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MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2024

BLUFFTON, INDIANA · Wells County's Hometown Connection

64 00

4 killed in a southern storm system, tornadoes

By MAKIYA SEMINERA & of Sunday afternoon, there were JAMIE STENGLE over 600 flight delays affecting

The Associated Press

Officials assessed the damage on Sunday after a strong storm system moved across the southern U.S. over the weekend, spawning tornadoes and killing at least four people.

There were at least 45 reports of tornado damage across Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia, said Brian Hurley, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service's Weather Prediction Center. Crews will do damage surveys to confirm tornadoes.

The storms during busy holiday travels caused some treacherous road conditions along with delays or cancellations at some of the busiest U.S. airports. As

over 600 flight delays affecting Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, according to flight tracker FlightAware.

"It's not unheard of, but it is fairly uncommon to have a severe weather outbreak of this magnitude this late in the year," said Frank Pereira, a meteorologist with the Weather Prediction Center.

In the Houston area, National Weather Service storm survey crews confirmed that at least five tornadoes hit north and south of the city on Saturday.

At least one person died. The 48-year-old woman was found about 100 feet (30 meters) from her home in the Liverpool area south of Houston, said Madison Polston of the Brazoria Coun-

ty Sheriff's Office. She said the exact cause of death wasn't immediately known.

Four other people in Brazoria County had injuries that weren't considered critical, said Polston, adding that at least 40 homes and buildings were significantly damaged.

In Montgomery County, north of Houston, about 30 homes were destroyed and about 50 others sustained major damage, county official Jason Smith said.

In North Carolina, a 70-yearold man was killed Sunday in Statesville, just north of Charlotte, when a tree landed on the pickup truck he was driving. Highway Patrol Trooper DJ Maffucci said "it was just a freak accident" and he believed Matthew Teeple, of Cleveland, North Carolina, was killed instantly.

"It's very sad, just terrible timing," Maffucci said, adding that the storms were responsible for a number of downed trees and "quite a few wrecks."

Two people were killed in storms in Mississippi, officials said. An 18-year-old died after a tree fell on her home Saturday night in Natchez in Adams County, said Emergency Management spokesperson Neifa Hardy. Two other people in the home were injured.

Another person died in Lowndes County and at least eight more were injured across the state, officials said.

The National Weather Service said two tornadoes hit around Bude and the city of Brandon, ripping roofs from several buildings.

Storm damage also was reported in the northern Alabama city of Athens, northwest of Huntsville.

Holly Hollman, spokeswoman for the city, said most of the damage from the early Sunday morning storms occurred downtown. She said it hurled large HVAC units from the tops of building and ripped the roof off a bookstore. A full-sized, stripped-down military helicopter was toppled from a pole where it was on display she added

play, she added.

"I stepped out on my porch and I could hear it roar," she said of the storm. "I think we are extremely lucky that we got hit late at night. If it had hit during the busy hours, I think we might have had some injuries and pos-

(Continued on Page 2)

Norovirus is back in full force, U.S. cases rise

(AP) — Cases of a wretched stomach bug are surging in parts of the United States this winter, according to government data.

The most recent numbers from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show there were 91 outbreaks of norovirus reported during the week of Dec. 5, up from 69 outbreaks the last week of November.

Numbers from the past few years show a maximum of 65 outbreaks reported during that first week of December.

A norovirus infection is characterized by sudden vomiting and diarrhea. Outbreaks are often seen on cruise ships, in congregate living situations like nursing homes and jails, as well as schools and places where people are close together.

Norovirus is the leading cause of foodborne illness in the United States, responsible for 58% of such infections acquired in the country each year, according to the CDC. Norovirus infections are caused by a group of viruses

that spread easily, with as few as 10 viral particles having the ability to make someone sick, health experts say.

There are about 2,500 norovirus outbreaks reported annually in the United States. The outbreaks can occur throughout the year but are most common from November to April. Along with vomiting and diarrhea, common symptoms

include nausea, stomach pain, body ache, headache and fever.

Most norovirus outbreaks occur when people who are already infected spread the virus to others by direct means, such as through sharing food or eating utensils. Outbreaks can

also be spread through food, water or contaminated surfaces.

Illness caused by norovirus typically starts suddenly, with symptoms developing 12 to 48 hours following exposure to the virus. Most people get better within one to three days and recover fully.

But with 19 to 21 million illnesses each year in the United States, norovirus nevertheless causes on average 900 deaths and 109,000 hospitalizations annually, mostly among adults aged 65 and older. It also leads to 465,000 emergency department visits, mostly involving young children.

Jimmy Carter, the 39th US president, has died at 100

ATLANTA (AP) — Jimmy Carter, the peanut farmer who won the presidency in the wake of the Watergate scandal and Vietnam War, endured humbling defeat after one tumultuous term and then redefined life after the White House as a global humanitarian, has died. He was 100 years old.

The longest-lived American president died on Sunday, roughly 22 months after entering hospice care, at his home in the small town of Plains, Georgia, where he and his wife, Rosalynn, who died at 96 in November 2023, spent most of their lives, The Carter Center said.

As reaction poured in from around the world, President Joe Biden mourned Carter's death, saying the world lost an "extraordinary leader, statesman and humanitarian" and he lost a dear friend. Biden cited Carter's work to eradicate disease, forge peace, advance civil and human rights, promote free and fair elections and house the homeless as an example for others.

Businessman, Navy officer, evangelist, politician, nego-

(Continued on Page 2)



Wabash River rises after weekend rain

After rainfall this weekend, the Wabash River rose from 1.2 ft. deep at the White Bridge to just over 3 ft. Sunday afternoon. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

Azerbaijan president says jetliner was shot down by Russia unintentionally

(AP) — Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev said Sunday that the Azerbaijani airliner that crashed last week was shot down by Russia, albeit unintentionally, and criticized Moscow for trying to "hush up" the issue for days.

"We can say with complete clarity that the plane was shot down by Russia. (...) We are not saying that it was done intentionally, but it was done," he told Azerbaijani state television.

Aliyev said that the airliner, which crashed Wednesday in Kazakhstan, was hit by fire from the ground over Russia and "rendered uncontrollable by electronic warfare." Aliyev accused Russia of trying to "hush up" the issue for several days, saying he was "upset and surprised" by versions of events put forward by Russian officials.

"Unfortunately, for the first three days we heard nothing from Russia except delirious versions," he said.

The crash killed 38 of 67 people on board. The Kremlin said that air defense systems were firing near Grozny, the regional capital of the Russian republic of Chechnya, where

the plane attempted to land, to deflect a Ukrainian drone strike.

Aliyev said Azerbaijan made three demands to Russia in connection with the crash.

"First, the Russian side must apologize to Azerbaijan. Second, it must admit its guilt. Third, punish the guilty, bring them to criminal responsibility and pay compensation to the Azerbaijani state, the injured passengers and crew members," he said.

Aliyev noted that the first demand was "already fulfilled" when Russian President Vladimir Putin apologized to him on Saturday. Putin called the crash a "tragic incident" though stopped short of acknowledging Moscow's responsibility.

He said that an investigation into the crash was ongoing, and that "the final version (of events) will be known after the black boxes are opened."

He noted that Azerbaijan was always "in favor of a group of international experts" investigating the crash, and had "categorically refused" Russia's suggestion that the Interstate Aviation Committee, which oversees civil aviation in the Commonwealth of Independent States, investigate it.

"It is no secret that this organization consists mostly of Russian officials and is headed by Russian citizens. The factors of objectivity could not be fully ensured here," Aliyev

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told Russian state media on Sunday that Putin had spoken to Aliyev over the phone again, but did not provide details of the conversation.

The Kremlin also said a joint investigation by Russia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan was underway at the crash site near the city of Aktau in Kazakhstan. The plane was flying from Azerbaijan's capital, Baku, to Grozny when it turned toward Kazakhstan, hundreds of kilometers (miles) across the Caspian Sea from its intended destination, and crashed while making an attempt to land.

Passengers and crew who survived the crash told Azerbaijani media that they heard loud noises on the aircraft as it was circling over Grozny.

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Outside



Colder weather is on its way

Today	Tuesday	Wed.
High 45	High 44	High 34
Low 38	Low 31	Low 22

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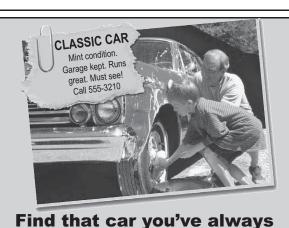
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4 killed

(Continued from Page 1) sibly some fatalities."

As of Sunday afternoon, over 40,000 people were still without power in Mississippi, according to electric utility tracking website PowerOutage.us. Texas, Alabama, North Carolina and Georgia each had about 10,000 customers

without power, it said.

The storms closed some roads in western North Carolina, a region broadly devastated by Hurricane Helene this fall. That included part of U.S. 441, also known as the Great Smoky Mountains Expressway, which closed north of Bryson City due to high winds.

In Bumpus Cove, Tennessee, Justin Fromkin, president of Raising Hope Disaster Relief, worked Sunday to save what he could from the organization's supply tent — filled with clothes and food after about 6 inches (152 millimeters) of rain fell.

He's spent the past few months delivering aid to areas in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee that are still reeling from Helene. The ground in some parts of the mountains is still unstable from Helene, Fromkin said, and Sunday's downpour adds to the problem.

Jetliner

(Continued from Page 1)

Dmitry Yadrov, head of Russia's civil aviation authority Rosaviatsia, said Friday that as the plane was preparing to land in Grozny in deep fog, Ukrainian drones were targeting the city, prompting authorities to close the area to air traffic.

The crash is the second deadly civil aviation accident linked to fighting in Ukraine. Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was downed with a Russian surfaceto-air missile, killing all 298 people aboard, as it flew over the area in eastern Ukraine controlled by Moscow-backed separatists in 2014.

Russia has denied responsibility, but a Dutch court in 2022 convicted two Russians and a pro-Russia Ukrainian man for their role in downing the plane with an air defense system brought into Ukraine from a Russian military base.

Putin apologizes for 'tragic incident' but stops short of saying plane was shot down

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday apologized to his Azerbaijani counterpart for what he called a "tragic incident" following the crash of an Azerbaijani airliner in Kazakhstan that killed 38 people, but stopped short of acknowledging that Moscow was responsible.

Putin's apology came as allegations mounted that the plane had been shot down by Russian air defenses attempting to deflect a Ukrainian drone strike near Grozny, the regional capital of the Russian republic of Chechnya.

An official Kremlin statement issued Saturday said that air defense systems were firing near Grozny airport as the airliner "repeatedly' attempted to land there on Wednesday. It did not explicitly say one of these hit the plane.

The statement said Putin apologized to Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev "for the fact that the tragic incident occurred in Russian airspace."

The readout said Russia has launched a criminal probe into the incident, and Azerbaijani state prosecutors have arrived in Grozny to participate. The Kremlin also said that "relevant services" from Russia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan are jointly investigating the crash site near the city of Aktau in Kazakhstan.

The plane was flying from Azerbaijan's capital, Baku, to Grozny when it turned toward Kazakhstan, hundreds of kilometers (miles) across the Caspian Sea from its intended destination, and crashed while making an attempt to land. There were 29 survivors

According to a readout of the call provided by Aliyev's press office, the Azerbaijani president told Putin that the plane was subject to "external had cited unspecified early evidence

physical and technical interference," although he also stopped short of blaming Russian air defenses.

Aliyev noted that the plane had multiple holes in its fuselage and that the occupants had sustained injuries "due to foreign particles penetrating the cabin mid-flight."

He said that a team of international experts had begun probing the incident at Azerbaijan's initiative, but provided no details. Earlier this week, the Azerbaijani Prosecutor General's office confirmed that investigators from Azerbaijan are working in Gro-

On Friday, a U.S. official and an Azerbaijani minister made separate statements blaming the crash on an external weapon, echoing those made by aviation experts who blamed the crash on Russian air defense systems responding to a Ukrainian attack.

President Joe Biden, responding on Saturday to a reporter asking whether he thought Putin should take responsibility for the crash, said: "Apparently he did but I haven't spoken to him.' Biden made the comment after leaving church in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin

Passengers and crew who survived the crash told Azerbaijani media that they heard loud noises on the aircraft as it was circling over Grozny.

Dmitry Yadrov, head of Russia's civil aviation authority Rosaviatsia, said Friday that as the plane was preparing to land in Grozny in deep fog, Ukrainian drones were targeting the city, prompting authorities to close the area to air traffic.

Yadrov said that after the captain made two unsuccessful attempts to land, he was offered other airports but

decided to fly to Aktau. Earlier in the week, Rosaviatsia

as showing that a bird strike led to an emergency on board.

In the days following the crash, Azerbaijan Airlines blamed "physical and technical interference" and announced the suspension of flights to several Russian airports. It didn't say where the interference came from or provide any further details.

If proven that the plane crashed after being hit by Russian fire, it would be the second deadly civil aviation accident linked to fighting in Ukraine. Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was downed with a Russian surface-to-air missile, killing all 298 people aboard, as it flew over the area in eastern Ukraine controlled by Moscow-backed separatists in

Russia has denied responsibility, but a Dutch court in 2022 convicted two Russians and a pro-Russia Ukrainian man for their role in downing the plane with an air defense system brought into Ukraine from a Russian military base.

Following Wednesday's suspension of flights from Baku to Grozny and nearby Makhachkala, Azerbaijan Airlines announced Friday that it would also halt service to eight more Russian cities.

Several other airlines have made similar announcements since the crash. Kazakhstan's Qazaq Air on Friday said it would stop flying from Astana to the Russian city of Yekaterinburg in the Ural Mountains for a

Turkmenistan Airlines, the Central Asian country's flagship carrier, on Saturday halted flights to Moscow for at least a month, citing safety concerns. Earlier this week, Israel's El Al carrier suspended service from Tel Aviv to the Russian capital, citing "developments in Russia's airspace."

Weather

Monday, Dec. 31, 2024 (24-hour observations at 9:55 p.m. Sunday) **High:** 50; **Low:** 38; **Precipitation:** 1.15 inches Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 2.66 feet at 9:45 p.m. Sunday

Wells County forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 45. West wind 5 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Tonight: Rain likely, mainly after 1 a.m. Cloudy, with a low around 38. South wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New precipitation amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

Tuesday: Rain. High near 44. East wind around 15 mph becoming north in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New precipitation amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

Tuesday Night: Rain likely, mixing with snow after 10pm, then gradually ending. Cloudy, with a low around 31. Northwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. Little or no snow accumulation expected.

New Year's Day: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 34. Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 31. Thursday Night: A 20% chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 21.

Jimmy Carter

(Continued from Page 1)

tiator, author, woodworker, citizen of the world — Carter forged a path that still challenges political assumptions and stands out among the 45 men who reached the nation's highest office. The 39th president leveraged his ambition with a keen intellect, deep religious faith and prodigious work ethic, conducting diplomatic missions into his 80s and building houses for the poor well into his 90s.

'My faith demands — this is not optional — my faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can, with whatever I have to try to make a difference," Carter once said.

James Earl Carter Jr. was born Oct. 1, 1924, in Plains and spent his early years in nearby Archery. His family was a minority in the mostly Black community, decades before the civil rights movement played out at the dawn of Carter's political career.

Carter talked often of the influence of his Black caregivers and playmates but also noted his advantages: His land-owning father sat atop Archery's tenant-farming system and owned a main street grocery. His mother, Lillian, would become a staple of his political campaigns.

Seeking to broaden his world beyond Plains and its population of fewer than 1,000 — then and now — Carter won an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy, graduating in 1946. That same year he married Rosalynn Smith, another Plains native, a decision he considered more important than any he made as head of state.

Carter climbed in rank to lieutenant, but then his father was diagnosed with cancer, so the submarine officer set aside his ambitions of admiralty and moved the family back to Plains. His decision angered Rosalynn, even as she dived into the peanut business alongside her husband.

He won a state Senate seat in 1962 but wasn't long for the General Assembly and its back-slapping, deal-cutting ways. He ran for governor in 1966 — losing to arch-segregationist Lester Maddox — and then immediately focused on the next campaign.

Carter had spoken out against church segregation as a Baptist deacon and opposed racist "Dixiecrats" as a state senator. Yet as a local school board leader in the 1950s he had not pushed to end school segregation even after the Supreme Court's Brown v. Board of Education decision, despite his private support for integration. And in 1970, Carter ran for governor again as the more conservative Democrat against Carl Sanders, a wealthy businessman Carter mocked as "Cufflinks Carl." Sanders never forgave him for anonymous, race-baiting flyers, which Carter disavowed.

Ultimately, Carter won his races by attracting both Black voters and culturally conservative whites. Once in office, he

"I say to you quite frankly that the time for racial discrimination is over," he declared in his 1971 inaugural address, setting a new standard for Southern governors that landed him on the cover of Time magazine.

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MAYTAG

Musk causes uproar for backing Germany's far-right party ahead of key elections

BERLIN (AP) — Tech entrepreneur Elon Musk caused uproar after backing Germany's far-right party in a major newspaper ahead of key parliamentary elections in the Western European country, leading to the resignation

of the paper's opinion editor in protest. Germany is to vote in an early election on Feb. 23 after Chancellor Olaf Scholz's three-party governing coalition collapsed last month in a dispute over how to revitalize the country's stagnant economy.

Musk's guest opinion piece for Welt am Sonntag — a sister publication of POLITICO owned by the Axel Springer Group — published in German over the weekend, was the second time this month he supported the Alternative for Germany, or AfD.

"The Alternative for Germany (AfD) is the last spark of hope for this country," Musk wrote in his translated commentary.

He went on to say the far-right party "can lead the country into a future where economic prosperity, cultural integrity and technological innovation are not just wishes, but reality.

The Tesla Motors CEO also wrote that his investment in Germany gave him the right to comment on the country's condition.

The AfD is polling strongly, but its candidate for the top job, Alice Weidel, has no realistic chance of becoming chancellor because other parties refuse to work with the far-right party.

An ally of U.S. President-elect Donald Trump, the technology billionaire challenged in his opinion piece the party's public image.

"The portrayal of the AfD as rightwing extremist is clearly false, considering that Alice Weidel, the party's leader, has a same-sex partner from Sri Lanka! Does that sound like Hitler to you? Please!"

Musk's commentary has led to a debate in German media over the boundaries of free speech, with the paper's own opinion editor announcing her resignation, pointedly on Musk's social media platform, X.

"I always enjoyed leading the opinion section of WELT and WAMS. Today an article by Elon Musk appeared in Welt am Sonntag. I handed in my resignation yesterday after it went to print," Eva Marie Kogel wrote.

The newspaper was also attacked by politicians and other media for offering Musk, an outsider, a platform to express his views, in favor of the

Candidate for chancellor, Friedrich Merz, of the Christian Democratic Union, said Sunday that Musk's comments were "intrusive and presumptuous". He was speaking to the newspapers of the German Funke Media

Co-leader of the Social Democratic Party, Saskia Esken said that "Anyone who tries to influence our election from outside, who supports an antidemocratic, misanthropic party like the AfD, whether the influence is organized by the state from Russia or by the concentrated financial and media power of Elon Musk and his billionaire friends on the Springer board, must expect our tough resistance," according to the ARD national public TV net-

Musk's opinion piece in the Welt am Sonntag was accompanied by a critical article by the future editor-in-chief of the Welt group, Jan Philipp Burgard.

"Musk's diagnosis is correct, but his therapeutic approach, that only the AfD can save Germany, is fatally





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OBITUARIES

Scott DeWayne Townsend, 59

Scott DeWayne Townsend, 59, of rural Montpelier, passed away Dec. 26, 2024, at Lutheran Hospital of Indiana in Fort Wayne. He was born on Monday, April 26, 1965, in Hartford City.

Scott will be forever missed by his mother, Nancyanna (Groendyke) Townsend of Montpelier; son, Scott D. (Dana) Townsend II of Dunkirk; siblings, Sean D. Townsend of Montpelier, Lois L. Townsend of Fairmount, Yasmeen Abda-Saboor of Indianapolis; friend, Teresa Cale Doublin of Montpelier; and four grandchil-

He was preceded in death by his father, Alfred DeWayne Townsend.

Family and friends may gather to share and remember from noon to 2 p.m. on Dec. 31, 2024, at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St. in Montpelier. A service will follow at 2 p.m. with Pastor Scott McClain officiating. Interment will follow in the I.O.O.F.

Arrangements are being handled by Walker & Glan-

cy Funeral Home in Montpelier.

Israel detains the director of one of northern Gaza's last functioning hospitals

DEIR AL BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israel's army detained the director of one of northern Gaza 's last functioning hospitals as overnight strikes elsewhere in the territory killed nine people, including children, Palestinian medical officials said Saturday. Israel's military alleged that Hamas militants were using the facility and said over 240 people were detained.

Gaza's Health Ministry said Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, director of Kamal Adwan Hospital, was arrested Friday along with dozens of other staff and taken to an interrogation center. The ministry said Israeli troops stormed the hospital and forced many staff and patients outside and told them to strip in winter weather, according to the ministry.

Israel's military on Saturday confirmed it detained the hospital director for questioning and called him a suspected Hamas operative while providing no evidence. It said it encircled the hospital and special forces entered and found weapons in the area. It said militants fired on its forces and they were "eliminated." An Israeli military spokesman, Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, later asserted to journalists that most of those detained are Hamas operatives.

How a bill becomes a law in Indiana

By NIKI KELLY **Indiana Capital Chronicle**

A biennial budget of more than \$40 billion is on the line come January, alongside hundreds of other proposals from Indiana lawmakers. Just a fraction become law. How do we get

Some might call it organized chaos, but the legislative session has an established trajectory that begins with

The Indiana General Assembly's website makes it easier to follow the action. But here's a guide on what to expect, including some common twists and turns.

How do bill readings work?

Lawmakers write and file bills that they present to their respective cham-

The speaker of the House or the Senate president pro tempore assigns each bill to a committee. If it's given a hearing, that's known as the first reading. (However, chamber leadership can decide not to refer the bill to a committee. In this case, the bill dies.)

And if you see something assigned to a Rules Committee it generally means that bill has slim prospects, if any. Though sometimes in the Senate they will hear a bill there and then vote.

The committee chair holds an immense amount of power in deciding which bills to discuss and hold hearings on. Sometimes, if a chair refuses to hear a bill, leadership can reassign it to a friendlier committee.

After hearing testimony and weighing the bill's merits, committee members can vote whether to amend the bill or move it forward to their full chamber. If the vote fails, the bill is effectively killed — unless language from that bill is later added into another piece of legislation.

Bills are routinely overhauled after public testimony and right before committee votes on a bill. So, be sure to watch for what gets changed.

What's next? A bill then moves to the full body of legislators. If chamber leadership schedules the bill for second reading, any lawmaker in that chamber can suggest amendments to the bill.

But here are some caveats.

Members can challenge an amendment on several key procedural grounds. Some of the routine challenges are if a similar bill is pending or if the topic of the amendment is unrelated or not germane to the under-

Also, Republicans — who hold supermajorities in both chambers generally have to get approval from their respective caucuses to offer an amendment. While a member can defy their caucus, it usually results in failure and punishment.

To pass, amendments must simply get more votes in favor than in opposi-

Third reading

At this stage, a bill on is voted upon by the full chamber — as long as chamber leadership schedules it for a vote. If the bill is scheduled, amendments can once again be made. However, amendments on third reading cannot be approved unless two-thirds of the legislators agree to the change. Following a vote on amendments, the bill once again comes to a vote by the full body.

A constitutional majority of the chamber must vote in support to pass the bill. That means at least 26 votes in the Senate and 51 votes in the House. Similarly, a bill can only be defeated by reaching those thresholds.

If a vote does neither — for instance 49-46 (with several lawmakers absent) — the bill can be called for a vote on another day.

Then, the process starts over as surviving bills swap chambers.

If a bill advances through the sec-

ond chamber without amendments, it goes straight to the governor for signature or veto.

If the bill advances out of the second chamber with amendments, though, it must return to the chamber

from which it originated. The final hurdle

The original chamber can vote to approve changes its colleagues made across the hall. If this happens, the bill is sent to the governor. That is called a concurrence.

Or, the Legislature could abandon the bill altogether, killing the measure.

If the author or caucus disagrees with the changes, the bill is assigned to a conference committee.

A conference committee is made up of two members from both chambers. Each chamber sends one member from both major political parties. The four members attempt to reconcile differences between the two legislative bodies. This process is almost always

behind closed doors. Most of the conference committees will hold one public meeting but recently don't even take testimony from the public. Sometimes the committees last only a minute or two. Republican leadership eventually

removes Democrat conferees, which is allowed by the rules, to get four signatures on a final conference committee report. That report then moves to each chamber's Rules Committee.

Both the House and Senate must approve this version of the bill before it can be sent to the governor.

Governor actions

All bills are then sent to the governor's office. Once he receives them, he has seven days to sign or veto the legislation. If he does neither, the bill automatically becomes law.

Indiana governors rarely veto bills partially because it takes only a simple majority to override as opposed to a two-thirds vote in other states.

Abortions are up with pills, travel in the US despite bans tions during emergencies is

(AP) — Abortion has become slightly more common despite bans or deep restrictions in most Republican-controlled states, and the legal and political fights over its future are not over yet.

It's now been two and a half years since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade and opened the door for states to implement

The policies and their impact have been in flux ever since the ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization.

Here's a look at data on

where things stand: • Abortions are slightly more common now than before Dobbs

Overturning Roe and enforcing abortion bans has changed how woman obtain abortions in the U.S.

But one thing it hasn't done is put a dent in the number of abortions being

obtained. There have been slightly more monthly abortions across the country recently than there were in the months leading up to the June 2022 ruling, even as the number in states with bans

dropped to near zero. Abortion bans don't actually prevent abortions from happening," said Ushma Upadhyay, a public health social scientist at the University of California San Francisco.

For women in some states, there are major obstacles to getting abortions and advocates say that low-

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income, minority and immigrant women are least likely to be able to get them when they want.

For those living in states with bans, the ways to access abortion are through travel or abortion pills.

• Pills become a bigger part of equation — and the legal questions

As the bans swept in, abortion pills became a bigger part of the equation.

They were involved in about half the abortions before Dobbs. More recently, it's been closer to twothirds of them, according to research by the Guttmacher Institute.

The uptick of that kind of abortion, usually involving a combination of two drugs, was underway before the ruling.

But now, it's become more common for pill prescriptions to be made by telehealth. By the summer of 2024, about 1 in 10 abortions was via pills prescribed via telehealth to patients in states where abortion is banned.

As a result, the pills are now at the center of battles

over abortion access. This month, Texas sued a New York doctor for prescribing pills to a Texas woman via telemedicine. There's also an effort by Idaho, Kansas and Missouri to roll back their federal approvals and treat them as "controlled dangerous substances," and a push for the federal government to start enforcing a 19th-century federal law to ban mailing them.

• Travel for abortion has increased

Clinics have closed or halted abortions in states with bans.

But a network of efforts to get women seeking abortions to places where they're legal has strengthened and travel for abortion is now common. The Guttmacher Institute

found that more than twice as many Texas residents obtained abortion in 2023 in New Mexico as New Mexico residents did. And as many Texans received them in Kansas as Kansans.

Abortion funds, which benefitted from "rage giving" in 2022, have helped pay the costs for many abortion-seekers. But some funds have had to cap how much they can give.

• The abortion map has been in flux

Since the downfall of Roe, the actions of lawmakers and courts have kept shifting where abortion is legal and under what conditions

Here's where it stands now:

• The ban that took effect in Florida this year has been a game-changer

Florida, the nation's third most-populous state, began enforcing a ban on abortions after the first six weeks of pregnancy on May 1.

That immediately changed the state from one that was a refuge for other Southerners seeking abortion to an exporter of people looking for them.

There were about 30%

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The Difference"

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fewer abortions there in May compared with the average for the first three months of the year. And in June, there were 35% fewer.

While the ban is not unique, the impact is especially large. The average driving time from Florida to a facility in North Carolina where abortion is available for the first 12 weeks of pregnancy is more than nine hours, according to data maintained by Caitlin Myers, a Middlebury College economics professor.

• Clinics have opened or expanded in some places

The bans have meant clinics closed or stopped offering abortions in some states.

But some states where abortion remains legal until viability - generally considered to be sometime past 21 weeks of pregnancy – have seen clinics open and expand.

Illinois, Kansas and New Mexico are among the states with new clinics.

There were 799 publicly identifiable abortion providers in the U.S. in May 2022, the month before the Supreme Court reversed Roe v. Wade. And by this November, it was 792, according to a tally by Myers, who is collecting data on abortion providers.

But Myers says some hospitals that always provided some abortions have begun advertising it. So they're now in the count of clinics - even though they might provide few of them.

Lack of access to abor-

threatening some patients' How hospitals handle

pregnancy complications, especially those that threaten the lives of the women, has emerged as a major issue since Roe was overturned. President Joe Biden's

administration says hospitals must offer abortions when they're needed to prevent organ loss, hemorrhage or deadly infections, even in states with bans. Texas is challenging the administration's policy and the U.S. Supreme Court this year declined to take it up after the Biden administration sued Idaho.

More than 100 pregnant women seeking help in emergency rooms and were turned away or left unstable since 2022, The Associated Press found in an analysis of federal hospital investigative

Among the complaints were a woman who miscarried in the lobby restroom of Texas emergency room after staff refused to see her

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and a woman who gave birth in a car after a North Carolina hospital couldn't offer an ultrasound. The baby later died.

"It is increasingly less safe to be pregnant and seeking emergency care in an emergency department," Dara Kass, an emergency medicine doctor and former U.S. Health and Human Services official told the AP earlier this year.

 Abortion rights are popular with voters

Since Roe was overturned, there have been 18 reproductive rights-related statewide ballot questions.

Abortion rights advocates ave prevailed on 14 of them and lost on four.

In the 2024 election, they amended the constitutions in five states to add the right to abortion. Such measures failed in three states: In Florida, where it required 60% support; in Nebraska, which had competing abortion ballot measures; and in South Dakota, where most national abortion rights groups did support the measure.

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Dec. 31st

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2 - Packages of Chicken Breast (2 per

*The Estimated Prices

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A radical idea to fix Social Security forever

I reached a middle-age milestone this year: my oldest child got married and moved out — one down, three to go. My daughter and son-in-law, ages 19 and 21 and both employed, quickly learned about the payroll tax. Like the rest of us, they see 12.6 percent of every paycheck taken by the government and handed over to people like my upper-middle class parents, who definitely don't need it.



Tyler **Watts**

That's Social Security for you: a perversion of traditional values about saving, investment and wealth transfers. Generally speaking, wealth should voluntarily flow from the old, who can't take it with them, to the young, who could use a financial boost.

Hoosier **Opinions**

Sure, we might want a government program to stabilize incomes for the elderly poor who lacked the wherewithal to save or who risk outliving their own wealth. But a program that pays out based strictly on age, and not need? That's not "social insurance." That's intergenerational plunder and a looming fiscal train wreck. It has to stop.

Everyone knows Social Security is broke and broken. The program has been paying out more than it takes in since 2021, and the latest projections have the Social Security trust fund depleted by 2033. After that date, it will only pay 79 percent of scheduled benefits if significant changes aren't made.

Reform, however, seems politically impossible. Old people are the most reliable voting bloc. No sane politician dares tamper with their precious entitlements, lest he invite the wrath of the AARP — just ask Paul Ryan or George W. Bush. Raising payroll taxes also won't fly. Unlike the personal income tax, lower earners pay proportionately higher shares of their income to Social Security. Stabilizing the program would require tax hikes on everyone — a political non-starter.

To fix Social Security, we need to think outside the box. Tweaking the retirement age, tax rates, and benefits won't do. We don't need "reform" so much as an escape hatch. If we can wean a relatively small number of people off of Social Security, we can preserve the substance of the program for those who truly need it. What we need is a "buyout."

Companies have used buyouts for decades to resolve unfunded pension liabilities. In a buyout, the company lets workers out of the retirement plan in exchange for some kind of payment. This can be either a lump-sum, which the participant gets to invest and manage, or a more reliable alternative annuity contract. The company fixes its finances by offloading its pension obligations. Workers who accept buyouts gain greater security and control over their entitled funds.

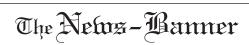
Here's how a Social Security buyout would work: I renounce the benefits that I'm entitled to when I reach retirement age. In return, the government will give me a modest, gradual reduction of my portion of the payroll tax. I crunched the numbers for a 10-year phased-in reduction of the employee's share of the Old Age tax, from 5.3 percent to zero. Both Social Security and I come out ahead, easily. This is because Social Security does not invest tax "contributions." Instead, it pays them directly over to retirees, in true Ponzi scheme fashion. its rate of return ranges from pathetically small to negative for all but the oldest and lowest-earning participants well below the returns available with stock market index funds.

The buyout is calibrated to offer a significantly higher rate of return and gain in net wealth. To ensure success and forestall regret, I will further commit to investing, within my IRA, the amount of my payroll tax reduction. Because I still have decades to invest before retirement, I will come out ahead compared with what Social Security would have provided. There are many like me, probably millions, who similarly aren't counting on Social Security and are self-funding retirement. They too will voluntarily leave as long as the value of the buyout exceeds their scheduled Social Security benefits. According to initial calculations, a Social Security buyout should be a clear win for workers ages 45 and under in the top half of the income distribution. If a tax-saving buyout were offered continually starting now, Social Security would be stabilized when about 20 percent of workers opt out, with no changes to benefits, to retirement age or to tax schedules for those who choose to stick with the program.

If you like your Social Security plan, go ahead and keep it, and good luck to you. But let me (and millions more) out, and save the program. I never wanted Social Security anyway, and I'm better off investing on my own. Most importantly, I can stop plundering my children, increase my investment in America's future and feel good about being part of the solution.

> Tyler Watts, Ph.D., is an adjunct scholar of the Indiana Policy Review Foundation and a former professor of economics at Ball State University.

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."



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

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



The sensational political year of 2024

INDIANAPOLIS — The year 2024 will go down in history books as a sensational one politically. For just the second time in history, America is sending a former president back to the White House. Indiana elected its 52nd white male governor.

We watched a rematch take shape between President Joe Biden and former president Donald J. Trump. The former was forced off the Democratic ticket in July following a disastrous June debate and persistent demonstrations of age-induced mental decline. The latter also exhibited cognitive decline and survived two assassination attempts. Trump plied voters with a dystopian view (America is the

world's "garbage can") while promising "retribution" to rivals while exploiting a gaping gender gap, with 55% of the men sup-

porting him. He killed a bipartisan immigration deal in January, then used it to turn out his male voters in November.

In Indiana, Trump won 59% of the vote after former Indiana governor and vice president Mike Pence and U.S. Sen. Todd Young opposed his election (the Indiana GOP congressional delegation running in 2024 all supported him). Pence cited Trump's collision with the U.S. Constitution; Young for failing to sup-

In most rural counties, Trump carried between 65% and 75% of the vote, despite his threats of further tariffs like the ones during his first term that devastated international markets for American grain and live-

In Indiana's auto-making counties, Trump won overwhelming support despite UAW President Shawn Fain (a Kokomo native) calling him a "scab" while President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris walked the union's strike lines in 2023

Allen County, home of the sprawling Fort Wayne General Motors truck plant, backed Trump over Harris 58.6%-39.7%. In Howard County, home to the Stellantis/Chrysler complex as well as Haynes International and GM's Kokomo Operations, Trump won with 66.6%, while in neighboring Tipton County (home to Stellantis Transmission), he won with 74.5%. In the GM counties of Lawrence (Bedford Casting and GM Power train) and Grant (Fisher Body in Marion), Trump won with 74.7% and 70%, respectively. In St. Joseph County, home to AM General at Mishawaka, Trump topped Harris 50%-48.5%.

Trump's second term will likely have a turbulent impact on the volatile auto industry. He says he will end Biden's electric vehicle tax credits which could change the dynamics of billion dollar battery plants under construction in New Carlisle and Terre Haute. He is opposing the proposed merger of U.S. Steel and Nippon Steel (so is President Biden).

According to CNN exit poll data, Trump won over 46% of voters aged 18 to 44, 50% of those making less than \$50,000 and 56% of those with no college degree. Trump won 45% of union households. He cut into historic Democratic dominance of female, Black

and Latino male voters, according to CNN exit polling. Trump won 13% of Black vot ers, 46% of Latinos, 39% of Asians and 57% of white voters.

According to Bob Woodward's book "War," "There had been more than six million illegal crossings at the southern border since [President Joe] Biden took office, one of the greatest levels of human displacement in history. Nearly 80% of Americans and 73% of Democrats said they disapproved of the Biden administra-

tion's handling of the

With climate change and related political instability, this crisis will only worsen in the

Brian Howey U.S.-Mexican border.

Politicking

Vice President Harris faced historic headwinds. Of the 46 presidencies, only 15 veeps made it to the promised land, and four of them — Andrew Johnson, Chester A. Arthur, Theodore Roosevelt and Lyndon B. Johnson — did so after presidential assassinations. Five others — John Tyler, Millard Fillmore, Calvin Coolidge, Harry S. Truman and Gerald Ford ascended to the White House after a president died or

Only four sitting vice presidents have been elected president: John Adams in 1796, Thomas Jefferson in 1800, Martin Van Buren in 1836 and George H. W. Bush in 1988. Two former vice presidents — Richard Nixon in 1968 and Joe Biden in 2020 — won the presidency after sitting out an election cycle.

For Democrats, the veep track hardly ever works in modern times, as Humphrey, Walter Mondale and Al Gore can attest after losing presidential campaigns. The Democratic Party passed on elevating Vice Presidents Adlai Stevenson, Thomas Marshall (a former Indiana governor), John Nance Garner, Henry Wallace and Alben Barkley.

As for Gov.-elect Mike Braun, he won a six-way Republican primary last May, then defeated Democrat Jennifer McCormick by 14% in November.

When he takes office in January, his first major initiative will be "to reduce the tax burden" on homeowners by capping property tax increases at 2% to 3%, extend targeted relief to retirees, families, and lowincome Hoosiers

As Gov. Pence learned in 2013 when he took aim at income taxes, General Assembly Republicans will have a huge say in what actually passes. Key to this will be the potential impacts on local governments, which could lose \$1 billion in revenue.

Since 2012, Hoosier Republicans have held supermajority status in both the Indiana House and Senate. This means that they can pass legislation without Democrats even showing up. This is an unprecedented grip on power, coming as Braun begins the sixth consecutive GOP governorship, also a record.

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

Protecting the lives of murderers, but not babies

Lawrence.

As if his 1,500 pardons weren't enough to cause outrage, President Biden has gone further. Near the expiration of his failed presidency, Biden has commuted the sentences of 37 of the 40 individuals on federal death row to life sentences without the possibility of parole, just weeks before President-elect Donald Trump takes office. Trump has said he wants to

expand capital punishment, so this looks like another pre-emptive strike to thwart the incoming administration. Will Biden also issue "preemptive" pardons to people Trump's Justice Department might prosecute?

It could happen. Among the individuals receiving commutations, reports the Daily Mail, are convicted murderers Brandon Basham and Chadrick Fulks, who kidnapped and killed a woman after making a break from prison, Marcivicci Barnette, who killed a man and his ex-girlfriend; and another man, Anthony Battle, who killed a prison guard. In addition, a man who participated in a murder-for-hire plot on a Navy officer's life, and Thomas Sanders, who killed a 12-year-old girl, will be spared from execution. Several convicted bank robbers, who killed innocent victims during their crimes, are also getting clemency, including Billie Allen and Norris Holder, Brandon Council and Daryl



Cal

statement to explain the inexcusable: "I ve dedicated my career to reducing violent crime and ensuring a fair and effective justice system." What? Biden says his only exceptions are for people convicted of terrorist acts and hate crimes. Why the distinction? Those Thomas escaping death for their murderous crimes are

Biden issued a ludicrous

Dylann Roof, who murdered nine people in 2015 at the Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev and Robert Bowers, who murdered 11 congregants at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh in 2019.

Biden is engaging in selective morality. Why should motives play a role when it comes to murder? By his illogic, a pardon should be given to Luigi Mangione, the accused murderer of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson.

This is what C.S. Lewis called "the humanitarian view of punishment." Depriving a murderer of liberty is not a penalty equal to the taking of innocent life. Biden is engaging in what has been called "cafeteria Christianity," obeying doctrines he agrees with while ignoring others with which he disagrees.

Biden appears to have no sympathy for unborn babies, however, and has done nothing to halt abortions in America, even those performed late

Biden styles himself a "good Catholic." He's been called that by Pope Francis, who he is likely to visit during his final foreign trip next month. Some Catholic politicians have even called him "devout."

As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops notes: "Since the first century the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable. Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law." That Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and other Catholic politicians say otherwise does not make them an authority on their church's doctrine.

True, that same doctrine opposes capital punishment, but one shouldn't be able to pick and choose which teaching to accept and which to reject and still be considered "devout" and not guilty of breaking the "moral

In an Oct. 23, 2014 address to the International Association of Penal Law, Pope Francis called for an end to capital punishment. He may praise Biden for his commutations, but will he issue anything approaching condemnation for the president's refusal to defend the unborn who cannot defend themselves? I doubt it.

tcaeditors@tribpub.com

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, 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 reg-

Try It Night: Snowflake Window Clings At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, Dec. 30 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Adults. Create or try out a new craft each month. This month you will use puff paint to make snowflake window clings. All supplies provided. Registration required.

Noon Year's Eve

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, Dec. 31 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

All ages. The entire family is invited for a countdown to Noon with a balloon drop, crafts, snacks, story time under the stars in the Story Hour room, and scavenger hunt in the Children's Room. Fancy festive attire is welcome, but not required. The Storytime with Miss Amy will start at 11 am and then the countdown and balloon drop will be at noon, but feel free to drop in at any point during the program for the other activities. No registration needed.

Library Closing for New Year's

The Main Library and the Ossian Branch will close early at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 31 and be closed on Wednesday, Jan. 1 for New Year's Day.

Genealogy/Local History Club At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday,

Jan. 2 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.

Bingo with Jason

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, Jan. 6 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, Jan. 6 from 6 to 7:00 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, Jan. 7 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Grades 3-4 Book Club: Tuesday, Jan. 14 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Grades 5-6 Book Club: Thursday, Jan. 9

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,

Jan. 9 from 3 to 4 p.m.

Grades 6-12. Enjoy making a medley of delicious snacks using your personally flavored popcorn in this "Popcorn Pot Pourri" program. Drop-in event. No registration

Teen Book Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, Jan. 9 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Grades 6-12. Discuss the book "The Fixer" by Jennifer Lynn Barnes, search for hidden clues in a mystery activity, and win a prize for answering questions about the book. Registration required.

Book Discussion:

"The Lincoln Highway" At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday,

Jan. 9 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Adults. Discuss the book "The Lincoln Highway" by Amor Towles. Registration required.

Trivia Night At The Parlor City Brewing Company

Sunday, Jan. 12 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Adults (21+). Grab a team of up to four people and test your knowledge on a variety of subjects, from pop culture, sports, local history, and other trivia categories. Prizes awarded; space is limited. Sign up at the library or online at wellscolibrary.org.

Brown Bag Book Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, Jan. 13 at 1:30 p.m.

Adults. Read a book that you received for Christmas and then come to share about your book with the group. Registration appreciated.

Timeless Tech Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, Jan. 14 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.

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

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 for digital books, magazines, online databases, event info, and

Belmont University announces fall 2024 Dean's List honorees

Belmont University recently released the Dean's List for the fall 2024 semester. Approximately 53% of the University's 7,175 undergraduate students qualified for the fall 2024 Dean's List.

Elijah Ingle of Bluffton Mia Vrablic of Decatur

Dean's List eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C.

"Earning a place on the Dean's List is an accomplishment that reflects the dedication, talent and resilience of our students who maintain competitive GPAs while concurrently making lasting contributions at Belmont and beyond." said Belmont University Provost Dr. David Gregory.

Located two miles from downtown Nashville, Tennessee, Belmont University comprises nearly 9,000 students from every state and 33 countries. The University offers more than 115 areas of undergraduate study, 41 master's programs and five doctoral degrees. For more information, visit www.belmont.edu.

Countdown to Noon at Science Central

Science Central's 30th annual "Countdown to Noon" will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 31 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for all ages of

At noon the epic balloon drop will be sponsored by the Lake City Bank. Personalized "wish" balloons will be offered to partici-

Those attending will also receive access to 20th-anniversary Stamp Rally booklets offering prizes, scavenger hunts and thematic

Regular admission applies with more information at www.sciencecentral.org.

recycling of old Christmas lights now through Jan. 17. Expired strands may

The zoo will accept Services building on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Among the things going on at the Fort Wayne Chilbe dropped off at the Guest dren's Zoo is the registration kidszoo.org.

Recycle Christmas lights at Fort Wayne Children's Zoo of youngsters for summer camps. For more information call 260-427-6800, ext. 301 or check education!@

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Holiday lights and displays continue in downtown Fort Wayne locations

One of the final ways to view holiday lights and displays would be to drive around downtown Fort Wayne and check out window displays along Harrison Street and at the corner of Jefferson St. at the Embassy. These displays will be on view through

Some of the windows feature window items from original Wold & Dessauer displays.

The lighting locations include: Santa on the side of PNC Bank, History Center, Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Community Center, Ash Brokerage, Indiana Michigan Power Center, Trinity English Field through Jan. 4th. Lutheran Church, Botanical Conservatory and the windows at the Embassy

The walk through "Holiday Lights" event will be open at Parkview

Admission is \$10 (through November) and \$12 (December & January).

The box office opens at 5:30 p.m. and walk through begin at 6 p.m. Some parking in the area is free.



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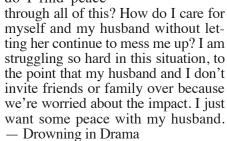
Dear Annie: My mother-in-law money than she is currently living with my husband thought so that and me. She insisted she needed to move in with us, as she was divorcing her husband who received a much hated living with larger retirement than her and she us (something was convinced she couldn't live on I'm not sure her own. She owned her house outright but refused to stay in it because she felt the upkeep of the land would bridge when we be too much. My husband was worried that if we said no, we would lose that relationship, and we believed that tion is, how she could be able to compromise and live peacefully with us as she stated that she valued honesty and compromise the way we do. (We both see in hindsight that this was flawed, but we never had any reason to doubt her at the time).

She contributed funds to assist us in buying the house (a major sticking point), and we all moved in and quickly found out she is not what she tive and manipulative. She expects my husband, who is autistic and absolutely needs decompress time, to drop everything as soon as she demands it to assist her with something, like he did when he used to live with her. When he tells her no, she becomes passive aggressive and cold. We try to establish boundaries, and it makes our home a war zone.

Annie, I have PTSD. I suffered a lot of abuse in my life, and this kind of conflict puts me on major edge. I have panic attacks in my room, and I obsess over every little thing she does to try to understand it, because I'm constantly in survival mode. We are afraid to try to "kick her out" because my husband is worried about the effect the fall-out will have on me, so we're waiting for the divorce to finalize and for her to have more

she'll decide to leave since she will happen, but we'll cross that get to it).

My big quesdo I find peace



Dear

Annie

by Annie Lane

Dear Drowning in Drama: Right presents to be. She is mean, vindic- now you are in a limbo period. You are waiting to have your living situation changed and go back to the way it was. Sounds like your mother-inlaw's moving out will be beneficial for all of you. While you are waiting, repeat the serenity prayer: God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

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

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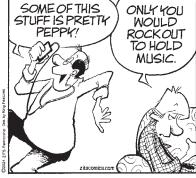




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My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham

Question: When the end of the year approaches, I find myself looking at things more realistically and then consider what the Bible says about beginnings and ends. As our nation and world are crumbling before our eyes, it reminds me of what the Bible says about the last days. We are surely in them, aren't we? -L.D.

Answer: Someday soon the end will come - the end of a world that has been dominated by greed, evil, and injustice. The Bible speaks graphically about the end of the world. God's Word warns of what is coming and calls people to be reconciled to Him. "Repent, then,

Someday soon the end will come

and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you - even Jesus. Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy proph-(Acts 3:19-21, NIV).

The revelation of Jesus Christ in the gospel of Matthew tells us that the present world system will pass away and come to a dramatic end. These passages tell us that Jesus will come again and set up His kingdom of righteousness where evil and death will no longer exist. Jesus promised the establishment of

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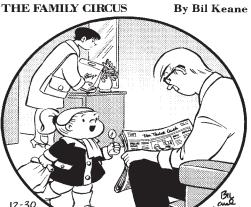
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a new order – the kingdom of God. He used images that were dramatic and compelling, but He did not engage in fantasy. He told his followers, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6, NKJV).

He indicated that when certain things come to pass, we can be assured that the end is near. He indicated that only those who are saved and have spiritual discernment from the Holy Spirit can believe the facts of history and have the hope of the future.

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

Graham.) ©2024 Billy Graham Literary Trust. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.



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"IT'S THE END OF THE YEAR, AND YOUR TO-DO LIST IS LONGER THAN IT WAS IN JANUARY."

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Saturday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY

Cash 5 - 10-17-20-42**Cash4Life** — 5-17-27-28-41, Cash Ball: 01

Lotto Plus — 9-10-27-34-36-43

Quick Draw Midday — 3-10-15-18-23-28-33-34-41-47-49-50-52-54-56-63-66-67-69-76, BE: 49

Daily Three-Midday — 8-6-9, SB: 2

Daily Three-Evening — 0-2-4, SB: 1

Daily Four-Midday — 9-6-3-4, SB: 2

Daily Four-Evening 0-0-1-9, SB: 1

Quick Draw Evening 2-13-16-17-22-30-31-34-36-37-41-43-45-52-53-

60-61-66-69-71, BE: 71 **Hoosier Lotto** — 2-26-32-40-41-42

POWERBALL

6-31-51-54-55; Powerball: 12; Power Play: 2

Sunday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY Cash 5 — 1-4-20-22-34 **Cash4Life** — 3-13-28-

42-48, Cash Ball: 04 Quick Draw Midday — 5-8-9-12-13-20-23-27-31-33-35-50-52-60-61-62-66-

67-68-75, BE: 61 Daily Three-Midday — 2-5-4, SB: 5

Daily Three-Evening —

2-2-2, SB: 0 Daily Four-Midday —

2-6-4-9, SB: 5

Daily Four-Evening — 6-4-3-1, SB: 0

Quick Draw Evening 1-2-5-14-21-22-31-32-36-37-38-39-40-41-51-53-

64-68-69-71, BE: 31 Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednes-

day): \$34.8 million **MEGA MILLIONS** Estimated jackpot (for

Tuesday): \$20 million **POWERBALL**

Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$163 million

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Public

Sale

Calendar

BIDDING ENDS DECEMBER

31 - Bidding starts closing at 2 p.m. - Estate of Rich-

ard Gerken and others, sellers. "Outstanding year end auction." Very high quality art deco, Lladro collection art, mid

century modern and Art Nou-

veau home furnishings, Inter-

national Harvester collection,

2011 Platinum Ford F150 in

pristine condition, high quality

antiques, 3,500 record albums,

vintage Schwinn bicycles, lawn

mower tools advertising memorabilia, Coca Cola collection,

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Bobcat Dozer 96" Blade, 2016

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ECR88 Excavator Kawasaki

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more, antique furniture, cast

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Knights outduel the Tigers in county hoops clash

By RYAN WALKER

The Norwell Knights tamed the neighboring Bluffton Tigers for the 13th straight time in boys' basketball at The Castle Saturday night.

It certainly wasn't pretty, but Norwell (6-2) gritted out a 41-33 victory over the Tigers (4-3) in yet another low-scoring affair.

Last year, the Knights' winning spread was seven points. This year, it participated in another game where they got ahead and held the fort down for a win.

"If you've watched coach McBride against Coach Teagle over the last eight years — when he was at Huntington North and now Bluffton — that's what this game's like," coach Mike McBride said. "It's a defensive battle, and you've got to be gritty and tough, and you've got to finish out the game. We knew it was going to be a grinder and it was, and give our kids credit for being resilient and finding a way to finish it out."

Both teams executed the perfect gameplan on the defensive side, yet couldn't find a full answer on

The Knights led most of the first half by no more than seven points, but kept the paint dry for the Tigers. Their guards created turnover after turnover and scored on the fast break. It turned out to be much-needed as the Knights were in a shooting drought the entire night.

Bluffton, a strong post team, was swallowed up in the post and limited to just 14 points in it for the game — that was thanks to a hounding Norwell defensive backcourt. The Tigers turned the ball over 22 times compared to the Knights' eight.

"We did a poor job," Teagle commented on his team's post-

play. "We didn't improve the angle to get it in there. We needed to go in there every time. We talked about establish and dominate, and a lot of times it was there and we didn't enter it. Sometimes it needed to be reversed and then looked in. We just weren't patient enough, but when you turn it over 18 times, there were 18 possible times you might have been able to go to

Instead, it was guard Nolan Lambert who kept the Tigers in the

His trio of threes in the first half cut the Knights' lead down to four, three and two at the end of the first quarter and into the second.

His fourth triple came early in the third quarter and got Bluffton from down seven points to four, and the second on a last-second shot at the buzzer to make the score 32-27. Those two extra makes in the third quarter gave him a teamhigh 15 points.

Entering the fourth quarter, the five-point lead for Norwell felt more like 20.

The Knights' five players on the floor were all speed-type quards and decided to hold the ball, pass it around and keep the Tigers running in circles for eight minutes. The strategy was played the same way the night before when Norwell did it to Adams Central, but more to an extreme against Bluffton.

Norwell hit 10 threes against Adams Central and was not challenged by its 2-3 defense. Bluffton, however, was a man-to-man setup and had been getting under the skin of Norwell's top scorers all night.

Norwell's three-point night went 1-14 and shot 32% from the floor. Bluffton was shooting a significantly better 48%, so it didn't make sense for Norwell to do any-



Bluffton's Austin Geimer (left) and Norwell's Josh McBride fight for possession of the ball during the second quarter of the Wells County battle at The Castle Saturday night. The Knights pulled away with a 41-33 win. (Photo by Ryan

thing but to reduce the amount of shots taken. The result was a paltry six points for Bluffton in the final quarter. Norwell scored nine, and seven of them on free throws and a no-sweat final quarter.

Teagle didn't groan about the style of play in the fourth quarter but rather was pointing the finger

"I have no idea. It's their fault," Teagle said. "If we do what we're supposed to do before that, we're not in that situation."

Through the low-scoring game, Lambert and freshman Josh McBride led the field with 15 points. McBride went 4-8 in his first Wells County contest.

Declan Grieser put up 12 points and six rebounds for the Tigers, while Adam McBride and Nick McBride had nine and eight.

Bluffton will be off for a week before hosting Lakewood Park Christian at 7:30 p.m. Saturday,

Norwell will be back in action at Elkhart Christian at 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 3.

Norwell won the junior varsity game 54-28. Trey Privett led the Knights with 19 points, Cade Thornton 11 and Noah Comer 10.

Max White led the Tigers with 13 points, Gibson Grieser and Abram Gehrett six.

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NORWELL 41, BLUFFTON 33

At Norwell BLUFFTON (4-3): Nolan Lambert 5-10 0-0 15, Declan Grieser 5-9 2-5 12, Griffin Morgan 2-2 2-2 6, Cameron Williams 0-1 0-0 0, Marshall Gerber 0-0 0-0 0, Austin Geimer 0-0 0-0 0, Ben Maggard 0-0 0-0 0. Kaleb Green 0-2 0-2 0. TOTALS 12-25 4-9 33.

NORWELL (6-2): Josh McBride 4-8 6-8 15, Adam McBride 3-8 3-4 9, Nick McBride 1-5 6-6 8, Owen Wallis 2-5 2-4 6, Garry Riley 1-6 1-3 3, Noah Comer 0-0 0-0 0, Ryne Thornton 0-2 0-0 0. TOTALS 11-34 18-25.

Bluffton 8 8 11 6 — 33 Norwell 12 10 10 9 — 41 Three-point Shooting: Bluffton 5-14 (Lambert 5-10, Williams 0-1, Grieser 0-1, Green 0-1, Maggard 0-1), Norwell 1-14 (J. McBride 1-4, Wallis 0-2, Riley 0-1, A. McBride 0-1, N. McBride 0-4, Thornton 0-2). Rebounds: Bluffton 20 (Grieser 6, Morgan 4, Green 3, Lambert 2, Maggard 2, Gerber 2), Norwell 19 (J. McBride 9, Riley 4, Wallis 2, A. McBride 2), Turnovers: Bluffton 22, Norwell 8. Fouls: Bluffton 22, Norwell 12. Fouled Out: Bluffton Gerber. Technicals: Bluffton 1 Morgan.

Knights nearly pull off upset, finish 1-1 in Noblesville

By RICK SPRUNGER

NOBLESVILLE — Norwell came within an eyelash of picking up a huge win over a Class 4A powerhouse Saturday morning.

The Knights dropped a crushing 73-71 overtime decision to Noblesville in the opening game of that school's holiday tournament.

Norwell fell to probably the most deceptive 9-5 record in the state (a record that improved to 10-5 with the Knights' 68-58 win over another Class 4A power, Fort Wayne Snider, in the consolation game Saturday night). A box score of the third/fourth place game will be in Tuesday's News-Banner.

The loss to Noblesville was a particularly heartbreaking defeat in that Norwell seemingly had victory within its grasp, holding a 71-70 lead and inbounding the ball at midcourt with just 0:14 to play in the extra ses-

But Noblesville's 5'9" Miss Basketball candidate and Miami (Fla.) recruit, Meredith Tippner, took matters into her own hands and made the play of the game.

Tippner, who led all scorers with 33 points, wrestled the ball away from a Norwell player in the backcourt and fed teammate Kate Rollins for a layup and a foul with 0:09 left.

The foul was against Macie Saalfrank, her fifth, and took a seat next to Vanessa Rosswurm, who had fouled out two minutes earlier. Together, those two had scored 47 of Norwell's 71 points.

Rollins missed the free throw, but Tippner grabbed the offensive board and was fouled herself with 0:07 remaining.

Tippner hit the second of her two free throws, and Norwell needed just about all of the remaining time to get the ball upcourt against Noblesville pressure.

Addie Norris managed to get off a desperation, off-balance runner from the lane that never really had a chance and which may or

may not have counted even had it gone in.
"Give her credit," said Norwell coach
Eric Thornton about Tippner, who made that play in the backcourt despite carrying four fouls. "That's why she's a Miss Basketball candidate. She is skilled, she plays with a lot

of physicality, and she plays that way all the

But for 36 minutes, Norwell stood toe-totoe with one of the top ten Class 4A teams in the state and on its own floor, no less.

For 28 of those minutes, Norwell not only held its own but dominated.

From the 1:41 mark of the first quarter until 2:24 left in the overtime period, Norwell outscored the Millers, 64-44.

But those remaining eight minutes — the first six and the last two of the game — decided it. First, the beginning.

Noblesville exploded out of the gate, racing to early leads of 11-0 and 18-4 in those first six minutes. Norwell turned the ball over on each of its first three possessions and four of its first five, missed all three shots it took, saw Rosswurm pick up two quick fouls, and fell into that 11-0 hole — all in the game's first three minutes.

"We were very tight, very nervous," said Thornton of his team's inauspicious start. "We didn't play loose, and that leads to liveball turnovers, and that's just what teams like Noblesville feed on.

'Class 4A is not like Class 3A," he continued. "The margin for error is so slim against teams like this. When you play tentative, they make you pay.'

The Knights finally got on the scoreboard when Saalfrank stole the ball and fed Rosswurm upcourt for a runout layup. But it got worse before it got better.

Tippner, who scored 11 of Noblesville's 21 first-quarter points, knocked down a 15-footer and a three-pointer; C.C. Quigley, Noblesville's 6-2 junior tower, got loose underneath; and it was 18-4 with 2:04 left in the period.

But Norwell got off the deck and did so in

Rosswurm wrapped a pair of three-pointers around an Alivia Green steal in a span of 15 seconds, and the Knights were very much

"I was very proud of our kids," said Thorn-"We have to do better at the start, but they did a great job the rest of the game. They played with a lot of grit and a lot of fight, and

they played very, very well."

When Jada Dale fed Green underneath to cap a 22-7 Norwell burst with 2:55 left in the second quarter, the Knights had their first (and only) lead in regulation, 26-25.

"I wasn't surprised that they came back the way they did," said veteran Noblesville coach Donna Buckley. "Good teams do that. They're Class 3A, but they are a legitimate Class 4A talent. I wouldn't be a bit surprised to see them back in the state finals this year."

Noblesville seized the lead right back and stretched its margin to 54-47 after three quarters. But Saalfrank opened the fourth period with a jumper, and then Rosswurm went to

She nailed a three after a Norris steal, then got three straight rebound baskets to earn Norwell ties at 56, 58, and 60, the last with 1:36 left in regulation.

Norwell regained possession after a Tippner miss and took a timeout with 0:12 remaining.

The Knights turned the ball over at the timeline with 0:08 to play; but Tippner and Quigley both missed shots from in close, and

the game went into overtime. The Norwell surge continued as Saalfrank opened the extra session with a three-pointer and Rosswurm stole the ball on defense. Dale then stepped up with a reverse layup off a baseline drive and a three-point play in the

Suddenly, Norwell had a 68-62 lead with 2:49 remaining, and the Knights were feeling it. But then came those fateful last two min-

Rosswurm picked up her fifth foul trying to defend Tippner underneath with 2:24 left, and the winds of momentum immediately

"She was in a legal guarding position," protested a frustrated Thornton later. "I don't know what else she's supposed to do.'

Tippner hit one of two free throws, then stole the ball and converted a three-point play

Ashley Waldman stopped the bleeding

momentarily with a three-pointer that restored

the Norwell lead to 71-66 with 1:52 to play. But Quigley scored underneath, and Tippner converted yet another steal into a layup that

Dale got an offensive rebound on a missed three by Waldman, but a wild pass on the reset sailed out of bounds with 35 ticks remaining.

Although the Knights got the ball back via the possession arrow on a held ball, Tippman swiped the ball in the backcourt at 0:14, and the rest has been told.

"We have to be able to execute an out-ofbounds play," sighed Thornton about the finish. "We have several options, but at the end, we were only looking for one option."

Rosswurm, a "big-time talent" according to Buckley, finished with 28 points for Nor-

Saalfrank added 19 points and Waldman 10 for the Knights, who were 27-for-57 from the field (.474) and outrebounded the Millers, 33-28, but turned the ball over 26 times.

Rollins scored 16 points and Quigley 14 to join Tippman in double figures for Noblesville, which was 29-for-56 from the floor (.518) but committed 22 turnovers. "We struggled all day against that 1-3-1

zone," commented Buckley of her team's uncharacteristic inability to hold onto the ball.

Norwell is off until a week from Tuesday when it plays host to Carroll.

sports@news-banner.com

NOBLESVILLE 73, NORWELL 71 (OT)
At Noblesville
NORWELL (9-5): Addie Norris 2-11 0-0 5, Ashley Waldman 4-9 0-0 10, Macie Saalfrank 7-14 0-0 19, Vanessa Rosswirm 10-17 4-6 28, Alivia Green 2-3 0-0 4, Jada Dale 2-3 1-1 5, Ryland Graft 0-0 0-0 0, Haley Williamson 0-0 0-0 0. TOTAL: 27-57 5-7 71.

NOBLESVILLE (9-3): Maia Blower 1-2 0-0 2, Ally

Hutchinson 2-6 1-2 6, C.C. Quigley 7-10 0-0 14, Kate Rollins 6-9 2-2 16, Meredith Tippner 12-27 7-9 33, Norah Vetor 1-1 0-0 2, Brookelyn Grayson 0-0 0-0 0, Bri Gray 0-1 0-0 0. TOTAL: 29-56 10-13 73.

Norwell 13 20 14 13 OT: 11 — 71 Noblesville 21 13 20 6 OT: 13 — 73 Three-point shooting: Norwell 12-28 (Norris 1-5, Waldman 2-7, Saalfrank 5-9, Rosswurm 4-6, Dale 0-1), Noblesville 5-11 (Hutchinson 1-3, Rollins 2-4, Tippner 2-4). Rebounds: Norwell 32 (Rosswurm 7, Green 6, Saalfrank 5, Dale 5), Noblesville 28 (Tippner 9, Quigley 8). Turnovers: Norwell 26, Noblesville 22. Personal fouls: Norwell 19, Noblesville 9. Fouled Out: Saalfrank, Rosswurm. Technical fouls: None.

Raiders look sharp in romp of Comets

By ANDREW FEEBACK

In a game that was over very early, the Southern Wells Raiders rolled to a 66-20 win against the visiting Eastern Greentown Comets Saturday night.

The Raiders ran their record to 11-3, while the Comets remained winless at

Southern Wells was never threatened, scoring the game's first 14 points and racing out to a 45-5 halftime

There's usually not a whole lot to be gleaned from a lopsided win against an overmatched opponent, but Coach Kyle Penrod liked how his team took care of the ball throughout the game.

"Turnovers have been something that got us," he said, referring to earlier games. "Sometimes it's actually easier to turn the ball over when you're comfortable with your lead. You can be a little lazy, maybe think you can do more than you

should because you can get away with it. I thought we did a good job of not turning the ball over."

The Raiders finished with only eight turnovers to go along with making 27 of 58 shots from the field.

Penrod also felt his team did a good job spreading out its scoring and getting shots for many different players. Eleven different Raiders scored in the game, led by Kaylee Davis with 12 points and Ashlie Needler with 10.

"Kyah Thomas is a really good shooter, but we haven't gotten her going," Penrod said. "We tried getting her some extra shots, so she's feeling good about her shot. We ran a couple new out-ofbounds plays and a couple new sets that we're trying to work on."

Eastern Greentown, meanwhile, had trouble getting shots at all. The Comets had six turnovers before they even attempted a field goal, and they finished the first half with only 12 looks from the

Southern Wells ended the first half with 19 straight points over the last 5:35.

Kenzie Eagle had the only three-pointer of the game for the Comets in the game's closing seconds.

Seven different Raiders made a triple as the team finished 8-26 from deep. The Raiders will travel to

Randolph Southern Saturday

night. With its next win, Southern Wells will be assured of finishing the season with a winning record for the first

time since 2012-13. That team won 16 games, and Penrod likes where this group is headed.

"I'm pretty happy with where we are," he said. 'We've got six regular season games left, and I think if we play well, we could win all six of them. I like our draw for the ACAC tournament too, so if we play well, we could be in the championship game fighting for a championship. I'm excited for the last half of the year."

The Southern Wells junior varsity team defeated Woodlan's freshman team 37-22. Cadence Watkins scored 14 points, Lillia Paxson added 11 and Lexi Pennington had seven for the Raiders.

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SOUTHERN WELLS 66, EASTERN GREENTOWN 20 At Southern Wells EASTERN GREENTOWN (0-13): Allie Hueston 0-1 0-0 0, Lainey Newlin 2-4 0-0 4, Gianna Beechy 3-5 0-0 6, Brooke Robinson 0-0 0-0 0, Annie Cramer 0-0 0-0 0, Elle Winger 0-0 O-0 0, Gianna Sinko 0-1 0-0 0, Finley Shrock 0-3 0-0 0, Marly Coan 2-7 0-0 4, Jillian Johnson 1-2 0-0 2, Kenzie Eagle 1-8 1-2 4. TOTALS: 9-31 1-2 20 SOUTHERN WELLS (11-3): Erika

Beavans 3-9 0-0 7, Kaylea Coffel 2 0-0 5, Cadence Watkins 1-2 0-0 2, Kaylee Davis 4-10 2-3 12, Aubree Meyer 2-2 1-2 6, Collena Reeves 3-7 0-0 7, Gracie Reeves 0-0 0-0 0, Kenzie Paxson 0-2 0-0 0, Remi Holmes 2-3 0-0 4, Callie Ripperger 1-4 1-2 3, Kyah Thomas 3-4 0-0 7, Lillia Paxson 0-0 0-0 0, Ashlie Needler 5-9 0-0 10,

Ellie DeWeese 1-1 0-0 3. TOTALS: 27-58 4-7 66.

Eastern 3 2 6 9 — 20 Eastern 3 2 6 9 — 20 S. Wells 20 25 7 14 — 66 Three-point Goals: Eastern Green-town 1-3 (Eagle 1-3), Southern Wells 8-26 (Davis 2-6, Coffel 1-4, Meyer 1-1,



Callie Ripperger puts Eastern's Kenzie Eagle into the spin cycle as Ripperger uses a nifty move for an easy two points in the third quarter Saturday at The Raiderdome. (Photo by Glen Werling)

Reeves 1-4, Thomas 1-2, Beavans 1-5, DeWeese 1-1, Ripperger 0-3). Rebounds: Eastern Greentown 22 (Coan 8, Eagle 7, Newlin 3, Johnson 2, Shrock 1, Beechy 1), Southern Wells 20 (Needler 6, Thomas 3, Reeves 3. Holmes 2. Beavans 1.

Coffel 1, Watkins 1, Davis 1, Meyer 1, Ripperger 1). Turnovers: Eastern Greentown 28, Southern Wells 8. Fouls: Eastern Greentown 9, Southern Wells 6. Fouled out: None. Technicals:

JV: Southern Wells 37, Woodlan 22