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Two Ossian residents killed in Allen County crash

The Allen County Coroner's Office has identified two Ossian residents as the victims of a Wednesday morning crash. Jana Denise Himes, 48, and Gabriel Himes, 45, died in the crash on Yohne Road, near Smith Road in Allen County. They were pronounced dead at the scene. A news release from the Allen County Sheriff's Department states the vehicle was located by construction workers "well off the roadway, into a wooded area." A preliminary investigation indicates the car had approached a curve at high speed and continued for several hundred feet. The two individuals' deaths have been ruled an accident. The crash remains under investigation.



NHS to recognize the history of its business department

By HOLLY GASKILL
Norwell Community Schools will host a special tour celebrating its founding business department members at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10. The business department formally began in 1968 with five men spearheading efforts for the school — Ralph Thiele, Dave Furey, Howard Williams, Mike Gilbert and Steve Lehman. All but Furey will attend on Tuesday. NHS business teacher Ron Hamish will lead a tour through the current department. School board member Gene Donaghy said the department drew the attention of the state for its innovation, as Norwell was one of the first schools to incorporate computers. "You probably wouldn't think people from Indianapolis and Fort Wayne would (Continued on Page 2)



Ossian Hometown Christmas
Various shops and churches in downtown Ossian gave out treats and decorated their shops with festive items Thursday night. Above, from left to right, Bryan and Nancy Buck, Vicki Winchester, Wiley Raborn and Krieh Peterson all sing Christmas songs inside Rod's Rustics. At left, Linda Kelly, left, and Jan Williams look at items from individual sellers inside the Ossian Methodist Church. Below, Vincent Richman, left, and Allison Richman enjoy treats provided by the Ossian Presbyterian Church. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)

Braun announces his first appointments

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Gov.-elect Mike Braun on Wednesday announced the first appointments to his forthcoming administration — one a former state representative, and the other a high-ranking federal defense official under President Donald Trump. The announcements came one day after the incoming governor unveiled his first-term agenda, which focuses on tax relief, government efficiency, economic development, public health and quality of life factors like public safety, energy affordability and water cleanliness. Braun, a Republican, picked Lisa Hershman as Indiana's Secretary of Management and Budget. The officeholder serves as the chief financial officer of the state, overseeing Indiana's budget, financial management and administrative operations. Hershman will be responsible for developing Indiana's biennial budget and managing state agencies in finance, technology and shared services, and serving as operational oversight across secretary (Continued on Page 2)



Mayor's Open House
Mayor John Whicker held an open house at Washington Park's Indoor Pavilion Wednesday. Above left, Carmen Schoenherr, left, and Pam Blessing talk while getting food. Above right Mayor Whicker talks with Rob Troxel. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)

Hoosier students pitch computer science solutions

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑOZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle
Castle High School has about 2,000 students — but just five counselors, says senior Rex Iannello. Hundreds of outgoing seniors each year must fill out a state-mandated "Box Two" form, justifying their employability, to graduate. A supervisor must sign off on the student's 50 hours of service- project- or work-based service, even if those efforts took place years prior. The school's few counselors must manage the resulting stacks of paper. "They have to get this sheet of paper from each student. ... They had to decipher kids handwriting, and then they entered it into an Excel spreadsheet," Iannello recounted. He called it "strikingly inefficient." (Continued on Page 2)

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Outside
Another windy day in Wells County
Today Saturday Sunday
High 30 High 41 High 51
Low 20 Low 33 Low 41
More Weather on Page 2

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First appointments

(Continued from Page 1)
 tary verticals. In the role, she will also serve as the director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Hershman — who has worked in both government and private sector financial management — most recently served as chief management officer of the U.S. Department of Defense. That made her the third highest-ranking Pentagon official from 2018 to 2021, during which time she managed a \$168 billion budget and “achieved record-setting savings of \$37 billion through operational reforms,” per Braun’s transition team.

“Lisa Hershman’s track record of driving efficiency and innovation in both government and business makes her the ideal choice to oversee Indiana’s financial management,” Braun in a statement. “Her experience transforming large organizations and delivering taxpayer savings will be invaluable to our state.”

A Lafayette resident, Hershman previously served

on the Indiana Commission for Higher Education from 2014 to 2020. In the private sector, she has held CEO positions at multiple companies. She’s qualified, too, as a financial expert under SEC rules and currently serves on the board of directors for EchoStar/Dish, a satellite television provider.

Hershman is also the wife of former GOP Indiana Sen. Brandt Hershman, who served in the state legislature from 2000 to 2018.

“I sincerely appreciate the confidence Governor-elect Mike Braun has placed in me to serve as a steward of the state’s financial resources. Through collaboration with his team and the General Assembly, we will work to drive efficiency, accountability, and innovation in state government,” she said in a Wednesday statement. “Together, we will work to ensure that every taxpayer dollar is spent wisely and that Indiana remains a national model for fiscal responsibility and effective governance.”

Also announced Wednes-

day was Braun’s appointment of Matthew Ubelhor as Indiana’s Secretary of Transportation and Infrastructure. In that role, Ubelhor will be tasked with maintaining the state’s transportation, infrastructure, and broadband systems to support Indiana’s economic growth and quality of life for Hoosiers. He will also serve as head of the Indiana Department of Transportation.

“Matt’s decades of experience managing complex operations and infrastructure, combined with his service in the Indiana House, make him especially qualified to lead our transportation and infrastructure initiatives,” Braun said. “He has a servant’s heart and understands how to do more with less at a time when stewardship of tax dollars could not be more critical.”

A former three-term state representative, Ubelhor served in the General Assembly from 2010 to 2015, representing Greene, Martin, Daviess, and Monroe counties. During his tenure, he served on the Ways and Means Committee and

as majority whip.

In his most recent role, serving as senior vice president of Operations at White Stallion Energy, Ubelhor managed safety, production, and cost control for 600 workers across multiple sites, according to Braun’s transition team. He additionally held leadership positions at Peabody Energy, where he oversaw operations, environmental compliance and workforce safety for 700 employees.

“Fostering long-term prosperity for Hoosier families takes many forms, and I am excited to contribute to Governor-elect Braun’s efforts to shape the future of our transportation infrastructure,” Ubelhor said in a statement. “We have a tremendous opportunity ahead of us to connect Hoosiers in ways that will grow our economy and improve our quality of life.”

Ubelhor, who lives in Bloomfield in Greene County, began his career as an equipment operator before advancing to senior executive positions.

Weather

Friday, December 6, 2024

(24-hour observations at 7:54 p.m. Thursday at FWIA)
High: 26; **Low:** 13; **Precipitation:** 0.02 inches of rain
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.07 feet at 8:45 p.m. Thursday

Wells County forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 30. West wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 20. Southwest wind around 10 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 41. Southwest wind around 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 33. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 51.

Sunday Night: Showers. Low around 41. Chance of precipitation is 80%.

Monday: A 40% chance of showers, mainly before 1p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 52.

Monday Night: A 30% chance of showers, mainly after 1a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 35.

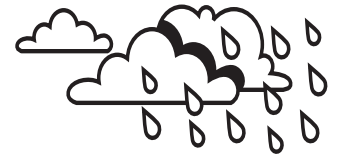
Tuesday: A 30% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 40.

Tuesday Night: A slight chance of rain and snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 23. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Wednesday: A 20% chance of snow showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 33.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 18.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 31.



Hoosier students

(Continued from Page 1)
 So he and four other classmates built a digital management system with guidance from their computer science teacher, Derick Smith.

Students can use the same school-issued credentials they’ve had since sixth grade to log their progress into a website and send the completed form to their supervisors for signatures. Then, it goes into a database. In a custom desktop application, counselors can check off students who’ve completed the requirements, take note of those who haven’t, and more.

On Wednesday, the group — plus a videographer classmate — won the high school division of the CSforGood showcase at the Indiana Statehouse, held by Nextech.

The Indianapolis-based nonprofit, which aims to boost computer science access for Hoosier K-12 students, has invited competitors to show how computer science can be used to solve problems in their schools and communities annually since 2017.

More than 100 teams with upwards of 300 students from schools across the state applied to present at the showcase. Thirteen made the cut. Three — one from each division — won.

The Middle School Division winner was Cold Spring School, with its safe smart home for elderly Hoosiers. The Elementary School Division winner was Clarks Creek Elementary School, with its attendance and location application.

Each winning team won

its school a \$1,000 technology grant. Individual team members also earned \$200.

Building computer science into schools

Students — some sporting matching tees, others decked out in suits — stood before detailed posterboards on the Statehouse’s main floor while their parents watched from behind thick marble columns. Judges from industry, state agencies and beyond asked questions and took careful notes as students explained their work.

Projects ranged from robotic recess aide helper and school bus tracker to an anti-bullying resource and a teen job finder.

“What’s so inspiring is: we don’t give very many guardrails,” Nextech President Karen Jung said. “... You start to get a better sense of what are the issues that these kids are facing in their community ... and they’re the best problem solvers when it comes to these issues.”

She said that all competitors must apply computer science problem-solving principles to solve chosen problems, although elementary school division participants may present prototypes, while high school division participants may actually build their solutions.

Indiana Education Secretary Katie Jenner said the state is a leader in this space.

“Since 2018, Indiana has been a national leader in computer science education, investing over \$18 million in computer science (and) supporting students across all grade levels,” Jenner told

the crowd, before judging began.

She and Jung observed that Indiana has adopted all 10 model policies promoted by Code.org. They’re meant to make computer science a bigger part of K-12 education, since it’s a “foundational part of daily life,” per Code.org.

The state has K-8 standards in place, and in March, approved a new requirement: all high schoolers must take a computer science course in order to graduate, starting with the class of 2029.

Jung said Indiana’s made great strides, but has something left.

“How do we light that spark within them ... How do we get them to want to pursue that?” she asked. “So (that) it’s not just like, ‘Aw, I gotta take my CS class.’ But no, it’s like, ‘Oh, wow. This is amazing. And now I can see what a path forward would look like in CS.’”

The Castle High School team has plans for its creation.

Iannello said he hopes his school implements the website and desktop application for the Box Two form, but noted the team could easily add other documents to the setup.

“That’s just a few more data points in our server that we can quickly, like, scale it up to that if needed,” he said. “We haven’t sold this to anybody yet, but we would love for our work to be used by schools in Indiana.”

Nextech Programs Vice President Stephanie Zircher thanked parents, teachers and judges in her on-stage

remarks, but concluded with praise for the young competitors.

“All of you students with these big, bright, beautiful minds — we literally cannot wait to see where you go as you continue to develop these skills and make a difference in the world, absolutely and truly for good,” she said.

NHS

(Continued from Page 1)
 come to Norwell to learn about computers,” Donaghy quipped at a Nov. 26 board meeting.

Donaghy initiated efforts to honor the department’s history, and the five men put together 11 pages document-

ing their experiences.

The regular school board meeting will follow at 5:30 p.m., also at NHS, where Thiele, Williams, Gilbert and Lehman will also be introduced and available for questions.

holly@news-banner.com

Gunman who shot 2 children at a California school wrote about attack targeting children

OROVILLE, Calif. (AP) — A gunman who critically wounded two kindergartners at a tiny religious school in Northern California was mentally ill and believed by targeting children he was carrying out “counter-measures” in response to America’s involvement in Middle East violence, a sheriff said Thursday.

Glenn Litton used a “ruse” of pretending to enroll a fictitious grandson to gain entry to the Feather River School of Seventh-Day Adventists in Oroville, Butte County Sheriff Kory L. Honea said during a news conference.

Litton used a handgun to shoot two kindergarten boys, ages 5 and 6, who remained in critical condition Thursday, the sheriff said. Litton then used the weapon — a so-called ghost gun, which is difficult for investigators to trace — to kill himself just yards (meters) from the school’s playground.

While Honea said Litton, 56, also had a lengthy criminal history — mostly theft and identity theft — authorities said they did not find any violent crimes on his record.

Honea said the man is believed to have targeted the Feather River School in Wednesday’s attack, though it’s unclear why. Litton had attended a school of Seventh-Day Adventists in another town as a child, the sheriff said, and he possibly had a relative who attended Feather River as a young child.

But in Litton’s writings, the sheriff said, the suspect wrote about taking “counter-measures” against the school in response to

America’s involvement in violence in the Middle East.

Honea said Litton had similarly scheduled an appointment at another Seventh-Day Adventist school, set for Thursday.

The Seventh-Day Adventist Church is a Christian denomination in which members consider the Bible their only creed and believe that the second coming of Christ is near. The shooting occurred shortly after 1 p.m. Wednesday at the private K-8 school with fewer than three dozen students in Oroville, on the edge of the tiny community of Palermo, about 65 miles north of Sacramento.

Law enforcement officials have documented Litton’s history of mental illness back to when he was a teenager, though Honea said investigators have not found a concrete diagnosis.

In recent years, Litton searched online for guns and explosives and wrote notes to himself to plan a non-specific mass incident, though Butte County District Attorney Michael L. Ramsey said they were “just ruminations.” Litton was a convicted felon and therefore could not legally possess a firearm.

The sheriff said the 6-year-old suffered two gunshot wounds that caused internal injuries, while the 5-year-old was shot once.

“The fact that they are currently still with us is a miracle,” Honea said of the children, adding they will likely face additional surgeries and “have a very long road ahead of them, in terms of recovery.”

December

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OBITUARIES

Jimmie R. Purvis, 74

Jimmie R. Purvis, 74, of Bluffton, passed away Thursday morning, Dec. 5, 2024, at his residence.

Jimmie was born in Owingsville, Kentucky, on Jan. 25, 1950, to Hobert L. and Anna H. (Riddle) Purvis. He married Cathie Thrasher in Bluffton on Aug. 28, 1982; she survives.

In addition to his wife, Jimmie is survived by three daughters, Patty (Ritchie) Carpenter of Mount Sterling, Kentucky, Kim (Jerry) Connott of Ossian, and Tina Rothgeb (fiancé Ben Oxendine) of Fort Wayne; a son, James (Veronica) Purvis of Bluffton; two brothers, Huey Ginter and Glen Norman, both of Liberty Center; along with 15 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren.

Aside from his parents, he was preceded in death by a daughter, Teresa Harris; a brother, Eddie Norman; and a grandson, Paul Ward.

Visitation will be Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024, from 3-7 p.m., at Goodwin — Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton, followed immediately by a funeral service at 7 p.m., also at the funeral home. Pastor Rick Schwartz will officiate.

Memorial contributions may be made to Riley Hospital for Children.

Online condolences may be shared at www.goodwin-caleharnish.com.

Braun keeps education secretary, recruits familiar face for commerce

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle

In his second round of leadership picks, Gov.-elect Mike Braun announced Thursday he will retain Katie Jenner as Indiana's education head, and bring on former state official David Adams as commerce secretary.

The announcement came one day after Braun, a Republican, confirmed his choices for the state's next budget and transportation secretaries.

Jenner has served as Indiana's secretary of education since 2021. Braun lauded her leadership thus far, including her oversight over the state's largest-ever investment in literacy, as well as her work "implementing a comprehensive teacher supply/demand marketplace, and increasing the statewide graduation rate."

Jenner's administration additionally launched Indiana's Graduates Prepared to Succeed initiative, which seeks to redefine how the state measures school performance and student achievement.

Jenner was hand-picked by Gov. Eric Holcomb to take on the role after the superintendent of public instruction position was eliminated by the General Assembly. Jennifer McCormick — who ran as a Democrat against Braun in the 2024 gubernatorial race — was the last to hold that office.

"Dr. Jenner's proven track record of elevating Indiana's education system makes her the ideal choice to continue leading our state's academic initiatives," Braun said in a Thursday news release. "Her focus on literacy, STEM education, and workforce readiness aligns perfectly with our vision for Indiana's future."

The state's top school official currently leads the Indiana Department of Education and chairs the State Board of Education. She previously served as Holcomb's senior education advisor, vice president of K-12 initiatives and statewide partnerships at Ivy Tech Community College, and held various leadership positions at Madison Consolidated Schools, in addition to being a teacher.

Braun's transition team said Jenner will focus on college and career readiness, improved literacy and math outcomes, universal school choice, and an increase in teacher base pay — all part of his incoming administration's agenda.

"I am grateful to Governor-elect Braun for the opportunity to continue serving Indiana's students, educators, and families as Secretary of Education," Jenner said in a statement. "Over the past several years, we have made significant strides in expanding educational opportunities and ensuring our students are prepared for success in the classroom and beyond. Working together with Governor-elect Braun, our dedicated teachers, school leaders, the General Assembly and stakeholders across the state, we will build upon

this progress while addressing the evolving needs of our education system. I look forward to advancing this vital mission in the years ahead."

Separately, Adams is slated to become Indiana's next secretary of commerce. He'll be tasked with leading Indiana's job creation and business growth initiatives. That entails "driving economic opportunity for the state and fostering an entrepreneurial environment for innovation," Braun's transition team noted.

Adams, who previously served as the state's commissioner of workforce development, "brings extensive experience in economic development, innovation, and business growth," Braun's team said.

"David's proven track record of driving economic growth and innovation makes him the ideal choice to lead Indiana's commerce initiatives," Braun said. "His experience in workforce development to drive economic growth, combined with his successful entrepreneurial business track record and ability to attract major investments, will help accelerate Indiana's economic momentum."

Adams was appointed to run the Department of Workforce Development in August 2022 but departed eight months later. The release at the time didn't say why he was leaving but said he would serve instead on the Governor's Workforce Cabinet.

Braun emphasized that, under Adams' leadership as workforce development commissioner, Indiana's workforce ranking in CNBC's "America's Top States for Business" improved from 48th to 14th.

Earlier, under former Gov. Mitch Daniels, Adams led the turnaround and merger of Indiana's nearly \$50B pension systems.

He previously served as chief innovation officer at the University of Cincinnati, where he led the development of the Cincinnati Innovation District that became Ohio's model for economic development, per Braun's team.

Adams was also a founding member of the leadership team for i2 Technologies, a software company that specialized in supply chain management. The company was sold in 2010. He currently serves on the Purdue Research Foundation board and is a Forbes contributing writer.

"Governor-elect Braun's vision for our state's economic future is bold and one that I look forward to supporting as Secretary of Commerce," Adams said in a statement. "His business career gives him a unique perspective of workforce development and economic prosperity, and while we have great momentum as a state, there is more work to be done. We have an opportunity ahead of us to recruit and build a talent pipeline, and I look forward to working with Governor-elect Braun and the General Assembly to take our state to new heights."

INCIDENTS

City:
Wednesday, 6:40 p.m., 121 N Main St. Report of a man looking into windows and attempting to open vehicles at Mt. Fuji restaurant. Unable to locate.

Wednesday, 9:06 p.m., 1414 Deerbrook Ct. Caller reported they hit a guardrail earlier in the night. Report to follow.

Thursday, 2:30 a.m., 1600 block of West Central Ave. Report of a missing teen girl.

Thursday, 3:45 a.m., 628 N Main St. Traffic stop. One arrested. Vehicle towed.

Thursday, 8:50 a.m., 300 N and SR 116. Third party reported a crash. Reports of a man with a chest injury and a child with a head injury.

Thursday, 11:13 a.m., Bluffton High School. Threats of shooting on Snapchat.

County:
Wednesday, 8:07 p.m., S.R. 1 and C.R. 500 S, Bluff-

Police Notebook

ton. Traffic stop. Two arrested. Vehicle towed.

Wednesday, 10:54 p.m., Main Street and Arrowhead Trail, Bluffton. Traffic stop for vehicle following too closely. Jesus V. Rubio, 23, Fort Wayne was arrested for operating a vehicle without receiving a license, a Class C misdemeanor. He was also cited for driving while suspended and following too closely. Booked and released.

Thursday, 5 a.m., C.R. 300 W and 1000 S, Keystone. Road closed signs blown over.

Thursday, 5:06 a.m., Main and Silver streets. Picked up trash cans in roadway.

Thursday, 5:24 a.m., Hoosier Highway and C.R. 300 S, Bluffton. Picked up road barriers blown into roadway.

Thursday, 7:21 a.m., C.R. 200 S and Meridian Road, Bluffton. Several barricades and road closure signs blown down and damaged.

Thursday, 7:51 a.m., S.R. 115 and C.R. 200 W. Report of an injured deer. Ran away when an officer approached.

Thursday, 8:04 a.m., C.R. 900 S and Meridian Road, Keystone. Vehicle slid off roadway, damaging bumper and popping tire.

Ossian:
Thursday, 7:48 a.m., S.R. 1 and U.S., Ossian. Officer brought gas to stalled driver.

FIRES
Wednesday, 7:58 p.m., 408 W Wiley Ave. Awning stuck in alley power lines, no arcing or sparking reported.

Wednesday, 10:01 p.m., 1500 Clark Ave. Large umbrella stuck in power lines, no arcing or sparking reported.

Wednesday, 11:18 p.m., S SR 1 and E C.R. 500 S. Tree and live power line down across the roadway. Indiana State Highway Patrol set up roadway block at 500 S.

ARRESTS
Kyle Wayne Souter, 42,

Decatur; probation violation, a Level 6 felony. Bond not set.

Darwin G. Carias Reynoso, 26, Fort Wayne; driving while suspended, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond not set.

Michael Anthony Silva, 33, Fort Wayne; dealing cocaine or a narcotic drug, a Level 3 felony, and dealing Xylazine, a Level 5 felony. Bond not set.

Naomy Guterrez, 24, Fort Wayne; dealing cocaine or a narcotic drug, a Level 3 felony, and dealing Xylazine, a Level 5 felony. Bond not set.

Isaiah James Perry, 28, Bluffton; dealing cocaine or a narcotic drug, a Level 3 felony, and dealing Xylazine, a Level 5 felony. Bond not set.

Emiro Jose Montes Rosales, 34, Bluffton; operating a vehicle without ever receiving a license, a Class C misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Indiana Supreme Court declines to halt execution, allow for case review

Convicted murderer Joseph Corcoran told the high court justices he did not want to pursue further appeals, instead wishes to be executed on Dec. 18, as scheduled

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle

In a split decision, Indiana's Supreme Court justices issued an order Thursday evening denying requests by death row inmate Joseph Corcoran's lawyers to delay his impending execution date and allow for his case to be reviewed or his sentence overturned.

Corcoran, however, said in a recent letter to the court that he has "no desire nor wish[es] to engage in further appeals or litigation whatsoever." With his "own free will" and "without coercion or promise of anything," he asked the court to withdraw his counsel's motions.

In the order, Chief Justice Loretta Rush said requests by Corcoran's legal team to stay his execution — as well as petitions seeking permission to litigate late-term post-conviction review — were denied 3-2.

Justices Mark Massa, Geoffrey Slaughter and Derek Molter concurred. Rush and Justice Christopher Goff dissented.

But a decision explaining the ruling was not issued Thursday. Rather, Rush said the court "will promptly issue a written opinion explaining its reasons." It's not clear when that document will become available.

The decision likely leaves Corcoran's fate in a federal judge's hands. The inmate's federal defense attorney, Larry Komp, told the Indiana Capital Chronicle Thursday evening that Corcoran's legal team plans to file the necessary appeal documents once the state's high court's opinion is released.

"We're disappointed, but we're certainly hopeful that with two dissents, that demonstrates how difficult these facts are," Komp said. "We're hopeful that the federal court will see it our way."

Komp emphasized "it's hard to challenge something when you don't know the reason for it." He said that Corcoran's legal team is especially interested in the opinions of the dissenting justices.

"We'll have to see what

they say — and what the dissents say," Komp continued, adding that he thought the state's high court would at least order a new evaluation of Corcoran's mental state and competency, as the justices have in other death sentence challenges.

"You can't make this determination without full and fair opportunity and meaningful due process," Komp said. "From our perspective, from the vote of 3-2, Indiana has decided not give us a meaningful process and meaningful due process. That lack of process, we think, will help us in federal court."

In the brief order issued by Indiana's Supreme Court, Rush noted that justices took into account the various filings from Corcoran's attorneys and the state.

She also referenced an affidavit sent by Corcoran on Nov. 22 and received by the court on Dec. 3.

A copy of the handwritten letter, obtained by the Capital Chronicle, shows Corcoran's opposition to any action that could take him off death row.

"My assigned counsel has petitioned this Court on my behalf. They seek to further litigate this case. Their goal, which was explained to me by my counsel, is to delay any and all executions through endless litigation. They hope to set a precedent so all future death penalty cases can be endlessly litigated, effectively putting an end to all executions," Corcoran wrote.

"I, Joseph Edward Corcoran, do not wish to litigate my case further," he continued. "I am guilty of the crime I was convicted of, and accept the findings of all the appellate courts. The long, drawn out appeal history has addressed all the issues I wished to appeal, such as the issue of competency. Therefore, I am hereby making this statement to the Court through this affidavit: I do not wish to proceed with more and/or endless litigation. Thus, I urge this Court to not accept my counsel's motion and petition to litigate further."

Corcoran's execution is currently scheduled to take place in two weeks, before sunrise on Dec. 18.

He also gave a detailed recitation of what will happen.

"I understand that if this court rejects my counsel's petition the death warrant will be carried out. I will then be put to death for the heinous crime I committed. I understand that the execution will end my life. I understand medically my heart will stop and all brain activity will cease ... I understand the execution, in the interest of judgment, serves as both a punishment and a deterrent."

Although Corcoran's guilt is not in question, his long-term mental illness has been at the heart of efforts to block the execution.

So far, Corcoran has been unwilling to sign the necessary paperwork to initiate a clemency review or other avenues that could result in his removal from death row.

The inmate's attorneys point to a diagnosis of paranoid schizophrenia and delusions that he has about ultrasound machines controlling him and his

thoughts. But attorneys for the state say he is competent to be put to death.

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita has adamantly rejected requests to put the execution on hold.

It will be the first state execution since 2009 after officials finally obtained the drug necessary to carry out the lethal injection.

Earlier Thursday, Fort Wayne Republican Rep. Bob Morris called on Gov. Eric Holcomb to block Corcoran's execution — and death sentences for Indiana's seven other death row inmates. It remains unclear what, if any, action the outgoing Republican governor could take to delay or overturn Corcoran's death warrant.

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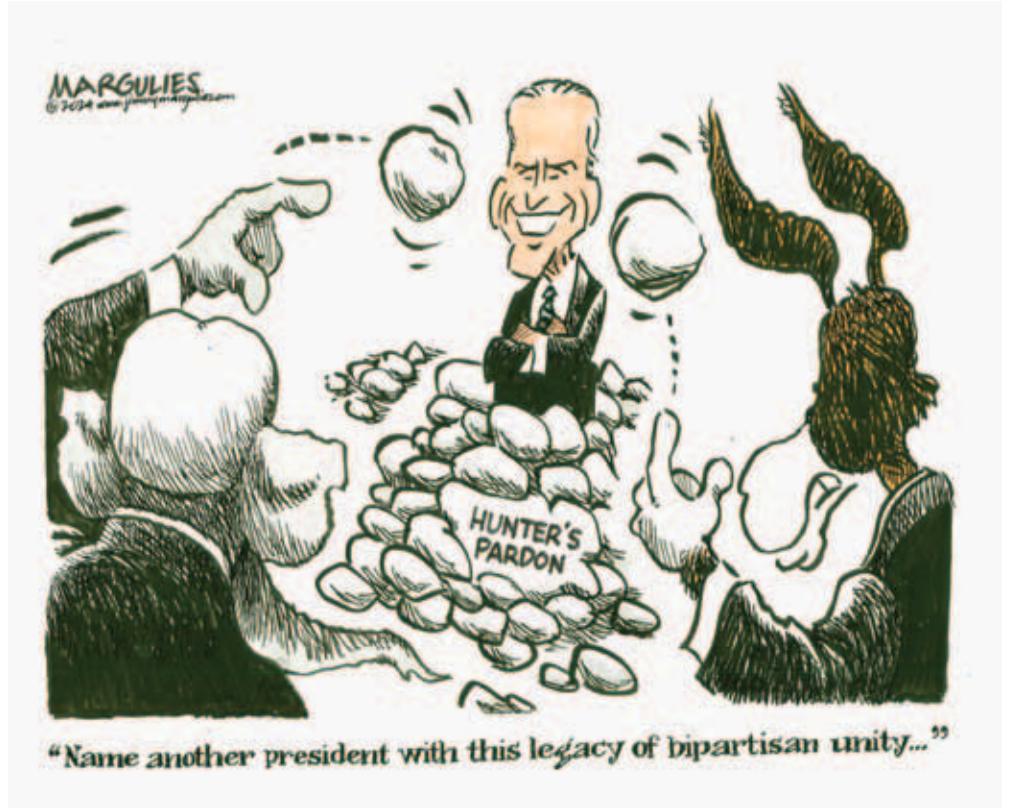
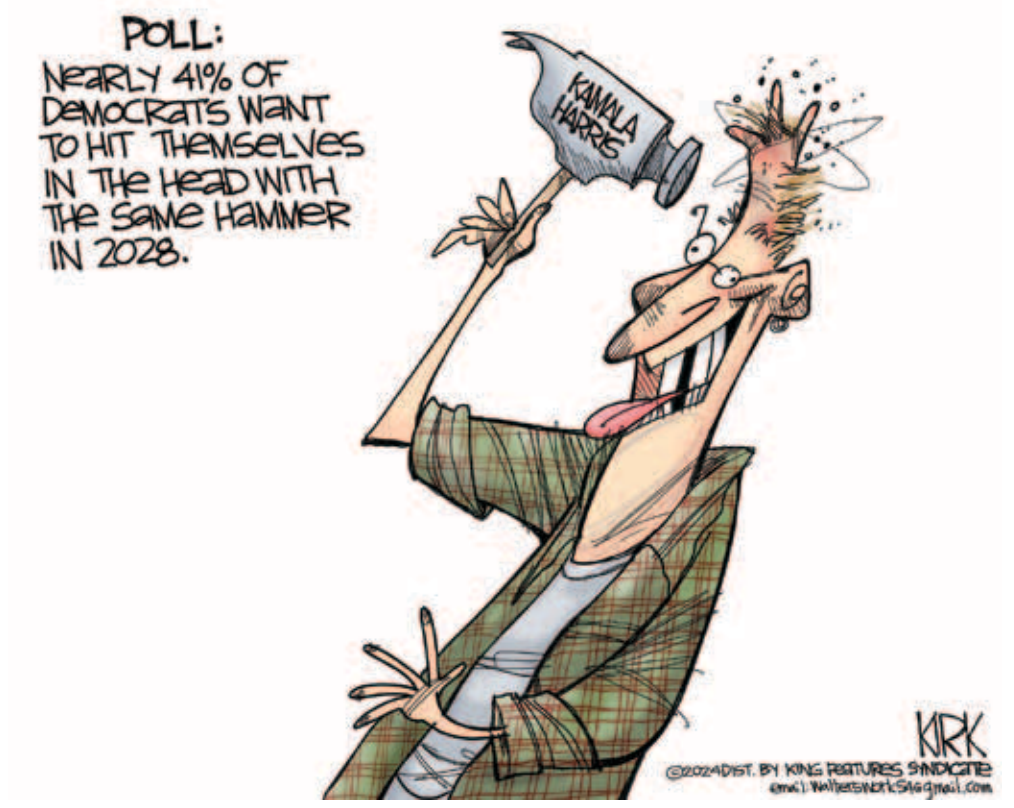
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Post-Election Developments - a look through cartoonists' eyes...



Other Opinions

The GOP's slim majority in the House

Republicans boasting about their great election mandate may want to hold the euphoria. As the final results trickle in from the late state of California, the GOP looks set to have the narrowest House majority in more than a century.

In the latest race to be called, Republican Rep. Michelle Steel lost her Orange County seat, while Rep. John Duarte now trails his Democratic challenger in his Fresno-area district. If Mr. Duarte loses, Republicans would hold nine of 52 House seats in the Golden State. The Democratic gerrymander in California, plus those in New York (19-7 Democratic to GOP seats), Illinois (14-3) and Massachusetts (9-0), mean four states will deliver 85 of the Democratic total of 215 seats. The GOP could have as few as 220.

One message is that while voters rejected the Biden-Harris Administration, their support for Republicans is provisional. The GOP did better in the Senate, gaining a three-seat edge. But they narrowly lost winnable seats in Wisconsin, Michigan and Nevada despite fielding strong candidates.

Another message is that the GOP has about a year to get anything done. The party is likely to lose the House in 2026, if midterm history is any guide, and the partisan Senate map is challenging. The GOP had better pass legislation it wants in 2025 before Member attention turns to political survival in 2026.

This will require House Republicans in particular to stick together as they haven't in years. Matt Gaetz will be out of Congress, saints be praised, but other performance artists are still around to blow things up and blame everyone else. Perhaps Donald Trump can keep them in line behind Speaker Mike Johnson. But factionalism will mean the end of a functioning majority and guaranteed defeat in 2026.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
Distributed by The Associate Press

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Dec. 6, the 341st day of 2024. There are 25 days left in the year.

Today in history: On Dec. 6, 1865, the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, abolishing slavery, was ratified as Georgia became the 27th state to endorse it.

Also on this date: In 1907, the worst mining disaster in U.S. history occurred as at least 361 men and boys died in a coal mine explosion in Monongah, West Virginia.

In 1917, more than 1,700 people were killed when an explosives-laden French cargo ship, the Mont Blanc, collided with the Norwegian vessel Ima at the harbor in Halifax, Nova Scotia, setting off a blast that devastated the

Canadian city.

In 1923, a presidential address was broadcast on radio for the first time as Calvin Coolidge spoke to a joint session of Congress.

In 1957, America's first attempt at putting a satellite into orbit failed as Vanguard TV3 rose about four feet off a Cape Canaveral launch pad before crashing down and exploding.

In 1969, a free concert by The Rolling Stones at the Altamont Speedway in Alameda County, California, was marred by the deaths of four people, including one who was stabbed by a member of the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club that was hired to provide concert security.

In 1973, House Minority Leader Gerald R. Ford was sworn in as vice president, succeeding Spiro T. Agnew.

Time to learn a real-world lesson from tariffs

Tariffs and trade are rarely explained in a way everyone can understand, and we should blame economists for that. There are a few important points that every adult should know.

Tariffs are taxes levied on imported goods and services. Our constitution requires Congress to vote on all tax changes, but Congress gave special powers to the president to set tariffs under a "national security" claim. So, as long as the president claims the tariffs are designed to reduce the risk to national security, he can set tariffs.

This presidential power was created in 1962 and has been used only a few times. President-elect Trump imposed very broad tariffs in 2018, and President Biden continued them throughout his presidency.

Because these tariffs are not subject to normal policy debates, few Americans know about their effects. That's a pity because it permitted Trump to impose heavy and costly tariffs and allowed Joe Biden to keep them.

Tariffs are designed with the hope of pushing down our trade deficit, but they don't have any effect on our trade deficit. The size of the American trade deficit — how much more we import than export — is exclusively the result of the savings rate, or how much more we spend than we produce.

It turns out that the U.S. savings rate is primarily affected by our federal budget deficit. You see, our federal budget deficit is caused by collecting fewer tax dollars than we spend each year. It is a classic example of spending more than we earn. To finance that, we sell Treasury bonds. This is a type of borrowing that reduces our national savings rate.

In short, Americans are buying more than we produce, and that has caused our trade deficit.

American citizens buy up about a third of the federal deficit each year in the form of bonds. These bonds are held by retirement accounts and pension funds as a safe investment, so we are lending money to our own government. But, for every dollar that we borrow from outside the U.S. each year, American net imports must increase by a dollar.

For example, last year, our federal deficit was about \$1.4 trillion, and roughly \$1 trillion was financed by foreigners buying U.S. treasuries. As a consequence, the trade deficit was roughly \$1 trillion. This is what mathematicians call an identity, such as 2+2=4.

Unless we collect enough money in tariffs to pay down the debt, tariffs will have no effect on our trade deficit. As long as we run federal budget deficits, we will have a trade deficit, and every American should understand that relationship.

Tariff rates would need to be about 150 percent to eliminate the budget deficit — if we still bought the same number of goods from overseas.

Now, tariffs can affect what we buy, and from

whom we buy it. So, tariffs on the People's Republic of China would push domestic firms and consumers to buy goods or services from other countries.

This happens because of the price effect of tariffs. Tariffs will increase the price Americans pay on imported goods. You cannot control the incidence of taxation.

No matter what laws you pass, or what claims you make about a tax, the entity that pays a tax on trade is determined by economics, not legislation. The relative responsiveness to price of the buyer and seller determines who pays the tax.

We are a rich country, importing relatively inexpensive items from overseas, so our price sensitivity is very low relative to our suppliers. As a consequence, American consumers will pay most of the tariff costs.

Ironically, retaliatory tariffs on American exporters can be very damaging. We export lots of commodities — think soybeans, corn and oil. These products are produced in many places, so it is very easy for a country upon whom we place a tariff to retaliate by placing a tariff on our soybeans, corn and oil. In that case, almost all the tariffs will be paid by American farmers and oil producers.

Trade wars are not easy to win, and they are damned near impossible to win for rich countries that export commodities. We lost the last one and will lose the next one. And by "we," I mean all of us, though the cost will be more heavily born by U.S. farmers and manufacturers who import parts to assemble here.

That is why the Midwest, with its farms and factories, was so badly hurt by the 2018 round of tariffs.

Trump's proposed tariffs will cause the cost of products to rise in the U.S., and at least one estimate from the Tax Foundation estimates the cost at more than \$2,000 per household each year. That would make this the largest inflation-adjusted tax increase in U.S. history.

The burden of tariffs will also fall most heavily on younger and poorer households. They buy a disproportionate share of goods, such as cars, appliances, consumer electronics and home construction materials.

Tariffs played such a large role in the Trump campaign that arguing against them is pointless. What would be best for the U.S. is to experience them quickly and in full. We should immediately proceed to levy a 20 percent tariff on all imports and 60 percent on Chinese imports, as Trump said he would do.

As we learn of the consequences, we should recall Benjamin Franklin's adage that experience is a costly school, but the fool will learn in no other way.

Michael Hicks is the George and Frances Ball Distinguished Professor of Economics and the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at Ball State University. • cberdirector@bsu.edu



Michael Hicks

Hoosier Opinions

Bluffton Chronicle - Jun 3, 1903

A Good Thing to Keep Out Of. Tariff discriminations and retributions have brought on a warm little row between Canada and Germany. Canada began it by giving Great Britain a 33 1-3 preferential tariff rate on manufactured goods. Germany retaliates by clapping higher duties on Canadian wheat. It is a natural and inevitable outcome of the system of preferential trade arrangements commonly called "reciprocity." It is chiefly productive of reciprocal hatred and ill will. A good thing for any country to keep out of.

Tariffs were the subject of some angst in this brief found in a 1903 edition of the Bluffton Chronicle.

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Tigers keep winning ways with rout of Bruins, eye matchup with 8-1 Raiders

By RYAN WALKER

Bluffton imposed its will for the sixth straight game, this time at the expense of Blackford 73-20 at The Tiger Den Thursday night.

A much depleted Bruins (1-6) squad rolled in after taking the Tigers 41-33 last season, but graduated their top six scorers and replaced their head coach. Nonetheless, the Tigers (8-1) weren't going to feel bad for them.

Bluffton, the state's second-best scoring team, hit their 73-point average on the nose. Isabella Stout's 19 points and 10 rebounds put her through for a double-double, while Konley Ault's 18 and Khloe Dick's 14 aided the blowout. This was the sixth time in a row Bluffton has won by 21 points or more in that time frame. The point margin is an average of 42 points per game for the season.

Believe it or not, the Tigers started slow in the game.

Several turnovers and offensive rebound opportunities fell short. Easy shots were missed and it was free throws that helped the Tigers get out to a 19-4 start.

Tressa Renner scored eight points in the frame, including her first and only three.

"I don't think we started as good as we've started the last couple games," head coach Doug Curtis said. "We struggled a little bit at the beginning offensively."

But as Bluffton has done numerous times this year, its defense turned to offense.

The Tigers forced 28 turnovers and started to find itself toward the end of the second quarter. Madyson Sonngisen, Khloe Dick and Stout got their three-pointers to fall, and Stout picked up back-to-back layups in transition.

Twenty-eight total points fell, and all it took was a change of defense, not offense.

"Once we just went to the half court and did what we were supposed to do ... we got lots of steals and lots of runouts at that point," Curtis said. "I think that's where it

changed it a little bit."

This victory sets up for a showdown at the Raider Dome on Saturday.

Southern Wells (8-1) has won eight straight games after falling to Northfield on opening night. The Raiders have already won their ACAC opening game to Adams Central, heightening the stakes for a conference title-hungry Tigers club.

When asked about the look-ahead spot, Curtis acknowledged the Raiders' strong start to the season and saw it as an opportunity for a quality opponent.

"We're really looking forward to Saturday," Curtis said. "Penrod's done a nice job there. At this point they've won a ton of games and beating teams they should be beating, and they're doing a great job of that. So, it should be a really good match as we go in there and play on their floor."

Bluffton won the junior varsity contest against the Bruins 49-22. Kamryn Ault led the Tigers with 20 points, Grace Fry nine and Krista Blair eight.

Bluffton will be at Southern Wells at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7.

ryan@news-banner.com

BLUFFTON 73, BLACKFORD 20 At Bluffton

BLACKFORD (1-6): Rylee Heiser 6 points, Carly Leas 5, Maleah Limle 4, Gracie Townsend-Strait 3, Adyson Sargent 2, Lily McCammon 0, Kaylor Hedge 0, Faith Watkins 0, Adrianna Hall 0. TOTAL: 20.

BLUFFTON (8-1): Isabella Stout 8-19 203 19, Konley Ault 6-14 6-8 18, Khloe Dick 6-14 1-1 14, Tressa Renner 2-2 3-4 8, Kamryn Ault 2-3 2-2 6, Marly Drauer 2-2 0-0 4, Madyson Sonngisen 1-3 0-0 3, Maryn Schreiber 0-3 1-6 1, Sophie Eisenhut 0-4 0-0 0, Grace Fry 0-0 0-0 0, Isla Gibson 0-1 0-0 0, Madelyn Funk 0-1 0-0 0. TOTALS: 27-66 15-24 73.

Blackford 4 0 7 9 — 20
Bluffton 19 28 22 4 — 73

Three-point Shooting: Blackford 2 (Leas 1, Townsend-Strait 1), Bluffton 4-10 (Dick 1-5, Stout 1-2, Renner 1-1, Sonngisen 1-1, Ko, Ault 0-1). Rebounds: Blackford 16 (Leas 3, Hall 3, Limie 2, Townsend-Strait 1, Heiser 1, Sargent 1, Hedge 1, Watkins 1), Bluffton 47 (Stout 10, Eisenhut 8, Schreiber 7, Ko, Ault 6, Renner 5, Sonngisen 4, Dick 3, Drauer 2, Funk 2). Turnovers: Blackford 28, Bluffton 10. Fouls: Blackford 16, Bluffton 6. Fouled out: None. Technicals: None. JV: 49-22 Bluffton.



Bluffton senior Tressa Renner (right) unloads a three-point basket in the first half of Thursday night's game in Bluffton. Renner finished with 8 points to help the Tigers to a 73-20 victory over the Bruins. (Photo by Chad Kline)

Sports Roundup

Bluffton tops Wayne in road wrestling match

Bluffton won a road wrestling contest at Wayne Thursday night.

The Tigers took care of business with no problem, winning 63-12.

Individual results:

- Will Frettinger (B) won by forfeit at 106.
- Christian Herrada (B) won by forfeit at 113.
- Asher Kinsey (B) won by forfeit at 120.
- Levi Johns (B) won by forfeit at 126.
- Orein Kahn (B) won by forfeit at 132.
- Parker Barnes (B) won by fall over Samr Hammad at 138.
- Double forfeit at 144.
- Parker Nash (B) won over Conner H. by fall at 150.
- Nick O. (W) won by fall over Landon Gearheart by fall at 157.
- Bryce Patrick (B) won by fall over Josh C at 165.
- Pierceton Morgan (B) won by fall over Carmanni Addison at 175.
- Tavin Frees (B) won by fall over Raiel Dupuis at 190.
- Jayden Busche (W) won by fall over Jake Boots at 215.
- Connor Landis (B) won by decision 8-4 over Jordan Sell at 285.

Bluffton will host Alexandria-Monroe at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10.

Tigers sweep four teams in meet with Fort Wayne teams

Bluffton won all four swim competitions at home, facing off against Bishop Luers and Blackhawk Thursday night.

The boys' team won 166-20 over Bishop Luers and 166-76 over Blackhawk, while the girls won 147-17 over Bishop Luers and 147-76 over Blackhawk.

The boys were led by Braden Lemler with a perfect 16 points. Event winners include Noah Brooks, Isaac Wheeler, Braden Lemler, Athan King, Evan Klopfenstein, Griffin Linderwell, Wes Frettinger, Lincoln Rodgers and Jackson Meyer. Events were not specified at the time of publication.

Individual winners

- Girls**
- Tess Frauhiger, Libby Arnett, Ellie Coyne and Kierstynn Reed in the 200-yard medley relay.
- Coyne in the 200-yard freestyle and in the 100-yard breaststroke.
- Anna Zurcher in the 200-yard IM.
- Emily Hansen in the 50-yard freestyle.
- Adalynn Fiechter in the diving events.
- Frauhiger in the 100-yard butterfly and in the 100-yard backstroke.
- Reed in the 100-yard freestyle.
- Zurcher, Frauhiger, Chloe Bredemeyer and Reed in the 200-yard freestyle relay.
- Coyne, Bredemeyer, Hansen and Zurcher in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

Bluffton will be back at home against Adams Central at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 10.

Knights take down Lions in boys', girls' swimming

Norwell swept the Northeast 8 Conference swim battle with Leo at home Thursday night.

The Knight boys won 121-62, while the girls won 138-45.

Individual winners:

- Boys**

- Braden Hoag, Colten Strunk, Kale Meredith and Ethan Williamson in the 200-yard medley relay.

- Gage Reinhard in the 200-yard freestyle.

- Evan Swallow in the 200-yard IM.

- Strunk in the 50-yard freestyle and in the 100-yard butterfly.

- Ben Peterson in the diving events.

- Meredith in the 100-yard freestyle and in the 100-yard breaststroke.

- Williamson in the 500-yard freestyle.

- Peterson, Williamson, Reinhard and Strunk in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

- Parker McCartney, Williamson, Reinhard and Meredith in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

- Girls**
- Annalise Cornett, Emerson Meredith, Marlee Meredith and Cassie Coyne in the 200-yard medley relay.

- Karrigan Melcher in the 200-yard freestyle.

- Coyne in the 200-yard IM and in the 100-yard freestyle.

- Cornett in the 50-yard freestyle and in the 100-yard backstroke.

- Emerson Meredith in the diving events and in the 500-yard freestyle.

- Marlee Meredith in the 100-yard butterfly and in the 100-yard breaststroke.

- Emma Easley, Coyne, Olivia Daniel and Marlee Meredith in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

- Melcher, Cornett, Easley and Emerson Meredith in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

- Norwell will host NE8 foe Bellmont at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10.

Knights, Tigers split middle school boys' hoops games

Norwell and Bluffton-Harrison middle schools split their boys' basketball games Thursday night.

In the eighth grade game, the Tigers won 42-34, improving to 6-1 on the season. The Tigers were led by Vince Lambert with 15 points and was 4-4 from three, Maddox White (12), Chase Kistler (12) and nine rebounds, Ethan Ribich (3) and Wyatt Holmes had 10 rebounds.

Norwell was led by Landon Clark with 10 points, Maddux Thornton (6), Benji Lukins and Titus Jacob (5), Griffin Bailey (4) and Cody Waldman and Ben Captain (2).

The Knights won the seventh grade game 43-33 and improved to 7-1 on the season. The Knights were led by Wes Dafforn with 15 points, Oakley Bryant (6), Gabe Gerber (9) Jace Reinhard (8) and Blake Fuess (5).

The Tigers' loss pets them in 5-2 on the season. They were led by Davin Drayer with 16 points and nine rebounds, Riker Beste (7), Easton Schipper (5), Kreigh Ault (3) and Simeon Terry (2).

Tigers' middle school girls split with Summit

The Bluffton-Harrison Middle School teams split Summit on Wednesday.

The eighth grade team remained perfect with a 5-0 record, winning 35-13. Audrey Mechling led the Tigers with 12 points, Josie Nash seven, Anna Hartman and Khloe Gehrett (4), Gracie Jellison (3) and Aria Westlund and Averie Patton (2).

The seventh grade team lost 33-20 and fell to 3-2 on the season. Adrienne Smallman scored nine points to lead the team, followed by Averie Pearson (3) and Olivia Brown, Cheyenne Sonngisen, Myah Marin, Alaya Reinhard (2).



Cadillac F1 names Graeme Lowdon its team principal in prep for 2026 debut

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

The new Cadillac F1 team will be led by veteran motorsports and Formula 1 team executive Graeme Lowdon, TWG Global and General Motors said Thursday.

Lowdon was named team principal of the two-car organization expected to join the grid in 2026 as F1 expands to 11 teams to accommodate the American team.

"I would like to thank everyone involved for placing their trust in me," Lowdon said. "I believe that Formula 1 is the greatest team sport in the world, and teams are all about people. This is a team with a real love for, and desire to go, racing, and we have the experience and expertise to do just that."

Lowdon has been advising the effort the last two years as Michael Andretti tried to get an Andretti Global with General Motors entry accepted into F1. Andretti stepped aside last month and the expansion was approved last week.

Lowdon has previous experience in team management, engineering and operations at the top levels of motorsports, including F1 and the World Endurance Championship. He's been at many F1 races the last two years lobbying on behalf of the American team.

"His experience on both the technical and managerial sides of Formula 1 and other motorsports ventures will serve him well as he builds the Cadillac Formula 1 team," said Dan Towriss, CEO of TWG Global's motorsport business.

He's also been working closely with GM, which will be partners with the team under its Cadillac brand. It won't have an engine ready for competition until 2028, so Cadillac F1 will have to lease engines — from Ferrari, most likely — for the first two years.

"Graeme has been a pleasure to work with over the past two years and we're excited he will lead our journey to the 2026 Formula 1 grid as team principal," General Motors President Mark Reuss said. "He has great racing expertise, he knows how to assemble a high-performing team and he embodies the values the Cadillac Formula 1 Team will represent in all its endeavors, on or off the track."

Cadillac F1 will be the first new team to join F1 since 2016. Lowdon has led work already on aerodynamics, chassis and component development, software and vehicle dynamics simulation. The team has operations in Fishers, Indiana; Charlotte, North Carolina; Warren, Michigan; and Silverstone, England.



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High School Calendar

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 Huntington North, 7:30 p.m.
SATURDAY, DEC 7
BOYS BASKETBALL:

Oak Hill at Norwell, 1:30 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL:
Bluffton at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m.
WRESTLING: Norwell at Shamrock Duals, 9 a.m.
MONDAY, DEC 9
No events scheduled.
TUESDAY, DEC 10
BOYS BASKETBALL:

Southern Wells at Eastbrook, 7:30 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL:
Bluffton at Wabash, 7:30 p.m.; Blackhawk Christian at Southern Wells, 7 p.m.
SWIMMING & DIVING
(co-ed): Adams Central at Bluffton, 5:30 p.m.; Belmont at Norwell, 5:30 p.m.

Baldwin, Dilione lead Penn State to win over No. 8 Purdue

By TRAVIS JOHNSON
Associated Press

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) — Ace Baldwin Jr. scored 17 points, Freddie Dilione V added 14 and Penn State pulled away from No. 8 Purdue for an 81-70 victory in the Big Ten opener for both teams on Thursday night.

Puff Johnson had 13 and four steals, and Nick Kern Jr. had 12 points and three steals off the bench for the Nittany Lions (8-1, 1-0 Big Ten).

Penn State led by as many as 27 to earn its first win over an AP Top 10 team since 2019, prompting fans to storm the court at the Bryce Jordan Center. The Nittany Lions also snapped an eight-game losing streak to the Boilermakers and continued their best start in a decade with their defense and transition offense.

Trey Kaufman-Renn and Fletcher Loyer each had 15 for the Boilermakers (7-2, 0-1).

Takeaways

Purdue: The Boilermakers were off all night. They committed 14 of their 24 turnovers in the first half. Penn State's opportunistic offense potted 32 points off their mistakes.

Key moment

After trailing 9-7, Penn State pulled away with an 11-0 run and never trailed again. The Boilermakers cut it to 25-18, but the Nittany Lions outscored them 15-6 over the final 6:05 to take a 16-point lead into halftime.

Key stat

Rhoades said before the season he wants to average over 90 points per game. So far, Penn State's averaged 91 per game and has scored more than 80 in every game but its loss to Clemson.

Up next

Purdue hosts Maryland on Sunday, and Penn State visits Rutgers on Tuesday.

News-Banner Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

Table with NFL and National Conference scores, including teams like Buffalo, Miami, N.Y. Jets, and Pittsburgh.

Monday's Games

Cleveland at Denver, late
Thursday, Dec. 5
Detroit 34, Green Bay 31
Sunday, Dec. 8
Atlanta at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Las Vegas at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Miami, 1 p.m.
New Orleans at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Seattle at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
Buffalo at L.A. Rams, 4:25 p.m.
Chicago at San Francisco, 4:25 p.m.
Sunday Night Football: L.A. Chargers at Kansas City, 8:20 p.m.
Open: Baltimore, Denver, Houston, Indianapolis, New England, Washington
Monday, Dec. 9
Monday Night Football: Cincinnati at Dallas, 8:15 p.m.

Covenant Christian High School 49, Southmont 47
Cowan 31, Hagerstown 29
Dubois 45, Springs Valley 38
Eastern (Pekin) 51, Christian Academy of Madison 38
Floyd Central 50, Jeffersonville 33
Fremont 67, Edon, Ohio 22
Ft. Wayne South 62, Heritage 21
Glenn 53, S. Bend Trinity 15
Greensburg 66, S. Decatur 17
Hauser 45, Indpls Lutheran 26
Indpls Washington 37, Phalen 12
Lafayette Central Catholic High School 67, Fountain Central 32
Lakewood Park 48, New Haven 36
Linton 53, Eastern (Greene) 25
Morristown 64, Blue River Valley 30
Mt. Vernon (Fortville) 44, Connersville 41, OT
N. Central (Farmersburg) 50, Shakamak 25
N. Daviess 58, Bloomington Light-house 19
N. Harrison 56, New Albany 50
N. Judson 59, Argos 46
N. Montgomery 59, Covington 40
Northridge 66, E. Noble 41
Perry Central 65, Crawford Co. 45
Prairie Heights 46, Bethany Christian 34
Princeton 57, Forest Park 50
Rensselaer 74, Twin Lakes 39
Riverport Parke 58, Clay City 28
Southridge 43, Tell City 33
Speedway 63, Christel House Manual 7
Tecumseh 43, Heritage Hills 37
University 75, Anderson Prep Academy 35
Vincennes Rivet 69, Bloomfield 22
W. Central 67, Oregon-Davis 22
W. Noble 35, Westview 34
W. Washington 56, Mitchell 19
Warren Central 45, Indpls Ben Davis 32
Wawasee 37, Elkhart Christian 31
Westfield 38, Brebuert Jesuit Preparatory Academy 10

BASKETBALL

High School

Thursday Boys' Scores
Alexandria 42, New Castle 29
Anderson Prep Academy 66, Purdue Poly North 33
Gibson Southern 65, Jasper 44
Michigan City 79, Gary West 74
Michigan City Marquette 53, New Prairie 36
Northeastern 72, Centerville 54
Triton Central 60, Waldron 47
Vincennes Rivet 69, Bloomfield 22
Wawasee 44, Central Noble 20
Thursday Girls' Scores
Barr-Reeve 43, Pike Central 18
Batesville 49, Franklin Co. 43
Benton Central 56, W. Lafayette 30
Bloomington South 70, Terre Haute North 24
Bluffton 73, Blackford 20
Borden 61, New Washington 18
Carroll (Flora) 49, Western 46
Castle 40, Jasper 32
Corydon 64, Scottsburg 49

College

Men's Scores
Penn St. 81, Purdue 70

SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers filled in.

Difficulty: ★★★★★

12/6

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

COUNTY BUILDING INSPECTOR

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

Coordinates the preparation and presentation of an annual budget for the Building Department; directs the implementation of the department's budget; plans for and reviews specifications for new or replaced equipment. Construct and establish a local building code based off state code requirements and needs of the county. Controls the expenditure of departmental appropriations. Receives complaints, investigates, and issues unsafe building violations, nuisance violations and minimum housing standards violations, as appropriate. Completes continuing education classes on building codes and practices, as needed. Reviews the building plan for the County. Approves the building permits, issues permits, and collects the fees for the permits, as necessary. Issues certificates of occupancy, as needed. Maintains an effective communication process with the Commissioners. Bachelor's degree (B.A./B.S.) from a four-year college or university; and five years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. CBO Certification is required. Previous experience in building construction or related field is required. Previous supervisory experience is required.

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

Help Wanted

WELLS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

WELLS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE is currently seeking applicants for the position of Full Time Deputy Sheriff. Applicants must be a US Citizen, at least 21 years of age upon graduation from police academy, possess a high school diploma or equivalent as well as a valid Indiana Operators License. Applicant can't have any felony convictions. Applicants must pass all aspects of the hiring process including physical agility testing, written examination, background investigation, oral interview, polygraph and psychological evaluation. Selected applicant must be able to graduate from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. ILEA certified applicants do not have to attend the physical agility and written examination portion of the process. 20-year matrix salary range for a Deputy Sheriff (no rank) is \$58,300 - \$70,500. Years of service and experience will be honored for a starting salary up to five years in the pay matrix. Application can be found on our website at www.wellscountysheriff.com. Once application is completed, details on the testing date and location will be emailed to the applicant. The application must be completed by December 27, 2024.

THE NEWS-BANNER IS

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

5 for \$5 SPECIAL! Earn extra cash by selling your "unwants"! A 20-word, line classified ad is \$5 for 5 Days! For sale items Only. Contact the Bluffton News-Banner office at 125 N. Johnson St., 260-824-0224, or classifieds.news-banner.com.

The Classifieds

Place Your Ad 24/7: GO TO www.news-banner.com AND CLICK ON "Classifieds" OR CALL 824-0224 MON-FRI 8-5 • TOLLFREE 800-579-7476 • FAX 824-0700

FOR SALE, SERVICES, VEHICLES, Campers/RV's, Read & recycle this newspaper

Lottery Numbers

Thursday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY

Cash 5 — 01-02-15-17-22
Cash4Life — 05-19-20-29-45, Cash Ball: 04
Quick Draw Midday — 02-04-07-10-22-23-25-26-32-41-42-46-52-56-57-64-72-75-76-79, BE: 72
Daily Three-Midday — 02-05-05, SB:09
Daily Three-Evening — 03-05-08, SB: 02
Daily Four-Midday — 06-07-03-07, SB: 09
Daily Four-Evening — 06-08-06-04, SB: 02
Quick Draw Evening — 02-10-11-13-14-23-25-35-36-48-49-54-56-57-58-64-68-72-73-80, BE: 13
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$30.8 million
MEGA MILLIONS
Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$79 million
POWERBALL
Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$260 million

Public Notices

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION TO CREDITORS ESTATE NO. 90C01-2411-EU-000045

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WELLS COUNTY
Notice is hereby given that MICHELLE MCZEGLE was on the 22nd day of November, 2024, appointed as Personal Representative of the ESTATE OF RONALD G. MCZEGLE, deceased, who died on the 10th day of May, 2024.

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

DATED AT BLUFFTON, INDIANA, THIS 22 DAY OF November, 2024.

Beth Davis
CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA
nb 12/6, 12/13 hspaxlp

SUDOKU ANSWER

9x9 grid showing the solution to the Sudoku puzzle.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON INCREASES TO ELECTRIC RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE CITY OF BLUFFTON, INDIANA. Property owners, ratepayers, and other interested parties... APPENDIX A - ELECTRIC RATES AND CHARGES. 13.04.030 RATE RS - ELECTRIC RESIDENTIAL SERVICE AVAILABILITY. 13.04.040 RATE CS - ELECTRIC COMMERCIAL SERVICE. 13.04.050 RATE MS ELECTRIC MUNICIPAL SERVICE. 13.04.060 RATE GS ELECTRIC GENERAL SERVICE. 13.04.080 RATE OF OUTDOOR LIGHTING SERVICE.

Hegseth faces senators' concerns about his behavior, views on women in combat

By MARY CLARE JALONICK,
LISA MASCARO
and LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pete Hegseth has spent the week on Capitol Hill trying to reassure Republican senators that he is fit to lead President-elect Donald Trump's Department of Defense in the wake of high-profile allegations about excessive drinking and sexual assault.

But senators in both parties have also expressed concern about another issue — Hegseth's frequent comments that women should not serve in front-line military combat jobs.

As the former Army National Guard major and combat veteran fights to salvage his Cabinet nomination, meeting with senators for a fourth day Thursday with promises not to drink on the job and assurances he never engaged in sexual misconduct, his professional views on women troops have also come under scrutiny. He said as recently as last month that women "straight up" should not serve in combat roles.

North Dakota Sen. Kevin Cramer said Wednesday that he confronted Hegseth about the issue when they spoke one-on-one.

"I said to him, just so you know, Joni Ernst and Tammy Duckworth deserve a great deal of respect," Cramer said, referring to two female senators who sit on the Senate Armed Services Committee. Both Ernst, R-Iowa, and Duckworth, D-Ill., are combat veterans who served in the Iraq war, and Duckworth lost both legs when a Blackhawk helicopter she was piloting was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade.

Ernst, a former Army National Guard member and a retired lieutenant colonel who spent more than two decades in the service, was circumspect after her own meeting with Hegseth, saying only that they had a "frank and thorough conversation." She has spoken openly about surviving sexual assault while in college and worked to ensure a safe environment for women in uniform.

The Iowa senator demurred again Thursday on whether she will support Hegseth's nomination, praising his service but telling Fox News that a "very thorough vetting" is needed.

Along with the reports of his previous behavior, the bipartisan concerns about Hegseth's comments on women have put his nomination in some peril, contributing to general uncertainty about whether his nomination will

make it to a hearing next month. While Hegseth said that Trump is "behind us all the way," and he's put in a full week's work explaining himself to senators, some Republicans are not yet committing their support.

South Dakota Sen. Mike Rounds said after meeting with Hegseth on Thursday that he "went a long way today" in getting his full support, but "I want him to be able to answer in front of everybody else the questions that are there and to do a good job on it."

Rounds said the issue of women in combat didn't come up in his meeting but that Hegseth can explain himself in a hearing.

"Women are integrated into our armed forces today, and they do a great job," Rounds said.

The role of women in the military is another entry in the far-right's efforts to return the armed forces back to an earlier era, something Hegseth has embraced with Trump's approach to end "woke" programs that foster diversity, equity and inclusion in the ranks and fire generals who reflect those values.

Military and defense leaders, however, have argued that it would be fundamentally wrong to eliminate half the population from critical combat posts, and they have flatly denied that standards were lowered to allow women to qualify.

In remarks Wednesday, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin touted the service of women, including in his own combat units when he was a commander in Iraq.

"If I get a little fired up about this, it's just because this isn't 1950. It isn't 1948. It is 2024," Austin said.

Hegseth has so far pushed back questions about his views.

"We have amazing women who serve our military," Hegseth said Tuesday, "amazing women who serve in our military."

Pressed if they should serve in combat, Hegseth said they already do.

But he said as recently as last month that women "straight up" should not serve in combat. It "hasn't made us more lethal. Has made fighting more complicated," he said in a podcast before he was nominated by Trump. In his own writings, he has expanded on views of a more masculine-focused military.

As he tries to shore up votes in his own party, Hegseth has yet to meet with Duckworth or any of the other Democrats on the committee. Duck-

worth, a Democrat and Purple Heart recipient, also rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel before retiring after 23 years in the Reserve forces. She later served as an assistant secretary at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

North Dakota Sen. Cramer said he told Hegseth that his confirmation hearing "won't be pleasant" as Democrats, in particular, grill him on his views. As members of the Armed Services panel, both Ernst and Duckworth will have a chance to ask him questions.

Trump, for now, appears to be standing aside as Hegseth fights to preserve his nomination, even as suggestions float about a possible replacement pick, including former Trump rival Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, to lead the Pentagon.

Trump's closest allies in the Senate expressed cautious optimism that Hegseth will not be replaced — immediately at least. "It's not in trouble until it's over," said Sen. Markwayne Mullin, R-Okla. "Right now we've got to move forward."

"We're going to push as long as he's wanting to be there, and as long as the president still wants him in place, we're going to push and do all we can to get him confirmed," Mullin said.

At the same time, The Heritage Foundation, the conservative think tank behind Project 2025, said it would be spending \$1 million to put pressure on senators unwilling to support Hegseth, the group's president told The Associated Press on Thursday.

"The establishment is trying to take his scalp," said Kevin Roberts, president of The Heritage Foundation after an event in Mar-a-Lago. "He would be a wonderful secretary of defense."

About 17.5% of the more than 1.3 million active-duty service members are women, a total that has grown steadily over the past two decades. They have served in combat in a wide array of military jobs, including as pilots and intelligence officers for years.

The Pentagon formally opened all combat jobs to women in 2015, including frontline infantry and armor posts, and since then thousands of women have been in jobs that until that time were male-only.

As of this year, nearly 4,800 women are serving in Army infantry, armor and artillery jobs, more than 150 have completed the Army Ranger course and a small number have qualified for more elite special operations units, including as Army Green Berets.

Public Sale Calendar

DECEMBER 6 - 9 a.m. - Secured creditors & various consignors, owners. 815 Adams, St., Decatur. Truck & equipment auction! Onsite and online bidding offering 600+ lots! Cars, SUV, 1/2 ton & 3/4 ton pickup trucks, cargo & passenger vans, dump trucks, large group of box trucks, day cabs, sleepers, utility trucks, bucket trucks, utility & semi trailers, SUV's pickup trucks, various skid steer attachments, much more! Accepting consignments! *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, Kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.

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, 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.*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

BIDDING CLOSES DECEMBER 15 - 6 p.m. - Online Only - Jim Baker, owner. AIRPLACO Pumpmaster MJ-16 concrete slab jacking pump system including pump, mixer and tandem trailer, concrete hole drill, Campbell Hausfeld stationary air compressor, smoker grill, handmade rustic furniture, beautiful antique furniture, Husqvarna garden tractor, 2 table saws, hand tools, power tools, building supplies, TV, modern furniture and much more! Preview 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 Carter, 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, 260-824-3006.

DECEMBER 29-JANUARY 5 - Bidding starts closing at 2 p.m. - The Estate of Eldrid Tinkel, seller. Large antique and collectible auction including country primitives, vintage farm toys, vintage toy trucks, early cast iron, brass cash register, large antique and rare collection of vintage 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.

Thank you for reading

The News-Banner

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