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MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024

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## On the 12th year of Ouabache's 'Wonderland'

By JONATHAN SNYDER  
Ouabache State Park is set to be lit up for the 12th year as the Wonderland of Lights comes to the park.

The tradition started in 2013, when then park manager Scott Crossley found inspiration from light shows in downtown Indianapolis. Seeing the possibility for another fundraiser, he then turned to the Friends of Ouabache Group, a non-profit that helps preserve the park's facilities, and asked them if they would be interested in helping start the project. The Friends group agreed and promoted the event as a place for businesses and organizations to

advertise, a practice that still goes on today.

"It started out ... just in the campground," Friends of Ouabache Co-Chairman Kathy Schwartz said. "There might have been 20 (sites). It was a smaller number than we have now. For comparison, now we have over 50 displays ... so it's growing quite a bit."

The light show partially began to promote a statue honoring the Civilian Conservation Corps. The statue, dedicated in 2014, partially came to light with Friends member Myra Myrtle's desire to honor her dad, a former CCC worker.

"My main thing was honor-



Lee and Phyllis Dettmer, left and middle, along with Kent Koteskey set up a display of the wise men at the nativity. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

ing my dad by getting the CCC guy out there," Myrtle said. "But Kathy and her group have done amazing work out there. In fact,

I don't think I could nearly have done what they do."

Originally, the show started as a weekend-only event with park

employees physically unplugging the lights when showtime ended. The lights now go every night in

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### Small Business Saturday

Bluffton NOW! collaborated with small businesses across downtown Bluffton, drawing attention and patrons to businesses Saturday. Above, Karen, left and Lucy Steffen check out one of the candles at the Broken Vessel Sign Company.

At middle, Cylee Williams marks a stamp for Alicia Getts, second from right, notifying that she has visited their store, the Farmhouse Merc. Tammy Clark, second from left, helps Peggy Lovell in the foreground.

At right, Madix, left, and Brandy Springer take a look at some of the wares at the Magnolia Grace Boutique. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)



## Heavy snow keeps parts of the U.S. in a deep freeze

By CARA ANNA, CAROLYN THOMPSON and JONAH BRONSTEIN  
Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — Heavy snowfall and numbing temperatures kept parts of the U.S. in a deep freeze Sunday as the Thanksgiving holiday weekend drew to a close. Some snowmobilers and skiers reveled in the wintry conditions, while flinty fans huddled down for the nighttime NFL game in Buffalo.

In the remote Tug Hill region of upstate New York, where lake-effect snow off Lake Ontario can dump several feet of snow at a time, there was up to 46 inches in the Barnes Corners area.

"We just keep digging out," said Kevin Tyo, a local business-

man. "We were out all day yesterday, plowing." Like many locals, he has a plow attached to his truck for winter, "and I have a tractor with a bucket, and a snowblower."

His advice? "If you're not used to it, stay home. If you're out, slow down." Lake-effect snow is caused when warm, moist air is blown across a body of water and mixes with colder, drier air, creating narrow bands of often heavy snow on land. Pileups can be quick: The U.S. military's Fort Drum, near hard-hit Watertown, New York, issued an alert saying up to 19 inches of daytime snow could fall Sunday.

Commercial vehicles remained banned in both directions of I-90 (Continued on Page 3)

## Trump to nominate Kash Patel as FBI director to remake the agency

By ERIC TUCKER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump's stunning announcement that he will nominate Kash Patel as FBI director sets the stage for a fresh round of turbulence at a law enforcement agency tasked with protecting the homeland and investigating federal crimes.

Patel, a steadfast Trump ally with plans to shake up the bureau, is a study in contrasts from the current tight-lipped director, Christopher Wray, who preaches a "keep calm and tackle hard" mantra.

In selecting Patel late Saturday over more conventional contenders, the incoming Republican president is again testing the loyalty of Senate Republicans and their willingness to defy him.

Here's a look at what happens next:

### What happens to the current FBI director?

Wray was appointed director by Trump in 2017 and technically has three years left on his 10-year tenure.

That length of time is meant to ensure that directors of the nation's most prominent federal law enforcement agency can operate free from political influence or pressure. Presidents have typically but not always retained the director who was in place at the time they took office, as Democratic President Joe Biden has done with Wray.

But it's also the case that all FBI directors serve at the pleasure of the president; indeed, Wray was nominated after Trump fired James Comey, the FBI chief he inherited in his first term.

Biden's national security (Continued on Page 3)

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### Outside



Chance of snow, sunny and warm(er) Tuesday

Today	Tuesday	Wed.
High 28	High 33	High 40
Low 18	Low 22	Low 17

More Weather on Page 2

### Online

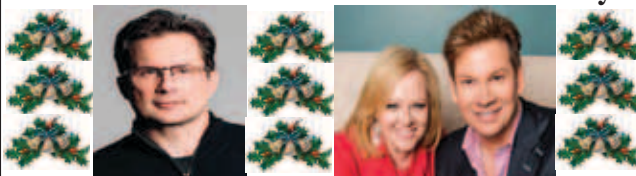
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# Ouabache's 'Wonderland'

(Continued from Page 1)

December.

During the initial years, 500 cars throughout the month would be considered a success — there's now an average of 2,500 cars, according to Schwartz.

"There were 511 cars the first two weekends," Friends member Rocky Myrtle said. "So that's six days, only 511 cars, and we went out there probably three years after ... and ran the gate house one weekend, and it was just lights all the way (down), you could see cars just coming in. You never had any rest."

While businesses have purchased their own displays, the Friends group has set of their own as well. Over the

years, those sets have been upfitted with LED lights and maintained over the years. The Friends group has also expanded the decoration to other areas of the park, such as the fire tower, with fundraising efforts for those lights being extremely successful.

"It took us — it seemed like a long time to raise \$21,000," Rocky said. "They raised \$75,000 for the fire tower just like that, just because they thought bigger things than what we did."

The efforts from both businesses and the community have led to major success in helping the state park secure funding for increasing the lights display, equipment needs and maintaining the park. Myra said that the show has helped give attention to businesses and

restaurants from travelers from outside the county.

"It's got such a hometown feel, that's what makes us unique," Schwartz said. "We want to have the reflection of the community in there. And I think that's what makes us (unique) ... they say it's so peaceful when they drive through our display."

The Wonderland will first light up on Dec. 6 and carry all the way through to New Year's Eve.

Admission is \$5 per vehicle, with three different light shows at the fire tower, one available Sunday through Monday, the second available Tuesday through Wednesday and the final show available Thursday through Saturday.

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# Weather

Monday, December 2, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:09 p.m. Sunday)

High: 28; Low: 15; Precipitation: Trace of snow  
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.18 feet at 8:45 p.m. Sunday

## Wells County forecast

**Today:** A chance of flurries after 10 a.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 28. West wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Tonight:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 18. West wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 33. West wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Tuesday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 22. Southwest wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Wednesday:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 40. Breezy.

**Wednesday Night:** A chance of rain and snow showers before 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 17. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

**Thursday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 25.

**Thursday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 16.

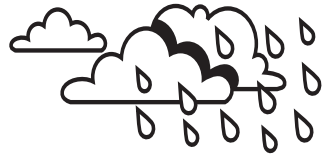
**Friday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 31.

**Friday Night:** A 20% chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 20.

**Saturday:** A 20% chance of snow showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 35.

**Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 22.

**Sunday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 38.



# Biden pardons son despite pledges not to

By ZEKE MILLER, ALANNA DURKIN RICHER and COLLEEN LONG

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden pardoned his son, Hunter, on Sunday night, sparing the younger Biden a possible prison sentence for federal felony gun and tax convictions and reversing his past promises not to use the extraordinary powers of the presidency for the benefit of his family members.

The Democratic president had previously said he would not pardon his son or commute his sentence after his convictions in the two cases in Delaware and California. The move comes weeks before Hunter Biden was set to receive his punishment after his trial conviction in the gun case and guilty plea on tax charges, and less than two months before President-elect Donald Trump is set to return to the White House.

It caps a long-running legal saga for the younger Biden, who publicly disclosed he was under federal investigation in December 2020 — a month after his father's 2020 victory — and casts a pall over the elder Biden's legacy. Biden, who time and again pledged to Americans that he would restore norms and respect for the rule of law after Trump's first term in office, ultimately used his position to help his son, breaking his public pledge to Americans that he would do no such thing.

In June, Biden categorically ruled out a pardon or commutation for his son, telling reporters as his son faced trial in the Delaware gun case, "I abide by the jury decision. I will do that and I will not pardon him."

As recently as Nov. 8, days after Trump's victory, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre ruled out a pardon or clemency for the younger Biden, saying, "We've been asked that question multiple times. Our answer stands, which is no."

The elder Biden has publicly stood by his only living son as Hunter descended into serious drug addiction and threw his family life into turmoil, before pulling himself out in recent years. His political rivals have long used Hunter Biden's myriad mistakes as a political cudgel against his father: in one hearing, lawmakers

displayed half-naked photos of the drug addicted president's son in a seedy hotel.

And House Republicans sought to use the younger Biden's years of questionable overseas business ventures in a since-abandoned attempt to impeach his father, who has long denied involvement in his son's dealings or benefiting from them in any way.

In a statement released Sunday evening, Biden said, "I believe in the justice system, but as I have wrestled with this, I also believe raw politics has infected this process and it led to a miscarriage of justice."

"The charges in his cases came about only after several of my political opponents in Congress instigated them to attack me and oppose my election," Biden added. "No reasonable person who looks at the facts of Hunter's cases can reach any other conclusion than Hunter was singled out only because he is my son."

"I hope Americans will understand why a father and a President would come to this decision," Biden added, claiming he made the decision this weekend. The president had spent the Thanksgiving holiday in Nantucket, Massachusetts with Hunter and his family, and was set to depart later Sunday on what may be his last foreign trip as president before leaving office on Jan. 20, 2025.

Hunter Biden was convicted in June in Delaware federal court of three felonies for purchasing a gun in 2018 when, prosecutors said, he lied on a federal form by claiming he was not illegally using or addicted to drugs.

He was set to stand trial in September in the California case accusing him of failing to pay at least \$1.4 million in taxes. But he agreed to plead guilty to misdemeanor and felony charges in a surprise move hours after jury selection was set to begin.

David Weiss, the Trump-appointed U.S. Attorney in Delaware who negotiated the plea deal, was subsequently named a special counsel by Attorney General Merrick Garland to have more autonomy over the prosecution of the president's son.

Hunter Biden said he was pleading guilty in that case to spare his family more pain and embarrassment

after the gun trial aired salacious details about his struggles with a crack cocaine addiction.

The tax charges carry up to 17 years behind bars and the gun charges are punishable by up to 25 years in prison, though federal sentencing guidelines were expected to call for far less time and it was possible he would avoid prison time entirely.

Hunter Biden was supposed to be sentenced this month in the two federal cases, which the special counsel brought after a plea deal with prosecutors that likely would have spared him prison time fell apart under scrutiny by a judge. Under the original deal, Hunter was supposed to plead guilty to misdemeanor tax offenses and would have avoided prosecution in the gun case as long as he stayed out of trouble for two years.

But the plea hearing quickly unraveled last year when the judge raised concerns about unusual aspects of the deal. He was subsequently indicted in the two cases.

The sweeping pardon covers not just those offenses, but also any other "offenses against the United States which he has committed or may have committed or taken part in during the period from January 1, 2014 through December 1, 2024."

Hunter Biden's legal team this weekend released a 52-page white paper titled "The political prosecutions of Hunter Biden," describing the president's son as a "surrogate to attack and injure his father, both as a candidate in 2020 and later as president." Hunter Biden's lawyers have long argued that prosecutors bowed to political pressure to indict the president's son amid heavy criticism by Trump and other Republicans of what they called the "sweetheart" plea deal.

Both cases against the younger Biden were somewhat unusual. Criminal tax cases generally are rare, legal experts have said, and the gun offenses are usually brought alongside other more serious charges. In Hunter Biden's case, his lawyers noted that he had the gun for 11 days and never fired it. And the back taxes he owed were repaid before he was supposed to stand trial.

Rep. James Comer, one

of the Republican chairmen leading congressional investigations into Biden's family, blasted the president's decision to issue his son a pardon, saying that the evidence against Hunter was "just the tip of the iceberg."

"It's unfortunate that, rather than come clean about their decades of wrongdoing, President Biden and his family continue to do everything they can to avoid accountability," Comer said on X, the website formerly known as Twitter.

Biden is hardly the first president to deploy his pardon powers to benefit those close to him.

In his final weeks in office, Trump pardoned Charles Kushner, the father of his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, as well as multiple allies convicted in special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation. Trump over the weekend announced plans to nominate the elder Kushner to be the U.S. envoy to France in his next administration.

Steven Cheung, a spokesperson for Trump, who has pledged to dramatically overhaul and install loyalists across the Justice Department after he was prosecuted for his role in trying to subvert the 2020 presidential election, said in a statement, "That system of justice must be fixed and due process must be restored for all Americans, which is exactly what President Trump will do as he returns to the White House with an overwhelming mandate from the American people."

Hunter Biden said in an emailed statement that he will never take for granted the relief granted to him and vowed to devote the life he has rebuilt "to helping those who are still sick and suffering."

"I have admitted and taken responsibility for my mistakes during the darkest days of my addiction — mistakes that have been exploited to publicly humiliate and shame me and my family for political sport," the younger Biden said.

Hunter Biden's legal team filed Sunday night in both Los Angeles and Delaware asking the judges handling his gun and tax cases to immediately dismiss them, citing the pardon.

A spokesperson for Weiss did not respond to messages seeking comment Sunday night.

# Israeli strike in Gaza kills World Central Kitchen workers. Israel says 1 was an Oct. 7 attacker

By WAFSA SHURAF, TIA GOLDENBERG and BASSEM MROUE

Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — An Israeli airstrike on a car in the Gaza Strip on Saturday killed five people, including employees of World Central Kitchen. The charity said it was "urgently seeking more details" after Israel's military said it targeted a WCK worker who was part of the Hamas attack that sparked the war.

WCK said it was "heartbroken" and it had no knowledge anyone in the car had alleged ties to the Oct. 7, 2023 attack, adding it was "working with incomplete information." It said it was pausing operations in Gaza. It had suspended work earlier this year after an Israeli strike killed seven of its workers.

The Israeli military in a statement said the alleged Oct. 7 attacker took part in the assault on the kibbutz of Nir Oz, and it asked "senior officials from the international

community" and the WCK to clarify how he had come to work for the charity.

The family of the man named by Israel, Ahed Azmi Qdeih, rejected the allegations as "false accusations," and confirmed in a statement he had worked with the charity. Israel named him as Hazmi Kadih.

The strike highlighted the dangerous work of delivering aid in Gaza, where the war has displaced much of the 2.3 million population and caused widespread hunger.

At Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan Younis, a woman held up an employee badge bearing the WCK logo and the word "contractor." Belongings — burned phones, a watch and stickers with the WCK logo — lay on the floor.

Nazmi Ahmed said his nephew worked for WCK for the past year. He said he was driving to the charity's kitchens and warehouses.

"Today, he went out as usual to work ... and was targeted without prior warning and

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# Heavy snow

(Continued from Page 1)

in western New York along a nearly 134-mile stretch to the Pennsylvania line.

## Buffalo Bills kickoff set for Sunday night

In Buffalo, officials with the NFL's Bills had sought stadium snow shovellers for the season, including ahead of Sunday night's game against the San Francisco 49ers. The team said it would pay \$20 per hour and provide food and hot drinks.

The lake-effect storm began hitting the area Saturday near the Bills' stadium in Orchard Park, New York. Though the storm shifted south of the stadium by noon Sunday, snow continued to fall off and on through the day. Flurries began to fall more heavily just before kickoff. The game was played in chilly conditions with the game-time temperature at 27 degrees Fahrenheit, with the wind chill making it feel like 17 F. The Bills often play in such conditions at home late in the season.

Tim LoTemple — a Bills season-ticket holder from Rochester, New York, and part of the team's rabid fan base known as "Bills Mafia" — said the freezing temperatures and snow energize the players and fans. Still, the 49ers game was practically temperate compared to previous matchups at Highmark Stadium.

"We love snow over here. You know how Bills Mafia is, we love the cold," he said from a parking lot tailgate party. "This is nothing compared to what we've seen before."

But for Jake Dyer, an Indianapolis Colts fan visiting from Southern California, a cold-weather game is a rarity.

"Only thing I didn't prepare for was shoes. I double up on every-

thing else, but my feet are cold," he said. "Mad respect for anybody who comes out. Anybody can sit at home, comfy in their chair to watch this game."

Another one to two feet of snow were possible in western New York, and another two to three feet were possible in northern New York, Gov. Kathy Hochul's office said Sunday.

## Stuck in a car overnight with kids

Christine Schintzius set out Friday on clear roads with her 4- and 8-year-old sons and 12- and 15-year-old nieces from Wales, New York, southeast of Buffalo. They planned to attend a hockey tournament in Cleveland but instead found themselves snowbound for 19 hours inside a Honda Pilot.

They faced seemingly endless lines of stopped traffic, first on Interstate 90 near the New York-Pennsylvania border for nine hours, and again on Route 5 in Pennsylvania for 10 hours, until residents plowed them out.

"It was packed, there was tons of people, tons," Schintzius said by phone Sunday.

While stuck on Route 5, Schintzius never turned off her car, afraid it wouldn't start again in the cold. Two truckers checked on them during the night. In the morning the police checked in, along with a resident who walked the line of cars handing out muffins and making sure the stranded drivers had water.

"Thankfully, all of my kids, my nieces, all travel well," said Schintzius, who had packed a cooler with lunch meats, snacks, yogurt and fruit. "And luckily I had still basically a full tank of gas."

When they were finally free of the backup Saturday, Schintzius took a roundabout route home,

avoiding the worst of the snow that was still falling.

"I was worried, like, I'm not getting stuck in that ever again," she said.

## New York, Pennsylvania declare emergencies

A blast of Arctic air last week brought bitter temperatures of 10 to 20 degrees Fahrenheit below average to the Northern Plains, the National Weather Service said. Frigid air was expected to move over the eastern third of the U.S. by Monday, with temperatures about 10 degrees below average.

Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro signed a disaster emergency proclamation Saturday and said parts of Erie County in the northwest received nearly 2 feet of snow, with more expected through Monday night. Due to the snow emergency in the City of Erie, City Hall will be closed to the public on Monday and Tuesday.

## Michigan is battered, too

Parts of Michigan were battered by lake-effect snow as bands rolling off Lake Superior buried parts of the Upper Peninsula under 2 feet or more, said Lily Chapman, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

There were 27 inches of snow northeast of Ironwood, in the Upper Peninsula's western reaches. Over a foot could fall over the eastern Upper Peninsula through Monday morning, Chapman said Saturday.

A light dusting of snow fell across eastern Kentucky and West Virginia, making a beautiful backdrop for Christmas decorations and good practice for road crews.

Over the next few days, lows in the Appalachians are expected to dip between 10 to 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

# Kash Patel

(Continued from Page 1)

er, Jake Sullivan, said Sunday that the Biden administration "adhered to the long-standing norm that FBI directors serve out their full terms because the FBI director is a unique player in the American government system."

Noting that Trump had named Wray to the job, Sullivan told NBC's "Meet the Press" that "Joe Biden didn't fire him. He relied upon him to execute his responsibilities as the director of the FBI and allowed him to serve out the fullness of his term. ... So that's how we approached things and we would like to ensure that the FBI remains an independent institution insulated from politics."

Trump's announcement means that Wray can either resign from the job, consistent with Trump's apparent wishes, or wait to be fired once Trump takes office in January. Either way, the selection of a successor is a clear indication that Wray's days are numbered.

The bureau, in a statement Saturday night, said, "Every day, the men and women of the FBI continue to work to protect Americans from a growing array of threats. Director Wray's focus remains on the men and women of the FBI, the people we do the work with, and the people we do the work for."

## Can Patel be confirmed by the Senate?

Republicans may have won control of the Senate, but his confirmation is not assured.

There are no doubt lawmakers who support Trump's desire for a radically overhauled FBI, particularly following federal investigations that resulted in two separate indictments against the president-elect, and who share his sentiment that federal law enforcement has been "weaponized" against conservatives.

Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa, in line to be the Senate Judiciary Com-

mittee chairman when Republicans take control in January, said in a post on X that Wray "has failed at fundamental duties" and that it was time to "chart a new course 4 TRANSPARENCY+ACCOUNTABILITY at FBI."

But, he added, Patel "must prove to Congress he will reform & restore public trust in FBI."

Patel is likely to face deep skepticism during his confirmation hearings over his stated plans to rid the government of "conspirators" against Trump, and his claims that he would shut down the FBI's Pennsylvania Avenue headquarters in the nation's capital and send the thousands of employees who work there to "chase down criminals" across the country.

And while Trump may have wanted a loyalist willing to pursue retribution against his perceived adversaries, that perspective is likely to give pause to senators who believe that the FBI and Justice Department should operate free of political influence and not be tasked with carrying out a president's personal agenda.

Foreshadowing the potentially bruising confirmation fight ahead, Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin, who is expected to be the ranking Democrat next year on the Judiciary Committee, called Patel "an unqualified loyalist" and said in a statement that "the Senate should reject this unprecedented effort to weaponize the FBI for the campaign of retribution that Donald Trump has promised."

Trump has also raised the prospect of using recess appointments to push his nominees through the Senate.

## If Patel is confirmed, can he actually do what he's said he'll do?

Patel has made a series of brash claims about his plans for the federal government, but most of those proposals would require backing and buy-in from other officials and would almost certainly encounter significant resistance.

His desire, for instance, to reduce the FBI's footprint and scale back its authority stands in contrast to the tack traditionally taken by leaders of the bureau, who invariably say they want more resources — not less.

He's mused about trying to rid the government of "conspirators" against Trump and of going "after the people in the media who lied about American citizens who helped Joe Biden rig presidential elections," whether criminally or civilly.

Under the FBI's own guidelines, criminal investigations can't be rooted in arbitrary or groundless speculation but instead must have an authorized purpose to detect or interrupt criminal activity. And while the FBI conducts investigations, the responsibility of filing federal charges, or bringing a lawsuit on behalf of the federal government, falls to the Justice Department. Trump said earlier this month that he intended to nominate former Florida attorney general Pam Bondi to serve as attorney general.

Patel proposed crackdown on leaks of information by government officials to the media is an indication that he would want the Justice Department to reverse its current policy generally prohibiting the seizure of reporters' phone records in leak investigations. That policy was implemented by Attorney General Merrick Garland following an uproar over the revelation that federal prosecutors had secretly obtained subpoenas for journalists' phone records.

Patel has also talked about disentangling the FBI's intelligence-gathering activities — now a core function of the bureau's mandate — from the rest of its law enforcement operations. It's unclear whether he intends to carry through on that pledge or how it would be greeted at a time when the U.S. is facing what officials say is a heightened threat of terrorism.

# Israeli strike

(Continued from Page 2)

without any reason," Ahmed said.

In April, a strike on a WCK aid convoy killed seven workers — three British citizens, Polish and Australian nationals, a Canadian-American dual national and a Palestinian. The Israeli military called it a mistake. That strike prompted an international outcry. Another Palestinian WCK worker was killed in August by shrapnel from an Israeli airstrike, the group said.

Another Israeli airstrike Saturday hit a car near a food distribution point in Khan Younis, killing 13 people, including children. Nasser hospital in Khan Younis received the bodies.

"They were distributing aid, vegetables, and we saw the missile landing," witness Rami Al-Sori said. A woman sat on the ground and wept.

Save the Children said a local employee was killed in one of the Khan Younis airstrikes while returning from a mosque.

And the director of Kamal Adwan hospital reported a strike in Tal al Zaatar in Beit Lahiya in the north where Israeli forces are operating, and estimated based on witness accounts that well over 100 dead were under the rubble. He said the area remained inaccessible.

## Hamas releases new hostage video

On Saturday, Hamas released a video of Israeli-American hostage Edan Alexander. Speaking under duress, Alexander referred to being held for 420 days and mentioned Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's recent \$5 million offer for the hostages' return.

"The prime minister is supposed to protect his soldiers and citizens, and you abandoned us," Alexander said.

Netanyahu's office said that he spoke with Alexander's family after the release of the "brutal psychological warfare video" that held "an important and exciting sign of life."

"(Netanyahu) reassured me and promised that now, after reaching an arrangement in Lebanon, conditions are right to free you all and bring you home," Alexander's mother, Yael, told demonstrators in Tel Aviv on Saturday evening.

A statement from U.S. National Security Council spokesperson Sean Savett called the hostage video "a cruel reminder of Hamas's terror against citizens of multiple countries, including our own."

"The war in Gaza would stop tomorrow and the suffering of Gazans would end immediately — and would have ended months ago — if Hamas agreed to release the hostages," it said.

Israel's retaliatory offensive in Gaza has killed more than 44,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials, who don't distinguish between civilians and combatants in their count but say over half the dead were women and children.

## Ceasefire appears to hold

Efforts for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas have faltered. But the U.S.- and France-brokered deal for Lebanon appears to be holding since Wednesday.

On Saturday, Israel's military said that it struck sites used to smuggle weapons from Syria to Lebanon after the ceasefire took effect. There was no immediate comment from Syrian authorities or Hezbollah. Israeli aircraft have struck Hezbollah targets in Lebanon several times, citing truce violations.

Israel's strike in Syria came as insurgents breached its largest city, Aleppo, bringing fresh uncertainty to the region.

The truce between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah calls for an initial two-month ceasefire in which the militants should withdraw north of Lebanon's Litani River and Israeli forces should return to their side of the border.

Many Lebanese, some of the 1.2 million displaced, streamed home despite warnings by the Israeli and Lebanese militaries to avoid certain areas.

"Day by day, we will return to our normal lives," said Mustafa Badawi, a cafe owner in Tyre.

## The toll of conflicts

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency said an Israeli drone strike on Rub Thalatheen village killed two people and wounded two others, and another hit a car in Majdal Zoun village. Lebanon's Health Ministry said three were wounded, including a 7-year-old child.

Israel's military said it had been operating to distance "suspects" in the region, without elaborating. Israel says it reserves the right to strike against any perceived violations.

Israel seeks to ensure that tens of thousands of displaced Israelis return home. But they have been apprehensive.

"No, it will not be like before," said one Israeli evacuee, Lavie Eini.

Hezbollah began attacking Israel on Oct. 8, 2023, in solidarity with the Palestinian militant group Hamas. Israel and Hezbollah kept up cross-border fire until Israel escalated with an attack that detonated hundreds of pagers and walkie-talkies used by Hezbollah. It then launched an intense aerial bombardment that killed Hezbollah leaders including Hassan Nasrallah, and a ground invasion in October.

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## The Democrats' leadership vote leaves me puzzled

Explain it to me like I'm five. How do you reinstall a senator accused of sexual harassment against three different women to a leadership post?

Because that's exactly what some members of the Indiana Senate Democratic Caucus did recently, hours after the accusations went public.

And to make matters worse, the caucus followed it up with a confusing statement supporting women and promising to create an accountable environment. But members didn't even hold their own leader accountable.

It makes no sense.

It all started when the Indianapolis Star broke the story of the allegations against Indianapolis Democrat Sen. Greg Taylor. Rumors were flying earlier, however, as word got out that Star reporters were calling other sources for comment. Many in the political sphere knew an article would be dropping soon.

So, it shouldn't have been a surprise. The bigger surprise to me was that Taylor didn't deny the charges.

His full statement says: "As an elected official, I am responsible for maintaining high professionalism and respecting the boundaries of all I engage with. While this has always been my goal, there have been times when I may have blurred the lines and behaved in a manner that potentially made my colleagues or those who witnessed my actions uncomfortable. While it was never my intent to cause harm, I acknowledge that I have fallen short, and for this, I apologize."

That, to me, makes a huge difference in what happened next.

He wasn't refuting the allegations and claiming innocence — at least not publicly. So why would six members of the 10-person caucus support him to continue leading the group?

We know who they are because the four members who voted against Taylor came out and explained why they preferred a new leader: Sen. Shelli Yoder, D-Bloomington; Sen. J.D. Ford, D-Indianapolis; Sen. Andrea Hunley, D-Indianapolis; and Sen. Rodney Pol, D-Chesterton.

Despite that, Hunley and Pol won leadership positions under Taylor.

"We will help move our caucus towards a future where this type of abhorrent behavior is not minimized or condoned," they said, in a joint statement about why they joined.

You know who didn't put out a statement explaining their support? The six whose 'yes' votes were required to keep Taylor in charge: Sen. Fady Qaddoura, D-Indianapolis; Sen. David Niezgodski, D-South Bend; Sen. Lonnie Randolph, D-East Chicago; and two new members, Sen. La Keisha Jackson, D-Indianapolis, and Sen. Mark Spencer, D-Gary.

Taylor himself was the last vote, clinching the six votes needed to retain power.

I reached out to several of those senators to try to understand their reasoning but got no responses.

Even the Indiana Democratic Party distanced itself from the caucus election results in a statement.

"We have taken a number of steps to address sexual harassment at the Indiana Democratic Party during my time as chair and we will be sharing more of that information with our state central committee at our next meeting," Chair Mike Schmuhl said, in response to a letter from 40 Democrat women. "I think it's also important to note that IDP is a separate employer from a political campaign, city government, or state government. That being said, our values are vital and I will work with these leaders and all stakeholders to build more trust within the party for the future."

The number of similar stories has grown at an alarming pace in recent years as more women feel comfortable with coming forward.

Indeed, some of these allegations against Taylor are years old but that doesn't make them less important or serious.

Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett's administration mishandled similar allegations involving a top aide, the Star and Mirror Indy reported. And in an opinion column, the Star revealed evidence that Sen. David Niezgodski, D-South Bend, harassed a young, female former employee: at the office, in voicemails, over texts, even showing up to her home. His company settled with the former employee for \$8,000, according to the Star.

Rumors abounded last year about a House Republican member too but the victim declined to speak.

GOP Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales in 2022 faced decade-old allegations of sexual assaults in interview transcripts published by political columnist Abdul-Hakim Shabazz.

The Indiana Supreme Court suspended former Republican Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill's law license for 30 days in 2020 after finding he committed criminal battery when he groped four women, including a legislator, during a party at an Indianapolis bar in 2018.

There is no excuse for what the caucus chose. And to follow the vote up with a statement calling for reform and supporting women is ridiculous.

Members showed there are no consequences for actions. And that speaks louder than a lame statement.

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



Niki Kelly

## Hoosier Opinions



## Hoosier farmers, automakers brace for Trump tariff 2.0

WASHINGTON — Let the Trump Trade Wars 2.0 begin! If you're a Hoosier farmer or auto worker, brace yourselves for potential impacts and bailouts.

Last Tuesday, President-elect Donald J. Trump announced huge tariffs aimed at our three biggest trade partners, Mexico, Canada and China. There is now intense speculation that these three nations will retaliate.

"On January 20th, as one of my many first Executive Orders, I will sign all necessary documents to charge Mexico and Canada a 25% Tariff on ALL products coming into the United States, and its ridiculous Open Borders," Trump posted on his Truth Social platform. "This Tariff will remain in effect until such time as Drugs, in particular Fentanyl, and all Illegal Aliens stop this Invasion of our Country!"

Trump allies see these tariffs as potential bargaining chip. "I think Trump is a world-class negotiator, and I'm confident that he'll support the U.S. agriculture economy," Kip Tom, a Kosciusko County farmer and co-chair of the Farmers and Ranchers for Trump 47, told Hoosier Ag Today.

U.S. Trade Representative data reveals that Indiana exported \$56 billion, with 27% (\$14.9 billion) to Canada, \$7.5 billion to Mexico and \$5 billion to China in 2022. According to Hoosier Ag Today, Indiana is the seventh largest agriculture exporting state shipping \$7.4 billion in domestic exports abroad in 2022, according to United States Department of Agriculture. That same year, Indiana exported \$2.6 billion in soybeans, \$1.3 billion in corn, \$836 million in feeds and other feed grains, \$472 million in soybean meal, and \$394 million in pork.

According to Autos Drive America, Indiana produced 948,130 vehicles in 2023, generating 124,135 jobs (and another 97,813 in indirect employment) while making \$9.4 billion in employee compensation. It's a \$19 billion industry producing 3.8% of Indiana's gross state product.

The proposed tariffs and Trump's threat to pull electric vehicle tax credits could change the playing field at a time when General Motors and Samsung are building a \$3.5 billion battery plant near New Carlisle. This project has already been delayed by a year due to what the Associated Press described as slowing EV sales in the U.S.

This is a repeat from Trump's playbook after he imposed similar tariffs in 2018 in 2019.

The Tax Foundation described those tariffs as "tax increases" on American consumers, despite Trump's assertion that China would be paying.

"The Trump administration imposed nearly \$80 billion worth of new taxes on Americans by levying tariffs on thousands of products valued at approximately \$380 billion in 2018 and 2019, amounting to one of the largest tax increases in decades," the Tax Foundation observed. The Biden administration has kept most of the Trump tariffs in place, and in May 2024, announced tariff hikes on an additional \$18 billion of

Chinese goods, including semiconductors and electric vehicles, for an additional tax increase of \$3.6 billion.

"We estimate the Trump-Biden tariffs will reduce long-run GDP by 0.2%, the capital stock by 0.1%, and employment by 142,000 full-time equivalent jobs," the Tax Foundation said.

The impact of Trump's initial tariffs on U.S. households had been about \$625 a year. "If imposed permanently, we estimate these tariffs would generate \$1.2 trillion in tax revenue from 2025 through 2034 on a conventional basis,"

the Foundation added. "In the long run, we estimate the tariffs would reduce GDP by 0.4% and employment by 344,900 jobs.

Our estimates do not capture the effects of retaliation, nor the additional harms that would stem from starting a global trade war."

According to Agriculture Dive, "Higher tariffs could further erode market opportunities for farmers as they struggle to compete with lower-priced commodities from other countries. If China were to retaliate with its own 60% tariffs on U.S. farm goods, it would result in a loss of 25 million metric tons of soybean exports and 90% of corn exports, according to a study commissioned by National Corn Growers Association and American Soybean Association.

"Bottom line: A repeated tariff-based approach accelerates conversion of cropland in South America, which has permanent ramifications on soybean and corn exports worldwide," the trade groups said following the release of the study, completed by the World Agricultural Economic and Environmental Services. "And U.S. soybean and corn growers bear the burden."

As for Hoosier farmers, the Trump tariffs were damaging, and he responded by creating Market Facilitation Payments, the USDA's program for farmers whose access to the Chinese market has been cut off.

According to Politico, direct farm aid climbed each year of Trump's first presidency, from \$11.5 billion in 2017 to more than \$32 billion 2020. The New York Times reported that in 2020, Market Facilitation Payments reached \$46 billion that election year.

For contrast, the Bush43 and Obama administrations bailed out GM and Chrysler in 2008-10 to the tune of \$80 billion. Moody's chief economist Mark Zandi told Marketplace that all but \$9 billion had been repaid.

Politically, these federal bailout funds proved to be advantageous for the Trump campaign, as he carried most rural Indiana counties with 65% to 75% of the vote in 2020 and again on Nov. 5.

But the reality is that these bailout funds simply end up on the federal credit card, to be paid (or endured) by future generations.

*Howey is a senior writer for Howey Politics Indiana and State Affairs. Find Howey on X @hwypol.*



Brian Howey

## Politicking

## Fluoride: Good or bad?

Florida Surgeon General Joseph A. Ladapo has joined Robert F. Kennedy Jr. in opposition to fluoride in the water supply. Dr. Ladapo cites controversial studies that claim the additive poses a risk to developing brains.

I shall resist the temptation to draw a link between such studies and our politicians.

The Washington Post reports: "Despite the identification of a new chemical and the presence of an old chemical, fluoride, in drinking water, experts said most tap water is safe to drink."

"Experts" have been on both sides of so many things over the years it is difficult to know whom to trust. A Wall Street Journal story says red wine, once thought to be good for the heart, is now said to be bad for you, along with all alcohol, even in moderation. It looks like those beer ads will have to revise their "drink responsibly" disclaimers. Trying to discern what is bad or good for you is enough to drive one to drink.

In the '50s when fluoride was introduced into the public water supply and later toothpaste as part of a health and anti-cavity campaign, it was strongly endorsed by medical, dental and public health organizations in the United States and Canada.



Cal Thomas

Extreme right-wing conspiracy groups like The John Birch Society claimed fluoride was a plot by the communists to kill us and steal our women (I made up that last part, but not by much). It reminds me of the character in "Dr. Strangelove," delightfully named Brig. Gen. Jack D. Ripper (Sterling Hayden) who was obsessed by what he referred to as "our vital bodily fluids."

Here is one of my favorite exchanges in the film, which I quote only to demonstrate that conspiracy and other whacko theories are nothing new. Mandrake is played by Peter Sellers.

"General Ripper: Have you ever seen a Commie drink a glass of water?"

Group Captain Lionel Mandrake: Well, no, I can't say I have.

Ripper: Vodka. That's what they drink, isn't it? Never water.

Mandrake: Well, I believe that's what they drink, Jack. Yes.

Ripper: On no account will a Commie ever drink water and not without good reason.

Mandrake: Yes. I -- I don't quite see what you're getting at, Jack.

Ripper: Water. That's what I'm getting at. Water."

He might have added fluoride, but

you get the satirical value of the brilliant Stanley Kubrick film.

Over the years we have been given contradictory, even wrong information about so many things, most recently about masks during the Covid-19 pandemic (they work, they don't work), and vaccines (they protect you, but not always). Once, coffee was bad, now it's OK. Alar on apples was bad, now apparently not. Global cooling and the coming Ice Age would kill us. Climate change will make us burn to death. Eggs, once bad, now OK. Nuts once bad, but raw nuts good as part of a healthy diet. Pasta once bad, now good if one chooses the right kind; 2 percent or skim milk once considered preferable to whole milk, but no longer.

The list goes on. Words like moderation in all things, a healthy diet and exercise remain the gold standard for good health. That hasn't changed, though the "experts" can't seem to make up their minds. Defenders of what some have called "junk science" say changed minds are based on new research. Meanwhile, we are told to believe today's scientists and change our lives accordingly.

I have drunk fluoridated water and brushed my teeth with fluoride toothpaste all my life. I've lived this long, so I think I will continue the pattern and see if "science" changes again.

*tcaditors@tribpub.com.*

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



# What's happening at the Wells County Public Library

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

### Bingo with Jason

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, Dec. 2 from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Adults. Enjoy a lively game of Bingo for a chance to win a candy bar with everyone's favorite librarian named Jason. Registration required.

### Teen Gaming Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, Dec. 2 from 6 to 7 p.m.

Grades 6-12. Enjoy a variety of different games each month, including video games, trading card games, and board games. No registration needed.

### Children's Book Clubs

At the Main Library (Bluffton)  
Grades 1-2 Book Club: Tuesday, Dec. 3 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Grades 3-4 Book Club: Tuesday, Dec. 10 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Grades 5-6 Book Club: Thursday, Dec. 12 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Pick up a copy of the book-of-the-month when you sign up at the library. Talk about the book and enjoy an activity or craft based on the book.

### Teen Food Fun at Ossian

At the Ossian Branch Library: Thursday, Dec. 5 from 3 to 4 p.m.

Grades 6-12. Have fun creating Graham Cracker Houses. Drop-in event. No registration needed.

### Genealogy/Local History Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, Dec. 5 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Ages 12+. Members help each other learn new things and obtain a greater appreciation for local history and genealogy research. Bring your own laptop or share one of ours. Registration appreciated.

### Ossian Hometown Christmas

At the Ossian Branch Library: Thursday, Dec. 5 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

All ages. Visit the Ossian Branch during Ossian Hometown Christmas for the tree lighting and treats. You can also make a Christmas card that we will deliver to Ossian Health Community residents. No registration needed.

### Brown Bag Book Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, Dec. 9 at 1:30 p.m.

Adults. Read the book "The Stranger in the Woods" by Michael Finkel. Registration appreciated.

### Crafty Kids at Ossian

At the Ossian Branch Library: Monday, Dec. 9 from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

School-age kids. Drop-in for a different craft each month. No registration needed.

### Timeless Tech Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, Dec. 10 from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Adults. Each month has a different tech

focus and there is plenty of time for questions. All skill levels are welcome. Bring a smart phone or tablet with you or use one of ours. Registration appreciated your first visit.

### Cook, Talk, Taste

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, Dec. 10 from 6 to 7 p.m.

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

### Teen Book Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, Dec. 12 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Grades 6-12. Discuss the book "Michael Vey Prisoner of Cell 25" by Richard Paul Evans. Registration required.

### Book Discussion: "Decked with Folly"

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, Dec. 12 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Adults. Discuss the book "Decked with Folly" by Kate Kingsbury. Registration required.

### Graham Cracker Houses Family Night at Ossian

At the Ossian Branch Library: Thursday, Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m.

All ages. Build a Graham Cracker House as a group with family or friends. Limited space available. Registration required.

### Drop-in Christmas Wee Read

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Friday, Dec. 13 from 9:30 to 10 a.m.

Birth to 24 months. Drop-in for some Christmas books, fingerplays, simple craft and story time! No registration required.



### Parlor City Christmas

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Saturday, Dec. 14

All ages. Annual Parlor City Christmas event happening in downtown Bluffton. At the library will be multiple Goodie Walk stops, carriage rides, and musical entertainment on the steps. Get more information at [parlorcitychristmas.com](http://parlorcitychristmas.com).

### Library Hours

At the main library in Bluffton — Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

At the Ossian branch library — Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon.

Access the library online at [www.wellscolibrary.org](http://www.wellscolibrary.org) for digital books, magazines, online databases, event info, and more.

## Zanesville News

by Melba Edwards

I had carpal tunnel surgery recently so typing is still a little chore.

The Living Light Show at the Zanesville Tower Life Center is open.

The Tower Life Center Community Christmas is Friday evening, Dec. 6.

The annual Christmas Market is held outside on Saturday, Dec. 7, at the

Zanesville United Brethren Church. There will be lots of vendors there. The time is 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Congratulations to Mike Lautzenheiser as he was named Volunteer of the Year in Wells County. Michael's father helped me so many times through incorporation and the sewers so he is following in his father's

footsteps. Michael has a wife Bri, a son Reece and a daughter Harper. He is Executive Director of the Wells County Area Plan Commission.

Condolences to the Holley Family who were well known in Lafayette Township. Shirley Holley-Pitzer, 87, of Fort Wayne, passed away on Nov. 15.

## Sweetwater All Stars at Allen County Public Library

On Sunday, Dec. 8, the Sweetwater All Stars will be presenting a free holiday concert at the Allen County Public Library's main site at 2 p.m.

On Jan. 19, at 2 p.m. the program will feature the Save Latchaw Sextet, a jazz adventure with elements of rock, funk, world music and beyond.

The Feb. 9th, 2 p.m. program will feature the West Central Quartet with some jazz standards, classic and contemporary pop music.

## A Talk with Tego



Lucy is a 2½-year-old, dilute calico, spayed female.



Ollie is a five-month-old, orange/white, neutered male.



Teddy is a 4½-month-old, black/white, neutered male.

**Tego's Tips:** Let's clear the Wells County Animal Shelter for the Holidays! All cats/kittens that are already spayed/neutered have their adoption fee waived until the end of the year! They will come with their distemper series vaccine, de-wormed and Advantage flea treatment. There are many to choose from.

These are just a few pets available for adoption at the Wells County Animal Shelter, 1613 W. Cherry St., Bluffton. For more information call 824-6063.



Tego

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# Raiders smash Jets to open ACAC, improve to 7-1

By RICK SPRUNGER

MONROE — A strong second quarter and a solid start to the third propelled Southern Wells' Raiders to a 56-39 win over Adams Central Saturday night.

The win was Southern Wells' seventh straight, giving it its longest winning streak and strongest start to a season since the 2013 team got off to an 8-0 start 12 years ago. It was also the Allen County Athletic Conference opener for both teams.

"We played pretty well tonight," said Southern Wells coach Kyle Penrod of his team's surge in the middle two quarters.

"We weren't using our transition break in the first quarter," he continued. "It's not that that wasn't the game plan — we just weren't doing it. We played six games in 12 days to start the season, but we've only played once in the two weeks since then. But we went to our trap to get some steals, we put Ashlie Needler back in (after two early fouls), and we started getting some turnovers."

The Raiders looked sluggish in the early going, spotting Adams Central a quick 15-6 lead.

After Collena Reeves rebounded a missed free throw and put it back in on Southern Wells' first possession of the game, Penrod's charges went stone cold.

They went more than nine minutes without another field goal, missing 12 straight shots and committing nine turnovers while Adams Central threatened to run away and hide.

Meanwhile, Needler picked up her second foul with 4:16 left in the first quarter and took a seat.

"I told them that they're good players and that they just needed to step up and play

with more confidence," said Penrod later.

He also made the decision to reinsert Needler at the 5:51 mark of the second quarter, two fouls and all.

But just before Needler re-entered, Erika Beavans got Southern Wells off the schneid with a three-pointer from the left corner that seemed to light a spark under her team.

That shot launched a 19-2 Southern Wells run that elevated the Raiders from a 15-7 deficit after one quarter to a 26-17 lead with 6:25 left in the third. And right in the middle of it was Needler.

The combination of her presence underneath and the trap out front paid immediate dividends for Southern Wells.

The senior forward scored twice underneath upon re-entering the fray, once on a rebound basket and once on a pretty reverse layup, before a midcourt theft by Kaylee Davis off the trap led to her two free throws that gave the Raiders their first lead of the night at 16-15.

Needler rebounded a Jet miss, and the Raiders pushed the ball up the floor to Davis, whose drive through the lane made it 18-15.

Southern Wells never trailed again. A Kate Fisher drive got Adams Central back to within 18-17, but Kenzie Paxson scored from underneath, and Reeves added



a free throw with 0:00.3 left after a silly Jet foul 30 feet from the basket with Reeves' back to the hoop.

Adams Central's second-quarter numbers against the trap: Two points on 1-8 shooting from the field and 11 turnovers.

Needler then started the third quarter with another bucket underneath before feeding Paxson for a three-point play that made it 26-17.

Adams Central got back to within 35-31 and got the ball back, but a big play by Beavans stopped the rally in its tracks.

Beavans stole the ball deep in the right corner, dribbled through a double-team out to midcourt, and then found Kaylea Coffel underneath for a three-point play with 0:13 left in the period.

Davis started the fourth quarter with a three-pointer eight seconds into the stanza, then followed with a steal and a layup on a drive through the lane as Southern Wells ran off another 17-0 spurt to blow the score out to 52-31 and put the game away.

Scoring was evenly spread for Southern Wells, which got a game-high 12 points from Davis, 10 each from Paxson and Needler, eight from Kaylea Coffel, and seven apiece from Beavans and Reeves.

The Raiders were 20-49 from the field for the game for a 40% shooting percentage and outrebounded the Jets, 38-33, while

forcing 27 turnovers.

Adams Central (1-6) hit just eight of 35 shots after the first quarter for a 22% percentage during that span.

The Jets also failed to land a player in double figures, getting a team-high nine points from Ellie Ogg.

"This will happen in steps," said Penrod of his efforts to turn around a program that has struggled in recent years. "Right now, we're beating the teams we should beat. The next step will be to start beating the top teams on our schedule."

Southern Wells also copped the junior varsity contest, 29-26.

Remi Holmes scored 12 points and Cadence Watkins eight for Southern Wells, which also got five points from Lexi Pennington and two apiece from Jaiynn Chase and Lillia Paxson.

sports@news-banner.com

## SOUTHERN WELLS 56, ADAMS CENTRAL 39

At Adams Central  
**SOUTHERN WELLS (7-1, 1-0 ACAC):** Erika Beavans 2-6 2-2 7, Kaylee Davis 3-9 5-8 12, Collena Reeves 3-9 1-2 7, Kenzie Paxson 3-8 4-7 10, Ashlie Needler 5-8 0-0 10, Kaylea Coffel 3-4 1-1 8, Aubree Meyer 0-2 0-2 0, Cadence Watkins 0-0 0-0 0, Callie Ripberger 1-3 0-0 2, Remi Holmes 0-0 0-0 0, Lillia Paxson 0-0 0-0 0. TOTAL: 20-49 13-22 56.

**ADAMS CENTRAL (1-6, 0-1 ACAC):** Tenley Hendricks 2-9 0-0 6, Kate Fisher 3-9 0-0 7, Izzy Isch 2-7 3-4 7, Ava Stafford 2-8 4-6 8, Ellie Ogg 4-11 0-0 9, Sophia Ward 0-0 0-0 0, Myla Ellenberger 0-2 0-0 0, Demi Landis 1-1 0-0 2, Adia Hildebrand 0-1 0-0 0, Cali Dairyple 0-0 0-0 0. TOTAL: 14-48 7-13 39.

**Southern Wells 7 14 17 18 — 56**  
**Adams Central 15 2 14 8 — 39**

**Three-point Shooting:** Southern Wells 3-12 (Beavans 1-2, Davis 1-3, C. Reeves 0-2, Coffel 1-2, Meyer 0-1, Ripberger 0-2), Adams Central 4-19 (Hendricks 2-5, Fisher 1-4, Stafford 0-5, Ogg 1-5). Rebounds: Southern Wells 38 (Reeves 6, Needler 6, Meyer 5), Adams Central 33 (Isch 8). Turnovers: Southern Wells 23, Adams Central 27. Personal fouls: Southern Wells 17, Adams Central 23. Fouled Out: Stafford. Technical fouls: None.  
 Junior Varsity: Southern Wells 29, Adams Central 26.

## Sports Roundup

### Tigers nearly makes giant comeback in loss to Bruins

The Bluffton boys' basketball team nearly mounted a 15-point comeback in the fourth quarter in its opener Saturday night.

The Tigers (0-1) lost 62-61 to the Blackford Bruins (1-1) in season No. 2 of head coach Craig Teagle.

Declan Griser (26) and Nolan Lambert (22) combined for 48 of the 61 points for the Tigers. Kaleb Green scored six, Cam Williams three and both Griffin Morgan and Ben Maggard 2.

Bluffton swept the junior varsity and freshmen level games.

In the junior varsity contest, the Tigers won 44-21 with Max White's 13 and Gavin Grieser's 12 points leading the way. Gibson Grieser scored five, Kameron Klinski (5) and Abram Gehrett and Jonah Geisel (4).

The freshmen team won 38-8. Braelon Terry led the team with 10 points, Bennett Stoller (8), Rafe Gerber (6), Alex Maggard and Reid Abbott (5) and Heath Johnson (4).

Bluffton will be at South Adams at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6 to open up ACAC play.

### Knights leave Hornets nest with victory in girls' hoops

The Norwell girls' basketball team narrowly escaped an early afternoon scare with Angola on Saturday.

The Knights (6-3) were all tied up 47-47 at the end of the third quarter with the Hornets (2-3). But Norwell prevailed to a 17-9 spread in the fourth to come away with a win.

Vanessa Rosswurm scored 22 points, hauled in 10 rebounds and was one assist away from a triple-double. She went 3-10 from beyond the arc.

Additionally, Macie Saalfrank dropped 16 points with four threes, Addison Norris scored 10 and Ashley Waldman eight.

The Knights will travel to Huntington North to open up Northeast 8 Conference play at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6.

#### NORWELL 64, ANGOLA 56

At Angola  
**NORWELL (6-3):** Vanessa Rosswurm 8-21 3-4 22, Macie Saalfrank 6-14 0-0 16, Addison Norris 4-11 0-0 10, Ashley Waldman 3-8 0-0 8, Haley Williamson 2-3 0-0 6, Jada Dale 1-3 0-0 2, Ryland Graft 0-1 0-0 0, Alivia Green 0-2 0-0 0, Larkin Smith 0-0 0-0 0, Isabella Swineford 0-1 0-0 0. TOTALS: 24-64 3-4 64.

**ANGOLA (2-3):** Bailey Holman 8-13 0-0 16, Alexis Stillman 4-14 6-9 14, Ava Rinard 3-12 1-2 9, Aspen Sutton 3-11 0-0 8, Karleigh Gillen 2-4 0-0 5, Anna McClure 1-2 0-0 2, Kendall Holman 1-1 0-0 2, Stella Stockamp 0-2 0-0 0. TOTALS: 22-59 7-11 56.

**Norwell 26 7 14 17 — 64**  
**Angola 13 13 21 9 — 56**

Three-point Shooting: Norwell 13-41 (Saalfrank 4-11, Rosswurm 3-10, Williamson 2-3, Waldman 2-7, Norris 2-7, Graft 0-1, Dale 0-1), Angola 5-20 (Rinard 2-6, Sut-

## Michigan upsets No. 2 Ohio State

By MITCH STACY

AP Sports Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Dominic Zvada kicked a 21-yard field goal with 45 seconds left and Michigan stunned No. 2 Ohio State 13-10 on Saturday, ending the Buckeyes' hopes of returning to the Big Ten title game.

Kalel Mullings broke away for a 27-yard run, setting up the Wolverines (7-5, 5-4) at Ohio State's 17-yard line with two minutes remaining in the game. The drive stalled at the 3, and Zvada came on for the chip shot.

Ohio State (10-2, 7-2, No. 2 CFP) got the ball back but couldn't move it, with Will Howard throwing incomplete on fourth down to seal the Wolverines' fourth straight win over their bitter rival.

"You come to Michigan to play this game," Zvada said. "So, it's the biggest one of the year. It's the one that everyone looks forward to, and to be able to come in here and take the win, it's amazing."

This Ohio State loss in the "The Game" might have been the toughest of the past four because Michigan was unranked and wrapping up a disappointing season. The Wolverines were also playing without a couple of top players: tight end Colston Loveland and cornerback Will Johnson.

ton 2-9, Gillen 1-2, Stillman 0-1). Rebounds: Norwell 35 (Rosswurm 10, Dale 4, Waldman 4, Williamson 3, Norris 3, Saalfrank 2, Graft 1, Smith 1, Swineford 1), Angola 36 (Stillman 14, B. Holman 6, Sutton 4, Rinard 3, Gillen 2, K. Holman 1, Stockamp 1, McClure 1). Turnovers: Norwell 15, Angola 21. Fouls: Norwell 14, Angola 11. Fouled out: Hone. Technicals: None.

### Raiders drop to 0-2 in defeat to South Wood Knights

The Southern Wells boys' basketball team fell to 0-2 on the season in a 48-33 loss to Southwood on Saturday.

Rugar Holmes and CJ Reber led the team with seven points each. Landon Johnson and Hunter Durham scored six each, Joshua Aulbach three and both Trey Slusher and Wyatt Yoder (2).

Southern Wells is scheduled to host Adams Central to open up ACAC play at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6.

### ACAC releases football award-winners

With the conclusion of the high school football season on Saturday, the Allen County Athletic Conference released its award-winners for the 2024 season.

Adams Central defeated Linton Stockton 46-6 in the state championship game after winning its fourth straight ACAC crown with a perfect 6-0 record. Bluffton finished third with a 4-2 record and Southern Wells seventh at 0-6.

Bluffton had four selections on the first-team all-conference list: Dravin Shoemaker (OL), AJ Streveler (WR), Axton Beste (QB) and Griffin Morgan (LB). Shoemaker was the only senior on the list.

On the second team, Southern Wells' lone selection was junior Levi Blake (TE).

The Tigers got an additional five players on the second team: Zane Betz (OL), Eli Bertsch (WR), Cooper Craig (RB), Tavin Frees (DL) and Marshall Gerber (DB).

### Raiders wrestle in Thanksgiving tournament

Southern Wells competed in the Home-stead Thanksgiving Duals event on Saturday.

The Raiders finished the day 0-5.

#### Team scores were:

78-6 loss to Yorktown.  
 63-9 loss to DeKalb.  
 71-6 loss to Homestead.  
 42-30 loss to North Side.  
 47-36 loss to Perry Meridian.  
 Individual results were not provided at the time of print.

Southern Wells will be a Tri-Central for a solo match at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5.



Bluffton's Cameron Williams draws his Blackford defenders into the air and dishes off to Declan Grieser who will score two points as Bluffton made a furious comeback from a 15-point deficit in the fourth quarter Saturday night at The Tiger Den. The rally fell a point short for the Tigers in their home opener as the Bruins won 62-61. (Photo by Glen Werling)

## News-Banner Scoreboard

### FOOTBALL

#### High School

##### Saturday Scores State Championship

Class 1A  
 Providence 35, N. Judson 20  
 Class 3A  
 Heritage Hills 38, Ft. Wayne Luers 15  
 Class 5A  
 Decatur Central 38, Warsaw 24

##### Friday's Scores State Championship

Class 6A  
 Brownsburg 22, Westfield 17  
 Class 4A  
 New Palestine 56, E. Noble 26  
 Class 2A  
 Adams Central 46, Linton 6

#### College

##### Saturday Scores

Boston College 34, Pittsburgh 23  
 Penn St. 44, Maryland 7  
 Syracuse 42, Miami 38  
 Alabama 28, Auburn 14  
 Duke 23, Wake Forest 17  
 Florida 31, Florida St. 11  
 LSU 37, Oklahoma 17  
 Louisville 41, Kentucky 14  
 NC State 35, North Carolina 30  
 South Carolina 17, Clemson 14  
 Tennessee 36, Vanderbilt 23  
 Illinois 38, Northwestern 28  
 Indiana 66, Purdue 0  
 Iowa St. 29, Kansas St. 21  
 Michigan 13, Ohio St. 10  
 Missouri 28, Arkansas 21  
 Rutgers 41, Michigan St. 14  
 TCU 20, Cincinnati 13  
 W. Michigan 26, E. Michigan 18  
 Baylor 45, Kansas 17  
 SMU 38, California 6  
 Texas 17, Texas A&M 7  
 Texas Tech 52, West Virginia 15  
 Arizona St. 49, Arizona 7  
 BYU 30, Houston 18  
 Notre Dame 49, Southern Cal 35  
 Oregon 49, Washington 21  
 UCLA 20, Fresno St. 13

#### NFL

##### Thursday's Games

Detroit 23, Chicago 20  
 Dallas 27, N.Y. Giants 20  
 Green Bay 30, Miami 17

##### Friday's Games

Kansas City 19, Las Vegas 17

##### Sunday's Games

Houston 23, Jacksonville 20  
 Indianapolis 25, New England 24  
 L.A. Chargers 17, Atlanta 13  
 Minnesota 23, Arizona 22  
 Pittsburgh 44, Cincinnati 38  
 Seattle 26, N.Y. Jets 21  
 Washington 42, Tennessee 19  
 L.A. Rams 21, New Orleans 14  
 Tampa Bay 26, Carolina 23, OT  
 Philadelphia 24, Baltimore 19  
 San Francisco at Buffalo, late

### BASKETBALL

#### High School

##### Saturday Boys' Scores

Anderson 54, Liberty Christian 51  
 Anderson Prep Academy 48, Elwood 24  
 Angola 45, Wawasee 40  
 Avon 85, Victory 21  
 BHRH, Ill. 59, Covington 45  
 Barr-Reeve 57, Medora 25  
 Benton Central 43, Crawfordsville 28  
 Blackford 62, Bluffton 61  
 DeKalb 63, Eastside 28  
 Delta 48, Connersville 36  
 Fairfield 53, Olney, Ill. 51  
 Fishers 91, Indpls Tech 63  
 Garrett 52, Prairie Heights 28  
 Heritage 59, Whitko 46  
 Highland 60, Indpls Washington 56  
 Indian Creek 70, Edinburg 52  
 Indpls Attucks 63, Lawrence North 54  
 Indpls Ben Davis 56, Zionsville 45  
 Indpls Perry Meridian 84, Indpls Shortridge 73  
 Indpls Pike 63, Hamilton Southeastern 57

Jeffersonville 67, Indpls Cathedral 65  
 Kankakee Valley 81, Lighthouse 50  
 Knightstown 57, Waldron 52  
 Lakeland (IN) 52, E. Noble 49  
 Lapel 61, Frankton 50  
 Lawrenceburg 69, Switzerland Co. 57  
 Madison-Grant 42, Wabash 29  
 Manchester 76, Oak Hill 36  
 Marion 69, New Castle 62  
 Michigan City 98, Hammond Science and Tech 31  
 Mississinewa 66, Huntington North 65, OT

Morristown 49, Eminence 44  
 Mt. Vernon (Fortville) 51, Lebanon 43  
 Mt. Vernon (Posey) 50, Cascade 42  
 N. Daviess 91, Washington Catholic 15  
 New Albany 75, Bloomington South 73  
 Noblesville 59, Franklin 41

NorthWood 68, Ft. Wayne Concordia 39

Northeastern 66, Monroe Central 43  
 Northfield 49, Eastbrook 46  
 Northridge 68, Westview 61  
 Northview 61, Vermillion 36  
 Northwestern 66, Cass 41  
 Orleans 61, Crothersville 28  
 Parke Heritage 63, Plainfield 49  
 Penn 39, Carroll (Ft. Wayne) 31  
 Plymouth 51, Bremen 45  
 Portage 68, Munster 47  
 Portage Christian 68, Tri-Township 47  
 Princeton 66, Evansville North 48  
 Richmond 43, Jay Co. 36  
 Rossview 57, Western Boone 56  
 S. Bend Adams 56, LaPorte 49  
 S. Bend Washington 79, Lake Central 77

S. Central (Elizabeth) 53, Crawford Co. 50  
 S. Dearborn 45, Franklin Co. 41  
 S. Ripley 84, Rising Sun 39  
 Shakamak 64, Vincennes Rivet 28  
 Shelbyville 52, Triton Central 46  
 Shenandoah 60, Blue River Valley 37  
 Southmont 63, Sheridan 58  
 Southport 55, Mooresville 50  
 Southwood 48, Southern Wells 33  
 Wapahani 62, Pendleton Hts. 51  
 Wes-Del 64, Alexandria 48  
 Woodlan 65, Bellmont 39  
 Yorktown 55, Greensburg 47

**Saturday Girls' Scores**  
 Anderson Prep Academy 77, Liberty Christian 61  
 Brownsburg 67, Columbia City 58  
 Carroll (Ft. Wayne) 57, Penn 53  
 Fishers 59, Ft. Wayne Snider 38  
 Franklin 54, Indpls Perry Meridian 40  
 Ft. Wayne North 50, New Haven 40  
 Hamilton Southeastern 46, Fremd, Ill. 41

Huntington North 57, Hamilton Hts. 20  
 Jeffersonville 49, Indpls Cathedral 39  
 LaVile 55, N. Miami 22  
 Lawrence Central 67, Indpls Ben Davis 27  
 Leo 49, Lakeland (IN) 42  
 New Palestine 59, Whiteland 49  
 Noblesville 64, Mt. Vernon (Fortville) 32

Northeastern 50, Monroe Central 35  
 Norwell 64, Angola 56  
 Oak Hill 49, Manchester 45  
 Owen Valley 56, Bloomfield 22  
 Prairie Heights 33, Garrett 32  
 S. Bend Washington 69, Lawrence North 50

Silver Creek 53, Gibson Southern 51  
 Southern Wells 56, Adams Central 39  
 Wabash 68, Madison-Grant 25



Family boundaries and paths to healing

Dear Annie by Annie Lane



Dear Annie: I have a very toxic and narcissistic sister-in-law. Despite years of unpleasant family problems caused by her, my husband and his brother (her siblings) feel obligated to stay in contact with her. Now that their parents have passed away, I had hoped we could reduce this contact even further.

The issue has become more pressing as our daughter is getting married. She does not want to invite her aunt or cousins due to how they've treated her in the past, and I fully support her decision. However, I know this will cause conflict with my husband, who may insist on including them out of family obligation.

How can I handle this situation while respecting my daughter's wishes and avoiding unnecessary family drama? — Conflicted

Dear Conflicted: Your daughter's wedding is her day, and her wishes should be the priority. Explain to your husband that the decision to exclude his sister is about ensuring a positive, stress-free event for your daughter, not about hurting anyone.

Suggest that your husband address the matter with his sister separately, either before or after the wedding, to maintain some level of family connection without disrupting the celebration. Focus on clear, calm communication, and emphasize that this is about supporting your daughter's happiness.

Dear Annie: Thank you so much for recommending Al-Anon to your readers who are struggling with the devastating effects of alcoholism. This program has been a lifeline for me, offering a safe space to untangle the confusion, pain and helplessness that often comes from loving someone who struggles with drinking. Al-Anon is not just about coping; it's about transforming how we live, think and love.

Before Al-Anon, I spent so much energy trying to control the uncontrolla-

ble — desperately trying to "fix" my alcoholic loved one and believing that their sobriety was the key to my happiness. It was exhausting and heartbreaking. The program gently taught me that my happiness, peace and serenity don't depend on someone else's choices. Instead, they come from within me.

Through the wisdom of Al-Anon, I've learned to let go of resentment, unrealistic expectations and the illusion of control. I've found a new way to love — one that is rooted in compassion and respect, whether my alcoholic loved one is drinking or not. That doesn't mean it's always easy, but it does mean that I now have tools to navigate the hard moments without losing myself in the process.

The serenity I've gained is beyond measure. It's allowed me to find joy in my own life, no matter the chaos or uncertainty around me. I've learned to trust in something greater than myself and to lean on a community of people who truly understand what it means to walk this path. I'm forever grateful for Al-Anon. If you're struggling, I can't recommend it enough. You're not alone, and there is a way to find peace. — Love Al-Anon

Dear Love: Thank you for your heartfelt letter. I am so glad that you found so much perspective, freedom and comfort from Al-Anon, which, as you know, is an organization that I recommend regularly. They are great, and so are you! Thanks again for writing.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. © 2024 CREATORS.COM

BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



ZITS



CRANKSHAFT



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



Even the best years are filled with pain and trouble

Question: I am attending a Bible class and am learning so much, but the longer I'm in it the more I question whether it is really a Bible class. The leader is teaching not from the Bible but from a Christian book that is on the bestseller list! The author is clearly accepted by his peers — and is often on the same platform as other Christian authors and pastors. The issue we're studying right now is that the Bible teaches that once we become Christians, we should never experience pain or trouble. I'm pretty sure this is incorrect, right? — A.G.

Answer: The Bible says that even the best years are filled with pain and trouble (see Psalm 90:10). Here it is with clarity: Life is hard,

and our years on Earth are marked by trouble and sorrow. As someone has said, there is no false advertising in the Bible!

Advertisements that promise happiness if we'll only use their product are deceiving. Products may give us some pleasure and satisfy our momentary wants, but they will not bring peace, joy, and true happiness. A new car is fun to have, but it will eventually get old and have problems. New clothes can make us feel sharp, but they wear out in time.

Do you know anyone who has never had a problem? We live in a world that is broken because of sin, and we share in its brokenness. Why does God allow this? First, it

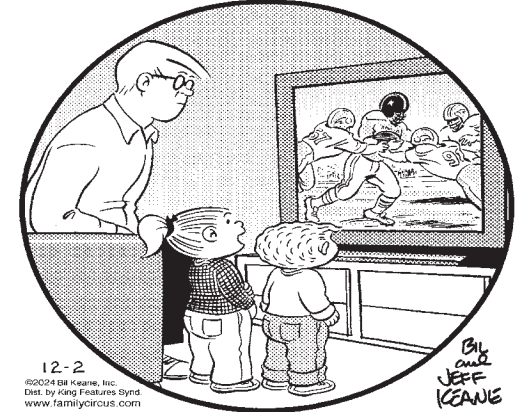
proves that we are who we are — sinners. Second, it should give us greater compassion for others. All around us are people whose lives are filled with trouble and sorrow, and they need your compassion and encouragement. Third, for those who belong to Christ, someday we will know the absence of sorrow and trouble. This makes us yearn for Heaven. Mankind's words are not the same as the Word of God — the Bible is God's authoritative truth that can set us free.

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

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By Bil Keane



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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Saturday's answer grid for the crossword puzzle.

Television schedule table with columns for time slots (12:02, 1:00, 2:00, etc.) and program titles.



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

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

Difficulty: ★

12/2

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### Lottery Numbers

**Saturday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY**  
Cash 5 — 10-13-17-18-43

Cash4Life — 01-26-32-53-58, Cash Ball: 03

Lotto Plus — 06-10-11-22-33-40

Quick Draw Midday — 03-11-24-26-28-29-30-31-34-36-37-38-49-52-53-63-64-67-72-76, BE: 49

Daily Three-Midday — 05-07-03, SB: 06

Daily Three-Evening — 00-03-00, SB: 03

Daily Four-Midday — 07-07-02-07, SB: 06

Daily Four-Evening — 05-06-08-00, SB: 03

Quick Draw Evening — 06-08-14-22-25-26-27-32-33-37-42-45-46-49-58-60-61-62-63-72, BE: 63

Hoosier Lotto — 07-14-27-39-43-46

**POWERBALL**  
04-24-29-39-63; Powerball: 25; Power Play: 4X

**Sunday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY**  
Cash 5 — 01-13-20-29-37

Cash4Life — 29-36-46-56-59, Cash Ball: 03

Quick Draw Midday — 03-06-10-11-13-19-26-33-35-37-44-51-52-58-62-64-67-69-70-78, BE: 58

Daily Three-Midday — 05-09-01, SB: 07

Daily Three-Evening — 09-07-02, SB: 07

Daily Four-Midday — 03-03-04-02, SB: 07

Daily Four-Evening — 01-07-05-07, SB: 07

Quick Draw Evening — 01-05-09-18-20-28-34-35-36-45-50-55-58-60-61-62-66-68-73-77, BE: 55

Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$30.6 million

**MEGA MILLIONS**  
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**POWERBALL**  
Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$224 million

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## EMPLOYMENT

### Help Wanted

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

Coordinates the preparation and presentation of an annual budget for the Building Department; directs the implementation of the department's budget; plans for and reviews specifications for new or replaced equipment. Construct and establish a local building code based off state code requirements and needs of the county. Controls the expenditure of departmental appropriations. Receives complaints, investigates, and issues unsafe building violations, nuisance violations and minimum housing standards violations, as appropriate.

Completes continuing education classes on building codes and practices, as needed. Reviews the building plan for the County. Approves the building permits, issues permits, and collects the fees for the permits, as necessary. Issues certificates of occupancy, as needed. Maintains an effective communication process with the Commissioners.

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

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

## 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 range for 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.wellscountysheriff.com](http://www.wellscountysheriff.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.

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

## SERVICES

### Services

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

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

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

**DECEMBER 5 & 6 - 9 a.m. - Secured creditors & various consignors, owners.** 815 Adams St., Decatur. Day 1: Online bidding only. Over 300+ lots including skid loader attachments, tool boxes, workbenches, iron gates, chains & binders, 1 trip 40' high side

shipping container w/side doors, dome shelter containers, much more! Day 2 truck & equipment auction! Onsite and online bidding offering 600+ lots! Cars, SUV, 1/2 ton & 3/4 ton pickup trucks, cargo & passenger vans, dump trucks, large group of box trucks, day cabs, sleepers, utility trucks, bucket trucks, utility & semi trailers, SUV's pickup trucks, various skid steer attachments, much more! Accepting consignments! [KrueckebergAuction.com](http://KrueckebergAuction.com) & [RealtyLLC.com](http://RealtyLLC.com), 260-724-7402, [Kjauction.com](http://Kjauction.com).

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

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

**BIDDING CLOSES DECEMBER 15 - 6 p.m. - Online Only - Jim Baker, owner.** AIR-PLACO Pumpmaster MJ-16 concrete slab jacking pump system including pump, mixer and tandem trailer, concrete hole drill, Campbell Hausfeld stationary air compressor, smoker grill, handmade rustic furniture, beautiful antique furniture, Husqvarna garden tractor, 2 table saws, hand tools,

power tools, building supplies, TV, modern furniture and much more! Preview Dec. 4, 5-6 p.m. & Dec. 7, 9-10 a.m., 5388 SW. State Road 116-1, Bluffton, IN. Pick up Dec. 17, 12-6 p.m. Full list at [Towncountryauctions.com](http://Towncountryauctions.com), click Fliers. [TownandCountryAuctioneers.com](http://TownandCountryAuctioneers.com), [ShawRealEstate.com](http://ShawRealEstate.com), 260-824-2116.

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

**DECEMBER 22-DECEMBER 31 - Bidding starts closing at 2 p.m. - Estate of Richard Gerken and others, sellers.** "Outstanding year end auction." Very high quality art deco, mid century modern and Art Nouveau home furnishings, International Harvester collection, 2011 Platinum Ford F150 in pristine condition, 3,500 record albums, vintage Schwinn bicycles, advertis-

ing 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. [TheSteffenGroup.com](http://TheSteffenGroup.com), 260-824-3006.

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

## SUDOKU ANSWER

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

## Read & recycle

# Public Sale Calendar

