

# The News - Banner

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TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2023 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00

## Meeks will serve as Miss Wells County

**By HOLLY GASKILL**  
Grace Meeks stepped forward in shock and awe as she was announced as the next Miss Wells County.

"This means so much to me," Meeks said after being crowned. "I'm so excited to represent our county in this way."

Meeks was crowned alongside the new Miss Teen Wells County, Samantha Evans. The two succeed in the roles of 2022 Miss Wells County Emmy Cupp and 2021 Miss Wells County Macy Richmond.

The daughter of David and Jennifer Meeks, Grace Meeks graduated from Southern Wells High School earlier this year and will attend Ball State's Honor College this fall. She plans to study exercise science with the intention of pursuing a graduate degree in occupational therapy. This passion was also the focus of her pageant speech.

"I knew I wanted to impact people's lives," Evans started. "(With this degree), I would not only be able to impact people's lives but hopefully be able to improve their lives as well."

Evans, the daughter of Andy and Angie Evans, is entering her sophomore year

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Left, Grace Meeks steps forward as she is announced as the 2023 Miss Wells County. Behind her, contestants Alyssa Toland and Sarah Bueter celebrate with her. Above, Samantha Evans waves to the crowd as the new Miss Teen Wells County. Evans was also named Miss Congeniality for her division. Above, Emmy Cupp, 2021 Miss Wells County, hugs Samantha Evans after crowning her 2022 Miss Teen Wells County. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)

## BHMSD discusses several school construction projects

**By SYDNEY KENT and HOLLY GASKILL**  
Bluffton-Harrison School District held a public hearing on Monday evening to finance several much needed school construction projects with the least impact to taxpayers.

Namely, the project will address building issues for Bluffton High School. The district plans to replace the roof and windows, renovate the exterior walls and canopies, and improve the HVAC

system.

These projects, Superintendent Brad Yates expressed, are necessary for the maintenance of the school. The high school has routinely encountered issues with roof leaks and issues with moisture, primarily affecting the gymnasium and commons. Yates stated that construction dates would be determined by the bid process in order to cause the fewest intrusions with the school's operations.

The district approved a motion

to partner with Elevatus Architecture of Fort Wayne to guide the design and bid process, contingent on approval of funds for the project. Jim Elizondo, with Stifel Public Finance, gave the first of two presentations explaining how the proposed project would be financed and the effect on taxpayers.

The bond will bring the district's debt service rate to 0.4679 percent, the same rate taxpayers received in 2022. Because of

expiring debt, this creates a net zero impact to taxpayers.

The specific costs for these projects were estimated as follows: \$4,715,154, for the roof replacement; \$1,375,000 for wall improvements without panels; \$2,785,180 for wall improvements with panels; \$575,000 for window replacement; \$192,000 for canopy replacement; \$2,020,000 for chiller and cold water pump replacement; and \$1,230,000 for boiler plant and hot water pump replace-

ment.

Austin Papenbrock from Garland Company of Cleveland presented the results of a study which allowed the district to identify the areas where moisture is currently trapped.

"Out of over 160,000 square feet of roof, only around 2,000 square feet was identified," Papenbrock said. "By identifying the wet, we can replace the wet, and reuse the existing insulation to"

(Continued on Page 2)

## 4 slain in Georgia mass shooting memorialized as neighbors gather for vigil

**By KATE BRUMBACK and JEFF AMY**  
**Associated Press**  
HAMPTON, Ga. (AP) — A few hundred people gathered Monday for a vigil to remember four victims of a mass shooting in an Atlanta suburb, singing "This Little Light of Mine" at the end as they lit candles in their honor.

Family members, friends and neighbors were still shaking off disbelief at the 10-minute span Saturday when Scott Leavitt, 67; his wife, Shirley Leavitt, 66; Steve Blizzard, 65; and Ronald Jeffers, 66, were shot and killed. Police and witnesses named 40-year-old Andre Longmore as the shooter.

"My parents loved each other," Scott Leavitt Jr. said after the vigil, a tear running down his cheek. "They always said neither one of them would be able to live without the other, so we've been able to find some comfort that they went together."

Harold Blizzard said his older brother, Steve, was a lover of photography and adventure. The two had planned a trip along Route 66 in early July, but when Harold had to cancel to allow an amputated finger to heal, Steve told him they'd do it another

time.

"It's the biggest regret of my life," Harold Blizzard said after the vigil.

The killings set off a massive search that ended Sunday with Longmore dead in a shootout in another suburb about 15 miles (25 kilometers) north. The exchange of gunfire wounded a sheriff's deputy and two police officers, who are all recovering.

Residents of the bucolic Dogwood Lakes subdivision, where about 40 houses with tidy yards flank a lake on two streets, were surprised that gun violence had come to their peaceful neighborhood about 25 miles south of Atlanta. Hampton had not previously recorded a homicide since 2018.

"I'm not going to say it makes me uneasy, but it does drive home that this kind of thing could happen anywhere," said Kevin Pugh, who lives next door to the house where the Leavitts lived for a few years with their adult daughter and her children. "Up until Saturday, the most ruckus we had was the Canadian geese."

Erin Leavitt, in a Facebook post, remembered her aunt and uncle, Scott and Shirley, as "fun loving and caring souls, my aunt"

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## Children lost in flooding as U.S. endures extreme weather across the nation

**By MARYCLAIRE DALE**  
**Associated Press**  
WASHINGTON CROSSING, Pa. (AP) — Pennsylvania authorities drew on 100 people, drones and cadaver dogs Monday in their search for two missing children whose family's car was swept away in flash flooding that ravaged the East Coast over the weekend. Other parts of the country endured threateningly high temperatures and severe air pollution from Canadian wildfires.

In eastern Pennsylvania, authorities described Monday's search for missing Matilda Sheils, 2, and her 9-month-old brother Conrad Sheils as a "massive undertaking" along a creek that drains into the Delaware River. The children are members of a Charleston, South Carolina, family that was visiting relatives and friends when they got caught in a flash flood Saturday.

The children's father, Jim Sheils, grabbed their 4-year-old son, while

the children's mother, Katie Seley, and a grandmother grabbed the other children, said Upper Makefield Township Fire Chief Tim Brewer. Sheils and his son made it to safety, but Seley and the grandmother were swept away.

The grandmother survived, but Seley, 32, was among five killed by the floods.

"A wall of water came to them; they did not go into the water," Brewer said of the Sheils family.

Scott Ellis, an uncle to the missing children, described the family as "utterly devastated."

Monsignor Michael Picard of St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church, where family members are parishioners, said he spoke with the grandparents Sunday.

"No matter how long I've been doing this — over and over and over, many, many years — you find yourself still helpless and without words to"

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**Outside**

Today is a good day to break out your sunscreen

Today	Wed.	Thursday
High 80	High 83	High 85
Low 62	Low 65	Low 63

More Weather on Page 2

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Vol. 94 No. 218  
**TUESDAY**  
July 18, 2023

**The LiGHT membership awarded \$15,981 in grants for 2022**

LiGHT is a women's giving program sponsored by the Wells County Foundation. Each year, donors who contribute a minimum of \$25 have an opportunity to vote for grants to agencies that serve women and children.

"As we work to create light for others, we naturally light our own way."  
Mary Anne Radmacher

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# Miss Wells County

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at Norwell High School. Following graduation, she plans to pursue a degree in the medical field. Evans was also named Miss Congeniality for the teen competition.

"I'm so excited for this co-leadership opportunity in the community," Evans said. "I feel honored to serve as Miss Teen Wells County."

As their last official event in their reign, Cupp and Richmond also gave parting words and advice. Both women beamed with pride and excitement but expressed tearfulness and emotion.

"Whatever you do with this (role), take it as joy," Richmond said. "And don't take any moment for granted."

"It's a true joy to get to stand up here," Cupp said. "I am just so grateful for this and being able to be here in front of you all tonight ... It just means the world to me, so I thank you."

As they left the stage for the last time in their roles, they ran to hug each contestant.

There were six contestants in the Miss pageant — Meeks, Karlie Brown, Sarah Bueter, Reghan Neuen-schwander, Alyssa Toland and Karlie Beck. There were also seven in the teen pageant — Evans, Mackenzie Fuess, Sy'Annha Jordan-Turner, Reghan Plunkett, Cruz Rinkenberger, Kierstynn Reed and Sydney Soars.

In the Miss competition, Brown was named the first runner-up, Toland was second runner-up and Bueter was the third runner-up. Bueter was also named Miss Congeniality.

Among the teens, Fuess was named the first runner-up and Beck was the second runner-up. Plunkett, also in the teen division, received the People's Choice award.

Contestants were graded on their presentation, poise and personality across the evening's events, which included fashion presentations, private interviews and speeches. The interview accounts for 45 percent of grading, professional wear 20 percent, formal wear 20 percent, and speech 15 percent. The teen competitors were exempt from the speech portion of the contest.

The winners and their runners-up will receive scholarships sponsored by local businesses.

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Pictured are the placing contestants for the Miss Teen Wells Pageant — People's Choice Reghan Plunkett, second runner-up Karlie Beck, first runner-up Makenzie Fuess and Miss Teen Wells County Samantha Evans. Evans also won Miss Congeniality. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)



Above, pictured left to right are the placing contestants for the Miss Wells Pageant — first runner-up Karlie Brown, Miss Wells County Grace Meeks, second runner-up Alyssa Toland, and third runner-up and Miss Congeniality Sarah Bueter.



At left, Grace Meeks and Samantha Evans were crowned 2023 Miss Wells County and Miss Teen Wells County, respectively.

# BHMSD construction projects

(Continued from Page 1)

save a lot of money for the community."

Papenbrock presented multiple roofing options that could potentially last from 30 to 40 years.

"We want a cost effective system that is a long term solution as well," Yates said.

Representing Elevatus Architecture, Emily Hower was present to answer questions about the design. Hower stated the firm has partnered with a Fort Wayne business to create a 3D model of the building, allowing the district to test design ideas and identify potential issues before any work is done.

The board will meet at 6 p.m. on July 31 for the second public hearing on this matter.

All board members were present for the hearing.

Other updates included:

- The BHS' HVAC energy saving project is expected to finish by the beginning of August. Meanwhile, the middle school's roof replacement will be completed by the end of August, and improvements to the parking lot and tennis court are estimated to finish by Aug. 1.

- Policy GEB was approved by the board, providing regulation for the contracting of adjunct teachers. The Indiana School Boards Association recommended the adoption of the policy following the authorization of adjunct teachers through the Indiana General Assembly. Similarly, the board repealed Policy JKA regarding denial of work permits following new legislation.

- Steve Tabor was re-appointed to the library board following the end of his term in August.

- The board accepted two resignations: BHS intense intervention instructional assistant Rita Ebbinghouse and Bluffton-Harrison Elementary School special education instructional assistant Dominique Simpson.

- The following employment recommendations were approved for the upcoming school year: Caylee Pyle as alternative school teacher;

Amy Foreman-Habegger as BHES art teacher; Elliot Jimenez as BHMS personal finance teacher; Kristi Searles as fifth grade writing teacher; Alyssa Moser as BHES high ability coordinator; Clarissa Tijerina as BHMS high ability coordinator; Tara Cocanower as BHS high ability coordinator; Zella Walborn as dyslexia specialist; Kole Meyer as testing coordinator and student information specialist; Diana Arzola as BHMS custodian; Craig Teagle as BHS weights teacher; Lindsey Leonhard as Area 18 Career Coach; Donna Huss-Contino as substitute nurse; Olivia Schreiber as childcare employee; and Vicki Van Matre, Adam King, Erin Mounsey, and Brittany Kloer as mentors. Summer employment recommendations were: Meyer as summer camp/summer school administrator; Margaret Brooks as summer school substitute teacher; Mary Nolan as summer childcare driver; John Houlihan, Nicole Beer, and Heather Strunk as summer school drivers; Roger Hodle as summer school special education bus assistant; Jerry Baller, Rachel Kinsey, and Mary Nolan as summer activity drivers; and Robert Flynn as special purpose bus drivers.

- The board also announced their intent to employ a sixth grade language arts teacher, two middle school intense intervention instructional assistants, two elementary school mild intervention, 1 elementary school intense intervention instructional assistants, a high school intense intervention instructional assistant, and a bus driver.

- The following coaching recommendations were approved: Teagle as BHS basketball head coach and summer basketball coach; Ben Powers as BHS softball coach with Matt Moore as assistant coach; Abby Clines as BHS volleyball assistant coach with Ashlee Xayyachack and Erin Kreigh as assistant coaches; Megan Dettmer as BHMS volleyball coach; Bob Dahl as BHMS cross country assistant coach; and Jonathan Morgan as eSports head coach with Tyson Brooks and Kurt Smith as assistant coaches.

- The follow transfers were approved: Doug Curtis from teaching middle school personal finance to high school health; Krista Bazter from teaching 6th grade language arts to 8th grade PCC; Chris Kruckow from teaching part-time electrical pathways to full-time advanced manufacturing; Clarissa Tijerina from teaching fifth grade writing to sixth grade writing; and Jessica Clark from BHES middle intervention instructional assistant to BHES intense intervention instructional assistant and childcare supervisor.

- The district will be the host for Bluffton NOW! Parlor City Market on Saturday, July 29. Representatives from BHMSD will be at the market and Grace Sommerfeld, BHMSD Elementary Music Teacher, will be in attendance with her summer camp bucket drummers for a performance on the plaza.

- Assistant Superintendent Julie Meitzler gave the board updates on upcoming programming and education pathways.

- Elementary school principal Schlaura Linderwell announced that the school hopes to be finished with the first pre-kindergarten experiential classroom, a farm experience, by August 3.

- The Our Town Safety Village project received only one bid, which exceeded grant funding. The district is working with vendors to rescope the project, either by downsizing or adding funds.

- Yates presented graphics, available on the school website, displaying changes to the transportation system in the elementary, middle and high schools in an effort to improve the flow of transportation and restrict cross traffic.

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# Weather

Tuesday, July 18, 2023

(24-hour observations at 10:25 p.m. Monday)

High: 77; Low: 64; Precipitation: Trace of rain

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.31 feet at 8:45 p.m. Monday

## Wells County forecast

**Today:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 80. Calm wind becoming west around 5 mph in the afternoon.

**Tonight:** A 20 percent chance of showers after 2 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 62. Northwest wind around 5 mph becoming northeast after midnight.

**Wednesday:** A slight chance of showers, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 83. Southeast wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

**Wednesday Night:** A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 2 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 65. South wind around 5 mph.

**Thursday:** A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 8 a.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 85.

**Thursday Night:** A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 8 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 63.

**Friday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 79.

**Friday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 58.

**Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 80.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 58.

# Georgia shooting

(Continued from Page 1)

possibly one of the sweetest and kindest souls a person could meet."

They both grew up in Massachusetts and moved years ago to Georgia, where they shared their home with their daughter Jessica and granddaughters, Erin Leavitt wrote. The couple also has two other surviving children, she wrote.

"Jessica and her young girls were also home at the time of the attack, however, my aunt was able to alert her and she and the girls survived," she said. "Sadly, my aunt did not."

Jeffers was described as a pillar of his church. Sherry Wyatt, who works at Hampton's recreation center near Jeffers' home, said Sunday that Jeffers would regularly sing at the senior center that shares the building.

A few months ago she told Jeffers how beautiful his voice was.

"I'm just so glad I told him he sang like an angel," Wyatt said. "I know he is in heaven now singing."

Tom Hannegan and his husband, Donald Smith, live two doors down from the house where Blizzard had lived since the subdivision was built in the 1990s. The only crime they ever remember hearing about was a rash of car break-ins about five years ago.

Hannegan, now president of the homeowners association, said Blizzard was one of the few remaining original residents. He was vice president of the association and previously served as president.

"He was just a good guy," Hannegan said.

Blizzard was a military veteran and skilled locksmith, former coworker Randy Slake told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He lamented that Blizzard's life was cut short.

"I can just imagine that he was planning on doing something with his grandkids and being a grandpa," Slake said.

Hampton Mayor Ann Tarpley ordered flags flown at half-staff in the city of 8,000 on Monday. Officials

including the city manager and police chief assured the families during the evening vigil that their community would support them over the long haul.

The shootings brought to 31 the number of mass killings so far this year, with at least 153 people dying in them, according to a database maintained by The Associated Press and USA Today in a partnership with Northeastern University.

Longmore had needed mental help for nearly a decade, but his family and officials couldn't force him to get treatment, his mother said. Longmore had a "mental breakdown" in 2014, leading to an inpatient hospital stay, Lorna Dennis told WSB-TV on Sunday.

She said her son "kept deteriorating" but refused to seek medical attention, and that officials said they couldn't force him to seek care.

"It's hard to lose your son, and it's also hard to know your son cost the life of so many people," Dennis said.

She said Longmore was living with her in recent years and she hopes relatives of the victims will find peace with God.

"I feel so much for the families, and that's why I just want to say I'm very, very sorry. I know words cannot really comfort them from me at this time, but I know there is a comforter, and they can refer to him at any time," Dennis said.

The Army said Longmore was a sergeant, working as an automated logistical specialist from August 2000 to May 2006 overseeing supplies and equipment. He deployed to Afghanistan, served under hostile fire and was a trained parachutist, driver and mechanic.

Hannegan said Longmore attended a couple of neighborhood association meetings with his mother, but he didn't really know him. Longmore sometimes rode an electric scooter around the neighborhood or drove slowly up and down the dead-end streets.

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**OBITUARIES**

**Lawrence Philip Bush, 78**

Lawrence Philip Bush, 78, of Bluffton, passed away May 27, 2023. Larry was born Dec. 10, 1944, in Michigan.

He joined the U.S. Navy at the age of 18. After the service he was a long time truck driver, often on the road, until he retired.

Larry is preceded in death by his wife Judy.

He is survived by his stepson, Danny (April) Hartley.

He has donated his body to Indiana University for science.

There will be no funeral services at this time.



**Delores M. Scheumann, 92**

Delores M. Scheumann, 92, of Ossian, passed away Sunday, July 16, 2023, at Adams Woodcrest in Decatur.

She was born Jan. 10, 1931, in Ossian, to Herbert Franke and Martha Graft Franke. Delores was united in marriage to Henry Scheumann June 13, 1953, at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Ossian. Her husband preceded her in death Jan. 13, 1992.

She graduated from Ossian High School in 1949. She was a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Ossian, where she served as a Sunday School teacher for more than 25 years and also served as the church secretary for several years. She sang in the church choir for more than 70 years, and was a member of the Ladies Aid since the age of 26. Delores was also a member of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML), and the Concordia Theological Seminary Guild since 1998. She was a member of the Wells County Farm Bureau for many years.

Delores was employed by Lincoln National Life in Fort Wayne. She also assisted her husband with the operation of the family farm and was a bus driver for Northern Wells Schools for 22 years.

Delores loved being involved with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, always teaching and sharing her wisdom with them. She enjoyed her garden and canning all the food that it provided. She made the best oatmeal chocolate chip cookies, which her family will fondly remember. She also enjoyed reading, sewing, and quilting.

Survivors include her daughter, Pamela S. (Rev. Charles) Blakey of Reynolds, Ind.; her son, Brian (Janice) Scheumann of Ossian; a daughter-in-law, Nancy Scheumann of Wolcottville, Ind.; a sister, Beverly (Dr. William) Braun of Wauwatosa, Wis.; a sister-in-law, Marilyn Franke of Bluffton; nine grandchildren, Craig (Andrea) Blakey, John (fiancé Lindsey Hesselstine) Blakey, Angela (Andrew) Blotkamp, Kari (Jacob) Henry, Scott Scheumann, Andrea (Shay) Sliger, Nathan (Latesha) Archbold, Grant Scheumann, and Makena (fiancé Preston Graham) Scheumann; and 17 great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and her husband, Delores was preceded in death by a son, Michael Scheumann, and a brother, Delin Franke.

A funeral service for Delores will be held at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, July 22, at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Ossian with Pastor Samuel Wirgaw officiating. Burial will follow in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Ossian Cemetery.

Family and friends will be received from 2 to 5 and 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, July 21, at the church and one hour prior to the service on Saturday, also at the church.

Preferred memorials can be given to Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Ossian or Worship Anew.

The Zwick and Jahn Funeral Home of Decatur is in charge of arrangements.



**Bird Visitors from Soarin' Hawk Raptor Rehabilitation Center**



Educating the public is one of the goals of the Soarin' Hawk Raptor Rehabilitation Center and Tuesday evening they were able to tell about raptors at a program offered at the cabin during the 4-H Fair. A member of the audience was invited by Bob Walter to come demonstrate what makes a raptor a raptor—including sharp beaks, eyes, ears, a visor of the eyes, talons, wings and tail feathers. (Photos by Barb Barbieri)



Barn Owl Peabody was introduced by Kaligh Massman.



Red tail Hawk Orion was showing off his feathers as Bob Walton held him up for all to see.



At the conclusion of the program presentation by the Soarin' Hawk Raptor Rehabilitation Center folks from the audience, assembled by the cabin at the 4-H Park, were invited to be photographed with the birds. Here Jodi and Jody Holloway met the Red Tail Hawk being held by Bob Walton, at right. Other birds introduced included an American Kestrel, A Screech Owl and a Barn Owl. (Photos by Barbara Barbieri)

**Police Notebook**

**INCIDENTS**

**City:**

Friday, 4:12 p.m., 300 block of West Wabash Street. Caller requested an officer speak to homeowners regarding burning and smoke going into the callers apartment. Officers were unable to find any smoke in the area.

Friday, 6:36 p.m., 300 block of West Wiley Avenue. Caller requested an officer to document a custody issue.

Friday, 8:44 p.m., Save On Liquor South. Welfare check requested for man in car.

Saturday, 9:34 a.m., 100 block of East Silver Street. Young child repeatedly calling 911 on accident. Officers spoke to small child and parents.

Saturday, 9:54 a.m., Wells County 4-H Park. Report of black horse running like the wind.

Saturday, 3:38 p.m., Praxis. Caller requested transport to Parkview Behavioral Health.

Saturday, 5:10 p.m., South Oak and West Silver streets. Report of 2 dogs running loose in intersection. Officers were unable to locate.

Saturday, 5:51 p.m., 400 block of East Arnold Street. Report of two males walking in area, teasing callers dog.

Saturday, 8:20 p.m., Pine Grove Apartments. Caller reported someone hacking his Paypal and transferring the money to their own account.

Saturday, 8:28 p.m., Praxis.

is. Caller reported altercation that occurred between another patient.

Saturday, 11:18 p.m., 400 block of Cedar Road. Caller requested assistance securing premises. Everything was fine.

Sunday, 3:09 p.m., Capri Meadows. Caller requested welfare check for subject. Subject informed officers he wants nothing to do with the caller.

Sunday, 5:22 p.m., 1100 block of South Morgan Street. Caller reported issue with dog biting another dog.

Sunday, 5:55 p.m., Wells County 4-H Park. Caller reported male following his niece over the course of three days at the fair.

Sunday, 6:40 p.m., Budget Inn. Report of threaten-

ing. Sunday, 10:21 p.m., Capri Meadows. Report of possible smell of marijuana for approx. 15 minutes. Officers could not smell marijuana or other drugs.

Monday, 4:59 a.m., 1500 block of Bell Brook Blvd. Caller found his front door open, requested officers check and clear building. Everything was okay.

Monday, 10:24 a.m., WEG Commercial Motors. Subject made threats to vehicle of two other employees.

Monday, 11:37 a.m., Capri Meadows. Caller reported noise complaint, caller upset that dispatch instructed her to contact management. Officer drove around entire property and heard no music.

Monday, 12:42 p.m., Bargain Hut. Report of theft that occurred in the morning, video evidence will be submitted.

Monday, 1:46 p.m., 900 block of Grove Street. Caller reported a scam.

County: Friday, 3:06 p.m., east (Continued on Page 10)

**VISITATION & SERVICES**

**Peggy Sue Graft**

Calling: 3 - 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 18. Service: 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 18 at the funeral home.

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## Time to blow up Indiana's fireworks law

Watching a great fireworks display — punctuated by bright colors and trailing sparks — is a delight. But Indiana's wild west approach to fireworks is wreaking havoc and needs to be changed.

There is a middle ground between a month-long barrage of booms in tight quarters and a complete ban, and it's time for state lawmakers to find it.

Before 2006, you could buy fireworks in Indiana but had to sign a waiver saying you wouldn't set them off here. The wink-and-nod arrangement was admittedly stupid.

The Indiana General Assembly passed a bill — and Gov. Mitch Daniels signed it into law at a nearby fire station — allowing Hoosiers to set off fireworks on their own property. In addition, the state started charging a "public safety" tax on the sale of fireworks to fund \$1 million in annual firefighter training.

In 2022, that tax brought in more than \$5 million.

It was the latter point that Daniels and legislators focused on, not the carnage left by the pyrotechnics.

Local government can crack down on fireworks use most of the year. But the state law protects certain days during the year in which all Hoosiers are allowed to blast them off with no consequences:

- Between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and two (2) hours after sunset on June 29, June 30, July 1, July 2, July 3, July 5, July 6, July 7, July 8, and July 9;

- Between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 midnight on July 4; and

- Between the hours of 10:00 a.m. on December 31 and 1:00 a.m. on January 1.

You read that right, local units of government can do nothing about incessant fireworks for 11 days around the Independence Day holiday.

The fireworks lobby insists that Hoosiers must be protected in their ability to blow things up in case the weather the weekend before or after doesn't cooperate. And that leads to days on end of noise and danger.

That could be easily tweaked — and a bill in 2022 would have done that, but didn't receive a vote after being heard in committee. Police and local officials testified in support of clamping down on some of those days, and spoke of the strain fireworks put on emergency services.

"One day — not 11 days," one now-retired lawmaker said during that hearing while noting a local barn that burned down due to fireworks. "I have replaced my back screen door three times because it petrifies my dog."

But that's not the worst part of the law. It's that it doesn't protect urban dwellers at all.

You can set your neighbors' house on fire and disturb families for days on end. And police simply use the state law as an excuse to not respond to complaints, even when they are legitimate. There were numerous news reports of damage caused by fireworks in the last week, including one apartment complex fire in Indianapolis.

And what about injuries? I wish I could give you statistics, but lawmakers in 2018 decided to eliminate an annual report on fireworks injuries. At the time, the Indiana Department of Health said it's because not all health care providers were filing reports so the data wasn't comprehensive.

Fair point — but it did provide at least a minimum number of injuries and a trend line. For instance, one of the last reports found at least 238 Hoosiers were injured by fireworks between September 2016 and September 2017 — including a 1-year-old child — in the highest numbers of the past decade.

Now, I'm not saying I haven't set off fireworks from time to time. But I live on several acres of land outside city limits with a fair amount of distance between my neighbors. I didn't do it when I shared walls at my Indianapolis condo — out of both courtesy and safety concerns.

Lawmakers need to put Hoosiers before money and make common sense adjustments to the law, including limiting the number of days fireworks can be used and allowing densely populated cities to clamp down.

*Niki Kelly is the editor of the Indiana Capital Chronicle, a non-profit newsroom. nkelly@indianacapitalchronicle.com*

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, July 18, the 199th day of 2023. There are 166 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On July 18, 1969, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., left a party on Chappaquiddick Island near Martha's Vineyard with Mary Jo Kopechne, 28; Kennedy's car later went off a bridge into the water. Kennedy was able to escape, but

Kopechne drowned.

On this date:

In 1536, the English Parliament passed an act declaring the authority of the pope void in England.

In 1918, South African anti-apartheid leader and president Nelson Mandela was born.

In 1925, Adolf Hitler published the first volume of his autobiographical screed, "Mein Kampf (My Struggle)."



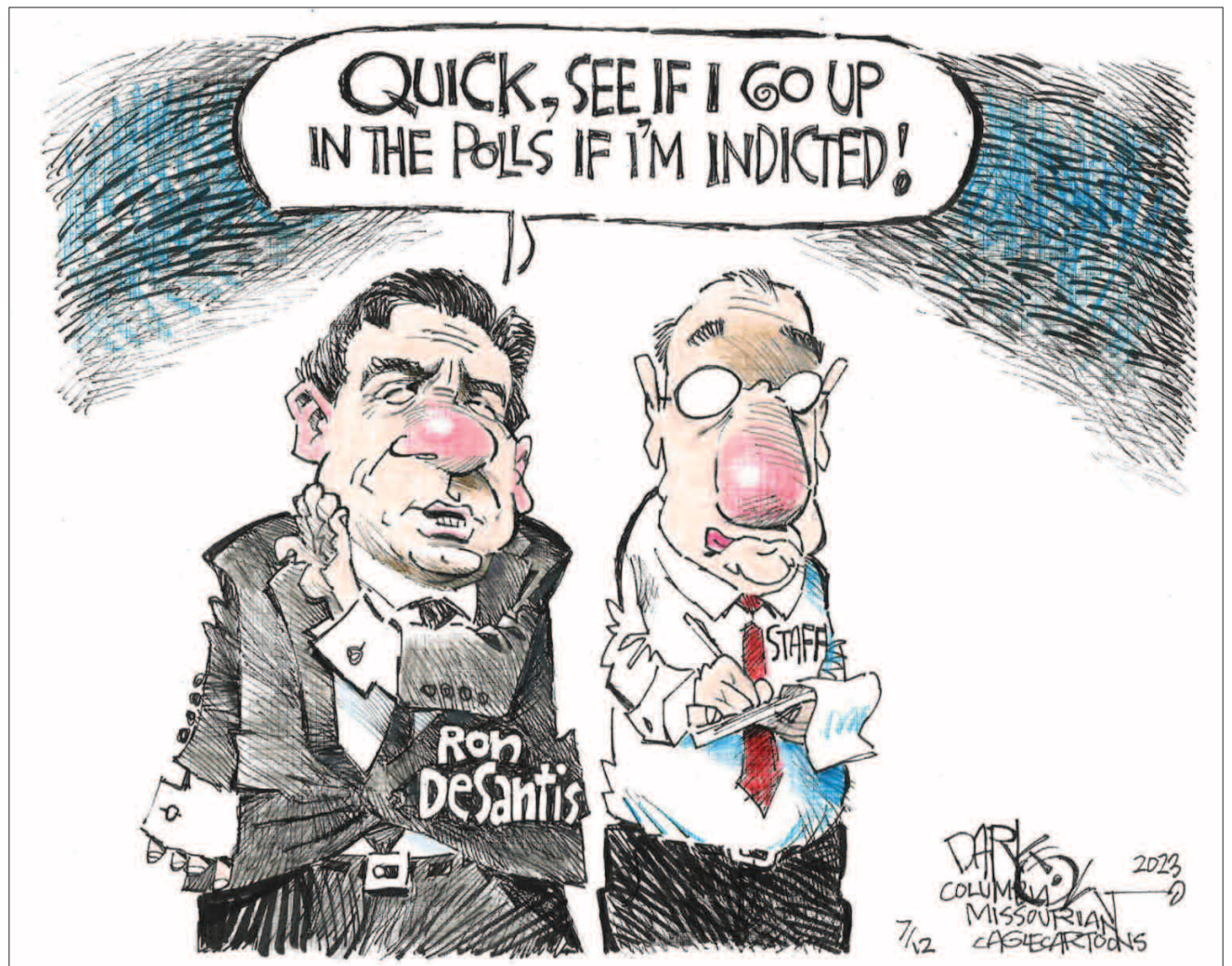
Niki Kelly

## Hoosier Opinions

How much revenue is collected from the fireworks public safety fee in recent fiscal years:

2018:	\$2,745,768
2019:	\$2,672,195
2020:	\$2,603,047
2021:	\$5,092,719
2022:	\$5,437,060

Note: The first \$2,000,000 in revenue is deposited in the Regional Public Safety Training Fund, and the remainder is split evenly between the State Disaster Relief Fund and the Regional Public Safety Training Fund.



## Neither Trump nor DeSantis will get the GOP nomination

Inevitably, there comes a rebellion against inevitability. Voters have been told that Donald Trump is the all-but-inevitable Republican nominee and that Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, operating atop a mountain of cash, will inevitably be Trump's only significant challenger.

Voters, however, become contrary when told that the game's outcome is known in the top of the first inning. Hence what G.K. Chesterton called the game of "Cheat the Prophet": People listen politely to explanations of what is inevitable, then make something else happen.

The 2024 Republican nomination question was supposed to be: Could anyone harpoon the Great Orange Whale? Who knew that he would harpoon himself, repeatedly? Or that DeSantis, playing Captain Ahab, would pay Trump the sincerest form of flattery by imitating his persona as an unhappy warrior? The nation is dispirited by the prospect of an all-too-familiar binary choice (between Joe Biden and Trump). Republicans might soon recoil from another: between Trump and DeSantis. Both candidacies are brittle.

Trump, as stale as a month-old crust of sourdough, is running to win the 2020 election. His crybaby crusade might cause even his star-spangled supporters to wonder how to square their proclaimed love of the nation with their hero's insistence that it is so saturated with corruption that his landslide win could be erased without a peep from courts. Including some with his — how sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless judge — appointees.

Trump's self-harpooning includes expressing contempt for Iowa's popular governor, Kim Reynolds, because she refuses to endorse him, even though he alone, he says, is responsible for her election. And he is too grand to appear with rival candidates at events, perhaps even the Aug. 23 debate in Milwaukee.

In the 1980 campaign, Ronald Reagan, who was not considered the inevitable GOP nominee, made only eight Iowa campaign appearances, spending a total of 49 hours in the state (according to Steven F. Hayward's "The Age of Reagan: The Fall of the Old Liberal Order, 1964-1980"). And Reagan skipped the Des Moines Register's Jan. 5 debate, which 58 percent of Iowa voters watched. Voters do not dislike inevitabilities more than they dislike politicians who seem to feel entitled to special dispensations. Reagan's post-debate support plummeted from 50 percent in November to 26 percent a week before the caucuses, which he lost to George H.W. Bush.

DeSantis, after nearly two months of intensified exposure to non-Floridians, resembles a political Edsel. That was the new car model that debuted to

... which is grim news for President Biden.

much fanfare in 1957, backed by Ford's marketing might. It expired in 1959, becoming a byword for disastrously

misreading consumers. DeSantis is running hard to be president of Iowa, or of that minority of Iowans who will vote in the January caucuses and think Trump is ideologically squishy (e.g., regarding wokeness) and insufficiently abrasive (e.g., regarding gay rights).

The Republican nomination contest is accelerating, as is Ukraine's counteroffensive, the latter underscoring the stakes of the former. During Spain's civil war, a rebel general boasted that he had four columns marching on Madrid and "a fifth column" in Madrid, meaning supporters of the army's insurgency. Vladimir Putin's fifth column is not in Kyiv but in the Trump-DeSantis faction of the Republican Party.

Putin has two hopes for a less than completely mortifying rescue from his Ukraine blunder. One is the election of Trump, whose frivolousness about national security complements his weakling's admiration for a bully. Putin's other hope is the election of DeSantis, who says (or said, before retreating when criticized) Russia's attempt to erase a European nation is a "territorial dispute." And whose pandering to Trumpkins prevents him from denouncing House Republicans who are as eager to abandon Ukraine as they would have been to abandon Czechoslovakia in 1938.

A New Hampshire student, referring to the Jan. 6, 2021, riot that followed Trump's incendiary harangue and disrupted the certifying of electoral votes, asked DeSantis last month whether Trump "violated the peaceful transfer of power." DeSantis's less-than-courageous answer: "I wasn't anywhere near Washington that day. I have nothing to do with what happened that day." Good grief. He wasn't anywhere near Gettysburg in July 1863 and had nothing to do with the moon landing in July 1969, but that does not preclude him from having thoughts about these events.

Political prophesy is optional folly, but: There are not enough Republicans, in Iowa or the nation, enamored of the snarling contest between Trump and DeSantis — their competition to see who can despise the most American defects — to nominate either of them. Which is grim news for President Biden.

— Disclosure: The columnist's wife, Mari Will, is an adviser to Republican presidential candidate Sen. Tim Scott (S.C.).

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George Will

## The Secret Service makes me nervous

Irving Berlin's last musical was a largely forgotten show called "Mr. President" (1962). One of the silly songs below his usual high standards included the lyric "The Secret Service makes me nervous."

That's how I felt after the agency, charged with protecting the president, delivered a report that said it could not find the person responsible for bringing cocaine into the White House. No fingerprints on the plastic bag. No DNA. No video of someone who might have placed it in a small locker in a visitors' area where cellphones and other prohibited items are stored until one departs. In one of the most secure buildings in the world. With cameras and monitoring devices in plain view and also hidden on every floor. NBC News reported the agency failed to interview anyone about the incident.

The Secret Service managed to find marijuana in the White House last year. Twice. No one was arrested because the amount was under the legal threshold for federal charges, nor did it rate as a misdemeanor under D.C. law. Drugs alter the mind. Perhaps we should call it real artificial intelligence. It might explain some of the bad policies of this, and previous, administrations.

My family has been attending



Cal Thomas

various White House functions since the Coolidge administration. My maternal grandfather and first lady Grace Coolidge were first cousins. A picture I treasure is of my mother (age 9), grandmother and great-grandmother standing in the White House driveway next to President Warren Harding in 1922. Harding died the following year and Vice President Coolidge became president.

I suspect if any of them had been asked where they could find drugs they would have been directed to a nearby pharmacy. That addictive drug is now found in a hallowed building where great presidents once served and saved the nation is another indication of how far we have sunk when it comes to what used to be called standards.

Predictably, but not without cause, some Republicans and conservative media are crying "cover-up" and wondering why no scandal has touched the Biden family. They want to know if Hunter Biden is living in the White House and whether, given his admitted problems with drugs, there might be a connection between him and the cocaine? Clear answers to these and other questions have not been forthcoming from the press office, or anywhere else.

An editorial in The New York Post put it well: "...we're supposed to

believe the men and women charged with protecting the president can't find who dropped an 8-ball in the West Wing? No. Way. In. Hell. It's the White House, not a rest-stop Arby's bathroom."

Like so many other accusations of alleged scandal when it comes to the Biden administration, expect this one to be swept under the rug. If the White House press secretary is again asked about it, expect her to say reporters should address inquiries to the Secret Service, or "that issue has been settled."

If this were a one-off, it might ... might ... be excused, but it seems part of a pattern when it comes to dishonesty, lack of transparency (transparency was one of the first things Joe Biden promised when he took office), the cashing in by family members through alleged money laundering and dealings with foreign entities in possible violation of the law.

When one is a Democrat the rules appear to be different. The legacy media seem to do all they can to shield members of that party from any accountability. In Washington, it seems everybody has something on somebody else. That's why one hardly ever sees an apology, a resignation, a firing, impeachment and conviction, or jail time for any misdeeds. Donald Trump may be the exception.

And people wonder why the trust level in our institutions is low and falling.

tcaeditors@tribpub.com

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# Questions about posture and the causes of Alzheimer's

**Question:** My shoulders are curved in, and I'm slumping all the time. Why is this happening, and how can I improve my posture? -- Sandy R., Houston

**Answer:** Good posture -- shoulders back, neck straight and chin up, core tight and pelvis aligned -- is more than a cosmetic issue. When you become concave, you congest your internal organs and inhibit breathing, trigger neck pain and headaches, make it difficult to walk smoothly and increase your risk of falling.

According to Harvard Medical School, such problems can develop because of your work and lifestyle: Hours spent staring at your smartphone, slouching on the couch, or typing on a computer make it hard not to curve your shoulders inward. Heavy lifting and demanding physical work can also weaken your shoulders and damage posture. You overstretch your muscles along the back of your shoulders and weaken the ones in front. Lack of core muscle strength from obesity, hours

sitting daily, and lack of strength-training also cause poor posture. In some cases, osteoporosis can cause compression fractures that lead to slumping.

An orthopedic doctor can determine the cause of your poor posture (and rule out bone fractures). For most folks, it's possible to make significant improvements.

Begin with core-strengthening exercises. The Cleveland Clinic recommends abdominal bracing, clamshells, and bridges for beginners. Then explore more demanding routines at health.clevelandclinic.org; search for "workouts to strengthen your core." Also important: Stretching your chest muscles. You can do



Mehmet Oz and Mike Roizen

that using a doorframe or extending your arms behind your back and grasping your forearms or elbows. Hold for 10 seconds, repeat. Also practice squeezing your shoulder blades together for a count of 30 (keep your head up, eyes straight forward). And do inspiratory resistance exercises recommended at LongevityPlaybook.com. Those exercises

target what may be the most important muscle in your body to strengthen, your diaphragm. You should be able to see improvements in your posture and your comfort level.

**Question:** My mother had Alzheimer's, and I am worried I might develop it. I am 64 and no signs yet. Is there any chance that they will figure out how to prevent or treat it someday soon? -- Rachel U., Portland, Oregon

**Answer:** Pinpointing the cause of Alzheimer's disease -- and

figuring out how to prevent or treat it -- has frustrated researchers for decades. But recently the Food and Drug Administration approved two new therapies (with some controversy) for treating early-stage symptoms of AD. Aduhelm was OK'd in 2021 and Leqembi was put on the market this year. A new report, "Alzheimer's Disease Drug Development Pipeline: 2023" says that there are 187 AD clinical trials on 141 different treatments under way.

As for your risk of developing AD, there are two categories of genes that may make AD a familial problem -- risk genes and deterministic genes. Fewer than 1 percent of Alzheimer's cases are caused by deterministic genes -- so, generally, it is not inevitable.

A more powerful connection is with lifestyle choices. In the LongevityPlaybook.com app, there are 33 self-care choices, from regularly taking half a tablespoon of extra-virgin olive oil to maintaining your hearing acuity, that studies have shown to

decrease your risk of dementia.

And three new studies add to the evidence that you can diminish your risk. The first found that participants with low flavanols intake (from lack of fruits and vegetables in their diet) had memory issues, and when they increased intake to recommended levels, their memory scores improved by an average of 16 percent. The second study shows that 12 weeks of walking strengthens connections within and between the brain's networks, including one associated with Alzheimer's disease. And the third found that when middle-aged people would run regularly, they prevent the loss of "adult-born" neurons. Protecting those neurons is vital for memory function during aging.

The bottom line? Worry less about your genetic predisposition for AD and gain brain protection with some of the 33 LongevityPlaybook.com lifestyle choices, adding them to your routine as you are able.

## BRMC's Burke to discuss children and electronics at Ossian Rotary meeting

Chelsea Burke, a speech therapist at Bluffton Regional Medical Center, will speak on the effects of electronics on children Thursday morning during a meeting of the Ossian Rotary Club.

The meeting is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. at the First Baptist Church of Ossian, 1001 Dehner Drive. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Burke has a bachelor of science in communication sciences and disorders from Purdue University, earned at the Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne campus. She also has a master of science degree in communication disorders from Marshall University in Huntington, W.Va.

A native of Decatur, Burke graduated from Belmont High School in 2009. She has always had a passion for pediatrics, starting her career in First Steps and a pediatric outpatient clinic. She transitioned to the hospital in 2019 where she maintained a diverse pediatric population.

Burke's interests in the field have grown and changed along with her patients' needs. She has completed extensive professional development in the realm of pediatric feeding disorders. Her ultimate goal as a speech language pathologist is to help patients and families communicate and interact within their daily lives with as much joy and success as possible.

Burke has warnings for parents in how the use of electronics can negatively impact children. She will discuss how electronics affects the growth and development, and specifically the communication skills, of children. She will also talk about how parents can promote safe use of technology for young children, at the time when their brains are in the most crucial stages of development. She will discuss how adults can minimize electronics as much as possible, how to avoid using technology as a means to "occupy" or "calm/quiet" an infant or child, how to use self-directed, open-ended types of technology that allow children to stay engaged with their environment, how to use a lot of language and play between times of technology use, and how to avoid using technology as a reward or punishment.

Ossian Rotary is a group of people with a desire to meet new people, get involved and make a difference in Ossian and worldwide. Each week features different speakers, who help attendees stay informed on topics that are relevant to our community. Contact Jeremy Penrod, Ossian Rotary president, at jeremy.penrod@edwardjones.com for more information.



Chelsea Burke

## 'Christmas in July' event will benefit 'Wonderland of Lights'



Among the items being offered for sale at the Christmas in July event at Ouabache State Park at the Trails End Shelter on Saturday, July 22, will be hand-crafted Christmas ornaments. Included will be wooden ornaments featuring park scenes (top center), hand-painted birds and animals on glass balls (around the circle), and small 3-D clay animals mounted on a wood chip (lower center). A variety of jewelry also will be available with all proceeds going to the Friends of Ouabache State Park to be used for Wonderland of Lights expenses. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)

Ouabache State Park will be celebrating Christmas in July on Saturday, July 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Trails End Shelter with several events.

The Friends of Ouabache will host a Christmas Market where special jewelry and ornaments created by local artists will be available for purchase. All proceeds from the sale will support the Friends' Wonderland of Lights program.

Vacationing Santa will be on hand to say "hello" and hear early wishes from children. A snow ball toss will be held with prizes to the winners.

To continue the celebration at 4 p.m. the heartwarming story of "The Christmas Mushroom" will be related. At the story's conclusion participants may decorate their own mushroom to take home.

At 6 p.m. there will be a Christmas Trivia competition and Campsite decorating awards will be presented.

The event is free, however park entrance fees apply.

## FIELD DAY THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB



Ga Ga ball

Among the activities at the Wells Community Boys & Girls Club during their Field Day on July 11 was the playing of Ga Ga ball, in the inflatable circle pit that was a gift to the club from Bluffton's Bargain Hut. The game's object is to swat at the ball and have it hit another player below the waist. If hit that player is eliminated and the game ends when one player has not been hit by the ball. This is the 11th year that the Bargain Hut has presented a gift to the club. (Photos by Barbara Barbieri)



Artists at work

Another activity was having your face (or arm) painted by one of the talented young artists. Galbriella, center, was painting a bee on Club Director Vicki Bell's hand, at left, while Amberlynn, at right looked on. The Field Day is an annual event for the club



Outside activities, too

Various age groups of youngsters rotated around the club for a variety of activities using balls. This group were into a version of soccer while others ran an obstacle course using ball handling skills.

## Legion post will host monthly breakfast July 22

Bluffton American Legion Post 111 will offer its monthly "all you can eat" breakfast from 8 to 10 a.m. Saturday, July 22.

The cost is \$11 for adults and \$5 for children between 5 and 10 years of age. There is no charge for children under 5 years of age.

The breakfast includes an entree plus coffee or orange juice.

## Gospel concert slated in Marion for Aug. 4 and 5

The 24th annual Alan Godsey Memorial Northern Gospel Singing Convention will be held Friday, Aug. 4, and Saturday, Aug. 5, at the Memorial Coliseum at the YMCA, 123 Sutter Way in Marion, Ind.

Concerts will be presented at 5 p.m. Friday and at noon and 4 p.m. Saturday. Tickets for the evening concerts are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Tickets for the Saturday matinee concert are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door.

More than 30 Christian artists are expected to perform at the event, with is sponsored by The Northmen and Cathy.

For information, call Cathy Godsey-Anderson at 260-348-5164.

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# Hall of Famer Johnny Bench apologizes for an antisemitic comment at Cincinnati event

CINCINNATI (AP) — Hall of Famer Johnny Bench apologized for an antisemitic comment made at an event to honor former Cincinnati Reds general manager Gabe Paul, who was Jewish, and others.

Bench made the remark at an event attended by Paul's daughter, Jennie Paul, on Saturday. Paul, who died in 1998, and former Reds pitchers Danny Graves and Bronson Arroyo were being inducted into the team's Hall of Fame.

Pete Rose recalled signing a deal worth "400 bucks a month" in his first contract negotiation with Gabe Paul.

Jennie Paul joked that it was "cheap."

"He was Jewish," Bench responded, drawing laughs

from the audience.

"I recognize my comment was insensitive. I apologized to Jennie for taking away from her father the full attention he deserves," Bench said in a statement released Sunday. "Gabe Paul earned his place in the Reds Hall of Fame, same as the others who stood on that stage, I am sorry that some of the focus is on my inappropriate remark instead of solely on Gabe's achievement."

Jennie Paul told reporters she didn't hear Bench's comment. "Johnny came up and said, 'Were you offended?' and I said, 'For what?'" she said. "I didn't even hear him say that. I suppose if I would've heard him say that, I would've said some-

thing, but I didn't even hear him say that."

Gabe Paul was the Reds' GM from 1951 to 1960 and was responsible for the franchise's acquisition of players that included Rose and Hall of Famers Frank Robinson and Tony Perez. Under his leadership, Cincinnati began to sign Black and Latin American players, with Nino Escalera and Chuck Harmon making their debuts with the team in 1954.

Bench was a two-time NL MVP, the 1976 World Series MVP, the 1968 NL Rookie of the Year, a 14-time All-Star and a 10-time Gold Glove winner for the Cincinnati Reds while playing from 1967-83.

# Martin Truex Jr. wins at New Hampshire Motor Speedway for the first time in 30 races

By DAN GELSTON  
AP Sports Writer

LOUDON, N.H. (AP) — Martin Truex Jr. had just chewed up the competition to win at the same New Hampshire track where his dad won a regional stock car series race in 1994 when he clutched a 22-pound live lobster given to the winner and chomped on a claw.

"I'd ... sure like to throw him on the grill right now if you can find him," the younger Truex said later of the crustacean.

Maybe Truex can save the feast for a meal on the saltwater fishing boat the veteran driver says he's buying this week. Truex had long wanted one — when he didn't tag along as a kid with his mom and little brother to the racetrack, he worked on his dad's clamming boat — but the pull of another day at the race shop or the commitments of long NASCAR weekends always made him put it off.

Not now.

"I won't fish for lobster on my boat," Truex said, laughing. "I'll fish for fish. Tuna."

Sounds perfect for retirement.

Truex has few boxes left to check in his career. The latest came in yet another masterful Monday matinee when he won at New Hampshire Motor Speedway for the first time in 30 career Cup tries. The win did more than earn him a big meal — it triggered melancholy memories from his childhood at the same track where he watched his dad share space with some of racing's greats.

New Hampshire was where Truex saw Dale Earnhardt tinker with his carburetor under the hood of his car. It's where Truex got his first taste of the sights, smells and sounds of a NASCAR garage.

It's where a few hours after the 43-year-old Truex led 254 laps in the No. 19 Toyota and won his third Cup race of the season, he pondered just how much longer he wanted to continue his NASCAR career.

Team owner Joe Gibbs wondered why Truex would give it up.

"I really felt like he's having such, I think, a great year, and I think he's having fun, and so I'm hoping that we get a good answer for us here," Gibbs said.

Time is ticking on a decision. Truex

announced last June that he would return for 2023 and he hasn't made up his mind yet on 2024. Gibbs needs an answer. So do the sponsors and all other interested parties affected by Truex's decision.

"I think it is, though, very important for us to kind of have some pressure here because it's pressure for all of us,"

Gibbs said. "It's a huge deal for us."

Truex, the 2017 NASCAR Cup Series champion, said he was close to choosing. He is still driving at an elite level and has stamped himself again a serious contender for the Cup championship. But the choice is much more complicated for Truex than making it about simply wins and losses.

"They deserve the very best driver, the guy that wants it more than anyone else, and I've been that guy," Truex said. "I want to make sure that if I come back, I'm willing to do that. It takes a lot. It's not just show up at the track, drive the car, go home. It takes a lot. It takes a lot of commitment. It's a lot of travel. A lot of time missing things with family and friends and all those things that I've done for 25 years. Do I want to keep doing it and am I willing to sacrifice all those things again for my team?"

JGR hopes the answer is yes.

"Our focus is on this championship and winning that, and we'll worry about next year come December," crew chief James Small said.

At the Magic Mile, the answer could wait another day; it was simply time for an overdue celebration.

"This one's been eluding me for a long, long time," Truex said.

Truex led with 15 laps left when JGR teammate Christopher Bell, last year's New Hampshire winner, smacked the wall to bring out the eighth caution.

"We should have a company policy that says when one of your teammates is leading, don't crash by yourself," Truex said over the radio.

It really didn't matter for Truex. He pulled away off the restart with nine laps left and could taste victory — and soon enough, the lobster that traditionally goes to the winner.

There was no such tasty prize in 1994 when the elder Truex won at New Hamp-

(Continued on Page 7)



## Tennis champs

More winners and runner-up finishers from the summer tennis tournament photos are represented in their respective age division and group categories. Top left photo is from left to right, girls' doubles runner-up team of Emma Schwartz and Hazel Pfister and the winning team of Ava Christiansen and Olivia Craig. At bottom left is the boy's 14 and under singles champion Brandon Grubbs (left) and runner-up Lukas Staedtler. At bottom right is the girl's junior varsity singles runner-up Marley Bellinger (left) and champion Hannah Staedtler. (Photos provided)

# Blackhawks ink No. 1 draft pick Bedard to 3-year deal

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Blackhawks and forward Connor Bedard have agreed to terms on a three-year, entry-level contract for the No. 1 overall draft pick.

The team said Monday the deal through the 2025-26 season will mean a \$950,000 annual salary cap hit, the maximum allowed. It was announced on Bedard's 18th birthday.

"Signing Connor is a huge step in building a new foundation for our organization," Blackhawks general manager Kyle Davidson said. "We're excited to see him grow and play a large role in pushing our team forward for many years to come."

Bedard became the second No. 1 pick in Blackhawks history, joining Patrick Kane, who went first overall in 2007 and helped form the core of a team that won three Stanley Cups from 2010 to 2015. Kane's tenure in Chicago ended in February when he was

traded to the New York Rangers.

The 5-foot-9, 185-pound Bedard spent the past three seasons with the Western Hockey League's Regina Pats and on the international stage.

The native of North Vancouver, British Columbia, was the WHL's first player — and seventh in Canadian Hockey League history — to be granted exceptional status, allowing Bedard to play in the major junior ranks at 15. In 2021-22, he became the youngest WHL player to score 50 goals, finishing with 51 in 62 games. Last season, his 143 points (71 goals, 72 assists in 57 games) were the most in the league since 1995-96.

Internationally, his 36 points (17 goals, 19 assists) in 16 world junior championship games rank fourth on the tournament list behind Peter Forsberg (42 points in 14 games), Robert Reichel (40 in 21) and Pavel Bure (39 in 21).

"Being drafted by an Original Six team has been such a surreal experience and I couldn't be more thrilled to be a part of this team's future," Bedard said. "The Blackhawks organization and the city of Chicago have such a rich sports history and I'm honored to be a part of it."

# SEC commissioner Greg Sankey asks Congress to set standards for athlete NIL compensation

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Southeastern Conference Commissioner Greg Sankey made clear Monday that only Congress can truly set a national standard for name, image and likeness compensation in college athletics.

Sankey said NIL isn't a partisan issue and that state legislatures haven't yet enforced their NIL laws, some of which would bar the NCAA and conferences from adopting and enforcing their own standards.

"Congressional action is then the only way to provide a national uniform standard for name, image, and likeness activity and to draw the lines around the boundaries that do not become simply pay for play," said Sankey, echoing the stance of the NCAA on one of the most divisive issues in college sports.

Asked if a uniform NIL standard would help LSU, coach Brian Kelly said the challenge is there's not much regulation now. That leaves coaches trying to control what they can, which is difficult because NIL involves groups separate from universities.

Different laws in each state leaves the SEC unbalanced, he said.

"I'm not here to fix it. I'm here to navigate it. If I can lend my experience in any shape or fashion, I will do that," Kelly said. "But I can tell you what we're living, and that's third-party involvement and different rules of engagement by different states."

Sankey said the league heard again in

late June from athletes asking for uniform NIL rules. They want help trying to decide which university to attend and to even the competition on the playing field in the SEC.

"Uniformity will ensure a high school student and his or her family do not have to investigate potentially dozens of different state laws or university policies to figure out how they can be active in this name, image and likeness world," Sankey said.

Sankey said the SEC and its 14 schools are used to providing support to athletes. But he said the students want protection for themselves and for international teammates to access NIL "that are consistent across the country" and not just a "patchwork" of state laws.

"Our student-athletes deserve something better than a race to the bottom at the state legislature level," Sankey said.

An area where state lawmakers can help, according to Sankey: Gambling regulations. He said too often SEC athletes and officials deal with threats from bettors angry over plays, calls and game results.

"Every state with legalized sports gambling must act to ensure enforcement of gaming regulations and put in place clearly stated laws that protect participants from hostile behavior, particularly barring individuals who engage in that behavior from any further involvement in sports gambling," Sankey said.

# Former Northwestern football players hire civil rights attorney

CHICAGO (AP) — Eight former Northwestern football players have retained attorneys following a hazing scandal that led to the firing of coach Pat Fitzgerald and criticism of university leadership for its

initial response to the allegations.

Civil rights attorney Ben Crump and the Chicago-based Levin & Perconti personal injury law firm announced Monday that they have "uncovered a vast array

of incidents of abuse in the Northwestern football program." They also said more athletes are expected to join the legal action and it will expand beyond Northwestern football to other college athletic programs.

# Giants and running back Saquon Barkley fail to reach extension

By TOM CANAVAN  
AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Saquon Barkley and the New York Giants failed to reach an agreement on a long-term contract extension by Monday's deadline for franchised players, leaving the star running back with the option of playing for the tag-mandated \$10.1 million salary or maybe taking the season off.

The Giants gave the franchise tag to the 26-year-old Barkley in March, giving the two sides four months to reach an agreement on a new deal by the July 17 deadline at 4 p.m. Talks went down to the wire and an agreement was not reached.

The Giants had no immediate comment after the deadline.

"It is what it is," Barkley tweeted.

Barkley was not happy being tagged, especially after playing for a career-best 1,312 yards and 10 touchdowns and sharing the team lead with 57 receptions last season in what was his second Pro Bowl season. It was a big reason why New York reached the playoffs for the first time since 2016.

The \$10.1 million salary will leave Barkley among the NFL's highest-paid running backs, but the 2018 NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year felt it was a sign of disrespect after being one of the main faces of the franchise for the past five years.

San Francisco's Christian McCaffrey (\$16 million) New Orleans' Alvin Kamara (\$15 million) and Tennessee's Derrick Henry (\$12.5 million) and Cleveland's Nick Chubb (\$12.2 million) are the top four earners among the NFL's running backs in average annual salary. Dalvin Cook, who was to earn \$12.6 million with Vikings, was cut in a salary cap move and Joe Mixon of Cincinnati recently took a cut to stay in Cincinnati.

Giants players report to training camp on July 25 and there is a chance Barkley, who has not signed the tender the Giants gave him after being franchised, may sit out a major part of the camp.

Barkley had added agent Ed Berry of Creative Artists Agency to help Kim Miale of Roc Nation reach a deal last month, but the two sides never got it done.

The Giants and general manager Joe Schoen seemed content with the tag, possibly because of Barkley's history with injuries and the devaluation of the running back position in recent years.

During this past season, the Giants had offered Barkley a deal that would have paid \$12 million to \$14 million annually, but they withdrew it after the season ended to work on new deals for quarterback Daniel Jones and defensive tackle Dexter Lawrence and to help with signings in free agency.

(Continued on Page 7)



# News-Banner Scoreboard

## BASEBALL

### American League

East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Tampa Bay	60	37	.619	
Baltimore	57	36	.613	↑
Toronto	53	41	.564	5½
Boston	50	44	.532	8½
New York	50	44	.532	8½
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	48	46	.511	
Cleveland	46	48	.489	2
Detroit	42	51	.452	5½
Chicago	40	55	.421	8½
Kansas City	27	68	.284	21½
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Texas	56	39	.589	
Houston	52	42	.553	3½
Seattle	46	46	.500	8½
Los Angeles	46	48	.489	9½
Oakland	25	70	.263	31
Sunday's Games				
Kansas City 8, Tampa Bay 4				
Baltimore 5, Miami 4				
Chicago White Sox 8, Atlanta 1				
Toronto 7, Arizona 5				
Boston 11, Chicago Cubs 5				
Texas 6, Cleveland 5				
Seattle 2, Detroit 0				
Colorado 8, N.Y. Yankees 7, 11				
innings				
Minnesota 5, Oakland 4				
Houston 9, L.A. Angels 8				
Monday's Games				
Cleveland 11, Pittsburgh 0				
L.A. Dodgers 6, Baltimore 4				
Texas 3, Tampa Bay 2				

Detroit 3, Kansas City 2  
N.Y. Yankees at L.A. Angels, 9:38 p.m.

Boston at Oakland, 9:40 p.m.  
Minnesota at Seattle, 9:40 p.m.

**Tuesday's Games**  
Cleveland (Allen 3-2) at Pittsburgh (Keller 9-4), 7:05 p.m.  
L.A. Dodgers (Grove 1-2) at Baltimore (Wells 7-4), 7:05 p.m.  
San Diego (Musgrove 8-2) at Toronto (Manoah 2-7), 7:07 p.m.  
Chicago White Sox (Giolito 6-5) at N.Y. Mets (Carrasco 3-3), 7:10 p.m.  
Tampa Bay (Bradley 5-5) at Texas (Eovaldi 10-3), 8:05 p.m.  
Detroit (Skubal 0-0) at Kansas City (Lynch 2-4), 8:10 p.m.  
Houston (Brown 6-6) at Colorado (TBD), 8:40 p.m.  
N.Y. Yankees (Germán 5-5) at L.A. Angels (Sandow 4-7), 9:38 p.m.  
Boston (TBD) at Oakland (Medina 2-7), 9:40 p.m.  
Minnesota (Ober 5-4) at Seattle (Woo 1-1), 9:40 p.m.

**Wednesday's Games**  
Cleveland at Pittsburgh, 12:35 p.m.  
L.A. Dodgers at Baltimore, 1:05 p.m.  
Tampa Bay at Texas, 2:05 p.m.  
Houston at Colorado, 3:10 p.m.  
Boston at Oakland, 3:37 p.m.  
N.Y. Yankees at L.A. Angels, 7:07 p.m.  
San Diego at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.  
Chicago White Sox at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m.  
Detroit at Kansas City, 8:10 p.m.  
Minnesota at Seattle, 9:40 p.m.

**Thursday's Games**  
Cleveland 11, Pittsburgh 0  
L.A. Dodgers 6, Baltimore 4  
Texas 3, Tampa Bay 2

### National League

East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Atlanta	61	31	.663	
Miami	53	43	.552	10
Philadelphia	51	42	.548	10½
New York	43	50	.462	18½
Washington	38	56	.404	24
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Milwaukee	52	42	.553	
Cincinnati	50	44	.532	2
Chicago	43	50	.462	8½
Pittsburgh	41	53	.436	11
St. Louis	41	53	.436	11
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Los Angeles	54	39	.581	
San Francisco	52	41	.559	2
Arizona	52	42	.553	2½
San Diego	44	50	.468	10½
Colorado	36	58	.383	18½
Sunday's Games				
San Francisco 8, Pittsburgh 4, 10				
innings				
Baltimore 5, Miami 4				
Chicago White Sox 8, Atlanta 1				
Milwaukee 4, Cincinnati 3				
Toronto 7, Arizona 5				
Boston 11, Chicago Cubs 5				
St. Louis 8, Washington 4				
Philadelphia 7, San Diego 6, 12				
innings				
Colorado 8, N.Y. Yankees 7, 11				
innings				
N.Y. Mets 2, L.A. Dodgers 1, 10				
innings				
Monday's Games				
Cleveland 11, Pittsburgh 0				
L.A. Dodgers 6, Baltimore 4				

St. Louis 6, Miami 4  
Washington 7, Chicago Cubs 5  
San Francisco at Cincinnati, 7:10 p.m.

**Tuesday's Games**  
Milwaukee (Teheran 2-3) at Philadelphia (Nola 8-6), 6:40 p.m.  
Cleveland (Allen 3-2) at Pittsburgh (Keller 9-4), 7:05 p.m.  
L.A. Dodgers (Grove 1-2) at Baltimore (Wells 7-4), 7:05 p.m.  
San Diego (Musgrove 8-2) at Toronto (Manoah 2-7), 7:07 p.m.  
Chicago White Sox (Giolito 6-5) at N.Y. Mets (Carrasco 3-3), 7:10 p.m.  
San Francisco (DeSclafani 4-8) at Cincinnati (Weaver 2-2), 7:10 p.m.  
Arizona (Davies 1-5) at Atlanta (Elder 7-2), 7:20 p.m.  
Miami (TBD) at St. Louis (Montgomery 6-7), 7:45 p.m.  
Washington (Williams 5-5) at Chicago Cubs (Taillon 3-6), 8:05 p.m.  
Houston (Brown 6-6) at Colorado (TBD), 8:40 p.m.

**Wednesday's Games**  
Cleveland at Pittsburgh, 12:35 p.m.  
L.A. Dodgers at Baltimore, 1:05 p.m.  
Miami at St. Louis, 2:15 p.m.  
Houston at Colorado, 3:10 p.m.  
Milwaukee at Philadelphia, 6:40 p.m.  
San Diego at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.  
Chicago White Sox at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m.  
San Francisco at Cincinnati, 7:10 p.m.  
Arizona at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.  
Washington at Chicago Cubs, 8:05 p.m.

**Thursday's Games**  
Cleveland 11, Pittsburgh 0  
L.A. Dodgers 6, Baltimore 4

## Guardians reach double-digit runs in their shutout victory over Pirates

By WES CROSBY  
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Josh Naylor had three RBIs with a home run and a double, helping the Cleveland Guardians rout the Pittsburgh Pirates 11-0 on Monday night to end a four-game losing streak.

Naylor's sixth-inning RBI double extended his hitting streak to eight games and gave Cleveland a 5-0 lead. He drove a Yohan Ramirez sinker over the left-field wall in the seventh for a nine-run lead, the last of the Guardians' trio of two-run homers.

Steven Kwan added an RBI single in the eighth and Myles Straw had a run-scoring infield single in the ninth. Cleveland had totaled 10 runs during its four losses.

Michael Kelly (1-0) struck out two and allowed two hits in 1 2/3 innings for his first major league win. Xzavion Curry gave up one hit and one walk in three innings.

Quinn Priester (0-1), the fourth-ranked prospect in the Pirates' system, allowed seven runs and seven hits over 5 1/3 innings in his major league debut.

Endy Rodríguez, ranked third, also debuted to catch Priester in a battery often used at Triple-A Indianapolis. He was 0 for 4 and struck out three times.

Pittsburgh has lost four in a row, eight of nine and 11 of 13, falling a season-high 12 games below .500 at 41-53 after a 20-8 start. The Pirates were shut out for the 10th time and held to four hits or fewer for the 17th time.

Cleveland pitched its ninth shutout, one shy of the big league high.

Following a 47-minute rain delay, Priester gave up one hit in the first four innings, a two-run homer to Amed Rosario in the fourth. Bo Naylor doubled into the left-centerfield notch, extending the lead to 3-0 in the fifth.

José Ramírez had an RBI double ahead of Naylor's double in a four-run sixth and Andrés Giménez hit a two-run homer.

### UP NEXT

Guardians LHP Logan Allen (3-2, 3.47) is set to start Tuesday against RHP Mitch Keller (9-4, 3.31), appearing for the first time since allowing a home run in the second inning of the All-Star Game.

## Dane Christian Lundgaard wins Honda Indy Toronto

TORONTO (AP) — Christian Lundgaard couldn't wait to shave off his moustache, removing the hair from his upper lip right there on victory lane at the Honda Indy Toronto.

Lundgaard started on the pole and took advantage of the car troubles of IndyCar season standings leader Alex Palou to hang on to victory Sunday. His first win on North America's top open-wheel racing circuit also brought to an end a pact with his best friend to keep his moustache until he climbed atop an IndyCar podium.

Lundgaard said he was happy to be rid of the facial hair.

"But I haven't seen it yet, so I don't really know what it looks like," said the 21-year-old Dane, who rubbed his upper lip throughout the post-race news conference. "I guess I'll wait and see."

Lundgaard took the pole Saturday as steady rain made the street course around Toronto's Exhibition Place slippery. The son of 2000 European rally car champion Henrik Lundgaard, the IndyCar sophomore took advantage of his off-roading background to secure the No. 1 start position in the race.

But after qualifying, Lundgaard was pessimistic about having the fastest car in the actual race. Ultimately, he felt he had the race under control from start to finish.

"We struggle, especially on the super speedways," said Lundgaard, who led the race for 53 of the 85 laps.

## Truex Jr. win

(Continued from Page 6)

shire. The Truex family went to the track so often that younger brother — and fellow driver Ryan Truex — tweeted a family photo of the kid brothers and mom in the grandstands.

About as soon as Truex could race at New Hampshire, he won. Truex had just turned 20 when he won a regional stock car series race at the track. Pretty cool. Even better? His father finished fifth in the same race.

## Barkley extension

(Continued from Page 6)

Barkley's injury history is a concern. He was spectacular as a rookie out of Penn State, rushing for 1,307 yards and 11 touchdowns while catching 91 passes for 721 yards and four more TDs. An ankle injury caused him to miss three games in 2019, but he still ran for 1,003 yards and six touchdowns and caught 52 passes for 438 yards and two TDs. An ACL injury against

"This place is a big reason why I got to where I am," the younger Truex said.

Truex found early success in Loudon once he transitioned to Cup in 2006, rattling off a third-place finish and a fifth in 2007 when the series still raced here twice a season and a fourth and seventh in 2008. He had six straight top 10s from 2016 to 2020 and led 172 laps from the pole last season before he faded to fourth. Truex said his JGR team

"panicked" with a late call for two tires that backfired and cost them the checkered flag.

"It's always been one that I wanted so bad, and maybe I think too bad at times," Truex said.

The wait is over. With 34 wins, a championship and three season runner-up finishes, Truex has built his case for the Hall of Fame.

If only he can pull off the perfect ending.

second round.

Six teams franchised players this year with the Giants putting a non-exclusive tag on Barkley, meaning he was free to negotiate with other franchises but New York could match any offer or receive first-round draft picks as compensation.

The three non-running backs all received long-term deals. Baltimore quarterback Lamar Jackson got a five-



"I knew I would get past him and that the cars ahead of him had to pit anyway because they wouldn't be able to make it either on their tires or fuel," said Lundgaard, who moved into seventh in the IndyCar standings. "I knew I had to overtake just one car and he was struggling."

"As soon as I got past him I just took off."

Palou's front wing was barely hanging on by the end of the race, with one end drooping down to the ground and a large crack in the car's nose.

"I could feel it dragging and I was like 'Oh man, that's not good,'" Palou said, adding that he tried to avoid curbs on the street course in an effort to preserve the wing. "I honestly thought that we were not going to end the race with that nose."

"I think it was only the (sponsor stickers) that were holding it on because there was nothing else there."

Dixon, the defending Honda Indy Toronto champion, started seventh on the grid and led for several laps but finished fourth after his team miscalculated when he should pit.

McLaughlin, who started the race in second position, finished sixth.

"It would be pretty awesome to win the championship and walk off into the sunset," he said.

### UP NEXT

The series shifts to Pocono Raceway, where Chase Elliott is the defending race winner — even though he failed to finish first. Denny Hamlin had his Pocono win thrown out and so did runner-up Kyle Busch because of failed inspections. Hamlin was the first winner DQ'd since 1960.

Barkley and fellow running back Josh Jacobs of Las Vegas and Tony Pollard of the Dallas didn't get deals. Pollard signed his tender offer unlike Barkley and Jacobs.

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# Hardworking mother deserves help at home

**Dear Annie**  
by Annie Lane



Dear Annie: My husband, "Gary," is unemployed. Has been for the 4 1/2 years we've been together.

Although I work 40 hours a week or more, at least he cleans up the house and does laundry. We broke up at the end of March but recently got back together. His aunt comes to watch the kids while I work and he leaves. I clean for a living and after eight hours do not want to come home and clean. I have to go straight into mom mode and get our daughter and son ready for bed, clean up the house and do dishes.

I feel that since I work five days a week (12 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.) and get home around 9:15 p.m., he should stay home with the kids. He's not a very paternal person; some men just aren't. But he doesn't do anything with the kids. Also, he gets mad at me because I'm too tired (mainly for sex) and thinks I should give him money whenever he asks, which he'll just blow on gambling. I love him, but it feels like a lot more work than it should be, and I'm not that happy. He also knows what to say that can make me feel bad for not wanting sex or wanting to go to bed. Please, any advice? — Unappreciated

*Dear Unappreciated: First, I want to acknowledge how hard you are working. You sound like a wonderful mom who is providing for her family and being present when they get home. My advice is to tell your husband that the current situation is not working for you. He should either get a job and you can stay home with the children or he stays home with them and stops gambling. Blowing your hard-earned money on gambling sounds like he might have an addiction. Regardless, you need to stop letting him treat you with such disrespect, and the only way to do that is to stop giving him money. Seek the help of a professional marriage counselor.*

Dear Annie: Some of your younger readers have written to you about not knowing where to start with credit in their finances. This reflects a pet peeve

of mine, which is the sad state of education for our young people. Sometimes, there is some level of personal financial education, but all too often, there is none! Given that financial knowledge is of such huge importance, in my mind it is criminal that more education in personal finance does not take place. I say shame on our educational system!

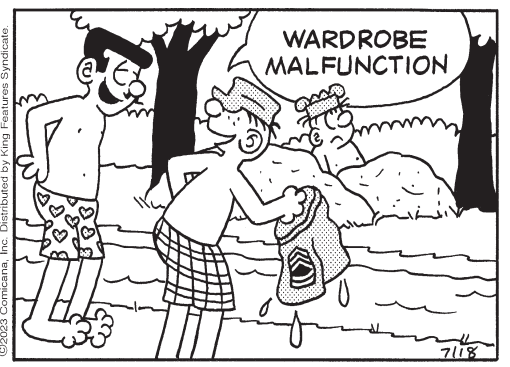
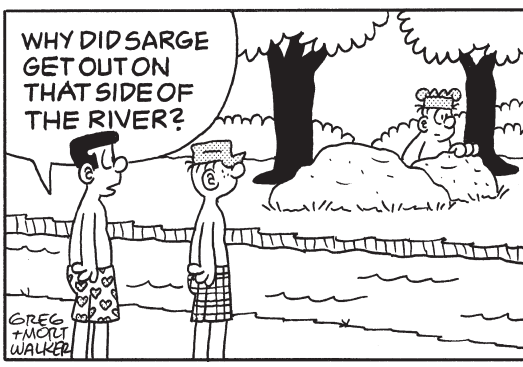
I remember when I was still a teenager, in the early '60s, I needed something and did not have the money for it (all of \$35 in those days). Sears gave me a credit account, which I dutifully paid off. Building on that small start, I have over the years built an excellent credit rating. The key was to start small and be responsible.

I am in the financial planning business, and in our practice, we have primarily middle-income Americans, plus a few high-net-worth clients. But we also have more than a few quite small clients (usually participants in small company retirement plans). We have always subscribed to the adage that from small acorns, big oak trees grow. My point is there are financial advisers out there who are willing to give an earnest young person advice. — Financial Protection

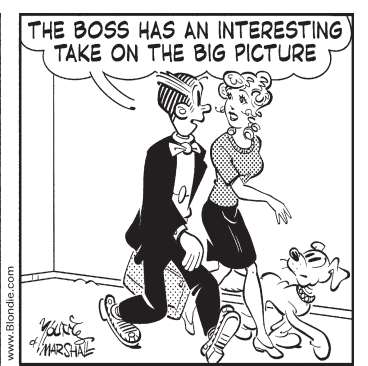
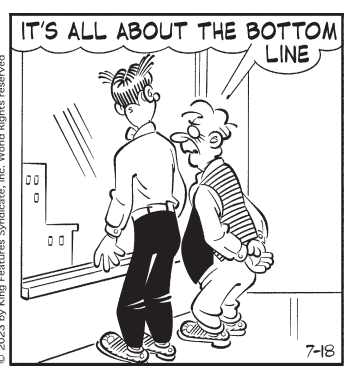
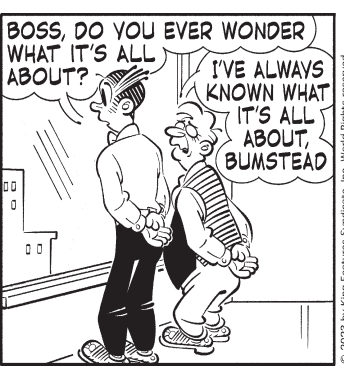
*Dear Financial: That is excellent advice, and your experience with that first credit account was invaluable. In fact, it has lasted a lifetime for you, as it will for others who follow your advice. Thank you for writing.*

"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). © 2023 CREATORS.COM

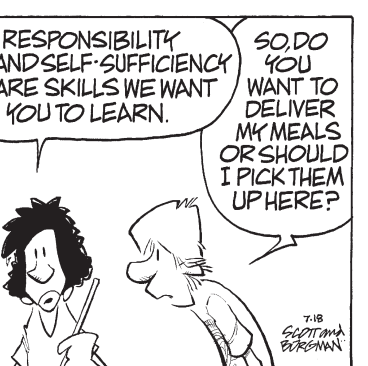
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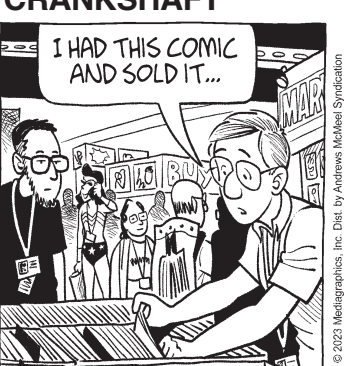
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## ZITS



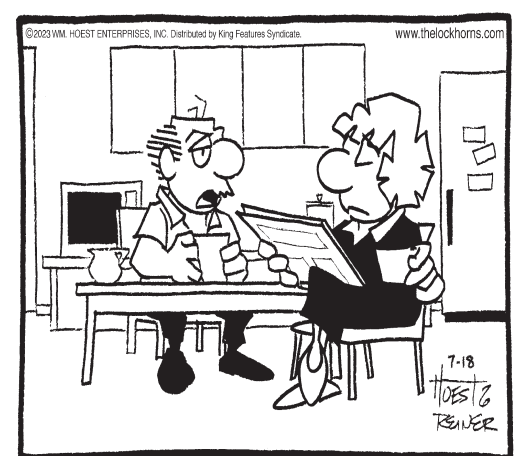
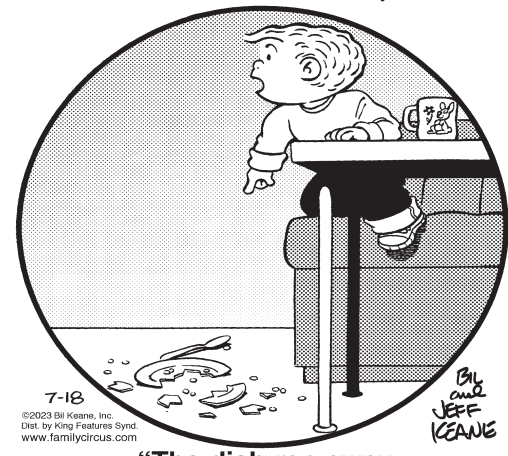
## CRANKSHAFT



## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

## The LOCKHORNS



## My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



# Man seeks to excuse himself of sin

*Q: I grew up learning popular Bible verses, but grew to resent the pastor preaching on nothing but sin, never about the love of John 3:16 or the encouragement of Philipians 4:13. I don't see how anyone can take serious a preacher who is obsessed with people's sins, when often people are just struggling with human weaknesses and reacting negatively to disappointments in life. — S.O.*

*A: We may try to take a light view of sin and refer to it as "human weakness." We may try to call it a trifle, but God calls it a tragedy. We may pass it off as an accident, but God declares it an abomination.*

Man seeks to excuse himself of sin, but God seeks to convict him of it and to save him from it. Sin is no amusing toy — it is a terror to be shunned! We all need to understand what constitutes sin in the eyes of God!

Examining the Ten Commandments reveals that people deliberately break them — and glamorize them. From idolatry, which is anything we put before God, to the lack of honoring parents, there is a concerted effort to break each one and offer excuses.

James, the apostle, made it plain that we are all guilty: "Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin" (James

1:14-15). Every Gospel preacher and pastor is responsible to proclaim God's Word that says, "For all have sinned" (Romans 3:23). "Repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). "[God] loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 4:10). Ministers are to warn people of God's judgment and tell them of God's love. We must never take the holiness and judgment and love of God lightly, for it is the very essence of His character.

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

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07/18	M	A	D1	D2	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM	12:30
WINM (12)	11	26	63		3D Woman	Julie & Friends	Movie	Movie to be disclosed.			TCT Today	NewsWatch	Place for Miracles	James Robison	Dr. Robert Jeffrey	Andrew Womack	Ask the Pastor	Rabbi Lavin		
CBS WANE (15)	2	2	15	15	News (N)	Inside Edition (N)	News at 6 (N)	CBS News (N)	Wheel of Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	FBI "Flopped Cop" (N)	Chicago Fire "A Tradition of Secrets" (N)	Chicago Fire "What Comes Next" (N)	Chicago Fire "A White-Knuckle Panic" (N)	Chicago Fire "No Survivors" (N)	Chicago Fire "Morday" (N)	(35) The Late Show With Stephen Colbert	(35) James Cagney		
Antenna WANE-2 (15)	106	20			Chicago Fire "One Crazy Shift" (N)	ABC21 News at 5 (N)	ABC21 (N)	ABC World News (N)	Ent. Tonight (N)	Family Feud (N)	Chicago Fire "Don't Hang Up" (N)	Chicago Fire "Celebrity Wheel of Fortune" (N)	Chicago Fire "Celebrity Jeopardy!" (N)	Shark Tank (N)	ABC21 (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel Live!	(35) Seth Meyers			
ABC WPTA (21)	4	3	21	21	Pictionary	25 Words or Less	News (N)	NBC News (N)	Family Feud (N)	Family Feud (N)	Chicago Fire "The World's most talented amateurs perform for star judges & compete for a life-changing prize." (N)	Chicago Fire "Natural Born Firefighter" (N)	Chicago Fire "Don't Hang Up" (N)	Chicago Fire "What Comes Next" (N)	Chicago Fire "A White-Knuckle Panic" (N)	Chicago Fire "No Survivors" (N)	Chicago Fire "Morday" (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel Live!	(35) Seth Meyers	
NBC WPTA-2 (21)	7	8		14	The King of Queens	The King of Queens	Modern Family	21Alive News at 5 (N)	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Chicago Fire "Natural Born Firefighter" (N)	Chicago Fire "Don't Hang Up" (N)	Chicago Fire "What Comes Next" (N)	Chicago Fire "A White-Knuckle Panic" (N)	Chicago Fire "No Survivors" (N)	Chicago Fire "Morday" (N)	Chicago Fire "Morday" (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel Live!	(35) Seth Meyers	
MNT WPTA-3 (21)	10	9	56	34	S. Wilkos "Cheating, Pregnancy, and Betrayal" (N)	Judge Lake	Judge Lake	Judge Lake	Divorce Court	Divorce Court	Down-Zac Efron "Inland" (P) (N)	Fantastic Friends "St. Lucia" (P) (N)	Fantastic Friends "St. Lucia" (P) (N)	Liquidator "Jaded" (N)	Chicago P.D. "Starting Diggins" (N)	Family Guy "Family Guy" (N)	Family Guy "Family Guy" (N)	Family Guy "Family Guy" (N)	Family Guy "Family Guy" (N)	Family Guy "Family Guy" (N)
CV WISE (33)	8	4	33	33	Iconic America "The Statue of Liberty" (N)	Context	BBC News America	PBS NewsHour (N)	BBC News America	PBS NewsHour (N)	Chicago P.D. "Starting Diggins" (N)	Chicago P.D. "Starting Diggins" (N)	Chicago P.D. "Starting Diggins" (N)	Chicago P.D. "Starting Diggins" (N)	Chicago P.D. "Starting Diggins" (N)	Chicago P.D. "Starting Diggins" (N)	Chicago P.D. "Starting Diggins" (N)	Chicago P.D. "Starting Diggins" (N)	Chicago P.D. "Starting Diggins" (N)	Chicago P.D. "Starting Diggins" (N)
PBS WFWA (39)	13	5	39	39	Iconic America "The Statue of Liberty" (N)	Context	BBC News America	PBS NewsHour (N)	BBC News America	PBS NewsHour (N)	Chicago P.D. "Starting Diggins" (N)	Chicago P.D. "Starting Diggins" (N)	Chicago P.D. "Starting Diggins" (N)	Chicago P.D. "Starting Diggins" (N)	Chicago P.D. "Starting Diggins" (N)	Chicago P.D. "Starting Diggins" (N)	Chicago P.D. "Starting Diggins" (N)	Chicago P.D. "Starting Diggins" (N)	Chicago P.D. "Starting Diggins" (N)	Chicago P.D. "Starting Diggins" (N)
PBS WWPB (49)	3				WFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)
FOX WFFT (49)	6	6	55	55	WFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)

CABLE CHANNELS	LIFE	FX	TVLAND	ET	PARMT	ESPN	ESPN2	FSMW	USA	DISC	TLC	HIST	A&E	HALL	SVFY	TBS	TNT	AMC	COM	FSN	WGN	FOOD	BRAVO	NICK	DICK	FREEFORM	HBO	MAX	SHOW	TMC	
23	113	108	252	26	142	114	236	106	133	105	242	120	118	185	135	139	139	131	107	48	53	110	129	170	172	180	301	325	351	375	
Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle	Castle
Property Virgins	Property Virgins	Property Virgins	Property Virgins	Property Virgins	Property Virgins	Property Virgins	Property Virgins	Property Virgins	Property Virgins	Property Virgins	Property Virgins	Property Virgins	Property Virgins	Property Virgins	Property Virgins	Property Virgins	Property Virgins	Property Virgins	Property Virgins	Property Virgins	Property Virgins	Property Virgins	Property Virgins	Property Virgins	Property Virgins	Property Virgins	Property Virgins	Property Virgins	Property Virgins	Property Virgins	Property Virgins
Everything But (N)	Everything But (N)	Everything But (N)	Everything But (N)	Everything But (N)	Everything But (N)	Everything But (N)	Everything But (N)	Everything But (N)	Everything But (N)	Everything But (N)	Everything But (N)	Everything But (N)	Everything But (N)	Everything But (N)	Everything But (N)	Everything But (N)	Everything But (N)	Everything But (N)	Everything But (N)	Everything But (N)	Everything But (N)	Everything But (N)	Everything But (N)	Everything But (N)	Everything But (N)	Everything But (N)	Everything But (N)	Everything But (N)	Everything But (N)	Everything But (N)	Everything But (N)

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Quasi-modern's creator

5 Zorro's garment

9 Baseball execs

12 Portent

13 Mideast gulf

14 Tic-tac-toe win

15 Big name in crystal

17 Texter's chuckle

18 Currier's partner

19 Sill

21 Blubbers

24 Calico's call

25 Ellipse

26 Book addendum

30 Volleyball barrier

31 Zodiac ram

32 — kwon do

33 Glitch-causing gnomes

35 Alpha follower

**DOWN**

1 "In what way?"

2 Ms. Thurman

3 Retrieve

4 Playwright Eugene

5 Parisian eatery

6 Big fusses

7 Piecemeal

8 Infinite

9 Candidate of 1964

10 Synthesizer pioneer

11 Only

16 Motor homes

20 Dawn goddess

21 Sound from Big Ben

22 Declare

23 Harbor transport

24 "The Simpsons" bar

26 Clench

27 —

28 Assess

29 Pro votes

31 Loser

34 Avril fuller

35 Market-place

37 Lawn coating

38 Cover with blacktop

39 Cain's brother

40 Book blurbs, basically

41 Colony denizens

44 Ginger —

45 Three, in Rome

46 Golfer Ernie

47 Hogwash

**Solution time: 22 mins.**

Yesterday's answer 7-18

```

  1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35
30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40
33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43
38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48
42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52
48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58
51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61
  
```



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## SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

### King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★

7/18

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## Public Notices

## SERVICES

**NOTICE**  
In accordance with Indiana Code 5-15-6-3 requiring prior notification to individuals when records will be destroyed:

Notice to any individuals born in the year 2001, who received special education services in Adams and/or Wells Counties. Please contact Adams Wells Special Services no later than August 4, 2023 if you wish to receive copies of your special education records. All records requested for pick-up and not picked up and non-requested records for persons born in the year 2001 will be permanently destroyed after August 14, 2023. If you wish to request records, you must call (260)824-5880 to do so. Records must be picked up by the person who received services unless otherwise legally designated.

nb 6/26 through 8/4  
hspaxlp

**LEARNING TREE ACADEMY PRESCHOOL** in Ossian United Methodist Church 201 W Mill Street Ossian, Indiana. We have over 20 years experience and are offering both 3 day & 5 day preschool classes from 9a to 12p, M-F. Classes are filling up fast so don't delay. You can stop by the church office M-Th 8a to 1p to pick up registration paperwork or call/email Tracie Pepper at 260-622-0194 or [learningtree123@yahoo.com](mailto:learningtree123@yahoo.com)

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## Lottery Numbers

**Monday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY**  
Cash 5 — 05-06-22-31-37

**Cash4Life** — 19-28-46-52-53, Cash Ball: 03

**Quick Draw Midday** — 02-07-10-11-18-19-23-25-29-32-35-36-46-49-50-51-52-53-67-77, BE: 03

**Daily Three-Midday** — 05-09-02, SB: 01

**Daily Three-Evening** — 08-08-00, SB: 02

**Daily Four-Midday** — 08-08-00-06, SB: 01

**Daily Four-Evening** — 06-00-07-02, SB: 02

**Quick Draw Evening** — 05-08-09-14-15-18-20-30-32-38-39-40-42-47-50-53-61-66-76-79, BE: 53

**Hoosier Lotto** — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$23.6 million

**MEGA MILLIONS**  
Estimated jackpot (for Tuesday): \$640 million

**POWERBALL**  
05-08-09-17-41; Powerball: 21; Power Play: 4X

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## Public Sale Calendar

**JULY 16-23 - (Online Only Auction) - Isch, seller.** Complete Liquidation. Vehicles, trailers, mower, tools, furniture, household. Preview: July 19 from 4-6 p.m., 5505 E 200 N, Craigville, IN. Sale manager, Isaac Stoller, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-413-3515, [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com).  
**FOR SALE** 40± total acre turnkey family farm, Whitley County, IN, southwest of South Whitley. Property consists of level tillable, pasture with shade trees, land. Approx. 2,500± sq. ft., 2-story home with full base-

ment. Recently built, 325 head baby calf barn, very nice set-up. Two-story barn for horses and hay storage, multi-purpose barn. Property also includes shop/meeting room, orchard and large gardens. Move in ready! Call 800-451-2709 for showing! Sale manager: Ritter Cox, 260-609-3306, *Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc.*, [SchraderAuction.com/listings](http://SchraderAuction.com/listings).

**JULY 25 - 6 p.m. EST - Ark Electric Inc., owner.** 3979 W 200 N, Decatur, IN. Real estate auction! Auction live onsite! 8,322 sq. feet building, 408 sq. feet office, kitchen & bath area, 2,030 sq. feet heated shop area w/concrete floors, 14"x20" overhead door, 5,884 sq. feet cooled storage w/partial concrete floors, (1) 12"x10", (2) 14"x12' & (1) 14"x20' overhead doors, pond, 1,000 gallon LP tank sitting on 3.985 acres. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, [Kjauction.com](http://Kjauction.com), 260-724-7402.

**JULY 29 - 9 a.m. EST - Ark Electric Inc., owner.** 3979 W 200 N, Decatur, IN. ARK Electric Business Liquidation! Cat 4160 backhoe, 1988 Chev-

rolet C70 dump truck, 1991 Ford F700 bucket truck, 1993 Chevy G30 boxtruck, 2016 Chevrolet Express 2500 cargo van, 2004 Chevrolet Express 3500 cargo van, equipment, enclosed bumper pull trailers, JLG & Skyjack scissor lifts, Dewalt power & hand tools, new & used surplus electrical & plumbing inventory & more! Online bidding available! *Krueckeberg auction & realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, [Kjauction.com](http://Kjauction.com).

**BIDDING STARTS CLOSING AUG. 6 STARTING AT 4 P.M. EST - Timothy Krauhs Estate, Theresa A. Roe-Krauhs, owner.** 16709 Aboite Road Roanoke. Online only! 2007 Lincoln Mark LT pickup, Kioti CS2510 utility tractor w/ loader & belly mower, Simplicity 48" zero turn mower, snowblower, step & extension ladders, 6"x12' utility trailer, power & hand tools, yard & garden tools, shotgun, household, collectibles, antiques, furniture, more! Preview: Aug. 3, 5-6 p.m. Pick up: Aug. 7, 2-6 p.m., Aug. 9-11 a.m. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, [Kjauction.com](http://Kjauction.com), 260-724-7402.

## SUDOKU ANSWER

8	7	2	9	8	9	6	7	1
1	6	9	8	2	7	5	7	8
9	2	8	1	6	7	8	9	2
7	9	8	6	1	2	7	8	9
2	8	6	9	9	8	2	1	7
2	1	9	2	7	8	9	6	8
8	8	7	2	7	6	1	9	9
6	2	1	7	9	9	8	8	2
9	9	2	8	8	1	7	2	6

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# Police Notebook

(Continued from Page 3)  
Ind. 218 and south 500E, Bluffton. Vehicle abandoned on the road due to damage on the front passenger tire. Freeman's towed the vehicle.  
Friday, 10:32 p.m., south Ind. 3 and west Ind. 218, Warren. Report of two women walking with suitcases. Unable to locate.  
**Ossian:**  
Friday, 5:01 p.m., north

600E and east 1000N. Citation issued for 90 in a 55 mph zone.  
**ACCIDENTS**  
**City:**  
Monday, 4:50 p.m., 100 block of West Washington Street. Roger Richardson was reversing from his parking spot in a Chevy Impala in the Washington Commons Parking Lot when he struck the front drivers side

of Carolyn Bertsch's parked and unattended Chrysler 200. No injuries, damages not exceeding \$5000.  
**ARRESTS**  
Michael Dean Edgell, 70, Bluffton; sexual battery, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$5,000.  
Marty Alan Myers, 26, Bluffton; possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

Asia Marie Hulbert, 32, Fort Wayne; possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor, possession of controlled substance paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor, operating a vehicle without ever obtaining a license, a Class C misdemeanor, and operating with a controlled substance in the body, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$2,500.

Aimee Diann Foss, 50, Harrison, Ohio; sex offender registration violation, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$5,000.  
Dakota Linn Haus, 46, Bluffton; driving while suspended, a Class A misdemeanor. Booked and released.  
Jeremy T. Volland, 44, Warren; domestic battery, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$25,000.

Derrick Dean Marshall, 44, Bluffton; domestic battery in the presence of a child less than 16 years old, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$25,000.  
Isaac Matthew West, 42, Bluffton; possession of meth, a Level 6 felony, and possession of controlled substance paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. Booked and released.

## U.S. weather

(Continued from Page 1)  
make people feel more comfortable," Picard said. "And so you just simply pray with them for a few minutes."  
Pennsylvania's flash floods also drowned Enzo Depiero, 78, and Linda Depiero, 74, of Newtown; Yuko Love, 64, of Newtown; and Susan Barnhart, 53, of Titusville, New Jersey, Bucks County Coroner Meredith Buck said.  
Other parts of the saturated Northeast began drying out Monday after drenching weekend rains resulted in flash flooding in parts of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey. New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy declared a state of emergency Sunday.

The Vermont Emergency Management agency reported that swift-water rescue teams conducted an additional six rescues overnight. The agency also was monitoring areas at risk for landslides.  
U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and Vermont Gov. Phil Scott toured some of the destruction from recent torrential rains on Monday, including a damaged inn that was cut in half by flood waters.  
Buttigieg said Vermont has endured two storms that would be called "once-in-a-century" events in the span of just 12 years.  
"We can't go into the future requiring communities to put everything back exact-

ly the way it was if a 100-year flood is about to become an annual event," he said.  
More rain was forecast for Tuesday.  
Sunday's storms led to hundreds of flight cancellations at airports in the New York City area, and hundreds more flights were delayed.  
New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said 5 inches of rain fell within two hours in Suffolk County on Long Island. The state saw \$50 million in damages from storms in the past week.  
In North Carolina, floodwaters were blamed for the death of a 49-year-old woman whose car was swept off a road in Alexander County late Saturday. A man who was in the car with her was rescued.

Meanwhile, extensive swaths of the northern United States awoke to unhealthy air quality Monday morning or were experiencing it by midafternoon, according to the Environmental Protection Agency's AirNow.gov Smoke and Fire map.  
Fine particle pollution caused by smoke from Canada's wildfires is causing a red zone air quality index, meaning it is unhealthy for everyone. The particles are tiny enough to get deep into the lungs and cause short-term problems like coughing and itchy eyes, and in the long run, can affect the lungs and heart.  
On Monday afternoon, cities and regions hitting that mark included Lin-

coln, Nebraska; Peoria, Illinois; Fort Wayne, Indiana; Cleveland and Columbus in Ohio; Huntsville, Alabama; Knoxville and Chattanooga in Tennessee; Greensboro, North Carolina; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Syracuse

and Utica in New York.  
Sensitive groups, including people with heart and lung disease, older adults, children and pregnant women, should consider staying inside, advisories warn.

## ANTIQUE CARS AND ICE CREAM



The annual ice cream social at the Wells County Historical Museum Sunday found Samantha Acosta and Elaine McAfee, at right, dishing up bowls of soft ice cream for museum visitors in the museum's Annex. (The museum also was open for visitors.) Checking out the ice cream toppings was Emma Nicholas who was visiting with her grandmother Tammy King. (Photos by Barbara Barbieri)



Special guests at the ice cream social were members of the Old Ford Model A Club and 15 antique cars. Member and car owner Lynn Yager, center, was getting ready to check out the museum through the rear entrance.

## Feds: whale's decline is worse than thought

By **PATRICK WHITTLE**  
**Associated Press**  
**PORTLAND, Maine** (AP) — A review of the status of a vanishing species of whale found that the animal's population is in worse shape than previously thought, federal ocean regulators said Monday.  
The North Atlantic right whale numbers less than 350, and it has been declining in population for several years. The federal government declared the whale's decline an "unusual mortality event," which means an unexpected and significant die-off, in 2017.  
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration released new data that 114 of the whales have been documented as dead, seriously injured or sublethally injured or sick since the start of the mortality event. That is an increase of 16 whales since the previous estimate released earlier this year.  
The agency recently completed a review of the whales using photographs from researchers and surveys to create the new estimate, said Andrea Gomez, a spokesperson for NOAA.  
"Additional cases will continue to be reviewed, and animals will be added if

appropriate, as more information is obtained," Gomez said.  
Thirty-six of the 114 whales included in the estimate had died, NOAA documents state. The agency cautioned that only about a third of right whale deaths are documented, so the total number of dead or injured animals could be much higher.  
Right whales are found off the Atlantic coast of the U.S. They are vulnerable to collisions with large ships and entanglement in commercial fishing gear. The federal government has worked to craft stricter rules to protect the whales from both threats.  
Commercial fishing and shipping interests have both vowed to fight stricter protections. A federal appeals court sided with fishermen last month after they filed a complaint that proposed

new restrictions could put them out of business.  
The new data illustrate how dire the situation is for the whales, said Sarah Sharp, an animal rescue veterinarian with International Fund for Animal Welfare. The number of injured animals is especially significant because injured whales are less likely to reproduce, Sharp said.  
"If animals are putting energy into healing from a wound, they are not necessarily going to have those energy stores for other things," Sharp said. "I think this just paints a much more accurate picture of the threats these whales are facing."  
The whales give birth off Florida and Georgia and feed off New England and Canada. They have been protected under the Endangered Species Act for decades, and federal author-

ities ruled in December that they must retain that protection.

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