Page 8

Tigersharks sweep Bruins in swim

Page 6

# Township board, trustee at odds over 2025 budget

By HOLLY GASKILL

Jefferson Township board members have alleged misconduct of the trustee regarding the 2025 budget.

In a meeting Wednesday night, board member Tim Baker reported that the final approved version of the township's budget had not been submitted to the Department of Local Government Finance. Rather, trustee Larry Heckber had submitted an earlier version of the

The version on the DLGF's website includes a fire department budget approved on Oct. 22 with the 2025 fire protection agreement with the town of Ossian. The board then passed a modified budget on Oct. 28.

This modified budget included significant changes to the categorization of line items and the amount budgeted for nearly every line item, which Baker had handwritten in pen over the prior budget. For example, salaries

and wages budgeted at \$40,574 were changed to \$5,000. The total amount budgeted for the fire department remained consistent.

We're still going to spend \$122,000 one way or another," Heckber argued Wednesday.

"Then why'd you change it?" Baker responded, referring to the version to the DLGF.

Baker explained that he had revised the budget because the fire protection agreement had not yet been signed by the town of Ossian, and he wanted to ensure the budget was set up if Jefferson Township had to begin its own fire department. He believed the township could transfer funds as needed once the agreement was approved.

The amended budget had been passed 2-1 by the board with Baker and David Haiflich in favor and AJ Springer against. After this decision, Heckber distributed a letter to residents saying that Baker "did not have the best interest of Jefferson Township in mind."

As he discussed Wednesday, Baker provided paper copies of two emails to The News-Banner. The first was an Oct. 29 email from Baker to DLGF Budget Field Representative George Helton in which Baker took issue with the details of Heckber's letter. Baker claimed these were inaccurate to what the township was trying to do. He also rebutted that "DLGF says to do things a certain way. These are board decisions I feel."

(Continued on Page 2)







Rocking Around the Christmas Tree

Bluffton-Harrison preschoolers hosted their families for a special Christmas program Thursday. At top, the students take a rock and roll spin on classic carols. Above left is Nehemiah Heckman waving to his sister before the performance. Above right, Laxus Musgrove and Kater Evilsizor beam at the applause. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)

# **Bluffton Parks Department** receives \$100K grant for community pool project

By HOLLY GASKILL

The Bluffton Parks Department has received a \$100,000 grant for building a new Wells Community Pool.

Parks Superintendent Brandy Fiechter reported the award from the Wells County Foundation to the park board Thursday evening. Fiechter said she's also answered some follow-up questions to the department's READI 2.0 grant application, which will be a major push toward the project.

She also presented a Design Collaborative conceptual plan to the board members, though the design is highly subject to

The plan incorporates several popular items from a recent community survey, including zero-depth entry and stair entry for accessibility, an eight-lane 25-meter pool, diving platforms, a small lazy river, slides, and a toddler play area. Fiechter hopes to have several recreational elements for teens and older children, like a climbing wall or "aqua-zip." "I think it's got something for everybody," she said.

The plan also includes a pool house area with a party space for daytime rentals and a pump house for easier chemical management. The existing pavilion and playground

# **Braun chooses Gloria Sachdev** as health secretary, Anthony Scott as ISP Superintendent

By WHITNEY DOWNARD

Indiana Capital Chronicie

The president and CEO of a health care organization — and registered lobbyist — has been chosen by the incoming Braun administration as the secretary of health and family services while a captain with three decades of experience

Gloria Sachdev, who leads the Employer's Forum of Indiana, is a familiar face around the Statehouse after years of advocating for health care reform, including bills to increase transparency and lower health care costs. Anthony Scott, a captain and area com-

will lead the Indiana State mander, will succeed Superintendent Doug Carter as the leader of the Indiana State Police.

> Sachdev spearheaded cost transparency studies that ranked Indiana's hospital prices among the most expensive in the nation though the state's hospital lobbying organization ques-

(Continued on Page 2)

# **Hoosier voter** turnout down, but better than before

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ **Indiana Capital Chronicle** 

Fewer Hoosiers turned out to vote in November than they did during the pandemic-era 2020 presidential election, according to Indiana's final numbers — but they bested ballot counts and turnout recorded in the two previous presidential elections.

Almost 3 million Indiana residents voted, or about 61% of those registered with the state.

That's nearly 100,000 fewer Hoosier voices than in 2020, when turnout hit a high of 65% — but better than the 2016

Laura Merrifield Wilson, a political science professor at the University of Indianapolis, called 2020 "an anomaly in many ways" but said it's too soon to know the pandemic's electoral impacts.

"We'll have to have successive presidential elections to be able to confirm whether or not that was a blip in the radar because of genuinely unusual, once-in-a-century experiences," she said.

But, she observed, Indiana — like other states — expanded voter access during the pandemic.

(Continued on Page 8)



**Bobcat Carols** 

On Thursday, Lancaster Elementary School hosted its annual Christmas music program, this year themed around "Christmas At the Movies." (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

#### Local/Area Obituaries.....3

Police Notebook . . .3

Opinion Byron York . . . . . . . 4

Also... Sports. . . . . . . . 6-7 

Diversions . . . . . . . . . 5



Good weather for Frosty the Snowman continues

Today	Saturday	Sunday			
High 28	High 44	High 50			
Low 22	Low 37	Low 38			

More Weather on Page 2

# Follow us on Facebook!

Go to www.facebook.com/ newsbanner

**Place Your Classified** Ads 24/7

Vol. 96 No. 35 FRIDAY **December 13, 2024** 

# CALL US ABOUT ANNUAL OPEN ENROLLMENT!



Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> - Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> **MARKETPLACE MEDICARE Annual Enrollment PROGRAMS** Nov.  $1^{st}$  – Dec.  $15^{th}$ 

TAKING APPOINTMENTS • 101 North Main Street, Bluffton, IN CALL 260-824-1618 OR 820-0896

How to contact us: Call us: **824-0224** or 1-800-579-7476

www.news-banner.com twitter.com/newsbanner



## **Township board**

(Continued from Page 1)

The second email was a response from Helton with the information he stated was previously sent to Heckber and the entire board. All parties were included in this reply.

"Ultimately, the adopted column should reflect the final decision of the fiscal board's approved budget," Helton reiterated in the email, highlighting the information in red. He later added, "Basically, my point is the budget should be set up as approved by the board ... The line items can be adjusted based on spending need — during 2025."

Because these instructions had not been followed, Baker alleged that Heckber had committed a crime. This was repeatedly lobbed at Heckber during Wednesday's meeting where Heckber disagreed with the board's decisions.

For example, Baker pointed out that Haiflich had not co-signed checks since the board's Oct. 6 vote requiring both Heckber and Haiflich's signatures. Heckber initially denied that the board had made that decision, then later said that the Indiana State Board of Accounts had told him that two signatures could not be required. Baker reiterated that this had been requested because Heckber had written checks that were not permitted by the current fire agreement and budget.

"I just don't understand how this board can function when you just do whatever you want," Baker said. "We approve things, we approve budgets, and you turn into the state whatever you

want.'

"I turn in what you signed," Heckber countered. "You talk to Tony Crowell (township attorney). I'm going to see if Tony can come to this next meeting and maybe you'll understand it when he explains it

to you."
On Thursday, Heckber advised that Crowell will be unable to attend the meeting but sent an email explaining the township's legal obligations.

Crowell wrote: "This is a contract between the township and the town. Both parties have signed it, therefore, the agreement is enforceable by either party against the other party. Changes cannot be made to the agreement without the consent of both parties

... If either party wishes to change an exhibit to the agreement, that cannot be done without both party's consent ... If the township (chooses) not to honor the agreement as executed, the town would have a legal cause of action against the township for breach of the agreement."

"I did not submit his numbers because I couldn't," Heckber told The News-Banner. He also stated he had not really done anything different, since the total amount was the same.

Baker told The News-Banner Thursday he had noticed the discrepancy in early November but it was not discussed because there had not been a board meeting since. He said he contact edHelton about the discrepancy, who reportedly said the matter would

be reviewed during a regular audit. Baker said he also requested Heckber's public letter be included in the annual report.

Heckber, meanwhile, claimed Helton had told him that the budget had been approved and there were no issues. "I honestly don't know where he's (Baker's) coming from," Heckber said. "What he wants can't be done. It's a done deal and everything has been done correctly."

When contacted, Helton said he was not permitted to speak to the media. DLGF communications representatives did not immediately respond for comment.

The board will continue their Wednesday meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 17, at the central office for Norwell Community Schools. The continued discussion will include approval of the Oct. 29 minutes, which received multiple edits Wednesday. They will also discuss an encumbrance requested by the fire department for turnout gear.

Baker and Haiflich were vehemently opposed to the encumbrance on the basis that 2024 budgeted funds would not buy equipment used in 2024. Though it was not an additional appropriation, they felt this was inappropriate because Ossian and Jefferson Township had a new agreement for 2025.

Springer stated it was not uncommon for this particular equipment to be purchased at the end of the year as other equipment costs would be unclear earlier in the year. Baker responded that Fire Chief Ben Fen-

stermeister needed to stick to the year-to-year budget regardless. He also questioned whether the town of Ossian had made the same decision.

Springer motioned to approve the encumbrance, which received no second and died.

Baker and Haiflich also declined to approve a series of year-end transfers to cover the shortfall in particular line items. Baker claimed Heckber had not stuck to the budget and was not transparent with the board about his expenditures and the budget. Springer said it was more a matter of communication, and that Baker and Haiflich had not previously made clear how they expected reports to be presented.

The board did, however, unanimously agree to stagger township elections beginning in 2026. Currently, the trustee and all three board positions are voted on every four years.

Baker previously stated he did not plan to run for re-election, but did not want all new elected officials for the township. That issue can be theoretically avoided by staggering elections.

The adopted policy would give a four-year term to the elected board member with the most votes in the November 2026 election while the two other board members would have two-year terms. During the November 2028 election, the candidate with the most votes would get a four-year and the other a two-year term. The trustee will continue to serve a four-year term.

holly@news-banner.com

### Weather

Friday, December 13, 2024
(24-hour observations at 10:38 p.m. Thursday)
High: 20; Low: 9; Precipitation: 0.4 inches of snow
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.31
feet at 9:45 p.m. Thursday

LOCAL/NATION

### Wells County forecast

**Today:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 28. East wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Tonight:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 22. East wind around 10 mph.

**Saturday:** A 20% chance of showers after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 44. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Saturday Night:** Showers. Low around 37.

Southeast wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New precipitation amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

**Sunday:** Showers, mainly before 1 p.m. High near 50. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch pos-

Sunday Night: A 30% chance of showers, mainly after 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 38.

**Monday:** Showers likely, mainly after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 54. Chance of precipitation is 70%

**Monday Night:** Showers likely, mainly before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 34. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

**Tuesday:** A 20% chance of showers before 1 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 43.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around

rtly und

Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 40. Wednesday Night: A slight chance of rain or freezing

rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 28. **Thursday:** A slight chance of showers. Partly sunny,

with a high near 38.

### Sachdev and Scott

(Continued from Page 1)

tioned the methodology of the analysis. Onstage at a transparency conference earlier this year, Sachdev presented Braun with an award honoring his health care efforts on the federal level.

"Dr. Sachdev's proven track record of transforming healthcare delivery and costs makes her the ideal choice to lead Indiana's health initiatives," said Gov.-elect Mike Braun in a release. "Her expertise in pharmacy, healthcare policy, and coalition-building will be invaluable as we work to improve health outcomes for Hoosiers."

Sachdev is a doctor of pharmacy graduate from the University of Oklahoma and was previously a clinical associate professor at Purdue's College of Pharmacy and the Indiana University School of Medicine. Sachdev will oversee the Family and Social Services Administration, the Department of Health, the Department of Child Services and the Department of Veteran Affairs.

"Drawing on my healthcare expertise, I am committed to improving health outcomes and access to care for all Hoosiers," said Sachdev. "Under Governorelect Braun's leadership, we will work tirelessly to ensure that every Indiana resident has the resources and support they need to live healthy, productive lives. I am grateful to Governor-elect Braun for entrusting me with this critical role."

She is one of eight cabinet secretaries Braun has named. It doesn't appear that Sachdev will also serve as an agency head and her position will be an entirely new role in state government. In contrast, Scott will be in an existing role that reports directly to the Governor's Office.

Background on Scott

Scott graduated from the FBI National Academy in 2019 and started his career with the state police in 1996. Previously, he worked as a detective, district investigative commander and lieutenant.

"Captain Scott's extensive experience at every level of the Indiana State Police uniquely qualifies him to lead our state's law enforcement agency," Braun said in a release. "His proven track record of success, commitment to community partnerships, and focus on both public safety and operational efficiency align per-

fectly with our vision for a safer Indiana."

Scott also led security operations for major events and dignitary visits during special events like the Indianapolis 500, the Brickyard 400 and the Indianapolis Grand Prix. He was a member of the command team for the Republican National Conventions in 2016 and 2024.

"I have been honored to serve the Indiana State Police over the past three decades and am humbled to answer Governor-elect Braun's request to lead these dedicated men and women in law enforcement," said Scott. "The Indiana State Police will continue to protect and serve all Hoosiers with a clearly defined mission focused on quality of life and crime prevention while promoting the values of courage, commitment, and character to encourage both personal and professional growth within our ranks."

In an agency head questionnaire shared with the Indiana Capital Chronicle, the Braun transition team questioned applicants about their voting history and whether they've paid taxes, in addition to traditional

questions about employment history. Applicants detailed the business interests of themselves and their family members for the last two decades, including dealings with foreign governments.

The screening document asks whether the applicant ever hired a non-citizen or currently lives with someone of a different nationality. It also includes open-ended questions about whether the applicant has anything in their past that might be embarrassing to the Braun administration.

# **Pool project**

(Continued from Page 1)
will remain.
Additionally, Fiechter

is looking at constructing the new pool with a stainless steel wall and gutter system, which she said is supposed to last a lifetime. "If they have an issue, they just weld it shut again," she explained.

The board was enthusiastic about the conceptual plan and grant and had no further recommendations. Board members Rick McEvoy, John Gerber and Susan Campbell were present Thursday; Christine Zadylak was absent.

ing, the board members unanimously approved the addition of a plaque at Lancaster Park to commemorate the site's history. They also approved a \$42,117 purchase for pool chemicals and accepted a \$700 anonymous donation for Rock Steady Boxing.

Also during the meet-

Fiechter also reported recent event attendance, including 139 participants in the WOOF trail run, 57 at the "tot time" visit to the fire station, and 95 in the Wobble Before You Gobble Thanksgiving Day run.

holly@news-banner.com



for you! Call 824-0224 for more information.

# IRS recovers \$4.7B in back taxes

and Jobs Act.

WASHINGTON (AP) — IRS leadership on Thursday announced that the agency has recovered \$4.7 billion in back taxes and proceeds from a variety of crimes since the nation's tax collector received a massive glut of funding through Democrats' flagship tax, climate and health law in 2022.

The announcement comes under the backdrop of a promised reckoning from Republicans who will hold a majority over both chambers of the next Congress and have long called for rescinding the tens of billions of dollars in funding provided to the agency by Democrats.

IRS leadership, meanwhile, is hoping to justify saving the funding the agency already has.

On a call with reporters to preview the announcement, IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel said improvements made to the agency during his term will help the incoming administration and new Republican majority congress achieve its goals

of administering an extension of the 2017 Tax Cuts

Republicans plan to renew some \$4 trillion in expiring GOP tax cuts, a signature domestic achievement of Trump's first term and an issue that may define his return to the White House.

"We know there are serious discussions about a major tax bill coming out of the next Congress," Werfel said, "and with the improvements we've made since I've been here, I'm quite confident the IRS will be well positioned to deliver on whatever new tax law that Congress passes."

Tax collections announced Thursday include \$1.3 billion from high-income taxpayers who did not pay overdue tax debts, \$2.9 billion related to IRS Criminal Investigation work into crimes like drug trafficking and terrorist financing, and \$475 million in proceeds from criminal and civil cases that came from to whistleblower infor-

mation.

The IRS also announced Thursday that it has collected \$292 million from more than 28,000 high-income non-filers who have not filed taxes since 2017, an increase of \$120 million since September.

Despite its gains, the future of the agency's funding is in limbo.

The IRS originally received an \$80 billion infusion of funds under the Inflation Reduction Act though the 2023 debt ceiling and budget-cuts deal between Republicans and the White House resulted in \$1.4 billion rescinded from the agency and a separate agreement to take \$20 billion from the IRS over the next two years and divert those funds to other nondefense programs.

In November, U.S. Treasury officials called on Congress to unlock \$20 billion in IRS enforcement money that is tied up in legislative language that has effectively rendered the money

#### **OBITUARIES**

#### Cathy Marie Best, 77

Cathy Marie Best, 77, of Englewood, Ohio, and formerly of Markle, passed into the loving arms of her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, at 6:59 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024, at Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton, Ohio.

She was a 1966 graduate of Liberty Center High School as salutatorian. She then graduated from Ivy Tech State College in Fort Wayne with her associate degree in medical assisting,

graduating Suma Cum Laude. She worked for 30 years at Markle Medical Center and also taught at Ivy Tech. She was a member of Northern Hills Christian Church. Formerly was a member of the Markle Church of Christ, before moving to Englewood, Ohio, in November of 2019.

Cathy was born Oct. 31, 1947, in Bluffton, daughter of Cloyd E. and Mariorie G. (Dennis) Grover.

She was united in marriage to Phillip Lund Best, July 18, 1981, at the Markle Church of Christ. They celebrated 43 years of marriage.

Survivors include a son, Brandon (Sarah) Best, of Markle, and a daughter, Lorena (Geoff) Clark of Englewood, Ohio. She has six grandchildren — Emma Best, Mason Best, Grant Clark, Kayla Clark, Lilly Clark and Kyrsten Clark – and two brothers, Darrel Grover of Liberty Center, and Doug Grover of Huntertown, and sister-in-law, Becky Grover of Warren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Cloyd E. and Marjorie G. (Dennis) Grover, and a brother, Dennis

Visitation will be held Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2024, from 4-7 p.m. at Northern Hills Christian Church, 4945 W. National Rd. in Clayton, Ohio, with funeral at 7 p.m. at the church. Memorial donations can be made out to the Northern Hills Christian Church Missions

Second visitation will be Sunday, Dec. 15, 2024, at Markle Church of Christ, 455 E. Morse St. in Markle, from 2-6 p.m. and one hour before service on Monday, Dec. 16, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. with funeral service at 10:30 a.m. at the church.

Memorial donations may be made out to Markle Church of Christ Missions Fund in care of Myers Funeral Home, P.O. Box 403, Markle, IN 46770.

Interment will take place at Markle Cemetery in Mar-

Please visit our website at www.myersfuneralhomes. com and scroll down to obituaries to sign Cathy's online guest book.

#### Roderick Captain, 73

Roderick Allen Captain, 73, of Ossian, passed away on Friday, Dec. 6, 2024.

Rod was a graduate of Bluffton High School class of 1969. He was a Journeyman Machinist, starting his career at Star engineering in Bluffton in the '70s after serving in the National Guard. He retired from his long-time employer Superior Tool in New Haven. Rod took his job very serious hav-



ing many, many years with perfect attendance and many awards for running no scrap parts. He prided himself on his work ethic and attention to detail. Rod would often spend his weekends working overtime usually shifts that nobody wanted to help his

When he did take time off, he enjoyed spending time at the lake during his younger years with family. In his later years he enjoyed his time around the house and spending time with his wife, Evonne. His life centered on her and he was her caregiver before her passing. Even retiring from the job, he cared for to ao so.

Surviving are his sons, Ron (Barbara) and Jeffery Captain; granddaughter, Kimberly (Malcolm) Marshall; great-grandsons, Maverick and Jaxson Marshall; brother, Robert "Bob" (Trudy) Captain; and nieces, Megan, Molly and Mariah.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Evonne (Monnot) Captain; and his parents, Robert and Hulda (Emshwiller) Captain Sr.

There will be a celebration of life in May 2025. Condolences may be left online at www.elzey-patterson-

#### Harold Stuart Crum, 77

Harold Stuart Crum, 77, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2024, at his residence in Roanoke, Indiana following an extended illness.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Goodwin – Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel Bluffton.

#### Philip Leonard, 69

Philip Leonard, 69, passed away Thursday morning, Dec. 12, 2024, Parkview Regional Medical Center in Fort Wayne.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel 3220 East SR 124 Bluffton.



Pictured at the center holding the sign is Rosa Bravo, surrounded by her staff and the Wells County Chamber Ambassadors. (Photo submit-

# **Wells County Chamber honors El Camino** Real as December Member of the Month

The Wells County Chamber of Commerce, along with its staff and Ambassadors, is delighted to recognize El Camino Real as the December Member of the Month. In a heartfelt surprise visit, the Chamber honored the restaurant and its hardworking team for their exceptional contributions to the community. Owner Rosa Bravo, visibly moved by the recognition, expressed her gratitude, calling the honor a significant milestone for the restaurant.

Established in 2002, El Camino Real moved into a larger building in 2007 and has since become a beloved dining destination in Wells County. Rosa Bravo, supported by her dedicated team of 16 employees, has created an inviting space where the community gathers to enjoy authentic and delicious cuisine. Rosa shared that her passion for cooking and her desire to serve others inspired her to embark on this journey, despite the challenges of the restaurant industry.

Operating under her leadership, El Camino Real has earned a reputation for its warm hospitality, consistent service, and memorable dining experiences. The restaurant is open Monday through Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and on Friday and Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Customers are greeted with smiles, impeccable service, and a personal touch that sets the establishment apart.

When asked about her long-term vision, Bravo shared her commitment to maintaining the restaurant's excellent standards and continually improving customer experience. While there are no immediate plans to open additional locations, Bravo's focus remains on ensuring that every visit to El Camino Real feels like a celebration of good food and community con-

Bravo and her team extend their heartfelt thanks to the community for its unwavering support. This recognition is a testament to the relationships they've built and the trust they've earned from their patrons. The Wells County Chamber of Commerce is proud to highlight El Camino Real's outstanding contributions, emphasizing the vital role the restaurant plays in the local community.

To learn more about El Camino Real, call 260-565-3300 or visit them at 2185 Commerce Dr., Bluffton, IN. Stop by during their operating hours and experience firsthand why they have become a cherished part of Wells

Congratulations to Rosa Bravo, and the entire El Camino Real team on this well-deserved honor. Your dedication and hard work have made a lasting impact, and the community celebrates your success alongside you.

# Police Notebook

#### **INCIDENTS**

City:

Wednesday, 4:52 p.m., 500 block of West Central Avenue. Caller reported her house was being worked on when a man showed up claiming he was a Wells County assessor.

Wednesday, 6:31 p.m., Dutch Mill Plaza. Suspicious behavior, just high school students making video for school project.

Thursday, 7:03 a.m., Pretzels. Sideswipe crash, report to follow.

Thursday, 11:10 a.m., Walmart. Parking problem.

County: 2985 S Hoosier Highway, Bluffton. Vehicle hit guard

rail, report filed. Thursday, 1:11 a.m., C.R. 200 N and 450 E, Bluffton. Vehicle broken down in middle of the roadway. Vehicle

towed. Thursday, 5:33 a.m., Lancaster Street and C.R. 100 E, Bluffton. Vehicle stopped with hazards on. Driver was waiting for phone GPS to

Wells County Jail. Report block number.

arrangements.

there is a charge.

coordinate obituary publication.

**Obituary Policy** 

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

If additional information and/or a photo is desired to be included,

Area funeral homes will provide details on the policy and will

or if the deceased does not meet the definitions of a "local" person,

of a road rage incident from Tuesday, suspect had left boot dent and scratches.

Thursday, 8:58 a.m., C.R. 100 N and S.R. 116, Bluffton. Deer permit issued.

Ossian:

Wednesday, 6:18 p.m., Ossian Furniture and Design. Witness reported a vehicle ran another vehicle off the roadway, then hit a dumpster. The witness also stated the vehicle smelled of marijuana and a passenger had a small child on their lap. Vehicle unable to be located.

Wednesday, 8:38 p.m., 5700 N 540 E, Ossian. Resi-Wednesday, 6:08 p.m., dent reported ongoing issue with subjects throwing rocks at property.

Wednesday, 9:25 p.m., Jefferson Street and Morton Lane, Ossian. Vehicle broken down on the side of the road.

Thursday, 12:32 p.m., 3100 E 700 N, Ossian. Woman received phone call and hung up when she realized it was a telemarketer. The telemarketer then sent threatening Thursday, 6:35 a.m., text messages. Advised to

#### **ACCIDENTS** City:

Saturday, 12:28 p.m., Main Street at Wiley Avenue. An officer observed a 2001 Pontiac Grand Prix driven by Juan Chacon, 35, Fort Wayne, traveling southbound on Main Street at approximately 41 in a 30 mph zone. After initiating emergency lights, the vehicle proceeded to hit the brakes and make an abrupt turn toward Wiley Avenue. After making contact with the sidewalk, the vehicle corrected itself and turned back north and hit the accelerator, striking the raised sidewalk

was towed from the scene. Chacon arrested for driving while suspended, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$6,500. Damage exceeded \$2,500.

Monday, 11:41 a.m., 2100 N Main Street. Shannon M. Hayes, 47, Fort Wayne, was driving a 2023 GMC vehicle and hit a concrete post sign. Damage did not exceed

Monday, 2:59 p.m., Bluffton Regional Medical Center. Judith L. Gordon, 66, Bluffton, was driving a 2009 Chevrolet vehicle and backed into a 2022 Nissan Armada drivand making head-on contact en by Ann B. Burns, 66, with a concrete barrier at Bluffton. Damage did not



#### First Reformed Church

301 West Cherry Street 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

#### **FREE**

# In our Fellowship Hall (downstairs): • Hot dogs, chips & water • Children's christmas craft & coloring pages

In our sanctuary:

 Magician Jim Barron at Noon Family photo op with props before & after Mr. Barron's performance!

#### TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

www.news-banner.com or www.facebook.com/newsbanner

### First Presbyterian Church Special Christmas **Concert and Worship Service**

Featuring the A440 Strings from Fort Wayne Philharmonic Sunday, December 15 • Concert at 10 AM • Worship Service at 10:30 AM



The A440 Strings, all members of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, will perform Traditional Christmas music and other seasonal music.

Violinist Kristin Westover • Violinist Pablo Vasquez Violist Debra Graham • Cellist Brian Klickman

First Presbyterian Church in Bluffton is located at 215 E. Dustman Road. Everyone is invited to this special Worship Service!

# WE HELP YOU GET SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE AND MEDICAID READY!



MARKETPLACE ANNUAL ENROLLMENT IS NOV 1<sup>ST</sup> -DEC 15<sup>TH</sup>

The Price Tag is the Same Everywhere Consider Local for Better Service

### MEDICARE ANNUAL ENROLLMENT OCT 15 TO DEC 7 CALL US

WHEN YOU HAVE PROBLEMS AND YOU WILL HAVE PROBLEMS YOU WILL HAVE US TO COUNT ON MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTS - MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS - PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLANS.

Life Insurance - Long Term Care Insurance - Investments - Individual and Small Group Health - Dental - Vision - Hearing - Cancer Insurance

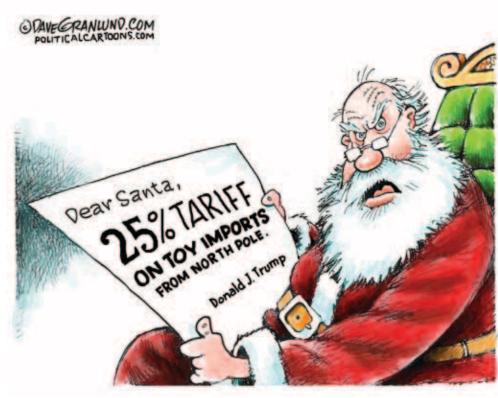
Folks on Medicare A and B and Diabetic can get FREE Nice Looking Diabetic Shoes Every Year from Us We Do FREE Information/ Education Seminars In Your Business (Again Former Teachers)

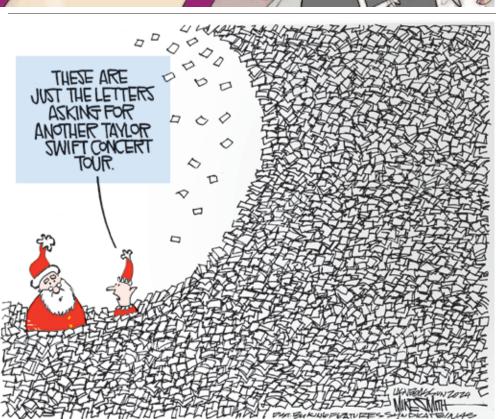
**WE CAN MEET:** IN OUR OFFICE - IN YOUR HOME - IN A FAVORED LOCATION

In the 1882 Building at Main & Market with the mural on the outside wall • 260-824-1618

#### Christmas 2024 Cometh - a look through cartoonists' eyes...









## Other Opinions

### **Food insecurity too** prevalent in America

It is an astonishingly large number: 5.3 billion. That's how many meals were distributed by the nation's largest domestic hunger relief organization, Feeding America, in 2023 alone. In a country of more than 330 million people, it is evidence of how widespread and persistent food insecurity remains in the United States.

Food insecurity is defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as the lack of access to enough food for an active and healthy life. More than 13 percent of Americans — 47 million people — experienced food insecurity in 2023; the rates are even higher in Black and Latino communities. In some of the poorest regions of America, mostly rural areas in the South, food insecurity among children is as high as 48 percent. But it is present in every county in the country.

While lawmakers in local, state and federal government struggle to find long-term solutions, Feeding America, a network of roughly 200 food banks and 60,000 food pantries and meal programs, is filling the void every day for tens of millions of Americans. It is one of the organizations supported by The New York Times Communities Fund.

Feeding America needs help to continue this essential frontline work. The average cost of a single meal may be only \$3.99, but when that is multiplied by the millions of meals required, it adds up to \$33 billion that families need and don't have for groceries. After a temporary boost during the Covid pandemic, food donations and government funding have fallen off sharply, even as the demand remains steady.

Some of that demand is a lingering effect of the inflation that peaked in 2022, but some food costs are still stubbornly high.

Another problem is that nearly half of Americans who are food insecure are unlikely to qualify for federal programs like SNAP because many have incomes that are too high to be eligible. Most families of four that receive SNAP benefits have incomes below \$40,560. Feeding America estimates that that leaves around 20 million people in a no man's land, where they can neither afford sufficient food nor qualify for help to pay for it.

Racial disparities are also striking. Nationwide, roughly one-quarter of Black Americans experience food insecurity, as compared with 10 percent of white non-Hispanic Americans, according to a report by Feeding America. In some parts of the rural American South, roughly two-thirds of Black people are experiencing food insecurity.

Solving this crisis will require a host of policy responses, including expanding SNAP eligibility and the child and earned-income tax credits, improving access to school lunch programs and building more affordable housing, which would ease some of the pressure on family budgets. In the meantime, you can help by donating to Feeding America and similar organizations. No one should go hungry in the richest nation on Earth.

> THE NEW YORK POST Distributed by The Associated Press

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."

# Can the nation wait until Jan. 20?

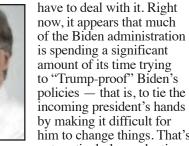
Joe Biden has 42 more days to serve as president of the United States. But anyone watching events in Paris over the weekend would think President-elect Donald Trump has already taken office. The presidentelect traveled to France ostensibly to celebrate the reopening of Notre Dame cathedral, but the visit turned into high-level diplomacy between European leaders — French President Emmanuel Macron and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, among others — and the next U.S.

president. With the war in Ukraine at a critical stage, not to mention the Middle East continuing its meltdown, the event took on enormous significance, with Trump acting as de facto leader of the free world. The real president for the next six weeks, Biden, was back home, rest-

ing up. Trump is quickly assembling an administration. After several weeks of mostly quiet

working, he has been speaking more publicly in recent days about what he will do when he assumes the presidency on Jan. 20. Leaders in Washington and in the world are planning and preparing for that time. Biden seems less and less relevant to the conversation. "Biden has effectively disappeared from the radar," reports Politico. "Within the Democratic Party, on Capitol Hill — and even within his own administration — it feels like he

left the Oval Office weeks ago.' But Biden is still president of the United States, and Trump is not. If an emergency, a crisis, arises, Biden, even in his weakened condition, will



**Byron York** 

him to change things. That's not particularly productive Certainly, most Republicans, and lots of inde-

pendents, and even some Democrats, would prefer if the inauguration came before Jan. 20. But the inauguration date is in the



Constitution, in the 20th Amendment. The amendment was ratified in 1933 to replace the previous inauguration date of March 4, which had been the date since nearly the beginning of the nation but left a long transition period between a presidential election in the first week of November and the inauguration in the first week of March. In 1932, in the crisis of the Great Depression, Congress proposed the date-change amendment. By early 1933, it had been ratified by enough states to become part of the Constitution and take effect after the presidential election of 1936.

So, inauguration day is Jan. 20,

and it can't be changed without amending the Constitution. The arrangement has worked relatively well for 90 years, even though it doesn't seem so great at this particular moment. Should Congress undertake the work of changing inauguration day?

This issue has come up a number of times in recent presidencies. In the 2008 election, the economy was in grave difficulty, and an exhausted President George W. Bush was limping to the end of his second term. There were Democrats who were frustrated by the time it took before the newly elected President Barack Obama could take office. After the

> 2020 election, there were some who wanted Trump out of the White House as quickly as possible. On the other hand, presidents have taken office who clearly could have used more time to get ready, such as after the time-consuming Florida recount in the 2000 presidential election.

Now, we're in an obviously unusual situation that, with any luck, is unlikely to be replicated soon. For one thing. President Biden, at 82 years old, is no longer mentally

and physically up to the job of being a full-time president. For another, Trump has been president before and is running a far smoother transition than he did the first time around, in 2016-2017. In other words, Biden is ready to go, and Trump is ready to replace him. The circumstances are right for a shorter transition. But that will not always be the case. Without an overwhelming crisis, like the situation in 1932-1933, it seems unlikely there will be enough political will to make a change, so Jan. 20 it is.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner. byork@washingtonexaminer.com.

# **Today in History**

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Dec. 13, the 348th day of 2024. There are 18 days left in the year.

Today in history: On Dec. 13, 2003, Saddam Hussein was captured by U.S. forces while hiding in a hole under a farmhouse in Adwar, Iraq, near his hometown of Tikrit. Also on this date:

In 1862, Union forces led by Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside launched futile attacks against entrenched Confederate soldiers during the Civil War Battle of Fredericksburg; the soundly defeated Northern troops withdrew two days later.

In 1996, the U.N. Security Council chose Kofi Annan of Ghana to become the world body's seventh secretary-

## The News-Banner

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

#### **News-Banner Publications, Inc.**

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

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

> Holly Gaskill, Editor Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor

### Should I tell my best friend her family's lifelong secret?

Dear Annie: I've been best friends for over 50 years now with a girl I was neighbors with growing up. When I was about 12, I remember coming home from her house upset over the way her dad had treated her. He was always very cold and abrupt, and he treated her as less than he did her older sister.

I confided in my parents about this, and they sort of brushed it off. My parents, thinking I had left the room and was out of earshot, started discussing this and I overheard my dad say that it was probably because this man wasn't my friend's real dad. To their shock, I immediately came back into the room and asked what that meant. They tried to backpedal, but I knew what I heard and wanted an explanation. They sat me down and told me that he was not her biological father. They did not give me details as I was only 12, but they did make me promise to never say a word. I have kept that promise for 40 years, even after both her parents passed away.

Now recently, she has informed me of her interest in her family tree and about wanting to have her ancestry done through one of those DNA places. I am now beside myself with guilt! I'm so afraid she's going to discover the truth. On one hand, maybe it would explain her dad's behavior toward her, but on the other hand, how would I react to her telling me if she finds out? Would I admit that I have always known or just act like it's news to me as well? Should I just go ahead and tell her what I know? I certainly don't want to lie to such an important person in my life, but I'm at a loss as to what the right thing to do is. Since becoming an adult, I've spoken to my parents about it, who have explained how this all happened 54 years ago. I have all the information now, but what do I do with it? — Struggling

Dear Struggling: As a child, you were tasked with an impossible choice: Either betray your parents' trust or your best friend's. Over 50 years later, you're in the same lose-lose situation.

Honesty is usually the best policy - but in this case, it will only hurt her more and potentially demolish your

**Dear Annie** by Annie Lane



roots and sounds like she's ready to accept whatever information lies in store. As difficult as it is to continue this charade, your friend will be even more heartbroken if she finds out both her family and her best friend have been lying to her all these years. Be prepared to support her through learning

friendship forever.

Ultimately, the

truth about your

friend's father was

not yours to share

with her. For

whatever reason,

she is now curious

about her family's

the truth. She's going to need it. Dear Annie: The stressed senior who didn't know what to major in should consider going to a local junior college for two years. One of my daughters didn't know what she wanted to do and it was a good choice for her. She did not have to declare a major and just started taking gen ed classes. Because of the low price, she could try out extra things.

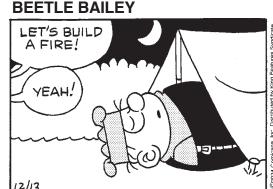
She also lived at home and found a good job so was able to save up money. One of the reasons for huge student debt is that people change their major a lot. If they get an associate degree and transfer it to a university, it counts as your first two years.

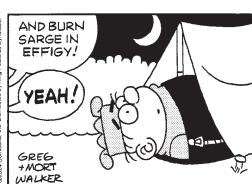
I have also heard of kids who go to vocational school to learn a skill like welding. They find jobs immediately and some do sophisticated sculpture in their spare time! Do not discount community colleges! The skills they teach are trending strongly, and cost far less than college. — Other Options

Dear Other Options: A number of you wrote in with advice for "Stressed" with practical alternatives to a traditional four-year college. Things like vocational school or junior college are fantastic options for those who want to learn a trade, save money or simply take a little extra time to figure out their path for-

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

© 2024 CREATORS.COM





**BLONDIE** 





**ZITS** 





#### **CRANKSHAFT**





**ACROSS** 

1 Relted

area

12 Host

**14** URL

**15** Bar

15

21

38

47

52

55

\*\*\* Beau Is Afraid (2023, Horror) Patti LuPone, Amy Ryan, Joa

18

23

30

48

53

56

26

35

22

39 40

9 '60s chic

13 Nest egg

letters

ender

mishap

groups

16 Social

6 Ship's sail 44 "Super-



### **My** Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham

Question: I am part of a televised Bible study and there are many things I question. Since I'm not a Bible scholar, I often defer to the one "teaching" the Bible. But often the instructors don't back up their claims with Scripture. Isn't that the purpose of a Bible study? Specifically here at Christmastime, there is a discussion on how one sibling can be so giving and the other self-absorbed, blaming others for their selfishness; yet both grew up with the same parents and training. How can this be? - G.S.

Answer: Culture has

375 859 327 553 

★★★ The Stepford Wives ('04)

Matthew Broderick, Nicole Kidma

# People do wrong when they should do right

developed a victim mentality that allows people to fall prey to casting blame on

someone else or something else. We must get this fact firmly fixed in our minds. People do wrong when they should do right. Why? Because of sin.

God has given us the power of choice – to reject His salvation or to receive His salvation and become a new person in Christ. Some people do not wish to accept the responsibility for their actions. They blame society or circumstances. But Adam sinned in a perfect environment under perfect circumstances. We must accept the blame ourselves for our sin. While a good environment

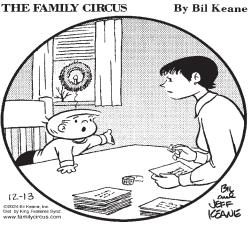
can be a positive influence, each person is responsible for what they ultimately believe about God, sin, and salvation. Each person has the freedom to look into God's Word and read it, hear it, receive it, and live by faith in Him.

If we want our faith to grow, we must let the Bible begin to saturate our minds and souls, and the Holy Spirit will enlighten [and teach us] the truth of His Word.

(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Gra-

ham.) ©2024 Billy Graham Literary Trust. Distributed by Tribune Content Agen-

cy, LLC.



"Don't put stamps on the neighbors' cards. I'll deliver them for fifty cents apiece!"

"DO YOU EVER SAY NO TO THE DRESS?"

1 Direct

Craven

booster

spikes

4 Actress

Ward

public

6 Mexican

vam

7 Eye

5 Goes

2 Sound

3 Frozen

tianich

plaint

hookups

21 Goat's

**22** ICU

24 Corral

28 Trifled

**30** "No

33 Sine

**36** Con-

38 Entire

qua **34** Hog

haven

cludes

range

openings

histories

ton player

39 Eyelike

40 Peoples'

42 Edmon-

45 Goose

egg

**48** "Bad"

46 Suffix for

billion

choles-

terol

(with)

seats'

32 Prophets

26 - acid

**CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer** 

41 Author DOWN

Tolstoy

43 Whatever

food'

berry

from

47 Body-

**49** Pale

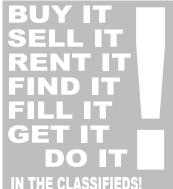
above?

builder's

pride

purple

45 Signs



Place Your Ad 24/7/365! www.news-banner.com

BUY IT
SELL IT
RENT IT
FIND IT
FILL IT
GET IT
DO IT
IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!
DI V A I 04/7/00/

18 Opera 52 Last part 8 Soap (Abbr.) legend Maria 53 Dad on unit 20 Source "Black-9 Honey-**21** Wire ish' dew, e.g. 54 Upright 10 Ancient measure 55 McCourt **23** — card theater (cell **11** Like memoir 56 phone Alamos insert) 24 Lincoln's **57** Takes coin five unit 25 With (Fr.) **27** Saw 29 Home of St. Francis 31 Pizza RIAL topping 35 "Fast Car" singer

many attics 17 College Solution time: 25 mins. WORLDS NEW NNOYERS SLID Chapman CLO **37** Jog OAK AMA 38 Skydiver's LAY camera Yes

U	U				IVI						EΛ		omo
U	D	S		N	_	M		Н			50	UU S	ome-
S		A	J	Α		В	E	E	—			thing	1
T		R	A	N		A	С	R	_		51	Dol.	
S		Α	В	U		S	K	Е	W			ract	ions
st	er	da	y's	Sé	ans	W	er	1	2-1	3			
_			_	_		_	_					T	1
		9	3	- [	7	١	8				9	10	11
		H		+		4					4.4	₩	$\vdash$
			13								14		
ı		ı	16	+		┪			17		$\vdash$	$\vdash$	
									''				
1	9	T		T		٦			20				
Ļ		4		4		╛						$oxed{oxed}$	Ш
l		1					24						
	7	+		4	00	4			<u> </u>				
4	27				28								
Τ					31	٦					32	33	34
╀			36			$\dashv$			37	_	_	┢	
l		ľ	30			1			31				
		4	41	Ī		٦	42				43		
1	5	4		+		$\dashv$			46		<u> </u>		
4	Ю								46				
T		T		١			49					50	51
╀		4		4			= :		<u> </u>		_	₩	$\vdash$
							54						
T		Ť		1			57						П
L		$\perp$											

News at 6 CBS News S.W.A.T. "Left of Boom (:35) The Late Show :35) After News (N) Wheel of Jeopardy! Fire Country "Promise Blue Bloods "End or 15 Edition (N) (N) Fortune (N) (N) With Stephen Colbert 15.2 106 20 WANE-2 20/20 Unforgettable true crime n newsmaker interviews and invest ABC21 (N) ABC21 (N) ABC World ABC21 ABC21 News at 5 (N) Nightline 25 Words News (N) NBC News Dateline NBC Compelling mysteries, powerful News (N) (:35) Tonight Show (N) Family Family Lopez vs 35) Seth 21.2 WPTA-2 21.3 10 9 56 34 Bob Hearts Abishola Bob Hearts 8 4 33 33 The Steve Wilkos Show TMZ Live (N) Bob Hearts Bob Hearts Children TMZ (N) True Crim TMZ (N) True Crim Chicago Abishola Ruin (N) Nation (N) P.D. 13 5 39 39 In Their Own Words BBC News Washing-ton Wk (N) Hoover (N) TV Variety Showstoppers! Great Women of PBS News Hour (N Washin Firing-39 WFWA Company (N) gton Wk Washing-ton Wk (N) Hoover (N) Street Art Boy" In Their Own Words The Day PBS News Hour (N) Violent Femmes: 40th Washin-Anniversary With (N) WFFT Fox News at 6 55 6 6 55 55 WFFT Fox News at 5 To Be Announced College Basketball Indiana at Nebraska From To Be Announced Neighbor WFFT Pinnacle Bank Arena in Lincoln, Neb. (L) (N) CABLE CHANNELS 23 113 108 252 (4:00) \* A Very Vintage Christmas 24 132 136 148 (4:00) ♥ Jingle All the Way ♥★★ Dr. Seuss' The Grinch ★★★ Home Alone ('90) Joe Pesci, Macaulay Culkin. Andy Griffith Andy Griffith 106 304 Andy Griffith Andy Griffith The Office | The O 26 142 114 236 (4:30) ♥★★ Eight Crazy The Office The Office Nights (P) E! ellowstone "All for Nothin 241 241 Yellowstone Back to Cali" PARMT 31 50 140 206 Around (N) Pardon (L) SportsCenter Finalists (L) Herbies (L) To Be Ar | College Football FCS Division | Championship, Quarterfinal: Teams TBA All | SportsCenter (L) (N) | the action from NCAA college football. (L) (N) inced (N) ESPN on from NCAA coll 32 54 143 209 NFL Live (N) ESPN BET Live Volleyball Women's College Volleyball unced (N) UFC Live ESPN2 Women's College Volleyball To Be Ann 418 671 (4:00) Foul Territory All Blacks United Fight Alliance The Card FIBA Sports
Life Kansas Basketball Stars United Fight Alliance FIBA Sports
Basketball Stars 34 133 105 242 Chicago Fire "Seeing Is Believing" F\*★★ London Has Fallen (2016, Action) Aaron SmackDown Superstars of World Wrestling \*\*★★ Jason Bourne (2016, Action) Tommy Lee Jones, Alicia Eckhart, Morgan Freeman, Gerard Butler.

Gold Rush "The Gold Rush "C USA ntertainment display their skills as rivalries play out in t.. Vikander, Matt Damor 35 72 182 278 Gold Rush "Quicksa (:05) Last W. "Stranded' (N) DISC earing Pay Layer" 36 73 183 280 1000-lb Sisters 90 Day "More to Love: The Call of the Wild" (N) 90 Day (N) Last Resort Last Resort 90 Day Fiancé 90 Day 90 Day Fiancé 38 77 120 269 Aliens "The Mystery of Skinwalker Ranch" UnBelievable "Unusual The UnBelievable With HIST Dan Aykroyd (N) housand Ways to Die ·05) First 48: Tracking First 48 "Murder Rap" The First 48 39 134 118 265 The First 48 First 48: Tracking (N) Cold Case Files (N) Killer Cases (N (:05) The First 48 ♥ Sugarplummed (2024, Drama) Janel Parrish, Maggie Lawson. \* Hanukkah on the Rocks (Drama) Daren Kagasoff, Marc Summers, Stacey Farber. (P) Leah's Perfect Gift (Drama) Evan Roderick Barbara Niven, Emily Arlook. 40 117 185 312 (4:00) \* Picture a Perfect Christma The Nine Lives of HALL 41 135 122 244 (4:45) \*\*\* XXX (2002, Action) Asia Argento, Marton Csokas, Vin Diesel. \*\*\* Transformers (2007, Action) Tyrese Gibson, Josh Duhamel, Shia \*\*\* Battle: Los Angeles (2011, Sci-Fi) Michelle Rodriguez SYFY 43 130 139 247 Big Bang Big Ba Rampage Ep. 178 - 
Rampage 12/13/2024 (N) Willem Dafoe, Jason Momoa. TNT 131 254 (4:30) ★ (4:45) (15) (3.45) ★ The Year Withou Claus (\*06) John Goodman \*\*\* Fred Claus (2007, Comedy) Paul Giamatti, Miranda AMC 107 249 The Office The Family Guy Family Guy Family Guy Family Guy Family Guy COM 64 150 219 Speak Joy Taylor, Keyshawn Johnson and Paul Pierce discuss the biggest sports topics of the day. College Basketball Indiana at Nebraska Pokerstars Big Game NFL Films The American Rodeo The American Rodeo Pokerstars Big Gar on Tour on Tour Dan Abrams Live (L) (N) Banfield (L) (N) 307 Vargas Report (L) (N) The Hill (L) (N) WGN | 128 | 260 | (4:30) 9-1-1 | 9-1-1 "Alone Together" | Love After "Love Is Sacrifice" | 110 | 231 | Diners | Din Love After Lockup Love After "Love Is Sacrifice Love After Lockup "High Risk Lies" Love After Lockup FOOD 59 153 110 231 Diners Diners (N) Diners Diners Diners Charm "Raising Cane 60 140 129 237 Southern Charm Southern Charm 🌣★★★★ It's a Wonderful Life ('46) Donna Re ♥★★★★ It's a Wonderful Life Ja 170 299 (4:30) \$\text{Movie} NICK ♥ Movie Friends Friends Friends Friends Friends 70 32 180 311 Constant Processing \*\*★ Home Alone 2: Lost in New York ·05) Place Place The 700 Club FREEFORM Grinch Stole Christmas Jim Carrey Once Upo 300 501 (:10) Dune: Prophecy 310 515 (4:40) \*\*\* Austenland (20) \*\*\* Demolition (2015, Comedy Drama) Naomi Watts, Chris Cooper, Jake Gyllenhaal. (:05) Y Cut Bank ('14) Teresa Palmer. F\*★★★ A Most Wanted Man ('14) Rachel (:35) \*\*★★ RoboCop ('14) Gary MAX Naomi Watts, Chris Cooper, Jake Gyllenhaal.

Dexter "Seeing Red" Dexter "Truth Be \\ \Document\ \Docume 351 851 318 545 Dexter "Father Knows Best" PARSHO King, Harry Crosby, Betsy Palmer, (P)

\ ★★ The Last Voyage of the Demeter ('23, Hor Aisling Franciosi, Javier Botet, Corey Hawkins.

# Tigersharks swim past Bruins, keep goals ahead

Tigersharks' Adelynn Fiechter hits the bot-

tom of the diving board during a dive against

By RYAN WALKER

It was business as usual for Bluffton's swim teams Thursday night.

The Tigershark boys and girls hosted and swept Blackford, and both teams have already gotten used to this feel-

The boys' 135-43 victory improved them to 5-0 on the season, and remain perfect dating back to last year. The girls, who have struggled with roster numbers in recent years, won 108-70. They took home their fourth straight win and enjoy a 4-2 record.

The margin of victory hasn't let the coaches and swimmers shy away from the bigger picture. The girls' team is starting to reap the

benefits of their hard work to fight off lower roster numbers. Blackford was no different, it had more swimmers in the pool and more opportunities for points, but the result was. Bluffton winning every single event but one.

the Bruins.

"I'm super proud of tonight because they had more girls than we did," girls' coach Hunter Cunningham said. "And that's been a problem that we've fought over the past few years. Going against a team with bigger numbers, I hesitate, but we took the top two-three places in almost every event. It's just rewarding for the girls. They're finally seeing that their hard work is going into the meets.

Cunningham said she has got a very competitive group this year. The results are showing it — and it's coming from everyone, whether it's freshmen or seniors.

Ellie Coyne took all four of her events into first-place finishes. Kierstynn Reed won a solo event and two relays. Tess Frauhiger also won a solo event and two relays.

Perhaps the most underrated part of the team is that the Tigersharks finally have a diver on the squad. The void hasn't been filled for a long time, and the opposition has been able to clean-sweep the points away. But Adelynn Fiechter has stepped up to the plate, or, onto the diving board, and has delivered.

Not only has Fiechter been helping the Tigersharks in that event, but she's been an excellent addition to other events. She's won her diving events on a nightly basis so far while also contributing as a multi-event swimmer to plug in when needed.

"It's very refreshing," Cunningham said. "Not only is she a really good diver, but she's a really good swimmer too. I can throw her in those odd positions so if I need extra points, I'm counting on her to do that."

"I go into every meet counting on her to win and give us those six points because she's that talented and she has that outside shot of moving past sectionals to regionals," Cunningham continued.

Cunningham gives a lot of credit to diving coach Tanner Lesh, who has helped improve the boys' divers as well. She said that Fiechter has been working at practice and behind the scenes, watching online videos of new dives and trying them out to get better.

The reigning sectional champion boys are still just as laser-focused as they were last year. No matter the practice, whether it's an easier meet or a tougher meet, the intensity is still the same.

The team had an idea that the Bruins weren't going to be able to compete Thursday night, but in swimming, it's all about

Warriors in middle school

each to lead the team, followed by Benji

Lukins and Griffin Bailey (8), Landon Clark

On Wednesday, the boys' basketball

The seventh grade team won 43-31.

Blake Fuess led the team with 22 points, fol-

lowed by Oakley Bryant (8), Weston Harris

(7), Wes Dafford (3). Nolan Hitzfield (2)

On Thursday, the Knight girls split with

In the eighth grade game, the Knights

fell 31-27. Ally Graft led the way with eight

points, followed by Avery Thornton (6),

Kynnlei Beste (4), Rilynn Hoopingarner (6),

Krumma led the way with 10 points, fol-

lowed by Camryn McCartney (8), Paizley

Price (4), Annabelle Gill, Ada Campbell and

Raiders top Patriots in

middle school basketball

in middle school girls' basketball Thursday

Southern Wells defeated Heritage 48-22

Rylie Van't Hof (2) and Mercy Meyer (1).

The seventh grade team won 29-17. Piper

Stella Tumbleson (2) and Leah Randol (1).

(4), Hunter Kurtz (3) and Reid Bolyn (1).

teams swept Crestview.

and Jace Reinhard (1).

night.

night.

Norwell's middle school basketball

timing — not who you're facing. Every time a swimmer hits the water, there's an opportunity to get

"It's really hard to lose focus, which is our word for the year," coach Justin Upgraft said. "Our end goal is in a couple of months, it's not tonight. But tonight is a big piece of how we get there, so to overlook this. I know it's easy to maybe overlook this meet."

Upgraft lost three important seniors to the sectional championship team last year, leaving several spots to fill in his pool. He has a strong group of returners, but even

in meet No. 4, the head coach was flipflopping swimmers in different positions. He said that only two events were similar to what he's put out in previous meets.

Regardless of where he puts them, his team is now more aware of what they need to do in order to repeat last season. Upgraft said that he's feeding them the times from last year's sectional champions sectional and using that as a goal.

"I really like how we're competing against each other," Upgraft said. "They're competing in practice — I'm giving them more information, more data about where they stack up. Not so much with the team, but the sectional standings last year. Guys are really conscious about it and refer back to that.'

Bluffton's next meet will host Elwood next at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17.

ryan@news-banner.com

#### **Individual winners:**

- Lincoln Rodgers, Noah Brooks, Isaac Wheeler and Braden Lemler in the 200meter medley relay.
  - Rhett Gerber in the 200-meter freestyle. • Lemler in the 200-meter IM.
- · Wheeler in the 50-meter freestyle and in the 100-meter butterfly.
  - Graham Linderwell in the 100-meter
  - Brooks in the 400-meter freestyle. Brooks, Jacob Ribich, Aiden Miller and
- Athan King in the 200-meter freestyle relay.
- Rodgers in the 100-meter backstroke. Anthony Hartman in the 100-meter
- breaststroke. Wes Frettinger, Brooks, Silas Troyer and Jackson Meyer in the 400-meter free-

#### Girls

- Adelynn Fiechter in the diving events.
- Tess Frauhiger, Ellie Coyne, Libby Arnett and Kierstynn Reed in the 200-meter
- Eden Gerber in the 200-meter freestyle. • Ellie Coyne in the 200-meter IM and in the 100-meter butterfly.
- Kiertynn Reed in the 50-meter freestyle.
- Chloe Bredemeyer in the 100-meter freestyle.
- Frauhiger in the 400-meter freestyle. · Bredemeyer, Frauhiger, Reed and
- Coyne in the 200-meter freestyle relay. • Libby Arnett in the 100-meter breast-
- Bredemeyer, Gerber, Arnett and Emily Hansen in the 400-meter freestyle relay.

**Sports Roundup** Knights take 3/4 in hoops vs. points, followed by Kyan Johnson and Leighann Carpenter (12), Amelia Penrod (5), Brooklyn Blinn and Gabby Hoffacker

#### teams went 3-1 Wednesday and Thursday The eighth grade team won 50-39. Titus Jacob and Miles Daughtery scored 13 points

through eighth grade basketball league at the Bluffton City Gym.

• National Oil 64, Optimist/Cleaners 57

Chase Kistler led National Oil with 36 points, while Vince Lambert added 16. Maddox White led Optimist with 32 points, Riker Beste five.

EP Graphics/Peyton's Northern 39.

Miles Daughtery led the Moose 242 squad with 16 points, Landon Clark 11. Wyatt Holmes led EP Graphics with 27 points, Parker Cristal six.

- Griffin Bailey led S&Y with 15 points, Jace Reinhard 12. Davin Drayer led Parlor City with 14, Kreigh Ault and Jaydon Heindel six.

#### Tigers go 1-3 in middle school 'basketball to Patriots

Bluffton-Harrison Middle School went 1-3 against Jay County Thursday night.

The eighth grade boys' team won 43-36 and improved to 8-1, 4-0 in the ACAC. (Continued on Page 7)



Bluffton's Isaac Wheeler heads for the turn during the 100-meter butterfly event at home against Blackford Thursday night. He won the event, helping the Tigersharks to a 135-43 victory over the Bruins. (Photos by Ryan Walker)



Bluffton's Ellie Coyne emerges from the water during the 100-meter breaststroke. She won this event amoung her three others to help her team come away with a 108-70 win over the Bruins.

# **High School Calenda**

FRIDAY, DEC 13

BOYS BASKETBALL: Bluffton at Lakeland Christian, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Woodlan at Bluffton, 7:30 p.m.; Columbia City at Norwell, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Heritage, 7 p.m.

WRESTLING: Norwell at Northeast 8 Conference Duals at Columbia City, 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC 14 BOYS BASKETBALL: Elwood at Bluffton,

1:30 p.m.; Norwell at Blackhawk Christian,

SWIMMING & DIVING (co-ed): Norwell boys invitational, 9 a.m. WRESTLING: ACAC Team Duals at Adams

Central, 9 a.m.; Norwell at Northeast 8 Conference Duals at Columbia City 9 a.m.

**MONDAY, DEC 16** No events scheduled

**TUESDAY, DEC 17** 

BOYS BASKETBALL: Southern Wells at Northfield, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Bluffton at Southwood, 7:45 p.m.; Norwell at Woodlan, 7:30 p.m.



## SHR closure leads to a seat shakeup in NASCAR

By JENNA FRYER **APAuto Racing Writer** 

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — There won't be a Stewart-Haas Racing in NASCAR next season now that Hall of Famer Tony Stewart has left the series and the four-car organization he co-owned with Formula 1 team owner Gene Haas.

There also won't be a JTG Daugherty Racing team, but that's merely a rebrand under new ownership of the one-car organization that won Talladega in 2024 with Ricky Stenhouse Jr. There was no driver change for the No. 47 Chevrolet under what is now known as Hyak Motorsports.

But SHR? Well, that put four drivers on the free-agent market and the future of three of its vaunted charters in limbo. The team will now be called Haas Factory — closer to what Haas F1 is known as — and Cole Custer returns from the Xfinity Series to NASCAR's top level to drive the

The existing SHR drivers have taken seats all across the

Chase Briscoe, the only SHR driver to win a Cup race in 2024 and make the playoffs, probably had the softest landing. He was snapped up by Joe Gibbs Racing when Martin Truex Jr. decided to scale back to part-time racing in 2025. Josh Berry will replace Harrison Burton at Wood Broth-

ers Racing in a move that both keeps him in a Ford but also Team Penske equipment. Penske drivers have won the last three Cup championships.

Noah Gragson is slated to move to Front Row Motorsports, but that team joined 23XI Racing in refusing to sign NASCAR's final offer on charters and now is embroiled in an antitrust lawsuit against the sanctioning body. Front Row and 23XI are both hoping to expand to three cars in 2025 - but their current charters expire at the end of this month and, unless an agreement is reached, the teams will have to compete as "open" cars with no guarantee of a spot in the field or other protections.

Further, to expand, both teams planned purchases of a charter each from SHR. NASCAR says there is no deal for charters on the table for 23XI and Front Row, and any transfer from SHR will not be honored. Ryan Preece was the final SHR driver to land a seat.

He'll move to RFK Racing, which will grow from two cars to three for next season. RFK did not buy one of the SHR charters and instead will lease one in 2025 from Rick Ware In other driver moves for 2025, Kaulig Racing will have

another lineup as it again moves AJ Allmendinger up from the Xfinity Series and has hired Ty Dillon to replace Daniel Hemric. Michael McDowell left Front Row for Spire Motors-

ports, which also brought back Justin Haley, the only driver

to win a Cup race in Spire's short history.



(260) 724-2276 1421 Manchester St., Decatui 1/2 block west of U.S. 27 North www.icav.us

**PRECISION** 

Family, Farm and Fleet Vehicle Repair FLEET ACCOUNTS AVAILABLE 0520 S. Decker Dr.

**Bluffton** "The Quality Service 260-824-9149

Bluffton Tire Inc 1308 S. Main St.

Discontinued **Closeout Tires** 1-260-824-0418

CAPAR DELIVER Chevrolet, Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, RAM FORMALY HIDAY AUTOMOTIVE

NEW NAME, **SAME GREAT SERVICE!** 

Chrysler, Dodge Jeep, RAM 260-824-1931 Chevrolet 260-824-0900

WWW.FREEDOMCHEVROLETBLUFFTON.COM FREEDOMCHRYSLERDODGEJEEPRAMBLUFFTO

The win puts the Raiders with a 7-2 record and 3-0 in the ACAC. Annalyse Roe led the Raiders with 15 There was no seventh grade game. Bluffton City Gym begins

youth basketball league Saturday kicked off the boys' fifth

Below are the results of each of the games:

(double OT).

• Moose 242, Farm Bureau Insurance 44,

• S&Y Huggins 42, Parlor City Trophys

# **News-Banner Scoreboard**

#### **FOOTBALL**

**NFL** 

**AMERICAN CONFERENCE** 

	W	L	Т	Pct PF PA						
y-Buffalo	10	3	0	.769 397 268						
Miami	6	7	0	.462 264 292						
e-N.Y. Jets		10	0	.231 251 300						
eNew Engla	and3	310	0	.231 221 307						
South										
	W	L	Т	Pct PF PA						
Houston	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b> 5	<b>T</b>	Pct PF PA .615 308 288						
Houston Indianapolis	8		•							
	8 s 6	7	Ö	.615 308 288						
Indianapolis	8 s 6 rille3	7	0	.615 308 288 .462 267 298						

Pct PF PA 10 3 8 5 .769 323 238 .615 383 318 Pittsburgh Baltimore Cincinnati 5 8 e-Cleveland 3 10 .385 362 360 .231 232 335 West

y-Kansas City121 0 Denver 8 5 0 L.A. Chargers8 5 0 923 308 252 .615 305 234 .615 277 207 e-Las Vegas 2 11 0 .154 236 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East
W L T
x-Philadelphia112 0
Washington 8 5 0 .846 342 234 .615 376 296 Dallas 5 8 0 .385 268 366 e-N.Y. Giants2 11 0 .154 194 293

W L
Tampa Bay 7 6 South Pct PF PA .538 363 309 .462 278 333 .385 290 292 .231 233 388 6 7 0 s5 8 0 3 10 0 New Orleans5 Carolina North

x-Detroit 12 1 0
Minnesota 11 2 0
Green Bay 9 4 0
Chicago 4 0 Pct PF PA .923 417 234 .846 339 240 .692 349 274 .308 254 278 West W L T 8 5 0 Pct PF PA Seattle .615 302 283

L.A. Rams .571 310 338 .462 284 289 Arizona San Francisco6 8 0 .429 e-Eliminated from playoffs .429 314 320 x-clinched playoff spot y-clinched division Thursday's Games

Detroit 34, Green Bay 31 Sunday's Games Jacksonville 10, Tennessee 6 Miami 32, N.Y. Jets 26, OT Minnesota 42. Atlanta 21 New Orleans 14, N.Y. Giants 11 Philadelphia 22. Carolina 16 Prittsburgh 27, Cleveland 14
Tampa Bay 28, Las Vegas 13
Seattle 30, Arizona 18
L.A. Rams 44, Buffalo 42

San Francisco 38, Chicago 13

Kansas City 19, L.A. Chargers 17

Open: Baltimore. Denver. Houston Indianapolis, New England, Wash-

Monday's Games Cincinnati 27, Dallas 20 Thursday, Dec. 12
Thursday Night Football: L.A. Rams 12 San Francisco 6

Sunday, Dec. 15
Baltimore at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m. Cincinnati at Tennessee, 1 p.m. Dallas at Carolina, 1 p.m. Kansas City at Cleveland, 1 p.m. Miami at Houston, 1 p.m. N.Y. Jets at Jacksonville, 1 p.m. Washington at New Orleans, 1 p.m. Buffalo at Detroit, 4:25 p.m. Indianapolis at Denver, 4:25 p.m. New England at Arizona, 4:25 p.m. Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 4:25 p.m.

Tampa Bay at L.A. Chargers, 4:25 Sunday Night Football: Green Bay at Monday, Dec. 16

Monday, Dec. 16 Monday Night Football: Chicago at Minnesota, 8 p.m. Monday Night Football: Atlanta at Las Vegas, 8:30 p.m.

#### College

College Football Playoff First Round
No. 10 Indiana vs. No. 7 Notre Dame, 8 p.m., (ABC/ESPN)
Dec. 21
College Football Di College Football Playoff
First Round
No. 11 SMU vs. No. 6 Penn St.,

Noon (TNT/Max) No. 12 Clemson vs. No. 5 Texas, 4 p.m. (TNT/Max) No. 9 Tennessee vs. No. 8 Ohio St., 8 p.m. (ABC/ESPN)

**BASKETBALL** 

#### **High School**

Thursday Boys' Scores Covenant Christian High School 62, Beech Grove 61 Jimtown 58. New Prairie 27 LaPorte LaLumiere 65, Indpls Attucks

NorthWood 67, Westview 50 S. Bend St. Joseph's 81, Lakeland 60 S. Bend Trinity 43, Clinton Christian

Thursday Girls' Scores Barr-Reeve 49, N. Daviess 40 Bedford N. Lawrence 56, Seymour 41

Bloomington South 45, Center Grove 30

Borden 30, Lanesville 29 Cass 47, Peru 37 Castle 54, Evansville Mater Dei 47 Charlestown 49, Henryville 37

Columbus North 56, E. Central 4 Connersville 46, Batesville 38 Crawford Co. 58, Mitchell 13 Dubois 53, Tell City 51, OT Eastern (Greene) 44, Bloomfield 37 Elkhart Christian 59, Triton 36 Evansville Christian 50, Shakamak

Evansville Memorial 52, Evansville Bosse 17 Floyd Central 40, Silver Creek 38 Fountain Central 41, N. Vermillion 28

Franklin Co. 43, N. Decatur 41 Fremont 68, Sherwood Fairview, Greensburg 90, S. Dearborn 22 Hammond Morton 69, Gary West 28 Heritage Hills 54, Forest Park 39 Highland 52, Whiting 32

Indpls Cathedral 45, Guerin Catholic High School 25
Indpls Herron 58, Indpls Riverside 9 Indpls Scecina 64, Indpls Washing-

Jasper 47, Vincennes 40 Knightstown 68, Blue River Valley 25 Lafayette Jeff 68, Clinton Prairie 27 Lakewood Park 53, Blackford 22

Linton 73, Clay City 23 Loogootee 54, Washington Catholic Lou. Collegiate, Ky. 41, Rock Creek

Academy 20 Maconaquah 43, Tri-Central 33 Madison Shawe 64, S. Ripley 51 Mooresville 70, Cascade 47 N. Central (Farmersburg) 75, White River Valley 42

N. Judson 51, Caston 28 N. Newton 28, S. Newton 24 Noblesville 52, Fishers 51 Orleans 49, Paoli 29 Parke Heritage 66, N. Putnam 31 Pendleton Hts. 76, Delta 48 Perry Central 48, Tecumseh 40 Pioneer 35, N. White 28 Princeton 57, Boonville 34 Providence 57, N. Harrison 45 Rensselaer 70, Delphi 24 S. Central (Elizabeth) 66, Crothers-

S. Decatur 49. Hauser 36 Scottsburg 67, New Albany 53 Seeger 60, Riverton Parke 28 Sheridan 66, Rossville 42 South Knox 79, Vincennes Rivet 29 Southridge 41, Pike Central 9 Southwestern (Hanover) 59, New

Washington 27
Terre Haute South 65, Covington 28
Trinity Lutheran High School 56,
Christian Academy 45
W. Washington 46, Eastern (Pekin)

Wapahani 56, Winchester 20 Washington 62, N. Posey 45 Wood Memorial 52, S. Spencer 42 Marion County Tournament Franklin Central 69, Beech Grove 33

Indpls Ben Davis 40, Indpls Roncalli

# **Sports Roundup**

(Continued from Page 6)

Chase Kistler led the way with 19 points, followed by Maddox White (12), Wyatt Holmes (10), Parker Christial (2) and Vince Lambert (1).

The eighth grade girls fell 47-23 to Jay County and fell to 6-4, 2-2 ACAC. Audrey Mechling led the way with 11 points, followed by Averie Patton (5), Khloe Gehrett (3), Madeleine Morgan (2) and Gracie Jellison and Luci Jenkins (1).

The seventh grade boys' team lost 49-39, falling to 6-3 and 3-1 in the ACAC. Riker Beste had a team-high 13 points, followed by Easton Schipper (12), Davin Drayer (7), Kreigh Ault (6) and Kole Kiefer (1).

The seventh grade girls' team lost 23-22 in double overtime. This drops the team to 5-5 overall and 2-2 in the ACAC. Averie Pearson led the team with six points, followed by Adrienne Smallman (5), Abby Garrett, Cadence Lehman, Olivia Brown, Myah Martin and Alaya Reinhard (2) and Cheyenne Sonnigsen (1).

#### **Bluffton City Gym Men's Basketball League results**

Bluffton Men's Basketball League results from Dec. 2 and Dec. 7.

Dec. 2 games:

 Helena Agri Enterprises 64, Craigville Appliance 55.

Kevin Moser led Helena Agri with 23

points, Marbel Diaz 15. Hayden Nern led Craigville with 20 point, Lucas Hunt with 17.

• Inteva Doors 72, Peyton's Northern 65. Aaron McFarland led Inteva with 24 points, Mark Franks 17. Kaden Hunt led

Peytons with 14 points, Andrew Thomas 13. • The Flint Tropics 71, The "B" Team 62. Drew Federspiel led Flint with 25 points, Colten Vachon 17. David Bradler led The "B" Team with 27 points, Jake Bradler 17.

• Boleas Farms 107, Inteva Panels 38. Grant Prible led Boleas with 27 points, Dalten Willman 18. Kyler Jones led Inteva with 12 points, Angel Alonzo 10. Dec. 9 games:

• The Flint Tropics 89, Craigville Appli-

Drew Federspiel led Filt with 28 points, Will Gerber 22. Hayden Nern led Craigville

with 17, Konner Norman 16. • Inteva Panels 74, The "B" Team 71.

Cam Elam led Inteva with 28 pointss, Kyler Jones 26. David Bradler and Mike Scott led The "B" Team with 17 points.

• Helena Agri Enterprises 59, Boleas Farms 58.

Mark Teeter led Helena Agri with 27 points, Luke Reust 14. Grant Prible led Helena Agri with 31 points, Tanner Prible and Kreigh Roush 11.

• Inteva Doors 86, The Irish 80.

Jason Houch led Inteva with 29 points, Mark Franks 20. Dillon Funk led The Irish with 24 points, Jenson Nusbaumer 21.

## Tar Heels hire Bill Belichick as HC

**By ROB MAADDI and AARON BEARD AP Sports Writers** 

Bill Belichick had seemingly been waiting for the right opportunity to return to an NFL sideline. Instead, the six-time Super Bowl-winning head coach is headed to the college ranks to take over at North Carolina.

The school announced it had reached a five-year deal with Belichick on Wednesday night, roughly a week after Belichick's name surfaced as an unlikely candidate to replace the program's winningest coach in Mack Brown. The deal requires approval by UNC trustees as well as the UNC public system's governors; an introductory news conference has yet to be scheduled. Moving on from the 73-year-old Brown

to hire the 72-year-old Belichick means UNC is turning to a coach who has never worked at the college level, yet had incredible success in the NFL alongside quarterback Tom Brady throughout most of his 24-year tenure with the Patriots, which ended last season.

#### **VEHICLES** Campers/RV's

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

#### **SERVICES**

Services

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

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

#### **EMPLOYMENT**

#### **Help Wanted**

WELLS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE is currently seeking applicants for the position of Full Time Deputy Sheriff. Applicants must be a US Citizen, at least 21 years of age upon graduation from police academy, possess a high school diploma or equivalent as well as a valid Indiana Operators License. Applicant can't have any felony convictions. Applicants must pass all aspects of the hiring process including physical agility testing, written examination, background investigation, oral interview, polygraph and psychological evaluation. Selected applicant must be able to graduate from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. ILEA certified applicants do not have to attend the physical agility and written examination portion of the process. 20-year matrix salary rangefor a Deputy Sheriff (no rank) is \$58,300 - \$70,500. Years of service and experience will be honored for a starting salary up to five years in the pay matrix. Application can be found on our website at www.wellscountvsheriff.com. Once application is completed,

details on the testing date and location will be emailed to the applicant. The application must be completed by December 27, 2024.

#### Public Notice

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION TO CREDITORS

ESTATE NO.
90C01-2411-EU-000045
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WELLS COUNTY

Notice is hereby given that MICHELLE MCZEGLE was on the 22nd day of November, 2024, appointed as Personal Representative of the ESTATE OF RONALD **G. MCZEGLE**, deceased, who died on the 10th day of May, 2024. All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not

now due, must file the claim in the Office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be for-

DATED AT BLUFFTON, INDI-ANA, THIS 22 DAY OF Novem-

ber, 2024.
Beth Davis
CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR
COURT FOR WELLS
COUNTY, INDIANA

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

Help Wanted

**COUNTY BUILDING** 

**INSPECTOR** 

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

needs of the county. Controls the expenditure of departmental appropriations Receives complaints, investipates. and issues unsafe building violations, nuisance violations and minimum housing standards violations

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

Reviews the building plan for

the County. Approves the building per mits, issues permits, and collects the fees for the permits as necessary. Issues certificates of occu-

pancy, as needed. Maintains an effective com munication process with the Commissioners. (B.A

Bachelor's degree

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

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

#### SUDOKU ANSWER 8 8 1 7 6 7 2 9 8

V	6	Z	9	3	G	7	8	l	Þ
Footie	G	7	Þ	9	L	8	L	6	3
4 King Fasture Sundicate Inc.	7	9	L	G	7	3	l	8	6
dicate	l	9	6	8	L	Þ	3	7	9
Too	3	8	7	L	9	6	G	Þ	7
	7	7	G	6	8	1	9	3	7
	9	l	3	7	t	G	6	Z	8
	7	6	8	7	3	9	Þ	G	ı

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

King Classic Sudoku

0								
			6	3	7			
8		9		4	2			
	4	5	9				8	3
6						9		
	8	1					6	4
3		7	8	1		4		
	1	8		5	3	6	7	
5	6		7			1		
Diffic	ulty:	***	*			•		12/13

Difficulty: ★★★★

5 for \$5 BULL'S-EYE! EARN EXTRA CASH by sell-

ing your "unwanted" items. A 20-word, line classified ad for 5 days is only \$5! For Sale Items Only. Excludes Garage Sales. Contact the Bluffton News-Banner office at 125 N. Johnson St., 260-824-0224, or news-banner.com and click on classifieds.

9 LB., RED, bowling ball, carrying case, ladies size 8 1/2 excellent condition, 260-273-2477.

#### Miscellaneous

THIS OUT! MICHIGAN **CHRISTMAS** 

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

**SELL IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!** 

#### **Lottery Numbers**

Thursday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY Cash 5 — 23-25-31-41-

Cash4Life — 01-02-40-50-55, Cash Ball: 04

Quick Draw Midday — 01-03-08-09-13-19-22-31-35-36-40-42-44-50-52-63-65-69-71-77, BE: 13

Daily Three-Midday -02-03-01, SB: 07 Daily Three-Evening —

05-04-03, SB: 07 Daily Four-Midday — 06-04-06-05, SB: 07 Daily Four-Evening –

04-01-02-03, SB: 07

**Quick Draw Evening** 02-04-12-17-19-24-25-30-32-34-36-37-42-51-66-

72-75-78-79-80, BE: 19 Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$31.3 million

**MEGA MILLIONS** Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$670 million POWERBALL

Saturday): \$45 million

Estimated jackpot (for

**Services** 

Every Day in Wells County's **Most Popular Daily** Marketplace! 20 Words, 2-Month Special: explore the possibilities!

# **Public**

DECEMBER 14-21 - Bidding starts closing at 1 p.m. - Private collection, seller. 20 Marolf Ct., Fremont. Collection of exotic taxidermy mounts (over 150), zebra & bear skins, 100's of antlers, fully restored antique boat motors, bow & arrows, gun cases, hunting & camping equipment, vintage fishing lures, high-end art work, antiques & collectibles, watches & fine jewelry, power & hand tools, storage cabinets, household, vintage nautical items, more. Preview Dec. 14, 10 a.m.-noon, Dec. 18, 4-6 p.m. Sale managers Pat Carter, 260-273-8294, Brandon Steffen, 260-710-5684, The Steffen Group Inc., www.stef-fengrp.com, 260-824-3006. BIDDING ENDS DECEM-

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

**BIDDING CLOSES DECEM-**BER 15 - 6 p.m. - Online Only - Jim Baker, owner. AIRPLACO Pumpmaster MJ-16 concrete slab jacking pump system including pump, mixer and tandem trailer, concrete hole drill, Campbell Hausfeld stationary air compressor, smoker grill, handmade rustic furniture, beautiful antique furniture, Husqvarna garden tractor, 2 table saws, hand tools, power tools, building supplies, TV, modem furniture and much more! Pick up Dec. 17, 12-6 p.m., 5388 SW. State Road 116-1, Bluffton, IN. Full list at Towncountryauctions.com., click Fliers. Town and Country Auctioneers/Realtors, 260-223-7352, Shaw Real Estate & Auction,

Inc., 260-824-2116. **DECEMBER 17 - 9 a.m.-6** p.m. - (Online Only) - Thomas B. & Mary Lou Wood-ward, seller. One of a kind

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

**Bidding Open and Starts** Closing January 2 at 10 a.m. - (Online Only) - MD Landscaping LLC, owner. Over 170+ Lots. John Deere 5525 W/ Belly Blade, Bobcat Dozer 96" Blade, 2016 International 4300 Box Truck, 2003 Wells Cargo Enclosed/Office Trailer, 3-Point Cultivator, 2008 Ford F-350 W/ Boss Snow Plow, 2007 Jeep Wrangler w/J Truck Bed, Volvo ECR88 Excavator Kawasaki 65TMVB Wheel Loader, Kubota SCL 1000 Mini Skid Steer, Skid Loader Attachments, Hardscape Stone, Walnut Slabs, Assorted Lawn Tools, Power Tools and much more. 3883 US HWY 33 Decatur IN, 46733. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, kiauction.com.

**DECEMBER 29-JANUARY** 5 - Bidding starts closing at 2 p.m. - Estate of Eldrid Tinkel, seller. Large antique and collectible auction. Country primitives, early metal toys including vintage tractors, farm implements, trucks, boats, more, antique furniture, cast iron collection, antique brass cash register, antique stoves, large and rare collection of vintage graniteware, Fenton, Marion advertising memorabilia, vintage beer signs, crocks, long guns, coins, more. Open house Dec. 29, 2-4 p.m., Jan. 4, 10 a.m.-noon, 1910 N Meridian St., Marion. Sale manager Brandon Steffen, 260-710-5684, The Steffen Group Inc., Steffengrp.com, 260-824-

**BIDDING ENDS JANU-**ARY 7 at 10 a.m. - (Online Only) - Wayne Metals LLC Machining Division, owner. Offering over 200+ Lots. Roskelley 1440 Lathe, 2007 Haas SL-40T CNC Turning Lathe, Hardinge CHNCI Precision CNC Machine, Delta Floor Drill Press, Omni Turn GT-75 CNC Lathe, Targa Surface Grinder, Acer Milling Machine W/ Phase-2 3 Jaw Chuck, Abex Denison Stamp Machine, OOYA RE-1225H Drilling & Tapping Radial Arm Drill, Cincinnati Milacron Hawk 150 A2100 CNC Lathe, Welders, Tooling Cabinets, Large Selection of pallet racking, Power & Hand Tools and much more. 9312 Avionics Drive, Fort Wayne IN 46809. Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.

#### picturesque real estate offering. Outstanding 4,014 SF on **Attention** 8.45 acres, 4 bedroom, 3 bath home with a 2 car detached garage. Scenic backyard Special! with multiple utility sheds and **Grabbers!** gazebo, Wells County. Open house Dec. 12 from 3-6 p.m., Advertise Your Services Add a photo or artwork 301 N. Highland Ave., Ossian, IN. Pat Carter, sale manager, 260-273-8294, *The Steffen* to any ad! You can also add a headline or other attention-getters for less Group Inc., www.steffengrp.com, 260-426-0633. than you'd expect! Place **DECEMBER 22-DECEMBER** your ad ON-LINE and 31 - Bidding starts closing \$97 at 2 p.m. - Estate of Rich-

### **Hoosier voter turnout**

(Continued from Page 1)

Officials delayed the 2020 primary election from May to June and allowed any voter to request a mail-in ballot, according to Vote 411's Covid-19 election change

By the November general election however, Indiana reinstated its "excuse" system. Voters must qualify for one of a dozen reasons to obtain a mail-in ballot. But, the state kept a newly introduced online request option for mail-in ballot applications — previously, most voters had to mail their requests to their local election boards, WFYI reported.

"No doubt, when you make it easier for people to vote, we will see an increase," Wilson said, though she noted that increases aren't always substantial or immediate.

She offered voting center systems — in which Hoosiers can vote anywhere in their counties instead of being limited to one polling place — and the increased emphasis on early in-person voting as other examples of greater voter access.

The reason behind the drop could be simpler, per Wilson: uninspired voters.

She said there was "a substantial part of the population" that voted in 2020 but refrained from turning out this year.

That could be a disinterest in the candidates, as it was Presidentelect Donald Trump's third straight time on the ballot and would've been a repeat for outgoing President Joe Biden had he not dropped out just before the election.

That could also be a sense of futility. Indiana has few competitive elections, with Democrats dominating elected positions in a few areas and Republicans controlling the rest.

"I think, overwhelmingly, voter turnout is low because people don't care about the elections, because it feels like it's a foregone conclusion," Wilson. "If you tell me where you live, and I can pretty much predict which party is going to be in power."

**Voting trends** 

Turnout dropped by 6% statewide compared to 2020.

Seventy-six counties reported drops, but the percentage change hit double digits in Hendricks and Vermillion counties. Just 16 counties had no changes or even experienced increased turnout; Madison County topped the list with a 7% increase in turnout.

Marion County recorded, by far, the largest drop in sheer numbers — almost 37,000 fewer residents voted this year compared to 2020. Madison County reported the largest gross increase, with nearly 4,000 more ballots cast.

Election Day turnout this year was almost 200,000 voters higher than in 2020, when absentee voting soared — but was hundreds of thousands of votes lower than in 2016 and 2012. Indiana categorizes both mail-in ballots and early in-person votes as "absentee" in its data.

Wilson said early in-person voting was considered a way to help people unable to vote day-of, but now may be cannibalizing Elec-

tion Day vote totals.

"I would expect what we see in 2024 to continue, ... where we aren't going to have massive numbers of people take advantage of early voting that wouldn't have otherwise voted," she said. "No, they're people that would vote (on Election Day), but they're using early voting because they have the opportunity to do so."

# Bone-chilling cold returns to Midwest in wake of East Coast storm

By PATRICK WHITTLE and DAVID SHARP **Associated Press** 

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) - Frigid weather returned to the Upper Midwest on Thursday after a storm that swept up the East Coast delivered a blow to New England, packing powerful gusts that knocked out power along with a deluge of rain and warming temperatures that washed away snow and dampened ski resorts.

The Upper Midwest saw unseasonably cold early Thursday, with parts of North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin experiencing wind chills well below zero degrees F. The National Weather Service received a report of a low temperature of minus 27 degrees F southwest of Inger, Minnesota. States to the south, including South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa, saw wind chills in the single digits Thursday morning.

In Chicago, gusts of more than 40 mph) Thursday coupled with a low temperature of 4 F at O'Hare International Airport to create a stinging wind chill of minus 28 F. City officials designated more than two dozen community and senior centers to be used as warming shelters and urged the public to avoid unnecessary trips outside.

The weather service also issued freezing spray warnings on Lake Superior and Lake Michigan, with subzero temperatures and high winds resulting in up to an inch of ice per hour accumulating on ships and smaller vessels.

On Wednesday, an atmospheric river transported moisture northward from the tropics and brought heavy rain.

The city of Portland, Maine, got 2.33 inches of rain Wednesday, breaking a record of 2.01 inches for the date set in 1887, the National Weather Service said.

Utility workers were deployed to handle power outages after winds peaked Wednesday night into Thursday. Nearly 90,000 customers in Maine had lost power as of Thursday morning, according to poweroutage.us.

A deepening low pressure system was responsible for winds that lashed the region, said Derek Schroeter, a forecaster with the National Weather Service. Some areas in Maine had wind gusts of over 50

Forecasters were concerned about bombogenesis, or a "bomb cyclone," marked by a rapid intensification over a 24-hour period, but the storm did not appear to meet the criteria for a bomb cyclone, according to National Weather Service meteorologist Jerry Combs in Gray, Maine.

Jen Roberts, co-owner of Onion River Outdoors sporting goods store in Montpelier, Vermont, lamented that a five-day stretch of snowfall that lured ski customers into the store was being washed way, underscoring the region's fickle weather.

"But you know, this is New England," Roberts said. "We know this is what happens."

Ski resort operators called it bad luck as the holidays approach.

"We don't say the 'r-word' around here. It's a forbidden word," said Jamie Cobbett, marketing director at Waterville Valley Resort in New Hampshire, which was pelted by rain on Wednesday. "We're getting some moist wet weather today. We'll put the mountain back together."

Skier Marcus Caston was waterlogged but shrugged it off. "The conditions are actually pretty good. The rain is making the snow nice and soft. It's super fun," he said while skiing at Vermont's Sugarbush.

More seasonal low temperatures suitable for snowmaking were returning Thursday

New England wasn't

the only region experiencing wild weather. Snow fell early Thursday around Lake Superior and Lake Michigan, and heavy lake-effect snow was expected through Thursday in parts of Michi-

Areas east of Lake Ontario in northern New York were warned of 2 to 3 feet of lake-effect snow as well as wind gusts of up to 45 mph, with "near whiteout conditions at times," according to the National Weather Service. Some schools and libraries in the area, historically one of the snowiest in the U.S., closed early as the wind plastered fresh snow to the sides of trees and snowplows rumbled.

A mail carrier, his head tucked against the frosty gusts, waved to a plow as it passed. Trump flags in the heavily Republican villages crackled and popped in the

Areas south of Buffalo, New York, were again hit Thursday with heavy lakeeffect snow, with some locations reporting more than a foot of accumulation. Treacherous driving conditions prompted two small towns to issue driving bans, and the Buffalo Bills NFL franchise canceled practice Thursday due to the weather. That area and those around Watertown, New York, could see up to three feet (almost one meter) of snow through Friday, according to forecasters. The region has already been hit with lake-effect snow after Thanksgiving and in early December.

In New York, Gov. Kathy

Hochul on Wednesday declared a state of emergency in several counties in anticipation of heavy snowfall expected off of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario.

New England's weather brought the biggest variety, with the storm bringing a little bit of everything. It started early Wednesday with freezing rain. Then came a deluge of regular rain and warming temperatures topping 50 F in Portland, for example.

Alex Hobbs, a Boston college student, hoped that the weather wouldn't interfere with her plans to return home to San Francisco soon. "I'm a little worried about getting delays with heavy wind and rain, possibly snow," she said Wednes-

# Israeli strike in Gaza kills 25 people as U.S. makes push for ceasefire

By WAFAA SHURAFA **Associated Press** 

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — An Israeli airstrike hit the central Gaza Strip on Thursday, killing at least 25 Palestinians and wounding dozens more, Palestinian medics said, as U.S. President Joe Biden's two top national security officials were in the region making a renewed push for an Israel-Hamas ceasefire.

The strike on a multistory residential building in the Nuseirat refugee camp was just the latest in a series of Israeli attacks throughout Gaza that killed at least 54 Palestinians since late Wednesday night.

Palestinian officials at two of Gaza's remaining medical centers, Al-Awda Hospital in the north and Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in the center, reported together receiving 25 bodies from the Nuseirat strike — which also wounded 40 people, most of them children.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military on the deadly strike. Israel is trying to eliminate Hamas, which led the attack on southern Israel in October 2023 that sparked the war in Gaza. The Israeli military says Hamas militants hide among Gaza's civilian population.

The U.N. General Assembly's member nations approved a new resolution this week demanding an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. General Assembly resolutions are not legally binding, although they do reflect world opinion — the vote Wednesday was 158-9, with 13 abstentions.

Photos from the scene in Nuseirat sent to journalists showed a completely collapsed building with people walking through its mangled and charred remains, smoke rising from piles of belongings strewn over the rubble. Palestinian rescuers were searching for more bodies trapped beneath the rubble.

The strikes Thursday evening came as Palestinian medics were still surveying the morning's deadly toll of fierce Israeli attacks, including on Nuseirat camp. Palestinian medical officials had reported at least 28 people killed earlier in the day, including seven children and a woman. One of the strikes flatted a house in Nuseirat, according to Al-Aqsa Hospital in the nearby city of Deir al-Balah, where the bodies were taken.

Two other strikes killed 15 men who were part of local aid coordination committees set up by displaced Palestinians and the Hamasrun Interior Ministry, according to health officials at Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan Younis. Eight of the men were killed in an attack near the southern border town of Rafah and the remaining seven were killed by a strike in Khan Younis.

The committees aim to establish secure

aid convoys, which often face challenges such as looting, hoarding and profiteering in their efforts to deliver humanitarian supplies to Palestinians facing the risk of famine.

Israel says it allows enough aid to enter and blames U.N. agencies for not distributing it. The U.N. says Israeli restrictions, and the breakdown of law and order after Israel repeatedly targeted the Hamas-run police force, make it extremely difficult to operate in the territory.

In Gaza's isolated and devastated north, Awda Hospital said an orthopedic doctor, Saeed Jouda, was shot in the head and killed Thursday morning. The Health Ministry said the doctor was killed by an armed quadcopter drone as he was traveling from Kamal Adwan Hospital to treat patients at

The two medical facilities are in northern towns where Israel has waged a blistering offensive against Hamas militants since early October, allowing in almost no humanitarian aid and ordering tens of thousands to flee to nearby Gaza City. Experts have warned that the north may be experiencing famine.

The latest bombardment came as Jake Sullivan, the White House national security adviser, was holding official meetings in Israel as signs emerge that long-stalled negotiations between Israel and Hamas could regain momentum. On Thursday, Sullivan revived hopes for a deal, telling reporters in Jerusalem that Israel's ceasefire in Lebanon has helped clear the way for another deal to end the war in Gaza.

Sullivan plans to travel next to Qatar and Egypt, key mediators in the ceasefire talks, as the Biden administration makes a final push on negotiations before Donald Trump is inaugurated.

Sullivan said "Hamas' posture at the negotiating table did adapt" after Israel decimated the leadership of its ally Hezbollah in Lebanon and reached a ceasefire there. "We believe it puts us in a position to close this negotiation," he said. Last month, the U.S. vetoes a Security

Council resolution demanding an immediate Gaza ceasefire, objecting that the resolution did not link the truce to an immediate release of hostages taken by Hamas. The council's 14 other members supported the resolution.

The war in Gaza began when Hamas-led militants attacked southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting around 250 people. Some 100 hostages are still inside Gaza, at least a third of whom are believed to be





Sure-Flo Seamless Gutters 5" & 6" Continuous Gutters Leaf Protection Systems 260-888-5062

824-1846 ·Safety Lighting ·Clean Units •24 Hr. Access

 Video Cameras www.a1-ustor.com **After hours & Saturdays** Call 273-9678 or 824-4782 In Monroe at corner of

U.S. 27 and S.R. 124

Office at 1180 N. Main, Bluffton

2740 E. 200 N. • Bluffton, IN • 260.273.8345

**LAWN CARE** MOWING YARD CLEANUP LANDSCAPING STONE / GRAVEL WEED CONTROL SCHEDULE TODAY! FREE ESTIMATES 260-223-5884

Zap Electric, Inc.

260-824-2927

Commercial-Industrial-Residential

24 Hr. Emergency Service

Charles Miller-Electrican 1233 W. Cherry St., Bluffton



Jerry Flack & Julie Myers Retirement Advisors

ASSISTING IN: FREE Medicare Supplement Comparison Life Planning Safe Money Ideas nior Citizen Answers Our Phone! • Dental - Vision - Hearing OFFICE 260-824-1618 • Corner of Main & Market • Bluffton, IN

We Carry Prevagen and CBD Oil! **K** Warren Pharmacy (260)375-2135 Nature's Sunshine Distributor 222 N. Wayne St., Warren • 1-800-895-7035 Terry Daniels, Pharmacist • Melinda Daniels, RN

The HIDEAWAY BEER®BOURBON THURSDAY -**Dollar Off Drinks** (Excludes Pop)

WEDNESDAY - KARAOKE FRI. & SAT. - Live Music Follow us on **f** for our Events. 123 S Johnson ST. • 824-0455

Locally Owned Repair Bowed Basement Walls Foundations repaired Floor joist repair or replaced Concrete • Doors Windows • Painting Tile • Small Jobs Welcome Text me at 260-301-1269

Jim Baker

Home Remodel and Repair

AMISH CREW will do roofing, siding, remodeling, pole barns. Specializing in redoing old barns. Free estimates. Call **260-438-2508** 

As a resident of the Wells County As a resident of the Wells County community for decades, Attorney, Ger J. Swearingen, has devoted his legal practice to assisting clients in preservin the family assets from the high cost of Nursing Home and In-Home Healthcare. As your guide through the "Medicaid Planning" process, Swearingen Elder Law will provide the right path to both protect your life savings and receive the guality of and receive the quality of care we all deserve. -OSSIAN-

 Durable Power of Att Estate Planning & Deeds Special Needs Trusts Long Term Care Plannin

1645 Hillcrest Dr., Suite 2A Ossian, IN 46777

 $(260)\,888-9256$ FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION!

Wills, Living Wills, & Advance Healthcare

**Primary Contracting, LLC** Specializing in Building & Remodeling

**OWNER: Edwin Wickey** Call for Spring Scheduling Today! Free Estimates - 260-223-4276

 Grarages Vinly Siding Metal Roofing Poly Decks Storm Damage

Pole Barns



**PER ISSUE** YOUR BUSINESS IN THE NEWS-BANNER or 622-4108 Every Day! Jan. deadline is Tues., Dec. 24!