



# The News - Banner

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024

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### Christmas in Markle

Markle was in a festive mood Saturday as businesses decorated for Christmas. Above, Kim Allyn paints Callie Kinsey's face. At right, Brinnley Myers pets a reindeer while Dillon Myers smiles. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)



## Mike Speedy to serve as Indiana secretary of business affairs

By CASEY SMITH  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Former Rep. Mike Speedy will be Indiana's next secretary of business affairs, Gov.-elect Mike Braun announced Friday.

In that position, Speedy will be responsible for managing the state's regulatory framework and "ensuring that businesses and industries operate safely, ethically and efficiently," Braun's transition team said.

Braun lauded Speedy, a fel-

low Republican, for the "extensive experience in business, law, and public service" he brings to the role.

"Mike's combination of business acumen and public service experience makes him ideally suited to lead Indiana's business development initiatives," Braun said in a statement about the appointment. "His background in real estate, finance, and law will help drive economic growth across our state."

(Continued on Page 2)

## Pearl Harbor survivors return to Hawaii to honor those killed

By AUDREY McAVOY  
Associated Press

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (AP) — Ira "Ike" Schab, a 104-year-old Pearl Harbor attack survivor, was so determined to stand and salute during a remembrance ceremony honoring those killed in the Japanese bombing that thrust the U.S. into World War II some 83 years ago that he spent six weeks in physical therapy to build the strength to do so.

On Saturday, Schab gingerly

rose from his wheelchair and raised his right hand, returning a salute delivered by sailors on a destroyer and a submarine passing by in the harbor. His son and a daughter supported him from either side.

"I was honored to do it. I'm glad I was capable of standing up," he said afterward. "I'm getting old, you know."

Schab is one of only two servicemen who lived through

(Continued on Page 2)

## U.S. announces nearly \$1B more in longer-term weapons support for Ukraine

By TARA COPP  
Associated Press

SIMI VALLEY, Calif. (AP) — The United States will provide nearly \$1 billion more in longer-term weapons support to Ukraine, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Saturday as the Biden administration rushes to spend all the congressionally approved money it has left to bolster Kyiv before President-elect Donald Trump takes office next month.

The latest package will include more drones and munitions for the High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, or HIMARS, that the U.S. has provided. While these weapons are critically needed now, they will be funded through the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, which pays for longer-term systems to be put on contract.

The weapon systems purchased are often intended to support Ukraine's future military capabilities, not make an immediate difference on the battlefield.

The \$988 million package is on top of

an additional \$725 million in U.S. military assistance, including counter-drone systems and HIMARS munitions, announced Monday that would be drawn from the Pentagon's stockpiles to more quickly get to the front lines. The U.S. has provided Ukraine with more than \$62 billion in military aid since Russia's invasion in February 2022.

"The baton will soon be passed," Austin said. "Others will decide the course ahead. And I hope that they will build on the strength that we have forged over the past four years."

Ukraine is facing an intensified onslaught by Russia, which is now using thousands of North Korean troops to augment its fight to take back the Kursk region. Moscow also has launched an intermediate-range ballistic missile and regularly strikes Kyiv's civilian infrastructure.

With questions about whether Trump will maintain military support to Ukraine, the Biden administration has been trying to

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### 'Christmas in the Mansion'

Holiday piano music was provided by Arlene Stoller at the "Christmas in the Mansion" Sunday afternoon at the Wells County Historical Museum. Kenny Steffen will provide musical entertainment from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15, and Karen Carpenter from 2:30-5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 22. Santa will also visit on Dec. 15. Other viewing hours for the decorated trees are Saturdays and Sundays from 2 to 5:30 p.m. through Dec. 22. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

## The fall of Syrian President Bashar Assad brings end to dynasty

By ZEINA KARAM  
and ABBY SEWELL  
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian President Bashar Assad fled the country on Sunday, bringing to a dramatic close his nearly 14-year struggle to hold onto control as his country fragmented in a brutal civil war that became a proxy battlefield for regional and international powers.

The exit of the 59-year-old

Assad stood in stark contrast to his first months as Syria's unlikely president in 2000, when many hoped he would be a young reformer after three decades of his father's iron grip. At age 34, the Western-educated ophthalmologist appeared as a geeky tech-savvy fan of computers with a gentle demeanor.

But when faced with protests of his rule that erupted in March 2011, Assad turned to the brutal

tactics of his father to crush dissent. As the uprising hemorrhaged into an outright civil war, he unleashed his military to blast opposition-held cities, with support from allies Iran and Russia.

International rights groups and prosecutors alleged widespread use of torture and extrajudicial killings in Syria's government-run detention centers. The war has killed nearly half a million people

and displaced half of the country's prewar population of 23 million.

The conflict appeared to be frozen in recent years, with Assad's government regaining control of most of Syria's territory while the northwest remained under the control of opposition groups and the northeast under Kurdish control.

Although Damascus remained under crippling Western sanctions, neighboring countries had begun

to resign themselves to Assad's continued hold on power. The Arab League reinstated Syria's membership last year, and Saudi Arabia in May announced the appointment of its first ambassador since severing ties with Damascus 12 years ago.

However, the geopolitical tide turned quickly when opposition groups in northwest Syria in late

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### Outside



A glimpse of spring weather today

Today	Tuesday	Wed.
High 53	High 42	High 29
Low 36	Low 24	Low 11

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# Mike Speedy

(Continued from Page 1)  
 Last month, Speedy was selected to head up Braun's commerce-focused transition council — one of 12 such councils meant to guide state agency reviews and policy development across Indiana's government.  
 Speedy's council is focused on "driving economic growth across Indiana by fostering entrepreneurship and identifying opportunities to support geographically diverse communities. The council aims to expand economic opportunity in every corner of the state by cultivating a thriving environment for Hoosier entrepreneurs and encourag-

ing community-level development," per Braun's team.  
 Speedy is a real estate developer, former state representative and former Indianapolis city-county councilor.  
 In the General Assembly, he represented District 90 — which includes portions of southeastern Marion County — from 2010 until earlier this year.  
 He launched a political campaign for Indiana's 6th Congressional District seat after incumbent Rep. Greg Pence announced he would not seek re-election. Speedy lost the primary election to former Indianapolis city-county councilor Jefferson Shreve, however.

Prior to serving at the Statehouse, Speedy was a member of the Indianapolis City-County Council for seven years, including as chairman of the Public Works Committee.  
 He additionally operates a multi-state real estate development company headquartered in Indianapolis.  
 "I look forward to working alongside Gov.-elect Braun as Indiana's Secretary of Business Affairs," Speedy said. "Having served in the Indiana General Assembly, I've seen firsthand how smart policy and reduced regulation can help businesses flourish. Drawing on my experience as both a leg-

islator and business owner, we will streamline government processes, reduce bureaucratic hurdles, and create an even more business-friendly environment in Indiana. Together, we'll ensure Indiana remains one of the best places to do business in America."  
 Earlier this week, Braun announced four other appointments: Lisa Hershman as secretary of management and budget; Matthew Ubelhor as secretary of transportation and infrastructure; David Adams as secretary of commerce; and Katie Jenner, who will remain as secretary of education.

# Pearl Harbor survivors

(Continued from Page 1)  
 the attack who made it to an annual observance hosted by the U.S. Navy and National Park Service on a grass field overlooking the harbor. A third survivor had been planning to join them but had to cancel because of health issues.  
 The Dec. 7, 1941, bombing killed more than 2,300 U.S. servicemen. Nearly half, or 1,177, were sailors and Marines on board the USS Arizona, which sank during the battle. The remains of more than 900 Arizona crew members are still entombed on the submerged vessel.  
 Dozens of survivors once joined the event but their attendance has declined as survivors have aged. Today there are only 16 still living, according to a list maintained by Kathleen Farley, the California state chair of the Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors. Military historian J. Michael Wenger has estimated there were some 87,000 military personnel on Oahu on the day of the attack.  
 Schab agreed when ceremony organizers asked him earlier this year to salute on behalf of all survivors and World War II veterans.  
 "He's been working hard, because this is his goal," said his daughter Kimberlee Heinrichs, who traveled to Hawaii with Schab from their Beaver-

ton, Oregon, home. "He wanted to be able to stand for that."  
 Schab was a sailor on the USS Dobbin at the time of the attack, serving as the tuba player in the ship's band. He had showered and put on a clean uniform when he heard the call for a fire rescue party.  
 He hurried topside to see Japanese planes flying overhead and the USS Utah capsizing. He quickly went back below deck to join a daisy chain of sailors feeding shells to an anti-aircraft gun topside.  
 Ken Stevens, 102, who served on the USS Whitney, joined Schab at the ceremony. USS Curtiss sailor Bob Fernandez, 100, was unable to come due to health issues.  
 Attendees observed a moment of silence at 7:54 a.m., the same time the attack began eight decades ago. F-22 jets in missing man formation flew overhead shortly after.  
 Fernandez, speaking in a phone interview from California, where he lives with his nephew in Lodi, recalled feeling shocked and surprised as the attack began.  
 "When those things go off like that, we didn't know what's what," Fernandez said. "We didn't even know we were in a war."  
 Fernandez was a mess cook on the Curtiss and his job that morning was

to bring sailors coffee and food as he waited tables during breakfast. Then they heard an alarm sound. Through a porthole, Fernandez saw a plane with the red ball insignia painted on Japanese aircraft fly by.  
 Fernandez rushed down three decks to a magazine room where he and other sailors waited for someone to unlock a door storing 5-inch, 38-caliber shells so they could begin passing them to the ship's guns.  
 He has told interviewers over the years that some of his fellow sailors were praying and crying as they heard gunfire up above.  
 "I felt kind of scared because I didn't know what the hell was going on," Fernandez said.  
 The ship's guns hit a Japanese plane that crashed into one of its cranes. Shortly after, its guns hit a dive bomber that then slammed into the ship and exploded below deck, setting the hangar and main decks on fire, according to the Navy History and Heritage Command.  
 Fernandez's ship, the Curtiss, lost 21 men and nearly 60 of its sailors were injured.  
 Many laud Pearl Harbor survivors as heroes, but Fernandez doesn't view himself that way.  
 "I'm not a hero," he said. "I'm just nothing but an ammunition passer."

# Weapons support

(Continued from Page 1)  
 spend every dollar remaining from a massive foreign aid bill passed earlier this year to put Ukraine in the strongest position possible.  
 "This administration has made its choice. So has a bipartisan coalition in Congress. The next administration must make its own choice," Austin said in a speech at an annual gathering of national security officials, defense firms and lawmakers at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California.  
 Trump had a hastily arranged meeting Saturday with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and France's Emmanuel Macron while in Paris for the reopening of Notre Dame Cathedral. Macron and other

European leaders are trying to persuade Trump to maintain support for Ukraine.  
 Trump, a longtime admirer of Russian President Vladimir Putin, has criticized U.S. aid for Ukraine and called for bringing a quick end to the war, raising concerns in Ukraine about what terms may be laid out for any future negotiations.  
 Austin said he was "confident that President Reagan would have stood on the side of Ukraine, American security and human freedom."  
 It was one of Austin's last major speeches as President Joe Biden's defense secretary and a cap to his more than 41 years serving as a soldier and general.  
 Under Austin's watch, the Pentagon in 2022 launched a regular meeting

that now counts more than 50 countries to figure out how to get the tens of millions of rounds of ammunition and billions of dollars in advanced weaponry to Ukraine. Without that flow of support, it's possible the country would have fallen to Russia after it invaded.  
 "Together, we have helped Ukraine survive an all-out assault by the largest military in Europe," Austin said.  
 Austin and Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell, the longtime Republican leader, were honored at the conference for their lifetime of service, and they used the opportunity to press for the U.S. to continue to build and support its alliances, a sharp contrast to Trump's "America First" policy.  
 Austin called the Ukraine

Defense Contact Group "the most consequential global coalition since the time of President George H.W. Bush and Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait," showing that "America and our friends have become the arsenal of Ukrainian democracy."  
 Before Saturday's announcement, there was roughly \$8 billion left to use to pull existing weapons out of U.S. stockpiles and to put additional weapons on contract to help Ukraine.  
 "We're not going to stop Putin by telling Ukraine we aren't going to give you anything more," Rep. Adam Smith of Washington state, the top Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, said at a panel at the Reagan National Defense Forum.

# President Bashar Assad

(Continued from Page 1)  
 November launched a surprise offensive. Government forces quickly collapsed while Assad's allies, preoccupied by other conflicts — Russia's war in Ukraine and the yearlong wars between Israel and the Iran-backed militant groups Hezbollah and Hamas — appeared reluctant to forcefully intervene.  
**An end to decades of family rule**  
 Assad came to power in 2000 by a twist of fate. His father had been cultivating Bashar's oldest brother, Basil, as his successor, but in 1994, Basil was killed in a car crash in Damascus. Bashar was brought home from his ophthalmology practice in London, put through military training and elevated to the rank of colonel to establish his credentials so he could one day rule.  
 When Hafez Assad died in 2000, parliament quickly lowered the presidential age requirement from 40 to 34. Bashar's elevation was sealed by a nationwide referendum, in which he was the only candidate.  
 Hafez, a lifelong military man, ruled the country for nearly 30 years during

which he set up a Soviet-style centralized economy and kept such a stifling hand over dissent that Syrians feared even to joke about politics to their friends.  
 He pursued a secular ideology that sought to bury sectarian differences under Arab nationalism and the image of heroic resistance to Israel. He formed an alliance with the Shiite

clerical leadership in Iran, sealed Syrian domination over Lebanon and set up a network of Palestinian and Lebanese militant groups.  
 Bashar initially seemed completely unlike his strongman father.  
 Tall and lanky with a slight lisp, he had a quiet, gentle demeanor. His only official position before becoming president was

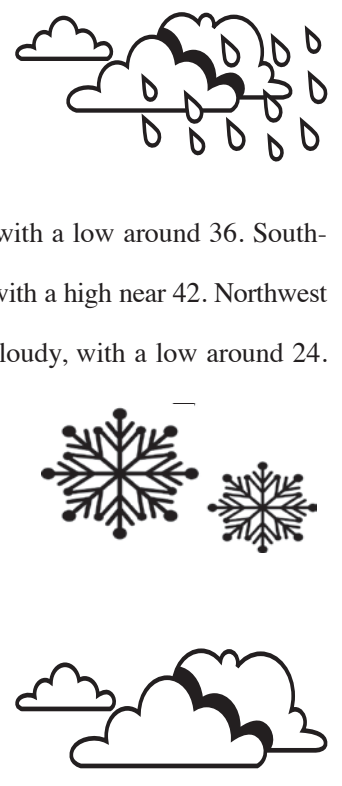
head of the Syrian Computer Society. His wife, Asma al-Akhras, whom he married several months after taking office, was attractive, stylish and British-born.

# Weather

Monday, December 9, 2024  
 (24-hour observations at 10:27 p.m. Sunday)  
**High: 55; Low: 41; Precipitation: None**  
**Wabash River Level** (at the Main Street bridge): 1.07 feet at 9:45 p.m. Sunday

## Wells County forecast

**Today:** Rain likely, mainly before 11 a.m. Cloudy, with a high near 53. West wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.  
**Tonight:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 36. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.  
**Tuesday:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 42. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.  
**Tuesday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 24. Northwest wind around 10 mph.  
**Wednesday:** A 30% chance of snow showers after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 29.  
**Wednesday Night:** A 20% chance of snow showers before 1 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 11.  
**Thursday:** Sunny and cold, with a high near 19.  
**Thursday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 8.  
**Friday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 30.  
**Friday Night:** A 20% chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 23.  
**Saturday:** A 30% chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 39.  
**Saturday Night:** A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 28.  
**Sunday:** A slight chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 41.



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**First Presbyterian Church Special Christmas Concert and Worship Service**  
 Featuring the A440 Strings from Fort Wayne Philharmonic  
 Saturday, December 15 • Concert at 10 AM • Worship Service at 10:30 AM

The A440 Strings, all members of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, will perform Traditional Christmas music and other seasonal music.  
**Violinist Kristin Westover • Violinist Pablo Vasques**  
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 First Presbyterian Church in Bluffton is located at 215 E. Dustman Road.  
 Everyone is invited to this special Worship Service!

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OBITUARIES

Amos G. Schwartz, 80

Amos G. Schwartz, 80, of Monroe, died on Sunday morning, Dec. 8, 2024, at his residence. He was born on June 10, 1944. He was the son of William H. and Mary (Girod) Schwartz. Amos was of the Old Order Amish.

Surviving is his wife, Emma H. Schwartz; sons, William E. (Bertha) Schwartz, Monroe, Daniel E. (Josephine) Schwartz, Connersville, Indiana, Emanuel E. (Leah) Schwartz, Decatur, David E. (MaryAnn) Schwartz, LaGrange, Indiana, Sam E. (Erma) Schwartz, Syracuse, Indiana, Marcus E. (Amy) Schwartz, Monroe; daughters, Susan E. (Victor) Hilty, Monroe, Laura E. (Roy) Schwartz, Syracuse, Indiana, Barbara E. (Kevin) Schwartz, Guthrie, Kentucky, Rosemary E. (Welter) Schwartz, Berne, Elizabeth E. (Ernest) Wickey, Bluffton; 106 grandchildren; 130 great-grandchildren; brothers, Daniel G. (Leah) Schwartz, Wisconsin, William G. (Lizzie) Schwartz, Geneva, Levi G. (Josephine) Schwartz, Geneva; sisters, MaryAnn G. Schwartz, Monroe, Mandy G. Schwartz, Monroe, and Lizzie G. (John) Schwartz, Monroe.

He was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers and two sisters.

Visitation will be Monday, Dec. 9, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Amos G. Schwartz Residence, 2866 W. St. Rd. 124 Monroe, IN.

A funeral service will be held at Amos G. Schwartz Residence 2866 W. St. Rd. 124 Monroe, IN, at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2024, with Bishop Emanuel E. Schwartz officiating. Interment will follow in the Winchester Amish Cemetery.

Arrangements are being handled by Downing & Glancy Funeral Home in Geneva.

Online condolences may be made at [www.glancyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.glancyfuneralhomes.com)



Christmas Lights over Halfway Funded

The Christmas Light Committee's efforts have seen results, as fundraising for new LED Christmas Lights has reached the halfway mark. For discounted prices on the lights, the committee will need to fully raise funds by Feb. 1. In front, from left to right, Brenda Jackson, Tim McCormick, Larry Peeper and Chuck King are part of the light committee. At back, from left to right, Kira Lee, Erin Prible and Kristi Lockwood have helped out the committee throughout the process. Donations should be made out to the Wells County Foundation with a designation for Christmas Lights. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

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By CASEY SMITH  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

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transportation and infrastructure; David Adams as secretary of commerce; and Katie Jenner, who will remain as secretary of education.

Financial Focus

PSA: What should you know about RMDs?

At some point, you'll need to take money out of your IRA and 401(k). What should you know about these mandatory withdrawals?

First, they're called required minimum distributions, or RMDs. And you must start taking them when you're 73, or, if you were born in 1960 or later, 75.

RMDs apply to your traditional IRA and 401(k), but not your Roth IRA or Roth 401(k).

The amount you take out is based on your account balance and age. But if you don't take out the required amount each year, you could face a 25% penalty.

Of course, you can withdraw more than the RMDs each year, but keep in mind that your withdrawals are taxable.

When you inherit an IRA or 401(k), you still must take RMDs, but you typically must take out all the money within 10 years.

After you've started taking RMDs, you must do so by the end of each year, so, if you haven't taken them for 2024, you may need to act quickly. And if you'll soon be required to take RMDs, learn as much as you can about them — you'll want to make the right moves at the right time.

This content was provided by Edward Jones for use by Jeremy Todd, your Edward Jones financial advisor at 260-824-0686.

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Edward Jones  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

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A very merry Southern Wells Christmas

Southern Wells Elementary School hosted their annual Christmas program on Thursday evening. The kindergarten, first and second graders sang songs like "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," "All I want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth," and "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas." Third and fourth graders performed the play "Fa La La Land." The fifth and sixth grade choir, In-Harmony, also had a special performance for all in attendance. Pictured are fourth graders, Avery Neuenschwander, Zoey Boyer, Molly Deel and SWES Music teacher, Ms. Inskeep. (Photo provided)

Trump taps Alina Habba to serve as counselor to the president

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump has announced that he is appointing one of his defense attorneys in the New York hush money case as counselor to the president.

Alina Habba, 40, defended Trump earlier this year, also serving as his legal spokesperson. Habba has been spending time with the president-elect since the election at his Florida club Mar-a-Lago.

"She has been unwav-

ering in her loyalty and unmatched in her resolve — standing with me through numerous 'trials,' battles and countless days in Court," Trump posted on his social network Truth Social. "Few understand the Weaponization of the 'Injustice' System better than Alina."

In Trump's first term, the position of counselor was held by Republican strategist Kellyanne Conway. Habba has Iraqi ancestry and is Chaldean, which is Iraq's largest Christian

denomination and one of the Catholic Church's Eastern rites.

Habba frequently accompanied Trump on the campaign trail and was one of the speakers at the late October rally in New York's Madison Square Garden.

On Sunday, Trump also announced he is bringing back former staffer Michael Anton to serve as director of policy planning at the State Department. Anton served as the National Security Council spokesman from 2017 to 2018.

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Jimmie R. Purvis  
Calling: 3 - 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, December 10.  
Funeral: 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, December 10  
at the funeral home.  
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## Who really was pardoned? And from what?

Last week's news has been filled with pronouncements disturbing to most. President Biden's decision to pardon his son, Hunter, shows his previous vows to not issue such a pardon false. Repeated vows. False. Numerous vows in numerous venues. False. Troubling to put it mildly.

But, that is not the most troubling part to me. Some describe Hunter as being "above the law." Though treated as privileged and above all of those who follow the law, work every day, stay true to their family, use their money for legal and moral purposes and make up the fiber of our communities, the reality I want our kids and grandkids to see is that Hunter and his fellow travelers are, in fact, below the law!

And, how is it that the pardon extends for a ten-year period? Some have suggested that the real pardon extends to Joe and the entire family. Does the pardon ensure that the monies Hunter allegedly received from Ukraine, China and Russia can no longer tracked as to source and eventual recipients? Allegedly gained from undue influence while accompanying the President on official trips and/or under other dubious circumstances, will the appropriate taxes ever be paid in full? Does anyone really continue to believe the President knew nothing of Hunter's dealings? From what knowledge base was the ten-year pardon proposed? Why not five-years, twenty-years, or three-years? What did Dad know about that ten-year timeframe?

In 2016, the spouse of a former President ran for office. Suddenly a dossier appeared casting serious aspersions on Donald Trump alleging his strong and inappropriate ties to Russia. Nasty stuff. Rep. Schiff stated publicly that he had seen verifying evidence that the report was true. An impeachment followed. Only later was the report's origin tracked to the opposing candidate's campaign and determined to be without factual basis.

In December 2019 a laptop computer was linked to Hunter Biden. Reportedly containing information related to Hunter's receipt of monies from foreign governments along with significant drug involvement dating back to 2014, the accuracy and significance of the information seemed to be of little interest to the national media and remains so.

In 2024, the sitting President, Mr. Biden, termed Mr. Trump a "threat to democracy." A hired TV star endorser of Trump's opponent said this election might be the last time voting for President would be permitted. A plethora of charges were lodged against Trump prior to the actual campaign with a local prosecutor receiving the assistance of the third-highest ranking official in the Justice Department who took leave for the experience. In the end, the voting public decided Mr. Trump was the better candidate.

So will the national media, who widely published the 2016 Russia stuff, all of the now-dismissed trumped-up charges against Trump and provided the softball interviews of their favored candidate during the campaign, do a Watergate-like investigation of what Mr. Biden was pardoning his son (and most likely himself) from?

The pardon does not exempt either Joe Biden or Hunter Biden from media examination and investigation. Will the Fourth Estate reclaim and regain its role or is it too late? Hunter's computer along with the Biden family bank records from 2014 forward might be a good place to start.

*Roger Thornton, a Bluffton resident, is a former city councilman and a retired educator and school superintendent.*



### Guest Column



## Indiana's MAGA realignment

WASHINGTON – Eight years ago there was a peculiar migration of Hoosiers into the first Trump presidency.

Vice President-elect Mike Pence and Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats were the headliners. Neither supported Donald J. Trump when he won the pivotal Indiana primary in May 2016 with 53% of the vote, coming with virtually no "establishment" support.

After Trump fired his first transition team director, Chris Christie, and replaced him with Pence, almost 40 Hoosiers followed the Indiana governor into the fledgling Trump45 administration. These were institutional or establishment Republicans: Alex Azar of Eli Lilly, Dr. Jerome Adams, Seema Verma, Ted McKinney, Anne Hazlett, Marc Short, Brad Rateike, Nick Ayers, Fred Klipsch, Jen Pavlik and Josh Pitcock.

In the Dec. 15, 2016, edition of Howey Politics Indiana, I observed, "As the Trump cabinet unfolds, there is a significant rightward bent and it has Pence's fingerprints and world view all over it."

It's impossible to know how many of these Trump45 Hoosiers voted for him in the 2016 Indiana primary. Of the 40, my guess is you could have counted them with one hand.

As we all know, Vice President Pence was able to stay on President Trump's positive side for 206 of his 208 weeks in power, until the Jan. 6, 2021, U.S. Capitol insurrection. He is now persona non grata in the MAGA world and, perhaps, subject to prosecution. We also know that all of the cabinet level Hoosiers and Pence did not endorse him for a second term citing his willingness to pervert the Constitution and his role in the Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol insurrection.

Now with the second Trump presidency taking shape, the headlines are dominated by those who fit Steve Bannon's self-described "Leninist" tendencies — those determined to dismantle federal institutions and pursue a path of "retribution."

There is hard-drinkin' Fox News personality Pete Hegseth for defense secretary; vaccine denier Robert F. Kennedy Jr., headed to Azar's old post at Health & Human Services; Putin apologist Tulsi Gabbard for the Coats DNI slot; and Kash Patel as the incoming FBI director, where he has vowed to prosecute those deemed the "enemies within," be they DOJ prosecutors, judges, intel leaders, RINOs or journalists. There had been former Congressman Matt Gaetz, whose nomination for attorney general became so toxic that he withdrew.

When Trump passed on Kosciusko County farmer Kip Tom as secretary of agriculture (the only Hoosier who appeared to have Trump47 cabinet capital), the most conspicuous Indiana man involved with the current Trump transition appears to be longtime GOP operative Marty Obst.

A couple of weeks after President Trump was sworn in in 2017, I had a conversation with JD Vance, the bestselling author and current veep-elect, at Pur-

due University. Vance chalked up Trump's stunning upset to the notion he was willing to "slaughter a lot of Republican sacred cows."

"If you think about what Trump really ran on, he made that the centerpiece of his campaign," Vance said. "He talked about immigration and primarily talked about it through the lens of wages and wage competition, another Republican sacred cow to be sacrificed. He was very critical of the foreign policy that exists on the right and the left, especially on the right."

"He framed the whole host of issues as a pretty radical departure from George W. Bush in 2004 and very few people seemed to really appreciate that fact," Vance continued. "More money from Wall Street went to Hillary Clinton than Donald Trump for the first time since the post-World War II era."

Another writer for The Atlantic, George Packer, added, "This is why so many voters are willing to tolerate — in some cases, celebrate — Trump's vile language and behavior; his love affairs with foreign dictators; his readiness to toss aside norms, laws, the Constitution itself."

So Trump45 was populated with establishment Republicans who became his "guardrails" until they were gradually jettisoned.

Here in Indiana, the Pence wing is being replaced by Trumpists such as U.S. Sen.-elect Jim Banks, Attorney General Todd Rokita (who ran his 2018 U.S. Senate campaign with the motto "Defeat the elite"), Secretary of State Diego Morales and Lt. Gov.-elect Micah Beckwith (who is encouraging legislation forbidding the FBI from making arrests in Indiana).

Establishment Hoosier Republicans I've talked with since Trump won a second term dismiss some of his most contentious statements, impulses and controversial cabinet picks as just "bluster." They acknowledge the "crazy talk" like deporting 10 million to 20 million undocumented immigrants.

But this wing of the Indiana GOP is receding. Banks is calling the deportation of 15 million undocumented immigrants as doable, and he embraced the Gaetz nomination ("very talented" and "I'm going to vote to confirm"), as well as that of Hegseth ("an anti-woke warrior and I look forward to helping him clean up the mess at the Pentagon in the US Senate!"), RFK Jr. ("Good chance [he] will get bipartisan Senate support") and Gabbard ("a patriot who has served our country for decades").

While some see Hoosier farmers and blue-collar autoworkers returning oligarchs like Trump, Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy to power, others see it as an inevitable political realignment fueled by MAGA and not the receding establishment GOP that took power in 1980 during the Reagan revolution.

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



Brian Howey

## Politicking

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Dec. 9, the 344th day of 2024. There are 22 days left in the year.

Today in history: On Dec. 9, 1979, scientists certified the global eradication of smallpox, a disease which killed an estimated 300 million people in the 20th century.

Also on this date:

In 1965, "A Charlie Brown Christmas," the first animated TV special featuring characters from the "Peanuts" comic strip by Charles M. Schulz, premiered on CBS.

In 1990, Solidarity founder Lech Wałęsa

(lek vah-WEN'-sah) won Poland's first free presidential election since 1926.

In 1992, the first U.S. Marines made a pre-dawn beach landing in Somalia in support of Operation Restore Hope; they were met by hundreds of reporters awaiting their arrival.

In 2008, Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich was arrested on corruption charges, including attempting to profit from filling the U.S. Senate seat vacated by President-elect Barack Obama.

In 2013, scientists revealed that NASA's Curiosity rover had uncovered signs of an ancient freshwater lake on Mars.

Submit your Letters to the Editor via: • Our website link (Submit your Letter) • E-Mail: email@news-banner.com • Mail: PO Box 436, Bluffton IN 46714 • Drop-off: 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton. All letters must be signed and must include a phone number or address in case verification is desired. Letters are edited for brevity and clarity. Letters must be no more than 500 words. Please mark your correspondence as a "Letter to the Editor," or if you wish to express an opinion to us but do not want it published, please mark as "Not for Publication."

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## Trump's strong start

It's not 2016 again.

President-elect Donald Trump is off to a strong start with markedly fewer obstructions than the last time he won.

In football terms, he has a lot of green space ahead of him. In nautical terms, it's plain sailing. In political terms, it might not be a honeymoon, but no one is throwing any furniture, either.

Naturally, there are all sorts of potential pitfalls. Some of Trump's more controversial cabinet picks could, if confirmed, blow up once they are in place. (Does anyone believe that Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s tenure at the Department of Health and Human Services will be smooth and uneventful?) Republicans only have two votes to spare in the House. Events will take a hand, and so will Trump's mercurial nature.

We are in a much different place than eight years ago, though. When Trump won in 2016, the shock to the system was so great that the body politic reacted fiercely and reflexively. Trump was treated as a virus and every antibody attacked him, from activists in the street to the director of the FBI.

This time, the reaction is much more muted. Despite all the fevered warnings of an existential threat to democracy, when former top Kamala Harris advisers did an election post-mortem on the podcast "Pod Save America," they talked about how they



Rich Lowry

could do better next time — in other words, there will be a next time.

Despite the insistence of his enemies that Trump can't be "normalized," he's been an inescapable fixture of American politics for about a decade now, with at least another four years ahead (he could well continue to dominate the Republican Party even after his second term ends).

Like it or not, Trump is mainstream. He shows up at those most American events — football games and MMA fights — and gets applause. He eats McDonald's. He himself is part of the pop culture.

This time, unlike in 2016, there were no protests after he won the election, or any effort to get so-called faithless electors to keep him from assuming office.

There is no cloud of illegitimacy over his victory. He won more convincingly than in 2016, carrying the popular vote and denying his opponents the opportunity to say he only won via the technicality and anachronism of the Electoral College.

Relatedly, this time Trump doesn't have a bogus investigation hanging over his head. The Russiagate probe

blighted the initial years of his first term. Now, the legal decks are clearing. Whereas Special Counsel Robert Mueller was about to enter the stage after Trump won in 2016, Special Counsel Jack Smith is exiting it. As Trump heads into the White House a second time, he is going to be less legally encumbered than he's been in years.

In 2016, Trump got elected despite a catastrophic unfavorable rating in the polling. This time, he was closer to a break-even favorable/unfavorable rating in some pre-election surveys, and he's ticked upward since. In a recent CBS poll, 59% of people said they approve of his transition. If in 2016 it felt like Trump faced a stiff headwind at the outset, this time he has the wind — or at least a pleasant breeze — at his back.

Trump is already looming much larger than the incumbent president who, with the exception of the pardon of his son, has nearly disappeared. When Biden shuffles into retirement, he won't, like Hillary Clinton, be complaining that Trump stole the election from him. If Biden is going to be bitter about anything, it will be about the machinations that denied him a Democratic nomination that he had already won.

None of this means that Trump is guaranteed success in the crucial first two years of his presidency. But the conditions favor him in a way they decidedly didn't eight years ago.

*Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry*

# Events at the Creative Arts Council of Wells County

**428 S. Oak Street in Bluffton**  
**260-824-5222**  
[www.wellscocreativearts.com](http://www.wellscocreativearts.com)  
**creativeartsCouncil@gmail.com**  
**Facebook: www.facebook.com/wellscocreativearts**  
**Instagram: @creativeartscouncil**  
 Creative Arts office hours — Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday (by appointment only).

**Creative Arts Dance Academy**  
**NEW Dance classes this January/February 2025**

- Adult Continuing Tap - 6 weeks beginning Jan 11 - Saturdays, 1:00 to 1:45 p.m. - \$40
- Adult Beginning Tap (ages 18+) - 6 weeks beginning Jan 11 - Saturdays, 1:45 to 2:30 p.m. - \$40
- Pre-Teen Lyrical Dance (ages 8-11) - 4 weeks beginning Jan 9 - Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. - \$30
- Lyrical Dance (ages 12-18) - 4 weeks beginning Jan 9 - Thursdays, 7:15 to 8:00 p.m. - \$30
- Pre-Teen Beginning Jazz (ages 8-11) - 4 weeks beginning Feb 6 - Thursdays, 6:30-7:15 p.m. - \$30
- Teen Beginning Jazz (ages 12-18) - 4 weeks beginning Feb 6 - Thursdays, 7:15-8:00 p.m. - \$30

Registration: <https://www.wellscocreativearts.com/why-choose-us>

**Creative Arts Theater**  
 Creative Arts 24/25 Theater season has been announced:

- “The BEST Christmas Pageant Ever” - December 12-14
- “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” - March 6-8, 2025
- Disney Newsies JR - June 13-14, 2025
- Disney Artistocats Kids - June 27-28, 2025

Admission: \$15.00 per person sold through ArtsTix - (260) 422-4226  
 Auditorium: 428 S Oak Street, Bluffton, IN 46714

**NEW Adult Acting class this January/February 2025**  
**Acting 101/102**

- Mondays, 6 to 9 p.m. a 6-week session: Jan. 6-Feb. 10
- Creative Arts Council of Wells County, 428 S Oak St, Bluffton / Enter Door 10
- Age 16+
- Cost: \$100 per student
- Instructor: Meagan VandeLaar

Whether you are completely new to the acting world, have done some plays but want to dive deeper and grow your craft, or you are an experienced actor that could use a refresher course, Acting 101/102 will give you the basic (and not so basic) tools you need to take the next step in your acting journey in an engaging and empowering atmosphere. Participants will be introduced to several acting and movement techniques, learn the basics of scene study and characterization, and learn to follow their



impulses and work collaboratively with their scene partners.  
 Registration: <https://form.jotform.com/243045826666160>

**“The BEST Christmas Pageant Ever” presented by Creative Arts Theater**

In this hilarious Christmas classic, a couple struggling to put on a church Christmas pageant is faced with casting the Herdman kids—probably the most inventively awful kids in history. You won't believe the mayhem—and the fun—when the Herdmans collide head-on with the story of Christmas! A great show for all ages! Run time - 1 hour 15 minutes

- Performances (4):  
 Thursday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m.  
 Friday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m.  
 Saturday, Dec. 14 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Tickets (\$15) on sale through ArtsTix at <https://tickets.artstix.org/TheatreManager/1/tmEvent/tmEvent4203.html> or by calling (260) 422-4226, Monday - Friday; 12 to 6 p.m. or Saturday; 12 to 4 p.m.

Auditorium, 428 S Oak St, Bluffton

**“Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” presented by Creative Arts Theater**

- One of the most enduring shows of all time, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat is a reimagining of the Biblical story of Joseph, his father Jacob, eleven brothers and the coat of many colors. Told entirely through song with the help of a main character Narrator, the musical follows preferred son Joseph. After being sold into slavery by his brothers, he ingratiates himself with Egyptian noble Potiphar, but ends up in jail after refusing the amorous advances of Potiphar's wife. While imprisoned, Joseph discovers his ability to interpret dreams, and he soon finds himself in front of the mighty but troubled, Elvinspired, Pharaoh. Joseph's solution to Egypt's famine elevates him to Pharaoh's right-hand man and reunites him with his family. Run Time: 2 hours and 15 minutes
- Appropriate for all audiences.
- Performances: March 6 - 8, 2025
- Tickets (\$15) go on sale through Artstix on December 18 Auditorium, 428 S Oak St, Bluffton

**Creative Arts School of Music**

- Voice Lessons with Lynne Niermeyer, Tuesday afternoon/evenings, \$30/half hour lesson
- Guitar Lessons with Mike Needler, Tuesday afternoon/evenings, \$35/half hour lessons

For more information regarding the music lessons above, please call the office at (260) 824-5222 for lesson times/availability.

**Ongoing Activities**

**Creative Crew:** Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: All forms of creativity welcome: painting, drawing, needlework and more... spend the morning working on your craft and socialize with other artists. Enter Door 1 or Door 10 at Life Community Church, the creative crew meets in the cafe

**Readers' Brown Bag Luncheon:** Meeting the last Tuesday of the month at noon at Life Community Church, enter door 10. All readers are welcome. Feel free to call the office for more information.

**\*\*\*Important Scheduling Note:** Changes can occur after the Creative Happenings column has been published. Please confirm dates and times before planning to participate in programs and activities\*\*\*

*Creative Arts Council activities are supported by memberships, sponsors and grants from funders including Arts United, a regional agency; the Indiana Arts Commission, a state agency; and the National Endowment for the Arts, a national agency.*

## 'Best Christmas Pageant Ever' coming to town

On Dec. 12-14 the Creative Arts Theater will present the hilarious Christmas classic “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” at the Auditorium, 428 S. Oak St. in Bluffton.

The action circles around the confusion that happens as the Herdmans (the worst kids in town) take over the church's annual Christmas Pageant.

There will be 7 p.m. curtain times on Thursday, Dec. 12, Friday, Dec. 13 and Saturday, Dec. 14 with a 3 p.m. one on Saturday, Dec. 14.

Members of the cast include: Clint Fiechter (Bob Bradley), DoRena Wirgau (Grace Bradley), Eleanor Merica (Beth Bradley), and Xyzavier Bagley (Charlie Bradley).

The Herdmans: Alexander Fuhman (Ralph), Jordyn Grzych (Imogene), Jude Wirgau (Leroy), Aiden Howe (Claude), Trace Henry (Ollie) and Ginny Wirgau (Glady).

Others include: Layah Corbat (Alice Wendleken), Pat White (Mrs. Armstrong), Joyce Fischer (Mrs. Slocum), Mega Eckelbarger (Mrs. Clark), Nicole Surbaugh (Mrs. Claus), Crystal Howe (Mrs. McCarthy), Callie Fischer (Maxine), Otto Fiechter (Elmer Hopkins), Gabe Fischer (Hobie), Maylee Walker (Beverly), Camille Surbaugh (Shirley), Stowe Fiechter (Juanita) and Jemma Grzych (Doris).

The angels will include Aurora Elston, Astrid Hirshey, Jude Henry, Maylee Walker, Bridget Evans, Revere Merica, Pet Pfister, Annabelle Fuhrmann and Ira Eckelbarger.

Shepherds will include Lanie Evans, Auden Sander, Ezra Henry, Giovanni Fischer, Savannah Fuller,



Here the Herdmans are ready to bring mayhem to the stage in “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.” In front left to right are Trace Henry (Ollie), Aiden Howe (Claude), Ginny Wirgau (Glady) and Jordyn Grzych (Imogene) while behind them are Alexander Fuhman (Ralph) and Jude Wirgau (Leroy). (Photos



Trying to keep the Christmas Pageant on track is the role for DoRena Wirgau, at left, as she portrays Grace Bradley, the director of the pageant. Taking the role of her son Charlie Bradley, center, is Xyzavier Bagley while Clint Fiechter, at right, portrays her husband Bob Bradley.

Addison Gerber, Amelia Merica, Miles Eckelbarger, Emma Schuueler, Jonah Bultemeier. In the Angel Chorus will be Emma Wirgau, Sarena Wirgau and Raelynn Yardley.

The production is appropriate for all ages and lasts

about 75 minutes. Admission is \$15 and tickets may be arranged for in advance at <https://tickets.artstix.org/TheatreManager/1/online> or call ArtsTix at 260-422-4225 or [tickets@artstix.org](mailto:tickets@artstix.org) (Monday-Friday, noon to 6 p.m.).

## A Talk with Tego



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



Poe is a two-year-old, polydactyl, buff/white, neutered male.



Tigger is a six-month-old, tiger striped, spayed female.



Tego

**Tego's Tips: EMPTY THE SHELTER!** Waived adoption fees on cat/kittens already fixed!

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### Lottery Numbers

**Saturday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY**  
Cash 5 — 14-18-28-34-38  
Cash4Life — 06-08-34-45-54, Cash Ball: 04  
Lotto Plus — 02-05-12-26-33-42  
Quick Draw Midday — 07-15-17-20-21-22-26-28-29-31-41-46-50-55-56-59-64-66-69-80, BE: 69  
Daily Three-Midday — 01-03-07, SB: 06  
Daily Three-Evening — 09-07-02, SB: 07  
Daily Four-Midday — 01-00-05-05, SB: 06  
Daily Four-Evening — 09-04-03-05, SB: 07  
Quick Draw Evening — 04-05-06-18-21-25-27-28-29-36-42-44-47-50-53-56-57-63-69-74, BE: 47  
Hoosier Lotto — 07-16-19-22-30-31  
**POWERBALL**  
01-31-43-55-57; Powerball: 22; Power Play: 2X

**Sunday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY**  
Cash 5 — 13-23-25-33-34  
Cash4Life — 04-07-18-34-58, Cash Ball: 02  
Quick Draw Midday — 16-20-22-23-25-27-29-32-34-37-39-41-48-51-60-62-64-68-69-74, BE: 34  
Daily Three-Midday — 05-05-04, SB: 00  
Daily Three-Evening — 07-05-05, SB: 06  
Daily Four-Midday — 02-08-02-07, SB: 00  
Daily Four-Evening — 04-03-06-00, SB: 06  
Quick Draw Evening — 02-10-13-15-16-17-22-23-27-28-30-38-50-51-55-61-68-73-75-79, BE: 30  
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$31 million  
**MEGA MILLIONS**  
Estimated jackpot (for Tuesday): \$619 million  
**POWERBALL**  
Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$20 million

## 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](mailto:auditor@wellscounty.org). Resumes will be accepted until December 16, 2024.

Read & recycle

## Help Wanted

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

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

**NEED MORE EMPLOYEES!** A 20 word, line classified in the Bluffton News-Banner for a month is \$52. Contact the office at 125 N. Johnson St., 824-0224, or submit on-line at [classifieds.news-banner.com](http://classifieds.news-banner.com).

**5 for \$5 SPECIAL!**  
Earn Extra Cash by selling your "Unwants"! A 20-word, line classified ad is \$5 for 5 Days! For Sale Items Only. Contact the Bluffton News-Banner office at 125 N. Johnson St., 260-824-0224, or [classifieds.news-banner.com](http://classifieds.news-banner.com)

## FOR SALE

### Miscellaneous

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

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## Public Sale Calendar

**DECEMBER 9 - 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. ET - (Online) - Crandall Farm, seller.** Property location: Two miles northeast of Gas, IN, near intersection of E 300 S and S 550 E, Mill Township, Grant County. 81.59+/- total acres, tillable, woods, recreational land, potential building sites. Tract 1: 27.59+/- acres, 18.4+/- tillable, 8+/- woods, 1.19+/- non-tillable. Tract 2: 54+/- acres, 28.91+/- tillable, 23.34+/- woods, 1.75+/- non-tillable. Rick Johnloz, 260-827-8181, Emma Barr, 260-494-0992, Jason Johnloz, 260-273-9177, *Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management*, 800-424-2324, halderman.com.  
**DECEMBER 14-21 - 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.*, [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com), 260-824-3006.  
**BIDDING ENDS DECEMBER 15 - 2 p.m. - (Online only personal property) - Thomas B. & Mary Lou Woodward, seller.** 2016 JD 1025R diesel utility tractor, Frontier RT1149 tiller, 2016 Grasshopper zero turn mower, 2020 Club Car Carryall 1700, mowers, lawn & garden patio furniture, antique & modern furniture, vintage framed

art work, lithograph prints, vintage pickle castors, glassware, collectibles, more. Preview Dec. 12, 3-6 p.m., 301 N. Highland Ave., Ossian. Patrick Carter, sale manager, 260-273-8294, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com), 260-824-3006.  
**BIDDING CLOSES DECEMBER 15 - 6 p.m. - Online Only - Jim Baker, owner.** AIR-PLACO Pumpmaster MJ-16 concrete slab jacking pump system including pump, mixer and tandem trailer, concrete hole drill, Campbell Hausfeld stationary air compressor, smoker grill, handmade rustic furniture, beautiful antique furniture, Husqvarna garden tractor, 2 table saws, hand tools, power tools, building supplies, TV, modern furniture and much more! Pick up Dec. 17, 12-6 p.m., 5388 SW. State Road 116-1, Bluffton, IN. Full list at [towncountryauctions.com](http://towncountryauctions.com), click Fliers. *Town and Country Auctioneers/Realtors*, 260-223-7352, *Shaw Real Estate & Auction, Inc.*, 260-824-2116.  
**DECEMBER 17 - 9 a.m.-6 p.m. - (Online Only) - Thomas B. & Mary Lou Woodward, seller.** One of a kind picturesque real estate offering. Outstanding 4,014 SF on 8.45 acres, 4 bedroom, 3 bath home with a 2 car detached garage. Scenic backyard with multiple utility sheds and gazebo, Wells County. Open house Dec. 12 from 3-6 p.m., 301 N. Highland Ave., Ossian, IN. Pat Carter, sale manager, 260-273-8294, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com), 260-426-0633.  
**DECEMBER 22-DECEMBER 31 - Bidding starts closing at 2 p.m. - Estate of Richard Gerken and others, sellers.** "Outstanding year end

auction." Very high quality art deco, mid century modern and Art Nouveau home furnishings, International Harvester collection, 2011 Platinum Ford F150 in pristine condition, 3,500 record albums, vintage Schwinn bicycles, advertising memorabilia, antique gas pump, country primitives and more. Open house Dec. 26 and Dec. 30 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 102 S. Jefferson St., Ossian, IN. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, [steffengrp.com](http://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 grantees, Fenton, Marion advertising, vintage beer signs, long guns, coins. Open house Dec. 29 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Jan. 4 from 10 a.m. to noon, 1910 N Meridian St., Marion, IN. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, [steffengrp.com](http://steffengrp.com), 260-824-3006.

## SUDOKU ANSWER

9	1	8	2	7	6	8	9	7
6	8	7	8	9	1	7	2	9
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7	9	6	7	8	2	8	1	9
2	9	8	6	1	8	7	9	2
1	8	2	7	9	9	6	2	8
9	6	7	9	8	8	2	7	1
8	2	1	9	6	7	9	8	2
8	7	9	1	2	2	9	8	6

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# Too young to hurt?

Dear Annie: I have struggled with several chronic health issues for over a decade, which often leave me fatigued, in pain or struggling with my memory. Yet because of my age (early 20s), I often get laughed off or dismissed if I bring these up.

It doesn't come from my family, friends or close co-workers, thankfully. They are all compassionate people who know about my health problems to at least some extent, and they understand that if I say I'm having a rough day, it's not me complaining. I'm simply being honest and often managing expectations on what I might be able to do that day. And it's not like I go around proclaiming to the world, "I am the MOST tired! No one has ever felt pain as I have!" It's the interactions with people I don't know well, or often complete strangers who overhear and butt in with, "Oh, you're absolutely too young to x/y/z! Just wait until you ..."

It angers me to the point of being livid. I have chewed people out about not having asked for their opinion and not butting in to conversations they weren't invited to. I have explained in great detail what I deal with until they are shame-faced and mumbling sheepish apologies. I have argued with people who think that everything I deal with still "isn't enough" to be tired/in pain/forgetful for my age.

Why can't someone simply say, "Yeah, today's a bit rough" and have the people around them empathize instead of judging whether or not they can really claim to be having a bad day? What do I say to the people who laugh me off and say, "Oh, you're too young to be tired. When you have kids, then you'll be tired!"? Or the random people who overhear me say I'm not having a good day and decide to give their two cents or genuinely try to scold me for "being dramatic"? I don't need people to feel sorry for me or try to help "fix" my problems. I just want to be able to say how I'm doing that day without having to divulge my health history or justify

my answer.

It's gotten to the point that I just default to telling even those who I am close to that "I'm great!" when we are out in public or with people I don't know. I don't think I should have to lie, especially to the people I care about. Do you have any thoughts on how I can respond to the people who insist that I'm "too young"? — Not Too Young

*Dear Not Too Young: People's preconceived notions about what you "should" be feeling are not your responsibility. Comments like, "You're too young to have health problems" stem from ignorance and a lack of understanding.*

*That said, it's worth reflecting on what you hope to achieve by sharing your health struggles. Your personal health is private and really only matters to you, your doctors, and your close friends and family. Sharing it widely can invite a range of responses — many of which may not be helpful or supportive.*

*I'm truly sorry to hear about the health challenges you're facing and the pain they cause you. At any age, you deserve compassion from others and, most importantly, from yourself.*

*Remember, sometimes the best response is no response. Put your well-being first, and protect your energy.*

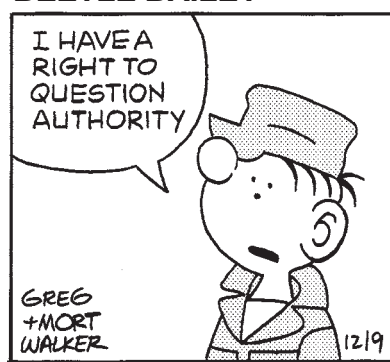
"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit <http://www.creatorspublishing.com> for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com). © 2024 CREATORS.COM

## Dear Annie



by Annie Lane

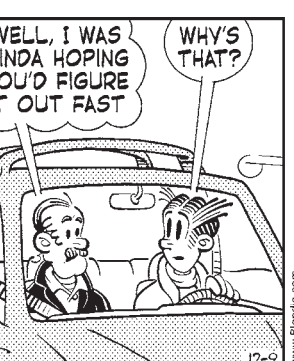
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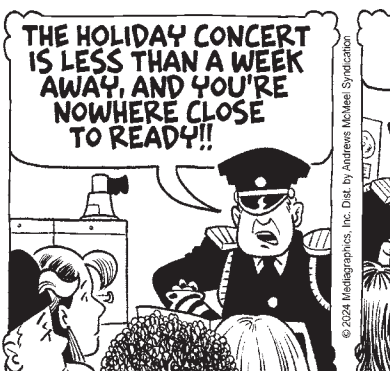
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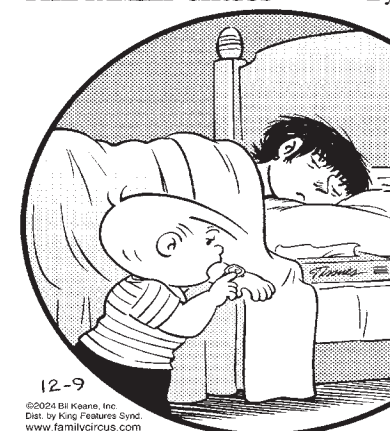


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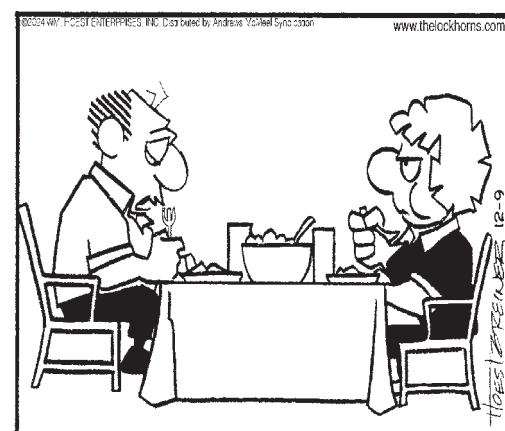
## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



12-9

## The LOCKHORNS



12-9

## My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



# God's Spirit makes change possible

go extreme training, and submit oneself to superiors. The wonderful thing about Christianity is that when God's grace saves, God's Spirit moves in and makes the changes possible. Love for the world is replaced with love for God and the things that please Him.

People listen to many voices that say what it means to be a Christian, but Jesus said, "Whoever loses his life for My sake will find it" (Matthew 16:25, NKJV).

These are hard words, and the people who followed Jesus thought so too. But taking up His cross means to identify with the suffering of Jesus and accept His lordship. This is what it means to be a Christian — to repent of

sin before the Lord Jesus and accept His forgiveness and all it means to follow Him.

Be thankful for those who want to help us understand the message of salvation and what we must do to receive it. We must believe in what Jesus has said and has done to pay the debt of our sins. The cross is the suffering love of God bearing the guilt of man's sin, which alone is able to melt the sinner's heart and bring him or her to repentance for salvation.

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

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*Question: My mother told me that I am a Christian so there is no need to do anything else, just live to be kind to others and act as a Christian should. The church I am going to says otherwise and that I'm confused. I've been a member of the church a long time and was even baptized at this church; now I hear that I may not be "in." How can a church determine someone's heart? — I.O.*

*Answer: Does one become part of their country's military force by just saying they are? No, they join up, knowing that it may cost them their life. Before a person ever puts on a uniform, that person must swear an oath, under*

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## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid and clues. ACROSS 1 Actor prayer, 4 Jazz phrases, 9 Compass dir., 12 Fine, to NASA, 13 Skate-boarder's leap, 14 Smidgen, 15 Anita Baker hit of 1986, 17 — pickle, 18 Payable, 19 Insignia, 21 Sans celebration, 24 Vend, 25 Bygone bird, 26 Pop (out), 31 Cover of gloom, 33 Felon's flight, 35 Bike part, 36 Wheat bundle, 38 Napkin's perch, 40 Tall tree, 41 Heath, 43 Multi-day, 45 prayer, 47 Alias abbr., 48 Magic, on score-boards, 49 Exit area for an actor, 54 Conceit, 55 Olympic skater, 56 Bankroll, 57 Speck, 58 Mike of "Shrek", 59 Hesitant sounds, DOWN 1 Small batteries, 20 Inky stain, 21 Strike callers, 22 Ark, 23 Stephen King novel, 27 The Cowboys, on a score-board, 29 Ireland, 30 Antitoxins to be, 32 Mekong River, 33 Fireplace tools, 34 Ballpark boss, 37 "— Prison Blues", 39 Fireplace, 42 Hear again, 44 Kilmer of "Top Gun", 45 Worked the soil, 46 Golden Fleece ship, 50 Enzyme suffix, 51 Ram's mate, 52 Distant, 53 NFL six-pointers

TV schedule table with columns for time slots (12:09, 1M, 4, D1, D2, 5 PM, 5:30, 6 PM, 6:30, 7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30, 12 AM, 12:30) and rows for various channels (WJLA, CBS, Antenna, ABC, NBC, WPTA, MNT, CW, PBS, FOX, WFTF, etc.)

# Tigers take county, ACAC showdown with Raiders in high-stakes matchup

By RYAN WALKER

PONETO — In the biggest game of the year so far, Bluffton imposed its will over Southern Wells.

Both schools entered Saturday night's main event with an 8-1 record and 1-0 in the ACAC, but the Tigers (9-1, 2-0 ACAC) took care of the Raiders (8-2, 66-25).

One question was answered very quickly: Was Bluffton going to cause enough havoc on defense or was Southern Wells going to get its way in the paint? With 26 Raider turnovers, the verdict goes Bluffton's way.

Southern Wells' strength is scoring near the rim with its senior forwards Ashlie Needler, Kenzie Paxson and Collena Reeves. Needler scored 13 points, but just added one rebound in the game. Paxson and Reeves scored only two total points and guards Kaylee Davis and Erika Beavans were the team's leading rebounders.

The Raiders hung around for a little while, trailing by only seven at the end of the first quarter, but the team faltered away when its trio got into foul trouble.

Bluffton's brief road trip included a mission to take the paint away and harass the Raider guards up the court. Maryn Schreiber picked up four steals in the game and at least five other Tigers had two steals.

Tigers' head coach Doug Curtis' girls have trained under his swarming defensive sets for nearly two full years and have begun to perfect it. On Saturday, it was a huge part in why they won with force.

"I'm sure we turned the ball over probably as many times as we had points today," Raiders' head coach Kyle Penrod said. "(The Tigers) do a good job of picking you up high. Probably the best thing they do is they don't really pressure you, but they make you feel like you're being pressured. (Our) girls get in a hurry — they feel like they have to get rid of the ball — but nobody's really guarding them. Despite our encouragement for them to make a play, they're trying to pass the ball around when they're the ones that are open."

Meanwhile, Bluffton's guards were also doing the trick.

Curtis also stated that in the gameplan that he wanted to get the Raiders' forwards out of the game as much as he could. He had guards Konley Ault and Isabella Stout drive the lane and draw fouls, while forwards

Schreiber and Sophie Eisenhut got to the free-throw line plenty of times themselves.

Reeves picked up her third foul first in the second quarter, then Paxson did the same. Slowly but surely, the Tigers' lead kept growing after that. Ault tallied 14 points in the half and Stout 10. By the end of the game, they combined for 38.

"Our gameplan going in was (Southern Wells) was going to cover the high post with Needler or whoever is subbing in for her," Curtis said. "We were putting that ball in Konley's hands and attacking, and she was either going to dribble drive or kick it out to one of the shooters ... We were going to attack them off of the dribble, so they were going to have to play really good defense or they were going to foul us."

Penrod shared that by the break, players were playing out of their positions and that they were uncomfortable in doing so. It's rare when one or two of the three are not out on the floor at the same time, but for stretches, all three were on the bench.

Reeves ended up fouling out as did Paxson in the fourth quarter. In the middle quarters, Bluffton outscored Southern Wells 43-13.

The Tigers are on track to continue its march to an ACAC title. Their defense and No. 2 scoring offense in the state doesn't appear to be slowing down any time soon.

Southern Wells can still compete in the conference and has plenty to accomplish for the rest of the season. It's all about the learning experience and continuing to do what it has all season in the win column.

"We have a good group of girls that want to win, and they know they're not where they need to be, but they want to be there and they'll work to do it," Penrod said. "I expect that they will start holding each other accountable for those things."

Bluffton won the junior varsity contest 58-37. Kamryn Ault for the Tigers led all scorers with 24 points, Grace Fry 12. For the Raiders, it was Cadence Watkins with 19, Lexi Pennington 8.

Bluffton will be at Wabash next at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10.

Southern Wells will host Blackhawk Christian at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10. Junior varsity will play two quarters.

ryan@news-banner.com

**BLUFFTON 66, SOUTHERN WELLS 25**  
At Southern Wells



Bluffton's Sophie Eisenhut (right) floats the ball toward the basket over Southern Wells' forwards Ashlie Needler (left) and Collena Reeves Saturday night at the Raider Dome. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

**BLUFFTON (9-1, 2-0 ACAC):** Isabella Stout 5-13 9-9 20, Konley Ault 7-12 4-4 18, Maryn Schreiber 5-12 0-4 10, Sophie Eisenhut 3-6 0-2 6, Khloe Dick 2-6 1-2 5, Tressa Renner 1-2 0-0 2, Marly Drayer 1-1 0-0 2, Grace Fry 1-1 0-0 2, Madyson Sonnigsen 0-2 1-2 1, Kamryn Ault 0-1 0-0 0, Madelyn Funk 0-0 0-0 0, Isla Gibson 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS 25-26 15-23 66.

**SOUTHERN WELLS (8-2, 1-1 ACAC):** Ashlie Needler 5-9 3-3 13, Erika Beavans 1-6 2-5 4, Kaylee Coffel 2-3 0-0 4, Collena Reeves 1-4 0-0 0, Kyah Thomas 1-3 0-0 2, Kaylee Davis 0-12 0-0 0, Aubree Meyer 0-0 0-0 0, Kenzie Paxson 0-2 0-2 0, Callie Ripberger 0-1 0-0 0. TOTALS: 10-40 5-10 25.

**Bluffton 17 20 23 6 — 66**

**So. Wells 10 5 8 2 — 25**

Three-point Shooting: Bluffton 1-10 (Stout 1-4, Dick 0-3, Sonnigsen 0-2, Renner 0-1), Southern Wells 0-12 (Beavans 0-2, Davis 0-7, Reeves 0-1, Ripberger 0-1, Thomas 0-1). Rebounds: Bluffton 38 (Schreiber 9, Eisenhut 9, Sonnigsen 7, Renner 4, Ko. Ault 3, Dick 2, Stout 1, Gibson 1, Ka. Ault 1), Southern Wells 30 (Beavans 5, Paxson 5, Davis 4, Coffel 2, Meyer 2, Reeves 2, Ripberger 1, Needler 1). Turnovers: Bluffton 13, Southern Wells 26. Fouls: Bluffton 15, Southern Wells 20. Fouled Out: Southern Wells Reeves, Paxson. Technicals: Southern Wells: Reeves.

JV Score: 58-37 Bluffton.

# Supporting cast steps up for Knights in close victory

By ANDREW FEEBACK

An oft-repeated phrase in basketball circles is "role players play better at home."

That was the case for the Norwell boys' basketball team Saturday afternoon, and it helped the Knights hold off the visiting Oak Hill Golden Eagles for a 54-52 win.

In Norwell's first two games, coach Mike McBride's three sons scored all of the team's points against Mississinewa, and all but two against Carroll.

The trio combined for 40 against the Eagles (2-2), but it was the play of the remaining two starters, seniors Owen Wallis and Garry Riley, that coach McBride had the most praise for.

"Owen and Garry were big for us," he said. "They came up with 14 points between the two of them, and Owen did a great job of handling the ball against their pressure the whole time. Just a really, really gritty performance by our guys."

Wallis's five points in the first quarter helped the Knights (2-1) keep pace with the Eagles, who

shot tremendously from beyond the arc. Oak Hill made 8-13 from deep in the first half and had a one point edge at the break.

That shot wasn't there for the Eagles for much of the third quarter, allowing the Knights to surge ahead with a 14-2 run.

Oak Hill's Jace Tonagel ended that run with his team's first two-point basket of the game at the 3:56 mark of the third.

Tonagel scored the next four points before Nick and Josh McBride made back-to-back threes to push the lead back up to eight again.

Norwell stretched its lead to a game-high nine points with layups from Riley and Adam McBride to begin the fourth quarter.

Oak Hill wasn't done, however, with Tonagel keying a 10-3 run that got the Eagles back within 51-49 and 3:21 still to play.

"Give them some credit, I thought their guys played well," coach McBride said. "They shot it exceptionally well from three."

With Oak Hill threatening to tie or take the lead, Norwell came up

with a stop defensively, and Riley got down the floor first for a layup that gave the Knights a 53-49 cushion with 1:22 left.

Tonagel immediately hit a cold-blooded three from the wing to make it a one-point game.

The Eagles sold out to try and force a turnover in the final minute, and they came up with one near halfcourt at the expense of Josh McBride.

"That was just a young mistake there," coach McBride said. "Josh just didn't meet the pass. I think if he meets that pass, instead of us losing that, he probably gets fouled in the process of catching it."

Tonagel missed a mid-range jumper, and the Eagles sent Wallis to the foul line with four seconds left.

He made his first shot, but missed his second, and with multiple fouls to give, the Knights used one to stop the clock with 1.6 seconds remaining.

Tonagel got a decent look, but it was near the volleyball line and missed as the buzzer sounded.

"We did a great job defensively at the end," McBride said. "We played everything exactly as we wanted to play it."

Tonagel led all scorers with 24 points, while RJ Shugart added 13. They were the only Eagles to score in the second half.

Adam McBride led the Knights with 16 points, while Josh added 13 and Nick McBride had 11. Riley and Wallis chipped in eight and six, respectively.

"We put three in double figures, and had one just outside of that with eight," McBride said. "It's absolutely huge that we continue to get that."

Norwell will travel to Bishop Dwenger Tuesday night.

Oak Hill took the junior varsity game 50-46. Trey Privett scored 12 points, Cade Thornton added 11 and Noah Comer had nine for the Knights.

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**NORWELL 54, OAK HILL 52**  
At Norwell

**OAK HILL (2-2):** Beckham Lamb 0-1 0-0 0, Owen Middlesworth 1-1 0-0 3, RJ Shugart 3-8 4-4 13, Jace Tonagel 8-19 4-5 24, Owen Roth 0-0 0-0 0, Luke Elzinga 1-2 0-0 3.



Landon Watts 2-2 0-0 6, Ryan Lawson 0-2 0-0 0, Landon Cruzan 1-2 0-0 3, Kevaunte Simmons 0-0 0-0 0, Kalig Simmons 0-0 0-0 0, Corbin Dailey 0-0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 16-37 8-9 52.

**NORWELL (2-1):** Owen Wallis 2-4 1-2 6, Garry Riley 4-5 0-0 8, Adam McBride 6-9 3-4 16, Josh McBride 5-13 0-0 13, Nick McBride 4-9 0-0 11, Noah Comer 0-0 0-0 0, Ryne Thornton 0-1 0-0 0. TOTALS: 21-41 4-6 54.

**Oak Hill 15 13 11 13 — 52**  
**Norwell 14 13 17 10 — 54**

Three-point Goals: Oak Hill 12-23 (Tonagel 4-12, Shugart 3-6, Watts 2-2, Cruzan 1-1, Middlesworth 1-1, Elzinga 1-1), Norwell 8-18 (Nick McBride 3-7, Josh McBride 3-7, Adam McBride 1-1, Wallis 1-1, Riley 0-1, Thornton 0-1). Rebounds: Oak Hill 16 (Tonagel 5), Elzinga 5, Shugart 3, Cruzan 1, Watts 1, Middlesworth 1, Norwell 18 (Josh McBride 9, Nick McBride 2, Adam McBride 2, Wallis 2, Riley 2, Thornton 1). Turnovers: Oak Hill 11, Norwell 10. Fouls: Oak Hill 15, Norwell 12. Fouled out: Elzinga, Technicals: None. JV: Oak Hill 50, Norwell 46.

## News-Banner Scoreboard

### FOOTBALL

#### NFL

**Thursday's Games**  
Detroit 34, Green Bay 31  
**Sunday's Games**  
Jacksonville 10, Tennessee 6  
Miami 32, N.Y. Jets 26, OT  
Minnesota 42, Atlanta 21  
New Orleans 14, N.Y. Giants 11  
Philadelphia 27, Carolina 16  
Pittsburgh 27, Cleveland 14  
Tampa Bay 28, Las Vegas 13  
Seattle 30, Arizona 18  
L.A. Rams 44, Buffalo 42  
San Francisco 38, Chicago 13  
Sunday Night Football: Kansas City Chiefs 19, L.A. Chargers 17  
Open: Baltimore, Denver, Houston, Indianapolis, New England, Washington

**Monday's Games**  
Monday Night Football: Cincinnati at Dallas, 8:15 p.m.

### BASKETBALL

#### High School

**Saturday Boys' Scores**  
Anderson 73, New Castle 29  
Anderson Prep Academy 66, Central Christian 28  
Avon 52, Ft. Wayne Blackhawk 49  
Bedford N. Lawrence 45, Brownsburg 41, OT  
Blackford 65, Blue River Valley 34  
Bloomfield 76, Vincennes Rivet 34  
Brown Co. 55, S. Putnam 48  
Carmel 52, Plainfield 31  
Cascade 45, Monrovia 44  
Christian Academy 75, New Washington 23  
Columbus Christian 61, Seven Oaks 51  
Columbus East 71, Southwestern (Hanover) 55  
Columbus North 81, Martinsville 48

Concord 52, Angola 41  
Corydon 60, Madison 57  
Crown Point 66, Penn 46  
Danville 87, Indpls Herron 33  
Danville Schlarman, Ill. 71, Attica 56  
Delphi 59, S. Newton 39  
Delta 45, Centerville 40  
Dubois 51, Shoals 43  
E. Noble 44, Carroll (Ft. Wayne) 35  
Eastbrook 51, Elwood 20  
Eastern (Greentown) 41, Alexandria 37  
Eastern Hancock 60, Wes-Del 55  
Edgewood 73, N. Putnam 44  
Edinburgh 48, Waldron 46, OT  
Edon, Ohio 59, Lakewood Park 44  
Evansville Central 56, Terre Haute North 39  
Faith Christian 57, Covington 46  
Fishers 77, Mt. Vernon (Fortville) 46  
Floyd Central 72, Richmond 70, OT  
Forest Park 89, Pike Central 24  
Frontier 56, Traders Point Christian 39  
Ft. Wayne Canterbury 49, Bellmont 42  
Ft. Wayne Luers 61, Mishawaka Marian 55  
Ft. Wayne Northrop 62, Churubusco 32  
Ft. Wayne South 68, Central Noble 32  
Ft. Wayne Wayne 94, Saginaw United, Mich. 68  
Greencastle 70, Indiana Creek 68  
Greenfield 57, Indpls Ben Davis 52  
Griffith 88, Lake Station 44  
Guerrin Catholic High School 67, Hamilton Hts. 32  
Hamilton Southeastern 75, Marion 67  
Hauser 76, Trinity Lutheran High School 29  
Henryville 42, Salem 41  
Highland 62, N. Newton 32  
Houston, Tenn. 56, Center Grove 55  
Indpls Attucks 69, East Chicago Central 59  
Indpls Cathedral 71, Woodward Academy, Ga. 59  
Jac-Cen-Del 59, Rising Sun 51  
Jay Co. 64, Ft. Recovery, Ohio 59

Kokomo 87, Ft. Wayne Dwenger 59  
LaPorte 55, New Prairie 33  
Lakeland Christian (IN) 43, Hamilton 29  
Lapel 53, Rushville 26  
Lawrenceburg 68, Milan 34  
Madison-Grant 46, Clinton Central 31  
New Palestine 62, Greenwood 58  
NorthWood 51, Zionsville 40  
Northeastern 51, S. Adams 29  
Northridge 65, Valparaiso 36  
Northview 40, Clay City 35  
Norwell 54, Oak Hill 52  
S. Bend Adams 73, Merrillville 58  
S. Bend Riley 109, South Bend Career Academy 48  
S. Bend St. Joseph's 77, Chesterton 55  
S. Ripley Washington 60, Goshen 58  
S. Rible 60, N. Decatur 34  
Seymour 62, Franklin 57  
Shelbyville 73, Connorsville 36  
Shenandoah 84, Cowan 36  
Silver Creek 66, Austin 43  
Southridge 57, Evansville Mater Dei 36  
Springs Valley 50, Evansville Christian 40  
Sullivan 47, Shakamak 36  
Switzerland Co. 64, Trimble County, Ky. 25  
Tipton 59, Frankton 50  
Tri 50, S. Decatur 41  
Triton Central 61, Southwestern (Shelby) 44  
Union (Modoc) 67, MTI 45  
University 55, Greenwood Christian 54, OT  
Warren Central 56, Southport 50  
Warsaw 77, Huntington North 53  
Western 57, Frankfort 25  
Whiteland 59, E. Central 49  
Wood Memorial 60, Tecumseh 36

**Saturday Girls' Scores**  
Alexandria 65, Taylor 20  
Ansonia, Ohio 58, Union City 24  
Avon 63, Lebanon 36  
Batesville 50, Shelbyville 43  
Bedford N. Lawrence 57, New Albany 29  
Bellmont 53, DeKalb 38

Bloomington South 50, Warren Central 30  
Blue River Valley 47, Wes-Del 28  
Bluffton 66, Southern Wells 25  
Borden 66, Jennings Co. 62  
Bremen 48, Tippecanoe Valley 42  
Brownstown 44, Eastern (Pekin) 29  
Cannelton 44, Christian Academy of Madison 33  
Carmel 79, Richmond 55  
Carroll (Flora) 54, Marion 48  
Castle 75, Indpls Attucks 38  
Columbia City 65, Leo 28  
Connorsville 61, Hamilton Hts. 38  
Delta 46, New Palestine 42  
E. Noble 61, New Haven 27  
Eastbrook 40, Elwood 39  
Eastside 61, Garret 22  
Fishers 60, Gibson Southern 45  
Floyd Central 51, Fishers 41  
Ft. Recovery, Ohio 59, Jay Co. 32  
Hamilton Southeastern 44, Evansville North 29  
Homestead 64, Notre Dame Academy, Ohio 37  
Indpls Chatard 44, Rushville 30  
Indpls Lutheran 53, Indpls Tindley 44  
Maconaquah 71, Eastern (Greentown) 32  
Madison-Grant 41, Blackford 27  
Monroe Central 48, Winchester 46, OT  
N. Miami 51, Triton 41  
Northfield 61, Manchester 50  
Northridge 79, Carroll (Ft. Wayne) 47  
Oak Hill 43, Western 39  
Pendleton Hts. 59, Mt. Vernon (Fortville) 37  
Penn 61, Crown Point 38  
S. Adams 37, Heritage 32  
S. Bend Washington 74, Hammond Central 33  
South Knox 78, N. Knox 49  
Union Co. 50, Shenandoah 27  
Valparaiso 61, Elkhart 42  
Wabash 43, Peru 40  
Wapahani 57, Randolph Southern 18  
Wapahank 56, Churubusco 44  
Whitko 59, Northwestern 26  
Woodlan 60, Adams Central 42  
Yorktown 60, Muncie Burris 22

## Indiana draws Notre Dame in CFB playoff

By ERIC OLSON

### AP College Football Writer

Indiana will turn in its calling card as the nation's biggest basketball state and become a college football hot spot the week before Christmas.

The College Football Playoff bracket released Sunday sends No. 10 seed Indiana to No. 7 Notre Dame for a first-round game on Dec. 20 with the winner facing No. 2 Georgia in the Sugar Bowl in a quarterfinal game on Jan. 1.

The Indiana and Notre Dame campuses are separated by 200 miles in the Hoosier State, but their football teams haven't met since 1991 and before that 1958. Notre Dame leads the series 22-3.

"Regardless of who we play, this is the playoffs and you win or go home, and we're in it to win it," Indiana coach Curt Cignetti said. "Our odds of making the College Football Playoff at the beginning of the season, I don't know what they were but they were pretty darn low, I'm sure. We were picked 17th out of 18 teams in the Big Ten. Our odds of winning the next four games are probably significantly higher than they were of making the playoffs in the first place. We've climbed that mountain."

The last time Notre Dame (11-1) and Indiana (11-1) played, Rick Mirer and Jerome Bettis led the Irish to a 49-27 win in South Bend on an 86-degree September afternoon 33 years ago. The temperature will be quite a bit cooler when the teams meet at Notre Dame Stadium in less than two weeks.

Georgia (11-2) earned the Southeastern Conference's automatic bid and first-round bye by beating Texas in overtime on Saturday with quarterback Carson Beck missing the second half with an injury to his right (throwing) arm.