Page 6

Common Council introduces electric rate increases

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Increases to electric rates over the next five years were introduced by the Common Council

Due to recent federal regulations of electric power acquisitions, Bluffton's electric provider, Wolverine Power Cooperative. announced that they will be raising their rates in 2030. Wolverine estimated the increase at 6-7% compared to their previous locked rates, approved in 2018. Throughout the city's transmission region - which covers areas in Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Virginia and others — some coal and gas fired plants are being removed from auctions, the traditional method for purchasing electric capacity.

"There has to be a gas plant to take that gas and convert it to elec-

tricity," council member Scott Mentzer said. "The cost to build gas plants — because of some of the regulations that have been put on are so significantly high that people aren't investing in new gas

plants. The way to drive down cost is by increasing capacity ... and right now, it's not very cost effective for these energy providers to build plants.'

duced a five-year plan where rates will increase from 2025 to 2030 and settle into a rate stabilization fund. When the major increase happens in 2030, the funds in that account will give the city a buffer to keep rate increases steady from

In response, the city has intro-



Clerk-Treasurer Bri Lautzenheiser, left, along with council members Blake Fiechter, right, and Rick Elwell, second from left, listen as Scott Mentzer explains the reasoning behind the increases. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

> 2030 to 2035 when they establish a new contract with Wolverine. The fund is not allowed to be used for any other electric department projects, and will only be used for keeping rates down.

> "In essence, if you're paying them (Wolverine) the 6-7% increase you can do the same

thing," Baker Tilly representative Eric Walsh said to the council. "You're just taking control and doing it yourself.'

Council member Chandler Gerber asked if those increased rates were tested against other providers, with Mentzer assuring that (Continued on Page 2)

City set to recieve \$900K grant for sidewalks

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Street Commissioner Tim Simpson announced Tuesday that Bluffton has received a \$900,000 federal grant for sidewalk improvements.

The improvements will take place along Spring street, then north on Mulberry street, and turning west on Washington street to the splash pad. Afterwards the plan is to go down South Main street to the library. The city of Bluffton will also contribute \$100,000.

The initial request was made in early October, with Simpson noting that this was a special call from the Highway Safety Improvement Project. Simpson said that this special call had a more specific list of criteria than traditional grants, with a main focus on connecting points of interest in the city and corridors. Simpson stated that connecting the Bluffton-Harrison schools to the Rivergreenway and the Wells County Public Library was key for the grant's scoring system.

'Had we just chosen a bunch of sidewalks versus one that's connecting the school systems, it upped our ability to be awarded the grant," Simpson said during the Bluffton Common Council's meeting Tuesday.

"Just taking it down a regular (Continued on Page 2)

EMS fund is projected to last 5 more years

By HOLLY GASKILL

According to current projections, Wells County EMS can operate for five more years with its current funding source.

Wells County EMS CEO Rick Piepenbrink and Trent Bucher of Honegger, Ringger and Co. presented a financial update to the Wells County Council on Tuesday. EMS services are supported by the Wells Community Health Services Foundation, established through the \$8 million sale of the county

The fund has depleted over time as costs have increased and revenue has not. There is currently a \$3.8 million balance.

Wells County EMS makes an average of 8.5 runs per day two-thirds of which are billable, meaning an individual was transported to the hospital. Of these runs, roughly 65% are billed to Medicare or Medicaid which pay significantly less than the cost.

Altogether, EMS revenue has

remained flat for five years despite significant inflating costs to the department. According to Bucher, EMS lost \$509 per run last fiscal year. On average, the fund has depleted by \$194,000 annually for 23 years.

Council member Vicki Andrews noted that much of the issue is beyond the council's control — the county cannot dictate how people use EMS for nonbillable services nor that Medicare and Medicaid discounts have not risen with inflation.

The county council has taken measures to delay this depletion first in 2022, by committing \$100,000 of the budget to support EMS operations. The county contributed an additional \$160,000 in 2024 by reducing property tax credits and will increase its contribution to \$351,220 in 2025.

In his update, Bucher attributed part of this difficulty to the county solely bearing the cost of EMS (Continued on Page 2)

Wells County prosecutor to go full-time

By HOLLY GASKILL

After nearly two years in office, Wells County Prosecutor Colin Andrews will begin working full-time in the position in

Andrews spoke with the Wells County Council about the position on Wednesday, and the council consented to the change. The state pays for the position and its benefits and

the change will not affect the county budget. Andrews, a Republican, was elected to his first term as prosecutor in 2022. He also previously served as a deputy

Andrews expects the change will take place by late January, giving time to transfer clients and work at his firm, Andrews & Crell P.C. He will also no longer serve as attorney for Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan Schools or the Wells County Area Plan Commission.

Andrews & Crell, which has an office in downtown Bluffton, will transition to Crell Law.

holly@news-banner.com

Colin Andrews

Indiana charter school group to push for property tax revenue sharing

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ **Indiana Capital Chronicle**

A recently formed group representing Indiana's growing public charter school sector says it'll push lawmakers to make traditional public schools share local property tax

Indiana Charter Innovation Center President and CEO Scott Bess said his group's ask starts with the core principle underlying Indiana's approach to funding education: money follows the student.

All school types get the same share of money from the state. Charters also get federal dollars.

But charters don't receive local property tax revenue, so they run on about two-thirds of the funding obtained by traditional public schools, according to a news release Tuesday.

Bess wants to put a dent in that

"We may not close the gap entirely, and that may be impossible to do, but we have to at least close it some. And the state isn't going to make up all that difference," said Bess, who founded Purdue University's Polytechnic High School and led it until this summer.

Charters organize

Charters are public schools, but they're not run by school districts. Instead, they're headed by nonprofit boards and are overseen by their independent authorizers.

They can control their own cur-

riculum, staffing, organization, and budget but have to meet academic, financial and other standards. They're still required to give students yearly state exams and they receive state ratings. They're subject to state public records and open door laws.

There are more than 120 charter schools in Indiana, making up about 5% of the state's total K-12 schools, according to the Indiana Charter Innovation Center.

The center soft-launched in August, per Bess.

Already, about 60 schools some part of the same charter networks — are members of the 501(c) (3) nonprofit. They can access ser-

(Continued on Page 2)

South Korea lifts martial law decree after lawmaker rejection

By KIM TONG-HYUNG **Associated Press**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The president of South Korea early Wednesday lifted the martial law he imposed on the country hours earlier, bending to political pressure after a tense night in which troops surrounded parliament and lawmakers voted to reject military

President Yoon Suk Yeol, who

appeared likely to be impeached over his actions, imposed martial law late Tuesday out of frustration with the opposition, vowing to eliminate "anti-state" forces as he struggles against opponents who control parliament and that he accuses of sympathizing with communist North Korea. Police and military personnel

were seen leaving the grounds of parliament following the bipartiand the declaration was formally lifted around 4:30 a.m. during a Cabinet meeting.

Parliament acted swiftly after martial law was imposed, with National Assembly Speaker Woo Won Shik declaring that the law was "invalid" and that lawmakers would "protect democracy with the people."

In all, martial law was in effect

san vote to overrule the president, for about six hours.

The president's surprising move harkened back to an era of authoritarian leaders that the country has not seen since the 1980s, and it was immediately denounced by the opposition and the leader of Yoon's own conservative party. Lee Jae-myung, leader of the

liberal Democratic Party, which holds the majority in the 300seat parliament, said the party's

lawmakers would remain in the Assembly's main hall until Yoon formally lifted his order.

Woo applauded how troops quickly left the Assembly after the vote.

"Even with our unfortunate memories of military coups, our citizens have surely observed the events of today and saw the maturity of our military," Woo said.

(Continued on Page 2)

Local/Area Obituaries.....3

Police Notebook . . .3

Opinion Tom Purcell 4

Also...

Sports. 6 Classifieds 8



Cold, wet and windy today, snow tomorrow

Thursday Friday High 38 | High 26 | High 29 Low 14 | Low 16 | Low 19 More Weather on Page 2



Go to www.facebook.com/ newsbanner

Place Your Classified

Ads 24/7 Vol. 96 No. 27

WEDNESDAY

December 4, 2024

CALL US ABOUT ANNUAL OPEN ENROLLMENT!

Oct. 15th - Dec. 7th **MEDICARE PROGRAMS**

MARKETPLACE Annual Enrollment Nov. 1^{st} – Dec. 15^{th}

TAXXING APPOINTMENTS • 101 North Main Street, Bluffton, IN CALL 260-824-1618 OR 820-0896 How to contact us: Call us: **824-0224** or 1-800-579-7476

On the Web: www.news-banner.com twitter.com/newsbanner



Common Council

(Continued from Page 1)

even at the accelerated rates, Wolverine still provided the best deal. Ben Murray also asked if the fund will gain interest over those years, which Walsh and Mentzer confirmed that interest

Walsh, who has advised the board on the upcoming increase, stated that year one of the increase will primarily impact significant demand customers like Valero and other similar high-use businesses. Walsh estimated that the city would need at least \$7 million in the stabilization fund by 2030 to keep rates below a 3% increase year over

The current rates being proposed start at \$3.90 per meter per month and \$0.097 per kilowatt hour for the first 500 kilowatt hours for residential services in 2025, which will increase to \$4.50 per meter per month and \$0.109 for the first 500 KWH hours in 2029. Commercial services rates will start at \$7.75 per meter per month and \$0.117 per KWH for the first 500 KWH in 2025, increasing to \$8.80 per meter per month and \$0.132 per KWH for the first 500 KWH in 2029.

"This is probably the most proactive approach you can make," Walsh said. "I think it gives the citizens the lowest

cost of power option."

The council approved the ordinance on first reading, with a public hearing on the new rates scheduled in two weeks.

Additionally, the council denied BCG Capital and Minnich's rezoning request. Wells County Area Plan Commission Executive Director Mike Lautzenheiser said that recent findings show that a majority of BCG's and Minnich's planned uses for 1590 and 1600 West Washington St. fall under business three zoning and light industrial zoning classifications.

The planned light industrial zoning for BCG and Minnich drew concern from council members at their Nov. 19 meeting, who stated that the residential housing and parks near the area would lead to a poor fit for light industrial zoning. Lautzenheiser suggested that the council deny the light industrial zoning petition, and notified that a new petition for B-3 zoning will be at their desks in January.

Furthermore, Solid Rock Rentals' rezoning request was also denied after Lautzenheiser reported that petitioner Drew Gerber requested they be turned down. Lautzenheiser also reported that Solid Rock is scrapping the planned project, which called

for 25 units of rental housing east of Serenity Trail.

Trash rates were also approved by the council, with Republic Services' rates starting at \$20.86 per month per household in 2025 and will rise yearly until they reach \$24.15 in 2028.

Additional appropriations were also approved - \$1,000 towards the TIF Midland 2's economic development bond line item; \$19,500 split between the Animal Shelter's utilities, salaries, medical insurance and repairs and maintenance line items. Clerk Treasurer Bri Lautzenheiser stated that salaries were miscalculated due to a new intern for the shelter in 2024.

Earlier Tuesday, the Board of Public Works and Safety approved the purchase of pool chemicals from SPEAR Corporation. Parks Department Superintendent Brandy Fiechter said that an annual sale on chemicals ends this Saturday, and the total spending amount is estimated at \$42,117.70.

The Board of Works also approved \$263,807.50 SRF Request to the James S. Jackson Construction Company. Clerk Treasurer Bri Lautzenheiser noted that this payment will make the retainage balance whole for Jackson.

jonathan@news-banner.com

Weather

Wednesday, December 4, 2024 (24-hour observations at 10:39 p.m. Tuesday) High: 42; Low: 16; Precipitation: None Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.14

Wells County forecast

feet at 8:45 p.m. Tuesday

Today: A 20% chance of showers after 4 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 38. Breezy, with a southwest wind 20 to 25 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph.

Tonight: A chance of rain and snow showers before 7 p.m., then a chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 14. Breezy, with a west wind 20 to 25 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

Thursday: A 30% chance of snow showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 26. Wind chill values as low as -5. West wind around 20 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 16. West wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 29. **Friday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 19. **Saturday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 39. **Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 29.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 49. **Sunday Night:** Rain likely. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 38. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Sidewalk grant

(Continued from Page 1) street doesn't score well." Council member Josh Hunt added. "We don't get awarded unless we have the points of interest and we have those types of corridors.'

Simpson noted, however, that progress on the improvements may be slow. Simpson reported that dirt may not be moved

on the project until 2026, but this does give the council time to budget the needed funds for the match.

'Congratulations," Council Member Chandler Gerber said. "You've found a way to turn \$100,000 into \$1 million. This is incredibly exciting.

jonathan@news-banner.com

Charter school group

(Continued from Page 1) vices like webinars on the state insurance plan or common school loan fund, courtesy of Vice President of Strategy Kimberly Reier.

But the center is gearing up for advocacy work, centered on property tax revenue-sharing. It has a 501(c)(4) nonprofit arm the Indiana Charter Alliance — for lobbying; Reier is its registered lobbyist.

Bess said many charters struggle to add buildings, cover pricier maintenance, or take on other big projects because of funding limitations. His group wants traditional public school districts to share property tax proportionally, according to the number of students who've chosen to attend the charter.

But charter advocates, including Bess' group, have

touted charters as more efficient than traditional public schools — a model that does more with less.

The center's news release cited a 2023 study by the University of Arkansas showing that, for every \$1,000 spent, charter students achieved 4.4 to 4.7 points higher on national assessments compared with peers at traditional public schools. But that's not the end of it, for Bess.

"You could say, based on whatever study you would look, at that charter schools are doing more academically with less money. Our position is that may be true, but if you want to have more good schools (and) if you want the good schools to expand ... you have to solve this funding equity issue," he said.

Group's plan

It's set to be a tough legislative session for funding requests. Lawmakers will attempt to balance increasing expenses with lower-thanexpected revenues and a full plate of expensive priorities.

Bess said his group's message aligns with legislative leadership's signals because charters aren't pushing for significant new state funding — they seek a share of existing local funding. That change, though, would mean less money for traditional public schools.

The center expects to request modest state funding increases, like in the complexity formula that gives extra aid to schools educating children who are impoverished or who have special needs. The group would also support broad moves

for deregulation, per Bess.

As for the center's focus? Bess said any property tax revenue-sharing would need to be phased in.

You can't just cut it all out immediately and say, 'Hey, sorry. You lost \$10 million.' You've got to have some kind of a twoor three-year phase-in," he said. "You've got to think about how might you mitigate some of the negative impact."

'You want to make sure you don't fundamentally harm students, but at the same time, you have to be realistic with some districts and say, 'Look, you can continue to bring in increasing amounts of property tax dollars, and you're educating fewer students," he added. "... There has to be an end to that.'

EMS fund

(Continued from Page 1) services. Council member Steve Huggins questioned why this was, considering its benefit to local hospitals.

In response, Council member Seth Whicker stated he had met with Julie Thompson, chief administration officer at Bluffton Regional Medical Center, and there may be a future partnership between the parties. Whicker stated they were going to have "some robust conversations here the first of the year to try to figure it out." He said he's also talked to

Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne. That said, Whicker noted

other aspects to consider outside of the financial component - specifically, that the county could lose control of its EMS stations. Three stations are currently maintained throughout the county.

Increases in county support have staved off total depletion, but the county will eventually have to determine how to support the department, budgeted at \$1.3 million in 2025.

holly@news-banner.com

RECLINERS

catnapper ⊱

Home Stretch

South Korea martial law

(Continued from Page 1)

While announcing his plan to lift martial law, Yoon continued to criticize parliament's attempts to impeach key government officials and senior prosecutors. He said lawmakers had engaged in "unscrupulous acts of legislative and budgetary manipulation that are paralyzing the functions of the state.'

Jo Seung-lae, a Democratic lawmaker, claimed that security camera footage following Yoon's declaration showed that troops moved in a way that suggested they were trying to arrest Lee, Woo and even Han Dong-hoon, the leader of Yoon's People Power Party.

Officials from Yoon's office and the Defense Ministry did not respond to requests for comment early Wednesday.

Seemingly hundreds of protesters gathered in front of the Assembly, waving banners and calling for Yoon's impeachment.

Some protesters scuffled with troops ahead of the lawmakers' vote, but there were no immediate reports of injuries or major property damage. At least one window was broken as troops attempted to enter the Assembly building. One woman tried unsuccessfully to pull a rifle away from one of the soldiers, while shouting "Aren't you embarrassed?"

Under South Korea's constitution, the president can declare martial law during "wartime, war-like situations or other comparable national emergency states" that require the use of military force to maintain peace and order. It was questionable whether South Korea is currently in such a state.

When martial law is declared, "special measures" can be employed to restrict freedom of press, freedom of assembly and other rights, as well as the power of courts.

The constitution also states that the president must oblige when the National Assembly demands the lift-

ing of martial law with a majority vote.

Following Yoon's announcement of martial law, South Korea's military proclaimed that parliament and other political gatherings that could cause "social confusion" would be suspended, South Korea's Yonhap news agency said. The military said anyone who violated the decree could be arrested without a warrant.

In Washington, the White House said the U.S. was "seriously concerned" by the events in Seoul. A spokesperson for the National Security Council said President Joe Biden's administration was not notified in advance of the martial law announcement and was in contact with the South Korean government.

Pentagon spokesman Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder said there was no effect on the more than 27,000 U.S. service members based in South Korea.

The South Korean military also said that the country's striking doctors should return to work within 48 hours, Yonhap said. Thousands of doctors have been striking for months over government plans to expand the number of students at medical schools.

Soon after martial law was declared, the parliament speaker called on his YouTube channel for all lawmakers to gather at the National Assembly. He urged military and law enforcement personnel to "remain calm and hold their positions.

All 190 lawmakers who participated in the vote supported the lifting of martial

At one point, television footage showed police officers blocking the entrance of the National Assembly and helmeted soldiers carrying rifles in front of the building. An Associated Press photographer saw at least three helicopters, likely from the military, that landed inside the Assembly grounds, while two or three helicopters circled above the

The leader of Yoon's

conservative party called the decision to impose martial law "wrong." Lee, who narrowly lost to Yoon in the 2022 presidential election, said Yoon's announcement was "illegal and unconstitu-

Yoon said during a televised speech that martial law would help "rebuild and protect" the country from "falling into the depths of national ruin." He said he would "eradicate pro-North Korean forces and protect the constitutional democratic order.'

"I will eliminate antistate forces as quickly as possible and normalize the country," he said, while asking the people to believe in him and tolerate "some inconveniences.'

Yoon — whose approval rating dipped in recent months — has struggled to push his agenda against an opposition-controlled parliament since taking office in

2022. His party has been locked in an impasse with the liberal opposition over next year's budget bill. The opposition has also attempted to impeach three top prosecutors, including the chief of the central Seoul prosecutors' office, in what the conservatives have called a vendetta against their criminal investigations of Lee, who has been seen as the favorite for the next presidential election in 2027 in opinion polls.

During his televised

announcement, Yoon also described the opposition as "shameless pro-North Korean anti-state forces who are plundering the freedom and happiness of our citizens." He did not elaborate.

Yoon has taken a line on North Korea over its nuclear ambitions, departing from the policies of his liberal predecessor, Moon Jae-in, who pursued inter-Korean engagement.

Yoon has also dismissed calls for independent investigations into scandals involving his wife and top officials, drawing quick, strong rebukes from his political rivals.

Yoon's move was the first declaration of martial law since the country's democratization in 1987. The country's last previous martial law was in October 1979, following the assassination of former military dictator Park Chung-hee.

Sydney Seiler, Korean chair at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, argued that the move was symbolic for Yoon to express his frustration with the opposition-controlled parliament.

"He has nothing to lose," said Seiler, comparing Yoon's move to the Hail Mary pass in American football, with a slim chance of success.

Now Yoon faces likely impeachment, a scenario that was also possible before he made the bold move, Seiler said.



Adjustable

Bed SI



Friday & Saturday Bands Friday Night Dec. 6th Starts 8 pm - Prankster Saturday Night Dec. 7th Starts 8 pm - Prime Suspects Weekly Drink Specials and Events! Sundays Biscuits & Gravy 9am - until GONE!





OBITUARIES

Donald Christopher, 93

Donald David Christopher, 93, of Ossian passed away on Nov. 27, 2024.

Born Jan. 22, 1931, in Fort Wayne, a son of the late Floyd and Louise Christopher. Donald proudly served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War from 1951 to 1953.

He loved spending time with friends and family. Donald learned to play the saxophone at 85 years old and loved his jazz

and blues music. He also enjoyed dancing, hunting, fly fishing, hiking and his Colorado years.

Don is survived by his children, Sally J (Don) Parris of Apple Valley, California, Thomas J. Christopher of Wheatridge, Colorado, John L. Christopher of Fort Wayne, Genie L (Dennis) Meyer of Ossian, and Bradley R (Kristee) Christopher of Aurora, Colorado. Special friend of 50-plus years, Marcella Buhr; six grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grand-

He was also preceded in passing by his brothers, Duane and Dallas Christopher.

A funeral service will be held at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024, at Elzey-Patterson-Rodak Funeral Home, 120 West Mill St. in Ossian, with visitation beginning at 1 p.m. He will be laid to rest at Marion National Cem-

Memorial Contributions may be made to Stillwater

Church to host live nativity on Sunday

Southern Wells Community Church will host a free live nativity from 5:30-8 p.m. Sunday. Guests will begin their journey at the Roman census booth, then make their way to Bethlehem with a guide, hearing from shepherds and wise men along the way. The final stop is at the stable to hear Mary and Joseph testify about the events leading up to

Hot apple cider and sweet bread will be provided. Southern Wells Community Church is located at 9450 S 300 W in

Thursday Area Plan Commission meeting canceled

The Wells County Area Plan Commission will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St. The only petition on the agenda was withdrawn.



City:

Monday, 2:59 p.m., Bluffton Regional Medical Center. Hit skip. Report to

Monday, 3:29 p.m., 500 block of West Wabash Street. Report of stolen tools.

Monday, 3:37 p.m., 500 block of Morgan Street. Report of vandalism, vehicle egged and hole found in trunk.

Monday, 4:16 p.m., 700 block of West Silver Street. Report of stolen hunting

Monday, 5:43 p.m., Walmart. Parking problem. Semis moved.

Monday, 8:45 p.m., 800 block of South Johnson Street. Report of stolen items.

Monday, 9:07 p.m., Cottonwood Court and Central Avenue. Report of pounding, shouting and slamming doors. A few individuals told officer they had gotten roudy playing a game during a holiday celebration. Slamming doors were reportedly from some running out to warm up their cars before leaving the gathering.

Tuesday, 6:39 a.m., Main Street and Dustman Road. One arrested for possession of marijuana and cited for no valid license and expired

Tuesday, 6:59 a.m., 700 West Silver Street. Report of two large, aggressive dogs chasing people.

Tuesday, 11:31 a.m., Bluffton Police Department. Returned wallet believed to be missing some money.

Tuesday, 11:47 a.m., Kroger. Missing items from wallet returned.

County:

Wednesday, Nov. 27, 4:33 p.m., 300 W and 900 N, Markle. Broke down car slightly on roadway, tire had lost all its lugnuts. Vehicle towed.

Police Notebook Wednesday, Nov. 27, vidual with a warrant out of 5:19 p.m., 4324 E S.R. 124, Bluffton. Car vs. deer.

Thursday, 8:20 a.m., S.R. 1 and C.R. 700 S, Bluffton. Vehicle tagged as aban-

Thursday, 9:43 a.m., 1832 N 450 E, Bluffton. Rollover accident. Driver taken by EMS to Bluffton Regional Medical Center. Vehicle towed.

Thursday, 11:51 a.m., 4231 E S.R. 124, Bluffton. Deer tag issued.

Thursday, 2:12 p.m., 1123 W Otto Ave., Uniondale. Report of possible break-in. Thursday, 9:42 p.m., S.R.

116 and Meridian Road, Bluffton. Car vs. fox. Friday, 6:39 a.m., C.R. 100 E and S.R. 124, Bluff-

Friday, 7:35 a.m., Hoosier Highway and C.R. 300 S, Bluffton. Removed barricade blown into road.

ton. Car vs. deer.

Friday, 7:55 a.m., C.R. 200 S and 400 W, Liberty Center. Car vs. deer.

Saturday, 6:03 p.m., 2800 block of W Market Street, Liberty Center. Verbal altercation. Parties separated. Saturday, 8:56 p.m., 1865

E 300 N. Assisted with traffic control while a driver changed a tire. Sunday, 4:07 p.m., 1050

S 200 W, Keystone. Report of two stolen dirt bikes.

Monday, 10:46 a.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served.

Monday, 7:44 p.m., C.R. 900 N and 450 E, Ossian. Amazon delivery driver attempted to make threepoint turn and got stuck in ditch.

Ossian:

Thursday, 11:26 a.m., U.S. 224 and S.R. 1, Ossian. Car vs. deer.

Friday, 1:36 p.m., S.R. 1 and 1100 N, Ossian. Verbal altercation. Parties separated.

Saturday, 9:30 p.m., Silo Farms. Report of an indiAdams County and breaching a protective order. Zachery Vince Charo, 29, Decatur, was arrested for invasion of privacy, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

Bonded. Sunday, 1:01 p.m., Silo Farms. Unsecure premises. No signs of forced entry, room was very messy and unclear if anything had been disturbed. Door secured.

Monday, 5:28 p.m., 100 W 1100 N, Ossian. Report of man walking along road, knocking on doors. Man's vehicle was out of gas, provided transport to gas station.

Monday, 2:52 p.m., Silo Farms. Garbage truck reported hit dumpster and vehicle. Driver stated he knew he hit the dumpster, but not the vehicle. The vehicle's owner had not witnessed the accident, but came out after hearing the crash. The woman resisted providing registration and proof and insurance for the vehicle, and the insurance was then discovered to be expired. Damage was found to be less than \$1,000.

FIRES

Monday, 6:35 p.m., 410 W Wabash St., Bluffton. Gas odor around vehicle, could be coming from garage. NIPSCO responded.

ARRESTS

Emily Elizabeth Trammel, 24, Bluffton; shoplifting, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$5,000.

Gene Michael Branham, 29, Markle; probation violation, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond not set.

Darla Ann Ashby, 39, Homer, Michigan; driving while suspended, a Class A misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Seth Aaron Markley, 36, Bluffton; operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangerment, a Class A

misdemeanor. Bond not set.

Dominique Daniel Kolby, 31, Bluffton; invasion of privacy and domestic battery in the presence of a child less than 16, both Level 6 felonies, and false informing and possession of marijuana, both Class B misdemeanors. Bond set at \$25,000.

Jeremy Allen Berry, 39, Liberty Center; sex offender registration violation, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$5,000. Bonded.

Lane Braxton McClure, 18, Warren; resisting law enforcement using a vehicle, a Level 6 felony, and reckless driving, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond not set.

Shelby Rose Eilene Mangas, 28, Markle; obstruction of justice, a Level 5 felony, and assisting a criminal, a Class A misdemeanor.

Abrey Gomoz Jose Alexander, 39, Bluffton; operating a vehicle without ever receiving a license, a Class C misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Danyel Marie Smith-Jackson, 31, Fort Wayne; driving while suspended, a Class A misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Joshua Michael Gomaras, 41, Bluffton; domestic battery against a person with a protective order, a Class A misdemeanor, strangulation and possession of a syringe, both Level 6 felonies, and possession of meth, a Level 5 felony. Bond set at

Marquell Devante Daniels, 31, Fort Wayne; possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor, driving while suspended, a Class A misdemeanor, and operating a vehicle without financial responsibility, a Class C misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Tyson S. Walter, 40, Bluffton; possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor. Booked and released.

State GOP head resigns after 5 months mental Affairs and Puba new chair "who will build By LESLIE **BONĬLLA MUÑIZ** lic Advocacy Practice and Randy has established." **Indiana Capital Chronicle** advises clients on legisla-

Indiana Republican Party Chairman Randy Head announced Monday that he's resigning — effective immediately - after just five months in the role, citing the demands of his fulltime lobbyist job.

"It has been the honor of my life to serve as chairman of the Indiana Republican Party for the past five months," Head said in a news release.

He highlighted the party's successes under his tenure: electoral victories for U.S. Senate, governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general and in the Legislature. He also oversaw record-breaking fundraising, per the release.

Head thanked Gov.-elect Mike Braun for his faith, employer Krieg DeVault for allowing him to step away, Indiana GOP staffers for their work, and "every Republican who placed their trust in me."

The move is a business decision, according to a party insider.

Head is a member of Krieg DeVault's Governtive matters. He was elected Indiana GOP chair in June, after the close of the last legislative session.

As chair, Head was blocked from lobbying. But, the next budget-writing session — prime time for lobbying — begins in January.

Head said he'd keep serving as the Indiana GOP State Committee as 4th District chair. He'll work with that group and Braun to pick a successor.

Vice Chair Erin Lucas will assume the role of interim chairwoman until the committee elects a new chair.

Braun complimented Head on his "exemplary service" as chair, touting "unprecedented success" and "victories at every level."

"Randy's commitment to Republican principles and his ability to bring people together have left a lasting impact on the party and the state," Braun said in the release.

The incoming governor similarly pledged to work with the committee to pick on the strong foundation It's the third time in 15

months the party is looking for new leadership. Head succeeded former

chair Anne Hathaway, who resigned following the party's convention in June. She held the role for 10 months. Former chair Kyle Hup-

fer left in August last year to lead Brad Chambers' unsuccessful campaign for governor. He served for more than six years.





First Bank of Berne donated \$1,000 to Lights for LifeWise, a group of individuals from

various parts of Adams County that are planning a local Christmas tree festival. Pic-

tured are, left to right, Berne Branch Manager Kaitlyn Roby, Connie Sprunger, Katie

Fisher and Vanessa Bittner representing LifeWise, and Loan Operations Manager and

There will be over 20 trees on display throughout the facility. Funds raised from ticket

sales, cookie and cocoa sales, and cash voting for trees will be donated to all three

Adams County LifeWise programs. The funds donated will help offset event costs. Any

remaining funds will be donated to the Adams County LifeWise programs. To make donations, attend Dec. 6-8 at the Lighthouse Church in Monroe, email lightsforlife-

wise@gmail.com or follow "Lights for LifeWise" on Facebook to get in touch with the

LifeWise committee member Allison Garwood. (Photo submitted)



MARKETPLACE ANNUAL ENROLLMENT IS NOV 1ST -DEC 15TH

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

MEDICARE ANNUAL ENROLLMENT OCT 15 TO DEC 7 CALL US

WHEN YOU HAVE PROBLEMS AND YOU WILL HAVE PROBLEMS YOU WILL HAVE US TO COUNT ON MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTS - MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS - PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLANS. Life Insurance - Long Term Care Insurance - Investments - Individual

Folks on Medicare A and B and Diabetic can get FREE Nice Looking Diabetic Shoes Every Year from Us

LifeWise Donation

We Do FREE Information/ Education Seminars In Your Business (Again Former Teachers)

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

and Small Group Health - Dental - Vision - Hearing - Cancer Insurance

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



(260) 824-1126 · mrkoolbluffton@gmail.com · 610 N. Main St. Bluffton, IN 46714

Why kids can't walk to the store in 2024

A story from my childhood came to mind as I read a recent ABC News report about a mother who was arrested after her son was seen walking alone to the Dollar Store a half mile away from his home

Brittany Patterson of Mineral Bluff, Ga., was at a doctor's appointment with her other child when her nearly 11-yearold boy left his house and was spotted by himself.

Somebody alerted the police who took the boy home.

A few hours later, the cops went to Patterson's address, cuffed her in front

of her kids, dragged her off to the police station for a mugshot and charged her with willingly and knowingly endangering "her juvenile son's bodily safety."

The Division of Family and Child Services demanded that Patterson comply with its safety plan, which required her to download a GPS app to track her son's location.

She refused, God bless her. And it wasn't long before her "crime" and the debate over "free-range children" became a hot topic on social media.

As a columnist, I've reported for 30 years on the evolution of the growing — and unjustified — fears parents have about the safety of their children.

More and more, "free-range" parents who attempt to give their kids some of the freedom they had as children

face the wrath of family, neighbors and local authorities. When I was a kid in the '70s it was much different and much better.

I was free to go all over the place on foot or on my bike, just so long as I got home on time for dinner and arrived home at night when the streetlights came on. We kids were on our own all the time and our parents

weren't terrified if we were out of their sight. When I was just 6, I disappeared from my house and

took off alone to a mom-and-pop convenience store three My older sisters Krissy and Kathy, 7 and 9, respectively,

were supposed to be watching me while my mother was downstairs doing laundry. But to get me out of her hair, Krissy gave me a coin she'd made from a piece of cardboard and told me I could

get candy with it at the little store. Naturally, my mother was upset when she saw I was missing. But I was found in short order and no neighbor-

hood worrywart ratted out my mom to the cops That was because back then there were only three network television channels and parents' fears weren't being stoked 24/7 by sensationalistic news stories about kid-

napped children on cable news channels. Despite today's increased parental paranoia, being kidnapped is no more likely for kids now than it was in the '50s, '60s and '70s.

Consider: There are roughly 40 million elementaryschool-age children in America today.

Each year, about 115 children are kidnapped, according to Child Watch of North America — whereas nearly 140,000 are injured in car wrecks every year.

In spite of that reality, our TV and cable news media have spent decades exaggerating and inflaming fears about the safety of our children — and pretty much anything else that gets ratings.

Thus, we've evolved into a fearful culture that's afraid to allow our children the freedom to roam and discover and

God help any parent today whose 6-year-old might slip out of the house with a paper coin his sister made for him!

> Tom Purcell is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist. tom@TomPurcell.com.

Submit your Letters to the Editor via:

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

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

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 4, the 339th day of 2024. There are 27 days left

Today in history: On Dec. 4, 1991, after being abducted and held for nearly seven years as a hostage by Hezbollah militants in Lebanon, Associated Press correspondent Terry Anderson was released from captivity.

Also on this date: In 1783, Gen. George Washington bade farewell to his Continental Army officers at Fraunces Tavern

in New York. In 1956, Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins, dubbed the "Million Dollar Quartet," gathered for the first and only time for a jam session at Sun Records in

Memphis. In 1964, police arrested some 800 students at the University of California, Berkeley, one day after the students stormed the administration building and staged a massive sit-in.

In 1965, the United States launched Gemini 7 with Air Force Lt. Col. Frank Borman and Navy Cmdr. James A. Lovell aboard on a two-week mission. (While Gemini 7 was in orbit, its sister ship, Gemini 6A, was launched on Dec. 15 on a one-day mission; the two spacecraft were able to rendezvous within a foot of each other.)

In 2016, a North Carolina man armed with an assault rifle fired several shots inside Comet Ping Pong, a Washington, D.C., pizzeria, as he attempted to investigate an online conspiracy theory that prominent Democrats were harboring child sex slaves at the restaurant; no one was hurt, and the man surrendered to police. (He was later sentenced to four years in prison.)

The News-Banner

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

News-Banner Publications, Inc.

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

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

Holly Gaskill, Editor

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

Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor



Tom Purcell



You will probably agree that President Joe Biden's issuance of a broad pardon to his son Hunter Biden is the world's least surprising news. Many have predicted for quite a while that, whatever Biden said about pardoning his son — he vowed he would never do it — Biden would, in the end, pardon his son. And on the Sunday night after Thanksgiving, he did it.

Republicans, of course, slammed Biden for lying. "Joe Biden has lied from start to finish about his family's corrupt influence peddling activities," said GOP Rep. James Comer of Kentucky, the leading Biden investigator in the House. "The charges Hunter faced were just the tip of the iceberg in the blatant corruption that President Biden and the Biden Crime Family have lied about to the American people. 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 responsibility."

That's pretty representative of the Republican view that Hunter Biden's shady influence peddling in Ukraine, China, Russia and elsewhere was done for the purpose of enriching not only himself but his father and the rest of his family. Indeed, according to documents discovered on the notorious laptop, Hunter sometimes complained about having to share his ill-gotten gains with his father, also known as "the big guy." There's no doubt that Joe Biden has for years falsely denied knowledge of and involvement in his son's business activities. So now, the pardon is just one more step for a president who "has lied from start to finish," in Comer's words. Indeed, while the pardon applies to Hunter Biden, it might also protect Joe from further damaging revelations.

The point is, the GOP reaction to the Biden pardon was about Joe and Hunter Biden. The Democratic reaction, on the other hand, was about Donald Trump. Some Democrats defended Biden's actions by speculating that a Trump Justice Department would pursue Hunter Biden, and that Joe Biden needed to put a stop to that before it could begin.

"Biden was right to do it," MSNBC contributor and former Justice Department official Anthony Coley told Politico. "Trump is putting in place the

pieces to weaponize the DOJ — why would Biden leave his only surviving son exposed in that way?" The NeverTrump publication The Bulwark called Biden's decision a "tough call," but added, "consider what Trump's weaponized Justice Department would have done to Biden's son.' Other Democrats criticized the pardon

by arguing that it gave away the moral high ground that they believe Biden and the anti-Trump resistance occupied. They have predicted that in his next term, Trump will abuse the pardon power. They are primed and ready to attack him for it. But how can they accuse Trump when Biden abused his own power? Joe Biden has just made life much more difficult for the anti-Trump resistance.

Byron

York

"Now he's taken one more issue off the table from his fellow Democrats, many of whom were hoping to torch the Republicans for their support of Trump's pardons," wrote The Atlantic's Tom Nichols. Also in The Atlantic, Jonathan Chait wrote that "principles become much harder to defend when their most famous defenders have compromised them flagrantly." And The Bulwark's Charlie Sykes tweeted, Smart person texts me: 'Joe Biden has just removed the issue of pardons from the political arena for the next four years and Trump probably once again can't believe his own dumb f—ing luck' ... Sadly, I think

Here's one last way to look at it. Presidents have sometimes put their constitutional, unreviewable pardon power to unsavory uses. Does anyone really believe that Joe Biden, lamest of lame ducks in the last few weeks of his presidency, was going to let his son go to jail? Last week, I tweeted, "It seems a lock that Biden will pardon Hunter or commute his sentence. Reason: He's my son, and I'm outta here." And that is what happened. Yes, that creates problems for people who plan to spend the next four years attacking Trump. But the Biden pardon is first and foremost a story about Joe and Hunter Biden.

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



Robinson

If I were President Joe Biden, I would have done the same thing. I would have pardoned a son who faced possible federal prison time not because of the crimes he committed, but because of The president's decision

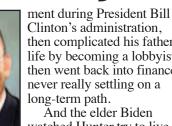
to absolve his son Hunter reneges on a campaign promise and can certainly be described as hypocritical. It creates a political problem for the Democratic Party and will be seen by many as a stain on Biden's legacy. Obviously, Biden is prepared to accept those consequences. I would be, too.

In his statement on Sunday announcing the pardon, Biden got to the heart of the matter: "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 — and that is wrong." This is clearly true. If a son of mine were being subjected to selective prosecution, and I had the power to make it all go away, that's what I would do.

This isn't about lying on a gun permit form or delinquency in paying taxes, which are the crimes Hunter has admitted committing. It's about fatherhood.

The word "troubled" appears in almost anything written about Hunter. Joe Biden watched his second son recover from injuries suffered in a 1972 automobile accident that killed Hunter's mother and sister, fractured Hunter's skull and injured his older brother Beau. The president, then a senator, took pride in Hunter's early promise, as the young man graduated from Georgetown University and Yale Law School and then embarked on a career in finance.

Over the years, however, Joe Biden also witnessed Hunter's restlessness as he briefly went into government in the Commerce Depart-



then complicated his father's life by becoming a lobbyist, then went back into finance, never really settling on a long-term path. And the elder Biden

Biden did what many fathers would do

watched Hunter try to live up to the impossibly high stan-Eugene dard set by Beau: Syracuse University Law School, a Justice Department career, experience as a federal pros-

ecutor, election to two terms as attorney general of Delaware and concurrent service in the Delaware Army National Guard, which included a 2008 combat deployment in Iraq for which he was awarded a Bronze Star. Many people predicted that Beau would be president someday. No one predicted the same about Hunter.

Then, in 2013, Beau was diagnosed with a deadly form of brain cancer. As Joe Biden watched his older son struggle with his illness, he watched his younger son struggle with his own demons — and could do nothing to help either.

By the time Beau died nine years ago, Hunter's life was a mess. He was deep in the throes of addiction to cocaine and alcohol. The most telling episode came in 2013, when, at age 42, he emulated Beau by joining the Navy Reserve. He was sworn in by his father, then vice president, at the White House — and then discharged shortly thereafter when a urine test detected the presence of cocaine.

Hunter was making money often trading on his father's name — but spending it like a fire hose on drugs and a wealthy drug abuser's extravagant lifestyle. His personal relationships were chaotic, toxic and sordid. And his father was helpless to save him.

We all know what happened next. When Donald Trump became president in 2016, and it became clear that Joe Biden could be his opponent

in 2020, Republicans launched a campaign to destroy Biden politically through his association with his surviving son. A Justice Department special prosecutor and an endless congressional investigation produced clouds of smoke, at the heart of which was no fire: There was never any evidence that Joe Biden took any action as senator or vice president to benefit Hunter's interests. The only money Republicans ever proved Joe Biden accepted from Hunter was \$4,140 in repayment for a car that Hunter didn't qualify to purchase because of his low credit rating.

Hunter did commit crimes, though, to which he has pleaded guilty in federal court. But his were not the kinds of crimes that usually get prosecuted. He is hardly the first drug addict to deny being a drug addict on a gun permit form; and he has paid his delinquent taxes, including penalties and interest. He was given this harsh treatment because he is Joe Biden's

He might not have been sentenced to prison time. But with Trump returning to the White House and pledging to punish his political enemies, he faced new peril. It was not inconceivable that Trump would find an attorney general willing to conjure the smoke surrounding Hunter's dealings with the Ukrainian firm Burisma already dispelled by years of fruitless investigation — into some kind of new criminal indictment.

When Joe Biden promised not to pardon Hunter, he thought he'd never have to. Things have changed.

I can't argue that pardoning Hunter was politically the right thing for the president to do. I'm not even sure it was morally the right thing for a president to do. But if my son were in Hunter's position and I had the power, with the stroke of a pen, to save him and give him a fresh start, I'd do it. I believe many fathers would agree.

Follow Robinson on X@Eugene_Robinson

Principal recommends replacements for missing staff, a short satire

freshly killed tur-

key, identifying

the organs as he

removed them.

Since the

basketball coach

who also taught

political science

and economics

Not so long ago and not very far away in the school community of Corn County, USA, an interim principal was hired. Ronald Stump was put in place when the actual principal and four staff members were abducted by aliens in early August while attending a New Trek conference near Area 51. In need of



Anna Spalding

staff quickly, Stump did little vetting, no background checking. He learned everything he needed to know from the applications and interviews. From

his shallow

pool of candidates, Interim Principal Stump was sure the school board would approve his recommendations.

To replace the missing art teacher, Stump selected an auto mechanic, Rapid Roy, a former demolition derby driver. "I love art in all forms," Roy stated in his interview. "In my garage I display pictures of dogs playing poker and a velvet Elvis portrait. Hanging in the john, posters of nudes spruce up the walls." Rapid Roy explained he has some modern three-dimensional art in his office: "My desk is lit by a leg lamp like the one Ralphie Parker's dad ordered in A Christmas Story." The mechanic

admitted in the interview that he has favorite colors, but didn't want his color preference to turn anyone off since they were the colors of his favorite NFL team, not a Midwest favorite.

For the abducted biology teacher, Principal Stump will recommend an avid hunter and fisherman, Artemis Hunt. "I was named after the Greek goddess of the hunt. My dad, he was a fan of Greek astrology and I already have a cool last name." Artemis explained further that his familiarity with anatomy is extensive: "I know how to dress a deer and turkey lickity split and I can fillet a fish clean as a whistle." He says anatomy is no problem for him, "I have looked at people all my life." He wanted to assure the principal though that "Those peeping Tom charges got dropped." His love for science extended to his television viewing, preferring dramas that use science to solve crimes, "the bloodier the better," he said. "Like those investigators, I stalk, find, and capture my prey.... Actually, I kill 'em." He asked in the interview if he could move his turkey fryer into the classroom to demonstrate to students the safe way to cook a turkey for Christmas dinner—after he



was also taken by aliens, Principal Stump would be recommending a former carnival game worker. Sammy Slyer ran the basketball toss game at carnivals and street fairs for two years. For the most recent two years he has taken over the coveted mouse game. In 2020 and 2021, "I coached my daughter's 4th/5th grade basketball teams to 2W-7L and 1W-8L seasons. I told those girls a win is a win even if the other team doesn't show up." He moved to carnival work when a new coach was hired. Sammy said he used to watch basketball games nonstop even in the off season. "I've cut way back after losing my house and car to gambling debts and I see a gambling addiction counselor. It's under control." Mr. Slyer assured the Principal that his knowledge of politics and familiarity with economics are solid. According to the candidate, "Watching FAXNews and several YousTube channels has given me everything I needs to know to teach political science and economics. I even have a checkbook that I balance every now and then and a few credit cards."

Replacing the abducted English teacher will be tough, but Stump found a likely candidate, Ophelia Livre. "I'm just so proud of the fact that my last name is French for book." Ophelia claims to read 3 to 5 books a week, prefers the genre with sweaty muscular males on the cover. She explained that even though "I don't likes to write, I crank out oodles of Farcebook posts showcasing the antics of my 13 cats." She continued explaining, "I ain't got no respect for those snippy reply writers that point out my grammar and spelling errors." Miss Livre used to be active in two book clubs but was asked to consider finding something else to do to replace her 4th-Tuesday-night-of-the-month club. "They said I complained too much about having to read the likes of Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird, John Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men, Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn, Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice, and George Orwell's 1984. Such trash has no place in schools either!" she

exclaimed. When Principal Stump takes these candidates to the school board next week, he hopes the board will overlook their quirkiness and focus on their strengths. He knows he'll have a tough time convincing a couple board members who seem to have to know everything and follow rules, regulations, and codes to a fault. Honestly, he says he's glad this

principalship is an interim position. When it's over, he's planning to ask the former carnival worker if there's an open position in his traveling crew.

Here's the Thing: Satire uses humor, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticize stupidity or vices, particularly in the context of contemporary politics and other topical issues (Oxford Language Dictionary). Jonathan Swift used it masterfully in his A Modest Proposal (1729), advocating that the poor sell their children as food to the wealthy class. George Orwell used it in his satirical allegorical novel Animal Farm (1945) where, under the dictatorship of a pig named Napoleon, life on the farm is far worse than before the rebellion. Today writers for The Onion, an American digital media company and newspaper organization, are modern day experts at revealing the failures and foibles of society with tongue in cheek.

I'm certainly no Swift or Orwell, but I humbly submit this piece of satire.

Let's talk.

annaspalding1956@gmail.com

Editor's Note: This is one of a series of articles and opinions written by a group of retired and current teachers - Ken Ballinger, Billy Kreigh, Kathy Schwartz, and Anna Spalding. Their intent is to spur discussions at the dinner table and elsewhere. You may also voice your thoughts and reactions via The News-Banner's letters to editor.

Norwell Internship Spotlight award **Brady Dettmer**

showed them how to dress a

Senior Brady Dettmer has been selected to receive the Norwell High School ICE [Interdisciplinary Cooperative Education] Program Student Spotlight award. He is employed at Fort Wayne Metals with supervisor Joe McCune. Brady is the son of Lee and Phyllis Dettmer of Ossian.

Brady has learned how to maintenance machines that do wiring for the

medical and transportation industries. This involves replacing filters, electrical components, and various other check points. He also has shop duties that include organizing and salvaging used parts.

Upon graduation, Brady plans to continue his education in the manufacturing field. He will eventually attain a degree in industrial maintenance.



Brady Dettmer

Christmas at Salomon Farm Park in Fort Wayne

GOODS & SERVICES

On Saturday, Dec. 7, from 1 to 5 p.m. Salomon Farm Park, 817 W. Dupont Rd, Fort Wayne will be celebrating Christmas on the Farm.

In addition to Christmas shopping Santa

December / B

will arrive for a visit and kids crafts will be offered. Farm animals may be visited and horse-drawn wagon rides may be taken.

Admission is \$5 per car with more information at fortwayneparks.org.

Ossian's Hometown Christmas tomorrow

Ossian's Hometown Christmas & Holiday Marketplace will be held Thursday, Dec. 5 from 5 to 8 p.m.

5 to 8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 14th.

Holiday Marketplace for Ossian and Wells County. Located in the Marketplace Tent on Craig St.

Live animals of the

A Shopping Fair will be open from 10

a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Wells County Com-

merce & Visitors Center, 211 Water St. as

Bluffton celebrates Parlor City Christmas on

to offer their items for sale and include:

Rebecca Bogner (crafts/jewelry), Connie

Bultemeir (crafts/tumblers), Cindy Burchell

(beadwork, soaps & lotions), Deb Car-

son (Food/Tastefully Simple), Angie Day

(Food/Young Living Essential Oils), Kath-

erine Frauhiger (crafts/soaps & lotions),

Judy Garver (crocheted items/vintage jew-

elry), Christina Hogg (Mary Kay Prod-

ucts), Julie Jahn (lasered items/ornaments),

Kayla Johnson (crafts/tumblers & jewelry),

Stefanie Kipfer (crafts/macrame & wood

items), Billy Kreigh (arts & crafts/jour-

Thirty-five vendors plan to be on hand

Nativity - Experience the animals of the first Nativity sponsored by Caleb & Sarah

Horse and carriage rides - Take a festive ride around Shop for Christmas with town in a horse drawn local makers and creators wagon. Donated by Hope Missionary Church - North Campus

Parlor City Christmas shopping fair vendors

5:30 p.m. Helen's Chili - Get a for pictures.

hot Cup of Helen Witte's famous kettle cooked Christmas chili. Located in the United Methodist gymnasium.

6 to 8 p.m.

nals & cards), Lana Miller (baked goods),

Kathy Miller (wreaths/tumblers), Donna

Morgan (wooden items/lawn art), Randy

Neuenschwander (wooden items), Anastasia

Reagin-Gunsch (children's book & puzzles),

Jessica Salyer (crafts/ tumblers & Koozies),

Megan Schwartz (crafts & food), Friends of

Ouabache—Kathy Schwartz (Bison jewelry & park ornaments), Stacy Smith (food/dehy-

drated products), Phyllis Smith (crocheted

& knitted items), Leah Springer (laser engraved items), Kenzie Steel (food/coney

dogs), Nedra Steury (hand painted china),

Brandy Stronczek (plants, painted rocks &

quilted items), Diana Wedlar (woven items/

be woodcarving and Boy Scouts will be

supervising a Pinewood Derby Track.

And out on the Patio Ryan Frauhiger will

yard games) and Wheeler's Bees (honey).

Welcome Santa to town and help him light the Christmas Tree at the Ossian Library. Then Join Santa in the United Methodist gym

ECTO Sure-Flo Seamless Gutters 5" & 6" Continuous Gutters COUNTRY Leaf Protection Systems Large Color Selection - FREE Estimates PLACE Apartments 260-888-5062 408 Countryside Drive, Ossian

• 1 & 2 Bedrooms • Laundry Facilities On-Site

• All Ground-level Equipped Kitchen

²⁶⁰ 622-6429 Virtual Tours Offered

 Video Cameras www.a1-ustor.com After hours & Saturdays Call 273-9678 or 824-4782 In Monroe at corner of U.S. 27 and S.R. 124 Office at 1180 N. Main, Bluffton

·Safety Lighting •Clean Units

•24 Hr. Access

824-1846

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



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



STONE / GRAVEL WEED CONTROL SCHEDULE TODAY!

FREE ESTIMATES 260-223-5884



Jerry Flack & Julie Myers

Home Remodel and Repair

Locally

Owned

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

As a resident of the Wells County community for decades, Attorney, Gerret J. Swearingen, has devoted his legal practice to assisting clients in preserving the family assets from the high cost of

Nursing Home and In-

As your guide through the "Medicaid Planning" process, Swearingen Elder Law will provide

protect your life savings and receive the quality of care we all deserve.

the right path to both

Home Healthcare.



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

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

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

AMISH CREW will do roofing, siding, remodeling, pole barns. Specializing in redoing

old barns. Free estimates.

Call 260-438-2508

Jim Baker

1645 Hillcrest Dr., Suite 2A Ossian, IN 46777 Medicaid Planning • Durable Power of At • Estate Planning & Deeds

• In-Home Healthcare Planning • Long Term Care Planning

(260) 888-9256

• Pole Barns

Primary Contracting, LLC

Specializing in Building & Remodeling **OWNER: Edwin Wickey** Call for Spring Scheduling Today! Free Estimates - 260-223-4276

 Grarages Vinly Siding Metal Roofing Poly Decks Storm Damage







'Nutcracker' performed by the Fort Wayne Ballet

The Fort Wayne Ballet will be presenting "The Nutcracker" on Dec. 6, 7, 8, 10, at the Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center, 431 West Berry St.

There will be 7:30 p.m. performances on Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. perfor-

STRONGHOLDGLASS

COMMERCIAL - HOME

-Your One Stop Glass Shop-

Heavy Glass Shower Doors • Vinyl Windows,

Custom Mirrors as well as Commercial Work

www.strongholdglassllc.com • 1325 West Wiley, Bluffton • 260-824-4715

mances on Saturday and Sunday, all with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic. A sensory performance will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 10.

Tickets starting at \$29 through fortwayneballet.org or ArtsTix Community Box Office at 260-422-4226.

Art exhibits at Rolland Gallery at Saint Francis

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

USF Creative Arts Alumni Exhibition: Through Dec. 13.

From the Artist's Hand: Through Dec. 13, a legacy of works from the Collection of William and Mary Ann Roebel.

Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibition: Millicent Young '24: Through Dec.

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

130 W. Monroe St. Decatur, IN • 260•724•SHOW

Moana 2 Thursday, December 5th 6:20p Friday, December 6th 6p & 8:40p Saturday, December 7th 12:30p, 1pSSS, 3:10p, 5:50p & 8:30p

Carol - Faith & Family Series Monday, December 9th 6p & 6:30p www.abcinemainc.com

Wicked

Sunday, December 8th 2p, 2:20p & 5:15p Thursday, December 5th 6p Friday, December 6th 6:30p Saturday, December 7th 3:45p & 7:20p Sunday, December 8th 4:40p

Knights, McBrides combine for 41 in home opener

WALKER The McBride's 41, Missisnewa

There's no typo there, as brothers Josh (15), Adam (14) and Nick (12) McBride tallied all 41 points for the Knights' (1-1) first victory of the season in the home opener.

Norwell played its typical suffocating defense and game of keep away in the fourth quarter that it pattened last season.

In the second quarter, following a 12-12, the Knights outscored the Indians (1-2) 9-0.

That mega-drought lasted a full 10 minutes and 41 seconds. Even in the third quarter, both teams managed just five measly points each, but Missisinewa made it interesting in the final quarter of play.

The Knights played the long game, taking their time within the offense and draining precious seconds from the clock. The Indians, though, eventually got fed up with their five points through the second and third quarters.

The Indians scored the most points (17) in the fourth quarter, and it all began with a bucket from Tyvon Jacobs on his only shot of the night and Ian Newsom's three — that stretched them out to a four-point deficit.

By then, head coach Mike McBride's strategy was fully in play: get as close to the bonus as they could.

"We wanted to get ourselves to the bonus," McBride said. "And we come out, and within the first two minutes we already have three fouls on them and that was really important for us because then, you can dictate some things.'



Knights' Adam McBride (middle) takes a clear path to the basket to put the final dagger to the Indians. The bucket was drawn up perfectly by the team in the final seconds to widen the margin for a victory.

It paid off in a big way. Six of the Knights' points in the quarter were from the charity stripe. It allowed them to ice the game on numerous occasions. No matter how strong the Indian's comeback was, the Knights respond-

Another attempt was by way of Newsom's second three of the night. That was answered by Josh McBride's bucket and free throws.

Then, it was Mississnewa's defense's turn to try. A pair of turnovers turned into

a three-point swing. But that was answered again — this time by Nick McBride's and Adam McBride's free throws for four points. That got the score to 36-28.

A Rayveon Fetz three inched closer for Mississnewa. Following more free throws for Norwell, the Indians picked up two more turnovers with under a minute to play in the game. The score was 37-34, and Garry Riley just fouled out.

Mississinewa called a timeout when its own Kiontaye Woods split two free-throw attempts. That gave Mike McBride time to cook.

Taking the ball out of bounds, two Knights' players flashed to the ball and picked up the screen with a switch that coach McBride wanted. Then, Adam bolted on a seam toward the opposing basket and had a step on his defender. Owen Wallis threw a football pass on a dime and McBride hit the layup to score the two points. That was the ballgame.

"(Owen) just made a great pass, Adam makes a great catch and he gets a layup. All



Norwell's Josh McBride (middle) takes charge after stealing the ball from Mississinewa with teammate Nick McBride (right) Tuesday night at The Castle. The Knights took their home opener over Mississnewa 41-34. (Photos by Ryan Walker)

of those things have to go that way, but you got to practice it though," coach McBride said. "It's something we practice. It's not just like we just drew it up and said, 'Hey, go hit it."

Despite the lack of point distribution, Norwell found a way to use its defense to create transition buckets and making all 13 of those shots count.

Riley and Wallis made an impact aside from the stat sheet and received praise from their coach for their efforts. But in their increased roles on the varsity roster, he'd like to get them going on the other side of

"They've got to attack a little bit more," coach McBride said. "We need those two to continue to attack, I think that will be a key for us. We're going to need a little bit more contributions there, definitely. We're looking for that. We're not even running a lot of sets — we're kind of playing out of motion most of the time. That kind of frees everything up."

Norwell won the junior varsity game 39-18. Trey Privett scored a team-high 13 points while Cade Thornton scored eight. Norwell won the freshman contest 53-25.

Norwell will host Oak Hill at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7.

sports@news-banner.com

NORWELL 41, MISSISSINEWA 34

NORWELL 41, MISSISSINEWA 34

At Norwell

MISSISSINEWA (1-2): lan Newsom 5-9 0-2 12, Rayveon Fetz 3-11 3-4 11, Grady Schnepp 1-1 1-2 4, Kiontaye Woods 1-1 1-3 3, Tyvon Jacobs 1-1 0-0 2, Seuth Yoder 1-5 0-0 2, Davion Speikes 0-1 0-0 0, Daylin Davis 0-0 0-0 0, Madden Corey 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS 12-29 5-11 34.

NORWELL (1-1): Josh McBride 5-12 3-4 15, Adam McBride 5-14 3-4 14, Nick McBride 3-6 4-4 12, Owen Wallis 0-1 0-0 0, Garry Riley 0-1 0-0 0, Noah Comer 0-0 0-0 0, Ryne Thornton 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 13-34 10-12 41.

Mississinewa 12 0 5 17 — 34

Norwell 12 9 5 15 — 41

Three-point Shooting: Mississnewa 5-17 (Newsom 2-5, Fetz 2-7, Schnepp 1-1, Yoder 0-3, Speikes 0-1), Norwell 5-16 (J. McBride 2-4, N. McBride 2-5, A. McBride 1-7).

Rebounds: Mississnewa 23 (Fetz 6, Woods 4, Newsom 3, Schnepp 3, Jacobs 2, Yoder 1, Speikes 1), Norwell 22 (J. McBride 9, A. McBride 5, Wallis 2, Riley 2, N. McBride 2). Turnovers: Mississnewa 17, Norwell 9. Fouls: Mississnewa 14, Norwell 13. Fouled Out: Norwell Garry Riley. 2). Turnovers: Mississnewa 17, Norwell 9. Fouls: Mississnewa 14, Norwell 13. Fouled Out: Norwell Garry Riley.

JV: 39-18 Norwell. Freshman: 53-25.

Sports Roundup

IATCCC lists four Tigers' runner on XC all-state team

The Indiana Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches named four Bluffton student-athletes to their all-state teams.

The associated honors cross country runners in four classes based on school size, and two runners for each of the boys' and girls' teams were selected.

Abigail Ramseyer was the lone firstteam selection for 2A, while Cora Kunkel received honorable mention. The two are just freshmen and finished as all-sectional members. Ramseyer was a state qualifier this season as well and took 126th at the LaVern Gibson course at Indiana State University.

For the boys, Jude Baumgartner and Levi Johns were honorable mentions. Johns (second) and Baumgartner (third) were step-bystep at the sectional this season. Baumgartner slipped into state qualification and finished 144th overall in that race. Unfortunately, Johns was unable to finish the race due to injury but was on pace to also qualify for the state meet.

Wheeler sets pool record, **Tigersharks split with Pats**

Bluffton split the ACAC matchup in the pool Tuesday night at home.

The Tigershark boys defeated Jay County 130-51, while the girls fell 115-64.

It was also a big night for Isaac Wheeler, who broke the Bluffton pool record in the 400-yard freestyle and finished the night with a perfect 16 points scored. **Individual winners:**

• Rhett Gerber, Isaac Wheeler, Graham Linderwell and Athan King in the medley

• Braden Lemler in the 200-yard IM. Noah Brooks in the 50-yard freestyle

and the 100-yard backstroke. • Gerber in the 100-yard freestyle. • Isaac Wheeler in the 400-yard freestyle

and in the 100-yard breaststroke. • Gerber, Linderwell, Brooks and Wheeler in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

• Tess Frauhiger, Libby Arnett, Ellie Coyne and Kierstynn Reed in the medley

• Coyne in the 200-yard IM and in the 100-yard breaststroke.

Bluffton will host Blackhawk Christian and Bishop Luers at 5:30 p.m Thursday,

Rosswurm honored as IBCA's player of the week in D1

Norwell's Vanessa Rosswurm had a special week on the basketball court last week, and it was enough to grab the attention at the state level.

The Indiana Basketball Coaches Association honored her and Manchester boys' basketball player Gavin Betten as the District 1 players of the week in the state.

Rosswurm broke the school record with 43 points in the Knights' win over Concordia on Tuesday night, and followed that up with a near triple-double in Saturday's victory over Angola.

Against Concordia, Rosswurm scored 43 points on 16-28 shooting, hitting nine threepointers and going a perfect 7-7 at the free throw line. Her efforts pass Kennedy Fuelling, who set that record with 41 two years prior in 2022. Ironically, Fuelling's came just after Makenzie Fuess' 37 points took that record two nights before.

Against Angola, Rosswurm scored 22 points and added 10 rebounds and nine

The junior guard is leading the Knights to a three-game win streak currently and a

Knight boys win, girls fall in swim meet with Cadets

Norwell split the swim meet with Concordia at home Tuesday night.

The boys' team won 138-20, while the girls fell in a close one 94-83.

Individual winners:

Boys

• Rylan Heyerly, Colten Strunk, Parker McCartney and Evan Swallow in the 200yard medley relay.

• Ethan Williamson in the 200-yard free-

• Kale Meredith in the 200-yard IM and in the 100-yard breaststroke.

• Heyerly in the 50-yard freestyle and in the 100-yard freestyle.

• Ben Peterson in the diving events. · Strunk, McCartney, Peterson and Meredith in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

• Strunk, Swallow, Tyler Zent and Heyerly in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

• Cassie Coyne in the 200-yard freestyle and in the 500-yard freestyle.

Norwell will host Leo at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5.

Rice scores 19 points and Indiana **Hoosier roll past Sam Houston**

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP) — Malik Reneau scored 18 points and grabbed 10 rebounds with five assists and Indiana defeated Sam Houston 97-71 on Tuesday

Myles Rice led the Hoosiers (6-2) with 19 points and Luke Goode came off the bench to hit five 3-pointers and score 18 points, 13 in the first half when Indiana took a 42-25 lead.

Lamar Wilkerson scored 18 points, Cameron Huefner added 17, Dorian Finister 14 and Brennen Burns and Josiah Hammons 10 each for Sam Houston, which shot 43%.

A 27-3 run left Indiana ahead 34-12 with six minutes left in the first half. Goode made three from the arc during the run. The Bearkats (4-5) got within nine early

in the second half but the Hoosiers would lead late by as many as 28, shooting 62%

The Hoosiers were playing their first game since dropping out of The Associated Press Top 25 after losing two of three games in the Battle in Atlantis in the Bahamas.

Indiana is host to Miami (Ohio) on Friday before beginning Big Ten play at home Monday against Minnesota. Sam Houston home against Texas Southern on Saturday.



Bluffton's Madyson Sonnigsen (front, middle) smiles with her family and Athletic Director Steve Thompson before signing with Huntington University to play softball Tuesday morning. (Photo

Tigers' Madyson Sonnigsen signs with Huntington for softball

By RYAN WALKER

Bluffton's Madyson Sonnigsen made her softball commitment final, signing with Huntington University Tuesday morning.

The senior pitcher/hitter was joined by several of her family members, friends, teammates and more to celebrate another four seasons of softball in her future. For a while, Sonnigsen wasn't sure of her future plans post-high school, but Huntington was the right fit.

"I'm super excited," Sonnigsen said. "For a little bit, I didn't know if I really wanted to (play softball in college), and then I started thinking how big a part of it's had on my life. Then I was like, 'Well, I do really want to continue to pursue that, and Huntington was just the perfect opportunity to do that."

She was also joined by first-year head coach Tim Averill, who served as an associate head coach for three seasons under Erin Ehler with the Foresters. Ehler left the program earlier this year after having her first child.

Ehler and Averill's first season with the club went 16-34 and improved to 27-27 by year three.

Sonnigsen commented that Averill's coaching style and mannerisms reminds her

of her father, Tyler Sonnigsen, who is the

softball coach at Bluffton. Sonnigsen's first season at Bluffton in 2023, after spending the first two at Norwell, was as the No. 1 option on the mound. She appeared in 19 games for the Tigers, pitching a 6-7 record with a 4.54 earned run average, striking out 102 batters in 98.2 innings.

Her future in college is now up in the air as a two-way player with a strong full season with the bat.

Sonnigsen led the team with a .475 batting average, extra-base hits (12) and home runs (4). Her time with the bat and on the mound got her an at-large second-team all-ACAC award as a junior.

When choosing Huntington, Sonnigsen kept her faith as a top priority in her deci-

"That was a big thing for me," Sonnigsen said. "I didn't want to go and just throw my relationship with Christ, I want to be able to grow in that, and I really felt that at Hun-

Sonnigsen plans to double major in accounting and business.

ryan@news-banner.com

High School Calendar Luers/Blackhawk at Bluffton, 5:30 p.m.; Leo at

TUESDAY, DEC 3

BOYS BASKETBALL: Mississinewa at Norwell, 7:30 p.m. SWIMMING & DIVING (co-ed): Jay County

at Bluffton, 5:30 p.m.; Concordia at Norwell,

WRESTLING: Bluffton at Eastside, 6:30

WEDNESDAY, DEC 4 GIRLS BASKETBALL: Muncie Burris at

Southern Wells, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC 5 GIRLS BASKETBALL: Blackford at Bluff-

SWIMMING & DIVING (co-ed): Bishop

Norwell, 5:30 p.m. WRESTLING: Bluffton at Wayne, 6 p.m.;

Southern Wells at Tri-Central, 6:30 p.m. FRIDAY, DEC 6

BOYS BASKETBALL: Bluffton at South Adams, 7:30 p.m.; Adams Central at Southern

Wells, 7:30 p.m. GIRLS BASKETBALL: Norwell at Hunting-

ton North, 7:30 p.m. **SATURDAY, DEC 7** BOYS BASKETBALL: Oak Hill at Norwell,

GİRLS BASKETBALL: Bluffton at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m.

Supporting widows and building connections

Dear Readers: So many of you wrote about the widow columns that I printed recently, and made some interesting points, so I wanted to share a few of these letters with everyone.

Dear Annie: Oh, wow! I just saw this in our paper and pointed it out to my wife. She didn't believe it at first, and I was just as surprised. Widows being shunned by their friends out of fear they will lose their husbands to them! What troubles me most is that we're already facing an "epidemic of loneliness" in this country, and that kind of attitude rooted in fear or mistrust — only makes things worse, especially as we age.

It also raises some important questions for those who are excluding and cutting off old friendships:

No. 1: Have those widows ever shown an interest in your husband?

No. 2: Is your husband's loyalty and faithfulness in question?

No. 3: After a divorce, why is the exhusband being invited? Could there be unresolved feelings there?

There's an old saying: "When you point a finger, three more point back at you." It's a sad situation all around. – Three More Point Back at You

Dear Three More: Thank you for your kind letter and insights.

Dear Annie: I got divorced at 42 many years ago, but not one of my friends abandoned me. Early on, I made it clear to everyone that I would never pursue anyone's husband; I valued my friendships far too much for that. I was invited to every lunch and party, and I hosted many gatherings myself.

We had such a wonderful time together! I like to think it wasn't because I was considered "too homely" to be a threat; I was fun, lively and attractive. My dating life was quite active, spanning across three nearby counties! However, I believe the real reason my friendships remained intact was cultural. Many of us were European-born or of European descent, and our shared values and cultural background made a differ-

Dear Annie by Annie Lane ence. — Friend-



In my community, we have an organization called

Compass Club, which has been a vital resource for women over the years. Originally established as a newcomers club, we evolved our mission during my tenure as president to focus on supporting women in transition — whether they are widowed, divorced, retired or new to the area. Over my 34 years of membership, the club has been a godsend for dozens of women, offering friendship, support and connection. I encourage these women to explore whether similar organizations exist in their area; they can be a wonderful way to build community and navigate life's changes. — The

Dear Compass: Thank you for your wonderful suggestion. I hope it helps people connect with each other.

Dear Annie: The Modern Widows Club was created by Carolyn Moor to help people find healing resources after loss. It started as a simple initiative in a widowed woman's living room and has grown into a network that offers innovative resources and community connections. — Another Tip

Dear Another Tip: That sounds fan-

"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. © 2024 CREATORS.COM

BEETLE BAILEY





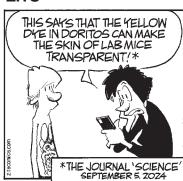
BLONDIE







ZITS







CRANKSHAFT







My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham

Question: My kids say I get grumpy as Christmas approaches. I deny it, but they speak the truth. I feel dread in my spirit. When I examine my thoughts, it becomes clear. My grumpiness is because of my "todo list": shopping, cooking, decorating, and entertaining while pretending I'm filled with Christmas joy. Deceitful. I've set a standard for everything festive except making the Christ child the feature! I've relegated the reason for the season to a dark corner, stashing the nativity behind the tree. Box checked off. I convince myself that if I change any little tradition, my family will rebel. Or will they? Is

Many hate to see **Christmas coming**

the tradition for me, or for them? Perhaps if I reset the nativity to the

front of the tree and stash everything else in a dark corner, maybe my joy will be restored. Is there hope of changing darkness to light? - C.G.

Answer: It may sound like Scrooge - but many hate to see Christmas coming. Our spending gets out of control and we become cranky. Instead of peace and goodwill, the season becomes filled with exhaustion and resentment. This isn't Christmas.

There's nothing wrong with saying no to doing things the same way, particularly if there's a better way to do them. Having a good Christmas is to rediscover its true meaning. At Christmas we celebrate the

★ Jeanne du Barry (2023, History) Johnny Depp,
Benjamin Lavernhe, Maïwenn Le Besco.

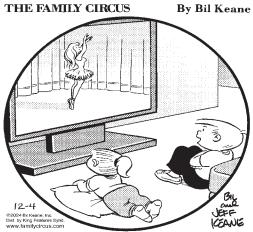
birth of Jesus Christ, who came down from Heaven to save us from our sins. May we see His glory!

"When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they came into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh" (Matthew 2:10-11, NKJV). Jesus is the Light of the

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

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

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Ballet dancers are always trying to look taller.'

The LOCKHORNS



ALSO LIKE THIS EXPENSIVE NECKLACE."

Coated

2 Length

times

width

4 Emmy-

3 Withstand

winning

celebs

5 Hasten

6 "Blonde"

7 Young-

sters 8 Make

happy

9 Texter's

10 Select,

17 Paper

chuckle

with "for

Mate rival

11 "Indeed!"

19 Patient's

need,

briefly

22 Antique

actress —

de Armas

with gold

25 Ship's

front

control

tor's goals

26 Out of

27 Siestas

28 Collec-

29 "On the

Water-

director

Kazan

30 Visa rival,

briefly

Asian

cuisine

material

discard

31 Popular

35 Roofing

38 Didn't

40 "Do —

42 "No

say!"

seats"

sign

wide

(Abbr.)

45 World-

front"

IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

(:05) ★★★ Chocolat (2000, Drama) Johnny Depp, Lena Olin, Juliette Binoche.

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

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer **39** Fish-ACROSS DOWN

birds

band

43 Social

section

reformer

Jacob

44 Mentalist

Geller

Francisco

gridder

enhancer

for one

often

batteries,

lin's kin

61 Deep

46 San

41 Jazz

gait	gridder
15 Broadway	50 Taste
actress	enhance
Salonga	55 Jargon
16 Safety	suffix
straps	56 Wheel
18 "The	bar
Gold-	57 Wrench,

1 Talk on

and on

4 Just one

things?

temper

veritas

hurried

8 Tactic

12 Hot

13 ln -

14 Un-

of those

finch" 58 Remote author Donna **0** "Unstoppable" 59 Incite 60 Mando-

singer 1 Zhivago's love **4** Senate

hole cars Solution time:

8 'American Idol" host TONYSTAL ORES Bombeck E R T E A B S EMTS TIPPIC UTA Anniversary cake

-	20	٠.	:	-		(/ 1001.)
•	23	3 r	Ш	ns	.	47 Tide
D	Α		С	0	Ν	variety
E	S		U	М	Α	48 Actor
R	Κ		Т	Α	Т	Morales
	Α	S	Т	R	0	49 Take five
ı	Ν	Κ	Υ			50 Show
S	C	1	s	s	Α	fatigue
N	Ε		Α	0	L	51 Outer
Т		Ε	R	1	Ε	(Pref.)
	Α	Ν	Κ	┙	Ε	52 Mode
Α	R	Α				lead-in
F	F	М	Α	R	Κ	
Α		0	М	N	-	53 Chit
R		R	Ε	S	Т	54 Word of
а	ns	SW(er	1	2-4	denial

'	layer			Ye	stero	lay's	ans	wer	12-4	,	deni	aı
1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16				17				
18			19				20					
			21		22	23		24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31		32			
33				34				35		36		
37			38		39				40			
41				42		43						
			44		45			46		47	48	49
50	51	52				53	54			55		
56					57					58	Γ	
59					60					61		

																				Salor
12/04	M .	A D	1 D2	5 рм 5:30	6 РМ	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 рм	8:30	9 рм	9:30	10 рм	10:30	11 РМ	11:30	12 AM	12:30	16 S	Safet
/INM 12	11	26 63	8	Washington Watch With Tony Perkins		Creflo Dollar	Joseph Prince	Turning Point	TCT Today	Joyce Meyer	700 Club Interactive	Life Today with	Robert Jeffress	Jewish Jesus	Andrew Wommack	Ask the Pas	tor	Founda- tion	10 "	straps 'The
CBS IANE 15	2	2 1	5 15	News (N) Inside Edition (N)		CBS News (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Survivor (N)		The Summi	t (N)	Ghosts	Nightcast (N)	(:35) Late Sh (N)	ow-Colbert	(:35) After Midnight		Gold-
tenna ANE-2	106	20		Blue Bloods "Naughty or Nice"	Blue Bloods the Smile"	"Behind	Blue Bloods Look"		Blue Blood You Pay"	s "The Price	Blue Bloods Houses"	"Glass	Blue Bloods Standards"	"Higher	Blue Bloods High Places"	Friends in	Blue Bloods Errors"	"Grave		inch"
IBC 21	4	3 2	1 21	ABC21 News at 5 (N)		ABC World News (N)		Ent. Tonight (N)		Abbott (N)	Celebrity Fa Sherri Sheph		The \$100,0	00 Pyramid		(:35) Jimmy F Live! (N)	Cimmel	(:35) Nightline	-	autho Donn
VBC (21.2)	7	8		Family 25 Words Feud or Less	News (N)	NBC News	Family Feud	Family Feud			l tree-lighting o	eremony in	Jimmy Fallo	n's (N)	News (N)	(:35) Tonight	Show (N)	(:35) Seth Meyers (N)	20 "	
INT (212)		9 5		Bob Hearts Bob Hearts	Modern	(N) News (N)	Last Man	Last Man	Dateline	tures telebrity	Dateline	erioritidiices.	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	The	The	The	The	S	stopp
TA-3 21.3		4 3		Abishola Abishola S. Wilkos "Did You Kill	Family TMZ Live (N))	Standing TMZ (N)	Standing True Crime	Sullivan's C	rossing (N)	Inside the N	IFL (N)	"The Stall" Friends	Friends	Conners TMZ (N)	Conners Dish	Goldbergs True Crime	Goldbergs Chicago	21 Z	singe
DC DC				My Son With Fentanyl?" NOVA "Building Stuff:	PBS News H	our (N)		News (N) LIFE Ahead	Nature "At	enborough's	Life Journey"	NOVA "The	Planets: Jupit	er"	Amanpour	Nation (N) and		"The Silos" a Is Missing		ove
WA 39		5 3	39	Change It!" (N) NOVA "Building Stuff:	TBA	The Day	America PBS News H	(N) our (N)	First Conta	ct: An Alien	Fncounter	8 Days: To	the Moon an	d Back	Company (Managed Amanpour		(2012, Document Contact		24 S	Sen
PB 49	3			Change It!" (N) WFFT Fox News at 5	WFFT Fox Ne			,			The Floor (f	,	FOX 55 Nev		Company (Encounter			oroa
+1		6 5		(N)	(N)	ews at 6	Big Bang	Big Bang	The Maske	a singer (N)	ine Floor (i	١)	10 (N)	vs First at	Young Sheldon	Sheldon	"Pilot"	Neighbor	28 %	cast
ABLE CH				The Rookie "The Bet"	The Rookie	"Warriors	The Rookie	"Tough	The Rookie	"Fallout"	The Rookie	"Safety"	(:05) The Roo	kie "Clean	(:05) The Roo	okie	The Rookie	"Fallout"		dol"
LIFE FX	23 1 24 1		8 252	*** Mission: Impos	and Guardian	ns"	Love"				18) Pedro Pas		Cut"		"Breaking Po				F	₹ya
/LAND	25	_	_	Andy Andy Griffith Griffith	Andy	Andy Griffith	Everybody		Everybody		Everybody		Everybody	Everybody	The King		The King	The King of Queens	32 \	Nry 3on
E!	26 1		4 236	(4:45) Paris "Seeking the		The Office	The Office	The Office					The Office			Sex-City "I	Sex and	Sex and	33 S	
		+	4 244	Simple Life" (N) Two and a Two and a		"Trivia" Two and a	Two and a	"Jury Duty" Two and a	* *** Top	Gun (1986,	Action) Kelly	McGillis, Antl	nony	¥★★ Majo	r League (19	Heart NY" 89, Comedy)	the City Charlie Sheen	the City , Corbin		ree
RMT	30	_		Half Men Half Men Around (N) Pardon (L)	Half Men SportsCente	Half Men	Half Men	Half Men	Edwards, To all From the	m Cruise.			Auburn at Du	Bernsen, Tor	n Berenger.	enter With			34 F	
SPN			0 206	(N)			Smith Center	in Chapel Hi	II, N.C.		Cameron Inc	loor Stadium	in Durham, N	.C. (L) (N)	Scott Van P	elt (L) (N)	-		jı ac #	uni
PN2 DMW	32 !			Wm. Basketball Virginia (4:00) Foul Territory	All Blacks			Breaking	PTO T100 H	liahliahts	NASCAR Ra	ce Rewind	Texas at NC S Sports	FIBA	United Figh	Don't Ever	United Figh	NFL Live t Alliance	36 % 37 /	Ann Ann
		+		(:15) Goal Scare	Law & Order	r: Special	Law & Orde	Par r: Special	Show '24 D Law & Orde	er: Special	2023 HighPo	int.com 400 er: Special	Stars Law & Orde	Basketball r: Special	Law & Orde	er: SVU	Law & Orde	er: Special		sary
JSA		_		Zone (L) (N) Tactics Expedition Unknown	Victims Unit Expedition U		Victims United		Victims Uni Expedition		Victims Uni Expedition		Victims Uni Mystery at		"Abomination Mysteries of		Victims Uni Expedition			aye
ISC			2 2/8	•	"Cracking the	e Secret"	"Buried Secr	ets of Hitler"	Secrets of th	e Nazis"	"Invisible En	emies" (N)	Ranch "Dea	th Trap" (Ň)	Skeleton Coa		Secrets of th	e Nazis"		Τ_
IC IST		_		Pregnant Pregnant Pickers "Skateboards	Pregnant American Pi		Pregnant American P			ickers "The	Best Friend American P	ickers	(:05) America	n Pickers	(:05) America		(:05) America	an Pickers	1	2
.&E	39 1	34 11	8 265	Pickers "Skateboards and Gutter Balls" Court Cam Court Cam	a Woody" Court Cam	Court Cam	of Salvage" Court Cam	Court Cam	Toy Godfath Court Cam		"Speedway Court Cam		"\$135,000 P Fugitives		"Junkyard Je CourtCam		"Speedway CourtCam		12	t
ALL		_	_	(4:00) ♥ Christmas Made to Order		nristmas Inn	(2022, Roma	nce) David	₩ Holiday		A Chiefs Lov			s on Call (20	24, Romance		Santa Tel Erin Krakow.	ll Me ('24)		╄
YFY				(4:45) ** ★★ XXX (2002, <i>F</i> Vin Diesel.				뜻★★ Jason	Bourne (20		mmy Lee Jon	es, Alicia	(:05) **★★			on) Tyrese Gil			15	
BS	43 1	30 13	9 247	Big Bang Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Vikander, M. Big Bang		estling: Dyn	amite (L) (N)		La Beouf. Wipeout		Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	18	T
NT			0 245	(2:15) *** Thor	Road, NHL (SP) (N)	NHL on TNT	Face Off		y Boston Brui er in Chicago		Blackhawks	From the	NHL Hockey Angeles. (L)		at Los Angele	es Kings From	Crypto.com A	Arena in Los		
MC	45	13	4 254	(3:30) ♥★★ (:45) ♥★★★ Uncle Buck Comedy) Be	National Lan			tion (1989,	₹** Four	Christmases	(2008, Roma all, Vince Vau		₹★★ Christ	mas With tl	ne Kranks (20	004, d, Tim Allen.	🌣★★ Jack I			
OM	47	10	7 2/10	The Office The Office	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Daily Show	FamilyGuy	Family Guy	Family Guy	28	29
·S1	48	54 15	0 219	Speak (L) (N)			ketball Baylo npel Pavilion i				sketball Kans er in Omaha, I		on From CHI			Diego State at Iter in Fresno,		NFL Films Presents		\vdash
GN VE	53 57	42		Vargas Report (L) (N) NCIS "Love & War"	The Hill (L) (I		On Balance		Cuomo (L) (N)	Dan Abram		Banfield (L) NCIS "Hide		Cuomo NCIS "Dead	Reckoning"	Dan Abram NCIS "Toxic		33	
OD	59 1	53 11	0 231	Guy's Grocery Games	Guy's Groce	ry Games	Guy's Groce	ry Games	Guy's Groc		Guy's Groce	ery Games	Guy's Groce	ery Games	Guy's Groce	ery Games	Guy's Groce	ery Games	37	T
AVO ICK	60 1 68			Southern Charm SpongeBob SpongeBob	Southern Ch SpongeBob		Housewives Max (N)		Housewive SpongeBob	s SLC (N) SpongeBob	Sold On SLO Friends	(P) (N) Friends	WatchWhat Friends	Housewive Friends	SLC Friends	Sold On SLO Friends	Friends	Housewives Friends	<u> </u>	\perp
SN			2 290	Bluey Bluey	Bluey	Bluey	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Hamster &	Hamster &	Raven	Raven	ZOMBIES	ZOMBIES	41	
FORM	70	32 18	0 311	(4:30) \★★★ The Santa Judge Reinhold, Tim Alle	1.	David Krumh	oltz, Tim Alle	n.	·		('06) Martin	Short, Elizabe	se 3: The Esc eth Mitchell, T	im Allen.			The Mistl ('12) Tori Sp	elling.		
во	301	30	0 501	(3:55) \★★★ The Batma Kravitz, Jeffrey Wright, Ro			(:55) Dune: P	rophecy		of the Titar	ns ('10) Liam n.	(:50) Hard Kı	nocks	(:50) ♥★★★ Matthias Sch	A Bigger Sp	lash (2015, T lph Fiennes.	hriller) Dakot	a Johnson,		
MAX	325	31	0 515	(4:25) **★★ The Family ('13) Robert De Niro.		Eye in the S		iller) Aaron	Cut Bank		Palmer, John		nthropoid (2 rlotte Le Bon,	016, History)	Jamie	(:35) ♀★★★	Blackthorn iega, Sam Sh		50	51
	351 0	51 21		(4:15) ♀★★★ Blade Run	ner 2049 (201	7, Sci-Fi)	₹*** Sa	ving Private					ቻ★★★ Full	Metal Jack	et (1987, War) Adam	The Agency		56	+
NOUG.	0110	J. 31		Harrison Ford, Ana de An			Hanks.				1				io, Matthew M		Bends"		1.	1

**** Clouds of Sils Maria ('14, Drama) Krister Stewart, Chloë Grace Moretz, Juliette Binoche.

assi i

Place Your Ad 24/7: 60 TO www.news-banner.com AND CLICK ON "Classifieds"

OR CALL **824-0224** MON-FRI 8-5 • TOLLFREE **800-579-7476** • FAX **824-0700**







SEE your ad published every day in Wells County homes ... All ads are searchable at classifieds.news-banner.com...

VEHICLES

Campers/RV's

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

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, sub-ject to the policies of the county executive, perform the following functions and have

Coordinates the preparation and presentation of an annual budget for the Building Department; directs 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

related experience:

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 educaclasses on building and practices, as codes

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.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 exconstruction or related field is required. Previous superviso-

ry 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.

90C01-2411-EU-000046

STATE OF INDIANA WELLS COUNTY

IN THE WELLS CIRCUIT COURT IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

LARRY G. WHATLEY, Deceased

NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that
RUTH A. BINKLEY WHATLEY

was, on November 22, 2024, appointed personal representative of the estate of LARRY G. WHAT-**LEY**, deceased, who died on October 16, 2024, and was authorized to administer said estate without court supervision.

All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the clerk of this court with in three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever

Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, this November 22 , 2024. Beth Davis

Clerk, Wells Circuit Court Timothy K. Babcock Attorney No. 21526-90 DALE, HUFFMAN & BABCOCK 30 Premier Avenue Bluffton, Indiana 46714 (260) 824-5566 Attorney for Estate

nb 12/4, 12/11 hspaxlp

SUDOKU ANSWER

<i>t</i> /	15						***	njty: 3	Dittic
©202	t	3	7	9	7	9	l	6	8
King	G	l	7	6	7	8	Þ	ε	9
Featu	6	8	9	3	L	Þ	7	S	7
©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc	ε	9	8	Z	6	7	ς	l	Þ
dicate	L	Z	†	9	8	3	6	9	7
Te	7	6	G	l	7	9	8	Z	3
[8	ç	3	Þ	9	6	7	7	1
Γ.	Z	Þ	6	7	3	l	9	8	G
-	9	7	l	8	G	7	ε	Þ	6

Help Wanted

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

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

details on the testing date and

location will be emailed to the

applicant. The application must be completed by Decem-

ber 27, 2024.

SERVICES

Services

FREEDOMCARE. LET YOUR loved ones care for you and get paid! Paid by Medicaid. Choose family or friends as your paid caregiver. Check your eligibility today! Call FreedomCare now! 1-844-563-4012 (I)

SAFE STEP. NORTH America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-855-743-1911

Services

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

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

THE BATHROOM OF your dreams in as little as one day. Limited Time Offer - \$1,000 off or No Payments and No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify. BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials and professional installation. Senior and Military Discounts Available. Call Today! 1-855-699-1308 (I)

PowerProtect(TM) available.

Lottery Numbers

Tuesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY Cash 5 — 04-18-29-36-

Quick Draw Midday —

Daily Three-Midday — 02-02-06, SB: 01

06-02-03, SB: 05

Daily Four-Evening — 02-07-00-07, SB: 05

06-15-18-20-22-26-27-29-39-41-47-48-49-55-56-58-

Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$30.6 mil-

MEGA MILLIONS

POWERBALL

Estimated jackpot (for

Miscellaneous

PREPARE FOR POWER outages with Briggs & Stratton® standby generators - the most powerful home standby generators Industry-leading comprehensive warranty - seven years (\$849 value.) Proudly & Stratton 1-877-798-0270. (I)

Cash4Life — 19-24-32-34-41, Cash Ball: 01

01-02-04-15-23-30-32-36-37-39-45-52-53-54-57-66-70-71-75-77, BE: 36

Daily Three-Evening —

Daily Four-Midday — 05-07-07-04, SB: 01

Quick Draw Evening

62-67-69-74 BE: 41 Hoosier Lotto

52-60-61-66-67; Mega

Ball: 23; Megaplier: 4X.

Wednesday): \$240 million

Public Notices

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PROPOSED RATES AND CHARGES Property owners, rate payers and other interested parties in, served by or to be served by the Town of Markle are hereby notified that Ordinance No. 2024-7, establishing rates and charges for services to be rendered the No. 2024-7, establishing rates and charges for services to be rendered the November 20, 2024. At a meeting of the Town Council held on November 20, 2024. At a meeting of the Town Council to be held at 7:00 p.m. (Markle time) on December 18, 2024, in the Markle Town Hall, 154 East Morse Street, Markle, Indiana 46770, there will be a public hearing on the matter of the rates and charges, and consideration of adoption of said Ordinance No. 2024-7, which provides in part as follows:

§52.19 LEAK ADJUSTMENTS (A) (1) Each customer of the Town Wastewater Department and/or water utility, establishing the conditions that follow to the reasonable satisfaction of the Superintendent, shall be granted a leak adjustment reducing that actual combined billing to an amount equal to what the town reasonable estimates that customer's combined billing would have been for that billing period after being reduced by the portion of those actual charges

§ 52.50 METERED WATER USERS - SCHEDULE OF RATES AND

(D) Water Usage Schedule. The water usage schedule on which the amount of the rates and charges shall be determined is as follows:

(1) Consumption Rate. Per 1,000 gallons of usage per month:

Consumption Per Month

(Effective Lipon Adaption) (Effective Upon Adoption) \$6.76 First 5,000 gallons Next 15,000 gallons Next 100,000 gallons 5.64 4.50 Next 400,000 gallons 3.43 Over 520,000 gallons 2.81

(2) Minimum Charges. Per meter, per month. Minimum Monthly Charge (Effective Upon Adoption) \$ 33.80 Water Meter Size 5/8 – 3/4 inch 1 inch 45.20 1-1/2 inch 56.51 67.80 112.96 225.99 3 inch 6 inch 452.02

(F) Fire Protection Availability Charge. Municipal/Private fire hydrants/fire protection sprinkler systems shall pay an availability charge in accordance with the following, which will include reasonable amounts of water dispensed through those connections for appropriate purposes.

<u>Size of Hydrant/</u>

<u>Annual Charge</u>

Sprinkler Connection
Up to 6 inches
\$52.51 TAP CHARGE. The tap fee for each hook-up, after the completion of construction of the system, shall be as follows:

(A) A tap charge shall be collected from each customer before connection to the Town's water system. The charge in each instance shall be an amount sufficient to reimburse the Town for labor, material, and overhead necessary for tapping the main, installation of service from the main to the property line (including the curb stop) and the cost of furnishing and installing a suitable water meter. Pending further action by the Town Council the charges shall be as follows:

(1) All tap charges up to 1 inch connection shall be \$1,300.00;

(2) Larger than 1 inch connection shall be time and material, but no less than \$2,200.00

Following the adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-7, users located outside the municipality's corporate boundaries may be entitled to petition the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission under Section 8-1.5-3 to review and adjust the rates and charges imposed on the users if a petition under section 8-1.5-3 or under IC 36-9-23-26.1 with respect to the same rate ordinance has not been filed.

At such hearing and prior to final adoption of said Ordinance, all interested parties may appear and be heard. A copy of Ordinance No. 2024-7 may be examined at the office of the Clerk-Treasurer. Dated this 27th day of November, 2024.
Stephenie Hensley, Clerk-Treasurer

FOR SALE

THIS OUT!

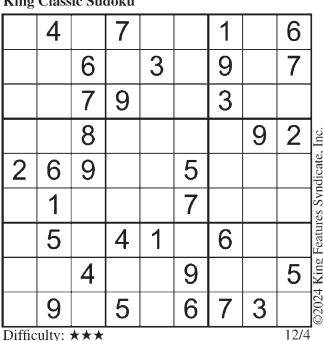
CHRISTMAS MICHIGAN TREES! Tim Murray's Fresh Christmas Trees. Wreaths, Grave Blankets and Michigan Boughs! Also Maple Syrup. Located at Bummies Root Beer Stand, Main Street. Bluffton. Open Daily at 10am beginning Saturday, Nov. 30. Phone: 231-920-6194.

5 days for \$5 Special

A 20-word, for sale, line classified ad is \$5 for 5 Days! Contact the Bluffton News-Banner office at 125 N. Johnson St., 260-824-0224. or classifieds.news-banner.

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

King Classic Sudoku



Public Sale Calendar

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, Ness Bros. Realtors & Auctioneers, www.NessBros. 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

§ 51.011 TAP FEE.

§ 51.118 CHARGES.

of the system, shall be as follows:

(B) For over 1" hook-up:

(A) For any 5/8" - 3/4" hook-up:

Water Meter Size

5/8 – 3/4 inch 1 inch

1-1/4 inch

1-1/2 inch

2 inch 3 inch

§ 51.117 MULTIPLE USERS.

ing charge as follows:

cabs, sleepers, utility trucks, bucket trucks, utility & semi trailers, SUV's pickup trucks, various skid steer attachments. much more! Accepting consignments! Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, 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. 8, 2-5 p.m., Dec. 12, 3-6 p.m., 301 N. Highland Ave., Ossian. Patrick Carter, sale manager, 260-824-3006, The Steffen Group Inc., www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006. **DECEMBER 9 - 4 p.m.- 6**

p.m. ET - (Online) - Crandall Farm, seller. Property location: Two miles northeast of Gas. IN, near intersection of E 300 S and S 550 E, Mill Township,

Effective Upon Adoption

Effective Upon Adoption

Rate per

1,000 gallons/month (Effective Upon Adoption)

NOTICE OF HEARING

by or to be served by the Town of Markle are hereby notified that Ordi-

or to be selved by the fown of Markle are fleeby floring that Ordered by the Sewage Works, was introduced at a meeting of the Town Council held on November 20, 2024. At a meeting of the Town Council to be held at 7:00 p.m. (Markle time) on December 18, 2024, in the Markle Town Hall, 154 East Morse Street, Markle, Indiana 46770, there will be a

public hearing on the matter of the rates and charges, and consideration of adoption of said Ordinance No. 2024-8, which provides in part as fol-

The tap fee for each hook-up, after the completion of construction

(C) In addition to the above tap fees, if the hook-up involves some

51.115 METERED WATER USERS - SCHEDULE OF RATES AND

(D) Water Usage Schedule. The water usage schedule on which

extraordinary excavation, construction, material, or labor costs, then a reasonable surcharge can be added.

the amount of the rates and charges shall be determined is as follows:
(1) <u>Treatment Rate</u>. Per 1,000 gallons of usage per month:

All Users

Operation, Maintenance, and Replacement Charge Local Capital Charge

(2) Collection System Maintenance Charge. Per meter, per

Monthly Charge (Effective

Upon Adoption)

\$18.03 \$45.03

\$99.09

\$99.09

\$180 15

(E) Billing Charge. Per month, all users shall pay an additional bill-

Monthly Charge (Effective Upon Adoption)

\$1.99

Monthly Charge (Effective Upon Adoption) \$63.36

apartments or housekeeping rooms discharging sanitary sewage, water,

or other liquids into the Town's Sanitary Sewage System, either directly or

indirectly, are users of water and the quantity of water is measured by a single water meter then, in such case, billing shall be as follows:

(B) In the event two or more dwelling units such as mobile homes,

(F) Non-Water-Metered Residential Rate is as follows:

ON PROPOSED RATES AND CHARGES
Property owners, rate payers and other interested parties in, served

Grant County. 81.59+/- total acres, tillable, woods, recreational land, potential building sites. Tract 1: 27.59+/- acres. 18.4+/- tillable, 8+/- woods, 1.19+/- non-tillable. Tract 2: 54+/- acres, 28.91+/- tillable, 23.34+/- woods, 1.75+/- non-tillable. Rick Johnloz, 260-827-8181, Emma Barr, 260-494-0992. Jason Johnloz. 260-273-9177, Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management, 800-424-2324, halderman.com

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. The Steffen Group Inc., 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com

BIDDING CLOSES DECEM-

BER 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, modem 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., click Fliers. *Town and* Country Auctioneers/Realtors, 260-223-7352, Shaw Real Estate & Auction, Inc., 260-

824-2116

DECEMBER 17 - 9 a.m.-6 p.m. - (Online Only) - Thomas B. & Mary Lou 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 Čarter, sale manager, 260-273-8294, The Steffen Group Inc., 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, advertising memorabilia, antique gas pump, country primitives and more. Open house Dec. 26 and Dec. 30 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 102 S. Jefferson St., Ossian, IN. *The Steffen Group* Inc., steffengrp.com, 260-824-

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 graniteware, 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. The Steffen Group Inc., Steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

(1) The sum of the cost of 1,000 gallons of water used per month, as follows: Rate per 1,000 gallons/month (Effective Upon Adoption) \$8.44

PLUS:
(2) A collection system maintenance charge multiplied by the number of dwelling units measured by said single meter. A dwelling unit shall be interpreted as a room or rooms or any other space or spaces in

which cooking facilities are provided."

<u>Collection System Maintenance Charge</u>

(Effective Upon Adoption)

\$18.03

Following the adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-8, users located outside the municipality's corporate boundaries may be entitled to petition the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission under Section 8-1.5-3 to review and adjust the rates and charges imposed on the users if a petition under section 8-1.5-3 or under IC 36-9-23-26.1 with respect to the same rate ordinance has not been filed.

ested parties may appear and be heard. A copy of Ordinance No. 2024-8 may be examined at the office of the Clerk-Treasurer. Dated this 27th day of November, 2024 Stephenie Hensley, Clerk-Treasurer

At such hearing and prior to final adoption of said Ordinance, all inter-

nb 12/4