



IN SPORTS

IHSAA  
SECTIONAL  
FOOTBALL

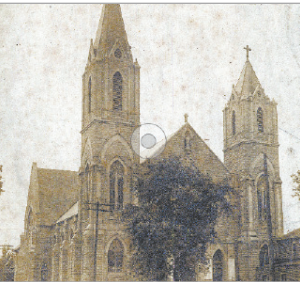
■ Kokomo's Bryce Jackson tosses the ball for the Wildkats against Muncie Central in sectional play. **B1**



IN LOCAL

PET OF WEEK

■ Meet Raven! This adorable 5-month-old canine is ready for adoption at the Kokomo Humane Society. **A5**



IN LOCAL

HISTORY PHOTO

■ Check out this week's look back at a local landmark. **A2**

ALSO INSIDE

■ Have a laugh with our daily comics including "Garfield" and many more. **B2**



ENTERTAINMENT

PUZZLES & ADVICE

■ See what Dear Annie has to say and exercise your brain with one of our puzzles. **B4-B5**

Area marching bands compete at semi-state this evening

CATHERINA SHULTZ  
KOKOMO TRIBUNE

Five area marching bands will take the field today, seeking a spot in the Indiana State School Music Association state finals. Lewis Cass, Northwestern, Maconaquah and Taylor will compete in Class D at Franklin Community High School, 2600 Cumberland Drive in Franklin. Western will compete in Class C at Decatur Central High School, 5251 Kentucky Ave., Indianapolis. For Northwestern, the trip follows an Oct. 10 regional performance at Lafayette Jef-

erson High School that left nearly every student feeling they had delivered their best show of the season. Director Jeremy Snyder said the band has a tradition: Before directors and staff offer feedback, students are asked to raise their hands if they believe they just gave their strongest performance yet. "Nearly every single one of the 96 Northwestern band students raised their hand, which is absolutely incredible, and it's exactly what we ask the students to do as perform-

See **BANDS** on A2



The Northwestern High School drum line includes, from left, junior Nolan Rector, freshman Lillian Zirkle, and senior Laynie Metz.

File photo

THE AMISH VOTE



Emilio Morenatti | AP photo

An Amish horse and buggy cross a road near Fremont in Steuben County.

Some say they could 'save America'

CARSON GERBER  
FPI NEWS

Indiana state Rep. Joanna King grew up in an Amish family that believed voting went against their faith-based conviction that members should stay separate from the world. "They really feel like their influence needs to be praying for the people that are elected ... but still really having that complete separation of church and state," said King, whose family left the Amish faith when she was in third grade.

But that long-standing belief is fading among some Indiana Amish — and it could open up an untapped block of conservative voters. More than 68,000 Amish live in Indiana — the third highest in the nation after Pennsylvania and Ohio, according to the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College. The largest communities are in LaGrange and Elkhart counties, where around 25,500 Amish live. In LaGrange County, nearly half of the 41,000 residents there are Amish. "I always tell them, 'If you guys

"I always tell them, 'If you guys ever decided to vote, you'd run this county.'"

LAGRANGE COUNTY  
COMMISSIONER TERRY MARTIN

ever decided to vote, you'd run this county," LaGrange County Commissioner Terry Martin said. "And if they told their people to get out and vote, they'd get out and vote."

A WAKE UP CALL

Before 2020, hardly any Amish people would ever have considered casting a ballot, King said.

That changed during the COVID pandemic when then-Gov. Eric Holcomb briefly banned religious gatherings to stop the spread of the disease — a move that drew fierce pushback from some Hoosier congregations. "That woke up a lot of the Amish people," King said. "I had people calling me saying, 'Can the government really do that? Can the government restrict us from meeting?'" Most Amish bishops, who have the authority to permit or ban members in their congregations from voting, have not allowed the

See **AMISH** on A2

Indiana will see impact of partisan school board elections Nov. 3

SUE LOUGHLIN  
TRIBUNE-STAR

This year marks the first time for partisan school board elections in Indiana, and the final impacts won't be known until after Nov. 3. Under legislation passed in 2025, candidates are required to declare party affiliation, label themselves independent or choose to remain non-partisan. In addition, legislation passed this

year, Senate Enrolled Act 25, changes how candidates appear on the ballot, with those declaring party affiliation benefiting. Straight-ticket voting won't include school board races. According to the Indiana School Boards Association, just over half of the 1,040 candidates who filed earlier this year affiliated with a party — 519 filed as unaffiliated, while 521 filed as affiliated. Of all 1,040 candidates that filed,

36% filed as Republican, 7% as Independent, and 6% as Democrat. When looking at only the candidates that declared an affiliation on their declaration of candidacy form (CAN-34), 72% affiliated as Republican, 14% as Independent, and 12% as Democrat. About 69% of the candidates, or 555, are incumbents running for reelection. About 60% of the races have only one candidate, according to ISBA.

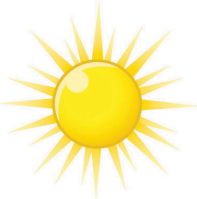
BALLOT IMPACT IN VIGO  
COUNTY DISTRICT 1 RACE

In Vigo County, candidates such as Carey LaBella, Chase Nattkemper and Imer Holman are affected by this year's changes in ballot placement. Under the law, the party whose candidate received the most votes in the county in the most recent election for secretary of state will be listed first on ballots.

See **ELECTIONS** on A2

Postal delivery information:

WEATHER



72  
45  
Mostly sunny.  
Full forecast on A3.

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