOR ONE PRODUCTIONS, FORT WAYNE**  
A Christmas Celebration: Dec. 6-7; Walk Too Moons: Dec. 7-9, 14-16; Out of the Box: TBA; [www.allforonefw.org](http://www.allforonefw.org)

**ALLEN COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM**  
Trans-Siberian Orchestra: Nov. 15; Jurassic Quest: Nov. 22-24; [www.memorialcoliseum.com](http://www.memorialcoliseum.com)

**ARENA DINNER THEATER, FORT WAYNE**  
Murdered to Death: Oct. 25-Nov. 9; Christmas My Way: A Rat Pack Holiday Bash: Dec. 6-22; The Last Quiz Night on Earth: Jan. 17-Feb. 1; I Hate Hamlet: March 14-29; Girl's Weekend: May 2-17; Big Fish (musical): June 13-28; [www.arenadinnertheatre.org](http://www.arenadinnertheatre.org)

**CLYDE THEATRE, FORT WAYNE**  
Goldstock: Nov. 22; ZOSO: Nov. 30; Sixteen Candles: Dec. 6; Jon McLaughlin Holiday Tour with Leo Sawikin: Dec. 13; Atmosphere Fun Tour: Feb. 1; ClydeTheatre.com or at 1-800-514-3849.

**EMBASSY THEATER, FORT WAYNE**  
International Irish Dance Champions: Nov. 9; Nurse Blake: Nov. 15; A Motown Christmas: Nov. 16; Nutcracker at the Embassy: Dec. 7-8; Cece Winans: Dec. 18; An Evening with Peter Billingsley: Dec. 19; Straight No Chaser: Dec. 20; <http://fwembassytheatre.org/events>

**FIRE AND LIGHT PRODUCTIONS, FORT WAYNE**  
Mill Girls: Nov. 7-9, The Best Christmas Pageant Ever: Dec. 5-7, 12-14; Godspell: Jan. 9-11, 16-18; [fireandlightproductions.com](http://fireandlightproductions.com).

**1ST PRESBYTERIAN THEATRE, FORT WAYNE**  
[firstpresfortwayne.org/theater/](http://firstpresfortwayne.org/theater/)

**FORT WAYNE CIVIC THEATER**  
Arts United Center box office 260-424-5220; info at [www.fwcivic.org](http://www.fwcivic.org).

**FORT WAYNE MUSEUM OF ART**  
Open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (until 8 p.m. on Thursdays, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. [www.fwmoa.org](http://www.fwmoa.org)

**FURTH CENTER, ANGOLA**  
"The Mouse Trap:" Nov. 7-9; Christmas Concert: Dec. 8; [trine.edu/furth](http://trine.edu/furth)

**HONEYWELL CENTER, WABASH**  
Craig Norman: Nov. 8; Kenny G: Nov. 15; Midtown Men: Dec. 12; Oak Ridge Boys: Dec. 20; Hotel California: Jan. 18; Montgomery Gentry: March 15; Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles: March 20; MJ Live: May 1; [HoneywellArts.org](http://HoneywellArts.org).

**EAGLES THEATRE, WABASH**  
Smells Like Nirvana: Nov. 15; The Gambler Returns: Dec. 13; Faabulous Thunderbirds: March 21; Glenn Miller rchestra: May 23; <https://www.boxofficeticketsales.com/honeywell-center>

**ARTS UNITED CENTER, FORT WAYNE**  
Fort Wayne Ballet: [fortwayneballet.org](http://fortwayneballet.org)

**PURDUE-FORT WAYNE THEATER**  
Williams Theatre on the Purdue-FW campus. [www.pfw.edu/visual-performing-arts](http://www.pfw.edu/visual-performing-arts).

**SCIENCE CENTRAL, FORT WAYNE**  
1950 N. Clinton St. in Fort Wayne. Hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Info at 260-424-2400 or at [www.sciencecentral.org](http://www.sciencecentral.org)

**FOELLINGER THEATRE, FORT WAYNE**  
Ticketmaster or 260-427-6000

**BAKER STREET CENTER, FORT WAYNE**  
Wishbone Ash: Nov. 21; Christmas at Baker Street: Dec. 14; Vanessa Collier: Feb. 7; [www.bakerstreetcenter.com](http://www.bakerstreetcenter.com)

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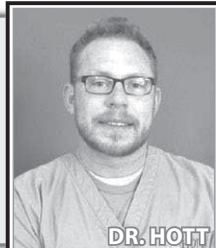
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# Norsemen narrowly escape Raiders on opening night in girls' basketball action

By **RYAN WALKER**

WABASH — Northfield and Southern Wells wasted no time for their first barn burner of the girls' basketball season.

The rematch of the 2023-24 sectional championship went again to the Norsemen, who took a 54-50 victory over the visiting Raiders to open the season.

Southern Wells took the court for the first time with its new head coach Kyle Penrod, who was also the boys' head coach for four years. His team trailed by a small margin for most of the game, but valiant comebacks in both the end of the second and third quarters kept them in it — and they briefly took the lead at the end of the third.

Northfield held a lead as strong as nine points in the second quarter, but a short burst of six straight points with the help of a last second layup before the halftime buzzer from Kenzie Paxson kept them within reach.

The issue that the Raiders would face is their leading scorer and rebounder from last season, Ashlie Needler, had four fouls and had to take a seat with 5:25 left in the fourth quarter.

In the third quarter, the Norsemen kept pounding the basket. Camryn Kuhn scored her team six points in a stretch of three minutes to lift them to a five-point lead. But again, the Raiders who pitched another late quarter comeback — only this one was stronger.

"Well, they're good players," Penrod said of the Raiders will to come back. "I got lots of girls who can handle it, shoot it and they're going to make plays. They're going to hit shots. We might go through some spells where we don't, but we still finished the game with 50 points. Offensively, we're going to find ways to score."

Needler hit back-to-back buckets to get within three points with 1:45 left in the third quarter, but 20 seconds later, Needler picked up her fifth foul and was taken out of the game for good.

The Raiders held tough without their senior leader, as Paxson scored in the same minute as her forward counterpart Needler fouled out. Then, Gracie Reeves nailed a jumper and a three-pointer to get Southern Wells' first lead since midway through the first quarter, 53-49.

That lead wouldn't stay for long. Kuhn hit a three to score the first points of the final quarter. As both teams traded blows, Northfield's Elliot Baker's converted and one made it 50-47. Reeves then responded with her second three-pointer of the half to tie the game at 50 a piece with 1:17 remain-

ing.

Outside of Reeves' three-pointer and a bucket from Erika Beavans, the Raiders relied on free throws due to its 2-18 shooting in the fourth quarter. Reeves' bucket was the last points from the Raiders despite the team scoring 17 points in the third.

At 40 seconds, Laney HauPERT got the Norsemen up for good, and Kuhn took her free throws and sunk them to hit the final at 54-50.

Penrod said that the fourth-quarter shooting woes were due to quicker shots under pressure and an absence of Needler's senior presence. With her out, the team threw out mostly freshmen and sophomores by the end of the game.

"I think we were rushing a little bit," Penrod said. "We were trying to force shots there, like (the Norsemen) get a bucket and we would try to get down and answer as quick as we can to drive it in the traffic when it wasn't really open and not running our offense, which was working for us."

Needler finished the game with six points and seven rebounds, while Paxson had eight and seven and Beavans 10 points.

An early bright spot for the Raiders was freshman Kaylee Davis, who played in her first career varsity game and made a splash. She hit three shots from the field while also making five free throws. She finished with 12 points to lead the team and added seven rebounds.

Southern Wells took the junior varsity game 39-38 with Ellie DeWeese adding 12 points and Remi Holmes with nine.

Southern Wells will travel to Cowan starting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 7.

*ryan@news-banner.com*

## NORTHFIELD 54, SOUTHERN WELLS 50

**At Northfield**  
**SOUTHERN WELLS (1-0):** Kaylee Davis 3-12 5-8, Erika Beavans 4-15 1-2 10, Gracie Reeves 3-6 4-4 9, Kenzie Paxson 4-10 0-0 8, Ashlie Needler 3-13 0-0 6, Aubree Meyer 0-3 2-4 2, Collena Reeves 0-3 1-2 1, Kaylea Coffel 0-4 0-0 0, Kyah Thomas 0-1 0-0 0, Callie Ripperger 0-2 0-0 0. **TOTALS:** 17-70 13-20 50.  
**NORTHFIELD (0-0):** Elliot Baker 7-15 3-3 16, Camryn Kuhn 6-14 2-4 16, Teagan Baer 2-7 2-4 6, 1-7 4-7 6, Laney HauPERT 2-10 2-2 6, Faith Krom 1-3 0-0 2, Emily Miller 0-0 0-0 0. **TOTALS:** 19-58 12-20 54.  
**Sou. Wells** 12 16 10 7 — 50  
**Northfield** 13 14 17 15 — 54  
 Three-point FG: Southern Wells: 4-16 (G. Reeves 2-3, Davis 1-3, Beavans 1-3, C. Reeves 0-2, Thomas 0-1, Ripperger 0-2), Northfield: 3-15 (Kuhn 2-6, Baker 1-1, Hoffman 0-1, HauPERT 0-5, Baer 0-2). Rebounds: Southern Wells 41 (Davis 7, C. Reeves 7, Needler 7, Paxson 5, G. Reeves 5, Meyer 3, Beavans 3, Coffel 2, Thomas 1, Ripperger 1), Northfield: 38 (Kuhn 9, Hoffman 8, Baker 6, Baer 6, Brom 5, HauPERT 2, Miller 2). Turnovers: Southern Wells: 22, Northfield 22. Fouls: Southern Wells: 21, Northfield: 15. Fouled Out: Southern Wells: Ashlie Needler. Technicals: None. JV: 39-38 Southern Wells. Ellie DeWeese 12 points, Remi Holmes 9.



Southern Wells' Kaylee Davis (left) pushes to her right to avoid Northfield's Laney HauPERT during the opening night of girls' basketball Tuesday night at Northfield. The Raiders fell 54-50 in the final minute of play to start the season, but Davis led the way with 12 points in her first varsity game. (Photos by Ryan Walker)



Raiders' head coach Kyle Penrod (middle) thinks through a play on the drawing board during a timeout in the third quarter.

## High School Calendar

**WEDNESDAY, NOV 6**  
 No events scheduled.  
**THURSDAY, NOV 7**  
 GIRLS BASKETBALL: Southern Wells at Cowan, 7:30 p.m.  
**FRIDAY, NOV 8**  
 GIRLS BASKETBALL: Cathedral at Norwell, 7:30 p.m.  
**SATURDAY, NOV 9**  
 GIRLS BASKETBALL: Warsaw at Nor-

well, 7:30 p.m.; Canterbury at Bluffton, 7 p.m.; Southern Wells at Union City, 7:30 p.m.  
**MONDAY, NOV 11**  
 No events scheduled.  
**TUESDAY, NOV 12**  
 No events scheduled.  
**WEDNESDAY, NOV 13**  
 GIRLS BASKETBALL: Northfield at Bluffton, 7:30 p.m.; Northrop at Norwell, 7:30 p.m.; Union Modoc at Southern Wells, 7 p.m.

# Oregon gets top billing in College Football Playoff's opening rankings, Ohio St second and Georgia third

By **EDDIE PELLIS**  
**AP National Writer**

A season full of surprises didn't produce many when the first set of rankings on the road to college football's new 12-team playoff came out Tuesday.

Undefeated Oregon got top billing. The selection committee liked Ohio State just a touch more than Georgia in its top 25 — the first of six weekly polls the committee will put out.

Other than that, the panel's top 12 looked exactly like the top dozen in the most recent AP poll, which has been shaken up almost weekly thanks to a bundle of upsets that left the mighty SEC, of all conferences, without a single undefeated team.

The near mirror image of AP and the College Football Playoff polls meant Alabama, despite its two losses, would be in the bracket at No. 11 if it came out this week, as would Boise State, the leader of the Mountain West Conference, which came in at No. 12 and would earn an automatic spot as the fifth-best conference champion.

"The summary is, Boise State is an impressive team," said Michigan athletic director Warde Manuel, who serves as chair of the selection committee.

Maunel explained Ohio State was ranked No. 2 because its only loss came by one point to Oregon. Both the Buckeyes and third-ranked Bulldogs were rated ahead of undefeated Miami most likely thanks to strength of schedules that were much tougher than that of the 'Canes, who were ranked fourth.

"We're splitting hairs as far as looking at two great teams," Manuel said.

The rankings will come out each week through Dec. 8, when the final list will decide the bracket for the playoffs. Those start Dec. 20-21, with the 5-12 seeds in action at the better seed's home field, and close with the national title game in Atlanta on Jan. 20.

The rankings don't directly correlate to where the teams would fall in the bracket. The four best-ranked conference champions receive first-round byes, which according to this ranking would belong to Oregon (ranked 1), Georgia (3), Miami (4) and BYU (9).

The committee chose Alabama over a handful of one-loss teams, but the Tide's strength of schedule clearly helped them leap over teams like No. 13 SMU (ACC), No. 17 Iowa State (Big 12) and No. 18 Pitt (ACC), who play in weaker conferences.

The rest of the teams in the fictional first-week bracket and their rankings: No. 5 Texas, No. 6 Penn State, No. 7 Tennessee, No. 8 Indiana and No. 10 Notre Dame.

First team out was No. 13 SMU while Army, with an 8-0 record and leading the American Athletic Conference, barely squeaked into the rankings at No. 25.

What first-round matchups would look like based on this week's rankings

ESPN is paying billions to televise these games, so it got exclusive rights to the bracket reveal, filling the show with analysis and lots of references to "America finally finding out" — a nod to the opening rankings being released on election night. The network chose to fill in the bracket as it

(Continued on Page 7)

# Knights take down Vikings with ease to begin basketball season

Norwell's post-state championship runner-up season began with a bang Tuesday night.

The Knights took the long bus ride to Tippecanoe Valley and routed them 72-40.

With most of the team graduating from last year, Norwell was seeking help on both ends of the floor from Vanessa Rosswurm. She led the team with 27 points on the night. Ryland Graft also brought some flare on the scoresheet, producing 14 points on 3-5 shooting.

Norwell will face Indianapolis Cathedral on Friday, Nov. 8 at 7:30 p.m.

**NORWELL 72, TIPPECANOE VALLEY 40**  
**At Tippecanoe Valley**  
**NORWELL (1-0):** Vanessa Rosswurm 9-24 9-10 27, Ryland Graft 5-9 1-2 14, Jada Dale 1-6 4-6 7, Addison

Norris 2-6 0-0 6, Macie Saalfrank 2-8 1-2 6, Ashley Waldman 2-7 0-0 5, Haley Williamson 0-3 3-4 3, Larkin Smith 0-3 2-2 2, Mekynzi Beck 1-1 0-0 2, Isabella Swineword 0-0 0-0 0, Mia Kurtz 0-0 0-0 0, Alivia Green 0-0 0-0 0, Eden Nash 0-0 0-0 0. **TOTALS:** 22-69 20-26 72.  
**TIPPECANOE VALLEY (0-1):** Lucy Hayden 5-8 3-4 13, Gaby Gonzalez 3-9 1-4 7, Hadley Wise 2-8 2-2 7, Carlee Snyder 3-7 1-2 7, Dalynne Bussard 3-3 0-0 6, Lydia Craig 0-2 0-0 0, Karley Hallstrom 0-0 0-0 0, Hailey Stockey 0-2 0-0 0, Lillie Koch 0-0 0-0 0, Maycee Koch 0-0 0-0 0, Betty Shepherd 0-0 0-0 0. **TOTALS:** 16-39 7-12 40.  
**Norwell** 20 16 20 16 — 72  
**Tippecanoe Valley** 11 16 20 16 — 40  
 Three-point FG: Norwell: 8-33 (Graft 3-5, Norris 2-6, Waldman 1-5, Saalfrank 1-5, Dale 1-2, Rosswurm 0-7, Green 0-1, Smith 0-1, Williamson 0-1), Tippecanoe Valley: 1-9 (Wise 1-2, Gonzalez 0-3, Hallstrom 0-2). Rebounds: Norwell: 36 (Green 7, Rosswurm 5, Saalfrank 4, Beck 3, Smith 3, Norris 2, Waldman 2, Williamson 1, Dale 1, Graft 1), Tippecanoe Valley: Gonzalez 5, Snyder 2, Wise 1, Craig 1, Stookey 1, M. Koch 1, Bussard 1, Hayden 1). Turnovers: Norwell: 10, Tippecanoe Valley: 17. Fouls: Norwell: 16, Tippecanoe Valley: 20. Fouled Out: Tippecanoe Valley: Hadley Wise. Technicals: None. JV: Norwell 56-9.

# NFL trade deadline headlines: Commanders getting Lattimore; Lions acquiring Za'Darius Smith

By **ROB MAADDI**  
**AP Sports Writer**

Marshon Lattimore, Za'Darius Smith, Mike Williams, Preston Smith and Tre'Davious White were sent to winning teams. Jonathan Mingo and Khalil Herbert are going to a place where they'll play more.

NFL teams, especially contenders, were active before Tuesday's trade deadline at 4 p.m. EST.

The NFC East-leading Commanders made a move to help them try to stay in first place, acquiring Lattimore from the struggling Saints (2-7). The four-time Pro Bowl cornerback bolsters a defense that's already No. 5 against the pass. The Saints are getting a third-round pick, a fourth-rounder and their own sixth that they previously sent to Washington. The Commanders also receive a fifth along with Lattimore.

The NFC North-leading Lions (7-1) kicked off deadline day by acquiring Smith from the Cleveland Browns (2-7). The three-time Pro Bowl edge rusher helps fill the void created by the loss of star Aidan Hutchinson, who suffered a leg injury on Oct. 13 and still leads Detroit with 7 1/2 sacks.

The Browns, already looking to rebuild in a disappointing season, are sending Smith and a seventh-round pick in 2026 to Detroit for a fifth-round pick in 2025 and a sixth-round pick in 2026.

The Steelers (6-2) were busy, adding Williams to give Russell Wilson another option and Smith to bolster the pass rush.

Pittsburgh, which leads the AFC North, sent a fifth-round pick in next year's draft to the New York Jets (3-6) to get Williams, who had 12 catches for 166 yards in nine

(Continued on Page 7)

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# Oregon tops CFP rankings

(Continued from Page 6)

went along, which made things a little confusing — a second-ranked team really seeded third, and so-on. But here's what those first-round games would be (with seedings, not rankings):

No. 12 Boise State at No. 5 Ohio State: Would be the Broncos biggest postseason game since beating Oklahoma in the 2007 Fiesta Bowl.

No. 11 Alabama at No. 5 Texas: Longhorns win over 'Bama in 2023 punctured myth of Tide invincibility.

No. 10 Notre Dame at No. 7 Penn State: Feels like we need Keith Jackson for this one.

# NFL trade deadline

(Continued from Page 6)

games. They traded a 2025 seventh-round pick to Green Bay (6-3) for Smith, who has 2 1/2 sacks this season after averaging 8 1/2 per year over the previous three.

The Ravens (6-3) improved their secondary by acquiring White from the Rams. The two-time Pro Bowl cornerback was inactive the past four games with Los Angeles. Baltimore sent a seventh-round pick in 2026 to Los Angeles for White and a seventh-round pick in 2027, two people with knowledge of the compensation told the AP. Both people spoke on condition of anonymity because the teams didn't announce terms.

The injury-plagued Cowboys (3-5) agreed on a deal with Carolina (2-7) to acquire Mingo and a seventh-round pick in 2025 for a fourth-round pick next year, two people with knowledge of the trade told the AP. Both people spoke on condition of anonymity because the teams haven't announced the deal.

Mingo, a second-round pick last year, only has 12 receptions for 121 yards in nine games. He won't be catching passes from Dak Prescott for a while. Prescott is expected to miss several games with a hamstring injury. Dallas has dropped three straight games.

The Bengals (4-5) added depth at running back following an injury to Zack Moss, getting Herbert from Chicago (4-4) for a 2025 seventh-round draft pick. Herbert had just eight carries for 16 yards and one touchdown for the Bears. He'll join leading rusher Chase Brown to give Cincinnati another option in the backfield.

The San Francisco 49ers (4-4) acquired defensive tackle Khalil Davis from Houston

Anyone remember the 1992 Snow Bowl?

No. 9 Indiana at No. 8 Tennessee: Hoosiers entry to the big-time (football) would come in front of 100,000 on Rocky Top.

What will change after this week?

LSU is ranked 15 and hosts Alabama on Saturday in what feels like an elimination game for the loser.

Also this week, Georgia plays at No. 17 Ole Miss; the Rebels two losses have both come by a field goal — to Kentucky and LSU.

Indiana hosts Michigan and is favored by 12 1/2, barreling toward a Nov. 23 matchup against Ohio State.

for a 2026 seventh-round pick. Davis had one sack and nine tackles in nine games this season.

Some of the biggest moves came ahead of the trade deadline.

The Chiefs (8-0), Bills (7-2), Ravens and Jets added playmakers, acquiring wide receivers over the past month. The Vikings (6-2) filled a big need on the offensive line last week and the Cardinals (5-4) got defensive help on Monday.

Two-time defending Super Bowl champion Kansas City got three-time All-Pro receiver D'Andre Hopkins and edge rusher Josh Esche.

Hopkins made his presence felt in Monday night's 30-24 overtime victory over Tampa Bay. He caught eight passes for 86 yards and two touchdowns in his second game with Patrick Mahomes.

The Jets acquired three-time All-Pro Davante Adams three weeks ago. He caught seven passes for 91 yards and one TD in New York's 21-13 win over Houston last Thursday.

Amari Cooper had a TD reception in his first game with Buffalo two weeks ago. Diontae Johnson played 17 snaps in his debut with Baltimore, a 41-10 win over Denver.

Left tackle Cam Robinson had a solid first start in Minnesota's 21-13 victory against Indianapolis. Arizona (5-4) picked up outside linebacker Baron Browning from Denver for a sixth-round pick, a day after taking over first place in the NFC West.

The NFL pushed the trade deadline back an extra week this year, giving teams more time to improve their rosters.

# NASCAR's championship field heads to Phoenix with no clear favorite to win Cup title

By JENNA FRYER  
AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Roger Penske already won two sports car championships this season and heads to Phoenix Raceway with two chances to win a third consecutive NASCAR Cup Series title with both Joey Logano and Ryan Blaney in the winner-take-all season finale.

The two Penske drivers will try to make it three consecutive Cup titles for "The Captain," who won the 2022 title with Logano and last year's championship with Blaney.

They are up against Tyler Reddick of 23XI Racing, one of two teams embroiled in an antitrust lawsuit with NASCAR. The first hearing in the case was Monday and a federal judge promised a ruling on a preliminary injunction by Friday, the same day NASCAR hits the track at Phoenix for its first practice of the weekend.

And then there's William Byron of Hendrick Motorsports, who made the field over Christopher Bell when NASCAR ruled Bell had committed a safety violation in riding the wall Sunday at Martinsville Speedway. That move has been banned since Ross Chastain did it in 2022.

All said, it is a pair of Fords from Team Penske against the Toyota from 23XI and a Chevrolet from Hendrick Motorsports, NASCAR's winningest team in history. The highest finishing driver among the four title contenders will be crowned champion.

What to know about the four title contenders: Blaney, No. 12 Ford, Team Penske:

The 30 year old is a third-generation driver from Ohio and the son of retired NASCAR driver Dave Blaney. He's making his second appearance in the final four and won in his debut last year.

He bounced back this year from a devastating defeat two weeks ago at Homestead-Miami Speedway, where Reddick passed him in the final turn to steal a spot in the championship. Blaney recovered last Sunday to win at Martinsville Speedway in Virginia — same place he earned his championship berth in 2023 — and he's very good at Phoenix.

No driver has led more laps in the Next Gen car at Phoenix than Blaney, who has two wins this year at tracks 1-mile or short-

er. Phoenix is a 1-mile low-banked tri-oval.

Working against Blaney is that no driver has won back-to-back championships in the playoff elimination era, which started in 2014. The last driver to defend his title was Jimmie Johnson, who won five consecutive championships from 2006 to 2010.

Logano, No. 22 Ford, Team Penske: Logano is the only two-time champion in the field — and along with Kyle Busch the only active multiple champion in NASCAR — and is making his sixth appearance in the final four. The 34-year-old from Connecticut won in 2018 and 2022, which has earned him the nickname "Even Year Logano."

Logano won a five-overtime race at Nashville just to get into the playoffs, and he finished 15th in the regular-season standings. He won the playoff opener at Atlanta but was eliminated in the second round until NASCAR disqualified Alex Bowman for failing post-race inspection.

That put Logano back into the playoffs and he promptly won the third-round opening race at Las Vegas, which has put his Team Penske crew on cruise control preparing for Phoenix.

But, of the four contenders, Logano had the weakest season and wouldn't even be in the finale if not for Bowman's disqualification.

### WILLIAM BYRON, NO. 24 CHEVROLET, HENDRICK MOTORSPORTS:

The Daytona 500 winner has three victories this season and will return to the final four for the second consecutive year. The 26-year-old from Charlotte only made the championship race because Bell's move at Martinsville was disallowed.

His circumstances have changed in that a year ago he was in a relationship with Blaney's youngest sister and the two drivers referred to each other as "brother-in-laws." Byron is no longer dating Erin Blaney, and the tension between Byron and Ryan Blaney has flared on-track at times this season.

Byron won at Phoenix in March 2023 and is the only Hendrick driver in the championship. But he hasn't won a Cup race since April and has a 27-race winless streak headed into Sunday.

# News-Banner Scoreboard

## FOOTBALL

### NFL

#### AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	7	2	0	778	260 173
N.Y. Jets	3	6	0	333	171 183
Miami	2	6	0	250	124 187
New England	2	7	0	222	141 217

South					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	6	3	0	667	201 200
Indianapolis	4	5	0	444	188 193
Tennessee	2	6	0	250	140 213
Jacksonville	2	7	0	222	195 252

North					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	6	2	0	750	187 119
Baltimore	6	3	0	667	283 219
Cincinnati	4	5	0	444	236 227
Cleveland	2	7	0	222	148 213

West					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	8	0	0	1,000	203 147
L.A. Chargers	5	3	0	625	159 101
Denver	5	4	0	556	183 161
Las Vegas	2	7	0	222	168 251

#### NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Washington	7	2	0	778	283 147
Philadelphia	6	2	0	750	199 155
Dallas	3	5	0	375	171 225
N.Y. Giants	2	7	0	222	139 202

South					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	6	3	0	667	221 216
Tampa Bay	4	5	0	444	259 243
Carolina	2	7	0	222	147 293
New Orleans	2	7	0	222	207 229

North					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Detroit	7	1	0	875	258 148
Minnesota	6	2	0	750	209 150
Green Bay	6	3	0	667	230 194
Chicago	4	4	0	500	172 148

West					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Arizona	5	4	0	556	207 214
L.A. Rams	4	4	0	500	170 194
San Francisco	4	4	0	500	210 182
Seattle	4	5	0	444	210 221

Thursday's Games	
N.Y. Jets	21, Houston 13

Thursday, Nov. 7	
Thursday Night Football: Cincinnati	at Baltimore, 8:15 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 10	
N.Y. Giants vs Carolina	at Munich, DEU, 9:30 a.m.

Atlanta	at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Buffalo	at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Denver	at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Minnesota	at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
New England	at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Pittsburgh	at Washington, 1 p.m.
San Francisco	at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Tennessee	at L.A. Chargers, 4:05 p.m.

N.Y. Jets	at Arizona, 4:25 p.m.
Philadelphia	at Dallas, 4:25 p.m.
Sunday Night Football: Detroit	at Houston, 8:20 p.m.
Open:	Cleveland, Las Vegas, Green Bay, Seattle

Monday, Nov. 11	
Monday Night Football: Miami	at L.A. Rams, 8:15 p.m.

## BASKETBALL

### High School

Tuesday's Girls Scores	
Austin	62, Clarksville 16
Bloomfield	40, Mitchell 31
Bloomington	South 64, Northview 41

Bremen	72, Argos 32
Brownburg	71, Warren Central 48
Carroll (Flora)	82, Frankfort 16
Crawfordsville	37, Altica 36, OT
Danville	74, Hamilton Hts. 19
DeKalb	54, Ft. Wayne Luers 42
Dubois	59, Shoals 10
Eastern Hancock	76, Wes-Del 3
Edgewood	59, W. Vigo 23
Elwood	53, Anderson Prep Acad-emy 24

Fairfield	40, Elkhart 39
Fountain Central	31, W. Lafayette 20
Fremont	53, S. Bend St. Joseph's 41
Ft. Wayne Dwenger	66, Churubusco 31
Ft. Wayne South	62, Ft. Wayne Canterbury 20
Greenfield	55, Lapel 41
Hammond Central	66, Kankakee

Valley	34
Indian Creek	56, Beech Grove 51
Indpls Shortridge	55, Greenwood Christian 15
Lowell	59, Wheeler 18
Mooreville	56, Southport 55
Morgan Twp.	37, Knox 31
Mt. Vernon (Fortville)	41, Whiteland 26

N. Central (Farmersburg)	72, Union (Dugger) 5
N. Miami	68, Western 46
N. Putnam	55, N. Vermillion 40
Northeastern	71, Adams Central 21
Northfield	54, Southern Wells 50
Norwell	72, Tippecanoe Valley 40
Oregon-Davis	60, Kouts 47
Owen Valley	61, Eastern (Greene) 14

Purdue Polytechnic High School	Schweitzer Center at Englewood 59, Columbus East 36
Richmond	47, New Castle 35
Riverton Parke	42, Cloverdale 26
S. Bend Riley	58, Mishawaka 19
S. Putnam	50, S. Vermillion 7
Southmont	57, Greencastle 26
Sullivan	53, Vincennes 38
Tell City	41, Cannelton 4
Tipton	41, Eastern (Greentown) 28
Westfield	51, Indpls N. Central 41
Winamac	54, Frontier 21
Zionsville	70, Indpls Attucks 50

N. Central	72, Union (Dugger) 5
N. Miami	68, Western 46
N. Putnam	55, N. Vermillion 40
Northeastern	71, Adams Central 21
Northfield	54, Southern Wells 50
Norwell	72, Tippecanoe Valley 40
Oregon-Davis	60, Kouts 47
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S. Putnam	50, S. Vermillion 7
Southmont	57, Greencastle 26
Sullivan	53, Vincennes 38
Tell City	41, Cannelton 4
Tipton	41, Eastern (Greentown) 28
Westfield	51, Indpls N. Central 41
Winamac	54, Frontier 21
Zionsville	70, Indpls Attucks 50

Monday's Games	
Cleveland	116, Milwaukee 114
Detroit	115, L.A. Lakers 103
Utah	135, Chicago 126
Indiana	134, Dallas 127
Denver	121, Toronto 119

Tuesday's Games	
No games scheduled.	

Wednesday's Games	
Detroit	at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Orlando	at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Golden State	at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
New York	at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland	at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
L.A. Lakers	at Memphis, 8 p.m.
San Antonio	at Houston, 8 p.m.
Chicago	at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

Thursday's Games	
N.Y. Jets	21, Houston 13

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New England	at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Pittsburgh	at Washington, 1 p.m.
San Francisco	at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Tennessee	at L.A. Chargers, 4:05 p.m.

N.Y. Jets	at Arizona, 4:25 p.m.
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Monday, Nov. 11	
Monday Night Football: Miami	at L.A. Rams, 8:15 p.m.

# 2024-2025 WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW

## Week of November 11



# 76ers' Joel Embiid is suspended by the NBA for three games for shoving a newspaper columnist

NEW YORK (AP) — Philadelphia 76ers center Joel Embiid was suspended by the NBA on Tuesday for three games without pay for shoving a member of the media.

Embiid's suspension will begin with the next regular-season game for which he is eligible and able to play. The 2023 NBA MVP has yet to play this season because of what the 76ers call left knee management.

The Sixers begin a road trip in Los Angeles against the Clippers on Wednesday night.

Embiid shouted at and eventually shoved a newspaper columnist in a locker room altercation Saturday night.

Embiid took issue with Philadelphia Inquirer columnist Marcus Hayes, who mentioned the seven-time All-Star's late brother and his son — both named Arthur — in columns questioning Embiid's professionalism and effort not being in shape after playing in the Paris Olympics.

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# Choosing peace over family drama

Dear Annie: I've made the decision to distance myself from my sister, who exhibits narcissistic, dramatic, needy and demanding behavior.

For years, I offered her help, advice and support, only to have the relationship follow a repetitive and unhealthy cycle. I would set boundaries and shut her out after being hurt but eventually let her back into my life.

Unfortunately, she simply cannot respect my boundaries. She would be kind and polite when she wanted something, but her response would quickly turn into anger, abuse and manipulation when things didn't go her way.

After enduring years of emotional manipulation, constant demands and hurtful accusations, I finally chose to prioritize my own well-being. Her lies, theft and damaging behavior became too much to bear.

Although I love my sister and miss the good times we shared, I can no longer tolerate her toxic behavior. It's a difficult decision, but ultimately, it's what's healthiest for me.

Have others experienced similar situations with family members, and how have they coped with the decision to walk away? Did I make the right decision? — Estranged Sibling

Dear Estranged: It sounds like you've done everything you could to maintain a relationship with your sister, but unfortunately, she hasn't been able to respect your boundaries. Prioritizing your well-being is important, and it seems like stepping away was the right choice for you at this time.

That said, don't forget that people can change. It might be worth checking in with her periodically to see if her behavior has shifted and if the relationship can be rekindled in a healthier way. Wishing you the best as you navigate this challenging situation.

Dear Annie: I read your column and the letter from "Estranged" about her sister, and I can relate. A few years ago, I chose to completely cut ties

with my older sister to distance myself from my sister, who exhibits narcissistic, dramatic, needy and demanding behavior. For years, I offered her help, advice and support, only to have the relationship follow a repetitive and unhealthy cycle. I would set boundaries and shut her out after being hurt but eventually let her back into my life. Unfortunately, she simply cannot respect my boundaries. She would be kind and polite when she wanted something, but her response would quickly turn into anger, abuse and manipulation when things didn't go her way. After enduring years of emotional manipulation, constant demands and hurtful accusations, I finally chose to prioritize my own well-being. Her lies, theft and damaging behavior became too much to bear. Although I love my sister and miss the good times we shared, I can no longer tolerate her toxic behavior. It's a difficult decision, but ultimately, it's what's healthiest for me. Have others experienced similar situations with family members, and how have they coped with the decision to walk away? Did I make the right decision? — Estranged Sibling

## Dear Annie

by Annie Lane



I still attend family gatherings, even when my sister is present, but I simply ignore her. Recently, I asked for her not to be invited to a birthday party for me, which caused a rift. Even her daughter, who was abused as a child, said she wouldn't attend if her mother wasn't invited. So, I canceled the party and had a nice, peaceful dinner with my kids instead.

Cutting off my sister has brought me peace, and I wouldn't change my decision. Sometimes, walking away from family drama is the best thing for your well-being. — Happier Without the Drama

Dear Happier: Thank you for sharing your perspective. The beauty of this topic is there really is no right answer for all people. There is only the right answer for yourself.

"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" features favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation. It 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](mailto:dearannie@creators.com).

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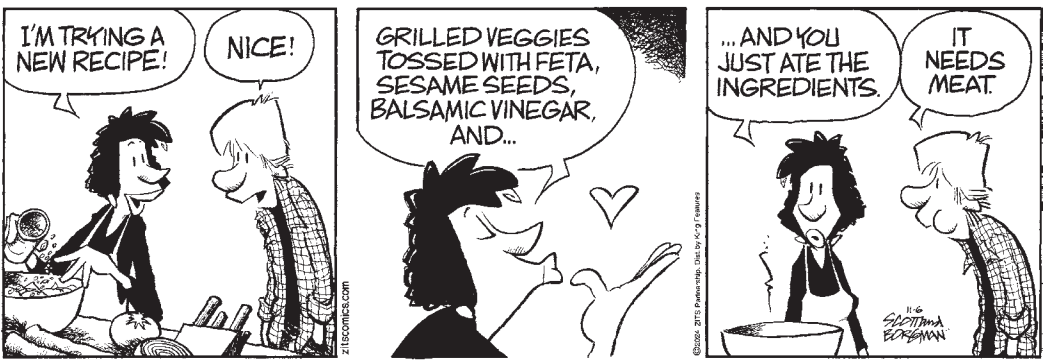
## BEETLE BAILEY



## BLONDIE



## ZITS



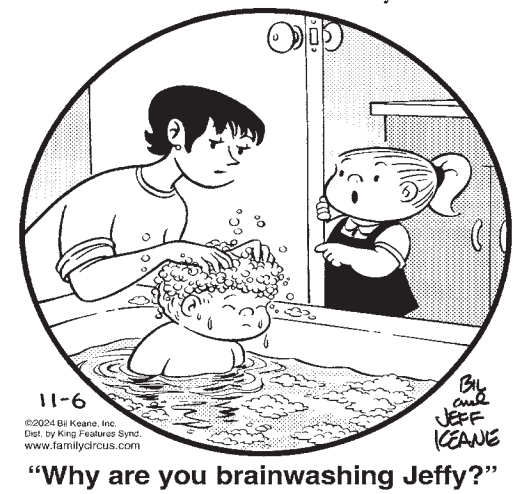
## CRANKSHAFT



## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

## The LOCKHORNS



## My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



# Not everyone is called to be a missionary

Question: I deal with people from many nations, but I've not been given the gift of evangelism. Isn't that the job of people who have been called by God to specifically preach? — C.E.

Answer: Never forget: Jesus Christ died to save people from even the most remote corner of the world — people you and I will never know during our lifetimes but people we may be with in Heaven forever. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" (John 3:16, NKJV).

God's plan is universal! No tribe, no language group, no nation is

beyond the scope of His love. The same should be true of us. Jesus' words to His disciples (followers of Christ) have never been rescinded: "You shall be witnesses to Me ... to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8, NKJV).

Not everyone is called of God to be a missionary or evangelist. But those who know Christ are part of His "grand design" to proclaim His truth to people from every part of the world. By our prayers, our giving, our faithful witness, and our obedient service, we can have an impact for the Gospel far beyond ourselves. We are all called to speak the truth of the Gospel to people God puts in our

pathway. The power to proclaim the greatest news in Heaven was not given to the angels. It was given to the redeemed. Every Christian is to be a witness. May the Lord give us the willingness and desire to get out of our comfort zones to reach people from all walks of life with the message of hope found only in Christ Jesus. Will we be found faithful?

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

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## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes solution time: 23 mins. and Yesterday's answer 11-6.

TV schedule grid with columns for time slots (11:06 to 12:30) and rows for various channels (WINM, CBS, Antenna, ABC, NBC, etc.).



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## SUDOKU

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

### King Classic Sudoku

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

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Difficulty: ★★★

11/6

## This Week's Garage Sales



**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.

Receive a free garage sale kit when placing a three day line classified ad.

### Help Wanted

**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.

**LOOKING FOR DRIVER** to haul Amish, some evenings and weekends. Call (260) 223-4835.

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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.

### FOR SALE

#### Hot Deals!

**HOUSE FOR SALE OPEN HOUSE** on Sunday, November 10th from 1-3 pm. 419 Wabash St. Bluffton, IN 46714

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! \$220,000.00  
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Billie.Shively@exprealty.com  
<https://billieshively.exprealty.com/>

### VEHICLES

#### Campers/RV's

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

### Lottery Numbers

**Tuesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY**  
Cash 5 — 03-09-16-23-24

Cash4Life — 16-18-23-37-53, Cash Ball: 02

Quick Draw Midday — 14-20-22-24-25-31-32-35-36-37-42-47-48-50-51-58-59-61-66-79, BE: 42

Daily Three-Midday — 06-03-08, SB: 06

Daily Three-Evening — 05-06-07, SB: 02

Daily Four-Midday — 01-00-03-05, SB: 06

Daily Four-Evening — 05-02-02-08, SB: 02

Quick Draw Evening — 01-02-15-16-21-22-28-30-31-33-36-42-43-46-49-53-63-68-72-80, BE: 16

Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$27.7 million

MEGA MILLIONS 02-24-25-52-58; Mega Ball: 09; Megaplier: 2X.

POWERBALL Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$75 million

Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$75 million

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### EMPLOYMENT

#### Help Wanted

**LOOKING TO HIRE** full or part time for general carpenter. Must have reliable transportation, general construction knowledge, and own tools. Call Scott at 260-353-9339.

### Help Wanted

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## November

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

**BIDDING CLOSES NOVEMBER 12 - 6 p.m. Al Grogg'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 [Towncountryauctions.com](http://Towncountryauctions.com), click Filers. 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 Woolhater, 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.*, [heartlandauctionrealt.com](http://heartlandauctionrealt.com), 260-724-3499.

**SOFT CLOSE 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*, [SoldonGreen.com](http://SoldonGreen.com), 260-589-8474.

**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](http://Kjauction.com).

**DECEMBER 3 - Starts at 6 p.m. - Blackfoot Golf Club (Lort Services, Inc.), owner.** Held at Blackfoot 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, Blackfoot Co. Inspections Nov. 16, 10 a.m.-noon, Nov. 19, 3 p.m.-5 p.m.,

### Public Notices

**NOTICE OF DETERMINATION**  
Pursuant to Indiana Code § 6-1.1-20-5, notice is hereby given that the Board of Education of the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District has preliminarily determined to issue bonds in the aggregate amount not to exceed \$1,100,000 to fund the proposed renovation of and improvements to school facilities, including deferred maintenance improvements, athletics improvements, site improvements, and the purchase of equipment.  
Dated: October 30, 2024  
/s/ Secretary,  
Board of Education  
Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District  
nb 10/30, 11/6  
hspaxlp

**STATE OF INDIANA** )  
 ) SS:  
**WELLS COUNTY** )  
 ) IN THE WELLS  
 ) CIRCUIT COURT  
 ) ESTATE DOCKET  
 ) 90C01-2409-EU-000030  
 )  
 ) IN THE MATTER OF THE  
 ) ESTATE OF  
 ) JAMES A. DARR, DECEASED. )  
 ) **NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION**  
 ) Notice is hereby given that on  
 ) the 23rd day of September, 2024,  
 ) Samuel Bolinger was appointed  
 ) personal representative of the  
 ) estate of James A. Darr, deceased,  
 ) who died on April 26, 2023.  
 )  
 ) All persons having claims  
 ) against this estate, whether or not  
 ) now due, must file the claim in the  
 ) office of the Clerk of this Court  
 ) within three (3) months from the  
 ) date of this first publication of this  
 ) notice, or within one (9) months  
 ) after the decedent's death, whichever  
 ) is earlier, or the claims will be  
 ) forever barred.  
 )  
 ) Dated at Wells Superior Court,  
 ) Bluffton, Indiana, this 23rd day of  
 ) September, 2024.  
 ) Beth Davis  
 ) Clerk of the Wells Circuit Court  
 ) Tom Blackburn (2761-71)  
 ) BLACKBURN ROMNEY  
 ) 4203 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
 ) Fort Wayne, IN 46804  
 ) (260) 422-4400  
 )  
 ) nb 10/30, 11/6  
 ) hspaxlp

1605 W. Water St., Hartford City. Auction mgr. Al Pfister, 260-760-8922, *Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc.*, [schraderauction.com](http://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.

### Board Appointments for 2025

The Wells County Board of Commissioners and/or the Wells County Council are accepting applications for Board Appointments to:  
Local Alcoholic Beverage Board  
Area Plan Commission Board  
Board of Zoning Appeals  
Cemetery Board  
Community & Family Services  
Health Department Board  
Huntington City/Town Public Library  
Property Tax Board of Appeals  
Regional Sewer District  
Rockcreek Conservancy District  
Tourism Commission

The appointments to these boards vary from annual appointments to 5-year appointments. All appointments are effective on January 1, 2025. Some qualifications may apply for certain boards. If you are interested in serving on any of these boards, please contact the Wells County Auditor's Office at 260-824-6470 for an application. Applications can also be downloaded by going to the Commissioner or County Council page of the County Website at [www.wellscounty.org](http://www.wellscounty.org). Send completed applications to Wells County Auditor, 102 W Market St., Suite 205, Bluffton, IN 46714 or email to [auditor@wellscounty.org](mailto:auditor@wellscounty.org). Applications will be accepted through November 27, 2024.

**Wells County, Indiana** prohibits discrimination and/or the exclusion of individuals from its governmental facilities, programs, activities, and services based on the individual person's race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, low-income status, sexual orientation or limited English proficiency. **Wells County, Indiana** affirms its commitment to providing meaningful opportunities and access to government facilities, programs, activities and services in an effort to comply with all laws including: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended.  
nb 11/

# 'Fat Leonard,' Navy contractor, sentenced to 15 years in prison

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Former military defense contractor Leonard "Fat Leonard" Francis was sentenced Tuesday to 15 years in prison for masterminding a decade-long bribery scheme that swept up dozens of U.S. Navy officers, federal prosecutors said.

U.S. District Judge Janis L. Sammartino also ordered Francis to pay \$20 million in restitution to the Navy and a \$150,000 fine, according to a statement from the U.S. Attorney's Office. He was also ordered to forfeit \$35 million in "ill-gotten proceeds from his crimes," the statement said.

Prosecutors said the sentence resulted from Francis' first guilty plea in 2015 concerning bribery and fraud, his extensive cooperation with the government since then and another guilty plea Tuesday for failing to appear for his original sentencing hearing in 2022.

Shortly before he was due to

be sentenced in September 2022, Francis cut off a GPS monitor he was wearing while under house arrest and fled the country. He was later arrested in Venezuela and brought back to the U.S. in December 2023.

Sammartino sentenced him to more than 13 1/2 years for the bribery and fraud charges, plus 16 months for failing to appear. The sentences are to be served consecutively.

"Leonard Francis lined his pockets with taxpayer dollars while undermining the integrity of U.S. Naval forces," U.S. Attorney Tara McGrath said in Tuesday's statement.

Email and phone messages seeking comment were left Tuesday for William Douglas Sprague, an attorney for Francis.

Sprague, who sought a sentence of just under nine years, argued that his client's cooperation should warrant a lesser sentence, 10 News San Diego reported.

Sprague also said Francis' company provided the Navy with exemplary services for many years.

Prosecutors said Francis' actions led to one of the biggest bribery investigations in U.S. military history, which resulted in the conviction and sentencing of nearly two dozen Navy officials, defense contractors and others on various fraud and corruption charges.

An enigmatic figure who was 6-foot-3 and weighed 350 pounds at one time, Francis owned and operated his family's ship servicing business, Singapore-based Glenn Defense Marine Asia Ltd. or GDMA, which supplied food, water and fuel to vessels. The Malaysian defense contractor was a key contact for U.S. Navy ships at ports across Asia for more than two decades. During that time, Francis wooed naval officers with Kobe beef, expensive cigars, concert tickets and wild sex parties at luxury hotels from Thailand to the

Philippines.

In exchange, officers, including the first active-duty admiral to be convicted of a federal crime, concealed the scheme in which Francis would overcharge for supplying ships or charge for fake services at ports he controlled in Southeast Asia. The officers passed him classified information and even went so far as redirecting military vessels to ports that were lucrative for his Singapore-based ship servicing company.

In a federal sting, Francis was lured to San Diego on false pretenses and arrested at a hotel in September 2013. He pleaded guilty in 2015, admitting that he had offered more than \$500,000 in cash bribes to Navy officials, defense contractors and others. Prosecutors say he bilked the Navy out of at least \$35 million. As part of his plea deal, he cooperated with the investigation leading to the Navy convictions. He faced up to 25 years in prison.

While awaiting sentencing, Francis was hospitalized and treated for renal cancer and other medical issues. After leaving the hospital, he was allowed to stay out of jail at a rental home, on house arrest with a GPS ankle monitor and security guards.

But three weeks before his scheduled sentencing in September 2022, he snipped off his monitor and made a brazen escape, setting off an international search. Officials said he fled to Mexico, made his way to Cuba and eventually got to Venezuela.

He was arrested more than two weeks after his disappearance — caught before he boarded a flight at the Simon Bolivar International Airport outside Caracas. Venezuelan officials said he intended to reach Russia.

The cases were handled by the U.S. Attorney's Office in an effort to be independent of the military justice system. But they have come under scrutiny.

# Bomb threats unfold across multiple swing states on Election Day

WASHINGTON (AP) — A mostly smooth Election Day nationwide was marred in multiple battleground states Tuesday by a series of bomb threats and baseless claims of wrongdoing by former President Donald Trump.

The bomb threats in parts of Arizona, Georgia and Pennsylvania turned out to be hoaxes, but forced evacuations and some polling places to extend hours.

The threats were reported throughout the day at polling locations in three metro Atlanta counties, all with large numbers of Democratic voters, and into the evening at voting locations in Pennsylvania, forcing evacuations. Bomb threats also were reported at three voting locations in Navajo County, Arizona, according to the secretary of state's office.

In an evening news conference, Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro acknowledged there had been multiple bomb threats called in to voting locations across the state, but said thus far there

is "no credible threat" to the public.

"Every legal, eligible vote will be counted and counted accurately, and the will of the people in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania will be respected," said Shapiro, a Democrat.

In a statement, the Pennsylvania State Police said they were working with local partners to respond, if needed. Neither Shapiro nor police gave more details about who might be behind the bomb threats or why Shapiro believed there was no threat to the public.

In Georgia's Fulton County, which includes Atlanta, 32 of 177 polling places received bomb threats and five were briefly evacuated. The FBI on Tuesday afternoon said it was aware of multiple hoax bomb threats to voting locations in several states and said many of them appeared to originate from Russian email domains.

"Georgia's not gonna be intimidated," Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger said Tuesday.

And despite no evidence of widespread voting problems, Trump made unsubstantiated claims related to Philadelphia and Detroit, and raised questions about election operations in Milwaukee, the biggest cities in three states that will be crucial for deciding the presidency.

Local officials quickly knocked down the claims Trump made on his social media platform, saying there were no indications of any problems that would affect accurately tallying the vote.

The absence of any significant, widespread problems had not stopped Trump, the Republican nominee, or the RNC, from making numerous claims of fraud or election interference during the early voting period, a possible prelude to challenges after Election Day.

In Georgia, a federal judge rejected as "frivolous" a last-minute effort by Republicans to challenge Atlanta-area election officials' collection of mail ballots

last weekend — after early voting had ended. U.S. District Judge R. Stan Baker, a Trump appointee, said the GOP argument "does not withstand even the most basic level of statutory review and reading comprehension."

Trump on Tuesday suggested he wouldn't challenge the results of the election — as long as it's fair.

"If it's a fair election, I'd be the first one to acknowledge" the results, Trump said, though what meets that definition wasn't clear.

As Election Day voting neared its end, the former president began making unsubstantiated claims about voting and law enforcement in the biggest cities in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

He said on his social media platform that there was "talk about massive cheating in Philadelphia" and said law enforcement was on the way. He did not provide details, and there was no immediate indication of what he was referring to. His spokespeople

did not respond to requests for comment about what he meant.

Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner issued a statement rejecting Trump's claims as baseless.

"There is no factual basis whatsoever within law enforcement to support this wild allegation," Krasner said. "If Donald J. Trump has any facts to support his wild allegations, we want them now. Right now. We are not holding our breath."

Federal election security officials and Shapiro also said they had seen nothing to support Trump's claims. Officer Miguel Torres of the Philadelphia Police Department said he was unaware of any special law enforcement mobilization or "any kind of incident" that would require it.

One of three Philadelphia election board members, Seth Bluestein, a Republican, said on social media there is "absolutely no truth to this allegation. It is yet another example of disinformation." Voting in the city is

"safe and secure," he said.

Police in Detroit were equally puzzled by another Trump post that said, "Philadelphia and Detroit! Heavy Law Enforcement is there!" Detroit police said there were no reported issues inside or outside of Huntington Place, the massive convention room where election workers were to count ballots.

Evening traffic outside the center was light with no protesters in sight. Barricades were up outside the room and escalators to and from the area were shut off. Police also reported no major problems in the city's more than 400 voting precincts.

Trump's Democratic opponent, Vice President Kamala Harris, has urged voters not to fall for Trump's tactic of casting doubt on elections. She was spending Tuesday afternoon turning out her own vote at a phone bank hosted by the Democratic National Committee, and said phone banking represents "the best of who we are."

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