Property transfers
BUSINESS | A7

BIG TEN CHAMPS!
Men's soccer team clinches another title SPORTS | B1

Hoosiers blast past McKendree, 109-43 SPORTS | B1

Ali Patberg

The Herald-Times

$1.00 ■ Bloomington, Ind. ■ Monday, November 4, 2019 ■ HeraldTimesOnline.com ■ 2 sections

Tree limbs and other vegetation ripped apart by a tornado in one area of the Beanblossom Bottoms Nature Preserve in northern Monroe County were left for volunteers and staff of Sycamore Land Trust to clean up. The day before the tornado hit on June 15, a new species of firefly was found in that area of the preserve. (Sycamore Land Trust / Courtesy photo)

NEWS FLASH

Unusual firefly species discovered in Monroe County preserve

By Carol Kugler
The Herald-Times

A small portion of wetlands in northern Monroe County is attracting not only a special species of firefly but also the biologists who study them.

Flashes of yellow-green light that lasts for only 5 to 7 seconds was all it took for Lynn Faust, author of "Fireflies, Glow-worms and Lightning Bugs" and an expert on the beetles, to identify the new species of firefly in Mississippi in 2017. That same flash pattern was seen at Beanblossom Bottoms Nature Preserve in Monroe County in June 2018 by Indiana biologist Max Henschen — in an area no one expected that firefly would be.

Henschen had found the newly discovered firefly earlier that year in Twin Swamps Nature Preserve in southern Indiana and had been told by a friend that similar conditions could be found at the Monroe County nature preserve. After receiving permission from Sycamore Land Trust to visit the preserve after dark, he ventured along the boardwalk into the wetland area to look for fireflies.

"I got out there and it was just magical. It was one of those rare moments. It was pretty special to see so many of them. I don't know if there had been any decline of them. They were everywhere. It was clearly a species I'd never seen before."

CHRIS FOX, land stewardship manager for Sycamore Land Trust

After his first visit and discovery, Henschen visited the nature preserve a couple nights later to confirm the flash pattern was really from the new species. It was, so Henschen emailed Faust to let her know he'd found the firefly.

Faust gave the insect (Photurius walldoxeyi) the common name cypress firefly because it had been found only in swampland areas where cypress trees were growing. That is until the discovery at Beanblossom Bottoms Nature Preserve, which doesn't have cypress trees and has no history of that specific tree.

Henschen's find led Faust to travel from her home in Tennessee to Indiana

SEE FIREFLY | PAGE A12

City Church wipes out $2.2M in medical debt

By Carol Kugler
The Herald-Times

Yellow envelopes with letters detailing an unexpected gift from a Bloomington church will be in mailboxes around Monroe County some time early this month — an early holiday gift for people with unpaid medical bills.

The letter will explain that City Church for All Nations has donated money to RIP Medical Debt to pay off people's medical debts. RIP Medical Debt is a nonprofit organization that has "abolished $715 million in medical debt for about 240,000 Americans," according to its website. A total of $2.2 million in medical debts will be taken off the books in Monroe County because of the donations from City Church.

"Our goal would be to eradicate all medical debt for people who cannot afford it," said David Norris, senior pastor of City Church, who shares that title with his wife, Sumer.

While $2.2 million in debt will be forgiven, the church's donation was less than that. RIP Medical Debt buys and forgives "portfolios" of medical debt from health care providers and from the secondary debt markets, which allows the organization to wipe out medical debt for people as a group without selecting individual people. The money raised by City Church will be used to help people throughout Monroe County.

SEE DEBT | PAGE A10

"We want to be known as that church that gives back."

DAVID NORRIS, senior pastor of City Church, who shares that title with his wife, Sumer, also pictured

ELECTIONS 2019

A voter guide for city council Districts 2 and 3 races

By Kurt Christian
The Herald-Times

Just nine polling places will be open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday for this year's municipal elections in Bloomington.

The Monroe County Election Board voted in August to cancel voting on all uncontested races — leaving just city council Districts 2 and 3. For those who live in has compiled information on the remaining candidates and the top three issues they hope to address should they win their respective races.

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 2

Andrew Guenther

Andrew Guenther is the 25-year-old Republican nominee for the city's northwestern district. The Valparaiso native graduated from public policy. A former Democrat, Guenther switched parties when he saw a lack of communication between the city's Democratic leadership and its residents.

Website: www.guentherforbloomington.com.

THREE AREAS OF FOCUS:

■ **Public safety:** It will be a priority of mine to pressure the mayor to increase our police/fire protection officers can live and work in the same community.

■ **Infrastructure:** I will push for increased infrastructure investment in neighborhoods before increasing density. We must address water infrastructure, roads and sidewalks to make sure that we are serving our community the best we can.

■ **Government accessibility/** tant council issues, I hope to give Bloomington residents the comfort of knowing they are being represented well, and listened to, by their city council.

Sue Sgambelluri

Sue Sgambelluri is the 54-year old Democratic nominee for the city's northwestern district. She earned a bachelor's degree in organizational communication from Purdue

Weather today

56
38

Partly sunny

Sun and moon

Sunset today ..... 5:42 p.m.
Sunrise Tue. ..... 7:18 a.m.
Sunset Tue. ..... 5:41 p.m.
Moonrise today ..... 2:14 p.m.
Moonset today ..... none
Moonrise Tue. ..... 2:47 p.m.

Pollen

Yesterday's air in Bloomington

Grass ..... Absent
Trees ..... Absent
Weeds ..... Absent
Mold ..... Low

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Area forecast

City	High	Low	W
Chicago	49	29	pc
Evansville	60	40	pc
Fort Wayne	53	33	pc
Indianapolis	55	36	pc
Louisville	61	42	pc
South Bend	51	33	c
Terre Haute	56	34	pc

Tuesday

52
31

Partly sunny

Wednesday

55
38

Low clouds

Thursday

43
23

Mostly cloudy, a little rain; colder

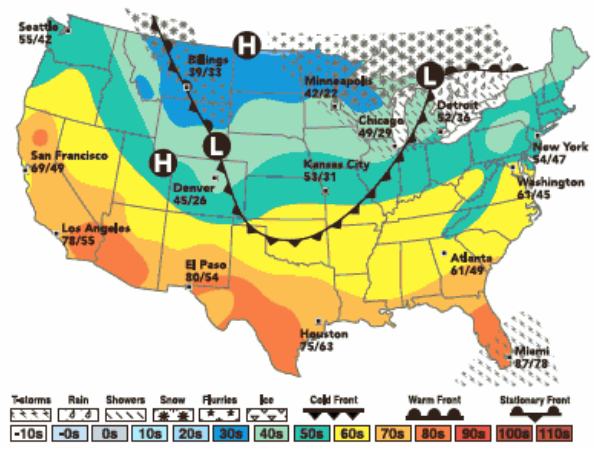
Friday

41
22

Mostly sunny and cold

National outlook

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



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Around the nation today

City	H	L	W	City	H	L	W	City	H	L	W
Albany	51	42	pc	Detroit	52	36	c	Omaha	50	30	pc
Albuquerque	68	39	s	El Paso	80	54	s	Orlando	85	71	pc
Anchorage	38	32	c	Fairbanks	18	1	pc	Philadelphia	57	44	pc
Atlanta	61	49	pc	Flagstaff	64	27	s	Phoenix	86	62	s
Atlantic City	57	46	s	Grand Rapids	48	33	c	Peoria	51	30	pc
Baltimore	60	41	s	Hartford	54	41	pc	Pittsburgh	54	42	pc
Billings	39	33	sn	Helena	47	35	c	Portland, ME	50	40	pc
Birmingham	63	43	pc	Honolulu	87	72	pc	Portland, OR	57	39	pc
Boston	54	45	s	Houston	75	63	pc	Richmond	62	44	s
Brownsville	84	70	pc	Jackson, MS	65	43	pc	Sacramento	78	43	s
Burlington, VT	48	43	pc	Jacksonville	79	67	pc	St. Louis	58	37	pc
Casper	41	25	pc	Kansas City	53	31	s	Salt Lake City	58	36	pc
Charleston, SC	72	57	pc	Las Vegas	77	53	s	San Diego	73	53	pc
Charleston, WV	62	40	s	Little Rock	66	47	pc	San Francisco	69	49	s
Charlotte	63	45	pc	Los Angeles	78	55	s	St. Ste. Marie	41	31	sn
Cincinnati	57	42	pc	Memphis	65	45	pc	Seattle	55	42	pc
Cleveland	55	42	pc	Miami Beach	87	78	pc	South Bend	51	33	c
Columbia, SC	67	50	pc	Milwaukee	47	29	pc	Tampa	86	73	pc
Columbus	56	41	pc	Minneapolis	42	22	c	Tucson	84	55	s
Dallas	71	56	pc	Nashville	64	38	pc	Tulsa	64	42	s
Dayton	56	38	pc	New Orleans	70	58	pc	Wash., DC	61	45	s
Denver	45	26	pc	New York City	54	47	pc	Wichita	60	34	s

Around the world today

City	H	L	W	City	H	L	W	City	H	L	W
Amsterdam	55	44	sh	Havana	89	68	pc	Paris	56	45	sh
Athens	74	61	sh	Helsinki	34	24	c	Prague	53	41	pc
Baghdad	84	55	s	Hong Kong	85	70	pc	Reykjavik	41	33	sh
Bangkok	91	76	pc	Istanbul	72	63	c	Rio	86	77	s
Barbados	88	81	pc	Jerusalem	73	59	s	Riyadh	96	66	s
Barcelona	73	53	pc	Kabul	70	39	s	Rome	71	63	pc
Beijing	63	40	pc	Kiev	62	49	sh	Santiago	75	50	pc
Beirut	80	71	s	Kuwait	87	67	pc	Sao Paulo	91	71	c
Belgrade	69	51	r	Lima	68	62	pc	Seoul	66	40	pc
Berlin	54	42	c	Lisbon	67	55	sh	Singapore	90	78	t
Bermuda	78	73	pc	London	55	44	sh	Stockholm	38	30	c
Brisbane	84	65	t	Madrid	64	46	c	Sydney	72	57	pc
Brussels	55	44	sh	Manila	89	79	t	Taipei City	77	69	c
Budapest	59	47	pc	Mexico City	71	54	pc	Tel Aviv	82	64	s
Buenos Aires	74	62	s	Montreal	46	38	c	Tokyo	64	51	pc
Calgary	37	28	sf	Moscow	49	47	sh	Toronto	50	38	sh
Caracas	75	66	pc	Nairobi	79	58	pc	Vancouver	50	40	c
Copenhagen	50	39	r	Nassau	86	76	pc	Vienna	59	42	pc
Dublin	49	44	sh	Nicosia	79	58	s	Warsaw	62	44	sh
Harare	85	57	s	Oslo	33	22	c	Zurich	55	41	r

Legend for City Lists: W-weather, s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice

THE LATEST FORECAST, WEATHER ALERTS: Follow the weather forecast by the hour, track the radar and find severe weather alerts at HoosierTimes.com/weather

FIREFLY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

to witness the unique flashes of the male fireflies for herself. Faust visited the nature preserve on June 15, first in the daylight to check out the habitat and again after dark to witness the fireflies in action.

The new species is one of about 20 types of fireflies found in Indiana. There are about 125 species of fireflies throughout North America, according to Faust. The best way to distinguish between the species is the flash patterns of the males, trying to attract a mate. The cypress firefly has a very unique flash pattern that's done by the males within a few feet of the ground or water, always in a swampy area.

"We saw them," Henschen recalled. "We found an area where there were a bunch of them. She was quite excited by that."

The next day, a tornado blew through that area, destroying part of the boardwalk that provides access into the wetland area as well as trees and vegetation. The biologists were fearful the fireflies might not have survived the storm and asked Chris Fox, land stewardship manager for Sycamore Land Trust, if he could visit the area looking for the special firefly.

"I had no idea that there were some that hadn't been discovered," Fox said. Even with damaged trees obstructing parts of the nature preserve and boardwalk, Fox went out to see what he could find. Because the fireflies only flash after dark, he had to don a headlamp and carefully make his way through the debris to the area.

"The worst damage to the boardwalk and the habitat was in an area where she found an abundance of that firefly," Fox recalled. "I had no way to compare how many were there before."

But he did find the fireflies, flashing in the pattern described by Faust.

"I got out there and it was just magical. It was one of those rare moments. It was pretty special to see so many of them," he said. "I don't know if there had been any decline of them. They were everywhere. It was clearly a species I'd never seen before."

In addition to the flashing fireflies, Fox recalled he heard owls hooting in the background and frogs calling to each other nearby. It's a nighttime visit to the nature preserve Fox will never forget, not only because it was magical but because it reminds him of the reason conserving land for wildlife is so important.

"It's nice to know that us protecting that area is helping protect this species that we weren't even aware of," he said, adding that the nature preserve was picked as a location to protect because of a great blue heron rookery. Then bald eagles moved in, nesting on the nature preserve. Now there's a special firefly living in the wetland.

Fox and the others are concerned that changes to the wetland from the tornado — fewer trees and different plants — may affect the viability of the cypress fireflies in the area. Henschen had looked for the fireflies in other parts of the nature preserve and at the nearby Restle Unit of Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge and found none. Without knowing exactly what plants or habitat attract the cypress fireflies, it's difficult for anyone to know if they will continue to live and thrive at Beanblossom Bottoms Nature Preserve.

While Faust, Henschen and Fox have watched the fireflies' flashy displays at the nature preserve, the public is not able to see the show because the preserve closes at dusk. That's particularly important at Beanblossom Bottoms, because negotiating the boardwalk through the wetland is tricky after dark. Even so, Sycamore Land Trust has plans to let people see the fireflies.

"We do want people to experience it," Fox said. "We will offer some guided hikes next year when (the fireflies) are out."

Contact Carol Kugler at 812-331-4359, ckugler@heraldt.com or @ckugler on Twitter.

Volunteers and staff from Sycamore Land Trust move materials for repairs along the boardwalk at Beanblossom Bottoms Nature Preserve in Monroe County after a tornado swept through the area June 15, damaging the boardwalk and taking out nearby trees. That wetland area is where a new species of firefly was discovered. (Sycamore Land Trust / Courtesy photo)

FILM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

"I had been thinking about this a lot because, at the middle school stage, it's been really hard to just have good feelings of self worth," Millie said. "Mallory started out with thinking about social media and we tried to incorporate that with self worth and how perceiving ourselves has a really big impact on those around us."

The group started writing their screenplay in early August and started filming in early September.

changed the video into having a voice-over.

"That made it a lot better," Millie said. "It showed the emotions that we were trying to portray much better than it would have had we had the talking and the acting in it."

Not including time spent writing the script, it took around 15 hours to film and edit, the group said.

The video, titled "Perfectly Imperfect" ends with a message on the screen that reads, "World peace starts with inner peace. If you are unable to love yourself, it makes it 10 times harder to love others and make a difference in

For Mallory and Tiana, it began in fourth grade. That's when Tiana got her first smartphone and started recording videos and editing using apps.

"It would be really goofy, and so I feel like that's what kind of brought my love for video production," Tiana said.

When Mallory got a video camera in fourth grade, she started making videos with her friends. She said she's artistic and likes everything from drawing to photography to video production.

Millie got involved in theater as a first or second grader, and coming into middle school, she realized video production could

their video.

"I'm just really proud of them," Rudkin said. "I'm really proud of all of our groups. We had the best overall group of projects that we've ever had for this contest, I think. Very, very strong group. I would say five or six or seven of them will place in other film festivals with the projects."

The Peacemaker Corps Association launched the Peace in the Streets Global Film Festival in 2014, and Batchelor students have participated every year. Batchelor students have won it three times and have placed every year.

This year, B-TV students won nine Philo Farnsworth Video

of the "Today" show and more. Tiana hasn't been to New York City and is most excited about Times Square.

Wednesday is when students will be at the United Nations building. There, the films will be shown and students will receive awards.

"Then we'll visit the United Nations Commission as well and have some delegates talk to them over there," Rudkin said.

During the New York City trip last year, Rudkin was awarded The Peacemakers Corps Association's "Art of Making Peace" Award.