

# The News - Banner

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023

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## Body of missing Fort Wayne woman found

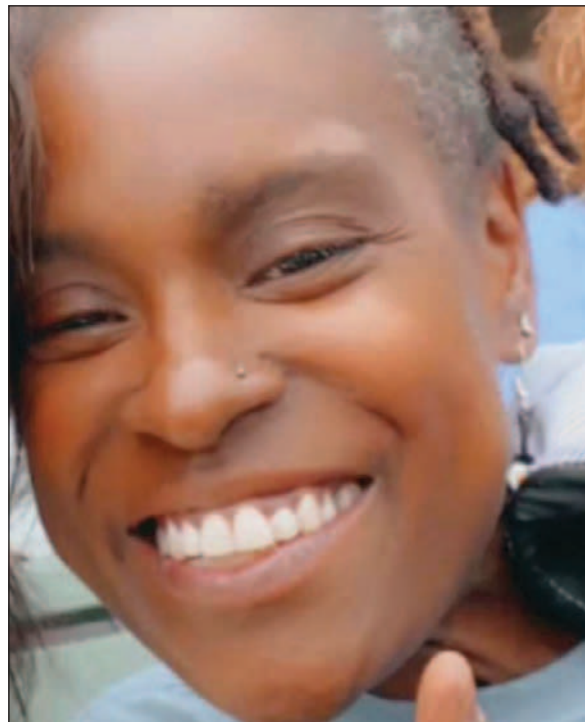
By HOLLY GASKILL

The Bluffton Police Department has located the body of a woman reported missing since New Year's Day.

Celeste Cuthbert, 48, of Fort Wayne, had reportedly left on foot from Praxis by Landmark Recovery. Her body was located in the yard of a vacant house in the 400 block of Meadow Lane. Meadow Lane is a two-block long street with no outlet on its north end that is located about 150 feet east of the Praxis property line.

In a press release Wednesday, Chief of Police Kyle Randall stated the body had been hidden from view behind a privacy fence and between a shed and children's playhouse. Personnel from a property management service located the body and notified the police department.

Randall said the Wells County coroner, Hillarie Gaskill, and crime scene investigators from the Indiana State Police were called to the scene and suspected no foul play. Official autopsy results are pending.



Cuthbert was not reported as missing to the police until Jan. 3, but had apparently left Praxis on Jan. 1. In the following days, the BPD used K-9 units from the Indiana Search and Rescue Association to locate Cuthbert, and the dogs led officers to a nearby pond.

(Continued on Page 2)

## Sheriff's Department fills gaps in Ossian after deal on billing

By HOLLY GASKILL

The Wells County Sheriff's Department has reached a contract with the town of Ossian to help police coverage due to understaffing.

Sheriff Scott Holliday said his department reached an agreement to bill Ossian for \$45 per hour of assistance, which accounts for the officers' overtime rates, fuel and general wear on vehicles.

In January, 72 overtime hours were billed to Ossian. Holliday said he will later need to ask for additional with the Wells County Council for overtime, although the amount will be recouped through billing.

"We will continue to assist Ossian as needed as long as we have the resources to do so," Hol-

liday said.

Later, the county council approved a resolution for jail commissary funds 7-0. The resolution allows the sheriff to use commissary funds, or money accrued from item sales to inmates, on agreed-upon purchases. Holliday will continue to present a summary of commissary purchases biannually.

These purchases may include expenses related to indigent inmates, reimbursement for lost or damaged property, transit expenses, educational activities and materials, shipping costs for agency equipment or evidence, investigation expenses, advertisements, installation of equipment, matching funds, contracting, rentals, employee incentives, special

(Continued on Page 2)

## Housing, education bills among key measures passed this week

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ, WHITNEY DOWNARD and CASEY SMITH  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Lawmakers approved several key bills Tuesday, from housing and education to contraceptives and taxes.

The House kicked it off with a 91-5 vote to advance House Bill 1005, which establishes a revolving loan fund meant to help municipalities cover housing-related development costs.

Bill author Rep. Doug Miller, R-Elkhart, said the dollar amount attached to the fund had yet to be determined but would prove vital to incentivize the construction of housing to address statewide shortages.

A handful of Democrats, mostly representing population-dense areas, voted against the bill. Rep. Regan Hatcher, D-Gary, was one

of the five Democrats against the bill and earlier voiced concerns about the bill's required 70/30 funding split, which prioritizes localities with less than 50,000 people.

The House also voted — this time, unanimously — to approve a bill exempting active duty military personnel from the state's income tax — a carveout that currently exists for retired military service members, those in the reserves and Hoosiers in the National Guard.

Rep. Randy Frye, R-Greensburg, said that military members frequently claimed another state as their residency to avoid Indiana's income tax — such as Tennessee, which has the exemption. He disputed the fiscal attached to the bill, which said the state would lose money, noting that the state already loses money because those members claimed other states as

their places of residency.

"Instead of just losing the income, we're losing the resident," Frye, the bill's author, said. "Some of those [claiming Tennessee or other states] might not come back to Indiana."

The bill does include those in training as exempt from the income tax but not the spouses of service members.

Both bills now move to the Senate for further consideration.

**Bill shadowed by 'furries' comment also moves**

The Senate additionally advanced 39-10 a bill that places restrictions on high school graduation waivers and emphasizes that schools can have dress codes. State senators previously heard mixed testimony on the bill, which now heads to the full House.

Senate Bill 380 author Sen. Jeff

(Continued on Page 2)

## High winds expected in northeast Indiana

A high wind warning, accompanied by rainfall, is in effect for a swath of northeast Indiana and northwest Ohio from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday.

The warning includes Wells County and all counties around it. The regional National Weather Service office in North Webster, Ind., is calling for sustained winds out of the southwest of between 25 and 35 miles per hour with gusts as high as 60 mph.

"Damaging winds will blow down trees and power lines," the NWS office posted on its website Wednesday. "Power outages are possible. Travel will be difficult, especially for high profile vehicles."

Affected counties in Indiana are Allen, Cass, Miami, Wabash, Huntington, Adams, Grant, Blackford, and Jay, as well as Wells. Ohio counties affected are Defiance, Henry, Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert, and Allen.

The warning says that people should avoid being outside in forested areas and around trees and branches. If possible, residents should remain in the lower levels of their home during the windstorm and avoid windows. "Use caution if you must drive," the warning concluded.

In addition, widespread moderate rain that was expected Wednesday night and early Thursday morning could cause some minor flooding in low-lying areas.

## Day care in Canada struck by city bus; 2 children dead

By ROB GILLIES  
Associated Press

A city bus crashed into a day care center north of Montreal on Wednesday, killing two children and injuring six, authorities said. The driver was arrested and charged with first degree murder.

A neighbor who ran to the center in Laval, Quebec, said she saw children screaming and crying and watched a mother collapse. Other panicked parents were diverted

to a nearby elementary school as police and emergency vehicles swarmed the area.

Immediately after the bus plowed into the building, the driver stepped out of the bus, ripped his clothes off and started screaming, another neighbor said.

"He was just yelling; there were no words coming out of his mouth," Hamdi Benchaabane said. The driver, he said, "was in a different world."

Pierre Ny St-Amand, 51, is facing nine charges including first degree murder, attempted murder, aggravated assault and assault causing bodily harm. He appeared in court via video late Wednesday from a hospital room and will remain detained.

A senior Canadian government official said the crash was not a terrorist act and did not pose a threat to national security. The official spoke on condition of ano-

nymity as they were not authorized to speak publicly on the matter.

The driver was from Laval and had worked for Societe de transport de Laval for 10 years. He had no criminal history and a clean work record, police officials and Laval Mayor Stéphane Boyer said at two separate news conferences.

"As of now, we don't know the motive for the crime," police spokesperson Erika Landry said.

She did not say why police determined the crash to be a homicide. Laval Police Chief Pierre Brochet said authorities are interviewing the driver.

"There is a theory that it was an intentional act, but that remains to be confirmed by the investigation," Boyer, Laval's mayor, said.

The dead children were both four years old, identified in the documents only by their initials.

(Continued on Page 2)

## 'Third House' Chamber meeting set for Feb. 18

The Wells County Chamber of Commerce will host its annual "Third House" legislative town hall meeting Saturday, Feb. 18. State Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle) and State Rep. Matt Lehman (R-Berne) are scheduled to participate.

As in the past, the format

will feature a brief update by each of the local legislators on the ongoing session in Indianapolis, followed by an open question-and-answer period.

The meeting, scheduled for 8 to 9 a.m. at the Chamber building, 211 W. Water St., is open to the public.

## The sound of silence prevails in Turkey, Syria earthquake rescues

By JUSTIN SPIKE  
Associated Press

ADANA, Turkey (AP) — They lifted slabs of cement with enormous cranes and smashed rubble with jackhammers. Then, they stopped.

Silence.

Key to detecting the faintest noise, which could be the sign of a survivor buried beneath rubble from Monday's quake in Turkey

and Syria.

Among the wreckage of a collapsed 14-story building in the Turkish city of Adana, the shriek of a whistle pierced the noise every few minutes on Wednesday. Rescue workers hollered for quiet, and listened for any hint of voices from the debris. Hundreds of people watching hushed.

During one moment of digging, Volunteer Bekir Bicer uncovered a

crushed birdcage, he said. Inside was a blue-and-yellow bird, alive after nearly 60 hours.

"I was very happy. I nearly cried," Bicer said. "The cage was broken, but the bird was still inside."

Friends and family of the trapped sat beside fires, waiting for a miracle even as the survival window for those trapped under

(Continued on Page 2)

**Inside**

Local/Area

Obituaries . . . . . 3  
Court Docket . . . . . 3

Opinion

Angelkeep . . . . . 4

Also...

Sports . . . . . 6-7  
Classifieds . . . . . 9  
Diversions . . . . . 8

**Outside**

It's a good day to visit Oz, high wind warning, rain

Today	Friday	Saturday
High 43	High 39	High 37
Low 32	Low 23	Low 23

More Weather on Page 2

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## Key measures passed

(Continued from Page 1)

Raatz, R-Richmond, said he doesn't intend to completely eliminate graduation waivers. They're given to students who don't complete postsecondary-readiness competency requirements by the end of their senior year.

But his bill does set a 10 percent cap on the number of students who can graduate from a school with a waiver before July 1, 2027. After that, the cap drops to 5 percent.

Raatz maintained that other language in the bill addressing "disruptive behavior" in the classroom ensures that schools can ban kids from "dressing inappropriately." He previously referred to students dressing like a "furry," although he did not provide examples of any Indiana schools where such behavior has been documented or considered disruptive.

Critics argue that claims about schools making accommodations for students who identify as "furries" are transphobic and amount to misinformation.

### Contraceptive regulations altered

Senators threw their weight behind a bill letting health providers use aban-

doned long-acting reversible contraceptive devices, passing it 49-0.

Current law ties the devices to their assigned Medicaid recipients — even if those people change their minds or just don't show up to the follow-up appointment.

It was the first bill passage for author Sen. Shelli Yoder, D-Bloomington.

"This is a win-win for Hoosiers because it saves money for our health care providers and it's a convenience for our Medicaid recipients," she said on the floor.

### Unanimous support for bad-landlord bill — and almost for tax re-do

Also unanimous, 50-0, was passage of a measure cracking down on landlords who collect utility fees from tenants as part of rent, but who still don't pay their utility bills.

Senate Bill 114 lets utility companies ask courts to appoint receivers over those landlords, taking control of the properties and enabling liquidation of the assets to pay off the debts.

It stems from shutoffs to hundreds of residents at several Indianapolis

complexes last year after the landlord failed to pay its bills. Such shutoffs of essential services risk mass displacement: if a health department declares a residence uninhabitable, residents would be forced out on short notice.

But it's not just about Indianapolis, author Sen. Eric Koch, R-Bedford, said on the floor Tuesday.

"If you think that was a one-time incident, I received a call last night telling me that up in northern Indiana, a mobile home park with 300 mobile homes had exactly the same thing happened to them," Koch said. "This bill creates a legal remedy that does not currently exist."

Senators also approved 49-1 an overhaul of local food and drink taxes that are worth roughly \$90 million a year.

There was little discussion on the bill Tuesday, which supporters say will foster transparency. But the prospect has rankled local communities.

*This story was provided to the News-Banner by the Hoosier State Press Association's Information Network.*

## Canadian day care

(Continued from Page 1)

Six children were hospitalized with injuries that were not life-threatening, Brochet said.

The day care is located at the end of a driveway off a cul-de-sac. There is a bus stop on the cul-de-sac, but the driver would have had to veer off the road and head down the long driveway to hit the building.

"There were no signs of skidmarks ... He went directly into the day care," said another eyewitness, Mario Sirois.

Sirois' wife, Ginette

Lamoureux, the neighbor who ran into the day care shortly after the crash, said the driver was hysterical.

"His eyes were like popping out," she said.

Benchaabane said he and three parents had to strike the driver in order to subdue him, before police cuffed him.

Brochet said officers at the scene were crying.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said his office was "following the situation closely."

Members of Parliament observed a moment of

silence in Ottawa.

Wearing a hospital gown and in a bed, St-Amand was alert but unresponsive during his video appearance as the judge and his lawyer tried to get him to speak. He only nodded his head a few times when asked by his lawyer, Julien Lespérance Hudon, if he understood he was appearing in a courtroom.

The case returns to court on Feb. 17.

Neighbors described the suspect as a quiet, pleasant father of two young girls. One man, Thanh-Ry Tran,

said his family got together with the suspect's family a few times a year, and their wives would sometimes help each other in picking up or dropping off children. He said the suspect had never shown signs of distress.

Another neighbor, Nader Abou-Said, said he would exchange pleasant greetings with the suspect, and would often see him playing with his daughters in the backyard.

"How can you go out and play with your kids and then go kill kids?" he said.

## Earthquake rescues

(Continued from Page 1)

the rubble was closing.

Suat Yarkan, 50, said his aunt and her two daughters lived in an apartment on the building's fourth floor. They would have been home asleep when the quake struck. He was desperate for hope that they could be rescued alive.

"Look at the bird. Sixty hours," he said. "It makes me feel like maybe God is helping us ... I have to believe that they will recover everyone."

Regular moments of silence are essential to such operations, said David Alexander, professor of emergency planning and management at University College London.

"We often find helicopters chattering overhead, making a huge noise and sometimes also blowing up dust whilst the teams are desperately trying to listen for any kind of noise that might indicate someone alive and moving

under the rubble," he said.

Sophisticated rescue teams will use microphones to pick up faint noises, while specially trained dogs and fiber-optic cameras pick up heat inside mounds of debris. But given the need to move quickly, and the limited number of rescue teams deployed across a huge area, cries for help are key.

"If a person can attract attention under the rubble, their chance of being saved is about three times higher than it would be if they're in a coma, statistically speaking," Alexander said.

As the sun set Wednesday for the third time on devastated cities and towns in Turkey and Syria, the push to recover survivors became more urgent as the lack of food and water, bitterly cold weather and potential injuries grew even more acute.

Prospects for finding survivors almost three days after the quake are narrow, experts say.

"The first 72 hours are considered to be critical as the condition of people trapped and injured can deteriorate quickly and become fatal if they are not rescued and given medical attention in time," said Steven Godby, an expert in natural hazards at Nottingham Trent University in England.

In Adana on Wednesday, rescue workers at another collapsed building draped a white sheet across a recess in the mound of debris, obscuring the view of what they'd discovered there.

The digging machines came to a stop, and a stretcher was pulled behind the sheet as the workers looked on in silence.

As of Tuesday night, Turkey's government reported that 167 people had been killed by the earthquake in Adana, with others still trapped beneath the rubble. That was only a tenth of the deaths reported in the devastated Hatay province, miles away.

## U.S., World News Roundup

### Tyre Nichols documents: Officer never explained stop

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — The officer who pulled Tyre Nichols from his car before police fatally beat him never explained why he was being stopped, newly released documents show, and emerging reports from Memphis residents suggest that was common.

The Memphis Police Department blasted Demetrius Haley and four other officers as "blatantly unprofessional" and asked that they be stripped of the ability to work as police for their role in the Jan. 7 beating, according to documents released Tuesday by the Tennessee Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission.

They also include revelations that Haley took photographs of Nichols as he lay propped against a police car, then sent the photos to other officers and a female acquaintance.

Nichols died three days later — the latest police killing to prompt nationwide protests and an intense public conversation about how police treat Black residents.

Yet what led to it all remains a mystery.

### Biden warns of GOP plans for Medicare, Social Security cuts

WASHINGTON (AP) — When President Joe Biden suggested that Republicans want to slash Medicare and Social Security, the GOP howls of protest during his State of the Union address showcased a striking apparent turnaround for the party that built a brand for years trying to do just that.

Biden is not about to let Republicans off easily and forget that history.

The record ranges from President George W. Bush's ideas about privatizing Social Security to House Speaker Paul Ryan's sweeping Medicare over-

haul plan to current Sen. Rick Scott's idea of allowing those and other federal programs to "sunset."

As budget negotiations move ahead, expect the long history of GOP efforts to slash the popular entitlement programs for seniors to remain a politically powerful weapon the White House intends to wield.

"They sure didn't like me calling them on it," Biden said Wednesday about his address that drew heckling from Republicans the night before.

### Zelenskyy seeks weapons in surprise trips to London, Paris

PARIS (AP) — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy sought Western support for his country in surprise visits to Britain and France on Wednesday, pushing for fighter jets to battle Russian invaders in a dramatic speech to the U.K. Parliament, and then flying to Paris to meet the French and German leaders over dinner at the Elysee Palace.

On Thursday, Zelenskyy will join EU leaders at a summit in Brussels, which German Chancellor Olaf Scholz described as a "signal of European solidarity and community."

Zelenskyy's European tour and pleas for more advanced weapons came as Ukraine braces for an expected Russian offensive and hatches its own plans to retake land held by Moscow's forces. Western support has been key to Kyiv's surprisingly stiff defense, and the two sides are engaged in grinding battles.

Zelenskyy thanked the British people for their support since "Day One" of Moscow's invasion nearly a year ago, as Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said fighter jets were "part of the conversation" about aid to Ukraine.

"Nothing is off the table," he said at an evening news conference at a British army base. "We must arm Ukraine in the short term, but we must bolster Ukraine for the long term."

### North Korea's Kim Jong Un presides over big military parade

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un brought his young daughter to a huge military parade showing off the latest hardware of his fast-growing nuclear arsenal, including intercontinental ballistic missiles designed to reach the United States, state media said Thursday.

North Korean photos of Wednesday night's parade in the capital, Pyongyang, showed Kim, wearing a black coat and fedora, attending the event with his wife and daughter, in the young girl's latest recent public appearance. Kim was smiling and raising his hand from a balcony as thousands of troops lined up in a brightly illuminated Kim Il Sung Square, named after his grandfather and the nation's founder.

The parade marked the 75th founding anniversary of North Korea's army and came after weeks of preparations involving huge numbers of troops and civilians mobilized to glorify Kim's rule and his relentless push to cement the North's status as a nuclear power.

State media reports didn't immediately mention whether Kim delivered a speech during the event. The parade came after Kim met with his top military brass on Monday and ordered an expansion of combat exercises, as he continues to escalate an already provocative run in weapons demonstrations in face of deepening tensions with his neighbors and Washington.

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said the parade featured a variety of nuclear-capable weapons, including tactical nuclear weapons targeting South Korea; and ICBMs, which the agency described as crucial weapons supporting the North's ongoing "power-to-power, all-out confrontation" against its enemies.

## Weather

Thursday, February 9, 2023

(24-hour observations at 8:53 p.m. Wednesday)  
**High:** 43; **Low:** 27; **Precipitation:** Trace of rain  
**Wabash River Level** (at the Main Street bridge): 1.72 feet at 9:45 p.m. Wednesday

### Wells County forecast

**Today:** Rain, mainly before 10 am. Temperature rising to near 57 by 10 am, then falling to around 43 during the remainder of the day. Windy, with a south wind 20 to 30 mph becoming southwest in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 55 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80 percent. New precipitation amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.

**Tonight:** Cloudy, with a low around 32. Windy, with a west wind 25 to 30 mph decreasing to 15 to 20 mph after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 45 mph.

**Friday:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 39. Northwest wind around 10 mph.

**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 23. Northwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 37.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 23.

**Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 45.

**Sunday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 29.

**Monday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 50.

**Monday Night:** A 20 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 34.

**Tuesday:** A 30 percent chance of rain. Partly sunny, with a high near 52.

**Tuesday Night:** A chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 42.

**Wednesday:** A chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 52.

## Missing woman

(Continued from Page 1)

The department then used drones to search the area, in addition to divers from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Randall noted that he had the pond searched twice because that was where all of the evidence they had pointed to. It is unknown why she went to the one property on the street where there was no one living.

Afterward, the Bluffton

Fire Department assisted the BPD in searching the area where Cuthbert was last seen but were unable to locate any sign of her.

"The Bluffton Police Department extends our condolences to the family and friends of Celeste Cuthbert," Randall said in a statement. "We appreciate all the help and support the community provided us during this investigation."

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## Gaps in Ossian

(Continued from Page 1)

events, ceremonial funeral arrangement expenses, vehicle license and title fees, cell phone expenses, travel expenses, and community outreach programs. Additionally, the funds can be used for "items or services that benefit the Sheriff's Office" not exceeding \$500.


Council President Seth Whicker then proposed Holliday provide department updates quarterly rather than every monthly meeting, with additional requests as needed; this was approved 7-0. Holliday also reports to the county commissioners at every meeting twice a month.

During Monday's commissioner meeting, Holliday reported 68 inmates were housed in the Wells County Jail. Of these inmates, 26 were pre-trial holds for the Wells County Circuit Court, 21 were pre-trial holds for Superior Court, 12 were Level 6 felons and three were from the Department of Correction.

By Tuesday's County Council meeting, the jail population had increased to 69, with 27 being pre-trial holds for the Circuit Court, 19 pre-trial holds for the Superior Court, 12 Level 6 felons and four from the Department of Correction.

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OBITUARIES

Linda V. Thomas, 66

Linda V. Thomas, 66, passed away Wednesday evening, Feb. 1, 2023, at Markle Heath and Rehabilitation.

She was born July 30, 1956, to Wayne and Ruth Shady. She married Mark Thomas on Dec. 11, 1977; he survives.

Linda is also survived by four daughters, Heather (Mike) Palmer of New Haven, Ind., Toni (Carl) Cook of Uniondale, Kristi (Logan) Drilien of Huntington, and Sarah (Andrew) Stuck of Murray. She is also survived by 11 grandchildren.

Linda attended Murray Missionary Church, where she was an active member who enjoyed teaching Bible classes. She also enjoyed gardening, playing games and spending time with family.

A celebration of life memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 11 at Murray Missionary Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Answers in Genesis (answersingenesis.org), a biblical outreach that Linda greatly respected and appreciated.



# Wells Court Docket

**Wells Superior Court Criminal Cases**

Order of conditional discharge entered for Braxton Williams, 19, Matthews, charged with possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor.

The duration of the contract is 12 months. If Williams successfully completes the terms of the contract, the charge against him will be dismissed.

Ordered to pay court costs and users' fees.

While monitoring traffic on Ind. 1 at 900S Nov. 20, a sheriff's deputy spotted a vehicle that did not have a functioning license plate light. The deputy further observed the vehicle was traveling south with its hazard lights on. The deputy

pulled over the 2004 Dodge Dakota and spoke with its driver, Williams.

As he was speaking with Williams, he observed an odor of raw marijuana emanating from the vehicle.

Williams reportedly admitted to the deputy that in the center console of the vehicle was a "joint" — a slang term for a marijuana cigarette, and a "dab ring" — a slang term for a waxy product containing THC oil. THC is the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana.

William Alden West, 29, Bluffton, pleaded guilty to operating a vehicle with a Schedule I or II controlled substance or its metabolite in his blood with a prior conviction for the same offense, a Level 6 felony.

Sentenced to a year in the Wells County Jail, with all but 20 days suspended, and placed on probation for 345 days. Credited for two days spent in confinement awaiting disposition of his case.

Ordered to serve 120 days of home detention, pay a \$200 Countermeasures fee, court costs and probation fees.

As part of a plea agreement, charges of possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor; possession of drug paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor; driving while suspended, a Class A infraction; and failure to change name or address on driver's license, a Class C infraction all dismissed.

At 12:23 a.m. Aug. 8, a

Bluffton police officer was patrolling south on Main Street when he decided to perform a license plate check of a silver Dodge van ahead of him and discovered that the registered owner of the van — West — had a suspended driver's license. He pulled the vehicle over in the parking lot of Perfect Pet.

While the officer was speaking with West, he asked a sheriff's deputy, who arrived to assist, to have his K-9 unit perform a free-air sniff around the van.

The dog positively alerted on the passenger side door.

West originally denied there was anything illegal in the vehicle but eventually admitted he had a "dug-out" in the van. A dugout

(Continued on Page 10)

# Police Notebook

**INCIDENTS**

**City:**

Tuesday, 5:49 p.m., Dollar Tree, 937 N. Main St. Report of a woman screaming at her daughter and crying because she did not have enough money to buy the girl a toy she wanted. Officers responded but the two had left.

Tuesday, 7:31 p.m., Wells County Public Library, 200 W. Washington St. Report that a boy showed a handgun to some other juveniles. The boy left and was last seen walking to the north. He was located in the 100 block of West Market St. The gun — which turned out to be a plastic toy gun — was found on the Parlor City Plaza.

Wednesday, 11:11 a.m., residence in the 300 block of South Marion Street. Theft of a trash container reported.

Wednesday, 1:10 p.m., 500 block of Kathryn Circle in the Maple Grove Estates mobile home park. Landlord reporting tenants who had been evicted were back at the mobile home. Officers responded. Information taken for a report.

**ACCIDENTS**

**City:**

Tuesday, 3:35 p.m., Main Street at Dustman Road. Nancy L. Caldwell, 24, Fort Wayne, was driving a 2006 Toyota Avalon east on Dustman Road when something became stuck under the brake of the vehicle, preventing her from applying the brakes. The car entered the intersection and was

struck by a northbound 2014 Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck driven by Zachary B. Russell, 23, Fort Wayne. The impact propelled the Avalon in a northeasterly direction where it struck some posts in the corner lot of the Short Stop convenience store. Caldwell and her passenger suffered non-life threatening injuries. Wells County EMS and Bluffton Fire Rescue were dispatched to the scene. Damage exceeded \$10,000. Caldwell was cited for operating a motor vehicle without insurance, a Class A infraction, and disregarding an automatic signal, a Class C infraction. A passenger in Caldwell's vehicle, Harley James Ray Lowery, 27, Fort Wayne, reportedly ran from the scene but was apprehended a short distance from the crash. He had an active warrant out of Noble County for his arrest for failing on March 21, 2022, to appear in Noble County Superior Court 2 for a pre-trial conference on charges of driving while suspended with a prior conviction for the same offense, a Class A misdemeanor, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor.

Tuesday, 10:55 p.m., Main Street at Willowbrook Trail. Fortino Reyes Castillo, 32, Greenwood, was driving a 2015 Nissan Altima north on Main Street when the car veered to the left, hit the curb of a crosswalk near the intersection, knocked over a yellow pylon, flattened



Police survey the wrecked Toyota Avalon belonging to Nancy Caldwell of Fort Wayne as the heavily damaged Chevrolet Silverado of Zachary Russell, Fort Wayne, is loaded onto a flatbed wrecker. The accident happened Tuesday afternoon at the intersection of Main Street and Dustman Road. (Photo by Glen Wering)

a flashing crosswalk sign, crossed into the oncoming lane and drove down into a steep ditch in front of the ProFed credit union before coming to a stop. Castillo was not injured. Alcohol is believed to be a factor in the crash as Castillo reportedly blew a .268 percent alcohol concentration equivalency on a Breathalyzer test, which is more than three times Indiana's legal limit for intoxication of .08 percent. Castillo was charged with operating a motor vehicle while never having obtained a driver's license, a Class C misde-

meanor; operating a vehicle with an alcohol concentration equivalency of .15 percent or more, a Class A misdemeanor; and driving while intoxicated, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$2,000.

**County:**

Wednesday, 4 a.m., Ind. 124 at 450E. Joshua G. Lyons, 33, Decatur, hit a deer with his 2009 Cadillac CTS. Damage to the car exceeded \$5,000.

Wednesday, 9:36 a.m., 100E at U.S. 224 in front of Norwell High School. Britany S. Gehring, 37, Bluffton, was driving a 2015

Ford Expedition north on 100E when she entered the intersection with preferential U.S. 224 and collided with a 2001 Ford F-250 pickup truck driven by Rex E. Wolfe, 75, Markle. The impact caused the pickup to careen across the intersection where it crashed into a 2011 Toyota Rav4 driven by Casey A. Jones, 44, Fort Wayne, who was stopped waiting for traffic to clear on the north side of the intersection. Gehring, Jones, and two children in Gehring's car, Kaleb Scott, 16, Bluffton, and Brynce Gaskill, 10,

Bluffton, all suffered minor injuries in the crash and were taken by Wells County EMS to an area hospital for treatment. Damage to the vehicles exceeded \$50,000.

**ARRESTS**

Deadra Sue Strawn, 56, Fort Wayne; check deception, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500. Bonded.

Ashlyn Brook McClain, 20, Waynedale; probation violation. No bond set.

Carter Andrew Rose Jackson, 21, homeless; domestic battery causing moderate bodily injury. Bond set at \$25,000.

# Indiana Republicans back partisan school boards switch

By TOM DAVIES  
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indiana Republicans forged ahead Wednesday with a proposal that would upend the current nonpartisan school board elections across the state despite opponents arguing the change would further inject politics into local schools.

The Indiana House elections committee voted 6-4 along party lines to endorse a bill to establish a system allowing a decision by each of the state's nearly 300 school districts on whether to require candidates to declare a political party. Each district's decision would be made through either a voter referendum or school board vote. It would be up to those votes whether candidates would be required to

win a party's May primary in order to appear on the November general election ballot.

Bill supporters said they believed having candidates identified by political party would give voters more information to consider and increase transparency in what are already often politicized election races.

Some opponents argued allowing a district-by-district decision would lead to a messy patchwork across the state and confuse voters.

A state Senate committee heard testimony last week — but has not yet voted — on a different proposal that would require school board candidates to identify themselves on the ballot by political party or as an independent but not have them run in party primaries.

Other bills in recent

years calling for partisan school board elections in Indiana haven't advanced in the Republican-dominated Legislature. Those elections, however, have gained more attention across the country as parents raised complaints over issues such as COVID-19 policies, classroom discussions of race and sexuality and the removal of offending books.

Greg Brown, who was endorsed by the local Republican Party in winning a Carmel School Board seat last year, spoke in support of the switch to partisan elections before both the House and Senate committees. He argued that party affiliation was important information for voters who he said often told him that they didn't know much about the candidates.

"They would frequently ask me, 'What party are you in?' And I tell them and they'd say, 'That's good enough for me,' so it's an important filter," Brown said.

The Indiana School Boards Association and the Indiana State Teachers Association are among education groups opposed to the change, voicing concerns about increased partisanship and the longstanding difficulties of finding candidates willing to run in smaller districts.

Several current school board members said they didn't know the political leanings of others on their

boards and worried partisan elections would make board members beholden to political parties.

"If we were required to have partisan school board elections, I believe it's possible that pressure could be applied in regarding who we would hire and how we would be expected to vote at school board meetings," said Linda Singer, who said she's been a member of Howard County's Western School Board for 39 years.

Some supporters of partisan elections argued that the current system allowed groups to "shroud leftist candidates" and let those

running for board positions withhold information about themselves from voters. At least nine states now have some form of partisan local school board elections, advocates said.

**Erwin L. Moser**

Calling: 12 - 3 p.m.  
Friday, February 10.  
Service: 3 p.m. Friday,  
February 10 at the  
funeral home.

Goodwin-Cole & Hamish  
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A Tradition of Caring  
St. Rd. 124 East, Bluffton  
824-3852

## A Talk with Tego



Ginger is a one-year-old, calico female.



Sully is a five-month-old, Russian Blue mix male.



Sisco is a six-month-old, orange/white tabby male.



Tego

**Tego's Tips:** A neutered cat may still spray but the odor is less powerful.

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.

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## Good advice from Mitch Daniels

If you were a hall monitor back in your school days, I apologize for the insult, but I did not care for your kind.

I was one of the crossing guards, and we considered ourselves a far superior breed.

Crossing guards stood at busy intersections, brave young arms extended, to keep dimwitted classmates from rushing out in front of demon cars. We were true public servants, and courageous ones at that, since in those unenlightened days we were allowed to perform the task without adult supervision.

Hall monitors roamed the corridors just before class start-times in search of hapless friends without passes, eager to turn in their names to authorities in the naive belief that this somehow made them part of the power structure. They were, if you'll pardon the expression, wannabe goody two-shoes.

To put it into modern political terms, and to paraphrase the great Ronald Reagan, crossing guards were like the public officials who get elected to do something, and the hall monitors were like the ones who get elected to be something.

Which brings us to former Gov. Mitch Daniels, who also referenced the Reagan quote in announcing that he will not be seeking the U.S. Senate seat about to be vacated by fellow Republican Mike Braun.

I'm not here to defend Daniels' record. I liked some of his accomplishments (cutting the government workforce and capping property taxes), remain ambivalent about some (getting a one-time, upfront payment for privatization of the toll road) and strongly object to some (pushing through the despicable Daylight Saving Time).

But I've always liked and admired him as a public figure, and I've never doubted his integrity in pursuing his visions for policy or his sincerity in explaining his reasons for them.

So I believe him when he says, elaborating on the Reagan quote, that he has a preference for the "citizen servant approach to public life. I believe that politics and government are worthy pursuits, which men and women of good will should undertake if they can, not as a life's work or an end in itself, but to try to ensure that the important realms of society — the private economy, our voluntary associations, local communities and neighborhoods — can all flourish."

The concept of "citizen servant" is one of those elemental ideas that looked great on paper but never quite worked in the real world. Clearly, the Founders envisioned politics as a mechanism for getting ordinary people into and out of public office. But it almost immediately became a lifelong pursuit for those in a whole new class of professional politicians eager to belong to the Ruling Elite.

As a result we have far too many people who seek office to be something, far too few who want to really do something, in the sense that Reagan and Daniels meant. We have too many hall monitors who want to massage and manage us, the equivalent of chiding us for being late to class, and too few crossing guards who would try to keep danger at bay but otherwise let us simply live our lives.

And it can be a fine line, public servants who start out seeking to do but get sucked into the allure of just being in a class above the common herd.

Just consider that Braun has tasted the life of a senator and now wants to be governor. Jim Banks is already a representative but now wants that Senate seat. Have they crossed the line from doing into being? They should honestly ask themselves that question, and voters should think about it, too.

And whoever gets that Senate seat should heed these words from Daniels:

"People obsessed with politics or driven by personal ambition sometimes have difficulty understanding those who are neither. I hope to be understood as a citizen and patriot who thought seriously, but not tediously, about how to be deserving of those labels . . ."

Yes, you, too, can be a crossing guard, even if you're a recovering hall monitor.

Leo Morris is a Fort Wayne-based columnist for *The Indiana Policy Review*. Contact him at [leoedits@yahoo.com](mailto:leoedits@yahoo.com).

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Feb. 9, the 40th day of 2023. There are 331 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 9, 1971, a magnitude 6.6 earthquake in California's San Fernando Valley claimed 65 lives. The crew of Apollo 14 returned to Earth after man's third landing on the moon.

On this date:

In 1825, the House of Representatives elected John Quincy Adams president after no candidate received a majority of electoral votes.

In 1942, the U.S. Joint

Chiefs of Staff held its first formal meeting to coordinate military strategy during World War II.

In 1943, the World War II battle of Guadalcanal in the southwest Pacific ended with an Allied victory over Japanese forces.

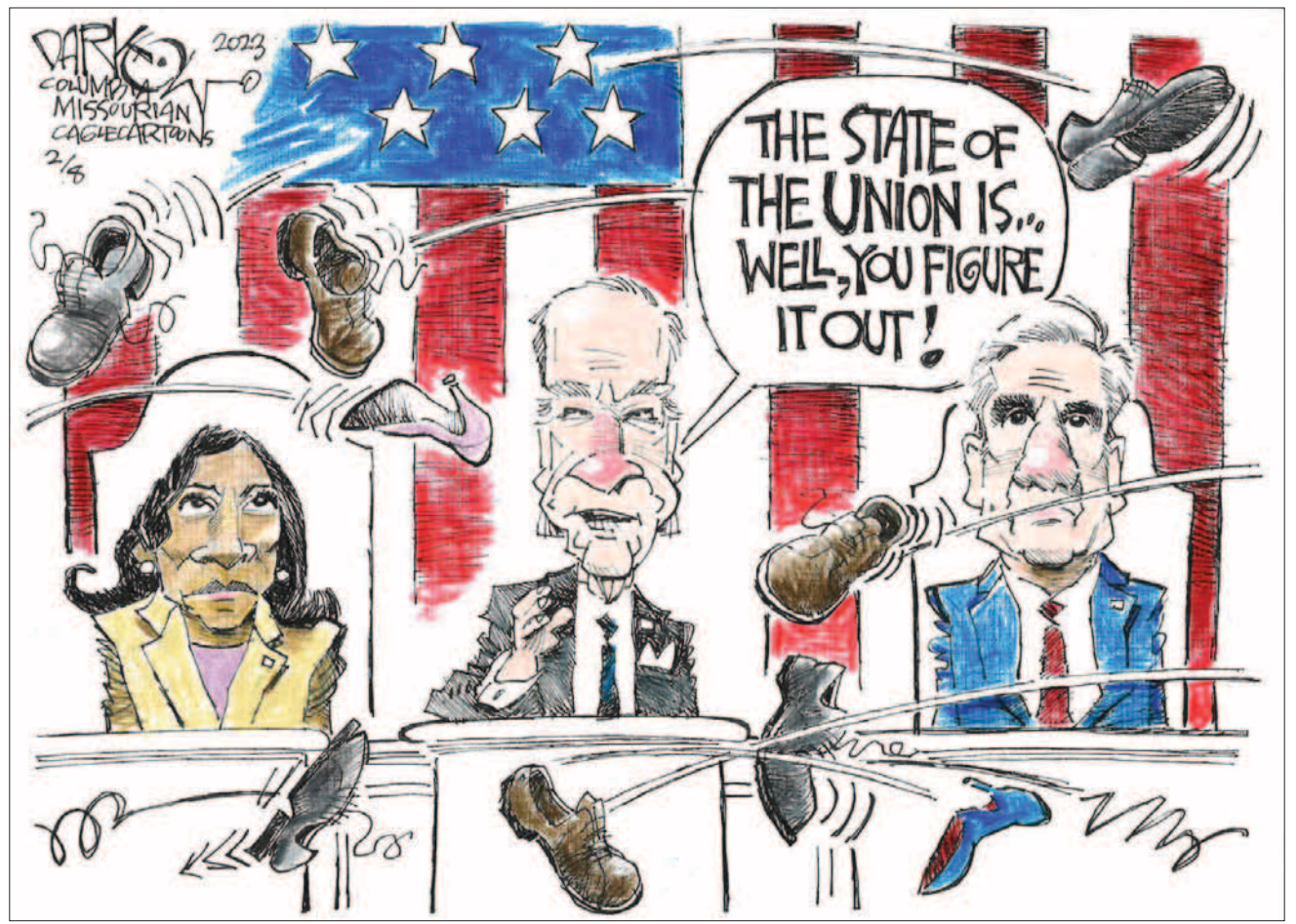
In 1950, in a speech in Wheeling, West Virginia, Republican Sen. Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin charged that the State Department was riddled with Communists.

In 1962, an agreement was signed to make Jamaica an independent nation within the British Commonwealth later in the year.



Leo Morris

## Hoosier Opinions



## In these unsettled times, look to Midwestern values

At last, the Midwest is receiving recognition as the best portion of the nation. America's regional characteristics are remarkably durable, a diversity resistant to dissolution by the mobility of restless Americans, or by cultural homogenization driven by mass media. This especially pleases Midwest chauvinists, who have had to contend with curdled despisers from — Et tu, Brute? — the Midwest.

Thanks to the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 — the nation's finest act of statecraft prior to the Constitution — the region that would become the Midwest's 12 states, all west of the Alleghenies and north of the Ohio River (Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Michigan, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, the Dakotas) never, with the exception of Missouri, had slavery. Instead, these states had the crackling entrepreneurial energy that Alexis de Tocqueville, floating down the Ohio in Jacksonian America, saw to his right, in Ohio, but not, to his left, in slaveholding Kentucky.

In "The Good Country: A History of the American Midwest, 1800-1900," Jon K. Lauck, editor of *Middle West Review*, recalls that historian Frederick Jackson Turner (born in Wisconsin in 1861) said, "It is in the Middle West that society has formed on lines least like Europe," with fewer hierarchies and less deference: Kossuth County, Iowa, is named after a Hungarian revolutionary. Lauck, professor of history and political science at the University of South Dakota, notes that even Wisconsin-born (in 1867) Frank Lloyd Wright's "Prairie Style" was a Midwestern declaration of architectural independence.

The 19th-century Midwest was, Lauck argues, "the most advanced democratic society" the world had yet seen. It was inhabited by people born in the young republic, mostly farmers cultivating land so bountiful that, the saying was, if you planted a crowbar, nails would sprout overnight. Aspiring adults inspired children mostly immune to "modernity's corrosive cynicism, the kind that yields indifference and decay."

Nineteenth-century Americans were formed by 122 million copies of McGuffey Readers (by William McGuffey, who served at three Ohio colleges). Such was the Midwest's book culture, more Carnegie libraries (768 of the 1,689 total) were built in the Midwest than in any other region. Mark Twain, William Dean Howells and Theodore Dreiser, born in Missouri, Ohio and Indiana, respectively, were products of that culture, as was Willa Cather, who came of age in Nebraska. When James Whitcomb Riley died in 1916, 35,000 Hoosiers viewed his casket.

By the Civil War, there were more than 100 Midwest colleges. Ohio had 20, Massachusetts only four.

Some Midwest writers have disdained the region that nourished them. Ernest Hemingway remembered his native Oak Park, Ill., for "broad lawns and narrow minds." Ohioan Sherwood Anderson's "Winesburg, Ohio" (1919) — he at first intended to title it "The Book of the Grotesque" — depicted small-town Midwesterners as lonely, stultified hypocrites. The neologism "Babbitty," meaning banal materialism, came from the title of a 1922 novel by Minnesotan Sinclair Lewis: "His name was George F. Babbitt. He was forty-six years old now, in April, 1920, and he made nothing in particular, neither butter nor shoes nor poetry, but he was nimble in the calling of selling houses for more than people could afford to pay."

These writers were part of "the revolt from the village," so named in 1921 by a Columbia University professor, Carl Van Doren (from a farm near Hope, Ill.). Today, village attributes — including neighborliness, public schools that teach rather than preach, and vibrant civic cultures — look especially attractive when compared with urban dystopias, from Baltimore to San Francisco. And the myth of Midwestern blandness cannot account for Eugene Debs of Indiana and Malcolm X, from Omaha, Neb., and Lansing, Mich.

John Brown grew up near Akron, Ohio. Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was based on her years in Cincinnati, on the banks of the river over whose ice floe Stowe's fictional Eliza fled. In the Civil War, more than half the Union troops came from the Midwest's one-quarter of the nation's population, as did the North's commander in chief, most of his Cabinet, and his two most important generals, Ulysses S. Grant and William Tecumseh Sherman, both born in Ohio. When Minnesota's population was 172,000, it sent 22,000 to join the Union Army. Almost 80 percent of the Union Army's wheat, corn and oats came from Midwest soil.

As we enter the second month of a year with a potentially ominous future, Lauck suggests remembering "the reassuring rhythm and rituals of civic affairs" in the Midwest when it was seen as (in the words of Minnesotan F. Scott Fitzgerald) "the warm center of the world." Remembrance is necessary, Lauck writes, "lest we lose our bearings in the stream of time."

[georgewill@washpost.com](mailto:georgewill@washpost.com)



George Will

## Angelkeep's Hibiscus trionum surprise

An Angelkeep volunteer plant was as sure a thing as Valentine's Day creeping up on a fellow, leaving scant time to buy flowers, a Valentine card, jewelry, chocolates, or other such endearing gift from a man to his spouse.

Cutting a lopsided heart shape from the front of a used cereal box and writing "Love ya" on it with crayon may have worked in 2022, but never two years in a row. It bordered on Cheerio's Cheap. Forgetting Valentine's Day might be forgiven once, but never twice. Surprise! Only four more shopping days left between today and Valentine's. 'Nuff said.

Speak of surprises, Angelkeep recalled a surprise volunteer plant that took up residence in one of four patio whiskey half-barrel planters last summer. The interesting leaves were allowed to grow. Angelkeep hoped for a bloom or two as identification assistance. It seemed likely it piggy backed to Angelkeep in the nursery pot of geranium starts perched at a local garden spot. No leaves appeared at that time, only the geranium, but a seed must have been in the potting soil. Alternatively, Angelkeep birds could be credited for planting a seed previously consumed as a snack. It happened. Surprise volunteer plants kept life interesting for a mud-thumb gardener.

As the plant grew, pods appeared, they offering a general appearance of Chinese lanterns, but certainly not the Chinese lantern plant. The new clue failed yet to give Angelkeep an accurate identification of the stalk continuing to thrive, intertwining its roots with the red geraniums that began a

## Angelkeep Journals

summer of brilliant display.

Now in mid-winter with all geraniums deader than a doornail, it was nice to have the memory of those robust ruby blooms, large balls of crimson, and leaves that cast off an aroma that the Angelkeep gardener actually enjoyed. Some plant scents seem strong, rebuffing most gardeners, but Angelkeep continued to enjoy and intentionally drew in deep breaths of those potentially offending perfumes of tomato, marigold, and geranium plants. To have such a whiff in mid-February would be such a treat.

A Valentine idea — or maybe not.

Last year's volunteer plant eventually was identified with the scientific name of "Hibiscus trionum." Commonly, folk with a bit more plant knowledge than Angelkeep called it "Flower-of-an-hour." The name fit because catching a bloom open became about as easy as catching an annoying fly with one hand. Seed pods identified where a bloom quickly ended. The leaves continued to resemble those of a watermelon, however watermelon vines spread on the ground, and yellow blooms appeared.

Angelkeep's volunteer, once an opportunity finally provided itself, offered a five-petal white bloom with a rich violet-red center and stamen tipped with yellow, almost a likeness



Alan Daugherty

to Easter dogwood blooms, but dogwoods displayed the violet-red on the petal tips, grew only four petals, and its colored green center differed also, so, okay, the volunteer didn't look a bit like dogwood blooms, but Angelkeep wishes on this February 9th it could forget the rest of winter and jump directly to April 9th Easter Sunday, complete with dogwood blooms.

Additional flower-of-an-hour common names seemed comical at first. Bladder hibiscus. Modesty. Puarangi. Shoofly. Venice mallow. Rosemallow. Bladder ketmia. Bladder weed. Miz-zou weed. Now there appeared a vital clue to identity. Weed.

Did any Angelkeep readers know that YouTube offered multiple videos titled "Weed of the Week" while focusing on Venice mallow?

It got worse. Angelkeep spent all summer enjoying the watermelon-like leaves, and Chinese lantern-like pods, of a weed, but not just a weed. It got worse.

Research proved it native to Europe, then naturalized over time as a self-seeding United States plant often found along roadsides, railroads, waste areas, and Angelkeep patio whiskey half-barrels, although the latter location added by Angelkeep couldn't be found online until today, with the posting of The News-Banner e-edition.

Angelkeep sat, pondered, bewildered and nervously anxious, with no memory whether the invasive plant had been pulled and burned or left to seed in the whiskey barrel. Only springtime will reveal the surprising truth.

Mr. Daugherty is a Wells County resident who, along with his wife Gwen, enjoy their backyard and have named it "Angelkeep."

## The News-Banner

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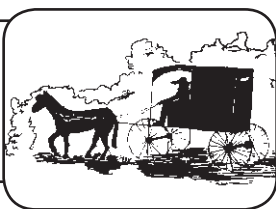
David Schultz, Editor  
Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor



# Getting ready, being prepared, and having some time left over

Why is it so easy to always be living on the last half of everything? Whether it's the last half of energy, the last half of time, the last half of resources, we so naturally plan and do all we possibly can.

**The Amish Cook**  
by Gloria Yoder



Recently my brother remarked about how much he enjoys life since he allows a margin with his plans and schedules and is no longer living with a time crunch every way he turns.

If someone else had told me, I would have been like, "Oh yeah, that makes sense." Now hearing it from Micah grabbed my attention.

Micah is a jack of all trades, an inventor at heart, and has more ideas than anyone could ever count. As you can only imagine, time was the issue. Since he was always pursuing something, there was never enough time for everything.

When he stopped by our house last fall I asked how their moving preparations were coming along. I was stunned with his answer. "It's coming along great," he said. "We are leaving the last days before the trip open for visiting with family and friends before heading for Alaska."

He was living out of a completely new mindset of doing only what needs to be done, then spacing other things out in order of importance, leaving ample room between each project. If something unexpected turns up or goes wrong, it's no big deal, there is time to spare.

My mind churns and turns. I think of Sunday mornings, and I see two scenes. I don't like admitting that both have been our story.

The first scene is getting out of bed the same time as the children (telling myself that once the children sleep better, I'll be up earlier) then I tell them I'll be back as soon as I've fed, harnessed, and hitched up the horse. Coming back I quickly usher them all to the table for breakfast. (I have long ago discovered it's not worth dressing little boys in white shirts before breakfast — unless they wear a sweatshirt as a full-covering bib!) Sensing my urgency, they start teasing each other, just enough to see if they'll get by. I read an article from "Jesus Calling," by Sarah Young, while doing my best to keep everyone quiet and focused as they scrape the last of baked oatmeal from their bowls. After asking God to be with us thanking him for his loving provision we sing a song and everyone is dismissed.

All too soon the questions are fired, faster than I can keep up with, "Mom, is this the right dress? I can't find my shoes, my one sock is missing." About at that time there always seems to be one or two children that really needs my full attention. I haven't had a chance to get ready for church myself.

I wonder how I got things in such a crunch at the first place?

I look at the clock, the hands are not slowing down a bit. This is where I've had to pause and gently say: "Look children, you all are much more important than getting to church on time. We'll just take the morning as it comes."

Scene 2 is what I enjoy. On those occasions I wish there were more Sunday mornings in a week.

First thing on my list is waking Julia so she's on duty if one of the children awake before I return back to the house from getting the horse ready. Stepping out in the winter freshness I'm awed by splendor of the morning sunrise and quietness to pray. I brush our standardbred while she eats her feed. Soon she's hitched and ready to go. I tie her up in our front yard for easy access when we're ready to leave. I step into the house and greet the children who have by now awakened. We gather at the table, sharing memories of Daddy, and together marvel at the way God keeps caring for us, no matter how sad we are.

After devotions, I tell them that everyone may put a sticker on our chart as soon as they've done their assigned duty with the dishes. As they finish the dishes they head for the hall where I placed all the Sunday clothes on the proper hooks the evening before. Thanks to Austin for completing his Saturday evening job of placing all the shoes in a row with Sunday socks in the proper shoes. We sing as we go, and when we're ready to head out the door we realize we have extra time on our hands.

I blink, how is it possible that the exact same things needed to be accomplished each time in order to go to church?

Micah, you are right and yes, you have motivated me to take the time to step back and reevaluate my busiest times!

Like a battery, we do last much longer if flowing from the first half, not waiting to be charged until we're empty all the way! Maybe if we too, would more frequently stop, rest, and ask God to fill us and show us the way, we'd have more to give and would be drained less.

OK, join our family on a Sunday morning (a relaxed one though!) with baked oatmeal and fresh milk.

### Baked Oatmeal (Fruit-Filled)

- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup melted butter
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 3 cups oatmeal
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup milk
- 2 cups of pie filling, any kind
- Spread pie filling in the bottom of a pan
- In a large bowl, stir together all the other ingredients.
- Preheat oven.
- Bake at 350 for 30 minutes. Delicious with fruit or milk. Serves seven.



Members of the Editorial Board for the new quarterly digital magazine titled "Discover Ouabache" are shown at a planning session held Tuesday evening at the park's Lodge by the Lake. Left to right are Neil Ainslie, Alan Daugherty, Kathy Schwartz, Kathy Curry, Quinn Curry and Jody Heatson. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

## Friends of state park to publish 'Discover Ouabache' digitally

Friends of Ouabache State Park met at the park Tuesday evening to announce the beginning of a quarterly digital magazine dedicated to informing and educating the visitors to happenings at Ouabache State Park.

The Friends group will be in partnership with the First Bank of Berne to present the magazine. It will contain schedules of events and services available to the park, a section provided by the Wells County Tourist Bureau, features highlighting the preservation and promotion of the natural wonders found at the park, celebrate its valued history, and also provide an opportunity for visitors to actively engage with the publication. It also will serve as a membership recruitment tool for the Friends of Ouabache and provide some revenue to the organization through advertising.

There will be signs posted on the 15 bulletin boards throughout the park with the QR Code to get to the website of the magazine. In addition business cards will be available at the park office, gate house and campground host sites as well as be promoted on the Friends of Ouabache and Ouabache State Park's website and Facebook pages. Advertisers also will be provided a poster encouraging customers to view the magazine.

An editorial board will oversee the publication with Kathy Schwartz as the editor. The board will include Friends of Ouabache board members, FOOSP members, an Ouabache State Park staff representative, and the DNR State Volunteer Coordinator Jody Heatson.

The group will be responsible for the planning publishing and distribution of the magazine. Twin Suns Creative, an independent graphics design firm, has agreed to assist with the digital publication of the magazine. Owner Heather Bremer, who is a professional graphic design artist and has experience with marketing and branding promotion will be donating her services for the project.

Members of the editorial board are now in the process of securing advertising for the publication to assist with expenses of the project. (A full page is priced at \$100, a half page at \$50 and a quarter page at \$25 for the four editions published each year.)

"We are excited to see the response that our "Wonderland of Lights" magazine received this past December. The cost was minimal and it also demonstrated our mission to become more ecologically aware of the impact of the publication for written materials," explained Editor Schwartz. Swartz also noted that last year over 50,000 visitors, including 20,000 campers were guests at the park.

The first issue of Discover Ouabache will be digitally published on March 13, with a kickoff celebration to be held March 16 at during the first Friends of Ouabache Lunch and Learn event of the season at the park.

### Zion ELCA church Friedheim to host dinner, craft sale Sunday, Feb. 26

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Friedheim is holding a church dinner with accompanying craft sale, Sunday, Feb. 26.

The dinner will be held at the church's Family Life Center, located behind the church building at 10653N-550W, Decatur.

The menu includes homemade chicken noodle and chili soups, pulled pork and sloppy joe sandwiches, along with a variety of salads and desserts. The meal will be served from 10 a.m. through 1:30 p.m. with dine-in and carryout service.

A free-will donation will be accepted with proceeds to go towards debt reduction.

### Valentine art at FW's orchard gallery

Valentine art and "Encaustic Acrylic Paintings" by Ruth Koomler are now being featured at the Orchard Gallery on Covington Rd. in Fort Wayne.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. Website for the artist-run gallery is www.

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## Area Things to See and Do

### ALL FOR ONE PRODUCTIONS

"Daddy Long Legs," Feb. 17-26. www.allforone-fw.org

### ALLEN COUNTY COLISEUM

Fort Wayne Boat Show, Feb. 9-12; Disney on Ice presents "Into the Magic," Feb. 23-26. www.memorial-coliseum.com

### ARENA DINNER THEATER

"No Sex Please, We're British, March 10-25. Info: www.arenadinnertheatre.org

### CLYDE THEATER

Gary Allen, Feb. 9; Badfish: A Tribute to Sublime, Feb. 11; Boney James, Feb. 17; Highly Suspect, Feb. 23. ClydeTheatre.com or at 1-800-514-3849.

### EMBASSY THEATER, FORT WAYNE

William Shatner, Feb. 9; Nephew Tommy, Feb. 10; Buddy Guy, Feb. 23; Down the Line, Feb. 25. Box office hours 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Info at www.fwembassytheatre.org

### FIRE AND LIGHT PRODUCTIONS

Info: FireAndLightProductions.com

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN THEATER

No shows until late March. Tickets: 250-422-6329 and www.firstpresbyteriantheater.com

### BOTANICAL CONSERVATORY

"California Dreamin,'" focusing on the sun, sand,

and surf of a vacation in the Golden State, is now on display. 1100 S. Calhoun St. in Fort Wayne. www.botanicalconservatory.org

### FOELLINGER OUTDOOR THEATER

No shows until spring. Info: 260-427-6715 or Fort-WayneParks.org

### ARTLINK

"Waning Elements," Feb. 16-March 12. www.artlink-fw.com

### FORT WAYNE CIVIC THEATER

"Hello Dolly," Feb. 18-26. Arts United Center box office 260-424-5220; info at www.fwcivic.org

### FORT WAYNE MUSEUM OF ART

Tuesday through Saturday and until 8 p.m. on Thursday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. www.fwmoa.org

### YOUTH THEATRE

"Baghdad Zoo," March 2023. artstix.org

### HONEYWELL CENTER and EAGLES THEATRE, WABASH

Honeywell: The Ultimate Doors, Feb. 3. Eagles: The Ultimate Doors, Feb. 3; Jon Reep, Feb. 18. www.honeywell.center.org

### NISWONGER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, VAN WERT, OHIO

"Puppy Pals," the stunt dog show, Feb. 12; "Menopause the Musical," Feb. 25. Info: NPACVW.org

### PURDUE-FORT WAYNE THEATER

"Puffs, or Seven Increas-

ingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic," Feb. 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18. Productions at Williams Theatre on the Purdue-FW campus. Tickets at Purdue box office, 260-481-6555.

### SCIENCE CENTRAL, FORT WAYNE

1950 N. Clinton St. in Fort Wayne. Hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Info at 260-424-2400 or at www.sciencecentral.org

### SWEETWATER SOUND, FORT WAYNE

Tickets: 800-514-3849.

### WAGON WHEEL, WARSAW

Tickets 866-923-2618 or wagonwheelcenter.org

### ABCINEMA, DECATUR

130 W. Monroe St., Decatur. Information: www.abcinemainc.com or 260-724-SHOW

### BAKER STREET CENTER

Anthony Gomes, Feb. 11. bakerstreetcenter.com

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# Norwell gears up for regional showdown with Hamilton Heights

By RYAN WALKER

Norwell's girls' basketball team had a triumphant 55-54 victory over Northwestern in last Saturday's sectional championship.

The victory got a monkey off the back of the Knights, who lost to Belmont in the sectional semifinal last year. That game followed a game in which they defeated the Braves by 33 points just a month prior.

In the last 20 seconds of the Northwestern game, the Tigers had five opportunities in the paint to take the lead, including two chances on an inbound play with 3.2 seconds remaining and designed to future Purdue Boilermaker McKenna Layden.

The ball seemingly touched every part of the rim but never fell through the net in what would have been an easy two points for six-two senior Layden and the Tigers to win by one.

"Whatever we had there," chuckled Thornton, who doesn't have a player over six feet on the roster. "It was certainly lack of length, but I think it was just enough to maybe make that shot a just little more difficult than maybe it would have been had we not been so thorough."

Northwestern was given those opportunities by a pair of jump balls and a travel call before Norwell could even try to move up the court and take care of business at the free-throw line.

The unique end of the game had fans at the edge of their seat by the unpredictability of what was going to happen next. The suspense kept building, and the moment shined brighter with every one of the three timeouts used in 20 seconds of game clock.

When the clock finally struck zero after what seemed like an eternity, the horn sounded, signifying a

win for Thornton's group, but even he couldn't celebrate right away, thinking they let the season slip away.

"My reaction was I've never reacted with just — I mean, it was pure relief. Honestly, my emotions, I couldn't celebrate at that point. I kept thinking during that last 20-22 seconds, I kept thinking at various points, I don't know how many times I felt like we might have just lost our chance to win the sectional right there."

In the few days that have past since the all-emotional victory, Norwell has had to regroup and prepare for Saturday's regional. Thornton said that Monday's practice was full of energy from the girls as it was the first time the group had seen one another since cutting down the nets.

This season, the regional and semi-state formats have changed. Regionals are a one-game championship, while the semi-state is a two-game-long event on the same day. This is different from the last time Norwell won the regional in 2021 when the Knights won two games to claim the crown.

Regardless of format, Thornton has been coach for 26 years and his teams have made two trips to the semi-state and lost both times falling to South Bend Washington in 2021 and Western in 2014.

Standing in the way of Norwell's (21-3) third trip under Thornton is Hamilton Heights (19-5).

The Huskies, competitors in the Hoosier-East Conference, are ninth in the latest Sagarin ratings. To compare, Northwestern bumped up to fourth while Norwell is sitting in second behind Twin Lakes. Earlier in the season, Hamilton Heights dropped its game with conference foe Northwestern by one

point but also has defeated 3A power Jay County twice.

The Huskies play a slow-paced, get-an-open-shot type of game. Norwell, who plays a fast-paced style on both offense and defense, will try and force them to get uncomfortable and out of their game plan.

"Their style of play is very unique, very difficult to guard, but methodical and as patient as anybody that you'll see," Thornton said. "You'll see that in their offense and defensive average averages, but they really are patient, but when it's there, they're certainly willing to attack."

Head coach Keegan Cherry has three players that shoot 37 percent from long range, but Camryn Runner specifically stands out. The five-nine point guard/shooting guard averages 18.6 points, 6.9 rebounds, and 2.9 steals per game. According to her coach via the Hamilton County Reporter, she has picked up Division 1 offers.

Ella Hickok and Kaylee Rhoton, a Franklin College signee, are the other two sharpshooters and are second and third on the team in scoring.

Defensively, they pose a one-two-two three-quarter court press which falls back into a 3-2 zone. With Norwell's ability to shoot from inside and outside the arc, it will be interesting to see how the Knights respond to it.

Kennedy Fuelling and Makenzie Fuess have been the primary scorers for the Knights. Both earned first-team all Northeast 8 earlier in the week and account for more than half the team's scoring. Dekota Hubble earned second-team all-conference with her presence in the paint, leading the team in rebounding and having 20 more shots blocked than the second-best for the Knights.



Kennedy Fuelling drives into the lane through Northwestern's Bailey Henry in the fourth quarter Saturday at The Castle. (Photo by Glen Werling)

Perhaps overshadowed by the stars on the team is an unsung hero that hit the eventual game-winner for Norwell on Saturday to make the score 55-54. Freshman Vanessa Rosswurm earned all-conference honorable mention, but the accolades were earned in the last portion of the season.

"Her (Rosswurm) development here, down the stretch, she's grown by leaps and bounds in this last fourth of the season where you've seen her get in double figures multiple times,"

Thornton said. "That's been as a result of her being patient, others having confidence in her, and I think our team knows that we need Vanessa in order to win."

For most of the year, Rosswurm would earn her way into the game by matching the defensive intensity the Knights were looking for. Thornton commented that her ability offensively is there, but she needed to be more patient with the ball and to allow for the game to come to her.

In her first two post-season games of her career,

Rosswurm is averaging 11 points and 10 rebounds.

There is a short history between the two schools that will match up Saturday night, albeit a brief one.

The two met up in the first round of the regional back in 2013 when the Huskies defeated the Knights by five. Later down the road, they split in a home-and-home, each team winning on its home floor.

The two will tip off at Belmont High School starting at 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11.

sports@news-banner.com

# Scoring King: LeBron James passes Abdul-Jabbar for NBA points mark

By TIM REYNOLDS  
AP Basketball Writer

LeBron James got the first official statistic of his NBA career on a rebound. His next entry on the stat sheet was an assist.

Even then, points weren't the priority. They never were.

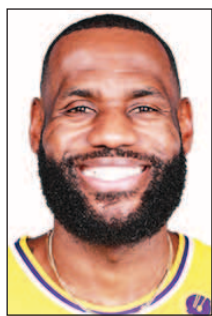
Somehow, he became the most prolific scorer in NBA history anyway. It finally happened Tuesday night, the kid from Akron, Ohio, connecting on a step-back jumper to push his career total to 38,388 points and break the record that Kareem Abdul-Jabbar held for nearly 39 years.

James outstretched his arms after his 36th point of the night for the Los Angeles Lakers, threw both hands in the air, then smiled. Abdul-Jabbar rose from his seat and clapped. The game was stopped as members of James' family, including his mother, his wife and their three children, took the floor for a ceremony recognizing

the moment.

"It's never gotten my juices flowing," James told The Associated Press, when asked what the scoring record means to him. "I'm there now because I never, ever thought about it. The only thing I ever thought about was winning championships, maybe a couple MVPs, maybe defensive player of the year. But scoring championships and records, I'm telling you, that was never on my mind."

Abdul-Jabbar — a longtime Laker and one of many celebrities and sports stars who made sure they were there to see history — became the league's all-time leading scorer on April 5, 1984 and wound up retiring in 1989 with 38,387 points. It was a record that some thought would last forever, with very few even com-



LeBron James

ing close. Karl Malone retired 1,459 points behind Abdul-Jabbar, Kobe Bryant was 4,744 points shy, and Michael Jordan was 6,095 points away.

James passed them all, then caught Abdul-Jabbar, too.

The 38-year-old — who finished with 38 points in the Lakers' 133-130 loss — did it in his 20th season. Abdul-Jabbar also played 20 NBA seasons.

"You've got to give him credit for just the way that he planned to last and to dominate," Abdul-Jabbar told TNT.

And now, King James — a moniker he's had since high school, when he was just a kid from Akron — is the NBA's scoring king, with 38,390 points and counting.

"A record that has stood

for nearly 40 years, which many people thought would never be broken," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said.

Abdul-Jabbar held the ball aloft, then handed it to James, the ceremonial passing of the torch. They posed for photos with Silver, then with one another. James wiped away tears from his eyes, then addressed the crowd.

"I just want to say, thank you to the Laker faithful. You guys are one of a kind," James said. "To be able to be in the presence of such a legend as great as Kareem, it's very humbling. Please give a standing ovation to the Captain, please."

James then thanked his family and those who have supported him, including Silver and the late NBA Commissioner David Stern.

"I thank you guys so much for allowing me to be a part of something I've always dreamed about," James said.

heavy game into a more complementary role.

A move to the bench last fall led to minor improvements over a dismal 2021-22 season, but Westbrook still appeared profoundly uncomfortable with the Lakers, who are in danger of missing the playoffs for the second straight year. Westbrook averaged 17.4 points, 7.2 assists, 6.9 rebounds and 3.7 turnovers per game during his time in Los Angeles, where fans grumbled regularly about his poor shooting and turnovers.

## ACAC announces girls' hoops awards

The Allen County Athletic Conference made its girls' basketball selections for all-conference on Tuesday.

Junior Haley Gibson of Bluffton was the highest Wells County selection earning second-team. Sophomore Maryn Schreiber earned honorable mention for the Tigers.

Southern Wells had two on the honorable mention list, senior Avah Miner and sophomore Ashlie Needler.

Jay County's Renna Schwieterman, a Purdue Fort Wayne signee, led the group of first-teamers along with teammate Gabi Billbrey, Woodlan's Avah Smith and Taylor Kneubuhler, South Adams' Macy Pries, and Heritage's Claire Bickel.

Jay County and Woodlan had the most selections, with three each.

In the final ACAC standings, Jay County won with a perfect 6-0 record while also winning the conference tournament. Woodlan came in second at 5-1, South Adams and Heritage tied for third at 3-3, Bluffton and Adams Central tied for fourth at 2-4, and Southern Wells seventh at 0-6.

## High School Calendar

<b>THURSDAY, Feb. 9</b> No events scheduled.	1 p.m.
<b>FRIDAY, Feb. 10</b> <b>BOYS BASKETBALL:</b> Huntington North at Norwell, 7:45 p.m.; Bluffton at Northfield, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Woodlan, 7:30 p.m. <b>SWIM &amp; DIVE:</b> (girls) State final preliminary, at Indiana University Natatorium, 6 p.m.	<b>WRESTLING:</b> (semi-state) Bluffton, Norwell at War Memorial Coliseum, 8:30 a.m.
<b>SATURDAY, Feb. 11</b> <b>GIRLS BASKETBALL:</b> (regional) Norwell, Hamilton Heights at Belmont, 4 p.m. <b>SWIM &amp; DIVE:</b> State finals,	<b>MONDAY, Feb. 13</b> No events scheduled. <b>TUESDAY, Feb. 14</b> <b>BOYS BASKETBALL:</b> North Miami at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m. <b>WEDNESDAY, Feb. 15</b> No events scheduled. <b>THURSDAY, Feb. 16</b> <b>SWIM &amp; DIVE</b> (boys only): (sectional) Norwell, Bluffton at Jay County, 5:30 p.m.

# Lakers trading Westbrook to Jazz, Acquire Russell in three-team swap

By GREG BEACHAM  
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles Lakers are trading Russell Westbrook to Utah and reacquiring guard D'Angelo Russell from Minnesota in a three-team, eight-player deal, a person with knowledge of the trade told The Associated Press on Wednesday night.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the teams hadn't announced the major deal made ahead of the NBA's trade deadline

Thursday.

Los Angeles is also getting guard Malik Beasley and forward Jarred Vanderbilt from the Jazz, bolstering its core around LeBron James in a bid to jumpstart its sputtering season. The Lakers fell to 25-30 on Tuesday while James set the NBA's career scoring record, and they sit in 13th place in the 15-team Western Conference.

The Lakers are sending Juan Toscano-Anderson, Damian Jones and their first-round pick in 2027 to

Utah with Westbrook.

ESPN and The Athletic first reported the trade. Those outlets also said Minnesota is getting Mike Conley and Nickeil Alexander-Walker from Utah, along with three second-round picks.

Westbrook's tenure with his hometown team lasted just 130 tumultuous games. The 2017 NBA MVP never thrived with James and injury-plagued Anthony Davis for any significant stretch of time, struggling to mold his possession-



# News-Banner Scoreboard

## BASKETBALL

### High School

#### Wednesday Boys' Scores

Beech Grove 79, Indpls Ritter 53  
Danville 75, Northview 67  
Ft. Wayne Dwenger 51, E. Noble 46  
Indpls Metro 83, Indpls Washington 69  
Indpls Riverside 78, Indpls Herron 25

### College

#### Wednesday, Feb. 8

**EAST**  
Army 76, Loyola (Md.) 70  
Binghamton 66, New Hampshire 64  
Boston U. 60, American 54  
Bryant 87, Albany (NY) 62  
CCSU 82, Hartford 73  
Colgate 81, Lehigh 53  
Creighton 75, Seton Hall 62  
Drexel 58, Delaware 54  
Duchesne 75, George Mason 52  
Fordham 77, UMass 67  
George Washington 107, Richmond 105, ZOT  
Hofstra 72, Northeastern 53  
La Salle 76, St. Bonaventure 70  
Monmouth (NJ) 61, Stony Brook 54  
Navy 71, Bucknell 65  
Providence 74, Georgetown 62  
Towson 86, Hampton 72  
UMBC 72, NJIT 63  
Vermont 74, Maine 65  
Villanova 81, DePaul 65  
West Virginia 76, Iowa St. 71  
Wisconsin 79, Penn St. 74, OT

**SOUTH**  
Alabama 97, Florida 69  
Boston College 82, Virginia Tech 76  
Campbell 82, High Point 66  
Chattanooga 82, The Citadel 63  
Coll. of Charleston 93, UNC-Wilmington 61  
Furman 94, VMI 63  
Georgia Tech 70, Notre Dame 68  
Longwood 66, Presbyterian 46  
Memphis 99, South Florida 81  
Mississippi St. 64, LSU 53  
NC A&T 66, Elon 61  
SC-Upstate 77, Charleston Southern 60  
Samford 70, Mercer 69, OT  
Syracuse 76, Florida St. 67  
UNC-Asheville 86, Winthrop 79  
Vanderbilt 66, Tennessee 65  
W. Carolina 95, Wofford 91, ZOT

**MIDWEST**  
Albion 83, Adrian 78  
Anderson (Ind.) 102, Defiance 84  
Baldwin Wallace 72, Ohio Northern 64  
Bluffton 66, Earlham 60  
Bradley 79, Illinois St. 61  
Calvin 98, Alma 62  
Carleton 77, St. John's (Minn.) 72  
Carroll (Wis.) 65, Elmhurst 64  
Concordia (Mo.) 61, Gustavus Adolphus 57  
DePauw 78, Kenyon 68  
Denison 68, Wabash 61  
Dubuque 67, Coe 65  
Eureka 75, Webster 67  
Evansville 71, N. Iowa 59  
Fontbonne 85, Blackburn 73  
Greenville 118, Westminster (Mo.) 103  
Hanover 98, Franklin 62  
Heidelberg 68, Capital 42  
Huntington 86, St. Francis (FW) 78  
Illinois College 104, Grinnell 81  
Illinois Wesleyan 57, Millikin 51  
Indiana St. 84, Valparaiso 62  
John Carroll 79, Otterbein 52  
Kalamazoo 66, Olivet 65  
Lawrence 72, Lake Forest 69  
Macalester 84, St. Olaf 75, OT  
Michigan 93, Nebraska 72  
Missouri St. 61, Belmont 59  
Mount Union 77, Marietta 68  
North Park 87, Carthage 84  
Rose-Hulman 93, Manchester 92, OT  
St. Ignace 68, Ill.-Chicago 66  
Saint Joseph's 83, Loyola Chicago 71  
Simpson 87, Buena Vista 62  
St. Mary's (Minn.) 75, Augsburg 67  
Syracuse 77, Mount St. Joseph 64  
Trine 56, Hope 43  
UCF 72, Wichita St. 67  
Washburn 95, Newman 61  
Wilmington (Ohio) 69, Muskingum 58  
Wittenberg 58, Ohio Wesleyan 47  
Wooster 74, Hiram 66  
Wright St. 103, IUPUI 71

**SOUTHWEST**  
Baylor 82, Oklahoma 72  
Houston 80, Tulsa 42  
Oklahoma St. 71, Texas Tech 68  
SMU 72, Temple 71  
**FAR WEST**  
Grand Canyon 78, New Mexico St. 67  
Utah Valley St. 71, Cal Baptist 55

## NBA

### EASTERN CONFERENCE

**Atlantic Division**

W	L	Pct	GB	
Boston	39	16	.709	—
Philadelphia	34	19	.642	4
Brooklyn	32	22	.593	6½
New York	30	26	.536	9½
Toronto	26	30	.464	13½

**Southeast Division**

W	L	Pct	GB	
Miami	30	25	.545	—

Atlanta	27	28	.491	3
Washington	25	29	.463	4½
Orlando	22	33	.400	8
Charlotte	15	41	.268	15½

### Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Milwaukee	37	17	.685	—
Cleveland	35	22	.614	3½
Chicago	26	28	.481	11
Indiana	25	31	.446	13
Detroit	14	42	.250	24

### WESTERN CONFERENCE

#### Southwest Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Memphis	33	21	.611	—
Dallas	29	26	.527	4½
New Orleans	29	27	.518	5
San Antonio	14	41	.255	19½
Houston	13	42	.236	20½

#### Northwest Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Denver	38	17	.691	—
Minnesota	30	28	.517	9½
Utah	27	29	.482	11½
Oklahoma City	26	28	.481	11½
Portland	26	28	.481	11½

#### Pacific Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Sacramento	31	23	.574	—
L.A. Clippers	31	26	.544	1½
Phoenix	30	26	.536	2
Golden State	28	26	.519	3
L.A. Lakers	25	30	.455	6½

#### Tuesday's Games

New York 102, Orlando 98  
New Orleans 116, Atlanta 107  
Phoenix 116, Brooklyn 112  
Memphis 104, Chicago 89  
Denver 146, Minnesota 112  
Oklahoma City 133, L.A. Lakers 130

#### Wednesday's Games

Cleveland 113, Detroit 85  
Washington 118, Charlotte 104  
Toronto 112, San Antonio 98  
Boston 106, Philadelphia 99  
Miami 116, Indiana 111  
Sacramento 130, Houston 128  
Minnesota 143, Utah 118  
Dallas at L.A. Clippers, late  
Golden State at Portland, late

#### Thursday's Games

Denver at Orlando, 7 p.m.  
Chicago at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.  
Phoenix at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.  
Milwaukee at L.A. Lakers, 10 p.m.

#### Friday's Games

New York at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.  
Phoenix at Indiana, 7 p.m.  
San Antonio at Detroit, 7 p.m.  
Charlotte at Boston, 7:30 p.m.  
Utah at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.  
Houston at Miami, 8 p.m.  
Minnesota at Memphis, 8 p.m.  
Cleveland at New Orleans, 10 p.m.  
Dallas at Sacramento, 10 p.m.  
Oklahoma City at Portland, 10 p.m.  
Milwaukee at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

#### Saturday's Games

Philadelphia at Brooklyn, 6 p.m.  
Denver at Charlotte, 7 p.m.  
Indiana at Washington, 7 p.m.  
Miami at Orlando, 7 p.m.  
San Antonio at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.  
Utah at New York, 7:30 p.m.  
Chicago at Cleveland, 8 p.m.  
L.A. Lakers at Golden State, 8:30 p.m.  
Dallas at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

## HOCKEY

### NHL

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

##### Atlantic Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Boston	51	39	7	5	83	192	111
Toronto	52	31	13	8	70	175	141
Tampa Bay	50	32	16	2	66	179	152
Buffalo	50	26	20	4	56	186	170
Florida	53	25	22	6	56	185	184
Ottawa	50	24	23	3	51	151	159
Detroit	49	21	20	8	50	147	165
Montreal	51	20	27	4	44	134	189

##### Metropolitan Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Carolina	51	34	9	8	76	173	136
New Jersey	50	33	13	4	70	176	135
N.Y. Rangers	51	29	14	8	66	166	136
Washington	53	27	20	6	60	166	152
Pittsburgh	50	25	16	9	59	163	154
N.Y. Islanders	54	27	22	5	59	154	145
Philadelphia	52	21	22	9	51	143	164
Columbus	51	15	32	4	34	131	198

##### WESTERN CONFERENCE

##### Central Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Dallas	53	30	13	10	70	180	136
Winnipeg	52	32	19	1	65	167	137
Colorado	49	27	18	4	58	152	135
Minnesota	50	27	19	4	58	154	145
Nashville	49	24	19	6	54	138	146
St. Louis	51	23	25	3	49	156	185
Arizona	51	17	28	6	40	134	179
Chicago	49	15	29	5	35	120	179

##### Pacific Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Vegas	52	30	18	4	64	165	149
Seattle	50	29	16	5	63	177	155
Los Angeles	53	28	18	7	63	173	183
Edmonton	51	29	18	4	62	192	165
Calgary	51	24	17	10	58	164	158
Vancouver	51	20	27	4	44	173	205
San Jose	52	16	25	11	43	161	199
Anaheim	52	17	29	6	40	130	210

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

### Tuesday's Games

Pittsburgh 2, Colorado 1, OT  
San Jose 4, Tampa Bay 3, OT  
N.Y. Islanders 4, Seattle 0  
Edmonton 5, Detroit 2  
Vegas 5, Nashville 1  
Anaheim 3, Chicago 2, OT

### Wednesday's Games

N.Y. Rangers 4, Vancouver 3  
Dallas 4, Minnesota 1  
**Thursday's Games**  
Calgary at Detroit, 7 p.m.  
Colorado at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.  
Edmonton at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.  
San Jose at Florida, 7 p.m.  
Seattle at New Jersey, 7 p.m.  
Vancouver at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30 p.m.  
Vegas at Minnesota, 8 p.m.

### Friday's Games

Seattle at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.  
Toronto at Columbus, 7 p.m.  
Arizona at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.  
Pittsburgh at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

### Saturday's Games

Vancouver at Detroit, 12 p.m.  
Calgary at Buffalo, 12:30 p.m.  
Edmonton at Ottawa, 12:30 p.m.  
N.Y. Islanders at Montreal, 12:30 p.m.  
Nashville at Philadelphia, 12:30 p.m.  
Tampa Bay at Dallas, 1 p.m.  
Washington at Boston, 3:30 p.m.  
Colorado at Florida, 6 p.m.  
Columbus at Toronto, 7 p.m.  
N.Y. Rangers at Carolina, 7 p.m.  
Arizona at St. Louis, 8 p.m.  
New Jersey at Minnesota, 8 p.m.  
Chicago at Winnipeg, 10 p.m.  
Pittsburgh at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

## FOOTBALL

### NFL

#### Conference Championships

##### Sunday, Jan. 29

**AFC**  
Kansas City 23, Cincinnati 20  
NFC  
Philadelphia 31, San Francisco 7  
Super Bowl  
Sunday, Feb. 12  
At Glendale, Ariz.  
Philadelphia vs. Kansas City, 6:30 p.m. (FOX)

#### TRANSACTIIONS

**Wednesday's Transactions**  
**BASBALL**  
**Major League Baseball**  
**American League**  
BOSTON RED SOX — Agreed to terms with RHP Jake Faria on a minor league contract.  
CLEVELAND GUARDIANS — Traded OF Will Benson to Cincinnati for OF Justin Boyd and a player to be named later.  
MINNESOTA TWINS — Agreed to terms with RHP Aaron Sanchez on a minor league contract.  
SEATTLE MARINERS — Agreed to terms with INF/OF on a three-year contract.  
National League  
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Acquired LHP Anthony Misiewicz from Kansas City in exchange for cash considerations. Designated RHP James Naile for assignment.  
SAN DIEGO PADRES — Agreed to terms with RHP's Drew Carlton, Wilmer Font, Eric Hanhold, Sean Poppen, Angel Sanchez, Craig Stammen, Domingo Tapia and Julio Teheran, C Pedro Severino, INFs Tim Lopes, Rangel Ravelo, Alfonso Rivas, Max Schrock and Jantzen Witte and OFs David Dahl and Preston Tucker on minor league contracts.  
WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Agreed to terms with RHP Chad Kuhl on a minor league contract.

**BASKETBALL**  
**National Basketball Association**  
MIAMI HEAT — Signed G Jamare Bouyea to a 10-day contract.  
**Womens' National Basketball Association**  
CHICAGO SKY — Signed C/F Astou Ndour-Fall.  
INDIANA FEVER — Signed F Emma Cannon.  
SEATTLE STORM — Signed F Theresa Plaisance.  
NEW YORK LIBERTY — Signed G Courtney Vandersloot and F Breanna Stewart.

**FOOTBALL**  
**National Football League**  
DALLAS COWBOYS — Signed LB Malik Jefferson, T Isaac Alarcon and TE Seth Green to reserve/futures contracts.  
**HOCKEY**  
**National Hockey League**  
DALLAS STARS — Recalled RW Marian Studecnic from Texas (AHL).  
NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Signed F Tommy Novak to a one-year contract. Recalled G Tomas Vokac from Norfolk (ECHL) to Milwaukee (AHL).

# Adebayo scores 38, Heat hold off sliding Pacers

By **TIM REYNOLDS**  
AP Basketball Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Bam Adebayo entered this season wanting more shots. The Miami Heat gave him those opportunities, and are thrilled at how it's working out.

Miami's All-Star center tied his season high with 38 points, Jimmy Butler added 25 and the Heat held off the Indiana Pacers 116-111 on Wednesday night to snap a two-game slide.

Adebayo was 12 of 16 from the field, 14 of 14 from the foul line.

"Bam, obviously, was really good on both ends of the court," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

Gabe Vincent had 17, Tyler Herro scored 15 and Caleb Martin finished with 12 points and 11 rebounds for the Heat, who snapped a two-game slide.

Buddy Hield scored 29 points for Indiana, which has lost 13 of its last 15 games. Myles Turner had 23 points and 11 rebounds, while T.J. McConnell scored 18.

Tyrese Haliburton had 10 assists for the Pacers, but a Heat defense led by Butler held him to 11 points — 32 fewer than he scored in a win at Miami on Dec. 23. His 3-pointer with 10.5 seconds left got Indiana within three, but Adebayo sealed it with a pair of free throws.

"Miami has a deserved, an earned reputation as a hard-playing team, a team that always responds to previous losses," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said.

The Heat and Pacers split the four-game regular-season series. And just like the first three, this one went right down to the end. The combined score of the season series entering Wednesday was Pacers 294, Heat 294; now, it's Heat 410, Pacers 405, none of the games this season decided by more than five points.

It was Adebayo's 10th 30-point game of the season, matching the total of all other Heat players combined — Butler has five,

Herro four and Max Strus has one.

"He's found a great balance," Butler said. "If you've got the hot hand, you've got to keep feeding that individual. And a lot of nights, it's Bam. You've got to ride that wave sometimes."

He's the sixth player in Heat history to have at least 10 games of 30 or more in the same season, and nobody had done it since LeBron James — now the NBA's career scoring leader — had 31 such games for Miami in 2013-14.

"The work speaks for itself," Adebayo said.

### TIP-INS

Pacers: Including playoffs, it was the 1,996th NBA game for Carlisle — 1,796 as a coach, and 200 more he got into as a player. No. 2,000 would be next Wednesday against Chicago, Indiana's final game before the All-Star break. ... Andrew Nembhard scored 10 for Indiana.

### BIG HALF

McConnell had 16 points in the first half, the second-most points he's ever had by halftime in his career. He had 25 by halftime against Milwaukee on Jan. 16, finishing that game with a career-high 29 — one of only four 20-point games for him in the NBA. Including playoffs, McConnell averaged 5.5 points in 33 games against Miami entering Wednesday.

### MUST-SEE TV

As would be expected, Spoelstra was tuned in Tuesday night to watch James pass Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and become the leading scorer in NBA history. "I rarely stay up for those late games — but that was must-see TV," Spoelstra said. "It's so historic for him to be able to do that. And for Kareem to be in the building, that's one of those amazing NBA moments."

### UPNEXT

Pacers: Host Phoenix on Friday.  
Heat: Host Houston on Friday.

# AP Source: Trail Blazers trade Hart to Knicks for Reddish

By **ANNE M. PETERSON**  
AP Sports Writer

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The Portland Trail Blazers have traded forward Josh Hart to the New York Knicks in exchange for Cam Reddish and a protected first-round draft pick, a person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press on Wednesday night.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the teams hadn't publicly announced the deal ahead of the NBA's trade deadline Thursday. ESPN first report-

ed the trade.

Hart was set to start for the Blazers on Wednesday night against the Golden State Warriors, but he suddenly left the floor during warmups. Gary Payton II replaced Hart in the starting lineup.

Hart, who is in the midst of his seventh NBA season, was averaging 9.5 points and 8.2 rebounds in 51 games with Portland.

Reddish, selected by Atlanta in the 2019 NBA draft, averaged 8.4 points in 20 games with the Knicks this season.



# F1's Bottas relishing his leadership role

By **JEROME PUGMIRE**  
AP Auto Racing Writer</



# How do I support my friend during divorce?

Dear Annie: A longtime friend of mine, "Emily," was served divorce papers right after the holidays by her husband, "Matt," after a fairly short and seemingly rocky marriage. I don't think this came as much of a surprise to her, but I know that she is still taking it very hard, especially considering the time of year this all fell apart. She seems embarrassed by the situation and stressed about having to find a lawyer and go to court.

I'm trying my best to provide emotional support and help her out, but I also feel lost when it comes to divorce options and the whole process. I really want her to find peace and reach out to a counselor or mediator or other professional, but I don't necessarily know how to push her in that direction. How can I comfort Emily through this and help her avoid a stressful court battle? — Shoulder To Cry On

*Dear Shoulder To Cry On: Healing comes in many forms. Unfortunately for all of us, the most effective "treatment" is time. It will get better, but not immediately. Remind her of that. As long as she maintains her faith in the future, she will be able to get through "the now."*

*At the end of the day, you cannot weather this storm for her, though it is admirable that you want to try. It is hard to feel powerless when our loved ones are going through times of hardship. The best you can do is be there -- physically, emotionally, spiritually. Help her in the capacity that you are able to. Cook her dinner one night. Take her out for a movie. Call her more frequently. Eventually, with the support of friends, with the help of a lawyer and with the passage of time -- she will heal.*

Dear Annie: I need your advice. I have a grown son who is 33 years old. He has been in and out of prison since he was 18. He has drug, domestic violence and weapon charges. Each time he was released, I welcomed him back into my home. He would work, but not for very long, and then he would continue back down the old path again.

The last time he came home, he started bringing a girl into my house, and they were drinking and getting high. I told him several times that I do not want anyone coming in and out of my house besides him. He agreed but continued bringing her in. One morning, when I woke up, she was here. I woke him up and told him she needed to leave. He became physically and verbally violent with me. My neighbors heard me screaming, and they called the police. I pressed charges against him, and he is now back in prison for the attack on me. He has made it clear that he hates me, but I had to draw a line in the sand. Was I wrong for pressing charges, and should I reach out to him? — Heartbroken

*Dear Heartbroken: Were you wrong for pressing charges? Of course not. A man attacked you in your home. It is heartbreaking that that man is your son, but your safety needs to be your first priority.*


*As for whether you should reach out to him, follow your intuition. But if you do talk to him, don't expect him to change or to receive your outreach with any warm feelings. If you don't want to reach out, well, nobody can fault you for that either. If and when he decides to apologize and change his ways, you can reassess.*

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

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## My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



# God is the giver of life

*Q: My friend runs a home for unwed mothers. She wants me to help her but forbids me to share my faith in Jesus Christ as the One who forgives sin. She believes that living out the Gospel is accepting each mother who does not abort her baby and this brings salvation in God's eyes. Just making people feel good about themselves by demonstrating compassion is not the Gospel, correct? Is there a way I can help my friend understand this? — C.T.*

*A: God doesn't forgive everyone automatically. That would devalue the sacrifice of Christ on the cross for the sins of the*

world. Before asking for God's forgiveness, each individual must first repent of sin, turn from a life of disobedience to God, and accept God's salvation. He forgives, redeems, and transforms humbled souls. His salvation will not make the problems we create go away, but He does show us how to live victorious lives in the midst of difficulties and 1 Corinthians 9:17 is a great encouragement to all those who desire to share the message of Christ.

The consequences of sins we have committed in the past will not vanish. We have to pay the consequences for our foolishness and our refusal to obey God. King David sinned greatly when he committed adultery with another man's wife but

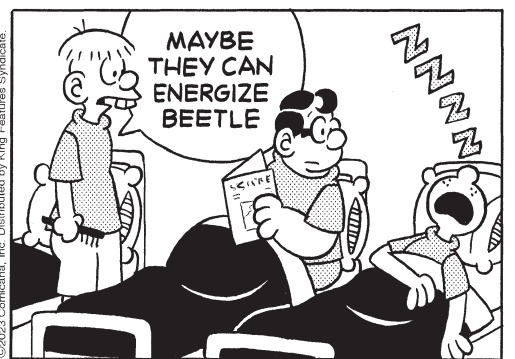
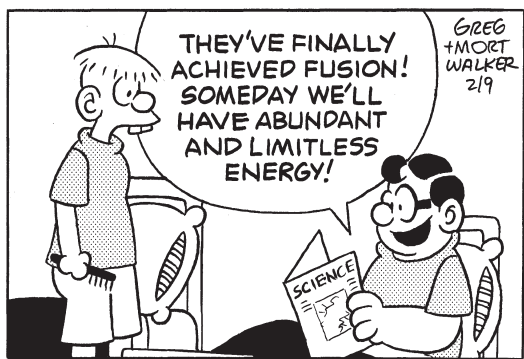
God forgave him when he truly repented.

God most certainly forgives unwed mothers and fathers — and all sinners — but His forgiveness doesn't come cheaply. We must humble ourselves before Holy God. The salvation He offers mankind cost Jesus His life. The wonderful news is that while He shed His precious blood to save lost souls, He overcame death and lives today for the purpose of bringing new life to those who accept His work on the cross. God is the giver of life and every life is precious to Him.

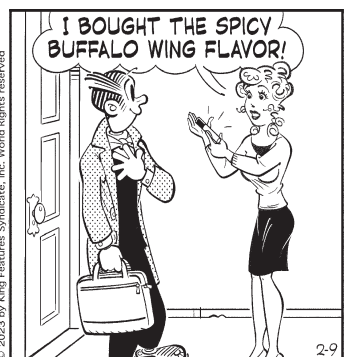
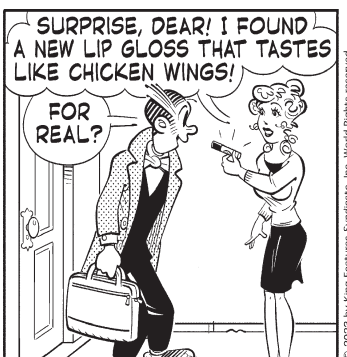
*(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Graham.)*

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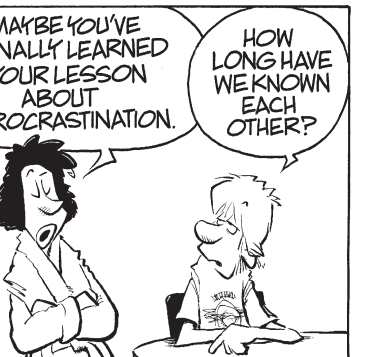
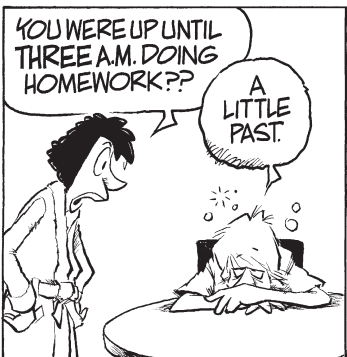
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## BLONDIE



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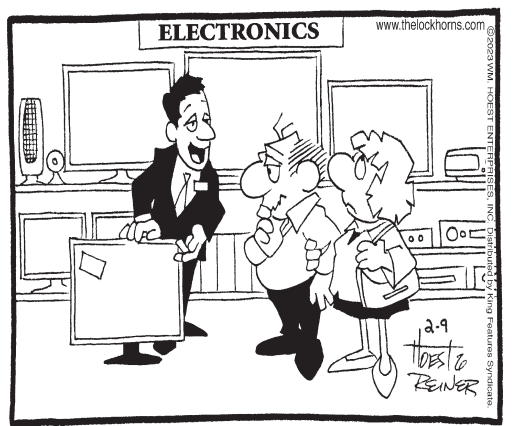
## CRANKSHAFT



## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

## THE LOCKHORNS



02/09	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	
WJW	12	11	26	63	3D Woman	Julie & Friends	Movie		Journey	TCT Today	NewsWatch	NewsWatch	Perry Stone	James Robison	Dr. Robert Jeffrey	Creflo Dollar	Andrew Womack	Ask the Pastor	Rabbi Lapin		
CBS WANE	15	2	15	15	News (N)	Inside Edition (N)	News at 6 (N)	CBS News (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Sheldon (N)	Ghosts (N)	So Help Me Todd (N)	Wall of Fire (N)	CSI: Vegas (N)	Boned (N)	Nightcast (N)	The Late Show With Stephen Colbert (N)	(35) James Cord		
Antenna WANE-2	152	106	20	21	Chicago P.D. "The Other Side"	Chicago P.D. "Closure"	ABC21 News at 5 (N)	ABC21 News (N)	ABC21 News (N)	Ent. Tonight (N)	The Parent Test "The Semi-Finals Begin" (N)	The Parent Test "Limits & Boundaries" (N)	NFL Honors The 2022 season is celebrated with the presentation of awards for MVP, Coach of the Year &...	Chicago P.D. "What Could Have Been"	Seinfeld (N)	Mom (N)	Starring Jimmy Fallon (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel Live!	(35) Seth Meyers		
ABC WPTA-3	21	4	3	21	Pictionary	25 Words or Less	News (N)	NBC News (N)	Family Feud (N)	Law & Order "Camouflage"	Dateline "12 Minutes on Walker "Sittin' on a Rainbow"	Chicago P.D. "What Could Have Been"	Walker "The Owl and the Arrow"	Liquidator "Bail Out"	Chicago P.D. "Bad Boys"	Family Guy	Family Guy	Bob's Burgers			
NBC WPTA-2	212	7	8	14	The King of Queens	The King of Queens	Mod Fam "Australia"	21Alive News at 6	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Chicago P.D. "What Could Have Been"	Walker "The Owl and the Arrow"	Liquidator "Bail Out"	Chicago P.D. "Bad Boys"	Family Guy	Family Guy	Bob's Burgers				
MNT WPTA-3	213	10	9	34	The Steve Wilkos Show	Judge Lake	Judge Lake	Divorce Court	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	
CW WISE	33	8	4	33	Neighbor	Neighbor	Young Sheldon	Young Sheldon	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	
PBS WFWA	39	13	5	39	Fight the Power: How "The Foundation"	Fight the Power: How "The Foundation"	BBC News	World News	PBS NewsHour (N)	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	World News	
PBS WWPB	49	3			Neighbor	Neighbor	Young Sheldon	Young Sheldon	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	
FOX WFFT	6	6	55	55	Neighbor	Neighbor	Young Sheldon	Young Sheldon	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	
<b>CABLE CHANNELS</b>																					
LIFE	23	113	108	252	Castle "Secret Santa"	Castle "Significant Others"	Castle "Significant Others"	Castle "Significant Others"	Castle "Under the Influence"	Castle "Under the Influence"	Castle "Under the Influence"	Castle "Under the Influence"	Castle "Under the Influence"	Castle "Under the Influence"	Castle "Under the Influence"	Castle "Under the Influence"	Castle "Under the Influence"	Castle "Under the Influence"	Castle "Under the Influence"	Castle "Under the Influence"	
FX	24	132	136	148	Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw	Hobbs & Shaw	Hobbs & Shaw	Hobbs & Shaw	Hobbs & Shaw	Hobbs & Shaw	Hobbs & Shaw	Hobbs & Shaw	Hobbs & Shaw	Hobbs & Shaw	Hobbs & Shaw	Hobbs & Shaw	Hobbs & Shaw	Hobbs & Shaw	Hobbs & Shaw	Hobbs & Shaw	
TVLAND	25	106	304		Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	
E!	26	142	114	236	Bridesmaids (2011, Comedy)	Maya Rudolph, Rose Byrne, Kristen	Maya Rudolph, Rose Byrne, Kristen	Maya Rudolph, Rose Byrne, Kristen	Maya Rudolph, Rose Byrne, Kristen	Maya Rudolph, Rose Byrne, Kristen	Maya Rudolph, Rose Byrne, Kristen	Maya Rudolph, Rose Byrne, Kristen	Maya Rudolph, Rose Byrne, Kristen	Maya Rudolph, Rose Byrne, Kristen	Maya Rudolph, Rose Byrne, Kristen	Maya Rudolph, Rose Byrne, Kristen	Maya Rudolph, Rose Byrne, Kristen	Maya Rudolph, Rose Byrne, Kristen	Maya Rudolph, Rose Byrne, Kristen	Maya Rudolph, Rose Byrne, Kristen	
PARMT	30	241	241		Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	
ESPN	31	50	140	206	Around (N)	Pardon (N)	SportsCenter (L) (N)	SportsCenter (L) (N)	NHL Hockey Colorado Avalanche at Tampa Bay Lightning From Amalie Arena in Tampa, Fla. (L) (N)	NHL Hockey Colorado Avalanche at Tampa Bay Lightning From Amalie Arena in Tampa, Fla. (L) (N)	NHL Hockey Colorado Avalanche at Tampa Bay Lightning From Amalie Arena in Tampa, Fla. (L) (N)	NHL Hockey Colorado Avalanche at Tampa Bay Lightning From Amalie Arena in Tampa, Fla. (L) (N)	NHL Hockey Colorado Avalanche at Tampa Bay Lightning From Amalie Arena in Tampa, Fla. (L) (N)	NHL Hockey Colorado Avalanche at Tampa Bay Lightning From Amalie Arena in Tampa, Fla. (L) (N)	NHL Hockey Colorado Avalanche at Tampa Bay Lightning From Amalie Arena in Tampa, Fla. (L) (N)	NHL Hockey Colorado Avalanche at Tampa Bay Lightning From Amalie Arena in Tampa, Fla. (L) (N)	NHL Hockey Colorado Avalanche at Tampa Bay Lightning From Amalie Arena in Tampa, Fla. (L) (N)	NHL Hockey Colorado Avalanche at Tampa Bay Lightning From Amalie Arena in Tampa, Fla. (L) (N)	NHL Hockey Colorado Avalanche at Tampa Bay Lightning From Amalie Arena in Tampa, Fla. (L) (N)	NHL Hockey Colorado Avalanche at Tampa Bay Lightning From Amalie Arena in Tampa, Fla. (L) (N)	
ESPN2	32	54	143	209	NFL Live	Daily Wager	Daily Wager	Daily Wager	College Basketball Iowa at Purdue (L) (N)	College Basketball Iowa at Purdue (L) (N)	College Basketball Iowa at Purdue (L) (N)	College Basketball Iowa at Purdue (L) (N)	College Basketball Iowa at Purdue (L) (N)	College Basketball Iowa at Purdue (L) (N)	College Basketball Iowa at Purdue (L) (N)	College Basketball Iowa at Purdue (L) (N)	College Basketball Iowa at Purdue (L) (N)	College Basketball Iowa at Purdue (L) (N)	College Basketball Iowa at Purdue (L) (N)	College Basketball Iowa at Purdue (L) (N)	
FSMW	33	418	671		The Rally (L)	Cardinals (N)	Cardinals (N)	Cardinals (N)	SportsCenter (L) (N)	SportsCenter (L) (N)	SportsCenter (L) (N)	SportsCenter (L) (N)	SportsCenter (L) (N)	SportsCenter (L) (N)	SportsCenter (L) (N)	SportsCenter (L) (N)	SportsCenter (L) (N)	SportsCenter (L) (N)	SportsCenter (L) (N)	SportsCenter (L) (N)	
USA	34	133	105	242	Law & Order: SVU "Sunveillance"	Law & Order: SVU "Sunveillance"	Law & Order: SVU "Sunveillance"	Law & Order: SVU "Sunveillance"	Law & Order: SVU "Sunveillance"	Law & Order: SVU "Sunveillance"	Law & Order: SVU "Sunveillance"	Law & Order: SVU "Sunveillance"	Law & Order: SVU "Sunveillance"	Law & Order: SVU "Sunveillance"	Law & Order: SVU "Sunveillance"	Law & Order: SVU "Sunveillance"	Law & Order: SVU "Sunveillance"	Law & Order: SVU "Sunveillance"	Law & Order: SVU "Sunveillance"	Law & Order: SVU "Sunveillance"	
DISC	35	72	182	278	BattleBots: Iconic veterans hypershock and Whiplash try to avoid a disastrous 0-2 record.	BattleBots: Iconic veterans hypershock and Whiplash try to avoid a disastrous 0-2 record.	BattleBots: Iconic veterans hypershock and Whiplash try to avoid a disastrous 0-2 record.	BattleBots: Iconic veterans hypershock and Whiplash try to avoid a disastrous 0-2 record.	BattleBots: Iconic veterans hypershock and Whiplash try to avoid a disastrous 0-2 record.	BattleBots: Iconic veterans hypershock and Whiplash try to avoid a disastrous 0-2 record.	BattleBots: Iconic veterans hypershock and Whiplash try to avoid a disastrous 0-2 record.	BattleBots: Iconic veterans hypershock and Whiplash try to avoid a disastrous 0-2 record.	BattleBots: Iconic veterans hypershock and Whiplash try to avoid a disastrous 0-2 record.	BattleBots: Iconic veterans hypershock and Whiplash try to avoid a disastrous 0-2 record.	BattleBots: Iconic veterans hypershock and Whiplash try to avoid a disastrous 0-2 record.	BattleBots: Iconic veterans hypershock and Whiplash try to avoid a disastrous 0-2 record.	BattleBots: Iconic veterans hypershock and Whiplash try to avoid a disastrous 0-2 record.	BattleBots: Iconic veterans hypershock and Whiplash try to avoid a disastrous 0-2 record.	BattleBots: Iconic veterans hypershock and Whiplash try to avoid a disastrous 0-2 record.	BattleBots: Iconic veterans hypershock and Whiplash try to avoid a disastrous 0-2 record.	
TLC	36	73	183	280	1000-Lb. Sisters	My 600-Lb. Life "Benji & David's Story - Part 1"	My 600-Lb. Life "Benji & David's Story - Part 1"	My 600-Lb. Life "Benji & David's Story - Part 1"	My 600-Lb. Life "Benji & David's Story - Part 1"	My 600-Lb. Life "Benji & David's Story - Part 1"	My 600-Lb. Life "Benji & David's Story - Part 1"	My 600-Lb. Life "Benji & David's Story - Part 1"	My 600-Lb. Life "Benji & David's Story - Part 1"	My 600-Lb. Life "Benji & David's Story - Part 1"	My 600-Lb. Life "Benji & David's Story - Part 1"	My 600-Lb. Life "Benji & David's Story - Part 1"	My 600-Lb. Life "Benji & David's Story - Part 1"	My 600-Lb. Life "Benji & David's Story - Part 1"	My 600-Lb. Life "Benji & David's Story - Part 1"	My 600-Lb. Life "Benji & David's Story - Part 1"	
HSTP	38	77	120	269	Swamp People "New Hunting Grounds"	Swamp People "Earth Shaker"	Swamp People "Earth Shaker"	Swamp People "Earth Shaker"	Swamp People "Earth Shaker"	Swamp People "Earth Shaker"	Swamp People "Earth Shaker"	Swamp People "Earth Shaker"	Swamp People "Earth Shaker"	Swamp People "Earth Shaker"	Swamp People "Earth Shaker"	Swamp People "Earth Shaker"	Swamp People "Earth Shaker"	Swamp People "Earth Shaker"	Swamp People "Earth Shaker"	Swamp People "Earth Shaker"	Swamp People "Earth Shaker"
A&E	39	134	118	265	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	
HALL	40	117	185	312	Wedding Veil Journey (2023, Romance)	Victims Unit "Guilt"	Victims Unit "Guilt"	Victims Unit "Guilt"	Victims Unit "Guilt"	Victims Unit "Guilt"	Victims Unit "Guilt"	Victims Unit "Guilt"	Victims Unit "Guilt"	Victims Unit "Guilt"	Victims Unit "Guilt"	Victims Unit "Guilt"	Victims Unit "Guilt"	Victims Unit "Guilt"	Victims Unit "Guilt"	Victims Unit "Guilt"	
SVFY	41	135	122	244	Charmed "The Good, the Bad and the Cursed"	Charmed "Just Married"	Charmed "Just Married"	Charmed "Just Married"	Charmed "Just Married"	Charmed "Just Married"	Charmed "Just Married"	Charmed "Just Married"	Charmed "Just Married"	Charmed "Just Married"	Charmed "Just Married"	Charmed "Just Married"	Charmed "Just Married"	Charmed "Just Married"	Charmed "Just Married"	Charmed "Just Married"	Charmed "Just Married"
TBS	43	130	139	247	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon
THE CW	44	131	138	245	*** Lethal Weapon 4 (1998, Action)	Danny Glover, Joe Pesci, Mel Gibson.	*** Lethal Weapon 4 (1998, Action)	Danny Glover, Joe Pesci, Mel Gibson.	*** Lethal Weapon 4 (1998, Action)	Danny Glover, Joe Pesci, Mel Gibson.	*** Lethal Weapon 4 (1998, Action)	Danny Glover, Joe Pesci, Mel Gibson.	*** Lethal Weapon 4 (1998, Action)	Danny Glover, Joe Pesci, Mel Gibson.	*** Lethal Weapon 4 (1998, Action)	Danny Glover, Joe Pesci, Mel Gibson.	*** Lethal Weapon 4 (1998, Action)	Danny Glover, Joe Pesci, Mel Gibson.	*** Lethal Weapon 4 (1998, Action)	Danny Glover, Joe Pesci, Mel Gibson.	
AMC	45	131	254		*** True Lies (1994, Action)	Jamie Lee Curtis, Tom Arnold, Arnold Schwarzenegger.	*** True Lies (1994, Action)	Jamie Lee Curtis, Tom Arnold, Arnold Schwarzenegger.	*** True Lies (1994, Action)	Jamie Lee Curtis, Tom Arnold, Arnold Schwarzenegger.	*** True Lies (1994, Action)	Jamie Lee Curtis, Tom Arnold, Arnold Schwarzenegger.	*** True Lies (1994, Action)	Jamie Lee Curtis, Tom Arnold, Arnold Schwarzenegger.	*** True Lies (1994, Action)	Jamie Lee Curtis, Tom Arnold, Arnold Schwarzenegger.	*** True Lies (1994, Action)	Jamie Lee Curtis, Tom Arnold, Arnold Schwarzenegger.	*** True Lies (1994, Action)	Jamie Lee Curtis, Tom Arnold, Arnold Schwarzenegger.	
COM	47	107	249		The Office "The Office" (4:30) Speak (L) (N)	The Office "The Office" (4:30) Speak (L) (N)	The Office "The Office" (4:30) Speak (L) (N)	The Office "The Office" (4:30) Speak (L) (N)	The Office "The Office" (4:30) Speak (L) (N)	The Office "The Office" (4:30) Speak (L) (N)	The Office "The Office" (4:30) Speak (L) (N)	The Office "The Office" (4:30) Speak (L) (N)	The Office "The Office" (4:30) Speak (L) (N)	The Office "The Office" (4:30) Speak (L) (N)	The Office "The Office" (4:30) Speak (L) (N)	The Office "The Office" (4:30) Speak (L) (N)	The Office "The Office" (4:30) Speak (L) (N)	The Office "The Office" (4:30) Speak (L) (N)	The Office "The Office" (4:30) Speak (L) (N)	The Office "The Office" (4:30) Speak (L) (N)	
WGN	48	64	150	219	Rush Hour (L) (N)	Rush Hour (L) (N)	Rush Hour (L) (N)	Rush Hour (L) (N)	Rush Hour (L) (N)	Rush Hour (L) (N)	Rush Hour (L) (N)	Rush Hour (L) (N)	Rush Hour (L) (N)	Rush Hour (L) (N)	Rush Hour (L) (N)	Rush Hour (L) (N)	Rush Hour (L) (N)	Rush Hour (L) (N)	Rush Hour (L) (N)	Rush Hour (L) (N)	
FSN	53	307			Law CI "Bombshell"	Law CI "Endgame"	Law CI "Endgame"	Law CI "Endgame"	Law CI "Endgame"	Law CI "Endgame"	Law CI "Endgame"	Law CI "Endgame"	Law CI "Endgame"	Law CI "Endgame"	Law CI "Endgame"	Law CI "Endgame"	Law CI "Endgame"	Law CI "Endgame"	Law CI "Endgame"	Law CI "Endgame"	Law CI "Endgame"
WEE	57	128	260		Beat Bobby Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby Beat Bobby
FOOD	59	152	110	231	Million Dollar LA	Million Dollar LA	Million Dollar LA	Million Dollar LA	Million Dollar LA	Million Dollar LA	Million Dollar LA	Million Dollar LA	Million Dollar LA	Million Dollar LA	Million Dollar LA	Million Dollar LA	Million Dollar LA	Million Dollar LA	Million Dollar LA	Million Dollar LA	Million Dollar LA
BRAVO	60	140	129	237	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House
NICK	68	170	299																		



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

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2-9

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# February

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### EMPLOYMENT

#### Help Wanted

**THE CITY OF Bluffton** has an opening for 911 Emergency Services Dispatcher. Applicants must show proof of a high school diploma/GED and may be asked to work flexible shifts. Applications and a job description may be obtained in the Clerk Treasurer's Office, 128 E. Market St. between 8 am and 4:30 pm Mon-Fri or at [www.blufftonindiana.net](http://www.blufftonindiana.net). The written skill test will be every other Wednesday at 6:00 pm at the Bluffton Police Department, 204 E. Market St, Bluffton, IN.

**BLUFFTON PARKS DEPARTMENT** is taking applications for Pool Personnel and Lifeguards, Park Maintenance and Summer Recreation. Applicant must be 15 by May 1st, 2023. Applications can be picked up at the Clerk-Treasurer's Office or online at: [www.blufftonindiana.net](http://www.blufftonindiana.net) Applications are due by 4:30 P.M. on February 22.

**THE CITY OF Bluffton** is accepting applications for a Water Treatment Operator. High school diploma or equivalent required. The City utilizes E-Verify and follows EEOC guidelines. Applications may be obtained from the Clerk Treasurer's Office, 128 East Market Street, Bluffton, IN between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday or on our website [www.blufftonindiana.net](http://www.blufftonindiana.net).

### Lottery Numbers

**Wednesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY**  
 Cash 5 — 01-11-21-22-28

**Lotto Plus** — 09-11-22-24-30-45

**Cash4Life** — 01-05-07-30-36, Cash Ball: 04

**Quick Draw Midday** — 04-12-13-14-20-21-22-24-26-31-33-34-35-37-39-55-60-70-72-73, BE: 72

**Daily Three-Midday** — 01-03-02, SB: 09

**Daily Three-Evening** — 03-07-08, SB: 09

**Daily Four-Midday** — 03-01-07-00, SB: 09

**Daily Four-Evening** — 09-09-00-03, SB: 09

**Quick Draw Evening** — 02-08-10-17-25-30-32-33-35-36-42-45-49-52-59-65-66-76-78-80, BE: 76

**Hoosier Lotto** — 09-18-21-26-29-30

**MEGA MILLIONS**  
 Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$50 million

**POWERBALL**  
 52-58-59-64-66 Powerball: 09; Power Play: 2X

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**SOUTHERN WELLS COMMUNITY Schools** are seeking a full time second shift custodian. Contract Ryan King at [king@swraiders.com](mailto:king@swraiders.com) or 765-728-5537

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**HELOISE HINT:** When you first start a new job. Read all of the manuals and materials they give you about the company's policies or regulations. You never know if a situation arises where you'll need to refer back to them. Fax Heloise @ 210-HELOISE (435-6473).

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## Public Sale Calendar

**FEBRUARY 13 - 10 a.m. - Jim & Rosie Hill, sellers.** 3282 N 300 W, Decatur. Machine & farm equipment. JD tractors, loader, 3010 gas NF restored, combine, 6 row corn head complete rebuild, hydroflex 20 ft. grain table, planters, rotary mower, field cultivator, Unverferth rolling basket w/harrow, grain wagons, 6 row IH cultivator, 15 ft. M&W rotary hoe, 3 pt Emco 8 ft. blade, 8" PTO grain auger, 21 ft. diameter 6 ring grain bin w/dryer, misc. *Heartland Auction & Realty, Inc.*, [heartlandauctionrealty.com](http://heartlandauctionrealty.com), 260-724-3499.

**BIDDING NOW OPEN AND CLOSES FEBRUARY 19 STARTING AT 2 P.M. EST - Michael Kolter, estate-owner.** Large collection of Currier & Ives, and framed prints, 100+ pieces of ornate antique/vintage furniture, mantels, marble floor lamps, oak flying cabinets, dressers, secretary cabinets, buffets, wash stands, marble top tables & more! Preview Feb. 16, 3-5 p.m. or by appointment, 815 Adams Street, Decatur. Pick up Feb. 20, 1-5 p.m., Feb. 21, 9 a.m.-noon. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, [kjauction.com](http://kjauction.com), 260-724-7402.

**BIDDING NOW OPEN AND STARTS CLOSING FEBRUARY 26 STARTING AT 2 P.M. EST - Michael Kolter, estate-owner.** Lifetime collector online only auction! 1,000+ lots antique/vintage items including 500+/- bottle collection, cast iron banks, post card collec-

tion, Decatur, IN memorabilia, tools & 100's of wood planes, various sizes, & much, much more! Preview Feb. 16, 3-5 p.m. or by appointment, 815 Adams Street, Decatur. Pickup Feb. 27, 1-5 p.m. & Feb. 28, 9 a.m.-noon. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, [kjauction.com](http://kjauction.com), 260-724-7402.

**FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 5 - (Online Only Auction) - Richard Martarano, seller.** 2008 Gulf Stream SuperNova 6400 RV, 2019 Ford diesel F-250SD Lariat Black Widow Edition, 1994 John Deere 750 diesel compact tractor, 3-PT equipment, Artic Cat 500 ATV, "Harley Davidson" tool chest, name brand power & hand tools, riding lawn mowers, electric go kart, new heavy duty pool pumps and supplies. Preview: Feb. 23 and March 2 from 3 p.m.-6 p.m., 102 S. Jefferson St., Ossian. Pat Carter, sale manager, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006.

### SUDOKU ANSWER

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



# Wells Court Docket

(Continued from Page 3)

is a slang term for a small wooden box which contains a small amount of marijuana and a device with which to smoke it.

During a search of the van, law enforcement officers reportedly found the dugout and a vaping pen.

West admitted to having smoked marijuana approximately eight hours earlier.

Mary Jane Whited, 36, Fort Wayne, pleaded guilty to possession of a narcotic drug, a Level 6 felony and she admitted to being an habitual offender.

Sentenced to 2,190 days in prison with 1,460 days to serve and the remaining 730 days suspended.

Ordered to submit a DNA sample, pay a \$200 Countermeasures fee, court costs and probation fees.

As part of a plea agreement, one count of possession of drug paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor, was dismissed. In a separate case, charges of operating a motor vehicle after having been found to be an habitual traffic offender, a Level 6 felony; operating a motor vehicle without insurance, a Class A infraction; and disregarding a traffic control device, a Class C infraction, were all dismissed.

While being booked into the Wells County Jail on another offense Oct. 12,

2022, Whited was searched by a confinement officer who reportedly found in Whited's possession a cut red straw with a white residue on one end of the straw.

Whited allegedly admitted to a sheriff's department detective that she used heroin but the powdery substance on the end of the straw reportedly tested positive for fentanyl.

Joey W. Bates, 47, Huntington, pleaded guilty to operating a vehicle with an alcohol concentration equivalency of .08 percent or more with a prior conviction for the same offense, a Level 6 felony; resisting law enforcement by using a vehicle, a Level 6 felony, and admitted to being an habitual vehicular substance abuse offender.

Sentenced to 2,007 days in prison, with 1,275 days to be executed and 772 days suspended. Placed on probation for 732 days.

Ordered to report to a substance abuse program, pay all costs associated with his blood test, a \$200 Countermeasures fee, court costs and probation fees.

As part of a plea agreement, charges of operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person with a prior conviction for the same offense, a Level 6 felony; operating a motor vehi-

cle after having been found to be an habitual traffic offender, a Level 6 felony; speeding, a Class C infraction; disregarding a stop sign, a Class C infraction; and driving left of center, a Class C infraction, were all dismissed.

On May 29, 2020, a Warren police officer reported that he spotted a pickup truck dragging something behind it driving east on Huntington County Road 1000S entering Wells County.

On Wells County Road 400S, a deputy spotted the pickup truck and attempted to initiate a traffic stop. However, the vehicle reportedly turned around and started driving toward the deputy. The deputy attempted to tell the driver that he was dragging chains behind his pickup truck.

The driver, later identified as Bates, reportedly ignored the officer and started driving away south on 200W. The deputy found the activity suspicious and started following it. At that point, the pickup truck allegedly started exceeding 65 mph. The deputy noted that the lights on the pickup truck continuously turned off and on.

The pickup truck reportedly crossed 500S without stopping for a stop sign. As it approached Ind. 218, the pickup truck reportedly

swerved off the road and into a muddy soybean field where it became mired in the mud.

Both Bates and his passenger were ordered out of the pickup truck.

A certified breath test showed Bates' alcohol concentration equivalency to be .151 percent, or nearly twice Indiana's legal limit for intoxication of .08 percent.

Bates had prior convictions in Allen County for operating a vehicle while intoxicated — Dec. 22, 2014 — and operating a vehicle after having been found to be an habitual traffic violator — Jan. 26, 2016.

One count of failure of a sex offender to possess identification, a Level 6 felony, was dismissed for Tyler Michael Anthony Boyd, 27, Bluffton,

Preliminary plea of not guilty entered for Joe A. Edwards, 20, Fort Wayne, charged with possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor; operating a vehicle with a Schedule I or II controlled substance or its metabolite in his body, a Class C misdemeanor; no or improper headlights, a Class C infraction; and speeding, a Class C infraction.

While patrolling westbound on Wabash Street from Oak Street Feb. 3, a Bluffton police officer

charged a gray 2018 Dodge Charger at 41 mph-30 zone and also observed it had a headlight out. The officer pulled the vehicle over in the parking lot of Airplane Express and Service, 407 N. Main St.

The officer observed in his report to the court that there was a heavy odor of cologne emitting from the interior of the vehicle — and also a faint odor of marijuana, which the officer believed the cologne was intended to mask.

The officer asked Edwards about the marijuana odor and allegedly Edwards at first denied there was any marijuana in the vehicle. When the officer advised he could smell it and it was best if he just turned it over now rather than have the vehicle searched, Edwards reportedly handed the officer a small plastic bag of marijuana.

The officer and a second officer then searched the vehicle and allegedly discovered evidence of marijuana usage in the form of an empty glass Mason jar with marijuana crumbs inside and an empty package labeled for a cannabis product.

Edwards reportedly admitted to having smoke marijuana about four hours earlier before going to work at Inteva.

Preliminary plea of not guilty entered for Merissa L. Hodle, 26, Fort Wayne, charged with possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor; operating a vehicle with a Schedule I or II controlled substance or its metabolite in his body, a Class C misdemeanor; and no or improper headlights, a Class C infraction. Larry Mock appointed public defender.

On Feb. 5, a sheriff's deputy patrolling south on Ind. 1 near 700N spotted a northbound 2005 Hyundai with a headlight out and pulled it over.

While speaking with the driver, identified as Hodle, the deputy observed there was a strong odor of marijuana emanating from the interior of the Hyundai. The deputy asked Hodle about the odor and she allegedly admitted to having smoked marijuana inside the Hyundai about 45 minutes earlier.

Hodle also allegedly told the deputy there were "roaches" inside the ash tray of the vehicle. A roach is a slang term for a burned marijuana cigarette. The deputy allegedly located five or six "roaches" in the ashtray. The deputy also allegedly found a small plastic bag containing a green leafy substance with the odor and appearance of marijuana in Hodle's purse.

## MH17 inquiry: 'Strong indications' Putin OK'd missile supply

By MIKE CORDER  
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — An international team of investigators said Wednesday it found "strong indications" that Russian President Vladimir Putin approved the supply of heavy anti-aircraft weapons to Ukrainian separatists who shot down Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 in 2014 with a Russian missile.

However, members of the Joint Investigation Team said they had insufficient evidence to prosecute Putin or any other suspects and they suspended their 8½-year inquiry into the shooting down that killed all 298 people on board the Boeing 777 flying from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur.

Russia has always denied any involvement in the downing of the flight over eastern Ukraine on July 17,

2014, and refused to cooperate with the international investigation.

Dutch prosecutors said that "there are strong indications that the Russian president decided on supplying" a Buk missile system — the weapon that downed MH17 — to Ukrainian separatists.

"Although we speak of strong indications, the high bar of complete and conclusive evidence is not reached," Dutch prosecutor Digna van Boetzelaer said, adding that without Russian cooperation, "the investigation has now reached its limit. All leads have been exhausted."

She also said that, as head of state, Putin would have immunity from prosecution in the Netherlands. The team played a recording of an intercepted phone call in which they said Putin could be heard discussing the con-

flict in eastern Ukraine.

"Are we disappointed? No, because we think we came further than we had ever thought in 2014. Would we have liked to come further? Of course, yes," said Andy Kraag of the Dutch police.

The team informed relatives of those killed in the downing of MH17 of their findings before making them public.

"There was disappointment because ... they wanted to know why MH17 was shot down," Kraag said.

Van Boetzelaer said that while the investigation is being suspended, phone lines will remain open for possible witnesses who may still want to provide evidence. If that happens, the inquiry could be reactivated.

Russian officials say that a decision to provide rebels with military support over

the summer of 2014 was in Putin's hands.

A decision to supply arms was even postponed for a week "because there is only one who makes a decision (...), the person who is currently at a summit in France," the investigative team said, citing a phone conversation that was referring to Putin.

Prosecutors said that at the time Putin was at a commemoration of D-Day in France.

The announcement by the investigative team comes nearly three months after a Dutch court convicted two Russians and a Ukrainian rebel for their roles in shooting down the plane. One Russian was acquitted by the court.

None of the suspects appeared for the trial and it was unclear if the three who were found guilty of mul-

tipl murders will ever serve their sentences.

The convictions and the court's finding that the surface-to-air Buk missile came from a Russian military base were seen as a clear indication that Moscow had a role in the tragedy. Russia has always denied involvement. The Russian Foreign Ministry accused the court in November of bowing to pressure from Dutch politicians, prosecutors and the news media.

But the November convictions held that Moscow was in overall control in 2014 over the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic, the separatist area of eastern Ukraine where the missile was launched. The Buk missile system came from the Russian military's 53rd Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade, based in the city of Kursk.

The Joint Investigation Team is made up of experts from the Netherlands, Australia, Malaysia, Belgium and Ukraine. Most of the victims were Dutch. It had continued to investigate the crew of the missile system that brought down the plane and those who ordered its deployment in Ukraine.

As well as the criminal trial that was held in the Netherlands, the Dutch and Ukrainian governments are suing Russia at the European Court of Human Rights over its alleged role in the downing of MH17.

The findings revealed Wednesday will likely strengthen the case at the human rights court and could also be used by prosecutors at the International Criminal Court who are investigating possible war crimes in Ukraine dating to the start of the separatist conflict.

## Residents can return after air deemed safe from derailment

EAST PALESTINE, Ohio (AP) — Evacuated residents can return to the Ohio village where crews burned toxic chemicals after a train derailed five days ago near the Pennsylvania state line now that monitors show no dangerous levels in the air, authorities said Wednesday.

Around-the-clock testing inside and outside the evacuation zone around the village of East Palestine and a sliver of Pennsylvania showed the air had returned to normal levels that would

have been seen before the derailment, said James Justice of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"Hundreds and hundreds of data points we've collected over the time show the air quality is safe," he said.

Residents were ordered to evacuate when authorities decided on Monday to release and burn five tankers filled with vinyl chloride, sending hydrogen chloride and the toxic gas phosgene into the air.

Monitors did detect toxins in the air during the

controlled burn at the derailment site, but other samples outside that area did not, Justice said.

The village's mayor expressed relief that the evacuation had been lifted.

"We know everybody's frustrated. Everybody wants to be in their homes. We did the best we can," said Mayor Trent Conaway. "The number one goal is public safety, and we accomplished that. Nobody was injured, nobody died."

He credited the village's part-time firefighters and

their quick response to the derailment for saving the town.

Some residents had said they were worried about returning even if authorities say it's OK to go home despite reassurances from officials.

It's unlikely though, Justice said, that there be would any dangerous levels of toxins inside any homes or businesses based on readings from air monitors around the community.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine said some residents

may want to wait until their homes are checked. Rail operator Norfolk Southern Railway said it would provide testing and continue to operate its family assistance center "for the foreseeable future."

"It's very understandable you may want that testing done before you go back in your house," DeWine said.

The governor said the railroad will have to pay for the cleanup and make sure something like this doesn't happen again. "The burden is upon them is to assure

the public that what they do everyday is safe," DeWine said.

Testing on rivers, streams and drinking water wells will continue throughout the area and in the nearby Ohio River.

Kurt Kollar, a representative from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, said contaminants from the derailed tanker cars spilled into some waterways and were toxic to fish, but he added that data so far indicates the drinking water was protected.

## California proposal would reinstate prisoners' voting rights

By STEFANIE DAZIO  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — California voters could decide whether to reinstate voting rights to people in prison on felony convictions under a newly proposed constitutional amendment.

It would be a major expansion of suffrage for incarcerated people if passed. California would join Maine and Vermont, as well as the District of Columbia, as the only states where felons never lose their right to vote, even while they are in prison, according

to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

The California bill, introduced Monday by Assembly Member Isaac Bryan, proposes an amendment to the state constitution. Bryan's proposal doesn't include any exemptions based on the crime committed. After decades of disenfranchisement, he said it's time to open up voting for everyone.

"I think we're having a deep discussion on what it means to have voting as a right for every citizen," Bryan said Wednesday.

Two-thirds of each cham-

ber of the state legislature must vote yes for the bill just for it to appear on the ballot as a proposition. Voters must then approve it by a simple majority for it to become a constitutional amendment.

California is currently among 21 states where felons only lose their right to vote while they are incarcerated, the conference says. The right is automatically reinstated upon release.

Some states' laws require probation and parole to be completed for the restoration of voting rights. In other states, people incarcer-

ated on certain crimes lose their rights indefinitely after release.

The California Constitution currently disqualifies people who are incarcerated in state or federal prison from voting and restores the right upon their release. The law previously required felons to complete their parole period before getting back their right to vote; Californians approved the change to get rid of that requirement in a 2020 constitutional amendment.

David Cruz, an organizer with nonprofit Initiate

Justice who was released in September after 13 years in state prison, said he wanted to have his voice heard while he was incarcerated.

"Despite what many peo-

ple assume, people in prison care about the same political issues that we outside do," he said Wednesday during a news conference supporting the legislation.

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