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BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

\$1.00

Donaghy retires from 28 years on Norwell board

By HOLLY GASKILL

Gene Donaghy's tenure on the Norwell Community Schools board has followed 14 classes from their first to last days of school.

First elected on Nov. 5, 1996, Donaghy has served the district as a board member for seven uninterrupted terms, 28 years in total. This time has included two new buildings, four superintendents, multiple construction projects and thousands of Norwell graduates.

After this month, he'll pass the torch onto incoming board member Todd Nash — but his support of Norwell will remain a life-long passion.

Donaghy graduated with the Norwell High School Class of 1973 — the

second class to have made it through four years at the then-new school, he said. His mom, Helen, was the first-ever librarian at NHS. He was an incredibly involved student, playing multiple sports, performing in the band, and being active in the National Honor Society.

Donaghy married his high school sweetheart, Helen Houtz, in 1975. The two began dating on Norwell's set of "Fiddler on the Roof," where Donaghy was a stage manager and Helen played a ghost.

Their four daughters — Sarah, Renee, Trisha and Allee — are also NHS graduates. Donaghy had intended to run for the school board for some time and followed predecessor Mike Todd in time to hand his eldest

daughter, Sarah, her diploma at commencement in 1997. "Hers, as well as the other three — that was always kind of special," Donaghy said.

Donaghy said most moments as a school board member are far less glamorous, however. While he's had over 600 board meetings during his tenure, Donaghy recalled just a few as the "biggest" — most deal with small discussions of personnel, policy and purchases.

"But you have to be there for all of it," Donaghy assured. "You know, if you've only got one thing on your mind that you're going to do, that doesn't do anything for anybody except just raise havoc. You need to be on there for everything ... we're working together."

Amidst "everything," Donaghy said his heart has ultimately been to help students find their passion. He was once uncertain about his own path

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Gene Donaghy's yearbook photo from his senior year at Norwell High School.



Gene Donaghy listens to a proposal to purchase a new software for Norwell Community Schools' transportation department at the board's Nov. 26 meeting. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)



Total loss

A home in the 800 block of South Johnson Street was destroyed by a fire late Thursday night. Fire departments were dispatched to site at approximately 10:39 p.m. and the fire was under control at 12:31 a.m. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)

Indianapolis police officers acquitted in the 2022 death of a man at his parents' home

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Two Indianapolis police officers were acquitted of manslaughter and other charges Friday in the death of a man after officers shocked him with a Taser and restrained him face down while handcuffing him.

Jurors began deliberating Friday morning and took less than three hours to come up with a verdict following five days of testimony in the trial over the 2022 death of Herman Whitfield III, local news outlets reported.

Officers Adam Ahmad and Steven Sanchez were tried together. The jury acquitted

them on all charges: one felony count each of involuntary manslaughter, reckless homicide, battery resulting in serious bodily injury and battery resulting in moderate injury, and one misdemeanor battery charge.

Marion County Prosecutor Ryan Mears said in a statement after the verdicts were handed down that he was "heartbroken" for Whitfield's family.

John Kautzman, one of the officers' attorneys, told The Associated Press that the defense team was "very, very pleased with the outcome of the case" and police officers

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U.S. added 227,000 jobs in November in a bounce-back from October slowdown

By PAUL WISEMAN and ANNE D'INNOCENZIO AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's job market rebounded in November, adding 227,000 workers in a solid recovery from the previous month, when the effects of strikes and hurricanes had sharply diminished employers' payrolls.

Last month's hiring growth was up considerably from a meager gain of 36,000 jobs in October. The government also revised up its estimate of job growth in September and October by a combined 56,000.

Friday's report from the Labor Department report showed that the unemploy-

ment rate ticked up from 4.1% in October to a still-low 4.2%. Hourly wages rose 0.4% from October to November and 4% from a year earlier — both solid figures and slightly higher than forecasters had expected.

The November employment report provided the latest evidence that the U.S. job market remains durable even though it has lost significant momentum from the 2021-2023 hiring boom, when the economy was rebounding from the pandemic recession. The job market's gradual slowdown is, in part, a result of the high interest rates the Federal Reserve engineered in

its drive to tame inflation.

The Fed jacked up interest rates 11 times in 2022 and 2023. Defying predictions, the economy kept growing despite much higher borrowing rates for consumers and businesses. But since early this year, the job market has been slowing.

Thomas Simons, U.S. economist at Jefferies, wrote in a commentary that the recovery from October's strikes and hurricanes likely boosted last month's payrolls by 60,000, suggesting that the job market is strong enough to absorb most job-seekers but not enough to raise worries about inflation. The healthy gain of

(Continued on Page 2)



Scenes from 'The Nutcracker'

The Creative Arts Dance Company presented excerpts from "The Nutcracker" Friday evening, featuring the classic Sugar Plum Fairy presented by Isabela Curless (at left). Above is the Party Guests scene, featuring Lexie Anderson, Jonah Bultemeier, Avery King, Clara Kipfer, Eliza Kunkel, Hannah Lewis, Junia Kay Schnaars, Jordyn Towne and Halleigh Valenti. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)

The group will give another performance at 3 p.m. Dec. 7 at the Creative Arts Auditorium, 428 S Oak St. in Bluffton. Admission is \$5.

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Outside

A sunny, warm and windy weekend

Today	Sunday	Monday
High 42	High 50	High 52
Low 34	Low 39	Low 35

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Donaghy retires

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in life, attending Purdue University for engineering because someone told him to.

He landed at American Electric Power after graduating and eventually identified his passion where it had always really been — with people. Donaghy transitioned into customer service at AEP and continued in the field for 37 years.

“I still thank God he has plans for you,” Donaghy says. “I didn’t realize he had a plan for me to be in customer service. But I loved working with people. I was five-years-old when my cousin got me to work (my first job) at the orchard — I loved selling apples and talking to people, and then it (working with people) was just something I really liked to do.”

Donaghy has been a champion of Norwell, attending numerous student events and always slotting time to recognize student accomplishments during board meetings. He’s devoted decades toward the betterment of his alma mater.

But there’s a season for everything.

“I know the grandparents, but I don’t know a lot of the parents,” Donaghy



Outgoing board members Gene Donaghy (left) and Angie Topp (right) tour the Norwell Middle School construction site last April. Donaghy is retiring after 28 years of service and Topp after 12 years. Both will be honored with a reception following Tuesday's board meeting. (News-Banner file photo)

explained. “We had kids at Norwell forever it seemed like, and we knew all the parents, and we’d talk to them.” As that’s changed, Donaghy feels it’s time for someone with closer connections to the school to lead.

Even so, there’s virtually never a point where Norwell schools haven’t been a part of Donaghy’s life — and he’s not abandoning ship

any time soon.

Donaghy now has grandchildren at Norwell, as well as adult children working in the district. Sarah, now Sarah Uhrinsko, is a kindergarten teacher at Lancaster Elementary School. Allee’s husband, Andrew Enderle, is the Norwell Middle School principal.

“I’m busy enough anyway,” Donaghy joked. “But

I’ll still go to the volleyball games, basketball games, football games and stuff like that.”

This Tuesday will be Donaghy’s last meeting as a board member. He and Angie Topp, who is retiring from the board after 12 years, will be honored in a reception following the 5:30 p.m. meeting at Norwell High School.

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Indianapolis police officers

(Continued from Page 1)

shouldn’t go to prison for doing their jobs.

“We felt that they acted appropriately under very difficult circumstances and we’re really happy they were exonerated,” Kautzman said.

The Whitfield family’s attorney, Richard Waples, didn’t immediately respond to a voicemail seeking comment.

Ahmad, 32, and Sanchez, 35, were indicted by a grand jury in April 2023 after Whitfield’s family spent nearly a year demanding that authorities release full body camera videos of his encounter with police and called for the firing of up to six officers.

The videos, which were released in January 2023, document Whitfield’s chaotic final moments.

Both officers have remained on administrative duty with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department during the case. Chief Chris Bailey posted on X that both officers will resume their normal duties after completing refresher training.

Bailey also extended his sympathies to Whitfield’s family and commended, Ahmad, Sanchez and other officers and detectives who testified during the trial for their “professionalism and resilience.”

Whitfield’s parents, Herman Whitfield Jr. and Gladys Whitfield, called 911 on April 25, 2022, and reported that their 39-year-old son, a gifted pianist, was in the throes of a mental health crisis at the family’s Indianapolis home.

Whitfield was pronounced dead at a hospital after Sanchez shocked him with a Taser and he and Ahmad held Whitfield face down on the floor of his parents’ dining room as he was being handcuffed.

The Marion County Coroner’s Office ruled Whitfield’s death a homicide, caused by heart failure as he was being restrained and shocked.

According to the report, Whitfield weighed 389 pounds. The coroner’s office listed “morbid obesity” and “hypertensive cardiovascular disease” as contributing factors in his death.

Daniel Cicchini, the chief trial deputy for the Marion County Prosecutor’s Office, said in his opening statement on Dec. 2 that the two officers acted “recklessly” by restraining Whitfield face down longer than necessary.

“Essentially, his heart and lungs could no longer function properly,” Cicchini told the jury. “When they kept him in that position, they did so recklessly.”

He said the officers’ actions left Whitfield

“unable to breathe.”

“In April 2022, Herman Jr. and Gladys Whitfield reached out for help, hoping that the police would protect their son in a moment of desperate need and the result of what ensued was a tragedy,” Mears, the prosecutor, said in his statement Friday.

Ahmad and Sanchez’s attorneys argued that the officers did nothing illegal.

One of their attorneys, Mason Riley, said during his opening statement that Whitfield suffered from an enlarged heart. He said Whitfield, who weighed 389 pounds according to his autopsy, died “before the handcuffing concluded.”

“Neither of them have committed a single criminal act,” Riley said of the co-defendants.

He also said neither officer, nor other officers who responded to the family’s home, heard Whitfield say that he couldn’t breathe.

The officers’ attorneys had sought to have the charges dismissed against both men, arguing in part that the grand jury proceedings were “defective” and that “the facts stated do not constitute an offense.”

The court dismissed a second count of involuntary manslaughter that Sanchez had faced, but it allowed the remaining charges against the officers to proceed to trial.

A lawsuit filed by Whitfield’s family against the city of Indianapolis and six police officers, including Ahmad, Sanchez and Clark, states that Whitfield “died because of the force used against him” and calls the force used against him “unreasonable and excessive.”

“Mr. Whitfield needed professional mental health care, not the use of excessive force,” the lawsuit contends.

The family is seeking unspecified damages. That civil case is set for trial in July 2025 in federal court in Indianapolis.

Weather

Saturday, December 7, 2024

(24-hour observations at 9:55 p.m. Friday)

High: 31; Low: 15; Precipitation: Trace of snow

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.09 feet at 8:45 p.m. Friday

Wells County forecast

Today: Partly sunny, with a high near 42. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 34. Southwest wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 50. Southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Sunday Night: Showers, mainly after 1 a.m. Low around 39. South wind around 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.

Monday: A 50% chance of showers before 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 52.

Monday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 35.

Tuesday: A slight chance of rain before 1 p.m., then a slight chance of showers after 1 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 44. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Hamas official says ceasefire talks have resumed after hiatus

ISTANBUL (AP) — A Hamas official said Thursday that international mediators have resumed negotiating with the militant group and Israel over a ceasefire in Gaza, and that he was hopeful a deal to end the 14-month war was within reach.

Ceasefire negotiations were halted last month when Qatar suspended talks with mediators from Egypt and the United States because of frustration over a lack of progress between Israel and Hamas. But there has been a “reactivation” of efforts in recent days to end the fighting, release hostages from Gaza and free Palestinian prisoners in Israel, according to Bassem Naim, an official in Hamas’ political bureau who spoke with The Associated Press in Turkey.

Another official familiar with the talks confirmed the return of Qatari mediators. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the negotiations with the media.

Since the talks broke down, there have been significant shifts in the global and regional landscape. Donald Trump won the U.S. presidential election, and a ceasefire was declared last week between Israel and Hamas ally Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Previous rounds of negotiations focused on variations of a proposal calling for a multiphased ceasefire — beginning with a preliminary six-week halt in fighting during which female, elderly and sick hostages would be freed in exchange for Palestinian prisoners.

During that time, Israel would pull back some forces, and displaced Palestinians would be allowed to return home. The sides would also begin talks on the next phase that would include the full withdrawal of Israeli forces, the release of remaining hostages and the terms of a permanent end to the war. A third, final phase would focus on reconstruction.

U.S. added jobs

(Continued from Page 1)

227,000 payroll jobs in November was derived from a Labor Department survey of employers. A separate survey of households, which determines the unemployment rate, looked weaker: The ranks of the unemployed rose by 161,000. And the number of Americans who said they either had a job or were looking for one fell for a second straight month.

Economists also noted that the November job gains were narrow: Just three categories of employers — healthcare and social assistance; leisure and hospitality; and government — accounted for 70% of the added jobs. And the 22,000 jobs that factories gained in November were boosted by the end of strikes at Boeing and elsewhere that restored many workers to their employers’ payrolls. Retailers, by contrast, shed 28,000 jobs.

“I don’t think we should be misled by the solid number of 227,000,” said Julia Pollak, chief economist at the employment firm ZipRecruiter.

Pollak noted that averaging the October and November job gains amounts to a modest 132,000 per month.

“This report offers very

little evidence of a labor market rebound,” she said.

Still, Americans as a whole have been enjoying unusual job security. This week, the government reported that layoffs fell to just 1.6 million in October, below the lowest levels in the two decades that preceded the pandemic. At the same time, the number of job openings rebounded from a 3 1/2 year low, a sign that businesses are still seeking workers even though hiring has cooled.

The overall economy has remained resilient. The much higher borrowing costs for consumers and businesses that resulted from the Fed’s rate hikes had been expected to tip the economy into a recession. Instead, the economy kept growing as households continued to spend and employers continued to hire.

The economy grew at a 2.8% annual pace from July through September on healthy spending by consumers. Annual economic growth has topped a decent 2% in eight of the past nine quarters. And inflation has dropped from a 9.1% peak in June 2022 to 2.6% last month. Even so, Americans were deeply frustrated by

still-high prices under the Biden-Harris administration, and partly for that reason chose last month to return Donald Trump to the White House.

While comparatively few Americans are losing jobs, those who do are finding it harder to land a new one: The average unemployed American last month had been out of work for 23.7 weeks, the longest such stretch in 2 1/2 years.

The progress against inflation and the slowdown in hiring, which eases pressure on companies to raise wages and prices, led the Fed to cut its key rate in September and again last month. Another rate cut is expected to be announced when the Fed meets Dec. 17-18.

Pollak of ZipRecruiter said she sees some reason for optimism about the job market. Wage gains have been exceeding inflation for two years, for example, thereby strengthening Americans’ buying power. And lower borrowing rates are likely to encourage spending and hiring in the future.

“There are all kinds of mounting tailwinds that should propel this labor market forward,” she said.



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OBITUARIES

Howard Denial Perry, 84

Howard Denial Perry, 84, passed away Tuesday evening, Dec. 3, 2024, at his residence following an extended illness.

Howard was born in Bluffton on Feb. 19, 1940, to Kenneth W. and Mary Jane (Grogg) Perry, both parents preceded him in death. He married Bev A. (Bunyard) in Bluffton on Dec. 9, 1962, she survives in Bluffton.

He was a Bluffton High School Class of 1958 graduate, following graduation, he served in the United States Air Force for four years. Howard retired from the City of Bluffton Police Dept. in 1989, serving as a patrolman and dispatcher for 26 1/2 years. Following retirement, he moved to North Webster, Indiana and worked part-time for the local grocery as a carry-out, where the locals knew Howard as the Birthday singer to local customers. He enjoyed singing, fishing and hunting, fixing up bicycles, lawn mowers and treasure hunting the streets of Bluffton. Howard never met a stranger and was always ready to lend a helping hand. Howard served as secretary for the Bluffton Men's Monday Nite bowling league for several years.

In addition to his wife, Howard is survived by two daughters, Beth (Kenny) Garison of Bluffton and Holly McAfee of Toc-



sin, Indiana; five grandchildren, Kara L. Rockwell, Leah (Trent) Miller, Josh (Ashley) McAfee, Caleb (Becca) McAfee and Amy (Chris) Barbknecht; five great-grandchildren, JJ McAfee, Iva McAfee, Eli Miller, Adelaide Miller and Raema Miller; a brother, Kenneth Perry of Keystone; and a sister, Roxanna Thompson of Poneto; and a half sister, Jessica (Lowell) Lynn of Coatesville, Indiana.

Howard was preceded in death by his parents; a son-in-law, Jann McAfee; three brothers, Max, Harold and Steve Perry; and a sister, Mary Lucille Angelo.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024, from 1:00 until 6:00 p.m. at Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton. A funeral service will be held on Monday, Dec. 9, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. at the funeral home with visitation one hour prior to the service. Pastor Steve Austin will officiate. Burial will follow at Six Mile Cemetery in Bluffton, with military honor's performed by the United States Air Force and the American Legion Post 111 Honor Guard.

Memorials can be made to Wells County Food Bank or Helping Hands.

Online condolences can be made to www.goodwincaleharnish.com.

Ellen Marie Fencl, 70

Ellen Marie Fencl, 70, of Ossian, passed away on Friday afternoon, Dec. 6, 2024, at her residence.

Funeral arrangements are pending at this time with the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

Sue A. Manning, 78

Sue A. Manning, 78, of Fort Wayne, passed away Friday morning, Dec. 6, 2024, at Ashton Creek Health Care in Fort Wayne.

Funeral arrangements are pending at this time with the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

Indiana Democratic Party creates code of conduct, ethics committee to combat sexual harassment

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle

The Indiana Democratic Party's central committee adopted a code of conduct and agreed to form an ethics committee on Thursday evening — just two weeks after one of the state's top Democrats was accused of sexual harassment.

"We believe that all workplaces in our state should be free of any forms of harassment and discrimination," Chair Mike Schmuhl said, in a news release. Those putting forth allegations of wrongdoing "should have their complaint reviewed in a fair and impartial manner and should be protected from retaliation in their workplace," per Schmuhl.

The code applies to all party affiliates: elected officials, candidates, volunteers, official party members, party staff, party interns and party event attendees. It's meant to encourage a culture of engagement, civic action, respect, inclusion, and safety among all Hoosiers involved in Democratic politics, according to the release.

It covers incidents of bias, discrimination and harassment, with specific sections on sexual harassment prevention, protection from retaliation and disciplinary action for violators. That could include a written warning, censure, suspension or a ban, the release detailed.

Spokesman Sam Barloga said the party was working to adjust its rules and would soon put the updated documents online.

The central committee also formed an ethics committee Thursday, which will lead reviews of any code of conduct violations. The release said the panel's composition stats with the appointment of a chair and development of a process to accept and review complaints. The group will report its recommendations to the central committee

for deliberation and final action.

"Our values as the Democratic Party are vital, and these actions are important steps our party has taken to strengthen the reporting process for all party members and affiliates," Schmuhl said.

He said the party would "provide additional leadership and resources" to future campaigns across the state so campaign leaders "understand their role and responsibility to their staff as an employer."

And he acknowledged listening to party members' suggestions and criticisms over the last few weeks.

Forty Democrat women sent Schmuhl a scathing letter last month, accusing party leadership of "consistently sweep(ing) these issues under the rug and allow(ing) perpetrators to remain in power" — endangering women.

The Indianapolis Star last month reported three women have accused Minority Leader Sen. Greg Taylor of sexual harassment, including unwanted physical contact and romantic pursuit of an intern. In the article, Taylor didn't deny the harassment. Instead, he apologized for past behavior that "may have blurred the lines."

The same day the accusations went public, Taylor's caucus reelected him as their Senate leader. He hasn't taken questions from reporters since, instead denouncing racism and detailing long-shot priorities in prepared remarks during the ceremonial start to the legislative session.

"Taking action on this issue is a priority for me, our party, our team, and our State Central Committee," Schmuhl said. "A party is bigger than one person and I believe that our collective action today is a step in the right direction so our party is stronger for the future."

Obituary Policy

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

If additional information and/or a photo is desired to be included, or if the deceased does not meet the definitions of a "local" person, there is a charge.

Area funeral homes will provide details on the policy and will coordinate obituary publication.

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Bluffton Parks & Rec News & Notes



By Brandy Fiechter

Destination Recreation

Next week, Mrs. Claus will be visiting the Bluffton City Gym for Tot Time. Join us on Thursday, Dec. 12, from 11 a.m. to noon for a fun-filled morning with a bouncy house, Christmas stories, and craft activities. Later that evening, Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at **Winter Wonderland** from 5:30 to 7 p.m. to meet with the children. Enjoy games, more bouncing fun, and the chance to share your holiday wishes with Santa!

Get ready for a paws-itively festive event for your pup. You and your furry friends are invited to our annual free **Paws & Claus** celebration on Wednesday, Dec. 11, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Bluffton City Gym. Bring your camera and capture the perfect holiday moment as your pet meets Santa Claus. All pets will receive free treats, so bring your clean, leashed companion to join in the fun.

New **Festive Flow Yoga: A Night of Relaxation & Holiday Cheer**. Join us Thursday, Dec. 19, at Washington Park for a magical 1-hour yoga flow under sparkling Christmas lights that will leave you feeling merry and bright. After class, savor holiday treats and craft your holiday-inspired essential oil rollerball to take home. Bonus: Wear your "festive" yoga gear, and you'll receive a special holiday gift.

Spaces are limited, so gather your friends and treat yourself to an evening of movement, mindfulness and holiday magic. Register online at: <https://raceroster.com/events/2024/97695/festive-flow>

The last free **Theater Thursday** of the year will be at the Wells County Public Library on Thursday, Dec. 19. At 10 a.m., the film *Prancer: A Christmas Tale*, Rated PG, will be shown.

Sign up now for January's **Hooked on Crochet** classes. Join instructor Kathy Gehrett for three one-hour group lessons

at the City Hall building, 1st-floor board room (128 E. Market St.), from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays, Jan. 9, 16 and 23. The cost is \$20 for all three sessions, payable on the first day. Space is limited, so pre-register by calling the park office at 824-6069. Classes are open to both beginners and experienced crocheters.

The **Giant Stocking Coloring Contest** ends Friday, Dec. 13. Be sure to have the kids turn in their coloring page to the park office on the 2nd floor of City Hall by 4 p.m. for a chance to win a 4' stocking full of prizes.

Join us in decorating the **Community Positivi-Tree**. Bring an ornament with a positive message and hang it on the tree at Pickett's Run Park, located along the Story Walk trail on East Washington St. Whether you're celebrating the arrival of a new baby, a recent engagement, special moments with loved ones, or have an uplifting message to share, write it on a plastic ornament from home and add it to the tree. Your words will spread joy and positivity to all who stop by to read them.

City gym keys for next year are now on sale in the Parks Department's office on the 2nd floor of City Hall. The gym locks will be changed on Thursday, Jan. 2, by 10 a.m., so make sure you purchase one ahead of time. A single membership for 2025 is only \$95, and a family membership is \$125 for the entire year. Membership includes the basketball court, racquetball court, weight room, and restrooms.

Dog Park Keys are also on sale for the 2025 season in the Parks Department's office on the 2nd floor of City Hall. The \$25 fee covers all the dogs in your household for the 2025 year starting Jan. 2. Forms can be printed from the city's website at <https://tinyurl.com/yekxv4f9>.

Have a wonderful week!

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:

Thursday, 8:22 p.m., 903 S Main St. Verbal altercation. Business owner terminated employee for stealing, and employee advised he would leave when paid.

Friday, 12:28 p.m., 651 Beth Ave. One detained.

Friday, 8:28 a.m., Main Street and S.R. 124. Traffic stop. One detained. Vehicle towed.

Friday, 10:02 a.m., Bluffton Police Department. Sex offense.

Friday, 10:15 a.m., Bluffton Police Department. Report of someone trying to enter home early that morning.

Friday, 11:09 a.m., Bluffton High School. Citation issued for 56 in a 30 mph zone.

County: Friday, 7:18 a.m., S.R. 218 and C.R. 100 E, Bluffton. Car vs. deer.

Friday, 7:30 a.m., C.R. 400 S and 200 W, Bluffton. Car vs. deer.

Ossian: Friday, 3:41 a.m., U.S. 224 and C.R. 450 E, Ossian. Citation issued for 73 in a 55 mph zone.

ACCIDENTS

County:

Thursday, 8:49 a.m., S.R. 116 at C.R. 300 N, Murray. Benjamin Leamon, 48, Bluffton, was driving a 2010 Mercury Mariner southeast on C.R. 300 N and failed to see an eastbound 2012 Ford F150 driven by Dale A. Stephens, 85, Ossian, that had the right-of-way at the intersection. The F150 struck the driver's side of the Mariner. Leamon was transported to Lutheran Hospital with complaint of left side pain and a passenger of his vehicle was transported privately to Lutheran Hospital with complaint of head pain. Both vehicles were towed. Damage exceeded \$5,000.

Thursday, 11:15 p.m., C.R. 100 N near Meridian Road, Bluffton. Jimmy Perkins, 20, Liberty Center, was backing a 2002 Ford Ranger out of the driveway of 0392 E 100 N and went into the ditch. The vehicle slid down the ditch, turning onto its passenger side. Climbing out of the vehicle, Perkins grabbed something hot and burned his hand. The vehicle was towed. Damage exceeded \$2,500.

FIRES

Thursday, 4:17 p.m., Jefferson Street and Dyar Road, Ossian. Power lines down.

Thursday, 6:05 p.m., 16835 Indianapolis Rd., Yoder. Basement fire. Markle and Ossian fire departments assisted Allen County.

Thursday, 10:39 p.m., 819 S Johnson St., Bluffton. Structure fire. Bluffton, Ossian and Liberty Township fire departments responded. Fire under control at 12:31 a.m. Bluffton Fire Department returned to the site at approximately 8:57 a.m. Friday on report of smoke, steam only.

ARRESTS
Ryan Edward Mullins, 42, Fort Wayne; child solicitation, a Level 4 felony. Bond not set.

Carolina Benitez, 38, Fort Wayne; driving a vehicle without ever receiving a license, a Class C misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Howard Denial Perry
Calling: 1 - 6 p.m.
Sunday, December 8.
Funeral: 10:30 a.m.
Monday, December 9 at the funeral home.

Goodwin - Cale & Harnish
MEMORIAL CHAPEL
A Tradition of Caring
Locally Owned and Operated Since 1922
St. Rd. 124 East, Bluffton
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1 CORINTHIANS 10:11-13 SATURDAY | DECEMBER 7
God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. [1 CORINTHIANS 10:13]

TEMPTED AND TESTED

Stanley loves the freedom and flexibility that his job as a private-hire driver gives him. Among other things, he can start and stop work anytime, and he doesn't have to account for his time and movements to anyone. Yet, he said, that's ironically the hardest part.

"In this job, it's so easy to start an extramarital affair," he admitted frankly. "I pick up all sorts of passengers, yet no one, including my wife, knows where I am each day." It's not an easy temptation to resist, and many of his fellow drivers have given in to it, he explained. "What stops me is considering what God would think, and how my wife would feel," he said.

Our God, who created each one of us, knows our weaknesses, desires, and how easily we're tempted. But as 1 Corinthians 10:11-13 reminds us, we can ask Him for help. "God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear," Paul says. "When you are tempted, [God] will also provide a way out so that you can endure it" (v. 13). That "way out" could be a healthy fear of the consequences, a guilty conscience, remembering Scripture, a timely distraction, or something else. As we ask God for strength, the Spirit will turn our eyes from what's tempting us and help us look toward the way out that He's given us.

LESLE KAH

What temptations are you facing today? What way out might God be giving you to keep on His right and holy path?
Father, You know my weaknesses. Please give me the strength to resist temptation and to walk with You, in Your holy and life-giving ways.

For further study, read *Walking Free: Overcoming What Keeps Us* from Jesus at DiscoverODD.org.

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Family Ford of Bluffton
970 N. Main St., Bluffton
824-2300

The winter of nightmares and dreams

Baby it's cold outside. Where is global warming when we need it?

Saturday's Sub



Mark Miller

Welcome Dec. 7. It's become like Election Day. As the last day of open Medicare enrollment, the commercials and mailings will come to a merciful end. But I digress.

It has always been the intent in this Saturday morning space to muse on local issues or diversions about personal experiences that have a point. While we've opined on state-level issues from time to time, I like to leave the national news to our national columnists.

But this Hunter Biden thing is just wearing my molars out — gnashing of teeth and wringing of hands, indeed. It didn't help that our national columnists were slow to provide some commentary for us to use. In a sense, I understand their problem: Where to start? Where to end?

There are the prior promises (he assumed Kamala would do it for him). There are the excuses that the charges were politically motivated (although he'd never previously whined about that while his administration was busy doing just that to someone else. Or while his justice department tried to make a sweetheart-deal plea agreement that a federal judge threw out). There is the part that makes the pardon go back to include 2014 (which essentially pardons the president himself during Hunter's foray into the Ukrainian energy business, putting aside 10% for "the Big Guy").

What a nightmare. The federal judge involved in Hunter's case wrote a most interesting "Order RE: Notice of Pardon" released Tuesday that details discrepancies in President Biden's claims versus the facts of the case and concludes: "The Constitution provides the President with broad authority to grant reprieves and pardons for offenses against the United States, but nowhere does the Constitution give the President the authority to rewrite history."

To me, however, it's bigger than all of that. It exemplifies the state of affairs in our nation — how money and power have totally usurped the basic principles of what is right and wrong. This is particularly true in our nation's capital. Hunter Biden is just the small part we can see of the rotting iceberg that is Washington D.C.

I am afraid I might have the same problem as Purdue University's athletic director, Mike Bobinski, who, in his press conference Monday discussing his search for a new head football coach said "We will pay what we need to pay to get the very best head coach and the every best staff." He is only admitting to part of the reality of college athletics. Purdue will also have to pay what they need to pay to get the players.

Likewise, while I have long understood the reality that people get elected to Congress and somehow become filthy rich, there is a new level to this devility. Wall Street Journal columnist Peggy Noonan once shared a story about the difference between dogs and cats. You feed and dog and clean up its poop and the dog looks at you and thinks "Wow. You must be God." You feed a cat and clean up its poop and the cat looks at you and thinks "Wow. I must be God."

I paraphrase because I did not keep the column, but Noonan concluded by sharing that she likes to think most people elected to Congress go there as a dog. I don't think she included them all, but she was certain that far to many of them too soon become cats.

So like Mr. Bobinski at Purdue, I need to face the newer, broader reality which results in an almost depressing level of cynicism. Our leaders in Washington will ultimately only look out for themselves and their families. The rule of law and what's right for our country be damned.

I have not found much solace in our national columnists' observations. However, Fort Wayne's Mark Franke's account (in our Thursday edition) of a lengthy conversation he was part of with our newly elected Washington representative (will he be a dog or a cat?) at least challenged my negative mindset, concluding that "(Incoming Congressman Marlin) Stutzman's optimism, not my cynicism, is what the country needs now in abundance."

Hence, in order to not conclude this diatribe as too much of a negative-Nancy, I will share the first three things Congress could do to restore my optimism:

- Reclaim their authority by limiting executive orders, which could also be done by actually passing some legislation regarding immigration, vehicle emission mandates, etc. Perhaps throw in a Constitutional amendment to put limitations on or eliminate presidential pardons.
 - Get serious about the deficit. Make some serious decisions.
 - Spend less time raising money and more time governing.
- I can dream.

miller@news-banner.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

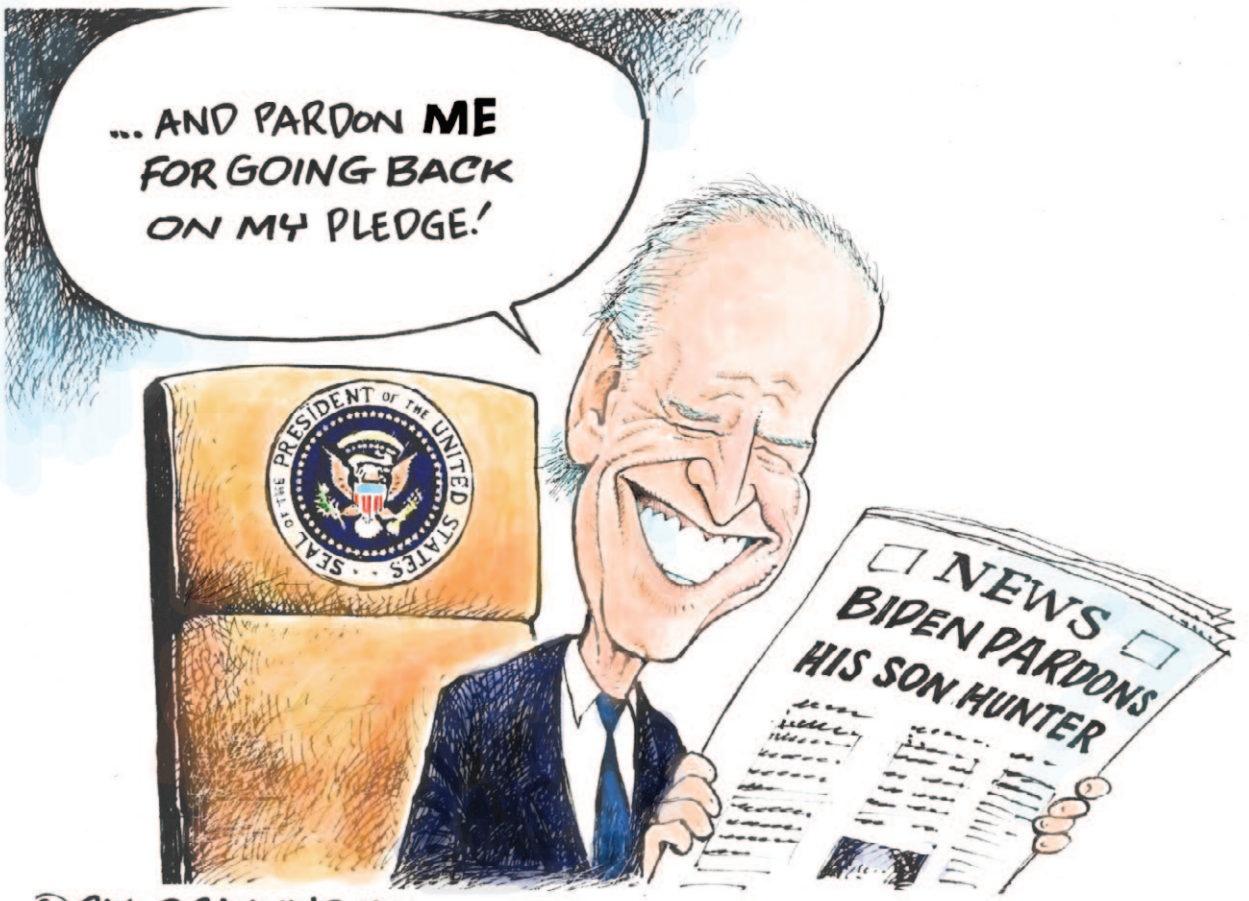
All letters must be signed and must include a phone number or address in case verification is desired. Letters are edited for brevity and clarity. Letters must be no more than 500 words. Please mark your correspondence as a "Letter to the Editor."

Today in History

By The Associated Press
Today is Saturday, Dec. 7, the 342nd day of 2024. There are 24 days left in the year.

Today in history:
On Dec. 7, 1941, the Empire of Japan launched an air raid on the U.S. Navy base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, killing more than 2,300 Americans. The United States declared war against Japan the following day.

Also on this date:
In 1787, Delaware became the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.
In 1972, America's last crewed moon mission to date was launched as Apollo 17 blasted off from Cape Canaveral.
In 1982, convicted murderer Charlie Brooks Jr. became the first U.S. prisoner to be executed by lethal injection, at a prison in Huntsville, Texas.



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POLITICAL CARTOONS.COM

The Hunter Biden pardon

Clearly, President Biden didn't mean it last June when he responded to a question from David Muir of ABC News about whether he would pardon his son, Hunter. "I am not going to do anything, I will abide by the jury's decision," the president said. He repeated that assertion on other occasions. So did his press secretary, Karine Jean-Pierre, many more times.

On Monday, the day after the pardon, Jean-Pierre was asked by a reporter accompanying the president on his trip to Africa whether her and the president's previous statements should be considered lies. She responded: "One of the things the president always believes is to be truthful to the American people." Presumably she said this with a straight face. To paraphrase Bill Clinton in a different context, I guess it depends on what the meaning of the word truth is.

It will be clear to many that the president's original pledges were made before the election for political reasons. There was no way he was going to let Hunter go to prison, especially since he is privy to so much inside information about what Republicans believe to be corruption in the Biden family.

The Hunter pardon again proves George Orwell's line in his novel "Animal Farm": "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others."

Rep. James Comer (R-KY), Chairman of the House Oversight Committee, has been investigating for many months alleged corruption in the entire Biden family, from Hunter's highly-paid position as a board member of the Ukraine gas company Burisma — for which he had no experience in the energy industry — to the 20 LLC's which Comer believes to have been used for money laundering for the benefit of Biden family members, including "10 percent for the big guy" as Hunter apparently referred to his father.

The pardon covers all of that and likely more. The claim "no one is above the law" should be discarded as untrue and never used again.

Biden's pardon of Hunter has led many to theorize there is something lurking underneath which is meant to also protect Hunter from charges that came to light in 2018.

Conservative commentator Liz Wheeler writes: "Hunter Biden joined the board of Burisma in 2014. By pardoning Hunter for any crimes he 'may have committed' from 2014-2024, Joe Biden is protecting his family's criminal cartel. Wow."

She added that Biden also seems to be protecting Hunter from Kash Patel, Trump's nominee to head the FBI. Patel has vowed to reform the law enforcement agency.

While the Constitution grants absolute pardon power to the president, it doesn't distinguish between those that are morally justifiable and those which are not. In theological circles, pardon is usually granted after repentance and statements of remorse. This acknowledges there is a law to which all people are expected to conform. To receive a pardon absent repentance makes a mockery of the law and suggests it can be unequally applied. The debate about our open southern border and the failure to enforce immigration laws is another form of legal inequality.

President Biden's pardon of his son will contribute to the growing cynicism many have about politics, politicians and Washington.

Fairness now demands that Biden pardon president-elect Trump, ensuring that the now former special counsel Jack Smith won't be able to resurrect charges he recently withdrew because of the Justice Department's policy of not prosecuting a sitting president. That would guarantee Trump is not prosecuted after the end of his second term.

I'm confident it will not happen.

caeditors@tribpub.com.



Cal Thomas

The end of a scam



Rich Lowry

How appropriate that the Biden presidency is ending with an act of self-dealing that he and his allies insisted, with great righteousness, would never happen.

Joe Biden was always a scam, and his pardon of his son, Hunter Biden, is just the latest evidence.

No one should have believed Biden's flagrant lie that he wouldn't pardon Hunter for his tax and gun crimes and other potential wrongdoing.

The president has a long record of dishonesty, about his own biography (which blew up his first presidential campaign in 1988) and especially about the family influence-peddling business that was at the root of Hunter's tax evasion — the president's son wouldn't have had any money to evade taxes on if it weren't for all the foreign largesse.

Every politician ends up shading the truth somewhere along the line, and it was going to be awkward for President Biden to admit that he might pardon his son. When asked about the possibility, though, the president could have said "no comment," or "I'm not going to discuss a hypothetical."

Instead, he flatly denied it, and his allies wove his denial into a narrative about Biden's abiding commitment to our system of justice. He was "a president living the rule of law" (MSNBC legal analyst Andrew Weissmann), and "a true American who believes in democracy and the way the system is supposed to work" (Joy Behar of "The View"). Etc., etc.

Now, Biden has made all the people who issued these stirring testimonials look like naifs and hacks.

Their mistake was attributing any

grandeur to Joe Biden. He's made a long, undistinguished career of being a middling politician from a small Democratic state and had just enough staying power to become president when he was already a has-been.

In sizing up Biden and Trump, the Democrats' media supporters could have paraphrased the famous bumper sticker from a 1991 Louisiana gubernatorial election featuring two unpalatable choices: "Vote for the unimpressive hack — it's important."

Instead, they felt compelled to create an illusory Biden, an epic figure whose amazing personal qualities made him an indispensable buttress

once-in-a-hundred-years pandemic. He was restoring faith in our system, even though he routinely exceeded his constitutional authority with his executive actions and he supported a court-packing scheme that, not too long ago, would have been universally condemned.

He had the health and mental acuity to serve another four years in office — never mind his marked decline that was plain for all to see.

And he was, whatever else you thought of him, rigorously ethical. This was an incredible claim given the amount of money that came sluicing into the family coffers thanks to the generosity of dubious foreign actors.

Biden denied knowing anything about Hunter's business dealings — a blatant lie.

He denied meeting with any of his clients — yet another lie.

And, true to form and appropriately enough, he lied about the prospect of pardoning him.

In justifying his act, Biden issued a misleading statement about the case and implied that his own Justice department, the institution whose integrity he was supposed to be upholding, engaged in a politically motivated prosecution of his own son.

He concluded with perhaps the most galling falsehood of all — "For my entire career I have followed a simple principle: Just tell the American people the truth."

Maybe, sunk in self-deception, the president somehow believes that, but no one else should. He's ending his term with a self-interested act that will only serve to convince more people that self-professed defenders of our institutions like him can't be trusted.

Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry



of our institutions and norms.

Biden was puffed up into a world-historical figure who had saved American democracy by winning one election against Donald Trump, who, of course, simply came right back to win another against his chosen successor, Kamala Harris.

He was a second coming of FDR, when the truth is that he won the presidency in 2020 by default against an unpopular incumbent buffeted by a



Call to Worship

This page is dedicated to the building of a more spiritual and greater church-going people and is made possible by the Advertisers on this page who want as their return to see more people go to church.



A CITY ON A HILL CHURCH
705 W.-900 N., Uniondale
9 a.m. - First Service.
10:45 - Second Service.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH - COUNTRY
1970 S.-800E., Bluffton
9:45 & 11:45 a.m. - Worship.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH - NORTH
630 E. Dustman Rd.
9:45 & 11:45 a.m. - Worship.

ASBURY CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST
8013 W.-1100S.-90, Montpelier
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School.
10:30 - Worship.

BETHEL
(Independent Bible)
4500E-300S, Bluffton
9 a.m. - Sunday School.
10 a.m. - Worship.

BETHEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS
6114E-750N, Ossian
blcsossian.org
9 a.m. - Divine Service.
10:15 - Adult Bible Class, Youth Bible Class & Sunday School.
11:30 - Voice of Bethlehem on 92.7 FM.

BLUFFTON CHURCH OF GOD
327 W. Cherry St.
10 a.m. - Sunday School.
11 a.m. - Church service.
6 p.m. - Service.

BLUFFTON WESLEYAN CHAPEL
(Independent Holiness Church)
1309 W. Washington St.
blufftonwesleyan.net
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School.
10:30 & 6:30 p.m. - Worship.

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
1515 Clark Ave.
blufftonnazarene.org
9 a.m. - Sunday School.
9-10 a.m. - Free ESL classes.
10:15 - Worship.
6 p.m. - Service.

BOEHMER UNITED METHODIST
3467 S 600 W, Liberty Center
boehmerumc.org
9:30 a.m. - Worship.
10:45 - Sunday School.

CALVARY LUTHERAN, ELCA
1532 N. Main St.
9 a.m. - Worship.

CHESTER CENTER
900S-300W, Poneto
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School.
10:30 - Worship.

CHRISTIAN NEW LIGHT
1011 W. Washington St.
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School.
10:30 - Worship.
6 p.m. - Praise & worship.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
735 S. Marion St.
10 a.m. - Bible Study.
10:45 - Worship.

COVENANT CHAPEL
3550 S. SR 1
mycovenantchapel.org
9:15 a.m. - Sunday School.
10:15 - Worship.
(Children's Church for ages 6-12).

DILLMAN UNITED BRETHREN
8888S-1100W-90, Warren
9 a.m. - Worship.
10 a.m. - Sunday School.

DOMESTIC CHURCH OF CHRIST
9 a.m. - Sunday school.
10 a.m. - Church service.

EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST
1204 W. Cherry St.
9:30 a.m. - Worship.
10:40 a.m. - Sunday School.

FAIRVIEW CHURCH OF GOD
5511 W. Yoder Rd., Yoder
fairviewlife.com
9 a.m. - Sunday School.
10 a.m. - Worship.

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST
210 W. Townley
fbc-bluffton.com
10 a.m. - Worship.
11 a.m. - Discipleship.

FIRST BAPTIST
202 W. Cherry St.
fbcbluffton.com
10:15 - Worship.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OSSIAN
1001 Dehner Dr.
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School.
10:30 a.m. - Worship.
6:30 - Service.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST
909 W. Spring St.
FCCfamily.com
9:30 & 11 a.m. - Worship.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
215 E. Dustman Rd.
firstpcbbluffton.org
9:30 a.m. - Children/youth & Adult Sunday School.
10:30 - Worship.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN (EVANGELICAL)
123 S. Jefferson St., Ossian
www.ossianfp.church
8:45 a.m. - Sunday school.
10 a.m. - Worship.

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF BLUFFTON
301 W. Cherry St.
9:15 a.m. - Sunday School.
10:30 - Worship.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
325 W. Washington St.
blufftonfirstumc.com
9:30 a.m. - Worship.
10:45 - Sunday School.

FORGIVEN CHURCH
1409 S. Main St.
forgivenonline.org
9 a.m. - Worship.

LIVING FAITH MISSIONARY
17718 Bluffton Rd., Yoder
10 a.m. - Worship.
11:30 - Sunday School.



ONE SMALL LIGHT
In 1882, Edward Johnson created and displayed the world's first electric Christmas tree lights, and for the next 20 years, families could light their own trees — assuming they could afford the \$2,000 (in today's currency) investment, an article from the Library of Congress states. Fortunately, in 1900, those with incomes closer to Bob Cratchit's than Scrooge's could purchase a string of 16 lights for a mere \$12 — or about \$350 today, Jamie Malanowski of the Smithsonian Magazine writes. But due to more efficient production and more accessible electricity, costs and prices continued to drop, and by the 1930s, "colored bulbs and cones were everywhere," Malanowski. Today, tree lights twinkle and glimmer in about 80 million homes — all because Edward Johnson once hung 80 red, white, and blue bulbs on a tree in his parlor. No doubt, some people questioned Johnson and others who promoted electric lights before most in the country could access electricity, or even trusted it. But these men never underestimated the power of their small lights, and these small lights ignited a revolution of illumination that forever changed the celebration of Christmas. But this revolution can't compare to the revolution that the Light of the world started when He shared His light with 12 men. "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life," the Apostle John writes. And still today, those who celebrate the birth of the light change the world, and often, they change it one small light at a time.

Verse 1:
Wiseman journeyed through the night
Following faith and a star
To find the King whose love would light
A world lost in the dark

Chorus
One small light led the weary wand'rer
One small light overcame the dark
Hope blazed bright with good tidings of comfort
One small light ... can ignite the heart

Verse 2:
So many look for miracles
To show wond'ring souls God reigns
But like the Christmas star of old
One spark of faith proclaims

Chorus
One small light led the weary wand'rer
One small light overcame the dark
Hope blazed bright with good tidings of comfort
One small light ... can ignite the heart

Bridge
Darkness cannot overcome
A blazing sky of stars
When Christians burn with holy love
As God enflames the heart

Chorus
One small light led the weary wand'rer
One small light overcame the dark
Hope blazed bright with good tidings of comfort
One small light ... can ignite the heart

GRACE BAPTIST
1621 S. 350 E.
Stogdill Rd. Ext.
gbcbluffton.com
9 a.m. - Sunday School.
10 a.m. & 6 p.m. - Worship.

GRACE BIBLE
6626 Village Way, Berne
gracebibleberne.com
9 a.m. - Sunday classes.
10 a.m. - Collective Worship.

HARVEST TIME BIBLE
11015S-600E, Keystone
9:10 a.m. - Prayer.
10 a.m. - Worship.

HOPE MISSIONARY
429 E. Dustman Rd.
hope4thefamily.com
8 a.m., 9:30 & 11 a.m. - Service at Main Campus.
9:30 & 11 a.m. - Service, north campus, Ossian.

KEYSTONE CHURCH
10556S-200W
9:30 a.m. - Worship.
10:30 - Sunday School.

KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
2803 N. Main St.
jw.org
10 a.m. - Worship.

LIBERTY CENTER BAPTIST
3071 W. Cherry St.
8:30 a.m. - Pastor/Deacon's Prayer.
9 - Sunday School.
9:55 - Fellowship.
10:15 - Worship.

LIBERTY CENTER BAPTIST
3071 W. Cherry St.
8:30 a.m. - Pastor/Deacon's Prayer.
9 - Sunday School.
9:55 - Fellowship.
10:15 - Worship.

MARKLE CHURCH OF CHRIST
455 E. Morse St.
marklechurch.org
9 a.m. - Adult Bible study groups.
10:30 - Worship.
Children's & student programming both hours.

MARKLE RIVERSIDE 316
145 W. Morse St.
10 a.m. - Worship.

MURRAY MISSIONARY
1117 N. Washington St., Murray
murraymc.org
9:30 a.m. - Worship.
11 a.m. - Sunday School.

NEW BEGINNING
2187 W. SR 218
10 a.m. - Sunday School.
10:30 - Worship.

NEW HOPE LUTHERAN
(Missouri Synod)
8824 N. SR 1, Ossian
newhopelutheran-ossian.webs.com
9 a.m. - Sunday School & Adult Bible study.
10 a.m. - Worship.

OSSIAN CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
302 N. Metts St.
ossiannaz.org
9:15 a.m. - Bible study.
10:30 - Service.

OSSIAN UNITED METHODIST
201 W. Mill St.
ossianumc.org
9 a.m. - Worship, Worship child care nurse.
10 a.m. - Fellowship.
10:15 - Adult Sunday School.

PARK COMMUNITY
617 S. Bennett St.
parkccbluffton.org
10 a.m. - Connection.
11 a.m. - Worship.

PETROLEUM COMMUNITY CHURCH
3625 E. 2nd St.
9 a.m. - Worship.
10:30 - Sunday School.

PONETO BAPTIST
Grape Street
8:30 a.m. - Sunday School.
9 a.m. - Worship.

PONETO FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH
36 E. Walnut St.
9 a.m. - Worship.
10 a.m. - Fellowship.
10:15 - Sunday School.

RIVER OF HOPE
1224 W. Central
11 a.m. - Worship & the Word.

RIVER OF LIFE
122 Lamar St.
Suite 108, 110
riverofflifebluffton.com
10:30 a.m. - Worship.

SIX MILE
4790 SE SR 116
9 a.m. - Sunday School.
10 a.m. - Worship.

SOUTHERN WELLS COMMUNITY CHURCH
9450 S 300 W, Poneto
9 & 10:45 a.m. - Worship.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC
1300 N. Main St.
Saturday: 7:45 a.m. - Prayer.
8 a.m. - Mass.
8:30 - Rosary.
4 p.m. or by appointment - Confessions.
5 p.m. - Mass.
Sunday: 7:30 & 10 a.m. - Mass.

ST. LUKE CHURCH
4960W-100N, Decatur
stlukechurch.in
9 a.m. - Worship.
10:15 - Sunday School.

ST. MARK EV. LUTHERAN
16933 Thiele Rd.
stmarkfw.org
8:45 a.m. - Sunday School.
10 a.m. - Worship.

THE CHURCH AT MCNATT
9221 W 800 S-90, Montpelier
8:30 a.m. - Coffee fellowship.
9:15 - Worship.

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN (NALC)
5912 N. Sugar St., Uniondale
10 a.m. - Worship.
10:15 - Children's Sunday School.

THE MEETING PLACE
115 E. Market St.
6:30 p.m. - Bible study.

TOWER LIFE CENTER
11811 N. Wayne St., Zanesville
towerlifecenter.com
9:30 a.m. - TLC Groups.
10:30 - Worship.

TURNPOINTE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
500 W. Logan, Markle
turnpointechurch.com
9:30 a.m. - Fellowship.
10 a.m. - Adult & Children's Worship.

UNIONDALE COMMUNITY CHURCH
5867 N. Main St.
9 a.m. - Worship.

UNIONTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST
11419 N-200W, Ossian
9 a.m. - Sunday School.
10 a.m. - Worship.

VERA CRUZ FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER CCCU
2771 SE Mulberry St., Vera Cruz
9-10 a.m. - Sunday School.
10-10:30 - Fellowship.
10:30 - Worship.

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH
205 S. Adams St., Monroe
9 a.m. - Worship.
10:15 - Discipleship for adults & children.

ZANESVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GOD
11984 N. Marzane Rd.
10 a.m. - Worship.

ZANESVILLE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST
3092 W. Broadway
9 a.m. - Sunday School.
10 a.m. - Worship.

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(260) 824-5940
Dr. Pamela J. Johnson
decaturdentalin.com

POSY POT Florist
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222 N. Wayne Street - Warren, IN
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Has Over 30 Years of Pharmaceutical Experience
Mon.-Fri 9-5:30; Sat. 9-12 noon

Cupp Real Estate
127 Oak Forest Dr., Bluffton, IN
824-1588

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The Ossian Journal
NBDigital

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You're Family

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Tigers halt Starfires 4th quarter comeback to begin ACAC play

By RYAN WALKER

BERNE — It seemed as if Bluffton and South Adams played a game of déjà vu Friday night.

The Tigers (1-1) picked up an almost clean 53-37 victory to open conference play on the road over the Starfires (0-1), but the fourth quarter spelled trouble again for Bluffton.

Last season, the Starfires caught up to the Tigers from down 39-21 to just a five-point deficit. They scored 18 points in the final quarter, but did not come through with a win. Just as they did a year forward.

Bluffton led 40-19 and never showed any signs that South Adams belonged on the court with them. But that was until the Starfires might come through yet again.

Head coach Craig Teagle benched three of his starters — Declan Grieser, Cameron Williams and Kaleb Green after getting into foul trouble to end the third. The trio had earned it, as the Tigers pounded the paint all night and got 36 points from Grieser (25) and Green (11) and nine from forward Ben Maggard.

After a flurry of turnovers and Henry Craig coming off the bench to hit the Starfires' first triple of the night, Teagle put the starting crew back in.

That initially didn't work. South Adams kept picking off the Tigers and cashed in for points. A 13-2 spread after the first of the two Teagle timeouts got the Starfires back within 10 points with 3:06 remaining.

"We didn't take care of the ball," Teagle said. "Way too many turnovers and we missed a couple of easy ones around the rim. You could just see in our body language. We got down on ourselves and weren't playing effectively."

South Adams' Gavin Herring came off the bench in the third and fourth quarters and was crucial to the comeback. He scored all 10 of his points in that span and hit the final two free throws to get his group down by 10.

Right after Herring hit the two free throws, Teagle blew through his second timeout. Only this one was much more effective.

The same Tigers' team that lost itself in the fourth quarter was found again. The confidence, scoring ability in the post and hanging on to the basketball was back.

Right out of the timeout, the Tigers made pass after pass like a game of ping-pong and eventually found a wide-open Grieser by

the basket for an easy two. The next drive, Green was hit with hard contact but put the ball off the glass for a three-point play. Grieser followed with another bucket and the Tigers were back up by 19 points on a 9-0 run.

"The first timeout I was too negative," Teagle said. "The second timeout I was like 'Let's just go attack, play the game.' So, I didn't get on them as much. They still have to be more mentally tough than that, but that's not very good coaching because I know they're not yet. So, that first timeout, I was just on them too hard. I think they went out there nervous, afraid to make a mistake."

That change of voice finished Bluffton on a 11-5 run and produced a score more like how the game went.

Not only did Bluffton crush it in its post-play, but it had a stranglehold on the boards 34-18.

Considering the team's graduation of several guards and Axton Beste's injury, expect Bluffton to have most of its points in the painted area.

Teagle said that the goal is to put up two-thirds of their shots around the rim and the other third from three. On the flip side, defensively, he wants opponents to do the opposite. This game was close to it, as the Tigers shot 11 three-pointers of their 44 shots taken. The Starfires shot threes over half the time (54%) and an abysmal 4-24.

Bluffton won the junior varsity contest 32-24. Gavin Grieser scored 16 points to lead the Tigers, while Max White scored 11.

Bluffton will be at Lakeland Christian Academy next at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13.

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BLUFFTON 53, SOUTH ADAMS 37

At South Adams

BLUFFTON (1-1, 1-0 ACAC): Declan Grieser 11-16 1-5 25, Kaleb Green 5-7 3-3 11, Ben Maggard 3-5 0-0 9, Griffin Morgan 3-6 0-0 6, Marshall Gerber 1-1 0-0 3, Nolan Lambert 0-4 0-0 0, Cameron Williams 0-3 0-0 0, Austin Geimer 0-0 0-0 0, Max White 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 23-44 4-9 53.

SOUTH ADAMS (0-1, 0-1 ACAC): Tytus Lehman 4-14 3-4 12, Gavin Herring 3-4 2-2 10, Derek McKean 1-8 3-6 5, Jax Wanner 2-10 0-0 4, Henry Craig 1-3 0-0 3, Hunter Fields 1-2 0-0 2, Tristyn Cameron 0-0 1-1 1, Jackson Roe 0-0 0-0, Isaac Scott 0-1 0-0 0, Easton O'Dell 0-0 0-0 0, Noah Hunley 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 12-44 9-13 37.

Bluffton 15 11 14 13 — 53

S. Adams 6 5 8 18 — 37
Three-point Shooting: Bluffton 3-11 (Grieser 1-1, Maggard 1-3, Gerber 1-1, Lambert 0-4, Williams 0-2), South Adams 4-24 (Herring 2-3, Lehman 1-6, Craig 1-3, Scott 0-1, McKean 0-7, Wanner 0-4). Rebounds: Bluffton 34 (Grieser 11, Green 6, Lambert 6, Morgan 3, Williams 2, Gerber 2, Maggard 1, White 1), South Adams 18 (Colpaert 5, Herring 3, Lehman 2, McKean 1, Fields 1, Scott 1, Roe 1, Hunley 1). Turnovers: Bluffton 14, South Adams 11. Fouls: Bluffton 19, South Adams 8. Fouled Out: None.



Bluffton's Declan Grieser (left) aims at the basket during a free throw attempt with a disgruntled Derek McKean in the background during the Tigers and South Adams Starfires clash Friday night at the Stardome. The Tigers took this one 53-37 to begin ACAC conference play. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

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.
WRESTLING: Alexandria-Monroe at Bluffton, 6:30 p.m.; Adams Central at Norwell, 6:30 p.m.

Early surge gives Knights Northeast 8 win over Vikings

By ANDREW FEEBACK

HUNTINGTON — A blistering early run by the Norwell Knights basketball team allowed them to claim their conference opener over the Huntington North Vikings Friday night, 71-38.

Norwell (7-3) scored the game's first 19 points and never looked back, forcing Huntington North (3-5) into 30 turnovers and getting nearly twice as many shots as the hosts.

"Defensively, our energy was incredible," coach Eric Thornton said. "I thought our ball pressure was very good. That was one of our three keys for tonight. We did not have that last Saturday against Angola. We didn't really take anything away, and as a result, the game was very tight down the stretch."

The game was only tight until Norwell scored.

That was actually more than a minute into the contest, but once the Knights got rolling, there was no turning back.

Vanessa Rosswurm led all scorers with 20, and her third bucket had the Knights up 11-0, drawing a Viking timeout. The Knights followed that with three-pointers from Rosswurm and Macie Saalfrank, and another bucket from Saalfrank had it up to 19-0 before the home team finally got on the board.

"Our offense was the result of our defense there, and it's a fun way to play," Thornton said.

A pair of triples from Addison Norris early in the second had the lead up to 20. The Knights were a bit sloppy to end the first half, but still led 36-18 at the break.

Norris opened the second half with another trey, and after Saalfrank, Rosswurm and Ashley Waldman all hit from deep, Norwell had suddenly opened a 52-21 lead.

It was 61-31 by the end of the third, and the Norwell bench took it from there.

Norwell finished 12-34 beyond the arc and 23-56 overall. Huntington North only made 12 field goals overall in just 30

attempts.

Rosswurm was one of five Knights in double figures. Saalfrank added 15, Norris and Waldman both had 11 and Jada Dale scored 10.

Haideen Bailey had 15 for the Vikings Marissa Trout added 13.

The schedule takes another tough turn next week as Columbia City will visit the Castle Friday night.

Ten games in, Norwell is 7-3 while playing a top 30 schedule statewide.

Thornton is pleased with how his team has handled it.

"They have prepared so well," he said. "This group was very immature and inexperienced outside of Vanessa. We really didn't have any significant varsity experience. This team has really grown up against a very tough schedule. They've improved, and they've used it to their advantage. Every day they show up to practice ready to get better, and I just can't say enough about them."

Norwell won the junior varsity game 33-24. Daisy Swineford scored 11 points, while Carlee Struck had seven, Chloe Comer had six and Elizabeth Dillion had five.

sports@news-banner.com

NORWELL 71, HUNTINGTON NORTH 38

At Huntington North

NORWELL (7-3): Addison Norris 3-10 2-2 11, Ashley Waldman 3-10 2-2 11, Ryland Graft 0-1 2-4 2, Alivia Green 1-2 0-0 2, Larkin Smith 0-2 0-0 0, Haley Williamson 0-1 0-0 0, Macie Saalfrank 6-12 1-1 15, Mekynzi Beck 0-0 0-0 0, Vanessa Rosswurm 7-14 4-4 20, Jada Dale 3-4 2-2 10, Isabella Swineford 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 23-56 13-15 71.

HUNTINGTON NORTH (3-5): Harper Bailey 1-1 0-0 3, Luci Reich 1-5 0-0 2, Haideen Bailey 5-9 3-3 15, Riley Wilson 0-2 0-0 0, Grace Michel 0-1 0-2 0, Madalynn Wellman 0-0 0-0 0, Faith Minton 2-3 1-1 5, Marissa Trout 4-10 5-6 13, Kayda Newman 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 12-30 9-12 38.

Norwell 21 15 25 10 — 71

Huntington North 5 13 13 7 — 38

Three-point Goals: Norwell 12-34 (Norris 3-7, Waldman 3-10, Saalfrank 2-7, Dale 2-2, Rosswurm 2-5, Smith 0-2, Green 0-1), Huntington North 3-11 (Haideen Bailey 2-4, Harper Bailey 1-1, Reich 0-4, Trout 0-2). Rebounds: Norwell 23 (Rosswurm 6, Green 6, Norris 4, Waldman 4, Saalfrank 1, Swineford 1, Graft 1), Huntington North 19 (Michel 5, Trout 4, Minton 3, Reich 3, Haideen Bailey 3, Newman 1). Turnovers: Norwell 13, Huntington North 30. Fouls: Norwell 13, Huntington North 14. Fouled out: None. Technicals: None. JV: Norwell 33, Huntington North 24.



Jada Dale (middle) drives the right side of the foul lane splitting Huntington North defenders Luci Reich and Haideen Bailey in the third quarter Friday at North Arena. (Photo by Glen Werling)

Raiders drop ACAC opener with Jets in boys' basketball

Southern Wells fell in its first ACAC competition at home to Adams Central 68-27 Friday night.

Landon Johnson and Joshua Aulbach led the Raiders with six points each, followed by Wyatt Yoder (5), CJ Reber

and Adam Aulbach (4) and Rugar Holmes (2). The team fell to 0-3 on the season.

Southern Wells will take its first road trip to Eastbrook Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10.

Tigers fall to Knights in MS hoops

Bluffton-Harrison fell to Norwell Middle School in both girls' games Thursday night.

In the eighth grade game, the Tigers fell 39-36 and dropped to 5-1 on the season. Audrey Mechling scored 16 points, followed by Averie Patton and Luci Jenkins

(7) and Josie Nash, Khloe Gehrett and Madeline Morgan (2).

In the seventh grade game, the Tigers fell 40-25 and dropped to 3-3 on the season. Adrienne Smallman led the way with 13 points, Olivia Brown (6), Ava Scheiman (4) and Averie Pearson (2).

No. 10 Boise State grabs CFP spot, beating No. 19 UNLV in MW title

By JASON CHATRAW
Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Ashton Jeanty ran for 209 yards and a touchdown and No. 10 Boise State earned a College Football Playoff spot, beating No. 19 UNLV 21-7 on Friday night for its second straight Mountain West title.

Boise State (12-1, No. 10 CFP) is all but assured of a first-round bye in the playoffs if it maintains its ranking ahead of the Big 12 winner and finishes as one of the four highest-ranked conference champs.

Jeanty, who had the spotlight to himself to state his Heisman case, didn't disappoint, ripping off an electrifying 75-yard touchdown run. It was his fifth TD run of 70 yards or more this season, tying LaDainian Tomlinson's FBS season record.

Jeanty also surpassed 1981 Heisman winner Marcus Allen of Southern California to move into fourth place on the FBS season rushing list and needs 132 more to pass record-holder Barry Sanders of Oklahoma State.

Maddux Madsen threw a touchdown pass and rushed for another score for the Broncos.

UNLV (10-3, No. 20 CFP), which entered the game seventh nationally in scoring offense averaging 38.7 points, hadn't been held below 23 this season.

With UNLV loading the box with eight or nine defenders early in the game, Boise State leaned heavily on Madsen in the first quarter. And he delivered, completing six of his first seven passes, including a 22-yard

(Continued on Page 7)

Boise State wins MWC

(Continued from Page 6)

scoring strike to Latrell Caples for a 7-0 lead.

Madsen used his legs to put the Broncos ahead 14-0, scrambling for a 14-yard TD run with 2:40 left in the first half.

After a quick stop, Boise State got the ball back and let Jeanty work his magic. Two plays later, he raced through the teeth of the defense and sprinted to the end zone for a 75-yard TD run, giving the Broncos a 21-0 lead with 29 seconds left in the half.

UNLV had a chance to claw back into it late in the third quarter when Kylin James raced 86 yards before Seyi

Oladipo ran him down at the Boise State 5. But the Rebels lost 4 yards on the next four plays and failed to score.

The Rebels finally got into the end zone with 9:06 left on Greg Burrell 31-yard run.

Hajj-Malik Williams led UNLV offensively with 110 yards passing and 56 yards rushing.

Takeaways

UNLV: Odom, who guided the Rebels to their first 10-win season in 40 years, has the program headed in the right direction after UNLV had just seven wins in the three seasons before his arrival. If he continues to recruit well and build through the transfer portal like

he did this season, the Rebels should contend for the Mountain West title

Boise State: First-year coach Spencer Danielson delivered what the program's fan base has been starving for since it made waves in the college football world in 2006 by going undefeated and beating Oklahoma in the Fiesta Bowl. But now this team has a chance to take it one step further and take down one of the sport's blue bloods in the playoffs.

Up next

Boise State awaits the selection show Sunday to find out who and when it will play in the College Football Playoff.

Reneau, Ballo power Indiana past Miami (Ohio), in final tune-up before Big Ten opener

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP) — Malik Reneau scored 19 points and Omar Ballo posted his 35th career double-double as Indiana pulled away in the second half to post a 76-57 win over Miami (Ohio) Friday night in the Hoosiers' final tune-up before opening Big Ten Conference play.

Indiana (7-2) won its third straight after dropping back-to-back decisions to Louisville and No. 3 Gonzaga and is 6-0 on its home floor. The Hoosiers host Minnesota in the conference opener Monday.

3-pointer at the 10-minute mark to pull the RedHawks within 55-50, but they did not score again until Skaljac hit two free throws with 3:50 left to make it 67-52. Ironically, Indiana also hit a dry spell after scoring its 50th point on a Reneau layup to take a 50-42 lead with 15:11 left. The Hoosiers did not score again until Luke Goode hit two free throws with 11:27 left.

Indiana shot 53.8% from the field for the game (28 of 52) and held a big advantage on the boards, outrebounding the RedHawks 46-29.

but was 0-3 from beyond the arc. Myles Rice hit 6 of 7 from the floor, including 2 of 3 from long range, to finish with 17 points while Ballo put up 14 points, dished out six assists and pulled down a season-high 18 rebounds for his first double-double of the season. Trey Galloway knocked down 3 of 4 from beyond the arc and added 13 points.

Skaljac finished with 14 points off the bench to lead Miami (5-3). Eian Elmer added 11. The RedHawks shot 30.8% from the floor (20 of 65), but were 11 of 32 from distance.

Luke Skaljac knocked down a

News-Banner Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

NFL

e-Eliminated from playoffs
x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

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.

BASKETBALL

High School

Friday Boys' Scores

Adams Central 68, Southern Wells 27
Angola 60, Central Noble 45
Attica 41, N. White 23
Avon 51, Hamilton Southeastern 48
Batesville 63, Greensburg 51
Beech Grove 61, Speedway 52
Bethany Christian 67, Morgan Twp. 49
Bloomfield 71, Shakamak 57
Bloomington South 62, Bedford N. Lawrence 57
Bluffton 53, S. Adams 37
Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory Academy 96, Indpls Shorthridge 66
Bremen 59, Glenn 39
Brownsburg 39, Franklin Central 37
Brownstown 58, Seymour 38
Cambridge City Lincoln 57, Indpls International 11
Carmel 63, Lawrence Central 39
Carroll (Flora) 53, Frontier 33
Center Grove 52, Bloomington North 36
Charlestown 62, Scottsburg 49
Chesteron 55, Hammond Morton 49
Columbia City 61, Ft. Wayne Canterbury 45
Columbus East 83, Trinity Lutheran High School 61
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Connersville 40, Rushville 37
Corydon 59, N. Harrison 26
Culver 43, Lakeland Christian (IN) 32
Danville 70, Bethesda Christian 58
Dubois 93, Washington Catholic 9
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East Chicago Central 65, Valparaiso 41
Edgewood 71, Cloverdale 42
Evansville Bosse 67, Boonville 61
Evansville Reitz 74, Vincennes 54
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Gary 21st Century 74, Bowman 37
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Griffith 71, Lowell 42
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Hauser 77, Morristown 40
Hebron 73, N. Newton 36
Henderson Co., Ky. 69, Castle 37
Heritage 67, Leo 61
Highland 64, Hammond Science and Tech 36
IMSA 46, Eminence 43
Indian Creek 72, Owen Valley 31
Indiana Deaf 49, Austin TSD, Texas 33
Indpls N. Central 88, Indpls Tech 52
Indpls Perry Meridian 67, Mooresville 51
Indpls Riverside 52, Mooresville Christian 47
Indpls Roncalli 59, Heritage Christian 38
Jeffersonville 68, Evansville North 44
Jennings Co. 74, Madison 66
Jintown 50, LaVie 34
Kokomo 80, Peru 37
LaPorte 62, Plymouth 54
Lakeland (IN) 44, Fremont 18
Lanesboro 62, Crawford 60
Lebanon 61, Brownfordsville 48
Liberty Christian 85, Purdue Poly North 24
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Medora 76, Bloomington Lighthouse 57
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S. Putnam 68, N. Putnam 66, OT
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Warsaw 62, Homestead 60, OT
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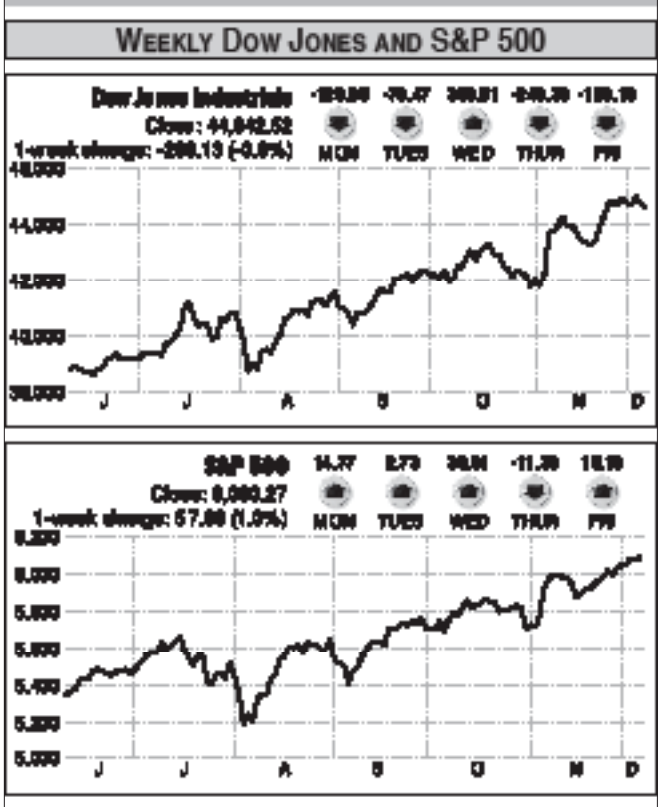
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Westville 61, Tri-Township 34
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Woodlan 56, Jay Co. 40
Yorktown 74, Muncie Burris 35
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N. Vermillion 71, Riverton Parke 49
Parke Heritage 87, S. Vermillion 49
Cass County Invitational= Championship=
Logansport 68, Pioneer 39
Third Place=
Cass 53, Cass 50
Lafayette Tournament= Consolation Semifinal=
Lafayette Central Catholic High School 54, Benton Central 50
Twin Lakes 60, Rensselaer 45
Semifinal=
Lafayette Harrison 57, Lafayette Jeff 44
McCutcheon 62, W. Lafayette 59

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Homestead 66, Carroll (Ft. Wayne) 48
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Indpls Roncalli 57, Heritage Christian 49
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Lawrenceburg 37, Richmond 21
Lebanon 46, Crawfordsville 16
Lowell 33, Kankakee Valley 32
Madison Shawe 51, Southwestern (Hanover) 32
Martinsville 65, Greenwood 42
Michigan City Marquette 59, Mishawaka 18
Mississinewa 44, Eastbrook 38
Monrovia 74, Indpls Attucks 48
Mooreville 54, Indpls Perry Meridian 21
N. Putnam 36, S. Putnam 35
NorthWood 40, Concord 26
Northeastern 83, Centerville 20
Norwell 71, Huntington North 38
Oak Hill 48, Elwood 8
Owen Valley 36, Indian Creek 34
Plainfield 63, Whiteland 44
Purdue Poly (Englewood) 82, Southwestern (Shelby) 14
S. Bend Adams 44, New Prairie 41
S. Bend St. Joseph's 55, Mishawaka Marian 43
S. Bend Washington 52, Penn 50
Sheridan 58, Clinton Prairie 18
Silver Creek 43, Bowling Green, Ky. 25
Southport 51, Bloomington North 47
Sullivan 51, Northview 40
Tri-West 54, Western Boone 25
Triton Central 75, Waldron 45
Union (Modoc) 34, Cambridge City Lincoln 19
Valparaiso 72, LaPorte 21
Washington Twp. 58, Boone Grove 34
Westville 61, Tri-Township 34

Thursday Girls' Scores

Friday's Scores
Alexandria 68, Frankton 34
Austin TSD, Texas 49, Indiana Deaf 33
Avon 75, Evansville Central 74
Brownsburg 57, Franklin Central 49
Central Noble 46, Angola 37
Chesteron 56, Michigan City 21
Crown Point 52, Portage 20
Decatur Central 49, Franklin 36
Edgewood 68, Cloverdale 27
Elkhart 47, S. Bend Riley 36
Elkhart Christian 59, Hamilton 17
Eman 39, GEO 30
Franklin-Simpson, Ky. 55, Gibson Southern 34
Ft. Wayne North 66, Ft. Wayne Dwenger 51
Ft. Wayne Snider 64, Ft. Wayne South 31
Ft. Wayne Wayne 52, Ft. Wayne Concordia 49

THE WEEK IN REVIEW



STOCK MARKET INDEXES

Index	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	1-Wk % Chg	1-Mo % Chg	YTD % Chg
Dow Jones Industrial Average	44,932.23	44,752.15	44,842.52	44,842.52	-0.6%	-0.6%	-1.1%	+1.9%
S&P 500	6,010.12	5,980.12	6,000.27	6,000.27	0.9%	0.9%	1.2%	+1.8%

STOCK EXCHANGE HIGHLIGHTS

Stock	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	1-Wk % Chg	1-Mo % Chg	YTD % Chg
Apple	175.12	174.12	174.50	174.50	+0.1%	+0.1%	+0.2%	+1.5%
Microsoft	375.12	374.12	374.50	374.50	+0.1%	+0.1%	+0.2%	+1.5%

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Stock	High	Low	Open	Close	% Chg	1-Wk % Chg	1-Mo % Chg	YTD % Chg
AMC	22.12	21.12	21.50	21.50	+0.1%	+0.1%	+0.2%	+1.5%
AMZN	175.12	174.12	174.50	174.50	+0.1%	+0.1%	+0.2%	+1.5%

MONEY RATES

Rate	Last	Prev Day
Prime Rate	7.25	7.25
3-Month T-Bill	4.75	4.75

CURRENCIES

Country	Last	Prev Day
Canada	1.3622	1.3622
UK	0.7812	0.7812

MUTUAL FUNDS

Fund	Total Assets (\$B)	Total Returns (1Yr)	YTD % Chg
American Funds EuroBond	112,040	57.40	+1.8%
American Funds EuroPerf	10,594	58.10	+1.8%

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Genesis Pest Services
genesispestservices.com

Daniel's Jewelers
daniels-jewelers.net

ABOVE & BEYOND
abovebeyondrecon.com

INDIANA FARM BUREAU INSURANCE
infarmbureau.com

JC'S GARAGE DOOR SALES & SERVICE
jcsgaragedoor.com

Myers Funeral Homes
myersfuneralhomes.com

Kelly's Collision Center
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WELLS COUNTY 4-H GROWS HERE
extension.purdue.edu/wells

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homecourthomecare.com

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EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

COUNTY BUILDING INSPECTOR

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

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

Controls the expenditure of departmental appropriations. Receives complaints, investigates, and issues unsafe building violations, nuisance violations and minimum housing standards violations, as appropriate. Completes continuing education classes on building codes and practices, as needed.

Reviews the building plan for the County. Approves the building permits, issues permits, and collects the fees for the permits, as necessary.

Issues certificates of occupancy, as needed. Maintains an effective communication process with the Commissioners.

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

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

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.

Public Notice

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION TO CREDITORS ESTATE NO. 90C01-2412-ES-000004

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WELLS COUNTY

Notice is hereby given that BRANDON A. HATHAWAY AND MARCUS W. HATHAWAY were on the 2nd day of December, 2024, appointed as Personal Representatives of the ESTATE OF TERESA A. HATHAWAY, deceased, who died on the 12th day of November, 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 2nd DAY OF December, 2024.

Beth Davis
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
FOR WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA
nb 12/7, 12/14
hspaxlp

SUDOKU ANSWER

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

Help Wanted

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

FOR SALE

Miscellaneous

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

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INDIANA AUTO AUCTION, INC. Huge Repo Sale December 12, 2024. Over 100 repossessed units for sale. Money order or cashier's check only. \$500 cashier's check or money order deposit per person required. Register 8 am-9:30 am. No public entry after 9:30 am. All vehicles sold AS IS! 4425 W. Washington Center Road, Fort Wayne. (A)

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

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★ ★

12/7

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Lottery Numbers

Friday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY

Cash 5 — 05-11-12-13-22
Cash4Life — 02-42-43-49-51, Cash Ball: 01
Quick Draw Midday — 01-05-11-19-24-30-33-34-47-50-58-60-64-65-67-73-74-75-76-77, BE: 64
Daily Three-Midday — 04-07-06, SB: 00
Daily Three-Evening — 01-00-06, SB: 06
Daily Four-Midday — 05-02-09-05, SB: 00
Daily Four-Evening — 05-07-02-04, SB: 06
Quick Draw Evening — 01-02-04-07-08-13-17-25-27-29-33-34-44-46-52-59-60-63-64-75, BE: 07
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$30.8 million

MEGA MILLIONS

16-21-33-39-45, Mega Ball: 24, Megaplier: X2
POWERBALL
Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$260 million

LINE CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINES:

Monday editions: Friday by 4 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday editions: day-before by 3:30 p.m.
Saturdays: Friday by 11:30 a.m.



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, TheSteffenGroup.com, 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](http://HaldermanRealEstate.com), 800-424-2324, halderman.com.

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

BIDDING CLOSING 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](http://TownandCountryAuctioneers.com), 260-223-7352, [Shaw Real Estate & Auction, Inc.](http://ShawRealEstate.com), 260-824-2116.

DECEMBER 17 - 9 a.m.-6 p.m. - (Online Only) - Thomas B. & Mary Lou Woodward, seller. One of a kind picturesque real estate offering. Outstanding 4,014 SF on 8.45 acres, 4 bedroom, 3 bath home with a 2 car detached garage. Scenic backyard with multiple utility sheds and gazebo, Wells County. Open houses Dec. 8 from 2-5 p.m., and Dec. 12 from 3-6 p.m., 301 N. Highland Ave., Ossian, IN. Pat Carter, sale manager, 260-273-8294, [The Steffen Group Inc.](http://TheSteffenGroup.com), 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.](http://TheSteffenGroup.com), 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.](http://TheSteffenGroup.com), Steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

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Local Roundup

Steering committee of UWRBC will meet Monday and Wednesday mornings

The steering committee of the Upper Wabash River Basin Commission will meet at 8 a.m. Monday, Dec. 9, at the Wells County Public library, 200 W. Washington St., in the first floor conference room. The group will meet with State Rep. Matt Lehman (R-Berne) about recent and future water-related legislation.

The committee will hold their regular meeting at 8 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St. in Bluffton.

- Items on the agenda include:
- Discussion of the IFA Regional Water Study of the Wabash Headwaters watershed and other related legislation.
 - State audit.
 - Updates to the 2007 watershed management plan.

Friends of the Shelter will meet Monday afternoon

Friends of the Shelter, the organization that provides support for the Bluffton/Wells County Animal Shelter, will meet at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Regional Sewer District board will meet Monday

The board of the Wells County Regional Sewer District will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

- Items on the agenda include:
- Regular reports and updates.

Ossian Town Council will meet Monday evening

The Ossian Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9, at the Ossian Town Hall, 507 N. Jefferson St. in Ossian.

- Items on the agenda include:
- Department reports and updates.
 - Financial matters.
 - Continued discussion of town employee paid time off.
 - Easement request from First Baptist Church.
 - Agreement for TRECS program.
 - Board appointments and meeting dates.
 - Approval of 2025 Salary Ordinance.

Wells County SWCD board will meet Tuesday morning

The board of the Wells County Soil and Water Conservation District will meet at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10, in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Service Center at 117

W. Harvest Road in Bluffton.

Bluffton Board of Works to meet Tuesday afternoon

The Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Norwell school board will meet Tuesday evening

The board of the Norwell Community Schools will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10, at Norwell High School, 1100E. U.S. 224.

- Recognition of the high school business department.
- Financial and personnel matters.
- 2024-25 preschool handbook revisions.
- Out-of-state field trip requests.
- Recognition of outgoing board member Gene Donaghy and Angie Topp.

Wells County Public Library board will meet Tuesday

The board of the Wells County Public Library will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10, in the meeting room of the main library, 200 W. Washington St.

- Items on the agenda include:
- Regular reports and updates.
 - Policy updates regarding hours, access, board meeting, circulation and health policies.
 - Cafeteria 125 plan approval.

Markle commission will hold executive session

The Markle Redevelopment Commission will hold an executive session at 8 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, at the Markle Town Hall, 154 E. Morse St.

The reason cited for the executive session is: "To conduct interviews and negotiations with industrial or commercial prospects or agents of industrial or commercial prospects."

Markle commission will hold special session

The Markle Redevelopment Commission will hold a special session at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, at the Markle Town Hall, 154 E. Morse St.

Bluffton parks board will meet Thursday evening

The Bluffton parks board will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

- Items on the agenda include:
- Regular reports.
 - Financial matters, donations and grants.
 - 2025 pool chemical purchase.
 - Consideration of a plaque at Lancaster Park.

Trump taps Rodney Scott to head Customs and Border Protection

By REBECCA SANTANA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The picture of who will be in charge of executing President-elect Donald Trump's hard-line immigration and border policies has come into sharper focus after he announced his picks to head Customs and Border Protection and also the agency tasked with deporting immigrants in the country illegally.

Trump said late Thursday he was tapping Rodney Scott, a former Border Patrol chief who's been a vocal supporter of tougher enforcement measures, for CBP commissioner.

As acting director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Trump said he had chosen Caleb Vitello, a career ICE official with more than 23 years in the agency.

They will work with an immigration leadership team that includes South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem as head of the Department of Homeland Security; former acting Immigration and Customs Enforcement head Tom Homan as border czar; and immigration hard-liner Stephen Miller as deputy chief of staff.

Here's a closer look at the picks:

Rodney Scott
Customs and Border Protection, with its roughly 60,000 employees, falls under the Department of Homeland Security. It includes the Border Patrol, which Scott led during Trump's first term, and is essentially responsible for protecting the country's borders while facilitating trade and travel.

Scott comes to the job firmly from the Border Patrol side of the house. He became an agent in 1992 and spent much of his career in San Diego. When he joined the agency, San Diego was by far the busiest corridor

for illegal crossings. Traffic plummeted after the government dramatically increased enforcement there, but critics note the effort pushed people to remote parts of California and Arizona.

San Diego was also where wall construction began in the 1990s, which shaped Scott's belief that barriers work. He was named San Diego sector chief in 2017.

When he was appointed head of the border agency in January 2020, he enthusiastically embraced Trump's policies.

"He's well known. He does know these issues and obviously is trusted by the administration," said Gil Kerlikowske, the CBP commissioner under the Obama administration.

Kerlikowske took issue with some of Scott's past actions, including his refusal to fall in line with a Biden administration directive to stop using terms like "illegal alien" in favor of descriptions like "migrant," and his decision as San Diego sector chief to fire tear gas into Mexico to disperse protesters.

"You don't launch projectiles into a foreign country," Kerlikowske said.

At the time Scott defended the agents' decisions, saying they were being assaulted by "a hail of rocks."

While Trump's focus may be on illegal immigration and security along the U.S.-Mexico border, Kerlikowske also stressed the other parts of CBP's mission.

The agency is responsible for securing trade and international travel at airports, ports and land crossings around the country. Whoever runs the agency has to make sure that billions of dollars worth of trade and millions of passengers move swiftly and safely into and

out of the country.

And if Trump makes good on promises to ratchet up tariffs on Mexico, China and Canada, CBP will play an integral role in enforcing them.

"There's a huge amount of other responsibility on trade, on tourism, on cyber that take a significant amount of time and have a huge impact on the economy if it's not done right," Kerlikowske said.

After being forced out under the Biden administration, Scott has been a vocal supporter of Trump's hard-line immigration agenda. He has appeared frequently on Fox News and testified in Congress. He's also a senior fellow at the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

In a 2023 interview with The Associated Press, he advocated for a return to Trump-era immigration policies and more pressure on Mexico to enforce immigration on its side of the border.

Caleb Vitello
Vitello will take over as acting director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the agency responsible for arresting and deporting migrants in the U.S. illegally. A career ICE official, he most recently was the assistant director for firearms and tactical programs.

He's also served on the National Security Council and held positions at ICE directly related to the agency's enforcement operations. That will be key as the agency attempts to ramp up efforts to find and remove people in the country illegally.

ICE has not had a Senate-confirmed leader in years.

"I know Caleb Vitello very well. He's a consummate professional, cares about the mission," said Jason Houser, a former chief of staff at ICE under the Biden administration. "He's probably one of the smartest

guys" on enforcement and removal operations, Houser said.

Houser also noted the challenges that come with the job.

There are a limited number of enforcement and

removal officers — the people who actually track down migrants and remove them from the country. And there's more than a million people with final orders of removal, meaning they've gone through the immigra-

tion process and been found to have no right to stay in America. But the problem is that many of them come from countries to which it's very difficult to deport people, such as Venezuela or Cuba, Houser said.

December

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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-Home Healthcare.

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