# 2022-2023 Basketball Previe

## Batesville Bulldogs Basketball

2022-2023

Boys Season Preview • Girls Mid-Season Recap



#### Lady Bulldogs ready to pounce

Even though Batesville has just two wins in its first five games of the season, new head coach Mitchell Taylor has worked some magic. The Lady Bulldogs are on the right path and hungry for more success.

Although losses to New Palestine, North Decatur and Seymour factor in, Batesville has been impressive in its two wins, beating Union County 46-38 and then gutting out a big home win on Saturday night against South Ripley by a 44-39 score. That victory not only gives the Lady Bulldogs hope that a potential Ripley County Tournament title is on the horizon, but also is showing the Dogs that they can compete with some pretty good basketball teams.

A pair of sophomores is getting the job done right now for Coach Taylor. Alyson Peters has been a force on the inside and is putting up nearly 13 points per game to go along with a team-high 6.7 rebounds per game. She has been joined up by Sophie Gesell who is hovering around 10 points per night and is chipping in six rebounds and three assists per game. Senior Emma Weiler and sophomore Lydia Haskamp are also providing support. Weiler is averaging 6.7 points, four rebounds and

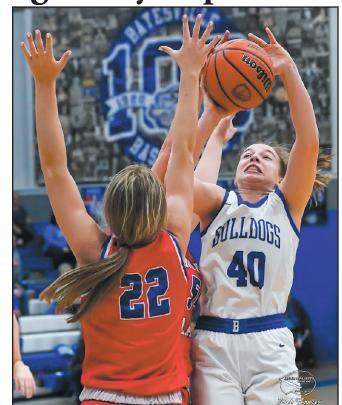


PHOTO BY RICH FOWLER

Alyson Peters has starred for a much improved Batesville girls team. Peters is averaging double figures and is the team's leading rebounder.

two assists while Haskamp is playing a supporting role with six rebounds and three steals per night. Sophomore Marlee Obermeyer has been a pleasant surprise in her first year of varsity action, currently averaging 5.7 points.

Speaking of scoring, the team's 44.8 points per game will have to rise in order to compete with some tougher foes coming up for the Lady Bulldogs and the team has only scored 50 points or more in one of five games. Backto-back games of allowing 60-plus points to North Decatur and Seymour is the main cause for the 50 points allowed per game currently but both Batesville wins have been when they have held opponents to under 40 points. Other statistics that stand out are 21 turnovers per game and a 31 percent shooting clip early in the year.

Batesville is trying to win back-to-back games for the first time this year on Friday night when they host Jac-Cen-Del before opening up Eastern Indiana Athletic Conference play on Saturday at Connersville. Shelbyville, Lawrenceburg and Frank-In County all are on the docket to open up December play.

## Bulldogs start as a mystery

What will the Batesville boys basketball program look like this season? Truth be told, not many know heading in but the Bulldogs will spend early on creating an identity out on the court.

Batesville won six of its final nine games from a year ago but an opening round sectional loss to eventual runner-up Franklin County put an end to a 10-13 campaign. The loss would also signal the final game for a veteran roster and many of those leaders have departed due to graduation. Included in such a group is Thomas Raver who led the team with averages of 11.8 points per game and 6.1 rebounds per night, Cole Werner who averaged just shy of 10 points per night and Eli Pierson and Cody Mohr, both of whom served as key role players in the Bulldog starting five. Now head coach Aaron Garrett must rely on what does return and a slew of newcomers to the varsity level.

What comes back is big ... literally. 6-foot-4 sophomore forward Cade Kaiser had some major minutes as a freshman and Cole Pride, a 6-foot-8 senior, has shot up in terms of height and bulked up in the weight room. That pair will carry the load early on and provide quite the matchup nightmare for opposing teams but eventually the two will need help. Four junior guards, Brendan Heiser, Gus Prickel, Chris Lewis and Sam Johnson alongside two classmates in forwards Jack Grunkemeyer and Conner Drake provide the program's next big



PHOTO BY RICH FOWLER

Cade Kaiser saw significant minutes as a freshman and is expected to play a big role this season for the **Bulldogs.** 

nucleus while freshman seven years. Batesville's Brayden Maple and sophomore Carson Laker will try to breakthrough as the season goes.

Coach Garrett, 203-127 in his 15th year at the helm, had one of the area's best defenses last year as Batesville gave up just 47.3 points per game but the offense at times sputtered and will be an area that needs to improve during the 2022-2023 season. The Bulldogs averaged only 46.6 points per game, a program-low in the past areas of emphasis will also include improving on only 23 rebounds per con-

Batesville will have the chance to make an early statement on Saturday night when they pay a visit to Jac-Cen-Del in a rematch of last year's Ripley County Tournament championship game. The first battle between the two squads a year ago on November 27 resulted in an 82-80 Eagle victory in double overtime.





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## Jac-Cen-Del Eagles Basketball

2022-2023

Boys Season Preview • Girls Mid-Season Recap



#### JCD girls picking up steam | Eagles ready for repeat success



PHOTO BY LORI SAMPLES

Jac-Cen-Del's Olivia Neal is averaging over 10 points per game and 5.8 rebounds as the Lady Eagles currently sit at 2-3 this season.

Nobody would have believed that Jac-Cen-Del would start the year with an 0-3 record but back-to-back wins have momentum back in the Lady Eagles' favor. Now the task is to maintain that momentum.

Head coach Scott Smith and company got quite the wake up call when the season started with a 69-35 loss at Greensburg and was then followed by two road losses to Shawe Memorial and South Ripley. But whatever plagued Jac-Cen-Del early seems to be wearing off and wins against Oldenburg Academy and Milan this past weekend provided a big sigh of relief. The Lady Eagles were aware of potential ups and downs this year, but tradition never graduates and the roster is starting to gel.

The gel is in large part

to three players who are currently averaging double figures. Junior Julia Meyer is leading the way with 12.8 points per game, six rebounds per game and three assists per night and classmate Reagan Hughes is adding 11 points per game. Senior Olivia Neal struggled early but since then is at 10 points per contest while also pulling down 5.8 boards a night. Jac-Cen-Del is at its best when those three are firing on all cylinders and that was evident in Friday and Saturday wins. Kelsey Borgman, Sophia Sullivan and Savannah Steele are still trying to add to the Lady Eagles' depth and Kaylin Hinners has provided minutes in all five

Consistency on offense is key moving forward and Coach Smith's group absolutely has to im-

prove on its current 32 percent shooting from the field which includes a 25 percent mark from the three-point line. The Lady Eagles will also try to be improving on a 56 percent clip from the free throw line and nearly 14 turnovers per game. Defensively, Jac-Cen-Del's numbers include allowing nearly 50 points per game but that is decreasing as the last two games have seen opponents score under that average.

Jac-Cen-Del goes for three wins in a row on Friday night but the challenge will be tough on the road against Batesville. That's followed with a muchneeded four-straight home game slate that includes South Decatur, South Dearborn, Waldron and New Washington.



PHOTO BY RICH FOWLER

Matt Dickman returns to the Eagle lineup after playing a big role in Jac-Cen-Del's Final Four season.

As if the program's first Ripley County Tournament championship since 2007 and first Ohio River Valley Conference title since 2011 weren't enough for Jac-Cen-Del last year, the Eagles tacked on Class A Sectional and Regional trophies before ending the season in the Final Four of the state tournament. Is the Osgood crew ready for

a repeat? The answer is yes, but there will be voids to fill and some growing pains along the way. For starters, the Eagles will have to replace a pair of 1000plus point career scorers in Wyatt Day and Caleb Simon who combined to average 37.4 points per game. Day (20.2 ppg) and Simon (17.2 ppg) led the charge to the Final Four but also gone are sharpshooter Justin Swinney, starting guard Ryan Wilson and Nathan Hoffman,

an asset off the bench during Jac-Cen-Del's 22-6 season. But when the early ups and downs go away, Jac-Cen-Del should be good to go.

One of the area's most talented frontcourts will star in Osgood as the team is the recipient of returning 6-foot-5 senior forward Matt Dickman and 6-foot-7 forward Devin Grieshop. Dickman was among the tops in the ORVC last year in field goal percentaveraging 6.8 points per game and 4.6 rebounds per night. His expanded role will pair nicely with an athletic Grieshop who was big in the second half of last season and finished up his junior year at 7.3 ppg. Others returning with varsity experience include seniors Gavin Groth, Seth Drockelman and Corbin White and juniors Brady Comer and Landon Kohl-

Just 6.2 points per game combined comes from the returning group outside of Dickman and Grieshop. Head coach Clint Bohman, 37-14 in his third year, will be challenged to find offense that matches last year's that averaged nearly 70 points per game but perhaps his new-look crew can sit down on defense in the meantime. Jac-Cen-Del allowed 55.4 points per night which the team age and comes back after will also look to improve on, especially in the early

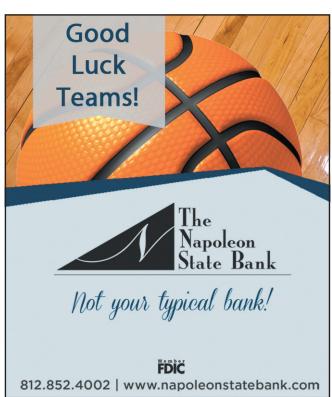
half of the new season. Jac-Cen-Del pays a visit to county and conference rival South Ripley tonight before doing battle at home against another rival in Batesville on Saturday night. The Eagles then tip off December with games against South Dearborn, Rising Sun and Shawe Memorial.

#### Good Luck to all athletes











#### Milan Indians Basketball

2022-2023

Boys Season Preview • Girls Mid-Season Recap



A Milan sideline without former head coach Randy Combs will look awfully uncharacteristic of the program but the Indians are excited to get the season going under new head man Matt Pickerill who looks to lead the black and gold back over the .500 mark.

After a combined 18 years as varsity head coach, Combs' retirement gives way to Pickerill who spent last year leading the South Putnam varsity during a 5-19 season. But Pickerill's new team is much more talented and is hungry to put last year's 2-19 overall record far behind them. Even with the likes of Caiden Yorn, MJ Hartman and Landon Morgan no longer in high school uniforms, Milan is excited about the combination of experience and youth it touts

There is no better example of such a combination than the probable starting lineup the Indians are about to boast. Leading the pack is junior Ben Riehle who was the team's leading scorer last year at 10.9 points per game and he'll have some backup on offense as classmate Kohen Rinear has double-digit scoring capability and will try to join Riehle on this year's All-ORVC team. The lone senior, Brayden Rohrig, can not only help those two outside but also has the strength to go down low and handle duties offensively and defensively. Two freshmen round out the lineup as Micah Norman and Gabe Riehle will get into the mix and begin the process of giving Milan a consistent roster for the next two years.

With a more athletic roster to work with, each area of the game should be on the



PHOTO BY RICH FOWLER

Kohen Rinear will be a go-to player for Milan's boys basketball team. Rinear returns after starting for the Indians a year ago.

uptick for the Indians. Milan allowed 62.4 points per game last year including four games of giving up 70-plus points and the offense put up 49.3 points per night. Between a new coaching style, experience in three starting spots and youthful enthusiasm, the Tribe may have potential not just to improve those numbers but produce one of the better overall turnarounds in the southern half of the state.

Milan and Pickerill have quite the challenge to open the year although schedules could change. The Indians are scheduled to play East Central in the season opener on December 2 and follow with Lawrenceburg on December 3. Both of those schools competing in this weekend's high school football state championship games could alter that slate.

## Pickerill era begins at Milan | Lady Indians stay hungry

Losing is no fun for anybody and certainly Milan is ready to erase a lengthy losing skid but the Lady Indians may eventually have something brewing with what is hands down the youngest roster in the area.

Filled with mostly freshmen and sophomores, Milan's 0-5 record is a result of inexperience at the varsity level. Second year head coach Karisa Voss is trying to navigate her team through rough waters for the time being. The Lady Indians are currently 0-5 with losses to South Decatur, Union County, South Ripley, Hauser and most recently Jac-Cen-Del. All five of those games have been by 15 points or more but what has to serve as a positive is that the black and gold have competed. In more than one of those games, Milan has led at one point in time and ultimately it has been just one or two bad quarters that has proved to be a difference. Milan has two very capable freshmen that can become consistent scorers. Kaiya Rinear and Emma Voss both have had double figure games already this year but those two are not alone. Three sophomores in Autumn Rohrig, Anna Herzog and Gabby Williamson are getting more accustomed to the varsity level and five oth-

ers come off the bench, giv-

ing the Lady Indians some

depth that will only get bet-



PHOTO BY AMY SHARP

Milan's girls basketball team has been a complete team effort through five games this year. The Lady Indians are made up of mostly freshmen and sophomores.

ter as December and January hit. And remember ... Coach Voss does not have a single senior on the roster, meaning brighter days will extend past what occurs for the remainder of this season.

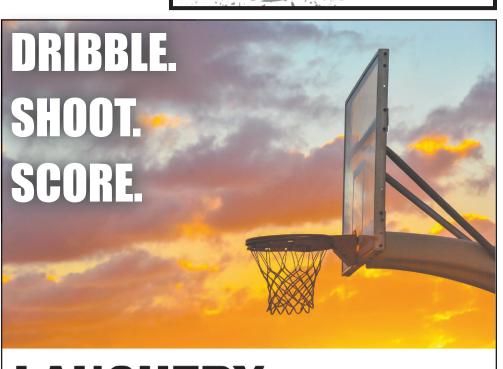
And as experience comes, so will the offense which right Lady Indians....Pg. 14

now is struggling. Milan is averaging only 24.4 points per game which includes three out of five games with 25 points or less. Turnovers are also playing a big factor in that area of the game. De-

# **Good Luck**









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#### **Oldenburg Twisters Basketball** 2022-2023

Boys Season Preview • Girls Mid-Season Recap



#### Lady Twisters are competing

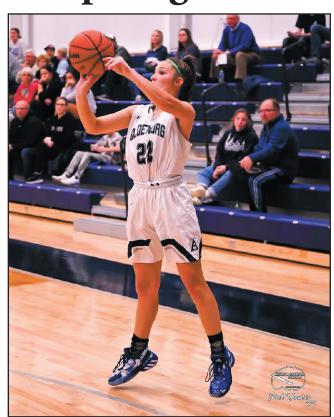


PHOTO BY RICH FOWLER

team's next two games.

Oldenburg is at home to-

night against a 1-3 Union

County team and then gets

a week off before visiting

a struggling Edinburgh

team that is currently 3-4

but has lost all four games

by 20 points or more. De-

cember opens up with

games against Trinity Lu-

theran, Greenwood Chris-

tian and Milan.

Ashley Borgman has been one of many Lady Twisters who have contributed to Oldenburg's 2-2 start this season.

Just four games into its girls basketball season, Oldenburg Academy is putting just about everybody on notice that they are not to be taken lightly. The program is in a pretty good spot for third-year head coach Eric Feller.

Oldenburg opened its season with two solid wins, defeating Southwestern (Hanover) 53-50 before thumping a Class A mainstay in Southwestern (Shelby) by a 46-28 score but back-to-back losses are currently hindering a little momentum. However, despite a 45-35 loss to Lawrenceburg and Friday night's 57-47 loss at home to Jac-Cen-Del, the Lady Twisters have been competitive and stayed in both ballgames until the very end. In past years, those two contests have been well out of reach. So what's the difference this year? Very

simply, it's experience. The growing pains of the past couple years for Coach Feller and company are now paying off as a slew of young ladies are becoming key players. Juniors Ellie Ryan and Kate Weber are familiar names while Ashley Borgman, Rachel Lamping and junior Sadie Wachsmann are adding to the cause. Another name, Norah Haverkos, is blending in nicely with the roster and the biggest strength all those names provide is the fact that opposing teams are struggling to focus on just one player. Oldenburg is producing well-rounded numbers and any player can strike on a given night. Should that continue, more wins are to come for the Lady Twisters.

Defense might be the one area Oldenburg is looking to immediately improve on, so far allowing 45 points per game but two games have seen the team allow 50-plus points. On the flip side, the Lady Twisters are scoring 45.3 points per game and that is a number that has room for growth and has the chance to if well-balanced scoring continues. An immediate opportunity for improvement comes up in the

Higdon era begins at OA An Oldenburg Academy

team without longtime head coach Gary Moorman doesn't seem to be realistic. However such is the case and now Michael Higdon looks to build on what Moorman accomplished with the Class A Twisters.

It'll be quite the challenge for Higdon in his first season as a varsity head coach. Much of Oldenburg's production from last year's 6-16 team has graduated which includes Frank Moorman, Nick Folop, Nathan Schuman, CJ Grote, Abe Streator and Dyllon Stewart and an uncharacteristic 10 games under the .500 mark now has to get cleaned up by an extremely inexperienced group. But it does leave the door open for several to step in and produce as the new season goes along.

Jacob Hoff is listed as the team's only senior and the majority of the roster will be made up of sophomores. Jacob Stenger, Henry Wanstrath and Isaiah Waggoner all dressed varsity as freshman last season and the trio of returning juniors Matt Hesselbrock, Jacob Cornelius and Angus Lonergan did the same. Who else is in the mix? It's a big unknown right now for the program but it has been noted that Oldenburg performed well in



PHOTO BY RICH FOWLER

Oldenburg will see Jacob Cornelius return to the lineup as one of several juniors who make up a rebuilding Twister squad.

its preseason scrimmage a week ago. The Twisters have had similar seasons in the past and the area

to sleep on such a squad on the floor, offense has to sneak in and tough out

that always has potential to improve from a year ago in order to have suc-

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## South Ripley Raiders Basketball

2022-2023

Boys Season Preview • Girls Mid-Season Recap



#### Beach gives Raiders a new look Lady Raiders aim for more

The Tyler Theising era for South Ripley produced record numbers, a county title and an ORVC championship. But with Theising back home at East Central, new head coach Seve Beach has even higher aspirations for the Raiders.

Beach, a former assistant coach at both South Dearborn and East Central, spent five years as head coach at Centerville and his experience now comes to Ripley County where he inherits a Raider program that has posted 48 wins over the last three seasons. Even with the likes of leading scorer Nick Schwarte (15.8 points per game), Zach Gentile (8.5 ppg) and Blake Volz (8.5 ppg) out of the equation, Beach's team green has plenty of young talent that is hungry to give its new leader plenty of success in year

It all starts with a pair of sophomores who saw plenty of varsity action a year ago. Blaine Ward returns after averaging nearly 10 points per game and shooting 43 percent from the threepoint line and his perimeter prowess pairs well with 6-foot-7 classmate Cole Henry who caught on late last season and had flashes of dominance in the post. Henry will get some help underneath from senior Logan Bradley and underclassman Ethan Johnson while Ward will have plenty of chances to spot up with backcourt mates Gavin Binion and Chancie Volz who are trying to earn significant playing time. The rest of the roster is made up of several who aided in the junior varsity efforts last winter and are trying to help South Ripley earn its first sectional

title since 2017. It'll be little things that Coach Beach is looking for as the season gets underway. On paper, this version of the Raiders shouldn't have a ton of trouble maintaining last year's offensive average of 53.3 points per game and a defensive average of 47.6 points per game. Perhaps the biggest concern will be making sure such a young roster is able to take care of the basketball and earning a



PHOTO BY AMANDA BETZ Blaine Ward returns as South Ripley's leading scorer this season. The sophomore shot 43 percent from

nightly advantage in the rebounding department. South Ripley may take some time to gel but there is no question that Versailles is anticipating big things from the program for the next few seasons.

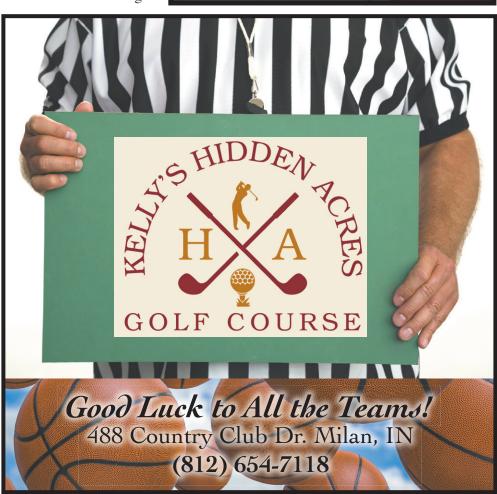
three-point range last year.

South Ripley and Beach make their debut tonight at home against rival Jac-Cen-Del in what could be an early preview of two Ohio River Valley Conference title contenders. The Raiders stay home for the holiday weekend and entertain another conference foe in Rising Sun on Saturday.



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Lexi Franklin fights for a rebound with teammate Morgan Brightwell (top) looking on. Both have played roles for the Lady Raiders.

Even with South Ripley currently on a two-game skid, head coach Matt McNew's team has four wins, the most of our five coverage area teams. But getting back to those wins is where the focus lies right now for the Lady Raiders.

After a season-opening loss to Austin, the green and white reeled off fourstraight wins -Hauser, Milan, Jac-Cen-Del and South Decatur- but then to a screeching halt with a three-point loss to Lawrenceburg last Thursday and Saturday night's fivepoint loss at Batesville. The good news is that there is plenty of talent on the floor for South Ripley to right the ship and get back to its winning ways and the Lady Raiders have been in these situations before.

A plethora of talent has the ability to get South Ripley

saw its momentum come out of its slump as seven players are currently averaging five points or better. Senior Katelynn Samples is averaging a near double-double of 12.2 points and 8.2 rebounds and junior Reese Obendorf has been an outstanding addition, posting eight points and five rebounds per game. Senior Emily Flood has been all over the floor with 7.7 points, three rebounds, three assists and

Lady Raiders...Pg. 14



#### Con't......from pages 11-13

#### Lady Indians

fensively, the Lady Indians are doing their best to hang on, allowing just shy of 50 points per night.

A chance to continue competing comes in Milan's next four contests. The Lady Indians make a long road trip on Saturday afternoon to take on a solid New Washington program but then return home on November 29 for an Ohio River Valley Conference game against Switzerland County. December starts with road trips to Indiana Math and Science and Southwestern (Hanover).

#### **OA**

cess. Oldenburg has never been a run-and-gun kind of team but even 41.9 points per game during the 2021-2022 campaign was nowhere near what past teams have been able to do in terms of scoring the basketball. Defensively, the Twisters would be just fine again giving up 49.8 points per game but of course a lower offensive output against a higher defensive output has to turn around.

Oldenburg opened the year last night against Christian Academy of Madison as Higdon started his tenure at home and plays again on November 29 when they host Morristown.

#### **Lady Raiders**

two steals per game, and the duo of Mya McNew and Morgan Brightwell has shown plenty of capability at the guard spot as each are averaging 5.3 points. Lydia Cornett and Lexi Franklin have been supporting pieces at 4.3 points per night but both have enjoyed breakout performances in the first

seven games of the season and provide assistance in a variety of areas.

The versatility on offense has allowed the Lady Raiders to score 50-plus points in five of seven games but 16 turnovers per game has been detrimental in spurts to the scoring attack. Opposite of 48.4 points per game offensively, the defense has really beared down, holding foes to only 41.3 points per game. Outside of the Austin and Hauser games, no other team has been able to score 50 points or more against South Ripley. The one other strong suit has been the rebounding department where the Versailles gang is currently averaging 30 boards per contest

including 12.6 offensive rebounds per game.

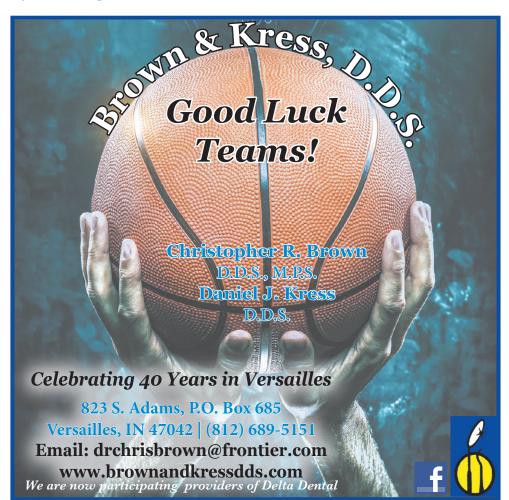
South Ripley gets a big test on November 29 when they travel to North Decatur in a battle of Class 2A Sectional 45 contenders. The Lady Raiders play three more road games after that, going to Rising Sun, Trinity Lutheran and Shawe Memorial.

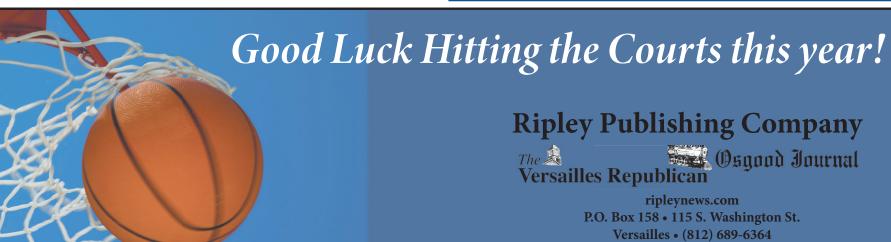


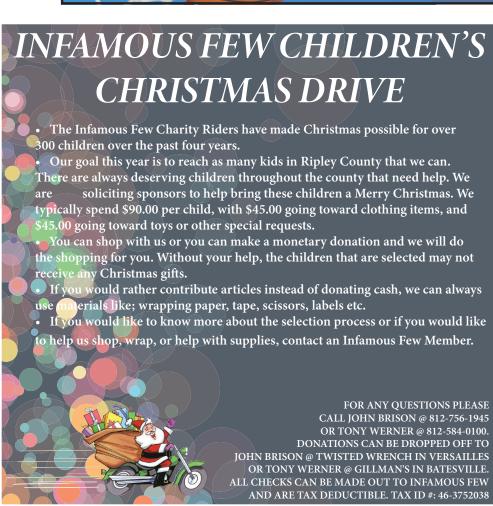


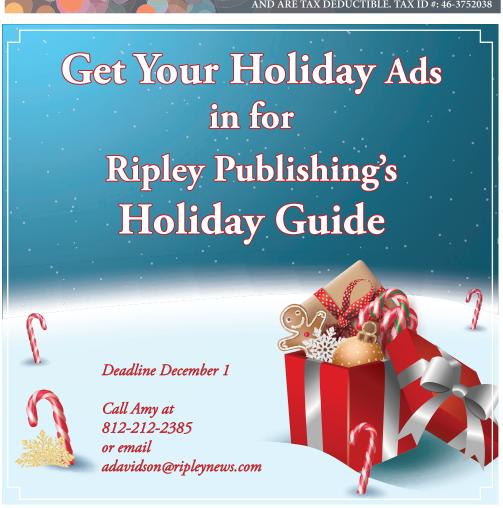
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