

# The News - Banner

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00

## No decision yet on EMA, cemetery board appointments

By **HOLLY GASKILL**  
 Though an appointment was expected Monday, the Wells County Commissioners have delayed naming a director of the county's emergency management agency. The commissioners reviewed five applicants for the annually appointed position, including current director Rick Velasquez, during executive sessions. The Wells County Council also approved a significant salary increase — from roughly \$42,000 to \$65,000 — to

take effect with the 2025 appointment. Commissioner Jeff Stringer stated "there are some things we (the commissioners) need to clean up there," referring to the appointment on Monday. The commissioners unanimously approved an updated job description for the role, expanding the job description from three pages to five pages to outline more job responsibilities and requirements. The job descrip-

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## Breaking down fiscal issues dominating the 2025 legislative session

By **WHITNEY DOWNARD**  
**Indiana Capital Chronicle**  
 Lawmakers will convene Wednesday to begin drafting the state's next two-year budget, determining how to spend approximately \$44 billion dollars to fund government services such as schools, health insurance programs and infrastructure as well as tackling other fiscal issues. A December revenue forecast predicted that most of the state's modest growth would be consumed by increased Medicaid expenditures, limiting the number of new programs or expansions lawmakers can adopt in the next budget cycle. High-ranking Republican leaders have urged their colleagues to keep expectations — and budget requests — low, an adjustment after back-to-back years of unprecedented growth and blockbuster spending. "Everything the state does right now is more expensive than it was last year. Everything is exorbitantly more expensive," Senate Majority Leader Rodric Bray said last month, pointing to inflation as one driver of costs. As in years past, roughly half of the state's budget will go to K-12 education. The second-largest budget item will be Medicaid, which Bray, a Republican from Martinsville, said took up roughly

19% of the budget during the 2023 session, or 3% more than the previous cycle. Outside of those two big expenses, the General Assembly has several looming decisions to make in the coming days that will determine the state's trajectory beyond the two-year budget cycle. "We're going to have to really tighten up our belts and see where we are," said Rep. Greg Porter, D-Indianapolis. "Because I believe whatever we do in this budget, in the next two years, will really move us in the next 10 to 20 years."  
**Property Taxes**  
 A key pillar of incoming Gov. Mike Braun's campaign platform and first-year agenda include providing property tax relief to Hoosier homeowners, vowing to limit future growth and reset bills to 2021 levels. Local units of governments flagged the plan for diverting funds from their coffers without any state assistance and lawmakers have struggled to adopt sweeping reforms, instead targeting small tweaks while property tax bills surged. Still, lawmakers continue to field calls for reform, which overshadowed a Republican plan to further slash the state's record-

(Continued on Page 2)

## Polar vortex keeps much of U.S. in icy grip

By **PATRICK WHITTLE** and **BRIAN WITTE**  
**Associated Press**  
 ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — A huge swath of the U.S. was blasted with ice, snow and wind on Monday as the polar vortex that dipped south over the weekend kept much of the country east of the Rockies in its frigid grip, making many roads treacherous, forcing school closures, and causing widespread power outages and flight cancellations. The immense storm system brought disruption to areas of the country that usually escape winter's wrath, downing trees in some Southern states, threatening a freeze in Florida and causing people in Dallas to dip deep into their

wardrobes for hats and gloves. Washington, D.C., received heavy snow as President-elect Donald Trump's victory was certified. Taking advantage of the rare snowstorm in the nation's capital, revelers engaged in a snowball fight in front of the Washington Monument as flags flew at half-staff in memory of former President Jimmy Carter. In Kentucky's biggest city, Louisville, Hugh Ross used his shovel Monday to break sheets of ice that were covering his driveway. Frozen rain fell atop snow that arrived Sunday, which he said "couldn't have been worse." "You've got to break it up first," Ross explained. "If you

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**Snowday**  
 Schools around Wells County went to e-learning or full closure Monday due to the snow. Above, Eva Snyder, right, chases Matt Snyder with a snowball. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)

## Melanie Bertsch receives 2025 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship

Adams Central High School senior Melanie Bertsch is the 2025 Wells County Foundation Lilly Endowment Community Scholar. Bertsch will receive not only full tuition to any eligible Indiana public or private non-profit college or university for four years, but also up to a \$900 per year stipend for required books and equipment. Lilly Endowment Community Scholars may also participate in the Lilly Scholars Network, which connects scholars with resources and oppor-



Melanie Bertsch

tunities to be active leaders on their campuses and in their communities. Both the scholarship program and LSN are supported by grants from Lilly Endowment to Independent Colleges of Indiana. Bertsch, a Wells County resident, is the daughter of Nick and Brooke Bertsch. She is a three-year member of National Honor Society and has achieved Principal's High Honor Roll throughout her high school years. She was named a Rotary Club Scholar three consecutive

years. Bertsch has been an active member of student council where she has led numerous fundraisers and school activities. She has also been an active member of the varsity tennis and volleyball teams, receiving Academic All State Player awards in both. Bertsch is also active in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Business Professionals of America. Bertsch has an extensive history of providing community service for numerous Wells County organizations, including Hope Missionary Church, Helping Hands Pregnancy Center, Forgotten Chil-

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## Nippon, U.S. Steel file suit against administration, union, and rival

By **FATIMA HUSSEIN**  
**Associated Press**  
 WASHINGTON (AP) — Nippon Steel and U.S. Steel filed a federal lawsuit Monday challenging a Biden administration decision to block Nippon's proposed \$15 billion acquisition of the Pittsburgh company and said that the head of the Steelworkers union and a rival steelmaker worked together to scuttle the buyout. In moving to block the transaction Friday, Biden said U.S. companies producing a large amount of steel need to "keep leading the fight on behalf of America's national interests," though Japan, where Nippon is based, is a strong ally. In separate lawsuits filed Monday in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia and the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, the steelmakers allege that it was a political decision made by the Biden administration that had no rational legal basis. "Nippon Steel and U. S. Steel

have engaged in good faith with all parties to underscore how the Transaction will enhance, not threaten, United States national security," the companies said in a prepared statement Monday. Nippon Steel had promised to invest \$2.7 billion in U.S. Steel's aging blast furnace operations in Gary, Indiana, and Pennsylvania's Mon Valley, and had said it is best positioned to help the U.S. compete in an industry dominated by the Chinese. U.S. Steel has warned that, without Nippon Steel's cash, it will shift production away from the blast furnaces to cheaper non-union electric arc furnaces and move its headquarters out of Pittsburgh. Biden on Friday halted the takeover after federal regulators deadlocked on whether to approve it — because "a strong domestically owned and operated steel industry represents an essential national security priority. ... Without domestic steel production and domestic steel workers, our nation

is less strong and less secure," he said in a statement. While administration officials have said the decision was unrelated to Japan's relationship with the U.S. — this is the first time a U.S. president has blocked a merger between a U.S. and Japanese firm. Biden departs the White House in two weeks. The president's decision arrived after the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, known as CFIUS, failed to reach consensus on possible national security risks last month. Robyn Patterson, a White House spokesperson said in a statement defending the President's decision that "a committee of national security and trade experts determined this acquisition would create risk for American national security." "President Biden will never hesitate to protect the security of this nation, its infrastructure, and the resilience of its supply chains," Patterson said.

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| <p><b>Inside</b><br/>                 Local/Area<br/>                 Obituaries . . . . . 3<br/>                 Police Notebook . . . 3</p> <p><b>Opinion</b><br/>                 Justin Peeper . . . . . 4</p> <p><b>Also...</b><br/>                 Sports . . . . . 1a-2a<br/>                 Classifieds . . . . . 3a<br/>                 Diversions . . . . . 4a</p> | <p><b>Outside</b></p> <p><br/>                 Sunny and cold today, no snow in sight</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Today</td> <td>Wed.</td> <td>Thursday</td> </tr> <tr> <td>High 28</td> <td>High 23</td> <td>High 23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Low 16</td> <td>Low 11</td> <td>Low 9</td> </tr> </table> <p>More Weather on Page 2</p> | Today    | Wed. | Thursday | High 28 | High 23 | High 23 | Low 16 | Low 11 | Low 9 | <p><b>Online</b></p> <p>Follow us on Facebook!<br/>                 Go to <a href="http://www.facebook.com/newsbanner">www.facebook.com/newsbanner</a></p> <p>Place Your Classified Ads 24/7</p> <p>Vol. 96 No. 54<br/> <b>TUESDAY</b><br/>                 January 7, 2025</p> | <p><b>Bluffton CPA Group P.C.</b><br/>                 Certified Public Accountant</p> <p><br/> <b>Bluffton CPA Group</b><br/>                 PARTNERING WITH:<br/>                 • Individuals<br/>                 • Businesses<br/>                 • Agriculture</p> <p>2401 N. Main St.<br/>                 Bluffton, IN 46714<br/>                 260-824-1040<br/>                 www.blufftonCPAGroup.com<br/>                 Email: <a href="mailto:info@blufftoncpagroup.com">info@blufftoncpagroup.com</a></p> <p>Over 30 years experience serving our community</p> | <p><b>How to contact us:</b><br/>                 Call us: <b>824-0224</b><br/>                 or <b>1-800-579-7476</b><br/>                 email@news-banner.com</p> <p>On the Web:<br/> <a href="http://www.news-banner.com">www.news-banner.com</a></p> <p>Follow us at:<br/> <a href="https://twitter.com/newsbanner">twitter.com/newsbanner</a></p> <p></p> |
| Today   | Wed.   | Thursday |      |          |         |         |         |        |        |       |   |   |   |
| High 28   | High 23  | High 23  |      |          |         |         |         |        |        |       |   |   |   |
| Low 16  | Low 11   | Low 9    |      |          |         |         |         |        |        |       |   |   |   |

## EMA, cemetery board

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tion was last updated in November 2015.

Stringer said the commissioners would revisit the matter at their next meeting on Jan. 21.

One other appointment to the cemetery board was also delayed. Commissioner Blake Gerber said a current board member had asked to

meet as a board to discuss the new appointment.

Larry Heckber later spoke with the commissioners about his application for the board, noting his previous involvement in cemetery clean-up and how he planned to handle the responsibility with other roles. In response, Stringer affirmed Gerber's state-

ments that the existing board needed to regroup, particularly that the board "function as a regular board" by meeting regularly and formally voting on decisions.

Meanwhile, the commissioners appointed Adia Yeger to the Alcoholic Beverage Commission (one-year term) and Eric Keifer to the Community Corre-

ctions Advisory Board (four-year term), replacing Commissioner Mike Vanover. The commissioners have retained the following one-year appointments: Stringer to the Economic Development Commission, Vanover to the EMA Advisory Board and Gerber to the EMS Advisory Board.

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## Breaking down fiscal issues

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low income tax. A two-year task force dedicated to reviewing and reforming the state's tax system ended with only vague recommendations, as detailed by chair Sen. Travis Holdman.

"To even come up with one bill to address one small issue, it would have taken us months and months to come up with a solution," Holdman said. "I think we will land somewhere in the middle between what (Gov.-elect) Braun wants and what the legislature has in mind and what our constituents are telling us."

The Markle Republican noted that any cuts to property taxes, which take away local funds for public safety and infrastructure, could be backfilled with local income taxes — potentially negating any attempts to lower bills. Additionally, lifting the tax burden on one population, such as homeowners, could shift the burden to others, such as farmers or businesses.

"So we're looking at what we can do to not make any drastic changes and to ease into that. It's going to take us some time to get there," said Holdman.

Regardless, the upcoming legislative session won't be able to alter any property owner's 2025 tax bill — which has already been calculated by local governments.

Holdman said he intends to still file a bill to lower income taxes if revenues pick up — while another senator will file to eliminate the state's tax floor on business personal property taxes, a long-standing goal of corporate lobbying organizations.

South Bend Democrat Sen. David Niezgodski said he intended to push for legislation expanding the tax credit for disabled veterans and increasing the credit available to renters from \$2,000 to \$3,000.

### Raising revenue

In the last budget session, legislators opted to nix two separate taxes dedicated to health priorities: increasing the existing tax on cigarettes and implementing a monthly telephone fee to pay for behavioral health services.

Proponents say increasing cigarette

taxes may bring some revenue but, more importantly, discourages Hoosiers from smoking — which drags down Indiana's already low public health metrics. Critics note that any increased dollars will diminish as more Hoosiers quit smoking.

Rep. Craig Snow said the state would also reap benefits in government programs, like Medicaid, if enrollees quit smoking.

"It's been proven that there's a direct correlation to the cost of Medicaid ... as far as (tobacco) use," said Snow, a Republican from Warsaw.

The House has passed such an effort multiple times, only for it to be defeated across the Statehouse in the Senate. Holdman, speaking generally, said he didn't see new taxes being incorporated into the next budget.

"... I just don't think, from the majority standpoint, there's any appetite to increase taxes. We just need to tighten our belt," Holdman said.

The second telephone fee would specifically support 988 services and associated behavioral health programs, such as in-patient mental health services and crisis stabilization units. Prior to the new forecast, behavioral health commissioners asked for an additional state investment to support such services — which would be covered by the \$90 million raised through the phone surcharge.

They also estimated that a \$1 increase on a 20-pack of cigarettes could bring in an additional \$132.6 million annually.

### Public health

Another health priority on the docket for 2025: funding for Health First Indiana, which distributed state dollars to local public health departments to tackle certain health metrics — including smoking cessation programs as well as infant and maternal health.

Prior to the influx of funds, Indiana had one of the lowest-ranking state investments in public health. In the first year, 86 counties divided up \$75 million. By the second year, all 92 counties had joined the program and split the \$150 million fund.

"It's an issue that I like talking about because this is a huge, generational-type bill," Sen. Ed Charbonneau said. "... it's a paradigm shift. Because it's the first time in many years here that we have focused on prevention."

Charbonneau, one of the bill's authors, said the idea had encountered a lot of skepticism from local politicians and colleagues. He credited former Sen. Luke Kenley with getting the bill passed, though stakeholders still worried that only a handful of counties would join the effort.

Proponents slashed their budget request in the hopes that the program would be able to prove itself and get more funding in the future, a shaky proposition going into 2025.

"I've encouraged all of the legislators that I can go talk to the people in the county, talk to them about how it's going," said Charbonneau, R-Valparaiso. "... I have not had a person come back yet with a negative outlook on the bill."

Even in a tight budget year, Charbonneau said that taking funds away from the program would be "devastating" and that those dollars needed to be protected.

Bray, who leads Charbonneau's caucus, acted on his advice to consult with local departments and said his local public health leaders had "an awful lot of energy and enthusiasm."

Such actions could improve the overall health of Hoosiers and eventually save the state money, he said. As with many agenda items for 2025, such savings inevitably circled back to Medicaid costs.

"I think that (it)'s going to have a positive result over the next few years as they really focus on things that are going to move the needle for the health of Hoosiers. And that will impact our Medicaid costs," Bray said. "Without a doubt, a healthier workforce — a healthier population — is going to be better and less pressure on Medicaid."

Lawmakers are scheduled to convene for the 2025 legislative session in Indianapolis on Jan. 8.

### Thousands without power

Many were in the dark as temperatures plunged. More than 250,000 customers were without power early Monday across Kentucky, Indiana, Virginia, West Virginia, Illinois and Missouri, according to electric utility tracking website Power-Outage.us.

In Virginia's capital city, a power outage caused a temporary malfunction in the water system, officials said Monday afternoon. Richmond officials asked citizens in the city of more than 200,000 people to refrain from drinking tap water or washing dishes without boiling the water first. The city also asked residents to conserve their water, such as by taking shorter showers.

City officials said they were working nonstop to bring the system back online.

### Air and rail travel are snarled

More than 2,500 flights were canceled and at least 6,500 more were delayed nationwide as of Monday morning, according to tracking platform FlightAware. Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport reported that about 58% of arrivals and 70% of departures had been canceled.

A record 8 inches of snow fell Sunday at the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport, leading to dozens of flight cancellations that lingered into Monday. A few more inches of snow were expected Monday across the Cincinnati area, where car and truck crashes Monday morning shut down at least two major routes leading into downtown.

## Polar vortex

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don't do that, you're wasting your time. I did a couple of layers yesterday, so I had to make sure I wasn't in too bad of shape today."

Ice and snow blanketed major roads in Kansas, western Nebraska and parts of Indiana, where the National Guard was activated to help stranded motorists. The National Weather Service issued winter storm warnings for Kansas and Missouri, where blizzard conditions brought wind gusts of up to 45 mph. The warnings extended to New Jersey into early Tuesday.

At the storied Calumet Farm in central Kentucky, the thoroughbreds were led to their stalls Sunday afternoon before freezing rain turned their pastures into a slick glaze of snow and ice.

"The ice is the worst part," Eddie Kane, the farm manager, said Monday. "I still haven't turned them out because it's still a little bit too dangerous. It's like an ice skating rink out there in the fields."

The polar vortex of ultracold air usually spins around the North Pole, but it sometimes plunges southward into the U.S., Europe and Asia. Studies show that a fast-warming Arctic is partly to blame for the increasing frequency of the polar vortex extending its grip.

### Temperatures plunge

Starting Monday, the eastern two-thirds of the U.S. dealt with bone-chilling cold and wind chills, forecasters said, predicting temperatures ranging from 12 to 25 degrees below normal in many areas.

The Northeast was expected to get several cold days, said Jon Palmer, a weather service meteorolo-

gist based in Gray, Maine.

The cold was expected to grip the Eastern Seaboard as far south as Georgia, with temperatures dropping into the low single digits in some coastal areas, Palmer said.

### Classes canceled

School closings were widespread, with districts in Indiana, Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri and Kansas canceling or delaying the start of classes Monday. Among them was Kentucky's Jefferson County Public Schools, which canceled classes and other school activities for its nearly 100,000 students.

Classes were also canceled in Maryland, where Gov. Wes Moore declared a state of emergency Sunday and announced that state government offices would also be closed Monday.

### Car wrecks abound

At least 600 motorists were stranded in Missouri over the weekend, authorities said. Hundreds of car accidents were reported in Virginia, Indiana, Kansas and Kentucky, where a state trooper was treated for non-life-threatening injuries after his patrol car was hit.

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear, who declared a state emergency, said government buildings would be closed Monday.

"We see far too many wrecks out there for people that do not have to be on the roads," Beshear said.

Kansas saw two deadly crashes over the weekend. Gov. Laura Kelly closed state offices in the Topeka area through Tuesday, as did many school districts.

Virginia State Police responded to at least 430 crashes Sunday and Monday. One man died and more than 20 people were injured. Police said other

weather-related fatal accidents occurred Sunday near Charleston, West Virginia, and Monday in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

By midday Monday, state troopers in Maryland had responded to at least 475 calls for service, including 123 reported crashes and 156 unattended vehicles since 1 a.m., Maryland State Police said on social media.

More snow and ice are expected

In Indiana, snow covered stretches of Interstate 64, Interstate 69 and U.S. Route 41, leading authorities to plead with people to stay home.

"It's snowing so hard, the snow plows go through and then within a half hour the roadways are completely covered again," State Police Sgt. Todd Ringle said.

Topeka, Kansas, reported 14.5 inches by about 8 p.m. Sunday, according to the weather service.

Kansas City International Airport received 11 inches of snow on Sunday, breaking the previous record for the day of 10.1 inches set in 1962, according to the weather service's office in Kansas City, Missouri. In Kentucky, Louisville recorded 7.7 inches of snow on Sunday, shattering the date's previous record of 3 inches set in 1910.

The Mid-Atlantic region was expected to get another 6 inches to 12 inches of snow on Monday, the weather service's Weather Prediction Center warned. Dangerously cold temperatures were expected to follow, with nighttime lows falling into the single digits through the middle of the week across the Central Plains and into the Mississippi and Ohio valleys.

## Weather

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

(24-hour observations at 9:57 p.m. Monday)

High: 26; Low: 19; Precipitation: 0.4 inches of snow  
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.92 feet at 9:45 p.m. Monday

### Wells County forecast

**Today:** Partly sunny, with a high near 28. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Tonight:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 16. West wind around 5 mph.

**Wednesday:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 23. West wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Wednesday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 11. West wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Thursday:** Sunny, with a high near 23.

**Thursday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 9.

**Friday:** A 20% chance of snow showers after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 23.

**Friday Night:** A 30% chance of snow, mainly before 1 a.m. Cloudy, with a low around 17.

**Saturday:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 26.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 17.

**Sunday:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 28.

## U.S. Steel

(Continued from Page 1)

In a separate lawsuit filed in the District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, the companies accused steel-making rival Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. and its CEO, Lourenco Goncalves, in coordination with David McCall, the head of the U.S. Steelworkers union, of "engaging in a coordinated series of anticompetitive and racketeering activities" to block the deal.

In 2023, before U.S. Steel accepted the buyout offer from Nippon, Cleveland-Cliffs offered to buy U.S. Steel for \$7 billion. U.S. Steel turned down the offer and later accepted an all-cash offer from Nippon Steel, which Biden nixed Friday.

The companies allege that Goncalves, in collusion with McCall, maneuvered to prevent any party other than Cleveland-Cliffs from acquiring U.S. Steel and to damage the Pittsburgh manufacturer's ability to compete. McCall on Monday called the allegations baseless.

"By blocking Nippon Steel's attempt to acquire U.S. Steel, the Biden administration protected vital U.S. interests, safeguarded our national security and helped preserve a domestic steel industry that underpins our country's critical supply chains," McCall said in a prepared statement.

McCall had long questioned Nippon Steel's status as an honest broker for U.S. national trade interests and

called Nippon Steel a "serial trade cheater" that had, for decades, undermined the domestic steel industry by dumping its products into U.S. markets.

Cleveland-Cliffs, based in Ohio, did not immediately return a request by The Associated Press for comment.

Nippon and U.S. Steel allege in the suit that CFIOUS was instructed not to offer any counterproposals or hold discussions with them. The companies argued that the review process was manipulated so that the outcome would support a decision Biden had already made, saying he used "undue influence to advance his political agenda."

Nippon, however, will face an incoming administration that has also vowed to block the acquisition.

President-elect Donald Trump last month underscored his intention to block the deal, and pledged to use tax incentives and tariffs to strengthen the iconic American steelmaker.

Shortly after the lawsuits were filed, Trump cemented that stance on his Truth Social platform.

"Why would they want to sell U.S. Steel now when Tariffs will make it a much more profitable and valuable company?" the post said. "Wouldn't it be nice to have U.S. Steel, once the greatest company in the World, lead the charge toward greatness again? It can all happen very quickly!"

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OBITUARIES

H. Lorraine Hilsmier, 88

H. Lorraine Hilsmier, 88, of Ossian, passed away on Saturday evening, Jan. 4, 2025, at Ossian Health & Rehabilitation Center. Lorraine was born Dec. 3, 1936, in Bluffton, to Hugh and Honor (Kleinknecht) Harris. She married Gene A. Hilsmier in Muncie, who preceded her in death in 2010.



She graduated from Lancaster School and attended Fort Wayne Business School. Lorraine was a member of Ossian Presbyterian Church, Eastern Stars, Delta Theta Tai Chapter Epsilon Beth Sorority and held several offices. She worked at North American Van Lines and Ellenberger Bros. in Fort Wayne. In her free time, she enjoyed reading, sewing, knitting and crocheting.

Lorraine relocated to the Winston-Salem, North Carolina area in 1983, where she worked at AT&T headquarters and retired from Piece Goods Corporation Headquarters in 1998. She moved to Calabash (Beach), North Carolina before returning back to the Bluffton area in 2011.

Survivors include her son, Greg Hilsmier of North Carolina; a daughter, Anjanette Lassiter of Bluffton; four grandchildren, Bryce (Amanda) Bender, Brandt (Ashley) Bender of Huntington, Trey Bender of Zanesville, Cole Lemberg of Minnesota; eight great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, Carolyn (Norm) Lipp of Ossian; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews and great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; children Julia and Jill (twins), and Mark A. Hilsmier; sisters, Patricia Geller and Jacquelyn Williams; a brother Richard Harris, along with her brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 10, 2025, at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton with the Rev. Lyle Breeding officiating. Burial will follow at Oaklawn Cemetery in Ossian. Calling will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, prior to the service.

Memorials may be made to Ossian Presbyterian Church, or Donor's Choice and can be directed to the funeral home.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the family at [www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com).

INCIDENTS

**City:**  
Friday, 7:11 p.m., Hott Family Dentistry. Driver cited for no valid license.

Friday, 9:15 p.m., Capri Court. Noise complaint, loud music making caller's dog bark. Resident said he intentionally turned the music up to drown out dog barking.

Friday, 9:47 p.m., 500 block of South Morgan Street. Report of domestic violence. One detained.

Saturday, 5:11 a.m., Spring and Main streets. Caller reported vehicle with strange driving behavior, driving on sidewalk. Driver arrested for operating while intoxicated — endangerment.

Saturday, 11:26 a.m., 611 N Main St. Intoxicated driver.

Saturday, 2:01 p.m., 1400 block of West South Street. Report of fighting. Staci A. Musco, 33, Bluffton, arrested for domestic battery, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$25,000.

Saturday, 2:03 p.m., Lancaster Senior Villas. Report of theft.

Sunday, 3 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served. Aaron Leonard Mason, 43, Bluffton, arrested for domestic battery, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$25,000.

Sunday, 9:36 p.m., Wells County Jail. Nichole Jean Seeley, 28, Pennville, Indiana, arrested for operating or permitting operating without financial responsibility — prior, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond not set.

Sunday, 10:41 p.m., 1100 West South Street. Report of cat in the roadway. Cat meowed.

Monday, 1:54 a.m., Main Street and Sutton Circle Drive. Traffic stop initiated for vehicle with no plate. Vehicle towed, driver denied courtesy transport and left on foot.

Monday, 5:44 a.m., Main Street and Central Avenue. Driver cited for no proof of insurance.

Monday, 9:58 a.m., Jersey and South streets. Report of two vehicles doing donuts in parking lot. Juveniles warned for exhibition driving.

Monday, 12:26 p.m., Jersey and South streets. Three vehicles doing donuts. Warned juveniles for exhibition driving.

Monday, 1:05 p.m., 100

Police Notebook

block of Capri Court. Person wanted out of Huntington County.

**County:**  
Friday, 1:45 p.m., Irish Acres. Car vs. mail box.

Friday, 4:01 p.m., Hoosier Highway and C.R. 300 S, Bluffton. Vehicle slid off roadway, stuck in ditch. Passerby helped pull the vehicle out and replaced the tire.

Saturday, 12:45 a.m., Main Street and S.R. 124, Bluffton. Traffic stop initiated for vehicle with trail light issue. Marijuana smell observed and small joint found. Passenger destroyed the joint and both were warned.

Saturday, 6:16 p.m., Jeff Road and C.R. 1100 S, Montpelier. Car vs. deer.

Saturday, 9:10 p.m., C.R. 300 N and 100 W, Bluffton. Vehicle broken down off the roadway, driver and passenger given courtesy transport.

Saturday, 11:27 p.m., 400 block of South Main Street. Report of a suspicious man looking around at residences. The man was trying to fulfill a DoorDash order.

Sunday, 2:20 p.m., 3679 S Hoosier Highway, Bluffton. Truck reportedly hit guardrail and left.

Sunday, 7:13 p.m., C.R. 300 W and 300 N, Bluffton. Patrol car vs. deer, no damage reported.

Sunday, 11:04 p.m., Meridian Road and C.R. 1100 S, Montpelier. Wells County units dispatched on a driving complaint and possible intoxicated driver coming from Blackford County. Montpelier Police Department was pursuing the vehicle, and Wells County officers caught up with the vehicle and followed for some time before the vehicle stopped. Driver Oscar David Vargas Cruz, 29, Pennville, Indiana, reportedly did not respond to repeated commands and was eventually pulled from the vehicle and handcuffed. Cruz reportedly smelled strongly of alcohol and was transported to Bluffton Regional Medical Center to meet with a translator and for a blood draw. Cruz was arrested for resisting law enforcement using vehicle, a Level 6 felony, and operating a vehicle without ever receiving a license and operating a vehicle while intoxicated, Class C misdemeanor.

ors. He was also cited for left of center. Bond set at \$6,000.

Monday, 10:41 p.m., C.R. 300 W and 100 W, Bluffton. Abandoned vehicle tagged.

**Ossian:**  
Friday, 3:45 p.m., C.R. 300 W and 700 N, Ossian. Car vs. telephone pole.

Friday, 4:34 p.m., C.R. 100 E and 1000 N, Ossian. Stop sign missing.

Friday, 4:39 p.m., S.R. 1 and C.R. 1200 N, Ossian. Vehicle slid off roadway. Off-duty officer helped push the vehicle out of the ditch.

Monday, 11:38 a.m., 10742 N Meridian Rd., Ossian. Report of fraud.

ACCIDENTS

**City:**  
Friday, 12:19 p.m., Western Avenue at Decker Street. Officer was traveling eastbound on Western Avenue and discovered a 2005 Chevrolet Suburban off the roadway that appeared to have been involved in a crash. A single male driver, Envy Lopez Munoz, 16, Bluffton, was in the vehicle and stated he had only a few small cuts. Munoz did not speak English, and the officer used phone translation to communicate. Munoz claimed his friend had been driving and fled when the vehicle crashed, though the officer observed no footprints in the snow. Munoz admitted to not having a driver's license but denied drinking. The officer observed an alcohol smell as well as signs of intoxication. Two unopened bottles of alcohol were also found around the vehicle. Munoz was cleared by EMS and then transported to the police department for testing. The vehicle was towed from the scene. Damage exceeded \$5,000.

Sunday, 6:03 p.m., Wiley Avenue at Bennett Street. Anita L. Moore, 40, Bluffton, was driving a 2012 GMC Terrain southbound on Bennett Street and did not see any oncoming vehicles as she went through the stop sign. The Terrain was struck by a westbound 2017 Ford Explorer driven by Lagan Bunch, 39, Bluffton, who had the right-of-way. The Explorer then veered and hit a tree at the side of the road head-on. Moore was cited for failing to yield the right-of-way. The Explorer was towed from the scene. Damage exceeded \$10,000.

age exceeded \$10,000.

**County:**  
Friday, 11:25 a.m., Hoosier Highway east of C.R. 500 S, Travisville. Danny E. Doss, 66, Fort Wayne, was driving a 2007 Ford Ranger southwest on Hoosier Highway and swerved to avoid a dog or coyote in the roadway, losing control of the vehicle in the icy conditions. The vehicle left the north side of the roadway and rolled once, landing on its wheels. Doss smelled of alcohol when the officer arrived, testing at 0.079% at the scene and was taken to Bluffton Regional Medical Center for a blood draw. Toxicology results are pending. The vehicle was towed from the scene. Damage exceeded \$1,000.

Friday, 2:26 p.m., S.R. 1, Petroleum. Nickenson N. Vilsaint, 44, Waterloo, Iowa, was driving a 2014 Chevrolet Camaro northbound on S.R. 1 and lost control of the vehicle in snowy conditions. The vehicle slid of the east side of the roadway and into a ditch, striking a culvert and rotating approximately 270 degrees clockwise into the field. The vehicle was towed from the scene. Damage exceeded \$5,000.

Sunday, 9:24 p.m., S.R. 3, McNatts. Danielle Cruz, 31, Indianapolis, was driving a 2024 Ford Bronco Sport northbound on S.R. 3 and struck a deer. The vehicle was towed from the scene. Damage exceeded \$5,000.

FIRES

Friday, 3:45 p.m., C.R. 300 W and 700 N, Markle. Wires down. REMC on scene at 4:37 p.m.

Sunday, 3:41 a.m., Bluffton-Harrison Middle School. Fire alarm. False, system reset.

ARRESTS

Logan Matthew McEwen, 20, Bluffton; minor in possession of an alcoholic beverage, a Class C misdemeanor, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated — endangerment, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$2,000.

Kevin Wayne Gerber, 63, Bluffton; operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$500.

Lilly Endowment

(Continued from Page 1)  
dren Worldwide and the Apostolic Church.

She is employed at Christian Care Retirement Community where she received her nursing assistant certification.

"Each year, the competition for this coveted scholarship award is formidable" stated Foundation CEO Tammy Slater. "The wide range of accomplishments these young adults have achieved in their lives are exemplary and Wells County would be extraordinarily well-represented by any one of the them. Melanie is a deserving nominee. She maintains outstanding scholastic standing while at the same time being actively engaged in numerous extra-curricular and community activities. She has chosen to not only participate but pursue leadership positions within many of the activities she has participated in. She possesses the characteristics of a strong work ethic, resilience and the ability to inspire others. These qualities will serve her well as she pursues her education in college. We have great confidence that Melanie will enjoy much success."

The local accredited high schools within Wells County were contacted in June and asked to submit the names of students meeting the following criteria: a minimum GPA of 3.8 on a 4.0 scale; planning to attend an accredited four-year Indiana college or university, public or private; and a full-time resident of Wells County and a current high school senior, attending an accredited high school within Wells (or a surrounding) County who will graduate by June 30, 2025.

A total of 46 candidates were determined to have met the initial eligibility requirements. The candidates were judged on academic achievement, school and community activities, work experience, letters of recommendation, and a 500 to 750-word essay conveying what makes him/her special and deserving of the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship. Reviewed, scored, and ranked by an outside scholarship management professional, the Foundation sent the recommendations to Independent Colleges of Indiana for the final determination. ICI is a nonprofit corporation that represents 31 regionally accredited degree granting, nonprofit, private colleges and universities in the state.

Lilly Endowment created the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program for the 1998-1999 school year and has supported the program every year since with tuition grants totaling in excess of \$490 million. More than 5,300 Indiana students have received the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship since the program's inception.

The primary purposes of the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program are: to help raise the level of educational attainment in Indiana; to increase awareness of the beneficial roles Indiana community foundations can play in their communities; and to encourage and support the efforts of current and past Lilly Endowment Community Scholars to engage with each other and with Indiana business, governmental, educational, nonprofit and civic leaders to improve the quality of life in Indiana generally and in local communities throughout the state. The Wells County Foundation, Inc. administers the Lilly Endowment Scholarship program locally.

Wells legislators encourage students to page at Statehouse

Applications are live for the Indiana House Page Program during the 2025 legislative session at the Statehouse in Indianapolis, according to State Reps. Matt Lehman (R-Berne) and Lorissa Sweet (R-Wabash).

Lehman said Hoosier students ages 13 to 18 are invited to spend the day assisting lawmakers and staff, touring the Indiana Statehouse and listening in on the legislative session.

"Student pages have the opportunity to meet local lawmakers and work with Statehouse staff during their visit," Lehman said. "The House Page Program is a great opportunity for young Hoosiers to learn more about Indiana government and how a bill becomes a law." Applications can be found at [IndianaHouseRepublicans.com/PageProgram](http://IndianaHouseRepublicans.com/PageProgram) along with available days during the 2025 legislative session, which starts Jan. 8 and must end by April 29.

"Paging at the Statehouse gives students a behind-the-scenes look at

what happens on a daily basis during the legislative session," Sweet said. "I encourage eligible Hoosiers from my district to not wait and sign up as soon as possible."

Sweet said interested students will have the opportunity to page on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays during the legislative session and will receive an excused absence from school. Large groups can participate on Wednesdays only. To schedule a group, contact the page program director at 317-232-9410 or [pageprogram@iga.in.gov](mailto:pageprogram@iga.in.gov).

Students are respon-

sible for their own lunch and transportation to and from the Statehouse in Indianapolis.

**Rae Ann Hayden**  
Calling: 10 - 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8.  
Service: 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8 at the funeral home.  
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Corrections and clarifications

Saturday's Local Roundup misstated the meeting time for the Jefferson Township Advisory Board. The board will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 7, at Norwell Community Schools' central office, 312 N. Jefferson St. in Ossian.

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

## Slow and steady quest to declutter continues in '25

The CBS headline ironically caught my attention on New Year's Eve not too long after having returned from dropping off a load of items that my wife and I hope will help someone else.

"New Year's resolutions often don't last."

Nearly half of Americans make New Year's resolutions; however, only about 25% of people follow through with their resolutions after the first month, the article explained.

But it gets worse.

Fewer than 10% of people actually accomplish their resolutions by year's end.

My wife and I have never been too big on New Year's resolutions. I don't think we have set one in the five years that we have been married — probably a good decision since the failure rate is so high.

Instead, we prefer New Year's traditions such as eating 12 grapes during the 12 strokes to midnight each year. Those who participate in this annual tradition from Spain that is more than 100 years old are said to have good luck in the coming year, but I digress.

While we're not big on starting the New Year with a list of resolutions, we do set several goals throughout the year and always try to come up with a plan to follow through.

For the past several months, we have been working on one of those goals whose deadline isn't carved in stone but instead written in sand.

I'm beginning to wonder, however, if it will be a goal we approach but never quite reach.

That goal: Decluttering and simplifying.

We moved to our current home almost four years ago. During those four years, however, the amount of items we have acquired seems to have grown faster than a weed in the summer.

So we decided this summer that it was time to declutter and simplify the entire house — a lofty goal that we're making progress on but our speed is more like a sloth trying to walk up a molasses-covered tree than that pesky weed growing in the hot July sun.

We managed to finish the garage this summer but didn't get a chance to resume our decluttering work until a couple of weeks ago as we tackled a myriad of closets around the house one at a time.

A friend of ours who was moving last month was the catalyst for us to return to our ongoing simplifying project. She vowed to us both that she would never move again in large part because of how much work it is to pack up one house and move those items to the next.

Knowing that we'll likely have one more move in the future made both of us want to declutter as much as possible now to make it easier down the road.

On New Year's Eve, I took the last load we compiled to donate to an organization that helps get gently used items to those who need them more than we do. We hope that our simplifying will help someone else in 2025.

The work, however, isn't finished, as we still have a few more rooms to go through and lots of drawers.

And then there's my small home office. That task may take a bit longer than the closets we decluttered at the end of 2024 but it's a work in progress with a deadline written in the sand — or should I say snow.

*jdpeeper2@hotmail.com*



Justin Peeper



## The 10 worst things Biden did in 2024

President Joe Biden's final year in office was a disastrous capstone to a catastrophic presidency. In my last column, I offered my list of the 10 best things Biden and his administration did in the past year. Here are the 10 worst. It was hard to pick just 10.

10. He withheld critical weapons from Israel. Bending to pressure from his left-wing base, Biden blocked delivery of 2,000-pound MK84 bombs that Congress approved, and slow-rolled others, including 500-pound MK82 bombs and other weapons. These delays, and Biden's pressure on Israel not to carry out an offensive in Rafah (where the Israel Defense Forces found and killed Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar in October) helped drag out the war.

9. He wasted billions of taxpayer dollars on failed green-energy giveaways. As of November, his administration had delivered just 93 trucks after Congress provided \$3 billion to buy electric vehicles for the U.S. Postal Service, and the administration had completed only about 200 charging stations in two years from a \$7.5 billion program. The Trump administration should repeal Biden's climate spending.

8. He failed to punish the International Criminal Court. Prosecutor Karim Khan not only indicted the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, he threatened to prosecute members of Congress who pushed back on the ICC's illegitimate actions. Yet unlike Trump, who as president imposed sanctions on the ICC for its investigations, Biden imposed no costs on the body, opposing sanctions in Congress and adding none of his own.

7. He broke his promise not to support court-packing. After telling Americans he was "not a fan" of the idea to add extra justices to the Supreme Court, Biden announced his support for a scheme that was court-packing by another name, in which he would negate Supreme Court justices' constitutionally mandated lifetime appointments and replace them with 18-year "term limits."

6. He and his administration engaged in a coverup of his cognitive decline. The White House repeatedly misled the American people about Biden's mental fitness — assuring them, in Vice President Kamala Harris's words, that the president was "vibrant," "tireless" and "absolutely authoritative in rooms around the globe" — only to have those falsehoods exposed by a single debate performance.

5. He broke his promise not to pardon his son. NBC reported the deception was intentional, and that following Hunter's conviction in June "it was decided ... he would publicly say he would not pardon his son even though doing so remained on the table." Biden justified his reversal by claiming that "raw politics has infected this process and it led to a miscarriage of justice" — essentially accusing his own Justice Department of engaging in politicized prosecutions and validating Trump's critique that his administration was weaponizing the justice system.

4. He halted the federal executions of serial kill-

ers, child molesters and a cop killer. Biden, who is Catholic, said that he was "guided by my conscience" to grant clemency to 37 federal death-row inmates who had committed horrific crimes. But he made support for abortion the centerpiece of his reelection campaign (before he dropped out). The president has it backward: The Catholic Church teaches the death penalty is a matter of "prudential judgment" while abortion is an "intrinsically evil" act.

3. He called Trump supporters "garbage." Biden claimed afterward that he misspoke, but his plain words were clear: "The only garbage I see floating out there is [Trump's] supporters." Biden came to office promising to put his "whole soul" into "bringing America together." Instead, he compared Republicans to racists and traitors, called them "semi-fascist" and "enemies" of America.

2. He broke his promise to avenge the Abbey Gate bombing. After the 2021 suicide bombing at the Kabul airport's Abbey Gate killed 13 U.S. service members and injured 45 more, Biden warned: "We will not forgive. We will not forget. We will hunt you down and make you pay." Yet, three years later, Biden prepares to leave the presidency having done nothing to punish those responsible for the deaths of the brave Americans who gave their lives carrying out his catastrophic retreat in Afghanistan.

1. He continued to slow-roll weapons to Ukraine with no strategy for victory. Biden didn't provide Ukraine with long-range Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) missiles until April last year or F-16 fighter jets until July, and he did not let Ukraine strike Russian territory with longer-range weapons until November — and this on top of sclerotic delays in providing Stinger and Javelin missiles, High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS), Patriot air defense systems and M1 Abrams tanks. If Biden had given Ukraine all these weapons in 2022, when Russia was on its heels after failing to take Kyiv, Ukraine might have won the war long ago.

Other disastrous Biden policies that did not make the top 10: He allowed the Houthis to continue firing at U.S. military ships and commercial vessels in the Red Sea with virtual impunity; he continued to preside over net cuts in defense spending that have let our defense industrial base atrophy; he allowed U.S. forces to get kicked out of Niger, a major setback for U.S. counterterrorism operations in Africa and a victory for Russia; and he issued a shameful new National Security Memorandum (NSM-20) as a sop to the anti-Israel left of his party.

Taken together, my four annual lists of Biden's worst actions in office tell the story of the worst presidency in my lifetime. Jan. 20 cannot come soon enough.

*Follow Marc A. Thiessen on X, @marcthiessen.*



Marc Thiessen

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

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 7, the seventh day of 2025. There are 358 days left in the year.

Today in history: On Jan. 7, 2015, masked gunmen stormed the Paris offices of Charlie Hebdo, a French newspaper that had caricatured the Prophet Muhammad, methodically killing 12 people, including the editor, before escaping. (Two suspects were killed two days later.)

Also on this date:

In 1610, astronomer Galileo Galilei observed four of Jupiter's moons for the first time.

In 1955, singer Marian Anderson became the first Black American to sing with the Metropolitan Opera in New York, in Verdi's "Un Ballo in Maschera."

In 1979, Vietnamese forces captured the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh,

overthrowing the Khmer Rouge government.

In 2022, three white men who chased and killed Ahmaud Arbery were sentenced to life in prison; a judge in Georgia denied any chance of parole for the father and son who armed themselves and initiated the deadly pursuit of the 25-year-old Black man after spotting him running in their neighborhood.

In 2023, Republican Kevin McCarthy was elected speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives on a historic post-midnight 15th ballot, overcoming holdouts from his own ranks after a chaotic week that tested the new GOP majority's ability to govern.

Today's Birthdays: Musician Kenny Loggins is 77. Actor David Caruso is 69. TV journalist Katie Couric is 68. Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., is 64.

## Sorry, Canada – we don't want you

"54-40 or Fight" was the slogan of supporters James K. Polk in the 1844 presidential campaign, referring to their desire to take a substantial slice of what would eventually become Canadian territory.

For his part, Donald Trump isn't bothering to set out any latitude lines when he discusses his ambitions on Canada — he wants the whole thing, or so he says in his trolling of our friendly neighbor to the north and its embattled progressive prime minister Justin Trudeau.

In recent weeks, Trump has mused about Canada becoming the 51st state, posted an artificially generated image of himself besides a Canada flag atop a mountain staring heroically into the distance, and referred to Trudeau, amusingly, as "governor."

By all accounts, most Canadians have taken this in stride, but some have expressed consternation or indignation, to which we can reply, "Don't worry, Canada — we don't really want you."

Even if Trump were inclined to dust off War Plan Red — the Department of War's strategy in the early 20th century for how to conduct a war against the British Empire, featuring Canada as a key battlefield — it wouldn't be worth the effort.

The United States doesn't need another huge, misgoverned Blue State. We already have California, where the climate and the surfing are better.

Over the past several years, Canada has managed to fall even further



Rich Lowry

behind the United States economically. "The IMF forecasts that Canada's national income per head, equivalent to around 80 percent of America's in the decade before the pandemic, will be just 70 percent of its neighbor's in 2025," according to The Economist.

Writing on the same theme at the website The Hub, University of Calgary economics professor Trevor Tombe notes that "the gap between the Canadian and American economies has now reached its widest point in nearly a century." The U.S., he continues, "is on track to produce nearly 50 percent more per person than Canada will."

Canada would be the fourth-poorest state in the Union, beneath Alabama. Tombe breaks it down province-by-province. Ontario, home to Toronto, the biggest city in Canada, would be the fifth poorest state. Quebec would be the second poorest, falling between West Virginia and Mississippi.

Why would we make Canada's scuffling economic performance our problem?

Then, there's the matter of politics. Canada would be a Blue State behemoth, matching California in population (roughly 40 million) and, presumably, in reliably Democratic politics. There are red areas of Canada, which has the same urban versus rural divide as the U.S., yet the Great White North is overall less conserva-

tive.

Polling in Canada prior the U.S. presidential election showed Kamala Harris with a three-to-one lead over Trump, and an advantage even in the more Trump-friendly prairies.

The U.S. and Canada are friendly neighbors with intertwined histories, but have distinct political and economic cultures. We might think we'd annex Canada and make it more like us, but — with two Democratic senators and a huge tranche of electoral votes for a Democratic presidential candidate — Canada would surely make us more like it.

In that sense, the joke would definitely be on us.

We'd also be buying ourselves an instant separatist problem by incorporating Quebec, the French-speaking province that has had a notoriously troubled relationship with the rest of the Canada. If we want to add French, along with English and Spanish, as yet another obligatory language option, this would be a great move.

Then, there's the matter of Justin Trudeau. After his irksome, grievous misrule of Canada, it would be even more annoying if the story ended with him becoming a U.S. citizen. Who knows? Still young, he might become a strong contender for the 2028 Democratic nomination, depending on the timing of the Ontario caucuses.

All that said, national modesty compels us to admit that all our prior efforts to take Canada have failed, and our pleasantries northerly neighbor deserves respect, amid the ribbing. Let Canada be Canada.

*Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry*

## The News-Banner

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

# Gloria searches for balance in her life and the lives of others

Imagine eating your favorite dessert every meal. How long would it still be good? How happy are children if they do only what they want to do all day, every day?

What would it be like if Christmas came every month or went on a vacation every day?

At our house, we get many good-sized portions every day. How much quietness could I relish without getting too much?

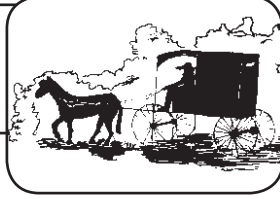
My mind flashes to lonely widow friends, handicapped, and other lonely folks out there who would be only too glad to have some extra action and interaction with others daily. So, I'm getting two sides to the picture as I write. Isn't the old saying true, "Too much of a good thing is a bad thing?"

We would get rid of those unchangeables if we could, but how would life really be if it had only the good things we would choose? The quiet moments behind a closed door with twenty little toes trying to wiggle their way under the door would not have felt so good if I had never been weary of wondering how I would meet each child's need. A restful night's sleep never had such significance until it was a nightly event to get up to care for little hearts.

Have you ever felt guilty to enjoy it when you experienced something that felt good then? I've

## The Amish Cook

by Gloria Yoder



struggled with that. A while after my husband passed, I discovered that it didn't feel right to laugh. How would my life look like now, had I resolved never to laugh again?

Or you may be in a position right now where you feel like you never want to smile again. I get it; when the pain cuts deep, it sometimes shifts things enough that we are left reeling, wondering what good things could happen in our lives again. Life will never hold the same thing forever unless we choose to stay there. Like eating the same dessert, every meal will not work, and in the same way, the heartache within will not forever be part of your diet. Better yet, as we find Jesus in the midst of it, he takes the burden, rewraps it, and replaces it with something much better, and in his time, gives it back. Now this process takes much more patience than I have; I keep getting more from the Lord. Your reward may be waiting until you step inside those pearly gates, but believe me, it will be worth it, many times over.

None of us like to be stuck in

the mundane without an end in sight. When I find it hard to really talk to God, I whisper or even think about the name of Jesus. My latest favorite verse is in Isaiah 61:3 where we're promised beauty for ashes and the oil of joy for mourning.

And while we journey our pathway, why not help take the monotony out of a lonely neighbor's life by sharing a token of kindness and word of appreciation, or when we see a hurting individual, just tell them "I care," and lift them in prayer. If there's a young mother at church, she may let you sweep her floors or wash her windows when you stop by, or perhaps she'd be ready to eat a meal with two free hands while you hold the baby.

My children enjoy a change, even in their daily routine. On Sunday mornings, they get to eat their breakfast in their pajamas and are welcome to bring a cozy blanket with them. Or better yet, a break from washing the supper dishes or feeding the animals on a cold evening. It really doesn't take



that much at all to pass on the love God's Son has for us and bringing a splash of "Son-shine" into others' lives.

I'll pass on a recipe for soup, similar to what a church sister dropped off last week, giving us a break from preparing a meal. Yes, little acts of kindness have a way of removing some of the humdrum feel to life. If you give, you will receive.

**Creamy Vegetable Rice Soup**  
1 qt chicken broth  
2 cups cold water

1/2 cup rice, uncooked  
1/2 cup celery  
1/2 cup carrots  
1 cup potatoes  
1 tablespoon chicken base  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon black pepper  
2 cups chicken, diced and cooked

Dump altogether in a 4 quart kettle, cook until veggies are tender. Add 1/2 cup sour cream and 1/2 pound melting cheese such as Velveeta. If desired serve with crackers and bread sticks. Yummy!

### 'Making a Difference' sponsors



Les Gerber Insurance, represented by Seth Aschliman, Peg Aschliman and Clint Fiechter, center of photo, will be among the proud sponsors of the Wells Community Boys & Girls Club Making a Difference Day Banquet to be held on Jan. 20 at the club on South Wayne St. in Bluffton. Gene Bell, at left, and Vicki Bell, at right, represent the Boys & Girls Club. (Photos provided)



Cyndee Fiechter of North Eastern Group Realty, at right, also will be a sponsor of the Boys & Girls Club "Making a Difference" banquet to be held on Jan. 20. At left is Club Director Vicki Bell.



Habegger Ace hardware, represented by Jesse Frauhiger, center, and Jeremy Frauhiger, at right, will also be a sponsor of the club's fund-raising banquet. At the left is Club Director Vicki Bell.

### Free music series at Fort Wayne's Plymouth Church

A series of free Sunday afternoon concerts has been announced for 2024-2025 to be held at the Plymouth Congregational Church, 501 West Berry St. in Fort Wayne.

Scheduled are the following:  
Jan. 19 at 4 p.m. at Pilgrim Baptist Church, 1331 Gay St., Fort Wayne: We Are the Dream commemorating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Musicians from both churches and Heartland Sings.

Feb. 9 at 2 p.m., Songs of Motherhood with Natalie Young (soprano) and Ashlee Bickley McCrory (mezzo) presenting a recital exploring the triumphs and trials of early motherhood.

March 10 at 4 p.m., A keyboard concert of organ and piano (a celebration of 25 years of Robert Nance as director of music at Plymouth Congregational Church). More information at [www.plymouthfw.org/plymouth-music-series](http://www.plymouthfw.org/plymouth-music-series).

### A Talk with Tego



Chase is a six-month-old, domestic short hair, neutered male.



Oscar is a six-month-old, domestic short hair, neutered male.



Raven is a six-month-old, domestic short hair, spayed female.



Tego

**Tego's Tips:** All three are super sweet and playful too!

These are just a few pets available for adoption at the Wells County Animal Shelter, 1613 W. Cherry St., Bluffton. For more information call 824-6063.

### Free Philharmonic concerts by small ensembles

Musicians from the Fort Wayne Philharmonic will be presenting free concerts at three sites in Fort Wayne in January, featuring smaller ensembles.

On Wednesday, Jan. 15, at 10 a.m. the West Central Winds will be at Crescendo Coffee & More. (Arrive earlier to purchase breakfast!)

Sweetwater Sound will be the site on

Wednesday, Jan. 22, at 12 noon when the Freiman Quartet will play at the "Live at Lunch" event. (Purchase lunch either before or after the concert.)

On Thursday, Jan. 23 at 12 noon the West Central Winds will play at the Electric Works Union Street Market. (Lunch available for purchase from a variety of vendors.)

### Al-Anon support group meetings in Bluffton

Support for friends and family who have a problem drinker in their lives. The support group meets every Monday from 6:30 to

7:30 p.m. at the Caylor-Nickel Foundation Family YMCA, located at 550 W. Dustman Rd in Bluffton.

### Wagon Wheel Summer Season productions

Productions for the 2025 summer season at Wagon Wheel Center for the Arts have been announced.

To arrange for tickets check out [wagonwheelcenter.org](http://wagonwheelcenter.org).

**2025 Summer Season**  
**Joseph & the amazing technicolor dreamcoat:** June 5-14; **South Pacific:** June 19-28; **Sister Act:** July 3-12; **Steel Magnolias:** July 17-26; **Grease:** July 31-Aug. 9

A ticket sale is offered through Sept. 30 with season tickets priced at \$195 (after Oct. 1 the price increases to \$225). Information at [wagonwheel.org](http://wagonwheel.org) or at 866-823-2618.

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# Fort Wayne Farm Show

**Tuesday, January 14**  
**Appleseed Room A**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**Midwest Ag Market Outlook**  
Jon Cavanaugh  
WOWO Market Analyst  
David Kohli  
WOWO Market Analyst  
Ryan Martin  
Farm Origination Specialist,  
Louis Dreyfus Co.  
**Rob Winters Farm Director,**  
News/Talk 1190, WOWO  
**12:00 p.m.**  
**Climate Impacts on AG**  
Austin Pearson  
Climatologist,  
Midwestern Regional Climate Center  
**2:00 p.m.**  
**Pesticide Applicator Program**  
Fred Whitford  
Clinical Engagement Professor and  
Director, Purdue Pesticide Programs  
Purdue University  
**\*\*PARP, CCH Credits Available\*\***

**Wednesday, January 15**  
**Appleseed Room A**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**Farm Emergency Care**  
Ag & Natural Resources Educator,  
County Extension Director,  
Purdue Extension, DeKalb County  
**11:30 a.m. (Luncheon)**  
**Hot Topics in Land Use**  
**Appleseed Room B**  
Brianna Schroeder  
Partner,  
Janzen Schroeder Ag Law  
**1:30 p.m.**  
**Water Resources**  
Jane Frankenburger  
Professor,  
Agricultural and Biological  
Engineering,  
Purdue University

**Cont' Wednesday**  
**3:30 p.m.**  
**Who, What, Where, When, and Why on Drainage Regulations**  
Jarrod Hahn  
Surveyor,  
Well County, IN  
**5:30 p.m.**  
**Making Sense of Programs**  
USDA/FSA Staff  
**Thursday, January 16**  
**Appleseed Room A**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**Tips for the AG Job Search**  
William Horan  
Ag & Natural Resources Educator,  
County Extension Director,  
Purdue Extension, Wells County  
**12:00 p.m.**  
**Core Pesticide Test Prep**  
Purdue Extension Educators  
---  
**Wheelchair Accessible: Yes**  
**PARKING:**  
**ACCEPTS CASH and CREDIT or DEBIT CARDS; Valid for one entry**  
**\$8.00 MAIN LOT**  
**\$12.00 PREFERRED LOT**  
**\$16.00 BUS/RV**

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Sat 8-1pm

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# News-Banner Scoreboard

## FOOTBALL

### NFL

#### AMERICAN CONFERENCE

| East            |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| y-Buffalo       | 13 4 0 .765 525 368 |
| e-Miami         | 8 9 0 .471 345 364  |
| e-N.Y. Jets     | 5 12 0 .294 338 404 |
| e-N. England    | 4 13 0 .235 289 417 |
| South           |                     |
| W L T Pct PF PA |                     |
| y-Houston       | 10 7 0 .588 372 372 |
| e-Indianapolis  | 9 8 0 .471 377 427  |
| e-Jacksonville  | 4 13 0 .235 320 435 |
| e-Tennessee     | 3 14 0 .176 311 460 |

| North           |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| W L T Pct PF PA |                     |
| y-Baltimore     | 12 5 0 .706 518 361 |
| x-Pittsburgh    | 10 7 0 .588 380 347 |
| e-Cincinnati    | 9 8 0 .529 472 434  |
| e-Cleveland     | 3 14 0 .176 258 435 |

| West            |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| W L T Pct PF PA |                     |
| *-Kansas City   | 15 2 0 .882 385 326 |
| x-Chargers      | 11 6 0 .647 402 301 |
| x-Denver        | 10 7 0 .588 425 311 |
| e-Las Vegas     | 4 13 0 .235 309 434 |

| National Conference |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| W L T Pct PF PA     |                     |
| y-Philadelphia      | 14 3 0 .824 463 303 |
| x-Washington        | 12 5 0 .706 485 391 |
| e-Dallas            | 7 10 0 .412 350 468 |
| e-N.Y. Giants       | 3 14 0 .176 273 415 |

| South           |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| W L T Pct PF PA |                     |
| y-Tampa Bay     | 10 7 0 .588 502 385 |
| e-Atlanta       | 8 9 0 .471 389 423  |
| e-Carolina      | 5 12 0 .294 341 534 |
| e-N. Orleans    | 5 12 0 .294 338 398 |

| North           |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| W L T Pct PF PA |                     |
| x-Detroit       | 15 2 0 .882 564 342 |
| x-Minnesota     | 14 3 0 .824 432 332 |
| x-Green Bay     | 11 6 0 .647 460 338 |
| e-Chicago       | 5 12 0 .294 310 370 |

| West            |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| W L T Pct PF PA |                     |
| y-L.A. Rams     | 10 7 0 .588 367 386 |
| e-Seattle       | 10 7 0 .588 375 368 |
| e-Arizona       | 8 9 0 .471 400 379  |
| e-S. Fran.      | 6 11 0 .353 389 436 |

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### Wild Card Schedule

#### Saturday's Games

L.A. Chargers at Houston, 4:30 p.m.

Pittsburgh at Baltimore, 8 p.m.

#### Sunday's Games

Denver at Buffalo, 1 p.m.

Green Bay at Philadelphia, 4:30 p.m.

Washington at Tampa Bay, 8 p.m.

#### Monday's Games

Minnesota at L.A. Rams, 8 p.m.

### College

#### College Glance

##### Jan. 9

#### College Football Playoff Semifinals

##### Orange Bowl

Miami vs. Penn St.-Boise St. Winner vs. Notre Dame-Georgia winner, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

##### Jan. 10

#### College Football Playoff Semifinals

##### Cotton Bowl

Dallas vs. Clemson-Texas-Arizona St. winner vs. Ohio St.-Oregon winner, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

##### Jan. 20

#### College Football Playoff National Championship

Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Atlanta

Semifinal winners, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

### BASKETBALL

#### High School

##### Monday Boys' Scores

#### POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

University vs. Covenant Christian High School, p.p.d.

##### Monday Girls' Scores

#### POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

E. Central vs. Indpls Chatard, p.p.d.

Evansville Mater Dei vs. Evansville Christian, p.p.d.

Indpls Tech vs. Heritage Christian, p.p.d.

Linton vs. Vincennes, p.p.d.

#### College

##### Men's Scores

##### Monday, Jan. 6

Norfolk St. 73, Delaware St. 64

SC State 85, Coppin St. 77

Wisconsin 75, Rutgers 63

Alabama A&M 79, MVSU 67

Alabama St. 93, Ark.-Pine Bluff 91

McNeese St. 92, Northwestern St. 69

SE Louisiana 79, Texas Rio Grande Valley 75

Texas A&M-CC 97, New Orleans 83

MIDWEST South Florida 91, Wichita St. 72

SOUTHWEST Houston Christian 83, Stephen F. Austin 73

Lamar 72, Incarnate Word 58

Nicholls 83, East Texas A&M 61

##### Women's Scores

##### Monday, Jan. 6

Norfolk St. 94, Delaware St. 55

Coppin St. 84, SC State 38

### NBA

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

##### Atlantic Division

W L Pct GB

Boston 26 10 .722 —

New York 24 13 .649 2½

Philadelphia 14 20 .412 11

Brooklyn 13 23 .361 13

Toronto 8 28 .222 18

##### Southeast Division

W L Pct GB

Orlando 22 16 .579 —

Miami 17 16 .515 2½

Atlanta 18 18 .500 3

Charlotte 7 27 .206 13

Washington 6 27 .182 13½

##### Central Division

W L Pct GB

Cleveland 31 4 .886 —

Milwaukee 18 16 .529 12½

Indiana 19 18 .514 13

Detroit 18 18 .500 13½

Chicago 16 19 .457 15

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

##### Southwest Division

W L Pct GB

Houston 23 12 .657 —

Memphis 23 13 .639 ½

Dallas 20 15 .571 3

San Antonio 18 17 .514 5

New Orleans 7 29 .194 16½

##### Northwest Division

W L Pct GB

Oklahoma City 30 5 .857 —

Denver 20 14 .588 9½

Minnesota 17 17 .500 12½

Portland 12 23 .343 18

Utah 9 25 .265 20½

##### Pacific Division

W L Pct GB

L.A. Lakers 20 15 .571 —

L.A. Clippers 20 15 .571 1

Golden State 18 17 .514 2

Sacramento 17 19 .472 3½

Phoenix 16 18 .471 3½

##### Sunday's Games

Oklahoma City 105, Boston 92

Cleveland 115, Charlotte 105

New Orleans 110, Washington 98

Utah 105, Orlando 92

Houston 119, L.A. Lakers 115

Sacramento 129, Golden State 99

##### Monday's Games

Detroit 118, Portland 115

Phoenix 109, Philadelphia 99

Milwaukee 128, Toronto 104

Indiana 113, Brooklyn 99

Orlando 103, New York 94

Memphis 119, Dallas 104

Chicago 114, San Antonio 110

Minnesota 108, L.A. Clippers 106

Miami at Sacramento, late

#### Tuesday's Games

Houston at Washington, 7 p.m.

Phoenix at Charlotte, 7 p.m.

L.A. Lakers at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.

Minnesota at New Orleans, 8 p.m.

Atlanta at Utah, 9 p.m.

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

Difficulty: ★★

1/7

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### Lottery Numbers

**Monday's Drawings**  
**HOOSIER LOTTERY**  
Cash 5 — 04-13-26-36-44  
Cash4Life — 14-15-16-22-59, Cash Ball: 02  
**Quick Draw Midday** — 01-03-04-06-11-14-21-23-29-32-34-39-44-53-59-65-67-70-74-79, BE: 79  
**Daily Three-Midday** — 07-07-09, SB: 01  
**Daily Three-Evening** — 09-07-02, SB: 08  
**Daily Four-Midday** — 06-07-00-07, SB: 01  
**Daily Four-Evening** — 03-01-04-01, SB: 08  
**Quick Draw Evening** — 02-08-15-18-20-23-24-34-38-42-52-58-60-62-64-66-68-75-76-77, BE: 76  
**Hoosier Lotto** — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$36 million  
**MEGA MILLIONS**  
Estimated jackpot (for Tuesday): \$62 million  
**POWERBALL**  
17-34-46-66-67 Powerball: 14; Power Play: 2X

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

### EMPLOYMENT

#### Help Wanted

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** The Wells County Foundation, Inc. is currently accepting applications for a full-time Administrative Assistant. In general, the employee will represent The Wells County Foundation, Inc. by exercising good judgment and personal responsibility with dignity and decorum befitting the position both inside and outside of the office, both during and outside of working hours. This position requires an individual who is energetic and a self-starter with an interest in and knowledge of the Wells County community. Demonstrated written and verbal communication skills are a must in addition to expertise in the areas of business technology to include experience with Word, Excel, Quickbooks, Filemaker, WIX and Microsoft Publisher. Interested candidates may submit a letter of interest along with a resume to: The Wells County Foundation, Inc., 222 West Market Street, Bluffton, IN 46714. Attention: Tammy Slater [www.wellscountyfound.org](http://www.wellscountyfound.org)

### COURTHOUSE SECURITY OFFICER

The Wells County Sheriff's Office is hiring part-time court security officers to maintain a safe and secure environment for staff, attorneys, defendants, and the public. Responsibilities include screening individuals, conducting security checks, monitoring surveillance, and responding to emergencies. Applicants must have a high school diploma, strong communication skills, and must pass all background checks and firearm qualifications. Previous security or law enforcement experience is preferred. Pay is for position is \$20.60/hr. To see the full job description as well as submitting your preapplication, visit [www.wellscountysheriff.com](http://www.wellscountysheriff.com). Applications are due by January 31, 2025.

### Mark your Calendar for this event

**HAVE AN UPCOMING event?** A 20 word, line classified ad for six days is only \$24.50. Add a border for an additional \$1 or a graphic for an additional \$5. Contact the Bluffton News-Banner, 260-824-0224, 125 N. Johnson St., or submit online at [news-banner.com](http://news-banner.com) and click on classifieds.

### SUDOKU ANSWER

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| 9 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 9 |
| 7 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 1 |

### SERVICES

#### Services

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## Public Sale Calendar

### BIDDING ENDS JANUARY 7 at 10 a.m. - (Online Only)

**- Wayne Metals LLC Machining Division, owner.** Offering over 200+ Lots. Roskelley 1440 Lathe, 2007 Haas SL-40T CNC Turning Lathe, Hardinge CHNCI Precision CNC Machine, Delta Floor Drill Press, Omni Turn GT-75 CNC Lathe, Targa Surface Grinder, Acer Milling Machine W/ Phase-2 3 Jaw Chuck, Abex Denison Stamp Machine, OOYA RE-1225H Drilling & Tapping Radial Arm Drill, Cincinnati Milacron Hawk 150 A2100 CNC Lathe, Welders, Tooling Cabinets, Large Selection of pallet racking, Power & Hand Tools and much more. 9312 Avionics Drive, Fort Wayne IN 46809. **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC**, 260-724-7402, [kjauction.com](http://kjauction.com).

**JANUARY 17 - 10 a.m. - Secured creditors & various consignors, owners.** 815 Adams St., Decatur. Online only truck & equipment auction. Offering 500+ lots! 2012-2014 Freightliner M2106 box trucks, dump trucks, day cabs, sleepers, utility trucks, bucket trucks, utility & semi trailers, SUV's, pickup trucks, 250+ various skid steer attachments, various truck parts, fencing, work benches, tool boxes & much more! Accepting consignments! **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC**, 260-724-7402, [kjauction.com](http://kjauction.com).

**FEBRUARY 13 - 4 p.m.-6 p.m. ET - Online - Joe William Daily Trust, farm.** Property Location: Eight miles east of Hartford City, four miles north of Dunkirk, approximately 528 S 800 E, Hartford City, Jackson Township, Blackford County. 77+/- total acres, high quality tillable acres. Tract breakdown: 66.9+/- tillable, 6+/- woods, 4.1+/- other. Soil Types: Blount, Glynwood, Pewamo. Topography: Level to gently rolling. Zoning: A-1 Agricultural. Rick Johnloz, 260-827-8181, Jason Johnloz, 260-273-9177, Craig Springmeyer, 937-533-7126, **Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management**, [halderman.com](http://halderman.com), 800-424-2324.

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Feb. deadline is Tues, Jan. 21!

# Healing after betrayal

Dear Annie: I have a difficult and deeply personal situation, and I would really appreciate your advice. My husband of two years left me on April 14, 2023, saying he wanted to build a home for us in California. The problem is, he made this decision without my knowledge or consent, and it feels like he abandoned me.

Since then, I've done everything I can to support him, including buying five plane tickets for him to either return to Memphis, Tennessee, or come to get me so we could be together. Each time, he's failed to follow through. I've also sent him over \$20,000 during the past year and a half to help with his supposed plans, hoping he was working toward a better future for us.

But despite all of this, he has consistently lied to me. The final straw was Nov. 19, when he promised once again to come home and didn't. At that moment, I decided I was done providing for him and trying to make this relationship work.

What hurts the most is that I've been nothing but loyal to him throughout all of this. Despite his betrayal, I have stayed faithful to him, even when I've felt deeply lonely and angry. Now I'm living at his mother's house because I don't have the financial resources to secure a place of my own. I feel ashamed of the situation and often lie to my family when they ask about his whereabouts because I'm too embarrassed to tell them the truth.

I feel lower than dirt right now. At times, I find myself wanting revenge for the way he's treated me, but I always calm myself down, realizing that it wouldn't fix anything or make me feel better in the long run. Still, I feel so lost and hurt.

How do I move forward from this? How do I heal from the betrayal and rebuild my life when I feel like I've hit rock bottom? — Deeply Hurt

Dear Deeply Hurt: I'm so sorry for the pain and betrayal you've experienced. You've given so much of yourself

to this relationship, and it's heart-breaking that your loyalty and support haven't been reciprocated. Please know that his actions are a reflection of his choices, not your worth. How someone treats you says more about them than it does about you.

Right now, the most important thing is to focus on your own well-being. Let go of any shame; what you've endured is not your fault. Seek support from trusted friends or family members to unload some of the hurt you feel.

Living at his mother's house should be a temporary step, not your final destination. Begin to think about ways to regain your independence, whether through work, education or seeking local resources. It's also worth reaching out to a therapist or support group to help process your feelings and rebuild your confidence.

I admire your ability to let go of thoughts of revenge; it shows great strength. Instead, channel that energy into healing and rebuilding your life. The best type of revenge is living well. You deserve love, and you've already taken a big step by deciding to stop supporting someone who doesn't value you. With time and small, consistent steps, you'll find your way forward.

Annie Lane's second anthology — "How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" 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).

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## Dear Annie

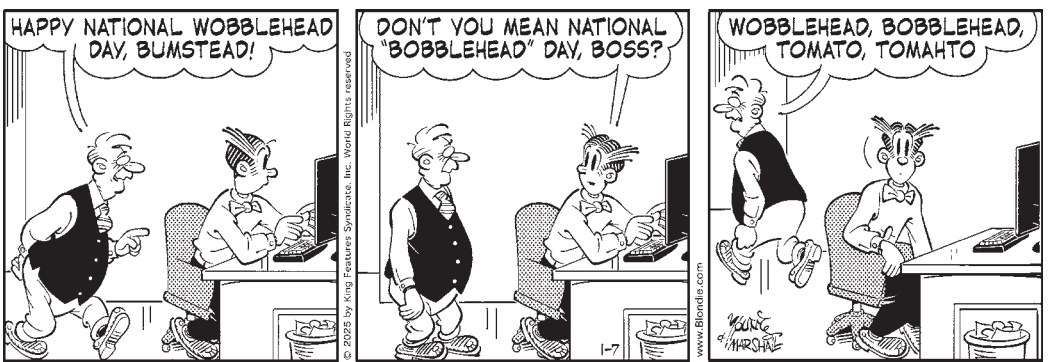
by Annie Lane



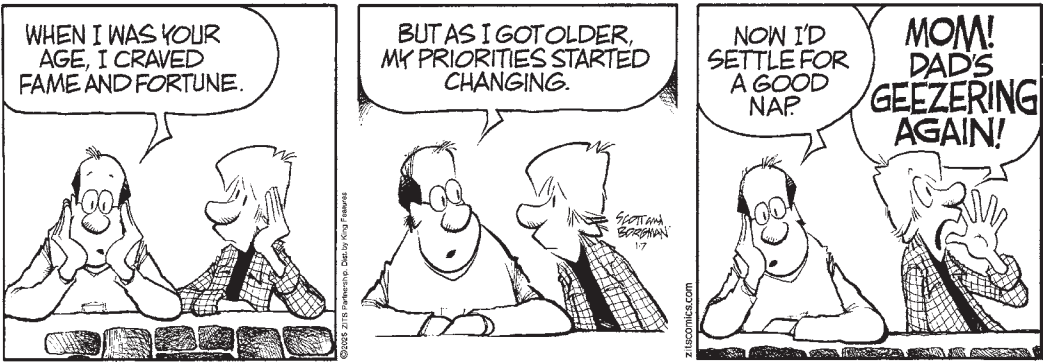
## BEETLE BAILEY



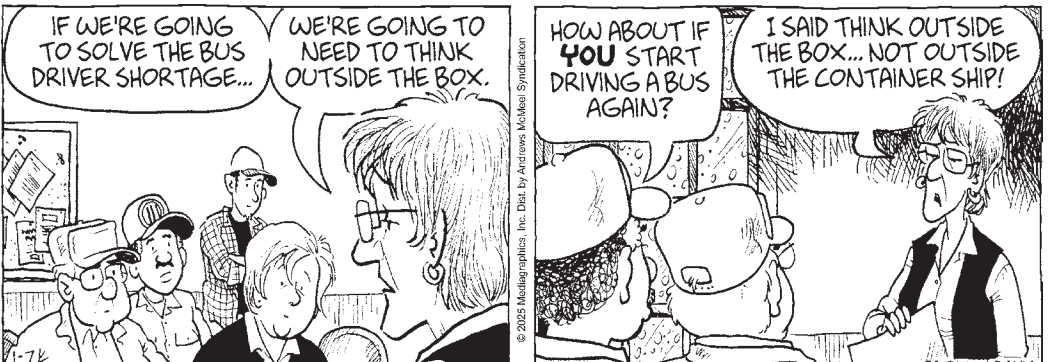
## BLONDIE



## ZITS

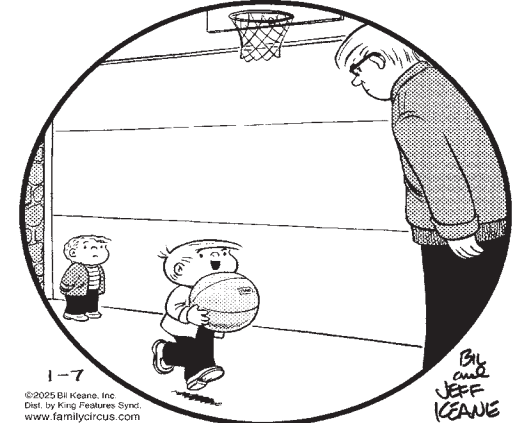


## CRANKSHAFT



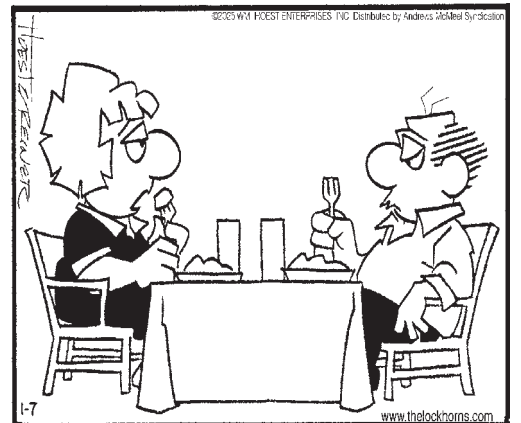
## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"I win. Jeffy almost made one basket, but I almost made two."

## The LOCKHORNS



"WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU CAN'T EAT ANOTHER BITE? YOU JUST SAT DOWN."

## My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



# God's grace is sufficient for every test

Question: I believe a false teaching is circulating among evangelical churches that we are to forgive God. Isn't it the other way around — that we should pray for God to forgive us as He has forgiven our sin? If we say we should forgive God, doesn't that imply that He has done something wrong? Isn't God perfect in all He does? — F.G.

Answer: It isn't God who needs forgiving but rather man to be forgiven by God. The world is in need of moral leadership that teaches the difference between right and wrong and teaches us to forgive one another even as we

are forgiven by our Father in Heaven who has the authority to forgive and strengthen us to forgive others.

Resentment builds up within us when we resist God's will for our lives. Christians who are strong in faith grow as they accept whatever God allows to enter our lives. We are to bow to His good and perfect will and become more mature. To resent and resist God's disciplining hand is to miss one of the greatest spiritual blessings we Christians can realize this side of Heaven.

Whatever it is — aggravations, trouble, adversity, and irritations — until we have discovered that God's grace is sufficient for every test, we remain

discouraged. Hebrews 12:11 tells us that no discipline seems pleasant at the time; it is painful. But later on, it produces a harvest of peace for those who have been trained by it.

True Christian victory does not lie along the path of mere resignation. Instead, the growing Christian sees that though God may wound us (or allow us to be wounded), His hand also heals. This should bring great comfort to the heart.

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

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| 01/07                | M   | A  | 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                         |
|----------------------|-----|----|----|----|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| WINM (12)            | 11  | 26 | 63 |    | Washington Watch With Tony Perkins              | News-at-5                     | News-at-6                     | CBS News (N)                  | Wheel of Fortune (N)              | Jeopardy! (N)                           | FBI "Trusted" (N)                       | Vindication (N)               | Life Today with Joyce Meyer   | Life Today with Joyce Meyer   | Robert Jeffress               | Jewish Jesus                  | Andrew Womack                 | Ask the Pastor                | Mysteries                     |                               |
| CBS WANE (15)        | 2   | 15 | 15 |    | News (N) Inside Edition (N)                     | News at 6 (N)                 | CBS News (N)                  | Wheel of Fortune (N)          | Jeopardy! (N)                     | FBI "Trusted" (N)                       | Vindication (N)                         | Life Today with Joyce Meyer   | Life Today with Joyce Meyer   | Life Today with Joyce Meyer   | Robert Jeffress               | Jewish Jesus                  | Andrew Womack                 | Ask the Pastor                | Mysteries                     |                               |
| Antenna WANE-2 (152) | 106 | 20 |    |    | Chicago Fire "The Solution to Everything" Catch | Chicago Fire "Always a Catch" | Chicago Fire "Always a Catch" | Chicago Fire "Always a Catch" | Chicago Fire "Always a Catch"     | Chicago Fire "Always a Catch"           | Chicago Fire "Always a Catch"           | Chicago Fire "Always a Catch" | Chicago Fire "Always a Catch" | Chicago Fire "Always a Catch" | Chicago Fire "Always a Catch" | Chicago Fire "Always a Catch" | Chicago Fire "Always a Catch" | Chicago Fire "Always a Catch" | Chicago Fire "Always a Catch" | Chicago Fire "Always a Catch" |
| ABC WPTA (21)        | 4   | 3  | 21 | 21 | ABC21 News at 5 (N)                             | ABC21 (N)                     | ABC World News (N)            | ABC21 (N)                     | Ent. Tonight (N)                  | Will Trent "I'm a Guest Here" (SP) (N)  | High Potential (N)                      | The Rookie (SP) (N)           | ABC21 (N)                     | ABC21 (N)                     | ABC21 (N)                     | ABC21 (N)                     | ABC21 (N)                     | ABC21 (N)                     | ABC21 (N)                     | ABC21 (N)                     |
| ABC WPTA-2 (212)     | 7   | 8  | 14 |    | Family Feud                                     | 25 Words or Less              | News (N)                      | ABC News (N)                  | Family Feud                       | Family Feud                             | Deal or No Deal                         | Deal or No Deal               | The Irrational (N)            | News (N)                      | News (N)                      | News (N)                      | News (N)                      | News (N)                      | News (N)                      | News (N)                      |
| MNT WPTA-3 (213)     | 10  | 9  | 56 | 34 | Bob Hearts Abishola                             | Bob Hearts Abishola           | Mod Fam "Pilot"               | News (N)                      | Last Man Standing                 | Last Man Standing                       | Suits                                   | Suits                         | Seinfeld                      | Seinfeld                      | The Conners                   | The Conners                   | The Goldbergs                 | The Goldbergs                 | The Goldbergs                 | The Goldbergs                 |
| CW WISE (33)         | 8   | 4  | 33 | 33 | The Steve Wilkos Show                           | TMZ Live (N)                  | TMZ (N)                       | True Crime News (N)           | WWE NXT                           | WWE Superstars                          | WWE Superstars                          | WWE Superstars                | Friends                       | Friends                       | TMZ (N)                       | Dish Nation (N)               | Chicago News                  | Chicago News                  | Chicago News                  | Chicago News                  |
| PBS WFWA (38)        | 13  | 5  | 39 | 39 | (4:00) The Buddha                               | PBS News Hour (N)             | BBC News America              | Healthline (N)                | Roots "Larger Than Life" (SP) (N) | Investigates "Jack the Ripper" (SP) (N) | Frontline "Maui's Deadly Firestorm" (N) | Amanpour and Company (N)      | Finding Your Roots            | Finding Your Roots            | Finding Your Roots            | Finding Your Roots            | Finding Your Roots            | Finding Your Roots            | Finding Your Roots            | Finding Your Roots            |
| PBS WFWA (48)        | 6   | 3  |    |    | (4:00) The Buddha                               | Context                       | The Day                       | PBS News Hour (N)             | Roots "Larger Than Life" (SP) (N) | Investigates "Jack the Ripper" (SP) (N) | Frontline "Maui's Deadly Firestorm" (N) | Amanpour and Company (N)      | Finding Your Roots            | Finding Your Roots            | Finding Your Roots            | Finding Your Roots            | Finding Your Roots            | Finding Your Roots            | Finding Your Roots            | Finding Your Roots            |
| FOX WFTT (55)        | 6   | 5  | 55 | 55 | (4:00) The Buddha                               | WFTT Fox News at 6 (N)        | Big Bang                      | Big Bang                      | Big Bang                          | Big Bang                                | Big Bang                                | Big Bang                      | Big Bang                      | Big Bang                      | Big Bang                      | Big Bang                      | Big Bang                      | Big Bang                      | Big Bang                      | Big Bang                      |

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Makes a choice

5 Pear-shaped fruit

8 "The Black Prince" author Murdoch

12 High point

13 Hostel

14 Central point

15 "Citadel" actress Chhaya

17 Only

18 Brooch

19 Rappers' improvisations

21 Signaled "Hi!"

24 —

25 Battery fluid

26 Female roquette

30 Roullette bet

31 Carried on, as war

32 Pickles on "Rugrats"

33 Inmate

**DOWN**

11 Beholds

16 Help

20 Royal flush, e.g.

21 Get bent out of shape

22 Computer brand

23 Caesar's "I saw"

24 Implores

26 Primitive flutes

27 Wax-coated cheese

28 Ledge

29 Do in

31 Courts

34 Mollify

35 Lengthy list

37 —

38 Leaf

39 Flightless birds

40 Endure

41 Easter bloom

44 Classic car

45 Dead heat

46 Sinusitis doc

47 Six, in Sicily

**Solution time: 22 mins.**

DEW FEATS BOT  
 A H E M C E E A D O  
 B R O A D B A N D N O N  
 B O A T A W D R Y  
 A M B E R S S N O W  
 L O A A S H S K A T E  
 U R N S Y E W E G A D  
 M E D I C M I C O R G  
 W A R M S H A N T Y  
 B L I M E Y E U R  
 A I D W R I S T B A N D  
 T N T E N S I B L E P O I  
 H E H L A M P S E D S

Yesterday's answer 1-7

|    |    |    |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|---|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4 | 5  | 6 | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |    |
| 12 |    |    |   | 13 |   |    |    | 14 |    |    |    |
| 15 |    |    |   |    |   |    |    | 17 |    |    |    |
| 21 | 22 | 23 |   |    |   | 24 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 25 |    |    |   |    |   | 26 |    |    | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 |    |    |   |    |   | 31 |    |    |    | 32 |    |
| 33 |    |    |   |    |   |    |    |    |    | 35 |    |
|    |    |    |   |    |   | 36 |    |    |    | 37 |    |
| 38 | 39 | 40 |   |    |   |    | 41 |    |    |    |    |
| 42 |    |    |   |    |   | 43 | 44 |    | 45 | 46 | 47 |
| 48 |    |    |   |    |   | 49 |    |    |    | 50 |    |
| 51 |    |    |   |    |   | 52 |    |    |    | 53 |    |